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# EFCCALERT!

## The CHATHAM CHARTER

At the Chatham House Forum, the EFCC Chair, Bawa charges  
Nigerians on attitudinal change and collective action against  
corruption





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# The Chatham Charter

*At the Chatham House Forum, the EFCC Chair, Bawa charges Nigerians on attitudinal change and collective action against corruption*

By Segun Adeoye

**I**t was at the Chatham House Africa Programme Conference, a world-leading center for policy research and debate on Africa's politics, which held recently in Abuja, where the Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, delivered a keynote address on the theme: "Towards Collective Action On Corruption In Nigeria: Linking Evidence and Practice in Support of Attitudinal Change".

Bawa used the platform to passionately call on Nigerians, indeed, members of the international community, to take a critical look at the need to rev up corruption-prevention efforts, in order to tame the corruption monster.

According to him, implementing practical attitudinal change requires a collective action, and remains critical in uprooting corruption from its root.

He used the opportunity to harp on the Strategic Plans of the EFCC for 2021 - 2025, which specifically indicates the resolve of the EFCC to utilize intelligence-driven investigation to prosecute corrupt persons, while expanding the frontiers of its corruption-prevention activities.

"The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, is conscious of its mandate and the need to adopt multiple approaches in its fight against corruption, money laundering, economic and financial crimes," he said. "These approaches revolve around the brick-and-mortar surveillance, investigation and prosecution processes and mechanisms that center on attitudinal

and behavioural changes that can serve as preventive tools in the fight against this malaise."

He also reiterated the adverse effects of corruption on the society, thus necessitating the need for a well-oiled mechanism that will employ prosecution and prevention.

"There are far-reaching negative impacts of corruption on Nigerian society," he said. "Economic, financial crimes and corruption have caused reputational and country-wide damage to Nigeria."

While acknowledging the bold, decisive and far-reaching efforts of the government in breaking the

strongholds of the crimes in the land, he said, "This audacious task of government is exhibited in the clear political will to deal with the issues frontally, to show its understanding of the problem, the government came up with the mantra; if we don't kill corruption, corruption will kill us."

He further described "behavioural and social norms", as the "drivers to our daily response to issues, which collectively impacts society, either positively or otherwise".

Advocating a multi-pronged approach to solving the corruption problem, Bawa pointed out that the EFCC employs such an approach in addressing the menace





**"Citizen participation is a required ingredient for our strategy and plans. Nigeria's entire structure of anti-corruption laws can attain more if conception and implementation are focused on collective behavioral change."**

**- Abdulrasheed Bawa,  
Executive Chairman,  
EFCC.**

of economic and financial crimes.

Further hinting on the need to maximize the use of modern technology in the fight against corruption, he advocated the use of social media as a veritable tool to galvanize citizens to see themselves as critical stakeholders in combating corruption in the society.

He said: "We must look beyond the traditional approaches to citizens' engagement and extend to new frontiers, such as the digital space.


"Social media offers a delicate but helpful outlier for participation by citizens in the fight against corruption.

"Citizen participation is a required ingredient for our strategy and plans. Nigeria's entire structure of anti-

**"One of the critical gaps in the national anti-corruption agenda is the location of the accountability and anti-corruption mandates within multiple and operationally diverse institutions which have limited interface and cooperation," he said.**







**"The 2021 conviction record represents a 98.49 percent success rate in prosecution, as the Commission lost only 34 cases during this period."**

corruption laws can attain more if conception and implementation are focused on collective behavioral change."

Reiterating the advantage of the government's whistle-blowing policy, Bawa called for grassroots participation in the corruption-prevention campaign of the anti-corruption agencies, and law enforcement agencies in general.

"Social accountability will manifest through reporting corruption and crimes using different platforms used by law enforcement agencies, allowing society to push for convictions," he said.

Highlighting the successes achieved by the EFCC in past years, Bawa said: "The Commission set yet another record of convictions in 2021, where it recorded 2,220 convictions, representing a 127.5

percent improvement over the 2019 record.

"The 2021 conviction record represents a 98.49 percent success rate in prosecution, as the Commission lost only 34 cases during this period."

He further urged Nigerians to push for accountability of the anti-corruption agencies by demanding for more appropriate countermeasures and taking an active interest in the affairs of even the agencies themselves using the whistle blowing policy of the Nigerian government.

Speaking on the topic, "Implementing Holistic Anti-Corruption Efforts", Prof. Olatunde Babawale, Provost, Anti-Corruption Academy of Nigeria, ACAN, called for a critical look into the possible causes of social ills.

**"Social norms and expectations exist in our community and they sometimes tend to encourage corruption or allow it to persist," he said. "Unless we look at this social dimension, you are unlikely to understand the depth of corruption in our society."**

"Social norms and expectations exist in our community and they sometimes tend to encourage corruption or allow it to persist," he said. "Unless we look at this social dimension, you are unlikely to understand the depth of corruption in



our society."

On her part, Jane Adidu-Onwumere, Head, Technical Unit on Governance and Anti-Corruption Reforms, TUGAR, harped on the need for cooperation among various organisations towards eradicating corruption in the country.

"One of the critical gaps in the national anti-corruption agenda is the location of the accountability and anti-corruption mandates within multiple and operationally diverse institutions which have limited interface and cooperation," he said.

The need to inculcate in children the core values of hardwork and integrity, were reiterated by Zainab Haruna of Step-Up Nigeria, a creative team, building bridges to tackle corruption and improve service delivery in

**" It is important that we not only focus on negative behaviours, we also [need to] speak to young children to focus on positive choices such as fairness and speaking up against wrongdoing," she said**

advocated the need to engage the creative industry to produce movies to campaign against corruption, and to canvass for value reorientation.

"Entertainment has always been a

strong tool for communicating anti-corruption change across diverse groups. Even well-intentioned anti-corruption messages may come up against deep-seated social norms and may trigger a defensive reaction," she said.

Speaking on the topic, "Understanding Multifaceted Contextual Factors of Corruption", Dr. Osasuyi Dirisu, Deputy Director, Policy Innovation Center, dismissed the notion that poverty causes corruption.

"We think of poverty as major driver, but there are lots of corrupt practices in places with abundance," she said. "Corruption does not disappear when you increase wages."

On his part, Bishop Matthew Kukah of the Catholic Diocese of Sokoto, called



Nigeria.

" It is important that we not only focus on negative behaviours, we also [need to] speak to young children to focus on positive choices such as fairness and speaking up against wrongdoing," she said.

She further advocated for "a storytelling approach to explain the negative impact of corruption".

As part of expanding the frontiers of the fight against corruption, Umami Yakubu, ace producer and director, known for "Jaru's Journey",

**"So much focus is being placed on religion, until the work of creating a functional state and environment where everyone can thrive is done, it will be a tall dream to think religion can do more than it is doing,"**



for the need to entrench an egalitarian society.

"So much focus is being placed on religion, until the work of creating a functional state and environment where everyone can thrive is done, it will be a tall dream to think religion can do more than it is doing," he said.

"Integrity has no religion," said Imam Bashir Mundi, from the University of Georgia, who stressed that, "as religious leaders, we must hold political leadership to account and shine the light, while understanding our differences and diversity."



# Photo Gallery



Abdulasheed Bawa, EFCC Chairman, meets representatives of bureaux de change operators, in Abuja, August 5, 2022



Dr. George Ekpungu, Secretary to the Commission with Ide John Udeagbala, National President NACCIMA, August 9, 2022



Dr. George Ekpungu, Commission Secretary, with Prof. Aliyu Jauro, DG, NASREA, July 6, 2022



Dr. George Ekpungu, Commission Secretary, with some officials of the EFCC FC team, June 15, 2022



Hadiza Gamawa, Chief of Staff to the EFCC Chairman, at the public presentation of 2021 CIFCFEN, in Abuja, June 23, 2022



Ahmed Ghali gives goodwill message at NDIC workshop in Lagos, August 10, 2022 on Effective Investigation and Prosecution of Banking Malpractices



Johnson Oshodi, Enugu Zonal Commander, presents a paper at Town Hall meeting of AFRICMIL, in Anambra, June 30, 2022



Michael Nzekwe, Ilorin Zonal Commander, addresses hoteliers, June 16, 2022



Pascal Samu, Coordinator, SCUML Lagos, addressing DFNI in Lagos, June 9, 2022



Staff of the EFCC at the EFCC Academy, receiving training on blockchain technology, June 6, 2022



The winning EFCC FC with their trophy, in Abuja, June 15, 2022



National Youth Service Corps members being enlightened on the ills of corruption in Issele Uku, Delta State





## ARMING THE WATCHDOG

*The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC organizes a one-day workshop on financial crimes reporting to improve the capacity of financial crimes journalists*

**T**he Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on Wednesday August 17, 2022 held a workshop on Effective Reporting of Financial Crime for journalists. The programme, which is meant to improve the capacity of journalists to report economic and financial crime issues and events, covered journalists accredited to report the activities of the Commission in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja where the head office of the EFCC is located. The workshop which is wholly sponsored by the EFCC focused on three major areas: Challenges of prosecuting economic and financial crimes, best practices in Financial Crimes Reporting and New Typologies and Trends in Cybercrimes investigation. It had in attendance, 40

journalists drawn from the print, electronic and online media. Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, in his welcome remarks, called on the media to shun biases of ethnicity, religion and political affiliations in the reportage of financial crimes, stressing that the fight against corruption should transcend such considerations. "As a worthy, dependable and reliable ally, I want to use this opportunity to further urge media practitioners to put the interest of our Country at heart, particularly as it relates to a conscientious effort not to celebrate the corrupt in our midst, but to expose them on the pages of your newspapers, screens of television or our various online platforms. "As watchdog of society, you must be mindful that your reportage is a mirror

that shapes global perception of our institutions and nation. It logically follows that this sacred duty is one that must be discharged with a lot of responsibility and, of course, patriotism", he said. Bawa explained that the EFCC is making progress in securing convictions, pointing out that as at August 5, 2022, the Commission has secured 2210 convictions. "This is just ten convictions short of the 2220 convictions secured in 2021", he said. He assured Nigerians of an improved naira exchange rate, stressing that through the EFCC's intervention, the declining exchange rate of the naira has been reversed. "One achievement which most of you may not easily recognize is the impact which EFCC's intervention in the Forex market has had on the value of the naira. From well over N710 to the dollar, following the Commission's intervention,





Staff of EFCC



Cross section of Journalists at the workshop



Cross section of Journalists at the workshop



Orilade, Oyewale and Nwajah



Dalhatu



Okeleke

the naira has appreciated significantly against the dollar in the parallel market, and we are not relenting in our efforts to check harmful speculative activities in the sector. I urge you to also beam your searchlights on this area as it is in our collective interests to have a national currency whose value is not subject to the whims of crooked speculators”, he said. The Workshop paraded Resource Persons that spoke on different topics, including Sylvanus Tahir, Deputy Director and Head, Legal and Prosecution Unit, Dele Oyewale, Assistant Director, Media & Publicity Unit, and Buhari Dalhatu of the Cyber Crime Section of the EFCC. Tahir, who spoke through Assistant Commander of the EFCC, Samuel Okeleke, itemised several challenges of prosecuting economic and financial crimes in Nigeria. According to him, such hurdles include non-cooperation of potential prosecution witnesses, nature of evidence gathered at the investigation stage; prosecutorial competences of the prosecuting counsel, strength of transparency and fairness of the presiding judge in the trial and gaps in the law guiding prosecution. He

**“As watchdog of society, you must be mindful that your reportage is a mirror that shapes global perception of our institutions and nation. It logically follows that this sacred duty is one that must be discharged with a lot of responsibility and, of course, patriotism”,**

pointed out that “no trial can succeed if the trial judge is partial”

Speaking on the topic: “Best Practices in Financial Crimes Reporting”, Oyewale noted that, economic and financial crimes across the world are evolving with disturbing dynamics, with criminality outpacing technological advancement with breath-taking sophistication. He called on the media to attune itself to the rising strides and

trends of criminality, while at the same time, rising to the challenges of hard work, integrity, self-motivation and clear focus in their reporting. “Unless issues of un-reporting, under-reporting and non- follow up of existing cases in court are addressed, best practices in financial crimes reporting would be a mirage”, he said.

Dalhatu tackled the “Peculiarities, Trends, Typologies and Challenges of Cybercrimes Enforcement in Nigeria” and decried the increasing sophistication of hackers and other internet fraudsters in the country. He spoke about the networking of cybercrime fraudsters across the world and the need to be more watchful and cautious with internet uses. “Cybercrime fraudsters employ hackers from different parts of the world to compromise the systems of banks and other sensitive organisations but there is no hacking that can succeed without an insider compromise”, he said. He warned organisations to be fair to their employees “because hackers always succeed through the involvement of aggrieved staff in any establishment”.

He charged the media to step up enlightenment on the hazards of cybercrimes to save the public losses and grave risks to their investments.



# Raising New Breed

*The EFCC's creative youths initiative against corruption, aimed at breeding a new generation of young, fertile minds, yields three winners in its 2021 Essay*

BY SEGUN ADEOYE

**"The children of any nation are its future. A country, a movement, a person that does not value its youth and children does not deserve its future."**

Those are the words of counsel, from Oliver Tambo, famous South African revolutionary, who in his life time fought tooth and nail, to have his country freed from the oppressive regime of the apartheid-era.

The man, after whom the country's international airport is named, further stressed that: "The fight for freedom must go on until it is won."

Tambo, no doubt, speaks to the heart and soul of the EFCC's creative initiative to fight corruption, by tapping into the creative minds of Nigeria's youths. The initiative, which involved an Essay Competition with the topic, "How to Fight Economic and Financial Crimes to Make Nigeria Great Again", was launched in Abuja, in October 2021. With a deadline of November 15, 2021, it was opened for entries from students of tertiary institutions.

After a rigorous judging process of over 5,000 entries submitted for the "2021 EFCC Essay Competition", three winners emerged, and on August 10, 2022 at a modest awards ceremony, which held at the corporate Headquarters of the EFCC in Abuja, Abdurashheed Bawa, presented awards to them.

The winners are: Ehizogie Iyeomoan, Law student at the Ambrose Ali University Ekpoma, Edo State; Omotoso Abiola Sodiq,



Engineering student of the University of Ibadan, Oyo State, and Zeenat Magaji, undergraduate of Cyber Security at the

Federal University of Technology Minna, Niger State, who emerged first, second and third, respectively.

Describing their feat as highly commendable, Bawa, used the medium to challenge other youths in the country, to strive in their little corners to make Nigeria great again, by imbibing the values of integrity, honesty and hardwork.

"It is no use lamenting that things are not right with our country," he said. "We are inviting you to invite others to lend a hand in helping us build a great society."

He further called on the winners, "not only to serve as role models, but change-agents by shunning all acts of corruption and economic crimes".

For the EFCC, the fight to free Nigeria from the shackles of corruption must go on until it is won. In view of this, Bawa gave assurances that the various cogent and salient points, highlighted in the winning entries "will be painstakingly looked into". He also assured that the Essay Competition will be institutionalised by making it an annual event, in order to enable other Nigerians lend their voices to the anti-corruption fight.

The panel of judges, which included, Prof. Abiodun Adeniyi, Dean, Faculty of Mass Communication, Baze University, Abuja; Dr. Amina Salihu, Senior Programme Officer, MacArthur Foundation, Abuja; Dr. Chido Onumah, Coordinator, African Centre for Media & Information Literacy (AFRICMIL) Abuja; Mrs. Maupe-Ogun-Yusuf, Editor, Channels TV, Abuja and Mr. Ade Adesomoju, Head, Anti-corruption, Human Rights & Judiciary Desk, Premium Times also received commendation for their detailed assessment and judgement.



# CYBER-CRIME WATCH

*The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, remains resolute in its bid to get rid of the menace of internet fraudsters, as it continues to act on credible intelligence from members of the public on the activities of cyber-criminals. Below is a cursory look at some of the activities of the EFCC to combat cyber-crime in the month of August:*

## BENIN THE HOTBED



**J**ustice Efe Ikponmwonba of the Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City on August 1, 2022, convicted and sentenced six internet fraudsters to jail for fraud.

The convicts are Emejom Jude Chinomso, Okolie Collins, Hezekiah Oghenekume, Musa Dauda, Akinselure Adebayo and Obafemi Oluwatosin.

They were arraigned by the Benin Zonal Command of EFCC on separate one-count charge bordering on impersonation, intent to defraud and making false statements to the EFCC.

The charge against Akinselure Adebayo reads: "That you, Akinselure Adebayo on or about the 8th day of June, 2022 at No 1 Court Road, GRA Benin City, Edo State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did make false statement in writing to an officer of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission in the course of his duties as an officer of the Commission as to the ownership of a 2008 Toyota Camry with registration number: ABU 219 GF which you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 39(2)(a) of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act, 2004 and punishable under section 39 (2)(b) of the same Act".

The charge against Okolie Collins reads: "That you, Okolie Collins between 2020 and 2021 in Abudu, Edo State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did with intent to defraud represent yourself to

be Alex Lougwin, an actor and American citizen on Facebook platform and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under section 484 of the Criminal Code Law Cap 48 Laws of Bendel State of Nigeria (as applicable in Edo State) 1976".

The defendants pleaded "guilty" to the charges preferred against them by the EFCC. Following their plea, Justice Ikponwonoba convicted and sentenced Collins and Chinomso to two years imprisonment each with option of Two Hundred Thousand Naira and Three Hundred Thousand Naira fine respectively. Adebayo and Dauda bagged one-year imprisonment with an option of N150,000.

Oghenekume was sentenced to two years with an option of N150,000 fine, while Emmanuel got one-year imprisonment or fine of N100,000 in lieu of spending time in jail. The judge also ordered that a 2008 Toyota Camry car recovered from Adebayo be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria. Other items including mobile phones and Laptop computers recovered from the defendants are also to be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria. The defendants are to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour henceforth.

## ANOTHER TWO JAILED IN BENIN

**T**he Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on August 4, 2022 secured the conviction of Awopetu Gbolahan Emmanuel and Johnbull Kingsley before Justice M. Itsuelli of the Edo State High Court, Benin City.

Kingsley was arraigned on one count charge of possession of documents containing false pretenses and misrepresentation, while Emmanuel was arraigned for making false statement to an officer of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.

The charge against Kingsley reads: "that you, Johnbull Kingsley on the 23rd day of May, 2022 in Benin, Edo State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court with intent to defraud did knowingly have in your possession documents containing false pretenses and misrepresentation and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 6 of the Advance Fee Fraud and

Other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under the section 8 read together with section 1(3) of the same Act".

The charge against Emmanuel reads: "that you, Awopetu Gbolahan Emmanuel on or about the 8th day of June, 2022 at No 1 Court Road, GRA Benin City, Edo State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court did make statement in writing which you knew to be false to an officer of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission in the course of his duties as an officer of the Commission and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 39(2)(a) of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act, 2004 and punishable under section 39(2)(b) of the same Act".

The defendants pleaded guilty to their respective counts prompting the prosecution counsel, I.M. Elodi to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

However, counsel to the defendants, A.S. Akinfolarin pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy as the defendants have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Itsuelli convicted and sentenced Emmanuel to two years imprisonment while Kingsley bagged one year imprisonment. The judge also ordered the forfeiture of the defendants' phones, wristwatches and laptops, being proceeds of crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria through the EFCC.







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

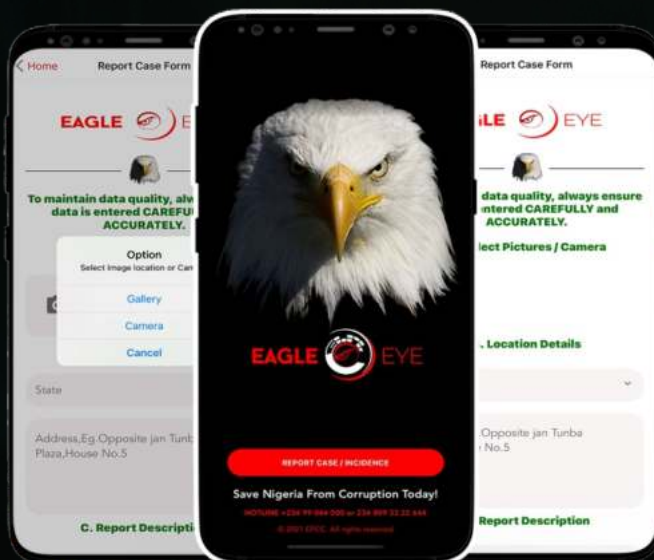


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