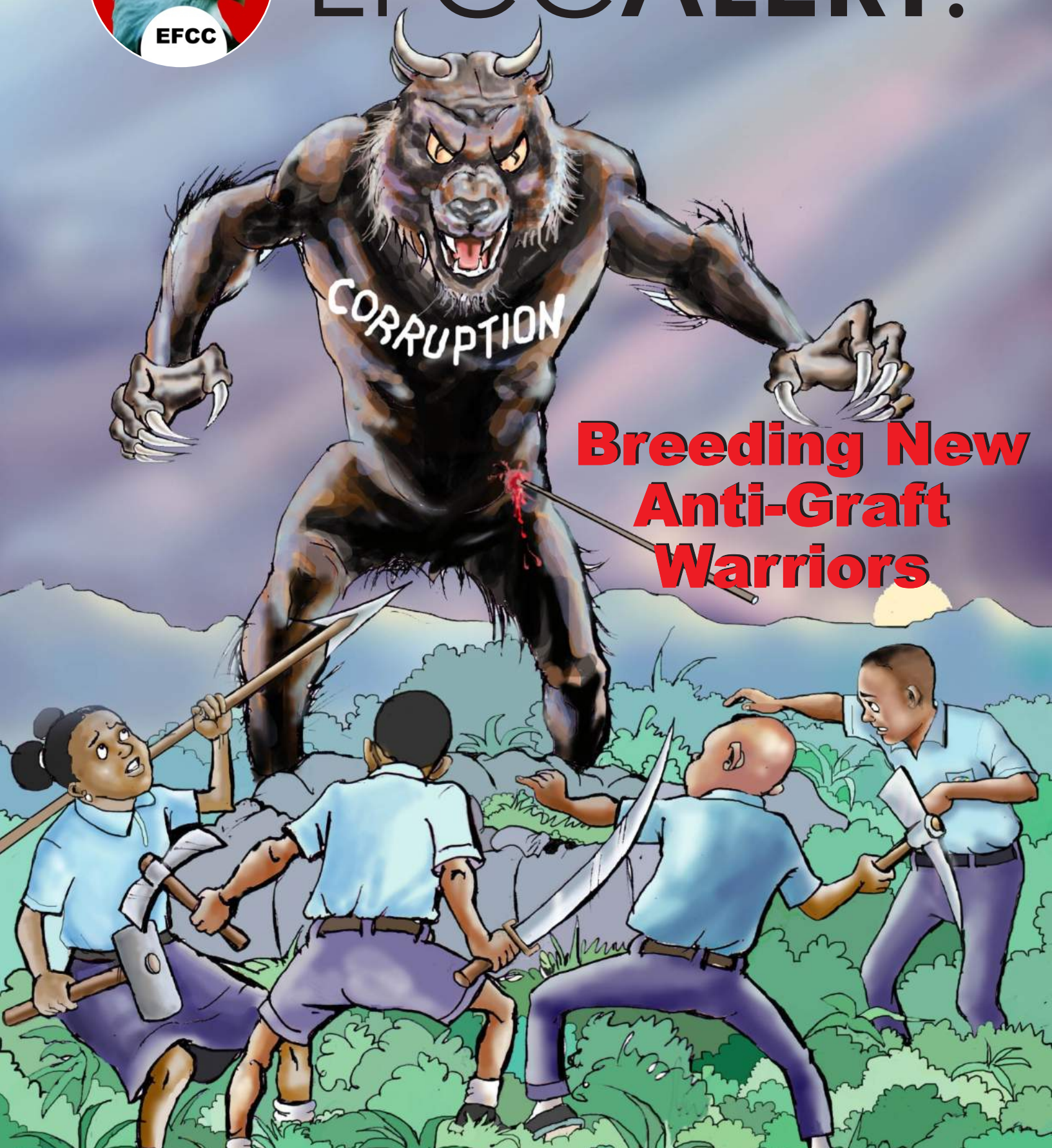




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EFCCALERT!



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Anti-Graft
Warriors**

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Re: The Danger in Taking NFIU Out of EFCC

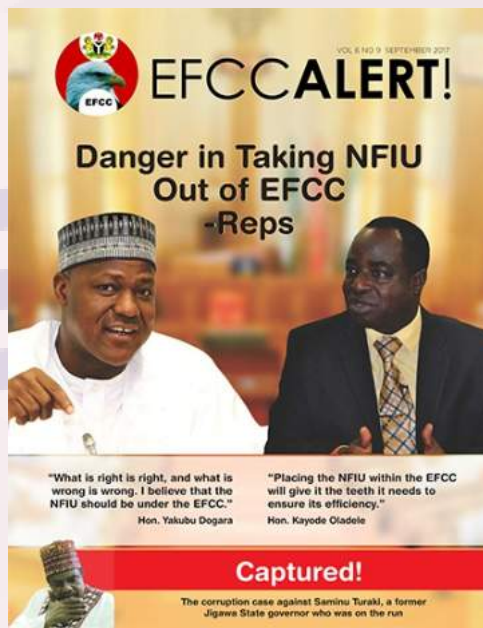
We have known the House of Reps to be far better and pro-Nigeria than the Senate. And this very one led by Bukola Saraki is the worst Senate ever in the history of Nigeria. – **Adolphus Daniel**

You shouldn't expect anything good from corruption rotten Senate as headed by current set of leadership – **Sani Ibrahim**

It shows how corrupt the present Senate is. – **Umar Bello Samari**

God bless Dogara. We all know that you love this country. – **Aboh John**

The Senate, [is filled] with selfish-minded people. – **Akintokunbo Akinleye**



But it would guard against EFCC becoming a monster; it could check its excesses. – **Isaac Uka**

The Nigerian Senate is nothing but corrupt and evil. – **Emperor Bugati**

When the PMB has refused to remove the cat from the house what do you expect the mouse to do? – **Daud Ogbuu**

This 8th Senate is nothing but corrupt. – **Murphy Fatolu**

The world anti-corruption Egmont Group has made its stance clear. If Nigeria refuses to make the NFIU independent for whatever reasons, then let them not complain tomorrow when the Group throws Nigeria out. And let Nigeria not complain tomorrow that it is not getting support from other countries in the war against financial crimes. Comply by making the NFIU autonomous, or get booted out. It is as simple as that. – **Onu Igala**

THROWBACK PHOTO

Malami's PromisY'hc'9: 77



Circa April 13, 2016:

Abubakar Malami, Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, in a show of solidarity and support, with Ibrahim Magu, acting EFCC Chairman, at the EFCC headquarters, as they jointly held the FA Challenge Cup trophy won on April 3, 2016 by the anti-graft agency's Football Club, FC Abuja.

"We are delighted with the way the EFCC has taken the bull by the horns in its anti-corruption crusade. Be assured that the government is prepared to meet your challenges for optimal performance," Malami said.



Breeding New Generation

The EFCC's creative youths initiative against corruption, breeds a new generation of young, fertile minds eager to transform their Fatherland, as initiative expands beyond Nigeria's shores

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

"The children of any nation are its future. A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future."

Strong words, and wise counsel from Oliver Tambo, famous South African revolutionary, who in his life time fought tooth and nail, to have his country freed from the oppressive regime of the apartheid era.

The man, after whom the country's international airport is named, further stressed: "The fight for freedom must go on until it is won."

Tambo, no doubt, speaks to the heart and soul of the EFCC's Creative Youth Initiative Against Corruption, CYIAC, which was launched in Abuja on October 4, 2016 – three days after

Nigeria marked its 56th Independence anniversary.

For the EFCC, the fight to free Nigeria from the shackles of corruption must go on until it is won. The initiative, which targets the youth – ages nine to 14, was strategically designed to sow the seed of the anti-corruption crusade in their young, innocent and fertile minds. It is part of the anti-graft agency's multipronged approach in its concerted campaign to rid the country of corruption.

"Our children must see that there is a future away from corruption and be

encouraged to take that path of honour, moral rectitude and creative employment of their talents," said Ibrahim Magu, acting EFCC Chairman, at the launch.

Prevention, he stressed, remained a potent and essential weapon in the fight against corruption, and "there is no group of Nigerians better equipped to wield that weapon than the youths".

The project, which is a collaboration between the EFCC and Nobel laureate, Prof. Wole Soyinka's Vision of the Child Art Project, is indeed,



Ibrahim Magu, acting EFCC Chairman decorates Nobel laureate, Prof. Wole Soyinka with the EFCC lapel, during one of the CYIAC engagements

“Our children must see that there is a future away from corruption and be encouraged to take that path of honour, moral rectitude and creative employment of their talents.”

- Magu

noble in its entirety. It was designed to “identify young talents with vision for a corrupt-free society, and inculcate in them values of integrity, honesty and accountability through the art – poetry, dance, drama, visual arts and essay writing”.

As a way of exploring the talents of the youths, they are engaged in an arts competition, in which participants from 60 schools in Lagos were tasked to express their views for a “New Nigeria Free from Corruption” using painting, literary art, drama, music, dance, and information technology.

By November 9, 2016 the creative writing contest, which closed on October 30, 2016 had entered its third phase. Twenty-five entrants emerged as finalists. Later in the month, before a live audience, the young minds showcased their creativity in painting and poetry.

“The whole idea is to catch them young, with the goal of nipping the tree of corruption at the bud,” said Foluke Micheal, Project Director. “They are also taught to recognize, reject and condemn corruption using creative art.”

An animated video series, *Bribe Busters*, created by TRACE International for children and youths, was employed as part of the

creative tools to raise anti-corruption consciousness in the tender minds of the youths.

At the Nigerian Stock Exchange in Lagos, the CYIAC’s “My New Nigeria Free from Corruption” nationwide campaign to cover the six geopolitical zones in the country, was on December 1, 2016 inaugurated. The historic event, witnessed poetic presentations by the finalists on the ills of corruption, as they proffered antidotes, using paintings to depict Nigeria of the past, present and their expected future. They received awards and certificates courtesy of the German Consulate and corporate organizations that supported the initiative.

“Periods of national economic challenges seem to be fertile grounds and manure for crimes and criminality,” said Osita Nwajah, director, EFCC’s Public Affairs at the inauguration. “So, in times such as these, we owe an obligation [as a people] to rescue the many young ones who [otherwise may] get caught up in intricate webs of criminality.”

Rescuing the young has become part of the EFCC’s corruption prevention strategy, aimed at breeding a new generation of Nigerians. The picture of the smiling

young ones in the company of their delighted parents and guardians, on June 22, lit up the auditorium of the Nike Arts Gallery, Lekki, Lagos, as winners of the competition, received their gift – Net Book, a mini laptop that comes with educational materials.

Like the Biblical mustard seed, the initiative, which was “sown” in 2016, has now grown beyond the shores of Nigeria. Come October 1, when Nigeria again rolls out the drum to celebrate its anniversary, the CYIAC will inaugurate its Diaspora Nigeria Action Against Corruption Initiative – DNA Action.

“The DNA Action will facilitate town hall meetings in major countries across all continents Asia, North America, South America, Europe and Oceania in collaboration with the Nigerian embassies,” said Olajide Ajayi, DNA Action’s Europe Director. “There is no better time than now for Nigerians in the Diaspora to get involved in the advocacy against corruption.”

The initiative, he noted, is to support the EFCC’s anti-corruption prevention measures, as it relates to children and youth re-orientation, and would birth a global campaign against corruption. ■

***Scenes from the EFCC
Creative Youths Initiative
Against Corruption project.***



Ibori: A Tamed Lion

*The UK Press Organisation berates **The Mail** on Sunday for erroneous report portraying Bhadresh Gohil, lawyer to James Ibori (both convicts of money laundering in the UK), as innocent*

BY SEGUN ADEOYE



It made headline news in a number of Nigerian news media, and gave supporters of James Ibori, a former Delta State governor, convicted for money laundering in the UK, something to peddle around; but the report, titled, "Revealed: How top QC 'buried evidence of Met bribes to put innocent man in jail'" published in the UK's **The Mail on Sunday**, October 9, 2016 has now got the fingers of the newspaper's editors burnt.

A document exclusively obtained indicates that the Independent Press Standards Organisation, IPSO, ruled that **The Mail** violated Clause 1 (Accuracy) of the organisation's Editor's Code of Practice.

Titled "Decision of the Complaints Committee 00894-17 Wass v **The Mail** on Sunday", it detailed investigations into complaints lodged against the **The Mail** by Sasha Wass QC, a prosecution counsel. Wass complained that in the story, the newspaper falsely accused her that she "lied to judges in order to hide damning evidence of police corruption" during the appeal hearing of Bhadresh Gohil, challenging his conviction.

Gohil, a lawyer to Ibori, was convicted of counts of money laundering and a count of prejudicing money laundering investigation, on

November 22, 2010 after "a lengthy trial" before HHJ Hardy and a jury at Southwark Crown Court. He was accused "to have concealed and to have facilitated the laundering of some of Ibori's fraudulently obtained gains". In convicting him, the court had relied "on documents, alleged to be fraudulent and/or fictitious, found secreted" in his office. In fact, Gohil on December 6, 2010 "pleaded guilty" to "counts of conspiracy to defraud, and conspiracy to make false instruments", and was subsequently sentenced to 10 years in jail, with confiscation proceedings instituted, afterwards.

In the landmark ruling [Case No: 201206129B4], delivered on July 17, 2014 the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) presided over by Lord Justice Davis, Justice Andrew Smith and HHJ Cooke QC, dismissed in its entirety, the nine grounds of appeal by Gohil seeking to overturn his conviction. The court dismissed the grounds of appeal that "there was no evidence of any loss to Delta State", noting that "in the event, Ibori himself had subsequently pleaded guilty" to the charges. The court further ruled that: "There is, in our view, no basis for permitting the applicant to vacate his pleas... We add that the various grounds have no greater force taken cumulatively than they have taken singly...overall these renewed applications seem to

us to be singularly lacking in merit."

But **The Mail** report had portrayed Gohil as an "innocent man", wrongfully sent to jail. It had reported that "Gohil had been cleared by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA)", when in fact, such was not the case. The report had also portrayed Wass of "tampering with evidence", alluding that she "had buried evidence which might have assisted [Gohil's] defence in a case she had prosecuted".

Miffed that the publication had presented to the public false report, Wass lodged her complaint with the IPSO on February 2. Nineteen days after, the Press Organisation began its investigations into the allegations. And, on July 20, IPSO issued its decision to uphold the complaints, noting that "the court had subsequently dismissed the appeal" of Gohil's defence on the allegation of police corruption, which the court held "were unfounded". The IPSO further held that: "The article had inaccurately reported that despite his conviction for fraud, Mr Gohil had been cleared of wrongdoing by the SRA."

Report of IPSO's decision after investigations, reads in part: "The newspaper had published significantly inaccurate information and it had failed to comply with the obligations of Clause 1 (ii)... As such,

the Committee required the publication of an adjudication."

Ten months after publishing the said report, **The Mail** ate the humble pie and published a retraction - <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/article-4764454/IPS0-adjudication-upheld-against-MoS-Sasha-Wass-QC.html?ITO=1490>

Back to the Wall

The EFCC had partnered with the UK Met Police, to make Ibori answer for charges of money laundering, after Justice Marcel Awokulehin of the Federal High Court, Asaba, Delta State, on December 17, 2009 dismissed the 170 counts of money laundering brought against him in Nigeria.

Five years after Ibori pleaded guilty to counts of money laundering and related offences of fraud to the tune of £50 million at a UK Southwark Crown Court, February 27, 2012 his case has become a Shakespearean drama with intriguing series. What with his benefactors' jubilations that greeted his return to Nigeria, February 4, after his release from a UK prison in December [spending about half of his 13-year jail sentence]; his appeal against his conviction; and the campaign of calumny targeted at UK police officers that investigated him.

One of such, published on financialwatchngr.com, November 28, 2016 claimed that the UK had opened "fresh investigation of corrupt policemen involved" in Ibori's trial. The report credited to a statement by Tony Elumunor, Ibori's media aide, had posited that "the latest investigation" was by the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC).

Investigations, however, indicate that there was in fact, no such "fresh investigation" and the IPCC was not investigating anything new. Interaction with one of the officers involved in the investigation and prosecution of Ibori, indicates that

"The mountains of evidence we secured would make your eyes pop out! That's why Ibori pleaded guilty."

no such notices, as claimed in the Elumunor statement, was served on the officers. The report overreached its propaganda agenda, referring to the officers as being "on active duty while the investigation continued", when in fact, the reverse was the case as they had long retired from the Police. Matthew Hurdington-Jones, who was listed among the officers erroneously reported as being investigated, had changed his name three years before the publication of

Investigation proved the allegation of payment of £20,000 as bribe to police officers to be false."

the report.

Further investigation revealed that Lambertus De-Boer referred to as "a lawyer" who made the "revelation" in the statement, is not a lawyer and indeed, pleaded guilty to overwhelming evidence gathered against him in relation to the v-mobile fraud.

Allegations of bribery and corruption on part of police officers who investigated Ibori, were actually dismissed in the July 17, 2014 appeal court ruling, as they formed one of the grounds of the appeal. The court ruled that the allegation that

For the Ibori Team, it is no doubt a fight to the end."

Risc Management Limited (RML), a company of private investigators gave bribes to officers in the course of investigation, in exchange of "privileged information", was "a very grave one", but "such allegation has in fact already in substance being

investigated and rejected".

Moreover, investigation proved the allegation of payment of £20,000 as bribe to police officers to be false. It was established that £11,500 supposedly invoiced by RML was never paid. The remainder was paid to an operative of RML for travel expenses. None ever went into the pocket of any of the officers that investigated Ibori.

"It was Gohil who manufactured the documents to make it look like it was paid to a police officer," one of the investigating officers revealed, explaining that there were two hard drives hidden behind a fireplace in Gohil's office. "The mountains of evidence we secured would make your eyes pop out! That's why Ibori pleaded guilty."

Fighting dirty

For the Ibori Team, it is no doubt a fight to the end. Only in May, the Ibori media machine churned out a report, claiming "legal victory" for Ibori, and portraying him as a "victim of persecution". It alluded to the claim that Ibori secured "victory" against the UK government, and that "Ibori's human rights had been violated" by Amber Rudd, the UK Home Secretary. No doubt, the "other side of the news".

In actual fact, Rudd had tried to keep Ibori in the UK so that his confiscation hearing could be dealt with. A trial judge had rejected Ibori's claim for £4,000 in damages, and instead awarded "nominal damages" of £1 for his being kept in custody for an extra 42 hours. The decision to keep Ibori in immigration detention, the judge opined, was probably because of millions of pounds authorities were yet to recover from him, as against a violation of Ibori's rights as alluded to by the report.

Apparently, Ibori, seems a wounded lion fighting tooth and nail to stall confiscation of his assets in the UK, even as he awaits the hearing of the appeal, which is understood comes up in November. ■

Inside the Courtrooms

A round-up of cases prosecuted by the EFCC, expected to resume in September, as judiciary officers end their summer vacation



PERISCOPE

ABUJA

Joshua Dariye

Absence of the ex-Plateau State governor stalled his trial on June 19 as he was yet to get a new lawyer to replace G.S. Pwul, SAN, who withdrew from his defence in March. Justice Adebukola Banjoko of the FCT High Court, Gudu, before whom he is standing trial for a N1.162 billion fraud has fixed September 18 for the "continuation of trial".



Jolly Nyame

The EFCC closed its case against the ex-Taraba State governor, on November 22, 2016 in a 41-count charge brought against him in 2007, for allegedly misappropriating N1.64 billion of state funds. Justice Banjoko has fixed September 18 for the continuation of his defence.



Gabriel Suswam

The ex-Benue State governor, was absent in court on May 9, 2017 due to ill health, stalling his trial before Justice A.R. Mohammed of the Federal High Court, FHC Abuja, who presides over the nine-count charge brought against him and his finance commissioner, Omodachi Okolobia, for allegedly siphoning N3.1 billion of state funds. His trial continues on September 28.



Jide Omokore

The Atlantic Energy Group chairman stands trial before Justice Nnamdi Dimgba of the FHC Abuja, along with Victor Briggs, ex-MD, National Petroleum Development Company; Abiye Membere, ex-GED, Exploration and Production at the NNPC, and David Mbanefo, ex-Manager, Planning and Commercial at NNPC, for a \$1.6 billion fraud. He will be confronted with more evidences against him and his cohorts on October 5.



Abba Moro

The ex-interior minister stands trial for N676 million recruitment fraud, allegedly perpetrated in connivance with his permanent secretary, Anastasia Daniel-Nwobia, and F.O. Alayebami, ex-deputy director in the ministry. Justice Dimgba has fixed October 4 for continuation of trial.



Shamsudeen Bala

Son of the ex-FCT minister, Bala Mohammed was on June 26 granted permission by Justice Dimgba to travel for (Umrah) lesser hajj, and is expected back in court on September 20 for continuation of his trial. He faces a 15-count charge of money laundering, October 5.



ABUJA

Ahmadu Fintiri

The ex-Adamawa State governor is accused of diverting N497 million meant for the construction of lecture hall for the state's university's Faculty of Law, in Mubi. He is expected back in court on September 19, for the continuation of his trial before Justice Mohammed.



Sule Lamido

On July 7 the ex-Jigawa State governor lost his bid to have his case transferred back to Justice Adeniyi Ademola, as the trial judge, Justice Babatunde Quadri of the FHC Abuja, ruled that "there might be misplaced impression of likely bias" if it was returned to him. Subsequently, he fixed October 18 and 19 for continuation of his trial.



Umar Dikko

The ex-Chief of Air Staff, who was accused by the EFCC of using funds belonging to the Nigeria Air Force to purchase properties in choice areas in Abuja, will be confronted with more evidence on October 19, as the EFCC continues his prosecution before Justice Dimgba.



Sambo Dasuki

Justice Huseini Baba-Yusuf of the FCT High Court, Maitama, on May 17 instructed the Department of State Services, DSS, to ensure that it releases the ex-National Security Adviser, who has been in its custody, to appear before him on September 27 for the continuation of his N13.6 billion fraud trial, which has severally been stalled due to his absence in court.



Raymond Dokpesi

The ex-Chairman, Daar Communications Limited, linked to the arms deal scandal, is being tried for a N2.1 billion procurement fraud before Justice John Tsoho, of the FHC Abuja, and is expected back in court on October 18 and 19.



Mohammed Adoke

Planned arraignment of the ex-Attorney General and Minister of Justice, and Dan Etete, an ex-Minister of Petroleum, for \$1.1 billion Malabu oil scandal, could not go on, June 13, due to their absence in court. Justice Tsoho of the FHC Abuja, has however, fixed October 26 for their arraignment.



CROSS RIVER

Thomas Agan

On June 15 the EFCC presented its third and fourth witnesses in the trial of Agan, a professor and Chief Medical Director, University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, who stands trial along with eight others for a N85 million procurement scam, before Justice I.E. Ekwo of the FHC, Calabar. They are accused of corruptly influencing award of purchase of an Advance Life Support Ambulance vehicle and one Toyota Coaster Bus to Anchor Industrial and Construction Services Limited and Basemark Energy Nigeria Limited by inflating their costs and contravening the Public Procurement Act 2007. Their trial continue on Oct 4, 5 and 6.



Ibrahim Shema

On February 21, the ex-Katsina State governor was arraigned before Justice Maikaita Bako of the state high court for allegedly diverting about N10 billion state funds. In June, he challenged the jurisdiction of the High Court, at the Court of Appeal, Kaduna, causing the trial judge to, at the last sitting of June 6, adjourn his trial to November 14.



KATSINA

LAGOS

Orji Uzor Kalu

The N3.2 billion fraud trial of the ex-Abia State governor, which resumed on March 6, before Justice Mohammed Idris of the FHC Lagos, is one of EFCC's longest cases. He is being tried along with Udeh Jones Udeogu and Slok Nigeria Limited for a 34-count charge of fraud. The trial judge adjourned to September 11 for continuation of his trial after taking testimony of EFCC's fifth witness, Toyosi Ekorhi, in June.



Patrick Akpobolokemi

The N754 million fraud trial of the ex-DG of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA, continues on November 6, 10, 13, 16, 17 and 27. A prosecution witness, Chukwuma Orji, had on July 11, told Justice Raliat Adebisi of the Lagos State High Court, Ikeja, how Akpobolokemi and five others forged documents to defraud the agency. "The documents of the company, Arrow World Consulting, were forged," Orji told the court, noting that the actual owner of the company had previously made an unsuccessful bid for a NIMASA contract.



Nenadi Usman and Femi Fani-Kayode

The ex-minister of finance, and ex-minister of aviation, respectively, had their cases re-assigned to Justice Rilwan Aikawa, after Justice Muslim Hassan of the Federal High Court, Lagos, on March 16 withdrew from the case having been accused of bias, by the defence. They are both facing a 17-count charge of money laundering to the tune of N4.6 billion.

Trial judge adjourned to September 26 and 27 for ruling and continuation of trial.



Hyeladzira Nganjiwa

The serving FHC judge, took his "not guilty" plea on June 23, to a 14-count charge brought against him before Justice A.A. Akintoye of the Lagos State High Court, Igboosere, for "corruptly enriching" himself to the tune of \$260,000 and N8,650,000. The judge of the Bayelsa Division of the court is expected back in court on October 6 and 10.



James Agbadu-Fishim

The serving National Industrial Court judge, currently enjoys bail on "self recognizance" granted him by Justice Adebisi on July 11. He is facing a 19-count charge for a N4.7 million fraud and is expected back in court on October 11, 12 and 13.



Jumoke Akinjide

The ex-minister of state for the FCT was on June 22 arraigned before Justice J.O. Abdul-Malik of the FHC Ibadan, Oyo State, for an alleged N650 million fraud allegedly used as bribe in the run up to the 2015 general election. She is expected back in court on September 12.



Adesola Amosu

The ex-Chief of Air Staff, was on June 29, 2016 arraigned before Justice Idris, on a 26-count charge of money laundering. He was arraigned along with Jacob Adigun, and Gbadebo Owodunni. They are expected back in court on October 3 and 4.



Waripamo-Owei Dudafa

The ex-senior special assistant on domestic affairs to ex-president, Goodluck Jonathan, stands trial before Justice Idris, for a 23-count charge of "concealment and retention of proceeds of crime" to the tune of N1.6 billion. He is expected back in court on October 16 along with Iwejuo Joseph Nna, with whom he is being tried.



PLATEAU

Danjuma Goje

The serving senator and ex-Gombe State governor was on June 21 confronted with documents detailing how he spent N1.83 billion state funds without due process. Justice Babatunde Quadri of the FHC Jos, has fixed September 25 and 26 for continuation of his trial.



Innocent Umezulike

The former Chief Judge of Enugu State, was on July 14 brought before Justice A.A. Onovo of the Enugu Division of the Federal High Court, "for using his position to confer unfair advantage" in favour of a litigant that had a pending matter before him. He is expected back in court on October 26 and 27. His trial before Justice J.K. Omotosho of the FHC, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, on a separate four-count charge of fraud, which began on March 16 is ongoing.



The Month in Pictures.



Ibrahim Magu, acting EFCC Chairman, with Ahmed Kuru, Managing Director, Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria, with AMCON delegates, August 3.



A delegation from the International Monetary Fund, IMF, during a visit to the EFCC Headquarters, July 27.



Magu with Secretary of the NUC, Prof. Abubakar Rasheed, Aug 8.



Magu with Civil Society Groups in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, July 24.



Officials of EFCC Benin Office, led by Malafiya Yakubu, during visit to Gov. Godwin Obaseki of Edo State, August 10.