



VOL 5 NO 3 | MARCH 2016

EFCCALERT!

A PUBLICATION OF THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES COMMISSION

THE VERDICT

A Word for the Bar

There is no blanket condemnation
of lawyers and judges



THE TEAM

Editor-in-Chief:

Osita Nwajah

Editor:

Wilson Uwujaren

Assistant Editors:

Dele Oyewale

Williams Oseghale

Tony Orilade

Babatunde Sulaiman

Segun Adeoye

Bureau Chiefs:

Samin Amaddin

Innocent Ogbu

Fatima Abubakar

Deborah Mezeh

Theresa Nwosu

Photo Editors:

Monday Emoni

Franklyn Ogunleye

Production Editors:

Rolake Odofin-Jolayemi

Adeleye Sodade

CONTENTS

A Word for the Bar 3

In a show of camaraderie, the EFCC boss, Ibrahim Magu, reassures members of the Bar of the anti-graft agency's support



EFCC Not Involved 3

Building Bridges 4

Self-Examination 5

UN Support 7

Mending Fences 7

Be on Guard! 8

9 Omatseye: Judgement Day Beckons

9 Academic Crooks

10 Essien goes to Jail

10 Graduate of Fraud

11 Fraudulent Deal

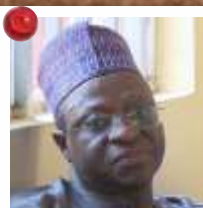
11 Tricky Transaction

EFCC ALERT! is a monthly e-magazine published by the Media Unit of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is accepted as long as it is duly credited.

Editorial contributions including photographs are welcome. Mail should be sent to:

The Editor, **EFCC ALERT!**,
5, Fomella Street, Wuse Zone 2, Abuja, Nigeria. OR 15A, Awolowo Road, Ikoyi, Lagos
Email: alert@efccnigeria.org
Tel: +234-9-6441102; 6441107;
234-1-2692631

PINBOARD



Joshua Dariye
Ex-Plateau State Governor
Offence: money laundering
In Court on April 5, 2016
Justice Adebukola Banjoko,
FCT High Court, Gudu, Abuja



Sambo Dasuki
Ex-National Security Adviser
Offence: money laundering,
criminal breach of trust
In Court on: April 6, 2016
Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf,
FCT High Court, Maitama, Abuja



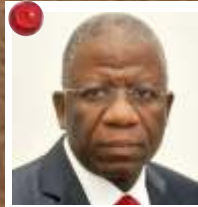
Olisa Metuh
PDP Spokesperson
Offence: money laundering
In Court on April 8, 2016
Justice Okon Abang,
Federal High Court, Abuja



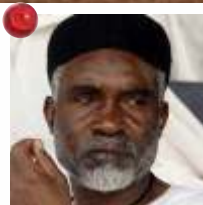
Joseph Nwobike
Senior Advocate of Nigeria
Offence: Offering gratification
and attempting to pervert
course of justice
In Court on April 11, 2016
Justice R.I.B. Adebisi,
Lagos State High Court



Sani Lulu Abdullahi
Ex-President, Nigeria Football Federation
Offence: diversion of public
funds
In Court on: April 12, 2016
Justice E. Chukwu,
Federal High Court, Abuja



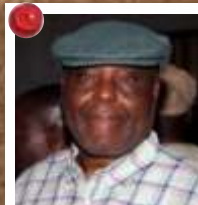
Stephen Oronsaye
Ex-Head of Service of the Federation
Offence: criminal breach of trust
In Court on: April 13, 2016
Justice Olasumbo Goodluck,
FCT High Court, Maitama, Abuja



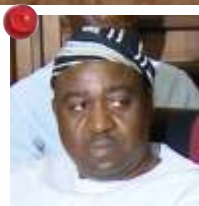
Murtala Nyako
Ex-Adamawa State Governor
Offence: criminal conspiracy,
stealing, abuse of office and
money laundering
In Court on April 22, 2016
Justice E. Chukwu,
Federal High Court, Abuja



Abba Moro
Ex-Minister of Interior
Offence: money laundering
In Court on April 27, 2016
Justice Anwuli Chikere,
Federal High Court, Abuja



Raymond Dokpesi
Former Chairman, DAAR Communications Plc.
Offence: money laundering and
procurement-related fraud
In Court on April 28, 2016
Justice J.T. Tsoho,
Federal High Court, Abuja



Gabriel Suswam
Ex-Benue State Governor
Offence: Money Laundering
and abuse of office
In Court on April 28, 2016
Justice A.R. Mohammed,
Federal High Court, Abuja

THE VERDICT

A Word for the Bar

In a show of camaraderie, the EFCC boss, Ibrahim Magu, reassures members of the Bar of the anti-graft agency's support

The acting Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ibrahim Magu has reassured lawyers and judges that comments attributed to him in recent media reports regarding the conduct of judicial officials, was not intended at impugning their integrity.

According to him, his comments, and activities of the Commission, should not be interpreted to mean a blanket indictment of all lawyers and judges but, rather directed at a few bad eggs within the system.

"There is no way one can make a blanket statement on the integrity of lawyers and judges. Nigeria is blessed with some of the best lawyers and judges on the African continent. My worry is that the bad ones amongst them are giving the good ones a bad name", he said.

He emphasized that the Commission deeply appreciates the support of most



Magu

conscientious, upright and patriotic members of the bar and bench (including defence counsels), leading to the Commission's unbeaten prosecution and conviction record.

Magu stated further that, mindful of the fact that judges are constrained from publicly responding to criticism against them, the Commission only employs legal and administrative procedures, including investigation of errant judicial officers and laying complaints against them before the National Judicial Council (NJC).

The EFCC boss invites all patriotic members of the bar and the bench to join the renewed campaign against corruption and money laundering, while exposing the corrupt among them.

"There is no blanket condemnation of lawyers and judges", he reiterated, "But, the corrupt few will not be spared." ■

Nigeria is blessed with some of the best lawyers and judges on the African continent.

EFCC Not Involved!

The attention of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission has been drawn to media reports on the decision of Justice Abdul Kafarati of the Federal High Court, Abuja to decline ruling in the fundamental human rights enforcement case brought before him by Senate President, Bukola Saraki.

The judge blamed his decision to disqualify himself from the case on a Tuesday March 21, 2016 report in an online news medium, alleging that he had been bribed to rule in Saraki's favour. Justice Kafarati, according to reports in **Thisday** Newspaper of March

23, 2016 claimed the online platform quoted the EFCC as the source of its information.

Against this background, it has become necessary to state that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC had no hand in the report which is entirely the figment of the author's imagination.

All allusions to the Commission's investigation or documents in the said publication should be disregarded. At no time did the EFCC share intelligence or reveal the content of any dossier it may have on any judge for that matter

with any media organization either in Nigeria or abroad.

The Commission wishes to state for the umpteenth time, that it believes in the rule of law and will not take extra-legal measures to ridicule or embarrass any member of the public that may or may not be under investigation. The court is the final arbiter in cases of corruption. What the law expects of the Commission, which it has been doing, is to charge people investigated and indicted of any offence under the relevant laws to court. There is no other way. ■

Building Bridges

Efforts by the EFCC to widen its support base are yielding fruits as more stakeholders show solidarity with the agency

BY SEGUN ADEOYE



Magu, delegates of the Parliamentary Committee on International Development and other management staff

It would not be the first time that a delegation from the British government would visit the EFCC. But, when a delegation from the United Kingdom, UK, under the aegis of the Parliamentary Committee on International Development, on March 2, 2016 visited the EFCC headquarters, it was to give the agency a thumbs up for its concerted efforts to rid the country of economic and financial crimes.

Stephen Twigg, who led the delegation that included Jeremy Lefroy, member of the Parliament for Stafford Constituency; Wendy Morton, member of Parliament for Aldridge Brownhills; Viendra Sharma, member of Parliament for Ealing Southall; Helen Pruant, an MP; Dr. Lisa Cameron, MP; Albert Owen, MP and Steven Ayres, noted that the visit was also to seek ways it would assist the agency, particularly in the completion of its permanent site.

"We are satisfied with the activities of the Commission in the fight against corruption and we want to encourage you to be steadfast in the vision to make Nigeria a corrupt free nation," Twigg said.

The EFCC boss, Ibrahim Magu, who received the delegation, used the opportunity to appreciate and reiterate the

unflagging support that the agency has benefited from the UK government since its inception in 2003.

"The first fund received by the EFCC was from the British government and the fund was instrumental in the building of the EFCC Academy," he said, noting that the agency needed more support especially for it to keep abreast with modern investigative techniques to combat corruption, which in recent times has become "borderless".

The anti-graft czar led the delegation to the permanent site of the anti-graft agency's uncompleted head office building, which has been

under construction since 2010.

Lawyers' support

Human rights lawyers, Femi Falana, SAN, and Jiti Ogunye, on February 18, 2016 led lawyers with progressive pedigrees to the EFCC Lagos office in Ikoyi, where they met Magu, to express support for the agency's anti-corruption crusade.

"We are embarrassed by a few of our privileged colleagues who bribe judges, and talk to them behind closed doors to pervert justice," Falana said. "We are here to assure the EFCC

We are satisfied with the activities of the Commission in the fight against corruption

-Twigg

of our solidarity as the EFCC is prepared to fight graft without a trace of selectivity.”

Expressing unflinching support for the EFCC, Falana urged the agency to “name and shame criminal-minded judges and lawyers”.

“Any lawyer found to have aided and abetted corruption should be dealt with in accordance with the law,” he said.

Magu commended the lawyers for their support and stated his commitment to sustain the fight against economic and financial crimes.

“I am not afraid of anything. I prefer to die fighting corruption if need be,” he declared. ■



Femi Falana, SAN; Osita Nwajah, Director, PAD, and Ag. Executive Chairman, Ibrahim Magu

Self-Examination

The EFCC holds a three-day retreat to chart a new path in the fight against corruption

BY BABATUNDE SULAIMAN



Secretary to the Commission, Emmanuel Aremo; Ag. Commandant, David Tukura; Chief Judge, FCT High Court, Justice Ishaq Bello; Ag. Executive Chairman, Ibrahim Magu; Director, Organizational Support, Bolaji Salami

Call it a moment of brain work and you won't be wrong. This aptly captures the recently held Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, retreat at the EFCC Academy, Karu, Abuja between March 17 and 19, 2016. Indeed, for participants, particularly the management and staff of the EFCC, the three-day retreat couldn't have come at a more auspicious time.

Justices Joseph Oyewole of the Court of Appeal, Calabar, Cross River State, and Ishaq Bello of the FCT High Court set the tone for deliberation with two-thought provoking papers. While Oyewole spoke on “Overcoming the obstacles to the successful prosecution of politically exposed persons”, Bello

dwelt on “The pitfalls of the EFCC prosecution strategy: Towards a better approach”.

The EFCC's acting Chairman, Ibrahim Magu, used the opportunity to review the Commission's work and formulate new strategies to take the fight against corruption in Nigeria to greater heights. He lamented the rather uninspiring chapter in the annals of the Commission. In his opening remarks titled “Sustaining the EFCC As the Top Anti-Corruption Agency in Nigeria”, Magu, disclosed that he assumed the leadership of the EFCC at a time it was being diminished by scandalous reports and portrayed as weak. He, however, noted that the Commission had received both commendations and

We must evolve strategies to deny the corrupt and powerful the media space they need to legitimise their crimes against the Nigerian people.

criticisms in equal measure in the area of prosecution of cases. According to him, the need to secure more convictions in the Economic Governance, EG, cases over Advance Fee Fraud-related ones had become most urgent because Nigerians consider them as the "source of resource hemorrhage".

He said: "For instance, by the third quarter of 2012, the EFCC had secured convictions, which are outstanding by any measure. However, most of these convictions were Advance Fee Fraud, AFF, cases. This simply means that we are not catching the big fish.

"For instance, between 2011 and 2014, we recorded 591 convictions in Advance Fee Fraud and related cases. In the EG and Money Laundering cases, we had only 60 convictions in the same period. There was a 354.6 per cent gap between EG and AFF convictions."

Magu also used the platform to dispel allegations of media trial levelled against the Commission. Such comments, according to him, are baseless.



Justice Joseph Oyewole



Hon. Kayode Oladele

He lauded the role of the media in the work of the EFCC, added that none of the accused persons currently being prosecuted was charged to court without painstaking investigations. "I believe that we must approach the media with a proactive strategy, especially a strategy that can anticipate and mitigate attempts by our enemies to degrade the work of the EFCC. I expect the participants at the syndicate session on media to suggest ways to increase the buy-in of the Nigerian people in the war against corruption. We must evolve strategies to deny the corrupt and powerful the media space they need to legitimise their crimes against the Nigerian people. The fight for the minds of Nigerians is one we cannot afford to lose," he stated.

Speaking at the event, Hon. Kayode Oladele, Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes, expressed optimism that the bill seeking an amendment to the EFCC Act 2004 would empower the Commission to effectively discharge its statutory mandate of fighting corruption.

Oladele also stated that staff welfare was being taken into consideration, with insurance coverage for all staff and the possibility of 0.1 percent retention of proceeds from all recoveries made by the EFCC.

One of the highlights of the memorable event, which was graced by a number of eminent personalities, was the engaging discussions by several syndicate groups on burning issues, including "Lopsided successes in the prosecution of cases with marked regression in the prosecution of cases against politically exposed persons"; "Building a united workforce"; "Building effective administration" and "Creating a proactive media strategy." ■

ADDITIONAL REPORT BY **ROLAKE ODOFIN-JOLAYEMI**

UN Support

The UNODC, a long-term partner of the EFCC seeks more ways to assist the agency in the effective discharge of its mandate

BY BETHEL UDE

The delegation to the EFCC Abuja headquarters on March 9, 2016 would not be the first of its kind, but it was a gesture that has reinforced the commitment of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes, UNODC, to partner with the agency in fighting economic and financial crimes.

Head, Programme Support Unit of the UNODC, and project co-ordinator of the Support to Anti-Corruption in Nigeria, Polleak Ok Serei, who led the delegation, stressed that the anti-corruption crusade of the EFCC was going to be given full support for it to succeed.

"This project would include capacity building, training of staff of the Commission and other anti-corruption

agencies in Nigeria," he said.

He explained that the visit was also to share with the EFCC its 2016 work plan,

media personnel of anti-graft agencies in the country, he said, "The project will also assist the EFCC's international cooperation in asset recovery matters".



Magu, Serei, delegates from UNODC and other management staff

for the agency to key into it such that "the EFCC can present its propositions to enable us work with the agency better".

Noting that the UNODC intends to train

Describing the UNODC as "the longest lasting partner of the EFCC", the agency's boss, Ibrahim Magu, commended the efforts of the UNODC, adding that: "our most pressing need is accommodation, because we pay so much as rent annually and our rented apartments do not give room for confidentiality and security."

The delegation included the Project Expert and Deputy Project Coordinator, Jesse Wachanga, and the National Project Officer (Capacity Building) of the Support to Anti-Corruption in Nigeria, Femi Ajayi. ■

Mending Fences

Bureaux de change operators in the country pledge support for the EFCC's anti-corruption crusade

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

The last time members of the association of Bureaux de Change operators in Nigeria visited the EFCC headquarters, was on January 5, 2016 and they received a stern warning from the EFCC boss, Ibrahim Magu, who expressed concerns over the involvement of their members in the now infamous \$2.1 billion arms deal scandal.

Magu had said: "There are fraudulent involvements of Bureaux de Change operators in the arms deal scandal. There are reports of some of your members withdrawing as much as N500million in two, three, four tranches in this arms deal scam."

Magu had noted that such a development was "very worrisome", and drastic measures needed to be put in place to check it.

When on March 3, 2016 the association's chairman, Aminu Gwadabe, came on another visit, it was on a rather reconciliatory tone, as he used the opportunity to pledge support for the EFCC's fight against corruption.

"We want to align with the boost recorded so far in the economy as a result of the unrelenting efforts of the EFCC to fight corruption," he said.

He lamented that the naira was weakened by unearned income and high demand for foreign exchange used for money laundering activities.

"We are, therefore, working on a system that will enable the EFCC and the NFIU



Gwadabe and Magu

monitor the buying and selling of foreign exchange by Bureaux de Change operators," he said.

Magu commended the association for the new initiative, urging its members not to rest on their oars in the bid to rid the country of economic and financial crimes. ■

Be on Guard!

Beware, unscrupulous individuals are exploiting the EFCC's anti-corruption crusade by deploying various means to intimidate, exploit and deceive innocent individuals into parting with their hard-earned money.

Seeking for funds

It has come to the notice of the EFCC that some fraudsters are using the agency to solicit for funds, deceiving unsuspecting members of the public that the EFCC is seeking for financial assistance.

Such unscrupulous individuals exploit the internet technology by sending out crafty emails seeking for funds. They use email addresses that bear close resemblance to the official EFCC email address – efccfraudalert@hotmail.com or info@efcc.org. The email also includes a phone number purportedly for individuals who want to support the agency to call.

One of such fraudulent links is – <http://avoidingnigerianscams.com/2015/12/15/contact-the-eagle-now-efcc/>

The email usually concludes with a request for the recipient to provide further personal details to one Mr. Alan Maka.

In other instances, they clone social media platforms designing them to make them look like authentic EFCC platforms, all with the intent of using the medium to solicit for funds.

It should be stated that anyone who "does business" with such, would be doing so at his or her own risk.

The EFCC is urging members of the society to dismiss any such request as the anti-graft agency, being a reputable organization with the mandate of fighting corruption, does not solicit for funds in such manner, as there are existing partnerships with donor agencies within and outside of the country.

Fake job vacancies

The EFCC wishes to also alert the general public about the activities of some



unscrupulous elements who have cashed in on the plan by the agency to increase its staff strength to defraud unsuspecting job seekers.

Their modus operandi is to use online portals to publish advertisements in the guise of being mandated by the EFCC to recruit.

One of such advertisements appeared in Forum Nigeria, with the link, <http://forumng.com/ng/forum/279564/nigeria-efcc-recruitment-> informing job seekers that "application form is out", and advising them to contact a GSM number, for further information and registration guideline.

The Commission wishes to dissociate itself from any such advertorials, whether via online or mobile platforms. For the avoidance of doubt, there is no recruitment currently going on at the agency.

Members of the public are therefore, advised to be wary of such vacancy announcements, which make monetary demands in exchange for job placement. Vacancies in the Commission are normally advertised in major newspapers

or on our official website <http://www.efccnigeria.org/> and not through proxy or online portals.

Fake bank threats

It has also come to the attention of the EFCC that some individuals now send out "threats" to bank owners via email and phone numbers, threatening them that their bank accounts are under investigation by the agency for fraud. Such email then requests them to provide their bank details for further action.

The anti-graft agency is urging that such should be dismissed as the EFCC has standard procedures for investigating any financial irregularities linked to any individual suspected of involvement in any shady deals.

Help us to help you

To avoid the path of being defrauded, endeavour to ensure a high level of circumspection.

Call any of our hotlines **08093322644**; **08183322644** or send an email to: info@efccnigeria.org whenever you need clarification. ■

Omatseye: Judgement Day Beckons

The die is cast as a Federal High Court is set to deliver ruling in a fraud case involving a former Director General of NIMASA

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

Come May 9, 2016 Temisan Omatseye, a former Director General, DG, of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA, will know his fate in a 27-count charge brought against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

That day, Justice Rita Ofili- Ajumogobia is expected to deliver judgement in a case of fraud involving contract variation, bid rigging and awarding of contract above limit.

Omatseye, who was suspended as NIMASA DG in December 2010 was first arraigned in February 2011 on an 11-count charge of unlawfully transferring £300,000 from NIMASA's Barclays Bank, London to fund campaign of one



Omatseye

Mbanefo, who was reported to be aspiring to be the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization.

Following further investigations by the EFCC, however, the charges were

withdrawn and replaced with the amended 27-count charge on June 13, 2012.

He had tried fruitlessly to get the charges thrown out. He, in fact, pointed accusing fingers at the then Attorney General of the Federation, AGF, Mohammed Adoke, of orchestrating the trial to "persecute" him; but the trial judge would have none of it, having on February 2, 2015 dismissed his application for a no-case submission, on the grounds that it lacked merit.

On March 14, 2016 counsel to both the defence and the prosecution made their final addresses and adopted them. Justice Ofili- Ajumogobia, thereafter asked all parties to come back on May 9, 2016 when she would deliver her ruling. ■

Academic Crooks

Six management staff of the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital's Multipurpose Cooperative Society to answer for a N185 million fraud linked to them

Ordinarily, Kabuk Dauda, Nuruddeen Mohammed, Cecelia Jatau, Abdulrazak Garba and Abdulkadir Danyaro, all members of the management of the Multipurpose Cooperative Society of the Non-Academic Staff Union, NASU, Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, ABUTH, Zaria, Kaduna State, ought to have been contented with their salaries and allowances. But from all indications, they had their eyes set on other things, so much so that they are now being prosecuted for N185 million fraud.

The case was reported to the Commission by the Chief Medical Director of ABUTH, Prof Lawal Khalid.

He alleged that sometime in 2013, First City Monument Bank, Zaria branch

granted N185 million loan to Multipurpose Cooperative Society of NASU ABUTH Zaria and the fund was later disbursed by the society to the beneficiaries for subsequent repayment in full with interest within 24 months.

The management of ABUTH guaranteed only the deduction from the beneficiaries' salary for the monthly repayment and remittance to the Society's account at the Bank which will enable FCMB to recover its money. Following complaints of over deduction of repayment by some beneficiaries, an internal investigation was conducted which discovered that N27,211,486.66 could not be accounted for. Subsequently, the ABUTH management constituted an ad-hoc committee on the issue which recommended that the sum



The Culprits

of N25,5387,798.60 should be recovered from the officials of the society.

The accused persons were arrested by the EFCC operatives. Investigations later revealed that they were complicit in the disbursement and pricing of the loan by increasing the interest rates in order to gain monetary advantage and loss to beneficiary members.

They currently enjoy bail and would be in court on April 12, 2016 for their trial to commence. ■

Essien Goes to Jail

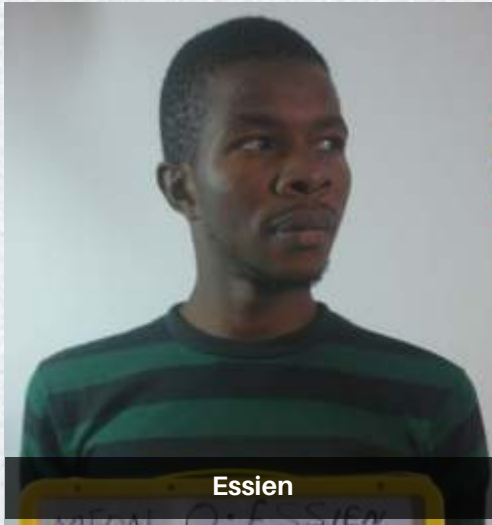
A trickster involved in an international web of fraud is sentenced to seven years in prison

Mfon Obot Essien has many aliases and, understandably, it is for cunning purposes. He is known as David Morris, and at the same time as Femi James.

By the time you are reading this, Essien would have started his seven-year jail term, having been found guilty by Justice R. A. Adebisi of a Lagos State High Court, sitting in Igbosere, on a six-count charge preferred against him by the EFCC.

He was convicted for attempting to defraud the family of one Shaliseon Warren by claiming that their daughter Shaliseon was kidnapped and the kidnappers were demanding a ransom of \$7,000.

His journey to prison started when the EFCC received a petition dated July 29, 2013, from the United States Department of Homeland Security, seeking its assistance to "investigate a transnational criminal organisation involved in drug smuggling, money laundering and fraud activities".



Essien

The petition stated that a family, whose daughter travelled to Argentina, got a call from her boyfriend that they had both been kidnapped and a ransom of \$7,000 was demanded by the kidnappers who wanted the money sent to their associates in Nigeria with the following details "David Morris, 302 Apapa Expressway, Ikeja Lagos".

Essien was arrested on September 5, 2013 at the Ikota branch of Access Bank Plc after identifying himself as David Morris.

Upon his arrest incriminating documents were found in his possession, including a forged Driver's License bearing the name James Femi but with his picture.

Further investigation revealed that on July 26, 2013, Essien received the sum of N237,537.68k from one Mark Mentor with another forged Driver's License bearing the name David Morris but with his picture having falsely represented himself to the said Mark Mentor as David Morris.

Upon his arraignment on December 17, 2013, the convict pleaded "not guilty" to all the charges but later changed his plea on November 24, 2015 to amended information.

The sentences are to run concurrently, starting from the date of his arrest. ■

Graduate of Fraud

A graduate of the Bayero University Kano faces the wrath of the law for allegedly duping an intending traveller to the tune of N1.3 million in a visa scam

For Khalid Ahmad Umar, he thought his prayers for travelling round the world had been answered when he met Abdulaziz Abdullahi Eleyeye, a graduate of Bayero University Kano, BUK; but alas, it was the beginning of his woe.

Umar dreamt of travelling to see the Statue of Liberty in the United States, among other monuments in France, South Africa, Qatar, and Canada. Somehow, his paths crossed those of Eleyeye in Kano, who promised to make his dream come true by helping him to process his travel documents.

Eleyeye who was arrested by EFCC operatives on June 17, 2014 in Lagos, according to Umar, defrauded him to the tune of N1.3 million.



Eleyeye

The said amount was to be used for procuring America Visa for the victim.

According to Umar, having no doubt of Eleyeye who claimed to be a travel agent, he paid the said sum into the accused person's account domiciled in three new

generation banks.

Umar claimed that when he was denied visa, after an interview at the United States Embassy, Eleyeye rather than come out clean, urged him to re-apply, this time for Kuwaiti visa.

The scales on his eyes cleared when he was deported from the Kuwait International Airport back to Nigeria on the grounds that, the travel documents he presented were forged. It was only then that he realized he had all along been a victim of a fraudster.

His trial before Justice J. K. Omotosho of the Federal High Court sitting in Kano on a one count charge bordering on obtaining by false pretence, is ongoing. ■

CRIME

Fraudulent Deal

The EFCC nabs two land scammers who had defrauded their victim to the tune of N64m

BY FATIMAH ABUBAKAR // KANO

Theirs is yet another addition to the growing cases of land scam that the EFCC has had to "book" in its long list of fraudsters who specialise in defrauding unknown suspects eager to become land owners.

By the time the EFCC nabbed the duo of Essien Ekanem, a Kaduna-based lawyer and Murtala Shariff, they had succeeded in duping a victim to the tune of N64 million.

They were however, on March 1, 2016 made to account for their mischief before Justice Tukur Muazu of Kaduna State.

Arraigned on a nine-count charge bordering on conspiracy, criminal breach of trust and obtaining money by false

pretence, the duo conspired with four others, who are currently at large, forged documents and sold a plot of land located at 5 Kwato Road, Unguwar Rimi GRA, Kaduna belonging to Col. A. B. Umar (deceased), to one Alhaji Ibrahim Idris of 6 Kwato Road, Unguwar Rimi GRA, Kaduna at the cost of N64 million.

They are alleged to have conspired with Cletus Iliya, David Michael (at large), and one Joel (at large) sometime in August 2010 and September 2011 in Kaduna to commit the unlawful act.

The accused persons pleaded "not guilty" to all the charges when they were read to them in court.



NAME: Murtala Shariff

Justice Muazu adjourned the trial to April 14, 2016 to allow time for the prosecution to arrest the culprits who are still at large, or to apply for a separate trial.

He also granted the second accused person bail in the sum of N1m and one well known surety within the jurisdiction of the court. The first accused person, already serving jail term, is to be brought on the next adjourned date from prison for commencement of trial. ■

Tricky Transaction

Mother and son who defrauded an intending car owner to the tune of N3 million face the music

BY BELLO BAJOGA // KANO

Asabe Abdulkareem, and her son, Mubaraq Abdulkareem, both directors of ISKA Gas and Petroleum Nigeria Limited, will forever rue the day they connived to dupe a customer, Al-Amin Abba Dabo, in the guise of helping him to purchase choice vehicles.

Sometime in November 2013, Dabo was said to have transferred \$7,000 into the company account of Abdulkareem in Century Path Nigeria Limited for the importation of some cars – Mercedes Benz C300, 2014 model, Mercedes Benz CLA 250, 2015 and Range Rover Vogue) from Canada into Nigeria.

Abdulkareem, who is currently on the run, had also in February 2014 collected N3 million from Dabo, for the purchase of a Range Rover Vogue. Alas, neither were



NAME: ASABE ABDUL
OFFENCE: ATTEMPTED OBT

the vehicles delivered, nor the money refunded back to Dabo.

When it dawned on Dabo that he had been duped, he subsequently petitioned the EFCC, which swung into action.

One of the charges against them reads: "That you Asabe Abdulkareem and Mubarak Abdulkareem (now at large) both being Directors in ISKA Gas and Petroleum Nigeria Limited sometime

between February 20 and February 24, 2014 at Kano within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court with intent to defraud obtained via your Guarantee Trust Bank account number 0142461447 from one Al-Amin Abba Dabo the sum of N3 million for the purpose of buying a described car for him thus: Range Rover Vogue from Canada, which you did not and knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 1(1)(a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."

Abdulkareem pleaded not guilty to the charges when she was arraigned before Justice Y. N. Galadanci of the Kano State High Court. Her son and accomplice is currently on the run.

The trial continues on April 21, 2016. ■



Launder and go under.
EFCC will smoke you out!

www.efccnigeria.org

