**VOL 17 NO 3 MARCH 2022** 



# EFCCALERT!





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## PITHY COMMENTS



"There are still those who think a politician who steals is some kind of Robin Hood, instead of being vilified; some people believe that if 'my kinsman steals it is ok', [so] it is important to completely delegitimize corruption especially through the way it is communicated." – *Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, Vice President, Nigeria.* 



"Any person who has no integrity in small things cannot have integrity in big things. Fixing Nigeria must begin on the principles of nation-building, not necessarily on emotion, sentiments, euphoria, ignorance, incompetence, ethnicity, nepotism, bigotry, sectionalism, regionalism, religion or class." - Olusegun Obasanjo, former President of Nigeria.



"If an individual who is corrupt is arrested in a multi-ethnic nation like Nigeria, or Kenya, he or she would recruit people from his ethnic group to say 'yes, he is a thief, but he is our thief'; so, the political leadership in Africa must demonstrate that impunity would not be tolerated." – *Prof. Patrice Lumumba, a former Director, Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission.* 



"Corruption is not just about giving or taking money, corruption is about not doing the right thing. And, why are we corrupt? Because of a lack of understanding. Because we do not understand that - we don't need too much." - *late Dora Akunyili, a former Director-General, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control, NAFDAC.* 



"If you steal, you are taking what does not belong to you, so obviously you are corrupt, because that is the definition of corruption – taking something belonging to another person without the consent of that person; so there is no difference." – *Prof. Itse Sagay, Chairman, Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption, PACAC.* 



# Unveiling of a New Phase

The EFCC unveils several documents aimed at standardizing and institutionalizing its fight against corruption, as the President admonishes other government agencies to follow in its footsteps

The event of Friday, March 25, 2022 will forever remain a reference point, and indeed, turning point in the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC's fight against corruption. For the first time since its establishment in April 2003, the anticorruption agency, took a bold step forward, towards institutionalizing its operations, by unveiling at the State House, Abuja, the guiding philosophy for all its departments documented in published Standard Operating Procedures, Policies, and Manuals.

The modest gathering at the State House, Abuja, saw an enthusiastic President Muhammadu Buhari, literally showering praises on the Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa, describing the step taken by the EFCC Boss, as a right step in the right direction, and one which other agencies of government should emulate.

"I am glad to note that the war against corruption, which is one of the cardinal objectives of this administration, is being strengthened through the institutionalization of operational procedures, particularly as they form the building blocks of transparency and accountability in administration and public expenditure," he said.

Commending the visionary leadership of the Bawa-led EFCC, particularly the 2,220 convictions recorded as well as the over N152billion and \$285million recovered from the corrupt in the past year, he said, "I would like to use this opportunity to encourage other Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government, especially Law Enforcement Agencies to ensure the standardization of their processes within the extant laws and regulations as provided in our statutes."

While pledging his administration's commitment to ensuring "the sustainability of initiatives already commenced in actualizing our vision of a corrupt free society", President Buhari further charged the EFCC to avoid being used for partisan politics or get dragged

"I am glad to note that the war against corruption, which is one of the cardinal objectives of this administration, is being strengthened through the institutionalization of operational procedures, particularly as they form the building blocks of transparency and accountability in administration and public expenditure,"

into personal disputes.

"I must advise the leadership and operatives of this Commission to resist the temptation of being used for partisan politics or be dragged into personal disputes. Your job is to serve the nation in its efforts to entrench good governance," he said.

Indeed, for Bawa, it was another promise kept, in his quest to bequeath the anti-graft agency a lasting and indelible legacy.

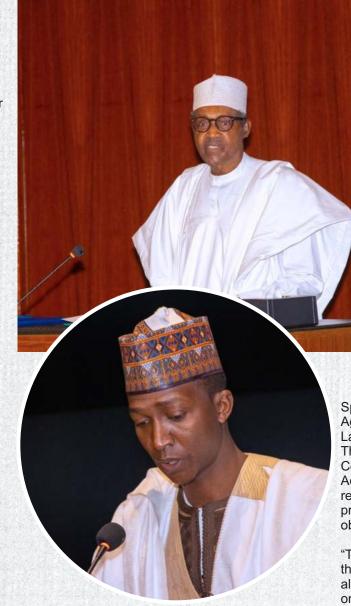
Describing the unveiling of the 26 Standard Operating Procedures, and 25 Policies and Manuals of the Commission as a fulfilment of the pledge he made at his screening before the National Assembly in February 2021, aimed at standardizing its operations and discouraging unbridled discretion in the workplace, he stressed that with the Policies and Manuals, "the Commission now boasts of a unique DNA, as all personnel know what is expected of them per time".

He further disclosed that the Policies and Manuals were in tandem with the strategic vision of the Commission as contained in the EFCC Strategic Plan (2021 -2025).

The Plan, according to him, "is anchored on five objectives of increased public engagement, improved systems and processes, intelligence driven investigation, prosecution and assets recovery, improved law enforcement coordination and collaboration and enhanced institutional and human capacity development".

He added that: "We have in the last one year restructured the Departments and Units of the Commission for improved efficiency. I established a Department of Intelligence to drive my vision for intelligence-led investigation. The Commission designed and launched a crime reporting Application, Eagle Eye, the first of its kind in Nigeria. The App which was launched in July 2021 is now a treasure trove of intelligence for the Commission.

"I have also restructured the Legal and Prosecution Department and the



"is anchored on five objectives of increased public engagement, improved systems and processes, intelligence driven investigation, prosecution and assets recovery, improved law enforcement coordination and collaboration and enhanced institutional and human capacity development".

Special Control Unit Against Money Laundering, SCUML. The training arm of the Commission, the EFCC Academy has been renovated and fully primed to deliver its objectives.

"The morale of staff of the Commission have also improved in the last one year." Bawa seized the

opportunity to commend the President for approving an enhanced welfare scheme for the Commission and concluded by saying that, "there is nothing wrong with Nigeria that cannot be [made] right, with what is right about Nigeria."

Documents unveiled at the event, which had in attendance government dignitaries, include Standard Operating Procedure for Departments and Units, Policies On Codes and Standards of Professional Behaviour; Use of Firearms and Ammunition, Orderly Room Trial; Staff Welfare; Document Security and Classification; Health, Safety and Environment; Sexual Harassment and Bullying, Health, Official Correspondence, Information and Communication Technology Acceptable Usage, Official Vehicles and Fleet, among others

# EFCC Not Telequided - Bawa

On the mark of his one-year anniversary leading the affairs of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, the Executive Chairman, Abdulrasheed Bawa, held a maiden engagement with stakeholders in the media landscape, which provided a forum for a report of his stewardship and an opportunity to rally members of the Fourth Estate of the Realm to support the Commission's efforts in their respective roles, to sanitize the Nigeria of economic and financial crimes.

Addressing several issues raised by the media executives, Bawa seized the chance of the rapport, held at the Conference Hall of the Colossus Hotel, Ikeja, Lagos, March 7, 2022 to provide insights on where he is leading the anti-corruption agency and what has been achieved so far.

### Excerpts:

### The journey so far

I consider my appointment as a privilege [and opportunity] to use my experience and skills acquired in nearly two decades of my career as a law enforcement officer, to tackle the problem [of corruption in our country] head-on.

And [you will recall that] when I appeared before the Senate for my confirmation over a year ago, I outlined some of the programmes that I intended to execute as Chairman of the EFCC. Among this was the quest to make the Commission intelligence and technology driven. I also promised to enhance institution-building through reform of [existing] systems, processes and procedures.

It is [therefore], with a sense of humility, that I report to this gathering that the spine of my reform agenda of the Commission has been achieved in my first year in office - [establishment of the] Intelligence Department and Eagle

Eye App; restructuring of Departments and Units; restructuring of the Special Control Unit against Money Laundering (SCUML); [documentation] of Policies and Manuals [on Standard Operating Procedures]; Welfare Reforms; Training and EFCC Academy rehabilitation; Corruption prevention efforts like the Eradication of Pension Fraud Summit, Interfaith programme, Zero Tolerance and Integrity Clubs in schools.

All of these reforms translated into improvement in the Commission's overall performance in 2021, with 2,220 recorded convictions and assets of over N152 billion and \$386 million recovered.

Let me assure you that this is just the beginning. The EFCC under my watch shall be the law enforcement agency to beat.

In September 2021, we rolled out a fiveyear Strategic Plan (2021- 2025), which provides a sort of roadmap of action and activities that will enable the Commission achieve its vision of a Nigeria freeof economic and financial crimes; and mission of eradicating economic and financial crimes through prevention, enforcement and effective coordination.

The EFCC and the media must stand side-by-side against the corrupt, and work hand-in-hand to reclaim our patrimony from those who do not wish Nigeria well.

## Obasanjo's comment on corrupt politicians seeking public office

[On] the comment of His Excellency, the former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo. To start with, I wish Baba a very happy birthday. Of course, there are rather few Nigerians that you can compare to the fact that they love their country more than Baba himself. He has always been in public space, and he has served this country [with] all his



energy and time and resources, from the time that he was in the military up till the time that he came back as an elected president.

And of course, Baba is right. That there are some people out there, that we have cases against them, which of course, you are aware [of]. But there is this presumption of innocence, until proven guilty.

Even if the matters are in court, inasmuch as the judge did not pronounce that you are guilty, you still have the right to go and contest elections. That is the truth. That is the situation that we find ourselves today.

But of course, you are aware, that for instance, there are quite a number of people that have said that they want to be president, whom we are in court with, some of whom, you the investigative journalists have written one or two articles about, based on how you got your information about it.

#### Alleged takeover of cases by Attorney General of the Federation

Even if the Office of the Attorney General wants to do that (take over a case), they will write to my office. In every circumstance, you find out that you have some people there that are just trying to do things that their bosses are not even aware of. Or they are trying to cause one or two problems.

I think in one of the instances that such happened, it was not even a lawyer working in the Office of the Attorney General. Are you not aware that in this country, somebody has been parading himself as a General, duping people left-right-centre?

How many at times, will you see operatives arresting Nigerians, claiming to be law enforcement officers? We even have a situation here in Lagos, where somebody has been practising as a lawyer; he was not even called to Bar. So things like that can happen.

#### Relationship with the Judiciary

We have a very cordial relationship with the judiciary. Is it perfect? The answer is "no". Do we want to improve on it? The answer is "yes". But look at the numbers, in 2016, the EFCC recorded 1095 or 1096 convictions, last year, we recorded 2,220. You can see the numbers.

## Sharp increase in 2021 conviction record

Yes of course, we don't have any statistics to show that there is that rise in criminality. But I want to see it as part of the benefits of the very robust relationship with the Judiciary. Of course, the fact that we take our cases to court and we are diligent in our own prosecution. We have done quite a number of things, to revamp and reorganize our own legal department as well. And of course, we have been reaching out; we have been talking to one another, between ourselves and the Judiciary. And, hence, of course, the numbers increased to that extent. But it is not something that just happened overnight. From 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 the numbers have been of course, increasing.

## Indiscipline, corrupt practices among EFCC officers



We are among the few public institutions that have a full-fledged department called the Department of Internal Affairs. What that department does, is to police us and investigate complaints from the general public, against any of our staff, against any action or inaction of we the operatives that are out there interfacing with the general public. If you have any complaint, you can write to the Department of Internal Affairs. They are there, working towards seeing that justice is done. To look at it (the complaint) and of course to unravel what it is, and then after, and there are also the provisions in the Staff Regulation.

Also within the kernel of investigation itself, one single individual doesn't handle because investigation is usually

MONETARY RECOVERIES (JANUARY - DECEMBER, 2021)											
	NGN ( <del>N</del> )	USD (\$)	GBP (£)	EUR (€)	AED ())	CAD (\$)	SAR (ر.س)	ZAR (RAND)	DIGITAL CURRENCY		
HEADQUARTERS	67,249,744,994.89	375,662,223.59	1,151,539.75	155,251.76	-	-	-	-	-		
LAGOS	70,315,911,260.52	9,286,497.83	21,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	4.06142848BTC 0.09012ETH		
ABUJA	1,301,864,565.43	60,650.00	2,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-		
KANO	1,782,781,768.94	194,098.00	-	-	-	-	1,723,310.00	-	-		
MAIDUGURI	970,424,288.76	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
BENIN	972,058,991.00	49,240.00	735.00	-	-	-	-	-	-		
sокото	1,928,807,015.98	56,950.00	4,075.00	-	-	-	=	-	-		
ILORIN	240,960,080.44	7,161.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
PORT HARCOURT	2,149,058,169.41	125,077.43	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
MAKURDI	121,350,559.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
GOMBE	388,592,413.54	1,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
UYO	234,006,942.00	357,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
KADUNA	3,339,405,723.93	13,685.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
ENUGU	768,204,344.00	22,735.00	-	-	50.00	-	-	-	-		
IBADAN	325,527,633.80	383,385.00	2,670.00	995.00	-	1,400.00	-	1900.00	1.30814471BTC		
TOTAL	152,088,698,751.64	386,220,202.85	1,182,519.75	156,246.76	50.00	1,400.00	1,723,310.00	1900.00	5.36957319BTC 0.09012ETH		



We are studying the trends, we are studying the technology and the technology changes on almost daily basis. So we are working.

## Pressure being a young man heading EFCC

There's no challenge, no pressure, it's part of the work. Somebody has to do the work. And how can you say that a 40-year-old man is a young man. As a Christian you should know that it is at 40 that so many things happen to one's life as an adult. I believe we are up to the task; yes we have a young organisation, young officers that are determined to do the right thing. But the experience that we have is so huge

done as a team. And so, it is very difficult for one to now say that he has compromised the entire team carrying out the investigation. Another thing is that, we have this belief or thinking that once someone is arrested then he must be guilty. It is still an allegation that can be proved or disproved. Proving it can take one month, one year or two years. And that does not mean that he will not be given bail. All EFCC cases are bailable offences. He has to enjoy his bail and his freedom. So it is not enough to say 'yes and arrest was made but the person is working free'. You can also use the EFCC Eagle Eye Application, if you so wish, to report any act of indiscipline that you feel should be brought to the attention of the Commission.

## Prevalence of cybercrime among Nigerian youths

I think it is a huge problem that Nigerians should understand and come to terms with, that we need to do something about it. We need to work together. And for our younger ones that are into it, we need to be talking to them. The society is aware of what we are doing. We are investigating, we are gathering intelligence and of course we are also prosecuting; but it should be geared towards prevention of such vices. That is why we are working towards reaching as many stakeholders as possible to understand the problem.

Recently we are in partnership with the Governor's Forum, and we are



trying to strengthen how that relationship will play out in the long run. We have made a presentation to them to let them know that there is a problem here, there is a timebomb here. They are concerned about the activities of these 419ers. We are also doing a lot to sensitize the youths about the ills of internet fraud. We are launching more Integrity Clubs in Secondary Schools, and Zero Tolerance clubs at the university.

Last December, they were even about to carry out an award night in Abeokuta, Ogun State, before the EFCC disrupted that. So it's a huge problem that is tarnishing the image of this country and we all have to do something about it. On our part, we are doing our best, but we are calling on all Nigerians to join hands with us to ensure that this menace of cybercrime is gotten rid of. But it is a huge problem.

that [I can boldly say that] we are up to the task. We have shown that we are up to the task, and we will continue to do our bit.

#### On recoveries

There are direct recoveries, there are indirect recoveries and the victims of those crimes are receiving those funds, based on the pronouncement of the Court. There is no ambiguity here. Some people are trying to make somethings out of it, but it is what it is. But we are working hard, towards seeing that we digitalize our processes, records are being kept intact, so that at the press of a button we should be able to have the details. And I think that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Be rest assured that those victims of crimes are the ones that benefit from what is recovered.

# Tightening Noose Against Cybercriminals

The past weeks, indeed, months have seen the EFCC make headway in the arrest of members of international syndicate of fraudsters wanted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI for various forms of internet fraud - Business Email Compromise, BEC, romance/love scam, among others.

The efforts and collaboration are part of the efforts of the EFCC to stem the tide of the unfortunate prevalent cases of internet fraud, which has gravely damaged the image of the country on the international stage.

Below is a highlight of major round up of alleged fraudsters wanted by the FBI for their roles in international cybercrime, and who had hitherto evaded arrest for years:

# 52-year-old Yahoo Boy

sondu Victor Igwilo, 52, who had been on the watch list of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, since 2018, was poked out of his hiding on March 11, 2022, when operatives of the Lagos Zonal Command of the EFCC, swooped on him.

He is the alleged leader of a criminal network of "catchers". He was arrested alongside Okafor Nnamdi Chris, Nwodu Uchenna Emmaunel and John Anazo Achukwu at a studio in the highbrow Sangotedo area of Lagos for their collusion in an alleged \$100 million money laundering and aggravated identity theft.

Before their arrest, Igwilo and his accomplices had allegedly been involved in an advance-fee scheme that involved false promises of investment funding by individuals who impersonated some United States of America, USA, bank officials in person and via the internet.

Investigation revealed that those who fell victims of the suspects' criminal activities were asked to



## CYBERCRIME WATCH



make certain payments before they could receive their funding. It was also revealed that proceeds of the scheme were allegedly laundered through U.S. bank accounts and diverted back to the alleged perpetrators in Nigeria. Consequently, Igwilo was placed on the FBI watch list, following a criminal complaint filed against him in the United States District Court, Houston, Texas in December 2016.

Following their arrest, five houses located in choice areas of Lagos were recovered from Igwilo. The arrest of Osondu was a huge breakthrough, so much so that the U.S Government went a step further to commend the EFCC for its efforts, issuing a statement via the U.S. Mission in Nigeria's Twitter handle: "With Justice as our mutual priority, we congratulate @officialEFCC for partnering with the @FBI & arresting long-time wanted suspect Igwilo for fraud conspiracy, money laundering and aggravated identity theft".

## Enugu Hotbed

peratives of the Enugu Zonal Command of the EFCC on March 23, 2022 arrested Emmanuel Dike Chidiebere, a suspect on the watch list of the American Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, for conspiracy, wire fraud and money laundering.

Acting on verified intelligence, operatives of the Commission tracked the suspect to Orlu Local Government Area of Imo State where he was arrested.

Chidiebere is alleged to have defrauded some victims in America, Cote d'Ivoire and Poland of some undisclosed amount of money, after which he disappeared into thin air, until the EFCC smoked him out.



## Church G.O. with no Joy

elechi Vitalis Anozie, self-acclaimed General Overseer, G.O. of Praying City Church located in Owerri, Imo State, also on the wanted list of the FBI for allegedly conniving with four other suspects: Valentine Iro, Ekene Ekechukwu (alias Ogedi Power), Bright Azubuike (alias Bright Bauer Azubuike) and Ifeanyi Junior, to allegedly defraud one F.F. who lives in Illinois, United States, of the sum of \$135,800 US Dollars and another \$47,000 was on March 10, 2022 arrested by operatives of the Enugu Zonal Command of the EFCC.



# Bawa is NACOWA President

From being the first agency to host the first-ever training programme of NACIWA, West Africa's coalition of anti-corruption agencies, the EFCC makes history as it produces the next president of the organisation



all it a home-coming for the Presidency of the Network of National Anti-Corruption Institutions in West Africa, NACIWA – the body tasked with increasing capacity to combat corruption within national anti-corruption institutions in the 16-nation

organization, and you will definitely be hitting the nail on the head.

On March 21, 2022, barely 17 days after marking his one year in office as Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abdulrasheed Bawa emerged as the President of NACIWA at a modest gathering to mark the 5th Annual General Assembly of NACIWA, held in Abuja, March 21-22, 2022.

Commending the exemplary leadership of his predecessor, Francis Ben Kaifala, who led the organisation in the last three years, Bawa stressed that his vision was to strengthen and harmonise administrative and legal frameworks in combating

corrupt practices in the region, and to enhance cooperation within NACIMA member states for borderless investigation of illicit financial flows.

"The ECOWAS sub-region is threatened by existential security challenges, which may not be unrelated directly or indirectly to corruption," he said. "We must therefore, intensify efforts to stem the spate of illicit financial flows within the sub-region including illicit flows by Politically Exposed Persons, PEPs."

It will be recalled that the EFCC made history on September 28, 2015, when its Academy in Karu, Abuja, hosted the first-ever training programme of NACIWA, which was newly created that year.

# Aremo Goes Home

A former Secretary of the EFCC passes on at 60

he death of Emmanuel
Adegboyega Aremo, a
consummate lawyer who
served as the second Secretary to
the Economic and Financial Crimes
Commission, EFCC, came as a
rude shock.

Aremo, a native of Akungba-Akoko, Ondo State, who died on February 15, 2022 was the Commission's Secretary between July 2013 to July 2018.

He served as Secretary to the Commission, under Ibrahim

Lamorde and then Ibrahim Magu, in whose tenure he served out his fiveyear tenure.

During his tenure as Secretary, the Commission expanded its reach and accessibility to the grassroots with the creation of the Ibadan, Benin, Kaduna, Sokoto, and Uyo Zonal Commands.

A champion and campaigner for improved staff welfare, Aremo, whose burial is slated for April 23, 2022 is survived by his wife and children.





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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