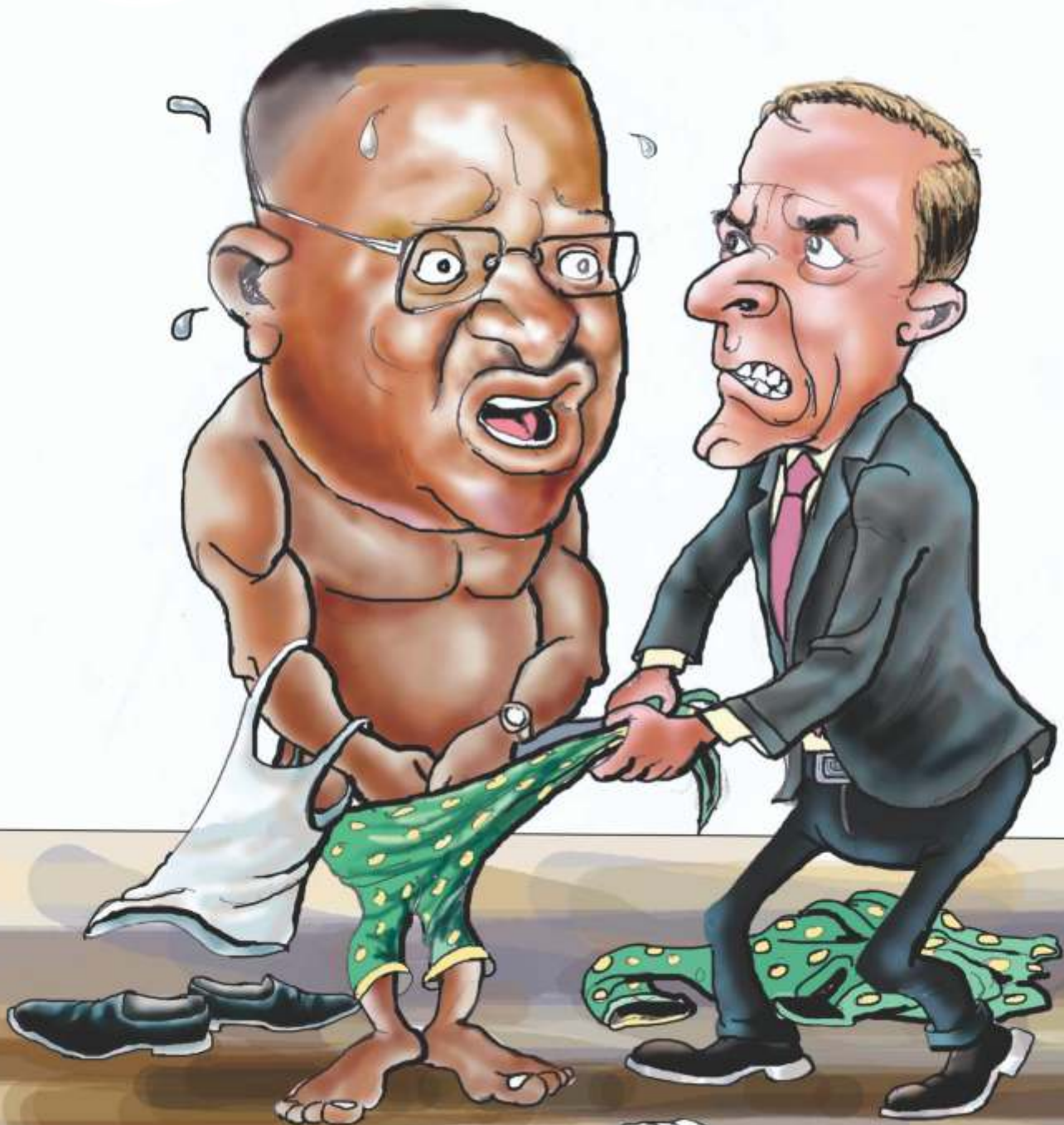




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EFCC ALERT!

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Roasting Dariye



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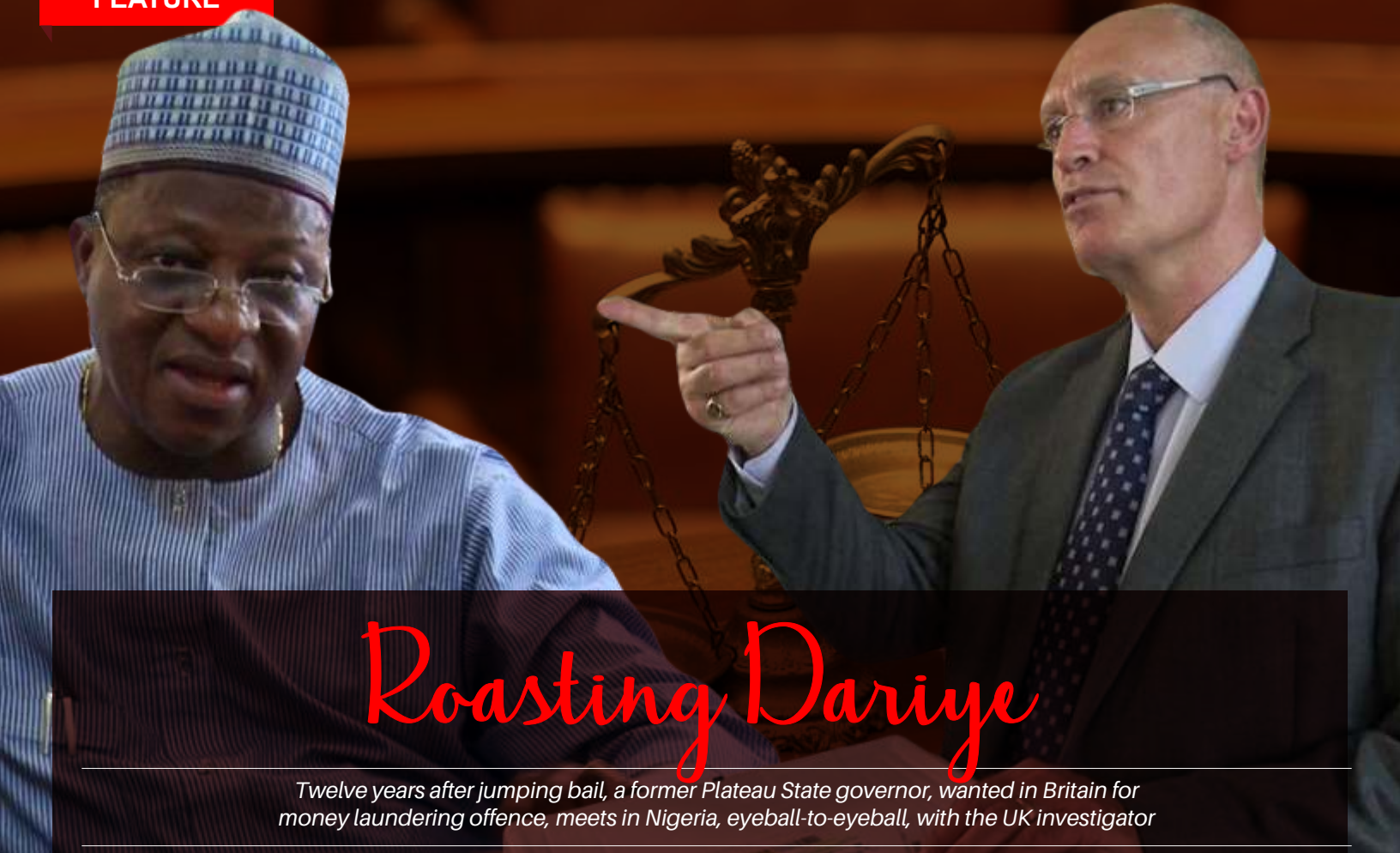
LEXICON

Shell Company

The 11.5 million files and 2.6 terabytes of information leaked from the Panama-based law firm, Mossack Fonseca, uncovering a ring of suspected money laundering activities involving the rich across the globe, including Nigeria, has thrown up a new, but rather old lexicon – *Shell Company*. At the center of the leak are 214,000 shell companies related to the law firm.

USAGE: As the name suggests, a shell company is used to describe a company that has the outward appearance of being a legitimate business. It is however, just like an empty, hollow shell. It apparently does nothing, but manages the money in it, while hiding who owns the money. The primary aim of a shell company is to hide the true owners of the money, the origin of the money and avoiding paying tax on the money.

Invariably, a shell company is often associated with the crime of tax evasion. By definition, a shell company is not illegal, but as its hollow nature suggests, it is a veritable vehicle to carry out a wide range of financial crimes that go beyond evading taxes, to include money laundering, and even financial terrorism.



Roasting Dariye

Twelve years after jumping bail, a former Plateau State governor, wanted in Britain for money laundering offence, meets in Nigeria, eyeball-to-eyeball, with the UK investigator

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

“I looked at him in the eyes; I told him, you’re a God-fearing man because I know that you’re religious; I said to him, will you promise me that you will come back to answer for your bail on the 14th of December?”

It was sometime in September 2004, at a UK Metropolitan Police office in London, where Peter Clark, a detective constable, put the question to Joshua Dariye, then governor of Plateau State. Dariye, stunned by evidence thrown in his face by Clark, swiftly said, “Yes.” He signed the bail forms, and agreed to return to the UK on December 14, 2004.

But that was the last time Clark, who investigated Dariye’s money laundering activities, set eyes on him on British soil. It took 12 years before they would see again, eyeball-to-eyeball. This time around, it was at a Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court, Gudu, Abuja, Nigeria, where he is being prosecuted by the EFCC for a N1.162 billion fraud case.

Mr Dariye was circulated as wanted on our computer system and he remains wanted in London as of today - Clark

On May 9, 2016, Dariye – a serving Senator of the Federal Republic, representing Plateau Central in the National Assembly – sat coldly in the dock, looking morose, as Clark, the ninth prosecution witness, gave a damning exposé of his financial crimes. For Clark, it was an opportunity presented by the EFCC, in collaboration with the UK’s National Crime Agency, NCA, which he would not let go by.

His revelations were bitter pills for Dariye to swallow that they literally turned his tummy. Less than two hours into his testimony, Justice Adebukola Banjoko had to cut short proceedings for about half an hour – because Dariye needed to urgently visit the toilet.

Clark revealed that in January 2004, Christopher Mekwunye, an aide of Dariye arrested at 127 Chilton House, Portland Street, South-West London, during a raid by officers investigating a “large” credit card fraud, confessed that £11,560 cash found on him belonged to Dariye. He was to deposit the money into Dariye’s Barclays Bank account. This sparked investigation of Dariye’s money laundering activities, punishable in the UK, under the Proceeds of Crimes Act 2002. He subsequently requested the EFCC to assist in investigating Dariye in Nigeria.

“When he opened the account in 1995, he told the bank that he was employed as a manager for Benue Cement Company,

and that he was on a £500,000 yearly salary," Clark said.

Dariye, according to Clark, operated nine accounts with Barclays Bank. "Some of them were dormant, but some were high interest bearing accounts, which showed a £816,000 balance; activities on the account increased significantly after Dariye became a governor in 1999," he said.

Analysis of the account showed that it was being operated in a suspicious manner. "I observed that money was being transferred to the account from a company called Ebenezer Retnan Ventures with a balance of about £404,000," Clark said. Dariye later confessed that "Ebenezer" was the name of one of his children.

During a raid on Dariye's Marriott Hotel Room 1220 on George Street, in September 2004, £43,000 cash was found on him and seized. Various denominations, in euro, pound sterling, dollar and Scottish banknotes were found in the room and confiscated. The photograph of the seized notes were presented in court.

He added that: "On September 22, 2004, my colleagues searched Flat 28, a property bought by Dariye, and found £11,995, which was seized. There were also three Barclays Bank cheques of £57,000 each."

A Mont Blanc pen worth £7,000 and seven pairs of Louis Vuitton branded shoes worth £700 each were among properties found in his room.

Clark told the court that at the time, he had no evidence that tainted Dariye's money. "If I had been in possession of evidence I later obtained in December 2004 from the EFCC, Mr Dariye would have been charged with criminal offences in London," he said. "However, in September 2004, I had to grant him bail."

But Dariye failed to answer his bail.

"I made an application for a warrant of his arrest; It was granted and is still valid today," he said. "Mr Dariye was circulated as wanted on our computer system and



"Cerebral" Pwul at his wits' end

he remains wanted in London as of today."

Dariye's counsel, Garba Pwul, SAN, who had since the beginning of the trial on January 25, 2016 posed as a "cerebral lawyer" arguing on technical grounds, was at his wits' end. In an attempt to discredit Clark's testimony, Pwul argued that though Dariye was impeached on November 13, 2006 based on evidence given by Clark before a seven-man panel set up by Plateau State's Chief Judge, a Court of Appeal on March 10, 2007 ordered the reinstatement of Dariye. "The reason for setting it aside was because your evidence was inconclusive and you absconded," Pwul posited.

Clark responding calmly, said: "I did not abscond. The panel had three days for cross-examination, but apparently they knew I would travel back to London on Saturday [November 11, 2006] and so, throughout, the defence deliberately didn't ask questions about the evidence I brought; I urged them to ask me

questions about the evidence, but they didn't; and so the whole cross-examination was designed to manufacture the judgment of the Court of Appeal in setting aside his impeachment."

The presence of Clark at the trial apparently jolted Pwul, whose questions bordered on sentiment. "Beyond your official engagement, you have a personal interest in this matter, and you're motivated by anger that the defendant didn't return to answer for his bail," Pwul queried.

"In my career, there's been hundreds of people jumping bail. You don't get angry, you just get used to it," said Clark, who retired on March 9, 2015 after 28 years in service, adding that, "My only interest is to see this investigation I started in 2004 to an end, and that's why I'm here."

Dariye would be back in court on June 6, 2016. ■



Global Synergy Against Graft

The international anti-corruption summit, organized by the UK government, provides the EFCC a platform to showcase its strides and to strengthen ties with foreign partners

The partnership between the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, and international law enforcement agencies, received a boost at the Anti-Corruption Summit, tagged, *London 2016 and Government Transparency and Accountability*, which held in London, May 12 to 14, 2016.

A landmark summit, organized by David Cameron, UK Prime Minister, it brought under one roof, presidents, representatives of governments, heads of development agencies, leading civil society activists, the media, and major international players in the fight against economic and financial crimes, including the EFCC boss, Ibrahim Magu.

Magu was a sought-after delegate at the Commonwealth Secretariat's *Tackling Corruption Together* conference, May 11, 2016 which was a precursor to the Anti-Corruption Summit.

"You have the most difficult job in the world," Christina Katsouris, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House said, in appreciation of Magu's efforts in recalibrating the anti-corruption campaign in Nigeria.

There is a new commitment by world leaders to prevent their countries from being used as receptors of resources stolen from less developed economies

-Magu

In the course of the Summit, Magu had meetings and engagements on the sidelines. He met separately with two UK partners - the National Crimes Agency, NCA and the Serious Fraud Office, SFO. Both meetings dwelt on ways to strengthen the strategic cooperation among the law enforcement agencies in matters of mutual interests.

He commended cooperation between the EFCC and foreign partners, expressing satisfaction that the collaboration was bearing fruit in the investigation of some cases, including the Malabu oil scandal.

At the Royal Institute of International Affairs, on May 10, 2016 Magu was received by Elizabeth Donnelly, Assistant Head and Research Fellow, Africa Programme and Christina Katsouris, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme. While commending Chatham House, Magu said, "This visit is an acknowledgement of the Institute's role and to encourage it to further direct its intellectual efforts towards helping Nigeria's anti-corruption efforts."

On May 12, 2016, Magu was the guest of a group of international civil society organizations with interest in international corruption and money laundering issues. It took place in the office of Global Witness on Portsoken Street in the City of London. Some of the notable faces at the meeting were Nicholas Hildyard, Antonio Tricarico, Simon Taylor and Nigeria-born British activist, Dotun Oloko.

"I feel this summit has achieved its objectives, because there is a new commitment by world leaders to prevent their countries from being used as receptors of resources stolen from less developed economies," Magu surmised. ■

Pact Against Graft

On May 10, 2016 the EFCC boss, Ibrahim Magu, joined major international players in the fight against economic and financial crimes in the United Kingdom, as part of activities heralding the landmark international anti-corruption summit held in the UK.



Elizabeth Donnelly and Magu at the Chatham House, London



Standing Tall: Magu at Chatham House, London



Magu (left), Elizabeth Donnelly and Christina Katsouris of the Chatham House, London



Magu speaking to the international media at the Summit



Magu and officers of the UK Serious Fraud Office



Magu discusses with Femi Falana, SAN

Forewarned is Forearmed!

The EFCC tasks civil servants on probity in the workplace

BY BABATUNDE SULAIMAN

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on April 19, 2016 took its anti-corruption initiative to the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing, Abuja.

The acting Chairman of EFCC, Ibrahim Magu, while addressing staff of the ministry, talked tough. Reason: He was (still is) miffed by the widespread procurement fraud in Ministries, Departments and Agencies, MDAs.

"There is the need to bring the fight against corruption, economic and financial crimes to the doorstep of this Ministry," he said.

He urged civil servants to familiarise themselves with the Procurement Act,

adding that EFCC would not spare anyone found to be involved in fraud against the Nigerian people.

"Violators of the provisions of the Procurement Act risk five to 10 years imprisonment. In fact, anyone found guilty under the Act may also face dismissal from service," he said.

He added that the EFCC was working in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Finance and the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation to weed out ghost workers.



Magu with participants at the event

"Our investigations have so far revealed that the Federal Government has lost close to N1 billion to these ghost workers," he said. "The figure will definitely increase as we uncover more ghost workers buried deep in federal civil service payrolls." ■

Seeking Collaboration

The Association of National Accountants of Nigeria, ANAN, seeks the assistance of the EFCC, to train its staff in the area of forensic accounting

BY BETHEL UDE

President of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria, ANAN, Anthony Chukwuemeka Nzom, has sought collaboration between the association and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, in the area of forensic study, as part of efforts to rid the country of financial crimes.

Nzom, who led a delegation of the association's national and state executives to the EFCC headquarters, Abuja, on April 27, 2016, was received by the EFCC boss, Ibrahim Magu, and the Commission's Secretary, Emmanuel Aremo.

While describing the appointment of Magu as "a round peg in a round hole", he

hinted that ANAN planned to open a resource centre and "we would like you to send resource persons, at least once in three months, to train our members in forensic accounting."

Magu, who himself is a member of ANAN, promised to support the course of the association, and to further strengthen ANAN's long-standing relationship with the EFCC's Special Control Unit Against Money Laundering, SCUML.



Magu with ANAN officials

"It is because of my basic knowledge in accounting that made me stand out in special fraud investigations," he said. ■

Pledging Support

Officers of the Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, visit the EFCC expressing support for the agency

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

When the President of the Nigeria Labour Congress, NLC, Ayuba Wabba, led a delegation that included Benson Upah and Nuhu Toro, to the EFCC headquarters, Abuja, on April 19, 2016, it was with a mission – to pledge allegiance to the anti-graft agency.

“We are working to galvanize other civil society organizations to assist the EFCC to expand the anti-corruption crusade to the grassroots,” he said.

He added that: “We’ve partnered in the past, but now we have more civil servants who are willing to be whistle blowers to provide information for the EFCC.”



Magu with NLC officials

Corruption, according to Wabba, “is a monster that has done more harm to our country than any other thing, because it is the cause of the crises in the various sectors of Nigeria be it power, health or housing.”

He observed with dismay the trend where “people who have stolen from the Commonwealth and are being prosecuted in court, go to their villages to hire people that they take to court to protest on their behalf, just because they have the resources at their disposal.”

The EFCC boss, Ibrahim Magu, assured the delegation that the agency was resolute in carrying out its mandate.

He noted that corruption was fighting back, as many of those being prosecuted for corrupt practices had the wealth to throw about.

He therefore stressed that: “All of us have the duty to kill corruption.” ■

The DNFI Challenge

The Enugu Zonal office of the EFCC engages operators of Designated Non-Financial Institutions, DNFI, on their role in fighting corruption

BY THERESA NWOSU // ENUGU

The need for operators of Designated Non-Financial Institutions, DNFI, to conduct their business within the ambit of the law came to the fore at a one-day workshop, which held at the conference hall of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC’s Enugu Zonal office, on May 12, 2016.

Organized by the EFCC’s Special Control Unit Against Money Laundering, SCUML, in the zone, the workshop provided a platform for the anti-graft agency to once again stress the important role DNFI have to play in the fight against economic and financial crimes.

The Zonal Head of the EFCC, Obioha Okorie, who was accompanied by the SCUML Head, Promise Oluigbo, warned operators of DNFI, that any infraction of the law by any one of them would attract duesanctions.

“I will definitely ensure the prosecution of DNFI here in Enugu and the entire South-East who fail to adhere to the position of the law,” he said. “The position of the law is clear enough regarding Money Laundering Prohibition Act of 2011 (as amended) and adherence to these laid down rules is not optional.”

In attendance were business owners, company directors, general managers



Okorie

and various representatives from more than 29 DNFI from the South-East geopolitical zone comprising Enugu, Imo, Anambra, Abia, and Ebonyi states. ■

CRIME

Pension Thief

A consultant for the Kaduna State Pension Bureau is confronted with evidence detailing fraudulent deals linked to him

BY CHIDIMMA AMANAMBU

Ibrahim Mohammed Sodangi, a former consultant for the Kaduna State Pension Bureau, will forever rue that moment when out of indiscretion, he "smuggled" his name into the state's pension payroll. His trial, which began in 2014, has seen the EFCC present more witnesses and evidence against him in court.

On May 3, 2016, an EFCC operative, Michael Wetkas, testified before Justice Haet Khobo, of a Kaduna State High Court, detailing how analysis of the account opening package and statements of account provided by Keystone Bank and First City Monument Bank, revealed that Sodangi received

funds under the guise of being a pensioner in the state.

The investigation was triggered by a petition written by the group, *Movement For Better Future*, which alleged massive fraud in the state's Pension Bureau. It alleged that the then management of the Bureau conspired with the consultant to steal pension fund through enrolment of ghost pensioners.

Wetkas noted that when Sodangi was questioned, he admitted making payments into his personal accounts, but insisted his name was enrolled by one late Alhaji Bala Adamu, who was Director of Finance of the State Pension Bureau.



Sodangi

Sodangi claimed that the late Adamu was the one making the withdrawals.

However, outcome of investigations, according to Wetkas, showed that "instruments" used for the withdrawals were all written and signed by Sodangi.

"He made withdrawals through ATM card," Wetkas told the court.

Sodangi's trial continues on June 20, 2016. ■

Crooked Businesswoman

A businesswoman swindles her customer to the tune of N23.5million

BY HILDA FINGESI // LAGOS

If Bunmi Ikuolayole, a businesswoman, had known that when the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, comes knocking on the door of someone petitioned of fraud, it does not make light of it, she would have engaged in honest business.

But at the moment, it is too late for a change of mind. On May 9, 2016 Ikuolayole was arraigned before Justice R. I. B. Adebisi of a Lagos State High Court sitting in Igbosere on a six-count charge bordering on stealing and forgery to the tune of N13,500,000.

The businesswoman, who works as a clearing and forwarding agent, allegedly

collected the money from a prospective client, Oredola Olatunbosun, for the shipping and clearing of a Rolls Royce Ghost from the United States sometime in November 2013.

She was also alleged to have sometime in December 2013 converted to her personal use the sum of N10 million collected from Olatunbosun, meant for a business deal for the purchase of a Honda Pilot vehicle. Instead, she forged the bill of lading, without supplying the vehicle.

Ikuolayole pleaded not guilty to the charges when they were read to her.

Her trial is ongoing. ■



Ikuolayole

CRIME

Dishonourable Chairman

The EFCC arraigns two public officers alleged to have defrauded the Federal Government to the tune of N600million

BY SALAMATU HABU

For a former chairman, Presidential Implementation Committee on Maritime Safety, PICOMSS, Air Vice Marshal Saliu Atawodi (retd), and Rabiul Hassan, it not only rains, it pours.

They are alleged to have used a company, Hypertech Nigeria Limited, to defraud the Federal Government of over N600 million through suspicious contracts to procure military boats.

While serving as PICOMSS Chairman, in November 2011, Atawodi allegedly colluded with Hassan, using the company to fraudulently obtain N620,910,000 from government under the pretence that the money represents

payment for the supply of six K-38 Armored patrol boats.

The duo were on May 11, 2016 arraigned along with the company before Justice U. P. Kekemeke of a Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court, Apo, Abuja on a three-count charge bordering on conspiracy, abuse of office and misappropriation of public funds.



Atawodi



Hassan

They pleaded not guilty to the charges when they were read to them.

Their trial continues on June 6, 2016. ■

Bank Rogue

An employee of Ecobank Nigeria Plc, who allegedly stole N8 million from the bank, faces the music

BY TITILOLA OLEJIYA// PORT HARCOURT

Ordinarily, Irene Okeoha, a customer service manager with Ecobank Nigeria Plc, Hotel Presidential branch, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, ought to be concerned about providing quality service to customers; but as the case is, Okeoha, seems to be more concerned with enriching herself at the expense of the bank's customers.

She was alleged to have sometime in February 2016 stolen N8 million from the bank's coffers, an act contrary to Section 390 (9) of the Criminal Code CAP 37 Vol 11 laws of the Rivers State of Nigeria 1999.

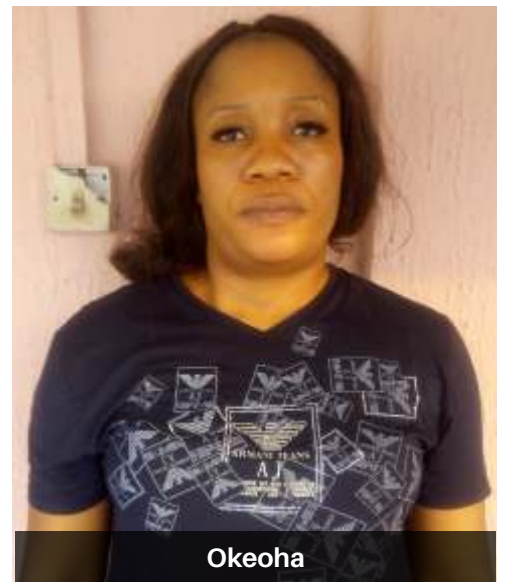
Okeoha was on May 5, 2016 arraigned

before Justice S. C. Amadi of the State High Court in Port-Harcourt, on a one-count charge of stealing.

She pleaded not guilty to the charge.

Justice Amadi granted the defendant bail in the sum of N20 million and one surety in like sum. The surety, who must depose to an affidavit of means, must be resident within the jurisdiction of the court. They must possess a landed property to be verified by the prosecution.

Okeoha's trial is ongoing. ■



Okeoha

Words on Marble



"If you steal, you are taking what does not belong to you, so obviously you are corrupt, because that is the definition of corruption – taking something belonging to another person without the consent of that person; so there is no difference."

– **Prof. Itse Sagay**, in an exclusive interview published in *Zero Tolerance* magazine, stressing that stealing is corruption.



"A special court ought to be established to deal specifically with economic and financial crimes as well as electoral offences; otherwise, the anti-corruption policy of the federal government will not achieve its desired objectives."

– **Femi Falana, SAN**, in a keynote address delivered at the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Akoka, Lagos, March 27, 2016.



"The Nigerian legal profession has for long hardly done enough to address the perception that it facilitates corruption and clothes those who perpetrate it with impunity." – **Prof. Chidi Odinkalu**, lawyer and former chairman, National Human Rights Commission, in a speech delivered at a one-day seminar organized by the Human Rights Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association, Ikeja branch, Lagos, March 9, 2016.



"You [the EFCC] should not at all be discouraged by attempts by the agents of corruption to trivialize your achievements. That is part of the psychological war." – **Kanu Agabi, SAN**, former Attorney General of the Federation, and Minister of Justice, in a speech delivered at EFCC's Annual Reward and Recognition awards event, December 22, 2014.

PINBOARD



Sule Lamido
Ex-Jigawa State Governor
Offence: abuse of office and money laundering
In Court on: June 1, 2016
Justice Adeniyi Ademola, Federal High Court, Abuja



Bello Haliru Mohammed
Ex-Chairman of the PDP
Offence: breach of trust and money laundering
In Court on: June 1, 2016
Justice A.R. Mohammed, Federal High Court, Abuja



Joshua Dariye
Ex-Plateau State Governor
Offence: money laundering
In Court on: June 6, 2016
Justice Adebukola Banjoko, FCT High Court, Gudu, Abuja



Ikedi Ohakim
Ex-Imo State Governor
Offence: money laundering
In Court on: June 6, 2016
Justice Adeniyi Ademola, Federal High Court, Abuja



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



Haruna Baba Jauro & 2 Others
Ex-Acting DG of NIMASA
Offence: stealing and money laundering
In Court on: June 8, 2016
Justice Mojisola Ishola-Olantoregun, Federal High Court, Lagos



Stephen Oronsaye
Ex-HoS of the Federation
Offence: Stealing and obtaining money by false pretence
In Court on: June 9, 2016
Justice Gabriel Kolawole, Federal High Court, Abuja



Raymond Dokpesi
Ex-Chairman, DAAR Communications Plc
Offence: money laundering and procurement-related fraud
In Court on: June 15, 2016
Justice J.T. Tsoho, Federal High Court, Abuja

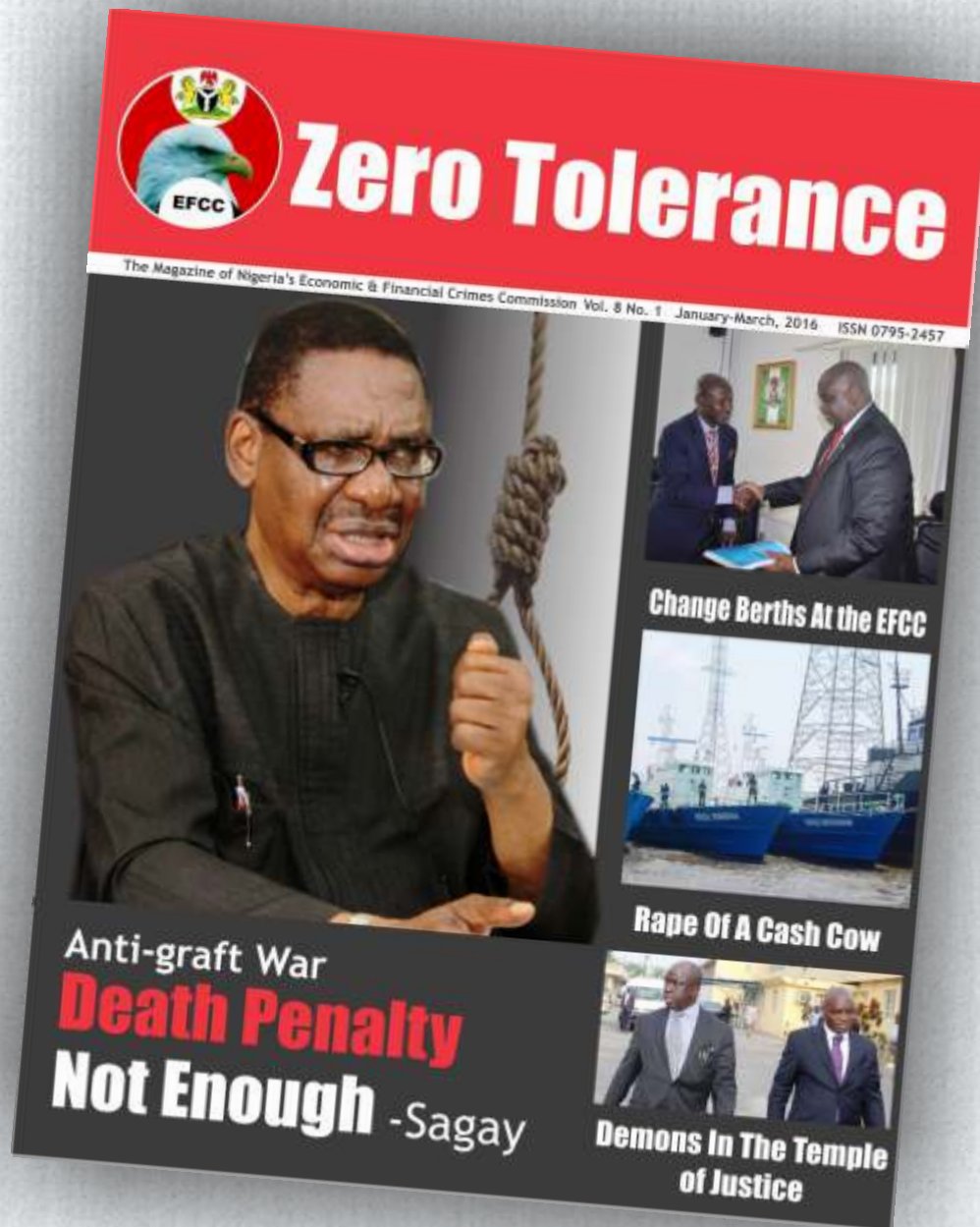


Murtala Nyako & 3 Others
Ex-Adamawa State Governor
Offence: criminal conspiracy, stealing abuse of office and money laundering
In Court on: June 28, 2016
Justice E. Chukwu, Federal High Court, Abuja







Orji Uzor Kalu
Ex-Abia State Governor
Offence: diversion of funds and money laundering
In Court on: June 30, 2016
Justice Anwuli Chikere, Federal High Court, Abuja

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