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# EFCC ALERT!

A photograph of a man, identified as Bawa, wearing a traditional Nigerian cap (fila) with colorful patterns and a brown agbada. He is looking slightly to the right with a serious expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

**“I am Not  
Intimidated”**

- Bawa



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## COVER INTERVIEW

"I am Not Intimidated" - Bawa 3 - 7

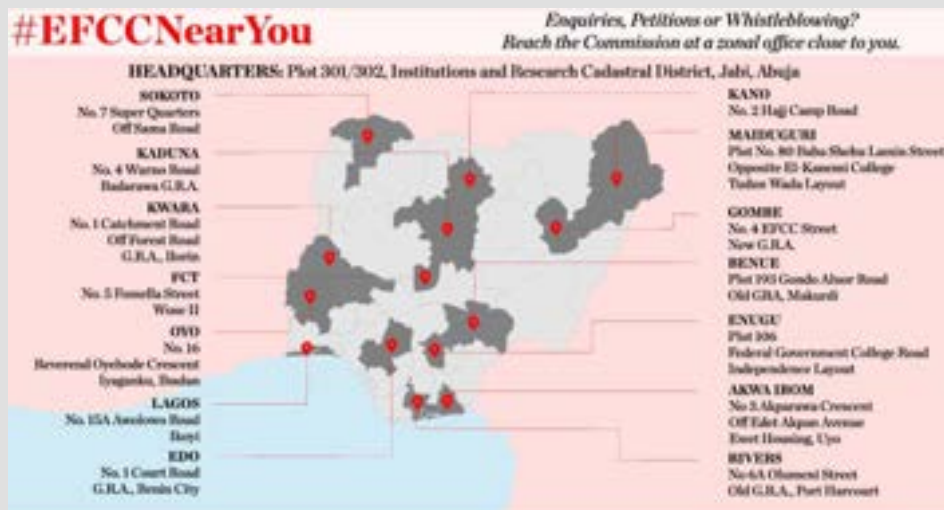
PHOTO-SPEAK 8

Curbing Illicit Financial Flows	9	10	Japanese Comfort
Forensics Partnership	9	11	Maritime Sweep
Corps Cooperation	10	11	Conman Crushed
Army Parley	10	11	End of the Road

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## “I am Not Intimidated”

*The Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, speaks on the tasks ahead for the anti-corruption agency among other issues, in an interview with the NTA's One-On-One*

### **Intimidation by the enormity and huge responsibility on your shoulders**

I am not intimidated at all, rather I am challenged. The EFCC itself is being challenged. Nigerians, because successive leaders have come from the Police, they felt that the EFCC is supposed to be headed by the Police. But the provision of the EFCC Establishment Act is very clear. It says, a serving or retired security officer of a law enforcement agency. Then the question is 'who is a law enforcement agent?'. The NIA, the SSS, the Nigeria Police, Customs; these are all law enforcement agencies. And of course, the EFCC itself. I'm humbled that EFCC has grown and I happen to be the first non-Police Chairman of the EFCC. It's a huge challenge; we have been there from the beginning. I was part of the Course One of the EFCC-trained operatives. Of course, my colleagues and I rose through the ranks - from ordinary team leaders, to sectional heads, heading various zones, and the

government felt that time has come for somebody from within the system [to head the Commission] and I happen to be that person. So we are not intimidated, we know what the EFCC is set out to do. It's very clear with the Establishment Act. The EFCC is empowered to enforce the Money Laundering Act, Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences and Financial Malpractices in Banks Act, Failed Bank Recovery of Debt Act, Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, provisions of Penal Code and Criminal Code as it relates to the EFCC. Indeed, any other law in Nigeria as it relates to economic and financial crimes. So we are not intimidated.

### **Sluggish prosecution of cases**

There are a lot of factors involved. On the part of the EFCC or any prosecution agency, we ensure that we thoroughly investigate matters. In the EFCC, we have our own legal department, and we have the investigation department. At the conclusion of investigation, we transfer the file to the

legal department. Now the lawyers will go through the file, vet it, analyse it, and then they will indicate whether there is a case, and then we can go ahead, develop charges and file in court. At that point we have done our bit. It is out of our control. Now, the courts are being guided by their own rules and regulations. The Administration of Criminal Justice Act, ACJA 2015, and a lot of other considerations. We are being accused of several things. For instance, that the EFCC will come up with 150 charges, etcetera. And we said 'no'. Look, if we investigate for instance, a public official, that has acquired properties in Nigeria and outside Nigeria, let's say 50 houses, the court is not going to give you what you didn't demand. And that means we have to have charges on all of these properties, to be able to get them back. Because, without those charges, the court is not just going to rule and give you all those houses that you have not demanded for. Now, in fairness to the court itself, if you look at the dockets of the judges, it is enormous on their own part; you will see a judge with 600 cases, 700 cases, how is he even going to comply with the provision of ACJA 2015 that provides for



day-to-day trial? It is practically impossible. I had a meeting with a couple of judges, and they said, 'every week we are receiving 120 cases' on the average and those are cases they have to distribute. So there is also that challenge that the judges have a lot on their own hands as well. Having new judges employed, and the sentiment of special courts will tend to ease some of these problems. Then the general issue that brings about delays, I think, defence counsel trying to delay trials unnecessarily, because they know that the cases against their clients are watertight. So they will

is very clear, that we should carry out rigorous public enlightenment campaigns against ills of corruption. You tend to see that most of the things the media is reporting are things that are already in court. Once you file a matter in court, it is in the public domain, anybody can have access to it. But we have not seen a situation whereby an investigation report is being sent to the media for them to sensationalise. Are we saying that we have not over the years, given the media some certain information? What I will assure you is that, if there was anything like that, going

forward, it's not going to happen again.

### **Need for special courts to speed up trials**

Yes and no. If you have special courts, are they going to use different procedures? Are they going to use different Evidence Act? Of course, lawyers, the judges themselves have said, 'for you to succeed in this, you need to go back to the National Assembly and ensure that there is a new legal framework. That is why I believe that you may have the special courts, but that will not



come up with all sorts of applications. Of course, the courts cannot deny them, considering the provisions of the Evidence Act, considering the provisions of the ACJA. They can challenge the jurisdiction of the court. Sometimes, they even accuse the judge for being biased. There can also be issues of tampering of documents in the admission of documents. So, they can come up with all sorts of objections - left, right and centre.

### **Yahoo boys, politicians and media trial**

It is part of our responsibility to see that the "small fries" are prosecuted as well as the "big fries". Advance fee fraud, like cybercrime, is where the small fries normally play around. They cross the line there, and we charge them. And more often than not, we secure their conviction. We also charge the big ones to court as well. But issues of delay or whether or not we secure conviction at the end of the day, is for the court to determine. And over the years, for the first time, governors were prosecuted, senators were prosecuted, ministers were prosecuted. We have tried, and we are improving, to ensure that more and more of them are also charged and convicted. We are working tirelessly on that. On the issue of media trial. It is part of our responsibility to let Nigerians know what we are doing. The provisions of Section 6 of the EFCC Act,

**I was part of the Course One of the EFCC-trained operatives of the EFCC. And of course, my colleagues and I rose through the ranks - from ordinary team leaders, to sectional heads, heading various zones, and the government felt that time has come for somebody from within the system [to head the Commission] and I happen to be that person. So we are not intimidated, we know what the EFCC is set out to do**

completely solve the problems. It will reduce the problem of delay in prosecution, but it will not solve it. Now, by having special courts, that means we have courts that are dedicated to hear economic and financial crimes cases, and that means that on day-to-day basis, we may be having our own trials, the judges are going to have experience, they are going to develop expertise in new trends of this crime, and of course, they will understand the laws and the processes will go faster. But then, even the EFCC Act, envisaged problems like this. Section 19 of the EFCC Act, requires the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, the Chief Judges of the States and the FCT High Court to designate judges that will hear EFCC matters. I believe that with that it will have the effects of special courts, if the chief judges adhere strictly to this. They have been doing it, but they need to do more in terms of designating judges that will hear strictly EFCC matters.

### **Asset declaration by bankers**

It has generated a lot of interest. What we said is that, 'look, there is a law called Bank Employees Declaration of Assets Act 1986'. I was six-years-old when that law came into being. It's not something new. And the EFCC did not say 'come and declare your assets as bankers'. What we said is that come June 1st, we are going to be demanding for it, because we are empowered by law, to demand information from the private sector, in the





discharge of our mandate. The EFCC is empowered by law to enforce all economic and financial crime laws in Nigeria. And that is the position. The financial institutions in this country are very critical in trying to curtail the problem of financial crimes. At the tail-end of every financial crime, if the criminal wants to get the proceeds, they conspire with them. So we said we need to know what you have.

There hasn't been full compliance with that law. I don't know if my memory serves me right, but in 2016, the CBN also called for the bankers to comply. Yes, some have complied, some have not. The law is there. All we are saying is that come June 1, we are going to be demanding for it. We want to look at it vis-a-vis other information that we have. It is something that as an institution, we have resolved to do. Of course, we expect stiff resistance, but we are determined.

#### **Forfeited assets and plea bargain**

When it comes to this issue of recovered assets, the provision of the law is very clear. There are victims of these crimes. Somebody has gotten somebody's money fraudulently and assets are recovered from that individual. Of course, it will be returned to him (the victim). State government lost money through its former governor, assets are recovered from that former governor, of course it will be returned to the state. Other assets that are recovered for the federal government, it will be returned to the federal government. But there are stages. Issues of identification, tracing, and recovery of assets are there; all these are stages. Of course, before trial is concluded in court where matters are charged, those assets recovered through interim forfeiture are managed by us. And the EFCC has a full-fledged Directorate of Assets Forfeiture and Management that manages these assets. Normally, we engage estate managers to manage these assets and proceeds from

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the rents are kept in an account with the Central Bank of Nigeria. And then at the end of the trial, after the pronouncement of the court, whosoever is the victim, needs to be restituted. And if what the law says is that it should be sold, then after the sale of the assets, the proceeds, if it is for the federal government, will be put in the Consolidated Revenue Fund. Have we been following these stages in its entirety? In some instances, yes; in others, no, because of some certain controversial circumstances of appeals, and all of that.

But what I can guarantee is that there is no EFCC official that will recover an asset and then he will go ahead and sell that asset, or he will rent it out and then take the proceeds. How can he even do that? Because different departments do these things. Investigators are the ones that trace, the lawyers are the ones that go to the court to get them, and then the department of asset forfeiture is the one that manages them. The Chief Executive doesn't see assets, only on paper.

Certainly [there are checks] on finally forfeited assets from being re-acquired by proxies. Looking at individuals that come forward, you have to look at their financial viability, whether or not they are not proxies. You have to look at their profile, their pedigree. The auctioneers are there, all of these things are being carried out under the office of the Secretary to the Commission. But as we say in money laundering, somebody somewhere is the ultimate beneficial owner, that he can even hire somebody that will stand in as the beneficial owner. It is at times very difficult, but we have the expertise to detect. It is very difficult for property to be recovered from somebody and then the person will get it back.

On the issue of plea bargain, it is not like something that we sit down and then we say, 'ok, you take 20 property', it is the plea of guilty that you have entered, that you want to come for lesser sentencing. It's a win-win situation and the law provides for it.

I said it during my screening at the Senate, that we have a 98 per cent success rate in court, and this is an 'A'. Are we saying we are perfect? Are we saying we are expected to win every case in court? Certainly, no. No agency of government in the last 15 years has contributed immensely to the development of law than the EFCC.

Without the activities of the EFCC, we wouldn't have had even the new Evidence Act. It is through our processes or cases that we file in court that some of these issues arose. Of



course, nothing was going on in terms of criminal prosecution in this country, particularly in relation to financial crimes, until the EFCC came on board. And, yes, we may have young lawyers in the EFCC, but they are very competent. We have also received commendation in this regard. And when the need arise, we engage external solicitors, to counter some of the big lawyers, like senior advocates, but they have been having their match in our lawyers. And in no distant time our lawyers too will be senior advocates.

### **Status of Malabu Oil trial in Nigeria**

It will be subjudice to be discussing matters that are in court. But the briefings that I have, is that we have three cases - one at the FCT High Court, and two at the Federal High Court that we are prosecuting around the issues of Malabu and other associated individuals and interested parties. So prosecution is going on.

### **Status of Diezani Alison-Madueke's case**

There are several cases surrounding that. As you may have read, I was part of that investigation, and we have done quite a lot. In one of the cases, we recovered \$153million; we have secured the final forfeiture of over 80 properties in Nigeria valued at about \$80million. We have done quite a bit on that. The other cases as it relates to the \$115million INEC bribery as the media has sensationalised it, is also ongoing across the Federation. We are looking forward to the time when we will, maybe, have her in the country, and of course review things and see what will happen going forward. The case has certainly not been abandoned.

### **Status of Senator Orji Uzor Kalu's case**

The position is very clear. The EFCC succeeded in 12 years to get him convicted at the Federal High Court. Of course, he went to the Supreme Court, and because the judge that convicted him has been elevated, the ruling was made and the EFCC as a respecter of the rule of law, we have taken it as it is. The Supreme Court has ordered that we should go back to the Federal High Court in Lagos. Now we are at the Federal High Court in Abuja, and we have applied to the court for the case to be transferred to Lagos as ordered by the Supreme Court to enable us start all over again. It however, draws a precedence, and those are the issues; law as the lawyers will say, is a living thing; we had the ACJA in 2015, we have had this problem of elevation of judges from High Court to Court of Appeal, and we pushed that they should be given the opportunity to finish their cases, because some of these cases have taken a very long time. We thought



we had succeeded in getting this in ACJA, The law was however, not seen as such. Now we may have to solve the problem from the Constitution, and then we will be home and dry.

### **Fighting illicit financial flow, money laundering**

It's a huge challenge, actually, to get the proceeds of crime repatriated to Nigeria, and indeed, all other victim countries. But I think the world is growing in that regard. There is the UNCAC - the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and Nigeria is a signatory to this and other agreements. The French government is working towards seeing that African countries have access to these funds being laundered over there. We have been working closely with our strategic partners - the FBI, the UK NCA, the German Police, the Australian Police and others. God willing, we will get there. The main challenge to start with, is that before you ask for recovery, you need to identify and trace. Nobody can give you what you have not seen. We know that with their robust system, they ought to be aware of them, but then there is nobody that is stealing funds, and then will go and hide them in his own name. That is why you have all these tax havens. In recent years, we have had the Panama

Papers, that has made the world educated regarding the global web of money laundering and schemes that happen across the world. So it is very challenging for everybody in financial crimes investigation. But the law enforcement is also growing, and we'll get there one day.

There are several things to look at in terms of prevention of money laundering. As a young officer, upon graduation, we were asked to write something; my colleagues were busy writing on investigation, but I wrote on something different - *Attitudinal Change, a Catalyst against Economic and Financial Crimes*.

In Nigeria, we need to change our attitude. We are worshipping people that have money without necessarily asking how they got the money. Reorientation is very key and we are trying to engage with stakeholders, with religious organizations. We started something at the EFCC, which we called Inter-Faith Dialogue. We engage religious leaders. Also there is the issue of public enlightenment. Prosecuting offenders is also a preventive tool, whereby people see that 'look, if you do this, this is what will happen to you'. And so we are going to vigorously continue to prosecute offenders, particularly the "big fish". Going forward we intend to be proactive. The management under my leadership has recently created the Directorate of Intelligence, a new department of to be able to gather some of these intelligence and proactively deploy them.





**If anybody is coming to ask me to do something that is contrary to my conscience or contrary to what the EFCC is set out to achieve, I'm going to resign.**

We are also re-engaging with stakeholders, because we can't be a lone ranger in this. We are lucky that the EFCC is apparently the biggest multi-agency [commission] looking at the composition of the board of the agency, with almost all the law enforcement agencies represented on our board. So, it will be easy to reach out to them. The bank asset declaration form that I talked about is also part of the preventive efforts.

#### **Repositioning the EFCC**

Nothing is new, the vision is the same - to rid the country of economic and financial crimes. To be the best law enforcement agency leading in fight against financial crimes. The laws that EFCC is empowered to enforce are the same. The reorientation of the officers themselves is key. Then we are looking at several issues of rules and regulations that should guide us - Standard Operating Procedure. Luckily I'm somebody from within the system, and we have identified the problems, we are looking at solving them. We have set up committees, and God willing after the committees have

brought their reports, we intend to implement them in toto. But the main goal, which we intend to achieve, is to grow as an institution that respects the rule of law in its entirety, extant laws of this country as well as our own procedures. I envisage a situation whereby in EFCC, in no distant future, I as the chairman will give somebody an instruction to say, 'go and do this' and he will look at me and say, 'Mr. Chairman, I've understood your instruction, but because of the provision of section this of the standard operating procedure I cannot do that'.

#### **Allegiance to certain individuals in government**

Well, that is not true. I rose through the ranks. The only job I know after graduation is the EFCC, which I joined in 2004. I rose through the ranks from an ordinary team member, to the first EFCC team leader from the regular staff of the EFCC. I became a sectional head, became the zonal head in Ibadan, zonal head in Port Harcourt, and zonal head in Lagos. Lagos is the biggest operational hub of the EFCC with over 600 personnel. Port Harcourt is next to it in terms of complexity and staff strength. I happen to be the first EFCC regular staff to head three different zones before my appointment as the chairman. The records are there. And it is a challenge I have taken upon myself to do without fear or favour. That is the truth. If anybody is coming to ask me to do something that is contrary to my conscience or contrary to what the EFCC is set out to achieve, I'm going to resign. I

**rule of law in its entirety, extant laws of this country as well as our own procedures. I envisage a situation whereby in EFCC, in no distant future, I as the chairman will give somebody an instruction to say, 'go and do this' and he will look at me and say, 'Mr. Chairman, I've understood your instruction, but because of the provision of section this of the standard operating procedure I cannot do that'.**

know the responsibilities, I know the challenges. I can leave office today if the president so wishes. I'm aware that I can leave office when the tenure of the president ends in two years' time. I'm aware that we are going to have a new president in 2023. I'm aware that the president may allow me to finish my tenure in 2025 or he can renew it. So, a career that I have dedicated myself to do, I have done 17 years, I was hoping to do 35 years, unknown to me I was destined by the Almighty to become chairman. So nobody is coming to say, 'do this', i'm not going to allow that to happen. And that is the promise I have made to Nigerians. ■



# Nigerians Looking Up to Us, Bawa Tells Staff

*The EFCC Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa, visits zonal offices of the Commission to charge staff to be hardworking and devoted to the anti-corruption crusade*





# Curbing Illicit Financial Flows

*The need to check illegal financial flows out of Nigeria is once again brought to fore by the EFCC, as the anti-corruption agency charges Nigerians on tackling the menace*



“It is one thing for properties to be taken to the UAE and the UK, it is another thing that we here in Nigeria are ensuring that you don't have the opportunity to take them out in the first instance.”

Those were the words of the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, when a delegation of the coalition of Nigerian Civil Society Organizations led by the Human and Environmental Development Agenda, HEDA, paid a courtesy visit at the EFCC Headquarters, Jabi, Abuja, March 31, 2021.

“That is why we want to be proactive in our approach to law enforcement and the fight against corruption in this country,” he said.

The coalition was at the EFCC to formally present a report on “Fixing Nigeria's Illicit Financial Flows”, compiled by Prof. Gbenga Oduntan of the University of Kent, United Kingdom, in support of the Commission's anti-corruption mandate.

While using the opportunity to charge Nigerians to be vigilant and play their part in checking illicit flow of the nation's resources out of the country, he noted that issues of jurisdiction usually posed as obstacles to repatriating stolen funds back to the country.

“But we have a lot of bilateral and multilateral agreements that we are signatories to; to discuss issues of information sharing, investigation as well as repatriation of ill-gotten assets,” he said.

Speaking on behalf of the Coalition, Olanrewaju Suraj, Chairman, HEDA, explained that the group was motivated to “stop the flow of funds out of Nigeria”, and disclosed that the 316-page report was “part of our contribution to your clear determination to go after suspicious assets.” Acknowledging the gesture, Bawa gave assurance that “we are going to study the report to add value to those areas where it is within our mandate”.

“All the people that are taking these funds out of the shores of this country are not doing that alone; there are conspirators, engineers helping them, professionals are helping them, accountants and financial institutions are helping them,” he said. “We are not trying to look at what happened before, but we are determined the future will be better.”

The EFCC boss also restated the resolve to demand copies of declaration of asset forms from bankers as from June 1, 2021.

“We never said come and declare to us because we have studied the law, we will be demanding and we have the powers and right to demand information from individuals and from organizations,” he said.

Members of civil organizations present at the event include Sulaiman Arigbabu, Executive Secretary, HEDA; Professor Gbenga Oduntan, Kent University, UK; Dr. Muhammad Mustapha, Democratic Group; Wale Adeoye, Journalist For Democratic Rights, JODER; Azeez Tajudeen, Help Centre, Osogbo; Nora Effiong, We The People, Rivers State; Ambassador Emeka Ezeigwe, Executive Director, GICAL, Anambra State; Adeleke Aremo, SERAP, and Eze Allysious, PLAYYA.

## Forensics Partnership

*The EFCC and the University of Abuja team up to boost the anti-corruption agency's Forensic capabilities*



According to him, the changing trend in criminality makes it imperative for the agency to improve the capacity of its officers.

“It is our desire that our officers are up to date as you are aware that crime is changing and evolving and the world has turned digital; everything is on the internet and

there is the need to know new trends coming up and we hope that the collaboration through the establishment of different programmes will yield results in combating corruption,” he said.

The EFCC boss commended the long standing relationship between the EFCC and the University of Abuja, particularly the affiliation of the EFCC Academy to run specialized postgraduate programmes in Forensics.

He further assured that the EFCC will do

everything possible, including upgrading the facilities at the EFCC Academy, to ensure the success of the programmes.

“We are looking forward to having e-classes where training can be held online without necessarily being physically present considering the present circumstance of the world,” he said.

In his remarks, Na'Allah commended Bawa for his dedication to the corruption fight, and expressed his delight in collaborating with the EFCC in the area of Forensic Science.

“This is a collaboration that should have been done a long time ago; we cannot move forward except our manpower is trained to be the best and we hope to have exceptionally talented staff,” he said, adding that the University had also opened discussion with an Indian University to become part of a tripartite partnership in running the specialized programme of Forensic. On the Vice Chancellor's entourage were the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academics), Prof. Innocent Clement; Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration), Prof. Abubakar Sadiq Abba; Dean Student Affairs, Dr. Abubakar Umar; Rector, Centre for Security and Legal Studies, Prof. Arinze Agbo; Director, Developmental Services, Prof. Augustine Bassey and Prof. Mohammed Gambari.

**T**he collaboration between the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, and the University of Abuja, in developing postgraduate programmes in Forensic for the Commission, is being revved up.

Chairman of the EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, made the pledge while receiving a delegation from the University of Abuja led by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Abdulrasheed Na'Allah, at the EFCC Headquarters, Abuja, on April 1, 2021.



# Corps Cooperation

*The EFCC to support the NSCDC in training, strengthen intelligence sharing*

**W**hen the Commandant-General of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC, Ahmad Abubakar Audi, led a delegation to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC Headquarters, Jabi, Abuja, on March 31, 2021 his mission was simple - to request that the EFCC assist in training officers of the Corps, particularly in the area of prosecution.

"I have seen the synergy between the Corps and the EFCC, and that is what stimulated me to pay a visit to the EFCC," he said. "The NSCDC, against all odds, has emerged as the elite agency for the protection of critical national assets."

Receiving him, the EFCC Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa reiterated the Commission's commitment to partner more

closely with the NSCDC, especially in the areas of training and sharing of intelligence.

"We are always willing and happy to train your officers, our doors are open to training and we believe that NSCDC will have a role to play in our training in the future," he said.

He emphasized the need for both agencies to designate liaison officers for seamless cooperation in order to curtail bureaucratic delays.

He said: "In the areas of information sharing, we have to strengthen that. We don't have offices across the Federation but you do; you can share those information through a liaison officer. We request that such intelligence be shared."

He further commended the NSCDC's role in

securing assets forfeited to the EFCC located across the country.

"We hope and pray that the relationship will be maintained," he said.



## Army Parley

*The Nigerian Army pledges collaboration with the EFCC*



**T**he Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC and the Nigerian Army Corps of Military Police have pledged to strengthen the cooperation

between the two institutions. This understanding was the highpoint of the visit by the Provost Marshal of the Army, Brigadier-General O.L. Olayinka to the EFCC headquarters, Jabi, Abuja, on April 7, 2021.

General Olayinka who was received by the Director of Operations, Abdulkarim Chukkol on behalf of the EFCC Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa, said he was at the EFCC to introduce his team and to congratulate the Chairman on his appointment.

He commended the cooperation between the EFCC and the Nigeria Army Corps of Military Police, noting that the Corps has over the

years benefitted from the Commission's support especially in the area of forensic analysis.

"We were going to establish our own forensic laboratory, but we haven't done that yet. We still rely on your forensic laboratory for analysis, because we also deal with financial crimes," he said, as he called for the two agencies to build on the existing relationship.

In his response, Chukkol noted the similarity between the work of the EFCC and the Military Police, and assured greater support to the Corps.

"We are going to work together and enhance the partnership," he said.

## Japanese Comfort

*The EFCC puts smile on the face of a Japanese victim of fraud*

**I**t was long in the works, but finally, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, brought a smile on the face of Hatsumi Ozeki, a victim of some Nigerian internet fraudsters.

The EFCC had on January 19, 2019 received a complaint from Ozeki, alleging that he was defrauded of ¥370,000

Investigation, indeed established that Ozeki was duped by one Evans Ewean-Obayagbona, but the proceeds of crime was wired to him through the accounts of his accomplices-

Samson Okonofua, Osifo Onaiwi-Kelly and Igbenedion Iyobor Mikel.

Speaking while handing over the money to officials of the Japanese Embassy at the EFCC headquarters, Abuja, the Director of Operations, Abdulkarim Chukkol, reiterated the Commission's commitment to the fight against cybercrime and other forms of financial crimes.

"We remain committed to sanitizing the nation's financial system to ensure a conducive investment climate for foreign

investors," he said.

A representative of the Japanese Embassy expressed appreciation to the EFCC for the feat in recovering the money and commended the agency's commitment to ridding Nigeria of corruption.





# Maritime Sweep

*The Nigerian Navy hands over vessel, suspected illegal oil dealers to EFCC for investigation*



**T**he Nigerian Navy Ship, NNS Beecroft, Apapa, have handed over nine crew members and their vessel, MT Chiebube, to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Lagos Office for further investigation and possible prosecution on the offence of illegally dealing in oil.

Lt Cdr. A.A. Adukanya, who represented the Navy during the handing over of the vessel and the arrested crew members noted that the NNS Beecroft patrol team on December 19, 2020 intercepted and

arrested the vessel and the crew members at the Nigeria-Benin Republic Maritime boundary, for suspicious dealings in petroleum products.

The crew members include: Anthony Ekpo Bassey Iso, Chinedu Nwanchukwu, Endurance Ossai, Emmanuel Monday, Ibrahim Ahmed, Victor Frank, Kenneth Philip, Chinemeze Samuel and Matthew Timothy.

The suspects and the vessel were received on behalf of the EFCC, by Idris Abubakar, Head, Extractive Industry Fraud Section, EIFS.

# Conman Crushed

*A businessman bags 15 years for a N16million crude oil fraud*

**H**is ambition to have a stake in the crude oil market was an innocent one, but it landed Emmanuel Amechi in a deep hole that he will later regret; and sadly his undoing was Charles Ihenetu, who had deceived him in investing in a purported crude oil business.

Ihenetu, a member of a syndicate succeeded in deceiving Amechi to part away with N16million in the guise that the money was being invested in petroleum business involving bonny light crude onboard a vessel, Kaveri Spirit, bound for Ghana from Nigeria.

However, Amechi, who paid the money in three tranches to Ihenetu and his company, V-Choice International Company Nigeria

Limited, belatedly realised that there was no such business, and that he had been duped.

In October 2015, he petitioned the EFCC.

Subsequently, he was arrested and arraigned before Justice Mojisola Dada of a Special Offences Court sitting at the Lagos State High Court, Ikeja, on a three-count charge, to which he pleaded "not guilty".

Delivering judgment on March 26, 2021 Justice Dada held that Ihenetu, based on the evidence before the Court, was "a pathological liar", whose testimony in the dock and documents tendered by the defence showed that "everything was calculated to swindle the victim in a non-existent transaction."

Justice Dada held that the prosecution had proved the charges beyond reasonable doubts and so sentenced him to 15 years from the date of his remand, May 16, 2018. The Court ordered that the company be wound up and that no property should be left. He was also ordered to reconstitute the N16 Million to the victim.



# End of the Road

*Fake Dantata contractor bags seven years for N1.5million fraud*



**B**y the time you are reading this, Jamilu Yunusa, has already begun his jail term. Justice Hadiza Suleiman of a Kano State High Court, Kano State found him guilty of contract scam and sentenced him to seven years in prison for N1.5million fraud.

Yunusa was arraigned in December 2016 on a seven-count charge bordering on advance fee fraud.

He was accused of conniving with one Inuwa Abdu and Habibu Inuwa who are still at large, to defraud his victims of N1,520,000 in the guise that he had a contract to supply pipes to Dantata and Sawoe construction company.

He convinced his victims to help finance the contract by promising to share the profit with them. However, investigation by the EFCC revealed that the convict never had a contract with Dantata and Sawoe.

He had pleaded "not guilty" to the charges, prompting the prosecution to call six witnesses who testified against him.

At the end of the trial, Justice Suleiman found him guilty as charged and convicted him on all the seven counts. He was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, starting from the date of his arraignment in court, and ordered to reconstitute the victims of all the sums in the charge or serve additional two years in jail.








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anywhere,  
anytime.**



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