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EFCCALERT!

A PUBLICATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION



EXPOSED

**New Tricks of
Job Scammers**

Bala Sanga
**An Illustrious
Ambassador**

MEMOIR

**Close Shave
with Death**



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THROWBACK PHOTO



Circa August 6, 2005: Former Nigerian president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, in the company of other dignitaries, formally declares open the EFCC's Training and Research Institute, TRI, in Karu, Abuja. The then one-block institute has transformed to the EFCC Academy, and boasts of state of the art facilities and professional trainers. The Academy has played host to international conferences and seminars, including the 6th International Criminal Police Organisation, INTERPOL Conference on Financial Crimes and Asset Recovery, which held in October 2013.

REAPING THE WHIRLWIND

It's a fall from grace to grass for Sule Lamido, Murtala Nyako, and Ikedi Ohakim, all former executive governors recently docked by the EFCC for alleged fraud offences

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

"So you mean I'm now a prisoner!"

It was a befuddled Sule Lamido, former governor of Jigawa State, who blurted when it dawned on him that Justice Evelyn Anyadike of a Federal High Court, Kano State, was sending him to jail. It was Thursday, July 9, 2015 barely 53 days to Lamido's 67th birthday.

Perhaps, but for the calm response of the Deputy Chief Registrar of the court, Solomon Akpedah, who quipped, "no sir, you are not a prisoner", tears would have welled up in Lamido's eyes. What was however, not in doubt, was that deep down in Lamido's heart was a well of tears. Though he later got respite on self recognizance by way of bail granted him by Justice Gabriel Kolawole of a Federal High Court, Abuja on July 14, 2015, the five days spent in prison, will be days he will never forget in a hurry.

A day before, Murtala Nyako, former governor of Adamawa State was also docked before Justice E. Chukwu of the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja. No one could really tell what was going on in Nyako's mind. His facial expression was bland, as he answered "not guilty" to all the

charges read to him. Nyako, though secured a N350 million bail on Friday, July 10, 2015 through his counsel, Kanu Agabi, SAN, and former Attorney General of the Federation, he is practically held up in Nigeria - part of the bail conditions is that he has to drop his international passport with the court registrar.

Ikedi Ohakim, former governor of Imo State, who was arrested on Tuesday, July 7, 2015, did not believe what hit him. It looked like a drama, when having rebuffed the invitation from the EFCC, operatives of the anti-graft agency picked him up at his home in the Asokoro district of Abuja. Arraigned on Wednesday, July 8, 2015 before Justice Adeniyi Ademola of the Federal High Court Abuja, an apparently stunned Ohakim, currently enjoys bail in the sum of N270 million. But like Nyako, he cannot travel out of the country, as his international passport is currently neatly perched in a drawer of the court's deputy registrar.



Nyako



Ohakim



Lamido

Offence and trial - a family affair

Indeed, it is a family affair of sorts. An interesting scenario that has played out in the cases involving the three former governors is the involvement of their family members. Lamido was charged with his two sons – Aminu and Mustapha, along with another family friend, Aminu Wada Abubakar, on a 28-count charge of corruption and money laundering. They are alleged to have used the following companies - Bamaina Holdings Limited, Bamaina Company Nigeria Limited, Bamaina Aluminum Limited and Speeds International Limited to perpetrate the fraud between 2007 and 2015. EFCC operatives had in 2012 arrested Aminu at the Aminu Kano International Airport, Kano for failing to declare \$40,000 in his possession. He was prosecuted and convicted and 50 percent of the undeclared money forfeited to the Federal Government. Investigations into the offence however, exposed what had become a “closely guarded web” of corruption and money laundering involving the former Jigawa State's first family. Their trial has been fixed for September 28, 2015.

On his part, Nyako is standing trial along with his son, Senator Abdul-Aziz Nyako. Indeed, Abdul-Aziz was arrested in Gombe State, in February, over allegations of fraud, running to N15 billion found in bank accounts of his personal companies. Investigations linked his father with the shady deals. Father and son, were arraigned along with Abubakar Aliyu and Zulkifikk Abba on July 8, 2015, on a 37-count charge bordering on criminal conspiracy, stealing, abuse of office and money laundering to the tune of N29 billion. Each currently enjoys bail in the sum of N350 million. Their trial has been fixed for September 30, October 22 and 23, 2015.

In the case of Ohakim, who was arraigned on July 8, 2015 on a three-count charge bordering on money laundering, his legal team, led by Chris Uche, SAN, comprises of his wife and a daughter-in-law. He also



Lamido and sons in court

enjoys bail in the sum of N270 million. The trial has been fixed for October 20, 2015.

Diverting attention from real issues

Unexpectedly, the accused former governors have not stopped pointing fingers at political opponents, who they allege are out to malign their persons. Lamido has alleged that he is being persecuted for his 2019 presidential ambition. Nyako who initially fled the country when he was invited for questioning by the EFCC, at the time had claimed that he was being persecuted by the government of former president, Goodluck Jonathan. He, indeed, came out from hiding, returning to the country after the expiration of the Jonathan Administration on May 29, 2015. For Ohakim, he has not stopped pointing fingers at a group based in Imo State – Alliance for Good Governance, for being behind his predicament, having written the petition against him to the EFCC.

Profile

Coincidentally, the three former governors, aside being partners in the alleged crimes, all share the same birth month – August. Lamido, who served as foreign minister between 1999 and 2003, Jigawa State governor between 2007 and 2015, was born on August 30, 1948. The oldest of the three, who is a septuagenarian, Nyako, a retired Vice Admiral, Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger, GCON, and a Commander of the Order of the Federal Republic, CFR, was born on August 27, 1942. A farmer of note, he served as military governor of Niger State between 1976 and 1977, and civilian governor of Adamawa State between 2007 and 2014. He was impeached on July 15, 2014. Ohakim, who hails from Okohia, Isiala Mbano Local Government Area of Imo State, served as Commissioner for Commerce, Industry and Tourism between 1992 and 1993. An author of note, he was born on August 4, 1957. ■



Nyako and cohorts in court



Ohakim

PHOTO GALLERY



Ex-Gov Ohakim arrested by operatives



Lamido and sons arriving in court



Ex-Gov Murtala Nyako arriving in court



L-R: Ex-Gov Sule Lamido, Aminu Sule Lamido, Mustapha Sule Lamido and Aminu Wada Abubakar in court



Abdul-Aziz Nyako arriving in court



L-R: Abdul-Aziz Nyako, Zulkifikk Abba, Abubakar Aliyu and Ex Gov Murtala Nyako in court



AN ILLUSTRIOUS AMBASSADOR

A former employee of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Bala Sanga, is elevated to the position of Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice in Adamawa State

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

Call him an illustrious son of the EFCC, and you would not be far from the truth. Indeed, Bala Sanga, who in June this year was appointed by the Adamawa State Government as the state's Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, is undoubtedly a great export of the anti-graft agency.

A consummate lawyer, author, fearless fighter, and firm believer in the enthronement of the rule of law, Sanga epitomises forthrightness, integrity and discipline. The saying that good things come in small packages is,

perhaps, applicable to this legal luminary, who was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1990, after studying Law at the University of Jos, Plateau State.

From a humble beginning as a prosecutor with the Federal Ministry of Justice, he has carved a reputable niche for himself in Nigeria's legal landscape, and is an acknowledged expert of Structured Trade Finance, Project Finance and the Law of Banking.

He joined the EFCC in 2008 as the

From a humble beginning as a prosecutor with the Federal Ministry of Justice, he has carved a reputable niche for himself in Nigeria's legal landscape

Principal Staff Officer to the then Executive Chairman, Farida Waziri. At the EFCC, Sanga received commendations for his laudable work ethics, which saw him hold key positions at the anti-graft agency's Academy and the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit, NFIU. In June 2013, he was appointed to head the Special Control Unit against Money Laundering, SCUML. He was on secondment to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC, in January 2014, prior to his current appointment. ■



Edozie

LAURELS FOR EDOZIE

The Head, EFCC Zonal Office in Port Harcourt, Hycenth Edozie, receives recognition for exceptional service by the Nigeria Print Journalism Development Organisation

BY DEBORAH MEZEH // RIVERS

Hycenth Edozie, Zonal Head, EFCC, Port Harcourt, Rivers State on July 13, 2015 was recognized for Excellent Commitment to National Security in addition to an award for Excellence, as Best Performing EFCC Zonal Head by the Lagos-based Nigeria Print Journalism Development Organisation, NPJDO.

Ashiomah Omoh, who represented the organisation at the award ceremony, extolled the virtues of Edozie, describing him as an exceptional officer who has made a great mark in the community and in his field of service to the nation.

"Your service demonstrates the kind of commitment to the institution that moves Nigeria a step closer to its great promise," he said. "These are duties that we do not grudgingly accept, but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit than giving our all to a difficult task."

A delighted Edozie, described the fight against corruption as a call to service for all. He again stressed the importance of having special courts to fast track cases bordering on economic and financial crimes, money laundering and oil theft. ■

CLOSE SHAVE WITH DEATH

A staff of the EFCC Media Unit narrates a scary experience while covering a case against the anti-graft agency, brought before the National Industrial Court, by two dismissed staff

BY JAMILU SALE

"I will shoot you! You are stupid and foolish! What do you think you are doing with that camera! If you don't hand over that camera to me, I will destroy it! I will deal with you today, you will never forget in your life!"

“I will shoot you! You are stupid and foolish! What do you think you are doing with that camera! If you don't hand over that camera to me, I will destroy it! I will deal with you today, you will never forget in your life!”

It all looked like a scene from one of those Nollywood movies you watch on Cable TV; but no, this was for real; it was happening right in front of me. In fact, I was involved in the ensuing melee.

Day was May 27, 2015 and the venue was the National Industrial Court, NIC, in Abuja. Two dismissed staff of the EFCC - Juliet Ibekaku, a former assistant director, Legal and Prosecution and Michael Nzekwe, prosecutor in Legal and Prosecution Department, had dragged the anti-graft agency before Justice Babatunde Adejumo of the NIC. Ibekaku and Nzekwe were dismissed for desertion, regarded as a serious offence against discipline in Section 43(e) (i) of the EFCC Staff Regulation which states that: “Any officer who wilfully absents for twenty one (21) consecutive days shall be guilty of the

offence of desertion and shall be dismissed from the Commission as a deserter.” Nzekwe was absent from work for more than 21 days without authorisation or leave, while Ibekaku absented herself from work for 81 consecutive days.

Like any other day, as staff of the Media Unit of the EFCC, we were assigned to cover the case – Babatunde Joseph, led the team, which included myself and a video cameraman, Ashade Haruna.

Our cameraman had barely set up his tool to take necessary shots, when this plain clothed man, said to be an officer with the Department of State Services, DSS, under the “employ” of Ibekaku, walked up to us in outrage raining invectives on us and demanding for the camera. Ashade and I stood our ground even as the officer continued to manhandle him. “Could he be drunk or high on some *paraga*?” Suddenly, I heard the officer cork the gun in his hand. All that remained was for him to pull the trigger. On hearing the sound, I tactically eased myself from the



Ibekaku

scene. “He who flees, lives to fight another day,” I said to myself.

A resolute and unruffled Ashade, the last man standing, maintained his stance, refusing to release the camera to the officer. It took the intervention of other security officers who came to disarm the officer and bring the situation to order. Justice Adejumo also berated the officer, and expressed anger that Ibekaku, who was not a government official, but claimed to be a consultant, would employ the services of a DSS officer.

Looking back, I'm grateful to God that we didn't make headline news in the newspapers the following day for the sad reasons. ■

MYSTERIOUS DEBIT ALERT

Operatives of the EFCC come to the rescue of a businessman, whose bank account was mysteriously debited to the tune of N17.2 million

BY CHIDIMMA AMANAMBU

Mysterious is, perhaps, the right word that can best describe the experience of Dr Saleb El-Yakub. But beyond the mystical nature of his rather eerie experience, is a warning to all never to delay whenever you notice any unusual hiccups with your mobile telecom network.

It all started like a normal network issue, and for a day or two, El-Yakub could not call out from his mobile phone, neither was he able to receive calls. He initially ignored it, thinking normalcy would be restored soon.

Alas, the situation persisted. Sensing that something must be amiss, he decided to visit the office of his mobile network provider. To his chagrin, he was told that he had authorized a “welcome back pack” at the Onitsha office of the network provider. “What!” a befuddled El-Yakub screamed, asserting that he never authorized such.

That was just the beginning of his predicament. On reactivation of his mobile line, he instantly received a N17.2 million debit alert from his bank. He headed straight to the bank. There and then he was given the shocker of his life – two cash withdrawals (without his knowledge) were carried out from the Asaba branch of his bank in Delta State.

A dazed El-Yakub told the bank that he did not carry out such transaction. He subsequently petitioned the EFCC. Investigations by operatives of the anti-graft agency on the cash transferred, led to the account of Eso Dickson Omoagba (aka Esho Dickson).

Omoagba who has been picked up is currently on trial before Justice O. Goodluck of a FCT High Court in Abuja, for charges bordering on theft and forgery. ■

COSTLY CALL

Search for job turns some church members into victims of a well-orchestrated employment scam

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

It was a simple call that sounded like good news to Nwachukwu Pleasure; but the call from Ifeanyi Ozoh, has not only turned out to be bad news, it is one that is set to give Ozoh a new tag - prisoner.

Indeed, Ozoh, who claimed to be a senior staff of Arik Air had given an excited Pleasure, a call informing him of job opportunities at Arik Air. To make his news sound genuine, he had urged Pleasure, to take the good news of the job offer to his church members.

Perhaps, being his brother's keeper as the Holy Book teaches, he wasted no time in making the job offer public in Church.

But, like his many co-scammers still prowling the streets, Ozoh began to make financial demands on the job seekers. Rather than ask for money to help secure the jobs, or process their applications, he urged them to pay money for flight tickets for job interview. He provided them with the bank account details of one Edmund Anyanwu with a new generation bank, to which the unsuspecting job seekers gullibly paid the money. Unknown to them the so-called job interviews never existed.

A displeased Pleasure, subsequently petitioned the EFCC, whose operatives swung into action.



Ozoh

Ozoh was arraigned before Justice B. Quadri of the Federal High Court, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, on June 22, 2015 on a two count charge bordering on fraud. He has been admitted to bail in the sum of N50,000 and one surety in like sum, and his trial is set to begin on October 19, 2015. ■

DO NOT SAY YOU WERE NOT WARNED!

In this fourth part of a series, *EFCCAlert!* focuses on Employment Scam - one of the scams featured in EFCC's **Red Alert on Scam**

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

CONGRATULATION
MR OKOYOMO, YOU HAVE JUST
BEEN EMPLOYED FOR THE TOP
JOB. BUT BEFORE YOU RESUME
YOUR DUTY, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO
PAY THE SUM OF N450,000.



Illustration from **Red Alert on Scam**

Beware, job scammers are on the prowl! Perhaps, it will be a matter of stating the obvious that they've always been. One thing, though, is that in this age of advanced information technology know-how (what with the internet revolution), their *modus operandi* has apparently become more deceptive than ever.

Indeed, in the course of checking advance fee fraud in the country, the EFCC has continued to unravel the various tricks employed by these job scammers – many of them youths.

Like many fraudsters, they are merciless in their mission and ultimate goal – to extort money to the last dime from their rather innocent victims, who, ignorant of the trap, are desperately in search of a source of income – a job. No thanks to the increasing rate of unemployment in the country.

The internet has further broadened the field of mischief. These days, the fraudsters have evolved the technique of cloning the website of their targets. Their targets range from government ministries and agencies, non-

governmental organisations, NGOs, the military – Police, Navy and Army.

Recently, the Federal Fire Service, FFS, petitioned the EFCC over the activities of two men – Emeka Ike and lyoha Oamen, who cloned the FFS website, and used the medium to advertise non-existing job openings at the FFS. By the time the management of the FFS would wake up to nip the scam in the bud, not a few innocent job seekers had been swindled of their hard earned money.

Their technique involved posting a contact number – 08093759455, on the site which when interested job seekers (thinking it is real) called, they were requested to deposit some amount of money in a particular bank account, in order for the process to be fast tracked.

Some scammers contact their victims via text messages or unsolicited email messages, promising to help secure juicy job offers in the oil and gas sector, and even international jobs. Sometimes, you are invited for an

interview, which you in fact, never applied for. The address usually does not exist. Even when it exists, you'll be asked to pay for a seminar fee at the venue, during which they promise to help get a job after the “training”.

While many newspaper publishing houses have put in place checks and balances to ensure that genuine job adverts are placed in their media, scammers still find a way of sneaking in fake job ads. The quick give away, is that applicants are asked to pay for their applications to be processed.

What to Note

- ✳ No genuine employer will ask for money to process a job application
- ✳ Any job advert promising outlandish pay and perks should be viewed with suspicion
- ✳ If you see a suspicious advert, seek advice from relevant authorities and try to find out about the company in question
- ✳ Disregard any job offer, once money is being demanded as part of processing the application ■

RED ALERT!

At a workshop in Kaduna, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, sensitizes members of the tertiary educational system on ways to check economic and financial crimes

BY BABATUNDE SULAIMAN

It will no longer be business as usual for authorities of Nigeria's tertiary institutions, as the EFCC has expressed readiness to carry its war against corruption to their domains.

In what may be described as a red alert of sorts, the chairman of EFCC, Ibrahim Lamorde, made this disclosure recently when he advocated an urgent review of the Internally Generated Revenues, IGRs, of some higher institutions in Nigeria as a way of preventing leakages, mismanagement and outright corruption.

Speaking at the EFCC's anti-corruption sensitization programme

organised in conjunction with the National Board for Technical Education, NBTE, for Rectors and Provosts of Polytechnics in Nigeria at the NBTE Centre of Excellence, COE, Kajuru Close, Kaduna, Lamorde lamented the lack of accountability in the management of IGRs of higher institutions in the country.

In his address titled, "We Must Collaborate to Eradicate Corruption in Education", he reiterated the fact that time never runs out on criminal investigation and prosecution. "Therefore, if you neglect to do what you should do today, EFCC

may come knocking on your door," he said.

Executive Secretary, NBTE, Dr. Mas'udu Adamu Kazaure, noted that the number of petitions received by the Federal Ministry of Education on corruption cases from the Polytechnics had grown alarmingly high and become worrisome to stakeholders in the sector. "Corruption has been the bane of our development in Nigeria such that countries that were rated at par with Nigeria in the 70s and 80s have by far surpassed us now in terms of development," he said. ■



Participants at the workshop



L-R: Wilson Inalegwu CP, FCT, Paul Erokoro, Prof Agu Gab Agu, SAN and Osita Nwajah, DD, PAD

It was not all about wining and dining within the ambience of the upscale Sandralia Hotel, Jabi, Abuja, when members of the National Association of Seadogs, NAS, recently converged for its annual Feast of Barracuda.

Themed "A New Dawn: Practical Steps To Eliminate Corruption in Nigeria", the organisers succeeded in bringing together an assemblage of people who x-rayed the issue, while proffering pragmatic solutions to it.

the proponents of the meeting. He spoke through the Deputy Director, Public Affairs Directorate, Osita Nwajah.

"It is a truism that prevention of crimes is far cheaper than prosecuting culprits of the crimes," he said. "That is why we always welcome engagements with bodies such as yours, in equal-stakeholder partnerships. I recall that along this line, nearly 10 years ago, the pioneer

In his remark, the Chairman of EFCC, Ibrahim Lamorde, lauded

Chairman of EFCC, Mr. Nuhu Ribadu, accepted to deliver one of the editions of the Ralph Opara Memorial Lecture organised by NAS in Lagos."

Lamorde lauded the NAS for partnering with EFCC in the early days of its prevention project tagged Fix Nigeria.

Guest speaker, Paul Erokoro, said attempts to eliminate corruption had been ineffective due to lack of commitment on part of government, perverted value system, peer influence and extended family pressure. ■

PARTNERS IN PROGRESS

The National Association of Seadogs, partners with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, on ways to effectively eliminate corruption in the Nigerian society

BY BABATUNDE SULAIMAN

DID YOU KNOW?



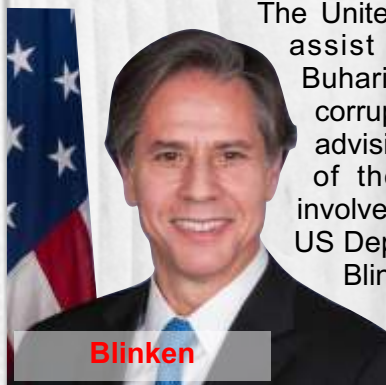
Oronsaye

Justice Gabriel Kolawole of the Federal High Court, Abuja, on July 13, 2015 fixed the trial of a former Head of Service, HoS, Stephen Oronsaye, and two others who were brought before him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a 24-count charge bordering on stealing and obtaining money by false pretence for October 28, 29; November 3, 5 and December 2, 2015 respectively.

Justice Mohammed Yinusa of the Federal High Court, Lagos on July 8, 2015 convicted four companies associated with former governor of Enugu State, Chimaroke Nnamani and ordered that their properties be forfeited to the Federal Government. The four companies are Rainbownet Nigeria Limited, Cosmos FM, Capital City Automobile Nigeria Limited and Renaissance University Teaching Hospital. The companies had on May 19, 2015 pleaded guilty to a 10-count amended charge brought against them by the EFCC. They are alleged to have failed to comply with lawful inquiry made by the anti-graft agency.

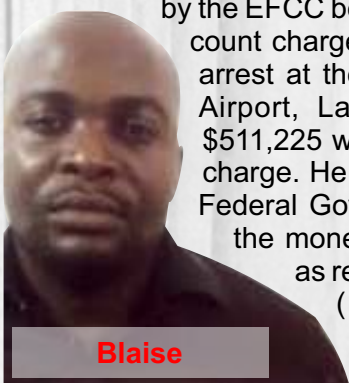


Nnamani



Blinken

The United States, US, has promised to assist the President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration in tackling corruption, by training, mentoring, and advising investigators and prosecutors of the EFCC and other agencies involved in dealing with corruption. The US Deputy Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, made the disclosure during a press briefing at the American Embassy in Abuja, July 9, 2015.



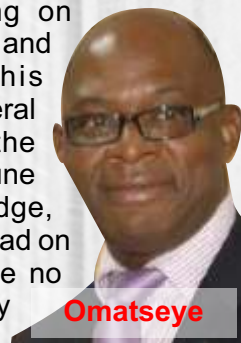
Blaise

A Congolese national, Kutumisana Blaise, prosecuted by the EFCC before Justice Buba Ibrahim, on a one count charge of money laundering following his arrest at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Lagos, for being in possession of \$511,225 was on July 8, 2015 convicted of the charge. He has forfeited the said money to the Federal Government. He had failed to declare the money to the Nigerian Customs Service as required by the provisions of Section 2 (3) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 (as amended by Act No. 1 of 2012).

Two internet fraudsters – Osaze Akhigbe and Ndekwu Jindu, have been remanded in Kirikiri Prisons in Lagos State for allegedly duping their American “lover”, Jolanta, of \$64,000 (about N14 million). The two accused persons posed as white men to dupe her claiming that the money was for payment for marriage engagement. They were arraigned by the EFCC, before Justice Lawal-Akapo of the Lagos State High Court on an 11-count charge bordering on conspiracy to obtain goods and money by false pretence.



A Federal High Court sitting in Lagos has adjourned till October 21, 2015 for continuation of trial of the suspended Director General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA, Temisan Omatseye. He faces a 27 count charge for offences 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, to the tune of N271 million. The trial judge, Justice Rita Ofili-Ajumogobia, had on February 2, 2015 dismissed the no case application filed by Omatseye.



Omatseye

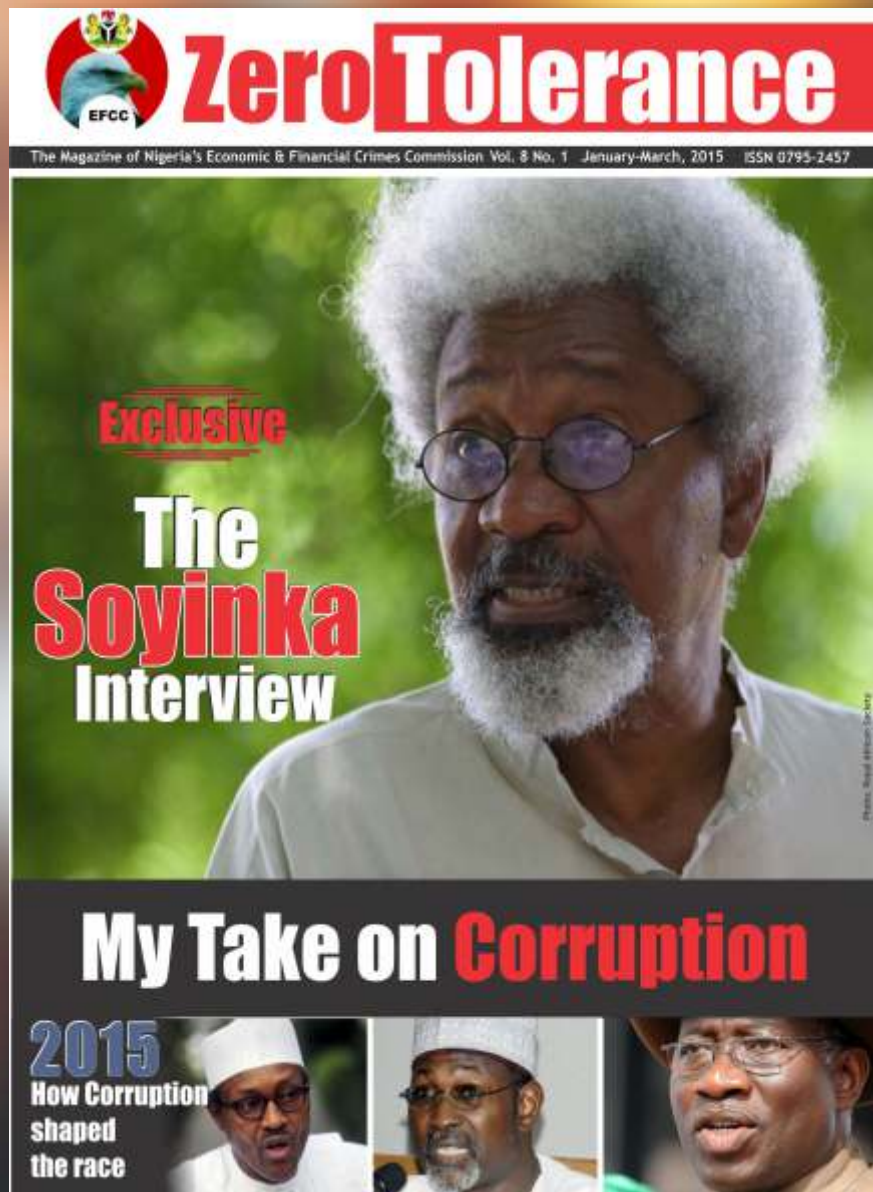
The EFCC will on September 15, 2015 re-arraign Julius Ola Peters, former president of the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas, NLNG, Staff Bonny Co-operative Investment and Credit Society Limited, and Emeka Iloegbulam, his deputy, before an Abuja court on charges of defrauding the cooperative members to the tune of N207 billion. They are alleged to have obtained N1.2 billion from the Federal Government in pension funds by false pretence and with intent to defraud, purporting same to be monthly pension payable to M. S. Suleiman, Saleh Yerima, Tsojon, Isah U. Adamu, Daniel Mikano, Abdulahi Garba Musa, who were falsely held out as pensioners of the Federal Government by inserting their names in the pensioners' payroll.



Peters

Compiled by SEGUN ADEOYE

Celebrating Kongi @ 87



1

"Books and all forms of writing are terror to those who wish to suppress the truth."

- Wole Soyinka, Nigeria's Nobel laureate