

Fake Pastor
in the Net

Fraudulent
ThankGod

Tearful
End



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EFCC **ALERT!**

*How
a Widow's
Petition
Exposed
Him*

Nyame

Not a Jolly Ride to Jail

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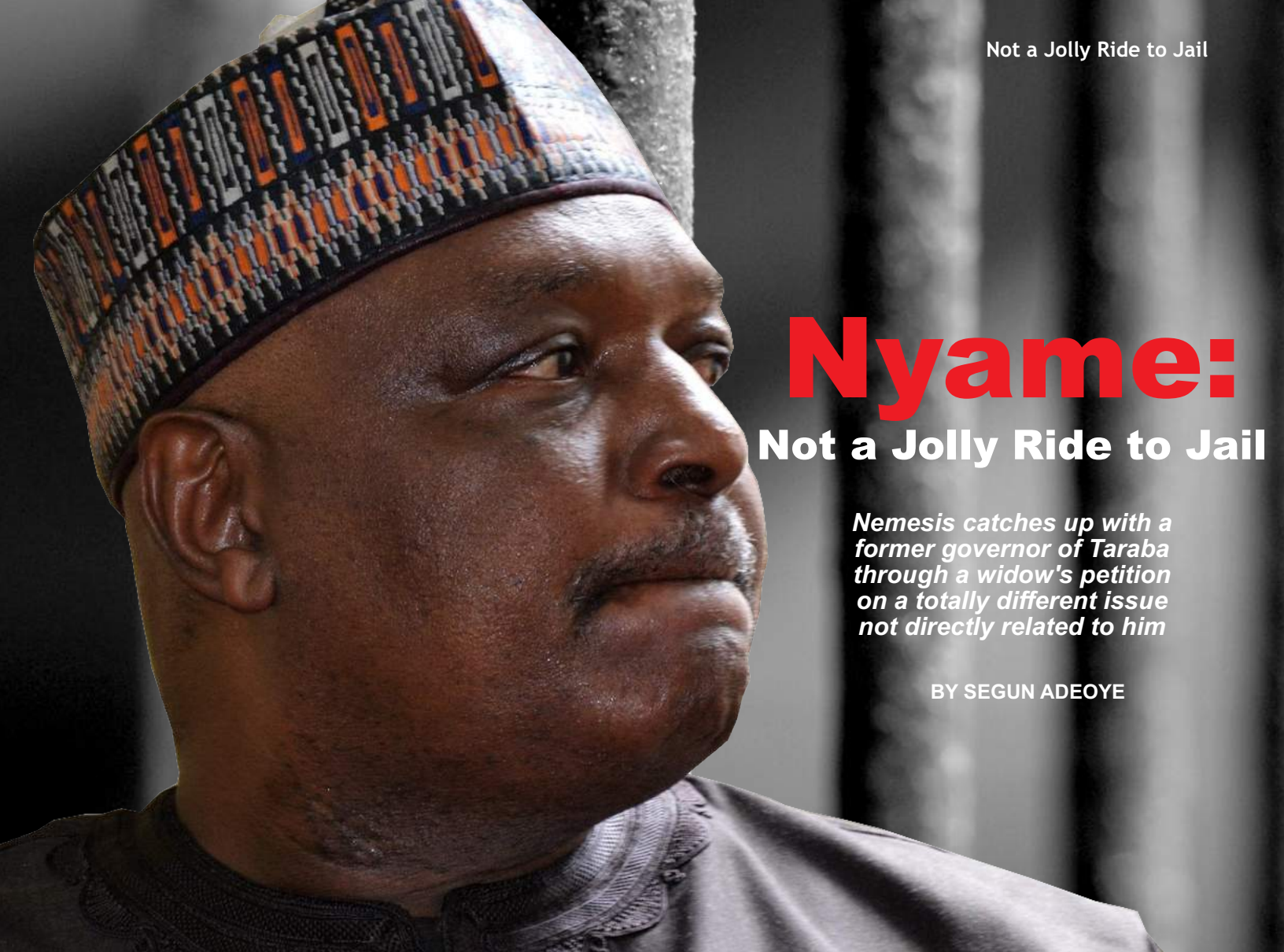
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Nyame:

Not a Jolly Ride to Jail

Nemesis catches up with a former governor of Taraba through a widow's petition on a totally different issue not directly related to him

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

And the man wept! Jolly Nyame, a former governor of Taraba, who had his eyes on the Senate, sat teary-eyed, startled and devastated, as he looked on helplessly in the courtroom. Justice Adebukola Banjoko of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT High Court, Gudu, had just drawn the curtain on his 11-year-old trial, and it was the last thing he had expected, seven months to his 63rd birthday. He swaggered into the courtroom that Wednesday morning, May 30 at about 9am in the company of his well-wishers, with an air of confidence around him that the day will end with him smiling home a free man. But no! After a proceeding that lasted about six hours, with the judge reading a 288-page judgement that lasted about five hours, Nyame had become a convict, destined to spend the next 14 years in Kuje Prison. His faintest hope of a “not guilty” verdict in a trial that began on May 19, 2010 began to fade away about three hours into the reading of the judgement, when

Justice Banjoko found him guilty “as regards the first set of circumstances under criminal breach of trust – stationeries in count one for the sum of N250 million”, after dismissing the arguments of his counsel, Olalekan Ojo, who contended that Nyame was “neither a Public Servant nor a Public Officer, but a Political Office Holder” and so could not be charged with criminal breach of public trust, misappropriation of public funds, or receiving gratification. The EFCC had alleged in count one that between January and February 2005, Nyame being governor, was “entrusted with the sum of N250 million meant for the purchase of stationeries by the Taraba State government”, but diverted same to his use, thus committing an offence punishable under Section 315 of the Penal Code Act Cap 532 Laws of Federation of Nigeria 1990. It was the first count out of 41, levelled against him in a charge filed and dated July 13, 2007 – barely two months after Nyame finished his second term as governor. Specifically, the EFCC accused Nyame of

criminal breach of trust in counts one, two, six, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41. In addition to complicity in diverting N250 million purportedly allocated for purchase of stationeries, he was accused of diverting for personal gains, N180 million out of the N250 million; criminal breach of trust with respect to taking possession of N165 million on February 14, 2005, N27 million on April 11, 2005, N42 million on April 11, 2007, N15 million on January 18, 2007, N25 million on January 30, 2007, N20 million on February 19, 2007, N2 million on March 7, 2007, N10 million on March 24, 2007, N20 million on March 30, 2007, N9.4 million on December 15, 2006, N25 million on January 8, 2007, N20 million on May 7, 2007, N25 million on November 12, 2006, N10 million on October 31, 2006, N5 million on March 16, 2006, N5 million on March 13, 2006, N25 million on May 4, 2007, N5 million on June 16, 2006, N5 million on October 10, 2006, N25 million on June



“After a proceeding that lasted about six hours, Nyame had become a convict, destined to spend the next 14 years in Kuje Prison”

26, 2006, N30 million on August 8, 2006, N3 million on August 24, 2006, N10 million on May 6, 2006; and N32.3 million meant to make preparations for then president, Olusegun Obasanjo's visit to Taraba on April 11, 2005. Nyame was also accused of “criminal misappropriation of public funds” in counts three, seven, nine, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23 and 25 – N24.3 million (purportedly released for purchase of grains for the state) on July 8, 2005; N27 million on April 11, 2007, N32.3 million on April 11, 2005; N42 million on April 11, 2007; N15 million on January 18, 2007; N25 million on January 30, 2007; N20 million on February 19, 2007; N2 million on March 7, 2007; and N4 million on March 24, 2007. The EFCC accused him in counts four and five of receiving gratification of N80 million from Suleiman Abubakar of Alusab International (Nig) Limited through Salam Global Ventures (Nig) Limited, as reward for awarding contract to Alusab for execution of a water project at Ibi/Wukari. The offences were committed between January 2005 and May 2007.

Nyame's Nemesis

Call it the serendipity of stumbling across a goldmine and you will not be far from the truth. Nyame was in fact, never in the purview of the EFCC, and no one at any time wrote a petition

against him. There was no “witch-hunt”. Nyame's financial crime was unravelled by the EFCC while investigating a petition written by a widow, Hauwa Kulu Usman, against Suleiman Abubakar, younger brother to her late husband, Usman Abubakar, Managing Director of Alusab International Limited. She had taken her cry to the EFCC to help recover money from Suleiman being payment to the company.

The Taraba State government had issued a cheque of N135,794,607 in favour of the company, as contract payment for rehabilitation of the Ibi Wukari Water Project. But Suleiman collected the cheque and lodged it in a different account domiciled in Zenith Bank Plc, in Jalingo. Hauwa sought the help of the EFCC to recover the money, accusing Suleiman who took over the company of “squandering” it.

He was subsequently invited by the EFCC for questioning; then and there, the bubble burst. During interrogation, Suleiman admitted collecting the cheque, and though argued that he did not squander the money as alleged in the petition, confirmed that it was for the said project, which was ongoing before the death his brother. He revealed that through Abubakar Tutare, then Commissioner of Finance in the state, the company applied for additional works, which was granted by the state government. According to him, the estimation for the additional works was N35 million, but

Tutare instructed him to add N100 million to the estimation. Subsequently, a cheque of N135 million was issued to Suleiman, but along with it, was a complimentary card, with an account number written at the back. Tutare instructed him to pay the N100 million into the account. Suleiman had asked Tutare about VAT payment, to which Tutare told him to deduct 10 per cent as tax and to credit the account at the back of the card belonging to Nyame with N80 million, and bring N10 million to him.

Suleiman duly paid the cheque into Alusab's account and acted on the N80 million as instructed, as per the complimentary card. He also gave N10 million to Tutare at his residence through his house aide, Hussein Ali. The confession of Suleiman sparked an extensive investigation, which saw the EFCC spreading its dragnet across the State Government House, the Ministry of Finance, and several companies. Tutare, himself was invited for questioning and he confirmed the testimony of Suleiman, but stressed that he acted on the instruction of Nyame, and that the N80 million was paid into the account of Salmon Global Ventures Nigeria Ltd.

The EFCC afterwards unravelled a slew of fraudulent financial activities perpetrated in the ministry of finance, with Nyame being the chief actor, including ordering Dennis Nev, then

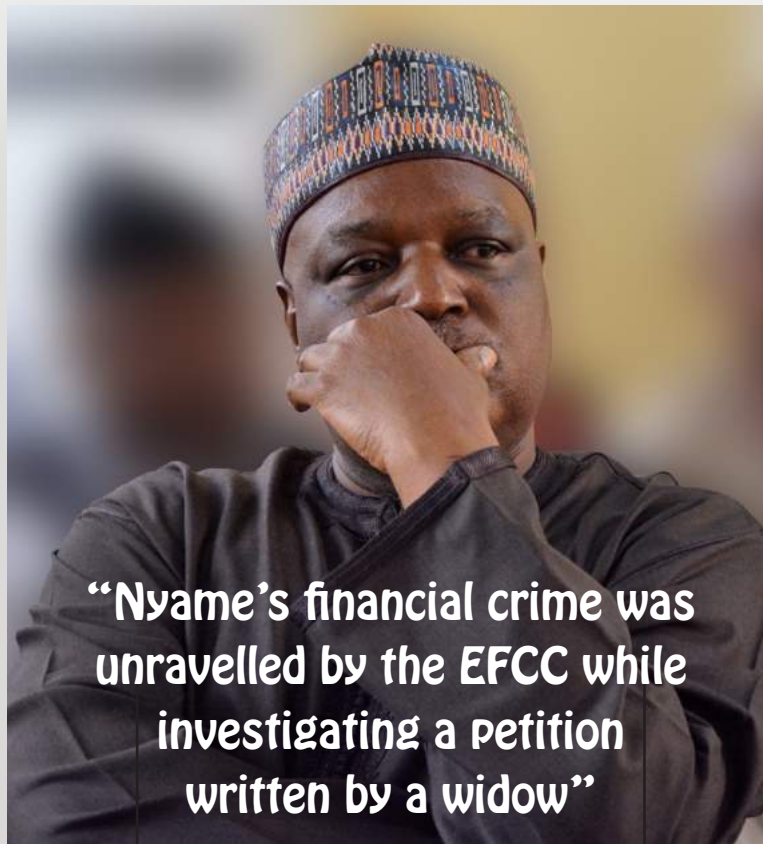
Permanent Secretary, Government House, to raise N101 million for a one-day Presidential Visit in 2005.

Nyame's Volte-Face

Nyame, who also took to the dock to defend himself, made a blanket denial of the charges of receiving money in any form, arguing that he had no business dealings with Salmon Global Ventures, and did not direct Tutare to facilitate payment of any monies into any company's account. He also denied the physical receipt of any cash with respect to the presidential visit, and argued that there was a dire need for grains by "Tarabans" that prompted his government to pursue the release of funds for purchase of grains through the Liaison Office. According to him, the only sums of money he received were for allowances, dispensation, entitlements and security funds. Nyame was one of four witnesses that testified in his defence.

Justice Banjoko, however, saw through what was apparently a volte-face on his part, despite the testimonies of 14 witnesses presented by the EFCC through its team of prosecutors that included Rotimi Jacobs, SAN; O.A. Atolagbe and Henry Ejiga.

In fact, Nyame's counsel, which included Lateef Fagbemi, SAN; Charles Edonsanwan, SAN; H.T. Fajimite; Olalekan Ojo, and A. Yusuf, used all legal gimmicks to frustrate the trial through the 11 years that it lasted. After his arraignment in 2007, he filed an application before the Court to quash the charges brought against him by the EFCC, which was refused by Justice Banjoko. To stall the commencement of his trial, he proceeded to the Court of Appeal, and lost again, before taking his quest to quash the charges, to the Supreme Court, where again he lost. Even after his trial commenced on May 19, 2010 he again through his counsel, Ojo, challenged the admissibility of the statements he wrote during his interrogation by EFCC operatives, dated June 6 and 7, 2007 and July 11, 2007. He again failed on April 25, 2016 as Justice Banjoko admitted them in evidence and overruled the objection of his counsel. The next joker by his counsel, Edonsanwan, was to file a "no case" submission on January 18, 2017, which was dismissed by the Court, on



"Nyame's financial crime was unravelled by the EFCC while investigating a petition written by a widow"

March 8, 2017.

Nyame Bites the Dust

The judge in convicting Nyame, noted that the fraud perpetrated under his watch was "best illustrated in the tale, Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves". Describing his misappropriation of state funds as "a catalogue of errors and shame", the trial judge held that, "it is either Reverend Jolly Nyame entered the Office without a corrupt mind or he was corrupted ab initio".

The trial judge found Nyame guilty of counts one, two, six, eight, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, and 36 - charges bordering on criminal breach of trust; counts three, seven, nine, 11, 13, 15,

The confession of Suleiman sparked an extensive investigation, which unravelled a slew of fraudulent financial activities perpetrated under Nyame

17, 19, 21, 23 and 25 - charges bordering on criminal misappropriation; counts four and five - charges bordering on gratification and accepting a valuable thing without consideration. He was not given an option of fine, and was discharged of counts 22, 24, 26, 28, 32, 34, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41.

In the allocutus, Ojo urged the Court to consider that Nyame was a first-time offender, and a family man who had dependants to cater for.

"He served the people of Taraba State for eight years, and through him the lives of a lot of the people in the state were bettered," he argued, and urged the court to "take into consideration the selfless service of the convict, who has no criminal record of any sort and is still less than 60 years old".

In its counter-argument, Atolagbe, urged the court to take into cognizance the

aggravating effect the action and inaction of Nyame had on the people of the state. Citing Section 401 (2) (a) (d) (e) and (f), and Section 416 2 (a) (d) (e) and (f) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015, and Section 4 (2) (a) (i) and (iii) of the FCT Courts Practice Direction, he urged the court to put into consideration the aggravating factors on the state.

"He abused his position of trust and caused severe harm to the society and economy of the state, and so the effect of the offence must be put into consideration," he argued, adding that, "claim of selfless service is far from the truth".

After listening to the arguments of both counsel, Justice Banjoko, gave her sentencing and noted that despite claim of being a first-time offender, a family man, and his service, "I am morally outraged with the facts of this case".

"There's no moral justification for the level of outright theft, and the Court must therefore, impose a sentence that would, hopefully serve as a deterrent to such other public officers, who may be similarly inclined to deep their hands into public till," Justice Banjoko held.

Nyame will now have to celebrate his 63rd birthday in prison, as he began his jail term on May 30 - 14 years for criminal breach of trust, two for criminal misappropriation, seven for gratification, and five for obtaining by dishonesty - all to run concurrently. ●

Photo-Speak The EFCC's Children's Day celebration on May 28



Students of POWA International School, along with other school students in Abuja, walking to the Parade Ground.



Officers of the EFCC celebrating Children's Day with a walk against corruption.



Large turnout for the walk.



Students march on like anti-corruption crusaders.



School teachers join in the walk to march Children's Day.



Some EFCC Staff at the walk display the Nigerian flag.



Olakunle Churchill, founder, Big Church Foundation, with Princess Onyejekwe, at the Parade Ground



Osita Nwajah, Director, EFCC's Public Affairs, delivers speech on behalf of Ibrahim Magu, acting EFCC Chairman.

Fake Pastor in the Net

An acclaimed pastor of a local church in Bayelsa State is in the EFCC net after swindling his member in a N1.8 billion contract scam

BY DELE OYEWALE//PORT HARCOURT

He is no doubt one of the fake pastors that have of recent been prowling the streets like “roaring lions looking for whom to devour”.

James Ezekiel, the self-acclaimed “Presiding Pastor” of One Touch Power Ministry, Agudama, Epie, a community in Bayelsa State, is in EFCC dragnet for a N1.8 billion contract scam.

He was arrested after his victim approached the anti-graft agency for help to recover the N1.3 million he was deceived to pay as part of funds to finance the contract. It turned out to be a fraud.

Ezekiel claimed to have won the contract for the roofing of a cathedral belonging to the Salvation Ministries in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. He showed a contract award letter to his victim, and cajoled him to collaborate with him as one of the “financiers” of the contract. He allegedly promised the victim mouth-watering interests on his “investment”. But it never materialized.

Investigations, however, showed that the Salvation Ministries did not award any contract to Ezekiel and no transfer of N800 million as he claimed was made to him. He will soon be charged to court.



Fraudulent ThankGod

It is another sad tale of an acclaimed “pastor” who is embroiled in a N16 million fraud

BY OLUMIDE EGBEDOFO//LAGOS

ThankGod Udechukwu, another self-acclaimed pastor, and founder, Jesus the General Outreach Ministry based in Amuwo-Odofin, Lagos, was arrested on May 23 by the EFCC Enugu office, for a N16 million fraud.

His victim, who resides in Dubai, had taken his cry to the EFCC after his ordeals in the hands of Udechukwu. It all started with a suggestion that he hands over four Toyota Highlander SUVs he imported to Udechukwu, who claimed that one of his church members was willing to buy the vehicles and other consignments imported with them all of which amounted to N16 million.

Udechukwu, however, pocketed a huge sum from the sale, claiming that they were spent on logistics. He then muted the idea of starting a transport business, and suggested buying two Sienna buses. As if under a spell, the petitioner agreed to the business idea.

But nothing came out of the transport business. The complainant then asked him to sell off the two buses. Udechukwu sold one, but again diverted the proceeds to his personal use. Months after, the “pastor” introduced him to one Amechi Chuks Amechi who claimed to work with Nigeria Breweries, with the intention of securing a dealership from

the company. He claimed the deal will cost the complainant the sum of N2,370,000 which he transferred to Amechi’s company’s account in the name of Royal Homes Furniture Company Limited at First Bank Plc.

The petitioner who had hoped to use part of the proceeds from his investments to start some businesses here in Nigeria was totally devastated when on coming home, he realized to his chagrin that nothing was left, as the “pastor” and his friend had diverted the funds to their personal use.



Transparent Support

In a rare recognition of the EFCC's anti-corruption crusade, the global anti-graft body, Transparency International, expresses support for the agency

BY HABU WAYERI

Chair of Transparency International, TI, Delia Ferreira Rubio, has said that the anti-corruption body will stand by Nigeria to get rid of the menace called corruption in order to improve the lives of

Nigerians.

"We are here to stand by the anti-corruption fighters and also learn from the work the EFCC is doing," Rubio said. Rubio made the promise during a visit to the EFCC

Headquarters, Abuja on May 23, a few days after Ibrahim Magu, the acting EFCC Chairman emerged Chair of the Heads of Anti-Corruption Agencies in Commonwealth Africa. Rubio, who was visiting Africa for the first time, offered support for the EFCC, and noted that her choice of Nigeria as first port of call was in recognition of Nigeria's efforts in fighting corruption.

"Transparency International recognises the efforts of the government under the leadership of the present acting Chairman to address the lapses in our policy, party and legislation that make corruption thrive and is interested in addressing the menace called corruption," said Auwal Rafsanjani, Head, Transparency International Nigeria/Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre, CISLAC, who accompanied Rubio on the visit.



Rubio and Magu

Tearful End

An internet fraudster bags one year jail term

BY HILDA FINGESI//LAGOS



It is no doubt a case of no retreat no surrender as far as the EFCC is concerned when it comes to ridding the society of internet fraudsters, fondly referred to as "yahoo yahoo" boys.

One of such, who has just been kept away from the public, is Oluwatobiloba Badejo, who was arraigned on May 25 before Justice O.A. Williams of the Lagos State High Court, Ikeja, on a two- count charge of

obtaining N124,937.53 by false pretence and possession of fraudulent documents.

Posing as a woman – Lynda Andrew, he had between March 20, 2016 and June 13, 2016 obtained the money from Manuel Alberto Rama Carracedo, in a romance scam.

Confronted with the incontrovertible evidence gathered by the EFCC in the course of investigations, Badejo pleaded "guilty" to the charges. He also entered a plea bargain to refund the money fraudulently obtained from his victim, and to forfeit a Dell laptop computer, which he used "as the instrumentality of fraud" to the Federal Government. The trial judge, on May 30, found him guilty of the charges, and sentenced him to one year in prison.

Farewell Aboderin

The death of the Chairman of Punch Newspapers is a huge loss to the anti-corruption fight

Ibrahim Magu, acting EFCC Chairman, has described the death of Gbadebowale Aboderin, Chairman of The Punch newspapers, as a rude shock, and extended condolences to his family and associates. Aboderin, who died on May 31 was founder and chairman of Dolphins Female Basketball Foundation, a charity organisation; a former chairman of the Lagos State Basketball Association and one-time vice-president of the Nigerian Basketball Supporters Club. Describing him as a staunch supporter of the anti-corruption fight, Magu, noted that he set the tone of The Punch group's critical and supportive relationship with the work of the EFCC.

"I feel a personal sense of loss as death has snatched from us at the EFCC, a true anti-corruption fighter," Magu said. He added that the best way to remember the late Aboderin, is "to firmly entrench in the private and public lives of Nigerians, the values of unyielding patriotism and professional integrity, which he espoused".



Aboderin

All for Gopep, Mbaya

The EFCC in Maiduguri, commiserates with the Nigerian Union of Journalists over loss of two members

BY JAMILU SALE//MAIDUGURI

In a show of camaraderie and recognition of the important role the media has to play in the fight against corruption, Aminu Aliyu, Head of Operations, Maiduguri Zonal Office, led a delegation on a condolence visit to the Borno Correspondents' Chapel of the Nigeria Union of Journalists, May 31.

Specifically, it was to commiserate with the union over the demise of its members, Jonathan Gopep, a correspondent with Channels Television in Damaturu, Yobe State and Daud Mbaya, a correspondent with the Nigerian Pilot newspapers in Maiduguri.

"It was painful that they passed

on at a time their service was most needed by the nation," he said, and urged the union and their families to be "comforted by the fact that they ran a good race and left legacies that will stand the test of time".

Aliyu used the opportunity to seek for the union's cooperation and collaboration, and hinted them of the achievements of the zone, which included the recovery of N30 million in the last six months.



Aliyu during the visit

Strong Signal

Miffed by the increasing money laundering cases involving bankers, the EFCC sends a strong message that it is no longer business as usual

BY ADENIRAN ADEBAYO//LAGOS



Magu with members of the association

A strong signal has been sent out to compliance officers of banks, as they are viewed critical components in the fight against corruption, particularly in efforts to curb money laundering and other financial crimes.

The acting EFCC Chairman, Ibrahim Magu, gave the charge during an interactive session with members of the Association of Chief Compliance Officers of Banks in Nigeria, ACCOBIN, on May 31, in Lagos.

"We are ready to assist the banks in recovering their debts, but compliance officers must ensure due diligence, especially when giving out loans to customers," he said.

He charged the officers to provide necessary information on perpetrators of illegal activities, stressing that many banks "are sitting on water".

"I know you need to protect some of your customers," he said. "But it is sometimes better that you do without some of these people, otherwise, you will be seen as conspiring with them to steal public funds."

Wind of Change

The EFCC Zonal Office in Ibadan gets a new Head of Operations

BY AYO OYEWOLE//IBADAN

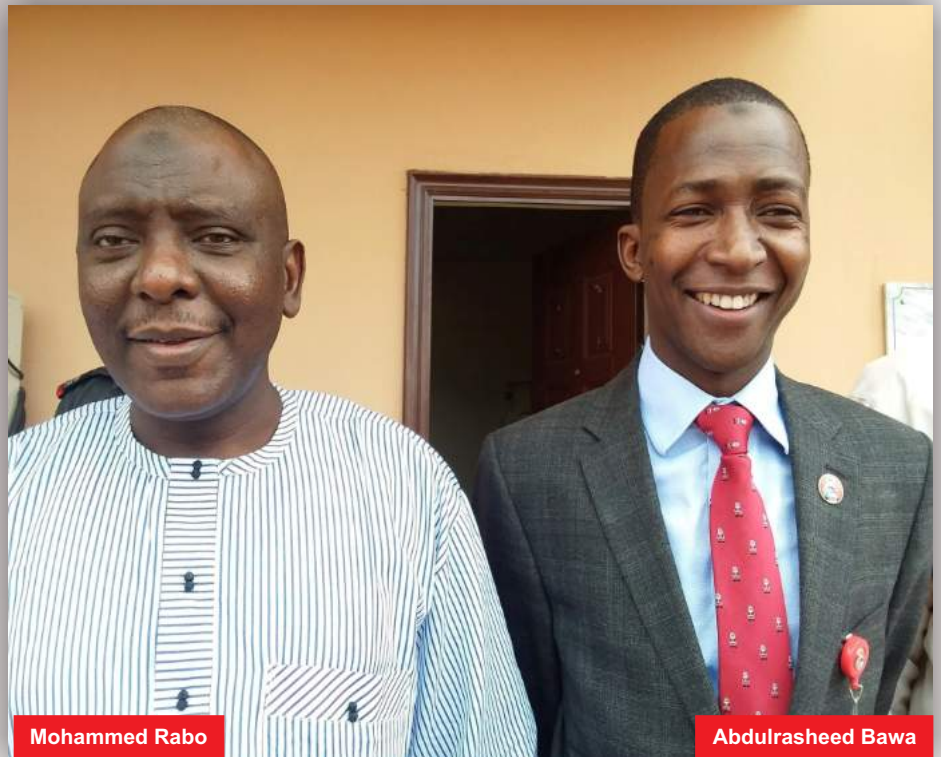
It is a transition to a new beginning at the EFCC's Ibadan Zonal office, as Abdulrasheed Bawa, has taken over from Mohammed Rabo, as the new head of operations.

The wind of change recently blew in the zone on May 31, as part of efforts to continue to strengthen the new zone, which was inaugurated on May 25, 2017. Bawa described his posting to Ibadan as "an act of God and a homecoming", and urged the staff to "discharge of their duties in line with the current administration's vision that we must kill corruption".

Rabo appreciated staff at the zone for their support in the short period he presided over operations.

"It was wonderful working with you all," he said. "My short stay recorded some humble successes as a result of your unalloyed loyalty and cooperation."

He further enjoined them to support Bawa so that "we can collectively continue to lift the bar in the fight against corruption".



Mohammed Rabo

Abdulrasheed Bawa

Ultimate Goal

The Nigerian Army, once again seeks to consolidate its partnership with the EFCC with the aim of stemming illegal oil activities

BY BABATUNDE SULAIMAN//LAGOS

When Maj.-Gen. Enobong Udoh, General Officer Commanding, GOC 81 Division, led a delegation to the EFCC Lagos Office, May 24 it was for one major goal – to strengthen partnership between the EFCC and the Nigerian Army with the aim of curbing criminal activities that has to do with pipeline vandalism, land grabbing and illegal oil bunkering. “As long as the Nigerian Army is important in ensuring that armed and violent criminals are kept out of the society as much as possible, the EFCC is equally important in the efforts to ensure national security,” he said.

Udoh, who assumed office as GOC 81 Division in January this year, said he was ready to work with the EFCC in order to ensure successful prosecution of criminals.

“Of what purpose will it be if I arrest all pipeline vandals, land grabbers and other criminals dealing in contrabands and I have nobody to

prosecute them?” he queried, reinforcing the importance of partnering with the EFCC.

“I am ready to work with the EFCC. I am also ready to support the EFCC in any area it may need my support,” he added. Akaninyene Ezima, Head of Operations, EFCC Lagos Office, who received the delegation on behalf of Ibrahim Magu, acting EFCC Chairman, gave assurances of the anti-graft's partnership

with the Nigerian Army.

“We are ready to partner with you where matters of mutual interest are concerned. Our interest is our country; we don't have any other country,” he said.

Udoh was accompanied on the visit by Brig.-Gen. T.J. Kareem; Col. S.C. Ogbuanya; Col. A. Garba; Lt.-Col. O.M. Daudu; Maj. B.T. Adeosun, and Capt. A.B. Ajitata.



Ezima (m) with the visiting officers

From The Shelves

The May 2016 edition of EFCCALERT!

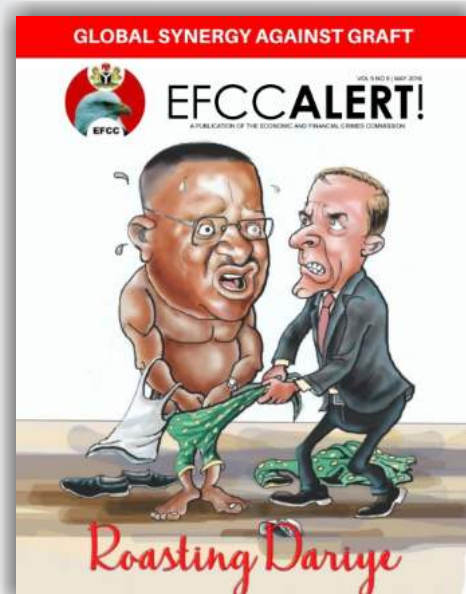
Joshua Dariye, a former Plateau State governor, is one of the former governors, who have had a running battle with the EFCC over malfeasance perpetrated by them while in government. His trial began in 2007 over allegations of money laundering and diversion of state funds, including Ecological Funds.

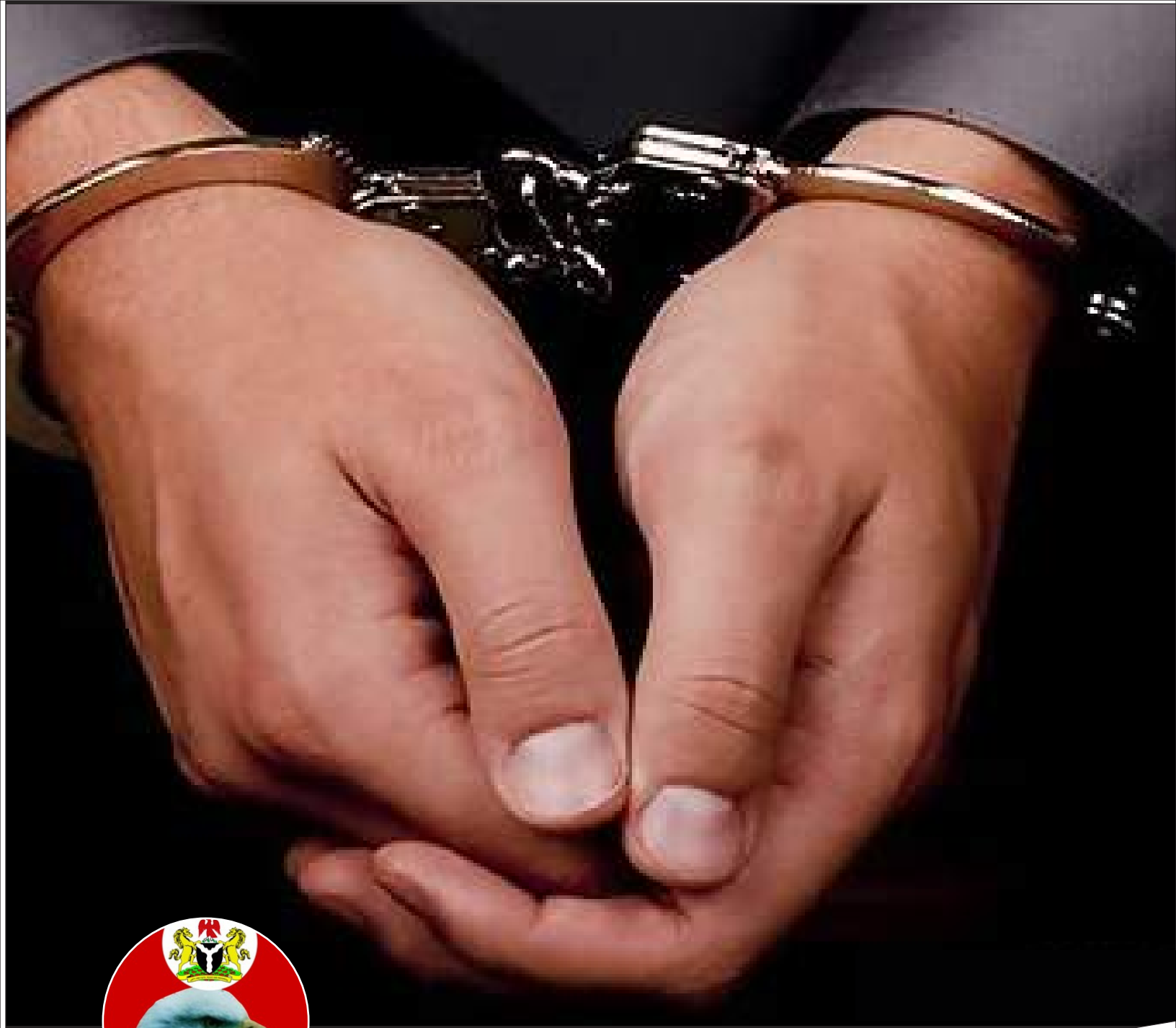
The serving Senator was copiously depicted as a man caught “pants down” in a cover page caricature that aptly captured the proceedings of May 9, 2016 when a retired

detective constable with the UK Metropolitan Police, who investigated him in the UK, testified against him in court before, Justice Adebukola Banjoko.

Justice Banjoko is due to deliver judgement on Dariye's case on June 12.

The edition also featured a “Lexicon” section that shed light on the issue of “Shell Company”, and how it is used to carry out a wide range of financial crimes.





Yes! Stealing is Corruption
Shun It