



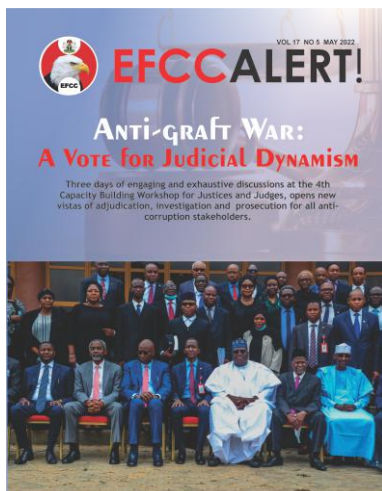
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EFCC ALERT!

ANTI-GRAFT WAR: A VOTE for Judicial Dynamism

Three days of engaging and exhaustive discussions at the 4th Capacity Building Workshop for Justices and Judges, opens new vistas of adjudication, investigation and prosecution for all anti-corruption stakeholders.





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Anti-graft War: **A VOTE FOR JUDICIAL DYNAMISM**

Three days of engaging and exhaustive discussions at the 4th Capacity Building Workshop for Justices and Judges, opens new vistas of adjudication, investigation and prosecution for all anti-corruption stakeholders.

By Dele Oyewale

It was a market place of fresh ideas. For three days in Abuja, between May 21 and 23, 2022, Justices, Judges, investigators and prosecutors converged on the National Judicial Institute, NJI, to articulate better ways of expanding the frontiers of justice administration in anti-corruption engagements. It was a meeting place of minds and

matters. President Muhammadu Buhari, with other leaders in the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary arms of government were all on hand to interrogate the theme of the workshop which was: Judicial Dynamism: A Key Factor In the Fight Against Economic and Financial Crimes. President Muhammadu Buhari who spoke through the Secretary to the

Government of the Federation, SGF, Mr. Boss Mustapha, took a swipe at judges using technicalities to knock off corruption cases in court and charged them to see themselves as stakeholders in the fight against corrupt practices. "Every corruption case lost on technical ground raises questions about judicial commitment to the fight against corruption....



Nine sessions were held in the course of the workshop and the sessions covered issues such as money laundering, confiscation and forfeiture, scope of EFCC's prosecutorial powers, Administration of Criminal Justice Act, ACJA, the Judiciary as a stakeholder in the fight against corruption

After three days of intense deliberations, a total of seventeen (17) resolutions were made. The number one resolution pointed at the need for synergy among stakeholders in the administration of criminal justice in Nigeria.

"Participants emphasised on the need for developing and sustaining synergy among all stakeholders in the administration of criminal justice in Nigeria", it said. Others are: "Continuous consultation with the Judiciary and other stakeholders in the process of enactment of anti corruption and financial crime laws should be encouraged in order to avoid immediate and sudden amendments"; "Training and re-training of Judicial officers and staff of anti-corruption agencies to enable the investigators and prosecutors acquire much-needed skills required for the complex process of asset tracing and seizures". Also the workshop stressed that: "anti-corruption agencies with prosecutorial powers should place greater emphasis on developing capacity in drafting better charges to ensure speedy prosecution of cases. More effort should be made to include professional gatekeepers like bankers, lawyers, accountants in subsequent workshops as this will help curb the role some of them play in corrupt practices".

"Participants recognised the need for courts to pursue substantial justice rather than dismissing cases on grounds of technicalities as this defeats the purpose of the fight against corruption and aid corrupt persons to get away with the proceeds of crime"

Additional Reports by Abbas Abubakar

"Perpetrators of corruption, economic and financial crimes should not be allowed to escape the justice they deserve on grounds of technicalities and conservatism. The judiciary should not see itself or act as mere spectators or bystanders whilst criminals exploit technicalities to escape with our commonwealth, get bolder and embolden others to continue in the unwholesome act of corruption", he said.

This position resonated with Abdulrasheed Bawa, Executive Chairman of the EFCC, who frowned at the losses coming to the nation through the use of technicalities in whittling down critical corruption cases. "As a Commission, we do not expect every judicial decision to go our way, but there are instances the EFCC and many Nigerians have been left at a loss about certain judicial decisions, where defendants who obviously have stolen our commonwealth and those who have aided and abetted them have been allowed to go home to enjoy their proceeds of crime on technical grounds. This has the tendency of affecting negatively the cherished image of and confidence in the Nigerian judiciary both locally and internationally", he said.

"In the Commission, we hold the view that corruption is a plague that does not select its victims. Judges are as much victims of corruption as the ordinary man on the streets. It is

"Every corruption case lost on technical ground raises questions about judicial commitment to the fight against corruption...."

"Perpetrators of corruption, economic and financial crimes should not be allowed to escape the justice they deserve on grounds of technicalities and conservatism."

therefore in our collective interest that, the gains of the fight against corruption are not reversed. This is why we must aggregate fresh opinions and forge deliberate winning tactics and strategies to stem its ugly tide", he further said.

Both Buhari and Bawa's speeches set the tone for discussions at the workshop. For an event organised by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, in collaboration with the NJI, fresh initiatives for driving the anti-graft project came full-throttle.

FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION, THE FRUSTRATIONS AND HOPE FOR FUTURE- BAWA

As most of us may be aware, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission was established in 2003 with the fundamental mandates of investigating, prosecuting and preventing economic and financial crimes. In the 19 years of its existence, the Commission has carved a niche for itself with numerous milestones to its name. However, in the little over a year that I have had the privilege to superintend, the Commission secured an unprecedented record of 2220 convictions. It is the highest ever in the history of the Commission and as I address you this morning, we have already secured 1222 convictions thus far, this year.

This feat, which earned the Commission local and international acclaim, was largely through the astuteness and dedication of Your Lordships, who in the face of several challenges, remained resolute in the pursuit of justice.

My Lords, we salute and appreciate your industry, diligence, perseverance and courage in the face of all odds. I am particularly happy that the judges who handled some of our landmark cases are present in this auditorium. This is gladdening; and to sustain the momentum, we deem it expedient that members of the bench, especially those who adjudicate on economic and financial crimes cases become more familiar with the increasing sophistication of financial crimes. That is the motivation for this workshop. It is our hope therefore that the NJI will continue to facilitate continuous training for Justices, Judges and the Commission's investigators and prosecutors in order to bring everyone involved in the National effort against economic and financial crimes abreast with the current investigative, prosecutorial and adjudication trends.

All of these are predicated on the understanding of the vantage position which the judiciary occupies to either help or hamper the war against corruption in Nigeria.

All over the world, the judiciary stands as the maker and moulder of social justice and cohesion. Where the judiciary is misaligned to the anti-corruption war, existential threat and dislocations are bound to occur.

Public perception of the judiciary is also imperative. Rightly or wrongly, the public have always shuddered at certain judicial pronouncements that tended to cast the judiciary in the mould of a disinterested organ. There are those who hold the view that corruption cases should not be lost just on grounds of technicalities. With every sense of humility, I share the same view. As a Commission, we do not expect every



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In the Commission, we hold the view that corruption is a plague that does not select its victims. It is deliberate and calculated. Those stealing and abusing our common patrimony do not wish us well. Judges are

as much victims of corruption as the ordinary man on the streets. It is therefore in our collective interest that, the gains of the fight against corruption are not reversed. This is also why we must aggregate fresh opinions and forge deliberate winning tactics and strategies to stem its ugly tide.

Let me also use this opportunity to thank His Excellency, the President, for signing into law, the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition), Act 2022, the Terrorism (Prevention & Prohibition), Act 2022 and the Proceeds of Crime (Recovery and Management), Act, 2022. The new laws are significant legal instruments that would further strengthen and deepen the anti-corruption war.

We cannot also sufficiently thank the 9th National Assembly for their legislative intervention in making these socially-desirable legislations. The enactment of the three laws clearly shows a deep sense of commitment to the anti-corruption agenda of Mr. President.

On the part of the Judiciary, the interpretation and enforcement of the laws are fundamental. I am sure this would come with the usual commitment and attention the judicial arm of government is known for.

While I commend the efforts of Chief Judges of some states who have designated courts and judges to hear economic and financial crimes cases in line with Section 19(3) of the EFCC Act, 2004, I will call on those who are yet to do so to follow suit. This measure, together with expeditious assignment of cases filed by the Commission to designated courts as well as appointment of new judges will ensure accelerated hearing. All these, when balanced with respect to the constitutional rights of suspects, would make the anti-corruption initiatives functional and fruitful. On the part of the EFCC, we are not unaware of the fact that we may not achieve 100 percent perfection. However, My Lords, it may interest you to know that in the past one year, the EFCC has made very deliberate efforts and taken major steps to reform its processes and procedures, which led to the launching of our SOPs and Policy documents by Mr. President on 25th March, 2022. The cumulative effects of the reforms will be the improved quality of the cases we will take to court for trial, the huge recoveries to be made and massive engagement with Nigerians on the ills of corruption.

Abridged version of the welcome remark by the EFCC Chair, Abdulsheed Bawa, at the 4th EFCC/NJI Workshop for Justices and Judges, May 23, 2022.

The EFCC arraigns businessman for alleged N19 million

By Jamilu Sale//Maiduguri

It is time for Mohammed Bukar (aka Gausu) to answer for his fraudulent actions, involving a N19 million fraud allegation brought against him by his victim.

Bukar, who is being prosecuted by the Maiduguri Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, is accused of collecting the said sum from Ba'ana Modu Buraye, purportedly for the execution of a contract he claimed was awarded to him by the Norwegian Refugee

Council for the supply of water pumps.

Arraigned on April 14, 2022, before Justice Aisha Kumaliya of the Borno State High Court, Maiduguri, he is facing a one-count charge, punishable under sections 1(1) and 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2016.

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charge when it was read to him.

His trial is ongoing.



Unholy Venture

Court orders a self-acclaimed pastor to open his defence in an alleged \$1.6million fraud after dismissing his no-case submission

By Segun Adeoye//Iagos



Perhaps, Ayodeji Ibrahim Oluokun, a self-proclaimed pastor never read the verses of the Holy Book, which states that: "The love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many

sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness."

It may also be right to conclude that Oluokun is yet without a contrite heart, even in the face of the mountain of evidence gathered against him by the EFCC, over an alleged \$1.6 million fraud.

Oluokun whose trial began on May 8, 2019 is being prosecuted alongside his company, Peak Petroleum Industry Nigeria Limited, before Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo, of a Lagos State High

Court, Ikeja, on charges bordering on issuance of dud cheques, stealing and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of \$1.6 million. He allegedly defrauded GOSL Nigeria Limited in a fraudulent oil and gas contract deal.

The EFCC presented seven witnesses and tendered several documentary pieces of evidence to prove the case of the prosecution. Rather than open his defence, Oluokun still insisted on his not guilty plea, and asked his counsel, E.D. Onyeke, to file a no-case submission.

On April 12, 2022 following the hearing of the application, the judge dismissed it in its entirety as lacking in merit, noting that the defendant in his statement admitted issuing the said cheques and also did not deny taking the loan of \$1.6 million.

Fashola Sting

Man is given a N1 million bail bond by a judge, for an alleged N2.6 million fraud

By Abbas Abubakar//Abuja



Justice A.A. Fashola of a Federal Capital Territory, FCT High Court, Jabi on April 13, 2022 granted Mohammed Saleh Amshi a N1 million bail bond for an alleged N2,600,000 fraud.

Amshi, who is being prosecuted by the EFCC for dishonestly misappropriating the N2.6 million realized from the sale of a Honda Accord 2014 model belonging to one Abdulhamid Umar, is facing a one-count charge punishable under Section 309 of the Penal Code. He was accused of having bought the car for his victim, who discovered that it was a faulty car. Umar then demanded

for a refund. Rather than return the money, Amshi sold the car to someone else at the cost of N2.6 million and pocketed the money instead of returning the same to Umar.

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charge when it was read to him.

Amshi looked on bemused, when Justice Fashola ordered him to be remanded at a Correctional Centre, pending the fulfilment of the bail condition of N1 million and one surety in like sum, and adjourned his trial till

Fake General's Albatross

A fake Army General, who has been bullying innocent citizens lands in EFCC net

By Segun Adeoye//Lagos

It was an inevitable end for Bolarinwa Abiodun, a fake Army General who parades himself as son of former President Olusegun Obasanjo, and who in this guise has been going around town, bullying innocent citizens, and extorting some, even threatening others at gunpoint.

His bullish frame made his victims succumb to his antics, so much so that the management of Kodef Clearing Resources, had to run to the EFCC for succour, after he swindled the company and its owner, Bamidele Safiriyu of money totaling about N266,500,000.

His cocky demeanour, however, melted, when operatives of the EFCC picked him up at his residence, after weeks of investigation. He literally turned into a jellyfish, when he was confronted with the findings of investigators.

Abiodun, who was arrested at his house in the Alagbado area of Lagos

State on January 12, 2022 allegedly forged a letter of appointment as Chief of Army Staff, COAS purportedly signed by the President and used the same to extort money from Kodef Clearing Resource. Six pump action guns, three cartridge bullets, a swagger stick and several forged documents were recovered from him.

He is currently standing trial before Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo of a Lagos State High Court, Ikeja, on a 13-count charge, bordering on forgery, possession of false documents, and obtaining the sum of N266,500,000 by false pretence.



His bullish frame made his victims succumb to his antics, so much so that the management of Kodef Clearing Resources, had to run to the EFCC for succour, after he swindled the company and its owner, Bamidele Safiriyu of money totaling about N266,500,000.

Sani Goes to Jail

A fraudulent deal involving N6.9million lands one of the culprits in jail

By Idris Nadabo//Kano

For Faruk Sani, the next two-and-a-half years will be spent behind bars.

On April 7, 2022, Justice Usman Na'abba of the Kano State High Court sitting in Kano, convicted him for the offence of stealing the sum of N6,900,000 following his guilty plea to a five-count charge filed against him by the EFCC.

One of the charges read: "That you, FARUK SANI and others now at large on or about 18th December, 2020, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court committed theft of

the sum of N4,000,000.00 (Four Million Naira only) by taking it out of the possession of United Bank for Africa Plc through Yetunde Olariyiki Ajayi-Bembe's Account No. 2062266268 with the Bank and paid into Bayelsa Oil & Gas Services Company Ltd's Account No. 1018500218 domiciled with United Bank for Africa Plc and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 286 of the Penal Code, Laws of Northern Nigeria and punishable under Section 287 of the same Code'.

Justice Na'abba sentenced him to six months in prison on each count, with an option to pay a fine of N50,000 on each count.



End of the Road?

Long arm of the law catches up with NOGASA chairman over alleged N43million fraud

By Segun Adeoye//Lagos

It was long in coming, but Fatuyi Yemi Philips, Chairman, Natural Oil and Gas Suppliers Association of Nigeria, NOGASA eventually had his day in court.

The Lagos Zonal Command of the EFCC, on April 7, 2022, arraigned him alongside his firm, Oceanview Oil and Gas Limited, before Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos on a two-count charge bordering on obtaining money by false pretence to the tune of N43,502,000.

One of the counts reads: "Fatuyi Yemi Philips and Oceanview Oil and Gas Nigeria Limited, on or about the 28th day of September, 2016 at Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable

Court, with intent to defraud, obtained the aggregate sum of N43,502,000 from Elochukwu Okoye and Elebana Unique Ventures Nigeria Limited on behalf of WAPCIL Nigeria Limited under the false representation that you would sell to WAPCIL Nigeria Limited \$98,870, a representation you knew to be false."

He was on April 28, 2022 granted bail in the sum of N20 million.



EFCC to collaborate with Chartered Institute of Forensic and Certified Fraud Examiners to establish first Nigerian College of Forensics

By Abbas Abubakar//Abuja

In advancing the course of forensic science in Nigeria, the Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, has indicated the willingness of the EFCC to collaborate with the Chartered Institute of Forensic and Certified Fraud Examiners of Nigeria, CIFICFEN for the establishment of the first Nigerian College of Forensics.

He made the disclosure through the Commandant, EFCC Academy, Ayo Olowonihi, who delivered his Goodwill Message at the Professional Training and Standards Graduation Ceremony of 93 Certified Fraud Examiners organized by the Chartered Institute of Forensics and Certified Fraud Examiners of Nigeria at the EFCC

Academy, Karu, April 2, 2022 in Abuja.

"The global statistics being rolled out shows that economic, financial crimes and corruption are deeply rooted in all societies," he said. "However, the will to fight and curb the crimes is more Important."

He further noted that the investigation of economic and financial crimes, and other acts of corruption, demands collaborative efforts.

President and Chairman of CIFICFEN, Dr. Iliyasu Gashinbaki, commended the EFCC under Bawa, noting that the EFCC "within the last one year, has tremendously improved in the discharge of its duties".



Forewarned is Forearmed

The EFCC tasks car dealers on probity, compliance with anti-money laundering law

By Titilola Tokan-Lawal//Lagos



The Lagos Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has taken its anti-money laundering

campaign to automobile dealers in Nigeria, urging them not to allow themselves to be used as tools to perpetrate fraud. The call was made by Pascal Samu, Coordinator, Special Control Unit against Money Laundering, SCUML, who

gave the charge during a sensitization programme organised by the Lagos Command of the EFCC for automobile

dealers in the Berger/Ojodu area of Lagos, April 5, 2022.

"The Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, is urging you to observe due diligence in your activities to avoid sanctions," he said. He also urged them to support the Commission in its sustained fight against money laundering and terrorism financing in Nigeria.

"There is a need for you to be very wary in your businesses, so as not to run foul of the law," he said. Folashade Oluwasanya, a Compliance Officer with SCUML, enlightened the participants on ways to report currency and cash-based transactions as well as suspicious transactions in their various businesses to SCUML.

Downing of Cybercriminals

As part of efforts to redeem Nigeria's image at the international stage, the EFCC continues to put to rout online fraudsters from their hideouts.

The efforts of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, to get rid of the menace of internet fraudsters, continues to yield fruits, as the Commission continues to act on

actionable intelligence from members of the public, ending in the fishing out of more and more “bad eggs” among Nigeria's teeming youths engaging in cyber-crime.

The following highlights further mirrors the resolve of the EFCC to combat cybercrime across the country.

Yahoo Yahoo Academy Busted in Abuja

Operatives of the Abuja Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, arrested one Afolabi Samad, owner of a Yahoo Yahoo Academy located at Peace Court Estate, Lokogoma, a suburb in the Federal Capital Territory, FCT.

The 24-year-old was arrested alongside 16 of his students. Samad used a three-bedroom apartment, which he rented for N3

million as the Academy to teach them cybercrime techniques to defraud unsuspecting victims for undisclosed fees.

Item recovered from the suspects include laptops, phones, charms and two vehicles: a Lexus RX350 and Toyota Highlander.

The suspects will be arraigned in court as soon as investigations are concluded.



Four Convicts in Oyo Forfeit Cars, Cash

The Ibadan Command of the EFCC secured the conviction of Daramola Damilola Ayode, Ilori Olalekan, Taiwo Gafar Olamilekan and Olarewaju Sheriff

Adebayo for their involvement in internet fraud.

Ayode, Olalekan and Adebayo were prosecuted before Justice Bayo Taiwo of the Oyo State High Court, while Taiwo Gafar Olamilekan was docked before Justice Uche Agomoh of the Federal High Court, Ibadan.

The latter was sentenced to six months imprisonment while the three others were sentenced to six months community service each after they pleaded “guilty” to the charges preferred against them by the EFCC.

Furthermore, the court ordered Ayode to pay the sum of N103,000 in restitution and forfeit three mobile phones to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Ilori was ordered to restitute the sum of \$700 and forfeit one iPhone 12 Pro Max mobile phone and one Toyota Camry 2008 Model saloon car to the Federal Government.

The court also ordered Adebayo to forfeit to the Federal Government, the sum of N6, 200,473.15 domiciled in his GTB account, one Toyota Camry 2004 car, one Toyota Venza 2009 model car and one iPhone 12 Pro Max mobile phone.

Taiwo was ordered to restitute the sum of \$4,000 and N579,110.14, and also forfeit his iPhone 12 Pro Max and Nokia mobile phones, one Apple MacBook Pro and one Mercedes Benz ML350 c to the Federal Government.

Eighteen Arrested in Lagos

Operatives of the Lagos Command of the EFCC arrested 18 suspected internet fraudsters at Victoria Crest Estate III, Gate II, Augusta Amadi Street, Off Orchid Road, Lekki, Lagos

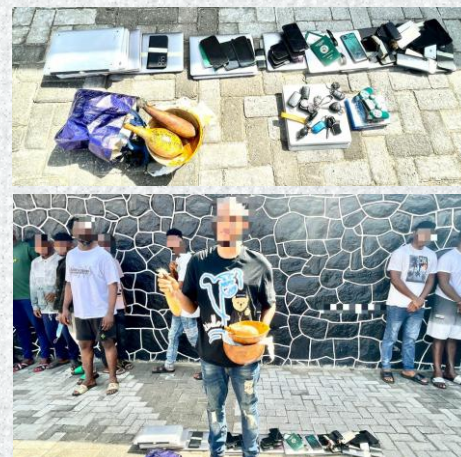
The suspects are: Tijani Olumide Ahmed, Balogun Olusola, Ukuhor Richie Ifemeluona, Ologun Damilola, Adetokunbo Yusuf, Olubiyo Timilehin, Oyegoke Gafar Olaitan, Agarawu Farug Okikiola, Kazeem Oluwadamilare Adebayo and Salau Rahmon.

Others are: Abdulrahman Adeshina Olasunkanmi, Rasheed Remilekun, Adeyanju Kehinde Emmanuel, Owolabi Temidayo Habeeb, Ojora Usman Olawale, Mubarak Balogun, Rafiu Olusegun and Ayobami Habeeb Oyeleye.

They were arrested on Friday, April 29, 2022 at Victoria Crest Estate III, Gate II, Augusta Amadi Street, Off Orchid Road, Lekki, Lagos, following intelligence reports received by the Commission about their alleged involvement in computer-related fraud.

Items recovered from the suspects include cars, laptop computers, mobile phones and charms.

The suspects will be charged to court after investigations are concluded.



Ado-Ekiti-Based Yahoo Boy Convicted in Ilorin, Forfeits Mansion in Lagos

Justice Muhammed Sani of the Federal High Court sitting in Ilorin, convicted Ajewole Oluseyi David, based in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State, for offences bordering on internet fraud.

The judge also ordered the forfeiture of a duplex situated at Lekki, Eti-Osa Local Government Area of Lagos State, worth over N60million and one RS 350 Lexus car worth more than N6million, which the convict procured with proceeds of his illegal activities.

Ajewole was prosecuted alongside seven other fraudsters over similar offence by the Ilorin Command of



the EFCC.

They are Ebenezer Olamilekan Apata from Akure, Ondo State; Obadun Abiodun Taofeek from Ondo West Local Government Area of Ondo State; Ayeni Kayode from Iludun-Ekiti, Ekiti State; Alade Oluwatosin Daniel from Owo/Ose Local Government Area of Ondo State; Ojo Tobi from Moba Local Government Area of Ekiti State; Adeyemi Segun from Esa-Oke Local Government Area of Osun State and one Akinrinmola Olumide.

The convicts were among the 30 fraud suspects arrested by EFCC operatives during a sting operation in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State Capital, on April 26, 2022, except for Adeyemi Segun that was arrested in Ogbomosho Area of Oyo State sometime in October 2021.

Two Jailed in Calabar

A Federal High Court sitting in Calabar, Cross River State, sentenced Ojinnaka Malachy and Michael Kenneth Goodluck to one year in prison for internet-related offences.

They were prosecuted by the Uyo Command of the EFCC.

Justice Dugbo Oghoghorie convicted Malachy and Goodluck, however,

gave an option of fine of N500,000. They were also ordered to forfeit their phones to the Federal Government and retribute the various sums they benefitted to their victims. The convicts' journey to the Correctional Centre opened when they were arrested by operatives of the Uyo Zonal Command of the EFCC at different locations within Akwa Ibom and Delta States.

They made confessional statements

that corroborated their involvement in the crimes. While Goodluck portrayed himself as Roberto Enrique on Facebook and successfully defrauded his victim of \$1000, Malachy impersonated one Caleb Ini on Facebook and benefitted \$250 from his victims.





Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
announces the launch of



An App specially developed by the EFCC to ease
the reporting of economic and financial crimes

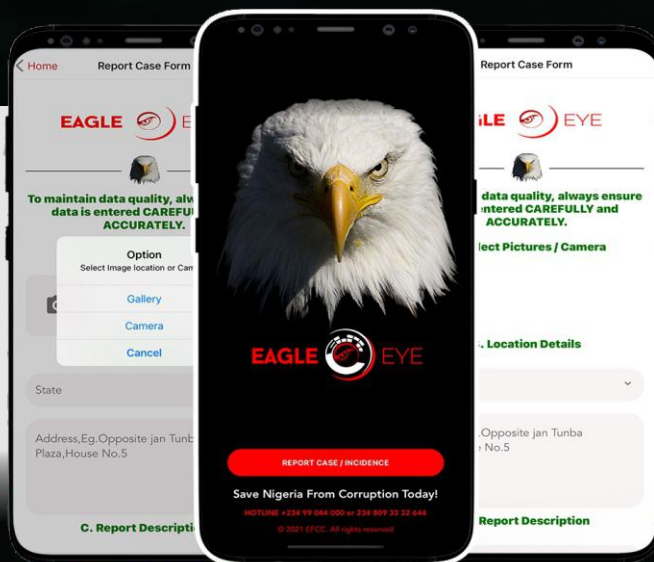


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