



VOL 6 NO 4 APRIL 2017

# EFCCALERT!

***“We'll Fight  
Corruption  
to the End”***

***- Magu***



**Together Against Corruption**

# EFCCALERT!

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# “We’ll Fight Corruption to the End”

*As it marks 14 years of concerted efforts to rid Nigeria of economic and financial crimes, the EFCC re-strategizes to fight corruption to the end*

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

“We will continue to fight corruption, whether anybody likes it or not. We are convinced that it is the only way we can bring succour to this country.”

Those were the words of Ibrahim Magu, the acting Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, making the pledge, on a day that the agency chose to quietly, but emphatically mark its 14th year of championing the war against corruption in Nigeria.

It was a resolve made known a few hours after the anti-graft agency uncovered \$43 million, £27,000, and N23 million cash, stashed in a private residence located on Osborne Road, Ikoyi, a cosmopolitan city, nestled between the Mainland and Victoria Island, Lagos. The revelation sent the world into a frenzy of shock, disbelief and bewilderment.

Indeed, slowly but steadily, the anti-graft agency is altering the narrative of criminal prosecution in Nigeria, and setting a standard for law

enforcement agencies, within and outside of the country. But, not only has the agency remained a shining light, it is re-strategizing for the onerous task of sustaining efforts to rid the country of economic and financial crimes.

**“It is pertinent for us to forget about personal interest, and consider the overall interest of Nigeria”**

And so, on Thursday, April 13, 2017 while addressing members of staff at the EFCC headquarters, Magu, again stressed the need for the agency, and its teeming staff to remain focused, committed and steadfast in executing its mandate,

as well as giving teeth to the anti-corruption mission of the President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration.

“If you go to the United States or the United Kingdom, they are all awash with news about our efforts in the fight against corruption, particularly the Malabu Oil scandal,” he said. “So we are succeeding, and so it is pertinent for us to forget about personal interest, and consider the overall interest of this country and the interest of the EFCC as an institution.”

Indeed, for the EFCC, it has been a period of coming of age, with the 14-year-old agency, having effectively warmed itself into the hearts of Nigerians, and the international law enforcement agencies.



### Expanding for effectiveness

In view of the expanding horizon of corruption, the EFCC is extending its operations overseas, with plans in top gear to have operatives at major embassies, and mission fields abroad. This much was made known by Magu during a four-day induction course held by the Ministry of Finance, for 44 non-career ambassadors-designate, at the Old Banquet Hall of the Presidential Villa, which ended on April 4, 2017.

In a paper titled, **“Anti-Corruption Agenda and the Recovery of Illicit Financial Assets from Abroad: The Role of Nigerian Missions”**, Magu enjoined the new representatives of the country, to see themselves as partners in the war against corruption.

### “Corruption flourishes when good people fail to confront it”

“We are making you our ambassadors to fight corruption wherever you go, because we alone at the EFCC cannot do the job without your support,” he said.

Stressing the adverse effects of corruption, he said, “We have posted some of our operatives to these foreign missions, and we will need you to work with us.”

While charging the ambassadors-designate to “be involved in tracing and recovery of our stolen assets and facilitating the repatriation of those funds and the perpetrators”, Magu, noted that “corruption flourishes when good people fail to confront it”.

He reiterated the zero-tolerance stance of Buhari, as regards corruption, urging them to “key into our mission of ridding Nigeria of corruption, as this will be your greatest service to Nigeria”. ■

Additional report by HABU WAYERI



€547,730, \$21,090 and ₦5,648,500 recovered at Balogun Market, Lagos, April 10, 2017



Monies recovered at Ikoyi, Lagos totalling \$43million, £27,000 and ₦23million on April 12, 2017



₦448,500,000 recovered from a shop at LEGICO Shopping Plaza, Victoria Island, Lagos, April 7, 2017



Monies recovered from house belonging to Andrew Yakubu, Ex-NNPC GMD, totalling \$9.8 Million and £74,000 on April 7, 2017



# Harvest of Convictions

*Despite legal shenanigans in courts, EFCC continues to blaze the trail, securing conviction of a former state governor, oil magnates that defrauded government, among others*

It is undoubtedly a remarkable achievement. At the end of the first quarter of 2017, the EFCC secured 62 convictions, with the record set to be increased before the end of the second quarter, as it intensifies efforts geared towards ridding the country of economic and financial crimes.

Perhaps, more significant, is the fact that the record also includes that of a former state governor, oil magnates, among others.

Below is a focus on some of the convictions secured in the first quarter of the year:

## BALA NGILARI

On March 6, 2017 the EFCC secured his conviction, in a trial that took about seven months. Justice Nathan Musa of the Adamawa State High Court sentenced him to five years in prison, for procurement fraud. It was a landmark achievement for the EFCC, as it was the first time in about seven years that a former state governor prosecuted by the anti-graft agency, would be convicted by a Nigerian court.

The former Adamawa State governor found himself on the wrong side of the law, when the EFCC began probing his alleged mismanagement of public funds, and abuse of office. He was first arraigned on September 21, 2016.

Ngilari, who served as governor between October 1, 2014 and May 29, 2015 was accused of conniving with his then secretary, Ibrahim Walye, and commissioner for finance, Jonathan Lamurde, to award a contract to El-Yard Motors Company for purchase of 25 Toyota Corolla saloon cars for his commissioners, at cost of N167,812,500. The fraud was committed in January 2015 - barely four months into his administration.



## ROWAYE JUBRIL



On April 7, 2017 Justice Adebukola Banjoko, of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT High Court, Gudu, convicted Jubril Rowaye, his company, Brilla Energy Limited, and Alminnur Resources Limited, for a N1.05 billion oil subsidy fraud charge brought against them by the EFCC.

They were being charged on a 17-count charge bordering on conspiracy and forgery.

Justice Banjoko found them guilty of 14 out of the 17 counts and discharged them for counts 12, 13 and 14. They were sentenced to 10 years for counts one and two without an option of fine, and seven years on the other counts with an option of N5 million as fine for each.

A Lagos State High Court, Ikeja, presided over by Justice Okunnu, also on March 17, 2017 found him and his company guilty of oil subsidy fraud charges brought against him by the EFCC. The judge sentenced him to 10 years on count one, eight years for counts two, four, six, eight and 10, and eight years on counts three, five, seven, nine, 11 and 13. The sentences are to run concurrently. His company was also ordered to refund N963,796,199.88 to the federal government.

## WALTER WAGBATSOMA AND ADA UGO-NGADI

On January 26, 2017 Justice Lateefa Okunnu of the Lagos High Court, Ikeja convicted Walter Wagbatsoma, chairman, Ontario Oil and Gas Limited, and Ada Ugo-Ngadi, managing director of the company, on an eight-count amended charge, bordering on conspiracy, obtaining by false pretence, conspiracy to commit forgery, forgery, and altering of documents, in an oil subsidy fraud.

The EFCC had in 2013 accused them of involvement in a N1.9 billion oil subsidy fraud.

The judge sentenced them to 10 years for conspiracy, 10 years for obtaining by false pretence, seven years for conspiracy to commit forgery, eight years for forgery, and eight years for altering of documents.



Wagbatsoma



## GABRIEL DAUDU

On March 1, 2017 a former Caretaker Chairman, Ogori/Magongo Local Government Area of Kogi State, Gabriel Daudu, lost his appeal to overturn the guilty verdict passed on him by Justice Inyang Ekwo, of the Federal High Court, Lokoja. Daudu was on April 25, 2016 convicted on 77 counts of fraud and sentenced to two years on each of the count for which he was convicted.

## INNOCENT CLINTON AND EMMANUEL OKANNI



On March 23, 2017 Justice Sa'ad Muhammed of the Gombe State High Court, convicted Innocent Clinton and Emmanuel Okanni, for a two-count charge brought against them by the EFCC, bordering on conspiracy and theft.

They were found guilty of a N864,000 fraud, which they perpetrated by hacking into bank accounts using "stolen" Bank Verification Numbers, BVN, through which they duped their victims.

They were sentenced to six months in prison each, with an option of N30,000 as fine.

# Harvest of Convictions

## AKINTUNDE ABIODUN



**O**n March 17, 2017 the EFCC secured the conviction of Akintunde Abiodun, 37, who was charged for a 12-count charge bordering on stealing and forgery to the tune of N7,806,093. He was accused of forging an American passport which he used to defraud his victim.

Justice Ipaye of the Lagos State High Court, Ikeja sentenced him to three years each on counts one to 11 for stealing, and three years on count 12 for forgery.

## FRANK NWAOTULE

**O**n March 10, 2017, Nwaotule, and his company, Light Maritime Limited, were convicted by Justice S.C. Orji of the FCT High Court, Apo, for a two-count charge bordering on criminal breach of trust, and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of N5 million.

He was sentenced to 10 years in prison on each of the counts, and his company fined N50,000.



## USMAN AHMED, ISYAKU MOHAMMED, MOHAMMED BADADI AND RILWANU ABDULLAHI



**O**n March 9, 2017 Justice Simon Amobeda of the Federal High Court Kebbi, found them guilty of a four-count charge of conspiracy and possession of counterfeit currency, brought against them by the EFCC. They were arrested by officers of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps at Birnin-Kebbi in possession of fake naira notes totalling N583,000. They were subsequently handed over the EFCC for prosecution.

The judge sentenced them to five years in prison on each of the counts, with the sentences to run concurrently beginning on the day they were arrested.

## OLUGBENGA FABUNMI



**O**n February 13, 2017 Fabunmi, a member of a syndicate that specializes in forging bank, employment records, International Passports, National Identification Cards, and supporting documents needed to process visas for the United Kingdom, was sentenced to four years in prison.

Justice Mamman Kolo of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT High Court, Wuse convicted him of the one-count charge bordering on advance fee fraud brought against him by the EFCC.

## OSAGIE BLISS



**O**n February 10, 2017 Justice P. I. Ajoku gave his verdict on a three-count charge bordering on conspiracy, possession of fraudulent documents and obtaining by false pretence, brought against Bliss by the EFCC. While he was discharged and acquitted on counts two and three, he was sentenced to two years in prison without an option of fine for count one.

## JEHU KWASU



**O**n January 17, 2017 Kwasu, a serial fraudster that has perfected the art of impersonating prominent individuals in the society, was sentenced to three years in prison, without an option of fine, by Justice Binta Isah of the Kaduna State High Court, Zaria. He was prosecuted by the EFCC for a two-count charge bordering on forgery and obtaining by false pretence. He had

successfully defrauded the Chairman of Chikason Group of Companies, Chief Okafor, to the tune of N5 million, in the guise that it would be used to assist victims of the post-2011 election violence. His sentence runs concurrently. Kwasu was ordered to refund the N5 million.

## CHRISTOPHER NGENE



**J**ustice Idrissa Kolo of the Federal High Court, Kano, on January 17, 2017 found Ngene guilty of the three counts of fraud brought against him by the EFCC, and sentenced him to three years in prison, on each count, without an option of fine. He had lured his victim to part with N200,000 as payment for the purchase of solar panels. His sentence runs concurrently from the day he was arrested.



# Together Against Corruption

The Ibrahim Magu-led EFCC hosted the first-ever Anti-Corruption Summit, at the EFCC Academy, Karu, Abuja, tagged "**Building National Anti-Corruption Consensus in a Multi-Agency Environment**", on March 27, 2017. Present were Adams Oshiomhole, former Edo State governor; Chukwuka Utazi, Chairman, Senate Committee on Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes; Kayode Oladele, Chairman, House of Reps Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes; Justice Joseph Oyewole of the Court of Appeal, among other dignitaries.

Below are images from the summit:



Oshiomhole: "All agencies involved in fight against corruption must share intelligence".



Magu: "Every kobo taken illegally from the treasury would be traced, recovered and returned".



Utazi: "Records of seized assets, moveable and immovable ought to be made available".



Oladele: "People that are working here [at the EFCC] must have career progression".



Mike Ozekhome, SAN, along with other participants at the event



Oyewole: "Akehinde gbegbon [EFCC has outshined ICPCJ]".

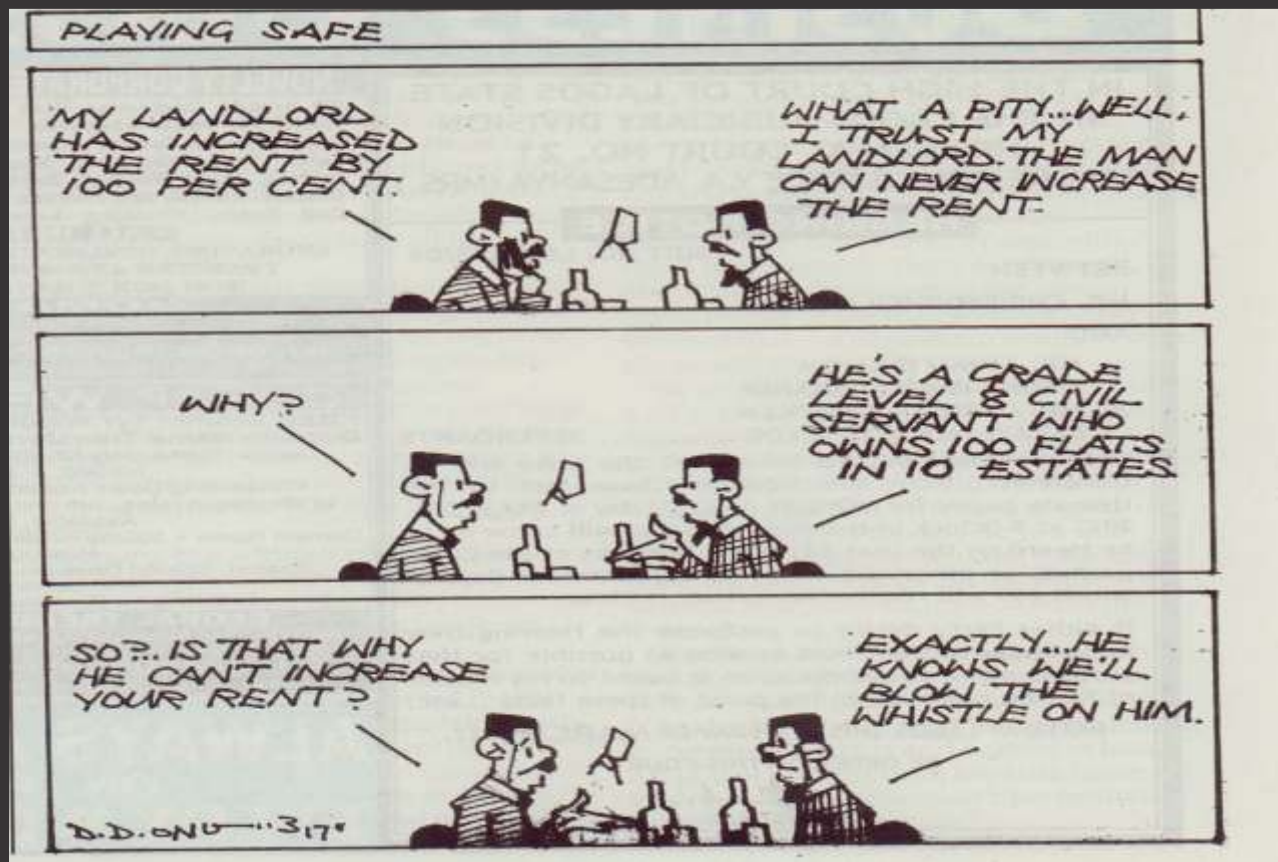


Magu with Ola Olukoyede, his Chief of Staff, and Abba Aji, EFCC's Deputy Director, Organizational Support at the event.

Photos by Nanpan Kutse, Anna Awe-Akuson and Timothy Jacob



## Pick of the Month's Cartoon



Published in *The Guardian* Newspaper, March 22, 2017

### PITHY COMMENTS



"To eliminate [corruption] will amount to eliminating the totality of the human race. This is because no human being is clothed in perfection. All we can do is to reduce it to the barest minimum."

– **Yakubu Dogara**,  
Speaker, House of  
Representatives.

"There cannot be war [against corruption] without casualties. If there is no casualty, it is either that something is wrong with the gun, or something is wrong with the person behind the gun."

– **Adams Oshiomhole**,  
a former Edo State governor.



"The fight against corruption is a priority. Nigeria cannot make progress if corruption is not addressed."

– **Ayuba Wabba**,  
President, Nigeria Labour  
Congress.

"The war against corruption in Nigeria is one of those clashes between good and evil, where good is determined to triumph."

– **Garba Shehu**,  
Senior Special Assistant on Media  
to President Muhammadu Buhari.



COMPILED BY SEGUN ADEOYE AND PAUL IKPOR



# Photogallery



L-R: National Security Adviser, Major-General, Babagana Monguno (retd), Director General, DSS, Lawan Daura and Acting EFCC Chairman, Ibrahim Magu in a chat after Juma'at prayer at the Aso Villa in Abuja, April 21, 2017.



EFCC staff at a one-day workshop organized by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC, at the Valencia Hotel, Abuja, April 25, 2017.



Magu with Solomon Dalung, Minister for Youths and Sports, during a visit to the EFCC Headquarters, April 20, 2017.



Magu in company of Kamisu Danmusa, Head, EFCC Kano office, during a visit, April 27, 2017.



Magu addressing 44 non-career ambassadors-designate at the Presidential Villa, April 4, 2017.



Wilson Uwujaren, Head, EFCC's Media and Publicity, in company of Samin Amaddin, Head Public Affairs, EFCC Lagos zone, receiving the City People Award for Best Government Agency in Nigeria, April 2, 2017, in Lagos.



Magu receives 2016 Person of the Year Award bestowed on him by the Leadership Newspapers, March 17, 2017.



EFCC Football Club, FC Abuja, defeats NYSC Football Club 4-1 to qualify for the FCT Federation Cup Final, April 25, 2017.



# Dangerous Couple

BY THERESA NWOSU//ENUGU

If anyone implores you to “sow” your money in “Let’s Partner With You” wonder bank, don’t just dismiss such a person, report to the nearest law enforcement agency. At the moment, its managing director, Patrick Nwokike, along with his wife, Rosemary, are facing the music for using their firm to lure their victims into believing that they would benefit from mouth-watering profits.

The EFCC was inundated with petitions from the public, cutting across religious, gender, ethnic, economic and social strata, who alleged that the couple over the past five years used their firm to obtain more than N4 billion in deposits, promising profits that never materialized.

Investigations had further revealed that the husband and wife who are



sole signatories to six accounts in about four different banks, would for a few months, pay 10 per cent interest on the depositor’s invested capital, “but suddenly stopped and efforts by depositors to have at least

*Husband and wife allegedly defraud their “wonder bank” customers to the tune of N4 billion*

their initial investments rebuffed by the firm”.

They also operated without “licence to solicit and manage funds for the public”, and did not register their financial institution with the Securities and Exchange Commission, or the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation.

They are expected back in court on June 27, 2017, to continue their trial before Justice Dugbo Aghoghorie of the Federal High Court Enugu, Enugu State on a 10-count charge bordering on advance fee fraud, and “carrying out banking business without valid licence.”

They have pleaded “not guilty” to the charges. ■



Mohammed Gobir

## Hot Soup

BY PAUL IKPOR

Who will ever believe that an **oga** (which means boss in local parlance) will be sharing same cell with criminals in prison? A thought of this triggers questions in one’s mind – How? Why? Is it possible?

Perhaps, Mohammad Gobir will provide answers to these questions.

Though he shares the same last name with Mohammed Gobir, a non-executive director and chairman, Afromedia Plc, who is being prosecuted by the EFCC for a \$300million fraud, he is a one-time Kwara Hotel boss.

He was arraigned before Justice J. Oyefeso of the Lagos State High Court, Ikeja, on April 4, 2017.

*A former boss of Kwara Hotel, alleged to have pocketed N92,340,000 meant for the upkeep of the hotel, is made to account for his action*

The boss landed himself into a pool of trouble, when he allegedly cornered N92,340,000 belonging to the Kwara State government, meant for the purchase of three units of Armored Personnel Carriers in November 2012.

He is facing a five-count charge bordering on conspiracy, stealing and forgery to which he pleaded not guilty.

His defence counsel did all he could to save him from being a tenant in one of the famous cells in Nigeria but to no avail, as the court insisted he must be accommodated in Ikoyi Prison, at least for a while, until he perfected the bail conditions given him, at the sum of N50 million. ■



# Painful Lesson

*It's a business gone sour as two businessmen fall into the trap of an acclaimed oil magnate, who deceived them into parting with 33,000 litres of kerosene*

BY AUGUSTINE BERNARD//EDO

**O**morogbe Igbinoba and Anygbeso Bright, both entrepreneurs who deal in kerosene business, will forever regret meeting Michael Faluyi, managing director of Hepzibal Faloye Oil and Gas Ventures, on August 10, 2013.

Enamoured by the business status of Faluyi, they had struck a transaction with his company to supply 33,000 litres to him, and had looked forward to legitimately lining their pockets with "good" money. Alas, after receiving the delivery of the product, Faluyi, breached his own aspect of the deal, by not paying them.

On April 4, 2017, the EFCC brought Faluyi before Justice P.I. Ajoku of the



Michael Faluyi

Federal High Court, Benin, Edo State where he pleaded "not guilty" to a two-count charge bordering on obtaining money by false pretence.

In view of his plea, the prosecution counsel, Sadiq Hussaini, asked the court to fix a date for the commencement of trial and that he be remanded in prison custody. His counsel, S.O. Omereye made an oral application for bail which was refused by the court. He was asked to make a formal application for bail.

Justice Ajoku adjourned the case to June 1, 2017 for trial and ordered that Faluyi be remanded in prison custody. ■

## Crooked Doctor

BY KASIMU YAHAYA

*The powers of an acclaimed herbalist cannot save him in court as his bail is revoked, in a N2.5 million fraud trial*



Bala Tangalu

**B**y the time you are reading this, Bala Tangalu, the self-acclaimed juju master (native doctor), who prides himself of possessing supernatural powers "to neutralize charms" has found himself in a hole that even his purported powers cannot deliver him from.

Tangalu, who was first arraigned on February 22, 2017 before Justice A.B. Mohammed of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT High Court, Jabi, for a N2.5 million fraud, has had his bail revoked. He had pleaded not guilty to the two-count charge of conspiracy and obtaining by false pretence brought against him by the EFCC, and was granted bail in the sum of N2 million.

But at the resumed sitting on April 6, 2017, he was nowhere to be found. When his name was called up in the courtroom for the continuation of his trial, he was absent.

Miffed by the action, and buoyed by the application of counsel to EFCC, Elizabeth Alabi, the trial judge, while revoking the bail, issued a bench warrant for him.

Tangalu, along with four others who are currently at large, had in 2016 defrauded Dozie Ugonna of the said sum, claiming that they would use the money to "purchase materials to neutralize some harmful charms contained in a carton filled with United States dollars".

He is expected back in court on May 3, 2017. ■

# STILL ON THE RUN



## IDRIS KWADO USMAN

Alhaji Idris Kwado Usman, Managing Director, Idris Kwado & Sons Limited and Aminu Dikko & Sons Limited, is a Katsina-based contractor who was declared wanted in January for complicity in the misappropriation of over One Billion Naira SURE-P funds in Katsina State during tenure of the former governor, Ibrahim Shema.

Usman, 49, is dark in complexion, hails from Katsina Local Government Area, and had his last address as: Kwado Village, off Ring Road, Katsina

He has refused to turn himself in and remained in hiding.

Anybody with useful information about his movement should contact the Commission in its Kano, Kaduna, Abuja, Maiduguri, Gombe, Enugu, Port Harcourt or Lagos office; or call any of these numbers: 08093322644, and 08183322644; or through its email address: [info@efccnigeria.org](mailto:info@efccnigeria.org)

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