



EFCCALERT!

EFCC'S New Strategic Direction





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EFCC's New Strategic Direction

At a modest ceremony in Abuja, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, unveils a new template of action designed to improve the efficiency of the agency

As part of efforts to improve its operational efficiency, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on September 29, 2021 at its corporate headquarters in Abuja presented its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan to a select crowd of dignitaries that included some of its international partners such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, the European Union, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC, and the United Kingdom Government.

The Plan, according EFCC Executive Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa, is a product of a review of the 2013-2018 Plan. It is expected to building on the successes of the previous plan while adapting the lessons learnt from its implementation in tackling identified challenges. The EFCC boss disclosed that the EFCC Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 which is consistent with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) 2017 – 2021, is aimed at sustaining

“This is demonstrated in our commitment to continuous improvement and strengthening cooperation with all stakeholders consistent with objective four of the strategic plan”.



“The new strategic plan prioritizes prevention as a cheaper and more efficient tool against economic and financial crimes than enforcement. The plan also places significant premium on intelligence-driven investigation, prosecution and asset recovery while upholding high ethical standards in the discharge of our mandate”.

the Commission's commitment to continuous improvement in the attainment of its objectives. He listed the five strategic objectives of the plan to include: increasing public engagement in the fight against economic and financial crimes; improving systems and processes for the prevention of economic and financial crimes; improving intelligence-driven investigation, prosecution, asset recovery and management; Improving law enforcement

coordination and collaboration with relevant stakeholders, and enhancement of institutional capacity and human capital development. Bawa said EFCC recognizes the importance of partnership with the public in achieving its mandate. “This is demonstrated in our commitment to continuous improvement and strengthening cooperation with all stakeholders consistent with objective four of the strategic plan”. As a departure from the previous plan, he disclosed that, “The new

strategic plan prioritizes prevention as a cheaper and efficient tool against economic and financial crimes than enforcement. The plan also places significant premium on intelligence-driven investigation, prosecution and asset recovery while upholding high ethical standards in the discharge of our mandate”. All the international and local partners present commended the plan and pledged their support. The 2021- 2025 Strategic Plan is the successor to the (2013-2018) plan, the first by the agency. ■

What Stakeholders Said

UNODC

Country Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Dr. Oliver Stolpe, commended EFCC for the work done so far. He said the plan had set out clear and established targets for the commission, but warned that the document “will be used to hold EFCC to account.”



European Union

The representative of the European Union Delegation to Nigeria and West Africa, Mr. Clement Boutiller, expressed EU's support for the implementation of the plan. He noted that corruption was as a major challenge confronting Nigeria, adding that the EU had contributed €88 million in support of the anti-graft war.



Chair Senate Committee on Anti-corruption and Financial Crimes

Chairman, Senate Committee on Anti-corruption and Financial Crimes, Senator Suleman Abdu Kwari, commended the EFCC Chairman for his innovation and visionary leadership style which he said has impacted the Commission in about six months of his taking over. “Exactly six months and 24 days today, the Senate did the needful and confirmed the appointment of Abdulrasheed Bawa as EFCC Chairman. Seeing your 100 days record, I was overwhelmed by your achievements. This launch today therefore gives hope that under your leadership, much surely shall be achieved in the anti-corruption fight in Nigeria”, Kwari said

He disclosed that the bill on forfeiture of assets had undergone second reading in the National Assembly, stressing that it would enhance the Commission's management of recovered assets.



FBI

FBI's Legal Attaché, Mr Uche Ahamdi, said FBI had a strong partnership with EFCC, commended the agency for producing the strategic plan, which he said would help to measure its performance.

“It's important. If you can't measure, you can't manage it,” he said.



RoLAC

National Coordinator, Anti-corruption and Rule of Law, Mr. Danladi Plang, described the plan as a “strategic message to the staff that they are doing well and need to redouble efforts.”



Photo Speak



Representative of the Chairman House of Representatives Committee on Financial Crimes, Hon Francis Charles Uduyok , Chairman, Senate Committee on Anti-corruption and Financial Crime, Senate Suleiman Abdu Kwari, EFCC Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa and Mr. Danladi Plang, National Coordinator, Rule of Law and Anti-corruption, ROLAC and Clement Boutillier, Representative, EU Delegation to Nigeria and West Africa at the public presentation of the EFCC Strategic Plan, (2021- 2025)



EFCC Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa, delivering his address at the public presentation of the EFCC Strategic Plan, (2021- 2025)



Mr. Danladi Plang, National Coordinator, ROLAC, Mr. Clement Boutillier, Representative, EU Mission to Nigeria and West Africa, Senator Suleiman Abdu Kwari, Chairman Senate Committee on Anti-corruption and Financial Crime, EFCC Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa



Stakeholders Join Bawa to unveil the EFCC 2021 - 2025 Strategic plan



Representative of the Chairman House of Representatives Committee on Financial Crimes, Hon Francis Charles Uduyok, Chairman, Senate Committee on Anti-corruption and Financial Crime, Senate Suleiman Abdu Kari, EFCC Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa and Mr. Danladi Plang, National Coordinator, Rule of Law and Anti-corruption, ROLAC and Clement Boutillier, Representative, EU Delegation to Nigeria and West Africa at the public presentation of the EFCC Strategic Plan, (2021- 2025)

What EFCC's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan is All About – Bawa



I am delighted to welcome you to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on the occasion of official presentation of the Strategic Plan Document (2021 - 2025). As you are all aware, economic and financial crimes have remained a major impediment to the sustainable growth and development of any nation most especially for developing nations like Nigeria. It is in recognition of the devastating effects of these crimes and that failure to address the menace, will continue to hinder our development efforts as a sovereign nation, that the Federal Government of Nigeria established the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in 2002.

Since its establishment, the Commission has grown rapidly in capacity and capability as well as recorded significant milestones in the fight against economic and financial crimes. The Commission despite being a maturing institution, has remained professional in the conduct of its affairs, fully respects the rule of law, is accountable in the conduct of its business and has well established standards and procedures.

In 2013, the Commission developed its first five (5)-year strategic plan (2013-2018) with five (5) strategic goals to guide the attainment of the EFCC Mandate within the stated period. Annual Action Plans were developed for the effective implementation of the Strategy. Upon the expiration of the plan in 2018, the

Commission embarked on a comprehensive review to identify successes and outstanding commitments unattained with corresponding challenges. The review targeted to map out new strategies to improve performance and thus led to the development of the New EFCC Strategic Plan (2021 – 2025). The EFCC Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 has been

designed consistent with the pillars of National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) 2017 – 2021 which is anchored on five pillars namely: Prevention, Public Engagement, Ethical ReOrientation, Enforcement and Sanctions, Recovery and Management of Proceeds of Crime. Each of the pillar has a corresponding technical objective and activity designed to achieve the objective.

However, the new EFCC Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 aims to sustain the EFCC's commitment to continuous improvement on its way to attain its vision. The new plan has five strategic objectives of: i. To increase public engagement in the fight against economic and financial crimes; ii. To improve systems and processes for the prevention of economic and financial crimes; iii. To improve intelligence driven investigation, prosecution and asset recovery; iv. To improve law enforcement coordination and collaboration with relevant stakeholders; v. To enhance institutional capacity and human capital. Elaborating further on the objectives, the Commission recognises the importance of partnership with the public in achieving its mandate. This is demonstrated in our commitment to continuous improvement and strengthening cooperation with all stakeholders consistent with objective 4 of the Strategic Plan.

The new Strategic Plan prioritizes prevention as a cheaper and more efficient tool against economic and financial crimes than enforcement. The SP also places significant premium on intelligence-driven investigation, prosecution and asset recovery while upholding high ethical

standards in the discharge of our mandate. The EFCC core values were also reviewed to reflect our commitment to integrity, courage, professionalism and collaboration as we deliver our mandate. For this reason we have made the issue of career development through continuous training and retraining, effective mentorship and adequate staff welfare a top priority. Our internal control systems and disciplinary measures are equally enhanced to ensure compliance with extant rules and regulations.

I am confident that effective implementation of this Strategic Plan shall improve operational efficiency in the Commission and ensure that we continue to aspire to our vision of “a Nigeria free of economic and financial crimes”.

Before I conclude, I would therefore like to appreciate the Chairman, Senate Committee on Anti-Corruption and Chairman, House Committee on Financial Crimes for their continuous support and the significant role they played in the review of the NACS and invariably the EFCC Strategic Plan as well as their tireless work in ensuring that our existing laws are strengthened and new laws enacted to address the menace of economic and financial crimes.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I cannot conclude this address without appreciating the European Union for funding the production of the strategic plan and the British Council, through the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption (ROLAC) program, for the technical support provided from the review to production of the SP. To our Partners, (US Embassy, INL, FBI, BHC, NCA, FCDO, German BKA and UNODC) I cannot thank you enough, the support and encouragement has been tremendous.

We sincerely appreciate your presence and thank you for finding time today to be part of our effort of making this country a better place and for our overall mutual interest. Finally, I equally wish to appreciate the law enforcement and security agencies community in Nigeria particularly the Nigeria Police Force and Department of State Services for their deliberate support and assistance.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, members of the press and all stakeholders in the fight against economic and financial crimes in Nigeria, I am pleased to present to you the EFCC Strategic Plan and Action Plan (2021 – 2025). Thank you!

Full-text of the welcome address by EFCC Executive Chairman, Abdulkadir Abdulrasheed Bawa, at the presentation of the Commission's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan, September 29, 2021

Call for Global Unity against Economic Crimes

At Cambridge, Chairman of the EFCC, advocates global approach to the fight against economic and financial crimes



The Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, has called on the international community to form a united front in dealing with the challenges of financial crimes.

"Economic crimes are global

challenges confronting every nation today as they undermine peace, security and economic development," he said.

Bawa spoke on September 6, 2021 at the 38th Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime, organized by the Center for International Documentation on Organized and

Economic Crime (CIDOEC), Jesus College, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, with the theme, "Economic Crime-Who pays and who should pay?".

He stressed that economic crimes, which are largely illegal acts committed for private gain, "affect the vital structures of global economies, causing significant damage to the

"Economic crimes are global challenges confronting every nation today as they undermine peace, security and economic development,"

Global Financial System and depriving developing nations of the needed resources for sustainable development”.

Developed countries, according to him, are not immune from the scourge, which has “magnified with the proliferation of Cyber-crimes which threatens the stability of Global Financial Institutions.”

"The developments in new technologies and the growth of cryptocurrencies portray a far greater danger to the world economy than ever before with many criminals playing significant roles in crypto-currency markets," he said.

He underlined the imperatives of an impartial judiciary in ensuring that “the perpetrators of acts and not the victims pay for their crimes.”

While highlighting some of the transparency and accountability achievements of the Nigerian Government under the leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari including enactment and amendment of relevant laws to enhance public accountability and reforms such as Treasury Single Account and



the Whistle Blower Policy among others, Bawa pointed out that the EFCC, as the rallying point in the fight against economic crimes in Nigeria, recorded important milestones in investigations, prosecutions and assets recovery.

“Since its establishment in 2003,

the Commission has recorded no less than 3,500 convictions and recovered assets of significant value including properties in Nigeria, the UK, USA, and the UAE. All these have measurably contributed to the national efforts against economic crimes in Nigeria,” he said.

The Chairman of the Symposium, Saul Froomkin, commended the EFCC boss for his insightful presentation, and the support received from Nigeria in organizing the event. ■

#TogetherAgainstCorruption Challenge

Commendations for winners of the EFCC's #togetheragainstcorruption challenge



It all started on May 20, 2021 when the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, in a 21-second video message shared on the social media, launched the #TogetherAgainstCorruption Challenge, tasking Nigerian youths to creatively explore dance, drama, rap,

"The fight against corruption involves you and I; I will play my part, you will play yours,"

song and poem, to campaign against corruption.

"The fight against corruption involves you and I; I will play my part, you will play yours," he said, as he called on Nigerian youth to join in the #TogetherAgainstCorruption challenge, to "lend your voice against economic and financial crimes".

At the end of the challenge, which saw a variety of contents being submitted to the Commission, three winners emerged - Agih Moral Unekwu, Victor Collins Nebo and Abdulrazeez Ademu.

Commending the winners of the contest, he said: "This act displayed, I believe, is out of genuine patriotism to see that we get rid of financial crimes, especially cybercrime. Thank you for participating and I encourage you to keep up the good work. We are proud of you."

Tackling Cybercrime

The Lagos Zonal Command of the EFCC engages stakeholders to brainstorm on how to put cyber-crime to rout among Nigerian youths

It is an unenviable record. More than 1,502 youths were arrested by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, for internet-fraud related offences in the first half of the year 2021, and the Lagos Zonal Command account for most cyber-crime cases. Many have already been prosecuted in Court, and are currently serving different jail terms, while their illicitly acquired property have been forfeited to the federal government.

So worrisome is the increasing trend of cyber-crime among the youths, that the Lagos Zonal Command of the EFCC recently rallied stakeholders to brainstorm on practical ways and effective corruption prevention measures to put to tackle cyber-crimes among Nigeria's youths.

The stakeholders' engagement had in attendance participants from Non-Governmental Organisations, NGOs, Civil Society Organisations, CSOs, the Media, the

National Orientation Agency, NOA, and community leaders in the state. It was held on May 25 and 26, 2021 at the Conference Hall of the Lagos Command.

Speaking on the essence of the stakeholders' engagement, Ahmed Ghali, the Lagos Zonal Commander, noted that computer-related fraud had "taken a dangerous dimension with attendant consequences, thus necessitating the need to take drastic and urgent actions".

According to him, the Commission views internet fraud among the youths, as a "hydra-headed monster", which required collective effort of all critical stakeholders in the country.

"The EFCC does not have the monopoly of knowledge on how to tackle the hydra-headed monster of internet fraud, and so we are banking on the support of critical stakeholders for the overall benefit of the

"taken a dangerous dimension with attendant consequences, thus necessitating the need to take drastic and urgent actions".

Nigerian society," he said.

Ghali further noted that the Commission was poised on having a paradigm shift in the fight against internet fraud. He stressed that the choice of participants for the engagement "was because we believe that you are closer to the grassroots, and are critical in achieving victory against advance fee fraud, cybercrime, and other such vices".

Describing the youths as "the greatest



Ahmed Ghali

elements in the society", he stressed that it was necessary to foster attitudinal change among the youths.

In Search of Answers

The question: "Is poverty to blame?" was a burning issue that came up in the course of the engagement. Oluwatoyin Towobola, an official of the Women Protection Organisation, WOPO, expressed the view that "cyber-crime escalated in Nigeria, as a result of poverty, unemployment and lack of contentment".

"There is severe poverty in the country," she opined, noting that it had given rise to the increase in the spate of internet fraud, and so the government must look in the direction.

According to her, "hardworking youths should be encouraged by being celebrated, and awards should be given to those doing legitimate businesses."

Olufemi Lawson, an official of the Centre for Public Accountability, disagreed with the perception that poverty was a major cause of internet fraud. Going back memory lane to the 50s and 60s, he opined that "when we were growing up, if you come back home from school with an item that your parents did not give you, you will have a lot of explanations to make, but that is not the case these days".

According to him, the rate of cyber-crime had gotten to such an alarming rate in Nigeria that "it might soon become part of our national flag". He condemned the celebration of internet fraudsters in the society, including in churches. He described as unfortunate a scenario where some persons in a community gathered to resist the operatives of the EFCC from arresting some suspected yahoo boys, at an institution in Osun State.

"The fight against internet fraud must

"It is sad that there is an increase in moral decadence in the society as a result of lack of proper parenting,"

become our war," he said, stressing that parents were failing in their responsibilities in bringing up their children uprightly, as many of them were not questioning the sources of the wealth of their children.

To Lawson, though poverty has its place, the prevalence of internet fraud in the society was as a result of an increasing loss of morals, traceable to lack of proper parenting, leading to moral decadence.

His views were shared by Dein Whyte, Head, Cyber-Crime Section of the EFCC's Lagos Command. Sharing from data collated by the Commission, including behavioural analysis of arrested suspects, he noted that some of those arrested were from rich homes.

"What we are seeing from statistics on the field, suggests that it is not about poverty, because children of wealthy and affluent parents are being heavily and directly involved in cyber-crime," he said, as he revealed that in the long run, they acted as facilitators, recruiting would-be yahoo boys.

Parental Misfortune

Harping on the important roles of parents in bringing up upright citizens, A.B.C. Ozioko, Deputy Director, Legal and Prosecution, EFCC Lagos Command, noted that it was worrisome that mothers were now becoming accomplices to committing internet fraud.



Olufemi Lawson

Citing the case of Damilola Ahmed Adeyeri and his mother, Kareem, jointly prosecuted by the EFCC for a \$82,570 internet fraud, and convicted for same by Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of the Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos, Ozioko said it was lamentable that parents, who ought to question the sources of the unusual wealth of their children, were themselves now becoming accomplices.

"It is sad that there is an increase in moral decadence in the society as a result of lack of proper parenting," he said. "The family, schools and religious organizations have a huge role to play."

According to Lateepha Abdulsalam, an official of Impact Africa Initiative, "parenting remains a big deal", in the fight against internet fraud, and it is essential to "catch them young".

Catching them young, should not just be a catchphrase to be bandied about, said Justina Omotosho, an official of Ability in Disability/Economic Empowerment Initiative, it must be put into practice by engaging students in schools, "as this brings about a positive influence on children".

Rabiu Kazeem, a community leader with the Community Development Advisory Council, CDAC, in Lagos, said that the role of the family cannot be overemphasized.

"Family plays an important role as charity begins at home," he said, stressing that religious bodies should not celebrate unexplainable wealth.

Giwa Hauwa from the NOA called for the engagement of youths in sporting activities "in order to avoid them being restless".

"Religious and traditional leaders should stop giving chieftaincy titles and recognition to people with questionable characters," Hauwa added. ■



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