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EFCCALERT!

A PUBLICATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION

Anti-Graft War



*I don't care whether
you're black or white
or you come from
Party A or Party B*

-Magu



Colonel
in Prison

Emmanuel Okoyomon
Going... going... go...

Justice for
the Dead



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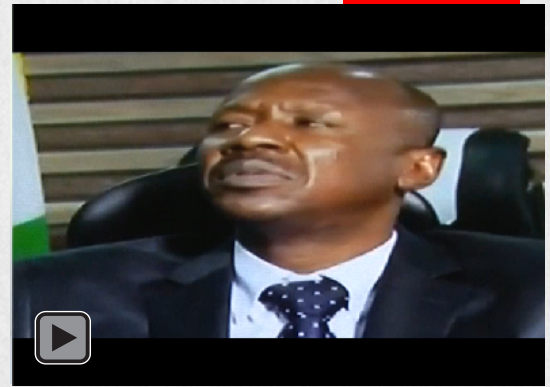
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WORDS ON MARBLE



"Nigerians will continue to see on my watch, a very vigorous war against corruption, because I am convinced that there is no better time than now, to fight and win the war against corruption."

- **Ibrahim Magu**, Acting Chairman, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, at the agency's launch of "Clean Hands" against corruption, Eagle Square, Abuja, May 26, 2016.



"If any Nigerian is serious at all about the necessity for the greatness of the nation, then, he or she must take the fight against corruption seriously."

- **Oby Ezekwesili**, a former Minister of Education and one-time Vice-President of the World Bank, challenging participants at the "Clean Hands" campaign.



"We have found out that the people who lead us did not fall from heaven. They are part and parcel of the society. Therefore, if we want to ensure that we stamp out corruption, then, we have to start from the grassroots."

- **Kayode Oladele**, Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes, stressing the importance of the "Clean Hands" against corruption campaign.



"The focus on the youths, children and students of Nigeria will help a great deal in reorienting our people in ensuring that the values, principles and character that shape man is instilled at that level beyond the shenanigans of what our rulers present to them."

- **Malachy Ugwumadu**, National Chairman, Committee for the Defence of Human Rights, CDHR, admonishing the young ones at the "Clean Hands" against corruption rally.



"We're ready to fight to the end"

Ibrahim Magu, the EFCC boss, speaks on the price of fighting corruption, recovering looted funds, allegations of witch-hunting, among other issues.

Excerpts:

Nigeria a "fraudulently corrupt" country

I wouldn't go beyond the reactions of Mr. President. I think it was most appropriate and you cannot shy away from being called corrupt, because corruption has gone deep. The president's reaction is that 'whatever it is, give me back what has been taken from us'. Of course, London is the capital of money laundering. Most of the stolen monies are hidden there either by way of property, banks or physical cash.

I have an advantage of leading the EFCC now, because what you need most when you're fighting corruption is the political will of the leadership. You will agree with me that Mr. President is not pretending about fighting corruption. You can see that it is in his blood. So we are so lucky to have somebody who is committed, who supports us, who does not interfere with what we are doing; and I mean that. It is good. You can see how we are moving. It is unprecedented.

We don't go after innocent people. We are going after the thieves of state resources.

Halliburton scandal

The Halliburton scandal investigation is on. There were some arrangements that some very senior lawyers were involved. We are investigating every day. Even the last time I was in the US, it was part of the agenda. In the UK, we discussed with the NCA [National Crimes Agency]. So, we are very much on the case.

Witch-hunting and politically motivated prosecution

It's not true at all, because we don't chase innocent people. We conduct

background investigation before we invite suspects. We specialise in financial crimes investigation, which means that we follow the money; to the extent of knowing how you utilised the money; how you distributed the money. We do our homework, before we invite anybody. Sometimes we may be investigating you for a year, or six months, and you wouldn't even know.

There is no sacred cow as far as this fight against corruption is concerned. We will go after anybody who has committed an offence. We will collect the money back, so that it will go back to the treasury, so it can be used for the original purposes. I don't care whether you're black or white or you come from Party A or Party B; the moment it can be established that you have stolen from the public treasury, we will go after you. Even right here [in EFCC], if we discover that you're corrupt, we will kick you out. And we are already doing that. So we don't go after innocent people. We are going after the thieves of state resources.

If we have any reason to keep somebody beyond the time allowed by law, we go to the court and obtain a remand warrant.

Prolonged detention of suspects

Nobody that has met the bail conditions is kept in the cell. We don't do that. Honestly, it doesn't happen here. If we have any reason to keep somebody beyond the time allowed by law, we go to the court and obtain a remand warrant. But sometimes, when you arrest the suspect, on disclosure, you will get additional information from them. For instance, somebody who has stolen state funds to the tune of about \$88 million you do not expect me to let him go like that. It is when you keep them that some of them will oblige and return the money; and it is very important for us to get the money back.

High profile cases

We have recorded about 143 convictions so far, and it is going up and no one single [anti-graft] institution has ever done that. But I agree that with the high profile cases, we have not been able to secure convictions; but with the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015, things are working very well and sooner or later, you will begin to see convictions of politically exposed persons.

Repatriation of stolen funds

Of course, we are working with all the other law enforcement agencies - the Federal Bureau of Investigation, NCA, the Swiss Police, and the Italians as well, and many other people. There are requirements you must enter - the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty, MLAT, with the other countries. We are following the money and we will get them back very soon. But it has to be done within the law. There are procedures, and they are really tedious. But there is an improvement, because

they're willing to issue warrant, they are willing to restrain any account we pointed out. They are willing to also release the property we have traced to their countries. We are also helping them at this end. We are working with the United Arab Emirates, and many countries are now ready to key in, because they realize that fighting corruption is a very serious issue.

Plea bargain

I know plea bargain has a lot of issues, but if it is handled properly, it is not bad. If you happen to cooperate and you don't give us too much problem and we sit down and look at what has been recovered from you, we can agree to entertain plea bargain.

Banks complicit in money laundering allegations

We had a discussion with the governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria and I insisted that this so-called private banking should be stopped. It is illegal. It is wrong.

We are not only going after the personnel of the banks, we are also going after the banks. What happens is that when a staff of the bank is involved in such activities, what the bank does is to take the person out of the system through dismissal. But now, we are going to go after the banks and the personnel used to perpetrate the fraud. It takes two to tango. In fact, very soon you will see us going after the Managing Directors of the banks. We don't care what happens, because the right thing has to be done; because they have given a lot of room for the money laundering activities to thrive. They were used to hide all the stolen money.

Corruption in public service

We have done a lot of work in the area of ghost workers. There is a lot of stealing

It is not only the support of the government, we need the support of everybody.

Very soon, you will see us going after the Managing Directors of the banks

going on. We have been able to block all these leakages. And we are still working with the Ministry of Finance and the office of the Attorney General of the Federation. The aim is to block the leakages first. We are prosecuting some civil servants, and I think people will learn a lesson.

Price of fighting corruption

Corruption is fighting back, and some of the fighting back is coming from government officials. It's very serious; but I've fought corruption, and corruption fought back. I'm still fighting corruption. If it is my portion to lead the corruption fight, particularly under President Muhammadu Buhari, I'm fulfilled. We are ready to fight to the end. Somebody has to do it and I'm happy we are making tremendous progress.

New ideas in fighting corruption

There is no one way of fighting corruption. Of course, basic strategies are there, where you have preliminary investigations. But when it comes to real fight, just like two fighting, the fact that you fought me today, and you are able to beat me does not necessarily mean that you will win tomorrow. So there is no one strategy. And it's not in my place to disclose my strategy.

Government support

Excellent. But it is not only the support of the government, we need the support of everybody. We have launched a media awareness campaign, because some people don't even believe that corruption is wrong. We have the support of the government, and that's why I say our strength now is the political goodwill. ■

(This interview was conducted at the EFCC headquarters, Abuja, with ChannelsTV in May 2016.)

Clean Hands Against Graft

On Thursday, May 26, 2016 the EFCC launched the "Clean Hands" against corruption campaign at the Eagle Square, Abuja, as part of efforts to extend its anti-corruption crusade to the grassroots.

School children also participated in the sensitization programme, which took place simultaneously across the Commission's offices in the zones. Here are images from the launch.



EFCC staff walking against corruption



Magu flanked by Emmanuel Aremo, EFCC's Secretary



EFCC staff in Port Harcourt, Rivers State



Magu confers with Osita Nwajah, Director, EFCC's Public Affairs



Members of Citizen Anti-Corruption Volunteer Corps at the rally



Gombe Youth Corps members join in the campaign



Magu, Aremo and Hajia Larai-Musa, Head, EFCC's Enlightenment and Reorientation Unit



Dignitaries at the rally



Kayode Oladele, Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes



Magu welcomes Ezekwesili to the launch



Students during a march-past at the rally



Physically challenged students at the rally



Integrity Club student members at the launch



Students making a presentation at the rally



Campaigning against corruption in Ibadan, Oyo State

Magu and Wilson Uwujaren,
Head, EFCC's Media and Publicity Unit

Preaching the anti-corruption gospel



Cross-section of participants in Ibadan, Oyo State



Walking against corruption in Lagos



Cross-section of corps members at the rally



Participants in Lagos



EFCC staff at the rally in Abuja

New Vista

The reopened zone of the EFCC in Maiduguri, Borno State, creates a new vista to expand the operations of the agency in the North-East

BY JAMILU SALE // MAIDUGURI

On June 2, 2016, Ibrahim Magu, the EFCC boss, visited the reopened Zonal office of the Commission in Maiduguri, Borno State, as part of efforts to boost the morale of staff at the zone. The visit was also aimed at strengthening the presence of the EFCC, in the North-East region.

A man of many parts, he also used the opportunity to visit camps of the Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs, affected by the insurgency in the region.

He expressed concerns about the lack of transparency and accountability in the use of the resources meant for the IDPs across the country, making the pledge to bring to book any individual culpable in



Magu with staff of the Maiduguri Zonal Office

defrauding the IDPs of what is entitled to them.

"We want to be sure that there is transparency, accountability and judicious use of the money allocated to

Internally Displaced Persons in Maiduguri and elsewhere," he said. "We are gathering intelligence and will ensure that the culprits behind the sufferings in the camps will be invited sooner or later to answer for their actions."

He further gave indications of plans to mobilize women to buy into the fight against corruption.

"I will bring in civil societies and women groups in Borno State in the fight against corruption and we will equally organize a workshop for them similar to the one we did for children in Abuja, so as to educate them on the ills of corruption," he said. ■

Naval Pact

The EFCC hosts ratings of the Nigerian Navy Intelligence School, NNIS, in Lagos, with aim of strengthening cooperation in the fight against oil theft

BY SAMIN AMADDIN

The Lagos Zone of the EFCC, on June 2, 2016, played host to ratings of the Nigerian Navy Intelligence School, NNIS. The visit was to foster collaboration between the two law enforcement agencies and also to get the students acquainted with the activities and workings of the EFCC.

Acting Commandant of the NNIS, Lt. Cdr Sata-Owugha, who led the students to the agency's office in Ikoyi, Lagos commended the agency for its concerted efforts in ridding the country of economic and financial crimes.



Kwarbai and NNIS ratings

Deputy Director and Head of Operations, Lagos Zonal office of the Commission, Iliyasu Kwarbai, intimated

the students of the vision of the agency.

"We want to restore confidence and integrity in business practices and also restore the positive image of our country," he said.

According to Kwarbai, the core values of the EFCC include professionalism, courage, leadership and partnership. He noted that it was essential for the Navy

and the anti-graft agency to strengthen collaboration in the areas of combating oil bunkering, piracy and smuggling related cases. ■



Going... going... go...

A former Managing Director of Nigeria Security Printing and Minting Company, NSPMC, may soon be on his way to the United Kingdom, to face corruption charges

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

It would be the fourth time that he would be losing at a law court. Emmanuel Okoyomon, a former Managing Director of Nigerian Security Printing and Minting Company, NSPMC, whose extradition to the United Kingdom, UK, was on May 4, 2015 ordered by a Federal High Court, Abuja lost again on June 6, 2016.

This time around, his appeal against the May judgment, ordering that he be "extradited within 30 days" of the ruling to face trial in the UK over his role in bribery allegation involving officials of the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, the NSPMC, and Securency International Pty Ltd of Australia, was unanimously turned down by a three-man panel of the Court of Appeal.

It was a big blow for a man of means, who has since the judgement of Justice E. S. Chukwu (of blessed memory), remained at the Kuje Prison, Abuja. Rather than accept the ruling in good faith, Okoyomon, understandably, chose to

employ all means available by law to stop his extradition; but all such efforts, seem to be akin to pouring water in a basket.

Shortly after the ruling, Okoyomon, through his counsel, Alex Izinyon, SAN, approached the Court of Appeal, seeking for a stay of execution of the Federal High Court order. Through his other counsel, Mike Enaharo, he also approached a Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court, Apo, Abuja, presided over by Justice Valentine Ashi, seeking to be granted bail from prison.

On September 11, 2015 Justice Ashi, dismissed his application for bail, describing it as "an abuse of court process".

Not satisfied, Okoyomon took yet another bail application to the Court of Appeal, seeking for his release from prison pending execution of an extradition order, which he was already challenging. But on November 19, 2015 the Justice Datti Yahaya-led panel, threw

out the application, deeming it as an abuse of court process.

The final straw that has broken the camel's back is apparently the June 6, 2016 ruling of the Court of Appeal, which upheld the Federal High Court's judgment. The three-man panel led by Justice Moore Ademein, citing Sections 1 and 2 of the Extradition Act 2004, ruled that: "The lower court was right to have acted the way it did so as to avoid a situation whereby Nigeria could breach its obligations to threshold Commonwealth country, the UK. Since the threshold issues in this appeal have been resolved against the appellant, this appeal ought to be dismissed. Accordingly, this appeal is hereby dismissed."

However, while Okoyomon awaits his extradition, an alleged accomplice, Peter Chapman, former manager of Securency International Pty Ltd, extradited from Brazil to the UK in April 2015, was on May 12, 2016 convicted by a Southwark Crown Court. ■

Colonel in Prison

A retired Colonel is to spend next seven years in jail for a land fraud

BY THERESA NWOSU // ENUGU

A 62-year-old retired Colonel, Eugene Okpala, is now experiencing first hand, the other side of life as an inmate in a Nigerian prison.

Justice F. N. Yunusa of the Federal High Court, Enugu, Enugu State, on May 25, 2016 sentenced him to seven years imprisonment in a case of conspiracy and obtaining by false pretence to tune of N34.5 million, brought against him by the EFCC.

In 2008, Okpala had approached Vincent Obetta, a lawyer with Igwurube Chambers, who is also a member of Dominion City Church, under the pretext of having "a large portion of land" for sale at N40 million.

The church through Obetta negotiated



Okpala

and bought the land from him for N34.5 million. The church also paid additional N1,750,000 being five per cent of the sum as agency fee to Igwurube Chambers.

In September 2010, the church started developing the land, when another lawyer challenged them. The church then petitioned the EFCC, which subsequently launched an investigation.

It was discovered that the land belonged to Chief Philip Asiodu and that the documents which Okpala had tendered, claiming possession of the land, were forged.

Okpala, had pleaded "not guilty" when he was arraigned on January 17, 2013, but on May 25, 2016, he changed his plea to "guilty".

Consequently, Justice Yunusa sentenced him to seven years imprisonment. ■

Justice for the Dead

A banker is to spend time in jail for stealing from the dormant bank account of a deceased customer

BY HILDA FINGESI // LAGOS

For Olawale Garuba, a staff of a new generation bank, the enormity of his criminal escapades finally sunk in when Justice Oluwatoyin Ipaye of the Lagos State High Court, on June 9, 2016 sentenced him to 39 years in prison, after finding him guilty of stealing from the dead.

Garuba was arraigned alongside six others in July 2015 for conspiring among themselves to steal over N30 million from the account of a dead customer of the bank. The fraud was uncovered by the bank's management, when they discovered that some of their staff, including the convict had connived with proxies to steal from the customer's dormant account. They were apprehended and handed over to the



Garuba

EFCC for investigation and prosecution. Upon their arraignment, they pleaded not guilty to the 18 counts of fraud. The trial judge had refused their bail application

and remanded them in prison custody. On June 2, 2016 Garuba changed his plea from "not guilty" to "guilty".

Justice Ipaye found him guilty on 13 out of the 18 counts.

"I have no sympathy for him as he compromised his position as a banker to steal from a deceased customer whose money would have been used by the family she left behind," the trial judge said. "He allowed his greed to overcome him and risk losing the job that thousands of job seekers are craving for."

Garuba was sentenced to three years imprisonment on each count. They are to run concurrently from July 24, 2015 - the date he was detained. ■

Rot in NIMASA

The trial of a former director general of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA, unfurls ingrained rot in the agency

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

With the judgement of Omatseye, all eyes are now on the judiciary, as focus shifts to trial of Akpobolokemi, Obi and Jauro.



Akpobolokemi

The financial fraud that has so far been unearthed in the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA, is damning. What with the fact that its erstwhile director general, Patrick Akpobolokemi, is currently being prosecuted by the EFCC on six different charges bordering on embezzlement, misappropriation of funds, and money laundering.

Akpobolokemi's predecessor, Temisan Omatseye, was on May 20, 2016 sentenced to five years in prison, by a Federal High Court, Lagos. The presiding judge, Justice Rita Ofili-Ajumogobia, found him guilty of 25 out of the 27 counts brought against him by the EFCC for a N1.5 billion contract scam.

Two weeks after Omatseye bagged his five-year jail term, Akpobolokemi once again, was put in the dock at a Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos, on a fresh set of charges brought against him by the EFCC. This time around, he was arraigned along with Major General Emmanuel Atewe, a former Commander of Guards Brigade, and erstwhile Commander of the Joint Military Task Force, codenamed *Operation Pulo Shield*. The 11-count charge brought against them and two others - Kime

Engozu and Josephine Otuaga, bordered on conspiracy, abuse of office and money laundering. They are alleged to have diverted N8,537,586,798.59 meant for the agency, to private use. Atewe was on June 10, 2016 sacked by the Nigerian Army.

Even Calistus Obi, Akpobolokemi's successor, who acted as DG for about a week apparently fell into similar pitfalls. On June 8, 2016 Obi was arraigned on an eight-count charge before a Federal High Court, Lagos. He is alleged to have pocketed N378,810,000 belonging to NIMASA.

And then, there is Haruna Baba Jauro, who stepped into the office after the sacking of Obi. Jauro, who is facing a 19-count charge brought against him by the EFCC, was arraigned before a Federal High Court, Lagos, on April 12, 2016. He is complicit in a N156 million fraud, which was uncovered during the investigation of Akpobolokemi.

With the judgement of Omatseye, all eyes are now on the judiciary, as focus shifts to trial of Akpobolokemi, Obi and Jauro.

Perhaps, NIMASA, with reference to analogy of a former President, fits into the parable of the goat and the tubers of yam.



Omatseye



Baba Jauro

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anywhere,
anytime.*



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