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EFCC ALERT!



Charting a New Path



**Forward
Looking**

TONNIE IREDIA:

**What EFCC'll
Lose Without
Prosecutorial Powers**



**Crying
Wolf...!**



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PINBOARD

Kingsley Kuku

Former Special Adviser on Niger Delta Affairs

Offence: criminal conspiracy, false declaration of assets
In Court on: October 21, 2016

Justice M.M. Kolo,
Magistrate Court, Wuse, Abuja



Rickey Tarfa

Senior Advocate of Nigeria

Offence: obstructing officers of law from carrying out their duties
In Court on: October 24, 2016

Justice Aishat Opesanwo,
Lagos State High Court, Igboosere



Alex S. Badeh

Ex-Chief of Defense Staff, CDS

Offence: abuse of office and money laundering
In Court on: October 27, 2016

Justice Okon Abang,
Federal High Court, Maitama, Abuja



Azibaola Robert

Cousin to former President Goodluck Jonathan

Offence: money laundering and criminal breach of trust
In Court on: November 14, 2016

Justice Nnamdi O. Dimgba,
Federal High Court, Abuja

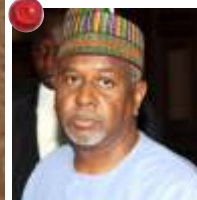


Stephen Oronsaye

Ex-Head of Service of the Federation

Offence: criminal breach of trust
In Court on: November 15, 2016

Justice O.O. Goodluck,
FCT High Court, Abuja

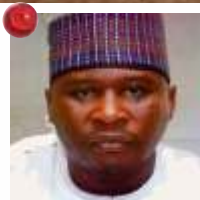


Sambo Dasuki

Former National Security adviser

Offence: money laundering and criminal breach of trust
In Court on: November 21, 2016

Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf,
FCT High Court, Abuja



Ahmadu Fintiri

Former Adamawa State governor

Offence: money laundering
In Court on: October 6, 2016

Justice A.R. Mohammed,
Federal High Court, Abuja



Aliyu Akwe-Doma

Former Nasarawa State governor
Offence: money laundering and financial crimes

In Court on: November 28, 2016
Justice Agatha Okeke,
Federal High Court, Lafia, Nasarawa State



Esai Dangabar

Former Director, Police Pensions

Offence: complicity in N24bn scam in Police Pension Office
In Court on: November 29, 2016

Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf,
FCT High Court, Abuja



Orji Uzor Kalu

Former Abia State governor

Offence: diversion of funds and money laundering

In Court on: December 6, 2016
Justice Anwuli Chikere,
Federal High Court, Abuja

Charting a New Path

Experts task journalists on effective reporting of economic and financial crimes at a one-day workshop in Abuja

BY BABATUNDE SULAIMAN



Ibanga Isine presenting a paper during the workshop

On Tuesday, September 27, 2016, the trio of Tonnie Iredia, a former Director-General of the Nigeria Television Authority, NTA; Ibanga Isine, an editor with *Premium Times* and Azu Ishiekwe, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief, *The Interview*, 'tutored' some journalists on creative reporting of economic and financial crimes in order to bring about a better Nigeria.

This was the thrust of the engaging presentations at a one-day workshop organised by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, for journalists at Chida Hotel, Utako, Abuja.

In his paper titled *Electronic Media and Investigative Reporting: new trends and*

... public enlightenment about the activities of the EFCC is low. But I can tell you that this can be altered where there is effective investigative journalism

opportunities, Iredia urged media professionals in Nigeria to use the tools of investigative reporting to support the EFCC in the fight against corruption.

Iredia, who described the EFCC as Nigeria's foremost institutional actor in the fight against corruption, stated that investigating journalism could also correct the misconceptions about the activities of the Commission.

"Investigative journalism can create leads for the EFCC to follow. I recently found out that the EFCC recorded 117 convictions in 2013 and 126 in 2014. What this shows is that public enlightenment about the activities of the EFCC is low. But I can tell you that this can be altered where there is effective investigative journalism," he added.

Iredia, however, highlighted some loopholes that the EFCC should avoid in

order to project its image positively in the eyes of the stakeholders in the anti-graft war. According to him, "If you intimidate or cow journalists, it can lead to poor reportage of your activities. If you ignore journalists, this will give room for speculations. Also, if you decide to keep them at arm's length, it can encourage sensationalism or misquote."

"Instead of giving journalists covering the EFCC 'Brown envelopes', you should use some other better strategies, including having friends in the media and institutionalising your media briefings, among others."

On his part, Isine posited that for the fight against corruption to be successful, there must be an effective collaboration between the media and the anti-graft agencies.

Isine, who spoke on "Journalism and the fight against corruption-Lessons from abroad", noted that media professionals had the capacity to bring corrupt people, in the public and private sectors, to justice. He went on to provide examples from foreign countries to showcase the untapped opportunities available to Nigerian journalists. He however admonished financial crimes reporters to be ready to make personal sacrifices and be prepared to dig deep, if they are to make any meaningful headway as far as investigative reporting is concerned.



Azu Ishiekwene

**... unreported corruption
could lead to lack of trust
in politicians and
investigative authorities**

Isine further charged journalists to fully maximise the powers invested in them by the Freedom of Information Act, FoI, adding that "many journalists don't follow up their stories to the end."

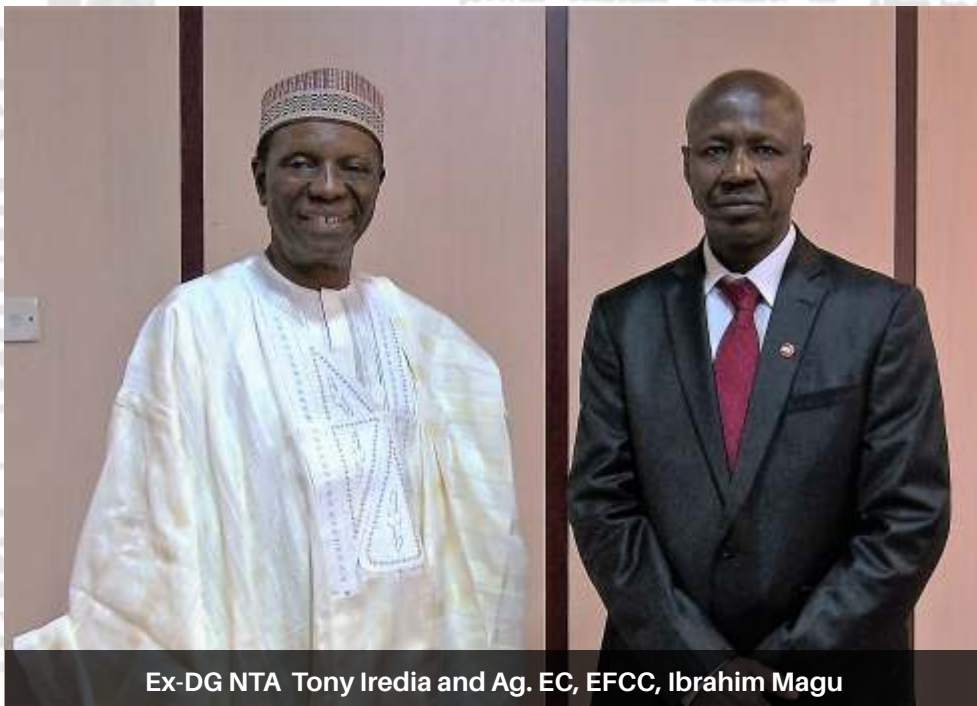
Not expressing a particularly divergent view, Ishiekwene, who spoke on "Unreported Corruption", called for more open reporting of corruption.

The former editor of *The Punch* also decried the prevalent obsession with high profile cases, adding that unreported corruption could lead to "lack of trust in politicians and investigative authorities."

He further attributed ignorance or fear of reprisal as well as bureaucracy to the several cases of unreported corruption in the country.

Ishiekwene, who advocated greater independence of anti-corruption agencies, added that unreported corruption could "erode confidence in public institutions, worsen poverty in the land and undermine integrity of any news report."

The event was declared open by the EFCC's acting Chairman, Ibrahim Magu. In his brief remark, the anti-graft Czar called on Nigerians to join in the fight against corruption, in order to have a better Nigeria. ■



Ex-DG NTA Tony Iredia and Ag. EC, EFCC, Ibrahim Magu



Participants at the workshop



Participants at the workshop

What EFCC'll Lose Without Prosecutorial Powers - Tonnie Iredia, ex-NTA DG

Dr. Tonnie Iredia is a former Director-General, Nigeria Television Authority, NTA. In this interview with BABATUNDE SULAIMAN and SALAMATU HABU WAYERI, he talks about the danger of stripping the EFCC of its prosecutorial powers, among other interesting issues

How will you assess the role of the media vis-a-vis the anti-graft war?

I wouldn't say that what the media has been able to do is enough. Really, it has to be placed on a table of probability. In other words, you have to look at it from a number of angles. If I say what the media has done is not enough, then, I am suggesting that they deliberately do not want to do more.

Could you expatiate?

It is quite possible that what the media is doing is the best it can do. It depends on the circumstances they (media organisations) find themselves; it also depends on the facilities available to them as well as the available personnel. For instance, do they have enough people or facilities to cover some events? For instance, if you have eight assignments to cover and you have only two cars, how do you do them?

Recently, the President of the Nigerian Bar Association, NBA, called that the EFCC be stripped of its prosecutorial powers. Do you subscribe to that?

As I said in my lecture, I don't want to say that I subscribe or that I don't. I know that it has its pros and cons. I know that it is good for the EFCC not to be overburdened. If EFCC is doing only investigation and is not prosecuting, it will be better and will be more active. But that is one angle of it.



The other angle is that, if you remove prosecution from the EFCC, can you guarantee that after investigation, the prosecution of the case will take the same pattern the investigation took? In other words, will the EFCC not lose all the gains of its investigations, if the body that is prosecuting does not take the job the way it took it? So, you have to look at the circumstance. The circumstance in Nigeria today makes it difficult for one to say that the EFCC should be divested of its prosecutorial powers.

But some people still frown on the engagement of private lawyers to prosecute EFCC cases

(Cuts in) If the EFCC has prosecutorial powers, it has to have lawyers. It has to have trained persons

who know how to prosecute, who know the court procedures and the laws; so, it is normal that it has to use lawyers. I don't see anything wrong with that. The people who are saying that there are government lawyers who can prosecute for the EFCC seem to forget the circumstance in Nigeria. I am sure you know our attitude to what is public and private. The government lawyers may as well be trained as the private lawyers. But at the end of the day, the private lawyers are not under any bureaucracy. The things that can slow down public activities are not in the private sector. ■

If you remove prosecution from the EFCC, can you guarantee that after investigation, the prosecution of the case will take the same pattern the investigation took?



Magu addressing CSOs, lawyers and media practitioners during an interactive session in Lagos



L-R: Magu, Wahab Shittu and Jiti Ogunye at the event



Osita Nwajah, Director, Public Affairs, EFCC, addressing the gathering at the event



Front row: Osita Nwajah, Director, Public Affairs, EFCC (4th from left) flanked by delegates at the 20th AGM of Public Relations Executives and Information Officers of Colleges of Education in Nigeria



UNODC Project Coordinator, Polleak OK Serei (middle) during a recent visit to the EFCC headquarters



Magu discussing with researchers from Chatham House, UK, on the sideline of a workshop on *Social Norms of Corruption in Nigeria*



Ishaq Salihu, Head, South-South Zonal Office, flanked by members of EFCC/CDS anti-corruption group during a courtesy visit

Forward Looking

The Corps Marshal of the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, Boboye Oyeyemi, seeks collaboration with the EFCC

BY BABATUNDE SULAIMAN



On Thursday, September 15, 2016, the Management of the Federal Road Safety Commission, FRSC, threw its doors open to receive a delegation from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, led by the acting Chairman, Ibrahim Magu.

The FRSC's Corps Marshal, Boboye Oyeyemi, while conducting the EFCC's delegation round the ultra-modern facilities at the FRSC'S headquarters in Abuja, also gave an insight into the workings of the agency and sought collaboration with the EFCC.

But beyond that, Oyeyemi, who said that the collaboration would enhance the activities of both agencies, further disclosed that the EFCC could trace an individual who is suspected to have been involved in any fraudulent activity with his or her driver's licence.



While urging Magu to involve the FRSC more in the Commission's programmes, Oyeyemi described Information Vehicle Portal as a necessary tool to enhance the activities of the EFCC, adding that the FRSC provides services to other law enforcement agencies to aid their operations.

"There is need to train and certify staff of the EFCC Transport Unit/Operations before they can drive any vehicle of the Commission. Also, there is need to improve on the medium of exchange of intelligence reports between the EFCC and the FRSC," he added.

Magu, who said the collaboration was borne out of service to the nation, added that "we cannot do it alone, as we do not have a monopoly of knowledge. Also, we appreciate the fact that whatever we do affects everybody. If there is any area the FRSC needs to collaborate with the EFCC, don't hesitate to inform us." ■

Fellow Feeling

BY WILLIAMS OSEGHAE // PORT HARCOURT

Respite comes the way of nursing mothers in the EFCC, as it opens the first crèche at the South-South zonal office in Port Harcourt, Rivers State



History was made at the South-South Zonal office, Port Harcourt, Rivers State on Wednesday, September 21, 2016, as the Zonal Head of Operations, Ishaq Salihu, commissioned a crèche, the first of its kind in the Commission.

Accompanied by some units/sectional heads, Salihu said the idea to establish a crèche at the zone was to ease the burdens of female staff who are nursing mothers so as to enable them function optimally.

He explained: "If the issue of their babies is not taken care of, their minds will be divided against having to take care of their babies and coming to work. But with a crèche here, they can now come downstairs, look after their babies and go back to attend to their jobs."

According to him, the establishment of the crèche was a further demonstration

that the EFCC is a gender-friendly organisation, where female staff can aspire to any position. "It is an organisation where the women can aspire to any level. When other ladies are trying to break the glass ceiling, the female staff in the EFCC know that they have a Chairman and a Commission that take care of them."

He commended the acting Chairman, Ibrahim Magu, for making it possible, adding that "It goes with the vision and mission of the present acting Chairman of the Commission who takes staff welfare to heart and does not spare anything to ensure that his staff welfare is taken care of. There is nothing that

demonstrates this than having a crèche that will cater to the female workforce."

Salihu also expressed optimism that such centres would soon be replicated at the other zonal offices of the Commission.

Akpos Mezeh-Ekisowei, a staff of the Public Affairs Department, PAD, who became the first person to have her child in the crèche, was full of gratitude to the Commission, saying that "I am grateful to the Commission for building this crèche. I am relieved. I can now rush down here to breastfeed my baby and go back to the office to concentrate on my job."

Constructed and fitted to be baby-friendly, Mezeh-Ekisowei's six-month-old baby, Anaiya and other children in the crèche have more to smile about, as they have been provided with a DVD player, colourful play mats, educational blocks, Alphabet learning stickers and colourful balls, among others ■



Mission Unaccomplished

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

Nasiru Isa, a driver with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, literally drove himself into trouble that Tuesday night, August 30, 2016.

Isa, who joined the anti-graft agency sometime in March 2015, had fallen for the lure of filthy lucre, as he joined a criminal syndicate that attempted to break into a property sealed by the EFCC, with the intent of carting away some goods in it.

The syndicate includes a mobile police officer, Corporal Aliyu Ismaila, Abubakar Jibrin, Abdulsalam Ado, Ibrahim Babangida, Reuben Dauda, Hassan Aliyu, Sani Yusuf and Murtala Mohammed.

That Tuesday, after the close of work, Isa resumed at the property located at Garki, a choice area in Abuja, which is linked to a former Chief of Defence Staff, CDS, Air Chief Marshal Alex Badeh (rtd).

Badeh is currently facing trial for a N3.9 billion money laundering charge before Justice Okon Abang of the Federal High Court, Abuja.

Isa was joined by the other members of the syndicate, with Ismaila expected to provide "security cover", while the "operation" to break into the property lasted.

After weeks of planning and strategizing, they moved into the premises, bringing along with them a carpenter, Yakubu Muhammad, who was co-opted to provide the necessary tools to break into the property.

Unfortunately for Isa and his cohorts, the time of carrying out the nefarious activity coincided with visit of operatives from the Economic Governance Unit of the EFCC who were on routine surveillance mission.

On sighting the operatives, Isa and the others took to their heels, leaving behind the carpenter, who apparently was not in



The property under investigation

In perpetrating the crime, Dauda had posed to be a senior office with the EFCC, while Jibrin posed as an Intelligence officer in the office of the Inspector General of Police



Damaged door handle

the know of their mission. He was subsequently arrested, and helped in identifying the fleeing members of the group.

"I was only asked to help with my equipment to break into the building," he said.

Investigations revealed that one of those in the know about items in the house was the brains behind the scheme to steal them. The syndicate decided they would need to subdue the security man at the property, thus, they needed to involve a security personnel in the syndicate.

Subsequently, Isa was contacted. To further beef up the security aspect of the crime, he also contacted his friend, Ismaila, who came for the "operation" fully armed.

In perpetrating the crime, Dauda had posed to be a senior officer with the EFCC, while Jibrin posed as an Intelligence officer in the office of the Inspector General of Police.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded. ■

Fraudsters' Doom

BY BABATUNDE SULAIMAN

They are young and agile. But rather than deploy their energies to positive causes that can impact humanity, they prefer instead to walk the crooked path in life.

This is the pathetic tale of Egbedayo Semilore and Elijah Jeremiah who will soon be dragged to court for alleged involvement in Internet fraud and causing untold hardship to the lives of their victims.

While 29 year-old Semilore, who claimed to be Director of Datsol Industries Limited, engages in Internet love scam, 26-year-old Jeremiah's specialty is setting traps on online auctions sites.

For Semilore, who disguises as an Afghan-based US Army officer with the names Sergeant Shaft Pagan and Perrie



The suspects

Edingson, the journey into the EFCC's net began after he defrauded one P. J. (full names withheld), a US national, of N4million (Four Million Naira) in tranches and bought himself a car.

Jeremiah, however, was allegedly using fake instruments to order goods from China through online auction sites.

His modus operandi included downloading Letters of Credit purportedly issued by Scotia Online

The bubbles burst for suspected Internet fraudsters, Egbedayo Semilore and Elijah Jeremiah, as they await their days in court

Financial Services of Scotia Bank Worldwide from Google, with which he paid for his purchases.

Among the items recovered from Semilore are three identity cards bearing different names and biodata, a 2010 Black Toyota Lexus car with registration number (Lagos) SMK 475 EH, two laptops, one Blackberry Passport phones and several scam mails on laptops.

At the point of arrest, operatives of the EFCC found the following items on Jeremiah: One laptop, three modems, one iphone , two Nokia phones, international passport, forged Union Bank statement of account with NUBAN number:10141411389 for Datsol Industries Limited and an envelope containing several documents. ■

Game Up

BY BABATUNDE SULAIMAN

Patrick Shanshi Nwokike had tried to be smart by naming his company "Let's Partner with You Limited".

Like butterflies to flowers, many were attracted to the company and invested their monies in it. Reason: operators of the scheme initially were said to be paying 10% interest on invested capital.

But the partnership soon crashed like a pack of cards when the depositors began to suffer unfair treatment in the hands of the operators of the scheme. One, they could no longer receive the promised 10% interest on invested capital; and two, their efforts to have their initial investments returned were futile.

Consequently, the depositors were irked, particularly because of the alleged flamboyant lifestyles of the operators of the scheme, who were flaunting their ill-gotten wealth in their faces, with reckless abandon.

A 'wonder bank' Managing Director, Patrick Nwokike, is singing like a canary in EFCC's custody for allegedly duping his victims of N4billion



Nwokike

Nwokike became a guest of the EFCC on October 6, 2015, following overwhelming petitions from angry depositors from across the country, after he reneged on the mouth-watering interests he had promised them.

The suspect allegedly solicited and obtained deposits of N4,000,000,000 from the general public, even when the company is not registered and has no license either with the Security and Exchange Commission, SEC, or Nigeria Deposit Insurance Company, NDIC.

The company allegedly has six accounts in about four banks with the chief executive and his wife being the only signatories to the accounts.

Though ambitious Nwokike claims he is into "partnership business", his day of reckoning beckons, as he faces criminal charges in court soon. ■

Crying Wolf...!

BY BABATUNDE SULAIMAN

Patience Jonathan, wife of former President Goodluck Jonathan, wants the EFCC to unfreeze 'her' accounts



Dame Patience Jonathan, former First Lady

After her husband, Goodluck Jonathan's exit from power over a year ago, Dame Patience Jonathan, the once all powerful First Lady of Nigeria, had taken a retreat from the social and political scenes until recently when she caused a stir with her audacious claim to a princely \$15.6m trapped in a bank vault on account of a 'Post No Debit' order from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

Mrs Jonathan has sensationally asked the EFCC to unfreeze the \$15,591,700 currently lodged in Skye Bank, claiming that the money is her hard-earned quid. But the money is lodged in accounts belonging to four companies: Pluto Property and Investment Company Limited, Seagate Property Development and Investment Company Limited, Trans Ocean Property and Investment Company Limited and Globus Integrated Service Limited. The EFCC stumbled on

...the money is lodged in accounts belonging to four companies...

the accounts in the course of investigating the suspicious financial dealings of a former presidential aide, Waripamowei Dudafa. Charges were later filed against Dudafa, and the companies before a Federal High Court in Lagos.

When the case came up before Justice Babs Kuewumi on Thursday, September 15, 2016, the four companies, through their individual representation, had pleaded guilty to the charge preferred against them by the EFCC.

However, Dudafa, a former Special Assistant on Domestic Affairs to President Jonathan; Amajuoyi Azubuike Briggs, another former presidential aide and Adedamola Bolodeoku, former official of Skye Bank pleaded not guilty.

But curiously, the former First Lady has been crying out for the fear of losing what she described as her hard-earned sweats. First, she had filed a N200m suit against Skye Bank Plc and also sought a fundamental rights enforcement action against the EFCC before a Lagos High Court. As if that was not enough, she also went to town, claiming that the EFCC had used some mercenaries to plead guilty to the charges.

Also, the former First Lady said the accounts were opened in order to facilitate her travel overseas particularly for medical treatment and sundry purchases for herself and her late mother, Mrs. Charity Oba (Mama Sisi). ■



Launder and go under.
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