



# EFCCALERT!

A PUBLICATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION



## Charting A New Path

Fraudulent  
Accountants

Executive  
Visit

Presidential  
Support





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**Offence:** money laundering, criminal breach of trust

**In Court on:** May 3, 2016

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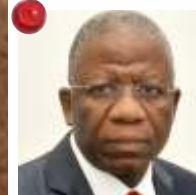
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Federal High Court, Abuja



### Stephen Oronsaye

*Ex-Head of Service of the Federation*

**Offence:** Criminal breach of trust

**In Court on:** May 19, 2016

**Justice Olasumbo Goodluck,**  
FCT High Court, Maitama, Abuja



# Charting A New Path

*Thirteen years on, the EFCC, established on April 10, 2003 blazes the trail in number of convictions secured, as it repositions itself for the tasks ahead*

BY SEGUN ADEOYE



Cross section of participants at the 2016 Management Retreat

For the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, it has been 13 years of championing the anti-corruption crusade in Nigeria. And steadily, the anti-graft agency is altering the narrative of criminal prosecution in the country. But, not only has it remained a shining light, it is re-strategizing for the onerous task of sustaining efforts to rid the country of economic and financial crimes.

**By the third quarter of 2015, the EFCC had secured 1,002 convictions, which is outstanding by any measure**

This formed the focus of the recent retreat by the Commission's management, which held recently at the EFCC Academy, Karu, Abuja. Though not a first of its kind in the annals of the agency, it provided a veritable platform for a retrospective look at the war against corruption.

According to the EFCC boss, Ibrahim Magu, there was a need to ensure that the EFCC remained the top anti-corruption agency in the country.

been miserly, the EFCC recorded 68 convictions in 2010, and 67 in 2011. It upped the ante in 2012 recording 87 convictions, 117 in 2013, and 126 convictions in 2014.

Such progress to any observer represents a positive trend, but for the anti-graft czar, it called for a strategic restructuring to ensure that the EFCC remained at the top of the ladder.

"The problem was not lack of convictions, but what kind of convictions," Magu noted, adding that a number of the convictions involved Advance Fee Fraud, AFF, cases.

"While it is important to convict AFF suspects, these cases are not the ones Nigerians worry about," he said. "They worry about cases of grand corruption, because most of them believe they are the source of resource haemorrhage."

"By the third quarter of 2015, the EFCC had secured 1,002 convictions, which is outstanding by any measure," he said.

The high number of convictions is significant when compared with other law enforcement agencies in the country.

In a clime where conviction returns for most law enforcement agencies have



He further noted some of the challenges being faced in the war against corruption to include having to prosecute suspects with enormous economic and political resources, a judicial system infested by "sharks" in the mould of lawyers and judges, and frivolous applications and judgements aimed at frustrating the efforts of the EFCC.

### Giving assurances

At a recent visit by a delegation of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Anti-Corruption, led by its Chairman, Prof. Itse Sagay, the EFCC boss further expressed the resolve of the agency to surmount all obstacles, in order for it to remain the shining light in the fight against corruption.

Commending the EFCC boss for "rejuvenating the activities of the anti-graft agency", Sagay charged the Commission to strive at achieving convictions involving high-profile cases.

"The energy you have brought in to the activities of the EFCC since your assumption of office has encouraged us, and we want you to continue to do more," Sagay said.

Reassuring the committee of the agency's resolve not to relent in its efforts, Magu, used the opportunity to intimate the committee of some of the reforms he has initiated.

"We are restructuring the operations aspect of the Commission and weeding out the bad eggs," he said. "We are also carrying the anti-corruption crusade to the grassroots."



**Itse Sagay (2nd left) and Magu**

He added that the efforts of the agency were yielding results, noting that the EFCC was determined to get to the root of major corruption cases in the country, including the Halliburton case.

### Restructuring for progress

Matching words with actions to ensure that such challenges are surmounted, especially in cases involving politically exposed persons, the EFCC is restructuring for progress.

In the wake of the now infamous \$2.1 billion arms deal scandal and the increasing cunning strategies being employed by perpetrators of procurement fraud, the EFCC has expanded its scope of operations.

The agency recently created more operations units in order to strengthen its

prosecution efforts. In addition to the existing units, the EFCC has established new ones, which include Capital Market/Insurance unit, Cyber Crime unit, Forensic/Financial Investigation unit, Foreign Exchange Malpractices unit and Procurement Fraud Unit. They are in addition to the already existing units, which include, Advance Fee Fraud unit, Asset Forfeiture/Recovery unit, Bank Fraud unit, Counter Terrorism and General Investigation/Pension unit, Economic Governance unit, Extractive Industries Fraud unit, Intelligence and Special Operations unit, Land and Property Fraud.

In a bid to expand the anti-corruption crusade to the grassroots, the EFCC has also opened a new zone in Ibadan, Oyo State, while re-opening the Maiduguri office, Borno State. ■



**Ibadan Zonal Office of the EFCC**



**Maiduguri Zonal Office of the EFCC**



# Executive Visit

**Secretary to the EFCC pays a working visit to the South-East and South-South zonal offices as part of a facility tour**

**BY THERESA NWOSU and TITILOLA OLEJIYA**

**S**ecretary of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Emmanuel Aremo, on a facility inspection tour, recently visited the South-East and South-South zones of the Commission.

The working visit afforded him the opportunity to have a firsthand insight into the activities of the zones as well as the infrastructure on ground, and to chart a way forward for greater achievements.

He was received in Enugu by the South-East Zonal Head, Obioha Okorie, on April 12, 2016 and the South-South Zonal Head, Ishaq Salihu, on April 14, 2016.

While commending the legal and prosecution units for being responsible for the high percentage of convictions recorded by the EFCC, he noted that there was an urgent need to critically evaluate the use of external lawyers to prosecute cases for the Commission.

"Most of these external lawyers are defence lawyers, not prosecutors," he said. "Besides, 95 per cent of convictions recorded today are by our in-house lawyers."

The implication, according to him, was that the anti-graft agency has the



**Areмо (7th right), Salihu (6th left) flanked by other staff of the South-South Zonal Office**

**...the anti-graft agency has the capability to successfully execute its cases, including those involving politically exposed persons**

capability to successfully execute its cases, including those involving politically exposed persons.

"We have capable hands, which we must develop to the level of Senior Advocates of Nigeria, because there is nothing wrong with having our own SANs," he said.

He noted the importance of having a vibrant media unit, and promised to ensure that the Public Affairs Department of the zones were well-equipped to ensure effective performance.

He further reiterated the need to equip the investigative and administrative apparatus of the agency along with the legal arm, while emphasizing the need for a better synergy between investigators and prosecutors.

While urging staff to be diligent, honest and sincere in the discharge of their duties, he gave assurances that measures were being put in place to ensure better welfare package, in order to boost morale of staff.

"If we all are happy, the job will be well done," he said. ■



**Okorie, Zonal Head, Enugu and Aremo during the visit**



# One Family

The EFCC held a three-day annual retreat at its Academy in Karu, Abuja between March 17 and 19, 2016. The EFCC boss, Ibrahim Magu, used the opportunity to charge members of staff to brace for the tasks ahead. Here are a few images from the event, and clip of the anti-graft czar giving his opening remark.

[Click to watch](#)



Deliberations in session



Deliberations in session



Deliberations in session



A delegate presenting the results of deliberations



A delegate presenting the results of deliberations



Deliberations in session



Deliberations in session



# Signs of the Times





# Presidential Support

*The Attorney General of the Federation visits the EFCC, expressing resolute support for the agency*

BY SALAMATU HABU

It would be the first time that the Attorney General of the Federation, AGF, and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN, would visit the EFCC, after his assumption of office. The visit on April 13, 2016 was to emphasize the importance of having a seamless synergy between the office of the AGF and that of the EFCC.

Malami stressed the pivotal role of the anti-graft agency in the current administration's efforts to fight corruption in Nigeria and to win.

"We are delighted with the way the EFCC has taken the bull by the horns in its anti-corruption crusade," he said.



Malami and Magu

While assuring the EFCC of the cooperation of his office towards ensuring that justice is done to all corruption cases, he noted that

the federal government was aware of the agency's needs.

"Be assured that the government is prepared to meet your challenges for optimal performance," he said.

The EFCC boss, Ibrahim Magu, thanked him for the visit, stressing that the war against corruption could not be fought and won alone by the agency.

He afterwards conducted the AGF round the facilities at EFCC headquarters, as well as its permanent site along Airport Road, Abuja which is still under construction. ■

# Working Partnership

*The Bureau of Public Enterprises seeks EFCC's help in ensuring probity in the public service*

BY NONSO IGWE

The Acting Director, Bureau of Public Enterprises, BPE, Vincent Akpotaire, believes that partnership with the EFCC is paramount in removing hindrances militating against the BPE's statutory duties.

Akpotaire, who led a delegation to the EFCC headquarters, on April 12, 2016, noted that the visit was aimed at enhancing BPE's core values of transparency, integrity, accountability, commitment and diligence to work.

"There is a lot of distrust in the country today, and we believe that we can have a better synergy that can allow the system to function efficiently and effectively.

"Besides, we need to rebuild trust that can make the public believe that public

officials are working for the interest of Nigerians, rather than for personal interests," he said.

The BPE Chief further said: "EFCC can continue to partner with the Bureau by seconding its staff to witness and participate in the financial bid openings to limit and reduce human interference in the process."

Akpotaire also urged the EFCC Chair to avail the BPE a desk officer who will be readily available to observe the transactions run by teams set up by the Bureau.



Akpotaire and Magu

The EFCC boss, Ibrahim Magu, who received the delegation, stressed that it was important for the BPE to re-establish and deepen the existing relationship between it and the anti-graft agency. ■



# Up National!

*Officials of the NURTW visit the EFCC promising to support the agency's anti-corruption crusade*

BY BETHEL UDE

The president of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, NURTW, Najeem Usman Yasin, led a delegation to the EFCC headquarters, Abuja, on April 12, 2016.

The delegation was received by the EFCC boss, Ibrahim Magu, who stressed the importance of a collective effort by Nigerians in every sector, to fight corruption to a standstill.

Yasin said, "We believe that your choice as chairman is in recognition of the sacrifices and courage you exhibited in handling complex investigations during



Yasin and Magu

the foundational years of the agency, and we assure you that we will give you all the support you need."

Magu urged the union's leadership to expose corrupt members who are involved in shady deals, adding that some corrupt individuals use public transportation for money laundering activities.

"The EFCC cannot fight corruption alone, and we need your assistance in the area of creating awareness in order for Nigerians to understand the effect of corruption on the society," he said. ■

## CRIME

# Fraudulent Accountants

*Five members of staff of the accounts department of the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, Borno State, to answer for a N185 million fraud*

BY JAMILU SALE // MAIDUGURI

Confidence in officers in academic environments, seems to be fast fading away with the several cases of fraud now being perpetrated in the Ivory Towers.

One of such is the fraud case that involves five former members of staff of the Finance and Accounts department of the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, UMTH, Borno State.

The accused persons - a former Assistant Director, Mahmud Deji Sambo; a former Assistant Chief Accountant, Bukar Musti; a former Executive Officer, Mohammed Saleh Kasim; Alkali Ibrahim Gonimi and a former Internal Auditor, Haruna G. Katangana - are alleged to be complicit in the alteration of several financial documents, which they tampered with to

illegally enrich themselves to the tune of N185 million.

Between March 2009 and December 2009, Sambo (aka Ardo Hamajam) and Kasim (aka Babagana Sale), allegedly obtained N35,882,000 from UMTH in the guise that it was for supplies to the hospital and contractual salary for Babagana Saleh.

In March 2010 Sambo, again connived with Musti to fraudulently obtain N58 million from the university, in the guise of using same for payment of salaries.



Accused persons in court

They were arraigned before Justice M. T. Salihu of the Federal High Court, Maiduguri, Borno State, on April 7, 2016.

Their trial continues on May 9, 2016. ■





## Winning Ways

*Beyond winning the war against economic and financial crimes, the EFCC shows exemplary prowess among other law enforcement agencies in various other activities*

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

It was Vincent Lombardi, the American football coach, who led his team to five National Football League championships in seven years, who said, "Leaders aren't born they are made and they are made just like anything else, through hard work. And that's the price we'll have to pay to achieve that goal, or any goal."

Perhaps, Lombardi had the EFCC's Football Club, FC Abuja, in mind when he made the statement in the 1960s.

On April 3, 2016 FC Abuja, made history at the Area 3 Stadium Abuja, as it defeated FRSC Abuja – the football club of a sister law enforcement agency, the Federal Road Safety Commission – to win this year's FA Challenge Cup.

At the end of the thrilling encounter, there was no winner and it came down to penalties to decide the contest. And FC Abuja won by four goals to three.

"It was a reward for the hard work, dedication and commitment, of the team's management and players," said Halilu Dauda, Chairman, FC Abuja. "We prepared very well and the boys imbibed the discipline and the dedication on the field of play."

An elated Dauda, who dedicated the victory to the leadership of EFCC, noted that it was the third attempt of the team to clinch the cup.

"It is a great feeling, because our efforts have not been in vain, and we are planning for future challenges, to ensure that we keep on winning," he said.

The EFCC boss, Ibrahim Magu, who received the team, was obviously beside himself with joy. He expressed delight that the team was able to show the FRSC Abuja team the stuff that the EFCC was made of.

"We shall continue to win," he said.

### Shining stars

Like the victory on the football pitch, operatives of the EFCC have also excelled at various law enforcement and intelligence training courses, including that of the prestigious Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, USA.

And out of the 13 participants selected from the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission, ICPC, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, Nigeria Police Force, NPF, Defence Intelligence College, and the EFCC to attend the eight-week Defence Intelligence course in Karu, Abuja in May 2015, an operative of the agency, Iheonunekwu Collins, who represented the EFCC at the training won the award of Best Student from Other Departments and Agencies. His emergence was based on his academic performance, comportment and relationship during the course.



"I put the Commission first in everything I was doing. So, when the award was presented to me, I was very excited," Collins said.

In January 2015, yet another EFCC operative, Hassan Seidu, also emerged tops at the Advance Defence Intelligence Officer's Course, ADIOC. The course is the highest conducted for law enforcement agencies in Nigeria. Saidu won the Best Student award, outshining other participants selected from the NPF, NIS, NCS and the ICPC for the DIC's course 9/2015.

Austine Adache, an EFCC operative also won the award of the Best Student from Other Agencies, at the maiden edition of the Defence Intelligence Officer's Course (DIOC 13/2014) in December 2014.

"I was elated as it was historic, and I like being part of good history," Adache said.

Being part of good history, indeed, has been the hallmark of the anti-graft agency and its members of staff since its establishment in 2003.

The famous FBI National Academy, established on July 29, 1935, has played host to staff of the EFCC. So far, 19 law enforcement officers from Nigeria have attended the Academy, and out of these, eight have come from the EFCC.

Folake Bello, a staff of the EFCC, is the first woman in Nigeria to attend the FBI Academy.



**Magu with FBI Alumni; fourth from right, Abdulkareem Chukkol; third from right, Ronke Oyeneyin; first from right, Folake Bello**



**Saidu**



**Adache receives plaque from Commodore M.A. Emuekpere**



**Left: Collins; Right: Attahir**

Ronke Oyeneyin is also a graduate of the FBI Academy. "In my case I carried out an assignment with one of them. We arrested someone and extradited the person within a period of time. It was a fugitive they've been looking for, for a very long time," she said. Based on her dedication to the task, she got selected to train at the Academy. Selection for the Academy, according to her, is solely based on merit, "so it is not like you know Mr. A and then Mr. A lobbies for you".

Abdulkarim Chukkol, head of the Cyber Crime unit in Lagos, is a graduate of the Academy's Session 244, and an investigative expert in the area of cyber crimes.

Foreign law enforcement agencies have continued to see staff of the EFCC as worthy to be selected for such international courses, which in their various climes are highly competitive.

Bello Attahir, an operative attached to the Intelligence and Special Operations Section, ISOS of the EFCC, Abuja, was at the Netherlands' Police Advance and Practical Knowledge on Criminal Intelligence Analysis Course in Amsterdam, which held in April 2015.

"My training as an EFCC operative helped me greatly at the initial course, and this helped me to be selected for the advance course," he said. ■



VIDEO



## United Against Corruption

January 19, 2016: Members of the Democratic Progressive Movement, DPM, in a rare show of solidarity, marked its yearly anti-corruption rally at the EFCC headquarters. Here are a few images from the event, and clip of the anti-graft czar giving his charge. [Click to watch](#)



"We do not envy you, because as you fight corruption, corruption will fight back, but we are here to show our solidarity and to encourage you to let you know that we are in support of everything you are doing in this country."

- Collins Edebiri, National Coordinator, DPM

"We all have a duty to kill corruption before it kills Nigeria. The fight against corruption we are undertaking at the EFCC is not about us; it is about Nigeria.

The fight is for everyone."

- Ibrahim Magu, EFCC boss

