



VOL 4 NO 2 | FEBRUARY 31, 2015

# EFCCALERT!

A PUBLICATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION



## Global Synergies Against Corruption

*“ Any public officer, who decides to dip his or her hand in government’s coffers to steal, even if such money is taken outside the country, has no hiding place. There are machineries to trace and recover the money and then bring the culprits to justice.”*

*- Lamorde*

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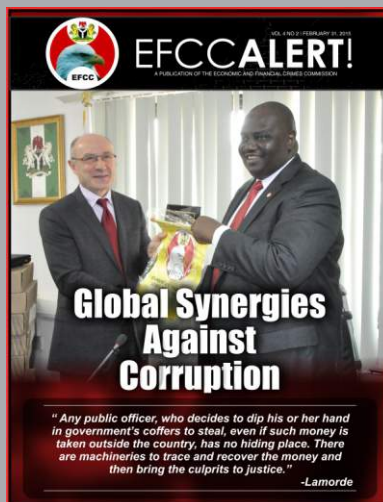
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Met Police's Jonathan Benton and Ibrahim Lamorde

# Global Synergies against Corruption

BY SEGUN ADEOYE // ABUJA

*The EFCC global linkage for concerted action against corruption and organized crime receives a boost with visits by the United Kingdom and French law enforcement officials*

**T**he visits were a most appropriate one, considering the level to which perpetrators of economic and financial crimes can go to, taking their crimes beyond borders, thus raising issues of jurisdiction when being prosecuted.

Indeed, the governments of the United Kingdom and France, once again showed their unalloyed support for the concerted efforts of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, to rid Nigeria of corruption, when recently Jonathan Benton, Head of Proceeds of (international) Corruption Unit, of the Metropolitan Police and Eric Bonnichon, Police Attaché of the Embassy of France led separate delegations to the EFCC corporate headquarters in Abuja.

Chairman of the EFCC, Mr. Ibrahim Lamorde, while receiving them, reaffirmed the commitment of the Commission to partner with international law enforcement

agencies in the war against corruption.

"Any public officer, who decides to dip his or her hand in government's coffers to steal, even if such money is taken outside the country, has no hiding place. There are machineries to

“

***The UK will also not be a safe haven for proceeds of corruption from Nigeria.***

”

trace and recover the money and then bring the culprits to justice. If anyone commits any economic or financial crime in this country and runs to France and thinks France will give him protection from the law, we will ensure that he/she is brought to book." He added: "In the same vein, if

someone commits a crime in France and comes to Nigeria, we are always here to liaise with the French authorities and ensure that such a person is brought to book by way of investigation, prosecution or even extradition to France."

The UK will also not be a safe haven for proceeds of corruption from Nigeria. This much was disclosed by Benton, who eulogized the EFCC for courage and professionalism. Benton gave assurances of the full support of the UK government for the EFCC's war on corruption, saying, "The International Financial Centre in London do play a part in the way money works, the way money is flown and the way money is moved and where people like to buy houses and so we are very privileged to have this long-standing relationship with EFCC."

While it would not be the first time of such show of solidarity, the visits

provided a platform to further highlight and deliberate on high profile cases that have been subject of joint operation and intelligence sharing between the EFCC and the Metropolitan Police, particularly the cases of Diepreye Alamieyeseigha and Joshua Dariye, former governors of Bayelsa and Plateau State respectively, and James Ibori, a former governor of Delta State.



Diepreye Alamieyeseigha



James Ibori

“  
***I assure Nigerians that the fight against corruption is going on with full vigour***  
”

Lamorde said the EFCC and the Met Police were investigating some serving and former public office holders for money laundering and looting of public treasury.

“I assure Nigerians that the fight against corruption is going on with full vigour. It takes time for cases to be fully and diligently investigated and taken to court and then made public,” he said.

On his part, Eric, who spoke through Balima Roger of the Police Liaison Office, French Embassy, while donating eight laptops to the EFCC, said “We hope that in the future, we will be able to reinforce our cooperation.” ■

ADDITIONAL REPORT BY **BABATUNDE JOSEPH**//ABUJA

It would be recalled that the Metropolitan Police played a pivotal role in the arrest and prosecution of Ibori in the UK. Ibori, who was literally asked by Justice Marcel Awokulehin, to go home and enjoy his loot having quashed the 170-count charge preferred against him and three others by the EFCC, was on April 17, 2012 convicted and sentenced to 13 years imprisonment by the Crown Court sitting at Southwark, UK, for money laundering – same charges which the Judge discharged and acquitted him for.



Eric Bonnichon, Police Attaché, Embassy of France, presents Laptop Computers to Lamorde

## Who Is Where...



**Kabir G. Latona**, has been appointed the new Head, Legal and Prosecution Unit, Lagos Zonal office.



**Benedict Ubi**, is now the Head, Legal and Prosecution Unit, Port Harcourt Zonal Office.



**Aliyu M. Yusuf**, has been appointed the Acting Deputy Director/Head, Legal and Prosecution, Abuja.



Director, NFIU, Francis Usani (arrowed) in a group photo with delegation to the Egmont Group meeting

## Affirmation from Berlin

BY SEGUN ADEOYE // ABUJA

*In far away Germany, Nigeria's efforts to rid the country of corruption receives recognition as it is elected regional head (West and Central Africa) of the influential Egmont Group*

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) was, recently in Berlin, Germany, elected regional head of West/Central Africa sub-region of the Egmont Group.

An excited Francis Usani, Director of the NFIU, who represented Nigeria at the election, described the achievement as a major step forward in boosting Nigeria's image in the international community.

"Nigeria is going to be seen differently now," he said. "This is because the Egmont Group is a very highly standardized organization, and if they have accepted Nigeria to be a regional representative for 26 other African countries, you could see that they have enough confidence in the system in Nigeria, and they also appreciate what we are doing in the fight against corruption."

According to Usani, there was an overwhelming support for Nigeria in emerging as the head of the region, which he said was an attestation to the achievements of the unit.

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

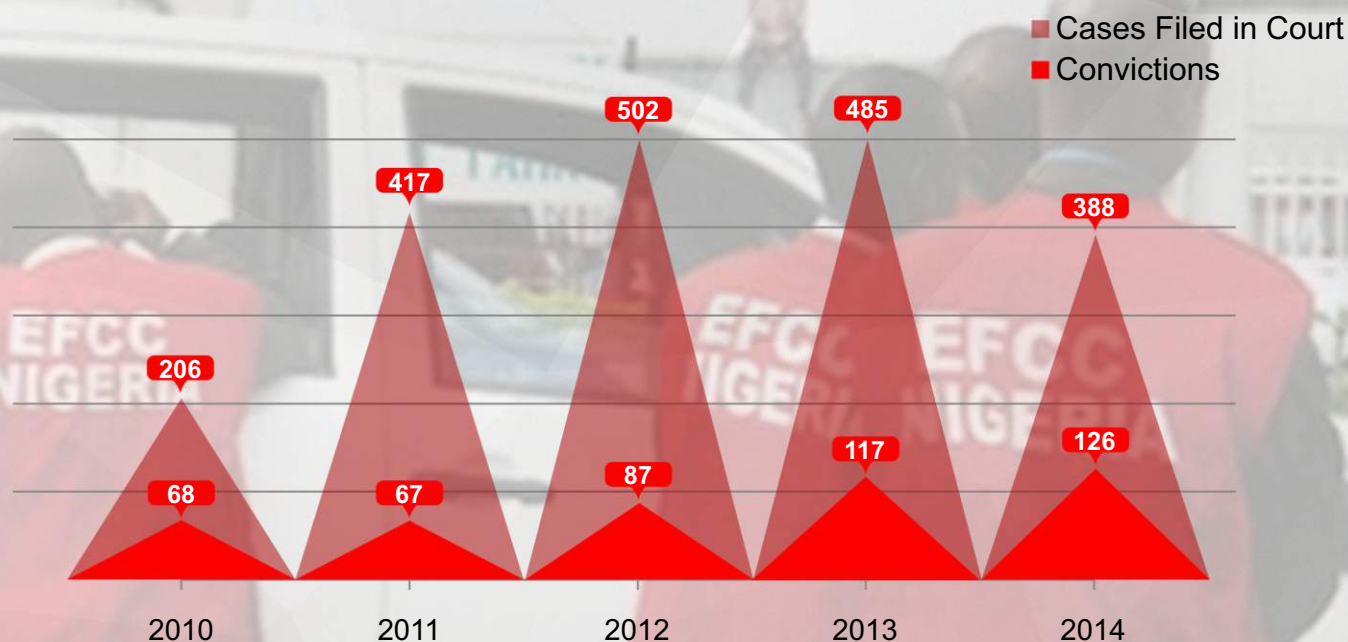
fighting money laundering, and other financial crimes, including financing of terrorism.

"There are basically nine regions worldwide. The nine regions form the executive committee, thus making Nigeria part of the decision-making body of the Egmont Group," he said.

The journey was however not as smooth as it seems, considering the fact that it was only in 2013 that Nigeria just came out of the gray list of non-compliant countries of the FATF, starting from the dark list before moving up to the gray list and eventually being removed from the list and being enlisted a full compliant jurisdiction.

Usani explained that the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units, which is run by a secretariat in Toronto, Canada, is an international forum for financial intelligence units around the world, with the aim to support their respective governments in the fight against money laundering, financing of terrorism and other financial crimes.

"It gives a positive picture to the international community that Nigeria is not a haven for money launderers or terrorism financing, and that we are taking measures to check such acts," he said. ■



Infographics representing cases filed in court and convictions

## A Quantum Leap

BY **BABATUNDE SULAIMAN** // ABUJA

*EFCC raises the ante in criminal prosecution with 126 convictions in 2014, bringing the total convictions secured in the last five years to 465*

**S**lowly but steadily, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission is altering the narrative of criminal prosecution in Nigeria. In a clime where conviction return for most law enforcement agencies have been miserly, the Commission astounded both admirers and critics by recording an impressive 126 conviction in 2014. That figure was a marked improvement over the 117 convictions that it posted in 2013. That also surpassed the 87 convictions recorded for 2012.

The trend to any perceptive observer represents a positive progression. Indeed, between 2010 and 2014, the Commission secured 465 convictions out of the 1,610 cases filed in various courts across the country.

The progression, which is now a subject of interesting discourse among all stakeholders, started in 2010 when

the Commission secured 68 convictions out of the 206 cases filed in courts. It dropped to 67 convictions out of the 417 cases filed in courts in 2011. But the real surge to higher figures commenced in 2012, a year after Ibrahim Lamorde took the reins as Executive Chairman, when it posted 87 convictions out of the 502 cases charged to court.

What is remarkable about the Commission's performance in prosecution of cases is that most of the convictions were achieved by counsel in the employ of the agency.

Lamorde believes the Commission has gotten it right with prosecution of cases. "What we achieved is remarkable given the challenges we face in courts. God willing, we will better the record this year", he enthused. ■

### Convictions Secured By The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission: 2010 -2014

YEAR	Cases Filed in Court	Convictions Secured
2010	206	68
2011	417	67
2012	502	87
2013	485	117
2014	388	126
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,610</b>	<b>465</b>

## Photo Gallery



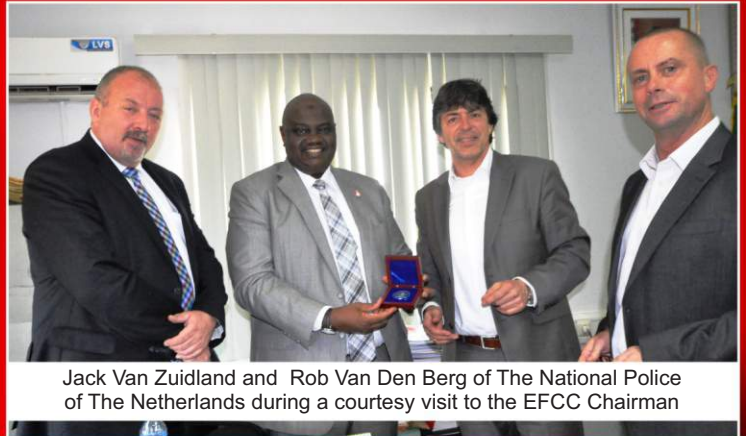
EFCC Chairman, Ibrahim Lamorde, addressing the Press



The Head, Media and Publicity, Wilson Uwujaren addresses pressmen



Lamorde presents plaque to a representative of the National Police of The Netherlands



Jack Van Zuidland and Rob Van Den Berg of The National Police of The Netherlands during a courtesy visit to the EFCC Chairman



The EC, Ibrahim Lamorde and Ima Niboro, Managing Director, News Agency of Nigeria during a courtesy visit to the Commission



Lamorde, Niboro, Osita Nwajah, Deputy Director, Public Affairs and Wilson Uwujaren, Head, Media and Publicity



SURE-P Chairman, Gen. Martin Luther Agwai (retd) and Osita Nwajah at the one-day interactive session between SURE-P staff and EFCC



A cross-section of participants at the one-day interactive session between SURE-P and the EFCC



# A Click to Hell

BY SEGUN ADEOYE // ABUJA

*Phishing has become a major means of perpetrating fraud using the Internet, but there are basic and simple steps that can be taken to prevent being a victim*

They come in different phrases and compositions, all structured with one aim and target - to lure the undiscerning to unwittingly rope himself/herself into giving out information that will end up being used against him/her.

*“Dear Valued Customer,...In our continuous bid to improve service delivery, Zenith Bank PLC has upgraded Internet Banking with the following features: We have successfully upgraded to a more secure and encrypted SSL servers to serve our esteemed customers for a better and more efficient banking services in this year. Due to this recent upgrade you are requested to update your Security details information by following the reference below... To avoid service denial, please update your contact details (mobile no and email addresses). CLICK HERE...”*

It could also read like this:

*“Message From Interswitch Nigeria... Interswitch Have introduced the VERVE Chip and Pin Card into the market, and we need you to upgrade your ATM card in order to avoid fraudulent activities on your account... From this moment on, your account has been temporary restricted from all transactions... Visit... To Re-Confirm your ATM card details.”*

In whatever form or guise it comes, the aim is to lure you into giving out your information, with the ultimate goal of

gaining access and taking over your email account or bank account, as the case may be.

And, if you have in recent times been inundated with email messages with similar wordings and content, be informed that you’ve just been a target of Phishing.

It’s a trap many have fallen into, with plenty of unsavoury stories to tell.

Giving out information as requested in such email, or clicking on the link as directed, could be costly.

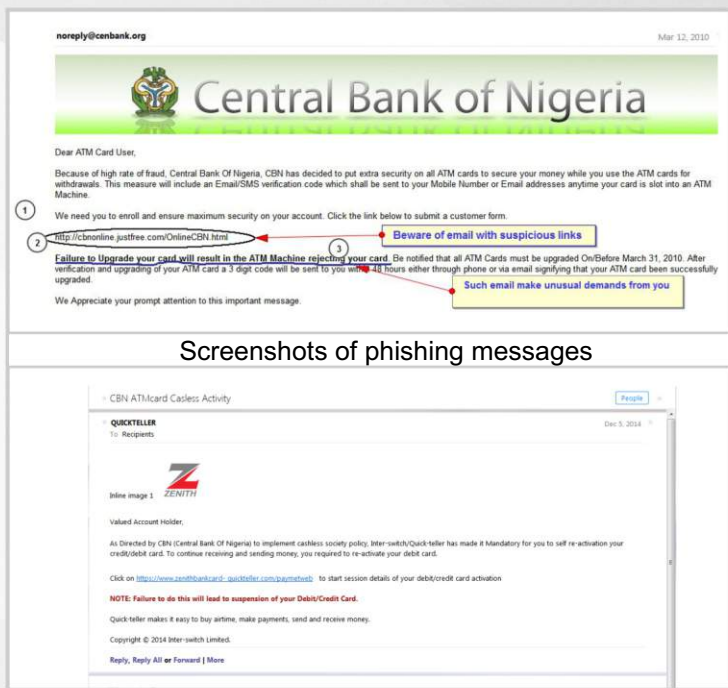
Many have lost their social media and email accounts to Phishing scammers, while others have had their bank accounts compromised.

## What is Phishing?

Simply put, Phishing is a general term for email and text messages, and websites fabricated and sent out to unsuspecting Internet users, by scammers. It is designed to look like they are sent from well-known and trusted businesses, financial institutions and government agencies in a deliberate attempt to collect personal, financial and sensitive information.

Typically, such messages will ask you to “update”, “validate” or “confirm” your account information, otherwise you are bound to face dire consequences.

Even the high and the mighty have not been spared as they have more often than not fallen for the bait of such phishing messages. Recently, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI in the United States, had its social media accounts – Twitter and YouTube – hacked.



Screenshots of phishing messages

## What to do

So, what can be done to avoid being a victim of Phishing ?

- Be suspicious of any email or text messages containing urgent requests for personal or financial information (financial institutions and credit card companies normally will not use email to confirm an existing client's information);
- Contact your bank by using a telephone number from a credible source;
- Never send out your personal or financial information via email, especially when you cannot ascertain the source of the email;
- Avoid embedded links in an email claiming to bring you to a secure site;
- Develop the habit of looking at website's address line to verify if it displays something different from the address mentioned in the email;
- Regularly update your computer protection with anti-virus software, spyware filters, email filters and firewall programs. ■

The EFCC in its annual report submitted yearly to the National Assembly, disclosed that in **2011**, it recovered **N9,755,924,635.69**; for **2012** as **N41,548,665,730.69**; **\$1,520,410.0** and for **2013** it was listed as **N11,276,108,536.81**; **\$2,190,127.00**; **45,585.00 Pounds** and **7,090.00 Euros**.

For the records, the EFCC recorded **126** convictions in **2014**, an improvement over the **117** convictions recorded by the Commission in **2013**.

The EFCC has signed international Memoranda of Understanding/Joint Working Agreements with: Australia Federal Police; The Global Fund; United States Federal Trade Commission; The World Bank; African Development Bank; West Australian Police; Higher Authority against Corruption and Related Offences (HALCIA) Niger Republic; British Serious Fraud Office; Economic Crimes Network (New Zealand); Association of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa; United States Federal Trade Commission (FTC), and Nigeria's Consumer Protection Council (CPC).

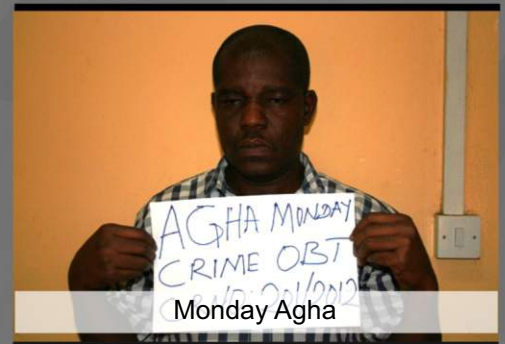
## Did you know...

That a Federal High Court in Lagos has dismissed the no case application filed by Temisan Omatseye, former Director General of the Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA. Justice Rita Ofili-Ajumogobia on February 2, dismissed the application in its entirety and urged the accused to enter his defence. Omatseye faces a 27 count charge for offence bordering on contract variation, bid rigging and awarding contract above his approval limit as Director General of NIMASA, in violation of the Public Procurement Act.



Temisan Omatseye

The EFCC recorded its first conviction for 2015 on Wednesday, Jan 28, 2015. Monday Agha, whose offences bordered on conspiracy, impersonation and obtaining money by false pretence, was sentenced by Justice A. Onyetenu of the Federal High Court Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, to 10 years imprisonment.



Joint Working Agreement was signed between the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) of the United Kingdom and EFCC in May 2013 in relation to Securrency International Limited. The Agreement was recently extended in December 2014 to December 2015.

**Self-defence** classes now hold for EFCC staff at the headquarters in Abuja on **Tuesdays, 5-6pm**.

# Heartache

BY **SEGUN ADEOYE** // ABUJA

*Nigerian loverboy swindles his Danish heartthrob to the tune of \$100,000*

**H**is is yet another distasteful addition to the growing list of young Nigerians, who rather than use their ingenuity on the internet to boost the country's Information and Communication Technology sphere, choose to explore it to dupe unsuspecting love-seekers abroad.

The suspected fraudster, Emeofa Michael Ikechukwu, who is based in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, struck an online relationship with a Dane sometime in February 2013, posing to be an American business executive on a visit to Nigeria, by the name Michael Briggs.

Sensing that his would-be victim was undoubtedly in love with him, Ikechukwu swiftly promised to have her hand in marriage. The burgeoning relationship bolstered his confidence to start making

financial demands on her, which amounted to about \$100,000.

He told his victim that he had issues with government officials and requested for a loan, after which, he talked her into partnering with him on a phantom timber business.

The end of the road for him came when he made a demand of \$10,000, claiming he needed it to enable him travel to meet her in Denmark, with the purported plan of consummating their relationship. Operatives of the EFCC picked him while he was attempting to draw \$100 via Western Union sent by the victim (instead of \$10,000 requested).

Ikechukwu would be arraigned in

court on completion of investigations. ■

ADDITIONAL REPORT BY: **DEBORAH MEZEH** // PORT HARCOURT



Emeofa Micheal Ikechukwu

# Costly Love

BY **SEGUN ADEOYE** // ABUJA

*An American's quest for love sees her losing \$64,000 but EFCC comes to her rescue*

**F**alling in love can sometimes be a blissful experience, but for Jolanta Kasza, an American based in New York, United States, her search for such thrills, which took her searching across the Atlantic Ocean, unfortunately landed her in troubled waters.

In June 2012, when Kasza met a suspected Nigerian fraudster, Ndekwu Jindu (aka Dr. Daniel Coffman) online, she thought she had got the answer to her prayer. Alas, it was the beginning of an unforgettable and unfortunate experience; one which eventually cost her \$64,000 of her hard earned money.

Jindu, who apparently set out to swindle her, posed to be a

pharmacist of Caucasian origin.

It was a bait that Kasza fell for, as she got so thrilled by his profile that she immediately "fell in love" with him.

The blossoming love affair was taken a notch higher with him promising to marry her. In the course of the affair, he made financial demands on her in various guises, and successfully swindled her to the tune of \$64,000 before the scales finally fell off her eyes.

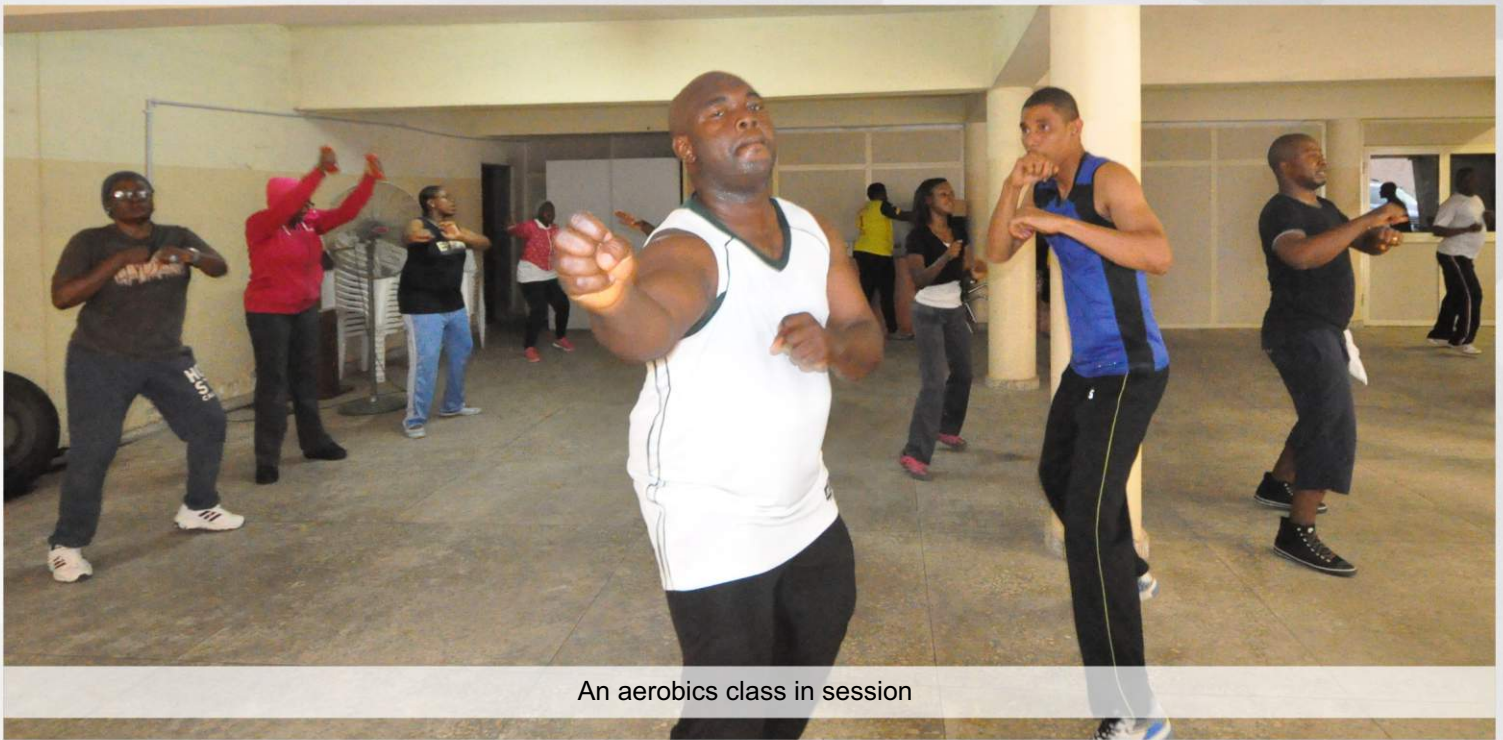
She consequently petitioned the EFCC, which through discreet investigation recovered \$23,886.

The process of repatriating the fund to her is currently ongoing. ■



Ndekwu Jindu

ADDITIONAL REPORT BY: **DELE OYEWALE** // LAGOS



An aerobics class in session

# Keeping Fit

BY AISHAH GAMBARI // ABUJA

*Staff of the EFCC sweat it out at the recently implemented aerobic sessions with the aim of keeping fit*

**H**ealth, they say, is wealth. It is therefore not surprising that in order to achieve a healthy workforce, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, in addition to its monthly exercise programme has introduced aerobic exercises for its staff. The aerobics session takes place Mondays and Wednesdays at the basement of the Commission's Operations building at its headquarters in Abuja. Chairman of the EFCC Sports Committee, Mailafia Yakubu, described it as an inclusive initiative. He further explained that the Committee was also working on introducing badminton and table tennis as part of sporting activities, with the aim of introducing Zonal Sports competitions.

"We observed that a number of staff are complaining that the monthly exercise is not enough. And apart from that,

due to the long intervals, staff are not feeling the impact of the exercise, although the monthly walk still continues," he said.

In order to make the class very conducive, Mailafia said the Committee has equipped the classes with fans and cooling water dispensers.

The sessions have so far witnessed impressive turnout as staff sweat it responding to instructions from the aerobics instructor in a choreography-styled exercise, with music to spice up the exercise.

"We notice that a lot of staff are interested in sporting activities after work. So we are introducing these activities not only for the sake of playing the games but to ensure the fitness, stamina as well as wellbeing of the staff because the nature of our work is such that demands a lot of energy, both physically and mentally," he said. ■



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