

MILESTONES OF 2015



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EFCCALERT!

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A NEW ERA BEGINS



**My Vision
for EFCC - Magu**

**The General -
A Profile**

**Lamorde's
Last Word**



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THROWBACK PHOTO

Circa December 22, 2014

The acting Chairman of the EFCC, Ibrahim Magu, receiving a Noteworthy Achievements award for Meritorious Service from a former Attorney-General of the Federation, and Minister of Justice, Kanu Agabi (SAN) at the anti-graft agency's maiden "Rewards and Recognition" ceremony held at the EFCC Academy, Karu, Abuja.



A NEW ERA BEGINS

It's a change of leadership at the EFCC as Ibrahim Magu takes over from Ibrahim Lamorde

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

For Ibrahim Magu, the acting Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, the 11th day of the 11th month (November) in 2015 will forever remain a memorable one etched on his mind as historic.

That day witnessed yet another change in the mantle of leadership of Nigeria's foremost anti-graft agency, as Magu took over from Ibrahim Lamorde.

Appearing smart and trim, Magu described his emergence as "a call to duty".

"I am today faced with mixed feelings. I have that instinctive happiness for being the one chosen among an array of senior colleagues and competent contemporaries," he said. "I also feel heavy around my shoulders, the burden of leadership and expectations."

Asserting his readiness to succeed in running the affairs of the EFCC, Magu, who like Lamorde is a pioneer staff of the agency, expressed absolute commitment to executing the war against corruption.

He paid tribute to the "founding fathers" of the agency, adding that: "I want to state our resolve not to falter on the well-established tradition of patriotism, dedication, courage and fearlessness, and we will take this responsibility with utmost seriousness that it deserves."

I am ready and willing to work with everybody without any primordial concerns



Magu: "We'll ginger up the anti-corruption campaign"

We will take this responsibility with utmost seriousness that it deserves.

There is the need to make sure that whatever is gotten for common use did not end up in private pockets.

He promised to “ginger up the anti-corruption campaign”, noting that there was no better time to do so than now.

Corruption, according to Magu, inhibits any meaningful development in the society, as such, must be fought to a standstill.

“There is the need to make sure that whatever is gotten for common use did not end up in private pockets,” he said, stressing that fighting corruption to a standstill will make the country attractive to foreign investors.

Magu pledged to be a listening and responsive leader, who will give priority to welfare and capacity development of staff.

“I am ready and willing to work with everybody without any primordial concerns,” he said.

Noted as a no-nonsense investigator, Magu said, “While we will intensify on our work out there, we will also keep an eye internally, and will not tolerate indiscipline nor condone abuse of office or acts of corruption.”

He commended Lamorde for his leadership and wished him the best in his future endeavours. He also commended the



Magu signing handover notes

management of the agency for having worked assiduously to ensure the sustenance of the objectives of establishing the EFCC.

Lamorde described Magu as a “brother, colleague and friend”, and urged management staff to give him all the necessary support to ensure that he succeeds in the discharge of his duty. Lamorde took over from Farida Waziri as Acting Chairman on November 28, 2011. He was on November 9, 2015 asked to proceed on terminal leave by President Muhammadu Buhari, ahead of the end of his tenure on February 15, 2016.

The handover ceremony was witnessed by the Secretary to the Commission, Emmanuel Aremo, as well as directors and heads of the agency’s units. ■

Photo by Polycarp Saga



Lamorde giving his last charge to management staff

The General

The new anti-graft czar in town comes across as an unassuming General with an impressive track record

Ibrahim Magu, the acting Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, is known in the anti-graft circles as "the General". It is an appellation he earned by dint of hard work, selfless service to humanity and unalloyed commitment to the fight against corruption.

A pioneer staff of the agency, Magu, is no stranger to the operations, philosophy, ideals and objectives of the EFCC.

His slim physique and simple carriage rarely gives him away as a "no nonsense" investigator that he is. Yet, his emergence as the new anti-graft czar in town has filled the Nigerian elite who have soiled their hands in shady deals, with dread.

His verve to see to the end of the trial of any case earned him respect and friends, but also more enemies in the circles of the Nigerian elite.

His service with the EFCC was interrupted in 2008 when he was redeployed to the Nigeria Police by Farida Waziri, who replaced Nuhu Ribadu as chairman. The emergence of Ibrahim Lamorde, who took over from Waziri, however saw Magu being brought back to the EFCC in recognition of his professionalism.

At the maiden rewards and recognition ceremony of the EFCC, which held in December last year, Magu received a Noteworthy Achievements award for being "a courageous and diligent investigator who contributed immensely to a good number of high profile cases, which saw for the first time ever in the history of Nigeria, high ranking and serving officials brought to book for their commission of economic and financial crimes".

His emergence as the new anti-graft czar in town has no doubt filled the Nigerian elite who have soiled their hands in shady deals, with dread.

Currently an Assistant Commissioner of Police, Magu has taken up several leadership positions within and outside of the EFCC.

He served as the head of the agency's Economic Governance Unit - the unit tasked with investigating corruption cases involving Politically Exposed Persons, PEPs, in the society. He was the Deputy Director at the EFCC's Department of Internal Affairs - the unit entrusted with the task of ensuring discipline and zero tolerance to corruption among staff of the Commission.

A native of Maiduguri, Borno State, Magu, read Accounting at the University of Maiduguri, and specializes in investigating financial crimes. Skilled in forensic accounting, he also trained at the FBI institute and the London Metropolitan Police institute. He has also served in Bosnia under the United Nations peacekeeping police operation.

Until his appointment, Magu was a member of the 14-man investigative committee set up by President Muhammadu Buhari to probe the procurement of arms in the Armed Forces from 2007 till date. ■

My Vision for EFCC

Being the acceptance speech of Ibrahim Magu, acting EFCC Chairman, at the formal take over ceremony

I am today faced with mixed feelings. I have that instinctive happiness for being the one chosen among an array of senior colleagues and competent contemporaries, to take the mantle of leadership of this very professional institution. I also feel heavy around my shoulders, the burden of leadership and expectations. This call to duty is by no means a small challenge; it is a huge task that requires absolute commitment. I am humbled and challenged by the decision of Mr. President.

Let me, by way of paying tribute to the founding fathers of this institution, state our resolve not to falter on the well-established traditions of patriotism, dedication, courage and fearlessness. We will take this responsibility with utmost seriousness that it deserves.

There may be no need to rehash the facts of the enormity of the corruption pandemic and why fighting it to a standstill is a lifesaver for our country.

Indeed, corruption cannot coexist with any meaningful development. The immediate past Chairman of this Commission and the senior management team have worked assiduously in this regard, in accordance with the founding objectives of the Commission. We shall keep the spirit alive and improve on it.

I wish to use this opportunity to thank the outgoing Executive Chairman for his leadership and wish him the best in his future endeavours.

Indeed, there is no better time to ginger up the anti-corruption campaign than now that we are faced with economic downturn and the attendant sharp decline in government revenues. There is therefore the need to make sure that whatever is gotten for common use did not end up in private pockets. To attract foreign investments that would complement the income of the



Magu

government, we need to clean up our systems in line with global best practices. We intend to pay serious attention to these important areas.

In all that we do, I will be guided by the fear of God and patriotism. We will also have as our watchwords the rule of law and national interest. We will work in an open and transparent manner to ensure accountability. We will also take whatever decision with the highest sense of responsibility.

To the staff at all levels, I seek your maximum support and cooperation. This is a collective responsibility that can only be driven by the spirit of teamwork, I pledge to be a listening leader and one that is responsive to your welfare and capacity development. I am ready and willing to work with everybody without any primordial concerns. However, everybody must sit up and demonstrate willingness to do the work.

While we will intensify on our work out there, we will also keep an eye internally. I will not tolerate indiscipline nor condone abuse of office or acts of corruption. We have to remove the speck in our eyes first, to clearly face the outside world. You have no place in the fight against corruption if you are corrupt yourself. We cannot be caught napping in our own primary calling.

The task ahead is enormous and very challenging, but with our collective commitment, we can deliver.

Thank you! ■



Magu and Lamorde at the handover ceremony

Lamorde's Last Word

Being the remarks of Ibrahim Lamorde as he exits the EFCC

It is historic to witness yet another handover [ceremony]. I will be doing this for the second time because I did a similar one for a former Chairman, Mrs. Farida Waziri, in 2008. And I am doing it again today to a brother, colleague and friend, Mr. Magu. You are all familiar with him. He is a pioneer staff and has been here with the Commission since inception in 2003. We all left and then came back.

Like I said the last time that I was addressing staff and management before we did the handover for Mrs. Waziri, you will remember that I said 'even if you are the one who built this place, you will leave here one day'. There is nothing permanent in life, other than change. Every day we live, we encounter something new.

The day you were born, you prepare for your death. The day you acquire an office, you prepare for your exit from that office. If people don't leave office, people will not get into office.

But the most important thing is that we're lucky he [the new chairman] is coming from within the Commission itself. This is a rare opportunity. Not all organizations have the opportunity of getting succession taking place from within the organization.

The beauty and the good thing about this is that you have people who have some institutional memory of the place; you have people who know what is going on in the place, and they don't need to learn the ropes. So they just take off from day one, because they're part of the organization.

They call him by various names, but the popular one is "General". So the General is taking over and I want to implore each and every one of us, to give him the maximum support to enable him to succeed. If he succeeds, the glory goes to each and every one of us. If something

goes wrong, yes, he may be blamed as the leader, but each and every one of us carries part of the blame. So we can only succeed collectively, if we come together to support him, and also work as a team.

There are certain things that have been coming out of this organization of late, and it is very wrong and dangerous. People deliberately inflicting injury to themselves. People attack especially when the basis of the attacks are baseless, have no facts whatsoever. They don't have any element of truth in them. You are destroying your organization. You may think you're attacking the leader, but it will rub off on you, because they will see you based on what you put out there. Fortunately, we may be coming to the end of such things. We have made some progress in identifying people who are in the habit of doing some of those things.

So going forward I urge you to please give him a chance to work and lead this organization. He needs the support of each and every one of

Lamorde

The day you acquire an office, you prepare for your exit from that office.

us. People should not distract him with unnecessary write-ups that do not make sense. It only succeeds in making this organization a laughingstock in the eyes of the public. And, whether you like it or not, you are part and parcel of this organization. Those who are in the habit of doing that should stop and give their maximum support to him. But I know it will definitely become a thing of the past.

If you disagree with the decision of your leader, it is good for you to approach him directly and express yourself. I believe he will give you a listening ear to air your views. Don't go out there to grumble, when you have avenues here to say what is on your mind.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for the support and cooperation I received in the few years that I've been at the helm of affairs here. I believe whatever achievements we have made was because each and every one of you supported the process, and that is why I started by urging you all to give support to him.

For those who did not support, it doesn't matter any longer.

As a human being, there is no way you can agree with every decision taken. You

So the General is taking over and I want to implore each and every one of us, to give him the maximum support to enable him to succeed.

have the right to disagree. Disagreement is part of the democratic process. That is why nobody has the monopoly of knowledge. Every day we live, we learn from each other. A leader is just like the first among equals. We are all colleagues. We believe that all the decisions we have taken were in the best interest of the organization. It may not have gone down well with some people, but that is normal.

So, I'm going to be available, I'm going to be around. I'm a phone call away. So

those who want to see me can always come to the Police Headquarters or wherever in my police career I'll be.

But most importantly, it is Magu now. This is the man of the moment. It is very important for you to support him.

I know that as human beings, there may be people here, who feel they should have been the person sitting here. But God Almighty gives power to whom He wants, at the time He wants.

We all believe in a supreme being. So it is really important for us to take this as an act of God. If you take things as coming from God, you will not have problems with it, and you will not blame human beings. And then, you'll have peace with yourself. But the moment you start thinking that God makes mistakes, and you want to correct that mistake, you will have sleepless nights and you will not have satisfaction, and you will have problems with your life. You will become somebody who is living without contentment. Contentment in life is what gives you joy in living. If you're not contented with what you have, you are not happy with God, you will live an unhappy and unfulfilled life. ■

HEALTH

Your Eyes Need You

The type of food you eat, and your daily routine goes a long way to determine the health of your eyes

BY MICHAEL OJO and OYINDAMOLA OLAOBAJU

Did you know that the food you eat has a long way to affect the health of your eyes? Do you know that the number one cause of blindness in adults is diabetes?

It will not be an exaggeration to say that of all the sense organs of the body, the sight takes a paramount position. The eyes can be rightly described as the light of the body and can be compared with the lenses of a camera, without which it cannot operate.

There's relationship between smoking and sight loss, say health experts.

Tobacco smoke is composed of as many as 4,000 compounds which can damage eye cells.

Generally, your lifestyle has a great role to play in the health of your eyes.

Routine use of computers and staring at the monitor can cause eyestrain, headaches, blurry vision, and general fatigue. So, for the health of your eyes take frequent breaks from your computer to help rest your eyes. Regular blinking also helps reduce eyestrain. You can make use of anti-glare screens that can reduce eyestrain. You can also take multi-

vitamin and mineral supplement to ensure your eyes get the nutrients they need.

Foods that will help keep your eyes healthy and vision sharp include - carrots, green vegetables, eggs, almonds, fish, citrus and berries. The egg yolk is a prime source of lutein and zeaxanthin-plus zinc, which helps reduce macular degeneration risk.

Beyond diet, it is also essential for you to check your eyes regularly. Opticians suggest having a comprehensive dilated eye examination - a painless procedure in which an eye care expert examines the eyes for any diseases or vision problems.

Your eyes need you as much as you need them. ■



Milestones of 2015

It has been an eventful year for the EFCC, which this year marked its 12 years of fighting corruption and improving the image of Nigeria in the international community

For the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, the war on corruption was taken to a higher level in 2015 as it once again touched politically exposed persons, PEPs, usually tagged untouchables, with the aim of holding them accountable for their deeds.

Such efforts, also received support from international law enforcement agencies including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, among others.

As the anti-graft agency prepares for the tasks of 2016, below are a few milestones of 2015.

● FEATS

It was a well-deserved recognition of Nigeria's efforts to rid the country of economic and financial crimes as the Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit, NFIU, early in the year in far away Berlin, Germany, was elected regional head of Western/Central Africa sub-region. The Egmont group is a very highly standardized organization, and emergence of Nigeria as a regional representative for 26 other African



The Nigerian delegate in Germany

countries was an indication of international confidence in the system in Nigeria. The NFIU joined the Egmont

Group in 2007, but the election as the regional head, confers on the country a new status as a country that is contributing its quota to fighting money laundering, and other financial crimes, including financing of terrorism. The feat gives a positive picture to the international community that Nigeria is not a haven for money launderers or terrorism financing, and that measures are in place to check acts of corruption.

The EFCC Academy located in Karu, Abuja, was this year recognized and designated the training institute of the National Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa, NACIWA. It was a feat that took about three years to achieve. It came on the heels of a visit in March by Issoufou Boureima, president, High Authority for the Fight Against Corruption and Similar Crimes, HALCIA, Republic of Benin, who also doubles as the president of NACIWA, who led a delegate to the Academy. In September the Academy hosted the first-ever training for officers of anti-graft agencies in the West African sub-region. The feat also spurred a visit by the Kenyan



Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, EACC, who embarked on a study visit to the EFCC with the aim of understudying the anti-graft agency's *modus operandi*. The EACC has also adopted the EFCC



Academy as a model to be replicated in East Africa. The Liberian Anti-Corruption agency has also visited the EFCC with the aim of understudying the *modus operandi* of the agency.



The EFCC formally launched a website www.efccnigerianlibrary.com dedicated to the EFCC Library. The process of creating the platform, which had been long in the pipeline, came to fruition this year. Its purpose is basically to serve as an information outreach not only to staff of the agency, but also the general public. Among other resources, the platform also includes a digital library, links to online materials, as well as notable media platforms in Nigeria. The e-library adopts

a user oriented approach, which allows users to send request to the library, solicit for national and international publishers' catalogs. Other materials available include speeches of former EFCC chairmen and paper presentations, collections from the Academy Research department, newspaper cuttings, policy documents. Its subscription to online resources also forms the foundation for the library, making it a major destination for researchers in areas of economic and financial crimes, law, among others.

● GLOBAL SUPPORTS

In a rare show of support, the United States government assisted the agency by donating modern technology tools to help in the task of combating corruption. Dehab Ghereab, acting US Consul-General to Nigeria, on behalf of the US government, donated a Forensic Recovery of Evidence Device, FRED, to the agency in a bid to support the EFCC's efforts to fight cyber crime, and to standardize its operations. At a five-day inter-agency Cross Border Financial Investigation training programme organized by the United States Department of Homeland Security, which held at the EFCC Academy, Karu, Abuja in August, the US government also donated a high-tech counting machine capable of detecting counterfeit bills in any country's currency.

Two staff of the EFCC were selected to take part in this year's specialized training at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, USA. The FBI National Academy established in July 1935, provides professional development course for US and international law enforcement officers, and participants are usually selected by the FBI.

Apparently not wanting to be left out in the show of support for the EFCC, the French government through its representative, Eric Bonnichon, Police Attaché of the Embassy of France, also donated eight laptops for use at the agency's Information and Computer Technology, ICT, unit.



Paula Parkinson presenting the Forensic device to Illiyasu Kwarbai
Inset: Eric Bonnichon making the presentation

● NEW TURFS



On Set

In its concerted efforts to rid the Nigerian society of economic and financial crimes, the EFCC introduced a new dimension that now includes drama. It is the first of its kind in the history of law enforcement in the country. The move was to take the agency's sensitization and enlightenment programme beyond the confines of civil society and groups engagements. The idea relates to the preventive mandate of the agency.

As part of engaging the public in the war against corruption, the agency also launched the maiden edition of **Red Alert on Scam**, designed as a guide for the general public, and structured as a resource material, to enlighten them about the various red flags to note as indicators of being scammed. The booklet, a new initiative in the corruption war, is structured to prod members of the public to be proactive, by exposing them to the antics of tricksters.



● HIGH PROFILE CASES



Nyako and cohorts in court

Murtala Nyako, a former governor of Adamawa State, his son, Senator Abdul-Aziz Nyako, Abubakar Aliyu and Zulkifikk Abba were in July arraigned before Justice E. Chukwu of the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja on a 37-count charge bordering on criminal conspiracy, stealing, abuse of office and money laundering to the tune of N29 billion. The accused persons are alleged to have, at various times between 2011 and 2013, used five companies – Blue Opal Nigeria limited, Serore Farms & Extension Limited, Pagoda Fortunes Limited, Towers Assets Management Limited and Crust Energy Limited to commit the fraud.



Lamido and cohorts in court

Sule Lamido, a former governor of Jigawa State, was arraigned along with his two sons – Aminu Sule Lamido and Mustapha Sule Lamido, Aminu Wada Abubakar Batholomew Darlington Agoha, before Justice Adeniyi Ademola of the Federal High Court, Abuja, on a 27-count amended charge bordering on corruption and money laundering. They are alleged to have used Bamaina Holdings Limited, Bamaina Company Nigeria Limited, Bamaina Aluminium Limited and Speeds International Limited to perpetrate the alleged fraud.



Ikedi Ohakim

Ikedi Ohakim, a former governor of Imo State, was arraigned on alleged fraudulent practices before Justice Ademola Adeniyi of a Federal High Court, Abuja. He was alleged to have made a cash payment to the tune of \$2,290,000.00 (about N270,000,000.00) for the purchase of a property at Plot Number 1098 Cadastral Zone A04, Asokoro District, otherwise known as Number 60, Kwame Nkurumah Street, Asokoro in Abuja. The amount is above the threshold approved for an individual, going by the provisions of Section 1 of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act 2004. The former governor is also accused of deliberately neglecting to disclose all his assets in the declaration submitted to the EFCC.



Gabriel Suswan and Omodachi Okolobia

Gabriel Suswan, a former governor of Benue State was arraigned along with his finance commissioner, Omodachi Okolobia, before Justice A. R. Mohammed of the Federal High Court, Abuja on a nine-count charge of conspiracy, bribery, abuse of office and obtaining by false pretence. Suswan, in connivance with Okolobia allegedly diverted proceeds of the sale of shares owned by the Benue State government and Benue Investment and Property Company Limited for personal use.



Stephen Oronsaye



Osarenkhoe Afe

Stephen Oronsaye, a former Head of Service, HoS, was arraigned along with Osarenkhoe Afe, Fredrick Hamilton Global Services Limited, Cluster Logistic Limited, Kangolo Dynamic Cleaning Limited and Drew Investment and Construction Company Limited on a 35-count charge bordering on stealing and obtaining money by false pretence to the tune of N2 billion. ■



Big or small, rich or poor; Nobody is above the law.
Say **NO** to corruption.

