



EFCCALERT!

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COUNTDOWN BEGINS.

*After seven years of various phases of construction work,
the new head office of the EFCC takes perfect shape*



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It is the end of the rather long wait for the completion of the new head office of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission



THE TEAM

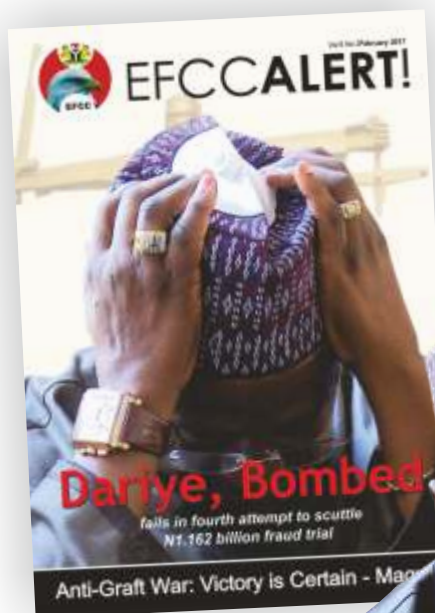
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FROM THE SHELVES



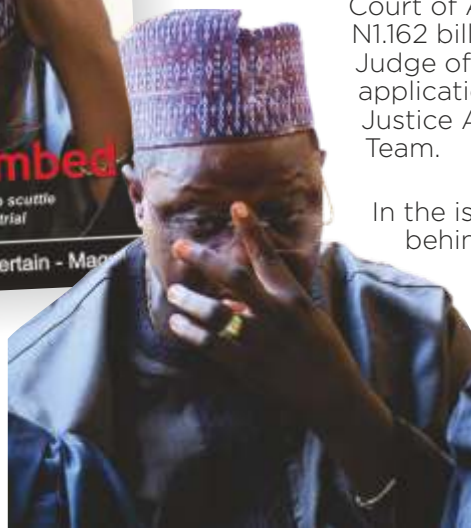
The February 2017 edition of EFCCALERT!

The edition beamed its searchlight on Joshua Dariye, a former governor of Plateau State, whose trial for money laundering and diversion of state funds began in 2007. It highlighted the intrigues that the over 10-year-old trial had experienced.

It chronicled the twists and turns – from the first day that Dariye was arrested in a London hotel, in possession of huge sums of foreign currencies in various denominations; his various failed attempts at the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court, to stop his trial for the N1.162 billion fraud; and the decision of Justice U.I. Bello, Chief Judge of the FCT High Court, Gudu, to throw out his application seeking for the withdrawal of his case from Justice Adebukola Banjoko, alleging bias. It jolted the Dariye Team.

In the issue, Dariye was aptly portrayed as a man hiding behind a finger.

It also featured a February 16, 2016 “Throwback Video”, in which Ibrahim Magu, the acting EFCC Chairman, reaffirmed his commitment to the fight against corruption.



What began with a significant foundation laying ceremony seven years ago has now resulted in an eye-catching 10-storey skyscraper

COUNTDOWN BEGINS

It is the end of the rather long wait for the completion of the new head office of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission

The countdown has begun! What began with a significant foundation laying ceremony seven years ago, on February 2, 2011 has now resulted in an eye-catching 10-storey skyscraper along the Airport Road, Jabi, in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. It has become the cynosure of all eyes. Indeed, in due course, the new head office of the EFCC, will become operational, and formally recognized as the EFCC Headquarters.

Architect and Consultant to Julius Berger, the company

handling the construction, Ibrahim Murtala, a principal partner at Ericon Bello & Associates, said the quality of materials used for the construction of the building, was in line with the importance attached to the vision and mission of the EFCC – the fight against corruption.

“I can assure you that the materials used for the construction work were of international standards,” he said. “And with the pace of work which has peaked up over the past one year, it is certain that work will be fully

completed by March and handed over to the EFCC.”

Not surprisingly, Murtala knows the ultra modern facilities at the site like the back of his hands. According to him, the main building consists mainly of the Northern and Western Wings. Among other facilities are the Forensic building, Offices, the Clinic, Male and Female Detention Cells, Security Wing, Fire Unit, Underground Parking Section, and the Power Generating Unit.

Long in Coming

The pace of work at the permanent site, which had slowed down for the past few years, since construction began in 2011, peaked with President Muhammadu Buhari assuming office in 2015.

It was perhaps, a necessary tonic needed to facilitate the development of work at the site that had over the time literally become a dumping site of redundant construction equipment moved in back in 2011. It seemed like forever that the construction work at the site will remain more or less moribund.

Indeed, to state that work moved on at a slow pace since the February 2011 foundation laying ceremony, was overstating the obvious - the oil in the wheel of the construction work apparently dried up as government funding, simply stopped. The increasing inflation and fall in the naira to the dollar

also hampered pace of work, as it affected the procurement of necessary materials to facilitate progress at the site. The amount of N18 billion which was estimated to be the cost of finishing up work, subsequently increased due to fluctuating foreign exchange. For Julius Berger, paucity of funds grounded work, which had earlier advanced.

The period, which saw the EFCC witness a change of leadership twice, saw the anti-graft agency having to make use of various rented facilities across the FCT to accommodate its teeming staff and operatives. The staff strength of the EFCC had grown beyond the capacity of its office at 5 Fomella Streer at the heart of Wuse II in Abuja.

The tenure of then EFCC chairman, Farida Waziri, who took over from Nuhu Ribadu, in May 2008, and in whose administration the foundation was laid, could not

witness completion of the site as she had to exit the seat of leadership barely 10 months into the beginning of construction work at the site.

The coming on board of Ibrahim Lamerde, who took over from Waziri on November 23, 2011, witnessed a level of advancement at the site; but it seemed that there was a form of reluctance on the part of the then president, Goodluck Jonathan as regards funding of the project. Lamerde put in frantic efforts to ensure the completion of the building during his four-year tenure, which ended on November 11, 2015. Severally, he defended the funding of the new head office before the National Assembly, but it seemed to yield little result.

What was meant to have been completed in three years has now, fortuitously, become a reality.



Model of the EFCC's permanent headquarters



Contractors working assiduously to bring EFCC's vision to actuality



Nearing completion



Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Babatunde Fashola assures Magu of adequate power supply to the facilities.

Show of Support

The story of the successful completion of the EFCC's new head office will, no doubt, be incomplete without the frantic efforts of Ibrahim Magu, acting EFCC Chairman, which drew a flurry of support – morally and financially, not only from Buhari, but from other members of the executive and the legislature.

On January 22, Magu accompanied the Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Babatunde Fashola, SAN, and his minister of state, Suleiman Hassan, on a facility tour of the new office.

Describing the quality of work at the site as satisfactory, Fashola

“The structural work and level of finish currently in place is satisfactory, and considering the important role the EFCC plays in fighting economic and financial crimes, as well as being an institution ensuring law and order, the agency deserves the best”

**BABATUNDE FASHOLA, SAN
HONOURABLE MINISTER,
POWER, WORKS & HOUSING**

commended the construction company for the quality of material used for the buildings.

“The structural work and level of finish currently in place is

satisfactory, and considering the important role the EFCC plays in fighting economic and financial crimes, as well as being an institution ensuring law and order, the agency deserves the best,” he said.

For Fashola, there was a need for “appropriate investment” by government to adequately empower institutions tasked with fighting corruption in the country, in order to afford them the enabling environment “to raise the bar”.

“President Muhammadu Buhari is determined to strengthen the anti-graft agency in the fight against corruption,” he said. Stressing the importance of



Members of the UK's Parliamentary Committee on International Development visit the site, March 2, 2016.



Emmanuel Aremo, Secretary to the Commission conducts officers of the Department for International Development, DFID, on a tour of the site.



Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Yakubu Dogara visits the site



Hon Kayode Oladele, Chairman, House Committee on Financial Crimes leading a delegation of the Committee to the site



Visit by members of the Senate, led by Chairman, Senate Committee on Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes, Senator Chukwuka Utazi

ensuring adequate electricity supply for the facilities, Fashola noted that “because of the sophistication in terms of the equipment, there will be need for alternative source of power”, adding that, “more importantly, the visit is also to see how we can plan to power the infrastructure and connect them to the grid”.

The visit of Fashola was just one in a number of such shows of support for the EFCC – Nigeria’s own replica of the United States’ Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI.

Hon Kayode Oladele, Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Financial Crimes, on January 23, also led a delegation of the committee to the site. He expressed satisfaction at the level of work at the site.

“I am very impressed with the level of work, which has greatly advanced beyond what we met on ground when we last visited the site,” he said.

The visit Oladele was referring to

“Our conviction is that where the EFCC currently operates does not give the good impression to first time visitors in Nigeria or people who come to Nigeria to interface with the agency as it is said that first impression counts a lot.”

**HON. YAKUBU DOGARA
SPEAKER,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

was in January 2017, when in company with the Hon. Yakubu Dogara, Speaker, House of Representatives, a delegation from the Green Chambers, visited the site.

Dogara noted that: “Our conviction is that where the EFCC currently operates does not give the good impression to first time visitors in Nigeria or people who come to Nigeria to interface with the agency as it is said that first impression counts a lot.”

He expressed enthusiasm stating

that he would be the “happiest person to see that the EFCC resumes operation in the new building”.

The Red Chambers, too, has not been left out of the show of solidarity. Indeed, Oladele’s counterpart Senator Chukwuka Utazi, Chairman of the Senate’s Committee on Financial Crimes, while leading a delegation to the site back in June 2016 had promised to facilitate the prompt completion of the permanent office.

He stated that one of the priorities of the Committee was “to ensure that the EFCC headquarters, which has been under construction, would be completed soon, in order to give the staff an enabling environment to carry out their duties more effectively”.

Enthusiasm and anticipation have now given birth to reality, as the teeming staff of the EFCC begin the countdown to when the new building will be formally handed over by the construction company to the Commission. ■

FEARLESS FIGHTERS

Passing out parade of 183 cadets of the EFCC's Detective Inspector cadre, Course 4, at the Nigerian Defence Academy Parade Ground, Ribadu Campus, Kaduna, January 19. Below are images from the event:



Cadets and Dignitaries at the event



Ibrahim Magu, acting EFCC Chairman, being honoured by the cadets



National Security Adviser and Reviewing Officer of the Passing out Parade, Babagana Munguno, delivers his address to the cadets



Commandant of the Nigeria Defence Academy, Major General M.T. Ibrahim, addresses the cadets



Reviewing Officer, Babagana Munguno, congratulates the recipient of the Executive Chairman's Award for Command and Leadership, Trainee C. N. Ekeka, on her exemplary performance while in training



Cadets on Parade



Bala Mohammed
Offence: *Bribery and false asset declaration*
Justice Abubakar Talba,
 FCT High Court, Gudu, Abuja
In Court on: April 16, 2018



Adesola Amosu
Offence: *Money laundering*
Justice Mohammed Idris,
 Federal High Court, Lagos
In Court on: March 7, 2018



Dele Belgore, SAN
Offence: *Possession of proceeds of crime*
Justice R.M. Aikawa,
 Federal High Court, Lagos
In Court on: April 12, 2018



Usman Jibrin
Offence: *Criminal breach of trust*
Justice Salisu Umar,
 Federal High Court, Maitama
In Court on: February 19 & March 8, 2018



Emeka Mba
Offence: *Money laundering*
Justice Gabriel Kolawole
 Federal High Court, Abuja
In Court on: February 19, 2018



Babangida Aliyu & Umar Nasko
Offence: *Money laundering*
Justice Salisu Umar,
 Federal High Court, Minna, Niger State
In Court on: February 20, 2018



Justice Yinusa Mohammed
Offence: *Corrupt enrichment*
Justice Sherifat Solebo,
 Lagos State High Court, Ikeja
In Court on: February 20, 2018



Innocent Umezulike
Offence: *Bribery, perversion of justice*
Justice A. A. Onovo,
 Federal High Court, Enugu
In Court on: February 21, 2018



Sambo Dasuki & 5 Others
Offence: *Criminal breach of trust*
Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf,
 FCT High Court, Maitama
In Court on: February 21, 2018



Calistus Obi
Offence: *N136 million fraud*
Justice Mojisola Olatoregun,
 Federal High Court, Lagos
In Court on: February 21, 2018



Jumoke Akinjide
Offence: *Money laundering*
Justice Muslim Hassan,
 Federal High Court, Lagos
In Court on: February 22, 2018



Murtala Nyako
Offence: *Abuse of office*
Justice Okon Abang
 Federal High Court, Abuja
In Court on: February 26, 2018



Alex Badeh
Offence: *Money laundering*
Justice Okon Abang,
 Federal High Court, Abuja
In Court on: February 26 & 28, 2018



Andrew Yakubu
Offence: *Money laundering*
Justice A. R. Mohammed
 Federal High Court, Abuja
In Court on: February 28, 2018



Jolly Nyame
Offence: *Criminal breach of trust*
Justice Adebukola Banjoko,
 FCT High Court, Gudu, Abuja
In Court on: February 28, 2018



Nenadi Usman & Femi Fani-Kayode
Offence: *Money laundering*
Justice Mohammed Aikawa,
 Federal High Court, Lagos
In Court on: February 28, March 1 & 2, 2018



Abba Moro
Offence: *Procurement fraud*
Justice Nnamdi Dimgba,
 Federal High Court, Abuja
In Court on: February 28, 2018



Jide Omokore
Offence: *Money laundering*
Justice Nnamdi Dimgba,
 Federal High Court, Abuja
In Court on: March 1 & 2, 2018



Joshua Dariye
Offence: *Misappropriation of state funds*
Justice Adebukola Banjoko,
 FCT High Court, Gudu, Abuja
In Court on: March 1, 2018



Ahmadu Fintiri
Offence: *Money laundering*
Justice A. R. Mohammed,
 Federal High Court, Abuja
In Court on: March 1, 2018



Olisa Metuh
Offence: *Destruction of evidence*
Justice Ishaq Bello,
 Federal High Court, Maitama
In Court on: March 7, 2018



Femi Fani-Kayode
Offence: *N26 million fraud charge*
Justice J. T. Tsoho,
 Federal High Court, Abuja
In Court on: March 8, 2018



Robert Azibaola & wife, Stella
Offence: *Criminal breach of trust*
Justice Nnamdi Dimgba,
 Federal High Court, Maitama
In Court on: March 9, 2018



Raymond Dokpesi
Offence: *Criminal breach of trust*
Justice J. T. Tsoho,
 Federal High Court, Abuja
In Court on: March 9, 2018



Gabriel Suswam
Offence: *Conspiracy and abuse of office*
Justice A. R. Mohammed,
 Federal High Court, Abuja
In Court on: March 14, 2018



Nicholas Ashinze
Offence: *Procurement fraud*
Justice Gabriel Kolawole,
 Federal High Court, Abuja
In Court on: March 14, 2018



Olisa Metuh
Offence: *Money laundering*
Justice Okon Abang,
 Federal High Court, Abuja
In Court on: March 14 & 15, 2018



Danjuma Goje
Offence: *Money laundering*
Justice Babatunde Quadri,
 Federal High Court, Jos
In Court on: April 10, 11, 2018



Saminu Turaki
Offence: *Money laundering*
Justice Nnamdi Dimgba,
 Federal High Court, Maitama
In court on: March 13, 2018



Ibrahim Shema
Offence: *Diversion of public funds*
Justice Maikata Bako,
 Katsina State High Court
In court on: April 10, 11 & 12, 2018

Youthful Charge

It was an important charge to the newly inducted members of the National Youth Service Corps, NYSC, at the orientation camp located in Issele Ukwu, Delta State, hinged on the import that the youths are the future of any nation.

"Shun corruption and criminality, because if you are caught, the consequences are grave," said William Oseghale, Head, Public Affairs, Benin zonal office, Edo State, who represented Ibrahim Magu, the acting EFCC chairman, January 24.

"Acts of criminality might deliver wealth in the short run, but ultimately there will be misery and gnashing of teeth," he added.

He urged the young Nigerians to take ownership of the fight against corruption and become agents of change in their area of primary assignment. ■



Catching Them Young

For students of St. Patrick's College, Asaba, Delta State, February 1, was a most officious for them as they had the opportunity of engaging with the EFCC. It was a day that the school was celebrating its Catholic Students Week, and which the EFCC came calling.

Oseghale, who represented Magu at a sensitization workshop organized for the students, reminded them of the importance of hard work and integrity, as vital components to achieve success in life.

"There is no short cut to success in life," he said. "You must be ready to work hard."

He reminded them that a good name was far better than illegally

acquired wealth, stressing that many internet fraudsters, popularly referred to as "Yahoo Yahoo" boys, were already living a life of regret and sorrow after they were arrested by the EFCC.

He further urged them to become agents of change in their school and society at large, as "the future of Nigeria is in your hands".

"Uphold integrity in whatever you do and the sky will be your limit," he said.

Rev Father Ignatius Offer, Vice Principal of School commended the Commission for the programme as he posited that the students have become better informed on the consequences of corruption and what they need to do to make Nigeria better. ■



Call to Action

Akaninyene Ezima, Head, Lagos zonal office of the EFCC, on January 25, used the opportunity of a visit by members of the National Youth Service Corps, NYSC, who came calling on the Commission, to charge them to embrace the corruption fight.

Speaking during an interactive session with members of the EFCC/NYSC Community Development Service (CDS) Group on January 25, he emphasized the importance President Muhammadu Buhari attaches to the fight against corruption, adding that “you must join hands with the Commission to stamp out this vice from our society.”

Ezima who received the group on behalf of the acting Executive Chairman, EFCC, Ibrahim Magu, thanked the corps members for partnering with the agency in the anti-graft war. He said: “The EFCC is the leading anti-graft agency in the country.



So, you have not made a wrong choice by partnering with us. But the ideals, which the EFCC represents, must reflect in your behaviour wherever you are”.

He also assured the group of continuous support, adding that they must not allow the patriotic zeal in them to die after the service year.

Adeyeye Adebayo, President, EFCC/ NYSC CDS Group, who led the delegation to the Lagos Zonal

office, stated that the main objective of the group was to sensitize members of the society, especially youths, market women and other stakeholders, about the ills of corruption.

He also used the occasion to seek the Commission's support towards the execution of the group's projects which, according to him, “are aimed at supporting the Commission's activities.” ■

IBADAN

Ayo Oyewole, Head, Public Affairs, Ibadan Zonal office of the EFCC, on January 26, at a lecture organized for members of the NYSC, in Iseyin, Oyo State, has urged Nigerian youths to take ownership of the fight against corruption.



Speaking on behalf of Ibrahim Magu, acting EFCC Chairman, he called on them to become change agents and help mould the minds of other young Nigerians in schools so that the fight against corruption, economic and financial crimes can be far reaching.

“We are calling on the youth to embrace hard work and stay away

from crime. The youths hold the key and very critical to the fight against corruption in Nigeria,” he said.

He warned them to be wary of any offer of a shortcut to wealth and fame, stressing that, “any acts of criminality may deliver wealth in the short run, but ultimately there will be misery and gnashing of teeth”.

According to him, “the fight against economic crime, including corruption can only be achieved when all stakeholders embrace this important fight and one of such critical groups is the youths”.

He noted that apart from the fact that the youths are considered as the leaders of tomorrow, “the decisions you make today are capable of making or marring your generation”.

He further stressed that young people must not be mere spectators in the anti-graft campaign, but should be foot soldiers leading the mass rout of corruption. ■

Osun Challenge



President Muhammadu Buhari and Ibrahim Magu, acting EFCC Chairman, with other dignitaries at the 30th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, AU, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, January 2018



Geoffrey Onyeama, Minister of Foreign Affairs, with Magu, Prof Bolaji Owasanoye, Exec. Secretary, Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption (PACAC), and Amb Mohammed Lawan Gana, Director Africa Affairs, February 15.



Pupils of St. Mary Dedication Education Centre, Benin City, Edo State during a sensitization programme held by the EFCC at the school's career day celebration.



Col. Hameed Ali (retd), Comptroller-General, Nigeria Customs Service, with Magu at the launch of the book, "Integrity and Service" at the Presidential Villa, February 13.



Magu receives "Operations Management Man of the Year" award, bestowed on him by Chartered Institute of Operations of Nigeria, for courage and integrity in the fight against corruption, February 8



Magu welcomes Jurgen Stock, Secretary General of Interpol to the EFCC headquarters, February 9.



Emmanuel Aremo, Secretary to the EFCC, with Prof. Brigitte Mabandla, and Prof. Ibrahim Gambari, among other participants at the African Peer Review Mechanism, APRM stakeholders meeting held at Savannah Centre, Abuja, February 13.



L-R: Veteran actor, Sadiq Daba, Magu, and Joe Okei-Odumakin, President, Women Arise during a solidarity visit to the EFCC, February 2

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