



EFCCALERT!

**SEASON
OF
AWARDS**



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EFCCALERT!

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Ibrahim Magu, acting EFCC Chairman, and Osita Nwajah, Director, Public Affairs, holding the Best Anti-Corruption Agency in Africa award

Season of Awards

The EFCC receives recognitions, awards and accolade, as independent groups acknowledge the agency and its leadership's commitment to the fight against corruption

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

“Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection we can catch excellence.”

This is just one of the famous quotes credited to Vincent Lombardi, a great American football coach, who in seven years, led his team to three straight and five total National Football League championships.

Indeed, for the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, its pursuit of perfection is evidently yielding results, occasioned by the flurry of unsolicited commendations and honours, in recent times.

Adjudged the Best Anti-Corruption Agency in Africa by the Northern

Youth Council, NYC, an umbrella body of all youth organizations in northern Nigeria, the agency was commended for giving teeth to the anti-graft war.

The decision to so acknowledge the anti-graft agency, according to Abdul-Salam Kazeem, secretary of the council, was in recognition of the vigour with which the agency under its acting Chairman, Ibrahim Magu, was executing the war against corruption.

“We appreciate you and your staff for your doggedness and

commitment to the fight against corruption,” Kazeem said.

Magu, who was decorated with a green sash, a symbol of induction into the council's hall of fame, also received the council's Hope of Masses and Symbol of Hope award. “This is an acknowledgement of you doing one of the nation's most challenging jobs in the fight against corruption, working without a letter of confirmation in that acing capacity,” Kazeem said.

The accolade came only a few days after the Ohaneze Youth Parliament

and Arewa Youth Parliament complimented the EFCC by passing a vote of confidence in its leadership.

"You have brought transparency, hard-work and accountability to the affairs of the Commission, and under you, the EFCC has not only become a watchdog, it has become a biting dog," said the speaker of the group, Patrick Okonkwo.

Okonkwo presented a Certificate of Credence to Magu, and gave assurances of the group's unalloyed and unwavering support for the EFCC.

The same commendation came the way of Magu, as the Abuja branch of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria, ANAN, bestowed on him the title, Barde of ANAN (translated Warrior or Strong Man).

It was also a shower of encomiums on the EFCC as it was named the Most Effective Government Agency for 2016 at the 20th edition of the City People Awards for Excellence.

It has undoubtedly been a season of awards. The management of the Leadership Group Limited, publishers of Leadership newspapers, in March, recognized Magu as one of the 11 eminent individuals chosen from the banking, business and government sectors, worth celebrating.

Organizers of the yearly award, acknowledged that under Magu, "the air of impunity, which had characterized the political space in the last dispensation, is receding and the country is being taken seriously once again". He was also commended 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".

An elated Magu noted that he received the award as a challenge to do more, and because "the process of selection was transparent and the organizers have high integrity".

He dedicated it "to all Nigerians who have supported us in the fight against corruption". ■



Magu receiving 2016 Person of the Year Award bestowed on him by the Leadership newspapers



Magu with his plaque honouring him with the Hope of Masses and Symbol of Hope award.



Magu displaying his plaque, honouring him as the Barde of ANAN



Wilson Uwujaren, EFCC's Spokesperson, in company of Samin Amaddin, Head, Public Affairs, EFCC Lagos zone, receiving the City People Award for Best Government Agency in Nigeria

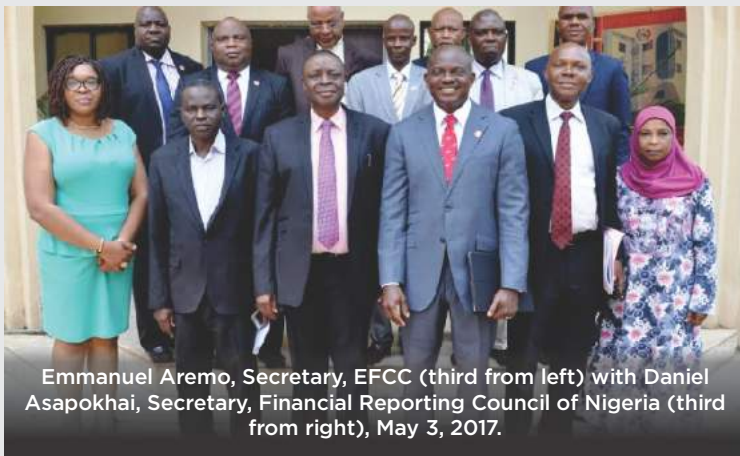
Photogallery



Ibrahim Magu, acting EFCC Chairman, with Ed Olowo-Okere, World Bank's Director for Governance Global Practice, May 4, 2017.



Magu with Tunde Fowler, Chairman, Federal Inland Revenue Service, April 26, 2017



Emmanuel Aremo, Secretary, EFCC (third from left) with Daniel Asapokhai, Secretary, Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (third from right), May 3, 2017.



Ibrahim Biu, Managing Director, Progress Radio Gombe, during a visit to the EFCC Gombe office, where he was received by Aminu Aliyu, Head, EFCC Gombe.



Cancer awareness programme at EFCC headquarters, organized by NYSC members, April 26, 2017.



Osita Nwajah, Director, EFCC Public Affairs (fourth from right), Wilson Uwujaren, EFCC Spokesperson (third from left) with some staff of the department at Conference of the Nigeria Institute of Public Relations, in Ilorin, Kwara State, April 27, 2017.



Magu with Zaki Ahmed, Commissioner of Police, Rivers State, May 8, 2017.



Magu with Marcel Alain de Souza, President of the ECOWAS Commission.

End Game

The EFCC records first conviction at its Maiduguri office, securing conviction of two local council officials who diverted 180 bags of rice meant for Internally Displaced Persons

BY JAMILU SALE//MAIDUGURI

Thursday, May 4, 2017 was the end of the road for Umar Ibrahim, a supervisory councillor at the Mafa Local Government Area of Borno, and Bulama Zangebe. It was a climax that, no doubt, the hundreds of famished Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs taking shelter at the council area, whose foodstuffs the duo stole, had longed for. Perhaps, more important is the fact that it was the first conviction secured at the EFCC's Maiduguri office, since it was re-opened in 2016.

Justice Fadawu Umaru of the Borno State High Court, Maiduguri, that day, after going through several

exhibits presented by the EFCC in the trial of Ibrahim and Zangebe, on a four-count charge bordering on "conspiracy to divert 180 bags of rice and sell them" found them guilty.

Operatives of the agency had in January arrested them after bags of rice donated by the Danish Refugee Council, as part of relief packages for the IDPs, went missing. They were arrested along with Modu Bulama, Halilu Abdullahi and Abacha Ali.

They had claimed that Shettima Maina, the caretaker chairman of the council, was the one that instructed

them to sell the bags of rice at N8,500 per bag amounting to N1,440,000. The stolen foodstuffs were traced to Lawan Ibrahim of Bolori Stores and Umar Salisu.

"The prosecution has proven its case beyond every reasonable doubt," Justice Umaru said, as he sentenced them to two years in prison with a fine of N1 million on the crime of criminal misappropriation and two years for conspiracy. The sum of N50,000 recovered from the agents that sold the bags of rice was also ordered to be forfeited to the state. ■



Fraudulent Accountants

Two former accountants with the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, Borno, are confronted with evidence of their involvement in a N58 million fraud

Ordinarily, Mahmud Sambo and Bukar Musti, both former Assistant Director, Finance, and Chief Accountant, Salary, respectively of the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital, UMTH, Borno State, ought to have been contented with their monthly pay. But as it seems, the lure for filthy lucre was too much for them to resist.

Their trial before Justice M.T. Salihu of the Federal High Court, Maiduguri, which began on April 7, 2016 continued on May 3, 2017 with Surajo Abdullahi, an EFCC operative, confronting them with facts unearthed in the course of investigating the N58 million fraud charge against them.

"Sometimes in September 2010, a petition was sent to my team written by Afri Bank, in which it was alleged that some suspicious transactions always took place whenever monthly salaries were paid by UMTH," he said.

Abdullahi explained that the

transactions involved insertions of ghost workers into the payroll system of UMTH, inflation of salaries and allowances of some staff by Sambo for onward transmission to Musti."

However, their counsel raised objections to the admissibility of their statements, which the prosecution sought to tender, arguing that they were coerced and threatened into making them.

They are now to defend the voluntariness or otherwise of their statements at a trial-within-trial, which commences on May 24, 2017. ■



Deadly Love

BY AUGUSTINE BERNARD//IBADAN

A Dutch man, who thought he had found love on the internet, falls into a deadly trap as he is defrauded of €88,000

Just when you thought that with several internet fraudsters that the EFCC has got rid of, the rate of romance scam in the country would drop, then comes the case of Adedotun Ajani and Adedeji Adesina.

Using the pseudo-names, Clara Williams and Lara Williams, the young men, who ought to be exploring their talent to better the society, chose to engage in romance scam targeting Michael Wassink, a Dutch citizen.

Love is blind! And so Wassink, like many of those that have fallen for the antics of the likes of Ajani and Adesina, blindly parted with €88,000.

It was rather too late for him, before he would realize that the love Williams had for him was actually a deadly love.

The two fraudsters are currently facing trial before Justice A.D.

Oladimeji of the Osun State High Court, Ede, on a 50-count charge bordering on conspiracy and obtaining money by false pretence.

They were arraigned on May 2 and pleaded "not guilty" to the charges. ■



Ajani and Adeshina

Nightmare

The desire to own a property in one of the choice areas in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, turns into a nightmare

For Mutiat Adio, a deputy chief registrar at the Oyo State High Court, Ibadan, it was a reversal of roles, on April 28, 2017 as that day, she stood in the dock, to answer for a two-count charge of land fraud brought against her by the EFCC.

Adio's sordid journey to the dock began on December 19, 2016 when she obtained N9.2 million from Yekini Olonade, as payment of a property located at Plot 10, Block XXIV, Bashorun Estate, Ibadan.

She failed to however, provide the title deed of the property to

Olonade. Efforts of the victim to get a refund proved abortive. The EFCC was subsequently petitioned.

Investigations revealed that Adio "obtained the sum of N9.2 million from Yekini Olonade through Kunle Abimbola by falsely pretending that it was part payment of the cost price of a building and land situate, lying and being at plot 10, Block XXIV, Bashorun Estate, Lagelu Local Government Area, Ibadan which you purported to have sold to him".

She pleaded "not guilty" to the charges. ■



Unruly Landlord

BY TITILOLA OLEJIYA//PORT HARCOURT

A community leader in the Niger Delta region, who got involved in pipeline vandalism, faces the music for causing great loss to the Nigerian government

His journey to the dock, began when as a community leader overseeing the activities of the Nigerian Agip Oil Company in Igbogene, Bayelsa State, he engaged in oil pipeline vandalism. For Chikobi Alali, Chairman, Onelga Oil and Gas Well, and head, Landlord Families of Rivers State, that singular act of sabotage may well earn him a jail term.

Alali, who was on March 18 arrested by officers of Operation Delta Safe, is alleged to have tampered with oil pipelines, causing "obstruction of free flow of crude oil by shutting-in crude oil Well Heads Operated by Nigerian Agip Oil Company Ltd in Idu leading to cumulative oil lose of about 18,928 barrels worth about \$946,400 at \$50 per barrel".



He was subsequently handed over to the EFCC. He was on May 3 arraigned before Justice Omotosho of the Federal High Court, Port

Harcourt, Rivers State, on a 16-count charge bordering on conspiracy and tampering with oil pipelines.

Under cross-examination, he admitted to conspiring with some others who are currently at large "to tamper with oil pipeline, well heads operated by NAOC at different times at Idu and Mbede both in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area" of the state. He admitted that he got involved as a "protest against the alleged failure of NAOC in meeting its corporate responsibilities to its host communities".

Due to his actions, the country lost revenue that could have accrued to it for the sale of 35,904 barrels of crude oil. ■

Asuni Goes to Jail

BY DEBORAH MEZEH//ENUGU

For attempting to defraud a bank customer of N7 million, a fraudster bags a four-year jail term



By the time you are reading this, Yakub Asuni, has already begun his four-year jail term for "attempting to steal N7 million from a bank customer's account".

Justice I.B. Gafai of the Federal High Court Awka, Anambra State found him guilty of a four-count charge bordering on "attempted stealing".

Asuni had on March 4, 2016 "attempted to induce Access Bank Plc to deliver/transfer the sum of N7 million from account No. 0046119649 in the name of Abdullahi Adamu to account No. 0020220860 belonging to Salisu Abubakar claiming that you are Abdullahi Adamu".

Suspecting foul play, the branch manager asked him to re-sign the

transfer form, which he declined. Instead, he claimed it was his personal assistant that was usually in charge of such a task.

However, when he was asked to state the date he last withdrew money from the account, he went blank, as his fraudulent act was exposed. He was subsequently arrested and handed over to the EFCC.

Justice Gafai held that "there was overwhelming evidence that refutes his claim of innocence", and so sentenced him to three years on the first count, four years on second count and three years on third count all to run concurrently. He was discharged of count four, bordering on altering of transfer form. ■



FINANCIAL ACTION TASK FORCE

THE NATION

Delisted from the Financial Action Task Force, FATF's grey list of non-compliant countries in 2013, Nigeria is yet to become a full member of the global body, and may not be until after 2019

A Leap Clipped

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

Four years after the very much celebrated removal of Nigeria from the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force, FATF, the acclaimed giant of Africa, is yet to be accorded full membership status of the global body – no thanks to the closure of the Abuja Airport, in March for the rehabilitation of its runway.

The concern was evident on the face of the Chairman of the House of Reps Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes, Kayode Oladele, who as a member of the three-man Nigerian delegation that attended the February 2016 plenary session in Paris, France pushed for Nigeria's full membership.

"South Africa is the only country on the African continent with full membership, and this is not so good for the continent," he says. "Nigeria becoming a member will be a very good addition because we need at least two members, to effectively represent us."

Back in 2014, after its removal from the unenviable list of non-complaint countries in 2013, Nigeria had applied for full membership, but it was not granted. The country re-applied in 2016, but the status quo was maintained. This is in spite of its election in 2015 as the regional head of West and Central Africa in the Egmont Group, representing 26 other African countries, and its prominent role in the establishment

of the regional body, GIABA. Due to insistence of the Nigerian delegation at the October 2016 plenary session, the FATF resolved to send a high-powered delegation to the country in March this year "to do some fact-finding mission", having expressed confidence in the political will of the current administration and commitment to the fight against corruption.



The setback, which was not envisaged, was due to the March 8 shutdown of the airport, till April 18.

"All efforts were made to receive the FATF delegation, but because of the construction of the Abuja Airport runway, which made it impossible for international flights to touch down in Abuja, the officials declined to come to Nigeria through Kaduna," he says. "We did everything possible to make them come, but they said 'no'."

All hope is however, not lost. The FATF, according to Oladele, has given assurance that a delegation would be in the country later in October.

"We should be going to the FATF plenary again in June this year, during which time we would pursue that again," he says.

Becoming a member of the FATF is not a day's affair. It takes a painstaking process, which involves being given an "observer status" first, for a period of one year, after which the country will be considered for full membership.

"If we had succeeded in making the FATF delegation come in March, we anticipated that by June this year we would have been given that observer status," he says. "By June next year we would have been talking of getting the full membership."

As things stand, however, Nigeria can only look forward to having an observer status until after the FATF's visit in October.

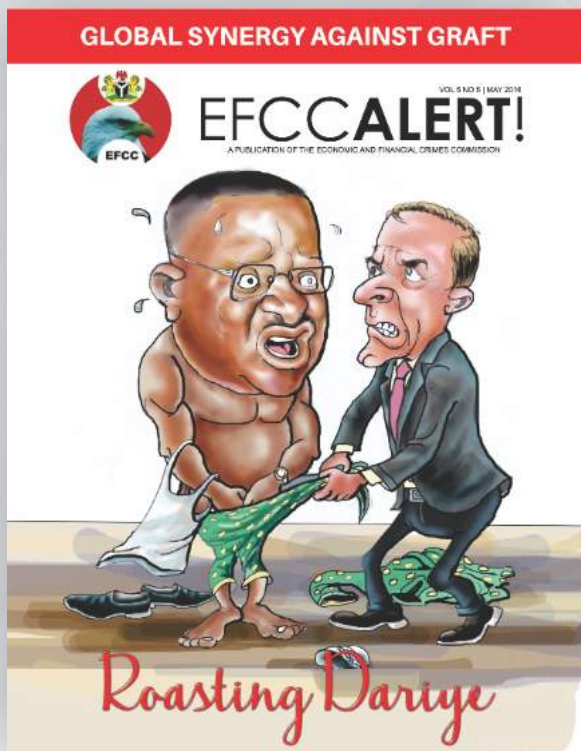
"Even at that, it will probably be during the February 2018 plenary that we would be considered for the observer status, and then we will be talking about full membership in 2019," he says. "So you can see how that little problem of runway repair has affected our membership even though we are on course." ■

Pick of the Month's Cartoon



Published in *Vanguard* newspaper, May 11, 2017

FROM THE SHELVES



The May 2016 edition of EFCCALERT!

The edition chronicled the testimony of Peter Clark, a retired detective constable with the United Kingdom, UK Metropolitan Police, at a Federal Capital Territory, FCT High Court, Gudu, May 9, 2016 who literally pulled down the pants of Joshua Dariye, a former Plateau State governor, standing trial for allegedly diverting N1.16bn state funds.

Clark who between January and September 2004 investigated Dariye in the UK, roasted the serving senator in court, as he gave graphic details of how he laundered stolen money through cronies and banks.

His trial is however, yet to be concluded since March 24, 2015 when it resumed before Justice Adebukola Banjoko.

Pinboard

Babangida Aliyu
Ex-Niger State governor
Misappropriation of public funds
Niger State High Court
Justice Aliyu Mayaki
June 12, 2017



Ibrahim Shema,
Ex-Katsina State governor
Diversion of public funds
Katsina State High Court
Justice Maikaita Bako
June 6, 2017



Alex Badeh
Ex-Chief of Defence Staff
Money laundering
Federal High Court,
Maitama
Justice Okon Abang
June 19, 20 & 21, 2017



Rickey Tarfa, SAN
Attempt to pervert course of justice
Federal High Court, Lagos
Justice Aishat Opekanwo
July 7, 2017



Andrew Yakubu
Ex-GMD NNPC
Money laundering
Federal High Court, Abuja
Justice A.R. Mohammed
May 24, 2017



Mohammed Umar Dikko
Criminal breach of trust
Federal High Court,
Abuja
Justice Nnamdi Dimgba
May 23 & 25, 2017



Jolly Nyame
Ex-Taraba State governor
Criminal breach of trust
FCT High Court, Gudu
Justice Adebukola Banjoko
May 22 & 23, 2017



Rasheed Ladoja
Ex-Oyo State governor
Diversion of state funds
Federal High Court, Lagos
Justice Mohammed Idris
May 25, 2017



Stephen Oronsaye
Corruption and obtaining by false pretence
Federal High Court, Abuja
Justice Gabriel Kolawole
June 6, 2017



Sule Lamido
Ex-Jigawa State governor
N1.35 billion fraud
Federal High Court, Abuja
Justice Babatunde Quadri
May 11, 2017
Justice Okon Abang
May 24, 2017



Olisa Metuh
Ex-PDP Spokesperson
Money laundering
Federal High Court,
Abuja
Justice Okon Abang
June 19, 2017



Gabriel Suswam
Ex-Benue State governor
Conspiracy and abuse of office
Federal High Court, Abuja
Justice A.R. Mohammed
June 21 & 22, 2017



Tony Omenyi
Money laundering
Federal High Court,
Abuja
Justice Nnamdi Dimgba
May 24, 2017



Joshua Dariye
Ex-Plateau State governor
Misappropriation of state funds
FCT High Court, Gudu
Justice Adebukola Banjoko
May 24, 2017



Emeka Mba
Ex-NBC DG
Money laundering and procurement fraud
Federal High Court, Abuja
Justice Gabriel Kolawole
May 24, 2017



Abba Moro
Ex-Minister of Interior
Procurement fraud
Federal High Court, Abuja
Justice Nnamdi Dimgba
June 28 - 30, 2017



Jide Omokore
Chairman, Atlantic Energy Brass
Development Limited
Procurement fraud
Federal High Court, Abuja
Justice Nnamdi Dimgba
June 13, 2017



Ahmadu Fintiri
Ex-Adamawa State governor
Money laundering
Federal High Court, Abuja
Justice A.R. Mohammed
June 12, 2017



Joseph Nwobike, SAN
Attempt to pervert course of justice
Lagos State High Court,
Ikeja
Justice Raliatu Adebisi
May 18, 2017



Orji Uzor Kalu
Ex-Abia State governor
Diversion of public funds
Federal High Court, Lagos
Justice Mohammed Idris
June 5, 6, 7 & 8, 2017



Haliru Bello
Ex-PDP Chairman
Money laundering and abuse of office
Federal High Court, Abuja
Justice A.R. Mohammed
May 24, 2017



Nicholas Achinze
Ex-aide to ex-NSA
N3.1bn fraud
Federal High Court, Abuja
Justice Gabriel Kolawole
June 12, 2017



Femi Fani-Kayode
Ex-Minister, Culture &
Tourism
N26 million fraud
Federal High Court, Abuja
Justice J.T. Tsoho
June 6, 2017



Fred Ajudua
Defrauding a German company of \$1 million
Lagos State High Court,
Ikeja
Justice Josephine Oyefeso
July 3, 2017



Sambo Dasuki
Ex-National Security
Adviser
Criminal breach of trust
FCT High Court, Maitama
Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf
July 11 & 12, 2017



Olugbenga Obadina
Money laundering
Federal High Court, Abuja
Justice Nnamdi Dimgba
May 24 & 25, 2017



Raymond Dokpesi
Ex-DAAR Communications Plc
Chairman
Criminal breach of trust
Federal High Court, Maitama
Justice J.T. Tsoho
May 24 & 25, 2017



Abiodun Agbele
Money laundering
Federal High Court,
Abuja
Justice Nnamdi Dimgba
May 30, 2017



Shamsudeen Bala
Ex-FCT Minister's son
Money laundering
Federal High Court,
Abuja
Justice Nnamdi Dimgba
May 23 & 24, 2017



Waripamo-Owei Dudafa
Ex-aide to ex-president Goodluck
Jonathan
Concealment of proceeds of crime
Federal High Court, Lagos
Justice Babs Kuewumi
September 13, 2017



Nse Ekpenyong
Forgery
Federal High Court, Uyo,
Akwa Ibom
Justice Ijeoma Ojuwku
June 9, 2017



Dan Etete
Ex-Petroleum Minister
Malabu oil scandal
Federal High Court, Abuja
Justice J.T. Tsoho
June 13, 2017



Fortunate Fibersima
Ex-State House CMD
Abuse of office
FCT High Court, Maitama
Justice Peter Affen
June 6, 2017










**No hiding place for Corruption.
EFCC will get you!**



Economic and Financial Crimes Commission

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