



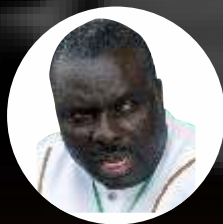
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# EFCCALERT!

A PUBLICATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION

## Breaking the Cycle

*The UK, others no longer a safe haven*



**Kenya Adopts  
EFCC Model**

**Two EFCC Staff  
for FBI Academy**

**Beware: EFCC  
Impostors on the Prowl**

**New Tricks  
of Wonder Bankers**



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## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### The November 2006 edition of **EFCCALERT!**

The edition, which was then in print form, focused on Joshua Dariye, a former governor of Plateau State, who at the time had just been impeached by the state's House of Assembly.

His impeachment was based on his being indicted by a seven-man panel set up by the state's Chief Judge, to investigate him on allegations of corruption, money laundering and abuse of office.

Detectives from the London Metropolitan Police, led by Peter Clarke appeared at the hearing to testify against him. The detectives gave graphic details of how he allegedly laundered stolen money through cronies and banks in the United Kingdom.

His prosecution by the EFCC here in Nigeria resumed on March 24, 2015 at the High Court of the FCT.

He is currently a serving Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.





# BREAKING THE CYCLE

*Collaboration between the EFCC and international law enforcement agencies makes the UK and other developed countries no longer a safe haven for money laundering*

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

**W**e must remember we can only do this together; we can't do it in isolation. The international financial centres do play a part in the international financial sector where money flows and where money is moved and where people like to buy houses and go on holidays. London is one of those places".

Those were the words of Jonathan Benton, Head of Proceeds of (International) Corruption Unit, of the Metropolitan Police, United Kingdom, UK.


Making the comments during an official visit to the EFCC headquarters, Abuja, in January, Benton, however, stressed

that: "We also support the EFCC with the investigations they have here in Nigeria and us doing the bit that we need to do in the UK to help gather the evidence to support action".

Engagement between the EFCC and international law enforcement agencies dates back to the establishment of the agency in 2003. Indeed, more and more organizations are aligning with the Commission and partnering with it in the war against corruption.

"We have some successful results. James Ibori to say the very least. And work continues," Benton said.

## JAMES IBORI



**I**n his hey days, James Ibori traversed the corridors of power like a colossus. Described by *The Guardian* of UK as "a petty thief who eventually became one of Nigeria's richest men", the former governor of Delta State (1999 to 2007) was undoubtedly a power broker. In and out of government, he called the shots and dictated the tune and rhythm of national politics.

The EFCC had been on his trail having got wind of several shady deals perpetrated by his administration. He was subsequently

arrested on December 12, 2007 at the Kwara State Lodge in Asokoro, Abuja shortly after he lost immunity against prosecution, his second term as governor having expired.

He was afterwards arraigned before the Federal High Court, Kaduna on a 170-count charge bordering on money laundering. The trial was transferred to Federal High Court, Asaba, following an Appeal Court decision that the accused must be tried within the jurisdiction where the alleged offence was committed

However, in a twist of sorts, Justice Marcel Awokulehin who presided over the case freed Ibori in December 2009, dismissing the 170-count charge brought against him. He ruled that there was no sufficient proof to link Ibori to the alleged crime.

Determined not to abandon the case, and convinced that it had cast-iron evidence against the former governor, the anti-graft agency approached the Appeal

Court in Benin, Edo State, to set aside Justice Awokulehin's ruling. But before a date could be given for hearing, Ibori in a desperate bid to evade justice, jetted out of the country to Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

It was to be his nemesis, as international collaboration with the EFCC saw him face justice, at last. Under an Interpol arrest warrant issued from UK courts at the behest of the Metropolitan Police,

Ibori was on May 13, 2010 arrested in Dubai.

The rest as they say, is history. The Commission, in partnership with the Metropolitan Police in the UK, gave evidence that were subsequently used to nail him. On April 17, 2012, the Crown Court sitting at Southwark, UK, convicted and sentenced him to 13 years imprisonment for money laundering - same charges which the Judge in Nigeria discharged and acquitted him for.

### JOSHUA DARIYE

If there is one country Joshua Dariye, a serving Senator and former governor of Plateau State dares not go to, it is the United Kingdom. Reason: Based on collaboration with the EFCC and the UK Metropolitan Police, Dariye was in September 2004 arrested in a London hotel on money laundering charges. Sums of money found on him totalled about £177,000. He was taken to the Marylebone Police Station, Central London, but was released on bail after questioning. He however, jumped bail, and returned to Nigeria. Partnership with the UK Met Police is however still ongoing, even as his trial here in Nigeria resumed on March 24, 2015 at the High Court of the FCT.

### DIEZANI ALISON-MADUEKE

The news came like a bolt from the blue - the arrest in the UK of Diezani Alison-Madueke - the immediate past Minister of Petroleum Resources, on October 2, 2015.

For the general public, it was a surprise, as many sought to know if the news was really true or not.

But for the EFCC it was long expected having quietly been working in the shadows. It was only a matter of time considering the partnership between the anti-graft agency and the Serious Organized Crimes Agency, known as the National Crimes Agency of the UK.

Diezani was later docked and released on bail and has been barred from leaving the UK until April 2016 when her trial is expected to begin.

Operatives of the EFCC raided her Abuja home carting away documents and other evidence critical to the investigation.



### DIEPREYE ALAMIEYESEIGHA

The late Diepreye Alamieyeseigha, a former governor of Bayelsa State, was the first ex-governor to be successfully prosecuted by the EFCC. Collaboration between the Metropolitan Police and the anti-graft agency saw him arrested by the Met Police in September 2005. About £1 million in cash was reportedly found in his London home. In December 2005, he jumped bail and fled to Nigeria, allegedly disguising as a woman. The EFCC subsequently took up the case after his impeachment on December 9, 2005. On July 26, 2007, he pleaded guilty to the six-count charge of corruption and money laundering brought against him. He was sentenced to two years in prison on each charge. He also forfeited his ill-gotten assets. In addition to freezing bank accounts linked to some of his companies, over N3 billion recovered from the sale of his properties, as well as forfeited assets were returned to the Bayelsa State government.

### EXTRADITIONS

Collaboration with international law enforcement agencies has also seen to the extradition of the following individuals:

**Emmanuel Ekhaton**, an internet fraudster has already been tried and convicted of wire fraud in the United States. He allegedly defrauded over 80 American law firms of funds in excess of \$32 million.

**Olaniyi Jones Makinde** was extradited to the United States for his role in stealing approximately \$3.2 million from payroll companies and banks through wire fraud.

**Rasheed Abayomi Mustapha** was extradited to the United States for defrauding an American company of \$800,000.

**Abdul Adewale Kekere-Ekun** was on September 9, 2015 sentenced to life in jail for a murder crime in the UK. He was extradited by the EFCC on March 24, 2015 after he was declared wanted in the UK in connection with his involvement in the murder of a teenager, Marcus Hall. Kekere-Ekun had been in hiding for the past 14 years. ■





## Two for FBI Academy

*Two staff of the EFCC are set to attend a professional development course at the FBI's National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, USA*

**BY BABATUNDE SULAIMAN**

**T**wo officers of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, will be attending the forthcoming Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, National Academy Associates training in Quantico, Virginia, United States.

This was disclosed at a meeting of the FBI National Academy Associates, FBINAA, Nigeria Chapter, held at the EFCC headquarters, Abuja, on Thursday, October 8, as part of efforts to promote and enhance both personal and professional development of officers of Law Enforcement Agencies, LEAs.

Chaired by Director of Operations, EFCC, Olaolu Adegbite, the meeting highlighted the objectives of the programme, which is to prepare LEAs for complex and contemporary challenges through innovative techniques, facilitating excellence in education, research and forging partnerships around the world.

One of the pioneer participants of the National Academy, Olayinka Balogun, a retired Commissioner of Police who attended the FBI National Academy in 2000 (course 201), described his experience as an eye opener and applauded the strength of the collaboration among international law enforcement agencies.

Also, Sunday J. Ubuah, Superintendent of Police and fresh graduate of the FBI National Academy, described his experience at the Academy as "an awesome lifetime experience", adding that "I witnessed the finest and most organized form of law enforcement training."

The birth of the FBINAA, Nigeria Chapter, which is one of the Africa/Middle East Chapter, will bring together all members within the Nigerian Law enforcement communities and help to improve inter-agency collaboration and cooperation.

***Out of a total of 17 officers who have so far attended the training, six have been from the EFCC***

The Academy offers three to four sessions a year with approximately 220 officers per session who take undergraduate and/or graduate courses at the FBI campus in Quantico, Virginia.

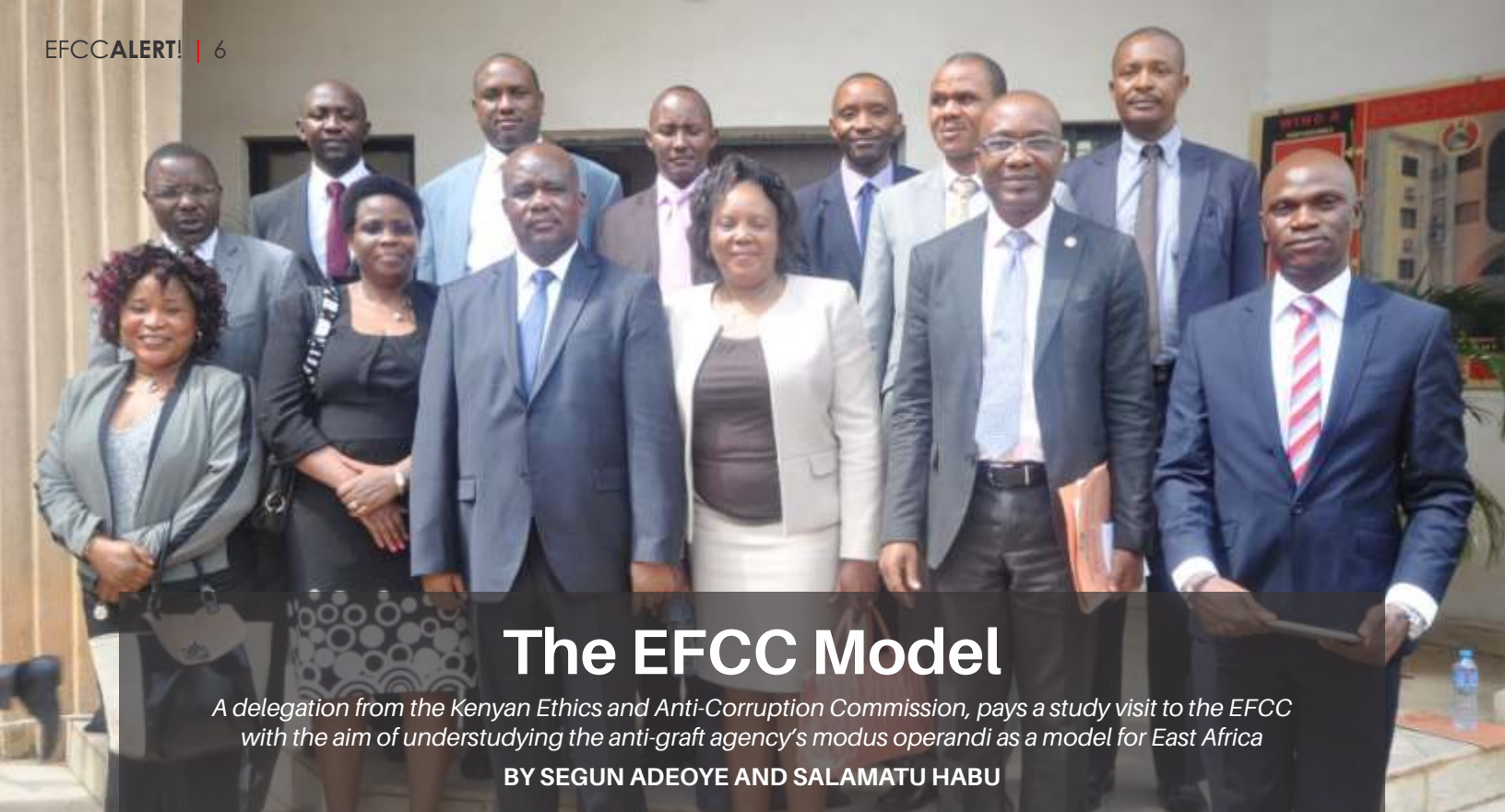
Out of a total of 17 officers who have so far attended the training, six have been from the EFCC, one from the State Security Service, SSS and one from the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA).

Participants are trained on leadership, communication, health/fitness, science/forensic science, understanding terrorism and terrorist mindsets, among others.

It was also stated that an annual Re-trainer programme would be alternated among countries in Africa and the Middle East. Though the 2015 Re-trainer was hosted by Mauritius, the 2016 and 2017 Re-trainers would be hosted by Morocco and Nigeria respectively.

Three African countries are hosting the event consecutively because no Middle East country has indicated interest in hosting it.

Candidates for the FBI National Academy, it was disclosed, are usually picked from leaders and managers of state, local, county, tribal police, military, federal and international law enforcement agencies through a nomination process. ■



## The EFCC Model

*A delegation from the Kenyan Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, pays a study visit to the EFCC with the aim of understudying the anti-graft agency's modus operandi as a model for East Africa*

BY SEGUN ADEOYE AND SALAMATU HABU

**T**heir mission was simple – it was to understudy the EFCC's mode of operations, which has seen the anti-graft agency become a beacon and model for anti-corruption bodies in the West African sub-region.

For the delegation from the Kenyan Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, EACC, which paid a study visit to the EFCC headquarters, Abuja, on October 14, 2015, it was a necessary step forward in achieving its goal of setting up an Anti-graft Academy in the East African nation.

The seven-man delegation, which was led by Vincent Okong'o, Director, Preventive Services, EACC, had visited the EFCC Academy, Karu, Abuja, as part of its five-day benchmarking study tour. The visit to the Academy was in recognition of its recent designation as the training institute of the National Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa, NACIWA – a feat which the EACC plans to replicate in East Africa.

They capped up the study tour with a visit to the EFCC headquarters, where they were received by its Chairman, Ibrahim Lamorde, who led a team of officials that further intimated the delegation with intricate insights into the workings and operations of the anti-graft agency's varied departments.

***"Only East Africa does not have an anti-corruption academy and we have chosen EFCC Academy as a model"***

***- Vincent Okong'o***

"Only East Africa does not have an anti-corruption academy and we have chosen EFCC Academy as a model," Okong'o said, noting that the visit was also meant to serve as a yardstick towards creating the first anti-corruption academy in the East African sub-region.

While underscoring the importance of ensuring a closer synergy among anti-graft agencies in Africa, Lamorde stressed that corruption remained the bane of development in the continent.

"The reason Africa is not developed is because of corruption, as it drags us back. Therefore we, as anti-graft agencies and indeed all Africans, need to come together to fight the monster and ensure that the bad ones do not find sanctuary in any part of Africa," Lamorde said.

He appreciated the EACC for choosing the EFCC Academy as a model and urged the delegation to take training of staff seriously, noting that "the only way to win the war against graft is to have a well trained work force as well as a platform of interaction and exchange of ideas".

The visit of the delegation also witnessed presentations from heads of various departments in the Commission. Francis Usani, Director, Nigeria Financial Intelligence Unit, NFIU, stressed the important role the unit plays in anti-money laundering. Osita Nwajah, Director, Public Affairs Directorate, while shedding light on the activities of the directorate, highlighted the preventive role of the agency in fighting corruption. The head of the EFCC's Operations, Olaolu Adegbite, gave insight into the professionalism employed in carrying out investigations, stressing that practices must follow international best standards. The team had earlier interacted with Ayo Olowonibi, Commandant, EFCC Academy.

While appreciating the wealth of knowledge shared with the team, Okong'o commended the EFCC for its doggedness in the fight against corruption both locally and internationally, and promised to sustain the relationship. ■



# Briefing

**T**he EFCC does not invite individuals to private offices for questioning, neither does its operatives demand for money to “kill” investigations into petitions brought against individuals. If you get an invitation to an address different from EFCC offices or a police station, or you get phone calls asking you to make payment to quash a petition, please be cautious. It is no doubt an indication that you are about to be swindled.

## Why?

It has become a daily occurrence that has seen many innocent Nigerians fall victim of fraudsters who pose to be operatives working for the EFCC. While a number of these cases go unreported, with the victims successfully defrauded, it has become pertinent to alert Nigerians to the activities of such fraudsters. The times demand that one has to ask questions and ascertain the authenticity of any phone call or invitation by any law enforcement officer posing to be a representative of the EFCC. A recent incidence in Gombe State, has once again showed the desperation of such fraudsters, masquerading as bonafide EFCC operatives. The case involves a syndicate that includes Edward Abiodun, and his cohorts - Murtala Bello and Esther Momoh, who are both currently in hiding.

Typically, Wahab, not sure of whatever petition the purported EFCC operatives had against him, begged to part with N300,000 pleading that it was practically impossible for him to raise the N10 million being demanded.

On March 19, 2015 one of the members of the syndicate sent a text message to Wahab, posing as the EFCC’s Director of Operations, Olaolu Adegbite, summoning him to appear at the Commission’s office in Abuja.

Owing to the persistent threat by members of the syndicate, he paid the sum of N50,000 into Abiodun’s bank account which was sent to him by Momoh on March 25, 2015.

## Game up

Worried by the persistent threat from the syndicate over the balance of N250,000 Wahab petitioned the EFCC, which swung into action and eventually arrested the accused person. He was arraigned before Justice Beatrice Iliya of the Gombe State High Court, on a two-count charge bordering on conspiracy, impersonation and obtaining money by false pretence. Meanwhile, search for his cohorts has begun.

## The offence

Abiodun and his accomplices, while posing to be operatives of the EFCC, phoned Wahab (not real name for security reasons), alleging that they had a petition against him, which if investigated will land him in jail.

Bello had on March 13, 2015 phoned Wahab assuring him that himself and his cohorts could help him “kill” the purported petition if he was willing to play ball, else, he would have himself to blame. Bello had demanded the sum of N10 million to help him finish the job.

To perfect their strategy, Bello forwarded Wahab’s number to Momoh, who, posing to be a Principal Detective Superintendent, PDS, with the anti-graft agency, further engaged Wahab, who at this point became uncomfortable, and naturally jittery.



Edward Abiodun

## To Avoid This Path

To avoid the path of being defrauded of your hard earned money, all it takes is a little circumspection.

## Help us to help you

Call any of our hotlines: **08093322644; 08183322644** or simply send an email to: **info@efccnigeria.org** when you are not sure! ■

# West Coast Dinner

The EFCC fetes participants of the National Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa, NACIWA's maiden training programme to an awards dinner

BY JAMILU SALE

It was a fitting climax to the two-weeks training programme of the National Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa, NACIWA, which held at the EFCC Academy, Karu, Abuja between September 28, 2015 and October 8, 2015.

After the rigours of the various class works, assignments and workouts, participants of the training programme, which included members of anti-graft agencies from the sub-region, were given a well-deserved treat at an awards dinner night, organized by the EFCC, which held at the banquet hall of the prestigious Transcorp Hotel, Abuja, on October 8, 2015.

An elated Ayo Olowonihi, Commandant of the EFCC Academy, noted that "it was not a night of

speeches".

While appreciating the participants for being worthy ambassadors of their countries, he said, "For us it's wonderful having you, and to spice it up, that is why we brought all of you here, especially those from other countries to see for yourselves the beauty of Nigeria."

For many of the participants from the Republic of Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Republic of Niger, Senegal, Togo, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria, it was also a night of rewards and recognitions.

Henry Aka won the award of **Most Resourceful Person** in recognition of his

active participation in every session in class. The **Most Quiet Person** award, was given to Iya Abubakar, in appreciation of his ever quiet disposition to discussions in class. In recognition of her sociability in and outside of the class, Chidimma Amanambu of the Public Affairs Directorate of the EFCC, was adjudged winner of the **Most Social Person** award, while Moses Longe of the EFCC Academy received the award of **Best Dressed Person**. ■



Commandant of the EFCC Academy hands out award for **Most Social Person** to EFCC's Chidimma Amanambu

## CRIME

# End of the Road

It's the endgame for a "wonder bank" operator who succeeded in duping his "clients" to the tune of N12 million

BY NANA FATIMA ABUBAKAR//KANO

Balogun Olaitan must be a very good sales man, indeed, an impressive marketer; or how else could he have been able to lure his victims to invest their savings in his "out of this world bank", better known as "wonder bank" assuring them that he would double their investments with mouth-watering profit.

That marketing skill, which ought to have propelled Olaitan into the league of professional marketers, has however landed him in jail.

By the time you're reading this story, Olaitan, who prides himself as the Chief Executive Officer of Disok International Limited, would have begun serving his eight years jail term.

Until his prosecution by the EFCC on a six-count charge, and conviction by Justice M.T.M. Aliyu of the Kaduna High Court, Olaitan specialised in collecting money from unsuspecting victims, with promises of attractive return on their investments. He had succeeded in obtaining money under false pretence



Olaitan

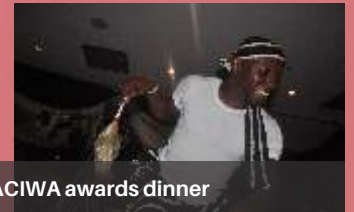
to the tune of N12 million. However, when he defaulted in making the payments as promised, the victims petitioned the anti-graft agency.

While finding him and his company guilty on counts one, two, three, four and six, the judge sentenced him to eight years imprisonment, on each of the counts to run concurrently, and fined his company N50,000 on each count. ■





Some participants at the dinner



Performers at the NACIWA awards dinner



Most Quiet Person, Iya Abubakar, receives award from Francis Usani, Head, NFIU



Best Dressed Person, Moses Longe, receives award



Most Resourceful Person, Henry Aka, receives award



Dancing time at the award ceremony



Osita Nwajah, Director PAD, and Ayo Olowonihi, EFCC Academy Commandant



Participants at the event



Vincent Okong'o of Kenya's Anti-Corruption Commission presents Masai Warrior Statue to Lamorde



Ibrahim Lamorde, EFCC Chairman, presents souvenir to Okong'o



# Do Not Say You Were Not Warned!

In this fifth part of a series, EFCCAlert! focuses on Wonder Bank/Ponzi Schemes - one of the scams featured in EFCC's Red Alert on Scam

BY SEGUN ADEOYE



If you have ever been accosted by an “agent” urging you to deposit your money in his finance company, with the promise of mouth-watering profit, then do know that you are about to be another Matthew Chukwu, a happy-go-lucky Nigerian who is a victim of a *Wonder Bank* scam.

Sometimes in November 2009, Chukwu was conned into parting with over N2 million, by one Fortune Etaba, Managing Director of a finance company - Establishment House Ltd. Etaba lured him into believing that he would get back an additional 50 per cent of any deposit he made with the company within 21 days.

Like Chukwu, several other people were lured into investing in the company, hoping to benefit from the company’s “wonder” profit. Alas, 21 days passed not only was there no profit to cherish, their initial deposits were gone, as efforts to get back their money failed. The matter subsequently became a court case.

It’s a classic case of financial fraud that in spite of efforts by the Central Bank of Nigeria to curb their activities, many unsuspecting Nigerians, have continued to fall into the trap.

For those who may not know, wonder bank/ponzi schemes is a fraudulent investment scheme in which the supposed investor is conned into expecting high rates of return for his money in a very short while, with little or no risks.

The *modus operandi*, basically involves one person - the initial

subscriber, who is tasked with recruiting more subscribers, who invest in the scheme. The more subscribers, the merrier and higher profit, the “agent” makes you to believe. The scheme, however, collapses when new investors/subscribers are no longer forthcoming. At such point, the agent will put more pressure on you to “work harder” in order to get your returns.

Sadly, as the scheme collapses, the owners of the finance company pocket the money and disappear into thin air, leaving the depositors in the lurch as they are made to rue their losses.



Illustration from  
*Red Alert on Scam*

## Before You “Invest”

- Find out with the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation, NDIC, or any relevant government regulatory agency if the financial institution is a registered operator
- Inquire to know where the company gets the money to pay investors the expected mouth-watering profit, as well as those who constitute its board of directors
- Don’t invest your money in any business that has no clear prospectus on how it operates
- Remember that companies provide investments services to potential and existing clients usually detail how and where the money will be invested, and also the profile of returns on investment
- Be wary of investments with high rate of returns in a short term - such are too good to be true. ■



# Wake-up Call

*The EFCC once again tasks women at all levels of the society to see themselves as change agents in the war against corruption*

BY BETHEL UDE

The important role that women are expected to play in the fight against corruption was once again highlighted during the EFCC's Zonal Anti-Corruption Sensitization Workshop for Women Civil Society and Community-based groups, which held recently at the G-Tower Hotels and Tourism Limited, Owerri, Imo State.

Tagged: "How women's organisations can aid the fight against corruption, economic and financial crimes", it focused on articulating a national response to gender and corruption.

The EFCC Chairman, Ibrahim Lamorde, used the opportunity to stress the need for women to be agents of change.

"We are convinced that the power to change the destiny of our nation as one blighted by deep-rooted corruption, lies in our hands. Therefore this sensitisation workshop is but one little step in a long journey to making each and every one of us take ownership of the war against

corruption," Lamorde said.

He expressed belief that the programme will cause participants to form the core of a platform, Women Anti-Corruption Network, WAN, through which the EFCC and stakeholders can interface with the general public on the issue of gender and corruption.

In her presentation titled, "The Role of Women in the Anti-Economic and Financial Crimes Crusade", Nma Olebara, a guidance counsellor, described corruption as a cankerworm that has eaten deep into every face of the Nigerian society, but expressed optimism that Nigerian women have the capacity and potentials to liberate the country from the shackles of corruption.

Angela Nkwo-Akpolu of the Authority Newspaper, Owerri, while speaking on



Nma Olebara

the topic, "Advocacy as a Tool for Preventing Economic and Financial Crimes", called for a re-orientation of our value system, to restore good values. She noted that there must be "a deliberate collaboration among stakeholders such as media, civil society, anti-corruption agencies, public office holders, schools, parents and youths among others for the fight against corruption to be won".

Chido Onumah, Coordinator, African Centre for Media & Information Literacy, AFRICMIL, appreciated the EFCC for focusing on the gender dimension of the anti-corruption campaign, and for strategically rallying women and their organisations to lend their voice and play a role in the anti-corruption campaign. ■

## CRIME

# Justice for Lam

*A crime committed five years ago finally sees the two perpetrators sentenced to jail*

BY DEBORAH MEZEH//PORT HARCOURT

Nemesis finally caught up with Igbo Agbana and Akarah Eloho Anthony, both Internet fraudsters, who for the past five years, have used low cunning to evade the long arm of justice.

Perhaps, unknown to the duo, the wheel of justice may turn slowly, yet it grinds exceedingly fine. For them judgment day was October 13, 2015 and by the time Justice Shittu Abubakar of the Federal High Court, Warri, Delta State, hit the gavel, it dawned on the two conmen that the next two years of their lives will be spent in jail.

The National Intelligence Agency, NIA, had on behalf of J. Lam, a Hong Kong national, who was a victim of their nefarious activities, petitioned the EFCC in June 2013, accusing them of engaging in fraudulent activities.

Agbana and Anthony were also accused to have in August 2010 uttered a forged driver's licence with the pseudo name Prital S. Atwal, which they intended to use to open an account with a new generation bank, with the aim of concealing their true identity.



Igbo Agbana

In his judgment, Justice Abubakar not only sentenced them to two years in jail, he also ordered that the convicts return the sum of \$12,000 to their victim. ■





**EFCC will get you.  
Anywhere. Anytime.**



Official EFCC

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