

BE WARNED; BE WISE

THE FIRST OF ITS KIND



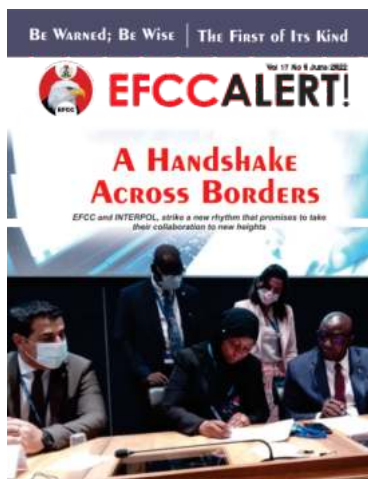
Vol 17 No 6 June 2022

EFCCALERT!

A Handshake Across Borders

*EFCC and INTERPOL, strike a new rhythm that promises to take
their collaboration to new heights*





Editor-in- Chief
Osita Nwajah

Editor
Wilson Uwujaren

Associate Editor
Segun Adeoye

Bureau Chiefs
Samin Amaddin (Abuja)
Ayo Oyewole (Lagos)
Deborah Akpos (Port Harcourt)
Williams Oseghale (Benin)
Chuwang Mohammed (Gombe)
Babatunde Joseph (Ilorin)
Theresa Nwosu (Uyo)
Kamilu Gebi (Sokoto)
Zainab Ahmed (Kaduna)
Adebayo Adeniran (Makurdi)
Olumide Egbodofo (Ibadan)
Bethel Ude (Enugu)
Idris Nadabo (Kano)
Jamilu Saleh (Maiduguri)

Production Editor
Adeleye Sodade

Illustrator
Yekeen Balogun

Photo Editor
Franklyn Ogunleye

Content



Be Warned; Be Wise	3
A Handshake Across Borders	4 - 6
Double Wahala for Iloh // Fall of Bayelsa's Big Boy	7
Fatima Wonder // Haunted by the Dead // A Widow's Cry for Justice	8
Faking Mama Peace // Crudest Richman	9
Perils of Blind Ambition // America Nightmare	10
Cubana's \$69,000 Headache	11

EFCCALERT! is a monthly e-magazine published by the Media and Publicity Unit of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part is accepted as long as it is duly credited. Editorial contributions including photographs are welcome. Mail should be sent to:

The Editor, EFCCALERT!,
Plot 301/302, Institutions and Research Cadastral District, Jabi, Abuja.
OR 15A, Awolowo Road, Ikoyi, Lagos
Email: alert@efcc.gov.ng
Tel: +234-8093322644

The views expressed in EFCCALERT! are those of the author(s) and do not reflect that of the EFCC.

#EFCCNearYou

Enquiries, Petitions or Whistleblowing?
Reach the Commission at a zonal Command close to you.

HEADQUARTERS: Plot 301/302, Institutions and Research Cadastral District Jabi, Abuja

SOKOTO
No. 7 Super Quarters
Off Sama Road

KADUNA
No. 4 Wurmo Road
Badarawa G.R.A.

ILORIN
No. 1 Catchment Road
Off Forest Road
G.R.A., Ilorin

FCT
No. 5 Fomella Street
Wuse II

OYO
No. 16
Reverend Oyeboide Crescent
Iyaganku, Ibadan

LAGOS
No. 15A Awolowo Road
Ikoyi

EDO
No. 1 Court Road
G.R.A., Benin City

KANO
No. 2 Hajj Camp Road

MAIDUGURI
Plot No. 80
Baba Shehu Lamin Street
Opposite El-Kanemi College
Tudun Wada Layout

GOMBE
No. 4 EFCC Street
New G.R.A.

BENUE
Plot 193 Gondo Aluor Road
Old GRA, Makurdi

ENUGU
Plot 106
Federal Government College Road
Independence Layout

AKWA IBOM
No 3 Akparawa Crescent
Off Edet Akpan Avenue
Ewet Housing, Uyo

RIVERS
No 6A Olumeni Street
Old G.R.A., Port Harcourt

BE WARNED; BE WISE

It is a grave offence to resist arrest/search by operatives of a law enforcement agency like the EFCC, or to wilfully obstruct the Commission's official in the discharge of this duty. In the light of the reactions that have trailed the arrest of a former governor, who jumped administrative bail granted him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, it has become necessary to enlighten the public that in line with the extant laws of the land, it is an offence to resist arrest by operatives of a law enforcement agency.

Jumping either an administrative bail granted a person under investigation or bail granted by the Court, can also result in placing such a person on a watch-list/wanted list of alleged criminals, and immediate revocation of the bail.

Specifically, Section 12, titled, "Search

of place entered by suspect sought to be arrested", states in subsection 1 thus:

"Where a person or police officer acting under a warrant of arrest or otherwise having authority to arrest, has reason to believe that the suspect to be arrested has entered into or is within any house or place, the person residing in or being in charge of the house or place shall, on demand by the police officer or person acting for the police officer, allow him free access to the house or place and afford all reasonable facilities to search the house or place for the suspect sought to be arrested.

Subsection (2) further states: "Where access to a house or place cannot be obtained under subsection (1) of this section, the person or police officer may enter the house or place and search it for the suspect to be

arrested, and in order to effect an entrance into the house or place, may break open any outer or inner door or window of any house or place, whether that of the suspect to be arrested or of any other person or otherwise effect entry into such house or place, if after notification of his authority and purpose, and demand of admittance duly made, he cannot obtain admittance."

Furthermore, Section 38 (2) (a) and (b), criminalises the act by any person who "fails to comply with any lawful enquiry or requirements made by any authorised officer" of the EFCC, and stipulates a jail-term not exceeding five years.

The EFCC remains a law-abiding law enforcement agency, whose operations are guided by international best practices.

Remember, EFCC will get you anywhere, anytime.



A HANDSHAKE ACROSS BORDERS

EFCC and INTERPOL, strike a new rhythm that promises to take their collaboration to new heights

Wednesday June 1, 2022 is an important moment in the relationship between Nigeria's foremost anti-graft agency, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, and the International Police Organization, Interpol. The two organisations at a modest ceremony at the Interpol's headquarters in Lyon France, inked an agreement which offers the EFCC unfettered access to 114 million criminal record. The Memorandum of Understanding with the Interpol National Central Bureau for Nigeria, offers EFCC the rare privilege of direct access to and use of Interpol Information Systems, grants the EFCC unrestricted access to nine key global databases containing 114 million records of 195 countries, hosted by the Interpol on its i24/7 secure global records and communication system. Access to the Interpol databases is a significant boost to the EFCC as it enhances the Commission's operational capabilities by giving it an unparalleled global reach against suspected criminals and wanted

Nominal Database containing records of personal data and the criminal history of people subject to request for international police cooperation;

persons attempting to flee from the long arm of the law.

With the agreement, EFCC now has unhindered access to the following databases:

i. Nominal Database containing records of personal data and the criminal history of people subject to request for international police cooperation;

ii. Stolen and Lost Travel and Identity Documents (SLTD) Database containing information on

travel and identity documents reported as stolen, lost revoked, invalid or stolen blank;

iii. Travel Documents Associated with Notices (TDOWN) Databases, containing records of all extracted information from all Interpol Notices;

iv. Stolen Administrative Documents (SAD) Database, which has records of stolen official documents that serve to identify objects, for example, vehicle registration documents and clearance certificates for import/export;

v. Digital Interpol Alert Library Doc (Dial Doc) containing records of newly detected forms of travel documents counterfeiting;

vi. Edison, a Forensic database that contains genuine travel documents;

vii. Fingerprints Database authorized users in member countries can view, submit and cross-check records in the fingerprints database via a user-friendly automatic fingerprint identification system (AFIS);

viii. iARMS contains over a



Fingerprints Database grants authorized users in member countries can view, submit and cross-check records in the fingerprints database via a user-friendly automatic fingerprint identification system (AFIS);

partnership to new heights as it gives impetus to the longstanding cooperation between the two organizations. Late last year, precisely November 23- 25, 2021, the EFCC Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa was among 470 Police Chiefs, Ministers and Senior Law Enforcement Officials from the 195 INTERPOL member countries that attended the 89th General Assembly of INTERPOL which held in Istanbul, Turkey. The Assembly reinforced global security architecture and collaboration against national and transnational crimes.

Apart from top level engagement, relationship between two organizations features joint operations and exchange of intelligence.

Stolen Administrative Documents (SAD) Database, which has records of stolen official documents that serve to identify objects, for example, vehicle registration documents and clearance certificates for import/export;



million records of lost, stolen, trafficked or smuggled firearms. iARMS can identify firearms trafficking patterns and smuggling routes;

ix. Stolen Motor Vehicles (SMV) Database contains extensive identification details from all types of motor vehicles and identifiable spare parts reported as stolen.

Hadiza Gamawa, Chief of Staff to Executive Chairman, EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa signed on behalf of the Commission while Assistant Inspector General of Police Garba Umar signed for the Interpol National Central Bureau.

The MoU is an indication that both the EFCC and INTERPOL, are poised to take their collaboration and

The arrests followed the publication of an INTERPOL Cyber Report linking a suspected syndicate of Nigerian fraudsters operating from the West Coast of Africa to the use of a malicious Remote Access Trojan (RAT) known as Agent Tesla.

The EFCC, for instance was part of Interpol's Operation Killer Bee aimed at dismantling a malware cyber fraud network across Southeast Asia leading to the arrest of three suspected global scammers in Nigeria.

The arrests followed the publication of an INTERPOL Cyber Report linking a suspected syndicate of Nigerian fraudsters operating from the West Coast of Africa to the use of a malicious Remote Access Trojan (RAT) known as Agent Tesla.

The suspects are thought to have used the RAT to reroute financial transactions, stealing confidential online connection details from corporate organizations, including oil and gas companies in South East Asia,

the Middle East and North Africa. One of the scammers, Hendrix Omorume was charged with three counts of serious financial fraud and has been convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment. According to Abdulkarim Chukkol, EFCC's Director of Operations, "the enforcement actions led by Nigeria

and coordinated by INTERPOL sent a clear message that cybercrime will have serious repercussions for those involved in business email compromise fraud, particularly in Nigeria," EFCC regularly seek to leverage Interpol's global police network in arresting fugitive fraud suspects through the Interpol Red Alert, One famous

suspect who was successfully tracked and arrested by the Interpol was convicted former Chairman of the Pension Reform Task Team, PRTT, Abdulrasheed Maina. Acting on intelligence provided by the Commission, the Interpol in 2020 tracked and arrested Maina in Niger Republic and extradited him to Nigeria to face his fraud trial.

The First of Its Kind

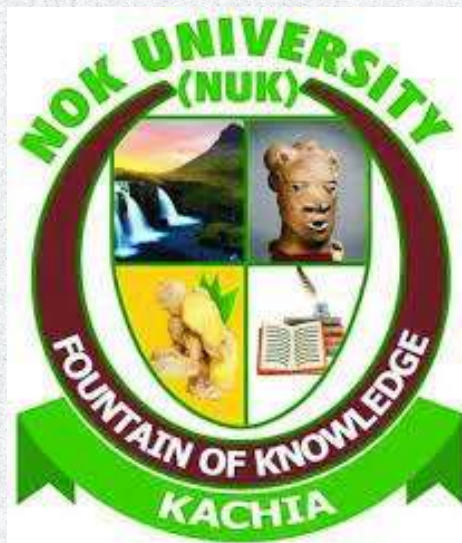
The seizure of an entire university, albeit on interim basis, is a watershed and marks a turning point in the Commission's assets tracing and recovery efforts.

A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja, on Wednesday, June 1, 2022, ordered an interim forfeiture of all assets of NOK University, a privately owned tertiary institution based in the Northwest city of Kaduna.

The University, built by a former Director of Finance and Accounts, DFA, in the Federal Ministry of Health, Anthony Hassan, is suspected to have been developed with the proceeds of unlawful activities traced to him.

Hassan was a DFA in the ministry between 2016 and 2019. Physical assets of the University forfeited in the interim include Senate building, ICT building, Faculty of Medicine building, Science Deanery building, two Academic buildings, a Faculty Hall, among others.

Outside of the University, other



Kaduna.

Justice Zainab Abubakar gave the interim forfeiture order while ruling on a motion ex-parte brought by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC. Counsel to the EFCC, Ekele Iheanacho told the court that the EFCC sought the order "pursuant to Section 44(2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and Section 17 of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act No.14, 2006 and under the inherent jurisdiction of the Honourable Court". In the ruling, the court directed that the interim forfeiture order be published in the National dailies, alerting anyone with interest in any of the properties to show cause, within fourteen days, why it should not be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Justice Zainab adjourned till October 5, 2022 for mention of the matter.

properties traced to Hassan which are also forfeited in the interim are Gwasmyen Water Factory, Gwasmyen Event Centre and Gwasmyen International Hotel in

The arrests followed the publication of an INTERPOL Cyber Report linking a suspected syndicate of Nigerian fraudsters operating from the West Coast of Africa to the use of a malicious Remote Access Trojan (RAT) known as Agent Tesla.

Double Wahala for Iloh

A convicted ex-permanent secretary bags fresh 12-year jail-term for non-declaration of assets valued at N97.3million

For a former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Productivity, Clement Iloh, it not only rains, it pours with lightning and thunderstorms. Iloh made headline news in October 2019, when he was convicted and sentenced to five years in prison by Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo of a Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, for a N14.1 million fraud charge brought against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC. His latest predicament comes as a result of a three-count charge filed against him by the EFCC bordering on non-declaration of N97.3million in



his First Bank of Nigeria account. The money was suspected to be bribes received from SURE-P contractors. Iloh, who was standing trial before Justice Babs Kuewumi of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos had through his counsel, T.S. Awana, informed the Court of his change of mind as he switched his "not guilty" plea to "guilty". Justice Kuewunmi, thereafter, sentenced him to four years on each of the counts to run concurrently from October 10, 2019. The judge also ordered the forfeiture of his N97,300,613.44, \$139,575.50 and £10,121.52 to the Federal Government of Nigeria, being proceeds of unlawful activities.

Fall of Bayelsa's Big Boy

Touted as Bayelsa big boy, George Turnah, loses his big man status for that of a prisoner

If only George Turnah could turn back the hands of time, he would definitely have realised that crime never pays, especially when the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC is the law enforcement agency investigating you for fraud.

The time to be penitent is up, as Justice A.T. Mohammed of the Federal High Court sitting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, already convicted Turnah, a former Special Assistant to Dan Abia, erstwhile Managing Director of Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC. Justice Mohammed found him guilty for the offence bordering on non-disclosure of assets. The EFCC had charged him for failing to make full disclosure of his assets, an offence contrary to Section 27 (1) & (3)(a) of

Justice Mohammed found him guilty for the offence bordering on non-disclosure of assets

the EFCC Establishment Act 2004.

Justice Mohammed held that the prosecution established the charges against and proved that he was one of the Directors and majority shareholder of Ashford Consult and Events Nig. Ltd. He was sentenced to two years each on counts one and three.



Fatima Wonder

A businesswoman pockets N4 million meant to be changed to Dollars for her client, lands in troubled water

The Abuja Command of the EFCC has arraigned one Fatima Suleiman before Justice Jude O. Onwuegbuzie of the FCT High Court Apo, Abuja.

The 56-year-old was docked on one-count bordering on fraudulent conversion to the tune of N4million. The defendant as the Chairman/Chief Executive of Jamilma Multilinks Logistics Services Limited is alleged to have dishonestly converted the said sum which was entrusted to her by one Chigozie Ezeagu for the purpose of converting the same to United States

Dollars.

Instead, she fraudulently converted the money to her own use and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 311 and punishable under Section 312 of the Penal Code Act CAP 53 LFN (Abuja). She has pleaded "not guilty" to the charge preferred against her.

Justice Onwuegbuzie granted her bail in the sum of N8million with two sureties in like sum. She was ordered to be remanded at Suleja Correctional Centre pending fulfilment of the bail terms. Her trial continues September 28, 2022.



Haunted by the Dead

Two bankers who stole N2.9million from the bank account of a dead customer bag jail-terms

The body of Godfried Francis Osso must have turned in the grave, and no wonder his spirit came haunting Titus Chima Nwankwo and George Ifiok Utibe-Abasi, now ex-bankers who had colluded to forge the signature of the late Osso, and stole N2.9 million from his bank account. Nwankwo and Utibe-Abasi were convicted by Justice Elias Abua of the Cross River State High Court sitting in Calabar, Cross River

State, when they pleaded "guilty" to separate one-count charge bordering on forgery, conspiracy, breach of trust and stealing, upon their arraignment by the Uyo Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

Justice Abua sentenced Utibe-Abasi to three months in prison with an option of fine of N100,000; Nwankwo bagged three months with an option of fine N50,000.



A Widow's Cry for Justice

Lawyer, six others face the wrath of the Law for allegedly stealing from a late police officer

The Uyo Command of the EFCC arraigned a lawyer, Samuel Ebitu, alongside six others, before Justice Agatha Okeke of the Federal High Court sitting in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State for allegedly stealing the sum of N13,171,415.25 from the bank account of a late police officer, Godwin Edet Umoren.

The six others are: Etimbuk Godwin Edet, Michael Jeremiah Isong, Sunny

Isong, Godwin Ekanem, Emmanuel Jackson Isong and Harrison Ofuomah Emamoke.

They were arraigned on two counts bordering on conspiracy, forgery and obtaining by false pretence.

The widow of Umoren had in a petition to the EFCC allege that they diverted the money from the account of the deceased. They all pleaded "not guilty" to the charges and their trial is ongoing.



Faking Mama Peace

Impostors posing as aides of a former First Lady, Patience Jonathan face the music in Maiduguri



Mama Peace, the former First Lady of Nigeria, Patience Jonathan, is in the news again; this time, however, it is a case of some unscrupulous persons trying to "cash out" using the goodwill attached to her. Goni Muhammad and Seidu Seriki Haman, the alleged fraudsters are standing trial before Justice Aisha Kumaliya of the

Borno State High Court, sitting in Maiduguri, on two counts brought against them by the Maiduguri Command of the EFCC. The defendants allegedly conspired and obtained the sum of N26,492,000 under the guise of selling to their victim, two grams of gold, which they claimed belonged to the former First Lady. They pleaded "not guilty" to the charges and their trial is ongoing.

Crudest Richman

A businessman is charged with fraud for defrauding his victim in the guise of dealing in the sale of crude oil

His name is no doubt a sharp contrast to his character. Richman Pere, Managing Director of Rich Oil Delta West Africa Limited, is a man you should be having dinner with using a very long spoon. Pere is being prosecuted by the Benin Command of the EFCC for defrauding Alhaji Yisa Bello and his company, Success Ventures International Limited of N72million under the guise that he had 1 million barrels of crude oil to supply. He has, however, pleaded "not guilty" to the four counts filed against him bordering on forgery and obtaining by false pretence as his trial continues before Justice Okon Abang of the Federal High Court sitting in Warri, Delta State.

Richman Pere, Managing Director of Rich Oil Delta West Africa Limited, is a man you should be having dinner with using a very long spoon.



Perils of Blind Ambition

The desperation of a politician in Ekiti State to become a member of the Green Chamber of the National Assembly has set his bank account back by N24million, no thanks to the two spiritualists, one Alfa Abiodun Ibrahim and Wale Adifala and Ifawole Ajibola (aka Baba Kalifa currently on the run). They claimed to have the spiritual code to pave the way for the politician's victory in his party's nomination. He shelled out the funds which they claimed was needed to procure several materials to conduct spiritual sacrifices to eliminate all obstacles in the way of his ambition. But the politician lost the ticket, which made him to petition the EFCC.

The suspects were arrested on July 7, 2022 in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State.

Under interrogation by operatives, Adifala admitted to collecting the sums of money from their victim, including N2.9 million, which he

claimed was used to buy black, brown and white cows, rams, lavender perfume, rings among other items, to carry out sacrifices at different times.

"I also linked up on the matter with Ifawole Ajibola, and we continued with the sacrifices together, until we were arrested by EFCC," he said. Ibrahim, who was the one who had prior contact with the victim, admitted collecting money at different times.

"Our own is just to pray and do the necessary sacrifices, which we did, and



to leave the rest to God, however, along the line, the zoning for the Reps seat was taken away from Oye-Ekiti to Ikole-Ekiti," he said.

America Nightmare



Fatade Idowu Olamilekan, a wire fraud suspect on the wanted list of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, was on Thursday July 14, 2022, extradited to the United States for allegedly stealing over Three Million, Five Hundred Thousand United State Dollars (\$3.5m) worth of equipment in various cities across the US. He is billed to appear before a United States District Court. His extradition was coordinated by the Economic and

Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, following a notice from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI New York, through the US Legal Attache for his role in impersonating various cities, state and academic institutions across the United States. Fatade was indicted by a grand jury in the Southern District of New York for offences of wire fraud, interstate transportation of stolen property and identity theft.

The suspect was arrested on September 30, 2021, by operatives of the EFCC and his extradition trial commenced sometime in November, 2021 before Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of a Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos.

On May 1, 2022, the Judge granted the request to extradite the suspect to the United States to answer to the criminal charges against him.

Cubana's \$69,000 Headache

This Cubana may not be the socialite that creates so much buzz in the Nigerian social circuit but in the world of fraud he was not doing badly. With a cumulative heist of \$69,000 USD to his name, Kelvin Tobe Igboamaeze imagined his cybercrime trajectory was destined for the top. But that was before operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC came for him. And on July 15, 2022, his life's story took a dramatic if not tragic turn when Justice M. Zubairu of the Federal Capital Territory High Court, Kurudu, Abuja convicted him on a four count charge bordering on cheating by personation and sentenced him to three months imprisonment on each of the counts. Count one of the charge reads: "That

you, AUGUSTUS KELVIN GBOAMAEZE (Cubana wire) sometime in April, 2018 at Abuja within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did cheat by personation, by pretending to be Cubana, a Wire Engineer working in Ukraine, via www.gmail.com and obtained the sum of \$66,000 (Sixty-Six Thousand Dollars) from Patti Jackson, an American citizen through Google Cards and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 321 of the Penal Code, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (Abuja) 1990 and punishable under section 324 of the same Act". Another count read: "That you AUGUSTUS KELVIN IGBOAMAEZE sometime in April, 2018 at Abuja within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did cheat by personation, by pretending to be David Wilson, an Engineer working in Ukraine, via www.gmail.com and obtained the sum of \$3,000 (Three

the Court ordered the forfeiture of items recovered from him, including an iPhone 13 Pro Max, iPhone 11 Pro, MacBook Air Laptop and a gold chain. The sum of Four Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$4,750) and a draft of Six Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty- two Thousand, Five Hundred Naira (N6, 952, 500) raised by the defendant are also forfeited as restitution to the victim.

Thousand Dollars) from Clara, an American citizen through Google Card and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 321 of the Penal Code, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (Abuja) 1990 and punishable under section 324 of the same Act". He pleaded "guilty" to the charges. Aside the prison term, the Court ordered the forfeiture of items recovered from him, including an iPhone 13 Pro Max, iPhone 11 Pro, MacBook Air Laptop and a gold chain. The sum of Four Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$4,750) and a draft of Six Million, Nine Hundred and Fifty- two Thousand, Five Hundred Naira (N6, 952, 500) raised by the defendant are also forfeited as restitution to the victim.





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



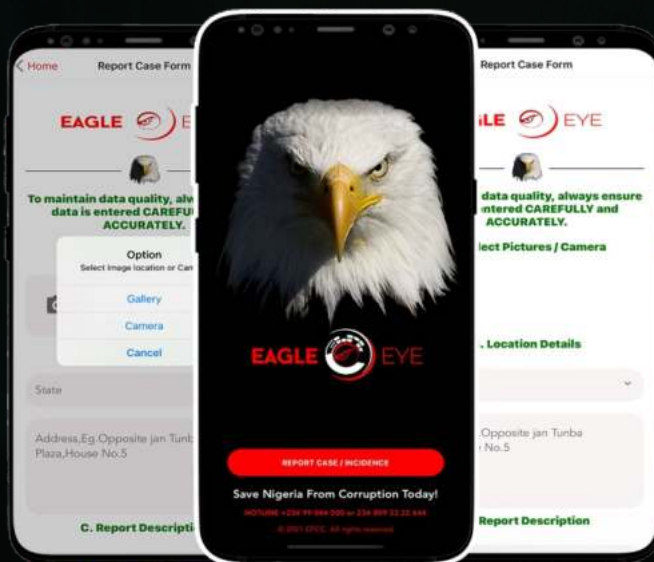
DOWNLOAD NOW!



Download on the
App Store



Available on the
Google Play



www.eagleeye.efcc.gov.ng

**REPORT CRIMES IN
3 SIMPLE STEPS!**

- 1 Install the App**
- 2 Take Snapshots**
- 3 Upload Pictures**

Follow us: @officialefcc



...EFCC will get you anywhere, anytime.