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EFCC ALERT!

United Against Corruption

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC marks the 2020 Anti-Corruption Day with a call for stronger collaboration among anti-corruption agencies





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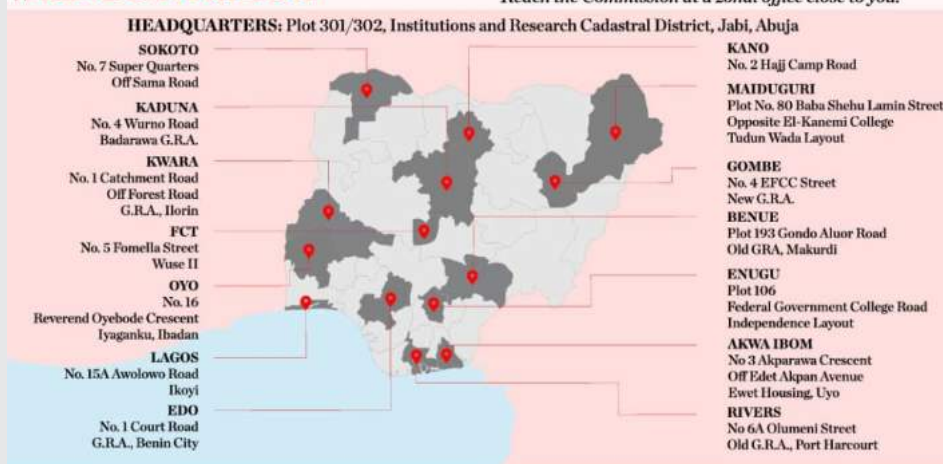
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The Editor, EFCCALERT!,
Plot 301/302, Institutions and Research Cadastral District, Jabi, Abuja.
OR 15A, Awolowo Road, Ikoyi, Lagos
Email: alert@efccnigeria.org
Tel: +234-8093322644

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United Against Corruption

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC marks the 2020 Anti-Corruption Day with a call for stronger collaboration among anti-corruption agencies

By Segun Adeoye

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 was the day for this year's United Nations Anti-Corruption Day, and as expected, the acting chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mohammed Umar Abba, led the charge for the celebration of the 2020 Anti-Corruption Day. The day, which has been a reference point against corruption, was marked by a webinar hosted by the Inter-Agency Task Team, IATT.

Themed "United Against

"There is no gainsaying that the situation calls for us to unite with a common purpose, deepen our cooperation and recommit to implementing the broad goals of the of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy in our respective agencies,"

Corruption: "Recover with Integrity", the EFCC boss in his goodwill message at the occasion, noted that the continuous evolution of new economic and financial crimes and the insatiable appetite for corruption in both the private and public spheres call for more unity of purpose and cooperation among the nation's anti-graft agencies in the pursuit of the goals of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

"There is no gainsaying that the situation calls for us to unite with a common purpose, deepen our



cooperation and recommit to implementing the broad goals of the of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy in our respective agencies,” he said, adding that the EFCC has prioritized domestic cooperation “as an effective tool to winning the war against corruption and will continue to support any initiative that promotes collaboration.”

He called on anti-corruption agencies in the country to use this year's occasion to review the country's anti-corruption efforts, policies and laws towards charting a collective new course in the direction of a more effective and inclusive multi-stakeholder cooperation and actions on the anti-corruption war. The EFCC boss further noted that anti-corruption agencies ought to leverage on each other's strengths “to create the desired result we seek, so that corruption





Lagos zonal office



Benin zonal office



Maiduguri zonal office



Port Harcourt zonal office



Sokoto zonal office



Enugu zonal office



Ilorin Zonal office



is minimized in our lives" and emphasized the primacy of technology in the effective prevention, investigation and prosecution of corruption offences. While noting that this year has been specially challenging and the International Anti-Corruption

Day, different due to the effects of the COVID 19 global pandemic, Abba observed that the EFCC was able to ride the storms, achieving over 700 convictions.

The IATT also organized a poetry competition for 11

secondary schools in the Federal Capital Territory. Akorede Sani from Battle Axe Academy came tops in the junior category, while Oluwatosin Ogbasanya from Glistin International Academy, emerged the winner in the senior category. As expected, the EFCC also marked the Day across its zonal offices. ■

2020 - What a Year!

It was an eventful year for the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, as the anti-graft agency intensified its efforts in the fight against corruption, despite all odds

For the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, the year 2020 witnessed various twists and turns, but in spite of it all, the anti-corruption agency remained dedicated and committed to its mandate, as it maintained professionalism and integrity in discharge of its duties.

Admittedly, the Commission witnessed a topsy-turvy period with the negative effects of the Coronavirus Disease, COVID-19. There was also the change of leadership at a critical time of the year, which saw Mohammed Abar Umar take over from Ibrahim Magu, as the acting chairman of the Commission. The agency was also thrust into public eyestorm; however, in

spite of it all the Commission remained on course, securing notable achievements across its zonal offices and its Corporate Headquarters in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

As the agency prepares for the tasks and challenges of 2021, below are a few notable events that will for a long time characterize the outgoing year 2020:

CONVICTIONS

The EFCC in the year under review secured 865 convictions. Such is a remarkable and significant achievement, considering the adverse effect of COVID-19, which slowed down the pace of work at the nation's judiciary.

Captain Ezekiel Bala Agaba

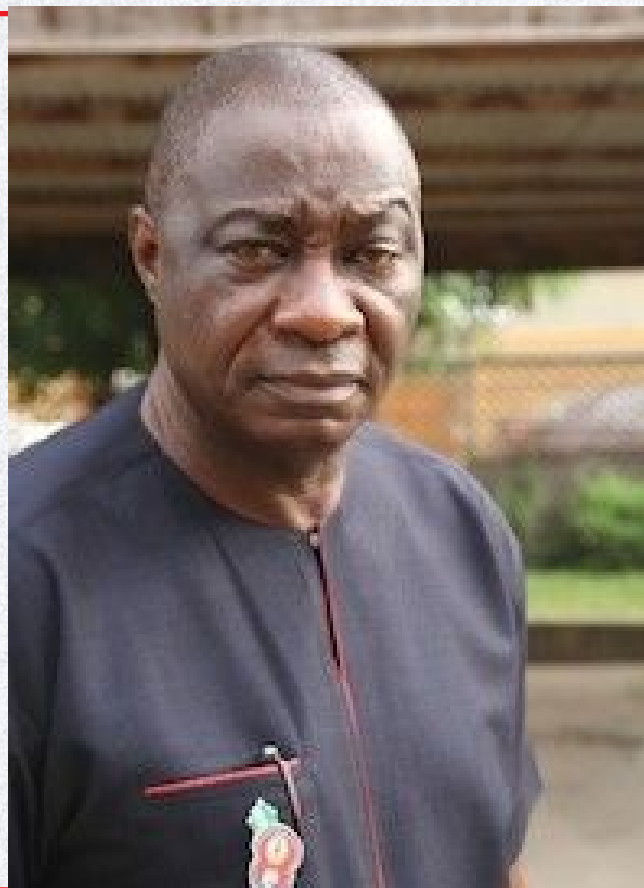
The EFCC on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 secured the conviction of Captain Ezekiel Bala Agaba, a former executive director, Maritime Safety and Shipping Development, in the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA as Justice I.N. Buba of a Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos, pronounced him guilty of the amended seven-count charge brought against him by the Commission.

It was a day justice was served on behalf of the many victims who would

have benefited from the N1,699,808,666.60 diverted by him to personal use.

Among other offences, he was alleged to have used Seabulk Offshore Operator Ltd to divert N437,726,666.60 and Extreme Vertex Nigeria Ltd to divert N525,000,000.00 belonging to NIMASA.

Justice Buba held that the EFCC proved its case against him beyond every reasonable doubt and sentenced him to seven years on each count to run concurrently.



Bulu Adamu

The EFCC on July 23, 2020 secured the conviction of Bulus Adamu, a former Chairman of Shongom Local Government Area of Gombe State. He was arraigned on March 9, 2015 on a seven-count charge bordering on fraud, cheating and money laundering to the tune of N97,640,000.

He had pleaded "not guilty" prompting the beginning of a trial that lasted five years. Four witnesses were called against him, with several documents tendered against him as exhibits.

Delivering judgement, Justice N.I. Afolabi of a Federal High Court, Gombe, found him guilty

of all the counts and sentenced him to five years in prison on counts one, two and four, without an option of fine. On count three, the court sentenced him to seven years without an option of fine and on counts five, six and seven, the court sentenced him to three years each without an option of fine.

The sentence is to commence from July 10, 2020, and run concurrently. Justice Afolabi also ordered the convict to pay the sum of N31,640,000 to the coffers of Shongom Local Govt through the registry of the court under the supervision of the EFCC.



Alkali Mamu

The EFCC secured victory over Air Vice Marshal Alkali Mamu at the Court

of Appeal. Justice Salisu Garba of a Federal Capital Territory, FCT High Court, had discharged and acquitted him of the fraud charges brought against him by the EFCC in 2016.

Mamu was one of the senior military officers accused of abusing their positions by the Presidential Committee on the Audit of Defence Equipment Procurement (CADEP), which was mandated to look into contracts awarded for military procurement.

The EFCC filed a four-count charge against Mamu in 2016 and brought him before Justice Garba. However, delivering judgment on June 29, 2018, he discharged and acquitted him on all four counts and held, among others, that the prosecution failed to prove its case.

The EFCC however, vehemently opposed the decision of the lower

court and subsequently appealed the judgment.

The outcome of the appeal was that on July 28, the three-man panel of the Court of Appeal, which included Justices Yargata Nimpar, Abdu Aboki and Emmanuel Agim, in a unanimous judgement convicted and sentenced Mamu to two years in prison having found him guilty on count two of the charges. The former Group Managing Director of the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) Holding Company and Air Officer Commanding, Training Command, was discharged and acquitted on the other counts.

The judgment, which was read by Justice Nimpar, held that: "the trial court failed in its duty by applying principles of law in a flawed manner, leading to the striking out of the confessional statement."

He was however, given an option of N500,000 as fine.

Mother, son convicted of \$82,570 Fraud

The EFCC secured the conviction of Damilola Adeyeri and his mother, Alaba, January 28, 2020 for a \$82,570 fraud charge.

They were arrested following investigations into a petition from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI against Damilola accusing him of engaging in money laundering and computer-related fraud. Investigations further revealed that he hacked into the official email address of American Cranes Manufacturing company, by impersonating its Chief Executive Officer, and used the same to perpetrate the fraud.

Damilola was arrested on September 6, 2019, after which his mother was apprehended when she went to withdraw money from the bank upon hearing that EFCC was investigating her son. She purchased properties in the name of her son with the money made from the fraud.

Justice Chukwuekwu Aneke of a Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos found them guilty of the four-count charge and sentenced them to three years in prison on each of the counts to run concurrently.



Global Support



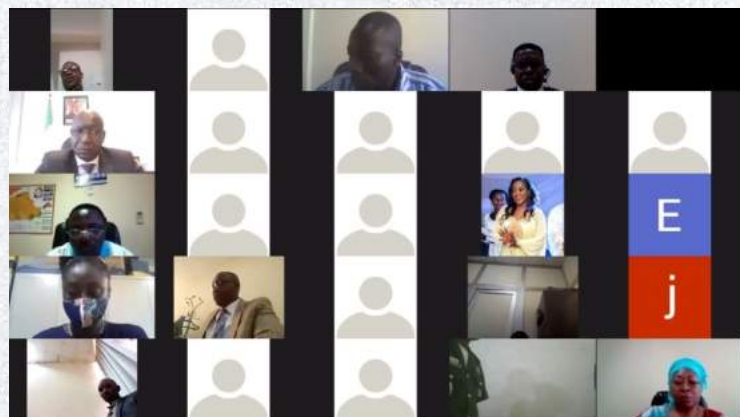
The Commission also strengthened its collaboration with international law enforcement agencies, particularly the International Police, INTERPOL. The collaboration, significantly, was effective in the arrest of Abdurashheed Maina, former Chairman of the Pension Reform Task

Team, PRTT, who jumped bail to escape his prosecution by the EFCC for an alleged N2billion pension fraud. Maina is standing trial before Justice Okon Abang of a Federal High Court, Abuja after evading prosecution since 2015 during which he was declared wanted twice.

International Leadership Role

The EFCC also maintained its leadership role in the committee of anti-corruption agencies, as it remained a rallying point for the fight against corruption in the West African region. Specifically, on November 17, 2020 the Commission hosted the anti-graft agencies of other West African countries to a virtual capacity-building

intervention, with focused on corruption risk assessment, asset seizure, forfeiture and recovery and borderless investigation for members of the Network of National Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa, NACIWA (a body tasked with increasing capacity to combat corruption within national anti-corruption institutions in the region).



Be Warned - New Tactics of Fraudsters

EXPOSED

New Tricks of Scammers

Beware, scammers are on the prowl, especially as the festive period approaches! Perhaps, it will be a matter of stating the obvious that they've always been. One thing, though, is that in this age of internet technology and the boom in the mobile industry, scammers are deploying more subtle and sophisticated techniques to defraud unsuspecting victims.

Indeed, in the course of checking advance fee fraud in the country, the EFCC has continued to unravel the various tricks employed by these scammers – many of them youths.

Currently prowling the streets, is a syndicate of fraudsters, which goes about engaging unsuspecting victims online and through WhatsApp, claiming to have the key to winning online sports bets, are currently luring unsuspecting victims into parting with their hard-earned money in the name of being sold winning games.

Spearheaded by one Augustine Aboika, who, at the last count, uses three different numbers, 07062871348 (his main line), 09036912549 and 07037822089, he lures his victims to send money to his bank account

0817920472, Access Bank in the guise that he will provide them with juicy offers to win online. However, once he gets the money, what the unsuspecting victim gets is a text message with a link to globalbet.com.

The scam, which is gradually

The schemers have also gone a notch higher, bringing in a member who masks his phone number to look like he is resident in the United States. Going by the name, IBA Jackson, with the masked number +1 (401) 203-8373, he poses as "Mr Jackson from global bet head office in New York". This so-called Jackson, works in cahoot with one Michael Uwaifo, with phone number

08167173145, who also claims to be a Manager with one MSPORT, a sports betting site. Their aim is to lure the unwitting victim to reveal the details of his/her ATM card, they then use it to generate a token, which they used to steadily siphon several amounts ranging from N10,000 to N50,000 from the bank account of their victims.

Like many fraudsters, they are merciless in their mission and ultimate goal – to extort money to the last dime from their rather innocent victims.



Augustine Aboika and Iba Jackson



becoming a million-naira fraud industry, also involves one Michael Ohiochioya Agbebaku, who registered three lines on Truecaller - 08141577823, 07061519002 and 07044570890, collaborating with Aboika, to deceive unsuspecting victims to send money to him, in the guise that he will send "your winning money". He claims the money to be a compensation for him to send the so-called winning money.

What to Note

- Be wary of investments with juicy returns – such are too good to be true
- There is no free money anywhere
- Disregard any such offer of sure bet odds
- Never reveal the details of your ATM card to strangers



Let's Keep the Anti-Corruption Flame Aglow

Year-end Message from EFCC

As the year draws to an end I would like to seize this opportunity to appreciate all staff of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, for your dedication, hard work and sacrifice in the discharge of your duties.

This year has been unique for obvious reasons. Without any warnings, we saw all projections anchored on our strategic vision substantially slowed down by the Covid-19 Pandemic. The lockdown enforced as part of measures to stem the spread of the deadly virus precipitated a scale down of our operations. For more than five months, activities were at the lowest ebb in our 17-year history as an institution.

Also, a reform process that witnessed a change in the leadership of the Commission naturally created anxiety among critical stakeholders.

Against these overwhelming odds, the Commission was still able to achieve significant milestones across the spectrum of our work. These include posting a record 865 convictions from a total of 1, 305 cases filed in court. The Commission equally received a total of 10,152 petitions, with 7, 340 cases under investigation. This is aside humongous cash recoveries and the seizure of significant number of assets from persons indicted of corruption, following due legal process.

These milestones in a year of great adversity have become new benchmark against which future progress would be measured.

This feat should inspire us to continue to hold the flag high. It is not a time to rest on our laurels. Our goal is to make the EFCC a more effective organization. And, this include expanding our activities, building new linkages with other law enforcement agencies and improving our processes and procedures.

All of these cannot be achieved without a motivated workforce. I want to reassure all personnel of the Commission of management's commitment to your welfare at all time. As a dynamic and responsive organization, we will continually engage staff and review policies to motivate all for greater performance.

I am confident that we can face the future together. My faith is premised on our collective strength to uphold the oath which we took to rid Nigeria of corruption. No adversity can shake this faith, as we look to the future with renewed zeal, holding aloft the blazing flame of anti-corruption.

Let us be reminded that if EFCC fails, the fight against corruption in Nigeria is imperiled. We cannot afford to fail. So, let our resolution for the new year, be total rededication to the anti-graft campaign.

I wish all a restful holiday season and a successful 2021






Mohammed Umar Abba
Acting Chairman

**EFCC will get you,
anywhere,
anytime.**



Economic and Financial Crimes Commission

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