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# EFCCALERT!



## New Year, Renewed Focus

*The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC is set to build on its achievements in the past year*



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# New Year, Renewed Focus

*The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC is set to build on its achievements in the past year*

**F**or the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, the year 2021, no doubt, ended on a high note - what with the 2,200 convictions secured including high profile cases involving Okey Nwosu, a former Managing Director of Finbank; Francis Atuche, Ex-MD defunct BankPHB; Jerry Ogonna, Ex-Navy Captain; Abdurashheed Maina, Ex-Chairman, Pension Reform Task Team and his son, Faisal.

It was an unprecedented record, not only in the history of the anti-corruption agency, but among the league of law enforcement agencies in Nigeria. As the EFCC characteristically raised the bar in convictions secured, so it also did in the recovery of funds from corrupt persons. More than N152 Billion, \$386.2 million, £1.2 million and €156,246, among others, was recovered by the anti-corruption agency.

***"I have said it time and time again, no agency of government has contributed to the development of law in Nigeria in the last 10 years, than the EFCC,"***

And, while the cracking noise and sparks of various fireworks that ushered in the year 2022 around the world have died down, the EFCC is certainly poised to ensure that in 2022, its anti-corruption flame will not be extinguished, but will continue to spark, shine, and reverberate across the length

and breadth of the country.

"I have said it time and time again, no agency of government has contributed to the development of law in Nigeria in the last 10 years, than the EFCC," says Abdurashheed Bawa, Executive Chairman of the EFCC. "We are all over the place trying to see that we eradicate economic and financial crime through the court processes and other preventive measures that we have in place."

Indeed, with the novel creation of the EFCC's Department of Intelligence, digitization of its operations, and the launch of its operational Eagle Eye (EFCC) Application for both the Google Play Store and the Apple Store, designed as the "EFCC case reporting tool", the anti-graft agency is poised to further raise the bar as it retains its position, as Nigeria's leading anti-corruption agency.





***The issue of pension fraud is something that is mind-boggling and we are looking at that,"***

"We are working hand-in-glove with the Court," says Bawa.

The EFCC's corruption-prevention activities will also be revved up as the agency, among other things, replicates the "Eradication of Pension Fraud in Nigeria" Summit across its zonal commands. The inaugural Summit, which was held at the Nigerian Air Force Conference Centre, Kado, Abuja, October 5 and 6, 2021, was hailed by the Secretary to the Government to the Federation, Boss Mustapha, as a necessary step in eradicating pension fraud in the country.

"The issue of pension fraud is something that is mind-boggling and we are looking at that," says Bawa.

But the fight against corruption cannot and should not be left for the EFCC alone to prosecute, says George Ekpungu, Secretary to the Commission.

Speaking at the International Anti-Corruption Day event organized by the Inter-Agency Task Team, IATT, in Abuja, December 9, 2021, he harped on the need for all Nigerians to key into the anti-corruption crusade of President Muhammadu Buhari, and to see themselves as critical stakeholders in the fight against corruption.

"Nigerians must see the fight against corruption as their own battle," Ekpungu says. "We must be prepared to give full expression to the powers of the office of the citizen by not only holding our leaders

accountable, but ensuring that we fulfil our obligations in line with the law."

Ekpungu, who spoke on the theme, "Your Role Your Right: Say No to Corruption", stressed the importance of "active citizens' involvement in the fight against corruption".

"As citizens, we cannot afford to be complacent in matters of accountability and transparency especially as it relates to the management of our common patrimony," he says, noting that "The fortune of our nation is a delicate asset that we must guard jealously at all times



and in all places, privately and publicly."

According to him, successful anti-corruption models across the world were built on active citizens' engagement and ownership.

"This is the model that we are replicating in Nigeria as reflected in our 2021-2025 Strategic Plan objectives, which seeks to increase public engagement in the fight against economic and financial crimes, through education, enlightenment and value re-orientation," he says.



He further hinted that the EFCC's corruption and fraud prevention advocacy will target faith-based groups, Youth organizations, women organizations, students' organizations, civil society organizations, among others.

"The EFCC is optimistic that with improved public trust, through adherence to rule of law and best practices in investigation, the space for more inclusive participation will widen to defeat the monster called corruption," he says.



## Flashback

### Starting on a High Note

For the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, the year 2022 is beginning on the high note of the year 2021, which for the anti-graft agency, was a watershed. The appointment of Abdulrasheed Bawa as the EFCC Chairman, George Ekpungu as Secretary, and other notable events are captured below in photos:



The Senate welcomes Bawa to its Hallowed Chambers, Feb 24, 2021



Bawa takes a bow after a good showing at the Senate, Feb 24, 2021



Bawa addressing the Senate at his screening, Feb 24, 2021



President Buhari receives Bawa at the State House, Feb 25, 2021



Bawa takes over from Umar as EFCC Chairman, March 5, 2021



# PHOTO STORY -



Corps members at a sensitisation event at Benin Command, Feb 28, 2021



Bawa with senior officers of the EFCC, March 5, 2021



Bawa addressing headquarters' staff on discipline, March 8, 2021



Abuja zonal staff in rapt attention, March 8, 2021



Bawa... in one of his Court appearances in an on going oil subsidy fraud trial



# PHOTO STORY -



Suleiman Abdul-Kwari-led Senate Committee on Anti-corruption, visit, Apr 21, 2021



DSS official visit received by EFCC Kaduna Commander, Harry Erin, Apr 21, 2021



Police in Kwara visits EFCC Kwara Command, Apr 21, 2021



EFCC, NEITI Collaboration Engagement, Apr 23, 2021



NGOs charged on money laundering, terrorism financing by Lagos Commander, Ahmed Ghali, Apr 26, 2021



Bawa with delegates of Nigeria Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, US, June 9, 2021



# PHOTO STORY -



Bawa addressing the 38th Cambridge Int'l Symposium on Economic Crime in UK, Sep 6, 2021



Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, with Bawa at the EFCC Summit on Eradication Pension Fraud in Nigeria, Oct 5, 2021



Bawa welcomes onboard new EFCC Secretary, Dr. George Ekpungu, Oct 27, 2021



L-R Bawa, Ekpungu, and Hadiza Gamawa, Chief of Staff, Oct 27, 2021



EFCC Secretary with students of Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida University, Nov 24, 2021



Bawa with Nigeria's delegation to 89th INTERPOL General Assembly in Turkey, Nov 24, 2021



# Orya Magic

*The EFCC unravels N1.3billion fraud in Nigerian Export-Import Bank, charges ex-managing director for fraud*



**A**fter the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, beamed its searchlight of investigation on the Nigerian Export-Import Bank, NEXIM bank, the anti-graft agency, uncovered a mind-boggling N1.3billion heist, with the arrow pointing at its former managing director, Roberts Orya.

Orya, who exited the Bank in February 2016 after serving for about seven years, is accused of using his exalted position to obtain N1,368,000,000 (One Billion Three Hundred Sixty-eight Million Naira) from

NEXIM bank through fraudulent means.

Specifically, he is facing 49 counts bordering on official corruption, criminal breach of trust, impersonation, misappropriation, and abuse of office.

He is alleged to have with intent to defraud, incorporated a company, Luxurium Leisure Service Limited, using the names of non-existing individuals, and other existing ones without their consent. Having incorporated the company, he used his position to obtain loans for the company from the Bank, which remained largely unpaid years after.

Count one of the charges against him reads: "That you, Mr. Roberts Orya, while being the managing director of Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM BANK) on or about the 21st day of September 2011 in Abuja within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court with intent to defraud induced Nigerian Export-Import Bank to pay to Treasure Mix Construction Limited the sum of Four Hundred and Eighty-eight Million Naira (N488,000,000) as loan under the pretence that the directors of Luxurium Leisure Services Limited

applied for and are the beneficiaries of the said loan which pretence you knew was false and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 1 (1)(b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under section 1 (3) of the same Act".

Count four reads: "That you, Mr. Roberts Orya, while being the managing director of Nigerian Export-Import Bank (NEXIM BANK) on or about the 19th February, 2013 in Abuja within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, induced Nigerian Export-Import Bank to pay to Treasure Mix Construction Limited the sum of Six Hundred and Thirty Million Naira (N630,000,000) as loan under the pretence that the directors of Luxurium Leisure Services Limited applied for and are the beneficiaries of the said loan which pretence you knew was false and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 1(1)(b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under section 1(3) of the same Act".

He has pleaded "not guilty" to the charges and his trial is currently ongoing.

# Ishaq's Pandora's Box

*The EFCC begins prosecution of suspected fraudster caught with boxes of 2,886 ATM cards*

**D**o you remember Abubakar Ishaq, the suspected fraudster who was taken into custody by the EFCC on September 10, 2020 for concealing 2,886 Automated Teller Machine (ATM) cards and four Subscriber Identification Module (SIM) cards in boxes of noodles? The judicial bell now tolls for him.

He was handed over to the EFCC by the Nigeria Customs Service after his arrest at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos on his way to Dubai, on August 22, 2020. And the EFCC made good proof of its promise to investigate the case, which was taken over by the Lagos Command of the Commission.

He was arraigned before Justice P.O. Lifu

of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos on an 11-count charge bordering on cybercrimes, on December 8, 2021. Investigation revealed that 10 of the 2,863 ATM cards were stolen, as the owners had confirmed losing their cards, which were found in his possession. It was further revealed that the remaining ATM cards were handed over to him by some persons in Kano for onward delivery to their contacts in Dubai for monetary benefits.

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charges and was granted bail in the sum of N50million, with two sureties in like sum, one of whom must provide land ownership proof in Lagos, while the other must be a civil servant not below

Grade Level 14. He is expected back in court on February 18, 2022.





# End of the Road

*Man bags one year for N1.4m fraud in Borno*

**O**sigbe Irumekhai, who was prosecuted by the Maiduguri Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, for offences bordering on obtaining money by false pretence has no doubt learnt the hard way that crime does not pay.

Irumekhai was brought before Justice Aisha Kumaliya of the Borno State High Court, sitting in Maiduguri, and accused of defrauding his victim of N1.4million. He allegedly obtained the money from his victim under the guise that he needed it to execute a purported supply contract awarded to him by the United Nations Humanitarian Commission for Refugees, UNHCR, which turned out to be false. It's an offence contrary to Section 320 of the Penal Code Law

Cap 102, Laws of Borno State 1994 and punishable under Section 322 of the same Law.

In view of the weight of evidence gathered against him by the EFCC, he chose not to waste the judicial time of the court, and pleaded "guilty" to the one count brought against him.

He was on November 25, 2021 sentenced to one year in prison, with an option of N500,000 as fine.



# Fingers Burnt

*Employment scam lands a civil servant in jail in Enugu*

**I**t can be rightly said that Onwubuya Polycarp has got his fingers burnt. The staff of the Federal Civil Service Commission, is currently being prosecuted by the Enugu Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC for employment fraud.

He was arraigned before Justice F.O. Ogunbajo of the Federal High Court Sitting In Enugu, December 8, 2021, on a three-count charge bordering on obtaining money by false pretence to the tune of N1.6million, which he received from Uche Johnfred on the pretext that he would help secure employment for him and his relatives in the Federal Civil Service.

He is expected back in Court on March 14, 2022 having pleaded "not guilty" to the charges.

***The staff of the Federal Civil Service Commission, is currently being prosecuted by the Enugu Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC for employment fraud.***





# Donkey Hide Scammer

*A trader in donkey hide, bags two years for a N3.6million fraud in Gombe*



**By the time you are reading this, Orji Onoh, a businessman prosecuted by the EFCC for issuing a dud cheque of N3,649,500 is currently cooling his heels in detention.**

**B**y the time you are reading this, Orji Onoh, a businessman prosecuted by the EFCC for issuing a dud cheque of N3,649,500 is currently cooling his heels in detention.

Onoh's ordeal started sometime between February and March 2016 when he was paid the sum of N28,358,000 for the supply of Donkey

Hide, but he only delivered goods worth N21,379,000. Rather than owning up to his breach of the terms of the agreement, he instead, issued a dud cheque of N3,649,500 in favour of Blazers Brothers Global Resources Limited; but it "bounced" due to insufficient funds.

He pleaded "not guilty" upon his arraignment leading to a full-blown

trial which saw the prosecution call three witnesses and tendering several documents. The defendant, on the other hand, called one witness.

At the end of the trial, Justice J. A. Awak of the Gombe State High Court, Gombe found him guilty as charged and sentenced him to two years in prison, starting from the date of his arrest. He was also ordered to reconstitute the N3,649,500 to the nominal complainant.

# Awry Business Deal

*Dud cheque lands Kaduna businessman in jail*

**P**erhaps, Chidiebere Solomon thought issuing a cheque to someone, when you know it would be dishonoured, was nothing more than just handing over that cheque slip for the fun of it.

If he thought so, he has no doubt now learnt the very hard way such an act is a violation of the Dishonoured Cheques (Offences Act) 2004, which makes it a criminal offence for any person anywhere in Nigeria to issue a dud cheque, simply known as a "bounced cheque".

The charge against him reads: "That you, Chidi Chiwetaoke Solomon and Soul Mate Productions Global Services Limited, between the months of

September to November 2019 at Kaduna, within the jurisdiction of the High Court of Kaduna State, did intentionally induced one Abraham Chimezie Okonkwo to do you a movie directing job worth the total sum of One Million, Fifty Thousand Naira which he would not have done if he were not so deceived by you as a result has caused harm to his reputation and you thereby committed the offence of cheating contrary to Section 306(b) and punishable under Section 307 of the Penal Code Law of Kaduna State 2017".

Ignorance is however, no defence in law. He has been convicted by Justice M.T.M Aliyu of the Kaduna State High

Court for issuing the dud cheque of N1,050,000 and sentenced to 10 years in prison. He was however, given an option of N200,000 as fine.







Economic and Financial Crimes Commission  
announces the launch of



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the reporting of economic and financial crimes

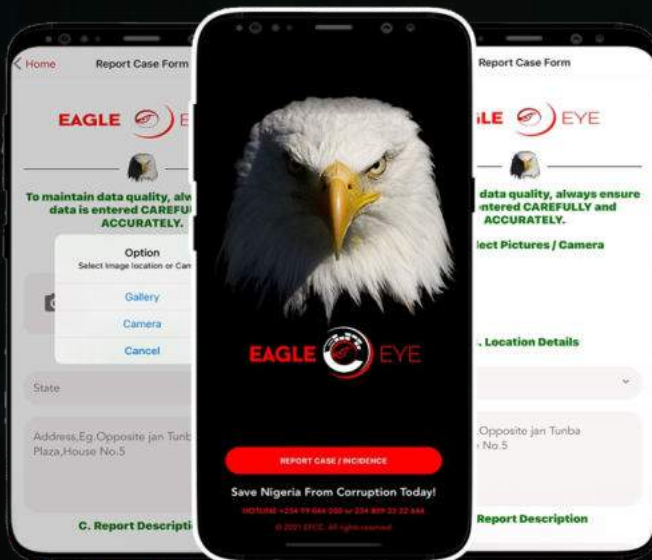


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