

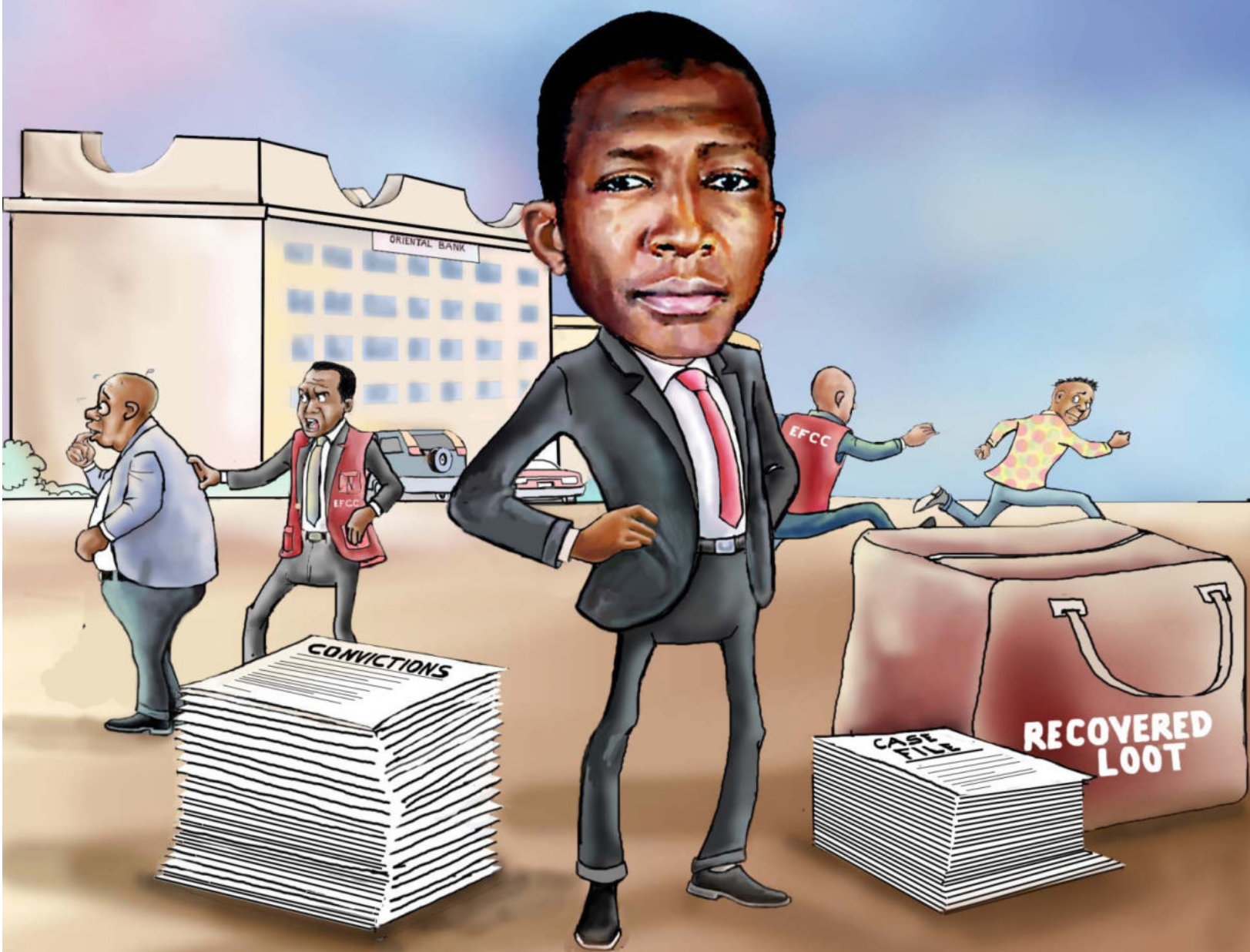


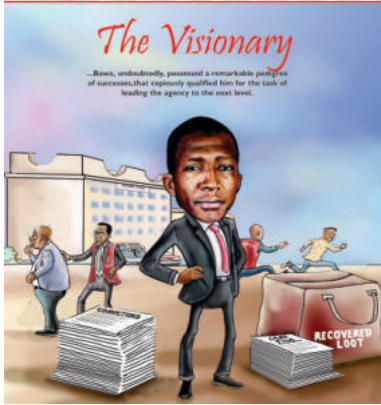
VOL 17 NO 2 FEBRUARY 2022

# EFCC ALERT!

## *The Visionary*

...Bawa, undoubtedly, possessed a remarkable pedigree of successes, that copiously qualified him for the task of leading the agency to the next level.





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# Content

## Throwback

**Circa June 11, 2019**

**Abdulsheed Bawa** (left) then as a Zonal Head, explaining a point to President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, and President Muhammadu Buhari, during an EFCC Exhibition, to mark National Democracy Day Anti-Corruption Summit, at Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, on Tuesday, June 11, 2019.



## Cover story

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## Re: 2021 - What a Memorable Year!, December 2021 Edition

**Kudos!**

*The edition was quite refreshing and enlightening. It really opened my eyes to the very many infrastructural developments going on at the EFCC. Having been an ardent follower of the EFCC over the years, it gives me great joy that till now, particularly under the current leadership at the EFCC, the agency is still making giant strides. Kudos to you all.*

- **Thomas Njoku.**

**Great job!**

*I read through a copy of the edition, and since then I have continued to ponder on the words of the EFCC Chairman, Mr. Abdulrasheed Bawa, where he distinguished between fighting corruption and fighting corrupt people. The comment was for me an eye opener. I want to urge you guys to remain focused on fighting corruption itself, as it is only then that you will be able to convince those who may want to accuse you of witch-hunting perceived enemies of the current administration.*

- **Bolaji Adaja.**



**Keep it up!**

*My perspective about the EFCC really changed after reading your publication. You people are really trying your very best and I just want to urge the Bawa leadership to remain focused. Don't ever allow yourself to be derailed by the many distractions out there.*

- **Chuks Amadi.**

**Great job!**

*The conviction of Abdulrasheed Maina as reported in your magazine, along with those also reported in it, was quite heartwarming. It was good to also know that you are not relenting in going after the seeming big fish who are culprits of corrupt practices.*

- **Kazeem Bala.**

**Well done!**

*The conviction of father and son, with regards to Maina and his son, is laudable, but it also makes one to weep for this country. So how many of such father and son, as well as mother and son fraudsters are still there in our society. The journey to freedom is still far.*

- **Dotun Philips**

## Throwback

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**Abdulrasheed Bawa** (left) then as a Zonal Head, explaining a point to President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, and President Muhammadu Buhari, during an EFCC Exhibition, to mark National Democracy Day Anti-Corruption Summit, at Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, on Tuesday, June 11, 2019.





# The Visionary



**A**bout a year ago, when Abdulrasheed Bawa took over the helms at the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, March 5, 2021, no one was in doubt about the reforms and indeed, visionary leadership that the consummate investigator would bring to bear in spearheading the fight against corruption in Nigeria.

His elevation to the highest pedestal of leadership in the Commission, via President Muhammadu Buhari's letter to the Senate on February 15, 2021 announcing his appointment as the substantive Chairman of the EFCC, was, a masterstroke. Without any hesitations, the Senate acting on the request of the President, confirmed Bawa as the Executive Chairman of the EFCC, on February 24, 2021.

Bawa's appointment by President Buhari was an acknowledgement of his roles in the investigation and prosecution of a number of high profile cases in the country, and the belief that he was without an iota of doubt, the right man to give teeth to the anti-corruption mantra of the administration.

An ardent believer in excellence, integrity, professionalism and honesty, he comes across as a detective with an unassuming persona, whom many may not be in the know of the significant roles he played in the convictions of oil marketers who defrauded the Nigerian government in the oil subsidy regime between 2012 and 2015.

He equally helped to unravel several financial malfeasances in the pension sector, and also to crack several petroleum sector fraud cases under a former minister of petroleum resources, Diezani Alison-Madueke, which led to the recovery of huge assets for the Federal Government of Nigeria.

A certified fraud examiner, his investigative skills have come in handy in demystifying some of the complex fraud cases ever handled by the Commission. Bawa's knack to see to the end of any fraud case he investigates, has seen him, even as Executive Chairman, still takes time out of his very tight schedule to testify in Court, particularly in the N1.4billion and N7361.6million oil subsidy fraud trials of Abubakar Ali Peters and his company, Nadabo Energy, before two separate judges at the Lagos State High Court, Ikeja.

Flashback to 2021, Bawa has certainly not disappointed his keen supporters and well-wishers, and equally dumbfounded the nay-sayers, as he has in the short period, taken the fight against corruption to a level unprecedented in the history of law enforcement in Nigeria.

But, what drives this "Man of Many Firsts", who deservedly, is the youngest person and the first core EFCC officer to oversee the

**Bawa's appointment by President Buhari was an acknowledgement of his roles in the investigation and prosecution of a number of high profile cases in the country, and the belief that he was without an iota of doubt, the right man to give teeth to the anti-corruption mantra of the administration.**



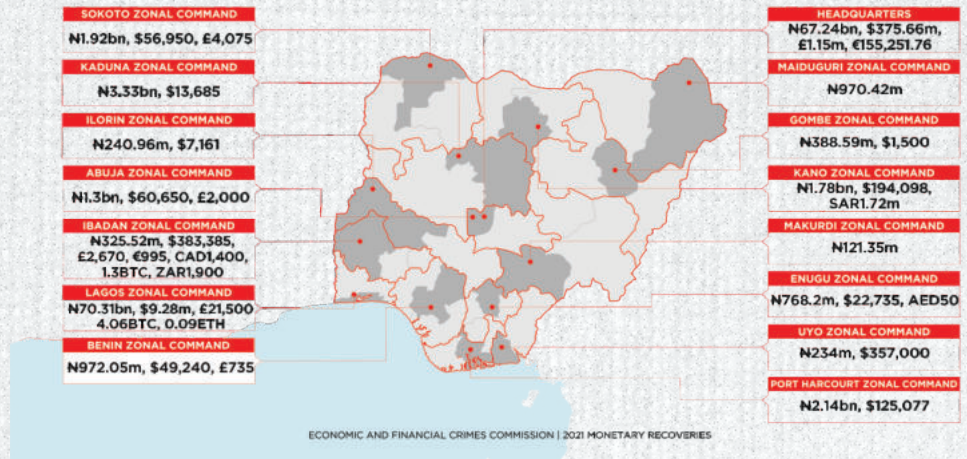
activities of the Commission? In this brisk chronicle, **Segun Adeoye** takes you through Bawa's thought process gleaned from his views expressed in a number of speeches and interviews he granted, in which he sheds light on what drives him on, his long term vision for the anti-crusade, among others;

### On the corruption fight

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. We are going to digitalize our processes, and we are going to create a new full-pledged directorate of intelligence to enable us gather intelligence so that we will be proactive in our fight against economic and financial crimes; and by so doing, we will also provide the government with necessary quality advice that will lead to good governance. Corruption across national borders has huge negative impacts on the stability, peace, and economic prospects of millions, particularly in developing countries. Corruption remains one of the most pervasive and daunting challenges facing humanity. It deprives national Governments of resources needed for sustainable development and facilitates illicit financial flows (IFFs) from developing economies to developed Countries thus, weakening states' ability to deliver developmental expectations targeted at women and youths. Public corruption is being exposed by the day and several Politically Exposed

**The records are there. And it is a challenge I have taken upon myself to do without fear or favour. That is the truth. If anybody is coming to ask me to do something that is contrary to my conscience or contrary to what the EFCC is set out to achieve, I'm going to resign.**

TOTAL MONETARY RECOVERIES			
NGN (₦)	152,088,698,751.64	USD (\$)	386,220,202.85
NIGERIAN NAIRA		UNITED STATES DOLLAR	
GBP (£)	1,182,519.75	EUR (€)	156,246.76
BRITISH POUND STERLING		EURO	
AED (د.إ.)	50.00	CAD (\$)	1,400.00
EMIRATI DIRHAM		CANADIAN DOLLAR	
SAR (ر.س.)	1,723,310.00	DIGITAL CURRENCY	BTC BITCOIN 5.36957319
SAUDI RIYAL		ETH ETHEREUM 0.09012	
ZAR (RAND)	1,900.00		
SOUTH AFRICAN RAND			



Persons have been and are being prosecuted and divested of their illicit assets. We have been engaging with International Law Enforcement Agencies around the world and some of the collaboration has led to the recovery and repatriation of stolen funds including the recent return of the 4.2million Pounds by the UK Government that was stolen from Nigeria by a former Governor.

### Puppet to certain individuals in government

Well, that is not true. I rose through the ranks. The only job I know after graduation is the EFCC, which I joined in 2004. All the individuals you are referring to, where were they in 2004? I rose through the ranks from an ordinary team member, to the first EFCC team leader from the regular staff of the EFCC. I became a sectional head, became the zonal head in Ibadan, zonal head in Port Harcourt, and zonal head in Lagos. Lagos is the biggest operational hub of the EFCC with over 600 personnel. Port Harcourt is next to it in terms of complexity and staff strength. I happen to be the first EFCC regular staff to head three different zones before my appointment as the chairman. The records are there. And it is a challenge I have taken upon myself to do without fear or favour. That is the truth. If anybody is coming to ask me to do something that is contrary to my conscience or contrary to what the EFCC is set out to achieve, I'm going to resign. I know the responsibilities, I know the challenges. I can leave office today if the president so wishes. I'm aware that I can leave office when the tenure of the president ends... I'm aware that we are going to have a new president in 2023. I'm aware that that president may allow me to



finish my tenure in 2025 or he can renew it. So, a career that I have dedicated myself to do... unknown to me I was destined by the Almighty to become chairman. I have taken it with all sense of responsibility. So nobody is coming to say, 'do this', no, no, I'm not going to do that. I'm not going to allow that to happen. And that is the promise I have made to Nigerians.

### Special courts for trials

Yes and no. If you have special courts, are they going to use different procedures? Are they going to use different Evidence Act? Of course, lawyers, the judges themselves have said, 'for you to succeed in this, you need to go back to the National Assembly and ensure that there is a new





***The provisions of Section 6 of the EFCC Act, is very clear, that we should carry out rigorous public campaigns against ills of corruption.***

legal framework in all of these'. That is why I believe that you may have the special courts, but that will not completely ease out the problems. It will ease out the problem of delay in prosecution, but it will not solve it. Now, by having special courts, that means we have courts that are dedicated to hear economic and financial crimes cases, and that means that on day-to-day basis, we may be having our own trials, the judges are going to have experiences, they are going to develop expertise in new trends of this, and of course, they will understand the laws and the processes and then of course, it will go faster.

#### **Between yahoo boys and politically exposed persons**

It is part of our responsibility to see that of course, the "small fries" are prosecuted as well as the "big fries". Advance fee fraud, of course, like cybercrime, is where the small fries normally play around. They cross the line there, and we charge them. And of course, more often than not, we secure their conviction. We also charge the big ones to court as well. But issues of delays or whether or not we secure conviction at the end of the day, is for the court to determine. And over the years, for the first time, governors were prosecuted, senators were prosecuted, ministers were prosecuted. We have tried and we are improving to ensure that more of them are also charged and convicted. We are working tirelessly on that.

#### **International partnerships**

For our strategic partners across the shores of this country, we will continue to work together. We will continue to share intelligence, to see that the stolen wealth of this country is returned for the betterment of us all.

#### **Repositioning the EFCC**



Nothing is new, the vision is the same - to rid the country of economic and financial crimes. To be the best law enforcement agency leading in financial crimes. The laws that EFCC is empowered to enforce are the same. The reorientation of the officers themselves is very key. Then we are looking at several issues of rules and regulations that should guide us - Standard Operation Procedures. Luckily I'm somebody from within the system, and we have identified the problems, we are looking at solving them. We have set up committees, and God willing after the

committees have brought the report, we intend to implement them in toto. But the main goal, which we intend to achieve, is to grow as an institution that respects the rule of law in its entirety, extant laws of this country as well as our own procedures. I envisage a situation whereby in EFCC, in no distant future, I as the chairman will give somebody an instruction to say, 'go and do this' and he will look at me and say, 'Mr. Chairman, I've understood your instruction, but because of the provision of section this of the standard operation procedure I cannot do that'. ■



# Scorecard of Excellence

*One year on, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, under Abdulrasheed Bawa's leadership, achieves unprecedented strides in the fight against economic and financial crimes, by implementing strategic reforms, and digitalization of investigation processes*

***“We know the problems and God willing, we are going to solve these problems.”***

**T**hat was the solemn pledge made by the Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa on his assumption of office, during a modest handing over ceremony, which held at the conference room of the EFCC Headquarters, Jabi, Abuja, March 5, 2021.

The atmosphere at the conference room was quite emotional as Bawa was making history as the first core staff of the Commission to be the EFCC Chairman.

Having led three different zones of the Commission - Ibadan, Port Harcourt and Lagos, as Commander, it was quite easy to comprehend the finality in the tone of his pledge while taking over the baton of leadership from the then acting Chairman, Mohammed Umar Abba.

They were the words of a man who had taken stock of where the Commission was coming from, and where he was determined to take the Commission to. Determination, resolve and focus, aptly captured the mood of the newly minted chairman, as he set the stage for "a new EFCC".

"We are going to digitalize our processes, and we are going to create a new, full-pledged directorate of intelligence to

enable us to gather intelligence so that we will be proactive in our fight against economic and financial crimes," he said.

He further reiterated his remarks during his confirmation hearing before the Senate, that his vision and goal was to ensure that the Commission rightly focuses on actions akin to motions that will result in movement.

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

As he promised to prioritize the welfare of the EFCC's teeming staff, Bawa also made a pledge to the international partners of the Commission in the fight against corruption.

"For our strategic partners across the shores of this country, we will continue to work together with you," he said.

They were soothing words to the international law enforcement agencies like the International Police, INTERPOL, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, FBI, and the National Crime Agency, NCA, among others.

"We will continue to share intelligence, to see that the stolen wealth of this country is returned for the betterment of us all," he added.

Perhaps, the most strategic of his vision for the Commission, was the technological transformation of the operations of the EFCC, to make it a role model for other law enforcement agencies. Looking back to the beginning of the Bawa tenure, it can be rightly affirmed that it has been a period of promises made and kept.

## **Walking the Talk**

Indeed, under the watch of Bawa, the EFCC has steadily been re-positioned among the league of law enforcement agencies, it the reference point for success in law enforcement.

Bawa made good his promise to establish the Department of Intelligence, which according to him, has been "working wonders", by following the trail of illicit financial flows, both within and outside Nigeria.

"They have come up with a lot of intelligence," he says.

His promise at the media briefing held at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, on June 17, 2021 to ensure the development of an Application to facilitate the seamless





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

Service Department.

The renaming comes with the expansion of the Department to include other welfare services such as: development of retirement benefits for staff who have diligently served the Commission; establishment of crèche at the Commission's headquarters; scheduling of all categories of personnel for skill acquisition and enhancement training in line with the imperatives of modern law enforcement; implementation of COVID-19 prevention protocol across the Commands of the Commission; timely provision of COVID-19 vaccines for staff; and development of Staff Health, Group Life and Property Insurance Policy.

In addition to the establishment of the Department of Intelligence to effectively deal with the increasing new trends of fraud, the EFCC has also rejigged its Legal and Prosecution Department and revised the quality of its services, equipping all legal officers with secure digital tablets pre-loaded with the robust Law Pavilion legal research application and digital library. This is in addition to the mobile phones provided for all staff, that comes with a monthly bundle of internet data and call credit.

The Operations Department of the Commission, has also been restructured to build capacity for operational challenges, strengthen its capacity and

***“We are going to digitalize our processes, and we are going to create a new, full-pledged directorate of intelligence to enable us to gather intelligence so that we will be proactive in our fight against economic and financial crimes,”***

reporting of financial crimes to the EFCC by citizens eager to assist the fight against corruption, was effectively fulfilled about a month after, on July 14, 2021 when at a modest gathering of anti-corruption partners at the EFCC Headquarters, Abuja, the novel Eagle Eye (EFCC) Application for both the Google Play Store and the Apple Store was launched.

It was history in the making as the App, which was designed as the "EFCC case reporting tool", aimed at making the anti-corruption agency easily accessible to whistleblowers, in and out of Nigeria, was the first of its kind by a law enforcement agency in Nigeria.

The innovations brought in by the administration, has contributed to a quantum leap in the indices for adjudging achievement, including the

***"We will continue to share intelligence, to see that the stolen wealth of this country is returned for the betterment of us all,"***

conviction record and the recoveries of stolen funds. It has also ensured that the general perception in Nigeria, that some persons, particularly Politically Exposed Persons, PEPs are untouchables and above the law, has been effectively altered and demystified. So far, there has been no hold barred fraud cases that the Commission dares not to investigate.

The impact of this has been legendary as can be seen in the record-breaking conviction figure of 2,220 secured in 2021. In a clime where conviction returns by many law enforcement agencies can be counted on the fingers of one hand, the EFCC has upped the ante in criminal prosecution, setting even higher standards not only for other law enforcement agencies, but for itself.

With hindsight, the EFCC secured 976 convictions in 2020; 1,280 in 2019; 312 in 2018 and 189 in 2017. Going memory lane, it was a humble beginning of 68 convictions in 2010 and 67 recorded in 2011. The Commission then revved it up to 87, 117 and 126, in 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively. There was a drop in 2015, with 103 convictions secured. However, 2016 witnessed an improved showing, with 194 convictions. Yet another drop was witnessed in 2017 as it fell short by five, to stay at 189 convictions.

But, in all ramifications, the 2021 record of 2,220 can well be described as “a significant upsurge”, which has no doubt placed the EFCC on a pedestal of a pacesetter. This also reflects in the mind-boggling sums of N152,088,698,751.64; \$386,220,202.84; £1,182,519.75; €156,246.76; 1,723,310.00 Saudi Riyal; 1,900.00 South African Rand, and 1,400.00 Canadian Dollars recovered from the corrupt in the society.

#### **Charting a new path**

Staff welfare has received a total overhaul under Bawa, with a revamped Cooperative Department now rechristened as the Staff Welfare

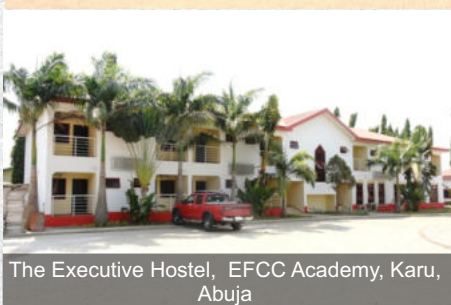




Members of the recently inaugurated EFCC Board



The Auditorium, EFCC Academy, Karu, Abuja



The Executive Hostel, EFCC Academy, Karu, Abuja



EFCC Academy Admin Block



The Mosque, EFCC Academy, Karu, Abuja

for enhanced efficiency to handle emerging crime trends. New positions were also created including Head of Operations, Headquarters and Deputy Heads of Operations across the Zonal Commands.

For efficiency, the Information and

Computer Technology, ICT Unit of the Commission, has been upgraded to a full-fledged Department tasked with implementing various IT initiatives of the Commission in consonance with current operational realities.

Like the ICT, the Procurement Unit of the Commission has also been restructured and upgraded to a Department in compliance with relevant Federal Government circulars to improve coordination, efficiency, and quality service delivery. Also upgraded from a unit to a department is the Internal Audit Department, in order to ensure efficiency, accountability, transparency, and prudent utilization of resources by reinforcing internal control processes and risk management standards.

To support the Commission's strategic goals, the Department of Planning, Policy and Statistics has been expanded to include Research functions, and is now rechristened - Department of Planning Policy Research and Statistics.

In order to make the Commission's library services much sought-after by academics within and outside of the country, the Bawa administration has rejigged the services of the Commission's library services appointed a Chief Librarian at its Headquarters, while work to ensure that all the Zonal Commands provide library services is at an advanced stage.

Conscious of the imperative of having a secure environment to operate, Bawa appointed a Chief Security Officer tasked with coordinating and managing the Commission's security functions at the Headquarters and across the Zonal Commands in response to emerging security concerns.

The Commission's Forensics and Crime Laboratory Services Department received a new lease of life under the current administration with the provision of specialized tools and support required to perform its functions efficiently, thereby contributing significantly to the

**...implementation of COVID-19 prevention protocol across the Commands of the Commission; timely provision of COVID-19 vaccines for staff; and development of Staff Health, Group Life and Property Insurance Policy.**

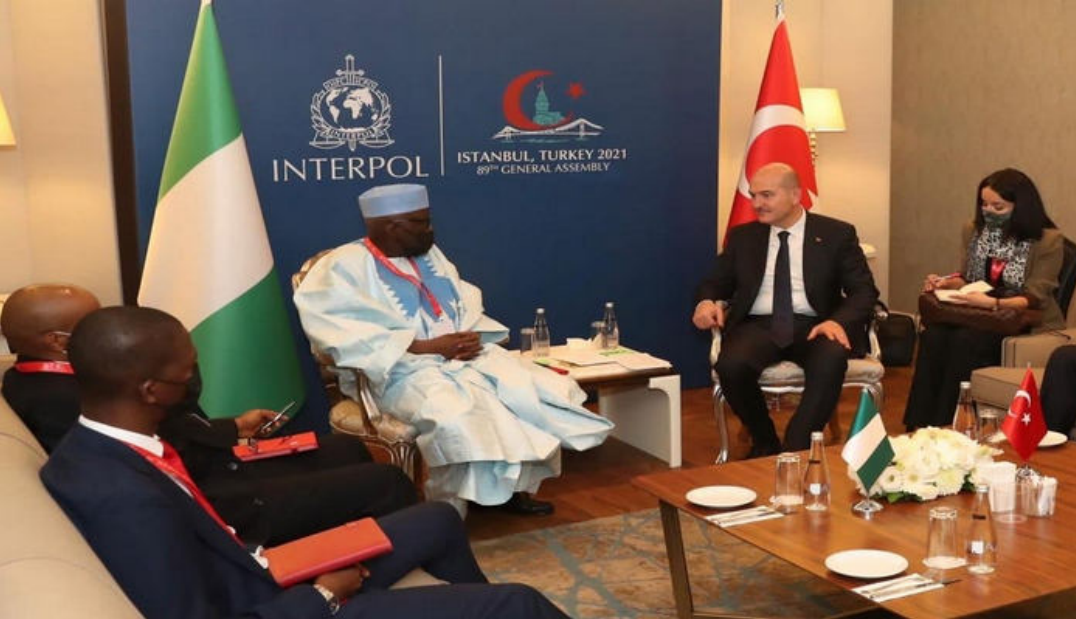
Commission's investigation and prosecutorial activities.

In this regard, achievements recorded so far include: Standardization of Suspect Processing procedure, successful procurement and ongoing deployment of suspect processing tools to better comply with the provision of Section 15 of the Administration and Criminal Justice Act 2015.

In addition to this, a digital fingerprint capturing centre has been set up at the Abuja Zonal Command. At the moment, plans to establish a Chemical Analysis Laboratory at the Port Harcourt Zonal Command to expedite analysis of cases related to theft and the illegal bunkering of petroleum and its related products, is at an advanced stage.

In order to facilitate the ease of doing business in the country, while also tackling the menace of money laundering, the administration of Bawa rejigged the operations of the Special Control Unit against Money Laundering, SCUML. The EFCC has activated a new registration portal for Designated Non-Financial Institutions, DNFI's. The Commission is currently working with the National Assembly to strengthen the Unit's legal framework, as part of efforts to effectively reposition the SCUML for effectiveness.





### Forging ahead

So far, the reality on ground, with respect to infrastructural developments across the 14 Commands of the EFCC across the country, aptly portrays Bawa as a man on a mission. As the journey continues, it has undoubtedly been mission accomplished, thus far.

The EFCC Academy located at Karu, Abuja, has witnessed a transformative facelift, that perhaps, last occurred in 2012. The Academy has also been re-positioned to be at par with international centers of education, even as the Commission signs far-reaching Memoranda of Understanding, MoUs with relevant institutions within and outside of Nigeria. State-of-the-art electronic and interactive equipment have been installed, just as its sports facilities have also been revamped for efficiency.

Across the zonal commands renovation works are in advanced stages in Abuja, Benin, Gombe, Lagos, Port Harcourt and Uyo Zonal Offices. The Lagos Command, currently boasts of a standard water treatment machine that has helped in purifying the hitherto muddy water that was in circulation at the Lagos Command. Construction of a Tactical Operating Centre, TOC, is also under construction at the Lagos Command.

Construction of additional blocks of offices have reached advance stages in the Benin, Enugu, Kaduna, Ibadan, Port Harcourt, Maiduguri, Sokoto and Uyo commands, as well as the installation of electrical transformer units at the Kaduna Command, aimed at ensuring effective power supply, while electrical inverters have been purchased and installed for the Kano and Lagos commands in order to ensure

uninterrupted power supply,

With the increasing number of arrests, the Commission is also expanding its detention facilities across the zonal commands.

There is also the installation and activation of staff and visitors' Biometric Access Controls Systems at the EFCC Headquarters, Abuja.

For the first time in the history of the Commission, the anti-graft agency provided its teeming officers with mobile phones and created a Closed User Group, CUG, fully funded by the EFCC, in order to facilitate fluid communication to ensure proficiency in discharge of duties. Official vehicles for senior officers of the agency, in order to further enhance professionalism in discharge of their duties, have also been provided by the Bawa-led EFCC.

A fleet of official vehicles and ambulances were also purchased for the zones to improve service delivery. The health-care facilities have also been boosted across the commands, even as the Bawa administration has purchased state-of-the-art medical equipment fitted at the centres for efficient health services.

Under the leadership of Bawa, the EFCC has also put in place machinery 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 software licences are also being procured as part of the continuous equipping of the Commission's Forensic Laboratory.

### Rallying against corruption

The realization and acknowledgement of the fact that the anti-corruption agency cannot alone wade through the murky



waters of corruption, has seen the Bawa-led administration extend its hands of fellowship to relevant stakeholders in the fight against corruption.

For instance, the Commission 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 is partnering with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons, NAP TIP; the Nigeria Police Force, and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps,





Water Purification Plant at the Lagos Zonal Command



Recently renovated facade of the Uyo Zonal Command



Recently renovated creche at the Lagos Zonal Command



NSCDC in a High Level Multi-Agency Task Team, HIMAT, on the design and implementation of a National Sexual 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.

The Commission has also kick-started its engagement with religious bodies, as a strategic means of reviving its anti-corruption inter-faith manuals for Christians and Muslims. Beyond the religious groups, the EFCC is also reaching out members of the grassroots, with the aim of enlisting a larger portion of the citizenry as ambassadors against corruption, including traditional leaders, students, and the youths in general.

### Beyond borders

The confidence reposed in the Bawa-led EFCC, saw him entrusted with 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.

As a law enforcement agency with international focus, the Commission is strengthening its foreign partnerships to improve avenues of cooperation, curb illicit financial flows in the Diaspora and develop capacity of all stakeholders in the fight against corruption.

One of such strategic partnerships was with the INTERPOL in which Bawa was in the entourage of Nigeria's delegation that attended the 89th Interpol General Assembly in Istanbul, Turkey, November 23, 2021.

At the 38th Cambridge International Symposium on Economic Crime organized by the Center for International Documentation on Organized and Economic Crime, CIDOEC, Jesus College, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, September 6, 2021, Bawa seized the international podium to canvass for a collective and collaborative approach by international law enforcement agencies in dealing with the challenges of financial crimes.

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 under Bawa has also engaged in a roundtable engagement with Civil Society Organizations on the State of Anti-Corruption in Nigeria - Assessing 2020 and 2021 Agenda Setting.

### Public Enlightenment

In addition to reviving the EFCC's Interfaith Anti-corruption Advisory Committee and adopting the Anti-corruption Preaching/Teaching Manual as a guide for implementing anti-corruption programmes, the Commission has also effectively keyed into the use of both traditional and new media to engage with the public, sensitizing them on the ills of corruption, and at the same time using the approach of "naming and shaming" as a deterrence tool.

Efforts to operationalise the take off of the EFCC's anti-corruption Radio and TV stations have also reached an advanced stage. The station will be the first of its kind in Africa.

### Planning ahead

On September 29, 2021, the Bawa-led EFCC unveiled the Commission's Strategic Plan (2021-2025) targeted at improving the performance of the Commission for future successes.

The Plan is in line with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) 2017 – 2021 and anchored on five pillars - Prevention, Public Engagement, Ethical Re-Orientation, Enforcement and Sanctions, Recovery and Management of Proceeds of Crime. It is aimed at sustaining the EFCC's commitment to continuous improvement to attain its vision.

"Effective implementation of this Plan shall improve operational efficiency in the Commission and ensure that we continue to aspire to our vision of a Nigeria free of economic and financial crimes," Bawa says. ■





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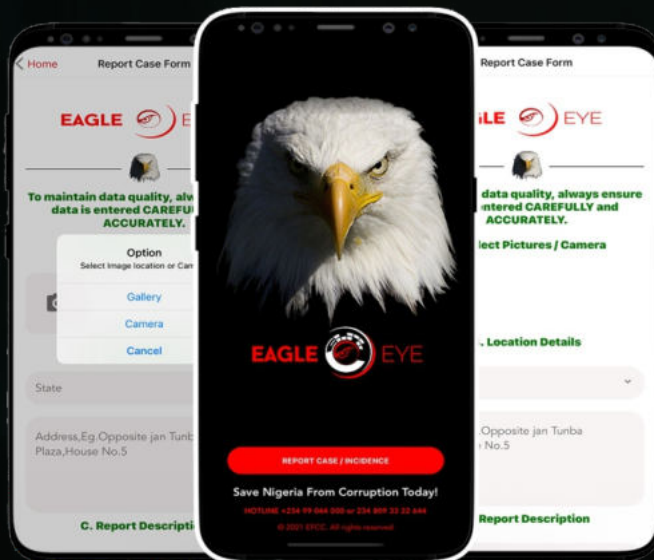


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