

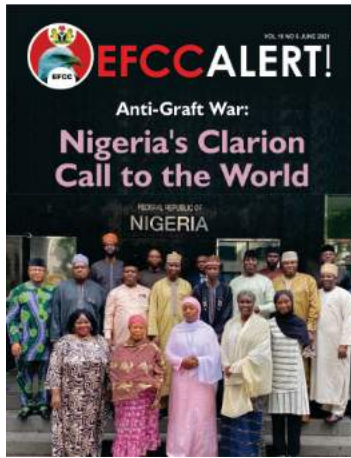


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EFCCALERT!

Anti-Graft War: Nigeria's Clarion Call to the World





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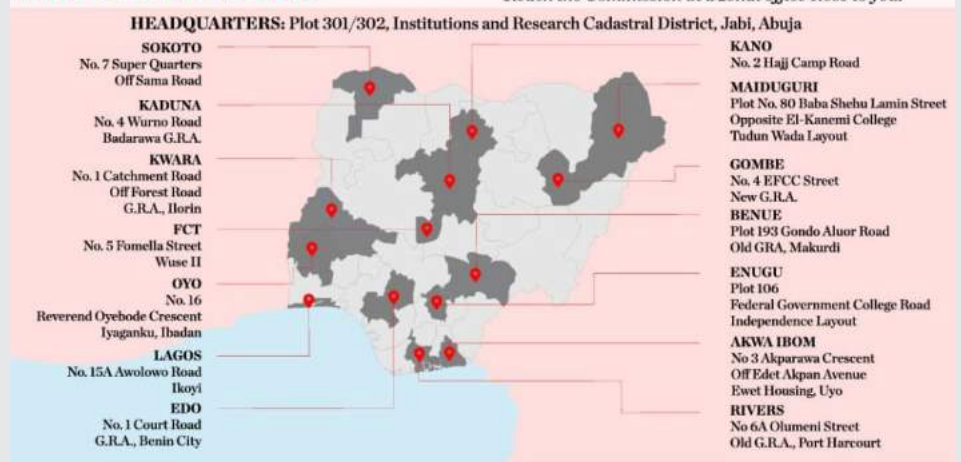
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Anti-Graft War: Nigeria's Clarion Call to the World

At the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Corruption held in New York, United States, the EFCC presents Nigeria's stance on assets recovery and return

Now more than ever...

Measures must be introduced to mitigate the continuous flow of illicit funds from least developed to developed countries [and] State Parties must continue to commit to the timely return of illicit assets and ensure implementation of effective anti-money laundering measures by International Financial Centers."

Those were some of the poignant words of counsel coming from the Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abdulsheed Bawa, as he stood to address the first-ever United Nations General Assembly Special Session,

UNGASS on Corruption in New York, United States, June 2, 2021.

As expected, there was pindrop silence at the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations, UN headquarters, New York, as Bawa took to the podium to present Nigeria's statement to the world. The event was among the highlights of the special session convened by the UN General Assembly to discuss challenges and measures to prevent and combat corruption including over 40 side events aimed at strengthening international cooperation. In attendance were

notable anti-corruption champions from all over the world.

"Corruption across national borders has huge negative impacts on the stability, peace, and economic prospects of millions, particularly in developing countries," he said. "Corruption remains one of the most pervasive and daunting challenges facing humanity."

He opined that the world had become a global village, thus making "corruption across national borders" to have "huge negative impacts on the stability, peace and economic prospects of millions".

He said: "Corruption remains one of the most pervasive and daunting challenges facing humanity [and] it deprives national governments of resources needed for sustainable development and facilitates illicit financial flows from developing economies to developed countries, thus weakening states' ability to deliver developmental expectations targeted at women and youths."

He noted that like many other countries, Nigeria had its own share of the debilitating impacts of corruption, adding that, "the country has lost billions of dollars to foreign tax havens, stolen and expatriated [abroad] by corrupt leaders and their foreign accomplices including multinational companies".

Harping on the need for a collective effort to step up the game in combating illicit flow of funds out of developing countries, Bawa noted that Nigeria acknowledged the very beneficial use of "settlements" or "non-trial resolutions" to ensure the disgorgement of illicit gains from corrupt acts.

"The fight against illicit financial flows [out of Africa] is urgent and important in our collective efforts to address corruption," he said.

He stressed that such collaborative efforts required that governments at all levels must live up "to their responsibility and continue to commit to transparency and accountability in public expenditure".

He utilized the world stage to highlight Nigeria's efforts in cleaning up the corruption mess in the country, narrowing down on the strategies implemented by the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari.



"Since the return of democracy in 1999, Nigeria has prioritized the fight against corruption and established anti-corruption Agencies such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission, ICPC, Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit, NFIU, and the Code of Conduct Bureau, CCB, to lead the fight against graft."





The EFCC Chairman with officials of the Nigerian Mission and Consulate in New York

He said: "Since the return of democracy in 1999, Nigeria has prioritized the fight against corruption and established anti-corruption Agencies such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission, ICPC, and the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit, NFIU, to lead the fight against graft."

According to him, under the current administration, President Buhari has made the fight against corruption one of the cardinal objectives of the administration with "Civil Society Organizations, CSOs, Non-Governmental Organizations, NGOs, and whistle-blowers encouraged to join the

fight against corruption and contribute their quota in that regard".

He also highlighted Nigeria's efforts in strengthening the legislative framework for anti-corruption in the country, including the launch of the 2021 Legislative Anti-Corruption Agenda (LACS 2021) which seeks to provide a clear road map for a reform based legislative intervention to prevent and combat corruption and financial crimes in Nigeria.

"Some of the bills before the Parliament include the Witness Protection Bill, Proceeds of Crime (POCA), Bill and Public Interest Disclosure and Complaints Commission Bill," he added.

"Some of the bills before the Parliament include the Witness Protection Bill, Proceeds of Crime (POCA), Bill and Public Interest Disclosure and Complaints Commission Bill,"

He concluded that Nigeria looked forward to the "full implementation of all the commitments expressed in the Political Declaration, particularly on Asset Recovery and Return, to support development financing as well as the implementation of the agenda 2030 for sustainable development".

The UNGASS provides an



Nigerian Permanent Rep., Ambassador Tijjani Muhammad-Bande and EFCC Chair

opportunity to shape the global anti-corruption agenda for the next decade – by advancing bold and innovative approaches, scaling best

The Declaration which was agreed upon in advance through inter-governmental negotiation by State Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, UNCAC, covers the thematic areas of prevention, criminalization and law enforcement; assets recovery and international cooperation as well as cross-cutting issues like education and research, among others.

practices and developing new standards and mechanisms.

This Special Session was designed to examine measures to prevent and combat corruption and strengthen international cooperation, pursuant to the General Assembly resolutions 73/191 and 74/276 as well as decision 74/568, including the adoption of a set of action-oriented Political Declaration on corruption.

The Declaration which was agreed upon in advance through inter-governmental negotiation by State Parties to the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, UNCAC, covers the thematic areas of prevention, criminalization and law enforcement; assets recovery and international cooperation as well as cross-cutting issues like education and research, among others.

Apart from presenting Nigeria's statement at UNGASS, the EFCC boss also participated in a number of side events. ■



Bawa, heads to the podium

Nigeria's Statement at UNGASS 2021

Time to Halt Illicit Financial Flow

Being the full text of the speech delivered by Abdulrasheed Bawa, Executive Chairman, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, at the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Challenges and Measures to Prevent and Combat Corruption and Strengthen International Cooperation, UNGASS on Corruption in New York, United States, June 2, 2021



His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR

Let me at the outset, thank you for convening this very important meeting. Nigeria welcomes the opportunity to speak at this special session and present its perspective given the importance of international cooperation in preventing and combating corruption.

Corruption across national borders has

huge negative impacts on the stability, peace, and economic prospects of millions, particularly in developing countries. Corruption remains one of the most pervasive and daunting challenges facing humanity. It deprives national Governments of resources needed for sustainable development and facilitates Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) from developing economies to developed

Countries thus, weakening states' ability to deliver developmental expectations targeted at women and youths.

Nigeria, like many other countries, has suffered from the damaging effects of corruption. The Country has lost billions of dollars to foreign tax havens, stolen and expatriated by corrupt leaders and their foreign accomplices including multinational companies. However, since the return of democracy in 1999, Nigeria has prioritized the fight against corruption and established anti-corruption Agencies such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU), and the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB), to lead the fight against graft.

Nigeria under the leadership of His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, has made the fight against corruption one of the cardinal objectives of the administration. CSOs, NGOs and whistle-blowers are encouraged to join the fight against corruption and contribute their quota in that regard. One instance of such whistle blowing led to the recovery of \$43million.

Public corruption is being exposed by the day and several Politically Exposed Persons have been and are being prosecuted and divested of their illicit assets. We have been engaging with International Law Enforcement Agencies around the world and some of the collaboration has led to the recovery and repatriation of stolen funds including the recent return of the 4.2million Pounds by the UK Government that was stolen from



Nigeria, like many other countries, has suffered from the damaging effects of corruption. The Country has lost billions of dollars to foreign tax havens, stolen and expatriated by corrupt leaders and their foreign accomplices including multinational companies.

Nigeria by a former Governor.

Procurement processes have been strengthened and activities of the Gate-Keepers are being monitored through the Special Control Unit against Money Laundering (SCUML) to serve as deterrence to the stealing of public funds. Policies have been introduced to mitigate revenue leakages including the development of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS). The NACS is developed with five identified cardinal pillars on prevention, public engagement, ethical re-orientation, enforcement & sanctions and recovery & management of stolen assets/proceeds of crime. The strategy is aimed at providing a national road map in the fight against corruption.

Nigeria has sustained her commitment to the social re-use of recovered assets as demonstrated in the funding of major road infrastructure projects and other social initiatives consisting of cash transfers to the most vulnerable groups, school meals and funding of micro-credit schemes.

Nigeria has participated in the first and second review cycles of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) implementation review process as a reviewing and reviewed State. It has enacted a Mutual Legal Assistance Law in line with the recommendations from the review process. Recently, the Parliament launched the 2021 Legislative Anti-Corruption Agenda (LACS 2021) which seeks to provide a clear road map for a reform based legislative intervention to prevent and combat corruption and financial crimes in Nigeria. Some of the

bills before the Parliament include the Witness Protection Bill, Proceeds of Crime (POCA), Bill and Public Interest Disclosure and Complaints Commission Bill.

The systemic imbalances and institutional deficiencies in the global tax treaties and structures, framed when most developing countries were under foreign rule in many respects continue to occur and give rise to a tax regime that is unsuited for the current era, and thus hindering effective measures at combating tax abuses, especially by multinational corporations.

Now more than ever, Governments at all levels must rise to their responsibility and continue to commit to transparency and accountability in public expenditure. Measures must be introduced to mitigate the continuous flow of illicit funds from least developed to developed countries. State Parties must continue to commit to the timely return of illicit assets and ensure implementation of effective anti-money laundering measures by International Financial Centers.

Nigeria further highlights the very beneficial use of "settlements" or "non-trial resolutions" to ensure the disgorgement of illicit gains from corrupt acts. It calls on Jurisdictions negotiating settlements to, in a timely manner, inform affected jurisdictions that a negotiation toward a settlement is taking place, and proactively share information on concluded settlements. We are pleased that the UNGASS

Political Declaration reiterated previous resolutions on settlements and urged states to fully cooperate in this regard.

Nigeria therefore calls for a multifaceted approach in addressing illicit financial flows as recommended by the High Level Panel Report on International Financial Accountability, Transparency and Integrity for Achieving the 2030 Agenda (FACTI Panel). The Report provides paths to financial integrity for sustainable development, strongly showing how to redirect the resources lost from illicit flows to finance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs.

Nigeria further calls for the simplification of evidentiary requirements and other mutual legal assistance procedures to seize, confiscate and repatriate proceeds of corruption, as appropriate, to enhance international cooperation for timely recovery and return of assets.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that the fight against Illicit Financial Flows is urgent and important in our collective efforts to address corruption. We remain committed in our efforts to track, investigate and prosecute corrupt individuals and entities and repatriate such funds and assets to their countries of origin. Nigeria looks forward to the full implementation of all the commitments expressed in the Political Declaration, particularly on Asset Recovery and return, to support development financing as well as the implementation of the agenda 2030 for sustainable development.

I thank you for your attention. ■

Religious Bullet Against Corruption

At the just concluded UNGASS 2021, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, re-echoes need to integrate faith-based groups into anti-corruption strategy

The Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, has re-echoed the resolve of the anti-corruption agency to fully integrate inter-faith groups into its corruption prevention strategy, as a way of instilling a culture of integrity, discipline and probity in youths in Nigeria, and reducing to the barest minimum the level of corruption in the country.

Bawa gave the indication at a side-event, held on the margins of the first-ever United Nations General Assembly Special Session, UNGASS on Corruption in New York, United States, on June 4, 2021.

According to him, the anti-graft agency believed that engaging religious groups deserved to be given paramount importance, as it can be effective in preventing corruption, thereby reducing the "huge cost" of prosecuting corruption cases.



Noting that the EFCC remained committed in executing its prosecutorial mandate as enshrined in the EFCC Establishment Act, 2004, he stressed that one of the best means to fight corruption in a country like Nigeria, was to focus on reorientation and attitudinal change among the citizenry.

Explaining that the EFCC in 2012 launched the Inter-Faith Dialogue, which resulted in the development and publishing of Inter-Faith Manuals, he said, the agency seeks to rally religious leaders in the country, against corruption,

"We developed a manual that we intend to give to faith-based institutions to give to their followers and will also discuss the need to partner with the EFCC," he said. "We are working towards the second edition."

He noted that the EFCC views "our religious strength in Nigeria" as a goldmine that can be tapped into, in order to achieve a change in attitude against corruption.

Bawa also advocated the incorporation of anti-corruption studies in the curriculum of schools, noting that the EFCC, has established Integrity Clubs in schools and at National Youth Service Corps, NYSC camps, all aimed at instilling the culture of integrity in the youth.

"When you look at the issue of corruption, it is about loving your country," he said. "It is about patriotism, about doing the right thing, and this to me, will make Nigeria better."

Diaspora Task

Nigerians in the Diaspora tasked to assist the EFCC in combating cyber-crime



Nigerian Permanent Rep., Ambassador Tijjani Muhammad-Bande and EFCC Chair

It was a clarion call on members of the Nigerian community in the Diaspora, that could not have come at a better time, considering the cumulative havoc that increasing rate of cyber-crime has had

on Nigeria and Nigerians.

Indeed, concerned about the involvement of Nigerian youths in cybercrime both in Nigeria and abroad, the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, has charged the Nigerian Permanent Mission to the United Nations, to assist the Commission in sensitizing Nigerian youths in the Diaspora against cyber-crime.

He gave the charge on the margins of the first-ever United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Corruption, UNGASS, held in New York, United States, in June.

"From January till date, the EFCC has arrested close to 100 young men involved in Advanced Fee Fraud and the

trend is giving Nigeria a negative image," he said.

He expressed worry that it was also "stifling effective market penetration at the international level by genuine businessmen and women".

He therefore sought for the support of the Nigerian Mission in "amplifying the voice of the Commission to all Nigerians to do the right thing at all times and be good ambassadors of Nigeria".

He further gave an overview of measures so far put in place by the EFCC under his leadership to improve the Commission's effectiveness.

High point of the meeting saw the EFCC boss decorate the Mission officers with the Commission's lapel, urging them "to be good ambassadors of the EFCC".

Beware of Identity Theft

EFCC Warns Impostors as it Reveals Abdulrasheed Bawa's Facebook Account

It has become necessary for the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, to reveal to the public the personal Facebook account of its Chairman, Mr. Abdulrasheed Bawa.

This action is as a result of a swelling group of criminal impostors, who are bent on exploiting the good offices of the EFCC Chair, to defraud unsuspecting victims, by cloning his account on the popular social media platform.

Thus, the Commission warns the general public, not to have any dealing with the following Facebook Groups and accounts - ABDULRASHEED BAWA. (EFCC CHAIRMAN) Public group, EFCC-BOSS Abdulrasheed, bawa 1, @abdulrasheed bawa, @Abdulrasheed Yahaya Bawa and @ Abdulrasheed Bawa purportedly belonging to the Executive Chairman of the Commission,



Mr. Abdulrasheed Bawa, as they are all fake.

The impostors behind the fake accounts are poised to deceive unsuspecting Nigerians into believing that they are genuine Facebook accounts of the

EFCC boss.

There are several fake social media accounts supposedly belonging to the EFCC chairman and despite repeated disclaimers, the figures behind the identity theft remain unrelenting.

To foreclose further cloning of Bawa's Facebook account, the Commission is constrained to make public the personal Facebook account of the EFCC chair.

Bawa has one Facebook account which is: @AbdulRasheed Bawa

Members of the public are enjoined to treat any other account supposedly belonging to the EFCC chairman as fake, and they can help report such. They should also not have any dealings with such platforms.

The public should be guided and avoid the risk of falling victim to a scam.

ECAPI Fraud

EFCC Not In Partnership with Eagle Crime Awareness and Prevention Initiative, ECAPI

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC wishes to inform members of the public that it has no relationship with Eagle Crime Awareness and Prevention Initiative, ECAPI, a Non- Governmental Organization, that has been parading itself as being affiliated to the Commission.

This clarification became necessary following the circulation of a sticker on the social media platform, WhatsApp by the group advertising its partnership with the EFCC and claiming it has been included in the EFCC database and now have direct access to "Information and activities of the EFCC locally and globally". It further claimed that the Commission's Director of Media "approved the sticker" after a meeting with the group yesterday, June 1, 2021.

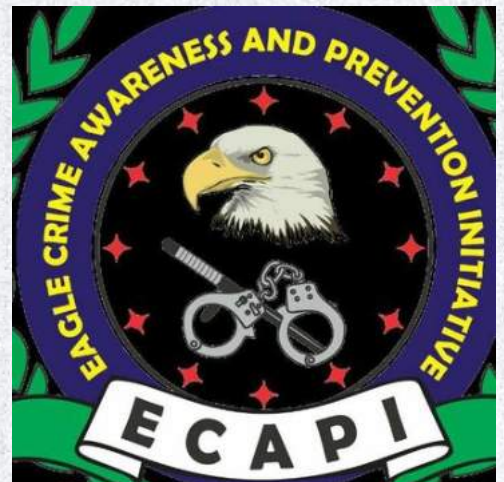
The Commission wishes to state that


these claims are not only misleading but false. The group cannot conceivably have been in the database or have access to the Commission's information as claimed.

However, the group visited the Commission on June 1 as a follow up to a letter requesting collaboration on corruption prevention which they had sent in earlier. They met with the Commission spokesperson, Mr. Wilson Uwujaren as a matter of courtesy. And he informed them that the Commission, though open to collaborating with all civil society organizations genuinely interested in the fight against corruption, has strict procedures for such engagements.

Unfortunately, this exploratory meeting has been interpreted to mean the consummation of a rather non-existent relationship.

The Commission warns that ECAPI has no permission to use either the name or logo of the EFCC in promoting itself or its programmes and so should desist forthwith.





**OGA OFFICER,
HOW MUCH IS THE
CHARGE FOR THE SUBMISSION
OF A PETITION ?**

**EFCC DOES NOT
PLACE ANY CHARGES ON
THE SUBMISSION OF PETITIONS.
IT IS ABSOLUTELY FREE.**





Big or small, rich or poor; Nobody is above the law.
Say **NO** to corruption.

