



# EFCC ALERT!

**-2021-**  
***What a Year!***





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# Content



What a Year!

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# 2021 - What a Year!

*The year 2021 was no doubt eventful for the EFCC, as the anti-graft agency witnessed the beginning of a new era, the channeling of a new trajectory, with a rejigging of the fight against corruption*



**H**ow time flies! Just like the fading whiff of a perfume, 365 days have gone by like 365 seconds. Indeed, for the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, it was yet another trailblazing year that saw the anti-corruption agency raise the bar of all available indices, further re-asserting its status as the leading agency championing the anti-corruption crusade to ensure the eradication of economic and financial crimes in Nigeria.

What with the record-breaking number of convictions secured, which includes Politically Exposed Persons, PEPs; the mind-boggling sums of money recovered from economic and financial criminals; the support, commendation and recognition received from local and international bodies, as well as law

enforcement agencies. Eventful, aptly sums up the year.

With a reinvigorated leadership, the EFCC equally engaged critical stakeholders in the society across its Zonal Commands and its Corporate Headquarters in Abuja to reinforce its corruption prevention mandate.

As the agency prepares for the tasks and challenges of 2022, below are a few notable events that distinguish 2021 as a memorable year of missions accomplished.

## **CHANGE OF GUARDS**

The year 2021 began with the opening of a new chapter in the annals of the Commission's leadership. It was, in fact,

history in the making as Abdulrasheed Bawa was on February 16, 2021 appointed by President Muhammadu Buhari to lead the affairs of the Commission and to give it a new trajectory.

Bawa, who was subsequently confirmed by the Senate on February 24, 2021, became the first core operative of the EFCC to be so entrusted with the responsibility of taking over the helms of the agency's affairs.

And with his assumption of office on March 5, 2021 he became the youngest person (40 years old) to occupy the office and the first core EFCC officer to be so appointed, as others before him were either serving or retired Police officers.

He set the ball rolling from the blow of the





whistle as he began the implementation of several reforms, like the creation of the Department of Intelligence, and the development of the novel Eagle App, a mobile app for easily reporting economic and financial crimes to the EFCC. Indeed, when he formally took over from the then acting Chairman, Umar Mohammed, he promised a paradigm shift in the agency's approach to the fight against corruption.

"There is a difference between fighting corruption and fighting corrupt people; and going forward, we are going to be proactive in our approach in the fight against economic and financial crimes," he said.

#### **A New Scribe**

The Commission also witnessed the emergence of a new Secretary in the person of Dr. George Abang Ekpungu. He was confirmed by the Senate on October 5, 2021 acting on a September 17, 2021 nomination letter from President Buhari as stipulated in the EFCC Establishment Act.

The confirmation followed the favourable report presented to the Senate on the nominee, by the Committee on Anti-Corruption and Financial Crimes, chaired by Senator Suleiman Abdu Kwari.

Ekpungu, a seasoned lawyer, who hails from Cross River State, formally took office on October 27, 2021.

#### **A New Commandant**

On January 18, 2021 the Commission witnessed a change of guards at its Academy in Karu, Abuja, with Ayo Peter Olowonihi, returned to the EFCC to take charge of affairs at the EFCC Academy,

***"There is a difference between fighting corruption and fighting corrupt people; and going forward, we are going to be proactive in our approach in the fight against economic and financial crimes,"***

Karu.

Olowonihi took over from Itam Nnaghe Obono, who had been acting in the capacity since August 2020. Olowonihi expressed the commitment to turn around the fortunes of the Academy.

#### **REFORMS... INNOVATIONS**

The EFCC set the pace among the league of law enforcement agencies, in the use of technology when on July 14, 2021 in the presence of a modest gathering of anti-corruption partners at the EFCC Headquarters, Abuja, history was made as the EFCC launched its novel Eagle Eye



**Bawa, receives Secretary to the Commission, Dr George Ekpungu**



(EFCC) Application for both the Google Play Store and the Apple Store, designed as the "EFCC case reporting tool". The App is aimed at further making the anti-corruption agency easily accessible to whistleblowers, in and outside of Nigeria. For Bawa, it was a promise made and kept. He had at several fora stressed his preference for integrating technology into the activities of the EFCC. The mobile app, which is a first of its kind, according to him, was borne out of his desire to "facilitate the seamless reporting of complaints to the agency by citizens eager to assist the fight against corruption".

According to him, "Apart from complementing the existing channels for reporting economic crimes, the unique advantage of this application is that it eliminates direct person-to-person interface in the reporting process and guarantees anonymity which is an added incentive to effective whistle blowing."

He enjoined members of the public to utilize the fluidity of the App in bringing cases of corruption and economic crimes to the knowledge of the EFCC.

"With the App, those who hitherto were afraid to report corruption cases to the Commission either for fear of being identified by the culprits or having their identities revealed, can now do so with the assurance of full anonymity," he said.

### INFRASTRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Significant infrastructural developments took place across the Commission's Commands, located in 14 states across the country.

The EFCC Academy located at Karu, Abuja, witnessed a significant uplift, to put it at par with international centers of education. The Academy is to be equipped with state-of-the-art electronic and interactive teaching equipment, just as its sports facilities are being revamped for efficiency.

Across the zonal commands of the EFCC, renovation works took place in Abuja, Benin, Gombe, Enugu, Ibadan, Maiduguri, Sokoto, Kaduna, Lagos, Port Harcourt and Uyo Commands. The Lagos Command, now boasts of a standard water treatment machine that has helped in purifying the hitherto muddy water that was in circulation at the Command. A Tactical Operating Center, TOC, is also under construction at the Lagos Command.

In order to ensure adequate care for inmates, additional detention facilities



(L-R) Itam Obono and Ayo Olowonibi

***"Apart from complementing the existing channels for reporting economic crimes, the unique advantage of this application is that it eliminates direct person-to-person interface in the reporting process and guarantees anonymity which is an added incentive to effective whistle blowing."***

were constructed at the Ibadan, Port Harcourt and Sokoto commands.

For the first time in the history of the Commission, the anti-graft agency procured official vehicles for senior officers of the agency, in order to further enhance professionalism in discharge of their duties. A fleet of official vehicles and ambulances were also purchased for the Commands to improve service delivery.

In order to boost the health-care delivery

capacity of the Commission's Medical Center across all the Commands in the country, the Bawa administration has purchased state-of-the-art medical equipment for the centers. The EFCC also established a Closed User Group for staff to enhance effective communication. In place, too, are machineries for the procurement of capital items required to enhance operational capacity of its staff, such as ICT working tools, including computers, printers, photocopiers, servers, power generating systems, Uninterruptible Power Systems, UPS, and inverters. Forensics tools and





Water Purification Plant at the Lagos Zonal Command



Recently renovated facade of the Uyo Zonal Command



Recently renovated creche at the Lagos Zonal Command

***“With the App, those who hitherto were afraid to report corruption cases to the Commission either for fear of being identified by the culprits or having their identities revealed, can now do so with the assurance of full anonymity,”***

software licences are also being procured as part of the continuous equipping of the Commission's Forensic Laboratory.

#### **REJIGGED FOR EXCELLENCE**

The EFCC in the year under review, took a landmark step to rejig its operations for excellence when on September 29, 2021 launched its "Strategic Plan". It was long in the works. The document is designed at improving the overall performance of the EFCC.

Indeed, with the significance attached to the auspicious event, international partners of the Commission, joined the EFCC's teeming staff, to unveil the Commission's Strategic Plan (2021 - 2025), aimed as a benchmark for the agency's operations.

Patterned in line with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, NACS (2017 – 2021), the document, serves as a guide for the agency to achieve the following objectives: increasing public engagement in the fight against economic and financial crimes; improving systems and processes for the prevention of economic and financial crimes; improve intelligence driven investigation, prosecution and asset recovery; improve law enforcement coordination and collaboration with relevant stakeholders, and enhance institutional capacity and human capital.



Fleet of official vehicles and ambulances purchased to enhance the Commission's operations



Equipment purchased for the Commission's Medical Centre



Equipment purchased for the Commission's Medical Centre



Furniture purchased for the Commission's Medical Centre

International partners present at the occasion, include the United States Embassy, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC and European Union

#### **STRATEGIC COLLABORATION**

In order to improve its relationship with

key stakeholders, the EFCC in the year under review, reaffirmed its support of the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy in resolving challenges associated with multiple SIM registration to a single National Identification Number, NIN, and renewed inter-agency collaboration with the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, NEITI; Nigerian Navy, and Nigerian Communications Satellite, NIGCOMSAT.

Also, the Commission partnered with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, NAPTIP; the Nigeria Police Force, and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, NSCDC in a High Level Multi-Agency Task Team, HIMAT, on the design and implementation of a National Sexual





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)

Offenders' Register and Sex Offender Testing Policy towards providing a framework for effective prosecution of sexual offenders. Partnership has also been extended to the European Union Action against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants in Nigeria, ATIPSOM for capacity development of NAPTIP, Nigeria Immigration Service, NIS and NPF officers on Financial and Assets Investigation to be facilitated at the Commission's Academy. Educational institutions like the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, NIPSS, National Defence College, Institute of Security Studies, Bwari, the University of Abuja, the Ahmadu Bello University, and the Nasarawa State University are also partnering with the Commission.

## GLOBAL SUPPORT BEYOND BORDERS

Buoyed by the confidence reposed by the administration of President Buhari in the Bawa-led EFCC, The Executive Chairmain was given the enviable task of delivering Nigeria's statement at the first-ever United Nations General Assembly Special Session, UNGASS on Corruption in New York, United States, June 2, 2021, where he called for the simplification of evidentiary requirements and other mutual legal assistance procedures to enhance international cooperation and facilitate timely recovery and return of stolen assets. The EFCC Chair also participated at the High-Level multilateral and bilateral meetings on the margins of the UNGASS from June 2 - 4, 2021.

The EFCC also received renewed commitment from the United States Federal Bureau of Investigations, FBI,



Bawa... at UNGASS, June, 2021

and the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, INL for joint collaboration towards the eradication of various transnational crimes, which threaten the stability of the global economy.

Agreement has also been entered with the European Fraud Office of the EU, OLAF to sign a Memorandum of Understanding, MoU for improved cooperation. With renewed efforts in securing the full repatriation of Nigeria's stolen wealth stashed in the US, the EFCC is also receiving the warm cooperation of the US Authorities, the National Crimes Agency, NCA, and the Foreign and Commonwealth Development Office, FCDO.

The renewed faith in the EFCC, has seen the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNODC and the United Nations Development Programme,

UNDP, reaffirm their collaboration with the EFCC, aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs.

The EFCC also engaged in a roundtable engagement with Civil Society Organizations on the State of Anti-Corruption in Nigeria - Assessing 2020 and 2021 Agenda Setting. The Center for International Documentation on Organized and Economic Crime (CIDOEC), Jesus College, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom extended its global support for the fight against corruption, when on September 6, 2021, at its 38th Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime, it gave its platform to the EFCC Chair, to address the global community on the theme, "Economic Crime - Who pays and who should pay?". Bawa used the opportunity to advocate for a collective and collaborative approach by authorities around the world in dealing with the



challenges of financial crimes, which, he noted, was a global scourge as no nation is spared of its virulent and negative effect.

### INTERPOL ALLIANCE

The alliance between the EFCC and the International Police, INTERPOL, received further boost in the year under review, with the EFCC Chairman, Bawa joining the Nigerian delegation to the 89th INTERPOL General Assembly, which held in Turkey, in November 23 to 25, 2021. The Nigerian delegation was led by the Minister of Police Affairs, Alhaji Mohammed Maigari Dingyadi. Others in the delegation were the Inspector General of Police, Usman Baba Alkali, Assistant Inspector General (AIG) Interpol, Garba Baba Umar and the representative of the Nigeria Immigration Service.

On the sideline, the EFCC Chairman attended a bilateral meeting between Nigeria and Turkey, where several law enforcement-related issues were discussed. The Turkish government was represented at the meeting by its Minister of Interior, Suleyman Soyly.

### RALLYING AGAINST CORRUPTION

The EFCC rallied stakeholders in the pension industry, and called for concerted action against pension fraudsters, using a two-day National Summit, October 5 and 6, 2021, tagged "Eradication of Pension Fraud in Nigeria", which was held at the Nigerian Air Force Conference Centre, Kado, Abuja.

The EFCC Chair used the medium, which had in attendance top dignitaries including the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, to call for a



**L-R EFCC Chairman Abdulrasheed Bawa, Minister of Police Affairs, Mohammed Dingyadi, Inspector General of Police, Usman Baba Alkali and Head of NCB, Assistant Inspector General of Police, Garba Umar**

concerted action by all stakeholders in ensuring an efficient, effective and fraud-free pension system in Nigeria.

Bawa assured that the Commission, "will continue to vigorously enforce all the laws against fraud in Nigeria. I assure you that we are both willing and able to

song and poem, to campaign against corruption.

It all started on May 20, 2021 when the EFCC Chairman, in a 21-second video message shared on social media, launched the #TogetherAgainstCorruption Challenge, tasking Nigerian youths to creatively explore dance, drama, rap, song



**Dignitaries at the Extradiation of Pension fraud Summit**

do all that is necessary today to ensure that tomorrow, when we all cross to the other side of the road in retirement, we will truly live the life of the models in the PFA adverts and commercials".

Across the country, the commands of the EFCC also held various sensitisation and corruption-prevention activities to rally critical stakeholders in the society, including youths, against corruption. Several corruption sensitization events were held across the National Youth Service Corps, NYSC orientation camps.

Particularly, the EFCC held the first-ever #TogetherAgainstCorruption Challenge aimed at tasking Nigerian youths to creatively explore dance, drama, rap,

and poem, to campaign against corruption.

At the end of the challenge, which saw a variety of contents being submitted to the Commission, three winners were commended and honoured at the EFCC Headquarters, Abuja, on August 26, 2021. Those celebrated were, Agih Moral Unekwu, Victor Collins Nebo and Abdulrazeez Ademu.

Speaking at the engagement, Bawa expressed concerns over the alarming increase of cybercrimes among Nigeria youths, with some social media celebrities using their platforms to promote investments scam.



"I want to urge you to desist or face the wrath of the law," he said.

### **HARVEST OF CONVICTIONS**

From January to December, 2021 the EFCC effectively prosecuted and secured an unprecedented record of 2,220 convictions. It is the highest so far in the history of the Commission, the previous record being about 1,282

percent success rate.

It is undoubtedly a remarkable achievement, even as the EFCC continues to intensify its efforts to remain the law enforcement agency of reference.

Perhaps, more significant, is the fact that the conviction record for 2021 also

***“will continue to vigorously enforce all the laws against fraud in Nigeria. I assure you that we are both willing and able to do all that is necessary today to ensure that tomorrow, when we all cross to the other side of the road in retirement, we will truly live the life of the models in the PFA adverts and commercials”.***

review:

#### **Okey Nwosu, Ex-MD of Finbank**

Okey Nwosu, a former Managing Director, MD of Finbank, was prosecuted by the EFCC alongside Dayo Famoroti, Agnes Ebubedike and Danjuma Ocholi for stealing and misappropriating depositors' funds amounting to N19.2 billion. The fraud had put the bank in dire straits, with First City Monument Bank, FCMB having to acquire the bank in order to save it from extinction.

Nwosu, one of the former MDs of five banks accused by the then governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, of engaging in banking malpractices, literally met his Waterloo, on Tuesday, January 5, 2021.

That day, Justice Lateefa Okunnu of the Lagos State High Court sitting in Ikeja, finally drew the curtain on the more than nine-year trial which witnessed various twists and turns, with his case moving from the Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court and back to the State High Court.

The defendants, who were directors of the bank, pleaded "not guilty" to the 26-count charge brought against them, when they were arraigned in May 2011.

But the ebullient bank chief was a shadow of himself by the time Justice Okunnu, delivering judgment, held that the prosecution, led by Rotimi Jacobs, SAN, had proved the charges against him and others, beyond every reasonable doubt. It was a most unexpected new year gift for Nwosu and his co-accused.



**Okey Nwosu**

recorded last year. Suffice to add that the EFCC in the period, also lost 122 cases in which the accused persons were discharged and acquitted. The positive implication is that the EFCC lost less than 10 percent of its cases - a 90

includes high profile cases, involving influential personalities

Below is a focus on some of the convictions secured in the year under



**Francis Atuche**



In a terse ruling, Justice Okunnu found the defendants guilty as charged. While Nwosu and Famoroti bagged three years for the fraud committed, Ocholi was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment, while Ebubedike was ordered to engage in community service for six months.

#### **Francis Atuche, Ex-MD defunct BankPHB**

After 10 years of trial the EFCC, finally secures conviction of another former bank managing director for a N25.7billion fraud. With teary eyes, a sobered and humbled demeanour, Francis Atuche, the once highly revered former Managing Director of the defunct BankPHB Plc, (now Keystone Bank) on June 16, 2021 stood in the dock to address a parked

***"I want to apologise for anything that I may have done,"***

courtroom, as he awaited his sentencing by Justice Lateefat Okunnu of the Lagos State High Court, Ikeja. Atuche was arraigned in June 2011 alongside his wife, Elizabeth, and Ugo Anyanwu, then Chief Financial Officer of the bank on 27 counts of conspiracy and stealing charge proffered against them by the EFCC. Justice Okunnu found him and Anyanwu "guilty" as charged and exonerated his wife. At the end of the ruling that lasted about 11 hours, the trial judge hed that there must be consequences for bad

behaviour and sentenced Atuche to twelve years in prison, while Anyanwu was sentenced to four years in prison.

#### **Abdulasheed Maina, Ex-Chairman, PRTT**

On November 8, 2021, the EFCC secured the conviction of Abdulasheed Maina, a former Chairman, Pension Reform Task Team for an alleged N2 billion pension fraud he orchestrated. He was arraigned on October 25, 2019, before Justice Okon Abang of a Federal High Court, Abuja on 12 counts bordering on money laundering, operating fictitious bank accounts and

fraud.

The EFCC accused Maina of perpetrating pension fraud by "taking possession of a total sum of N1,822,074,690 through your Fidelity Bank account". He was also accused of using his sister's name to operate a UBA bank account, whereas he was the operator of the account and using the same to divert N58,111,585 pension funds to personal use.

By the time Justice Abang hit the gavel on November 8, 2021 to draw the curtain on his N2billion fraud trial, even Maina himself knew that the EFCC definitely has put up a good fight to ensure that justice prevails in the case.

"I want to apologise for anything that I

may have done," he said, before his sentencing, as his counsel, Olusegun Jolawo, SAN, prayed the Court to give him "a second chance", and to "impose the minimum possible punishment".

But as far as Justice Abang was concerned, "an abnormal situation requires drastic actions to send a message to those that believe in dishonesty".

Having held that the EFCC proved its case beyond every reasonable doubt, Justice Abang convicted Maina and his company, Common Input Property and Investment Ltd, on all the 12 counts and sentenced him to three years on count one, five years on count two, eight years on count three, eight years on count four, two years on count five, five years on count six, eight years on count seven, three years on count eight, five years on count nine, eight years on count 10, three years on count 11 and three years on count 12 - a cumulative 61 years in jail.

The terms of imprisonment, the Judge held that the sentences are to run concurrently beginning from October 25, 2019, when he was first arraigned.

Along with his jail term, Maina was ordered to return N1 billion to the Federal Government within 90 days from the day of the judgement, while his company convicted along with him, should refund N183 million and \$223,000 within 90 days.

#### **Faisal Maina, son of Maina**

On October 7, 2021 Justice Okon Abang of the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja, convicted and sentenced Faisal, the son of a former Chairman of the defunct Pension Reform Task Team, PRTT, Abdulasheed Maina, to 14 years imprisonment. The Court found Faisal guilty on a three-count charge of money laundering brought against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

One of the charges reads: "That you Faisal Abdulasheed Maina, (alias Alh Faisal



Abdulasheed Maina

***"impose the minimum possible punishment". But as far as Justice Abang was concerned, "an abnormal situation requires drastic actions to send a message to those that believe in dishonesty".***



Faisal Maina

Abdullahi Farms), between October 2013 and June 2019, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, controlled an aggregate sum of N58,111,585.00 (Fifty-eight Million, One Hundred and Eleven Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty-five Naira) only, paid through the United Bank for Africa (UBA) account of Alh. Faisal Abdullahi Farms, when you reasonably ought to have known that the said funds





**Jerry Ogbonna**

formed part of the proceeds of unlawful activity to wit: corruption of one Abdurashed Abdullahi Maina, who is facing a separate charge and thereby committed an offence, contrary to Section 15(2) (d) of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act, 2011 as (amended) and punishable under Section 15 (3) and (4) of the same Act".

Justice Abang held that the EFCC proved all the essential ingredients of the charge, stressing that the defendant ought to have



**Abioye Eluwole**

known that inflows into the bank account formed proceeds of an unlawful act of corruption by his father. He sentenced Faisal to five years on count one and three, and 14 years on count two.

The sentences are to run concurrently, starting from the date of conviction. The court also ordered that Faisal, who has been at large since June 24, 2020, be arrested anywhere he is found in Nigeria and remanded in any Correctional Service Centre to serve his jail term. The court further held that in the event that the defendant is traced to anywhere outside the country, the Federal Government should take lawful steps to effect his extradition to serve his jail term. The court also ordered that the company through which the fund was laundered, Alhaji Faisal Farm 2, be wound up, with funds in it forfeited to the Federal Government.

#### **Jerry Ogbonna, Ex-Navy Captain**

On September 29, 2021, Jerry Ogbonna, a retired Navy Captain, was convicted by Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special

Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos for stealing and obtaining money by false pretence to the tune of N45million. Ogbonna, alongside his company, Obyke System Consult Limited, obtained the sum of N45 million from Diamond Bank Plc by falsely presenting to the bank that the said money represented the mobilisation fee from the Department of Petroleum Resources of the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources.

The convict had previously appeared before Justice Oluwatoyin Ipaye of the Lagos State High Court in 2016, before the case was struck out after several attempts to have him take his plea proved abortive.

However, case was later re-assigned to Justice Dada and he was arraigned on April 19, 2018 on a five-count charge, which he pleaded "not guilty" to. Upon conclusion of trial, Justice Dada found Ogbonna guilty as charged and sentenced him to three years on count one; seven years on count two and three years on count five. Justice Dada also ordered that the company be wound up and pay a fine of N5 Million. The convict was also ordered to make a restitution of N45 million to Diamond Bank Plc.

#### **Abioye Eluwole, Stockbroker**

Abioye Eluwole, managing director of Bytofel Trust and Securities Limited was sentenced to 77 years in prison on January 22, 2021 for a N62million fraud.

Eluwole was arrested in December 2018 by operatives of the EFCC Lagos Command, for stealing various units of shares of different companies belonging to Okeke Donatus Ojumba, including those of the victim's children. He was arraigned before Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences Court, sitting at the Lagos State High Court, Ikeja.

Along with his company, he was charged with 30 counts bordering on stealing,

**Justice Dada consolidated the counts to 11, and ruled that the prosecution proved the charges against Eluwole beyond every reasonable doubt, and so found him guilty of the 11 counts. He was sentenced to seven years on all the 11 counts**

contrary to Sections 390(8)(b) of the Criminal Code, Cap C17, Vol. 2 Laws of Lagos State, 2003 and Section 285(9)(b) of the Criminal Laws of Lagos State, 2011. He pleaded "not guilty" prompting a full blown trial.

Justice Dada consolidated the counts to 11, and ruled that the prosecution proved the charges against Eluwole beyond every reasonable doubt, and so found him guilty of the 11 counts. He was sentenced to seven years on all the 11 counts, to run concurrently from the date of his arrest. The Court also ordered restitution in favour of the victim to the tune N62million.

#### **BASKETFUL OF RECOVERIES**

The EFCC has continued to ensure that monies stashed away by corrupt persons are recovered. The Commission recovered the aggregate sum of N152, 088,698,751.64, (One Hundred and Fifty-two Billion, Eighty-eight Million, Six Hundred and Ninety-eight Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty-one Naira, Sixty-four Kobo), \$386,220,202.84 ( Three Hundred and Eighty-six Million, Two Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Two Hundred and Two Dollar, Eighty-four Cent), £1, 182,519.75 ( One Million, One Hundred and Eighty-two Thousand, Five Hundred and Nineteen Pounds, €156,246.76( One Hundred and Fifty-six Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty-six Euro), 1,723,310.00 Saudi Riyal, 1,900.00 South African Rand, and 1, 400.00 Canadian Dollar between January and December 2021.

Notably, on December 6, 2021 the EFCC secured the final forfeiture of the recovered cumulative sum of over N503million to the Federal Government., which was traced to the bank accounts of an individual and a corporate entity on the suspicion that they constituted proceeds of illegal activities. The recovery included a sum of N393,053,530.93 in various bank accounts and a property at GRA Birnin-kebbi valued at N110 million. Justice M.U Dogondaji ordered the final forfeiture of the assets as prayed by the EFCC while ruling on the application brought by the Sokoto Zonal Command of the Commission. The Court had earlier granted an interim Order of forfeiture in respect of the monies and property traced to the bank accounts of an individual and a corporate entity on the suspicion they were proceeds of illicit activities.

On December 15, 2021 the Abuja Division of the Court of Appeal set aside the judgment of Justice Nnamdi Dimgba of the Federal High Court Abuja refusing the final forfeiture application of the EFCC, in respect of the sums of \$500,000 and N500m allegedly looted from the Zamfara State's share of the Paris Club refunds made by the Federal Government to the 36 states. ■





Economic and Financial Crimes Commission  
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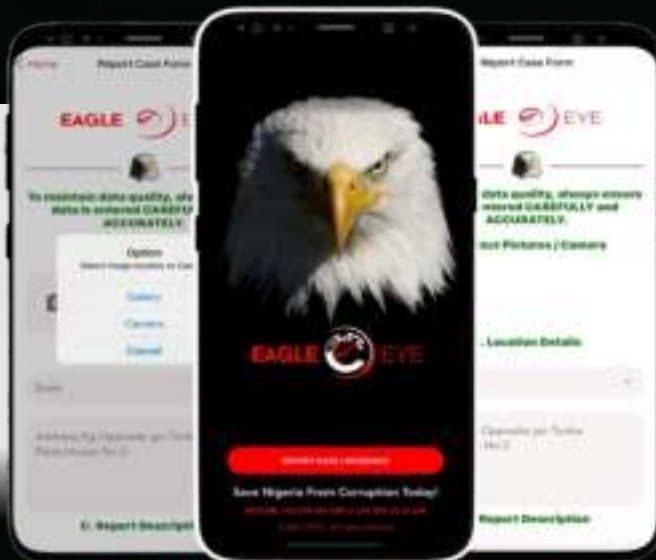


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