



EFCCALERT!

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2017 IN FOCUS

Malabu Oil Scandal Battling Their *Executhieves*
Oil Subsidy Scam Halliburton Scandal
Eye in Judiciary Atlantic Oil Scandal
NIMASA Probe Dasukigate
+ more



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PHOTO NEWS



W. Stuart Symington, US Ambassador to Nigeria, with Ibrahim Magu, acting EFCC Chairman, during a visit in Abuja, January 6, 2017.

2017: FACES TO WATCH

Corruption cases in courts across Nigeria, expected to be determined as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission intensifies its anti-corruption campaign

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

For the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, the year 2017, heralded across the world with fireworks and fanfare, provides yet another opportunity to rev up the anti-corruption campaign.

Indeed, this effort is already yielding results with the conviction of Walter

Wagbatsoma, Adaoha Ugo-Nnadi, and their company, Ontario Oil & Gas Nigeria Limited, on January 13, 2017 for a N1.9 billion oil subsidy fraud. It was a dramatic end to a trial that began on February 26, 2013.

Below is a focus on some of the other cases and faces to watch out for in 2017:



Wagbatsoma



Adoke



Eteke



Omokore

Malabu Oil Scandal

On December 20, 2016, the EFCC opened its case file of the \$1.1 billion Malabu oil scandal. It was the climax of painstaking probe. Operatives of the agency crisscrossed the length and breadth of the country, in search of answers in a scandal that has its tentacles in Europe.

A nine-count charge has been filed at the Federal High Court Abuja. A former Attorney General of the Federation, Mohammed Adoke, SAN, and a former Petroleum Minister, Dan Etete, are at the center of it.

It is expected that the case will soon be assigned to a judge for the accused persons to take their pleas.

Atlantic Oil Scandal

The \$1.6 billion oil scam involving Jide Omokore, embattled Chairman, Atlantic Energy Brass Development Limited and Atlantic Energy Drilling Concept got underway in December 2016, before Justice Nnamdi Dimgba of the Federal High Court, Abuja. The EFCC is prosecuting Omokore along with Victor Briggs, Abiye Membere, and David Mbanefo on a nine-count amended charge. Andrew Yakubu, former General Managing Director, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC is in the case.

Justice Dimgba adjourned their trial to January 20, 2017 and February 3, 2017.

Halliburton Scandal

Like the Malabu oil scandal, the EFCC is gradually winding up its investigations in the Halliburton scandal which also has its tentacles spreading to the United States and Europe. The case file of the Halliburton scandal has been tucked in the dark, but the EFCC is giving it accelerated attention. The agency's collaboration with international law enforcement agencies is yielding results, and, necessary steps will be taken to bring to book persons indicted.

BATTLING THEIR EXECUTHIEVES

One set of Nigerians that the EFCC has had a “running battle” with are former state governors; but the agency remains undaunted in the face of battle



Shema



Ladoja



Dariye



Nyako



Nyame



Kalu

Ibrahim Shema

The former governor of Katsina State has joined the growing list of ex-governors answering for their financial misdeeds in government. He is challenging jurisdiction of the Katsina State High Court and competence of the charges, thus halting his January 10, 2017 trial. Justice Maikaita Bako, has fixed February 7, 2017 for “hearing of the motions on notice after which the issue of arraignment would be determined”.

Rasheed Ladoja

The jaw of Rasheed Ladoja, a former governor of Oyo State, dropped on December 13, 2016 as Justice Mohammed Idris of the Federal High Court Lagos, dismissed his application to stop his N4.7 billion fraud trial, pending the outcome of his appeal at the Supreme Court.

He was on December 15, 2016 re-arraigned on an eight-count charge along with a former aide of his, Waheed Akanbi. He would be in the dock on February 14, 2016.

Joshua Dariye

The last day of proceedings in the trial of Joshua Dariye, a former governor of Plateau State, on December 13, 2016 ended in a dramatic fashion. He is facing a 23-count charge of diversion of state funds to the

tune of N1.2billion, before Justice Adebukola Banjoko, of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT High Court, Gudu.

Prosecuting counsel, Rotimi Jacobs, SAN, had expressed concern that the defence led by G.S. Pwul, SAN, having failed to present two witnesses said to be crucial to Dariye’s defence was only interested in delaying the trial.

The trial judge had to intervene to calm frayed nerves, as the two silks exchanged words in “open” court. Justice Banjoko, thereafter, instructed Pwul to ensure that he presents his witnesses on January 18, 2017 when Dariye’s trial is to continue.

Murtala Nyako

The former governor of Adamawa State has had to look on in the dock as the EFCC presented exhibits and witnesses in court, detailing the flow of funds diverted from the state coffers to private accounts, during his tenure.

More than 30 documents have been tendered against Nyako, his son, Senator Abdul-Aziz, Zulkifikk Abba and Abubakar Aliyu along with five firms implicated in the N29billion fraud. They face a 30-count charge before Justice Okon Abang, who was recently transferred from the Federal High

Court, Abuja to Federal High Court, Asaba, Delta State. However, the trial judge would still preside over the case in Abuja. Nyako and others are expected back in court on January 25 and 31, 2017.

Jolly Nyame

The trial of Jolly Nyame, a former governor of Taraba State, is one of the “old” cases wthat has witnessed “varied seasons”. The agency closed its case against him on November 22, 2016. Justice Banjoko of the FCT High Court, Gudu, before whom he is standing trial for a 41-count charge of misappropriation of state funds to tune of N1.64billion has fixed January 18, 2017 for the defence to make its submission to a counter-affidavit by the prosecution arguing that Nyame has a case to answer. It is in response to a “no case” submission earlier brought before the court by the defence.

Orji Uzor Kalu

Like Nyame’s trial, that of Orji Uzor Kalu, a former governor of Abia State, has experienced various twists and turns, since 2007. He was on October 31, 2016 re-arraigned before Justice Idris of the Federal High Court Lagos, on a 34-count charge of money laundering. He is being tried along with his commissioner of finance, Ude Udeogo. They are expected back in court on March 6, 2017.

EYE ON JUDICIARY

At the last count, eight judges and two court registrars are under the radar of the EFCC. It is part of efforts to cleanse the “rot” in the judiciary.



Ofili-Ajumogobia



Obla



Tarfa



Nwobike

Rita Ofili-Ajumogobia & Godwin Obla, SAN

It was a reversal of roles on November 29, 2016 for Justice Rita Ofili-Ajumogobia, as she who had ordered many into the dock, was that day herself herded into it to face charges of bribe taking. The EFCC charged her along with Godwin Obla, SAN for allegedly conniving to pervert the course of justice. Ofili-Ajumogobia is facing a 30 counts of unlawful enrichment, forgery and giving false information to an official of the agency.

Justice Hakeem Oshodi of the Lagos State High Court, Ikeja has fixed January 30, 2017 for continuation of their trial.

Rickey Tarfa, SAN

On November 16, 2016 the EFCC re-arraigned Tarfa on an amended 26-count charge before Justice A.A. Akintoye of the Lagos State High Court, Igbosere. He is accused of offering N5.3million to Justice Hyeledzira Nganjiwa of the Federal High Court between June 27, 2012 and December 23, 2014, among other judges with the aim of perverting the course of justice. He was in court on January 13, 2017 and is expected back on the twenty-seventh for continuation of trial.

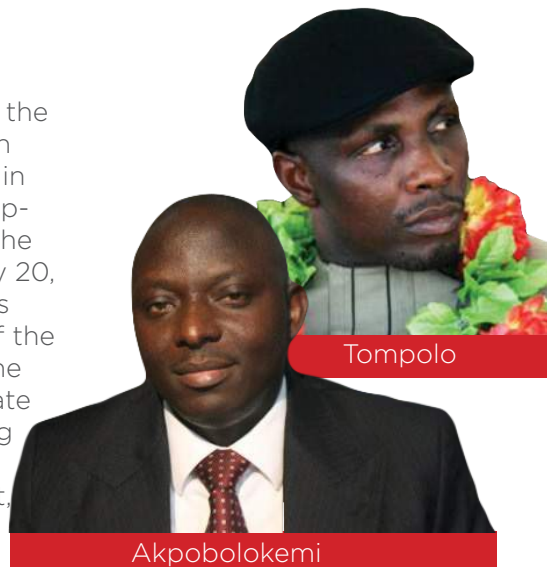
Joseph Nwobike, SAN

The Senior Advocate of Nigeria is standing trial for allegedly bribing two Federal High Court judges - Justice Mohammed Yunusa and Hyeledzira Nganjiwa, in order to pervert the course of justice. His trial before Justice R.I.B. Adebisi of the Lagos State High Court on a five-count charge is ongoing.

NIMASA PROBE

Patrick Akpobolokemi

The former Director General of the Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA is in the midst of the storm of corruption rocking the agency. While he is expected in court on January 20, 2017 to face corruption charges before Justice Raliat Adebisi of the Lagos State High Court, Ikeja, he also has a February 28, 2017 date to answer for money laundering charges before Justice Ibrahim Buba of the Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos.



Akpobolokemi

Tompolo

Tompolo

Government Ekpemupolo, the ex-Niger Delta militant fondly called Tompolo, is facing a 40-count charge of fraud to the tune of N46billion, linked to “fraudulent sale of land to the federal government for the Niger Delta Maritime University”. He is being tried along with Akpobolokemi before Justice Ibrahim Buba of a Federal High Court, Lagos. Tompolo is yet to appear before the court and was on February 11, 2016 declared wanted.

DASUKIGATE

In 2015 the bubble of the \$2.1billion arms deal scandal burst, and it exposed a number of prominent individuals in the society alleged to have dipped their fingers in the till. Known in some quarters as *Armsgate*, trial of those involved in the scandal continues.



Nenadi Usman

The former Minister of Finance is being tried along with a former Minister of Aviation, **Femi Fani-Kayode**, for their roles in *Dasukigate*. The trial before Justice M.S. Hassan of the Federal High Court, Lagos continues on January 18, 2017.

Meanwhile, Fani-Kayode, who is also a former Minister of Culture and Tourism, is facing a separate N26 million fraud charge before Justice J.T. Tsoho of the Federal High Court, Abuja, and is expected back in court on February 6, 2017.



Olisa Metuh

The embattled former spokesman of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, was arraigned on January 15, 2016 before Justice Abang of the Federal High Court, Abuja on a seven-count charge bordering on money laundering.

The EFCC closed its case against him on February 9, 2016 after presenting eight witnesses. His trial continues on February 20, 2017.



Raymond Dokpesi

The former Chairman, DAAR Communications Plc is facing charges bordering on criminal breach of trust for his connection with the \$2.1billion arms cash scandal, and is expected to appear before Justice Tsoho of the Federal High Court, Abuja, on February 7, 2017.



Waripamo-Owei Dudafa

The ex-aide to former president, Goodluck Jonathan, is facing a 23-count charge of conspiracy and concealment of proceeds of crime. His name popped up during the probe of the \$2.1billion arms fund scandal. Perhaps, the most intriguing aspect of his probe, was the revelation by Patience, wife of Jonathan who owned up to being the owner of bank accounts frozen as part of the investigation of the N1.6billion fraud involving Dudafa.



Alex Badeh

On March 7, 2016 the former Chief of Defence Staff was arraigned before Justice Okon Abang of

the Federal High Court, Abuja on a 10-count charge bordering on money laundering and corruption to the tune of N3.97billion. Air Commodore Salisu Yushau (retd.) is among witnesses that have testified against him. His trial continues on January 25, 2017.



Adesola Amosu

The former Chief of Air Staff will be in court on January 25, 2017 along with Air Vice Marshal Jacob Adigun and Air Commodore Gbadebo Olugbenga as their trial before Justice Idris of the Federal High Court Lagos continues.



Sambo Dasuki

The trial of Dasuki, a former National Security Adviser, who is at the centre of the \$2.1billion arms fund scandal, has also experienced different twists. He is facing two different charges. One is before Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf of the FCT High Court, Maitama, Abuja for a N13.6billion fraud, and another N28.3billion fraud before Justice Peter Afem of the FCT High Court Maitama.

Both cases are expected to be consolidated and trial expected to advance in 2017. ■

End Game

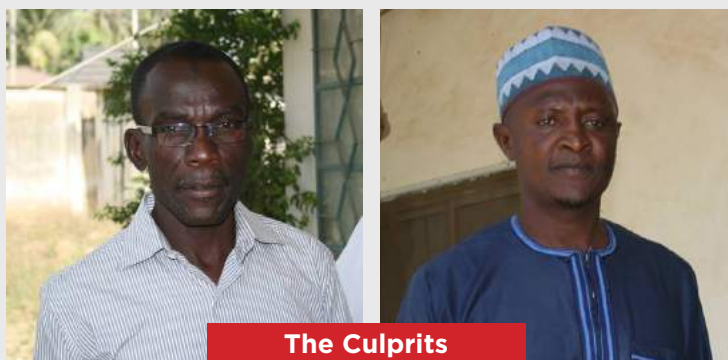
A fraudulent deal involving sale of 1,150 bags of rice, worth N9million lands two friends in jail

BY FATIMA ABUBAKAR // KANO

The trial of Umar Yasiga and Jibrin Haruna, whose prosecution by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, began on October 5, 2015 on a two-count charge of conspiracy and criminal breach of trust, came to a dramatic end on December 8, 2016.

That day, Justice Dije Aboki of the Kano State High Court, convinced that the prosecution proved its case beyond every reasonable doubt, found them guilty of the charges.

The two friends had in July 2014 lured an unsuspecting businessman into selling to their company, West



The Culprits

African Cotton Limited 1,150 bags of rice at the cost of N7,000 per bag totalling N8,050,000. On receipt, however, they only paid him N2,702,000 and unwittingly “converted the balance of N5,348,000 to their personal use”. It’s an offence contrary to section 311 of the Penal Code Law and punishable under section 312 of the same Law.

On count one of conspiracy, Yasiga was sentenced to six months in prison with an option of N200,000 as fine, while Haruna was sentenced to four months in prison with an option of N100,000 as fine. For breach of trust, Yasiga was sentenced to six months in prison with

hard labour and fine of N300,000, while Haruna got a nine-month prison term with an option of N300,000 as fine.

The trial judge ordered Yasiga to make restitution by refunding the balance of N5,348,000 to the victim, failure of which, “he shall serve additional prison term of two years”. ■

Greedy Salesman

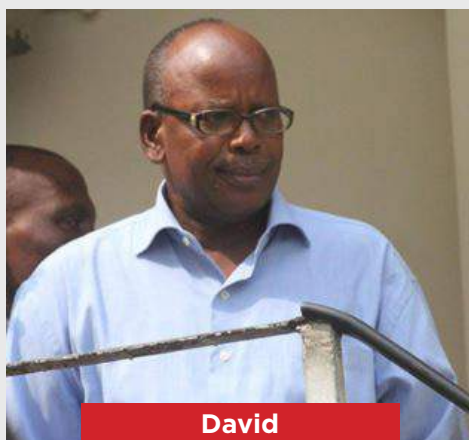
A former salesman with Universal Steel Limited, involved in N40million fraud, is convicted for theft

BY OLUMIDE EGBODOFO // LAGOS

If only Friday David had been a good ambassador of the biblical King David after whom he was named, his tale would have been that of good tidings; but now, the story of the once revered Sales Manager of Enamelware, a Division of Universal Steel Limited, is that he would for the next two years have to ply his trade in prison – an inmate.

Universal Steel Limited had in a September 6, 2005 petition to the EFCC, accused him of stealing N40,035,350 belonging to it. It’s an offence punishable under section 390(9) of the criminal code cap C 17, Vol. 11, Laws of Lagos State of Nigeria.

He was first arraigned by the EFCC on April 23, 2008 on 50 counts of



David

stealing and fraudulent accounting before Justice M.O. Obadina of the Lagos State High Court, Igbosere.

The charges were initially amended on April 23, 2009 to 87, but later consolidated into one count of stealing on March 7, 2016.

The trial, which lasted eight years, came to a climax on December 21, 2016 with the trial judge, finding him guilty of the charge. The EFCC presented 11 witnesses and tendered 38 exhibits.

“The prosecution has proven this case beyond reasonable doubt,” the trial judge held. “I therefore find him guilty of stealing the sum of N40,035,350.”

Justice Obadina sentenced him to two years in prison without an option of fine commencing from the day of Judgment, and ordered him to refund N40,035,350 to Universal Steel Limited. ■

Civil Scam

An officer with the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, is being prosecuted for engaging in job scam

BY BELLO BAJOGA // KANO

What got into the head of Joshua Dan-Daura, a Deputy Superintendent of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC when, not contented with his monthly pay, he decided to engage in job scam?

It is perhaps a question only he can answer. He is now being made to answer for an employment scam, which he ostensibly orchestrated to defraud a job-seeker of N450,000.

The EFCC on December 22, 2016 arraigned him before Justice Dije Aboki of the Kano State High Court on a one count charge of obtaining money by false pretense.

His prosecution followed a petition by Yahaya Musa, who alleged that in 2013, Dan-Daura conned him into paying him N450,000 in order to



gain employment into the NSCDC. It is an offence contrary to Section 320 of the Penal Code and punishable under Section 322 of the same code.

He pleaded “not guilty” to the charge, and currently enjoys bail.

His trial continues on January 25, 2017. ■

A Banker's Nemesis

A former staff of Ecobank involved in the infamous CBN currency mutilation scandal bags a two-and-a-half year jail term

BY AUSTIN BERNARD // IBADAN

Tope Akintade, a former staff of an Ecobank branch, in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, may now have realized that as dirty, rough and sometimes smelly as those naira notes may look, dealing illegally in them, can land a person in jail.

On December 14, 2016 Justice Emmanuel Nathaniel of the Federal High Court, Ibadan, found him guilty of stealing and conspiracy, and sentenced him to two-and-a-half years in prison.

Akintade is one of the casualties among a group of bankers who for decades had enriched themselves



through the now infamous N8billion Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, currency mutilation scandal.

The EFCC had charged him to court along with Kolawole Babalola, Olaniran Adeola, Toogun Phillips and John Paul for stealing and conspiracy. They allegedly diverted N490million, “which was illegally derived by inducing the CBN to deliver the said sum to Ecobank as against the actual sum of N79,789,900”.

He is also to forfeit a Shopping Plaza and another property located in Ibadan which he allegedly acquired with the stolen money. ■

Perilous Gambit

A businessman joins the list of persons being prosecuted for issuing dud cheques to their clients

BY THERESA NWOSU // ENUGU

It was a simple act of picking up a cheque book, tearing a slip and filling it. But that slip of N13million issued by Perry Iloegbunam, Managing Director, Perrytec West Africa Limited, has made him run foul of the law. Iloegbunam issued what is described as a *dud cheque*.

On December 13, 2016 the EFCC arraigned him before Justice C.O. Ajah of the Enugu State High Court on a six-count charge bothering on issuance of dud cheques. It is an offence contrary to Section 1(1) (b) of the Dishonored Cheque (Offences) Act Cap D11 Laws of the Federation



2004 and punishable under Section 1(1) (b)(i)(ii) of the same Act.

The recipient of the bounced cheques, Emma Onuorah, alleged that in October 2015, Iloegbunam issued cheques of N3million twice, and N7million totalling N13million, for services he rendered to him, but they were returned due to insufficient funds in the issuer's bank account.

Iloegbunam is currently on bail and would be back in court on February 14, 2017 for the continuation of his trial. ■

Iloegbunam

Caught in the Act

EFCC operatives nab a suspect trying to tamper with evidence against an illegal oil vessel, in a bid to impede investigation

BY TITILOLA OLEJIYA // PORT HARCOURT

The fingers of Chima Amadi seem to be adept at committing fraud. How else could one describe a situation where he tried to delete the name of H.W. Bechman, an oil tanker arrested by the EFCC for illegal activities?

The EFCC had on November 30, 2016 arrested the vessel along Eagle Island in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. It was illegally offloading products suspected to be automated gas oil into a Tank Farm at the premises of NEPAS

Limited in the Iwofe area of the state.

Amadi was caught in the act of wiping off the name of H.W. Bechman, in order to pervert the course of justice, having known that it was an illegal oil vessel. Desperate to save his face, he offered to bribe EFCC operatives with N26,000. His offer was promptly turned down by the officers, and he was arrested "for tampering with evidence".

Investigations into the fraudulent activities of the illegal oil vessel are ongoing, and the matter would be taken to court as soon as the probe is concluded. ■

Amadi



Fingers Burnt

A Saudi-based dealer in foreign exchange gets his fingers burnt as he attempts to literally smuggle \$520,700 in blankets to Nigeria

BY HAMZA SAID // KANO

Friday, December 16, 2016 is a day Nuhu Ibrahim, a Saudi-based *bureau de change* operator will no doubt want to forget in a hurry. That day, he stood with head bowed, in the dock of a Federal High Court, Kano, as he listened to Justice J.K. Omotosho pronounce him guilty of a one-count charge of money laundering.

Trouble began for Ibrahim, when officers of the Nigeria Customs Service, intercepted a luggage containing blankets at the Aminu Kano International Airport. They uncovered \$520,700 in it, and subsequently arrested and handed over Hassan Bala, a clearing agent who cleared the luggage over to the EFCC.

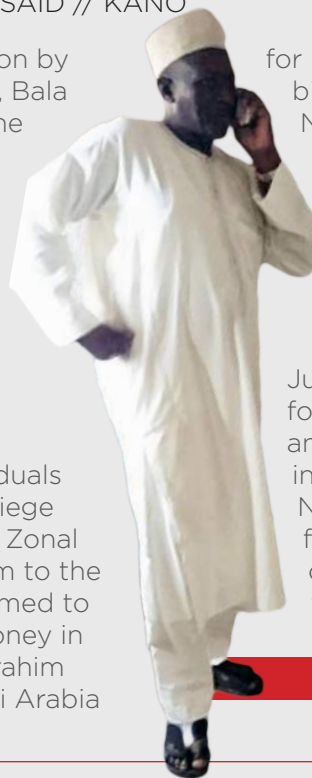
Upon interrogation by EFCC operatives, Bala confessed that the luggage was sent to him by Ibrahim from Saudi Arabia, and that he had no knowledge that \$520,700 was concealed in it.

Seventeen individuals were to later besiege the EFCC's Kano Zonal office laying claim to the money. They claimed to have sent the money in Saudi Riyal to Ibrahim who was in Saudi Arabia

for him to help change to dollar bills, for onward delivery back to Nigeria.

Ibrahim, who had initially pleaded "not guilty" when he was first arraigned, later changed his plea to "guilty" in the course of his trial.

Justice Omotosho, thereafter found him guilty of the charge and sentenced him to two years in prison, with an option of N100,000 as fine. He also forfeited \$260,350 – 50 per cent of the laundered money, to the federal government. ■



Ibrahim

Bitter Lesson

A self-styled "online trader", who defrauded an Irish businesswoman of €53,000 bites the dust

BY DEBORAH MEZEH // PORT HARCOURT

Tonwerigha Tombrown has no doubt learned his lesson that when the EFCC's says, "we will get you anywhere anytime", it means every word of the phrase. The self-acclaimed managing director of Yoshinaka Corporation, who goes by the pseudo name Michael Freeman, uses this fake company to dupe unsuspecting "business clients" online.

However, luck ran out on him, when one of his victims, an Irish businesswoman he defrauded of €53,000

found succour in the EFCC. Tombrown tricked the woman into believing that he is a prominent online trader.

He is being prosecuted on a 34-count charge bordering on obtaining money by false presence, before Justice A.O. Faji of the Federal High Court, Asaba, Delta State.

Justice Faji adjourned the case to January 23 and 24, 2017 and ordered the defendant to be remanded in prison custody pending the determination of his bail. ■



Tombrown

Honing Skills

The EFCC organizes workshop for journalists in Lagos, to strengthen understanding and capacity in reporting financial crimes

BY BABATUNDE SULAIMAN // LAGOS

Lai Osho, a Professor and Dean, School of Communication, Lagos State University, LASU, brought his wealth of experience to bear at a one-day workshop organized by the EFCC for journalists, on December 14, 2016. It held at the Golden Tulip Lagos Airport Hotel and had in attendance journalists from the print, online and broadcast media.



Speaking on *Investigative Reporting and the Fight Against Corruption: the Nigerian Experience*, Osho reiterated the need for journalists to hold public officers accountable for their actions. He noted that Nigerian politicians and “powerful individuals” under probe strive to

manipulate “the weak state and institutions for their parochial interests”.

Simon Kolawole, Publisher, *The Cable*, an online news medium, spoke on *Journalism and the Fight Against Corruption: Lessons from Abroad*. Using the famous

Watergate scandal in the United States, as a case study, the former editor with *ThisDay* newspaper, urged them to shun armchair journalism.

“Investigative journalism should be geared towards making the country a better place,” he said.

Lanre Arogundade, Director, International Press Centre, in his paper *Law, Journalism and the Fight Against Corruption* said,

“Legal institution and personnel, such as lawyers, judges, solicitors, are useful sources and contacts for investigative or anti-corruption reporters.”

The EFCC had earlier in the year held similar workshops for journalists in Port Harcourt, and Abuja. ■

VISIT

Partners In Progress

The World Food Programme signs Memorandum of Understanding with the EFCC as part of efforts to alleviate suffering of Internally Displaced Persons in North-East

BY HABU WAYERI

“We will be with you wherever you need our attention; we will support and work with you to ensure that your intervention gets to the beneficiaries”.

Ibrahim Magu, the EFCC boss, made this pledge to the World Food Programme, WFP, during a courtesy visit on December 20, 2016 to the Abuja headquarters, led by the WFP’s Director of Inspections and Investigations, Bernadin Assiene.

The pledge came amidst allegations of corruption in the management of funds aimed at alleviating the suffering of Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs in the North-East of Nigeria.



In signing a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU, with the WFP, Magu noted that it was essential to ensure that “all support deployed by donors and government must reach the beneficiaries”.

Assiene noted that the MoU with EFCC was the first of its kind,

and an essential aspect in partnering with the agency in order to achieve the WFP’s objectives in Nigeria.

“The EFCC’s expertise and track record of successful engagements in fight against corruption in the utilization of foreign assistance is well recognized, both nationally and internationally,” Assiene said.

Other members of the WFP entourage include: Peter Musoko, Deputy Regional Director; Femi Amure, West Africa Project Advisor/Liason; Sory Ouane, WFP Representative and Country Director, and Ijeoma Garba, External Partnership. ■

ON THE RUN



IDRIS KWADO USMAN

Alhaji Idris Kwado Usman, Managing Director, Idris Kwado & Sons Limited, and Aminu Dikko & Sons Limited, is a Katsina-based contractor wanted for complicity in the misappropriation of over One Billion Naira SURE-P funds in Katsina State during tenure of the former governor, Ibrahim Shema.

Usman, 49, is dark in complexion, hails from Katsina Local Government Area, and had his last address as: Kwado Village, off Ring Road, Katsina.

Anybody with useful information about his movement should contact the Commission in its Kano, Kaduna, Abuja, Maiduguri, Gombe, Enugu, Port Harcourt, or Lagos office; or call any of these numbers: 08093322644, and 08183322644; or through its email address: info@efccnigeria.org

EFCC will get you.
Anywhere. Anytime.

www.efccnigeria.org

