



# Zero Tolerance

The Magazine Of Nigeria's Economic & Financial Crimes Commission

Vol. 20, No. 2 | September 2024, ISSN 0795-2459

## THE Energy of SYNERGY

EFCC's success with collaboration



**EFCC: ONE YEAR OF OLUKOYEDE'S SOLID STRIDES**





# CONTENTS



The FRAC Alternative

13

One Year of Solid Strides

14 - 18

The Energy of Synergy

19 - 21

NACIWA: Charting Regional Anti-corruption Course

22 - 23

A Silver Bullet Against Money Laundering

24 - 25

Robbing Peter to Pay Self

26 - 27

Breaking Fraudulent Schemes of Blackmail and Death

28 - 30

Academy of Infamy

31 - 33

All for Integrity

34 - 35

Deadly Family of Fraud

36 - 39

Fresh Clarion for Whistleblowing

40 - 41

Harvest of Forfeitures

42 - 45

A Couple's N675m Migraine

46 - 47

Mamman's N33bn Albatross

48 - 49



Racing Against FATF's Grey Listing

50 - 51

FATF's Grey Listing: SCUML Executing Rigorous Sectoral Risk Assessment – Isei

52 - 53

A New Page of Learning

54







# BITS & PIECES

## 46 Years for Fake EFCC Operatives in Lagos



Ugwu Pascal Chijioke and Ibrahim Sadiq Adekunle will never again impersonate operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, either for joke or for real.

The duo are already serving their jail term at the

correctional facility for criminally posing as officers of the Commission.

They were arrested in May 2021 following credible intelligence received by the Commission, while they were in the middle of an illegal operation at the New Horizon Estate, Lekki, Lagos. A tip-off from a "concerned citizen" led to the exposure of the two-man impostor syndicate.

They had invaded an apartment at the New Horizon Estate, Ikate posing as EFCC officers. They brought with them a purported court order from Mushin Magistrate, which they used to execute a search and also to confiscate some household items. A truckload of household items belonging to their unsuspecting victim was also recovered from

them.

They were first arraigned on October 12, 2021 before Justice O.O. Abike-Fadipe of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, and they pleaded not guilty.

However in the course of the trial, the weight of evidence brought against them, made them decide to change their plea to "guilty".

Thus, Justice Abike-Fadipe pronounced them guilty as charged on counts one, two, three, four and five and sentenced them to seven years on counts one to three, one year on count four and eight months on count five.

The sentences are to run concurrently.

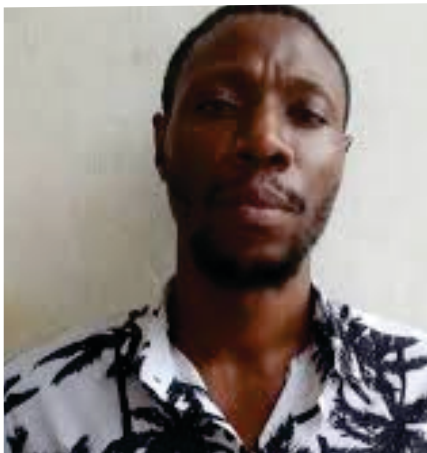
## Nweke's Fake Blues

It seems many jobless fellows now see the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, as a cash cow. It is becoming a pastime using the EFCC to extort innocent citizens.

For Nweke Izuchukwu Jude, he has now got his fingers burnt for engaging in such an illegal and fraudulent act.

Jude was arraigned on two counts before Justice Mohammed Garba Umar of the Federal High Court sitting in Enugu for offences bordering on impersonation and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of N1,100,000.

One of the Counts reads: "That you, Nweke



Izuchukwu Jude, sometime in April 2024, at Enugu, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court with intent to defraud, obtained the sum of N1,100,000 from one Justin Chidozie Chukwukere when you fraudulently presented yourself as an officer of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, a pretence you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1 of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the same Act."

He currently enjoys bail in the sum of N2 million with two sureties in like sum. and is remanded at the Enugu Correctional Facility, as his trial continues.

## Sweeping Out Illegal Miners

Illegal miners in Nigeria, particularly in Ilorin, Kwara State, are definitely feeling the heat as the EFCC is determined to sweep out illegal miners in Nigeria. Eighteen of them were arrested for offences bordering on illegal mining activities. The suspects are Saidu Madugu, Adamu Amadu, Lawal Ibrahim, Mohammed Mustapha, Abdulkarim Hassaini, Isiaka Abubakar, Shafiu Salisu, Abdullahi Yanda Isa, Bashiru Mohammed, Anas Saidu, Asa Bature, Abudu Sani, Jabir Salisu, Bello Muhammed, Habilu Idris, Fatai Abdullahi, Isyaka Hamidu and Oseni Lukman. Thirteen truckloads of assorted solid minerals suspected to include lithium, marble stone, white powder, lepidolite among others were also

recovered from the suspects.

The arrest and recoveries were made on June 11, 2024 except the trio of Fatai, Isyaka and Oseni that were arrested on June 13, 2024. The arrest followed credible intelligence about the activities of some suspects conveying illegally mined solid minerals along Eiyenkorin - Ballah route in Asa Local Government of Kwara State, without lawful authority.

The arrest of the suspects and interception of the trucks were executed in collaboration with the patrol team of the Nigeria Customs Service, NCS, Kwara Area Command.

The suspects will soon be arraigned in court.



# BITS & PIECES

## Chinese Albatross



Their names are not the type that we are normally used to seeing in the news. Though they are Chinese and foreigners, Duan Ya Hong and Xiao Yi have learnt that during the EFCC is perilous especially when you are involved in activity that borders on economic sabotage.

Justice Evelyn Anyadike of the Federal High Court sitting in Ilorin in May 2024 convicted and sentenced them to one year imprisonment for offences bordering on illegal mining and possession of solid minerals without requisite licenses.

They were arraigned on Monday, April 22, 2024 alongside their company, Ebuy Concept Limited on one count charge bordering on illegal mining.

The count reads: "That you, Ebuy Trading Worldwide Nigeria Limited, Duan Ya Hong, Xiao Yi sometime in the Month of February 2024 at Banni, in Kaïama Local Government Area of Kwara State, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court, without lawful authority, purchased minerals to wit; 30 tons of minerals conveyed in a Truck, with Registration Number JJJ 386 XT and thereby committed an offence, contrary to and punishable

under Section 1(8)(b) of the Miscellaneous Offences Act 1984." They pleaded "not guilty" to the charges.

However, in the course of the trial, they decided to change their plea to "guilty" following the weighty evidence presented against them by the EFCC. Part of the evidence included their statements and photographs, samples of the minerals recovered from them, photographs of the truck, and the forensic report received from the Nigeria Geological Survey Agency on the analysis of the minerals.

Justice Anyadike held that the prosecution proved its case beyond reasonable doubt and pronounced them guilty as charged. Consequently, the judge sentenced Hong to one year with an option of fine of N2million, while Yi was sentenced to one year with an option of N1.5million. In addition, the court ordered the forfeiture of the 30 tons of minerals and the truck conveying same.

## Lafia's N21.5m Wonder

Ibrahim Lafia, is definitely not a good ambassador of the Prophet Ibrahim; what with the N21.5 million fraud now hanging round his neck.

The Maiduguri Zonal Directorate of the Commission, on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, arraigned him before Justice Lawu Lawan of the Yobe State High Court, Damaturu on one count bordering on criminal breach of trust to the tune of N21,500,000.

The charge reads: "That you Ibrahim Umar Lafia between November to 1st December 2023, at Potiskum, Yobe State within the jurisdiction of



this Honourable Court, being entrusted with dominion over certain properties to wit: N21,500,000.00 (Twenty One Million Five Hundred Thousand Naira) by Abdullahi Haruna as his investment in processing maize into maize grits did dishonestly misappropriated the said sum of N21,500,000.00 (Twenty One Million Five Hundred Thousand Naira) and you thereby committed an offence contrary to section 311 of the Penal Code Law Cap.102 Laws of Yobe State of Nigeria and punishable under Section 312 of the same Law."

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charge. The trial continue.

## Deadly duo

The deadly duo of Umar Bakari and Musa Aliyu Hinna deserve more than a passing attention. Justice J.A. Kereng of the Gombe State High Court sitting in Gombe on May 30, 2024 convicted them for land fraud to the tune of N3,525,000 (Three Million, Five Hundred and Twenty Five Thousand Naira only). Bakari and Hinna were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges of intent to defraud preferred against them by the Gombe Zonal Directorate of the EFCC.

The charge against Bakari reads: "That you Umar Bakari and Shehu Adamu ( now convict) sometime in February 2022 at Gombe, Gombe State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court with intent to defraud obtained the aggregate sum of N525,000 (Five Hundred and Twenty- Five Thousand Naira only) from David Ibrahim by falsely representing to him that the money was payment for your landed property located at Shango- hamma District

Tumfure of Gombe State and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 320 of the Penal Code Law and punishable under Section 322 of same Law."

The charge against Hinna reads: "That you Musa Aliyu Hinna also known as Umar Aliyu Marafan on or about October 15,2021 at Gombe, Gombe State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court with intent to defraud obtained the sum of N3,000,000( Three Million Naira only) through your account number 1003713276 with account name: Aliyu Hinna Musa property of one Umar Musa Umar which you claimed that the money was payment for your landed property located at Wajari Yamaltu Debi ,Gombe State and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section. 320 of the Penal Code Law and punishable under Section 322 of the same Law."

The defendants pleaded "guilty" to their respective charges when they were read to them.

Justice Kereng thereafter convicted and sentenced Bakari to six months. Hinna bagged seven months and two weeks.

The journey to prison began when some petitioners alleged that they obtained an aggregate sum of N3,525,000 from them for a landed property. They neither delivered the property to the petitioners nor returned their money to them.





# BITS & PIECES

## Gombe Land Scammer

No matter how much he tried to escape the long arm of justice, Aliyu Mohammed has learnt a bitter lesson that the EFCC is not like any other law enforcement agency in Nigeria. Once the EFCC sets its eyes in your matter it will see it to a logical conclusion. It's the typical characteristics of an Eagle, which the EFCC represents.

EFCC moved against Mohammed after a Petitioner alleged he defrauded him of N4.8million in a land case.

Justice Abdulhamid Yakubu of the Gombe State High Court in May 2024 convicted and sentenced him to 12 months in prison for land scam involving a N4,800,000.

Mohammed was jailed after pleading guilty to one-count charge of intent to defraud preferred

against him by the Gombe Zonal Directorate of the EFCC

The charge reads: "That you Aliyu Mohammed former staff of NITEL/MTEL sometime in, 2021 at Gombe, Gombe State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, obtained the aggregate sum of N4,800,000 (Four Million, Eight Hundred Thousand Naira) property of Lacachika Nigeria Limited and Captain Lamolohguhe, which you claimed the money was payment for the landed property located at Kaltungo, Gombe State and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 320 the Penal Code law and punishable under Section 322 of the same law."

The defendant pleaded "guilty" to the charge when it was read to him.

He was however given a fine of N20,000.



## Gombe Conman



The end of the road came rather early for George Nuhu. He had thought that he would get away with his crooked acts; but how wrong he was.

Justice J.A. Kereng of the Gombe State High Court, sitting in Gombe in May 2024 convicted and sentenced him to six months imprisonment for fraud.

He was prosecuted by the Gombe Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on a one-count charge of intent to defraud.

The charge reads: "That you, George Habu Nuhu between March 2018 and November 2019 at Gombe, Gombe State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court with intent to defraud obtained the aggregate sum of N7,678,000 (Seven Million, Six Hundred and Seventy-eight Thousand Naira) property of Shehu Makama which your claimed that the money was payment for the "madrid timber log" and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 320 of the Penal Code Law and punishable under Section 322 of the same Law."

He pleaded "guilty" to the charge.

## Enugu Gimmick

Call it the Enugu scandal and it no doubt fits into the description. How on earth did two innocent looking guys pull off a N31.8 million fraud?

Onuaguluchi Ifeakanwa Chris and Izuchukwu Shedrack David had thought that they would get away with their heist but they were mistaken.

The Enugu Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC arraigned them before Justice Mohammed Garba Umar of the Federal High Court, Enugu on a five-count charge bordering on conspiracy, retention of proceeds of crime and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of N382,336,955.

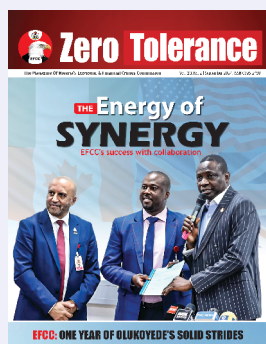
One of the counts reads: "That you, Mr. Izuchukwu Shedrack David, Mrs Onuaguluchi Ifeakanwa Chris and Chief S. C. Ugwuanyi (now at large), sometime between 4th May, 2023 in Enugu, within the

jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, by false pretences and with intent to defraud, obtained from Architekton Nigeria Limited, an aggregate sum of Three-hundred and Thirty-one Million, Three-hundred and Seventy-six Thousand Naira (N331, 376, 000. 00), paid into account number 1534670390, with account name Izuchukwu Shedrack David, domiciled in Access Bank Plc by falsely representing that the money is meant for counterpart fund for a contract to construct six unity houses for hospitals in six Local Government Areas in Ebonyi State as approved by World Health Organisation, a pretext you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1 (1) (a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act".

The defendants pleaded "not guilty".

The defendants allegedly swindled one Mackombo Omoila, Managing Director/CEO of Architekton Nigeria Limited of the said sum for a non-existent World Health Organisation contract to construct six unit houses for hospitals in six Local Government Areas of Ebonyi State. They are currently cooling their heels in prison as trial continues.





**Ola Olukoyede**  
**Publisher**

**Wilson Uwujaren**  
**Editor-In-Chief**

**Dele Oyewale**  
**Editor**

**Members:**

Tony Egbulefu  
Emeka Ibemere  
Williams Oseghale  
Babatunde Sulaiman  
Ayodele Babatunde  
Kamilu Gebi  
Segun Adeoye

**Bureau Chiefs:**

Ayo Oyewale (Lagos)  
Theresa Nwosu (Uyo)  
Zainab Ahmed (Kaduna)  
Olumide Egbodofo (Ibadan)  
Idris Ishaku (Kano)  
Nguondu Nguetar (Abuja)  
Paul Ikpor (Enugu)  
Mary Ogolekwu (Gombe)  
Jide Ilupeju (Port Harcourt)  
Kassim Yahaya (Makurdi)  
Jamilu Saleh (Maiduguri)

**Production Editors**

Adeleye Sodade  
Stanley Echidi

**Illustrator**

Yekeen Balogun

**Photo Editor**

Franklyn Ogunleye

**Abuja:**  
5 Fomella Street,  
Wuse 2, Abuja.

**Lagos:**  
15A, Awolowo Road,  
Ikoyi, Lagos.

**Kano:**  
2 Hajj Camp Road,  
Kano.

**Ilorin**  
No. Catchment Road  
Off Forest Road,  
G.R.A., Ilorin

**Port Harcourt:**  
6A Olumeni Street,  
Old GRA,  
Port Harcourt.

**Enugu:**  
Plot 106, Fed Govt  
College Road, Ind Layout,  
Enugu.

**Gombe:**  
No 4 EFCC Street,  
New GRA, Gombe

**Ibadan:**  
16 A, Reverend Oyeboode  
Crescent, Iyaganku, Ibadan

**Kaduna:**  
No. 4 Wurno Road,  
Badarawa Kaduna  
**Sokoto**  
No. 7 Super Quarters  
Off Sama Road

**Benin:**  
No. 1 High Court Road,  
GRA, Benin City

**Maiduguri:**  
Plot No. 80 Babashehu Lami Street,  
Opposite Ekanemi College,  
Tatun Wada Layout Maiduguri

**Uyo:**  
No 3 Akparawa Crescent,  
Off Edet Akpan Avenue  
(Four Lane)  
Ewet Housing,  
Uyo, Akwa Ibom State

**Benue**  
Plot 193 Gondo Aluor Road  
Old GRA, Makurdi

# Bright Lights, Safer Flights in One Year!

**T**he last one year, for the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has been one year of visible, tangible and infallible proofs of impact. Across and beyond the territorial precincts of Nigeria, the war against economic and financial crimes and other acts of corruption has been fruitful. Ola Olukoyede, the record-breaking driver of reforms and courageous renaissance, is leaving no one in doubt that graft can be broken into irreparable shreds.

Now, across different levels of our courts, several former governors, ministers, technocrats, internet fraudsters and others are facing trials, with many of them already convicted. Even, detractors of the EFCC know that the tam-tam drum of criminality is losing its grating voice and the narrative is clearly changing. One of the stories in this edition of the Magazine offers deeper insights into this. It is titled, One Year of Solid Strides. Enjoy it.

The cover story is an exegesis of the broad-based collaborative dynamics of the EFCC in curbing corrupt practices. As the adage goes: "If you want to travel fast, walk alone but if you want to travel far, walk with others!" The Commission has been building strengths, resilience and useful networks across the world through its collaboration with other law enforcement agencies. The synergy is a win-win initiative as both local, regional and international organizations are offering hands of fellowship to the EFCC for seamless alliances against corruption. It is both in line with one of the core values of the Commission and compliance with global best practices. Details of the stupendous fruits of the engagement are contained in the story: Energy of Synergy put together by the Editor.

Internet fraud, to all intents and purposes, is assuming a life of its own. The

perpetrators are unyielding but the EFCC is showing that they are not intractable, especially with the furnace it is stoking against the criminals. However, the inventive dynamics of the trade is the worrisome springing up of learning centers and schools for the equipping of rookies in the trade. Across the country, there are many of such training camps. The Magazine did investigative incursions into this engagement and the result is the story, "Academy of Infamy" crafted by Williams Oseghale.

Another engaging story in the Magazine focuses on the determined efforts of Nigeria to exit the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force, FATF. The Special Control Unit against Money Laundering, SCUML, a department in the EFCC, is leading this initiative. Exiting the list really requires rigorous professional and technical skills. All the issues involved in the matter are pieced together by Tony Egbulefu, Head of our Newsroom in the story entitled: "Racing against FATF's Grey Listing".

Several other juicy stories, many of them operational strides, including an alliance by members of a family to defraud an American through romantic adventures of their son. The story is as gripping as it is comical but it really touches on the daring exploits of an internet fraudster using family magic to hoodwink an innocent foreigner. It is entitled: Deadly Family of Fraud. Together with regulars such as Tit Bits, Briefs and catchy photo news, the edition is simply unput-downable. Happy excursion into the Magazine!

**Dele Oyewale**



# BRIEF

## African Leadership Organization Lauds EFCC

Baroness Verma Sandy of Leicester, Member of United Kingdom, UK's House of Lords has lauded the Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede for repositioning the Commission on the paths of professionalism and effectiveness, expressing confidence that the EFCC will help change the global perception of Africa and build new confidence in the continent.

The Baroness who led a six-man delegation of UK-based African Leadership Organisation gave the commendation in a parley with Olukoyede

at the Abuja corporate headquarters of the Commission.

She said: "I believe passionately on the strength of the African Continent .

"I am not connected at all to Africa, but I have been a champion for a continent that has underestimated its own strength but has got so much to offer the world.

"And I think your organization will help change the perceptions and build new confidence, so I



am so pleased and honoured to be here."

The EFCC boss thanked the Baroness and her delegation for identifying with the Commission and acknowledging its efforts in shaping better narratives for the country.

"Every challenge we face in our daily life, insecurity, bad governance, lack of infrastructural development are all linked to corruption", he said, as he assured that the EFCC will remain focused on its mandate.



## Japan Backs EFCC on Economic Development

The Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA, has thrown its weight behind the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on reforms being implemented by the Ola Olukoyede - led Management to boost economic development through the anti-corruption fight.

This gesture was made in Abuja by the Chief Representative of JICA ,Yuzurio Suzumu while on a courtesy visit to the corporate headquarters of the EFCC.

"The EFCC is a very important partner for collaboration, and our aim is to contribute to the sustainable development of Nigeria. "We have identified sustainable economic development, social development, good governance and peace building as key pillars of our collaboration," he said.

Suzumu emphasized that financial crimes are a cross-sector issue affecting the development of the economy, society, governance, and peace. He expressed appreciation to the EFCC for its strong commitment and effort towards combating economic and financial crimes and other acts of corruption, as well as making proposals for broad-based capacity-building programmes for staff of the EFCC and other

Ministries, Departments and Agencies, MDAs in the area of fighting corruption.

In his response, Olukoyede pointed out that JICA had shared values and objectives with the EFCC.

"We also stand for sustaining economic development and good governance. In fact, upon my assumption of office, one of my policy objectives was to use the anti-corruption instrumentality to stimulate the economy," he said.

He also restated the EFCC's efforts aimed at stabilizing the foreign exchange market, stressing that the Commission would not relent in monitoring developments in the sector and prosecute illegal foreign exchange traders causing disruption in the forex market. "We are trying to stabilize the foreign exchange market and stimulate growth in the economy. To this effect, companies and entities operating to destroy the economy won't be allowed to have their ways", he said.

He also emphasized the importance of preventive frameworks against corruption, maintaining that, "We are not going to wait for

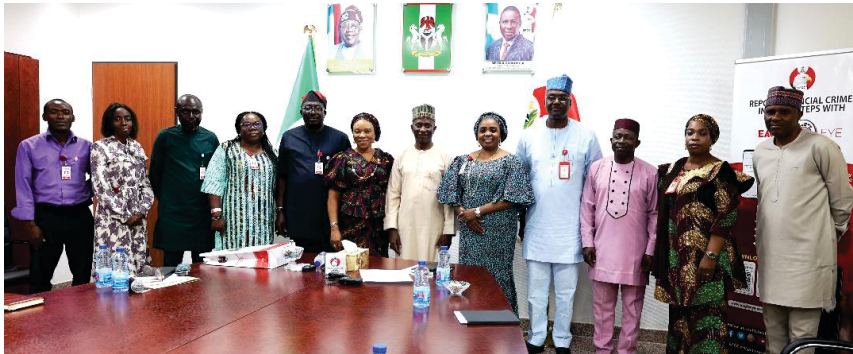
the money to be stolen before taking action".

The Chairman also pledged to collaborate with JICA, particularly in the areas of manpower training and development to achieve shared objectives. He called for more support for President Bola Tinubu in his quest to reflate and rebuild the commanding heights of the economy. "We need to support President Bola Tinubu's relentless efforts to revive and grow the economy", he said.



## BRIEF

### Servicom Thumbs Up EFCC on Naira Abuse Enforcement



The Chief Executive Officer and National Coordinator of Service Compact with all Nigerians, SERVICOM, Nnenna Akajemeli has commended the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on its deft and professional handling of issues involved in currency mutilation, racketeering and other instances of Naira abuse.

She gave the commendation in Abuja while on a courtesy visit to the Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Ola Olukoyede at the corporate headquarters of the Commission.

According to her, the operational dynamism of the EFCC has succeeded in breaking the age-long tradition of spraying of Naira notes across the country,

"The EFCC has changed that aspect of our culture and today, across the country, Nigerians no longer spray, staple, mutilate or do any dishonourable thing to the Naira, and this symbol of our economy is now being respected," he said.

Akajemeli used the opportunity to seek closer, stronger collaboration and continued

effectiveness of the Servicom Unit in the EFCC, stating that EFCC has done well in service delivery.

In his remarks, Olukoyede, who was represented by Director of Investigation, Abdulkarim Chukkol, appreciated the Servicom National Coordinator for the visit and understanding of the workings of the EFCC. He assured her that the Commission, being a frontline anti-corruption agency, has professionals that continually adhere to Standard Operating Procedures in its mandate and with great respect for global best practices.

He particularly stated that the EFCC placed high premium on service delivery with the Servicom Unit as a vital Unit. Chukkol assured the team of EFCC's continued adherence to the rule of law, stressing that Olukoyede is serious about doing things rightly.

"We handle and respect petitioners highly each time they come with their petitions. Some of the feedback you may be getting against us is when they want us to do what is not within our mandate or ambit of the law and when they don't get it, they complain," he said.

### Olukoyede Makes Case for Youth Engagement against Corruption



The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede has made a case for programmes to engage youths in the country in anti-corruption activities.

He made the case while charging the National Youth Council of Nigeria, NYCN, to brace up for the challenge of fighting economic and financial crimes and other acts of corruption in the overall interests of the nation and their future.

Speaking while welcoming the delegation of the Council at the Corporate Headquarters of

the EFCC, Abuja, The EFCC boss said: "We recognize youths as one of the stakeholders in the Nigerian project, and so

they must rise to the task, because every hand must be on the deck to save Nigeria,"

"We must demonstrate it, we must walk the talk, we must fight the fight," he said.

He challenged youths to look inwards and tackle bad eggs among them in order to be strengthened against corrupt practices.

"Let's look inwards, from villages, communities, zones, local governments, state governments



and everywhere, and organize the youths together and let them know that we can rescue this country from the corrupt," he said. Leader of the delegation, Ambassador Sokubo Saraibe Sokubo, commended Olukoyede on the successes recorded by the Commission under his watch.

"We have seen your doggedness, sincerity and commitment in driving the fight against corruption since you assumed office," he said.



## BRIEF

### Olukoyede Commends Tinubu for NELFUND, Calls for Transparency in Disbursement

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has applauded President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on his initiative regarding the Nigerian Education Loan Fund, NELFUND, describing it as a policy issue to tackle corruption. He gave the commendation in Abuja on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 while receiving the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, NELFUND, Mr. Akintunde Sawyerr who came with his management team to the corporate headquarters of the EFCC on a visit. Olukoyede pointed out that inability of many parents to fund the education of their children had always been a predisposing factor of corruption, making students vulnerable to all forms of economic and financial crimes. This inducement to corruption, he said, would no longer stand with the NELFUND's intervention through the President. "One of the main incentives to cybercrime is the inability of parents to fund the education of their children. NELFUND is a policy issue against crimes. President Tinubu should be commended for initiating the Fund", he said. The EFCC's boss called on the management team of NELFUND to be sensitive to the trust reposed in them warning that the EFCC would leave no stone unturned to achieve transparent handling of the fund. "Let your hands be clean. I repeat, let your

hands be clean. The work entrusted to you is going to help the EFCC fight corruption. Let your systems and processes be transparent", he said. Olukoyede further explained his desire for accountable handling of NELFUND was informed by passion for transparency and not any threat of any kind. He vowed that the EFCC would do everything to prevent the re-looting of the fund. "I will fight to ensure that money pooled together to support NELFUND is not re-looted. We want your management to be giving reports of your disbursement to the EFCC". Continuing, he advised Sawyerr: Don't sign what is not clear to you. Don't give in to any pressure. Let your staff know that there is no money to share". He called on Nigerians to rally round the management of NELFUND to ensure that the scheme succeeds.

"Nigerians should come together to ensure that the program succeeds. It is our duty to help the President succeed", he said. In his remark, Sawyerr explained that NELFUND was a laudable programme designed to provide funding for education of indigent students. He decried the neglect of youths over the years which made them to be backward in their education pursuit. "The youths constitute the most populous, restive but neglected segment of our population. President Tinubu identified this as a major problem and put in place a major solution to address the issue", he said. He appreciated the EFCC for the N50 billion injected into NELFUND from the proceeds of crime recovered by the Commission. "We are aware of the funds from the proceeds of crime extended to NELFUND. We are here to express our gratitude for the gesture. We also want the EFCC to exercise oversight on what we are doing", he said.



### EFCC Commences Investigation of Immigration Fraud



In a bid to tackle immigration fraud and the reputational damage it is causing Nigeria, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has set up an Immigration Fraud Section in some of its Commands across the country. Executive Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Ola Olukoyede disclosed this on Tuesday, July 30, 2024 while receiving a delegation of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), led by its Director General, Superintendent Rabhi Abdallah at the Commission's corporate headquarters, Abuja.

Olukoyede who further disclosed that the Section was recently established, stated that the Commission was motivated to set it up as a result of the stream of fraud

taking place on immigration matters in the country and the need to protect Nigerians from the antics of immigration fraudsters. "Apart from what we have done in the foreign exchange market, two weeks ago we set up an Immigration Fraud Section. They are in Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, Kano and in all our zonal Commands where we have embassies because we have seen quite a lot of fraud in that area. They have scammed people a lot, so we want to devote our attention and resources to that area to ensure that Nigerians and diplomatic missions in Nigerian would not be victims of visa and immigration scam again," he said. Abdallah, while explaining the rationale of his visit to the EFCC, stated that the RCMP delegation was in Nigeria to explore ways of collaboration and partnership with the Commission. He raised hopes of deployment of Canadian law enforcement officers in joint operations and investigations with the EFCC and to team up with the Commission in other ways that would be beneficial to Nigeria and the West African region. "The department that I am in charge of in the RCMP is in partnership with government agencies and that partnership comes with some funding and that funding is utilized in the past 30 years to deploy Canadian law enforcement officers to various peace operations around the world, but now in more and more specialized smaller investigations in areas so that we can contribute to stability and make sure that we are

providing some levels of support, when and where it is needed. "In one end of the spectrum we are helping support policing and at the other end, we are working hand-in-hand with partners to advance investigations around the world and contribute to stability and global security. So as part of looking forward and looking for new nations that we can send Canadian law enforcement officers to help contribute to stability and advancing global security, I thought of the experiences that I have working with the EFCC in the past and that I might come and explore opportunities with a partner such as the EFCC. "I want to pitch the idea and see how we can potentially come to collaborating. Our collaboration has been solid on the operations side and we hope to enhance it by working together in terms of advancing what would be beneficial to Nigeria and the whole region," he said. Lending his voice on the choice of the EFCC in the new partnership, Robert Aboumitri, Senior Intelligence Analyst with RCMP disclosed that the Commission was chosen for its high record of efficiency, professionalism and outcomes. "Since we established the RCMP in 2021, the most effective partner that we have had is the EFCC. I say this because we have solved a lot of cases and done a lot of investigations together. I want to tell you that the most professional agency that we have found in Nigeria is the EFCC. Not only in terms of results but also in terms of knowledge, training and hunger for even more knowledge."

# BRIEF

## EFCC Takes on CSOs



Civil Society Organizations, CSOs, have been charged by the Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede, to distance themselves from corrupt elements who advance the cause of bad governance with no consideration for the

plight of Nigerians bearing the brunt of corrupt practices. The charge was given in Abuja when he received in audience, executives of the Conference of Northern States Civil Society Networks led by the Chairman, Ambassador Ibrahim Waiya. He said: "It is appalling to see Civil Society Organizations veer off their mandate and be supporting bad governance."

"There are instances where some state governments deliberately set up and fund Civil Society Organizations to attack agencies set up

to enforce anti-corruption laws."

Olukoyede frowned at the tendency of some CSOs championing ill-motivated causes, especially offering defences to individuals and groups indicted for corruption.

In his remarks, Waiya described the Conference as a regional network of non-governmental, non-partisan, not for profit, non-ethnic and non-religious platform, with the sole objective of advocating for the best practices of democracy, accountable governance and increased development of Northern Nigeria and beyond through policy advocacy, collaboration and partnership.

He specifically commended Olukoyede for his sterling fight against Naira abuse and noticeable paradigm shift in the entire war against economic and financial crimes.

"We want to commend you for your bold steps in moving the anti-corruption fight forward," he said, as he called for greater penetration of the grassroots to ensure that false narratives and campaigns against the Commission are neutralized.

## ISSAN Partners EFCC on Cyber Security

The Information Security Society of Africa – Nigeria, ISSAN, has called for stronger and closer collaboration with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC in safeguarding the cyber space for more effective fight against internet fraud and other financial crimes in Nigeria.

This call was made by ISSAN's Vice President, Dr. Martin Ikpehai when he led a three-man delegation on a courtesy visit to the EFCC's headquarters.

According to him, the EFCC was doing a great

work in putting a stop to cybercrimes.

He called for a more sustainable approach towards taking over the cyberspace from internet fraudsters. "One important thing we have come to realize is that the EFCC, being a crime fighter, has done so much in this aspect of crime, especially fighting crime in the digital space and we are happy about it," he said.

He expressed surprise at the prevalence of "yahoo schools" across the country, pointing out that such an anomaly demanded enhanced cooperation with ISSAN. He commended the

EFCC on its Eagle Eye app, describing it as an excellent device in achieving success in the fight against internet fraud.

Responding, Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Ola Olukoyede appreciated ISSAN for its focus and mandate. He stated that the EFCC greatly valued efforts geared towards cyber security and assured of better collaboration with the Society.

"We have to engage all stakeholders and ensure that we take drastic measures to stop criminals in cyberspace," he said. "The more we come together, the better for the country to prosecute the war on cybercrime and security."





# The FRAC ALTERNATIVE

By Dele Oyewale

***The establishment of the Fraud Risk Assessment and Control, FRAC, Department by Ola Olukoyede is offering new, stronger and more fruitful means of tackling corruption through preventive frameworks***

By way of appraisal and appreciation of the focus of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on preventive modalities in tackling corrupt practices, Executive Secretary, Tertiary Education Trust Fund, TETFUND, Architect Sunny Echono described the initiative as remarkable and well-conceived. "We commend the emphasis of the Commission on prevention. This is quite necessary in view of the gains the nation will make from nipping corruption in the bud," he said.

For the Ola Olukoyede-led EFCC, the prevention route is not only drawing support and plaudits from across the world, it is already yielding tangible results. The initiative is the major impetus behind the establishment of the Fraud Risk Assessment and Control, FRAC, department. Olukoyede pointed out that it costs less to prevent economic and financial crimes than to enforce laws against them. "We are not saying that the Commission will jettison its enforcement roles, we are saying that we will build more strength and achieve better results by preventing corruption from taking root. The prevention framework is globally-acclaimed and we are embracing it," he said.

To this end, the Department is already gaining traction. Director, FRAC, Francis Usani says that gaps and vulnerabilities of government agencies to corruption are now being established, accountability gaps are being blocked and it is becoming increasingly difficult for fraudulent people to operate as before. To make the modality work better, the department is working actively with the Bureau of Public Procurement, BPP, on contract and procurement processes in order to identify loopholes being exploited by individuals, groups and MDAs to defraud the nation.

For a long time, Nigeria has lost fortunes to contract and procurement fraud. Every space across the country is littered with abandoned projects. The Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors estimated the value of abandoned projects in Nigeria to be more than N12trillion. It identified 56,000 abandoned projects as far

back as 2021. Olukoyede insists that "More than 90 percent of corruption cases are related to contract and procurement abuses. By following the processes and procedures of procurement, we will be able to locate leakages and fraudulent gaps being exploited by the corrupt people in our midst," he said.

The FRAC initiative in EFCC is already causing anxiety and jitters in many MDAs. This is owing to the requests made by the Commission to many of them to forward their anti-fraud and anti-corruption frameworks to it for study and evaluation. The EFCC started with the Presidency, National Assembly and the Judicial Service Commission. They have all responded. Many more government agencies have been contacted. The foundational blocks have been built and the Department is on the way to make unprecedented success of its systems study in both the public and private sectors.

“

***We are not saying that the Commission will jettison its enforcement roles, we are saying that we will build more strength and achieve better results by preventing corruption from taking root – Olukoyede***





**We need refocusing for us to properly deliver on our mandate. Nigerians are looking forward to us and we cannot afford to disappoint them**

## ONE YEAR OF SOLID STRIDES

**Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede, in just one year in office, has turned the tide against corruption in very significant ways**

By Dele Oyewale

Time, like the human heart, races faster with work. Without work, it is slow, boring and dull. This simile aptly describes how one year has come with frenetic pace and speed owing to the enormous works of Ola Olukoyede, Executive Chairman, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, in tackling economic and financial crimes and other acts of corruption.

Listing the accomplishment of the EFCC boss between October 18, 2023 when President Bola Ahmed Tinubu appointed him and now, would take great efforts. Olukoyede hit the ground running from his first day in office. In the beginning, the EFCC's boss approached his work with a three-layered blueprint: proper focusing of the mandate of the EFCC, using the anti-graft war to achieve responsible, accountable and transparent governance at all levels and enhancing the international image of Nigeria. To achieve all these, he put forward preventive mechanisms against corruption, adherence to the rule of law and promotion of transactional credits. These blueprints are already well-established.

Administratively, Olukoyede has put a new face and identity to all the key structures of the EFCC. Operations department are now called Investigations department, Zonal Commands have become Zonal Directorates with Directors heading each of them. The Department of Internal Affairs has been renamed Department of Ethics and Integrity. Two new departments: Fraud Risk Assessment and Control, FRAC and Security were created. While FRAC handles the preventive works of the EFCC, the Security Department handles all issues of internal and external security. Also, in one fell swoop, Olukoyede commissioned new zonal offices in Enugu and Ilorin and expanded the administrative breadth of the EFCC.

Operationally, the anti-graft czar reviewed the bail and arrest procedures of the Commission to ensure the sanctity of the rule of law. He gave spirit and strength to Section 5 of the EFCC Act that offers a level-playing field to every staff of the Commission to attain the highest in the work place. This effectively broke the age-long dichotomy between operatives and non-operatives in the Commission. All these are in addition to the furnace he brought to the fight against graft, resulting in arrest and prosecution of many politically-exposed persons. Till date, Olukoyede has arraigned three former governors, three former ministers, former governor of Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN before the court. Investigations are ongoing on many important cases, including the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs.

Sensitive to the need for fully-integrated publicity and enlightenment of Nigerians about the multifarious works across various Commands of the EFCC, the Commission launched a Radio Station in May, 2024 in this regard. The station, EFCC 97.3FM has been dominating the airwaves in broadcasting anti-corruption messages within its area of coverage. Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris Malagi says that the Radio project would offer the Commission opportunities to fight fake news, distortion of its operational mandate

and outright falsehood. "As a Minister, we feel very glad for this step, because we put too much focus on catching people rather than advocacy, enlightenment and sensitization. I am happy now that we are making the right step in the right direction because nobody can tell a story better than you are, so fake news and misinformation are things we need to come together and fight by putting out facts so that the right information can be out there and radio is the simplest way of reaching the larger audience", he said.

Not stopping at that, the Commission has been active in its public outreach activities. One of such initiatives was the National Dialogue on Cybercrimes themed "Youth, Religion and Fight against Corruption" convened on January 31, 2024. Nigerians from all walks of life, including President Bola Ahmed Tinubu identified with the programme. Vice President Kashim Shettima, speaking for the President at the event stressed that "Our country is not a nation of fraudsters and the pejorative reference to internet crimes as the "Nigerian scam" across the world is unfair, untenable and unacceptable. Cybercrimes, to all intents and purposes, are a global phenomenon. Today's world is run real time on the internet. Governance, businesses, institutions and even individual domestic affairs are dependent on the internet. Cyber criminals are, therefore, a threat to the rest of the world. This is why no effort or expense should be spared in confronting the evil. I want to assure the EFCC that the government will continue to offer its support in its quest to kill the dragon that internet offences have become".

Regarding the administrative and operational renaissance brought to the Commission, the EFCC's boss says that, "we need refocusing for us to properly deliver on our mandate. Nigerians are looking forward to us and we cannot afford to disappoint them. Our operational dynamics must reflect our respect for the rule of law and the need to use the instrumentality of the anti-corruption war to stimulate growth in the economy. We are mindful of the reputational damage corruption has done to our nation and so, we are prepared to initiate policies and changes that will improve our image. We are resolute about this and soon, Nigerians will begin to see changes positively".

Concerning convictions and recoveries between October 2023 and September, 2024, the EFCC under the watch of Olukoyede secured 3455 convictions and made staggering monetary convictions ranging from N 248,750,049,365.52 (Two Hundred and Forty-Eight Billion, Seven Hundred and Fifty Million, Forty-Nine Thousand, Three Hundred and Sixty-Five Naira, Fifty-Two Kobo); \$105,423,190.39 (One Hundred and Five Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Three Thousand, One Hundred and Ninety Dollars, Thirty-Nine Cents); £ 53,133.64 (Fifty-Three Thousand, One Hundred and Thirty-Three Pounds, Sixty-Four Pence); €172,547.10 (One Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty-Seven Euros, Ten Cents); ₹1,300.00 (One Thousand, Three Hundred Indian Rupees); CAD \$ 3,400.00 (Three Thousand, Four Hundred Canadian Dollars); ¥74,859.00 (Seventy-Four Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Nine Chinese Yuan); AUS \$ 740.00 (Seven Hundred and Forty Australian Dollars); 170.00 UAE DIRHAM (One Hundred and Seventy United Arab Emirates Dirham); 73,000.00 KOREAN WON (Seventy-Three Thousand Korean Won); CFA 7,821,375.00 (Seven

Olukoyede's three-layered blueprints:

- 1 Proper focusing of the mandate of the EFCC
- 2 Using the anti-graft war to achieve responsible, accountable and transparent governance at all levels
- 3 Enhancing the international image of Nigeria



EFCC Chairman, Ola Olukoyede and President Bola Ahmed Tinubu





EFCC Chair, Ola Olukoyede (3rd Right) and other senior Lawyers at the 2024 NBA Conference in Lagos



EFCC Chair, Ola Olukoyede and Minister of Information and National Orientation, Mohammed Idris Malagi fielding questions at the commissioning of EFCC Radio

Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-One Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy-Five West African CFA) to R 50:00 (Fifty South Africa Rands). This feat undoubtedly raises higher stakes for the nation's anti-graft initiatives.

Policy drives and initiatives in the one year of the EFCC's boss are remarkable. Till date, the Special Task Force against Naira Abuse and Dollarisation of the Economy has succeeded in changing the behavioral approach of Nigerians to the handling of the Naira. Naira abuse has almost become a thing of the past. More than 35 convictions have been secured in this regard. The convicts cut across different classes of the society, with Idris Okuneye (a.k.a Bobrisky) topping the chart of high-profile convicts in this regard. Another offender, Pascal Chibuikwe Okechukwu (a.k.a Cubana Chief Priest) had his charges compounded and was fined. The attendant turnaround of Nigerians concerning the handling of the nation's currency continues to be good testament to the tenacity and courage of Olukoyede in driving reforms.

Commenting on the reforms, The Director-General of National Orientation Agency, NOA, Mallam Lanre says the actions being taken by the Commission against Naira abuse amount to "preservation of the integrity of the national currency, the Naira."

"On behalf of the management and staff of the National Orientation Agency (NOA), I write to commend the Economic and Financial Crimes

**Nigerians are grateful to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for giving us an EFCC Chairman that knows what to do in tackling economic and financial crimes. Prevention is all we need. Nigerians need to be more sensitized about the evils of corruption and there is no better time to do it than now**

Commission (EFCC) and especially the Chairman, for the recent actions of the Commission with regard to the preservation of the integrity of the National Currency, the Naira".

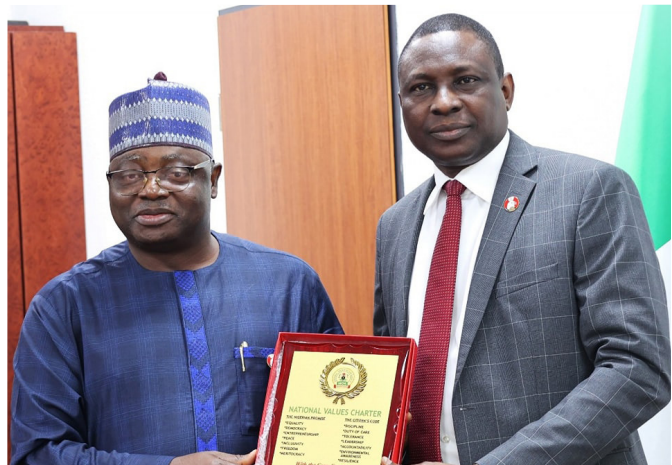
"The arrest of cross-dresser Idris Okuneye also known as Bobrisky over the abuse of the naira accords with our objective to stop the abuse of the naira and other national symbols", he said.

Outside the war on naira abuse, Olukoyede's focus on prevention is receiving premium support from Nigerians from all walks of life. President of Global Peace Movement, Mike Uyi, says the emphasis on prevention of corruption by the EFCC Chairman shows "proper focusing and original thinking". He added that, "Nigerians are grateful to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for giving us an EFCC Chairman that knows what to do in tackling economic and financial crimes. Prevention is all we need. Nigerians need to be more sensitized about the evils of corruption and there is no better time to do it than now".

Uyi applauded Olukoyede's courage in driving reforms stressing that "at this stage of development in Nigeria, only a leader like Olukoyede with courage, conviction and integrity can lead the fight against corruption".

At the global level, the EFCC is smelling well. Christopher Wray, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, in a recent visit to the FBI was upbeat about the partnership and collaboration between the two agencies. Olukoyede was on hand to receive him on his first official visit to the Commission. Wray stated that "We have had a relationship over the years and this is a reflection of how stronger than ever we are looking forward to taking our partnership to higher and higher levels in tackling threats that affect the people of Nigeria and the people of the United States. We have had close partnerships in shared values and focus and I want to say thank you for the wonderful partnership", he said.

Like Wray, the Canadian Royal Mounted Police was all praises for the Olukoyede-led EFCC for the recovery and hand-over of 53 vehicles the sum of \$180,300, being assets recovered for Canadian victims of Nigerian fraudsters. Receiving the assets, Robert Aboumitri, First Secretary, Deputy High



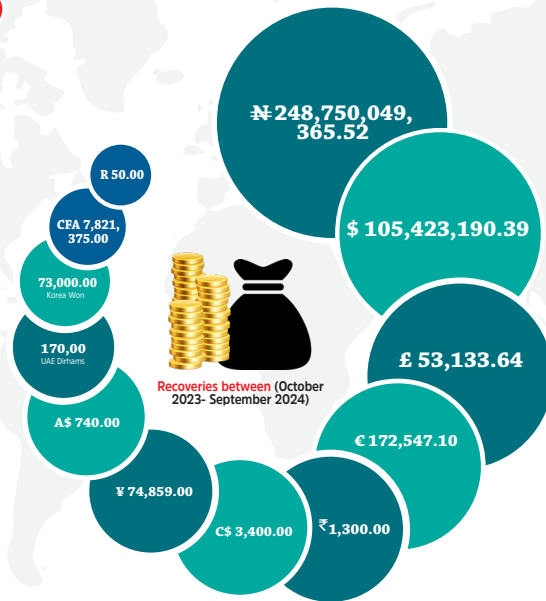
DG, NOA, Lanre Issa-Onilu and EFCC Chairman, Ola Olukoyede



Spanish Ambassador, Juan Ignacio Sell and EFCC Chair, Ola Olukoyede

## ONE YEAR OF SOLID STRIDES

1



2

### A Breakdown of Convictions Secured Between October 2023 and September 2024



**3,455** Total Number of Conviction between October 2023 to September 2024

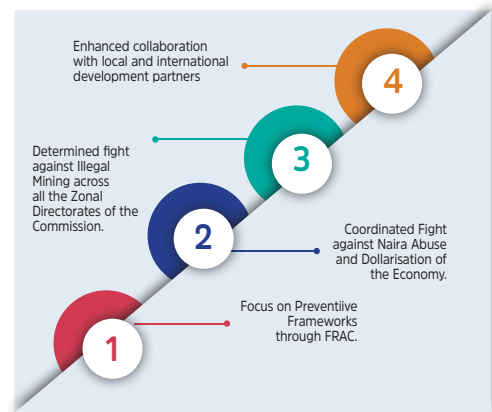
3



### Top Five Arraignments



4



### Policy Reforms

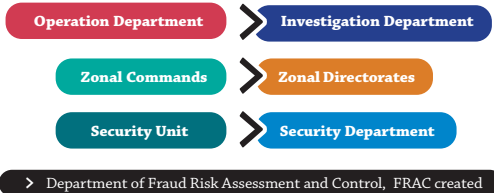
5



### Administrative Changes

BEFORE

NOW



6



### High Profile Cases Investigated & Defendants on Trial

ALLEGED \$6 billion fraud



OLU AGUNLOYE

ALLEGED N5.8 billion fraud



HADI SIRIKA

ALLEGED N33.8 billion fraud



MAMMAN SALEH

ALLEGED N4 billion fraud



WILLIE OBIANO

ALLEGED N10 billion fraud



ABDULFATAH AHMED

ALLEGED N10 billion fraud



ALI BELLO & DAUDA SULAIMAN

ALLEGED N3.5 billion fraud



CHARLES UGWU

Several alleged corruption cases



GODWIN EMEFIELE





**Launch of Interfaith Manual, January 30, 2024**

***We have had a relationship over the years and this is a reflection of how stronger than ever we are looking forward to taking our partnership to higher and higher levels in tackling threats that affect the people of Nigeria and the people of the United States***

Commission of Canada and Nasser Salihou, Liaison Officer and Programme Manager, RCMP, expressed appreciation to the EFCC for the efforts. Salihou specifically stated that "I would like to on behalf of the RCMP extend our warm greeting and thank you for all the work that has been done and I am pretty sure the victims will hear and they will say the same. This is a testimony of your professionalism and your commitment to combat crime"

At the Regional level, Olukoyede is the serving President of the Network of Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa, NACIWA. At a recent 6th Annual General Assembly held in August, 2024 in Abuja, Olukoyede led other heads of anti-corruption institutions to implement the ECOWAS protocol on the fight against corruption and strengthening collaboration among the institutions. His exemplary leadership in NACIWA not only made the AGM successful, it is also serving as an awakening to more robust anti-graft initiatives in the sub-region.

For this and many sterling efforts of the EFCC's boss, individuals and groups are honouring Olukoyede with genuine awards. One of the most credible of such honours came when he was named the nation's foremost anti-graft accountability champion at the Nigeria Excellence Awards in Public Service organised by The Best Strategic PR, TBS, in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, SGE. Olukoyede, the only giant in the anti-corruption corridor honoured with the Anti-Graft Accountability Award, clinched the Award for his "scorecard and exceptional delivery in public service".

The Award was presented to him by the Vice-President, Kashim Shettima at the State House Conference Centre. In the same vein, the EFCC's boss bagged the prestigious International Peace Award by the Global Peace Movement International, UK. President General of the group, Dr. Mike Uyi said that the award is in fulfillment of one of its cardinal corporate social responsibilities to acknowledge and reward excellence by different players and stakeholders who in one way or the other gave their robust contributions to the growth and development of the society and the nation at large. Several other honours have come the way of Olukoyede.

For now, the anti-corruption train is gaining momentum. The narratives are changing and the future holds good promises not only for the anti-corruption movement but for every Nigerian.



**Robert Aboumitri, First Secretary, Deputy High Commission of Canada, signing document for the recovered vehicles**



**New Enugu Zonal Directorate Commissioned January, 2024**



# The Energy Of Synergy

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC's collaboration with local and international law enforcement agencies is yielding increasing operational and reputational dividends.

By Dele Oyewale

**R**obert Aboumitri, First Secretary, Deputy High Commission of Canada and Nasser Salihou, Liaison Officer and Programme Manager, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, RCMP, are not Nigerians. However, their fervour and excitement about the anti-corruption initiatives in Nigeria are making them upbeat about the nation.

The two Canadians were recent guests of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC at the handover of \$180,300 ( One Hundred and Eighty Thousand, Three Hundred United States Dollars) and 53 vehicles, being assets recovered for Canadian victims of Nigerian fraudsters. Commenting on the issue, Salihou said that other nations would be jealous of Nigeria for pulling off the assets from fraudsters and returning them to their victims.

"I would like to on behalf of the RCMP extend our warm greeting and thank you for all the work that has been done and I am pretty sure the victims will hear and they will say the same. This is a testimony of your professionalism and your commitment to combat crime. I would not conclude my statement without thanking the government of Nigeria as well.... all other countries will be jealous of you. This shows that you are our key partner in West Africa in combating crimes. So thank you very much. We value this partnership and we will like to take it to the highest level possible," he said.

The 53 recovered vehicles were stolen over a period of time in Canada, freighted to Nigeria and distributed to multiple locations in Nigeria by the criminal elements. The EFCC combed all the locations, recovered the vehicles and returned them to the victims. Aboumitri said that the EFCC was able to do that owing to existing collaboration with the Canadian Police overtime. "... We have found out that in Nigeria, one of our best partners is, has been and hoping

it will continue to, is the EFCC. We never knocked EFCC's door without them answering. It has been a great partnership and the culmination of the partnership is the result that we are seeing", he said.

For the EFCC, collaboration is like a force majeure and it is yielding handsome results. Across the West-African sub-region, the Commission is leading initiatives regarding regional partnership among anti-corruption agencies. In August 2024, it hosted the 6th Annual General Assembly, AGA, of the Network of Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa, NACIWA, with the theme "Implementing the ECOWAS Protocol on the Fight Against Corruption Towards Strengthening Institutions for Regional Unity." Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Ola Olukoyede and serving President of NACIWA explained that implementing the ECOWAS protocol on the fight against corruption and strengthening collaboration among regional anti-corruption institutions was imperative.

For three days, heads and representatives of anti-corruption agencies in West Africa converged in Abuja and came up with a position that comprehensive guidelines for the implementation of the ECOWAS Protocol on the fight against corruption was necessary to conform with international instruments such as United Nations Convention Against Corruption, UNCAC and the African Union, AU, Convention against Corruption. Olukoyede specifically demanded that artifacts stolen from Africa by some Western countries should be returned with interest. "For example, some artifacts have been taken to some museums within the Western world, U.S, European countries, and all of that. "For decades, if not centuries, people have been going into the museums, paying to look at these artifacts. "What happened to the proceeds that they have generated from these artifacts over the years? So, it is not just for them to return the artifacts", he queried.

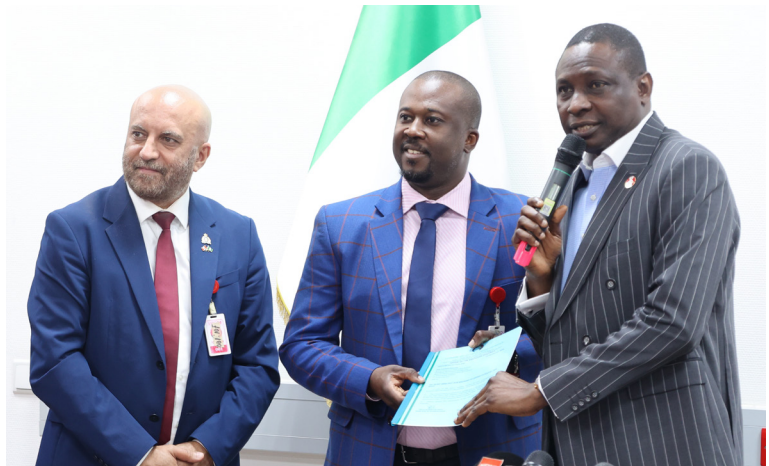
***We have found out that in Nigeria, one of our best partners is, has been and hoping it will continue to, is the EFCC. We never knocked EFCC's door without them answering. It has been a great partnership and the culmination of the partnership is the result that we are seeing***



Beyond NACIWA, the EFCC has remarkable synergy with several other law enforcement agencies across the world. Director of the American Federal Bureau of Investigations, FBI, Mr. Christopher Wray, while on a courtesy visit to the Commission, stressed the mileage which collaboration between his Bureau and the EFCC has earned the two agencies over the years, maintaining that threats posed to the global community by fraudsters are being mitigated through regular alliances. "Thank you for your hospitality and in particular for the partnership that exists between the FBI and the EFCC across a wide range of threats that we face together. We have had a relationship over the years and this is a reflection of how stronger than ever we are looking forward to taking our partnership to higher and higher levels in tackling threats that affect the people of Nigeria and the people of the United States. We have had close partnerships in shared values and focus and I want to say thank you for the wonderful partnership," he said.

There are several threats fraudsters are posing to different nations. Many of them are related to internet offences. Collaboration of law enforcement agencies across the world is helping to mitigate the effects of these criminal acts. Through collaboration, joint operations are undertaken, extradition of fraudsters is made possible, recovery and return of stolen assets are regularly done, criminal networks of syndicates are easily broken and considerable progress is made in making the world safer and corruption-free. Olukoyede says that fraudulent practices have become transnational and the most effective way of breaking the

***We have had a relationship over the years and this is a reflection of how stronger than ever we are looking forward to taking our partnership to higher and higher levels in tackling threats that affect the people of Nigeria and the people of the United States. We have had close partnerships in shared values and focus and I want to say thank you for the wonderful partnership***



**Robert Aboumitri of Canadian High Commission, Nasser Salihou of RCMP and EFCC Chairman, Ola Olukoyede**



**FBI Director, Christopher Wray and EFCC Chair, Ola Olukoyede**



**Managing Director, NDIC, Mr Bello Hassan and EFCC Chairman, Ola Olukoyede**



Director General of the National Crime Agency, NCA, United Kingdom, Mr Graeme Biggar and EFCC Chairman, Ola Olukoyede



siege of fraudsters is through partnership and collaboration. “We cannot exhaust the significance of collaboration of law enforcement agencies with one another. “It has become very imperative for us to understand that financial crimes have become borderless crimes. Sometimes, you will discover that they operate from a different country and get their victims in another country and the proceeds of crime go to a different country. On our path we are resolute to ensure that Nigeria is not made a safe haven for financial criminals and corrupt people. We do it to cleanse our system in collaboration with our partners across the world. We are much more ready to continue to do that. In the interest of both countries we must do what we have to do. There must be mutual trust, mutual support for us to ensure that we cleanse the global financial ecosystem from being destroyed,” he said.

One of the fruits of this came in August, 2024 when the EFCC handed over €5100 (Five Thousand, One Hundred Euros) proceeds of crime to the Spanish Ambassador to Nigeria, Juan Ignacio Sell. The sum was recovered from a Nigerian romance fraudster for Heinz Burchard Einhaus Uchtmann, a Spanish victim by the EFCC in collaboration with the Spanish Police. While handing over the deed of release on behalf of the Nigerian government, the EFCC boss expressed appreciation to the Spanish counterpart for its support to Nigeria over the

**Nigeria will continue to work with its international partners to ensure that cyber criminals and organized crime groups involved in transnational car thefts are deprived of the benefits of their illegal activities**

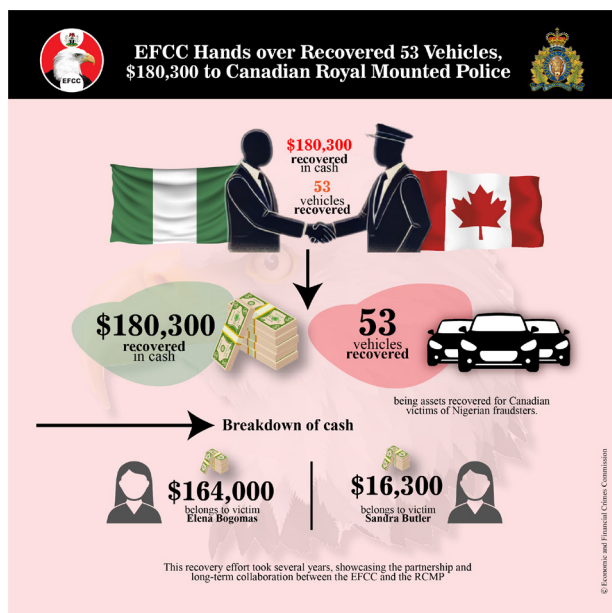
years, noting that the asset recovery and handover lent evidence to the cordial relationship and collaboration between both countries and their law enforcement agencies.

“I would like to thank you for all the support over the years on behalf of your country that you have been giving to Nigeria and also for finding Nigeria a conducive place to carry out your diplomatic work and encouraging investors from Spain to come to Nigeria and invest. On our part as a law enforcement agency, the event here today is a testament of the collaboration between Nigeria and Spain and also between the law enforcement agencies in Nigeria and Spain,” he said.

Sell in his response, lauded the collaboration between the EFCC and Spanish Police and pledged the commitment of the Spanish government to strengthen and take it higher. “Many times you work on processes and you will never see the end result of your endeavours but what has made this special is the fact that we have seen the results of the efforts of the collaboration of two countries that are friends for the benefit of the citizens. Indeed this is a joyful moment for all of us: those who were involved in the investigation and those who supervised it and made it happen,” he said.

Sell also noted that “International crimes call very clearly for stronger collaboration between agencies and between countries. I am a witness that this is happening between Nigeria and Spain and specifically between the EFCC and Spanish Police. Beyond the operational collaboration you have with our police, we will also look at other avenues of collaboration in training and exchange of information. We are more than willing and more than ready to increase that cooperation between the EFCC and its sister institutions in Spain”, he said.

In appraising the salutary effects of collaboration, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu commended the EFCC for its recovery efforts regarding the Canadian victims of stolen vehicles, stressing that “Nigeria will continue to work with its international partners to ensure that cyber criminals and organized crime groups involved in transnational car thefts are deprived of the benefits of their illegal activities”. For now, collaboration continues to be the magic wand of bringing the world together to confront a common enemy. Tinubu maintained that “all relevant agencies, particularly the anti-corruption agencies should always strive to protect Nigeria’s economic and financial integrity from organized crime infiltration”.





# NACIWA: Charting Regional Anti- corruption Course

By Tony Egbulefu

**For three days, anti-corruption marshals of West African countries gathered in Abuja to provide a compass for more effective and integrated regional response to corruption and financial crimes in the community**

**H**eads of anti-corruption agencies in West Africa gathered in Abuja, Nigeria from August 19 to 21 for its sixth Annual General Assembly, under the aegis of Network of Anti-corruption Institutions in West Africa (NACIWA). The centerpiece of the event was a discussion on the theme: "Implementing the ECOWAS Protocol on the Fight Against Corruption Towards Strengthening Institutions for Regional Security," presented by Ebenezer Asiedu, ECOWAS Head, Democracy and Good Governance with panel of discussants on reflections on the Protocol's implementation comprising, Mr. Serigne Bassirou Gueye, Mr. Tahir Sylvanus (SAN), Monsieur Aba Kimelabalou and Francis Ben Kaifala, being President of Senegal's anti-corruption agency, OFNAC, Director, Legal and Prosecution, EFCC, Nigeria, President, Togo's anti-corruption agency, HAPLUCIA and Commissioner of Sierra Leone's anti-corruption agency, ACC, respectively. The second panel that discussed "prospects of the Protocol and the way forward" included, Alexandra Zoe, Mr. Kingsley Obi, Mrs Jacqueline Opoku and Mr. Abubakar Jimoh who are Executive Chairperson, Liberia's anti-corruption agency, LACC, Head, External Cooperation Unit, ICPC, Nigeria, Deputy Executive Director, Ghana's anti-corruption agency, EOCO and CISLAC, Nigeria, respectively.

While Asiedu noted that "The grave consequences of corruption on investment, economic growth and democracy have contributed to hinder the attainment of a prosperous, democratic and integrated community," he identified factors that militate against efficient anti-corruption regimes in member states to include, political interferences, inadequate popularization and awareness of the Protocol, institutional weaknesses

and absence of robust legal framework on corruption. Others are: executive immunity, suspicion on the involvement of civil society organisations in the fight against corruption, attacks on investigative journalists and whistleblowers, impunity and poverty.

Recurring as militating factors at the regional level are also lack of political will by leaders on corruption related matters, inadequate popularization and awareness of the Protocol and inadequate funding support for the implementation of the PFaC.

The Protocol, adopted in 2001 speaks to the commitment of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Governments to tackle corruption as existential threat to peace and development in the region by giving added impetus to mechanisms for preventing, suppressing, and eradicating corruption in

***Recurring as militating factors at the regional level are also lack of political will by leaders on corruption related matters, inadequate popularization and awareness of the Protocol and inadequate funding support for the implementation of the PFaC***



Dr. Musa Aliyu, ICPC Chairman



Ola Olukoyede, EFCC Chair



Prince Lateef Fagbemi, SAN



member states.

It further seeks to intensify and revitalise cooperation among member states with a view to making anti-corruption measures more effective and promote the harmonisation and coordination of national anti-corruption laws and policies.

***The grave consequences of corruption on investment, economic growth and democracy have contributed to hinder the attainment of a prosperous, democratic and integrated community robust legal framework on corruption***

Speakers at the event included, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, represented by Vice President Kashim Shettima, Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, Chairman, ICPC, Senator Udende Emmanuel, Chairman, Senate Committee on Anti-corruption and Financial Crimes, Ambassador Addel-Fatau Musah, Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security, ECOWAS Commission, Danilo Campisi, UNODC Deputy Country Representative, represented by Princess Chifiero, Prince Lateef Fagbemi, (SAN), Attorney General and Minister of Justice and Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency, Yusuf Maitama Tuggar.

Other highlights of the event are, the announcement of a donation of a headquarter complex for NACIWA in Abuja by President Tinubu, a presentation on the draft ECOWAS Guidelines on Asset Recovery and Borderless Investigation and a Closed-door Session for the Annual General Assembly, chaired by Ola Olukoyede, President of NACIWA.

## Communique

**A** 21-point resolution was reached by the Assembly towards fostering a corruption-free West Africa which include: an emphasis on the urgent need for the development of comprehensive guidelines for the full implementation of the ECOWAS Protocol on the fight against corruption to bring it in line with other international instruments such as UNCAC and the AU Convention against Corruption; strong advocacy for better funding and resourcing of anti-corruption agencies in the sub-region, recognizing that adequate human and material resources are essential for the effective discharge of their mandates; a call on the ECOWAS Commission to expedite the establishment of a Technical Commission for the effective implementation of the ECOWAS Protocol on the fight against corruption, offering NACIWA's expertise and support in the endeavour; resolve to pursue the harmonization of legal and regulatory frameworks across the region to prevent safe havens for corrupt individuals and facilitate more effective cross-border anti-corruption efforts; call on member states

yet to domesticate the ECOWAS Protocol on the fight against corruption to do so, towards ensuring a unified regional approach to fighting corruption and commitment to leveraging technology to enhance transparency, accountability, and efficiency in anti-corruption efforts across the region.

Others are: a decision to improve monitoring, reporting, and enforcement mechanisms within NACIWA and its member institutions to ensure the effective implementation of anti-corruption measures; a pledge to deepen public awareness on the negative effects of corruption through comprehensive education and outreach programmes, encouraging active citizen participation in anti-corruption initiatives; encouragement of member institutions to embrace peer learning and knowledge sharing, particularly to support less experienced agencies in developing effective anti-corruption strategies and acceptance of the development of the draft ECOWAS Guidelines on Asset Recovery and Borderless Investigation which was presented at the Assembly.



# A Silver Bullet Against Money Laundering

***As money laundering assumes a pandemic dimension in Africa and the world over, Interpol gears to launch a special response against it.***

By Tony Egbulefu

In its bid to frontally tackle the scourge of money laundering and illicit financial flows across the world, especially Africa, the International Police Organisation, INTERPOL, has unveiled plan to launch a new module codenamed Silver Notices.

This disclosure was made in Abuja on Monday, July 29, 2024 by the Interpol Vice President for Africa, Garba Baba Umar, while declaring open a four-day training workshop for Nigerian law enforcement agencies at the EFCC Academy, Abuja.

According to Umar, money laundering across Africa and the world has assumed a monstrous dimension and Interpol has designed Silver Notices to combat the menace.

"Evidence has shown that every hour, hundreds of thousands of dollars are flowing out of Nigeria to the region and across the world. "With every successful laundering of criminal money, our country becomes more prone to crime. More drugs, more fraud, more corruption and more violence. Every time criminal money is successfully laundered, our financial institutions take an additional blow," he said.

He stressed that hard times awaited money launderers as the Silver Notices would make illicit funds more difficult to launder in any part of the world.

Speaking on the theme of the workshop: "Strengthening Capacity and Coordination against Financial Crimes," Umar

pointed out that financial crimes had become transnational and law enforcement agencies needed regular training for their workforce to be ahead of fraudsters.

He urged participants at the workshop to make it a duty to discuss and learn transnational crimes affecting their regions and identify possible solutions through review of policing capabilities to support the country and facilitate direct and in-person interaction amongst law enforcement networks across the country.

Umar charged all participants at the workshop to take collaboration with other law enforcement agencies seriously to advance their investigations and ensure that criminals do not get to enjoy the fruits of their crime. "The only way we can move forward as a country is by working together and identifying common problems, jointly devising solutions, and taking coordinated and cohesive action. And now is the time that we need to go far, by going together," he said.

Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede in his goodwill message, also harped on the need for enhanced collaboration in tackling financial crimes. He particularly stressed that the complex nature of corruption across the world could only be broken by the might of collaborative actions by stakeholders.

*With every successful laundering of criminal money, our country becomes more prone to crime. More drugs, more fraud, more corruption and more violence – Garba Umar*







Cross section of Interpol officers at the workshop



AIG Garba Umar (rtd) Mr Francis Usani, Director, FRAC, EFCC



EFCC's Director of Public Affairs, Wilson Uwujaren, Commandant, EFCC Academy, Mrs Chinwe Ndubeze, Japanese Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr Kazuyoshi Matsunaga, Director NFIU, Ms Hafsat Bakari and Director, Interpol's Financial Crime and Anti-corruption Centre, Mr Isaac Ogini

"The daunting nature of the fight against corruption in Nigeria and the world at large deserves serious collaboration among organizations saddled with the responsibility of fighting corruption," he said.

Olukoyede, who spoke through the Director, Fraud Risk Assessment and Control, FRAC, of the EFCC, Mr. Francis Usani, appraised the pivotal role of the EFCC in tackling corrupt practices, especially its impressive records of convictions and recoveries and expressed optimism that, with the new emphasis on preventive framework in tackling financial crimes by the Commission, greater progress would be made. "Our records of convictions and recoveries stand us out, but we will not rest on our oars, we are committed to do more and in this commitment, the EFCC is re-strategising its operations with a focus on prevention knowing that it is easier and cheaper to prevent corruption from happening than investigating and prosecuting it," he said.

In his remark, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Nigeria, Mr Kazuyoshi Matsunaga, described the workshop as an important joint initiative between Japan and Nigeria to combat financial crimes. He explained that in the globalized world, financial crimes transcended borders and required international cooperation among law enforcement agencies to combat them.

"I am delighted that INTERPOL and the Japanese National Police Agency are an integral part of this project, contributing their expertise. A remarkable collaboration took place three years ago when Japanese and Nigerian law enforcement agencies successfully

returned a fund to a Japanese fraud victim, earning immense gratitude. Strengthening our partnership through this project will benefit not only Nigerians, but people around the world, including the Japanese," he said.

Director and Chief Executive Officer, Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit, NFIU, Hafsat Bakare, spoke about the imperative of strengthening capacity and coordination against financial crimes, pointing out that "financial intelligence and financial analysis techniques are key to tackling economic crimes."

The NFIU, she said, was sensitive to the interconnected nature of the criminal justice system, the threat of organized crime and cybercrimes being fought by law enforcement agencies. She expressed optimism that the training law enforcement officers would receive at the workshop would "sustain efforts being made to ensure that Nigeria exits the Grey List of the Financial Action Task Force possibly by mid 2025."

Director, INTERPOL's Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Centre, IFCACC, Isaac Kehinde Oginni, said the only way to disrupt organised crimes was denying fraudsters the proceeds of their crime. He challenged participants and stakeholders at the workshop to collectively work together and fight money laundering.

The four-day workshop was organized by INTERPOL and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, JICA. It drew participants from the Nigeria Police, EFCC, NFIU, Nigeria Immigration Service and the Nigeria Customs Service.



*The daunting nature of the fight against corruption in Nigeria and the world at large deserves serious collaboration among organizations saddled with the responsibility of fighting corruption*  
– Olukoyede



# Robbing Peter To Pay Self

**Olaniyan Amos, proprietor of a fraudulent investment outfit bags 75 years imprisonment for defrauding hundreds of victims in Ibadan**

By Williams Oseghale

Tears rolled down his cheeks as he walked out of the court room sandwiched between two officers of the Nigerian Correctional Service. Quickly, the officers led him into a waiting Green Maria vehicle as the crowd struggled to catch a glimpse of him. As the driver maneuvered the vehicle out of the court premises,

there was spontaneous jubilation by the huge crowd that had thronged the

court premises that morning. For them, the conviction and sentencing of Olaniyan Gbenga Amos, managing director of Detorrid Heritage Investment Limited to prison was some sort of psychological victory and justice served while for Amos and his collaborators, the chicken has come home to roost.

Indeed, the jubilation at the court premises was understandable. Amos had caused the jubilant crowd pain, tears and sorrow as they lost their hard-earned money, savings and business capital to his fraudulent investment scheme. Typical of fraudsters, Amos had represented himself to his victims as a portfolio manager and investment expert who can earn them high returns on their investment.

Paradoxically, Amos couched his investment enterprise, “Crime Alert Security Investment; a name coined to hoodwink investors into believing that the outfit was backed by security organizations. Through this platform, he canvassed and lured his clientele with irresistible returns on their investment.

Like many of the rogue investment schemes, Amos modus operandi was to fulfill the financial obligation to some of the earliest investors with high return on investment.



Olaniyan Amos

Those who get paid became unsolicited canvassers and promoters who lured more investors into the scheme. Soon he was unable to meet up with the obligations to investors until the entire system collapsed.

Disappointed that they could not recover their principal sum, or the return on the investment, some of the investors petitioned the Ibadan Zonal Command of the EFCC.

Upon receipt of the petition, the Commission embarked on a painstaking investigation where it was discovered that Amos had successfully scammed his investors of over a billion naira. Based on the quantum of evidence amassed, the Commission filed a 35 count charge of obtaining by false pretence, diversion of funds and impersonation against him. Amos was consequently arraigned before Justice Bayo Taiwo of Oyo State High Court, sitting in Ibadan on Thursday December 14, 2021.

In one of the charges, Olaniyan Gbenga Amos and his company, Detorrid Heritage Investment Limited were said to have “on or about the 27th of August 2020 at Ibadan, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud obtained the sum of N170,000 (One Hundred and Seventy Thousand Naira) only from Alhaji Mukalla Odunayo” when you falsely represented to him that the money is meant for registration and investment with Crime Alert Security Network with a promise of 30% return on investment in six weeks which representations you knew to be false and thereby

committed an offence of obtaining money under false pretence contrary to Section 1(1)(a) and punishable under Section 1(3) of the Advance Fee

*When you did not sweat for money or you did not work hard for money, you can invest it in such schemes. But when you know that you work hard for money, it is difficult for you to invest it in such roadside investments*

Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act.2006.”

Upon arraignment, the defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge, setting the stage for the commencement of trial. The prosecution counsel, Sanusi Galadanchi opened his case on June 13, 2022 and closed it on November 3, 2022 after calling six witnesses and tendering eight documents which were admitted as exhibit. Rather than enter defence, the defence counsel, filed a no case submission which was dismissed by the trial court." The judge ordered the defendant to open his defence.

Two years later, the trial came to an end as the Judge convicted and sentenced the defendant to 15 years imprisonment each in five of the counts. The sentences are to run concurrently. The judge also ordered the convict to reconstitute the victims of their money.

James Allison, Head, Advance Fee Fraud Section, Benin Zonal Command advises would-be investors to be circumspect before investing their money in schemes with promises of outrageous returns. According to him, such returns on investment are not sustainable as they are not backed by any fundamentals. “Investors should do their research before investing in any scheme. From research, you will see that the so-called investment outfits have no noticeable board members or known businesses that they are doing. So how do you give your money to people whose business interest you do not know?”

Isa Agwai, a lawyer, blames the scam on greed on part of the victims. According to him, the methodology of the crime is the same everywhere, whether now or in the past. “Those who get defrauded have short memories. This type of scam have happened in the past and it will happen again because some people want easy and quick money.” Aside prosecuting the fraudsters, Agwai believes that one way of curbing it is for people to stop being greedy and be contented. “They can't get you if you are not looking for quick returns on investment.

For Peter Iyeke, a veteran journalist, it is greed and wrong mindset that is responsible for what he calls wrong investment. Again, he says some people whose source of money may not be legal can also be victim of this fraud. “When you did not sweat for money or you did not work hard for money, you can invest it in such schemes. But when you know that you work hard for money, it is difficult for you to invest it in such roadside investments.”

– Additional Reports by Olumide Egbodofa





# Breaking Fraudulent Schemes of Blackmail and Death

*Internet fraudsters are opening a new page of criminality through intricate schemes of sexual extortion affecting mostly foreign victims but the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, is determined to tackle the menace.*

By Dele Oyewale

**A**s a teenager, 17-year old Jordan DeMay, a Michigan High School student in the United States of America had swelling interest in football and basketball. He was looking forward to graduating from High School and rewarding

future as a possible soccer star. All these hopes, however, went awry when he ended his own life in a self-inflicted gunshot owing to a combination of fear and shame arising from his nude photographs in the custody of two Nigerian alleged cyber criminals, Samuel Ogoshi

and Samson Ogoshi.

The journey to the great beyond started for DeMay when he met the Ogoshis online and became friends with them. The two brothers reportedly hacked social media accounts and employed the accounts to trick their victim into



FBI Director, Christopher Wray and EFCC Chair, Ola Olukoyede

into believing that they were a young woman seeking a relationship with young male foreigner. Specifically, the two siblings allegedly used an Instagram account with the username “dani.robertts” to lure DeMay into a romantic relationship with Samuel.

At the outset of the romantic romp, the union looked good. Samuel and DeMay were in constant touch with each other, sharing erotic conversations and sexually explicit photographs with each other. They were like two lovebirds savouring the ecstasy of their union. Samuel usually sent nude photographs of “herself” to DeMay which he was also reciprocating with his own nudes. However, what seemed like ecstasy to DeMay soon turned to fantasy as his ‘female’ friend started blackmailing him with threats of sharing his nudes online except he paid up. Samuel actually demanded a \$1,000 payment lest he threw open DeMay’s nude photographs to his friends, family members, classmates and even the entire internet community!

A sample of a text conversation between the alleged sextortionists and DeMay reads: ....“I have screenshot all ur followers and tags can send this nudes(sic) to everyone and also send your nudes to your family and friends until(sic) it goes viral... All you have to do is to cooperate with me .....just pay me right now ....and I won’t expose you”. For DeMay, the demand was an overkill as he could only raise \$300. Faced with constant threats from the sextortionists, he took his own life in March, 2022 as a face-saving measure.

In 2023, the same horrendous circumstance played out in Australia when two Nigerian men allegedly made frantic efforts to extort a

**I have screenshot all ur followers and tags can send this nudes(sic) to everyone and also send your nudes to your family and friends Until(sic) it goes viral... All you have to do is to cooperate with me .....Just pay me right now ....and I won't expose you**

teenager by threatening to release his compromising photos online. Australian police authorities decried the death of the boy owing to threats of exposing him to public opprobrium by the suspects.

Investigations by the police showed that the suspects demanded Aus\$500(US\$330) from the deceased teenager. When the boy could not raise the money, he reportedly committed suicide in April 2024. Enraged by this sinister act, the Australian Police, working with both the Nigerian and South African authorities tracked the two alleged sextortionists to Nigeria. With the arrest of the fraudsters, an elated Australian Federal Police Commander, Helen Schneider said that “the sextortion of children is a borderless crime, as these arrests show”.

Sextortion is sexual exploitation of victims for fraudulent financial gains. It is a grand scheme of deception and blackmail involving a cyber-criminal using the vulnerability of a victim to extort money which often results in fatal consequences. DeMay and the Australian teenager committed suicide and these acts and the rising tide of the fraud across the world is generating concerns in the law enforcement community. The FBI reportedly issued a public safety alert in 2023 in America warning that “thousands of teens, particularly young males, are being targeted in sextortion schemes most of which originate abroad”. The same concerns are being raised in Australia and in other parts of the world on this criminal act.

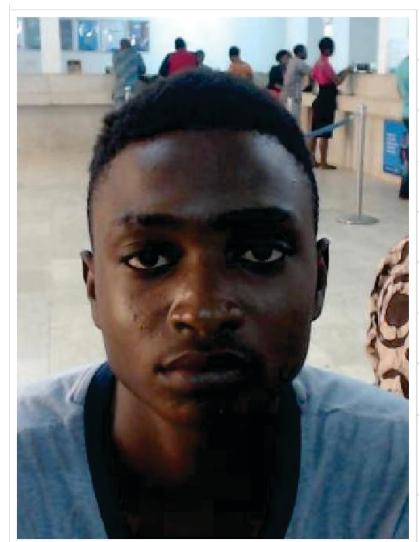
Just like the Australian police was incensed by the suicide of their teenager, the FBI was also outraged by the death of DeMay and threats of other sextortionists against teenagers in the United States. On this score, the FBI contacted the EFCC and on February 1, 2023, the Commission had a joint operation with the FBI in Nigeria on the issue. The operation, codenamed *Ops Nasara*, yielded the arrest of six suspects. They are: Samuel Ogoshi, Samson Ogoshi, Emmanuel Tsaku Williams, Francis Uchechukwu Ekpe, Oche Wisdom Egahi and Ezekiel Ejehem Roberts. .

Extradition proceedings were initiated against three of the six actors – Samuel Ogoshi, Samson Ogoshi and Ezekiel Ejehem Roberts while the other three were prosecuted in Nigeria. Two of the suspects, Samuel and Samson were extradited to the United States while Roberts is on appeal after a successful extradition hearing at the Federal High Court in Abuja.





Ogoshi brothers: Samuel and Samson



Samuel and Samson (his younger brother) were later arraigned at a Federal Court in Grand Rapids, United States by the Justice Department on a four-count indictment bordering on sexual exploitation of minors. If found guilty, Samuel faces a minimum sentence of 30 years imprisonment and Samson five years imprisonment.

Christopher Wray, FBI's Director in a visit to the EFCC in June, 2024, expressed appreciation to the Commission for its professional handling of suspects of sextortion and other internet-related crimes. "Thank you for your hospitality and in particular for the partnership that exists between the FBI and the EFCC across a range of threats that we face together. We have had a relationship over the years and this is a reflection of how stronger than ever we are looking forward to taking our partnership to higher and higher levels in tackling threats that affect the people of Nigeria and the people of the United States. We have had close

partnerships in shared values and focus and I want to say thank you for the wonderful partnership."

Even the Australian police admitted that "under Nigerian law, local authorities have the power to prosecute for Australian- based offences".

Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Ola Olukoyede expressed more commitment of the Commission towards tackling and breaking every form of internet offence. According to him, "some of the crimes we fight are borderless crimes, so it is extremely important for law enforcement agencies across the world to come together to collaborate. Law enforcement agencies must collaborate more. Our activities must be borderless so that we will be able to challenge the activities of the bad guys."

On sextortion, the EFCC's boss specifically stated that "we are willing to continue and develop ideas that would be of mutual benefit

to both agencies and ensure that the issue of cybercrime take utmost priority in our scale of preference and also ensure that sextortion that has become a major challenge to us is taken very seriously".

For now, the EFCC is spreading its wings to crack every scheme of sextortion. Dein Whyte, Head, Cyber Crime Unit of the Commission says strategies are in place to bring suspected sextortionists to book and free the nation of the stigma of internet fraud. "We are ahead of all the internet fraudsters and the issue of sextortion is gaining the attention it deserves. We have every technology in place and our investigators are receiving adequate training to combat the crime", he said.

# Academy of Infamy

*Internet fraud takes a frightening dimension as kingpins now float training centres to groom potential fraudsters*

By Williams Oseghale

**F**or years, Ikemesit Edet was regarded as one of the big boys in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. Uyo evokes an aura of wealth and splendor so also is Edet who drives some of the best automobile on wheels and adorn himself with the most expensive designer wears. Young and suave, Edet looks like a top executive in one of the oil companies that dots the city. But he is not. Edet is an alleged fraudster who until he was arrested by operatives of the Commission had defrauded people to fund his flamboyant lifestyle. His story is telling. "I started internet fraud about seven years ago. I impersonate foreign individuals on Facebook in order to make friends with the aim of defrauding them. I usually pretend to be a male foreign national and a pilot. My victims are usually females from Asia". Once Edet succeeds in hoodwinking his victims, he collaborates with others in the fraud ecosystem to receive the proceeds of crime from the victims. "I receive the proceeds from my victims through a broker account. The name of the broker is Mike and he is based abroad. I have never met him. We only chat on Snap chat. When my

**I receive the proceeds from my victims through a broker account. The name of the broker is Mike and he is based abroad. I have never met him. We only chat on Snap chat. When my victim pay Mike, he collects his percentage and send mine to my Nigeria bank account.**



Ikemesit Edet

victim pay Mike, he collects his percentage and send mine to my Nigeria bank account." As Edet became a big shot in the society, he alleged also became a mentor and leader for many young people who aspire to make it big in fraud. Though Edet is not a typical businessman, he is streetwise and has expanded his line of

fraudulent activities. He is the proprietor of Classius Mult-Concept Limited and Iyke Classic Global Venture both in Uyo. The two companies were originally incorporated as beauty Saloon/Spa and Real Estate concerns respectively but have been turned into *Yahoo academies* for mentoring, training and honing young people skills in trickery and



internet fraud. The 'boss' or 'chairman' as Edet is affectionately called by his students doubles as an instructor and trainer at the academy. Upon his arrest by operatives of the Commission, the 32-year-old confessed to the crime.

"I brought in my boys whom I teach internet fraud. The place is generally called Hustle Kingdom. HK. I gave the boys laptops and android phones to enable them carry out their activities. I taught the boys how to hack Facebook accounts. After the boys hack the

intention in creating the Hustle Kingdom is to make more money," he stated in his confessional statement.

In Makurdi, capital of Benue State, Asongu Terungwa, also runs a yahoo academy though he claimed that he became an internet fraudster and a *Yahoo academy* proprietor by happenstance "The first house I rented was one-bedroom apartment and I lived with four of my friends and the owner of the house ejected us on the grounds that he does not want many people in his house. I rented this

**"I started internet fraud about seven years ago. I impersonate foreign individuals on Facebook in order to make friends with them with the aim of defrauding them. I usually pretend to be a male foreign national and a pilot. My victims are usually female from Asia".**

effectively hack into peoples account on his own and defraud them. "Mr Edet taught me how to hack facebook accounts and after the hacking of the account, he shows me how to edit the account, and I will start adding friends. If they accept, I will start chatting with friends that have accepted my request and I only chat the person for love." He confessed that he has hacked 15 Facebook accounts and edited all of them, after which he hands over the accounts to Edet, his principal, who then perfect the process to defrauding the unsuspecting victims. On their modus oparandi, Effiong explained, "We get our victims mostly through Facebook. We will claim to be either male or female, we ask for assistance or pretend to be sick in the hospital . we will lure them to accept by showing them pictures that we are really sick and they will send us money and so many tactics." Indeed, across different cities and towns in Nigeria, the activities of internet fraudsters has become alarming even as they flaunt their ill - gotten wealth recklessly on the face of the public and law enforcement officers. Effa Okim, Ag Zonal Director, Benin Directorate decries the situation where criminals are openly confronting the law. "Criminals now wear uniform. It is visible on the streets because the young men involved don't even hid it. They parade themselves everywhere. You see them in hotels and clubs showcasing their ill-gotten wealth. You see them with torn jeans, dreadlocks and sagging trousers everywhere." Determined to tame the monster, the Commission almost on daily basis, busts

account, they use it to search for victims, make friends with them and request for help. When the victim is willing to help, we provide them with a broker account details in China. My boys are into romance scam. I assist them to finish the process whenever they have client they are talking with. They will inform me then I will contact a broker that will bring a foreign account to collect the money. My

place and called more of my friends to come and stay with me. So I am the initiator of the business." From the comfort of his house, he coaches and equip young boys with the skillset to defraud others of their hard - earned money in the despicable yahoo trade. Daniel Effiong one of the students arrested at the yahoo training centre says he can now





**“We get our victims mostly through Facebook. We will claim to be either male or female, we asked for assistance or may be pretending to be sick in the hospital. we will lure them to accept by showing them pictures that we are really sick and they will send us money and so many tactics.”**

hideouts of yahoo boys, recover items ranging from exotic cars, mobile phones, laptops and other accoutrements and instruments that they use for their criminal activities. Abe Dankaro Ashumate, State Coordinator, National Youth Service Corps, Benue State is saddened by the numbers of young people involved in internet fraud. He blames it on multiple factors including poor value system and parenting. “It is disheartening that parents and the community educate students for good but the era of internet has affected them. The reason for this is the get rich

syndrome influencing our young ones. We need to check our children right from home. It's very unfortunate that children bring things home and their parents will not ask them where they got them from, they even celebrate their achievements.”

Ashumate's assertion is in tandem with the views of Mrs. Maimuna Ikwulono, chairman, Nigerian Bar Association, Benue State Chapter, “These days people want to make money without labouring for it. Youths that should either be in school or to be gainfully employed but unfortunately we have such large number of youths who are idle, school drop outs or unskilled. There is a saying that idle mind is the devil's workshop”, she posited. However, Akinyemi Akinfolarin, a lawyer in Benin does not completely agree with Ikwulono. His argument is that some of those who are involved in the crime are students in schools or those who have learnt one vocation/skill. “It is that desire to make money quickly. So even those who are in school or have learnt one skill or the other drop them for yahoo yahoo.”

Rashid Idris, coordinator, Network of Accountability Ambassadors, Makurdi says aggressive sensitization is what is needed to curb the menace. To stop this menace, there should be more sensitization and education among people through the schools, mosque and churches. It is worrisome. You can see pupils in primary school talking about making money, they don't care how the money comes, all they want is make money.” To change such mindset, the Commission through its Public Affairs Department has embarked on aggressive enlightenment campaign and sensitization targeted at catching them young. At primary and secondary schools, it establishes Integrity Clubs and Zero Tolerance club in tertiary institutions. The mission of the clubs is to inculcate values of integrity, honesty,

discipline, responsibility and patriotism and unity in the younger generations, among others.

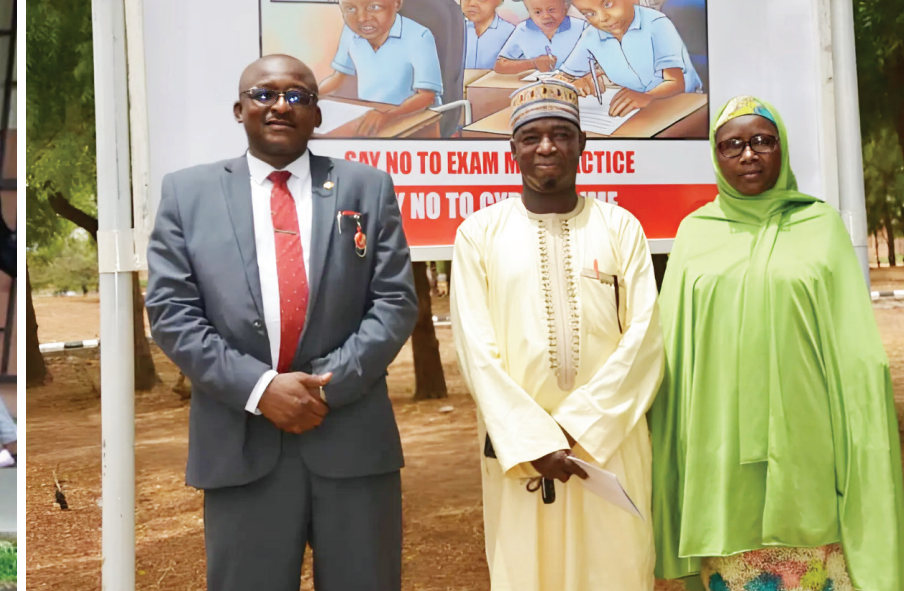
The Chairman of the Commission has also made it a duty to engage with members of the NYSC during Orientation by consistently delivering lectures at all the NYSC Orientation Camps for Corps members in Nigeria on the Role of Youths in Curbing Internet Fraud. “The internet does not necessarily have to be an avenue to impersonate, manipulate or fabricate lies to defraud others. Let the youths begin to use the internet for socially-desirable things, like offering digital solutions to the needs of industries, homes, governments and other engagement of life”, the chairman, Ola Olukoyede admonished.

Expressing his opinion when the Acting Zonal Director, Benin Directorate paid him a courtesy visit in his palace, the Olu of Warri, Ogiame Atuwatse III who condemned the menace of internet fraud and illegal oil bunkering, wants government officials to think out of the box and seek ways of engaging the creativity of young persons who are skilled in computing. He advised that the creativity of these young people be harnessed for the common good. “I know the FBI does something like that. They engaged people who are skilled in certain areas for positive development”

On the consequences of internet fraud, Saddik Gidado Tahir, an assistant commander of the EFCC says is multi-dimensional. “Internet fraud has far reaching consequences that extend beyond the financial loss an individual suffers. Nigeria as a nation has suffered adverse reputational damage because of the activities of fraudsters. It discourages foreign investment into the country,” he said.

***Additional Report by Theresa Nwosu and Kassim Yahaya***





Left, Aliyu Yunusa, former Commander, Sokoto Zonal Directorate, during an enlightenment outing

# All For Integrity

In its efforts to rid Nigeria of economic and financial crimes, the Commission intensifies enlightenment and sensitization campaigns among pupils, students of primary and secondary schools and tertiary institutions

By Williams Oseghale

**T**he gathering was unprecedented. The Multipurpose Hall of Cross Rivers State University was filled to capacity. Instructively, it was not for examination purposes nor was it a musical concert by any of Nigeria's rave of the moment - Davido, Burna Boy or Wizkid - who are dominating the musical world with their talent.

The gathering which was at the behest of the EFCC, was to enlighten and inculcate in the students anti-corruption messages of integrity, accountability, transparency, value reorientation and the need for young people to shun economic and financial crimes. It was also an avenue to inaugurate the Commission's Zero Tolerance Club, ZTC, for students of the university Standing on the dais, Bawa Hamidu Saidu, who was then the Uyo Zonal Commander, took the students on a voyage of the devastating consequences of corruption and how it has stunted the country's growth. He stated that corruption has been at the intersection of the nation's problem and urged the students to shun acts of corruption, become change agent and take up the gauntlet in the fight against graft, "You need to have deeper insights into the havoc being done to our nation by the monster called corruption. Nigeria is in its present state owing to the cumulative effect of corrupt practices," he stated.

Impressed by the outcomes of the engagement, the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Ekeng B. Ekefre, who represented the university's vice Chancellor, Professor Augustine Oko Angba, described the event as timely and very crucial. "When we get our students to know the dangers of corruption and fight it from the start, the Commission will have little to do by the time the students get into the larger society," he posited. Ekefre's views

tallies with that expressed by the Vice Chancellor of Benson Idahosa University, Professor Sam Guobadia., "I believe strongly in the popular adage that says prevention is better than cure that is why we quickly approved your coming to this school as we thought of the benefit to the lives of not just the students but the school as a whole," he posited.

Professor Isaac Ajayi, Vice Chancellor of Wellspring University, Benin City, commended the Commission for the noble initiatives which he believes will go a long way in reshaping the mindsets of young people to embrace integrity and shun social vices.

Indeed, Professor Ekefre's submission aptly captures the essence of the engagement of students by the Commission in its efforts to nip corruption in the bud. Saidu, who represented the Executive chairman, at the event, says it has become imperative to get young people to be active participants in the fight against graft rather than being spectators. "The need for committed action against corruption has become imperative, owing to the devastating consequences of the menace on our nation, he said. Aisha Mohammed, Head, Enlightenment and Re-orientation Unit, re-echoed the same view saying re-orientating impressionable young minds to buy-in and take ownership of the fight against graft was key to the success of the fight. "We want to develop young people with the mindset that corruption is cancerous and must be tamed."

The EFCC Strategic Plan 2021 -2025 makes public engagement the first among the five strategic objective. "To increase public engagement in the fight against economic and financial crimes". This is consistent with both the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (2017 -2021) and Section 6(p) of the EFCC Establishment Act 2004, which mandate it to: "carrying out and sustaining rigorous public and enlightenment campaign against economic and financial crimes within and outside Nigeria."



Members of a newly inaugurated Integrity Club in Abuja

In the last one year, the Commission has left no stone unturned in its efforts to achieve that goal. The University of Maiduguri, University of Port Harcourt, University of Ilorin, Usman Dan Fodio University, Benson Idahosa University, and Lagos State University, are among the tertiary institutions in which the Commission has inaugurated Zero Tolerance Clubs to serve as a veritable platform to take ownership of the fight against graft. It has also established Integrity Clubs in many secondary schools across the country. As highlighted in the Integrity Manual of the Commission, the ZTC is aimed at raising formidable soldiers of intentional youths who will stand up against corrupt practices and lead with high moral and ethical standards. At the primary and secondary schools, the Integrity Club is aimed at building future Leaders moulded by integrity and good character who are willing to pass the cause of anti-corruption down the generations In schools where the clubs are established, students are encouraged to organized programmes and events such as drama, quiz competitions, debates and essay competitions which project the values of integrity and depict the ills of corrupt practices in the society. Through such engagements, students are expected to imbibe the right values of discipline, accountability and integrity as they grow into leadership position in the society.

Goodnews Edemevughe, principal, Paragon Demonstration School, Benin City, describes the initiative as awesome "I must say this is beautiful. This

**YOU**  
need to have deeper insights into the havoc being done to our nation by the monster called corruption. Nigeria is in its present state owing to the cumulative effect of corrupt practices

is a step in the right direction in catching them young. Catching them young does not apply to sport alone, it applies to situation like this when you teach and inculcate right values, the right information, the right orientation and knowledge on the young ones so they can grow and develop with it. Hopefully, we can have a generation with the right mindsets and values," he stated.

Odiase Osazuwa a patron of the club at Saint Mary's Education Centre is excited about

the prospect of working with young people who uphold integrity and with zero tolerance for corruption. He commended the initiative of the Commission saying, raising the next generation of students with high ethical morals and integrity is the only way the country can compete in the global space in years to come. "Integrity is a global currency that is acceptable anywhere, without it, you are defective," he said.

For Nancy Popo, president of ZTC Wellspring University her optimism is sky-high that corruption will be reduced to the barest minimum among the generation next as they share in the responsibility of combating graft from a tender age.

Also she opined, that the engagement of like minds in leadership position as executive of ZTC and Integrity Clubs to drive the process in schools is akin to hitting the bull eyes. "It is a call to help others to be of high integrity aimed at having a better country. It is to raise a generation that are accountable and transparent."

- Additional Reports By Theresa Nwosu





Chidozie Kingsley Nwachi

# Deadly Family of Fraud

Chidozie Kingsley Nwachi working in cahoots with his immediate and extended family members in Nigeria and overseas trapped Nicole Kierulff Sayers, a US citizen, lawyer and single mother of three in a web of confidence trick that sapped and shattered her

By Tony Egbulefu

**T**he past few years have been nerve-racking for Nicole Kierulff Sayers, a US citizen, lawyer and single mother of three. Her trauma began from a Facebook interaction with a young Nigerian, Chidozie Kingsley Nwachi, who approached her with pretended passion, typical in the romance scam.

With pretensions, Nwachi cozened Sayers into believing that he was in love with her. He proposed marriage and made her fly to Nigeria to wed him in an FCT High Court, presided over by Justice U.P. Kekemeke on March 24, 2022.

From the initial “hi” he sent to Sayers in 2021 to the Abuja wedlock in 2022, Nwachi designed all to simply have a grip on the woman’s emotion, pursuant to manipulating her into becoming his cash dispenser. “He messaged me on Facebook and we began our conversation. And he began aggressively

calling me on Facebook and from there we began an online relationship. And he kept escalating it. I didn’t think it would hurt because we were on different continents,” she said.

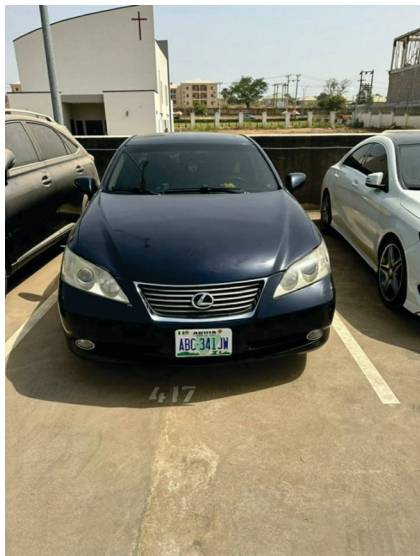
With Sayers wrapped around his little finger, Nwachi struck. “He eventually convinced me to come to Nigeria and get married, but not before he asked me to lend him some money. His first request was for \$15,000 (Fifteen Thousand US Dollars) for the purpose of preserving a government contract that he claimed to have been awarded by the Federal Ministry of Works and Housings in Nigeria. He claimed his life was threatened if he didn’t afford certain bribes and so he managed to convince me to lend him that sum. That was the initial sum. I believed that because I was in a vulnerable state and I had developed an emotional connection with him.”

**He eventually convinced me to come to Nigeria and get married, but not before he asked me to lend him some money. His first request was for \$15,000 (Fifteen Thousand US Dollars) for the purpose of preserving a government contract that he claimed to have been awarded by the Federal Ministry of Works and Housings in Nigeria**



Before Nwachi puppeteered Sayers into flying down to Nigeria in 2022, he had bilked her of \$40,000.00 already. She could readily remember that she authorized no less than \$200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Dollars) to Nwachi's account in 12 months. "The reasons he gave me fall into several categories such as medical contingencies, surgeries, malaria treatment and others such as supplies on the government contracts because he didn't have the money. He used emotional manipulation and gaslighting." Nwachi left Sayers with no escape route for every financial demand he made, ambushing with every explanation she would require to authorize an inflow to him. "Although I had a lot of confusion and a tremendous amount of questions, but for some reason he will have documents, like tax documents, he will have some type of very well articulated explanations for every difficult question that I ever posed to him."

To doubly ensure that the stream of financial flow from Sayers kept running, Nwachi enlist the support and active involvements of his family members in his hypocrisy and confidence trick. His father, Mr. Chisom Nwachi; mother, Victoria Nwachi; sister, Doris Nwachi; brother, Kenneth Nwachi and



sister-in-law, Lovelin Ngozi Nwachi would speak with Sayers on video calls at intervals to shore up her trust and confidence that indeed there was a Federal Ministry of Works and Housings contract for Chidozie Nwachi and that her dollars were needed for its

execution. On their own side of the hypocrisy, Nwachi's family members would laud Sayers for her generosity, egg her on to continue to release money and assure her of Chidozie's unflinching love and commitment to her.

"One reason for which I was convinced initially and remained convinced was because of the involvement of his entire immediate family and even a couple of extended family members, I was in contact with initially on video. They were all aware that he had been awarded this alleged contract, because within a week of me lending him that initial \$15,000, they very happily came forward on video to thank me profusely and I mean four, five minutes for each of them to thank me for saving Dozie's job. So all of them knew of this fake job from the beginning."

One George Monday, (likely a pseudonym), an uncle to Chidozie anchored the international leg of the fraud from Germany. By a strange coincidence, Monday and Sayers had been Facebook friends, well before Chidozie came on the scene and had both belonged to one spiritual group for about 15 years.

"And there is George Monday, that's an alias. I have plenty of knowledge that it is not his real name. He was in Germany because he was born and raised here. He along with Doris are

#### EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

## I was Fooled by Involvement of Dozie's Family Members-Sayers

Nicole Kierulff Sayers is a lawyer based in Oregon, United States of America (USA) and a single mother of three. Between 2021 and 2022, she lost over \$200,000 in a love scam, pulled off by one Chidozie Kingsley Nwachi, who deceived her to the extent of inviting her to Nigeria and getting legally married to her, all in a design to win her confidence so that the victim would ignorantly continue to wire money to him for the execution of a non-existent contract from the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing. She spoke with **Tony Egbulefu**

#### How did you meet Chidozie Nwachi?

He messaged me on Facebook and we began our conversation. And he began aggressively calling me on Facebook and from there we began an online relationship. And he kept escalating it. I didn't think it would hurt because we were on different continents. He eventually asked "would you want to get married?" And I said "I am not sure, may be." And he eventually convinced me to come to Nigeria and get married.

#### Did you come?

I did, but not before he asked me to lend him some money. His first request was for \$15,000 for the purpose of preserving a government contract that he claimed to have been awarded

by the Federal Ministry of Works and Housings in Nigeria. He claimed that some more seasoned people in that profession were threatening his life if he took that award, as opposed to allowing one of them to have it, so he claimed his life was threatened if he didn't afford certain bribes and so he managed to convince me to lend him that sum. That was the initial sum.

#### Fifteen thousand dollars?

That's correct.

#### Can you remember the second installment that you gave him? From what the

#### prosecutor said, the money from you to him amounted to \$370,000?

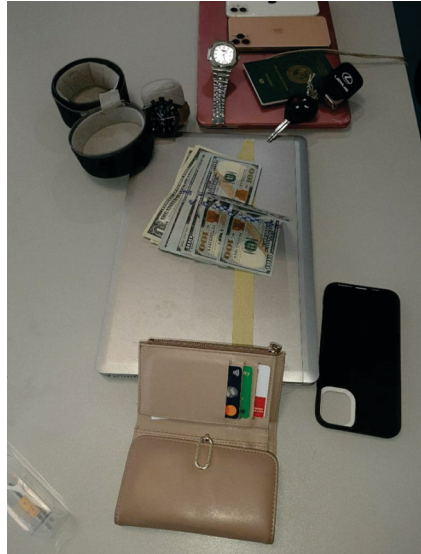
I am not certain of the exact amount that I lent him. But when I managed to do some rough calculations, which is extremely overwhelming and traumatizing to do, I calculated well over \$200,000. I don't really know the exact number. But, before I even arrived in Nigeria, I had already lent him \$40,000.

#### At what point did it occur to you that all was a scam?

It wasn't until 12 months later. Although I had a lot of confusion and a tremendous amount of questions, which became extremely frustrating and

primary co-conspirators. George Monday came on video a couple of times with me from Germany to give me well wishes and to say that Dozie was his nephew. And I asked him: "would you mind on your next trip to Abuja or your next trip to Nigeria, spending a couple of days with Dozie before I go there?" "Tell me what you think because I actually, by some extraordinary coincidence, already knew of George Monday. We were in the same spiritual group for the past 15 years at least. So we were Facebook friends. Of course I am going to believe what George Monday tells me, so he meets Dozie in Abuja, they facetimes me together and they were showing off Dozie's new car. So George Monday knows exactly what was going on. After that meeting I asked George Monday what do you think? He said 'Oh, it's clear he really loves you; he is honest. You will be safe there, I will guide him.' He made me think it was going to be great."

Beyond the clear indications that George and Nwachi were co-conspirators in the fraud, there is a gut feeling that George with his over 15 years of knowledge of Sayers in the online spiritual group they both belong, may have set up Sayers for Nwachi. Upon conclusion of investigation, a



painstaking stake out yielded Nwachi in EFCC's dragnet on February 14, 2023. He was on Monday, March 20, 2023 arraigned before Justice Peter Kekemeke of the FCT High Court, Maitama, Abuja, facing prosecution on a two-count charge, bordering on criminal possession of fake

documents, stealing and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of \$370,000 (Three Hundred and Seventy Thousand Dollars). One of the charges against him reads: "That you, Nwachi Chidozie Kingsley sometime in 2021 in Abuja, within the jurisdiction of the High Court of Federal Capital Territory, Abuja with intent to defraud obtained the total sum of Three Hundred and Seventy Thousand United States Dollars(\$370,000) from Nicole Kierulff Sayers under the false pretence of being a purported payment to finance a contract with Federal Ministry of Works and Housing with Contract No: RC/FGN/0275AN/20 issued to Nwachi Chidozie Kingsley, a claim which you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1)(b) of Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."

Sayers, who is the third prosecution witness in the trial while being led in evidence on July 5, 2024 by prosecution counsel, Fatsuma Muhammad disclosed that all her efforts to cause Nwachi to pay her back her money proved abortive, even when she claimed she had become suicidal. Rather than get the restitutions she asked for and

**I am not certain of the exact amount that I lent him. But when I managed to do some rough calculations, which is extremely overwhelming and traumatizing to do, I calculated well over \$200,000. I don't really know the exact number. But, before I even arrived in Nigeria, I had already lent him \$40,000.**



aggravating to him, but for some reasons he will have documents, like tax documents, he will have some type of very well articulated explanations for every difficult question that I ever posed to him. But one reason for which I was convinced initially and remained convinced was because his entire immediate family and even a couple of extended family members, I was in contact with. They were all aware that he had been awarded this alleged contract, because within a week of me lending him that initial \$15,000, they very happily came forward on video to thank me profusely and I mean four, five minutes for most of them to thank me for saving Dozie's job. So all of them knew of this fake job from the beginning and I will give you the names of the individuals if you like.

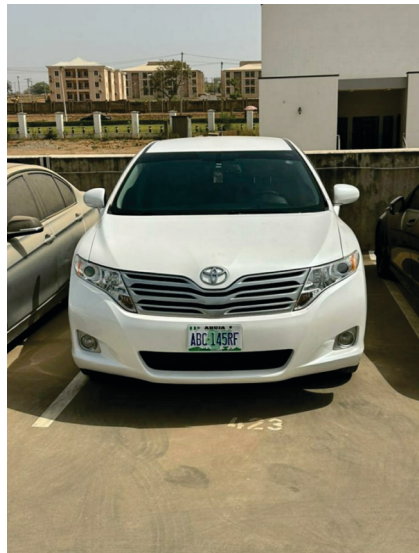
#### **Go ahead and mention**

His father, Chisom Nwachi, his mother Victoria Nwachi, his sister, who was one of the prime co-conspirators, Doris Nwachi, his brother, Kenneth Nwachi, his sister-in-law, Lovelin Ngozi Nwachi, also present there, who didn't speak to me was his alleged daughter, Princess, who was two, who is not his daughter. I don't believe this but he had two uncles who I don't believe were there. One is known as Bishop Monday Okeke, he is from Port Harcourt. And he had this huge ministry with humongous following and everyone thinks he is holier-than-thou. And there is George Monday, that's an alias. I have plenty of knowledge that it is not his real name.



expect, she found herself wiring more and more money to Nwachi.

"We continued the conversation about him paying back. Because I wanted to get my money, I continued the relationship with him. Several months later, he asked for more money, a minimum of 125 transactions. On a few occasions, he claimed he attempted to wire me money. At one specific time he produced a document that he claimed was a bank document and that he made an attempt to wire me \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars). "He claimed the bank intercepted it, because he said the bank claimed it was an attempted misappropriation of government's fund, so he found himself in jail. He asked me to bail him out and I did, and again he asked me to make provisions for bribes to pay for the criminal case, because he attempted to misappropriate government funds."



He was in Germany because he was born and raised here, he immigrated roughly 25 years ago, he comes here every year. He along with Doris are primary co-conspirators. George Monday came on video, a couple of times with me from Germany to give me well wishes to say that Dozie was his nephew and I asked him: "would you mind on your next trip to Abuja or your next trip to Nigeria, would you mind spending couple of days with Dozie before I go there? Tell me what you think because I actually, by some extraordinary coincidence, already knew of George Monday. I knew who he was, not personally. I never had a conversation with him. We were in the same spiritual group for the past 15 years at least. So we were Facebook friends. So of course I am going to believe what George Monday tells me. So he meets Dozie in Abuja, they Facetimed me together and they were showing off Dozie's new car, which scammers use to have and they are in this club, dressed very nicely as happy as can be, looking like they have known each other for years and George Monday sent me a video of them in that club where there was another gentlemen. He a young man that was also with Dozie and George Monday. They were calling Dozie like Kalifa, Kalifa and Dozie was like eating up all the praise because that subject was me. So George Monday is probably in his mid-late 50s, he knows exactly what was going on. After that meeting I asked George Monday what do you think? He said "Oh, it's clear he really loves you; he is honest. You will be safe there. I will guide him." He made me think it was going to be great, so he was ready to go.

#### **To what extent did your relationship with Chidozie go?**

Eventually I married him because I was convinced because all his family members seemed genuine. So on March 24, 2022 we married. His sister,

Doris Nwachi was one of the witnesses. There was another witness he claimed was his cousin, I can't remember his name. His sister, Doris Nwachi spent three days with us. So she was all in.

#### **Was it traditional marriage or in a court registry?**

It was in a registry

#### **In Abuja here?**

Yes. We were legally married. I had the certificate. I divorced him from the United States in August of 2023. I did it myself. So we are now divorced.

#### **How did you know about EFCC; how did your case come to us?**

I joined a support group for scam victims, before I reported this anywhere. They have a Facebook page but I found them on the internet somewhere, it is a very well-known scam victim group and the director put me in touch with another American, who had a similar experience whose name is Kimberly Starvey, who there is a wanted poster out for her ex-husband Obinna Ezenwa, she was his American wife whom he defrauded. She said are you going to petition with the EFCC? I said oh, that is where I will go, so she guided me; she gave me the website and the information and encouraged me to move forward and I said I am definitely moving forward, I just need to know the direction. I initially sent a few emails and after like two weeks I wasn't getting a response and she said well, you probably need to draft a formal petition and get it in the hands of an actual investigator. So she helped me get in front of Mr. Kelechi Okanne, who is investigating her case. So I forwarded my very very detailed petition with 90 attachments to him. I am a lawyer myself, I am not going to leave critical evidence out. Honestly, that's not even half of it. I just had to stop myself at some point because I have so much electronic

**I was fooled by the involvement of his family members. I don't think I have ever heard of an entire family, including at least, an extended family member getting involved in getting so much money from just one person**

evidence. Mr Okanne said "thank you, I will see him if we can survey him and arrest him." So he did. Mr. Okanne went out there and did maybe four, five days of surveillance because I gave him the address in Sun City because I was there and luckily I took a picture of the front of the gate that had his street address on it. So I provided that and little did I know that one simple picture would enable me to have the address. So he found Dozie coming home very late, like 1:30 in the morning .

#### **How do you feel about an entire family orchestrating a fraud against you?**

I was fooled by the involvement of his family members. I don't think I have ever heard of an entire family, including , an extended family member getting involved in getting so much money from just one person. I think George Monday is an uncle. I have never heard of this occurring anywhere in the world, even though I believe that it does, I just haven't heard of that. I don't know how they can sleep at night having taken that much money from a person who is extremely kind and a single mother of three kids. None of them cared when I was telling them I can't go on like this. Even before I realized that it was a scam, I was telling them that I don't think I can go on anymore; I don't think I can continue living like this, since you are not repaying me. I was basically telling him I was suicidal and he didn't care. So it was extraordinarily traumatic. One of the reasons I decided to pursue this to the fullest extent was: this is what will keep me alive, that's why I am here.

#### **I want to believe that you have faith in EFCC, that you can get justice you desire through us**

Yes

#### **You are a lawyer, practicing in Oregon?**

Yes

# Fresh Clarion For Whistleblowing

By Tony Egbulefu

**The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC used the occasion of the 2024 African Anti-corruption Day to drum up support for the anti-corruption fight and amplify the continent's call for whistleblowers' involvement**

**T**hursday, July 11, 2024 was African Anti-Corruption Day. The theme of the event: "Effective Whistleblowers Protection Mechanism: A Critical Tool in the Fight against Corruption," is in recognition of the critical role of whistleblowers in the anti-corruption fight.

Launched in Nigeria on December 21, 2016 by the federal government, whistleblowing is an anti-corruption policy that encourages citizens participation in the anti-corruption fight by encouraging a voluntary disclosure of information about fraud, bribery, looted government funds, financial misconduct, and any other form of corruption or theft to the Ministry of Finance or the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC. With the policy, a whistleblower who provides credible information about any financial mismanagement or tip about any stolen funds to the ministry or the EFCC becomes entitled to a measure of the recovered funds, ranging from 2.5 to five per cent.

To mark the day, the EFCC staged an anti-corruption Road Walk in its 14 zonal commands and the headquarters, covering 14 states and Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The walk drew a wide range of stakeholders in the anti-corruption fight, notably the organized labour, civil society organisations, youth and women groups.

In Abuja, the approximately three kilometre walk terminated at the Unity Fountain, where the Executive Chairman of the Commission, Ola Olukoyede addressed the participants.

He explained that the fight against corruption required commitment to integrity and unfaltering focus. "We cannot win the war against corruption through lip service, emotional outburst or mere mob campaigns. There is the need for commitment, passion, consistency and credibility of intelligence. Every whistle blown must point towards truth and evidential proofs," he said.

The pervasiveness of the evils of corruption, he noted, was affecting everybody in the country, including the corrupt. "I say this to the corrupt, you have stolen money and bought Rolls Royce; you have stolen our money and bought Lamborghini, where is the road in Nigeria to drive

your Rolls Royce? You stole money and built big mansions in your village, but you can't go there and spend one night because of insecurity, that is what your corruption has caused; that is what your greed and your indiscipline have caused. But we are resolute, Nigerians are resolute. We are going to take the corrupt out with the commitment of the president."

Besides President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, he appreciated the roles of the National Assembly and the judiciary in the fight against corruption.

"We want to thank the National Assembly for what it has been doing and we urge them to do more, we are challenging them to support us the more in this fight. Also the judiciary,

they are we will smoke them out. Have patience with us we will get there, we are not going to spare anyone. Wherever you are, when you see something, say something.

Various stakeholders' also bared their minds on the need for more unity of action and commitment against corruption. Chairman, Nigeria Labour Congress, (NLC), Joe Ajaero stated that the NLC fully supports the EFCC in the fight against corruption; chairperson, Conference of Civil Military Co-operation (CIMICO), Adams Otakwu, commended the EFCC for galvanizing Nigerians to stand against corruption; representative of the Chief of Defence Staff, Air Vice Marshal Etim Markus, declared the support of the armed forces for the EFCC, so also the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC, Nigerian Correctional Service, and National Youth Service Corps, (NYSC) members.

In the zonal commands, comprising Lagos, Port Harcourt, Maiduguri, Uyo, Ilorin, Ibadan, Makurdi, Sokoto, Kaduna, Enugu, Benin-City, Gombe and Kano zonal directors addressed participants and stakeholders along the lines of stronger commitments to the anti-corruption fight and whistleblowing.

The icing on the cake was an Inter-Agency seminar on the 'Impact of the WhistleBlowing Policy on Public Sector Accountability and Transparency,' which took place in Transcorp Hilton, Abuja. Speaking at the seminar,

***There is no single case that can define our work. Trust me, some of them can only run but they cannot hide, wherever they are we will smoke them out. Have patience with us we will get there, we are not going to spare anyone***

we are challenging all the judges to stand up for the fight against corruption. Nigerians have what it takes to fight corruption. We have what it takes to say no to financial crimes. Every day we are recovering money and very soon with the support of the judiciary and the executive and the legislators, you will see that money will be channeled to development, to support the students' loan scheme and to support credit facilities for the less privileged."

While vowing to be relentless in the fight, he declared that "There is no single case that can define our work. Trust me, some of them can only run but they cannot hide, wherever





Olukoyede observed that though the whistleblowing policy drew massive public buy-in at the early stage, resulting in huge recoveries by the EFCC, he regretted that the attractiveness of the policy has waned, necessitating reviews, modifications and perhaps refocusing.

According to him, “the starting point is to emplace a legal framework for whistleblowing, including a whistleblower protection law,” which he said, should be broadened to include protection for insiders in various organs of government who expose wrongdoings from within and the need



***“A sustainable whistleblower programme should be anchored on a moral foundation in which citizens provide information as a matter of patriotic duty, not propelled by a desire for reward. Whistleblowing should be organic, not driven by pecuniary considerations***

for “clear cut guidelines on reporting channels, including determining agencies to receive the whistle blower information” as well as streamlining the procedures for the determination and payment of incentives to whistleblowers.

On the part of the citizens, patriotism rather than pecuniary benefits from the policy should be the driving force. “A sustainable whistleblower programme should be anchored on a moral foundation in which citizens provide information as a matter of patriotic duty, not propelled



by a desire for reward. Whistleblowing should be organic, not driven by pecuniary considerations,” he said.

A more result-oriented whistleblowing, Olukoyede said, should not be reactionary, but proactive and preventive. “We should be more interested in whistleblowing that prevents the stealing of public funds rather than the recovery of funds. Once funds are looted, the entire loot may never be recovered.”

In a keynote address at the seminar, Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Prince Lateef Fagbemi, SAN, who noted that the fight against corruption has gained more traction across board, also advocated that whistleblowers should be protected by the government at all costs, adding that the present administration was committed to the fight against corruption and “is putting up mechanisms to block



***We should be more interested in whistleblowing that prevents the stealing of public funds rather than the recovery of funds. Once funds are looted, the entire loot may never be recovered***

loopholes in MDAs to ensure that graft is prevented.”

Fagbemi labeled public sector corruption as a cankerworm and commended the Inter-Agency Task Team, IATT for coming up with workable suggestions and strategies capable of enhancing the anti-graft war. He promised to work closely with all anti-corruption agencies to ensure that corruption was tackled frontally by the federal government.

The Statistician General of the Federation and Chief Executive Officer, National Bureau of Statistics, Adeniran Adeyemi while talking about the “Third National Corruption Survey in Nigeria” agreed that corruption has been a big problem in the country, thus making whistleblowing a weapon to tackle them, all the more imperative.

On the bright side, he disclosed that Nigeria has remained in the lead in international best practices, going by periodic and scientific assessment in anti-corruption efforts. “Nigeria has recorded positive improvement in 2023. The result shows that about 70 per cent of citizens that have been asked to take bribes refused to do so which shows that efforts are really working. The survey also shows the willingness of Nigerians to confront corruption. The report further indicated the number of actions taken as a result of reporting of incidents of fraud and corruption. For instance, out of the total numbers of cases reported by citizens, a formal procedure was taken and 45 per cent cases were initiated against officers which is an increase from 25 per cent in 2019,” he said.

Also speaking at the seminar, Country Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, UNODC, Danilo Campisi noted that Nigeria has demonstrated strong commitment in the fight against corruption and commended the federal government for the considerable implementation of anti-corruption processes. He, however, pointed out the need to prioritize prevention and encourage behavioural changes among Nigerians especially the youth. According to him, the best way to protect whistleblowers was through confidentiality of information.





Eze brothers, Olisaebuka and Onyeka

# Harvest of Forfeitures

*The EFCC is unrelenting in making fraudulent persons lose proceeds of their crimes through judicial forfeitures as a deterrence measure*

By Tony Egbulefu

**O**lisaebuka Eze and Onyeka Nnadozie Eze are siblings and nephews to the wealthy Nigerian businessman, Mr. Arthur Eze, CEO of Atlas Oranto Petroleum, rated as the largest privately-owned petroleum exploration and production company in the country.

Arthur Eze is the father both siblings knew since their biological father died during the Nigerian civil war. Both grew up under his roof, lived a life of luxury and lacked nothing. To give them the best of education, Arthur Eze moved them to London where they acquired master's degrees.

Upon completion of their studies in London, he gave them jobs. Olisaebuka was the administrative officer of Oranto Petroleum Ltd. Even as adults and coupled with the fact that they were provided with well-paid jobs, the two brothers lived in Arthur Eze's home. When each of them decided to settle down, he

gave them money to take a wife. He purchased high-end Mercedes Benz cars for them, built houses for them in the village, right behind his and another in Enugu.

What Arthur Eze did not know or imagine was that his two nephews whom was committed to

and trusted so much were avaricious kleptomaniacs, and schemers who were simply out to corner as much as possible in cash and properties and every other things in-between from him for themselves.

By the time it dawned on Arthur Eze that his nephews were not the characters that he

**I brought them up, trained them through school till masters level in London. They stayed with me, cooking the food that I ate. They were with me day and night and anywhere I travelled and all the heads of states I met, they were with me. I was thinking that they will bury me when I die, not knowing that they were scheming for me to die so they can seize everything I have**



thought they were, they had amassed 20 choice properties, all located in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, high-end automobiles, expensive jewelry and wristwatches. The properties and items which Justice Modupe Osho-Adebiyi of the FCT High Court, sitting in Gudu, Abuja, had in April 2022, ordered their final forfeiture to Arthur Eze, through the EFCCs include: seven bedroom duplex at Plot 1772 Cadastral Zone B06, Mabushi District, FCT Abuja; No: 5 Ifeanyi Araraume Street Mabushi, Abuja; Plot No. 621, Cadastral Zone B07 within Katampe District with file No. JG 10188; nine units of two-bedroom flats located on Plot 375 off Ameyo Adadevoh Way, in Kado District, Abuja; three bedroom terrace duplex, located in Brookhouse Residence, Karsana District FCT, Abuja; Plot No. AHE540 in Lugbe AMAC Housing Estate measuring 1,500sqm; Plot No. 285, measuring 1,589.28sqm in Cadastral Zone E23 Kyami District Abuja; Plot No. R9530AA, measuring 1,000sqm, located at Traders Layout 3 Gwagwalada Area Council, Abuja; Plot No. R9530AA, measuring 1,000sqm, located at Traders Layout 3 Gwagwalada Area Council, Abuja.

Other properties are: Plot No. XK1057, measuring 800sqm, located in Apo Layout, AMAC FCT, Abuja; Plot of land with R of O with file No. AN 69550 dated 28/10/2012 at Kyami District Abuja; Plot No. 0844 in NAF Valley Estate, Asokoro Abuja, measuring about 1316.79 and Plot No. 188 Cadastral Zone E 12 of Orozo, measuring 875sqm

The items include: a red Oulm wristwatch, stainless steel back Japan Move 3377; a gold-coloured Just Bling wristwatch JB-6116; and a golden Piaget wristwatch with serial no. 8066-639333.

The vehicles are: a Toyota Camry 2016 model; Toyota Camry 2014 model; a Toyota Highlander; a Honda Accord 2013 model; Mercedes Benz GLE 2015 model; Toyota Tundra with chassis No. STFRYF17EX171601; Toyota Avalon with registration No. RSH111; Honda Civic with registration No. YAB58EN and Mercedes Benz C 400 with Reg. No. KWL43A5.

"I brought them up, trained them through school till masters level in London. They stayed with me, cooking the food that I ate. They were with me day and night and anywhere I travelled and all the heads of states I met, they were with me. I was thinking that they will bury me when I die, not knowing that they were scheming for me to die so they can seize everything I have. It is greed, greed and greed," Arthur Eze told Zero Tolerance.

Speaking further, he said: "Without the EFCC I wouldn't believe my children would ever do this kind of thing to me. They cooked my food and at one point they gave me poison and I almost died. I was vomiting blood, they wanted me to die."



One of the houses recovered by the EFCC for Arthur Eze from the Eze brothers

**"Without the EFCC I wouldn't believe my children would ever do this kind thing to me. They cooked my food and at one point they gave me poison and I almost died. I was vomiting blood, they wanted me to die."**

Determined to hold onto the proceeds of their crime, the two brothers appealed Justice Osho-Adebiyi's ruling in separate appeals, praying the appellate court to set aside the forfeiture ruling. However, in the appeal court judgment read by Justice H.A. Barka, the appellate court held that the duo did not satisfactorily prove that they legitimately acquired the properties and all the items in contention.

According to Justice Barka, the appellants did not "place any material before the court to enable it to disturb the findings of the lower court." The court further held that the appeal lacked merit and dismissed it accordingly.

The road to the final forfeiture of the properties and all other acquisitions began in 2020, when the EFCC received a petition from a proxy of Arthur Eze, who alleged theft, criminal misappropriation, and money laundering against the first respondent Olisaebuka Eze. According to the petition, Olisaebuka in connivance with his brother, Nnadozie stole their uncle's money that ran into billions of naira and millions of dollars, which they used to acquire properties in Abuja and Enugu. Upon conclusion of investigations, the Commission arrested the brothers and froze their bank accounts, following court orders. To free themselves from the grip of the law, they quickly filed a suit at the FCT High Court, Apo,

before Justice S.B. Belgore, seeking the enforcement of their fundamental rights. At the end of the hearing, Justice Belgore held that the EFCC violated the fundamental rights of both plaintiffs and awarded N10 million damages in their favour.

The Commission through its counsel, Ibrahim Buba, challenged the ruling in the Court of Appeal which in overturning Justice Belgore's ruling, held that the detention of the Eze brothers by the Commission and the freezing of their accounts were for the purpose of investigation and were properly backed by orders of the court. "The EFCC's action did not amount to a violation of the respondents' rights," the court held. Furthermore, it awarded N500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) in cost against the respondents in favour of the EFCC.

Similarly, Justice Joyce Abdulmalik of the Federal High Court, Abuja, on June 7, 2022, ordered the final forfeiture of every asset of Nok University, Kaduna, Gwasmyen Water Factory, Gwasmyen Event Center and Gwasmyen International Hotel, all in Kaduna State to the federal government.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, had, through its counsel Ekele Iheanacho filed an order of final forfeiture of the said properties pursuant to Section 17 of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and Section 44(2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Iheanacho, established the facts that Anthony Hassan, a former Director of Finance and Accounts, (DFA) in the Federal Ministry of Health, established NOK University using proceeds of unlawful financial activities that were traced to him.

Physical assets forfeited to the federal government are all structures in the university including the Senate Building, ICT Building, Faculty of Medicine Building, Science Deanery Building, two Academic Buildings and a Faculty Hall.

Other properties Hassan lost are: Gwasmyen

Water Factory, Gwasmyen Event Center and Gwasmyen International Hotel in Kaduna State.

The Commission, traced the forfeited assets in a case of criminal conspiracy, stealing, abuse of office and money laundering against Hassan and some staff of the Federal Ministry of Health.

Delivering judgment on the matter, Justice Abdulmalik held that “the apex court has held that any person who lives above his means owes the society some explanations. The burden lies on the accused to justify properties acquired which are disproportionate to his known legitimate earnings. It is trite in law that forfeitures are hinged on preponderance of evidence.

“Again, I hold that the respondent has failed woefully in tilting the scale of evidence in his

favour. It is a principle of law that oral evidence cannot contradict or supersede documentary evidence because documentary evidence speaks for itself.” The interim forfeiture of the assets was granted on June 1, 2022.

Three days after the forfeiture ruling of Justice Abdulmalik, the Commission on Monday, June 10, 2024, secured the final forfeiture of the sum of N204, 849, 859:00 (Two Hundred and Four Million, Eight Hundred and Forty-nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-nine Naira), 15 properties and eight expensive vehicles before Justice Inyang.E. Ekwo of the Federal High Court, Maitama, Abuja. They were recovered from one Jedidiah Ibrahim Ezenwa for the victim of his fraud, Mr. Ibrahim Amusan and his alter egos: Afri Invest Ltd, Joisen Holdings Ltd and Jack Welch Petroleum Services Ltd.

Ezenwa pulled off the fraud on Amusan, totaling

the recovered sum using eight alter ego companies, namely: Jedidiah Cement Industry Ltd., Omega Global Resources, Jedidiah Universal Transport Hephz Ltd, Afrinvest Asset Management Ltd, The Gurguru Company Ltd, Josien Holdings Ltd, Prince Hephzibah Ibrahim Ezenwa and Prime Ebulah Properties Ltd.

The properties recovered from Ezenwa include: four bedroom ensuite apartment at Guzape, Asokoro New Extension, Abuja; five bedroom semi-detached duplex and one- room boys quarter in Chevy View Estate; Block LXX, Plot 19-20, Buckingham Court F, Sherifat Animashaun Street, Ajiran, Eti-osa Local Government Area, LGA, Lagos; one unit of four- bedroom terrace duplex, Block B, House 3 at No. 15, Chief Bamidele Eletu Avenue, Osapa, Lekki, Lagos; three bedroom apartment on Plot 7, Block XXII, Oniru Chieftaincy Estate, Victoria Island, Lagos; and a five bedroom semi-

## INTERVIEW

# I was Shocked when EFCC Found out all these Things -Arthur Eze

**Olisaebuka and Onyeka bear the same surname as you. Are they related to you?**

Their father was my immediate younger brother, from the same mother and the same father. Their father died in the Nigerian civil war. I brought them up, trained them through school till masters level in London. They stayed with me, cooking the food that I ate. They were with me day and night and anywhere I travelled and all the heads of states I met, they were with me. I was thinking that they will bury me when I die, not knowing that they were scheming for me to die so they can seize everything I have. It is greed, greed and greed.

**What was your reaction to the discovery of their dishonesty?**

I was shocked when EFCC found out all these things, that's why I started to respect EFCC, because I would not have found out all these things. Without the EFCC I wouldn't have known the extent of what was going on. Without EFCC I wouldn't believe my children would ever do this kind thing to me. They cooked my food and at one point they gave me poison. I almost died and I was vomiting blood, they wanted me to die. I gave them money to marry, bought them

**I was shocked when EFCC found out all these things, that's why I started to respect EFCC, because I would not have found out all these things. Without the EFCC I wouldn't have known the extent of what was going on**

Mercedes Benz, I built houses for them in the village behind my house; I built houses for them in Enugu too. I didn't know they had acquired all these things. What are they doing with all these properties? The only property I have is here in Abuja, Enugu and my village. Others I have dashed them out, I don't need it, what are they doing with all these things?

**What would you say about the manner in which the EFCC carried out the investigation and prosecution?**

You people are straightforward. You're the people who can save Nigeria. This EFCC Chairman (Olukoyede) and you people can save Nigeria. If you give me a contract and I know I can't execute your contract I will return your money back to you. You can never see me in any fraud. God will not allow me. How many years do I have to live? What do I need all these things for, while some people are looking for food to eat. This is a terrible world. What I have already is okay for me. Look at all the properties, they are worth up to N20 or N30 billion.

**How much did it cost you for the Commission to carry out the investigation and prosecution of this matter?**

Nothing! I only visited EFCC two times in all. I didn't even know all these things were going on. I was in Venezuela when I got the judgement. I didn't know and I never took part in what went on. I never knew that this case was still going on all this while. EFCC on its own located all these properties.

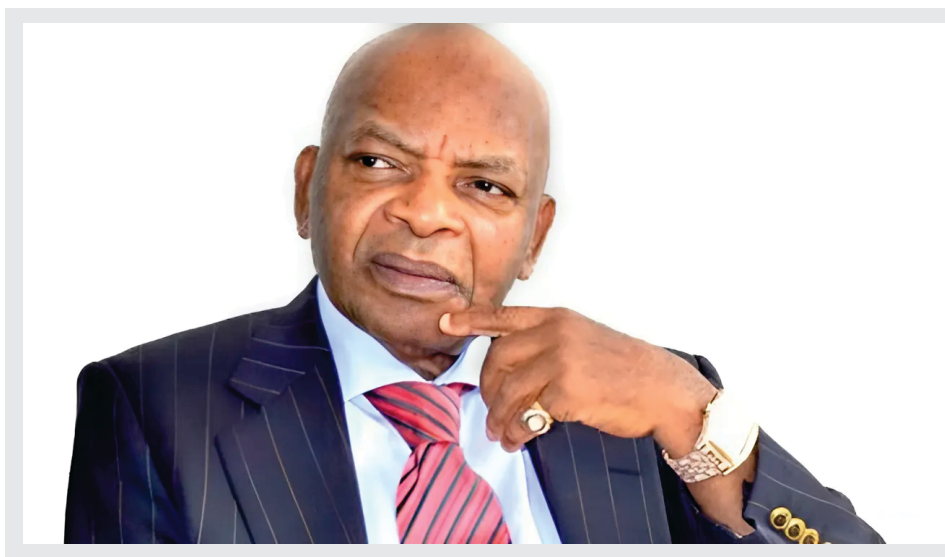




More of the houses recovered for Arthur Eze



Forfeited property of NOK University



Arthur Eze

detached duplex and one- room boys quarter on Block LXX, Plot 21-23, Buckingham Court B, Sherifat Animashaun Street, Chevy View Estate, Ajtran, Eti-Osa LGA, Lagos, State.

Others are: four bedroom terrace duplex, located on Plot No. 48 Block R, Federal Sites and Services Scheme, Federal Housing Estate (Malaysian Estate), Benin – Asaba Expressway Asaba, Oshimili South L.G.A, Delta State; four bedroom terrace duplex located on Plot No. 18A Block S, Core Area, Federal Sites and Services Scheme, Federal Housing Estate (Malaysian Estate), Benin – Asaba Expressway Asaba, Oshimili South L.G.A, Delta State, and Sub-plot No. TRCD29/Plot No. 4851 located on Citiscapc Villa, Guzape District, Cadastral Zone A09, FCT.

The vehicles include: one white SLK 350 Mercedes Benz; one black Silverado 4x4 Hilux; one Hummer Jeep, H3 black; BMW X6 Wine Red SUV; one black CLS 63 Mercedes Benz; one cobalt ITZ Chevrolet saloon, a BMW Z40 1L black and white, and one black-coloured Mercedes Benz G-Wagon SUV, Chassis No. WDCYC7AFZAX183776.

The final forfeiture of the properties were granted by the court through EFCC's counsel, Ibrahim Buba who had earlier secured an interim order of forfeiture which was followed up with a publication in national dailies for anyone to show cause why the properties and items should not be finally forfeited to the federal government.

With no objection coming from any quarters

within the court-stipulated time frame, the Commission applied to the court for their final forfeiture to the fraud victim. However, Jerry U. Musa, a defence counsel, showed up for the defendants during the final forfeiture proceedings and objected to EFCC's power to investigate the case, which he described as "a mere breach of contract." Justice Ekwo, who disagreed with the defence counsel held that "It is a contract scam and the EFCC had power to investigate and prosecute it by virtue of Section 6 of its Establishment Act." The judge further held that the EFCC through its counsel Buba convinced the court that the money, properties and vehicles were proceeds of crime. He thereafter ordered them to be finally forfeited to the victims through the federal government. Ezenwa's journey to the final loss began when the victim petitioned the Commission, alleging conspiracy, obtaining money under false pretence, fraudulent conversion of funds and money laundering against the defendants. Investigations showed that Ezenwa had approached Amusan, the petitioner, through Messrs Hamilton Resources International for a purchase of United States Dollars, having claimed to be a dealer in foreign currency. On the strength of Ezenwa's claim, the petitioner transferred a total sum of N1, 904, 090, 000. 00 (One Billion, Nine Hundred and Four Million, Ninety Thousand Naira) to the second defendant, Jedidiah Cement Industry Ltd in exchange for an equivalent amount in dollars. However, instead of Ezenwa, the first defendant and his companies providing the petitioner with the dollar equivalent of the funds as captured in the Memorandum of Understanding signed by the parties, he converted the funds to his personal use for acquisition of properties and vehicles.



# A Couple's N675m Migraine

A syndicate of seven fraudsters allegedly connive to defraud a couple of N675m in the guise of carrying out spiritual cleansing for the family.

By Segun Adeoye//lagos

**B**y hindsight, if ever Lateef Bello finds himself at a crossroad, and he is confronted on one side by a snake and on the other side by Sanlabiu Teslim, he will definitely strive to confront Teslim before venturing to confront the snake.

Regrets filled his elderly face on Monday, July 3, 2023 as he stood in the dock for about two hours narrating to Justice Ramon Oshodi of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos how through the influence of Sanlabiu, he and his wife fell into the merciless and deadly hands of a 419 syndicate that specialised in the use of juju (traditional rituals and medicine) for cleansing from evil forces. He lost a whopping £800,000, along with another N175 million.

The defendants, Morufu Adewale (aka Gbegulerin Adelana), Omitogun Ajayi, Ajisegiri Abiodun, Abayomi Alaka (aka Dauda Usman Alashe), Taiwo Ahmed, Raufu Raheem, and Teslim, looked on in the dock, as he told his heartrending story of how at different times, starting from a shrine in Igbogbo, Ikorodu, Lagos State, to another shrine in Ijebu-Igbo, Ogun State, the members of the syndicate playing different roles, successfully hatched the scheme that saw him part away with more than N675 million.

"My lord, they were in total control of our senses," he began.

In fact, Morufu, Alaka, Ajayi, and Ajisegiri were earlier in February 2022 arraigned before Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, with the others listed as being at large; but the trial could not be concluded before the retirement of the trial judge. This prompted the reassignment of

the case to Justice Oshodi. Not surprisingly, the defendants pleaded "not guilty" to the three-count amended charges filed against them. Sanlabiu took his plea on July 3, 2023, while the others took their pleas on December 15, 2022.

Bello had begun his testimony before Justice Taiwo, but the case was not concluded before her retirement. The sad memory was painfully as fresh as ever in his mind as the trial resumed before Justice Oshodi.

His son, he said, had some challenges, and Sanlabiu had offered to assist by taking him to a

**Omitogun kept assuring us that we were at the right place, that even Oshiomhole when he was about to leave office as governor of Edo State, that he brought the governor to see those white witches; that he initially took the osanyin to Benin, and he also brought Obaseki the current governor to the shrine**

spiritualist who would be of help; but it was the beginning of his woes.

Narrating his journey to the abyss, he said: "As soon as I entered the place, I wasn't myself. I thought he was taking me to an Islamic cleric, however it was herbalist.

"In fact, Omitogun Ajayi noticed it and said to me, 'focus on this place, do you know where Jesus Christ was born?'

"He now consulted his *osanyin* at the shrine, and then he gave us a bill of about N230,000 that we need to buy some things like ram and so on, which I paid.

"He now said that I have to bring my wife, and that was the period my wife was preparing for retirement, that she will be the one to pray, when they do their rituals.

"When my wife came, they gave us different concoctions to drink, and they made incantations.

"Omitogun was the main man, then he now said that the *osanyin* said that we need to go and see their Baba in Ijebu-Igbo who will finalise the prayer for my son.

"Few days later, myself, my wife and my son, and Sanlabiu, my driver, and Omitogun Ajayi and one alfa, who is one of them and currently at large, went to Ijebu Igbo.

"When we got to Ijebu-Igbo, that was where we met Morufu Yahaya Adewale, who disguised himself so well like an elderly man of over 100 years old.

"He welcomed us and then took us to one room, and when we entered the room, there was a curtain from where he was communicating with us.



"He now told us the things we are going to do, and afterwards, he said they've finished with my son, and that we should come back in two days time, that when we are coming we should buy a big ram.

"Two days later, myself, Omitogun Ajayi, the alfa, Sanlabiu, and my driver, went there with the ram, which we bought at Ijebu-Ode.

"When we got there, they slaughtered the ram and some other things, after which they said I should remove my dress and gave me a wrapper to cover myself.

"They now took me to a place, where they were boiling water, and I saw the water boiling and they poured the water on my head, but it was very cold.

"After this they did the same to my wife and they said they were going to take us to another room in the same house; we knocked on the door, and we started hearing the noise of some women.

"They now opened the door, and immediately we entered the room using our back, we now saw about nine women wearing white clothes.

"They claimed to be white witches, and said that they were there to help us; they now said though they have finished with my son, but that we have a lot of spiritual problems in my family, and my extended family.

"They said during their own investigation, that my wife will soon retire and that another bigger office was ahead of my wife and that we still need to do a lot of spiritual cleansing for the whole family in order for her to get there.

"They now demand for *opo kan* translated to one million in English language and it was my first time hearing that; emphasizing that it should have the picture of a woman and must be red in colour.

"When we got to the room where Yahaya was, he was the one that now interpreted that what the white witches meant was one million British Pounds.

"And that, once we get the one million pounds, it will be put in a box, and that after one week, we are going to be given our money back, and then there will be an ornament under the money, which my wife will be expected to put on and they named it *oluomo*.

"My lord, they were in total control of our senses," he said.

"Before we left that day, Morufu Yahaya instructed Ahmed Taiwo, to give us the account number of one Gbegulerin Adelana (the alias of Morufu Yahaya), that we needed to buy some things before the £1million and so demanded N1 million which I paid into the account.

"They now said that those witches only drink the blood of pigeons, and so collected N200,000 to buy pigeons for those witches, and N10,000 for the cage as they said they'll buy them at Sagamu.

"Omitogun kept assuring us that we were at the right place, that even Oshiomhole when he was about to leave office as governor of Edo State, that he brought the governor to see those white witches; that he initially took the osanyin



**According to him, the family afterwards raised £800,000, which was handed over to the syndicate. He testified further, that after the payment of the £800,000 cash, it was one story to another, in which they were asked to go to one river or the other for one ritual or the other and all the while they kept demanding for more money from him which ran to about N175 million**

to Benin, and he also brought Obaseki the current governor to the shrine.

"Apparently they knew my wife was going to retire and she would get her gratuity and pension."

According to him, the family afterwards raised £800,000, which was handed over to the syndicate.

He testified further, that after the payment of the £800,000 cash, it was one story to another, in which they were asked to go to one river or the other for one ritual or the other and all the while they kept demanding for more money from him which ran to about N175 million.

"They insisted on collecting cash, and declined to take bank transfers," he added.

According to him, during one of the rituals, unknown to him, the syndicate was recording them.

He told the court that in the course of the whole thing, he ran into debt, and only late in the day, did he realise that he had been scammed.

"I later got a call from Abiodun Ajisegiri (third defendant), who claimed to be an investigative journalist," he said.

He explained that Ajisegiri, who posed to be working with LTV and Radio Lagos, claimed to be in possession of the video clip of where we were engaging in rituals and that he was going to broadcast it to the whole world.

He said: "I tried to explain what happened to him and how we were defrauded of the sum of almost N675 million.

"He now said that he was going to investigate and that I should bring N300,000.

"I paid an initial N100,000 to his Ecobank account, and I later paid another N50,000.

"The day I paid the N50,000 I called his number to let him know, but he said he was at a meeting and that he would call me back.

"So later he called me, and said that he was with those people, and that they were demanding N50 million from us in order not to broadcast the clip. He now said if we can deposit N5 million that these people can kill and they can kidnap us."

Realising late in the day that he had been scammed, he said that he approached the Special Fraud Unit of the Nigeria Police.

According to him, the case was not progressing at the SFU and someone advised him to petition the EFCC if he wanted the case to progress.

"That was how Sanlabiu was arrested, being the first person to be arrested, being the man that took us to them, then Omitogun was arrested; Abiodun Ajisegiri was also arrested and the video clip recovered from him. Morufu Yahaya too was arrested," he said.



# Mamman's N33bn Albatross

*Three years after leaving office, and a dramatic arraignment, Saleh Mamman, former Minister of Power, faces trial for an alleged N33billion fraud in the power sector*

By Emeka Ibemere

**A**s Justice James Omotosho of the Federal High Court, Abuja, resumed duty on Thursday, July 11, 2024, he noticed from his vantage position that the

clothes of former minister of Power under ex-President Muhammadu Buhari, Saleh Mamman, who was billed to be arraigned before him was wet and dripping water.

As with all arraignments, Mamman

was supposed to take a plea of “guilty” or “not guilty” that morning, but surprisingly collapsed outside the courtroom, just before the court session began and had to be doused with water by court medics in their desperate effort to



save his life.

Soon after, a revived Mamman lumbered into the courtroom soaked to his skin. A curious Omotosho had to inquire from Mamman why he was looking different from every other person in the courtroom, to which the former minister sincerely responded that water was poured on him.

When the court registrar called up his matter and Mamman took his place in the dock, he disclosed to the judge that he collapsed in the court premises while waiting outside. “My lord, I collapsed while coming inside the court and they poured water on me.”

To be doubly sure that the situation would not repeat inside the courtroom, Justice Omotosho inquired from Mamman if he was fit enough to go on with the arraignment. To which he answered in the affirmative, explaining that his collapse was due to his indiscretion of taking his medication on an empty stomach, which he claimed substantially lowered his blood pressure as he was waiting outside the courtroom. Mamman’s health scare which delayed his arraignment considerably, prompted his counsel,

**My lord, I collapsed while coming inside the court and they poured water on me**

Femi Ate, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN), to pray for adjournment of the arraignment till Monday, July 15, 2024, noting that his client was only aware of the charges against him. He further drew attention to an error on the charge served on him by prosecution counsel, Adeyinka Olumide-Fusika, SAN, culminating in Justice Omotosho postponing the arraignment until 1pm on that day.

The EFCC is prosecuting Mamman on 12-count charges bordering on official corruption, criminal breach of trust, conspiracy to steal, and money laundering to the tune of N33, 804,830,503.73 (Thirty-three billion, Eight Hundred and Four Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty Thousand, Five Hundred and Three Naira, Seventy-three Kobo), which is believed to be from funds released for the Mambilla and Zungeru Hydroelectric Power Plant Projects by the Federal Government of Nigeria. The charge fingered Mamman to have allegedly colluded with officials of the Power Ministry and some private companies in the perpetration of the alleged fraud.

Upon his eventual arraignment that day, he pleaded “not guilty” to all the charges following which his counsel filed a bail application. Justice Omotosho adjourned till Friday, July 12, for the hearing of the bail application and ordered Mamman remanded in Kuje Correctional Centre, Abuja. Arguing for Mamman’s bail at the July 12, 2024 sitting, Ate, SAN urged the court to grant his client bail saying it was the constitutional right of a suspect who has not been convicted to be released on bail.

## **The charge fingered Mamman to have allegedly colluded with officials of the Power Ministry and some private companies in the execution of the**

While the prosecution counsel, Mr. A. O. Mohammed admitted that the defendant has been on EFCC’s administrative bail following his arrest by the Commission, Justice Omotosho admitted him to bail in the sum of N10 billion with two sureties in like sum. According to the judge, the sureties must be owners of properties in FCT, which must be worth no less than N750 million. He further directed the defendant to submit his passport to the court registrar, with the same applying to his sureties. Furthermore, the sureties have to submit their three-year tax clearance certificates, depose to an affidavit of means and alongside the defendant, submit certified copies of their bank statements with their recent passport photographs. The judge further ruled that the ex-minister would remain in the custody of Nigeria Correctional Service pending the perfection of the bail terms. He adjourned the matter for hearing till September 25, 2024. Mamman served as Minister of Power from 2019 to 2021. He is facing prosecution after three years of leaving office.

# Racing Against FATF's Grey Listing



*The Special Control Unit against Money Laundering, SCUML of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC revs up full complement of Anti-Money Laundering/Combating Financing of Terrorism AML/CFT activities to complement the efforts to take Nigeria off the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Grey List*

By Tony Egbulefu

The global money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA) concluded in February 2023 that Nigeria's Anti-Money Laundering/Combating Financing of Terrorism AML/CFT regime was weak. The agreement followed a 2019 Mutual Evaluation exercise which revealed vulnerability of the country to money laundering and terrorist financing in many sectors. The FATF's verdict subsequently earned Nigeria a place in its Grey List in February 2023.

While the grey-listing is a wake up call on Nigeria to apply enhanced due diligence in the implementation of AML/CFT regulations, its consequences manifest in reductions in foreign capital inflows as perceptions of being a country of risk discourage foreign investors.

The Special Control Unit against Money Laundering, SCUML, a department in the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC is charged with monitoring, supervising and regulating the activities of Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs) and Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs), which are easy conduits for terrorist financing and money laundering.

Daniel Isei, director of SCUML states that the consequences of the Grey Listing "means is that greater scrutiny will have to be deployed in every transactions that involves financial institutions and other critical players in our country. Some business interests will not deal with you on the ground that you are expected to undergo an enhanced monitoring process as far as anti-money laundering regime is concerned."

The grey listing requires Nigeria to implement an action plan on 19 items before May 2025 to avoid an upgrade to FATF's "Black List" which comes with dire consequences.

The 19 action plans consist of 11 examinable areas characterized as "Immediate Outcomes" with SCUML having critical roles to play in three of them, which are Outcomes three, four and 10. Immediate Outcomes three and four center on supervision of DNFBP and preventive measures.

*The grey listing requires Nigeria to implement an action plan on 19 items before May 2025 to avoid an upgrade to FATF's "Black List" which comes with dire consequences*

As captured under Section 30 of Nigeria's Money Laundering Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022, the DNFBPs requiring enhanced supervision and preventive measures are:

- Dealers in jewelry
- Car dealers
- Dealers in luxury goods
- Audit firms
- Tax consultants
- Clearing and settlement companies
- Supermarkets
- Casinos, Pool betting and lottery businesses
- Law firms, notaries, and other independent legal practitioners
- Accountants and accounting firms
- Trust and company service providers
- Estate surveyors and valuers
- Dealers in precious stones and metals
- Importers and dealers in cars or any other automobiles
- Construction companies
- Consultants and consulting companies
- Hospitality Industry
- Real estate agents, estate developers, estate agents and brokers
- Mortgage brokers
- Dealers in mechanized farming equipment and machineries
- Practitioners of mechanized farming.

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) as SCUML's strategic partner has been helpful in exacting compliance from DNFBPs with SCUML regulations. The policy that some businesses without SCUML certification should be denied access to financial services has ensured that more of such business entities willingly come on SCUML's radar.

According to Isei "What is expected of us is to increase the supervision that we are doing, because we have been able to cascade the high risk institutions, the medium risk institutions and low risk institutions; so they (FATF) want to see by way of inspection report, how many examination have you conducted among the thousands of entities that you are supervising particularly the high risk ones."

To meet this expectation, SCUML came up with a strategy of nationwide inspection, putting more officers in the field to cover the 36 states of the country. "It is capital intensive but we have to do it. These are some of the things required of us as a country to show evidence that we are indeed visiting the businesses that are high risk, inspecting them on infractions and sanctioning them. And those requiring further criminal sanctions we also ensure that they are deployed," he said.

To channel its energies right, SCUML embarked on sectorial risk assessment, prioritizing the real estate sector, dealers in precious metals and stones, casinos and gaming sector and the legal professionals.

At a national event SCUML organized in conjunction with the NBA in May 21, 2024, tagged: "NBA AML Guidelines: A Practical Approach for Legal Practitioners" EFCC's Executive Chairman, Mr. Ola Olukoyede expressed happiness that the former NBA president, Yakubu Maikau, SAN has already ensured the incorporation of some critical elements of the AML/CFT into the NBA guidelines, noting that the collaboration between SCUML and the NBA was necessary as the evaluation of Nigeria by FATF called for much work to be done in addressing the identified gaps.

"This collaboration couldn't have come at a better time. You are all aware that we are on a Grey List, so there are certain actions that are expected of us as a country to take and show to the world that we

are going in the right direction. So this event is one of those activities that will show that there is strong collaboration between competent authorities of government and self-regulating bodies to address the issue of money laundering and terrorist financing," Olukoyede said.

The sectorial risk assessment is a critical assignment that SCUML must complete by July 2024.

"And one other thing that we need to also do for which we are working with the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) is to address what we call the subscription to Targeted Financial Sanction, which talks about terrorist financing. We have the UN list of designated persons and entities and also have the Nigerian list. So all of these businesses must subscribe to what we call the Nigerian Sanction Committee Portal (NSC). So we are trying to work with NFIU to use technology to ensure that every business registering with SCUML will automatically also be registered with the NSC and also automatically be able to register with the NFIU Simplified Reporting Portal. These are some of the things that will show numbers going up in terms of how SCUML is working with the operators to deal with the requirement of Targeted Financial Sanction, (TFS). And to also show that there is an awareness of sufficient financial reporting from the operators.

Indeed SCUML has spared nothing within its remit to get the job done. On Tuesday, June 4, 2024, it sealed Tongyi Group, an Abuja-based construction and mining entity for repeatedly refusing to sign its checklist and send statutory reports to it, which form parts of the measures SCUML put in place to monitor DNFBPs against money laundering and terrorist financing activities in the country. The seal up notice also warned members of the public to be wary of doing business with the company.



SCUML Head Office

## FATF GREY LISTING: SCUML Executing Rigorous Sectoral Risk Assessment — Isei

Daniel Isei is the Director, Special Control Unit against Money Laundering, SCUML of the EFCC which monitors, supervises, regulates the activities of Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions (DNFBPs) and Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs). He spoke on SCUML's activities in relation to efforts towards Nigeria's exit from Financial Action Task Force, FATF Grey List. He spoke to **TONY EGBULEFU**

***The EFCC is a major player in the federal government's anti-terrorism financing and anti-money laundering initiatives. What specific roles fall on SCUML in this regard?***

The Special Control Unit against Money Laundering, SCUML is a specialized department in the EFCC that deals with Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions, so it has a responsibility to regulate and monitor these Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions against money laundering and terrorism financing. SCUML is charged with registering and certifying all businesses that fall within this bracket, monitor their activities, supervise them by way of onsite and offsite inspections and where there are infractions, they could take administrative sanctions against the erring entities or even escalate it for further investigation and prosecution. And you may ask, what are these Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions? Here we are talking of dealers and agents in the real estate sector. This sector is very vulnerable to money laundering. SCUML is the one charged with monitoring activities in this sector and dealing with suspected cases of money laundering and terrorism financing. We also have problems and challenges within the mining sector, that is, those who are mining and dealing on precious metals and stones. We are also charged with ensuring that we put our eyes on the activities in that sector and ensure that it is not used as a vehicle to promote money laundering and terrorist financing. This is the primary activity of SCUML that we are giving a whole lot of attention to. We are partnering with strategic professional bodies like the Nigerian Bar Association

and the accounting bodies: both Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN) and Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN) and Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria (CITN) as professional bodies to ensure that their professional calling also has elements of anti-money laundering training so that they become critical stakeholders in ensuring that the requirements of anti-money laundering is entrenched in their guidelines and infractions are also sanctioned from their own professional point as self-regulatory bodies. This partnership is one of the key areas SCUML is also focusing. And over and above that, there is a general awareness responsibility on SCUML, that is why you have radio and television programmes of SCUML, telling Nigerians generally of the evils of money laundering within the given space of the Designated Non-Financial Businesses and Professions. We do outreach, we call for town hall meetings, bringing together these clusters of businesses either by way of trade associations or through their regulatory bodies. We have had this across the country at a geo-political level. So we are very focused in ensuring that knowledge is passed down and compliance is entrenched and where there are cases of infractions we spare no effort in meting out the necessary sanctions as stipulated by law. Other than these businesses and professionals I have talked about, SCUML is also charged with the responsibility of dealing with the Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs). We have a huge presence of these organisations in the North-eastern part of the country, supposedly administering the good cause for which they were established, particularly humanitarian services. The global standard is that we have to monitor the activities of these NPOs so that they are not used directly or indirectly





*I think the level of compliance is evolving. We have not reached the heights that we desire yet, but some lines of businesses are doing better than others in terms of the level of registration and compliance*

to perpetrate terrorism financing. Terrorist financing does not necessarily mean that you are bringing cash to support terrorism. Any form of logistical support, which could mean providing vehicles or fuel, providing guidance or even training is part of terrorism financing. And some of these NPOs, whether local or international, could have been set up for the wrong purpose but with the façade that they are doing the right thing. So we monitor their activities and work closely with the local clusters of NGOs in Nigeria and at the same time we also have a body called International Network of NGOs and we relate with those ones and monitor them. And I can tell you that there have been instances where NGOs have been stopped from operating within a given space based on available information.

***Talking of compliance, how will you rate the level of compliance from DNFBS and NPOs?***

I think the level of compliance is evolving. We have not reached the heights that we desire yet, but some lines of businesses are doing better than others in terms of the level of registration and compliance. I also want to thank other strategic partners, like the Central Bank of Nigeria, that has also directed that the absence of SCUML certificate should deny some businesses access to financial services until they are able to provide evidence of having registered with SCUML. That partnership has enhanced compliance within that sector. If you ask me whether we are where we want to be, I will say no and if efforts are ongoing, I will say yes; do we need to up the tempo, I will say yes; do we have the requisite instrument to do our jobs, I will also say yes. Why do I say so? The Money Laundering Prevention and Prohibition Act 2022 clearly establish SCUML and mandated it with clear powers under that Act. At the same time we have the DNFBS Regulation 2023, which has also been reviewed in 2024, giving SCUML clear powers to sanction erring entities. So we are taking it one step at a time; we look at different parameters of a company that is expected to comply, if you do not comply after repeated visits of SCUML to your office, we take the decision to sanction you and in some cases even make recommendation to your licensing authority to revoke your operational licence. That is where we are. We are pushing very hard to improve the level of compliance in the DNFBS space. We are going to prioritize. The prioritization is the key element in terms of supervision. You have to deploy your resources in areas you have greater risk. If you know you have lesser risk in for instance in the trust and service providers sector and have more risk in the real estate sector and those who are dealing with precious metals and stones, you have to deploy more resources to those areas. So we are cascading in that respect and greater awareness is being created particularly in the high risk sectors, which is the real estate sector and those dealing with precious metal and stones. Legal professionals are fully on board now. They are partnering with us and it may interest you to know that they have just updated their rules of operational conducts, bringing in the anti-money laundering requirement within the rules of operational conducts of lawyers. We also have a good relationship with the accounting profession and these are gatekeepers, if they get it right, they will take seriously the issues of knowing their customers, proper documentation, asking questions as to the source of money and by doing so, you will be preventing the occurrence of money laundering within that space.

***In February 2023, FATF put Nigeria in its Grey List. What is the impact of this and what role is SCUML playing in ensuring that Nigeria gets delisted from this list?***

Like you said Nigeria has been grey-listed by the Financial Action Task Force, FATF. What that means is that Nigeria has been placed under an enhanced monitoring process. In other words they have observed what they call strategic deficiencies in your AML/CFT regime and therefore calling on you to take immediate steps to address those observed deficiencies. Nigeria has to go through what we call the Mutual Evaluation Exercise in 2019, the report which came out in 2021 clearly showed gaps in some areas of our AML/CFT regime. So, Nigeria having been placed on the Grey List is an invitation for us to take corrective actions to address those gaps or

what they call recommended actions because in every exercise they will come up with what they call recommended actions, which are things that you need to do, when you need to do them and how you need to do them. Nigeria has a work plan that it has worked on and adopted with the FATF and this work plan has a life span of 2023 to 2025. So Nigeria is expected to take those needed actions in those areas of observed gaps and show evidence that these gaps have been addressed or substantially addressed for Nigeria to exit the Grey List. The consequences of the Grey List is public knowledge to the whole world that there are strategic deficiencies in your anti-money laundering regime. What that means is that greater scrutiny will have

to be deployed in every transaction that involves financial institutions and other critical players in your country. Some business interests will not deal with you on the ground that you are expected to undergo an enhanced monitoring process as far as the anti-money laundering regime is concerned. So you are not free from scrutiny in any kind of transaction you are involved in. Some say that it even applies to borrowing. Because your risk level is high, the interest rate may not be the same with the one whose risk level is lower. So there are diverse consequences. It is not good to be on that list but countries have been through the process and Nigeria is not on the list alone, South Africa and Senegal are in this process. Ghana has been through this process but thankfully they exited it, so nobody is hoping that Nigeria will continue to remain in this Grey List or even dream of being escalated to what we call the Black List. That is better imagined. You are also asking questions as to what efforts are SCUML making to exit Nigeria from the Grey List. SCUML is a critical department and if you understand the process, you will discover that SCUML has a role to play in eleven examinable areas which FATF calls Immediate Outcomes. SCUML has a role to play in three out of the eleven, which are on Immediate Outcome Three, Immediate Outcome Four and Immediate Outcome Ten. Immediate Outcome Three and Four talk about supervision of DNFBS and preventive measures, so what we are expected to do is to increase the number of supervision that we are doing, because we have been able to cascade the high risk institutions, the medium risk institutions and low risk institutions. They (FATF) wants to see by way of inspection report, how many examinations you have conducted among these thousands of entities that you are supervising, particularly the high risks. So we need to up our numbers and that is why last week we came up with a strategy to go on a nationwide inspection, covering the 36 states of the country, putting men in the field, doing the inspection. It is capital intensive but we have to do it. These are some of the things required of us as a country to show evidence that we are indeed visiting the right businesses that are at high risk, inspecting them on infractions and sanctioning them. Other than doing examination and taking clear steps to ensure that the Immediate Actions are done by these entities, SCUML also needs to embark on sectorial risk assessment because if you don't assess your risk you won't know how to take steps or how to tailor your steps

in addressing those identified risks. We are prioritizing sectorial risk assessment for the real estate sector; we are prioritizing risk assessment for the dealers in precious metals and stones, we are working with the Nigerian Bar Association to also conduct a sectorial risk assessment for legal professionals, not discountenancing the efforts also for casinos and gaming sector. The sectorial risk assessment is a critical assignment that SCUML must embark on and complete by July 2024 and we must show evidence of this. And one other thing that we need to also do for which we are working with the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) to address is the point of what we call the subscription to Targeted Financial Sanction which talks about terrorist financing. Of course we have the UN list of designated persons and entities and also have the Nigerian list. So all of these businesses must subscribe to what we call the Nigerian Sanction Committee Portal (NSC). So we are trying to work with NFIU to use technology to ensure that every business registering with SCUML will automatically also be registered with the NSC and also automatically be able to register with the NFIU's Simplified Reporting Portal. These are some of the things that will show numbers going up in terms of how SCUML is working with the operators to deal with the requirement of Targeted Financial Sanction, (TFS). And to also show that there is an awareness of sufficient financial reporting from the operators. So attention must be given to all players within the sector to push hard to see to it that in the next reporting circle which will be in July or August we would have substantially dealt with those issues that we are required to deal with. That is our expectation and all hands must be on deck if we have to achieve that.

I will say that the EFCC is supporting the SCUML in no small measure. Our programmes are capital intensive, hosting outreaches, moving around the country, doing examinations. The Commission has been very supportive in this respect, knowing that this is an assignment that has to be done from the Commission's standpoint and to see to it that Nigeria exits the Grey List.



*I will say that the EFCC is supporting the SCUML in no small measure. Our programmes are capital intensive, hosting outreaches, moving around the country, doing examinations. The Commission has been very supportive in this respect, knowing that this is an assignment that has to be done from the Commission's standpoint and to see to it that Nigeria exits the Grey List*

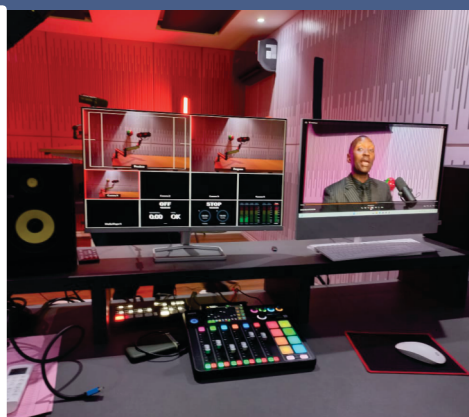


# A New Page of Learning

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, launches an electronic Learning Management Studio to boost intellectual strength of its workforce

By Dele Oyewale

The ceremony was short but its impact promises to be far-reaching and for Ola Olukoyede, Executive Chairman, Economic and Financial Crimes, EFCC, the prospects of e-learning for staff of the Commission are now real and his excitement on this was contagious. Cutting the tape to launch the Studio came like slicing a freshly-baked bread and with winning strides into the room, the doors of distance learning opened at the EFCC Academy.



The commissioning of the Studio concluded the three-day 6th Annual General Meeting of the Network of National Anti-Corruption Institutions of West Africa, NACIWA, that held between Monday, August 19, 2024 and Wednesday, August 21, 2024. The Assembly drew a cream of anti-corruption experts from the West African sub-region.

The EFCC's boss and President, NACIWA, while launching the Studio, stated that the EFCC would continue to employ all forms of technology-driven facilities and avenues to fight economic and financial crimes and other acts of corruption.

Highlighting the importance of technology in the fight against corruption, Olukoyede pointed out that the Studio will add value to the productivity of staff and help develop capacity.

"As you are all aware, our mandate is now technology-driven. In those days, you get to go to the bank, you fill vouchers, fill everything, collect your card, put it in your boot and drive it home, but today, at the press of a button, you move money across the world, and so if they have advanced in the way they move money, we are also advancing in the way we checkmate them, and that is the essence of this project," he said.

Explaining the concept of an e-learning studio at the Academy, Commandant, EFCC Academy, Mrs Chinwe Ndubeze stated that the Academy, in addition to its statutory capacity-building mandate for the EFCC workforce and staff of other law enforcement agencies, is the designated training Academy for NACIWA. "The EFCC Academy is the designated training

Academy for NACIWA, you will be delighted to be part of this beautiful event, wherein we are launching our E-Learning System because it is a demonstration that not just the EFCC but NACIWA is moving forward and not lagging behind with trends relating to the digital era.

"It is clear that indeed, education must go digital, we are in the digital era and it is staring us in the face and we cannot deny the fact that the Academy has been leading in the area of training and education.

"We are delighted that we are moving our training from the regular to the innovative and of course you know that when it comes to E-Learning, it is more inclusive", she said.

Commenting on the potentials and possibilities of the Studio, Head, External Corporation Unit of the EFCC, Aliyu Wali stressed that the LMS will open door of endless possibilities for growth, learning and innovation for officers of the EFCC, Nigerians, sister agencies and other stakeholders.

"Today, as we launch this E-learning Studio and Platform, we are not just unveiling a facility; we are opening the doors to endless possibilities for growth, learning, and innovation. This platform will play a crucial role in enhancing the capacity of our officers and staff, providing them with the tools they need to excel in their duties and uphold the highest standards of integrity and professionalism. He explained that the idea of the e-learning Studio "began during a time of great global uncertainty—the COVID-19 pandemic. When the world came to a standstill, it

forced us to rethink how we could continue to fulfill our mandate without interruption. It was during this challenging period that our External Cooperation Unit, in collaboration with the Legal Defense and Assistance Project (LEDAP), took a bold step forward. Together, we piloted an e-learning platform designed to provide an alternative learning environment for EFCC staff, ensuring that their professional development could continue even during the lockdown".

LEDAP National Coordinator, Chino Obiagwu, SAN, congratulated the EFCC on the completion of the project. He described the e-learning Studio as an IT-driven system where people can learn from the comfort of their homes, offices or at their convenience with diverse strategies of delivering knowledge.

The commissioning of the Studio was graced by members of NACIWA, representatives from the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission, ICPC, MacArthur Foundation, ECOWAS, United States Agency for International Development, USAID, among others.

Staff of the Commission expressed pride and delight at the bright lights to contemporary learning which the Studio represents. Chidinma Amanayabu, Head Media, EFCC Academy, told the magazine that the Studio was a step forward and clear proof of keeping pace with the rest of the world in technology-driven learning. "It is a positive development. It shows that EFCC is stepping up. We hope to see many more advances like this in the Commission", she said.



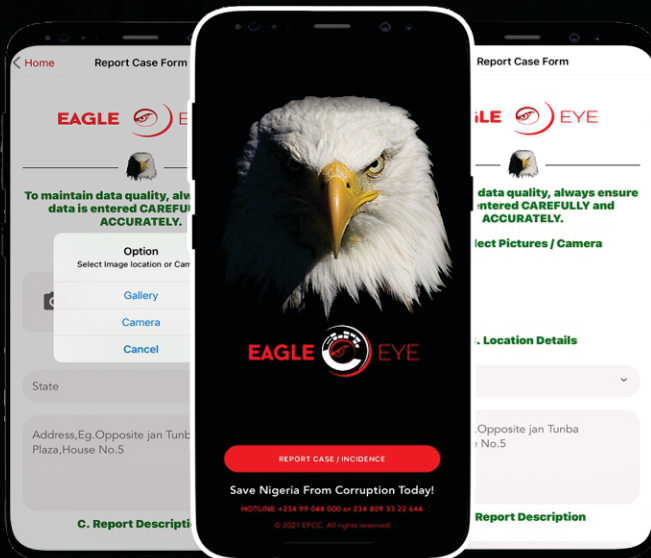
Economic and Financial Crimes Commission  
announces the launch of



An App specially developed by the EFCC to ease  
the reporting of economic and financial crimes



**DOWNLOAD NOW!**



[www.eagleeye.efcc.gov.ng](http://www.eagleeye.efcc.gov.ng)

Download on the  
**App Store**



Available on the  
**Google Play**



**REPORT CRIMES IN  
3 SIMPLE STEPS!**

- 1 Install the App**
- 2 Take Snapshots**
- 3 Upload Pictures**

Follow us: @officialefcc



*...EFCC will get you anywhere, anytime.*





## Join the movement towards transparency.

Tune in to the foremost anti-corruption radio station in the nation for unbiased news, insightful discussions, thought-provoking conversations and real stories of those fighting against economic and financial crimes.



*Voices Against Economic and Financial Crimes*

Tel: **0915 899 3533, 0916 201 3322**

Email: **97.3@efcc.gov.ng**

**www.efcc.gov.ng**

Follow us **@officialefcc**

