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Clampdown on Yahoo Yahoo Boys

Searchlight on online fraudsters fondly referred to as 'yahoo yahoo boys' intensifies as the EFCC partners with international law enforcement agencies



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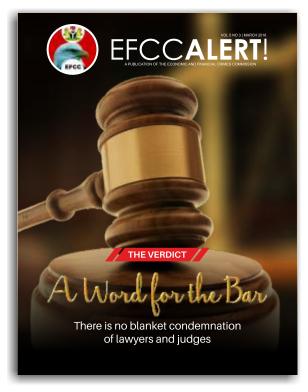
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FROM THE SHELVES



A Word for the Bar

The March 2016 edition of *EFCCALERT!*

The edition focused on the roles of lawyers and judges in the fight against corruption, with a firm message to members of the Bar and Bench, that the EFCC was beaming its searchlight on corrupt elements in the Judiciary, with the aim of prosecuting such.

"There is no way one can make a blanket statement on the integrity of lawyers and judges. Nigeria is blessed with some of the best lawyers and judges on the African continent," the acting EFCC Chairman, Ibrahim Magu, was quoted to have said in "A Word for the Bar", noting that there were "bad ones amongst them giving the good ones a bad name".

This key message was reiterated in a piece by Magu that coincided with this year's Nigeria Bar Association conference, titled "Need for Ethical Reforms as NBA Conference Begins", in which members of the Judiciary were charged to "spare some moments to reflect deeply on the ethical stock of the profession", with a call on the association to "strengthen its disciplinary mechanism and ensure that disciplinary measures are applied to errant members no matter how highly placed".

Re: Nyame - Not a Jolly Ride to Jail

"Where the average person earns less that \$2 a day, this wicked man stole so much. Rot in jail! Victory for the impoverished people. Let's hope a bent judge at the supreme court don't quash it!"

- Andy Adewale

"Minus one thief. The Judiciary and EFCC are working. Praise the Lord." - Lizzy Ohemhen

"Glory to God Almighty, minus one."

- Christopher Ofoye

"Very slow, but surely, one down [and] so many to go! If Buhari can jail 30 looters before December 2018, he has my vote! Well done EFCC!" – Curtx Maccido

"It's a cosmetic judgment; they will appeal all the way to the Supreme Court. They are just looking for a way to pacify the outrage against their fake anti-corruption war."

- Hassan Faizal

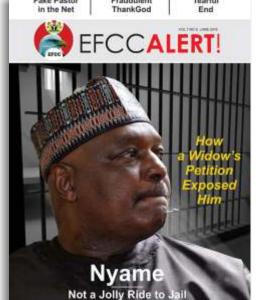
"The Judiciary is gradually coming to terms with the reality on ground." – Frankie Babington

"After 11 years? The judiciary does not deserve any praise."

- Sola Oludele

"Is justice in Nigeria gradually waking up? Kudos to Justice Adebukola Banjoko."

- Chinwe Uba



"Does anyone still remember Bala Ngilari, the former governor of Adamawa who was sentenced to five years in prison for corruption and was later freed? I hope that Jolly Nyame's case would not be like that!" – Ekwuoma Umu-Ugbede

"Finally, a Federal High Court judge has sentenced a governor to a jail term that is acceptable, but less than what I would wish for corrupt officials. This will make would-be corrupt people take notice. I doff my hat to the judge."

- Gusto Olaife

"Judiciary and corrupt lawyers, please don't sabotage this process, the cleansing must continue unimpeded. Who is next? Don't wait for another 11 years to convict. The mice, snakes and hyenas must follow suit quick, quick!"

- Nwa Igbo

"More governors need to be charged for receiving gratification rather than misappropriation as they can be sentenced to seven years rather than two in prison. Hope EFCC catches up with other ex-governors and the current set who are all embezzling the state funds, which should have been used to pay workers salaries."

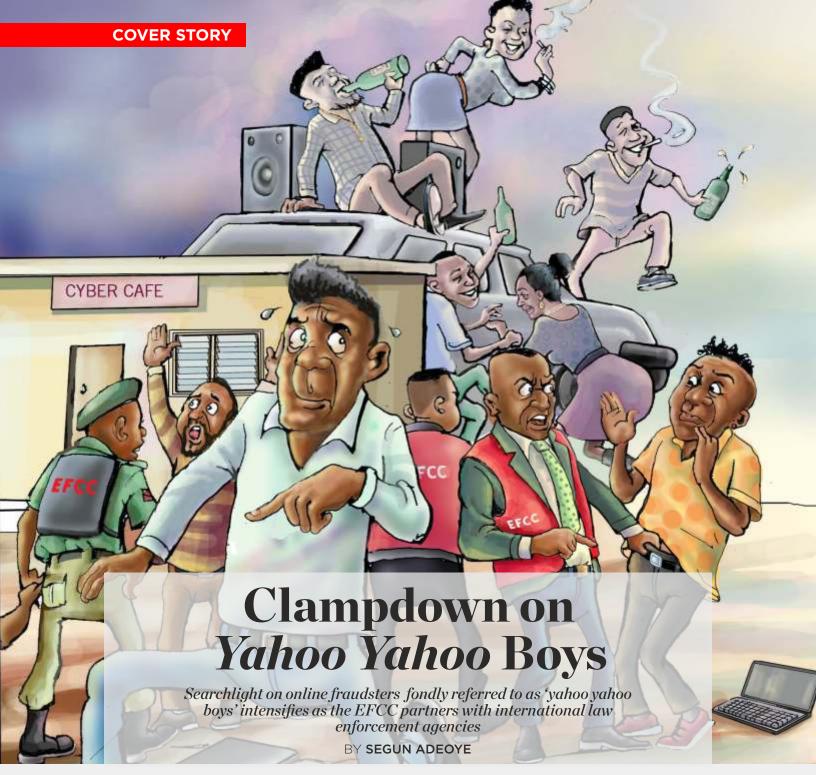
- Afonja Daniels

"Our Champagne popping politicians have another headache to contend with following this judgement. I hope this judgement will embolden other judges that are cowards that they are more superior in society to criminal low life politicians."

- Ayo Joshua

"The judiciary is just being itself now. Remember, the same judiciary exonerated ex-convict James Ibori in Delta for him to be jailed in Britain for lesser offence. The same judiciary jailed the official who stole billions of naira of pension fund with an option of less than a million naira. The same judiciary found Lucky Igbinedion (ex-Edo governor) guilty, but left him off on an incredibly liberal sentence of a few thousands of naira. The same judiciary granted perpetual injunction against prosecution in favour of a number of governors who had wantonly looted their state treasury. The list is endless. Adjournments upon adjournment in clear cases of looting have been the order of the day. This Rev. was probably unlucky to have fallen into the hands of a no-nonsense judge. We need this breed of a judge as the norm not as a sole exception."

- Bayo Bamiduro



unday, May 27 will remain a day that they will never forget in a hurry. It was about 8.30am, and Sylvester Osolase, 30; Seyi Ajayi, 36 and Monday Mayaki, 37, sat chilling in their cosy living room at their home located at the Riverview Estate, a highbrow area of Isheri, Lagos State. Unknown to them, operatives of the EFCC, following intelligence reports of their illegal dealings in classified romance scam, had been on their trail for months. The past weeks of their fraudulent activities on the internet had been "sweet" for them, evident in the exotic sports utility vehicles that they owned; but like they say, "karma is a bitch" – everyday for the thief, one day for the owner. It was time up.

The young men, who now join the growing list of internet fraudsters (famously referred to as *vahoo vahoo* boys) rounded up by the EFCC, were apparently jolted that they could be smoked out of their hiding, and immediately confessed to their roles in the now infamous "Nigerian prince scam". Looking stunned, they sheepishly admitted that their lavish lifestyle was being sustained by proceeds of their illicit activities online. A thorough search followed up by their arrest, resulted in the uncovering of incriminating documents in their emails used to perpetrate internet fraud.

Perhaps, made famous by the 2008 hit song of popular Nigerian hip-hop music star, Olu Maintain, who featured

Clampdown on Yahoo Yahoo Boys







DJ Tee in *Yahooze*, in which young men dressed in exotic outfits parading Hummer Jeeps and other expensive vehicles, displayed wads of dollar bills and expensive drinks, the evidently rhythmical song, which had lyrics like "awon kan wa aiye wa sise, awon kan waiye wa saiye, awo kan waiye wa gbowo, awon kan waiye wa sayo o, yahooze", meaning some came to the world to work their ass out, while some of us among them only come to enjoy a lavish lifestyle, the "yahoo yahoo" phenomenon has struck a riveting string beyond the shores of Nigeria. So much so that many young Nigerians, now seem more interested in making money without engaging in legitimate means of livelihood.

On May 11, six young men - Ihoeghian Aghasomwan, Precious Osarumen, Enabulele Osazee Frank, Osahon Scott, Efe Ehieorobo and Peter James were also smoked out of their hideout, in Kubwa, a relatively densely populated area in Abuja, after EFCC operatives tracked them down through their fraudulent internet activities, using a sting operation. After months of investigation and surveillance carried out, their identities and location was uncovered. Shocked that their nefarious activities had been exposed, they surrendered themselves including a Toyota Camry 2009, 10 laptop computers, 4 ECOWAS International passports, 17 mobile phones, 2 flash drive, HP printer, Certificate of Award of Asian Professional Security Association in favour of Sun Yaje, Air Peace check-in bag tagged March 19, 2018 with two paper clearance certificate of Custom Controlling Department, International Affairs China, No: 00548 and TDK courier service worldwide express service shipment details with track No: Me103178131.



While the clampdown continues, with EFCC operatives having to raid some popular clubs believed to be fun spots where *yahoo* yahoo boys take timeout to enjoy their seeming largesse, in Lagos, a number of them are already serving jail terms.

Like Michael Ebade, a student of Delta State University, Abraka, who on May 16 was arraigned before Justice E.A. Okorodas of the Delta State High Court, on a one-count of fraudulently obtaining N505,000 after surreptitiously posing online as Sonia Monday.

Perhaps, buoyed by the lure to make fast money without sweating for it, Ebade, using his newly acquired fake online identity, on June 6, 2016 succeeded in deceiving Collins Ogwuegbu, to transfer N505,000 to him in the belief that he was assisting a stranded student in need of urgent financial assistance. The money was in fact, transferred to a bank account opened by Ebade in the name of Carlus Oluwaseun.

Ebade had in fact used the social media platform, Whatsapp, to solicit for financial assistance. Ogwuegbu had earlier transferred N5,000 after which "Sonia" asked for further assistance. In the process of wanting to transfer another N5,000, Ogwuegbu mistakenly transferred N500,000 totalling N505,000 to Ebade.

Discovering the error made, Ogwuegbu innocently pleaded with Ebade to refund the excess of N455,000 but all appeal fell on the deaf ears of an obviously greedy "Sonia" bent on reaping where he had not sown.

The next port of call for Ogwuegbu was the EFCC. Confronted with the hard evidence gathered against him, Ebade did not waste the time of Justice Okorodas, as he pleaded "guilty" to the charge. The trial judge subsequently found him guilty and sentenced him to one month in prison without an option of fine, with the order to make restitution with Ogwuegbu by refunding the money illegally collected from him.

Bizarre Warning

As much as the EFCC has rallied its intelligence network, working with international law enforcement agencies like the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the National Crimes Agency and the Italian Police, to clampdown on vahoo vahoo boys inside and outside of Nigeria, they seem to have a sympathizer in an unnamed elderly white woman, who took to the internet to literally warn the EFCC not to go after perpetrators of the Nigerian prince scam. "EFCC Nigeria, leave vahoo boys

alone, it's our duty to make them fresh, we are happy sending them money because they make us happy," she said in a 9 seconds video posted online in which she held a notebook displaying same warning to the anti-graft agency.

But no doubt, it's different strokes for different folks. Or how else would you explain the gratifying expression of Margaret Sanders, American victim of love scam perpetrated by a young Nigerian, whose \$2,000 the EFCC in 2015 helped recover; or the sum of €10.540 handed over to the Polish Consul, Jakub Budohoski on September 2, 2015 recovered for a Polish victim; or €10,000 recovered for F. Mercade, a French victim who was duped of €25,000 by two internet fraudsters, Omodara Oluseye and Adesuyi Adedapo.

No Retreat

While the EFCC is engaging in prevention efforts, especially engaging young Nigerians in schools and members of the National Youth Service Corps, to embrace the path of hardwork, it is not relenting in its prosecution of internet fraudsters.

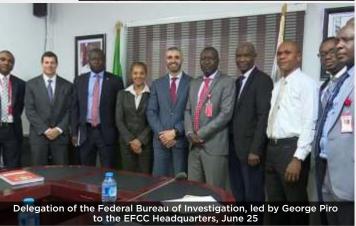
Mouktar Bello, head of the Cybercrime Unit of the EFCC's Lagos office expresses the resolve of the EFCC to continue to strengthen its partnership with international law enforcement agencies in the clampdown on yahoo yahoo boys, especially as it relates to deploying modern techniques in the cyber world.

"I can thump my chest that the EFCC is winning the war against cyber criminals. In those days, the law enforcement agencies were always a step behind the fraudsters," he said. "But with the new method we are applying now, we turn out to be ahead of them."

Additional report by **BABATUNDE SULAIMAN**











Before You Click

Phishing has become a major technique utilized by fraudsters to perpetrate internet fraud, but there are simple and basic steps that can be taken to avoid being a victim

imply put, phishing is a general term for email and text messages, and websites fabricated and sent out to unsuspecting internet users, by online fraudsters; it is usually designed to look like they are coming from a genuine source, or well-known and trusted businesses, financial institutions and government agencies with one sole mission – to deliberately succeed in collecting personal, financial and sensitive information to be exploited in defrauding you of your hard-earned money.

Typically, these messages will request you to "update", "validate" or "confirm" your details, with a clause that you will lose your account as a dire consequence.

Such messages come in different expressions, phrases and compositions, all structured to lure undiscerning mobile or internet users, to unwittingly rope themselves into giving out information that will end up being used against them.

It can also read like this:

"Message from Interswitch Nigeria... Interswitch Have introduced the VERVE Chip and Pin Card into the market, and we need you to upgrade your ATM card in other to avoid fraudulent activities on your account... From this moment on, your account has been temporary restricted from all transactions... Visit... To Re-Confirm your ATM card details."

"Dear Valued Customer... In our continuous bid to improve service delivery, Zenith Bank PLC has upgraded Internet Banking with the following features: We have successfully upgraded to a more secure and encrypted SSL servers to serve our esteemed customers for a better and more efficient banking services in this year. Due to this recent upgrade you are requested to update your Security details information by

following the reference below... To avoid service denial, please update your contact details (mobile no and email addresses). CLICK HERE..."

The latest addition to the family of online scams is the Business Email Compromise, BEC, a type of phishing scheme, in which the fraudster impersonates a top chief executive of an organisation and lures an employee or customer to give access into private company data, or to transfer money. In the process, the fraudster spoofs the owner's identity, and in many cases uses it to transfer money out of the company to a bank account, where it is again transferred out to avoid the trail being traced.

WHAT TO DO

- Be suspicious of any email or text messages containing urgent requests for personal or financial information (note that financial institutions and credit card companies normally will not use email to confirm an existing client's information);
- * Be wary of pop-up windows that appear out of the blue in your web browser; do not ever click on any such links, do not copy any web address from a pop-up window, and do not download any software offered through a pop-up;
- * Never send out your personal or financial information via email, especially when you cannot ascertain the source of the email;
- * Avoid embedded links in an email claiming to take you to a secure website;
- Develop the attitude of taking a closer look at web addresses to verify if it displays something different from the address mentioned in the email;
- Regularly update your computer protection with antivirus software, spyware filters, email filters and firewall programs.



"Any person who, without due authorization by the Commission, deals with, sells or otherwise disposes of any property or assets which is the subject of an attachment, interim order or final order commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of five years without the option of a fine".

– Section 32 of the EFCC Establishment Act 2004.

ndeed, it has come to the notice of the EFCC that innocent Nigerians are daily falling prey to property agents in connivance with some lawyers, who receive payment of rents from them for properties marked as "under investigation" by the EFCC, deceiving them to believe that they are "fighting the case in court", or in some instances that they've won the right to such property so marked.

A case in point recently occurred at Gwarimpa, a highbrow suburb in Abuja, Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory, in which some innocent tenants fell into the trap of some lawyers to pay for a rented apartment, despite the warning notice on the property by the EFCC. The unsuspecting tenants, who paid rents in advance of one to two years, were cajoled by the lawyers to believe that they had won the case against the EFCC, despite the glaring signs on the property.

Officers of the EFCC's Assets Forfeiture and Recovery Management Department later paid a visit and handed a quit notice to them, which they later confronted the lawyers with as evidence that they were duped. Speechless and stuttering, the lawyers had to run for cover. The fears of the tenants were also confirmed when on visiting the EFCC, they were made to understand that they had been illegally occupying the property and therefore had to quit it in a matter of hours.

While these tenants and their lawyers may have escaped been prosecuted for contravening Section 32 of the EFCC Establishment Act stated above, Emmanuel Nwude, a serial fraudster could not be left off the hook. Nwude is standing trial along with Emmanuel Ilechukwu and Rowland Kalu, before Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences Court in Ikeja, Lagos, for illegally taking over possession of a forfeited property in Oregun, a suburb in Lagos, and sold same to Rossab Industrial Design Limited.





What is an attachment?

As stipulated in the EFCC Act, dealing in a property which is the subject of an attachment is a criminal offence. Such a property is marked thus: "EFCC Under Investigation Keep Off". Invariably, the property is "seized" until the final outcome of a court case.

But what is an attachment? An attachment is that process of taking, apprehending or seizing a property, by virtue of a court order, and bringing same into the custody of a law enforcement agency. When a property is believed to be a proceed of crime, the EFCC moves for its attachment, usually with the aim of compelling the appearance in court of the suspected owner to show how the property was acquired, and to give cause why it should not be forfeited.

Interim and Final Forfeiture

There are two forms of forfeitures – interim and final. Just as the words indicate, a property – money or building being a subject of attachment is subsequently a subject of interim forfeiture after a court order has been obtained. During this period, the suspected owner is summoned to court to prove case. At this point, the property is expected to be managed by the EFCC, while a legal process is set in motion for the property to be finally forfeited. The court case ends with the Court giving its verdict on the Anybody with an inquiry relating to any such property so final forfeiture of the property, which in a number of cases is to the federal government, tasked with taking responsibility of overseeing the management of the property.

Help us to help you

The EFCC thus warns members of the public not to deal in or with any property marked with the seal of the EFCC as being under investigations, as such amounts to a criminal offence. The public is notified that such property so marked - whether sea vessels, buildings or the likes are subjects of criminal investigations, and they should KEEP OFF from them.



The EFCC will not hesitate to enforce the full wrath of the Law as stipulated in Section 32 of the EFCC Establishment Act.

marked, should contact the Commission through any of its offices located in Abuja, Kano, Gombe, Lagos, Ibadan, Maiduguri, Enugu, Akwa Ibom, Port Harcourt, Edo and Kaduna, or call using these numbers 09-9044751, 09-9044752, 09-9044753 or 08093322644; or send an email to: info@efccnigeria.org.

Any suspicious movements around such property should also be accordingly reported to the EFCC.

The EFCC can also be contacted through its social media platforms on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram – @officialEFCC



Dele Belgore, SAN

Possession of proceeds of crime
Federal High Court, Lagos
Justice R.M. Aikawa
October 2, 2018



Danjuma Goje Ex-Gombe Governor Conspiracy and money laundering Federal High Court, Jos Justice B.O. Quadri

October 3, 2018



Raymond Dokpesi Criminal breach of trust Federal High Court, Abuja Justice J.T. Tsoho October 4, 2018



Nicholas Ashinze Procurement fraud Federal High Court, Abuja Justice Babatunde Quadri October 4, 2018



Ibrahim Abdulsalam Money laundering Federal High Court, Lagos Justice Babs Kuewumi October 8, 2018



Essai Dangabar

Ex-Director, Police Pension Board

Complicity in N24bn scam

FCT High Court, Maitama

Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf

October 9, 2018



Gabriel Suswam N3.1billion fraud Federal High Court, Abuja Justice A.R. Mohammed October 9, 2018



Prof. Adebiyi Daramola FUTA Vice Chancellor Misappropriation of public fund Ondo State High Court Justice W. R. Olamide October 10, 2018



Mahmud Aliyu Shinkafi Ex-Zamfara Governor Money laundering Federal High Court, Zamfara Justice Fatima Aminu October 10, 2018



Sule Lamido
Ex-Jigawa Governor
Money laundering
Federal High Court, Abuja
Justice Babatunde Quadri
October 15, 2018



Li Ya Ping Money laundering Federal High Court, Abuja Justice Babatunde Quadri October 16, 2018



Waripamo-Owei Dudafa \$15.5 million fraud Federal High Court, Lagos Justice Babs Kuewumi October 17, 2018



Andrew Yakubu Money Laundering Federal High Court, Abuja Justice A.R. Mohammed October 17, 2018



Nkereuwem Sunday Etukudo Provost, FSMLT, Plateau *N359million fraud* Plateau State High Court Justice D. D. Longji October 18 and 19, 2018



Ibrahim Shekarau Ex-Kano Governor Criminal conspiracy Federal High Court, Kano Justice Zainab Bage Abubakar October 18, 2018



Jumoke Akinjide Money laundering Federal High Court, Lagos Justice Muslim Hassan October 18 and 19, 2018



Alex Badeh Money laundering Federal High Court, Abuja Justice Okon Abang October 22 - 26, 2018



Olisa Metuh Money laundering Federal High Court, Abuja Justice Okon Abang October 22, 2018



Babangida Aliyu & Umar Nasko Ex-Niger Governor Money laundering Fed High Court, Minna Justice Yalim Bogoro October 22 - 23, 2018



Murtala Nyako
Ex-Adamawa Governor
Abuse of office
Federal High Court, Abuja
Justice Okon Abang
October 23, 2018



Justice Yunusa Mohammed Corrupt enrichment Lagos State High Court, Ikeja Justice Sherifat Solebo October 22 & 23, 2018



Usman Mohammed Ex-Aide to Bala Mohammed Criminal breach of trust FCT High Court, Jabi Justice A.B. Mohammed October 22, 2018



Clement Illoh Onubuogo
Ex-Perm Sec, Min of Labour &
Productivity
Stealing by fraudulent conversion
Special Offences Court, Lagos
Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo
October 25, 2018



Clement Faboyede
Ondo PDP Chair
Money laundering
Federal High Court, Lagos
Justice Saliu Saidu
October 26 2018



Jonah Jang
Ex-Plateau Governor
N6.3 billion fraud
Plateau State High Court
Justice Daniel Longji
October 30 and 31, 2018



Ikedi Ohakim Ex-Imo Governor Money laundering Federal High Court, Abuja Justice Babatunde Quadri October 30 and 31, 2018



Haliru Bello Ex-PDP Chairman N300 million fraud Federal High Court, Abuja October 31, 2018



Muhammad Wakil Ex-Minister of State for Power Criminal conspiracy Federal High Court, Borno Justice Muhammad Salihu November 1, 2018



Justice Ofili-Ajumogobia & Godwin Obla, SAN
Bribery & conspiracy to pervert course of justice
Lagos State High Court, Ikeja
Justice Hakeem Oshodi
November 2, 2018



Shamsudeen Bala N1.1billion fraud Federal High Court, Abuja Justice Nnamdi Dimgba November 26, 2018

WANTED



ROBERT CHIDOZIE MBONU

Robert Chidozie Mbonu is wanted in a case of conspiracy, stealing, obtaining money by false pretences and money laundering to the tune of N3.5billion.

The suspect, his company - Melrose General Services Limited and other persons are alleged to have conspired to fraudulently receive and launder the sum from the Nigeria Governors' Forum, under the guise that the company carried out consultancy services for the Forum. Investigations, however revealed that the services duly paid for had already been executed by another consortium of consultants.

Light in complexion and about 6 feet tall, 52-year old Mbonu hails from Mbaise, Imo State. The suspect speaks Igbo and English Languages fluently. His last known addresses are No. 10 Ilabere Avenue, Off Queens Drive, Ikoyi and No. 26 Abdulrahman Okene Close, Victoria Island, Lagos.

Anybody having useful information as to his whereabouts should contact the Commission in its Enugu, Kano, Lagos, Gombe, Port Harcourt, Ibadan, Maiduguri and Abuja offices or through these numbers: 0809 3322 644 (0809 EFCC NIG), 08183322644 (0818 EFCC NIG); its e-mail address: info@efccnigeria.org or the nearest Police Station and other security agencies.

EFCC will get you. Anywhere. Anytime.

www.efccnigeria.org



