

TOYIN SARAOKI

Women in  
Hot Seat

New Strategies  
Against Graft

MELAYE SYNDROME

Distinguished  
Bodyguards?



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# EFCCALERT!

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**ACTING AGAINST CORRUPTION**





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In a bid to deepen its rigorous public enlightenment campaign against graft, the EFCC explores the use of drama, targeting the youths



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## WORDS ON MARBLE



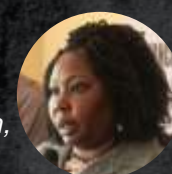
*"We now have to sieve those who are partners in progress, from those who though parade themselves as civil society organizations, are actually tools in the hands of some corrupt individuals."*  
— Olaolu Adegbite,  
Director of Operations, EFCC.



*"The United States continues to fight corruption in its own borders and we stand to assist anti-corruption agencies in Nigeria."*  
— Mariah E. Brewer,  
Dep. Chief of Mission, US Embassy in Nigeria.



*"It is essential to have the political will to fight corruption, as this is the starting point."*  
— Abdul Rahman Mansaray,  
Senior Prosecutor,  
Sierra Leone's Anti-Corruption Commission.



*"Corruption steals our prosperity and if government fails to push war on corruption, then it is tacitly legitimizing corruption."*  
— Marcella Samba-Sesay,  
Director of Programmes,  
Sierra Leone's Campaign for Good Governance.



## ROAD TO SUCCESS



## ACTING AGAINST CORRUPTION

*In a bid to deepen its rigorous public enlightenment campaign against graft, the EFCC explores the use of drama, targeting the youths*

BY OLUFEMI ADEYEMI AND GOLDEN AGU

On Monday, July 27, 2015 the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, introduced a new dimension to the war on corruption – the use of drama. It would be the first of its kind, employed by a law enforcement agency targeted at dealing with the issue of corruption. The move was to take the anti-graft agency's sensitization and enlightenment programme beyond the confines of civil society and other groups engagements.

The plan to use drama as vehicle to promote the agency's anti-corruption crusade began last year. Osita Nwajah, Director, Public Affairs Directorate of the EFCC, to make the plan come to fruition, established a Film and Drama section, domiciled in the Enlightenment and Re-orientation unit.

"The idea relates to the preventive mandate of the EFCC, and the goal is to come up with scripts and produce dramas aimed at sensitizing the public on economic and financial crimes," he said. He asserted that: "It has been established that people understand

and retain more of what they see and hear, and it is against this backdrop that the section was created."

Buttressing the views of Nwajah, the coordinator of the Film and Drama section, Nwanyinma Okeanu, further explained that the idea would ensure that the EFCC's anti-corruption crusade was taken to the doorsteps of every Nigerian.

"It is in consideration of the fact that an average Nigerian home spends quality time to watch films, that the initiative to use drama to promote anti-corruption crusade was developed," she said. "What people see and hear is what they believe and the new initiative is in consideration of the need for new approach in the fight against corruption."

To make it an all-embracing project, the agency threw open its doors to interested acts, and held auditions. The year-long preparation, which saw actors coming from within and outside of the EFCC, culminated in the auspicious event of Monday, July 27, 2015.

*"It has been established that people understand and retain more of what they see and hear"*



Members of the Production Crew



Students of GSS, Jabi and a member of cast



That day the klieg light lit, the acts acted out their scripts, the tapes rolled, and thus began a new phase in the anti-graft agency's new strategy to fight corruption.

The title of the drama, **Road to Success**, which took four days to shoot at various locations in Abuja, including the Government Secondary School, GSS, Jabi, according to Aisha Larai-Musa, Head, Enlightenment and Re-orientation Unit of the EFCC, was chosen to portray its educative theme. "Its aim is to sensitize the young generation and the public in general on the ills of corruption with a special focus on examination malpractice and Advance Fee Fraud, which are common among the youths of these days," she said.

She added that the choice of the school was also because it had an Integrity Club, whose core objective aligns with the mandate of the EFCC. Chris Oluka, a scriptwriter and producer, who along with Okeanu developed the concept for the drama, said, "People will see themselves and their situations in these actors and it will help them understand the need to stay away from corrupt practices."

He explained that the drama was scripted to portray economic and financial crimes happening in

*"Its aim is to sensitize the young generation and the public in general on the ills of corruption with a special focus on examination malpractice and Advance Fee Fraud"*



secondary schools. "It exposes the dangers associated with students trying to live above their means as well as its repercussions," he said. "The secondary school environment was also chosen to help give the story a more realistic feel."

Director of the flick, Newton Bara Bara, a member of the Director's Guild of Nigeria, expressed optimism about the production. "A good story is the heart of any film or drama production," he said. "Without a good story, aesthetics and cinematography will not matter, but I can assure you that we've got a good story to tell."

Like every new project, the production of *Road to Success*, comes with its peculiar challenges, particularly finance and inadequate equipment. The production crew, which also includes Haruna Ashade, Adepoju Sodade and Taiye Sasona (all cameramen), had to make do with basic high definition cameras for the shoot.

The drama, which will be aired on television, at schools and on the Social Media platforms of the EFCC, according to Oluka, is just one in a long list of initiatives by the Film and Drama section, to revolutionize the public enlightenment efforts of the EFCC. ■

## NEW STRATEGIES AGAINST GRAFT



*Beyond the conventional techniques of combating graft, the EFCC explores new methodologies as part of its concerted efforts to check economic and financial crimes*

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

“The Commission came to the unassailable conclusion that successfully combating economic and financial crimes, including corruption and money laundering, would take more than enforcement of laws.”

Those were the words of the EFCC boss, Ibrahim Lamorde, at the formal unveiling of the anti-graft agency's Inter-Faith Anti-Corruption Preaching/Teaching Manual. According to Lamorde, "It was obvious that because Nigeria is a deeply religious country, one of those groups that would have the most far-reaching and sustained impact on our people is the faith-based groups."

A novel idea in many respects, and the first of its kind by any law enforcement agency in Africa, it was greeted with great acceptance. The unveiling, which took place at the main auditorium of the National Centre for Women Development, Abuja, on December 9, 2014, received a very warm reception, with the Emir of Suleja, Alhaji Awwal Ibrahim (a former governor of Niger State), Arch Bishop John Praise Daniel of the Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN, and Prof. Ishaq Oloyede, joining the crème de la crème of the society for the event, which marked the year's International Anti-Corruption Day.



Lamorde had reiterated that: “It was obvious that because Nigeria is a deeply religious country, one of those groups that would have the most far-reaching and sustained impact on our people is the faith-based groups.”

The manuals, which contain scriptural references, illustrations and teaching aids all drawn from the Bible and the Qurán, are however, just one of the new strategies, which the EFCC is now employing in its concerted drive to rid the country of economic and financial crimes.

According to Lamorde, “Realizing the need to harness critical stakeholders’ inputs into the anti-graft campaign, the EFCC reached out to organized and semi-formal groups, which include students and women’s bodies, town unions and age grade groups, professional and social associations, religious bodies and other special interest associations.”

The agency already has in place the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes



EFCC Chairman, Lamorde, interacts with members of ACE-Network  
Inset: EFCC's Red Alert on Scam

Support Network, ACE-Network, which is structured to incorporate the civil society groups into the corruption war, and encourage whistle blowers to partner with the EFCC.

“The ACE-Network is expected to ensure a seamless cooperation between the Commission and Civil Society Organizations, in a coordinated effort to rid the country of

economic and financial crimes,” Lamorde said.

Another initiative of the anti-graft agency, aimed at enlightening the public, is the *Red Alert on Scam* – a special publication, presented to the public on March 23, 2015 at the EFCC headquarters. The 38-page booklet, which has been aptly described as “wisdom in small packages”, is segmented into 17 sections that provide information on the red flags that the members of the public must watch out for, in order to avoid falling for the tricks of fraudsters. Scams highlighted in it include, E-Commerce/Card Fraud, Wonder Bank/Ponzi Schemes, Romance & Dating Scam, Employment Scam, Identity Theft/Phishing Scam, Contract Scam/Funds Transfer, Inheritance Scam, Charity Scam, Juju Scam, Lottery Scam, Crude Oil/Mineral Resources Sales Scam, Wash-Wash (Money) Scam, Scholarship Scam, Auction/Product Scam, Emergency Scam, Immigration/Visa Scam, and Local Purchase Order Scam. ■

## EYE ON NIMASA

*Yet another director general of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency is being investigated by the EFCC over allegations of graft*

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

What is it about the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA, that its director generals have not ceased been enmeshed in alleged fraudulent acts? Perhaps, a million dollar question, that only Patrick Akpobolokemi, a former DG of the agency who is being investigated by the EFCC may have an answer to.

Akpobolokemi, who was re-appointed DG of NIMASA on November 7, 2014 by former president, Goodluck Jonathan, had barely spent a year of his second term, when he became embroiled in allegations of fraud. He was sacked on July 16, 2015 by President Muhammadu Buhari, based on the allegations.

A former lecturer at the Bayelsa State owned Niger Delta University, he was



Akpobolokemi

in fact, appointed NIMASA boss in June 2011, shortly after his predecessor, Temisan Omatseye, (who is currently facing a 27-count charge for offences bordering on contract variation, bid rigging and awarding contract above his approved limit as DG, in violation of the Public Procurement Act to the tune of N271 million), was arrested by the EFCC.



Omatseye

From all indications, Akpobolokemi, who was a guest of the EFCC recently, may have also fallen into similar pitfalls like his predecessor, as he had to provide answers to questions bordering on his alleged involvement in several shady deals running into billions of naira, including questionable transfers, and acquisitions. ■



## WOMEN IN HOT SEAT

*In the fight against corruption, the EFCC beams its searchlight on some women who held sway in power, but are alleged to have soiled their hands in shady deals*

BY SEGUN ADEOYE



Saraki

**T**oyin Saraki, wife of a former governor of Kwara State, and incumbent Senate President, Bukola Saraki, has a soft mien, a charming smile, and a strong personality. A former First Lady with a modest fashion sense, she has an impressive résumé that has seen her in the driver's seat of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa (WBF Africa) – a pan-African maternal health charity, which according to her was set up to advocate and formulate best practices in health, education, women's empowerment and social welfare.

But on July 28, 2015, Toyin, who also prides herself as a philanthropist and pioneer of Lifestream Charity, which offers scholarships to indigent students, builds schools for communities and provides relief materials to disaster victims, was on a different kind of seat – the hot seat.

She had honoured invitation by the EFCC to answer questions over several shady transactions linked to her. The contracts, which were awarded during the tenure of her husband, allegedly did not follow due process. Companies linked to her, are alleged to have benefited in the award of contracts between 2003 and 2011.

Indeed, Toyin, who that day literally stormed the headquarters of the EFCC with an entourage that included 10 Senators, 20 members of the House of Representatives, and some members of the Kwara State House of Assembly, including its Speaker, Dr. Ali Ahmad, was apparently stunned by the weight of information and evidence put to her. Her interrogation took two days.



Dakingari

### **Yet another former First Lady in the hot seat**

Like Toyin, the EFCC has also put in the hot seat, a former First Lady of Kebbi State, Zainab Dakingari. A daughter of the former Nigerian president, late Umaru Yar'Adua, Dakingari was a guest of the anti-graft agency on August 4, 2015. She was grilled over her alleged involvement in fraud involving N2 billion said to have been siphoned from the state's coffers. Dakingari had visited the Abuja headquarters of the agency on July 22, 2015, but was permitted to go home without being interrogated on the grounds of ill health. She eventually came on a later date.

### **More women of power follow**

Ifeoma Nwobodo, who held sway as the Chief of Staff to a former governor of Enugu State, Sullivan Chime, between May 2007 and October 2014, was also subjected to intense interrogation on July 30, 2015. Nwobodo, who resigned her post in 2014 to pursue her Senatorial ambition, to represent Enugu East, was grilled by operatives of the anti-graft agency on issues bordering on money laundering, misappropriation of public funds and abuse of office.



Nwobodo



Sani

Baraka Sani, a former Senior Special Assistant on Schools and Agricultural Programmes, in the administration of Nigeria's former president, Goodluck Jonathan, also joined the list of women of power, who have been grilled by the EFCC over allegations of graft. Sani was at the anti-graft agency's office on July 22, 2015, and was questioned based on allegations of misappropriated funds that were meant for the programme.

No doubt, in the days to come, more women of power will feel the heat as the EFCC intensifies its drive to rout corrupt politically exposed persons ■





## DISTINGUISHED BODYGUARDS?

*A simple invitation for the wife of a former governor of Kwara State, by the EFCC, to answer for alleged graft offences, is turned into a carnival of sorts, by some lawmakers*

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

He was best known for his prominent role during the 2012 protests against the removal of oil subsidy. At rallies, he thrilled his audience with racy speeches, posing as the “voice of the voiceless”. The recent actions of Dino Melaye, who currently holds the lofty position of a Senator of the Federal Republic, representing Kogi-West constituency in Nigeria’s 8th National Assembly, have however, received flaks from members of the society, who have now tagged him a “meddlesome bodyguard and interloper”.

On Tuesday, July 28, 2015, Melaye, who also serves as Chairman, Senate Ad hoc Committee on Media and Publicity, caused consternation at the EFCC headquarters, Abuja. He, along with 10 Senators and 20 members of the House of Representatives, apparently left their primary constitutional role to escort Toyin Saraki, wife of the Senate President, Bukola Saraki, who had been invited by the anti-graft agency, to answer questions on alleged graft involving several contracts executed by companies linked to her during the tenure of her husband.

The scene was one you would have expected at the venue of a wedding ceremony, and not at the premises of

*“The long convoy, made up of Sports Utility Vehicles, SUVs, in different models, colours, sizes and shapes, caused a melodrama, in what was supposed to be a serious issue”*



an anti-graft agency like the EFCC. The long convoy, made up of Sports Utility Vehicles, SUVs, in different models, colours, sizes and shapes, caused a melodrama, in what was supposed to be a serious issue.

Some of the Senators in the Melaye entourage included Isah Sani, Abdul Abubakar, Binta Goje, Abdulahi Sabi, and Peter Nwaoboshi. Speaker of the Kwara State House of Assembly, Dr. Ali Ahmad, also led some of his colleagues to the EFCC office.

Justifying an action which has been described as a “show of shame”, Melaye, who described Toyin as “sister and friend”, touted himself as “a private investigator and an anti-corruption crusader”.

The act has, however, not gone down well with some members of the society, particularly the human rights group, which Melaye, in the days of yore was a prominent and active member. The Coalition Against Corrupt Leaders, CACOL, described the *Melaye Syndrome* as a disturbing occurrence and national embarrassment, and one “out to make the job of eradicating corruption, by Buhari’s administration more complex and difficult than ever envisaged.” ■



## COSTLY LOVE

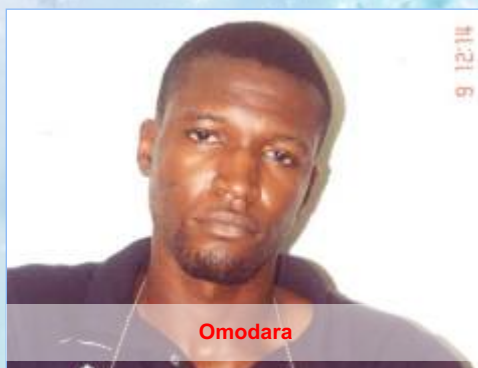
*A Frenchman, who thought he had found love on the internet, receives the venom of love scam*

BY CHIDIMMA AMANAMBU

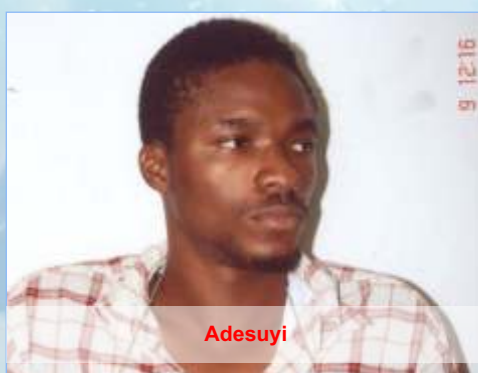
**F**ranc M. must be a diehard romantic, living in the Stone Age. Or what else could have made him fall in love at the mere sight of a lady's picture posted online, to the extent of splashing €25,000 (about N5.5 million) on someone whose identity he doesn't know?

Franc found "Kate Williams" on a dating site and was won over by "her" beauty. He subsequently proposed marriage after a brief interaction online. The love blossomed and he took it upon himself to fund the relocation of Williams, his new found love, to France.

It cost Franc €25,000 to effect the relocation. But sadly, it turned out to be money thrown down the drain, as he later discovered that Williams was none other than another male internet



Omodara



Adesuyi

scammer, who merely pocketed the money.

Kate Williams was no other person, but Omodara Adedapo Oluseye, a student of the College of Agriculture, Akure, Ondo State, whose hobby was to prowl the internet to fleece lover seekers of their hard-earned money.

Luck, ran out on Oluseye and his accomplice, Adesuyi Ayodeji Adedapo, when EFCC operatives smoked them out of their hideout in Ibadan, Oyo State, following a petition received from the French Embassy on behalf of Franc. They were subsequently arrested, prosecuted and convicted of the crime.

The EFCC helped recover €10,000 which has already been wired back to Franc. ■

## BANK ROGUES

*Three bankers with defunct FinBank Plc, find their fingers burnt, having defrauded the bank to the tune of N114.6 million*

BY BELLO BAJOGA // KANO

**O**rdinarily, Suleiman Ibrahim Musa (a former head of operations), Bilyaminu Usman and Lawal Suleiman (tellers), all staff of FinBank Plc, (acquired by First City Monument Bank Plc in 2011), Birnin-Kebbi branch in Kebbi State, ought to have been contented with their salaries and allowances, which usually get paid on time. But the three former bankers were not, and now have new tags – rogues.

Justice Ibrahim Mairiga of the Kebbi State High Court recently convicted them on a 16-count charge bordering on conspiracy, forgery, theft and criminal breach of trust brought against them by the EFCC and sentenced them to 91 years in prison.

Musa, defrauded the bank of N101,707,000; Usman and Suleiman, connived to defraud the bank of N6,627,500 and N6,267,500 respectively. The crimes were committed between 2008 and 2010. They had at different times debited the bank's customers by carrying out unauthorized withdrawals.

The bank petitioned the EFCC, which swung into action, bringing the three of them to book.

While ordering them to return the stolen money to the bank, the judge ruled that: "I therefore, find the accused persons guilty as charged, and so convict and sentence them to 55 years, seven years and 29 years imprisonment respectively without an



Culprits

option of fine, with the jail term to run concurrently." ■



## PARTNERS IN CRIME

*Two former clerks of the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Dala, Kano, face the music for defrauding the hospital of N3,180,853*

BY SANI MOHAMMED // KANO

Umar Yusuf and Ibrahim Ahmed Bebeji, both former clerks of National Orthopaedic Hospital, Dala, Kano State, will forever rue the day when they pocketed N3,180,853 out of the hospital's revenue, between January and September 2013.

Rather than declare the correct amount of N3,331,167, the two, who at the time were staff of the hospital, declared and paid N150,314 to the coffers of the hospital, and shared the balance among themselves, after they had altered information on official revenue receipts in their custody.

They thought they had got away with the act. An audit of the hospital's account books, however, exposed them, as the hospital's management, indicted them of theft.

Yusuf and Bebeji, who on July 29, 2015 were arraigned by the EFCC before Justice Dije Aboki of the State High Court, Kano on charges bordering on criminal breach of trust and theft, pleaded not guilty.

Their trial has been fixed for October 8, 2015. ■



Yusuf and Bebeji

## BITTER LESSON

*A syndicate of fraudsters, who deal in fake dollar and naira notes, is caught in the web of their nefarious activities*

BY INNOCENT OGBU // GOMBE

Shuaibu Usman, an Adamawa-based businessman had planned to capitalize on the gains of the United States Dollar against the Naira, to boost his financial status. His experience has, however, left a sour taste in his mouth, as he equally learnt a bitter lesson, never to count his chickens before they are hatched.

He had planned to convert N8 million to dollar, which would have fetched him about \$35,000. His plan was to keep the dollar equivalent, expecting that the dollar would further appreciate against the naira, so that he would over time convert part of it to naira. At a time when the dollar is having a field day against the naira, Usman was already imagining himself reaping the reward of his "investment".

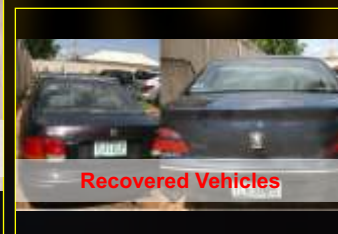
His contact with Salisu Adamu, Mohammed Hamma, Bashir Tijjani, Ibrahim Gamsa, Aliyu Bello and



Culprits



Culprits with fake currency



Recovered Vehicles

Mohammed Tukur, however, shattered the dream. They had promised to help Usman convert the money to the dollar equivalent. He agreed to meet them at Mayo Belwa, a village in Adamawa State, where he gave them the money. Rather than give him the dollar equivalent, they left him in the lurch, as they bolted away with the money.

The men, who are currently cooling their heels in EFCC custody, were arrested in the village by operatives of the anti-graft agency, on July 22, 2015, after they attempted to collect additional N2 million from Usman. Incriminating materials found on them include, fake dollar and naira notes, charms and two vehicles – Peugeot 406 and Honda Accord cars. ■



BY JAMILU SALE

As part of efforts geared towards ensuring a high level of integrity among its staff, the Department of Internal Affairs, DIA, of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, organized "Integrity Reinforcement" training at the Commission's headquarters in Abuja, on July 28, 2015.

The department, which was set up in March 2012, by the anti-graft agency's boss, Ibrahim Lamorde, is viewed as the EFCC's professional responsibility section, and is responsible for the vetting of newly employed staff and investigating alleged acts of misconduct by staff.

The workshop, according to Yusuf Kassim, an operative at the DIA, who anchored it, was organized to shed light on the activities of the unit, which he said, related to instilling discipline among staff of the Commission in the discharge of their professional responsibilities.

"The DIA is tasked with the role of enforcing the laws guiding the EFCC workforce, and we work towards ensuring that the public trusts us as anti-corruption crusaders, and that they have confidence in our integrity as a whole," he said.



A Cross-section of Officers at the Training

He added that: "DIA is a friendly department that is not engaged in witch-hunting of staff, but rather helps to curb corruption and other acts of indiscipline in the work place."

According to him, the public must have confidence in the EFCC, and this can be achieved by ensuring that the organization's members of staff are seen to be upright in carrying out their daily activities. ■

## WONDERS OF WATER

Health experts urge taking at least 75cl of water first thing in the morning, stressing that man may be able to live without light, but not without water

BY CHIDIMMA AMANAMBU

It was Nigeria's legendary Afrobeat maestro, Fela Anikulapo Kuti, who in one of his classics, sang "*water e no get enemy*," to underscore the importance of water.

Water rehydrates, detoxifies, quenches thirst, nourishes the body especially the skin, refreshes, revives and is also a curative. Water is man's best friend. You bathe, wash, clean, cook, mix, nurture plants and dilute with it, among other things.

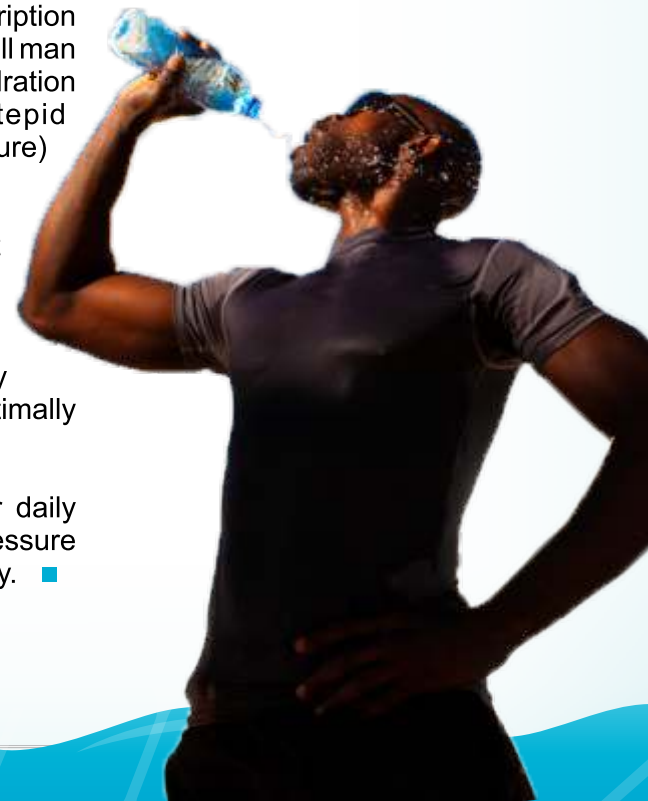
Water is invaluable to all living things. The human adult body is reportedly made up of 60 per cent water.

According to H. H. Mitchell in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, the brain and heart are composed of 73 per cent water, and the lungs about 83 per cent water.

Ignoring water can be perilous to your health, as it is the first aid prescription for most of the ailments that befall man such as kidney diseases, dehydration from purging, high fever (tepid sponging to regulate temperature) among others.

Health experts urge that at least 75cl of water be taken first thing in the morning even before brushing your teeth. It helps in cleansing the system especially the kidneys and makes it optimally functional through the day.

Taking up to 1.5litres of water daily also helps keep one's blood pressure normal and puts headache at bay. ■





*We shall strongly battle another form of evil that is even worse than terrorism—the evil of corruption.*  
*-President Muhammadu Buhari*

## LESSONS FROM CHINA

*A staff of the EFCC Media Unit just back from China takes a look at the country's war on corruption*

BY SALAMATU HABU

All eyes were on China, recently, when Zhou Yongkang, the country's former chief of domestic security, was sentenced to life in prison. Zhou was convicted of offences bordering on “abuse of office, accepting bribes and revealing state secrets”.

It was an act, which gave verve to the Chinese president, Xi Jinping's avowed commitment to rid the country of corruption. Jinping had in one of his speeches, vowed to hunt “tigers” and “flies”. The sentencing of Zhou, was apparently in furtherance of his avowed stance against corruption.

The news left a mark on my mind as I visited China on a short vacation, recently. It was a euphoric experience mixed with envy, and lessons. I couldn't help but ponder when my country will be as developed as China. Indeed, things are working in every sector of the country – transportation, electricity, potable water supply, tourism and the corruption war.

Jinping and President Muhammadu Buhari seem to have one thing in common – they see corruption as an impediment to development, and an evil that must be squarely dealt with it.

Like his Chinese counterpart, Buhari has said: “We shall strongly battle another form of evil that is even worse than terrorism—the evil of corruption. Corruption attacks and seeks to destroy our national institutions and character. By misdirecting into selfish hands funds intended for the public purpose, corruption distorts the economy and worsens income inequality. It creates a class of unjustly-enriched people.”

Perhaps, it will be worthwhile to emulate what can best be described as the Chinese model. ■



Jinping



Yongkang



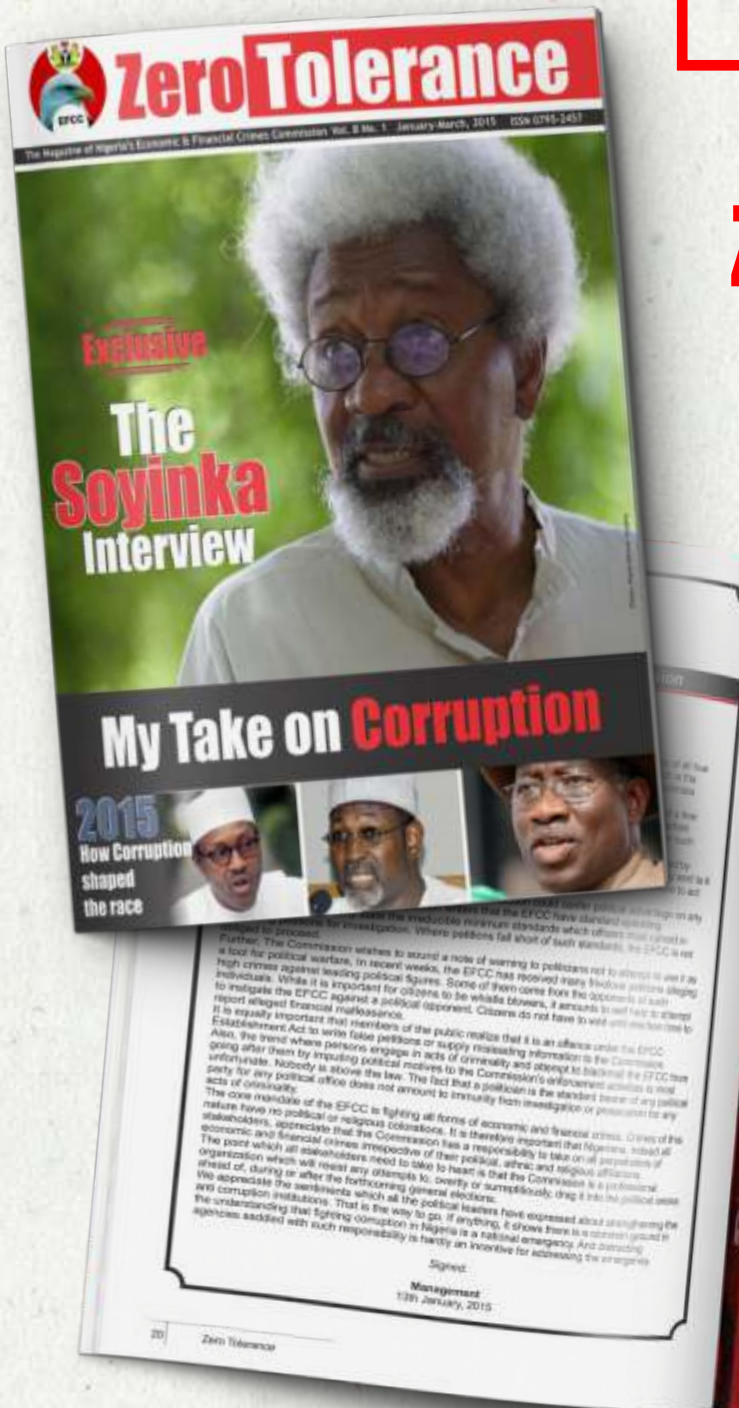
Buhari








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