

\$2.1bn Arms Deal Probe
- Half-A-Decade After

Cleaning the Augean Stables



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EFCC ALERT!

A New Era Begins

History is made as
Abdurrasheed Bawa takes
charge as Executive
Chairman, EFCC





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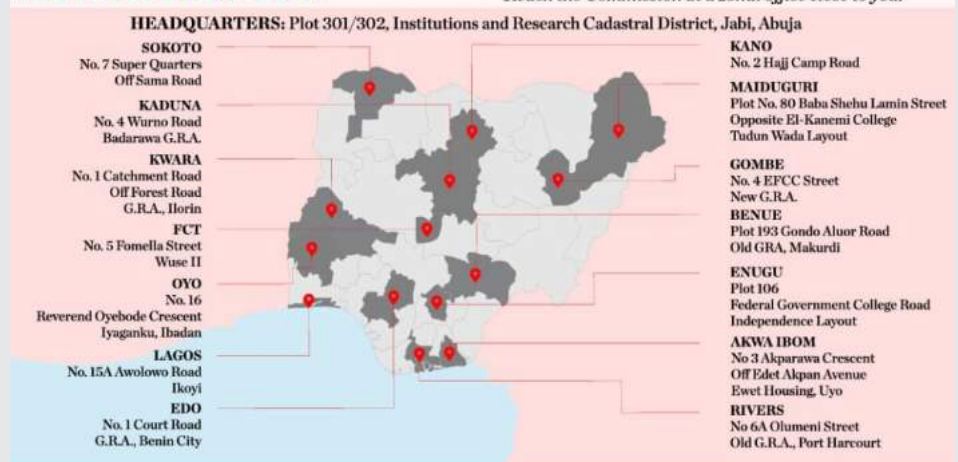
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A New Era Begins

History is made as Abdulrasheed Bawa takes charge as Executive Chairman, EFCC

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, is on the cusp of fundamental shift in its administrative trajectory as Abdulrasheed Bawa steps in as the new Executive Chairman of the agency.

Bawa, 40, was on Monday February 15 announced as the new chairman of the EFCC by the presidency, which also forwarded his name to the Senate for confirmation.

He was confirmed by Senate on Wednesday February 24, 2012, thus making him the first core staff of the EFCC, and the youngest officer, to become Chairman EFCC.

The new Executive Chairman who is a member of the EFCC Cadet Course One, has been a trail blazer of sorts in his EFCC career. Apart from carving a niche for himself in complex extractive fraud investigation, he scored a first

among his colleagues in 2018 when he was named Zonal Head of the Ibadan Office, from where he was moved to Port Harcourt Zone in 2019. His last posting as Head of Lagos Office gives the EFCC chair the distinction of being the only core EFCC operative to have led three zonal offices.

The experience garnered running zonal operations as well as his vast network of contacts working with agents of leading international law enforcement organizations and global experts in assets tracing and recovery, is expected to come handy in steering the ship of the EFCC,

Vision for the EFCC

During his screening by the Senate, the new EFCC Chairman articulated his vision for the Commission as follows:

- To lead by example.
- Make the Commission more transparent and accountable.
- To work on the Standard Operating Procedures, SOP, to curtail discretion in Commission's operations.
- Restructure Internal Affairs Department to enhance professional responsibility.
- To improve training of staff to enhance effectiveness in dealing with new typologies of crimes and trends in money laundering.
- Enforce a paradigm shift in the anti-graft war by moving from fighting corrupt people to fighting corruption.
- Improve relationships with law enforcement partners, locally and internationally



- Digitalize processes, especially assets recovery and forfeiture records
- Ensure speedy disposal of finally forfeited assets
- Secondment and de-secondment of officers to be need-based
- Ensure the repatriation of stolen assets
- To establish a Directorate of Intelligence, to focus on intelligence gathering and sharing for the operational activities.
- To run a proactive agency and strengthen prevention and deterrence efforts

Clears Air on Corruption Allegation

He equally dispelled the allegation bandied in sections of the media that he superintended the sale of forfeited assets to cronies during his tour of duty as head of the Port Harcourt Zonal office.

“Anyone familiar with the processes and workings of the EFCC know that even the executive chairman of the EFCC does not have the powers to dispose (of) a single asset. That responsibility lies with the office of the Secretary of the commission. I am starting from that end to confirm to Nigerians that, I as zonal head of



To improve training of staff to enhance effectiveness in dealing with new typologies of crimes and trends in money laundering.

the commission never for once sold a single asset in Port Harcourt. I never did. “The then secretary of the commission together with three directors and other staff of the Commission flew in to Port Harcourt and disposed the trucks and other assets which were forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.”

The youthful investigator was educated at the Usmanu Danfodio University, Sokoto, where he earned both a bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Economics and International Affairs and Diplomacy. ■



Cleaning the Augean Stables

The EFCC receives commendation for its invaluable role in ensuring value for forfeited assets to be disposed of by the Federal Government

"It is only reasonable to come and pay homage and discuss with you [EFCC] on how we can execute this assignment".

Those were the words of Dayo Apata, SAN, Chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Disposal of Federal Government Forfeited Assets, when he led a delegation on a courtesy visit to the Abuja headquarters of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on February 9, 2021.

Apata, who is also the Solicitor-General of the Federation and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice, commended the EFCC for the cooperation given to the Committee since it set out on its mission. He noted emphatically that the EFCC remained a pivotal agency to the Committee's

"It is only reasonable to come and pay homage and discuss with you [EFCC] on how we can execute this assignment".

assignment considering the fact that it has 16 of the 25 sites where the forfeited assets are located.

"For the first time in Nigeria, all agencies are sitting together and discussing on the same table on issues related to asset management and disposal," he added.

He disclosed that the Committee, in furtherance of its assignment has

already advertised for Valuers, and soon, it will be inviting auctioneers.

In his response, acting EFCC Chairman, Mohammed Umar Abba, reiterated the resolve of the EFCC to assist the Committee in the successful execution of its mandate.

"We will facilitate your request to visit the zonal offices of the Commission for onsite inspection of forfeited assets," he said, noting that the EFCC has extended similar courtesy to other panels in the recent past.

It will be recalled that the Committee was inaugurated on November 9, 2020 by the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami, SAN in order to introduce "uniform process of assets disposal", and avoid wastages, "so that the Federal Government can have full benefit of what has been forfeited". ■



\$2.1bn Arms Deal Probe - Half-A-Decade After

The EFCC's probe of the \$2.1billion arms procurement scandal yields results, with convictions secured and assets recovered.

By SEGUN ADEOYE

In November 2015 the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, began work on the report of the Investigative Committee on Arms Procurement, set up by the Federal Government on August 31, 2015 to probe the use of funds earmarked for procurement of arms for the military since 2007.

The outcome of the investigation was that about \$2.1billion earmarked for the procurement of hardware, arms and ammunition to prosecute the war on terror, had found its way into private pockets.

Armed with the report, the anti-graft agency, set up a Special Task Force to carry out the mandate of further

investigating the allegations of misappropriation of public funds, and to bring to book all those that were fingered in the scandal.

Investigators traced missing funds to the Office of the National Security Adviser, ONSA, under the leadership of the then National Security Adviser, Lt. Col. Sambo Dasuki (ret'd); diverted funds from the accounts of the Nigerian Air Force, NAF and the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA among other fraudulent transactions.

More than half-a-decade after, mind-boggling sums of money have been recovered from a number of the accused actors and players under an

extensive probe. A number of assets, which were procured using the diverted public funds, have also been forfeited to the Federal Government, while some convictions have also been secured.

Badeh Denouement

After a trial that began on March 7, 2016, Justice Okon Abang of the Federal High Court, Abuja, on March 4, 2019 terminated the trial of Air Chief Marshal Alex Badeh (ret'd), a former Chief of Defence Staff, who was charged by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, with a 10-count charge bordering on money laundering, criminal breach of trust and corruption to the tune of N3.97billion.

Badeh, who was alleged to have diverted part of funds meant for procurement of



Marshal Alkali Mohammadu Mamu



Marshal Alkali Mohammadu Mamu

arms, had pleaded "not guilty" to the charges. In the course of trial, the EFCC had presented several witnesses and documents to prove the charges against him. The trial however, had to come to a sympathetic end for him, as he was on December 18, 2018 in controversial circumstances, shot dead by assailants, who apparently trailed him on his way back to Abuja from his farm in Nasarawa State.

The news of his death was shocking and saddening, and the mood was vivid in the courtroom, when Justice Abang terminated the case. However, the trial

judge found his company, Iyalikam Nigeria Limited, with which he was standing trial guilty of the charges of corruption filed against it by EFCC.

Justice Abang held that: "Having regard to the plea bargain and plea duly taken, I hereby find the defendant, Iyalikam Nigeria Limited guilty.

"The defendant is hereby wound up and this judgement shall be served on the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for necessary action.

"All properties in line with the 10-count charge are hereby forfeited to the Federal Republic of Nigeria through the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

"In view of the fact that the first defendant in the original charge is reported dead, all charges against the first defendant are hereby terminated."

Mamu Cul de sac

For Air Vice Marshal Alkali Mohammadu Mamu, a former Group Managing Director of the Nigerian Air Force Holding Company and Air Officer Commanding, Training Command, his songs of victory were cut short on July 28, 2020 when the Court of Appeal sitting in Abuja, reversed his discharge and acquittal on corruption charges earlier pronounced by Justice Salisu Garba of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT High Court, Maitama.

Mamu was one of the senior military officers accused by the Presidential Committee on the Audit of Defence Equipment Procurement, of abusing their positions to enrich themselves at the expense of the war on terrorism.

He was arraigned on June 21, 2016 and charged with four counts of fraud to which he pleaded "not guilty".

Justice Garba had on June 29, 2018 discharged and acquitted him on all the counts, and held among others that the prosecution failed to prove its case against him. However, the EFCC appealed the ruling as a travesty of justice.

The ruling of Garba was set aside by the three-man panel of the Appellate Court, which berated the lower court for rejecting the confessional statement made by Mamu to investigators. The judgment read by Justice Yargata Nimpar, which also had Justices Abdu Aboki and Emmanuel Agim, acquitted him on three other counts – one, three and four, but found him guilty of the count involving an alleged \$300,000 fraud.

The Appellate Court, thus, sentenced him to two years in prison, with an option of N500,000 fine.

Amosu Circus

Air Marshal Adesola Amosu (retd), is facing prosecution alongside two other senior NAF officers - Air Vice Marshal

Jacob Adigun and Air Commodore Gbadebo Olugbenga, for allegedly diverting billions of naira meant for the operations of the Air Force.

The case is currently before the second trial judge, Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of a Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, before whom they were re-arraigned on November 13, 2018 on a 13-count charge involving an alleged N21.4billion fraud. They pleaded "not guilty" to the charges.

They were first arraigned on June 29, 2016 before Justice Idris Mohammed of the Federal High Court, Ikoyi on a 26-count charge to which they pleaded "not guilty". But the trial judge was in 2018 elevated to the Court of Appeal, implying that the case had to be reassigned to the new judge.

Unfazed by the development, the EFCC has further presented several documents to prove the allegation of misappropriation and diversion of funds to private use, particularly N3billion given to the NAF by NIMASA.

The Court of Appeal, Lagos division also in January this year, upheld the final forfeiture order of N2,536,328,978 which the EFCC secured before Justice Mojisola Olatoregun of the Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos. The appeal against the order, was challenging the final forfeiture by the lower court. The Appellate Court held that the appellant failed to prove that the money in question was not proceeds of unlawful activities.

Dasuki and Company

Indeed, Dasuki has been the face of the \$2.1billion arms procurement scandal, which earned itself the appellation - *Dasukigate*. But his case before Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf of the FCT High Court, Maitama, has suffered several adjournments. His prior detention by the Department of State Services, DSS, has also caused a delay to the trial, which began in January 2016.

Dasuki, alongside Shuaibu Salisu, a former Director of Finance and Administration, Office of the National Security Adviser, ONSA; Aminu Babakusa, a former General Manager, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation; Acacia Holdings Limited and Reliance Referral Hospital Limited are being prosecuted by the EFCC, on a 32-count charge bordering on money



laundering and criminal breach of trust to the tune of N29billion. It is just one in a handful of cases, indicting Dasuki in the *Dasukigate* scandal.

The latest adjournment was on February 9, 2021, when a defence counsel informed the Court of the absence of the second defendant, having contracted Coronavirus, COVID-19. This has given the case a new date of April 13 and 14, 2021.

Several of such cases are ongoing at various courts across the country as the EFCC, buoyed by the successes so far achieved, remains resolute and

focused in pursuing the cases.

Indeed, among other top brass of the military being prosecuted by the EFCC for their varied roles in dipping their fingers into the till of the arms fund, include Air Marshal Mohammed Dikko Umar, Air Vice Marshal Rufus Ojuawo, Maj. Gen. Emmanuel Atewe, Air Vice Marshal John Adeniyi Kayode-Beckley, and Col. Nicholas Ashinze. Civilians in this regard, alleged to have benefitted illegally from the ONSA, include Doyin Okupe, Raymond Dokpesi, Nenadi Usman, Femi Fani-Kayode, Ayodele Fayose, and Abiodun Agbele. A number of others are currently under the watch of the EFCC. ■

A Hat-trick Fraudster

A former court registrar bags a hat-trick of convictions between 2018 and 2021

Perhaps, it is fair to congratulate Mutiat Omobola Adio, for the record, albeit, an unenviable record. It's the rather appalling record of being convicted thrice for three separate offences. Does fraud flow in the veins of this former Deputy Chief Registrar of the Oyo State High Court?

Adio was on February 12, 2021 convicted for issuing a dud cheque, following a business transaction with one Fabunmi Samuel of Fatai Olanrewaju Motors. It's an offence contrary to Sections 419 of the Criminal Code Law, Cap. 38, Laws of Oyo State, 2000 and Section 1 (1) (b) of the Dishonored Cheque (Offences) Act, Cap. D11, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

Adio was accused of purchasing a Toyota Pathfinder SUV 2000 model valued at N1,500,000 but the cheque for payment was never honoured by the bank.

On January 30, 2018, when she was arraigned before Justice Muniru Owolabi of an Oyo State High Court, she pleaded "not guilty". However, shaken by the weight of evidence against her, she later changed her plea to "guilty", after a plea bargain agreement leading to the amendment of the charge.

Justice Owolabi, thereafter, convicted her as charged, and sentenced her to three years in prison. She was also ordered to retribute to her victim the sum of N500,000 in addition to the N1million she had previously paid in restitution to the victim.

With the latest development, Adio completes a hat-trick of convictions having previously been jailed twice for fraud - May 18, 2018, she bagged seven years for N9.2million fraud, and March 6, 2020 she bagged five years for stealing N22,375,913 from Guaranty Trust Bank Plc.



Unfortunate End

Two fraudsters bag 35 years for N1.5million fraud



It was an unfortunate end for Dominic Ozulu and Michael Ogbobe when Justice Dugbo Oghonghorie, of a Federal High Court, sitting in Enugu,

Enugu State, on February 4, found them guilty of the five-count charge brought against them by the Economic and

Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

Their journey to prison started some years back when they fraudulently sold a plot of land at Nsukka, Enugu State belonging to one Prof. Charles Okigbo to one Omeye Anthony. Ozulu who claimed that Okigbo gave him the land as a gift after serving him for 17 years, forged a Deed of Assignment purportedly signed by Okigbo as proof of transfer of the title of ownership. They eventually defrauded their victim of N1,520,000.

The convicts were arraigned on May 18, 2017 by the Enugu zonal office of the EFCC, for charges bordering on conspiracy, obtaining money by false pretenses, forgery and uttering. In the course of the trial, the EFCC called four witnesses and tendered 12 exhibits.

Justice Oghoghorie, after reviewing the evidence before the court, found the defendants guilty as charged and sentenced them to seven years imprisonment each on all the five counts.

Deadly Tag Team

Two friends plead guilty to engaging in a N480,000 fraud, bag six months for being first-time offenders

Mustapha Tela and Abdullahi Muhammad look harmless from afar, but it is nothing but deceit, even as their unfortunate penchant for money has now landed them in jail.

They were arraigned before Justice J.A. Awak of Gombe State High Court, Gombe following a petition received by the EFCC accusing them of fraud.

Following the conclusion of the investigation, they were charged with five counts bordering on criminal conspiracy, misappropriation and impersonation. They were accused to have between May and July 2020, colluded to "to commit an illegal act" contrary to Section 96 at the Penal Code Law and punishable under



Section 97 of the same law".

They pleaded "guilty" to the charges.

Delivering judgement on February 4, 2021, Justice Awak, convicted them and sentenced them to six months on counts one, two, three and four respectively with the option of fine of N10,000 on each count. The sentences are to run concurrently. The court also ordered the first convict to pay the sum of N480,000 as restitution to the victim through the EFCC.

Roasted Love

University graduate professes fake love online for money, gets roasted for love scam

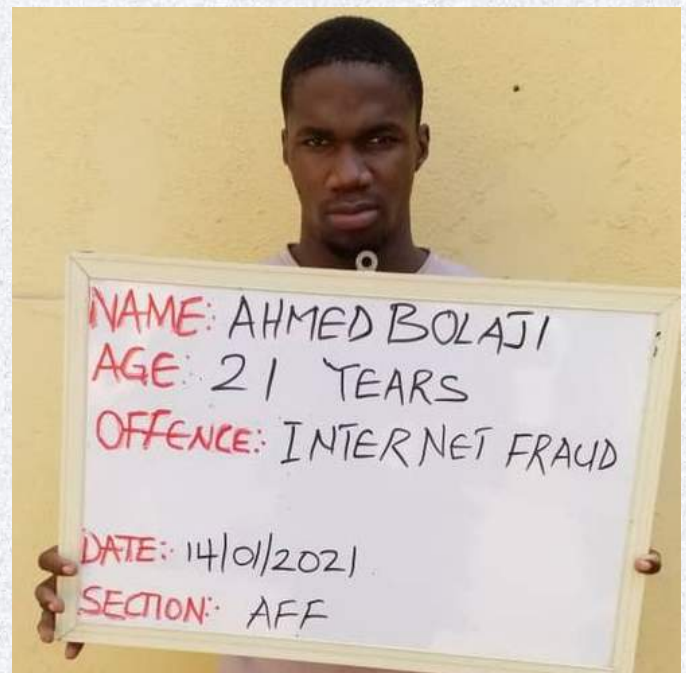
A 21-year-old graduate of the Kwara State University, KWASU, Kwara State, Ahmed Bolaji, was on February 4, 2021 convicted by Justice Sikiru Oyinloye of the Kwara State High Court sitting in Ilorin over offences bordering on love scam.

He was accused of using the pseudo-name, Rose Mary to profess love online, posing as a white woman with the email account mrose645@gmail.com.

Upon his arraignment, Bolaji, a graduate of mass communication, pleaded "guilty" to the charge.

Following his plea and the review of facts in the court, the trial judge held that the prosecution proved the case against him beyond every reasonable doubt, and convicted him, accordingly.

The court ordered the convict to pay a sum of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira Only) or serve a term of six months in prison. Unfortunately for Bolaji who apparently engaged in the crime only in January 2021, he had not succeeded in collecting money from his victim, one Shawn Smith, before he was arrested by operatives of the EFCC.



Oily Crook

For illegally dealing in petroleum products, an oil thief bags two years



Justice E.A. Obile of the Federal High Court sitting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State convicted and sentenced Sa'adu Isa to two years imprisonment for illegally dealing in petroleum products without a requisite license. He was convicted on February 2, 2021 after pleading "guilty" to a one-count amended charge, for dealing in petroleum products without lawful authority or license involving 40,000litres of Automotive Gas Oil in a Howo Tanker Truck, contrary to Section 1 (17) (a) of the

Miscellaneous Offences Act, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and punishable thereunder". He pleaded "guilty" and was convicted as charged.

In his judgment, Justice Obile sentenced him to two years imprisonment, with an option of fine of N250,000. The illegal petroleum products in his possession were also ordered to be sold under the supervision of the Deputy Chief Registrar of the court and the proceeds paid into the government's TSA Account.

Burnt Fingers

A self-acclaimed Sales Rep bags 18 months for \$1,500 fraud

Adelanke Abiodun will forever regret the day that he got the idea of disguising as Richard Lopez and Walker Fabian Gregory, using those pseudo-names to defraud his victims online. The 25-year-old who claimed to be an Accounting graduate from Ekiti State University was a sales representative with a private company when he was arrested by the Ibadan Zonal Office of the Economic and Financial Crimes Crime Commission, EFCC, for internet fraud.

He pleaded "guilty" to the one-count amended charge when he was arraigned before Justice Babs Kwuemi of the Federal High Court sitting in Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State. Consequently, the presiding judge on January 27, 2021 convicted and sentenced him to 18 months in prison. The trial judge also gave a consequential order that he should retribute to his victim, one Frida Thorsdottir the sum of \$1,500 through the EFCC. He also forfeits one iPad and Nokia Torch to the Federal Government of Nigeria.



Anana Rumble

Court Sends Man to Five Years in Prison over Investment Fraud in Kaduna



Anana Henry will not forget Friday, January 29, 2021 in a hurry. It was the day that Justice M.T. Aliyu of the Kaduna State High Court convicted and sentenced him to five years in prison for defrauding one Amadi Saleh of the sum of N55,000 in a phony investment scheme. The convict allegedly convinced his victim via Facebook chat, to invest in an online investment plan called 'Honour Investment Services' with a promise of 100 per cent returns on the investment within 24 hours.

Following the chat, Saleh transferred N45, 000 and N10,000 to two separate accounts provided by Anana.

Upon payment of the money, instead of the expected returns on investment, Anana kept requesting for additional sums from the victim. Afterwards, all efforts to recover the money by the victim, proved abortive. He pleaded "guilty" to the charge when he was arraigned.

Justice Aliyu, thereafter, convicted and sentenced him to five years imprisonment with the option of fine of N100,000.

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



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