

Milestones of 2017



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EFCCALERT!

Maina

**What Magu told
House of Reps**





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Maina: What Magu told the House of Reps 3

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PHOTO-GALLERY 7

The Month in Pictures

Milestones of 2017 8

It was an eventful year for the EFCC, as the anti-graft agency intensified its efforts in the fight against corruption

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Maina: What Magu told the House of Reps

The acting EFCC Chairman, Ibrahim Magu, on November 30, appeared before the ad hoc committee of the House of Representatives investigating the reinstatement into the civil service of Abdulsheed Maina, a former chairman of the Presidential Pension Reform Task Team, declared wanted by the EFCC for pension fraud and money laundering. Magu also refuted claims that Maina handed over pension assets to the agency.

Excerpts:

Allegation by Senate ad hoc committee, that 222 properties handed over to the EFCC by Maina were shared

The EFCC views with grave concern, the manner in which the allegation, made by unnamed person(s) in close-door session before the committee, was publicly orchestrated at the senate plenary without the Commission having the opportunity to respond. The

omission has tragically led to misinformation regarding the status of recovered pension assets. This is unwarranted. It should be stated that there had been no controversy regarding the status of assets recovered from suspects in pension fraud cases investigated by the Commission. These assets are well documented, and their current status

has been communicated to the relevant organs of government. Had the senate exercised restraint and sought information on the status of the assets, it would certainly have been obliged, and the nation spared the ordeal of the abominable frenzy over pension assets that were supposedly “shared” by unnamed “officials of the EFCC”. The



Magu at the hearing, flanked on the right by Hon. Kayode Oladele, Chairman, House of Reps Committee on Financial Crimes



John Yusuf

purveyors of the salacious tale should have gone the whole hog to name the “ghost” officials that engaged in this “sharing” of pension booty, and the place and time the “sharing” took place. They also did not list the properties that were supposedly recovered by Abdurashheed Maina and

handed over to the EFCC. They equally failed to indicate when the properties were handed over to the EFCC by Maina. The failure to provide this information is clear indication that what is playing out is diversionary gambit intended to befuddle ongoing inquiry over the Maina reinstatement saga by smearing anyone or agency that is capable of unmasking the real pension thieves.

Collaboration between the EFCC and Maina

The EFCC has no record of any collaboration between it and the Maina-led Pension Reform Task Team in the investigation of pension fraud. The only link between the EFCC and Maina was the participation of a few staff of the Commission in biometric verification exercise by the Maina Task Team. The leader of the EFCC team at the time was Col. I.D. Sule (retd.), a contract staff who was head of the Commission's Servicom Unit. The verification exercise was not a criminal investigation and no asset was recovered in the process.

Maina's claim on assets recovered
Maina did not hand over a single

asset, supposedly recovered from pension fraud suspects, to the Commission. If Maina claims to have evidence to the contrary, he is at liberty to disclose the number and types of assets that he handed over to the EFCC; disclose from whom the assets were recovered; disclose the date, time and venue where the handing over took place and name the official that received the assets from him.

It follows that if the Commission did not receive any assets from Maina, its officials could not have shared what never existed. Again, those who claim that there was “sharing” of assets, are at liberty to state which assets were “shared”, when the “sharing” took place, who supervised the “sharing”, and who got what.

As far as the Commission is concerned, all the assets recovered from pension fraud suspects, currently at the disposal of the EFCC, are products of its independent investigation. The assets were recovered from suspects of pension fraud in both Police Pension and the Pension Office of the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation.

Assets seized from pension fraud suspects

The suspects investigated in the Police Pension fraud from whom assets were seized, include: Atiku Kigo, Essai Dangabar, Ahmed Inuwa Wada, Veronica Oyegbula, Uzuoma Cyril Attang, Sani Habila Zira, John Yusuf and their associated companies and persons. In the pension office of the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, those from whom properties were recovered are Shaibu Teidi, Phina Chidi, Abdul Mohammed, Emmanuel Olanipekun, Aliyu Bello and their associated companies and persons.

The assets seized from these suspects are in two categories. There are assets that are under interim forfeiture which means that they are temporally seized pending the determination of the substantive cases in court. Such assets cannot be dissipated because the cases are pending in court. The reality is, most of the assets recovered from pension fraud suspects belong in this category. All but one of the assets recovered from suspects in the pension office of the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation is under interim forfeiture. The exception is Brifina Hotel, which was recovered from Shaibu Teidi. He denied ownership of the property and the court ordered its final forfeiture to the federal government. The property has since been handed over to government and is now being used as office by some agencies of government including the Pension Transitional Arrangement Directorate, PTAD. It is only assets recovered from John Yusuf, who was convicted under a plea bargain arrangement for fraud in the Police Pension office that have been permanently forfeited to the federal government. These assets are 32 units in number.

Managers of the assets

The assets, both those under interim forfeiture and the few under final forfeiture, are being managed in a transparent arrangement put in place by the Assets Forfeiture Department of the Commission. Etudo & Co. Estate Surveyors & Valuers, a reputable estate management firm,

was engaged to manage the assets, with the exception of assets recovered from Essai Dangabar, which are being managed by Court Registrar based on Court Order. The proceeds of rent on the properties that had successfully been let out by the firm are fully documented and available in the

recovery account of the Commission.

Assets recovered from Maina
Recoveries not captured in the interim/final forfeiture analysis, include those that were recently recovered from Maina in Abuja and Kaduna. They include seven properties in Kaduna. The properties are a two-



Some of Maina's sealed properties



Some of Maina's sealed properties



“Maina is the arrow head of complex web of illicit deals that saw hundreds of millions of pension funds allegedly ending up in his private pockets.”

Maina had a total inflow of over N2.7 billion between 2010 and 2013, with 95 per cent of the deposits being in cash. It was discovered that Faizal Abdullahi's Account (his son), had a turnover of over N1.5 billion in less than a year. It should also be noted that Maina operated these accounts through telephone and email messages. Most of the funds were converted to foreign currencies through Bureau De Change and delivered to Maina in cash. Part of the funds was used to purchase properties, including the house at No. 10 Hamisu Musa Road, Jabi which he bought for \$2 million in cash. Maina has failed to respond to invitations by the EFCC and he has been put on the Interpol Red Notice. Presently, there is a subsisting warrant of arrest against Maina.



storey commercial building located on Ibrahim Taiwo Road, a bungalow located on Katuru Road, and four separate properties located on Kano Road in Kawo New Extension, Kaduna. The other property which is still under construction is a set of four one-storey block of flats located at No. 5, Sokoto Road adjacent to the Zamfara State Governor's Lodge, Kaduna. Other properties linked to Maina include No. 12, 11th Road, Kado Estate, Abuja; No. A5 Omenai H.O (B Close) Kado Estate; No. 9, Eneli TCM Close, (A Close) Kado Estate; No. 8, Kolo S Close (A Close) Kado Estate; Luxury apartments (eight blocks of flats; six units of three bedrooms; two units of two bedrooms)

located at Plot 965, Cadastral C2, Life Camp, Abuja and a sprawling edifice located at No. 10 Hamisu Musa Road, Jabi, Abuja.

Status on Maina

Maina is under investigation by the Commission for fraud and money laundering. He is the arrow head of complex web of illicit deals that saw hundreds of millions of pension funds allegedly ending up in his private pockets. Maina operated the accounts of Cluster Logistics Limited, Kangolo Dynamic Cleaning Limited and Drew Investment and Construction Company Limited, Nafisa Aliyu and Abdulahi Faizal. It is important to note that, the six accounts operated solely by

Funds recovered from pension fraud suspects

The cash element of the recoveries is also carefully documented. The total funds recovered stand at N2,886,743,016.71, \$3,017,556.73 and €3,385.40. The sum of N16,185,131,847.09 which was recovered from an illegal account in an old generation bank has since been remitted to the office of the Head of Service, while N369,558,640.99 represents the cash component of John Yusuf's final forfeiture. There is no opacity regarding the Commission's handling of the assets recovered from suspects of pension fraud. The fact speaks for itself.

Photo - Gallery



Ibrahim Magu, acting EFCC Chairman, with Dame Julie Okah-Donli, Director General, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, NAPTIP, during a visit November 1.



L-R: Nana Amonsah, Operation Command, Economic and Organised Crime Team Ghana Office (EOCO), Magu, Kwesi Korankye, EOCO's Exec Dir and EFCC's Nnaghe Itam, during a visit October 30.



Magu with officials of the National Association of Polytechnic Students, NAPS, October 16, after he received a honorary award of excellence.



Magu during a working visit to the Benin office of the EFCC, October 19



Emmanuel Aremo, Secretary to the EFCC, during a working visit to the Uyo office of the EFCC, November 28.



Akaninyene Ezima, head, Ibadan EFCC office (middle), with Comptroller E.D. Chikan, Oyo/Osun Area Command, during a visit to the EFCC, November 29.



Abdulkarim Chukkol, head, Uyo EFCC office, with officers of the Federal Fire Service in the state including, Commanding Officer Abbas W. Reagan; Public Relations Officer, Etim Pius; Administrative Officer, Mrs. Okon and Fire Assistant, Clement Fynface, November 29.



Students of Cornerstone Montessori Schools, Gudu, Abuja, during a visit to the EFCC Academy, November 20.

Milestones of 2017

It was an eventful year for the EFCC, as the anti-graft agency intensified its efforts in the fight against corruption

For the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, the year 2017 was as remarkable as it was eventful. From the expansion of its operations, recognitions and accolades accorded it by international and independent organizations, to fostering partnerships with

local and foreign agencies, and the intensity of ongoing prosecution of Politically Exposed Persons, PEPs, among others, the year no doubt prides itself as one to remember. As the agency prepares for the challenges and tasks of 2018, below are a few milestones of 2017.

FEATS



Magu: Leadership Person of the Year



Gov Nasir El-Rufai at the inauguration of EFCC Kaduna office

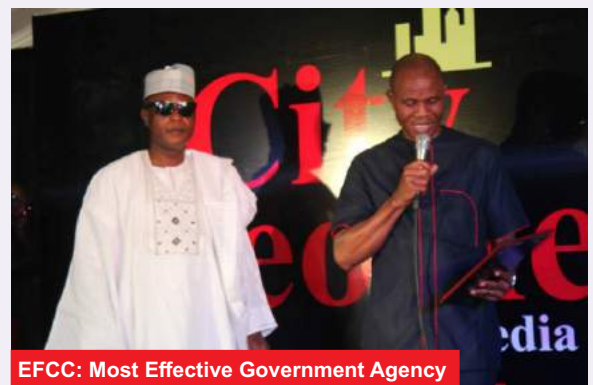
■ The EFCC “opened” the year 2017 with a “season of awards”. The management of the Leadership Group Limited, publishers of Leadership newspapers on March 17, bestowed the “Leadership Person of the Year” award on Ibrahim Magu, the EFCC boss, for “doing one of the nation’s most challenging jobs in your dogged fight against corruption, working without a letter of confirmation in that acting capacity for over one year”. The award, aptly contradicted the decision of the Senate, which two days earlier declined to confirm him as substantive chairman of the agency, in spite of glaring achievements in the fight against corruption. Magu was acknowledged to have contributed greatly to the receding “air of impunity”, which had “characterized the political space in the last dispensation”, thus making the country one to be “taken seriously once again”. The EFCC was also on May 4, adjudged the “Best Anti-Corruption Agency in Africa”, by the Northern Youth Council, an umbrella

body of youth organizations in northern part of Nigeria, for the “doggedness and commitment” of the agency’s teeming staff to the fight against corruption. Magu was also awarded the “Hope of Masses and Symbol of Hope” award for his efforts in leading the agency. At the 20th edition of the City People Awards for Excellence, the agency also shone like the stars as it was named the “Most Effective Government Agency”.

· The EFCC stepped up its initiative to reach out to the grassroots in the fight against corruption, by expanding its operations to Uyo, Akwa Ibom State; Ibadan, Oyo State, Benin, Edo State and Kaduna State. The expansion brings to 11, offices across the country where the agency now operates. Engagements were also held with civil society groups across the country. Anti-corruption Walk to engage the

citizenry on the streets, also held across EFCC offices.

· The first Anti-Corruption Summit was organized by the EFCC in March to provide a platform for stakeholders to engage on inter-agency collaboration. A workshop organized in partnership with the National Judicial Institute, NJI, was also held in October.



EFCC: Most Effective Government Agency

RECOVERIES

■ Perhaps, more than ever before, the EFCC upped the ante in the recovery of stashed away proceeds of illegal financial activities, with notable recoveries including \$43,449,947, £27,800 and N23,218,000 from Flat 7b, No 16, Osborne Towers, Ikoyi, Lagos, April 12; €547,730, £21,090 and N5,648,500 recovered from Balogun Market, Lagos, April 10; N448,850,000 from Legico Shopping Plaza, Victoria Island, Lagos, April 7; \$9,772,800 and £74,000 recovered from a building in the Sabon Tasha area of Kaduna State, February 3; N49 million from Kaduna Airport, March 14.

■ The EFCC recovered N36 million for Jephtah International School, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, from two bankers that had duped the school, along with N11,984,844.11 for the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Region 5, in Port Harcourt.

■ N328,988,296,990.62 recovered from nine major oil marketers.

The EFCC was also on May 4, adjudged the “Best Anti-Corruption Agency in Africa”, by the Northern Youth Council, an umbrella body of youth organizations in northern part



GLOBAL SUPPORT

■ In a rare show of support, the United Kingdom, through the National Crime Agency, NCA, trained operatives of the agency on the use of NIUX software, donated by the UK government in August. The software, server and workstation, are an advanced technology used in processing computers and mobile devices of internet fraudsters.



NEW TURFS

■ The use of music to advance the anti-corruption crusade was also utilized as the agency organized the first-ever Anti-Corruption Concert tagged, "Kill Corruption Concert", which held October 1, at the Unity Fountain, Abuja. The concert was replicated in Kano, and similar engagements are being scheduled to hold at other zones.

■ As part of showing solidarity with the EFCC, the Nigerian Army donated toys to the Ibrahim Magu Creche at the Port Harcourt office of the EFCC.



Toys donated to the creche by the Nigerian Army



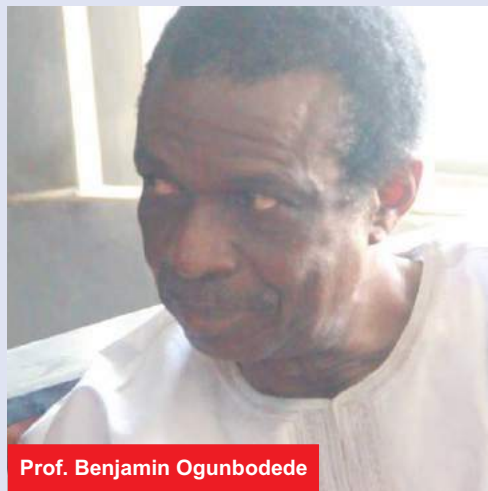
Scenes from the anti-corruption concert in Kano

CONVICTIONS

As at August 30, the EFCC has in the year under review, secured 137 convictions, notable that of Walter Wagbatsoma, chairman, Ontario Oil and Gas Limited, and Ada Ugo-Ngadi, managing director of the company; and Jubril Rowaye, his company, Brilla Energy Limited, and Alminur Resources Limited. The conviction of Bala Ngilari, a former Adamawa State governor, which was upturned by the Court of Appeal, has been appealed by the EFCC. Prof. Benjamin Ogunbodede, a former Director-General, Institute of Agriculture Research and Training, IART, Ibadan, Oyo State, joined the list on October 3, when he was convicted for defrauding the institute of N177 million.



Jubril Rowaye



Prof. Benjamin Ogunbodede



Walter Wagbatsoma



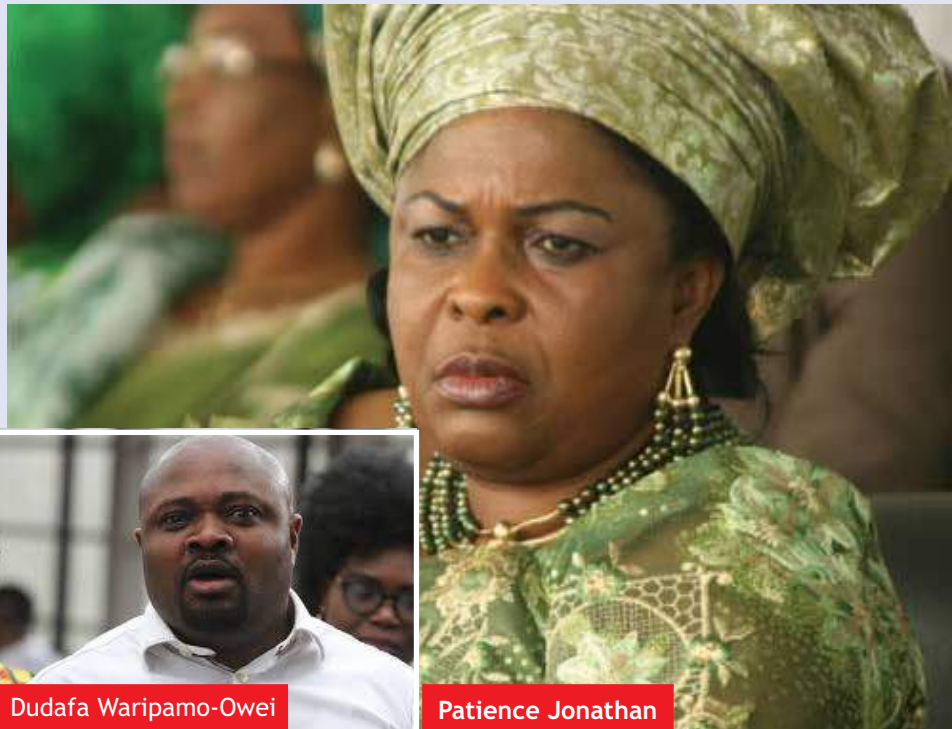
Bala James Ngilari



Ada Ugo-Ngadi

BUBBLE BURST

The bubble burst when Patience, wife of then president, Goodluck Jonathan, laid claim to \$15.5 million, which is the fulcrum in the fraud trial of Dudafa Waripamo-Owei, a former Special Adviser on Domestic Affairs to Jonathan, and five companies, Pluto Property and Investment Company Limited; Seagate Property Development and Investment Company Limited; Trans Ocean Property and Investment Company Limited and Avalon Global Property Development Company Limited. The companies already pleaded guilty, and the trial of Waripamo-Owei continues.



Dudafa Waripamo-Owei

Patience Jonathan

STILL ON THE RUN



ABDULRASHEED MAINA

Abdulrasheed Maina, former Chairman of Pension Reform Task Team (PRTT) is wanted for pension fraud and money laundry offence.

The dark complexioned Maina is complicit in the over N2bn Pension Biometric fraud in the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation. He remains at large despite a pending charge against him at an Abuja High Court.

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Anywhere. Anytime.

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