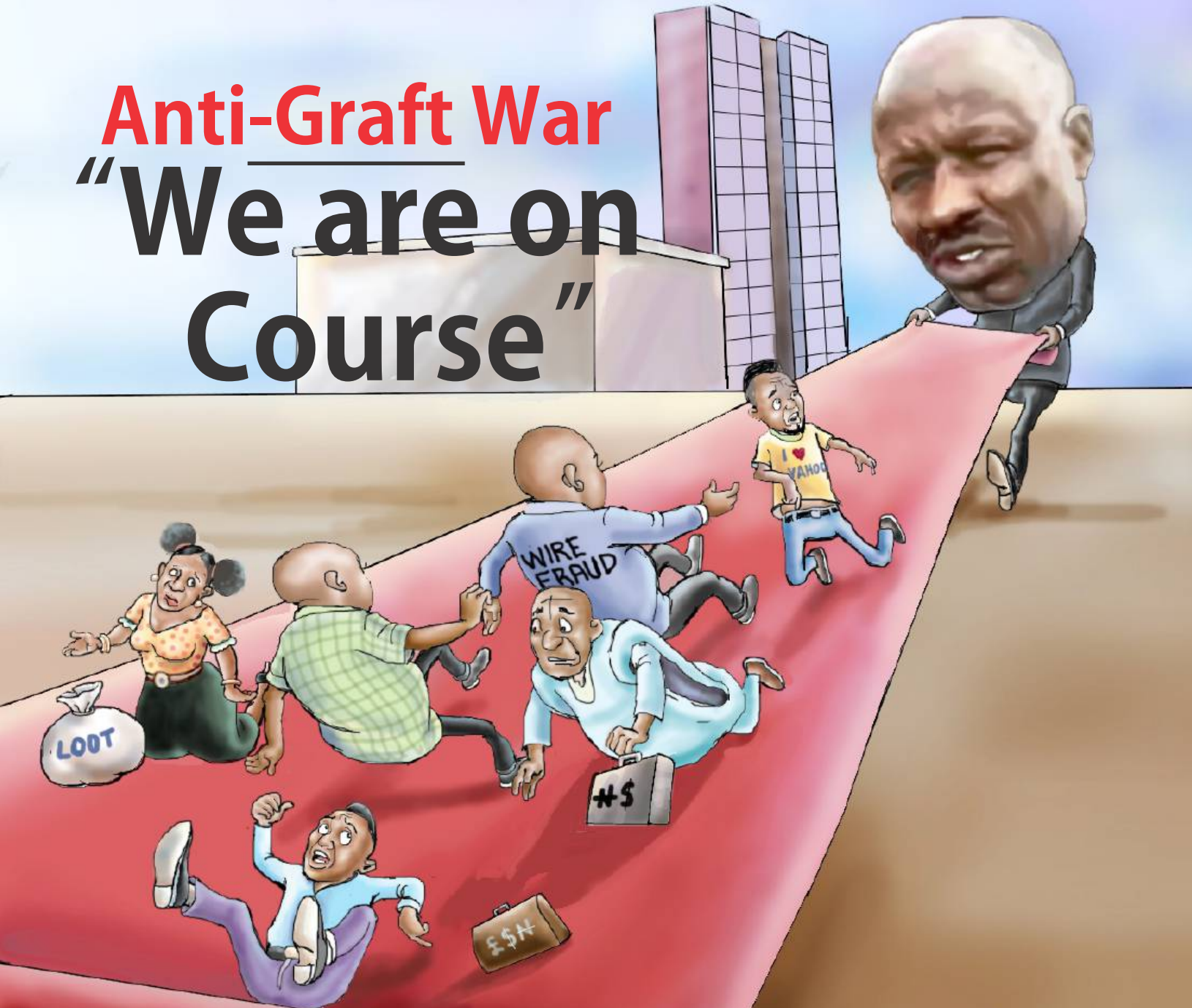




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EFCC ALERT!

Anti-Graft War “We are on Course”



**COVID-19:
How EFCC Sustains
Anti-Graft War**

**EFCC Joins
INTERPOL's
i-247 Platform**



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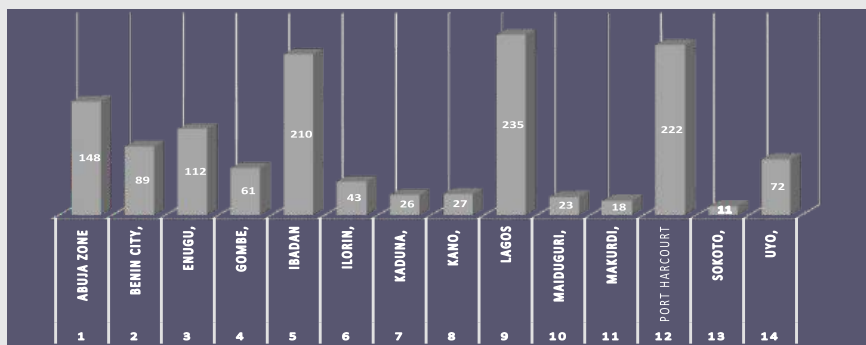
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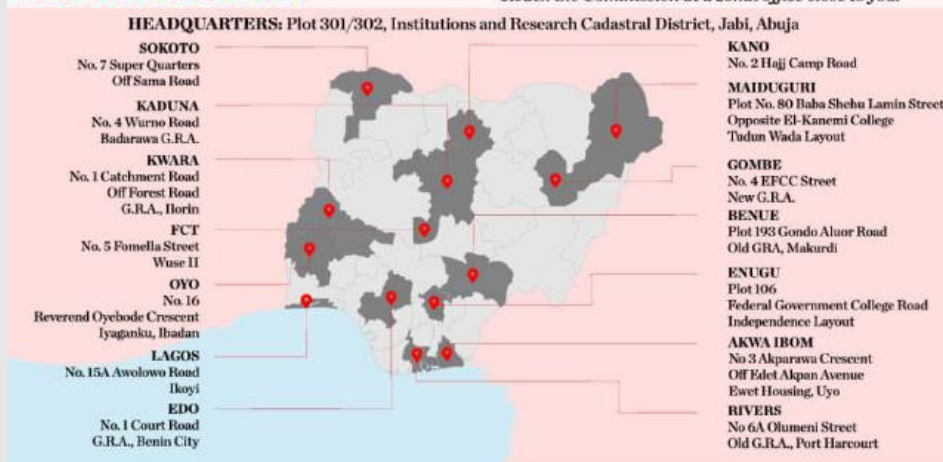
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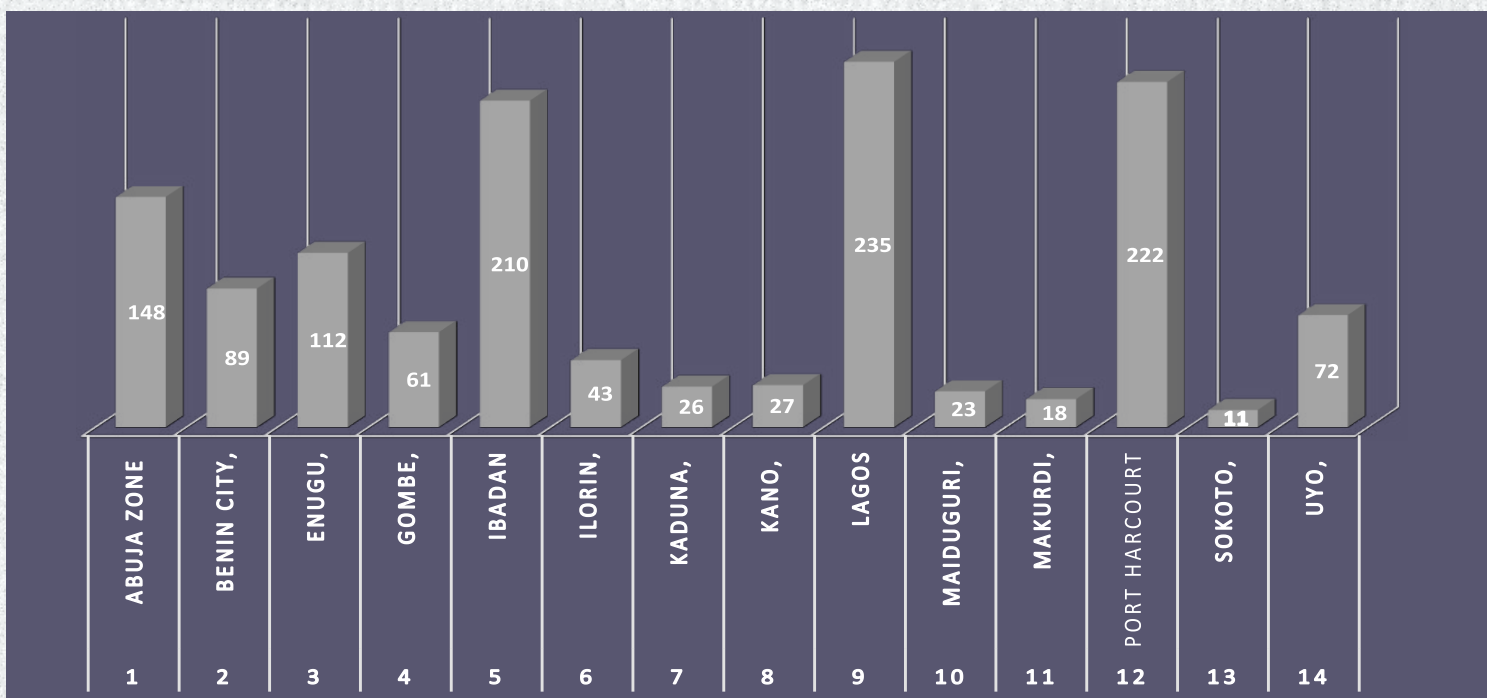
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2019 CONVICTION RECORDS



Scores of Excellence

DELE OYEWALE chronicles the strides achieved by the Ibrahim Magu-led Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, to sustain the fight against corruption

With a record 1,297 convictions secured between January 2019 and May 28, 2020, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC is surely notching up on its assigned mandate and for some good reasons. One of the reasons, the Acting Chairman of the commission, Ibrahim Magu, said, is that the EFCC would stop at nothing to get its work done.

“We are on course”, he said.

Being on course, means that economic and financial crimes can no longer be trifled with, by those who value their peace and freedom. In the last one year, the 14 Zonal offices of the EFCC nationwide have individual strings of convictions. Lagos chalked up with 235 convictions, followed closely by Port Harcourt with 222 convictions and Ibadan with 210 convictions. Others are: Abuja Zone and corporate

headquarters with 148; Enugu, 112; Benin City, 89; Uyo, 72; Gombe, 61; Ilorin, 43; Kano, 27; Kaduna, 26; Maiduguri, 23; Makurdi, 18 and Sokoto, 11.

Some of the convictions are A-list. Topping the chart is a former governor of Abia State, Orji Uzor Kalu that bagged 12 years for N7.65 billion fraud. A serving senator representing Abia North in the National Assembly, he was arraigned alongside his company, Slok Nigeria Limited and Udeh Udeogu, his then director of finance and accounts on an amended 39-count charge, bordering on conspiracy and diversion of the sum of N7.65 billion belonging to Abia State government. Justice Muhammed Idris of the Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos, slammed 12 years' jail term on Kalu and his co-travellers. Although a recent Supreme Court judgment voided the conviction of Kalu on

technicalities, the EFCC is unrelenting in its weighty evidence against him and ready for a retrial as directed by the apex court.

Within the same time frame the EFCC also secured the conviction of a former national publicity secretary of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Olisa Metuh. Justice Okon Abang of the Federal High Court in Abuja, before whom he was prosecuted, convicted, and sentenced him to seven years in prison. He was charged with seven counts bordering on money laundering and diversion of funds to the tune of N400 million. He was also ordered to refund the N400 million to the Federal Government. Metuh is cooling his heels in Kuje Correctional Centre, Abuja.

Other high-profile convictions secured in the course of the year are: Calistus Obi, former acting director-general of the Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA); Damilola Ahmed Adeyeri and his mother, Alaba Kareem



Ibrahim Magu

Adeyeri over Internet fraud (Yahoo-yahoo) and the Process and Industrial Development Limited (P&ID). Obi was on June 3, 2019 found guilty of charges of conspiracy and money laundering to the tune of N136million by Justice Mojisola Olatoregun of the Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos. She convicted him alongside Alu Dimas, his former aide. Adeyeri and his mother bagged 12 Years jail term for \$82,570 Internet fraud, following a four-count charge of conspiracy and obtaining money under

false pretence to the tune of \$82,570.00 preferred against them by the EFCC.

Concerning the liquidation and forfeiture of P&ID Nigeria Limited to the Federal Government, a Federal High Court in Abuja convicted and liquidated the company for fraud and tax evasion after it pleaded "guilty" to an 11-count charge of fraud and tax evasion before Justice Inyang Ekwo. The court also ordered its assets to be forfeited to the Federal Government. The company was

awarded a controversial \$9.6 billion verdict against Nigeria in an arbitration decision by a United Kingdom court, following a failed 2010 project to build a gas-processing plant in Calabar, Cross River State. Other landmarks include the arrest of two Chinese who offered a bribe of N100 million to the Sokoto Zonal head of the EFCC, Abdulahi Lawal. A first instalment of N50 million was hand-delivered by the foreigners, prompting their arrest by

Lagos chalked up with 235 convictions, followed closely by Port Harcourt with 222 convictions and Ibadan with 210 convictions. Others are: Abuja Zone and corporate headquarters with 148; Enugu, 112; Benin City, 89; Uyo, 72; Gombe, 61; Ilorin, 43; Kano, 27; Kaduna, 26; Maiduguri, 23; Makurdi, 18 and Sokoto, 11

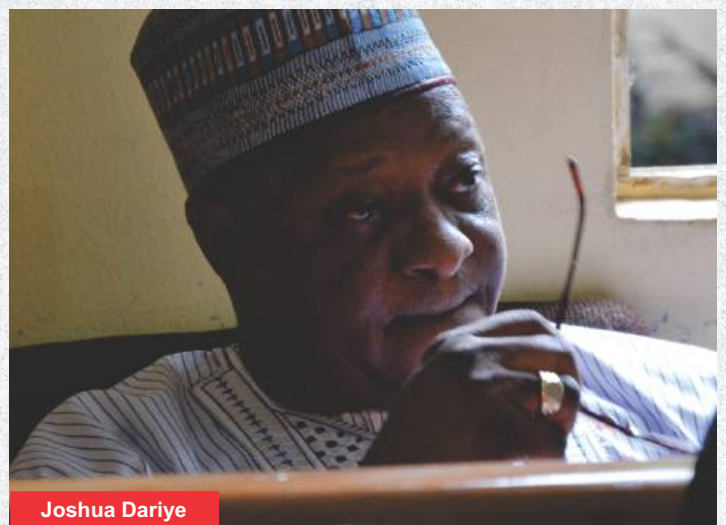
operatives of the commission. They have since been arraigned in Sokoto and granted bail.

Apart from arrests, prosecution and convictions secured by the EFCC, another hit came through recoveries of a total sum of N32,659,362,403.3; \$10,348,079; £758,155; €183,475 among other recoveries. Magu said that the recoveries would have been higher but for the hiccups being experienced owing to the lingering COVID-19 pandemic.

The EFCC is also not relenting in its corruption prevention mandate. On February 14, 2020, (known the world over as Valentine's Day – Lovers' Day), the EFCC held the first-ever Nigerian Youth Walk Against Corruption which was used



Orji Uzor Kalu



Joshua Dariye

to rally youths in the country under the aegis of the National Youth Service Corp, NYSC, along with members of other youth-focused Civil Society associations and trade union groups like the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), Student Union groups across the nation, who trooped out in their numbers to partake in the landmark Road-Walk. The nation stood still for the youths on the fateful day and it is expected to be an annual event.

For a Commission that has built consciousness of the entire world to the ills of corruption, the EFCC is busy fashioning new ways of getting the public more involved in its fight against graft. Recently, at a Virtual Town Hall Meeting in London, United Kingdom, an interaction with Nigerians in the Diaspora,



Jolly Nyame



Olisa Metuh

Nigeria (ICAN) honoured Magu with its prestigious, ICAN's 2020 Merit Award. The award was presented to him by ICAN President, Mazi Nnamdi Okwuadigbo, during a virtual ICAN Webinar.

Okwuadigbo, while justifying the conferment of the Award on Magu, said that the EFCC's Chairman is an icon "who has been religiously leading the crusade against corruption through the EFCC".

Explaining further, the ICAN boss said that Magu is a "worthy ambassador" whose award was approved after painstaking scrutiny of his contributions to the Accounting profession and the country as a whole. Special Guest of Honour at the occasion, Otunba Olutola Senbore, described Magu as a steadfast and disciplined head of Nigeria's foremost anti-corruption agency.

"He deserves the award more



Calistus Obi



Damilola Ahmed Adeyeri and his mother, Alaba Kareem Adeyeri

Magu wooed Nigerians in the Diaspora over the imperatives of public ownership of the fight, even in their foreign locations. His clarion call is hinged on building stronger synergy and collaboration with every interest group to tackle the monster of corruption.

"The EFCC needs collaborative engagements with you all", he said. All these heart-warming achievements of the EFCC are not without public appreciation. Just recently, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of

than anyone else", he said. Other accolades have been coming for the EFCC and its energetic boss. With its bags full of cheering exploits, the future seems prepared for the EFCC and its teeming workforce, but trouble-laden for all perpetrators of corrupt acts. ■



COVID-19: How EFCC Sustains Anti-Graft War

TONY ORILADE and SEGUN ADEOYE x-ray the anti-corruption fight of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission amidst the ravaging COVID-19 pandemic

The Coronavirus, COVID-19 pandemic has no doubt, enforced grave and negative impact on every sector in Nigeria. The war against corruption, spearheaded by the Ibrahim Magu-led Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has not been left out.

Having secured a record 1,281 convictions in 2019, including high profile cases like that of Olisa Metuh, a former spokesperson of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, the EFCC had re-strategized its operations, focused on surpassing the achievements of the past years; but out of the blue's surfaced the coronavirus that is ravaging the developed and developing world alike, putting paid to general activities

in the country, as states enforced lockdowns to contain the pandemic.

Below is a cursory look at a few of cases affected by the COVID-19 scourge

KENNY MARTINS

The trial of the coordinator of the Police Equipment Fund, PEF, for charges bordering on a N7,740,000,000 fraud has experienced different twists and turns. The EFCC through the Supreme Court, upturned the not-guilty verdict granted him and his co-defendants, Ibrahim Dumuje, Joni Icheka and Cosmas Okpara on November 24, 2009 by Justice Mohammed Talba, of a Federal

Capital Territory, FCT High Court, Gudu. The EFCC is now set to re-arraign them on June 30, 2020 before Justice Osho Adebisi of an FCT High Court, Gudu.

GABRIEL SUSWAM and OMADACHI OKOLOBIA

Suswam, a former governor of Benue State, who is accused by the EFCC of conniving with his Commissioner of Finance, Omadachi Okolobia to defraud his state of about N3.1billion was expected to sit in the dock on March 24 and 26, 2020 for the continuation of his trial. But it was not to be due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He is however going to be taken to court later in June.

PROF. ABUBAKAR SULAIMAN and MOHAMMED DELE BELGORE, SAN

Sulaiman, a former Minister of National Planning, and Belgore were also expected to appear before Justice Rilwan Aikawa of a Federal High Court, Lagos on April 23, 2020 for the continuation of their trial for a N450million money laundering charge linked to a former Minister of Petroleum Resources, Diezani Alison-Madueke, but it was not to be as all efforts across the country was geared towards containing the COVID-19 pandemic. They are however going to be in court soon to continue their trial.

PAUL USORO, SAN

The March 23, 2020 and April 21 and 22, 2020 dates for the continuation of the trial of the President of the Nigerian Bar Association, Paul Usoro, SAN, have also now been voided due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Usoro, who was re-arraigned before Justice Aikawa, is facing a 10-count charge involving N1.4billion fraud. A new date is now being expected.

JIDE OMOKORE

The \$1.6billion fraud trial of Omokore, along with his company, Atlantic Energy Brass Limited and Atlantic Energy Drilling Concept Limited; Victor Briggs and Membere Abiye before Justice Nnamdi Dimgba of a Federal High Court, Abuja, has also suffered similar fate due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and their trial could not proceed on March 23, 2020. The EFCC is however determined to see to the end of the case, which began in 2015.

ABBA MORO and MAHMOOD AHMED

Another March date – the 25th, which was later adjourned to May 28, 2020, was for the EFCC to continue its prosecution of Moro, a former Minister of Interior, before Justice Nnamdi Dimgba for employment fraud, to the tune of N675,576,000 has also been

voided. Moro and his co-defendant will, however, soon know their fate as regards their “no-case” submission aimed at exonerating them from the crime.

MURTALA NYAKO

The former governor of Adamawa State along with his co-defendants standing trial for N29 billion money laundering charges were expected to know their fate in relation to their “no-case” submission brought before Justice Okon Abang, on March 25, 2020 but it could not be due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A new date is however expected.

WINNIFRED OYO-ITA

For her involvement in an alleged N570million fraud, Oyo-Ita, a former Head of Civil Service, was arraigned by the EFCC before Justice Taiwo of a Federal High Court, Abuja in the nick of time, on March 23, 2020 (shortly before lockdowns were being enforced across the country due to COVID-19). She was charged with an 18-count charge bordering on fraud – obtaining Estacode and Duty Tour Allowance for journeys either not embarked upon or were non-existing. Her trial continues.

BABACHIR LAWAL

The former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, SGF is being prosecuted for allegedly benefiting illegally from the approval of N544,119,925.36 for a purported removal of invasive plant species and simplified irrigation in the North-East. His trial was adjourned to April 10, 2020 but could not as a result of COVID-19 lockdown.

FEMI FANI-KAYODE



Kenny Martins



Gabriel Suswam



Prof. Abubakar Sulaiman And Mohammed Dele Belgore, SAN



Paul Usoro, SAN



Abba Moro



Jide Omokore



Murtala Nyako



Winnifred Oyo-Ita

The former Minister of Aviation is currently standing trial alongside a former Minister of State for Finance, Mrs. Esther Nenadi Usman, Danjuma Yusuf and a company, John Trust Dimensions Nigeria Limited before Justice Mohammed Aikawa of a Federal High Court in Lagos over an alleged N4.6 billion fraud. They were re-arraigned before the court on May 15, 2017, by the EFCC on a 17-count charge bordering on the alleged offence. Their last date in court was meant to be May 5 and 6, 2020, but a new date is now being expected.

PATIENCE JONATHAN

The former First Lady is being investigated in relation to \$8,435,788.84 and N9.1 billion found in Skye Bank Plc (now Polaris Bank), Diamond Bank Plc, Stanbic IBTC and First Bank Plc, traced to her and which have currently been forfeited to the Federal Government by Justice Mojisola Olatoregun of a Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos.

JONAH JANG

The former governor of Plateau State was expected to appear on May 26, 2020 before Justice C.L. Dabup of a Plateau State High Court, Jos to face an amended 17-count charge, bordering on diversion of N6.3 billion public funds. The matter could not however, proceed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A new date is now being expected. He is being tried alongside a former cashier in the office of the Secretary of the State Government, Yusuf Pam.

IBRAHIM SHEMA

The former Katsina State governor was expected in Justice Maikaita Bako's court on April 6, 2020 alongside Sani Hamisu Makana,



Babachir Lawal



Femi Fani-kayode

former Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Lawal Ahmad Rufai, permanent secretary Ministry for Local Government Affairs and Ibrahim

Lawal Dankaba, Chairman, Association of Local Government of Nigeria, (ALGON) Katsina Branch, for the continuation of their 24-count amended charge involving alleged diversion of



Jide Omokore



Jonah Jang



Ibrahim Shema

N5.7 billion. Their trial continues.

Among other prominent cases coming on stream include, alleged pension fraud involving **ABDULRASHEED MAINA**, a former Chairman, Pension Reform Task Team, before Justice Abang; **Sule Lamido**, a former Jigawa State governor for alleged N1.35 billion fraud; **Shehu Sani**, a former Senator for alleged \$10,000 fraud; **Nicholas Ashinze**, a former special assistant to Col Sambo Dasuki, ex-National Security Adviser, for alleged N1.84 billion money

laundering fraud; **EMEKA MBA**, a former Director General, Nigerian Broadcasting Commission for alleged N2.9 billion fraud. **BABANGIDA ALIYU**, ex-Niger State governor for alleged N5 billion fraud; **RAYMOND DOKPESI**, Chairman, DAAR Communications Plc for alleged **N2.1 billion fraud**; **Ayo Fayose**, a former Ekiti State governor for alleged N1.8 billion fraud; **HON. NICHOLAS MUTU**, a former Chairman, House Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission, for alleged N320.1 million fraud; **PROF. MAURICE IWU**, a former Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, for an alleged N1.23 billion fraud. **JUMOKE AKINJIDE**, a former Minister of State for the FCT, for alleged N650 million fraud. **EMMANUEL ATEWE**, a former Joint Military Task Force Commander, for alleged N8.5 billion fraud; **Doyin Okupe**, a former aide of former President Olusegun Obasanjo for alleged N702 million fraud, and **Mohammed Adoke**, SAN, for his involvement in the Malabu Oil Scam. ■



Partnership Par Excellence

The International Police, INTERPOL takes its partnership with the EFCC a notch higher as it extends its globalized information platform to the anti-graft agency

It was history in the making on June 3, 2020 as the International Police, INTERPOL during a visit to the EFCC Headquarters, Abuja on June 3, 2020 formally announced that it had extended its globalized information i-247 to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

Commissioner of Police, Interpol and Head, National Central Bureau, (NCB), G.B. Umar, who made the disclosure, congratulated the EFCC and the Acting Chairman, Ibrahim Magu on the "new milestone" achieved by the Commission.

"The extension of the platform was made possible by the Chairman's passion and determination in the fight against financial crimes in Nigeria," he said.

Expressing his delight, Magu commended the INTERPOL for assisting to facilitate the arrest and investigation of many politically exposed persons, who fled the country to avoid prosecution by the anti-graft agency.

"Things get done when you work with Interpol. We have been planning this

since 2018 and I thank God it is happening today", he said, adding that the platform will energize every enforcement initiative of the EFCC.

"Enforcement is the greatest deterrent to corruption," he added.

The i-247 is a global police communications system that connects law enforcement agencies in all the 194 member countries. It enables users share sensitive and urgent police information with their counterparts around the globe, 24 hours a day, and 365 days a year. ■



Honours for Magu

It was an honour well deserved as the acting Chairman, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ibrahim Magu, was on June 3, 2020 inducted into the President Muhammadu Buhari Integrity Hall of Fame in recognition of his record of

integrity, transparency and honesty in his duties.

The induction was done by Arewa House (Centre for Documentation and Research), Ahmadu Bello University, at the Corporate Headquarters of the EFCC, Abuja. Director of the Centre, Dr. Shuaibu

Aliyu, said Magu was honoured in recognition of his "courage, consistence and integrity in the discharge of his duties".

"We are impressed by the courage and integrity of Magu and the record-breaking results that the EFCC has garnered since he assumed his role in 2015," he said. Responding, Magu appreciated the Arewa House for the honour bestowed on him.

He said: "It is quite humbling to be found worthy of an induction into the Integrity Hall of Fame of our great President.

"President Muhammadu Buhari, no doubt, has established great reputation globally as an ardent and committed anti-corruption fighter.

"His appointment as First-ever African Union Anti-Corruption Fighter bears great credence to his commitment to the fight against corruption.

"I, therefore, consider it great honour to be inducted into such integrity realm by the Arewa House." ■

Hard Lesson

Two Chinese businessmen are learning a hard lesson after offering bribe to an EFCC official

Meng Wei Kun and Mr. Xu Koi, two Chinese businessmen will forever rue the decision to park four cartons of what was supposed to be table water, but instead contained N50 million, intended to bribe Abdullahi Lawal, Head of Operations, EFCC Sokoto Zonal Office. The two men, who were arraigned before Justice Mohammed Sifawa of the Sokoto State High Court for alleged bribery, are believed to have offered the money as bribe to scuttle the Commission's investigation of China Zhonghao Nigeria Limited, a construction company handling Zamfara State Government's contracts worth N50

billion between 2012 and 2019. Indeed, sensing the determination to investigate its fraudulent activities, the company had reached out to Lawal with an offer of N100 million to terminate the investigations. Lawal, however, played along as the company sent Kun and Koi who presented the bribe to him.

Both of them are learning a bitter lesson that the EFCC is a professional organization that



does not sacrifice professionalism on the altar of filthy lucre. ■

United against COVID-19

As part of efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic in Lagos, the EFCC donates a forfeited property for use as isolation centre

It was a rare gesture on the part of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, as the Lagos Zonal office of the

Commission on May 15, 2020 handed over a property forfeited by former Minister of Petroleum

Resources, Diezani Alison-Madueke to the Lagos State government for use as isolation centre for COVID-19 patients. The property, comprising six flats of three

bedrooms and a boys' quarter, was forfeited by Diezani following an order of the Federal High Court in 2017. According to Mohammed Rabo, Head, EFCC Lagos Zone, the gesture was part of the Commission's social responsibility and contribution to combating the dreaded Coronavirus. "In addition to our mandate to fight economic and financial crimes, the Commission is committed and ready to render essential services that may be required of it in the fight against COVID-19," he said. For Babajide Sanwo-Olu, Lagos State governor, it was a most appreciated gesture. "This is a welcome collaboration between the Federal and Lagos State Governments," he said. ■








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anywhere,
anytime.**



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