



A COMPENDIUM OF 100 HIGH PROFILE CORRUPTION CASES IN NIGERIA

[As at 22nd of November, 2020]

4TH EDITION

A Publication of Human and Environmental Development Agenda

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MacArthur
Foundation

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BY



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Preface

The year 2020 is a remarkable one in Nigeria's history of anti-graft crusade. It is remarkable not because there's an improvement in the country's anti-corruption drive, but for its worsening state, considering the nation's poor ranking by Transparency International and the calibre of people indicted for corrupt practices. According to T.I (2020), Nigeria is now the world's 34th most corrupt nation, dropping one point from the 2018 ranking. Despite the government's claim on winning the war against corruption, most Nigerians and the international community ironically still consistently perceive the country as a very corrupt nation.

In 2020, the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Senator Godswill Akpabio, said most of the contracts of the Niger Delta Development Commission were awarded to members of the National Assembly contrary to the stipulation of the constitution. More so, the NDDC Acting Managing Director, Prof. Kemebradikumo Pondei dramatically slumped while being interrogated on fraud and financial recklessness in NDDC.

Revelations from the complicity of key Nigerian stakeholders in the PSID failed contract and the emergence of young Nigerian internet fraudsters like Ramon Abbas Igbalode, Alias Hushpuppi and Ismaila Mustapha (alias Mompha) have further put Nigeria to international ridicule in terms of corruption perception. These are in addition to the several existing and new high profile corruption cases involving politically exposed persons such as former Governors, Senators, Ministers and heads of key government agencies in Nigeria. This edition of the compendium covers some of such cases with the most recent updates. The current edition features a reportage of a total number of 100 high profile cases of corruption, most of which are currently pending at various stages in courts

This edition differs from the previous editions with the following highlights:

- a. Removal of cases with no updates for a long period of time and replacement with ongoing cases with updates in 2019/2020.
- b. Attention to the essential issues only, for precise reportage of the selected court cases,
- c. Reportage of the cases with emphasis on clarity and brevity
- d. Relevant updates for cases in previous editions that were not retained in this edition are added in a tabular format.
- e. A table of content with a summary of the cases.

On the whole, this 4th edition introduces a total number of 45 new cases, while 55 cases from the previous edition were removed due to redundancy as a result of non availability of updates in the media as to their current status and a vast majority of the cases were also deleted as a result of conclusion of the cases by an acquittal, conviction or a striking out order by the relevant courts. Of the 55 cases removed from the current edition, 29 of them were as a result of a proper conclusion of the cases by the courts following conviction or acquittal. There were also some cases that are currently not ongoing by reason of the provisions of the immunity clause under the 1999 Constitution.

It is worth noting on a general note, from the observation of cases that the axe of justice seems to grind

very slowly in this part of the world, as it was also remarked in the Vice President, Professor Yemi Osinbajo's address at the recently concluded Nigerian Bar Association Virtual Conference 2020, where he lamented the terribly slow pace of trial in the country and as such proposed the need for a reform of the judiciary by introducing time limits for all cases, just as has been introduced for election petitions. He said:

“The question of speed raises a related concern. In the context of a competitive global economy, the speed of our legal institutions and processes must match and keep up with the global pace of transactions. This has implications for our efforts to promote the ease of doing business and position Nigeria as a favored investment destination.

Enhancing the speed of our court processes brings the options provided by technology into focus. Digitization of court processes, records and services is very much the new frontier of justice delivery and will dramatically enhance access to justice and affect trial timelines.

COVID-19 is highlighting the possibilities of virtual platforms in every dimension of service delivery and going forward, we must maximize these possibilities in the justice sector.”

A cursory glance through the 100 cases reported in this compendium over the last four years reveals an imminent need for a full implementation of the relevant provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015 relating to the curtailment of adjournments in the trial of criminal cases in the country. This compendium of corruption cases also reveals the obvious bias towards technicality over the clear common sense justice of cases as opposed to the trite doctrine that “Justice must not only be done, but must be seen as done”

On the above, the Vice President in his address referred to above said:

“If justice is to be seen to be done, then the outcomes of cases must make sense to the average person and not just to the refined minds of learned persons alone. Justice must make sense to lawyers and non-lawyers alike. As a matter of fact, to non-lawyers, because we (lawyers) are in the minority.

In any event, the triumph of technicalities opens a door for all sorts of unsavory speculation about the true motives of the court and can only detract slowly but surely from the authority of our courts.”

Finally, while this publication reveals a saddening and gloomy state of rampant corrupt activities of the politically exposed elites in collaboration with some greedy individuals who seem hell bent on milking the country dry at the expense of the masses, it is hoped that subsequent editions of this compendium will show a huge improvement in judicial decisions which will put the 'kleptocratic tendencies' of some of the government officials and individuals in check through the appropriate legal means available under our various laws.

FOREWORD

The New Webster Dictionary of the English Language, defines the word corruption as “depraved, changed from sound to a putrid state, open to bribery, to pervert, dishonest, make wicked, to defile, to falsify” etc.

This gives us a good idea of the nature of corruption. Something “depraved”, “putrid”, is rotten, decayed, perversion: so when we say someone is corrupt, you immediately begin to appreciate his character, his nature, his moral depravity.

Corruption has also been defined as “abuse of public office for private gain”. But the narrowness of this definition reduces its utility. I prefer to define corruption as the process of obtaining something of value or achieving an end by irregular or illegitimate means. It always involves abuse of position by someone. This definition covers private sector corruption, which is an important contributor to the negative impact of corruption on society.

The ramifications of corruption are extensive. There is what I refer to as political corruption, for example, buying political supporters or rigging elections; financial and economic corruption which is the most common and the type that has taken Nigeria by storm in recent times; examination corruption which involves cheating and academic corruption involving plagiarism and so on.

Corruption can arise virtually in every aspect of human activity. In recent years, we have been confronted with corruption in all sectors of the economy; Banking, Rural electrification, PHCN, Halliburton, Siemens Scam, Local Organizing Committee (LOC) Scams, Subsidy Scam, NNPC Colossal frauds, Dasuki Gate, Armed Forces Scams, Budget padding; the list is endless.

It has come to this: whenever groups of Nigerians are put in charge of a project and money is allocated, the first action of the group is to divert a large proportion of the funds to themselves. In my view, the harmful and devastating nature of corruption is not just the lack of moral scruples; the consequences of corruption is a major factor in underdevelopment.

Corruption in African countries is particularly devastating because it diverts already limited funds to a few unproductive pockets, undermines social welfare and economic progress, and impedes development. The consequences are endless. Projects are uncompleted, roads and other types of infrastructure are not maintained, work paid for by public funds, are substandard or abandoned. It creates massive unemployment, costs are inflated and poverty, pain, misery, and underdevelopment are perpetually inflicted on the masses. Corruption increases the cost of doing business, wastes resources, radically reduces state revenue, and creates a poor service delivery.

This is also reflected in Nigeria's position in the Human Development Index which is a comparative measure of life expectancy, literacy, education, the standard of living, etc. It is a standard means of measuring the general well-being of the population of a country. Nigeria is always ranked near the bottom out of 188 countries, even though we possess enormous natural and human resources, unlike Togo, Benin, Niger, Central African Republic, Burkina Faso, Chad, Haiti, Sudan, South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, and Mali, with whom we are grouped in the HDI. Corruption is at the root of our low position in this index of the human standard of living.

We have to ask ourselves what the problem really is. Why this feeding frenzy? Why are we so overwhelmed by an epidemic of Kleptomania? Do we have a collective pathological problem? Why would a person loot what he cannot spend in 10 lifetimes, whilst exposing the rest of the population to misery, hunger, poverty, wretchedness, and even death? This is the monster of corruption presently confronting our Country.

FOREWORD

With regard to the international aspect of corruption, the picture is equally dismal. In a study entitled, Nigeria: Illicit Financial Flows due to Trade Misinvoicing, 1960 – 2012 released in 2015, Global Financial Integrity stated thus:

“Global Financial Integrity (GFI) analyzes illicit flows, the shift of money from emerging markets and developing countries into external coffers. We estimate that from all developing countries, US\$1 trillion flows annually from poorer to richer nations. Trade misinvoicing is by far the most commonly used technique to accomplish this – the underside of international commerce.

We estimate that Nigeria lost US\$83 billion dollars during the period 1960 – 2011. Outflows accelerated during the last five years of available data to more than US\$5 billion annually.”

This annual compendium of 100 high profile cases of corruption in Nigeria illustrates and confirms the pervasiveness and overwhelming level of public corruption in Nigeria.

Sadly, the clear consequences of corruption in Nigeria and the obviously vigorous prosecution of the culprits have not resulted in a decline in the rate and volume of corruption. The reason for this may lie in the fact that less than 5% of high profile public officers prosecuted for corruption have so far been convicted. The major deterrent is the adverse publicity that prosecution brings to such people. But in a country in which wealth counts over character, the road to new integrity dawn in Nigeria continues to look discouragingly long and winding.

But the work of the Compendium in revealing the face of corruption in Nigeria is a significant step in our long march towards a corruption-free Nigeria.

Professor Itsejuwa Esanjumi Sagay (SAN)

Chairman, Presidential Advisory Committee Against Corruption.

BACKGROUND

Corruption has robbed Nigeria of opportunities for development in critical sectors. It is perhaps the most troubling issue in Nigeria as of today. It is a major setback to the development of Nigeria. Corruption has reduced the incentive for investment, increases the cost of the transaction and provides an environment dictated by a questionable approach to issues of economic and political magnitude. It is responsible for political instability, economic underdevelopment, low administrative efficiency, insurgency, forced migration, infrastructural decay and widespread poverty. It is the single greatest hindrance to socio-economic development and it weakens the institutional foundation on which economic growth and development depend.

Transparency International has consistently rated Nigeria as one of the most corrupt countries in the world. Nigeria was once ranked as the most corrupt country in the world in 2000. It became the second most corrupt country between 2001 and 2003, falling next to Bangladesh; 2004's report showed a little improvement, as it fell to 3rd position. The country became the 8th most corrupt country in 2005 and astronomically improved to the 21st most corrupt country in 2006. In 2007, Nigeria ranked 33rd most corrupt country while in 2012 the Nation got 37th position. 2013 report returned Nigeria to 33rd position while 2014 report placed the nation as 38th most corrupt country on earth. In 2015, Nigeria was ranked 32nd most corrupt country and in 2018 it reduced to the 40th position. The 2017 report ranks Nigeria as the 39th most corrupt country in the world (<http://www.transparency.org>).

Expectedly, Nigeria has now overtaken India as the nation with the highest number of extremely poor people, according to a 2018 report by Brookings Institute. Before now, India used to occupy the unenviable position with a population of 1.324 billion people as against Nigeria's 200 million. According to the report, the number of Nigerians in extreme poverty increases by six people every minute. At the end of May 2018, our trajectories suggest that Nigeria had about 87 million people in extreme poverty, compared with India's 73 million. What is more, extreme poverty in Nigeria is growing by six people every minute, while poverty in India continues to fall.

Ironically, corruption cases in Nigeria run into hundreds, making up billions of dollars if successfully prosecuted. Commendably, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission has recovered billions of Naira in local and foreign currencies through non-conviction based asset recovery action. Yet, progress has been very slow. This document contains information on the current situation of some high-profile cases in Nigeria.

WHY THE COMPENDIUM?

Corruption cases like other court cases do not initially enjoy any special sequencing since there were no courts dedicated to them. Consequently, sheer mentions and even trials endure with the citizens for a limited time only to pale into insignificance with time. Some citizens who tend to take keen interest manage to follow through the media if there are exciting dimensions that readily attract the media from some of the cases.

Unfortunately, beat associations including that of judicial correspondents are now very influential on the perspectives of coverage of all issues and events, including court cases. Yet, citizen journalists may not be totally reliable for credible accounts especially, for such that may require specialized skills like court reporting. For these and other related reasons, we felt compelled to rise to the challenge of providing the concerned members of the general public, including researchers, what we consider verifiable information on as many as 100 high profile corruption and financial crimes cases that had begun since 2005. The ultimate goal is to raise the bar of citizens' consciousness for the indispensability of transparency and accountability, in their quest for the country's recovery from economic hardship, which hardly attracts any explanation or fuel any popular mobilization. The specific objectives of the compendium are:

To investigate and collate otherwise isolated high-profile cases of corruption and financial crimes in governments at all levels, beginning from 2005.

To examine the pattern of the management of the cases by officers (Prosecutors, defense counsels, judges, court officials etc) in the temple of Justice.

To investigate and document the amounts involved in relation to the official status of each suspect.

We shall in future analysis the cost of investigating and prosecuting an average case of corruption and financial crimes.

Its is to set in motion the process of reviewing and identifying contributions of each stakeholder to the delays experienced in the speedy dispensation of corruption and financial crimes cases.

METHODOLOGY

Two consultant researchers were mandated to comb all possible sources of information and report conscientiously. Defying all traditional inhibitions, they finally succeeded in gathering information on no fewer than 100 high profile cases as mandated to produce the original version of this publication. Subsequently, three researchers were mandated to provide a review of the cases and they finally turned in what we refer to as helpful updates on all the cases.

Given our strong focus on the importance of making the resultant findings reasonably reader-friendly, we went further to identify assorted content categories to make for due computer processing to generate meaningful infographics. After the initial coding, we resorted to IBM SPSS Version 23. The interesting outcomes in forms of tables and histograms follow the prosaic accounts that you find in the first section of the report. Indeed, the resultant infographics readily qualify as an executive summary that may as well be found quite insightful and, for newshounds, provide exciting news angles. It has ten different sections in all.

OPINIONS ON PREVIOUS EDITIONS



**STATE HOUSE,
ABUJA,
NIGERIA.**

Reference: SH/OVP/DCOS/Misc./200102

3 February 2020

Olanrewaju Suraju

Chairman

Human & Environmental Development Agenda

20, Mojidi Street

Off Toyin Street, Ikeja

Lagos

Dear Sir,

RE: LETTER FORWARDING THE 3RD EDITION OF THE COMPENDIUM OF 100 HIGH PROFILE CORRUPTION CASES IN NIGERIA

I am directed by His Excellency, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, SAN, Vice-President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter dated 8 January 2020 as well as the enclosed copy of the 3rd edition of the compendium of 100 high profile corruption cases in Nigeria, for use in the Vice-President's Office.

2. I am also to convey His Excellency's appreciation of this informative publication.

3. With assurances of my best regards,



Ade Ipaye

Deputy Chief of Staff to the President

Office of the Vice-President

OPINIONS ON PREVIOUS EDITIONS

**NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY**
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

NOA/HQ/DG/HEDA/20/01

September 21, 2020

Olanrewaju Suraju
The Chairman
Human & Environmental Development Agenda, HEDA
20, Mojidi Street, Off Toyin Street
Ikeja
Lagos

**RE: LETTER FORWARDING THE 3RD EDITION OF THE COMPENDIUM OF 100
HIGH PROFILE CORRUPTION CASES IN NIGERIA**

I am directed to acknowledge your letter captioned above with thanks, dated January 8, 2020.

Please accept the assurances of the Director-General's best regards.


David Akoji
SA to DG
For: Director-General

...MOVING NIGERIA TO GREATNESS

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: Block B, Federal Secretariat Complex, Area 1, Garki, P.M.B 27, Abuja.
E-mail: admin@noa.gov.ng, info@noa.gov.ng | **Website:** www.noa.gov.ng | **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/national-orientation-agency-nigeria
Twitter: www.twitter.com/noa-nigeria or @noa-nigeria | **Instagram:** @noa-nigeria or www.instagram.com/noa-nigeria

OPINIONS ON PREVIOUS EDITIONS

“The Compendium gives an actual view of how deep-sited corruption has been in Nigeria. Every time I go through it, I have a headache because it's like watching a real life horror scene of how Nigeria bleeds from the head and stomach simultaneously. HEDA deserves all the commendation for the data-laden thorough research, not just for producing it, but also for consistently updating it every year. It's a document that helps every concerned Nigerian to stay informed about the anticorruption regime and helps to stop the culture of celebrating thieves and oppressors.” –

Ridwan Sulaimon.

The Compendium is indeed a noble effort to continue to put on the front burner the many cases of grand corruption that many would want forgotten. HEDA's painstaking work on this as and many other fronts is a reminder of who we are and a pointer to where our rebirth should be focused. I salute the good work.

Abdulhameed Danmole

ON THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY

According to the United Nations (UN), “Every year, \$1 trillion is paid in bribes while an estimated \$2.6 trillion are stolen annually through corruption – a sum equivalent to more than 5 per cent of the global GDP. In developing countries, according to the United Nations Development Programme, funds lost to corruption are estimated at 10 times the amount of official development assistance.”

For decades, corruption has remained a complex phenomenon and has thus become a global concern as it continues to undermine socio-economic development and democratic institutions across the world, thereby contributing to political instability.

“Corruption attacks the foundation of democratic institutions by distorting electoral processes, perverting the rule of law and creating bureaucratic quagmires whose only reason for existing is the soliciting of bribes. Economic development is stunted because foreign direct investment is discouraged and small businesses within the country often find it impossible to overcome the “start-up costs” required because of corruption,” the UN noted.

To launch a global fight against corruption, on 31 October 2003, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 58/4 which is the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and requested that the Secretary-General designate the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) as secretariat for the Convention's Conference of States Parties.

Further to that, the General Assembly also designated December 9 as International Anti-Corruption Day, to raise awareness of corruption and of the role of the Convention in combating and preventing it. The Convention thus entered into force in December 2005.

As part of global efforts to raise awareness and combat corruption, on December 9, 2017, the Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA Resource Centre) launched the first edition of the “Compendium of 100 High Profile Corruption Cases in Nigeria,” an activity which has then been sustained till date.

The Compendium is a research output which shines the spotlight on corruption cases that are pending in Nigerian Courts, to help raise awareness about them, ensure diligent prosecution and serve as deterrence to others.

To RECOVER with INTEGRITY, we need to stand #UnitedAgainstCorruption.

The Cases



Case 1: Sambo Dasuki

\$21.1 Billion Arms Fund Diversion

The Federal Government on Dec. 24, 2019, ordered the State Security Service (SSS) also known as the Department of State Services (DSS) to comply with the court bail granted the former National Security Adviser (NSA), Col. Sambo Dasuki (retd) by releasing him from detention. Dasuki has been in the custody of the DSS since December 1, 2015 over an alleged misappropriation of \$21.1bn meant for the purchase of arms.

Dasuki is being tried before the court on two separate cases alongside other defendants. He was arrested on December 1, 2015 on allegations of diversion of \$2.1 billion from funds meant for the war against terrorism, he denied any wrongdoing and is yet to be convicted.

Since his arrest and arraignment, he was granted bail at least seven times by various courts and the DSS refused to heed all the orders. Justice Adeniyi Ademola, who is now retired, on December 18, 2015, first granted the former NSA's request to be allowed to travel abroad for cancer treatment after the commencement of his trial on December 14, 2015

The EFCC arraigned Dasuki and others before Justice Peter Affen on a 22-count charge. Those he was charged with include a former Minister of State for Finance, Bashir Yuguda; a former Sokoto State Governor, Attahiru Bafarawa; his son, Sagir and his company, Dalhatu Investment Limited.

They were charged on a 25-count charge bordering on criminal breach of trust and misappropriation of public funds to the tune N19.4 billion. Following this, Justice Affen, again this time granted him bail after the court held that he was arraigned before it on the same charges of corruption.

The Judge ordered Mr. Dasuki and his co-accused persons to pay the sum of N250 million each and provide two sureties in like sum.

But the case was moved to Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf's court due to the defence team's complaints that it would amount to double jeopardy for their clients to be standing trial in two courts simultaneously on similar charges. The new Judge allowed them to remain on the bail earlier granted them.

Before the case was transferred to Justice Baba-Yusuf, Dasuki was standing trial before him alongside a former General Manager in the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Aminu Baba-Kusa, and two firms: Acacia Holdings Limited and Reliance Referral Hospital Limited.

They were re-arraigned on an amended 32-count charge bordering on criminal breach of trust, 'dishonest release' and illegally receiving various sums of money to the tune of N33.2 billion.

On January 24, 2017, Justice Baba Yusuf, of the Federal High Court, Abuja, reaffirmed Dasuki's bail, stressing that he was entitled to it and having been admitted to same since 2015 when the federal government brought criminal charges against him.

Similarly, in April 2017, Justice Ahmed Mohammed of the Federal High Court in Abuja, affirmed the bail granted the former NSA in 2015. Again, Dasuki returned to the Federal High Court with a fundamental rights enforcement application, similar to the one the ECOWAS Court upheld. At a point, Dasuki said he would no longer appear in court until his right to bail is enforced, a situation which has stalled his trial.

Since his release on Dec. 24, 2019, Dasuki was quoted in an interview with the Hausa Service of VOA, that he was ready to defend himself over a \$2.1 billion money laundering charge by the EFCC.

The Cases

Exactly 30 days after he was released, on Thursday January 23rd, 2020, he made his first appearance in court for continuation of his trial. Dasuki who appeared before the Federal High Court in Abuja said he was ready to defend the money laundering and illegal possession of firearm charges preferred against him by the EFCC and the Federal Government. Justice Ahmed Mohammed subsequently fixed March 11 and 12, 2020 for the continuation of the trial.



Case 2: Olisah Metuh

N400 Million Fraud

Former National Publicity Secretary of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chief Olisah Metuh was sentenced to seven years imprisonment on 26th February 2020.

Metuh alongside his firm, Destra Investments Limited was found guilty of count one, two and three of the seven-count charge leveled against them by the Federal Government through the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

Justice Okon Abang of the Federal High Court, Abuja, convicted the two defendants following trails in the charge instituted against Metuh and his company for money laundering to the tune of N400 million. Ruling on the first count charge, Justice Abang held that the former National Security Adviser (NSA), Sambo Dasuki, unlawfully transferred the N400 million to the defendants in November 2014.

The Judge maintained that Metuh and his firm reasonably ought to have known that the N400 million paid to them formed part of the proceeds of unlawful activity of the former NSA since they had no form of contractual relationship with him. According to the Judge, Dasuki transferred the money to the defendants in breach of public trust.

The Judge said: “The issue is whether or not the first defendant has actual knowledge or constructive knowledge or no knowledge at all of the inflow of N400 million from NSA to the second defendant”

“If Metuh knows of the inflow of the N400m into the account of the second defendant controlled by him without any contract, then he should have been conscious of receiving such fund”. “I have my doubt if the first defendant is telling the Court the truth in this matter. It is my humble view and firm view that on the 24th November 2014, the first defendant had actual knowledge of the inflow of N400 million into the account of the second defendant.



Case 3: Gabriel Suswam

N3.1 Billion Fraud

Mr. Gabriel Suswam, a former Governor of Benue state is presently the senator representing Benue North-East Senatorial District at the National Assembly.

Suswam is standing trial in three cases pending before the Federal High Court in Abuja in an alleged diversion of N3.1 billion frauds on police reform and Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme fund.

He was initially charged in the 32-count charge alongside Omadachi Oklobia, his former Commissioner for Finance, and Janet Aluga, former Accountant, Benue State Government House over diversion of N3.1 billion. Part of the diverted funds was said to be for police reform and Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme.

Suswam was allegedly involved in another three-count charge of money laundering and illegal possession of firearms on which he was arraigned on July 6, 2018 before Justice Babatunde Quadri.

The Cases

He was accused of illegally concealing weapons in his Mercedes Benz 550 4Matic car with Registration No: BWR 135 AH parked at Dunes Investment and Properties Limited, 44 Aguiyilronsi Way, Maitama, Abuja.

In the first of the other two cases, Suswam is being tried with a former Commissioner of Finance in Benue State, Omadachi Oklobia. They were accused of diverting proceeds of the sale of Benue State's investments in some companies.

Suswam, Okolobia and Mrs. Janet Anuga, in the second charge, marked, FHC/ABJ/CR/48/2017, were accused of diverting funds meant for SURE-P projects in the State. The case was pending before Justice Gabriel Kolawole before the Judge's elevation to the Court of Appeal.

He was re-arraigned on Monday September 30, 2019 by the EFCC alongside the then Commissioner for Finance in his administration, Omadachi Okolobia, on N3.1bn money laundering charges. Suswam and his co-defendant, pleaded not guilty to the nine counts read to them again before Justice Okon Abang of the Federal High Court in Abuja.

The case had suffered several adjournments since 2015 when the accused persons were first arraigned before Justice Ahmed R Mohammed of the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja on a nine-count charge.

The Court of Appeal in Abuja, on Wednesday 19th February, 2020 ordered Justice Okon Abang of the Federal High Court in Abuja, to withdraw from the trial of Suswam and ordered that the case file be returned to Justice Ahmed Mohammed, who had presided over the case from the beginning.

Justice Mohammed had excused himself twice from the case before a former Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Adamu Kafarati, reassigned it to Mr. Abang of the same Court. He had withdrawn from the case due to allegations from a publication, that he was receiving bribe in order to give Mr. Suswam a 'soft landing'.

Not satisfied with Mr. Mohammed's action, Mr. Suswam's lawyer, Chinelo Ogbozor, challenged the re-assignment of the case to Mr. Abang at the appeal court. She argued that she was not aware of Mr. Mohammed disqualifying himself from conducting the trial as no prior notice was issued.

Justice Abang on Tuesday November 19, 2019 after examination and cross-examination of the EFCC's first prosecution witness, Clara-Whyte Mshelia by counsel adjourned the continuation of trial until November 25 and 26. On November 26, 2019, Justice Abang again adjourned the trial continuation till January 30, 2020. At the resumed hearing on Friday January 31, 2020, the 1st defendant (Suswam)'s counsel, Chinelo Ogbozor, enumerated reasons the court should adjourn the matter.

She argued that the case was before the Court of Appeal and that the court had reserved a judgment in the suit with number: CA/A/1007C/2019, urging the court to adjourn pending the delivery of judgment by the court.

The EFCC had in 2016 presented 4th prosecution witnesses, Mr. Abubakar Umar, an Abuja-based Bureau De Change (BDC) operator before Justice Ahmed Mohammed in Suswam's matter. However, Mr. Mohammed on December 11, 2017 declared Mr. Umar hostile to the EFCC in the trial after the witness contradicted himself while testifying in the case on May 5, 2016. Mr. Umar confirmed that the Exhibit B, pages 21 and 66, contained his photograph, company's name, telephone number and account number.

At a resumed trial held on 31st January, 2020, 3rd February 2020, 4th February 2020, 5th February 2020 and 12th February 2020, Umar among other things admitted before the court that he gave contradictory evidence to the court against the defendants. On 12th February, 2020, Umar under further cross-examination by Mr. Paul Erokoro SAN counsel to the 2nd Defendant admitted that he was not a licensed BDC operator having not obtained a BDC licence from the Central Bank of Nigeria.

He informed the court that though he confessed to operating an illegal BDC business to the EFCC,

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granted him bail after he made statements in EFCC detention and under word of caution.

Umar further admitted that his earlier evidence before Justice Ahmed Mohammed was a lie. When Erokoro confronted the witness with his earlier evidence where he stated that he converted the money and took it to the residence of the 1st defendant in Kubwa, in his reaction, the witness stated that he did not mention that he took the money to Kubwa but to Suswam's house in Maitama Abuja. However, when Erokoro asked Mr. Umar if the contents of the proceedings of Justice Mohammed was a lie against Suswam, he answered in the negative.

Earlier on Tuesday February 4, 2020, Umar told Justice Abang that some persons from the side of Suswam pressured and threatened to kill him and his family if he failed to lie while testifying before Justice Mohammed of a Federal High Court. He said he had on Monday February 3rd, 2020, received several telephone calls from different people asking him to change the statement he made with the anti-graft agency against Gabriel Suswam, a former Governor of Benue State.

In the course of the trial, Umar, while being examined by counsel for the EFCC, Rotimi Jacobs, SAN, had begun to give contradictory evidence different from what he had stated in his statement and testimonies he had made earlier in court.

Umar had previously told Justice Mohammed that he handed over \$15.8 million to Suswam at his residence in Maitama, Abuja, but later changed his testimony that he only took the money to the Government House in Benue, and that he never knew if the money was given to Suswam. The action had prompted Jacobs to inform the court of his intention to declare him a “hostile witness”.

The witness, who spoke through an interpreter, said: “Yes, that is how it is. Many people have been calling me so that I will change my statement on my Master, Gabriel Suswam”. The PW4 restated that he told the court that N413 million was the first amount that entered his Zenith Bank account, Fanffash Resources, from Elixir Investment.

The witness said he later bought dollars with the money and called the former governor before taking the money to him.

However, at the sitting on February 5 2020, the court ordered an investigation into an allegation by an online publication that the court was planning to jail a former Benue governor, Gabriel Suswam.

The court at the February 12, 2020 sitting had adjourned till February 25 and 26, March 24 and 26, 2020. Unfortunately, the case wasn't heard due to unknown reason. Trial however continued with the court of appeal February 19th 2020 judgment ordering reassignment of the case back to Justice Ahmed Muhammad. Trial continues on the case.



Case 4: Erastus Akingbola

N179 Billion Fraud

Erastus Akingbola is a former Managing Director of the defunct Intercontinental Bank Plc.

Justice Ayokunle Faji adjourned till March 27, 2020 for the continuation of trial. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) had on Wednesday March 13, 2019, re-arraigned Dr Erastus Akingbola, on N179bn fraud charges. Akingbola's re-arraignment before the Federal High Court in Lagos followed a further amendment to the charges which the EFCC filed against him since 2009. Justice Charles Archibong, who first handled the case, had struck out the charges, citing lack of diligent prosecution.

Displeased, the EFCC went on appeal, which overruled Justice Archibong and ordered Akingbola to return to the high court to face his trial. Not pleased, Akingbola went before the Supreme Court, which May last year, affirmed the decision of the Appeal Court.

However, an EFCC witness, Mr. Paul Akali on Monday March 16, 2020 told a Federal High Court, Lagos, that his team did not recommend the

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sack of Dr. Erastus Akingbola, in 2009 and take-over of the defunct bank. Akali stated this during the ongoing trial of Akingbola when he was cross-examined by the defence counsel, Prof. Taiwo Osipitan (SAN). The EFCC witness said that while they conducted various examinations on the bank, his NDIC team never recommended that the bank should be taken over.

When asked if he knew that the taking over was less than one month after the 'exit meeting', he answered in affirmative, adding that even though there were financial discrepancies in the bank, none was directly linked to Akingbola. He said that some of the discrepancies were noticed in the bank's monthly returns, but added that the bank management disagreed with the team on commercial papers, which he said, were for short-time loans for maximum of 270 days, claiming that he could not remember if any of the commercial papers were signed by Akingbola.

Akali also complained of loans given to the bank's directors to buy shares, but when questioned if Akingbola was among the directors that collected the loans or signed for it, he said no. On Friday March 20, 2020, Akali further told the court how Access Bank acquired the much bigger Intercontinental Bank Plc.

The probe and indictment of Intercontinental Bank, as well as the removal of its then Managing Director, Dr Erastus Akingbola, happened under the watch of Lamido Sanusi as CBN governor.

Fielding questions under cross-examination by Akingbola's lawyer, Prof. Taiwo Osipitan (SAN), Akali told the court that while going through Intercontinental Bank's books in May 2009, his team discovered that Access Bank was indebted to Intercontinental Bank in the sum of N14.2 billion. Apart from this, he said his team also found that contrary to the law, the then Managing Director and Deputy Managing Director of Access Bank, Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede and Herbert Wigwe, respectively, were directors of a private company, which was also indebted to Intercontinental Bank.

Justice Ayokunle Faji adjourned till March 27, 2020 for the continuation of trial. As opposed to the initial charge sheet which had 26 counts, the further amended

charge sheet contained only 22 counts. In the charges, the EFCC alleged that while he was the MD and Chief Executive Officer of Intercontinental Bank Plc, Akingbola used N179,385,000,000 belonging to the bank for "fictitious transactions."

The anti-graft agency claimed that Akingbola used the N179bn "to buy Intercontinental Bank Plc's shares, thereby inflating the market price of Intercontinental Bank Plc's shares on the Nigerian Stock Exchange."

This, the EFCC said, was a contravention of Section 105(2)(a) of the Investment and Securities Act 2007, adding that the offence is punishable under Section 115(a) of the same Act.

The EFCC also accused Akingbola of reckless granting of credit facilities to five firms which did not furnish the bank with adequate security for the loans. According to the EFCC, the firms, which were each granted a loan of N8bn without adequate security under Akingbola's watch, were Soo-Kok Holding Limited; Tofa General Enterprises; Cinca Nigeria Limited; Harmony Trust and Investment Limited; and Stanzus Investment Limited.

The EFCC said the ex-bank chief violated Section 15(1)(a)(i) of the Failed Banks (Recovery of Debts) and Financial Malpractices in Banks Act, Cap F2, Laws of the Federation of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004, and was liable to be punished under Section 16(1)(a) of the same Act.

In another instance, the EFCC alleged that Akingbola took £1.3m from Intercontinental Bank Plc's GBP NOSTRO account at Deutsche Bank, London, and remitted same into the bank account of Fuglers Solicitors with the Royal Bank of Scotland Plc, London. The EFCC claimed that the £1.3m was paid to Fuglers Solicitors for the purpose of buying a property in the name of Life Boat Settlement Trust, which Akingbola set up. The EFCC said Akingbola knew the £1.3m to be proceeds of crime, "to wit: stealing and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 14(1) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2004." Akingbola, however, pleaded not guilty to the 22 counts. Trial is ongoing.

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Case 5: Mohammed Bello Adoke

\$6,000,000 Fraud

Mohamed Bello Adoke is a former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation. The trial of former Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation, Muhammed Bello Adoke and Aliyu Abubakar continued on Monday, September 7, 2020, before Justice I.E Ekwo of the Federal High Court, Abuja with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) presenting its third witness, PW3 against the former minister.

At the resumed hearing on Monday, second prosecution witness, PW2, Rislantudeen Muhammad told the court during cross-examination that he did not know the second defendant (Aliyu Abubakar), “Let me state this again, I have never seen the second defendant, I don’t even know him”, he said.

However, Usman Bello, third prosecution witness, a businessman and bureau de change (BDC) operator, with Gagarimi BDC and Crawford BDC told the court that he knew the first defendant, Adoke Muhammed. When asked “Do you know the defendant?” the witness said “Yes I know him.” Prosecution counsel, Bala Sanga later told the witness to identify which of the defendants he knew and the witness said “I know Bello Adoke.”

“I have not done any business with him. It was Rislantudeen that called me and told me to come to Abuja. When I got to Abuja, we went to the bank, and he gave me some money and I put it into a dollar account and changed it into naira, about N367, 318,800 million (Three Hundred and Sixty Seven Million, Three Hundred and Eighteen Thousand, Eight Hundred Naira). I later transferred some of the account. I made the payment thirty five times, (35 times) because of the existing deposit limits”, he said.

Thereafter the third prosecution witness, PW3 was discharged.

However, Justice I.E Ekwo adjourned the matter for continuation of hearing of prosecution witness four to Wednesday, 9 September, 2020.

The EFCC is prosecuting Adoke on 14-count charges bordering on money laundering to the tune of \$6 million. Adoke arrived Nigeria on Thursday, December 19, 2019 from Dubai, United Arab Emirates into the waiting arm of operatives of the EFCC at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja. He had fled the country in 2015 to escape trial from a pending criminal charge brought against him by the EFCC for alleged abuse of office and money laundering in respect of the granting of the Oil Prospecting License (OPL) 245 to Shell and ENI.

It would be recalled that the government of former President Olusegun Obasanjo revoked the OPL 245, which the late General Sani Abacha granted Dan Etete, his then Petroleum Minister, and reassigned it to Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company.

Etete's Malabu Oil and Gas, however, reclaimed the oil block in 2006 through the court. While Shell challenged the decision, a 'fraudulent settlement and resolution' was consummated under President Goodluck Jonathan's government, with Shell and ENI buying the oil block from Malabu in the sum of \$1.1billion.

Investigations by the EFCC into the deal revealed crimes that border on conspiracy, forgery of bank documents, bribery, corruption and money laundering to the tune of over \$1.2 billion against Malabu Oil and Gas Limited, Shell Nigeria Ultra Deep (SNUD), Nigeria Agip Exploration (NAE) and their officials, culminating in criminal charges against Adoke, Etete and others, which are pending at both the FCT High Court and the Federal High Court, Abuja

The absence of the defendants slowed the prosecution of the criminal charges against Adoke, Etete, and four others, forcing the EFCC to obtain an arrest warrant against them on April 17, 2019. Though Justice D. Z. Senchi of Federal Capital Territory High Court, Jabi, Abuja on Friday, October

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25, 2019, vacated the arrest warrant and ordered the EFCC to serve defendants through substituted means, the Interpol on November 18, arrested the former minister in Dubai.

Adoke (SAN), had written the current AGF and Minister of Justice, Mr. Abubakar Malami (SAN), protesting against his indictment by Nigeria's lawyer, Mr. Lucio Lucia, at the ongoing trial of Shell and others by a Milan Court in Italy. In the letter of complaint dated September 10, which he personally signed, Adoke, appealed to Malami to call Lucia, "to order" so as to prevent him from trampling upon his rights. The former AGF, in the letter titled: 'Letter of Complaint against the conduct of Mr. Lucio Lucia representing the Federal Government of Nigeria in the Milan Proceedings against Shell, Eni and Other Individuals,' complained bitterly about how Lucia, presented him as corrupt and partly responsible for fraud allegations being tried by the Milan court.

He reminded Malami that his official role as AGF and Minister of Justice in the implementation of OPL 245 Settlement Agreement has been the subject of judicial pronouncement by the Federal High Court, Abuja April 13, 2018 where the court exonerated him of any wrong doing.

Trial judge, Justice Binta Nyako, had amongst others held that, "The plaintiff cannot be held personally liable for carrying out the lawful approvals of the President while he served as a Minister of the Government of the Federation".

Adoke also reminded Malami that apart from the above judicial pronouncement, the OPL 245 Resolution Agreements was a subject of review of two cabinet ministers in the present administration; Malami and former Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Dr. Ibe Kachikwu, wherein they did not find him guilty of wrong doing, adding that Kachikwu, in his letter to the Chief of Staff to the President dated December 13, 2017, "came to the reasoned conclusion that the agreements were in the national interest". "In the light of the above, I am unable to understand why Mr. Lucio Lucia would be allowed to assert on behalf of the same Federal Government of Nigeria, a position that is contrary

to the unassailable declarations in the subsisting judgment of the Federal High Court, Abuja dated April 13, 2018 and the views already expressed by your good self as the sitting Attorney General of the Federation and the former Minister of State, Ministry of Petroleum Resources on my role with respect to the implementation of OPL 245 Settlement Agreement", he said.

While stating that he was not adverse to the federal government's claims before the Milan court, Adoke expressed concern that Lucia had been allowed to present to the court deliberate false statements against him in support of the federal government's case.

"As a Nigerian, I am not only entitled to the protection of my government. I therefore feel compelled to request you to call Mr. Lucio Lucia to order in order to preserve the dignity and respect of your high office as well as prevent my rights from being trampled upon by foreign elements acting in cohort with their Nigerian collaborators," he added



Case 6: Abdulaziz Nyako

N29 Billion Fraud

As the trial continues on Abdulaziz Nyako on December 20, 2019 the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) informed the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja, its decision to close its case against, Abdulaziz Nyako, his father, the former governor of Adamawa State, Murtala Nyako and others.

Senator Abdulaziz Nyako is the son of former Governor Murtala Nyako and Senator representing Adamawa Central in the Senate. He is facing a N29 billion frauds initiated against him by the EFCC. The Senator is being prosecuted alongside his father and two others on a 37-count charge of criminal conspiracy, stealing, abuse of office and money-laundering. Five companies that allegedly served as conduit pipes for the illegal diversion of the funds – Blue Opal Limited, Sebore Farms & Extension

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Limited, Pagoda Fortunes Limited, Tower Assets Management Limited and Crust Energy Limited, were equally charged before the Court as co-defendants.

The EFCC on Tuesday, November 5, called its last witness, Mr. Kobis, a former Secretary to Adamawa State Government who testified via a video link from London.

However, Yakubu Maikyau, counsel to the third defendant, who had applied to the court to recall three prosecution witnesses (witness number 12, 26 and 27) for cross examination, opposed the submission of the prosecution to close its case. He was supported by counsel to the fifth defendant.

Justice Abang adjourned the case until November 19, 2019 to enable the prosecution respond to the application of the 3rd defendant's Counsel.

The EFCC closed its case on January 16, 2020, after calling 21 witnesses. Upon continuation of the trial on Wednesday March 11, 2020, at the court, Muritala Nyako, his son, Abdulaziz and some other defendants in a no-case submission told the Judge that “no case has been made out by the prosecution warranting an answer from them.”

Muritala Nyako alongside his son and seven others are standing trial on a 37-count charge of money laundering allegedly perpetrated while he was still the governor. Others standing trial are Sebore Farms and Extension Ltd, Pagado Fortunes Ltd, Zulkifil Abba, Blue Opal Ltd, Tower Assets Management Ltd and Crust Energy Ltd.

In the application filed, the defendants argued that the facts adduced by all the witnesses called by the prosecution do not prove their allegation against his clients.

Reacting, Oluwaleke Atolagbe, EFCC counsel, said he needed time to study the no case submission filed by the 1st, 2nd, 6th and 7th defendants and respond comprehensively. He prayed the court to give him seven days within which to file his responses. Justice Okon Abang adjourned the matter till March 25 for parties to adopt their written addresses on the application.

Consequently, the directive of the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Ibrahim Muhammad suspending court activities for a period of two weeks starting from March 24, 2020 due to the impact of the ravaging coronavirus pandemic has however put continuation of trials on hold.



Case 7: Femi Fani-Kayode

N4.6 Billion Fraud

Chief Femi Fani-Kayode, a former Minister of Aviation is currently standing trial alongside a former Minister of State for Finance, Mrs. Esther Nenadi Usman, Danjuma Yusuf and a company, John Trust Dimensions Nigeria Limited, before a Federal High Court in Lagos over an alleged N4.6 billion fraud.

The money laundering trial was stalled at the Federal High Court, Lagos, on Monday, 23rd March 2020 due to the absence of the presiding Judge, Justice RilwanAikawa.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) charged Usman alongside Fani-Kayode, a former Minister of Aviation, Yusuf Danjuma, a former Chairman of the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) and a company, John Trust Dimensions Nigeria Ltd. EFCC preferred a 17-count charge of N4.6 billion money laundering against them. They had each pleaded not guilty to the charges and were granted bails.

In the charge against the defendants, they were alleged to have committed the offence between January and March 2015. In counts one to seven, they were alleged to have unlawfully retained over N3.8 billion which they reasonably ought to have known formed part of the proceeds of an unlawful act of stealing and corruption.

In counts eight to 14, the defendants were alleged to have unlawfully used over N970 million which they reasonably ought to have known formed part of an unlawful act of corruption.

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Meanwhile, in Counts 15 to 17 Fani-Kayode and one Olubode Oke who is said to be at large, were alleged to have made cash payments of about N30 million in excess of the amount allowed by law without going through a financial institution. Besides, Fani-Kayode was alleged to have made payments to one Paste Poster Co (PPC) of No 125 Lewis St., Lagos, in excess of amounts allowed by law.

The offences were said to have contravened the provisions of sections 15 (3) (4), 16 (2) (b), and 16 (5) of the Money Laundering (prohibition) (Amendment) Act, 2012.

The case is yet to be decided as trial continues.



Case 8: Senator Peter Nwaoboshi

N322 Million Fraud

Peter Nwaoboshi is the Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State in the National Assembly. He is currently facing trial for alleged fraud of N322m.

He was first arraigned before the Federal High Court in Lagos on Wednesday 25th April, 2018 by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on two counts alongside two firms, Golden Touch Construction Project Limited and Suiming Electricals Limited.

The EFCC, in the charges, claimed that Nwaoboshi and Golden Touch Construction Project Limited purchased a property known as Guinea House, Marine Road, Apapa, Lagos for N805m between May and June 2014.

The anti-graft agency claimed that N322m out of the N805m which Nwaoboshi and the firm paid for the property was part of proceeds of “an unlawful act, to wit: fraud.” Nwaoboshi and his companies had pleaded not guilty to the offences. However, the scheduled continuation of his trial before the Federal High Court, Lagos, could not proceed on Friday, 14th February, 2020 due to the absence of prosecution witness.

The prosecution said the defendants acted contrary to

Sections 18(a) and 15(2)(d) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act 2011 and are liable to punishment under Section 15(3) of the same Act.

At the resumed continuation of the charge on Friday, 14th February, 2020, the prosecutor, Mr. Wemimo Ogunde (SAN), apologised to the court for the absence of his witness to testify against Nwaoboshi. He consequently asked the court for a short adjournment, while he promised that he would ensure the presence of his witnesses on the next adjourned date. Responding, Nwaoboshi's counsel, Emmanuel Muowa, did not oppose the adjournment sought for by the prosecutor, he however, asked the court to award a punitive cost against the EFCC for its failure.

Ogunde (SAN) begged the court not to award any cost against his commission, saying that being the first prosecutor of the agency, it is not his practice to waste court's precious time. He therefore urged the court not to award any cost against the EFCC. Adjourning the matter, Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke, who declined to award cost against the EFCC, warned the anti-graft agency's counsel to ensure that his witnesses would be in court at the next adjourned date. He consequently adjourned the matter till March 13, 27 and May 18. Trial continues.



Case 9: Waripamo Owei- Dudafa

N1.6 Billion Fraud

Waripamo Owei-Dudafa, a former aide to ex-President Goodluck Jonathan was on Thursday August 29, 2019, discharged and acquitted by a Federal High Court Sitting in Lagos on an alleged N1.6 billion fraud charge against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). Justice Mohammed Idris in a 190-page judgment on Thursday held that the EFCC failed to prove any of the 22-charge beyond reasonable doubt against Owei-Dudafa and a Heritage Bank staff, Joseph Iwejuo and therefore, dismissed the entire 22 counts charge against the accused persons.

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The EFCC on Friday August 30, 2019 filed a notice of appeal against the judgment of the Federal High Court in Lagos acquitting and discharging Waripamo-Owei Dudafa of N1.6 billion fraud charge. The notice of appeal against the judgment is on nine grounds pursuant to Section 241 (1) (a) of the 1999 Constitution. According to the notice, Justice Idris was said to have failed to bind himself with the age-long principle of law which provides that conspiracy is complete upon agreement. The EFCC, however, sought an order of the court convicting the respondents as charged and sentencing them as prescribed by the Money Laundering Prohibition Act 2011 as amended and the EFCC Act of 2004. The case awaits the decision of the Appeal Court.



Case 10: Mohammed Dele Belgore

N450 Million Fraud

Mr. Mohammed Dele Belgore is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria, SAN and former governorship candidate of the defunct Action Congress of Nigeria, CAN, in Kwara state.

The Supreme Court on Friday April 3, 2020 struck out fraud charges preferred against, Mr. Mohammed Dele Belgore, SAN.

Belgore was standing trial alongside a former Minister of National Planning, Prof. Abubakar Sulaiman, on five counts of conspiracy and possession of proceeds of crime to the tune of N450 million.

In the charges, Sulaiman, a professor of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Abuja; and Belgore were accused of conspiring between themselves to commit the offence on March 27, 2015.

The duo were accused of making cash transaction of N450m on March 27, 2015, without going through any financial institution. But, they pleaded “not guilty” to the charges.

The Apex Court allowed the appeal against the ruling of the lower court delivered by Justice Rilwan Aikawa sitting in Federal High Court in November 2018.

Belgore filed a no case submission after the Economic and Financial Crime Commission; EFCC closed its case in the N450m fraud charge against him. But the trial court dismissed the no case submission. Dissatisfied with the ruling, Belgore appealed the ruling in Appeal Court Lagos, which was also dismissed.

But the Supreme Court judgment of April 3, 2020 allowed the no case submission and struck out the charge. The Apex Court opined that the offences for which the defendant was charged cannot be tried in Lagos but where the offence was committed which in the instance is Kwara state.

Belgore and Sulaiman were accused of collecting a cash sum of N450m from a former Minister of Petroleum Resources in the build-up to the 2015 general elections. They were accused of handling the huge sum without going through any financial institution, contrary to the provisions of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act.

Counsel for the EFCC, Mr. Rotimi Oyedepo, told the Court that Belgore and Sulaiman acted contrary to sections 1(a), 16(d), 15(2)(d) and 18(a) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) (Amendment) Act, 2012. The duo were first arraigned on five counts on February 8, 2017 before the Federal High Court in Ikoyi Lagos.

The EFCC subsequently amended the charges on two occasions, leading to the re-arraignment of the defendants. The defendants pleaded not guilty on each occasion.

After calling two witnesses and tendering a number of exhibits, the EFCC closed its case against the defendants late last year, leaving the floor for them to open their defence. Oyedepo said the anti-graft agency believed it had already established its allegations against Belgore and his co-defendant.

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Earlier at the last adjourned sitting on March 11, 2020, Justice Rilwan Aikawa of the Federal High Court in Lagos fixed March 12, 2020, for ruling on the admissibility of the Closed-Circuit Television, CCTV, footage and its Certificate of Identification sought to be tendered in evidence by the first defendant, Belgore.

Delivering his ruling, the Judge admitted in evidence CCTV footage and the Certificate of Identification. Justice Aikawa held that it is permissible for a document to be identified by any other than the maker “as the document is not meant to decorate the archives of the Court.” The Judge also overruled the objections of the prosecution and held that the documents could be used by the witness.

Upon admittance of the documents, counsel to the first defendant, Egun Sofunde, SAN, asked that the video clip (CCTV footage) be viewed in the open Court.

However, Counsel for the EFCC, Rotimi Oyedepo, argued that viewing the tape would cause an avoidable delay. He urged the Court to view the video clip at its leisure and form part of the judgment. He also said the prosecution would consent to taking the document as being viewed so as not to waste the time of the Court.

Sofunde, in his response, said that a document on tape must be jointly demonstrated and viewed in the open Court, “otherwise parties intending to use it will be accused of dumping it before the Court.” Sofunde, therefore, urged the Court to refuse the prayers of the prosecution.

Justice Aikawa ruled in favour of the defence, saying that “it is safer in the interest of justice and fair hearing that the Court views the tape in the presence of all parties.” Justice Aikawa then adjourned until April 23, 2020, for further hearing. The case has to be discontinued due to the Supreme Court ruling of April 3, 2020.

Following this ruling, EFCC said that the defendant will be arraigned afresh in Kwara state soon. Trial continues.



Case 11: Orji Kalu

N3.2 Billion Fraud

Orji Kalu is a former Abia State Governor who on December 5, 2019 was sentenced to 12 years in prison by Justice Mohammed Idris for allegedly stealing public funds while in office just as Mr. Udeogu was sentenced to 10 years in prison. A third defendant, Mr. Kalu's company, Slok Nigeria Limited, was ordered to be wound up and its assets forfeited to the Nigerian government.

They were convicted for defrauding the Government of Abia State when Mr. Kalu was Governor.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) had brought the criminal charge against the duo for conspiring and diverting N7.65 billion from the coffers of the state.

Dissatisfied with the judgment of the Federal High Court, Mr. Kalu and Mr. Udeogu filed an appeal to challenge their sentence at the apex Court.

Delivering judgment, a seven-member panel of the apex court in a unanimous decision set aside the judgment of Justice Mohammed Idris of the Federal High Court in Lagos which convicted and sentenced Messrs Kalu and Udeogu.

However, the Supreme Court on Friday May 8, 2020 nullified the conviction of Uzor-Kalu and also quashed the conviction of Ude Udeogu.

The apex Court's judgment delivered by Justice Ejemi Eko, declared the conviction of the appellants as null and void on the ground that Mr. Idris was already a Justice of the Court of Appeal as at the time he delivered the judgment sentencing the appellants. Justice Eko further held that a Justice of the Court of Appeal cannot operate as a Judge of the Federal High Court.

The apex Court further ordered the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court to reassign the case for trial.

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Case 12: Adesola Amosu

N21.4 Billion Fraud

Air Marshall Adesola Amosu, (rtd) a former Chief of Air Staff (CoAS) who alongside Air Vice Marshall Jacobs Adigun, a former Chief of Accounts and Budgeting and Air Commodore Gbadebo Owodunni, a former Director of Finance and Budget, in the Nigerian Air Force, NAF are facing prosecution by Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC for an alleged N21.4 billion fraud.

They were arraigned on June 29, 2016 in a 23 count charge and re-arraigned before Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke on November 18 2018 following elevation of Justice Idris to the Appeal Court.

The accused persons had on Thursday, July 4, 2019, informed Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos of their willingness to enter into a plea bargain with the EFCC.

A Federal High Court in Lagos in May, 2020 approved the federal government's request to temporarily seize 12 landed properties linked to a former Director of Finance at the Nigerian Air Force, Air Vice Marshal Jacobs Adigun. Justice Mohammed Liman granted the interim order following an ex-parte application by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The properties include houses at No. 27 Agodogba Avenue, Parkview Estate, Ikoyi, Lagos; No. 40A Bourdillon Road, Ikoyi, Lagos; Plot 164, Victoria Island Annex (Sinari Daranijo Street), VI, Lagos; Block 54A, Plot 14, Lekki Peninsula Scheme One; Capador Plaza, Adetokunbo Ademola Street, Wuse II, Abuja; Plot 762 Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja; and No. 39 Agdez Street, Wuse II, Abuja.

Others are Sand Lake Hotel, Plot 3497 Sand Lake Street, Maitama, Abuja; Plot No. 61 Lake Chad Street, Maitama Abuja; No. 2 Imo Rivers Close, off Danube Crescent, Maitama, Abuja; and No. 2 River Palata Street, Maitama, Abuja.

The Judge agreed with EFCC Counsel Rotimi Oyedepo that it would be in the interest of justice for the Court to order a temporary forfeiture of the properties. Oyedepo persuaded the Court that the properties, scattered across Lagos and Abuja, were reasonably suspected to be proceeds of N21.4 billion fraud allegedly perpetrated by Adigun alongside Air Commodore Olugbenga Gbadebo and a former Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Adesola Amosu.

Aside from the order for the temporary forfeiture of the properties, Justice Liman also ordered the anti-graft agency to publish the forfeiture order in a national daily newspaper to put interested parties on notice. He adjourned till June 9 for anyone with interest in the properties to appear in court to give reasons why the properties should not be permanently forfeited to the federal government.

In an affidavit filed in support of the ex parte application, an investigating officer of the EFCC, Akube Okechuckwu, said the N21.4bn included N200m paid on January 7, 2014 into NAF Operations account by the Office of the National Security Adviser. It also included N3 billion maritime security support paid to the NAF by the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) in September 2014; and N18.2 billion moved out of NAF accounts into various cronies' companies.

He said the N21.4bn was diverted through seven firms, namely: Juda Oil and Gas Limited; Namaliki Investment; Lebol Oil and Gas Limited; Hakuri Oil and Gas Limited; Mcallan Oil and Gas Limited; Delfina Oil and Gas Limited and Trapezites BDC.

Earlier on the case, Justice Mojisola Olatoregun of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos, on Wednesday January 16, 2019, ordered the permanent forfeiture of N2,244,500,000 (Two Billion, Two Hundred and Forty Four Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira) only found and recovered from a former Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Adesola Amosu (retd.) by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, to the Federal Government.

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The sum of N190,828,978.15 (One Hundred and Ninety Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Seventy Eight Naira Fifteen Kobo) only, recovered from Air Commodore Olugbenga Gbadebo, a former Director of Finance and Budget, Nigerian Air Force, NAF, who is standing trial along with Amosu for a N21 billion arms deal fraud, was also ordered forfeited to the Federal Government. Also forfeited was the sum of N101, 000, 000 (One Hundred and One Million Naira) only, recovered from Solomon Enterprises, a company linked to Amosu.

The Court had in 2018, ordered a temporary forfeiture of the monies to the Federal Government, following an *ex parte* application filed by the Commission.

Justice Olatoregun had also directed the EFCC to publish the interim forfeiture order in *The Punch* and *The Nation* newspapers for the respondents or anyone interested in the funds to show case why they should not be permanently forfeited to the Federal Government.

Following the publication of the interim forfeiture order in the newspapers, the EFCC had applied to the Court seeking the final forfeiture of the various sums of money. Justice Olatoregun ordered that the forfeited funds should be paid into the Federal Government's Treasury Single Account, TSA, within 14 days, and that the EFCC must file an affidavit to show compliance.

Justice Olatoregun also rejected the argument of the defence counsel that the N22.8 billion fraud charges against Amosu and others were still pending before the court and that the forfeiture order would foist a *fait accompli* on their clients should they not be found guilty. Justice Olatoregun, however, said the forfeiture proceedings were an "action in rem" and a non-conviction based forfeiture.



Case 13: Kenny Martins

N7.74 Billion Fraud

Kenny Martins was the Coordinator of the Police Equipment Fund, PEF. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is prosecuting Martins and three others over alleged N7.74 billion Police Equipment Fund (PEF) fraud.

It would be recalled that Justice Mohammed Talba, then of FCT High Court, Gudu, Abuja, now elevated to the Court of Appeal bench, had on November 24, 2009, discharged Martins and his co-defendants in his judgment on the no case submission filed by them. But the EFCC appealed against the judgment.

The Court of Appeal in Abuja on June 28, 2012, upheld EFCC's appeal. The Court, in its lead judgment read by Justice Regina Nwodo, held that Justice Talba of the FCT High Court erred by discharging the defendants. The Court ordered the Chief Judge of the FCT High Court to reassign the case to another Judge for re-trial.

Not satisfied, the defendants appealed to the Supreme Court. The apex court, in its judgment on March 23, 2018 affirmed the Court of Appeal's verdict and ordered the re-trial of the case.

The EFCC subsequently amended and filed three counts charge in Charge No: CR/267/18 at the FCT High Court. Three others charged along with Martins are: Ibrahim Dumuje, Yero Gella and Nigerstal Limited. To this end, the EFCC amended the charges against Martins and other defendants and arraigned them before Justice Adebisi on January 15, 2020, for their various alleged roles in forging Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) documents to facilitate the PEF fraud among other allegations.

Justice Modupe Adebisi of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, had earlier scheduled Tuesday, April 28, 2020 for the trial. But the April 28 date was not feasible in the light of the shutdown of Courts by the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Tanko Muhammad following the lockdown in force in Abuja and many other parts of the country to curb the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

The trial was then rescheduled to June 30, 2020.

Hearing on the case is expected to continue immediately Court returns to full activities after COVID-19 Pandemic.

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Case 14: Sunday Ehindero

N16.4 Million Fraud

Sunday Ehindero is a former Inspector General of Police. The former police boss and the Commissioner of Police in charge of Finance and Budget at the Force headquarters, John Obaniyi, were rearraigned on May 10, 2018, by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC).

The ICPC had accused the former IGP and Obaniyi of misappropriating the sum of N557m donated by the Bayelsa Government to the Nigeria Police Force for the purchase of arms and ammunition. The prosecution alleged that the two defendants used their positions to divert N500m out of the N557m into separate fixed deposit accounts belonging to them. The N500m placed in fixed deposits, according to the anti-corruption commission, yielded N16.4m interest, which they were accused of converting to personal use.

The ICPC on Wednesday May 8, 2019 closed its case against Ehindero and Obaniyi after calling four witnesses. At the close of the prosecution's case, the counsel for Ehindero, Kelvin Omoraw, and Samuel Odariko, representing Obaniyi, had filed a no case submission.

On Tuesday November 12, 2019, Justice Silvanus Oriji of the FCT High Court, Apo, discharged and acquitted Ehindero and Obaniyi of N16.4m fraud charge. The former IG Ehindero and Obaniyi were arraigned on May 10, 2018 by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission.

Delivering judgment, Justice Oriji held that the prosecution failed to establish a prima facie case against the defendants and failed to prove that they converted the said interest generated to their personal use. "I therefore uphold the defendants' no case submission. The defendants are hereby discharged," he said. No update as to whether ICPC planned to appeal the judgment or not.



Case 15: Farouk Lawan

\$500,000 Bribe

Farouk Lawan is a former Chairman of the House of Representatives ad hoc committee on fuel subsidy regime. Lawan is being prosecuted by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) for allegedly collecting \$500,000 bribe from a businessman, Mr. Femi Otedola, in 2012.

He allegedly asked for the bribe from Otedola to help remove the business mogul's company name from the list of firms indicted by House committee. Lawan had on October 10, 2019 filed the no case submission through his lawyer, Chief Mike Ozekhome (SAN).

At resumed trial on Tuesday October 17, 2019, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, Apo, presided over by Justice Angela Otaluka dismissed the no case submission filed by Lawan. The Judge held that the perusal of evidence before the court showed that the prosecution had made a case sufficient enough for the defendant to make some explanations.

She, therefore, overruled the no case submission by the defendant and adjourned the case till November 11, 2019 for the defendant to open defence on the matter. He has been unable to open his defence since then.

On Tuesday January 28, 2020 Lawan's lawyer, Benson Igbanoi, who stood in for Lawan's lead counsel, Chief Mike Ozekhome, SAN, said despite being ready for the trial, they were unable to proceed to open the defendant's case because his "sole witness" who was meant to testify at the hearing could not attend proceeding because he was bereaved. Lawan through his counsel told the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory in Abuja that his first defence witness' brother in his ongoing bribery case was killed by Lassa fever in Kano, on Sunday January 26, 2020. He gave this as the reason for his inability to open his defence in the bribery case instituted against him since 2012.

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Igbanoi said his team had written a letter to the court and a copy of which was served on the prosecution stating the defence team's "predicament" and suggesting an adjournment of the case till February 11. The lead prosecuting counsel, Chief Adegboyega Awomolo, SAN, confirmed that he received the letter dated January 27, 2020 (Monday) from Ozekhome's law firm. He said he had to "reluctantly concede to another adjournment" since the reason adduced for it involved the loss of a human being.

He urged the court to direct the defendant "to keep to February 11 so that he does not come that day and say he is asking for another adjournment of the case." As trial continues, Lawan is yet to open his defense at the third time appearance consecutively.

However, on resumption of the case on March 5, 2020, Godwin Iyinbor, who held brief for Ozekhome, said that the defense was yet to serve the subpoena on the two witnesses. He, therefore, sought for an adjournment to enable them do the needful by mobilizing the court bailiff to serve the subpoena on the witnesses.

The prosecution counsel, Fatogun Eyitayo, holding brief for Chief Adegboyega Awomolo (SAN), opposed the application for adjournment, saying that at the last adjourned date of February 11, 2020, the court indicated that that would be the last adjournment to be granted the defendant.

Justice Angela Otaluka, however, stated that the failure of the defence to serve the subpoena applied for was deliberate. She stated that the case was a criminal matter which ought to be held on day-to-day basis in line with the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (AJCA). Case is still pending.



Case 16: Jona Jang

N6.3 Billion Fraud

Jona Jang is a former Governor of Plateau State from 2007 to 2015. He had previously served as Military Governor of Benue and Gongola States respectively.

In 2015, Jang ran and won Plateau North senate seat as his term as Governor of Plateau State drew to a close. In 2018, Jang declared his senate seat vacant and said it was time for the people of Plateau North to decide who would represent them at the red chamber.

Jang is facing corruption trial in an alleged N6.3 billion money laundering case filed against him and one Yusuf Pam, a former cashier in the Office of the Secretary to the state government by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

Justice C. L. Dabup of the Plateau State High Court, Jos, on Wednesday August 12, 2020, adjourned the case of fraud, involving former Plateau state governor, Senator Jonah David Jang and a former cashier in the Office of the Secretary to the State Government (OSSG), Yusuf Pam till November 4 and 5, 2020.

At Wednesday's August 12, 2020 sitting, prosecuting counsel, O.D Mese informed the court that the lead counsel, Rotimi Jacobs SAN, agreed with Jang's lead counsel, Mike Ozekhome SAN, for August 12 and 13, 2020 as adjournment dates, given that the second day of continuation of the trial, Thursday July 30, 2020 was declared public holiday by the federal government. Justice Dabup, however, chose November 4 and 5, 2020 adjourned dates for the continuation of the trial.

The EFCC re-arraigned Jang and Pam on February this year, following the re-assignment of the case to Justice Dabup by the state's Chief Judge, Justice Yakubu Dakwak after the initial trial judge, Justice Daniel Longji, on his last sitting on the bench on December 29, 2019, dismissed the defendants' no case-submission, and held that they had a case to answer.

Jang and Pam were first arraigned in June 2018 on 17-count charge bordering on misappropriation of funds, criminal breach of trust and taking corrupt advantages to the tune of N30,236,024,219.88 (Thirty Billion, Two Hundred and Thirty Six Million Twenty Four Thousand, Two Hundred and Nineteen Naira, Eighty Eight Kobo), which contravened the provisions of sections 315, 309, 19

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and 22(5) of the Penal Code Law and Corrupt Practices Act 2004, (as amended).

The duo had submitted that EFCC, the prosecution agency, must prove their 17 count charge of money laundering labeled against them and so made a no case submission. But Longji ruled, “Having gone through all processes of the no case submission application and that of the prosecution, I am convinced that the prosecution has established a prima facie against the two accused.” “This implies that former Governor Jonah Jang and Yusuf Pam have case to answer.

“The monies alleged to have been misappropriated, comes from different sources, especially the N4.2bn from the CBN meant for beneficiaries of small and medium scale enterprises, which the director of SMEs has sent an account to the CBN. “When that money was released to the state, it was not used for the purpose it was meant for contrary to section 311 of the panel code,” he said.

Longji further declared, “The 1st accused (Jonah Jang), has a case to answer, it is also my candid view that even the 2nd accused person, Yusuf Pam, has a case to answer.”

After the declarations, Longji said that unfortunately or fortunately for him, he has to transfer the case file to the office of the Chief Judge of the State, for reassignment “because I am retiring after today.”

Responding, Counsel to Jonah Jang, Mr. Edward Pwajok (SAN) applied to the court to sustain the earlier bail granted to the accused persons. Counsel to EFCC, Mr. Rotimi Jacobs (SAN), represented by Mr. Gideon, did not object to the application and commended the Judge for his wisdom in delivering well considered ruling. The Chief Judge of the State, Justice Yakubu Dakwak, subsequently reassigned the case to Justice Christy Dabup of Court IV for continuation of trial after Justice Daniel Longji hearing the matter 34 times.

At the resumed hearing on Monday 24, February 2020 before Justice Dabup, EFCC's counsel, Mr. A.O. Otolade, applied for the fresh arraignment of the two defendants since the case was starting de-no-vo (afresh).

At the commencement of the hearing, counsel for the EFCC, Otolade, told the court that it was unfortunate that the case had to start afresh after closing its case earlier before the former Judge. “I urge your Lordship to permit us, the prosecution read the charges to the accused for them to take their pleas” Otolade pleaded.

When the charges were read to the defendants, they pleaded not guilty. Otolade then applied for an adjournment to enable the prosecution prepare for its case against the defendants. He said the prosecution would be calling about 15 witnesses to testify in the case. Justice Dabup, however, chose November 4 and 5, 2020 adjourned dates for the continuation of the trial.



Case 17: Mu'azu Babaginda Aliyu

N1.940 Billion Fraud

Mu'azu Babaginda Aliyu is a former Governor of Niger State who was on April 24, 2017 arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC before Justice Nnamdi Dingba of a Federal High Court in Abuja on eight counts charge bordering on money laundering to the tune of N1.940 billion. Mu'azu who was arraigned alongside the then Niger State Commissioner for Environment, Parks, Gardens and Forest Resources in the state, Umar Mohammad Nasko was on Tuesday February 11, 2020 acquitted by the state high court sitting in Niger state.

The court ruled that the EFCC did not show diligence in prosecuting the case brought against Aliyu and two others in the alleged N1.9 billion money laundering case. The court said the prosecution counsel was not present and did not send any representative during the hearing of the case which led to three adjournments.

Counsel to the defendant urged the court to discharge and acquit the defendant due to the failure of the prosecution to pursue the case properly. In his response, the counsel to the defendant insisted that the prosecution should equally declare it had similarly withdrawn its case.

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The prosecution told the court that he is withdrawing the case before the Judge. Justice Mikailu Abdullahi discharged and acquitted the defendants for lack of diligent prosecution by the EFCC. Justice Dimgba had on Thursday October 6, 2017 returned the file of criminal case against Aliyu to the Acting Chief Judge for reassignment. Dimgba ordered that the case file be returned to the Acting Chief Judge of Federal High Court, Justice Abdul Kafarati, for reassignment to Minna Division of the Court in Niger State.

Justice Dimgba held that the application was meritorious. He made the order following an application by Aliyu's co-defendant, Umar Nasko, who was the governorship candidate of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the 2015 poll in the state and ex-Commissioner for Environment, Parks, Gardens and Forest Resources in the state. Nasko had through his counsel, Mamman Usman (SAN), filed an application seeking the transfer of the case to Minna Division of the Court.

Usman argued that the alleged offences were said to have been committed in Niger and insisted that it be transferred to the state. He said “the basis for the application is to see that the trial is conducted at the proper forum and not out of lack of trust in this court to do justice. “The prosecution had not placed or shown any evidence before the court of lack of security in Minna. “All the evidences, witnesses and defendants in the matter are based in Minna, so it is more suitable that the case be conducted in Minna High Court Division.”

EFCC's lawyer, Mr. Ben Ikani, who started introducing his counter-affidavit to oppose the motion, however, suddenly opted to withdraw his objection to the application. He said the EFCC thought it would be more convenient to have the case tried in Abuja. He added that “My Honour, I am no longer objecting the motion to avoid delay in this case. The complainant (EFCC) is ready for trial any day and anywhere.” When the Judge asked Olajide Ayodele (SAN), Aliyu's lawyer about his view on the transfer application, he also said he had no objection.

In the course of his trial, Saidu Abdullahi, Accountant General of Niger State, on Wednesday, June 27, 2018, told Justice Yalim Suleiman Bogoro

of the Federal High Court sitting in Minna, Niger State, how a former governor of the state, Babangida Aliyu, ordered the disbursement of over N1.6 billion from the state's statutory account for no purpose. While being led in evidence by Ben Ikani, counsel to the EFCC, as PW10, Abdullahi told the court all he knew about the ecological funds stating that the disbursements were made in three tranches.

There was no update as to the EFCC's intention to appeal the ruling of Tuesday February 11, 2020 which acquitted Aliyu and the other accused persons in the case.



Case 18: Mahmud Tukur

N1.8 Billion Fuel Subsidy
Scam

Mahmud Tukur is the Managing Director, Eternal Plc. Justice Hakeem Oshodi of an Ikeja Division of the Lagos State High Court on April 14, 2020, dismissed corruption case against Tukur and his company.

At the resumed hearing of the matter on February 14, 2020, the prosecution lawyer, Rotimi Jacobs, told the court that he had reviewed the case and that there was no need to continue with it since the third, fifth and sixth defendants who were primary actors in the fraud were not available.

“My Lord, I reviewed the facts of the case and I know it will be extremely impossible for me to lead evidence in this matter without the third defendant and the role he played in respect of the fifth and sixth defendants. “So My Lord, as a man of conscience, my conscience will not allow me to continue against the rest leaving the principal actor. I am forced to ask my Lord to adjourn sine die (indefinitely) or urge my Lord to strike out the matter.

“So that you enable us as soon as the third, fifth and sixth defendants resurface to face this trial because they are the primary actors My Lord and I have spoken with my colleagues also. So, My Lord, it will be futile for me to proceed and I have spoken with them so that they will agree with me to strike out”.

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Lawyers for the defendants did not oppose the application by the prosecution to strike out the case, but the counsel for the first and second defendants, Tayo Oyetibo and Egun Olu-Adegboruwa, urged the court to release the international passports of the first and second defendants. The two lawyers also urged the court to release all title documents deposited with the court for the approval of the first and second defendants' bail.

In a short ruling, Justice Oshodi said “After hearing Rotimi Jacobs, SAN, the Prosecution Counsel inform the Court that he reviewed the facts of this case and it will be extremely impossible to further lead evidence in this matter without the third defendant and the role he played in fifth and sixth defendants. He urged the Court to strike out the matter”

He has been standing trial in an alleged N1.8 billion fuel subsidy scam. Arraigned alongside the duo were Alex Ochonogor, Eternal Plc, Axenergy Limited, and Star Inspection Services Nigeria Limited. Mr. Alao, described as a principal witness in the case, is believed to be at large. He is also associated with the fifth and sixth defendants. The defendants were first arraigned in July 2012 over a nine-count charge of fuel subsidy fraud amounting to N1.8 billion.

The EFCC accused them of receiving the funds from the federal government as petrol subsidy without actually importing any petrol. The defendants strongly denied any wrongdoing. Mr. Tukur, Alex and Mr. Alao were the first, second and third defendants while Eternal Plc, Axenergy and Star Inspection Services Nigeria Limited, were fourth, fifth and sixth defendants respectively.

Eternal Plc, which is listed, has since informed the Nigerian Stock Exchange of the outcome of the case. In a February 24 letter to the Exchange, the company said, “Eterna Plc is pleased to announce that the criminal case instituted in 2012 by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) against Eterna Plc, Mahmud Tukur and several other persons has been struck out.

The Lagos State High Court presided over by Justice H. O Oshodi struck out the matter on the 14th day of February 2020, following an application by the prosecution counsel, that having reviewed the facts

of the case, it will be extremely impossible to further lead evidence in the matter against the company and its MD/CEO Mahmud Tukur. Case closed.”\



Case 19: Diezani Alison–Madueke

\$20 Billion Money
Laundering

Diezani Alison-Madueke is a former Minister of Petroleum Resources who has been accused of money laundering up to the tune of \$20 billion. The immediate past acting Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ibrahim Magu, on Wednesday 23, January 2020 restated the commitment of the anti-graft agency at ensuring that Alison-Madueke is repatriated to Nigeria to face criminal charges against her.

Magu had traced a number of criminal activities ranging from abuse of office, bribery, fraud, misuse of public funds and money laundering to the former minister who is currently at large to avoid questions on alleged criminal activities dotting her years as a minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The former anti-graft Czar, who wondered why her current country of abode has not surrendered her to Nigeria to face Justice, said the EFCC would do everything within its power to get her prosecuted this year. Though, Alison-Madueke was yet to be arraigned in Nigeria, the commission has secured final forfeiture orders against some properties traced to her, including hundreds of assorted jewelry worth over \$40 million. Also, on February 17, 2020, Magu again asked the United Kingdom to extradite Alison-Madueke.

The EFCC started a process to extradite the former minister in November 2018 but Magu later said the agency has been having challenges effecting the former minister's extradition. “I was in London this year, we did investigation together with the UK team, and anywhere I go I always call for extradition of corrupt Nigerians to return back the money,” the EFCC boss said. “This woman has stolen so much, not less than 2.5 billion dollars, but unfortunately she has generation of looters who are supporting her. This is not good”.

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“We are in touch with the international community, she is under protective custody, otherwise, we would have arrested her, return her to Nigeria.” “We will not allow corruption to work here in Nigeria because it is destructive and disastrous”. We blocked several accounts.”

In 2017, a Federal High Court in Lagos ordered the forfeiture of N7.6 billion allegedly linked to her to the federal government.

A Federal High Court in Abuja had later threatened to strike out fraud charges brought against Alison-Madueke over the continued absence of the accused.

Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu of the Federal High Court in Abuja on Tuesday November 12, 2019 gave EFCC till March 20, 2020 to produce her for trial in the corruption case. No final decision yet on the case.



Case 20: Ibrahim Saminu Turaki

N36 Billion Money
Laundering

Saminu Turaki is a former Jigawa State Governor being tried for an alleged N36 billion fraud, but the trial is yet to begin substantively.

Turaki, who served two terms as governor of Jigawa from 1999 to 2007, was first arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC before Justice Binta Murtala-Nyako of the Federal Capital Territory High Court on July 13, 2007 on a 32-count charge of misappropriating N36 billion while in office. Following his arraignment, he was granted bail in the sum of N100 million with two federal legislators, Bawa Bwari and Bashir Adamu, standing as his sureties.

In 2011, the case was transferred to the Federal High Court, Dutse, after the accused successfully challenged the jurisdiction of the FCT division of the Court.

Turaki since 2013 has been evading arrest by the police and the EFCC, until luck ran out of him on Tuesday July 4th, 2017 when he was arrested at the

International Conference Centre, Abuja, by operatives of the EFCC at the launch of a book on the late Zakariya Maimalari, titled: The First Regular Combatant. Law enforcement agents had been unable to arrest him since a warrant for his arrest was issued by a federal court more than four years ago.

The live broadcast of the book launch on TV was believed to have alerted the anti-graft agency to Mr. Turaki's presence at the event attended by major political leaders, hence leading to his eventual arrest.

He had been on the wanted list of the EFCC since May 3, 2013 when a Federal High Court in Dutse, the Jigawa State capital, issued the warrant for his arrest for serially failing to appear before the court. The court, presided by Justice Sabi'u Yahuza, had directed the police and the EFCC to apprehend Mr. Turaki on sight and bring him before it. “You are hereby commanded to arrest the said Ibrahim Saminu Turaki and bring him before me at the Federal High Court, Dutse, Jigawa State without delay”, the court ordered the law enforcement agencies.

The order was as a result of Mr. Turaki's repeated refusal to appear before the court to answer charges of massive looting of his state made against him by the EFCC. He was subsequently re-arraigned on the same 32-count charge in Dutse but has since failed to appear before the court to defend himself.

It was further confirmed that the last time Mr. Turaki appeared at the court was in 2011, when Justice Yahaya took over the case after the previous presiding judge, Yunusa Nasiru, was assigned to the election petitions tribunal. In 2012, Mr. Yahuza took over the case from Mr. Yahaya. But the case continued to suffer series of long adjournments due to Mr. Turaki's refusal to appear before the court. Turaki never appeared before Mr. Yahuza since the case was reassigned to the judge in 2012. As at the last sitting of the court on May 30, 2017 the case had suffered 10 adjournments.

Mr. Turaki is facing a 32-count charge alongside three firms, INC Natural Resources Ltd., Arkel Construction Nigeria Ltd., and Wildcat Construction Ltd.

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Another defendant in the case, Ahmed Mohammed, who was also mentioned in every count of the charge was also declared "now at large."

In a 20-page handwritten statement, Mr. Turaki had told EFCC that he personally knew the three companies standing trial with him, but maintained that he did not award them contracts as he, as governor, only approved contracts. "Sometimes I direct contract award to the company that can do it," he claimed in the statement.

The 10-page long 32-count charge in case no. FHC/ABJ/CR/86/2007 was signed by Isa Gafai of the Legal and Prosecution Unit of the EFCC. The charge sheet listed 16 investigating police officers who are to give evidence of their investigations and tender exhibits. The name of Ibrahim Magu, the current acting chairman of the EFCC, is on the list as prosecution witness number 13.

Mr. Magu, then a senior officer at the commission, is believed to have played a prominent role in the investigation. After 10 years of series of adjournments, Mr. Turaki's case is yet to reach hearing stage as witnesses are yet to start testifying.

On May 19, 2016, operatives of the EFCC had stormed Mr. Turaki's house at 16 Dennis Osadebey Street, Asokoro, Abuja but could not lay their hands on him. Since then, the former governor had been on the run, though he has been seen at various political and social gatherings.

For instance, he was one of the prominent guests at the December 2016 Daura wedding of Zahra, a daughter of President Muhammadu Buhari, and was also sighted at the Bola Tinubu Colloquium, a well-attended public event in Lagos.

In 2014, Mr. Turaki, who had been elected governor on the platform of the then opposition All People's Party but defected to the ruling Peoples Democratic Party after his tenure, campaigned vigorously for the present All Progressives Congress governor of Jigawa, Badaru Abubakar.

Case is still pending as trial is yet to commence.



Case 21: Peter Ayodele Fayose

N1.8 Billion Money
Laundering

Mr. Peter Ayodele Fayose is a former Governor of Ekiti State who is facing trial in an alleged N1.8 billion money laundering charge.

A former executive staff of Zenith Bank Plc, Sunday Oluseye Alade on Wednesday October 23, 2019 told Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of a Federal High Court in Lagos, that the counting of N1.2 billion, which was moved to the bank's branch in Akure on behalf of former governor of Ekiti state, Dr. Peter Ayodele Fayose, took 10 days.

At Wednesday's proceedings, a Senior Manager at the Abuja branch of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Aliu Mohammed, also testified as to how N2.2 billion was transferred into Diamond Bank's account of a firm, Sylva Mcmanara, from the operational account of the former National Security Adviser (NSA), Col. Sambo Dasuki, at Central Bank of Nigeria.

Mohammed, who is the Head of Payment Section at the apex bank disclosed that payments mandate was first received from the NSA's office on 4th June, 2014, to pay N200 million to Sylva Mcmanara for the purpose of physical security infrastructure.

According to the charge filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), on 17th June, 2014, Fayose and one, Abiodun Agbele, were said to have taken possession of the sum of N1.2 billion, for purposes of funding his gubernatorial election campaign in Ekiti state, which sum they reasonably ought to have known formed part of crime proceeds.

Fayose was alleged to have received a cash payment of the sum of \$5 million (about N1.8 billion) from a former Minister of State for Defence, Senator Musiliu Obanikoro, without going through any financial institution and which sum exceeded the amount allowed by law. He was also alleged to have retained the sum of N300 million in his bank account

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and took control of the aggregate sums of about N622 million which sum he ought to have known formed part of crime proceeds.

The former Governor was also alleged to have procured De Privateer Ltd and Still Earth Ltd, to retain the aggregate sums of N851 million in his bank account which they reasonably ought to have known formed part of crime proceeds.

Besides, the accused was alleged to have used the aggregate sums of about N1.6 billion to acquire property in Lagos and Abuja, which sums he reasonably ought to have known formed part of crime proceeds. The accused was also alleged to have used the sum of N200 million to acquire a property in Abuja, in the name of his elder sister Moji Oladeji, which sum he ought to know also forms crime proceeds.

The offences contravenes the provisions of sections 15(1), 15 (2), 15 (3), 16(2)(b), 16 (d), and 18 (c) of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act 2011. The EFCC has so far called 11 witnesses against Fayose alone. The fifth prosecution witness (PW5), Damola Otuyalo, in the on-going trial of Abiodun Agbele, an aide of former governor of Ekiti state, Ayodele Fayose, on Friday January 31, 2020, told a Federal High Court, Abuja, presided over by Justice Nnamdi Dimgba, how the sum of N1.2 billion, stored in 65 'Ghana- must-go' bags, was airlifted using three helicopters.

The trial continues as the accused persons are yet to open their defence.



Case 22: Peter Odili

N100 Billion Fraud

Dr. Peter Odili is a former Governor of Rivers State between 1999 and 2007. He is currently under probe for allegedly diverting N100 billion for personal use.

Ibrahim Magu, the immediately past acting chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on January 8, 2020 said the agency will soon

re-open its investigation into the alleged misappropriation of public funds to the tune of N100 billion during the tenure of former Rivers State governor, Peter Odili from 1999 to 2007.

The anti-graft agency in January 2007 announced plans to investigate Odili. The former governor on March 23rd of the same year secured a perpetual injunction barring the agency from investigating him.

He was alleged to have moved about N4 billion in cash to a bank between 2004 and 2006, in favour of his Aide-De-Camp, Isaac Onyesom, and Emmanuel Nkata, who worked in the Rivers State liaison office in Abuja.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), in a fact sheet on the probe also alleged that N1.5 billion out of the amount was used by the ex-Governor to obtain a doctorate degree and naming of a Hall after him in Lincoln University, USA.

It was alleged that about N100 million was doled out to a former National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on November 28, 2005. Despite being still under probe, administration of Governor Nyesom Wike was alleged to have transferred suspicious N2 billion (public funds) to some firms belonging to Odili between 2016 and 2018 respectively.

But Odili in a suit FHC/ PHC/C3/26/2020 dated March 12, 2020, asked a Federal High Court to restrain the EFCC from investigating him. He said the EFCC was bound by the 2007 judgment of the Federal High Court on the perpetual injunction against his arrest and prosecution. He said the EFCC had been threatening to arrest, detain and prosecute him.

According to document on the status of investigation on Odili, the EFCC claimed that the ex-governor allegedly laundered the N100 billion under the guise of pursuing a Power Project in Rivers State.

The EFCC said despite being under investigation, about N10 billion questionable deposits were found in some accounts traced to Odili and a retired

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Assistant Superintendent of Police. The commission said N2 billion out of the suspicious N10 billion was lodged in some companies belonging to Odili by the Rivers State Government between 2016 and 2017.

The document revealed that sometimes in 2018, information was received that some companies belonging to a retired ASP: NUMAC Project Company Ltd and NUMAC Global Resources Ltd, had between 2004 and 2018 received over N5 billion into the account and the funds came in tranches of N500, N300 millions etc, which is suspicious.

These companies and their accounts were thoroughly investigated. It was discovered that the inflow into these accounts were mostly cash with about N2 billion came in from Rivers State Government account between 2016 and 2017 respectively. These funds were traced to the following Companies: Pamo Group of companies Ltd, Pamo Clinic and Hospital and Pamo Educational Foundation. The above companies were found to have belonged to Dr. Peter Odili and his family.

Based on the above, and in view that the above companies were not part of restraining order of the Federal High Court, the EFCC commenced further investigation. It was further established that the funds were moved from the banks in Abuja contrary to the claims that the money formed part of the security.

The ADC, the principal suspect in the alleged fraud has been in hiding, he has refused to honour the invitation of the commission. The commission said it reliably gathered that it was because of the case that he prematurely retired from the police voluntarily. The former governor is however fighting back by approaching a Federal High Court in Port Harcourt seeking a fresh injunction against EFCC.

Consequently, the EFCC on March 23, 2020 arrested and grilled a former Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to Odili over alleged N4, 000,000,000 fraudulent lodgments in his account.

The EFCC had placed all accounts linked to Onyesom, a retired Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) under Post No Debit (PND). The case is ongoing.



Case 23: Osagie Ize-Iyamu

N700 Million Fraud

Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu is the current gubernatorial candidate for the All Progressives Congress, (APC) in the Edo State Governorship election 2020.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC is prosecuting Ize-Iyamu and other defendants in the suit including former Edo State Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Chairman, Chief Dan Orbih, who is now Vice Chairman South-South of the party; present state chairman of the party, Hon. Tony Aziegbemi; former Deputy Governor of Edo State, Mr. Lucky Imasuen, and Efe Erimuoghae Anthony.

The EFCC in Suit No FHC/BE21C/ 2016, said the five accused allegedly received public funds illegally to the tune of N700 million for the purpose of the 2015 general election, contrary to the provisions of the EFCC Act and the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act. The EFCC further alleged that the defendants conspired among themselves to commit the offence in March 2015, and took possession and control of the funds without any contract award.

The defendants were to appear before Justice M. Umar over an eight-count charge of money laundering to the tune of N700 million meant to prosecute the 2015 general election. The court had on June 18, 2020 validated the corruption charges against the defendants and adjourned the case to July 2, for further hearing.

At the resumed hearing on July 2, 2020, the trial suffered a setback as the court failed to sit due to undisclosed reasons but it was observed that some of the defendants and their counsels were around the court premises. Counsel to the PDP Chairman, Mr. Pascal Ugbomhe, said the case has been adjourned till July 7, 2020. Unfortunately, the alleged ill-health of Ize-Iyamu on Tuesday July 7, 2020 again stalled the N700m fraud case leveled against him and four others.

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At the hearing of the case on Tuesday, counsel to the 1st defendant (Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu), Charles Edosomwan, SAN, told the Justice Muhammed Garba Umar that his client, Ize-Iyamu could not make it to the court as he was currently indisposed. He prayed the Judge to allow him present the certificate of his ill-health as certified by his medical doctor to the court.

Having listened to the counsel to Ize-Iyamu, Justice Garba adjourned the case to July 14, 2020 for hearing. At the resumed hearing on July 14, 2020, the Federal High Court in Benin-City, Edo State, adjourned the case against Ize-Iyamu and others till October 15, 2020.

As early as 9:30a.m, Ize-Iyamu was already seated in court with counsels to all the parties in the case who earlier filed a preliminary objection challenging the jurisdiction of the court to hear the suit. When the case came up for hearing, the EFCC prosecution counsel, Ahmed Imoovba, pleaded with the court through a motion seeking an extension of time to file their reply to the objection.

The presiding Judge, Justice Umar Garba, having listened carefully to the various counsels, asked them to file whatever they have to file within seven days as the court will soon embark on vacation, and adjourned the case to October 15, 2020, for further hearing.



**Case 24: Pastor Adeboye
Sonefun**
N3.4 Billion NSITF Scam

Pastor Adeboye Sonefun is a former Managing Director, Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund, (NSITF) who was suspended on Thursday July 2, 2020 alongside three Executive Directors and some other top management staff of the government agency over corruption allegations.

According to a press statement by Charles Akpan of the Press and Public Relations of the ministry on behalf of the Minister for Labour and Employment, Chris Ngige, on Thursday, July 2, 2020, the

suspended were Mr. Olusegun Olumide-Bashorun, General Manager, Administration/Human Resources/Maintenance, Mr.Lawan Tahir, General Manager, Finance, Mr. Chris Esedebe, General Manager, Claims and Compensation, Mr.Olodotun Adegbite, Deputy General Manager, Investment and Treasury Management, and Mr. Emmanuel Enyinnaya-Sike, Deputy General Manager, Finance and Accounts.

The press statement also mentioned Mr.Olutoyin Arokoyo, Deputy General Manager/Acting Head, Legal, Ms. Dorathy Zajeme-Tukura, Deputy General Manager, Administration, and Mrs. Victoria Ayantuga, Assistant General Manager, Internal Audit as part of the management team that was suspended.

The minister disclosed that the suspension of these officials became imperative after the preliminary investigation established prima facie infractions on the extant Financial Regulations and Procurement Act and other acts of gross misconduct.

The NSITF as an agency is not new to controversies as the Federal Government had alleged that N48 billion out of the N62 billion contributions to the agency was mismanaged by the former board and management between 2012 and 2015.

Some of the former officials of NSITF including the former Chairman, Ngozi Olejeme, were charged to court for corrupt practices and embezzlement by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission, ICPC, has on November 24, 2019 promised not to compromise on the investigation of the alleged N2.3 billion scam at the NSITF.

The ICPC was also said to have written the suspended Managing Director, Pastor Adeboye Sonefun and three Executive Directors of the Fund to appear before it to answer questions for alleged financial infractions.

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Aside the MD, the three Executive Directors according to the letter signed by Akeem Lawal, Director, Operations, ICPC on behalf of the commission's Chairman invited to appear between 12th to 14th November are the Executive Director, Finance, Mr. Jasper Azuatalam, the Executive Director Adam, Tijjani Darazu and Mrs. Kemi Nelson.

According to the letter, the officers were told to come with a lawyer, a Justice of Peace, a staff of the Legal Aid Council or any individual of their choice.

But, the management of the Fund denied any existence of N2.3 billion scam. NSITF management in a statement said, "There is no fraud in the NSITF. What the ICPC is investigating is Duty Tour Allowance (DTA) of the management staff which has been responded to appropriately". The NSITF claimed it had not conducted training for its staff since 2011 when the Employees Compensation Scheme (ECS) started in Nigeria. The training exercise was for 2017, 2018 and 2019 cumulatively. Meanwhile, the Minister of Labour and Employment, Chris Ngige, on Thursday July 16, 2020 inaugurated a Presidential Joint Board Audit Investigation Panel to probe an alleged N3.4 billion financial infractions levelled against the suspended Sonefun and three other directors of NSITF.

The committee is chaired by Ibrahim Khaleel of the Nigeria Labour Congress and Chairman of the Audit Committee of the NSITF Board. The case awaits the report of the Presidential Joint Board Audit Investigation Panel.



Case 25: Ezekiel Bala Agaba

N1.7 Billion Fraud

Ezekiel Bala Agaba is former Executive Director of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) who was sentenced to seven years imprisonment by a Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos State on Wednesday July 15, 2020 over N1.7 billion fraud.

EFCC wrote that the Commission prosecuted Agaba following a 2015 intelligence report of fraud in NIMASA and subsequent investigations that unearthed several suspicious transactions to the tune of N1,699,808,666.60, traced to him.

The charges bordered on criminal breach of trust and embezzlement of the fund through offshore accounts contrary to Section 15(2) of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act, 2011 as amended and punishable under Section 15(3) of the same Act.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges upon arraignment, prompting his trial.

However, the prosecution counsel, Rotimi Oyedepo, in the course of the trial, argued that funds released by the Presidency through the Office of the National Security Adviser for the International Ship and Port Facility Security, ISPS code activities in 2014, of which Agaba was its committee Chairman, was diverted by him through three companies.

EFCC listed the companies as Seabulk Offshore Operator Ltd, Ace Prothesis Ltd, Southern Offshore Limited, Extreme Vertex Nigeria Ltd and Aroward Consulting Ltd.

"These companies were basically used to receive the funds and in most cases transfer the funds as directed by the defendant to various companies and individuals either for the purchase of United States Dollars or landed property or stock," Oyedepo told the Court. Oyedepo invited 12 witnesses and tendered several documentary evidences which was admitted by the court as exhibits.

Delivering judgment on Wednesday, Justice Buba held that the prosecution proved its case beyond every reasonable doubt and sentenced the defendant to seven years imprisonment on each count, which is to run concurrently.



Case 26: Dr Joy Nunieh

N40 Billion NDDC Scam

The Cases

Dr. Joy Nunieh is a former acting Managing Director, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) who was dismissed on Wednesday 19th February, 2020 by President Muhammadu Buhari.

She was indicted in alleged misappropriation of N40 billion scam during her tenure as the Managing Director Interim Management Committee of NDDC. She was summoned to appear before the House Committee on NDDC on investigative hearing into the alleged missing N40 billion from NDDC funds.

Nunieh denied the allegations when she appeared before the House of Reps Committee on NDDC on Friday July 17, 2020 via zoom. Nunieh said she did not touch funds meant for the Niger Delta people. Nunieh had accused the Niger Delta Affairs Minister, Godswill Akpabio, of orchestrating her removal from office, but the minister said she was being insubordinate.

She alleged at the Senate investigative hearing probing NDDC's misappropriation of N40 billion that Akpabio engineered her removal from office for **failing to dance to his tunes regarding the spending of the Commission.**

Nunieh served as NDDC acting MD from October 29, 2019 to February 28, 2020 before the committee was sacked.

Accusing Akpabio of massive corruption, Nunieh disclosed that out of the N81 billion spent by the NDDC between October 2019 to May 2020, only N8 billion was expended by the Interim Management Committee (IMC) under her leadership from October 29, 2019 to February 18, 2020. Nunieh also explained her position on the controversial contracts in the NDDC, denying that she ever made any payment without Mr Akpabio's knowledge.

The inauguration of the 3-member interim committee in late October 2019, by Minister of Niger Delta Affairs, Sen. Godswill Akpabio, to oversee the affairs of NDDC and carry out a forensic audit of the Board, with Joy Nunieh as Ag. MD/CEO was greeted with mixed reactions, even as it had temporarily diverted attention from the substantive Board inauguration and the membership credentials of Dr. Nunieh.

The Senate had on May 5, 2020 set up a seven-member committee to investigate the “financial recklessness” of the Interim Management Committee (IMC) of the commission. The lawmakers said within three months, the commission has spent over N40 billion of the commission's fund without recourse to established processes of funds disbursement.

The NDDC management had said that the Senate investigation was instigated by people who want to scuttle the planned forensic audit of the commission. The NDDC, backed by its supervising minister, Mr Akpabio, accused the Senate of corruption and undue interference in the running of the commission.

The NDDC, on June 6, 2020 released a shocking statement which appears to implicate the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Niger Delta and the NDDC, Peter Nwaoboshi, in N3.6 billion contract fraud in the commission. Nwaoboshi denied the allegations, saying he did not have any relationship with the companies mentioned by the NDDC.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, had in March vowed to beam its searchlight on the Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, to ensure that the Niger Delta region feels the impact of the intervention agency.

Usman Iman, Head of the Port Harcourt Zonal Office of the Commission, made the pledge on March 10, 2020 while answering questions as guest on Security Watch, a programme of Wave FM 91.7 Port Harcourt.

He said: “We are looking into the activities of the NDDC. We have received petitions on projects that have been paid for but not executed. We are going to look into these petitions to ensure that the people get value for monies released to the NDDC and, that those who steal from the agency are dealt with in accordance with the law.”

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He reminded listeners that the Whistle Blowers policy of the Federal Government was still in force and so urged citizens to take advantage of the policy to give information about corrupt activities to the Commission.

Neither the EFCC nor the Independent Corrupt Practices and Related Offences Commission, ICPC has taken legal action on the alleged massive corruption case in NDDC or against Nunieh.



Case 27: Francis Atuche

N125 Billion Fraud

Francis Atuche is a former Managing Director of the defunct Bank PHB who is facing trial over an alleged N125 billion fraud since 2009. Atuche was charged alongside a former Managing Director of Spring Bank Plc., Charles Ojo, on an amended 45 counts.

They were arraigned before Justice Saliu Saidu on Feb. 20, 2014, before the Judge was transferred out of the Lagos jurisdiction.

Following the transfer, the case was re-assigned to Justice Ayokunle Faji, and the defendants were subsequently re-arraigned before him on Feb. 18, 2017. They however pleaded not guilty, and Faji allowed them to continue on bail granted them by Saidu.

Although, Saidu was eventually returned to the Lagos division, the case still continued before Faji. Trial has since begun before Justice Faji, with the prosecution giving evidence. On June 11, 2019, a second prosecution witness, Mrs. Philipa Odesi, testified about the operation of credit facilities in the bank.

The Court subsequently adjourned the case until Monday June 17, 2019 for continuation of trial.

When the case was mentioned on Monday, Mr. Chukwudi Enebeli who announced appearance for the prosecution, informed the court that the prosecution served subpoena signed by the court on

Keystone Bank last week. He said that the subpoena was for the bank to produce certain documents necessary for the trial. He added that a representative of the bank, Mr. Eze Asiegbu, was present in court.

Prosecution however informed the court that all the necessary documents had not been gathered, and prayed for adjournment for continuation of trial. Justice Faji consequently adjourned the case.

The defendants were first arraigned in 2009 before Justice Akinjide Ajakaiye who granted them bail in the sum of N50 million each with two sureties each in like sum.

They were later re-arraigned before Justice Binta Murtala-Nyako on Feb. 3, 2012, and subsequently re-arraigned before Justice Rita Ofili-Ajumogobia on Jan. 16, 2013, following the transfer of Murtala-Nyako.

Both Judges adopted the bail terms granted by Ajakaiye.

The EFCC, however, re-arraigned the defendants before Saidu on Feb. 20, 2014, following reassignment of the case. It re-arraigned them also on Feb. 18, 2017 before Faji.

According to the charge, the defendants granted credit facilities, manipulated shares and committed general banking fraud to the tune of N125 billion.

The alleged offences contravene the provisions of Sections 7(2) (b) of the Advanced Fee Fraud Act, 2004, and Sections 15(1) of the Failed Banks (Recovery of Debts) and Financial Malpractices in Banks Act, 2004.

They also contravene the provisions of Section 516 of the Criminal Code Act, Cap C38, Laws of the Federation, 2004, as well as Section 14 (1) of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act, 200.

He explained that there were certain conditions attached to the deferral policy for credit availment as a duly completed credit availment form must be submitted before a customer can enjoy the policy.

He however noted that some companies like Extra oil, Petrosam Oil and gas, Trajec limited and

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Futureview Financial Services benefitted from the banks loans without having accounts with the bank and with no duly filled deferral forms.

Some new companies that were also alleged to have benefitted from Bank PHB shares with the bank's fund were also mentioned to include Arabian Probity Management Limited, Clearmont Management Company Limited, Commercial Trading and Services Limited, Pine Petrosam Limited, Consolidated Business Support Limited, Financial Company Limited, Noelle Investments Limited, APCO and Venture Resources Limited.

In his testimony, Mr.Nkpe further stated that all the transactions were carried out by a Bank PHB staff, Obi Nwapa on the instructions of Mr. Ugo Anyanwu, who was the Chief Financial Officer at the bank then. When confronted during investigations however, Mr.Anyanwu stated that he was acting on instructions from his boss, Mr.Atuche.

The anti-graft operative told the court that no documents were tendered to support the claim that he was acting on Mr.Atuche's instructions as the beneficial owner of the alleged shares.

An Ikeja High Court sitting on Monday March 26, 2012 had dismissed an application filed by Atuche seeking an order to quash the charges of stealing brought against him. Presiding Justice Adeniyi Onigbanjo said that the application lacked merit and that the charge against the former bank chief was not defective and incompetent.

Mr.Atuche had sought an order striking out his name from the charge on the basis that the transactions on another charge against him before the Federal High Court and the one at the Lagos High Court were interlinked. He added that the EFCC, acting for the Attorney-General of the Federation can only prosecute a crime under a Federal Law, and not under the Administration of the Criminal Justice Law of Lagos State.

Justice Onigbanjo in his ruling dismissed all the arguments raised by Mr.Atuche. The Judge distinguished between the cases at the Federal High Court & that at the State High Court.

He said the charges at the Federal High Court bordered on his alleged granting of credit facilities illegally while that before his court had to do with stealing and conspiracy to steal.

The court also maintained that the two matters before it and the one before Justice Lateefah Okunnu of the same court had to do with different transactions that Mr.Atuche was allegedly involved in, though all the alleged offences were committed when he was the Chief Executive Officer of the defunct Bank PHB.

The Judge also overruled Mr.Atuche's argument that the way the case was being handled could prejudice his right to fair hearing. The Judge said that though the case had generated public interest, it would not in any way affect the decision of the court. Case is still pending.



Case 28: Mallam Is'haq Modibbo Kawu

N2.5 Billion Fraud

Is'haq Modibbo Kawu is a former Director-General, National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) who was suspended on February 14 2020 over an alleged N2.5 billion fraud.

Kawu was on Thursday May 2, 2019 brought before Justice Folashade Ogunbanjo-Giwa of the Federal High Court, Abuja, by the Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission after several unsuccessful attempts to arraign him and others.

Kawu was arraigned along with the Chairman of Pinnacle Communications Limited, Mr. Lucky Omoluwa, and the Chief Operating Officer of the company, Mr. Dipo Onifade, on allegation of misapplication of N2.5bn seed grant for 'Digital Switch-Over Programme' of the Federal Government.

On April 17, 2019, when the trial was to be held, it was put on hold because the co-accused, Onifade, was absent in court.

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Earlier on March 12, 2019, Kawu failed to appear in court after claiming to be on admission at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital, Ilorin, Kwara State. ICPC spokesperson, Rasheedat Okoduwa, said in a statement that Kawu and others faced 12 counts bordering on abuse of office, money laundering and misleading a public officer with the intent to defraud the Federal Government.

The Court had on June 4, 2020 ordered Kawu to defend his alleged involvement in the N2.5 billion Digital Switch-Over (DSO) fraud. Kawu, through his counsel, A. U. Mustapha (SAN) had submitted before the court in February, 2020 that he had no case to answer in the alleged fraud, praying the court to absolve him of the charge brought against him by ICPC.

Justice Ogunbanjo-Giwa had fixed the ruling on the no case submission by Kawu on 26th March, 2020, but for the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic which led to closure of courts.

The court, at the rescheduled sitting on the 3rd of June, 2020, said that ICPC had established a prima facie against Kawu, Onifade and Pinnacle Communications Limited and ruled that they had a case to answer.

However, Mr. Omoluwa was struck out from the charge after his counsel; Alex Iziyon (SAN) told the court of his death from heart failure, in February this year.

The trial Judge, before adjourning the matter to 1st, 2nd and 3rd July, 2020, also granted the prayers of ICPC to amend the charge by removing the name of the late Omoluwa.

He was re-arraigned alongside two other defendants: Dipo Onifade and Pinnacle Communications Limited on Wednesday July 1st, 2020 due to an amendment to the earlier 12-count charge preferred against them.

The prosecuting counsel, Mr. Henry Emore, said that the amendment was sequel to a directive from the court to remove the name of one of the defendants, Mr. Lucky Omoluwa because he is now deceased.

When the charge was read to the two defendants, they pleaded not guilty just as a no-guilty plea was entered for Pinnacle Communications. The prosecutor informed the court that aside of the arraignment, the defendants were supposed to open their defence.

Counsel to Modibbo-Kawu, Mr. Adetayo Adeyemo however told the court that his client had filed an application for a stay of proceedings in view of the court's ruling on his no case submission. He said that his client had filed an appeal in respect to the ruling which was currently pending at the Court of Appeal. Also, the counsel to Pinnacle, Mr. Abayomi Oyelola, told the court that he had filed a similar application in view of the ruling on the no case submission delivered by the court. Similarly, the counsel to Onifade, Mr. Alex Iziyon, told the court that his client had filed an application challenging the provisions of Section 306 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, (ACJA).

The prosecutor, who acknowledged that he had received all the applications filed by the defendants, said that he intended to oppose all of them. He told the Court that he needed at least two weeks to do that. The trial Judge, Justice Folasade Giwa-Ogunbanjo, adjourned the matter until Sept. 28, 2020 saying the court would commence its annual vacation on from 13 July. Trial continues



Case 29: Folorunsho Folarin Coker

N3 Billion Fraud

Folorunsho Folarin Coker is a former Managing Director of the Lagos State Number Plate Production Authority and a former Commissioner for Tourism, Arts and Culture in Lagos state and the current Director General of the Nigeria Tourism Development Corporation, NTDC.

The Federal High Court in Lagos on Monday March 5, 2018 ordered that the Zenith Bank account of the Lagos State Number Plate Production Authority be frozen over an alleged fraud of N3 billion.

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Justice Mohammed Idris ordered that the account be frozen following an *ex parte* application filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to that effect. Idris held that the order would remain pending the conclusion of ongoing investigation into the alleged N3 billion fraud by the EFCC...

The order of the court also affected 32 other bank accounts belonging to companies which were allegedly used to divert the N3 billion from the Lagos State Government Number Plate Production Authority.

In an affidavit attached to the *ex parte* application, the commission claimed that its preliminary investigation revealed that the funds were diverted while Mr. Folorunsho Coker was the Managing Director of the Lagos State Government Number Plate Production Authority.

The companies whose accounts were also frozen include a law firm, Rimi and Partners, which the EFCC said has Coker's wife, Mrs. Aisha Rimi, as the sole proprietor. Other companies whose accounts were frozen are Ekosina Investment Limited; SW Properties Limited; Imira Trade and Global Services Limited; Lofty Investment Nigeria Limited; Pure Technical Services Limited and Cablepoint Limited. Olamide Sadiq, an investigating officer with the EFCC, said that the probe into the alleged N3 billion was informed by intelligence report received sometime in 2017 by the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit. According to Sadiq, the intelligence was to the effect that there were suspicious transactions on the account of Rimi and Partners, as there were heavy inflows in excess of N3bn from the Lagos State Government Number Plate Production Authority into the account. Sadiq further alleged that investigation by the EFCC revealed that Rimi and Partners had 10 bank accounts with Guaranty Trust Bank.

He added that Mr. Folorunsho Coker was, as at that time, the Managing Director of the 1st respondent (Lagos State Number Plate Production Authority) and also the husband of Aisha Rimi, one of the signatories to the accounts of the 2nd and 3rd respondents – Rimi and Partners and Ekosina Investment Limited, respectively.

Sadiq also alleged that from preliminary investigations by the commission, the 2nd and 3rd respondents were used to divert funds from the Lagos State Government Number Plate Production Authority with the influence of Folorunsho Coker, who was the Managing Director of the agency. No update on the case.



Case 30: Sally Mbanefo

N500 Million

Sally Mbanefo is a former Director General of Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation, NTDC, who was sacked on November 30, 2016 by President Muhammadu Buhari over an alleged misappropriation.

The Independent Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Commission had in March 2015 arrested four more officials of the NTDC over alleged abuse of office and mismanagement of over N500m.

The suspects were said to have been arrested two weeks ago following a complaint by workers under the aegis of the Amalgamated Union of Public Corporation, Civil Service Technical and Recreational Services Employees, an affiliate of the Nigeria Labour Congress, over alleged illegal employment, abuse of office, diversion of funds and recruitment without due process at the NTDC.

Mbanefo was alleged to have, among others, misused N52,014,821 released to the corporation as capital budget from March to July 2014. Although she had denied all the allegations, saying, "They are putting lies together to tarnish my image, but God won't allow it."

An invitation letter by the acting Head of Special Investigations in ICPC, H.M. Hassan, to Mbanefo directed her to release the Head of Administration and Personnel and the Director of Finance to assist the commission in the investigation of a petition relating to the violation of the ICPC Act 2000.

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The two officials were told to produce the list of the NTDC employees as of December 2014 as well as the “personnel files of all members of staff employed under the leadership of Mrs. Sally Mbanefo as Director-General” and money received from the government. The anti-graft body also demanded the budget and file containing major contracts awarded and executed in 2013 and 2014.

Mbanefo who was appointed by ex-President Goodluck Jonathan in 2013 was accused of "monumental fraud" amounting to N270 million. Mbanefo's sack was contained in a letter titled “Notification of de-secondment from the Nigeria Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC)” and signed by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Babachir David Lawal on Sunday, November 27, 2016.

The letter reads: “I refer to the attached letter, Ref. No. SGF.6/S.23/1/568 of 8th October 2013 in respect of your secondment from the Keystone Bank Limited to serve as Executive Director/ Chief Executive Officer of the Nigeria Tourism Development Corporation (NTDC) for a period of two years with effect from 6th May 2013. You may note from the foregoing that the period of your secondment at the corporation had since lapsed on 5th May 2016. Consequently, you are to handover the affairs of the corporation to the most senior officer on or before Wednesday, 30th November, 2016.”

It could be recalled that Azania Omo-Agege, Chief Executive Officer, Z.A Entertainment, Effurun, Delta State had in 2014 dragged Sally Mbanefo, to court for violating some provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding his organization had entered into with NTDC in the build up to the 2014 World Cup.

Also, there was a story published on January 2, 2020 on the 2017 audit report made public by the Auditor-General of the federation indicating how NTDC failed to return its unspent balance of N8.6 million at the end of the 2016 fiscal year to the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF).

The Auditor-General's report for 2017 noted that the infraction is a violation of section 414 of the Financial Regulations (2009) which requires unspent balances to lapse with the financial year.

The audit report on the accounts of the federation for 2017, the most recent by the Auditor-General said the unremitted amount was the balance of three subheads: LT&T Training (N3,295,000); LT&T Others (N2,285,000) and Local Training (N3,025,000) totalling N8,605,000. The director-general of NTDC during the period of the infractions was Sally Mbanefo. Similarly, the audit report found irregularities in the expenditure of N8.6 million by the agency as training allowances in 2015.

The auditors found that the application for the training allowance was dated December 22, 2015, and approval given on the same date, whereas the training was purportedly held on October 27 and November 25, 2015, two months before the application. They found out that payments were not made to individual beneficiaries as only the grade level and the numbers of staff were indicated in the memo but the names of the staff were not provided. Also the certificates of attendance were not produced to authenticate the payments. The auditors suspected from the anomalies a possible diversion of the funds.

The report also noted the violation of the e-payment policy guidelines on the payment of N10.7 million to some officers of the corporation for training allowances. The action, according to the report, contravenes provisions of e-payment policy guidelines on payment procedures and Financial Regulations 613 and 631 (2009).

The guidelines stipulate that payment should be made electronically into individual beneficiaries' accounts. Where an exemption has been granted, payments shall be made only to the persons named in the vouchers or their properly authorised representatives. To ensure accountability and transparency, Mr. Anyine demanded that the Director-General be sanctioned in line with Section 3129 of Financial Regulations. The section states that “any officer who violates any other provisions, for which no sanction is specifically recommended, shall be taken to have committed gross misconduct and shall be disciplined accordingly.”

No update as to whether she is being or will be prosecuted by the ICPC or EFCC for the alleged fund misappropriation.

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Case 31: Engineer Victor Nnamdi Igboanugo

N162 Million Contract
Scam

Engineer Victor Nnamdi Igboanugo is a former Deputy Director with the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment, Abuja, arrested on May 17, 2012 by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), over fraudulent acquisition of properties, looting of government funds and receiving gratification from contractors.

Igboanugo was said to have been detained by the ICPC after he was nabbed by operatives of the commission in Abuja in May, 2012, according to a statement by the then ICPC spokesman, Mike Sowe. Again on April 11, 2019, Igboanugo was arraigned by the ICPC as the Director of the Federal Ministry of Education over alleged contract frauds.

The alleged contract frauds, according to the ICPC amount to the tune of ₦162m and also include a property valued way above the director's income. Igboanugo had at various times worked at the Ministries of Environment and Niger Delta Affairs. It is alleged by the ICPC that the director abused the office by awarding multiple contracts to private companies where he held personal interests.

Mr. Igboanugo is currently facing a 17-count charge before Justice V.B. Ashi of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court 23, Apo, Abuja. Charges bordered around the abuse of office and conferring undue advantage upon him.

Part of the charge reads; "That you Engr. Victor Igboanugo (M) sometime in October, 2008 or thereabout at Abuja, Federal Capital Territory while being a public officer used your position as Deputy Director and Secretary of the Ministerial Tenders' Board of the Federal Ministry of Environment to confer corrupt advantage upon yourself by awarding a contract for the construction of three bedroom semi-detached bungalow at Prototype Housing Scheme, Asaba, Delta State, to your company, Echedom Technical & Trading Co. Ltd for a contract sum of Ten Million Five Hundred Thousand Naira

only (N10,500,000:00) and you thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000."

The defendant pleaded not guilty and was granted bail in the sum of ₦2 million. He is also expected to submit his international passport and present a surety who must be of Grade 14 and above. The case was adjourned to 19th June, 2019 for trial. No further update on the case since then.



Case 32: Alkali Mohammadu Mamu

\$300,000 Fraud

Mohammed Alkali Mamu is a former Group Managing Director of the Nigerian Air Force (NAF) Holding Company and Air Force Commanding, Training Command.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on July 15, 2020, secured the conviction of Mamu. Mamu was pronounced guilty by the Court of Appeal sitting in Abuja. This followed the appellate court's reversal of his discharge and acquittal on corruption charges earlier pronounced by Justice Salisu Garba of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). He was sentenced to two years imprisonment for receiving gratification worth \$300,000.

The EFCC had in June 2016 preferred a four-count charge against Mamu for allegedly collecting a cash gift of \$300,000 and N5.9 million for the purchase of a Range Rover Evoque.

EFCC also alleged that he received two vehicles, Ford Expedition SUV and Jaguar XF Saloon valued at N15 million and N12 million respectively from Societe D' Equipment Internationaux Nigeria Limited while facilitating a covert assignment with the office of the national security adviser on the war against terrorism.

The three-man panel of the Court of Appeal, in a unanimous judgment on July 15, 2020, convicted

The Cases

and sentenced Mamu to two years imprisonment in respect of one out of the four counts on which he was tried by the EFCC. The appellate court acquitted him on three other counts – one, three and four on the grounds that the prosecution failed to prove those counts.

Mamu was convicted on count two, in which he was found to have corruptly accepted a gift of \$300,000 through Kalli Fertilizer Company (a firm owned by his daughters) from Himma Abubakar, owner of Societe D' Equipment International Nig. Ltd (SEI Nig Ltd), a company engaged to supply military equipment to NAF under Mamu's supervision.

In the lead judgment, Justice Yargata ByenchitNimpar however gave Mamu an option of N500, 000 fine. Mamu was one of the senior military officers accused of abusing their positions by the Presidential Committee on the Audit of Defence Equipment Procurement (CADEP), which was mandated to look into contracts awarded for military procurements.

On June 29 2018, Salisu Garba, judge of a federal capital territory high court acquitted Mamu of all the charges on the grounds that the prosecution failed to establish a case against the defendant. Dissatisfied with the decision of the trial court, the anti-graft commission proceeded to the court of appeal.



Case 33: Ngozi Olejeme

N69 Billion NSITF Fraud

Ngozi Olejeme is a former Chairperson of Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Funds, NSITF, Ngozi Olejeme from 2009 to 2015.

NSITF, on July 27th, claimed the ownership of the 46 property seized from the agency's former Chairman, Ngozi Olejeme, by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). The affected properties are spread across the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Bayelsa, Enugu, Edo and Delta states.

Mrs. Olejeme who was also the Treasurer of the Jonathan-Sambo Campaign Organisation in 2015 has been on the run since 2016 and was in September, 2017, declared wanted by the EFCC for criminal conspiracy, abuse of office, diversion of public funds and money laundering.

She was alleged to have, along with Umar Munir Abubakar, former Managing Director of NSITF, mismanaged and diverted over N69 billion belonging to the federal government into their personal accounts through the award of spurious contracts to proxy companies.

Justice Taiwo Taiwo had, on July 1, granted the ex parte application by the EFCC for temporary forfeiture of the identified property. Justice Taiwo directed the EFCC to publish the order in a national daily to enable anyone who is interested in the affected property to show cause within 14 days why the assets should not be permanently forfeited to the Federal Government.

When the case came up before Justice Taiwo, on July 27, 2020, the management of the NSITF, through its counsel, Okereke Ezechi, appeared before the court to claim ownership of the property. Ezechi, who filed a motion to that respect, urged the court to pass the property to NSITF should they be permanently forfeited to the Federal Government. He said that NSITF was the principal victim of the alleged crimes purportedly committed by Olejeme who served as the chairperson of the agency's management board from 2009 to 2015. The lawyer stated that the property suspected to have been acquired by Olejeme, through proceeds of crime were allegedly acquired with funds stolen from NSITF.

Ezechi, in a supporting affidavit, claimed that N62 billion was received during Olejeme's tenure, but was allegedly diverted through phony contracts. "NSITF received N62 billion as grants and mandatory contributions from the Federal Government and the private sector employers for the implementation of the employees' compensation scheme designed to provide fair and adequate compensation to employees who are victims of workplace or work related injuries.

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“Within the tenure of Ngozi Olejeme as the Chairperson of the Management Board of the NSITF, several contracts/consultancy services were not executed but heavily paid for. “Some of the contractors/consultants, who were awarded contracts and consultancy services running into billions of naira and never executed them, but fully paid by the NSITF under strict instructions from Ngozi Olejeme, are Excellent Solicitors & Consultants, who was paid over N1 billion under the guise of consultancy services which was never executed; Fountain Legal Services and Fountain Media Consults was paid N5, 984,056,110.00; Hybrid Investment Advisors Ltd, etc.”

“During the tenure of Ngozi Olejeme as Chairperson of the Management Board of the NSITF, over N60 billion was transferred out of the account of the NSITF with instruction and authorisation by Ngozi Olejeme under the guise of payment for contracts and consultancy services purportedly executed in total breach of procurement requirements”

“The NSITF, since after the tenure of Ngozi Olejeme and following the monumental withdrawals from its account of monies amounting to several billions of naira, has been grappling with the difficulty of fully implementing the employees' compensation scheme due to paucity of funds occasioned by the fraudulent misappropriation of funds contributed by the federal government and private employers for the scheme”.

“It is so bad that the management board of the NSITF had to go borrowing funds to meet up with its statutory obligation of payment of fair and adequate compensation to employees who are victims of workplace or work related hazard and payment of salary to staff”

“The property listed by the applicant in this suit for an order of forfeiture were acquired by Ngozi Olejeme during the period she served as chairperson of the management board of the NSITF and the monies that she used in acquiring the said property were funds belonging to the NSITF,” the affidavit read in part. It alleged that all legitimate entitlements or benefits of Olejeme for the period she served as chairman of the management board of the agency could not have purchased her all the property listed in the suit.

The forfeiture order was granted after counsel to the EFCC, Ekele Iheanacho, convinced the court that the said properties were purchased with proceeds of crime. He buttressed his position with 14 exhibits, attached to his affidavit filed on May 29, 2020.

In granting the application, Justice Taiwo ruled that the interim order should be published in a leading newspaper within seven days of receipt of the order and for any interested party to show cause within 14 days as to why the properties should not be permanently forfeited to the federal government. Justice Taiwo then ruled that the interim order be published in a leading newspaper within seven days of receipt of the order.

Earlier on the case, the FCT High Court, Apo, on Tuesday March 26, 2019, ordered the EFCC to charge two persons standing as sureties for Olejeme. The court asked the EFCC to charge an Abuja based lawyer, Monday Ubani; and a former Senator, Christopher Enai to court or release them on bail on or before March, 28, 2019. Justice Silvanus Oriji gave the order after listening to the submissions of the applicants in an ex parte motion filed by their counsel, Mike Ozekhome (SAN).

Ubani, a former chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association, Ikeja Branch Lagos State, and Enai, ex-senator representing Bayelsa were invited and detained by the EFCC operatives on March 19. The applicants were detained for standing as sureties for Olejeme.

The Judge also granted bail to the applicants in the sum of N50m, with two reasonable sureties who must be civil servants on Grade Level 15. The court had also ordered that the applicants deposit their passports.

Ozekhome, counsel to the applicants, in the motion ex parte prayed the court to order the EFCC to grant the applicants bail on self-recognizance or liberal terms pending arraignment.

The case is still pending for the next adjourned date

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Case 34: Ayodele Oke

\$43,000,000 £27,800, N23,218,000

Money Laundering (Ikoyi Gate)

Ambassador Ayodele Oke is the former Director General of Nigeria's National Intelligence Agency (NIA) who was suspended by President Muhammadu Buhari on Monday October 30, 2017, over his alleged connection with a mysterious cache of \$43,000,000 £27,800 N23, 218,000 money laundering (Ikoyi Gate scandal) in NIA funds recovered from an upscale Lagos apartment.

An anti-corruption panel headed by Vice President Yemi Osinbajo investigated the allegations and submitted a report of its findings with recommendations to Buhari in August, 2017.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, in 2019 declared Oke and his wife, Folasade, wanted after they failed to answer for fraud charges filed against them.

Justice Chukwujeku Aneke of a Federal High Court Lagos had on February 7, 2019, issued an arrest warrant for them, consequent upon an oral application by counsel for the EFCC, Rotimi Oyedepo.

Oke and his wife are wanted in connection with the \$43,449,947, £27,800 and N23, 218 000 cash recovered by the EFCC from an apartment at Osborne Road, Ikoyi, Lagos, in April 2017. They are facing a four-count charge bordering on money laundering offence to the tune of N13 billion.

The Senate Public Accounts Committee in March 2020 launched an investigation into the \$289m (N56bn) paid in cash by the Central Bank of Nigeria to ex-Director General of the National Intelligence Agency, Ayodele Oke. The panel is probing the Federation Account from 2015 to March 2020. Officials of the CBN, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and NIA appeared before the panel recently to defend their roles in the transactions.

The SPAC Chairman, Senator Mathew Urhoghide,

told the officials that they were being probed following an audit query from the Office of the Auditor General of the Federation alleging that the money was not properly approved for payment by former President Goodluck Jonathan and others. He also said there was no clear indication that the NNPC got the mandate to pay Oke the money in cash, because such an arrangement was contrary to the nation's extant rules.

The issue became public knowledge when the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, acting on a tip-off in 2017, discovered N13bn in foreign currencies in an Ikoyi apartment in Lagos. It was later discovered that Oke and his wife, Folasade, allegedly kept the money there.

Further investigations revealed that the money was part of the \$289m released to Oke by the CBN on the orders of the NNPC which claimed to be acting on a presidential mandate.

The Senate panel said under Oke, the NIA was said to have collected \$289,202,382 in cash for special operations from the account of the National Petroleum Investment Management Services at the CBN in February 2015. The panel said the documents before them from the office of the AG indicated that the CBN paid Oke \$289m in cash without proper approval from Jonathan.

Urohghide said the records made available to them had shown the transactions were against extant laws. He questioned the NNPC's decision to order the CBN to release such an amount of money to the NIA without a presidential approval. But the NNPC claimed that the Presidency gave the approval to pay \$289m to the NIA on February 16, 2015.

The Chairman, however, said there was no document before the committee stipulating that Jonathan approved the release of the money to Oke. He also said they discovered from the documents made available to them that it was the NNPC that advised the CBN to pay the money in cash. Urhoghide said based on the audit query from the Auditor General for the Federation, the NNPC granted a request from the NIA to pay Oke \$289m in cash and that the NNPC complied by directing the CBN to pay.

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The representative of the NNPC, Godwin Okonkwo, before journalists were sent out of the investigative hearing, confirmed Urhoghide's assertion but insisted that his agency acted based on properly issued approval before paying the money. Urhoghide further asked why the NIA should insist on cash payment when the procurement of the security equipment would be purchased outside the country but the NNPC representative said he was merely carrying out a directive to pay.

Urhoghide agreed with the submission of the Auditor General for the Federation in his audit query that there was no way the President would have directed the NNPC to pay \$289m in cash to the NIA.

The EFCC on March 24, 2019, declared him and his wife, Folasade, wanted after they failed to answer for fraud charges filed against them. The anti-graft agency had made a request through its counsel, Rotimi Oyedepo for an arrest warrant, and Justice Chukwujeku Aneke of a Federal High Court in Lagos granted the application on February 7, 2019.

Just before they were due to appear in court, they apparently left the country for "medical treatment," and nobody knows their whereabouts now. The case is pending.



Case 35: Tuoyo Omatsuli

N3.6 Billion Fraud at NDDC

Tuoyo Omatsuli, is a former Executive Director on Projects, Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, who was arraigned with Francis Momoh, Director, Building Associates Limited on November 10, 2018, on a 45-count charge bordering on conspiracy and money laundering to the tune of N3,645,000,000 (Three Billion, Six Hundred and Forty Five Million Naira) only.

The defendants, who were charged along with their companies, Don Parker Properties Limited and Building Associates Limited respectively, pleaded "not guilty" to the charges preferred against them and were subsequently granted bail on November 16,

2018 in the sum of N100 million each with two sureties in like sum. The sureties being resident in Lagos, and one of them must be a civil servant and a blood relation of the defendants who must have a landed property in Lagos with the Certificate of Occupancy. The other surety must be a Deputy Director in any ministry in Lagos.

The defendants were also ordered to submit their international passports to the court's registrar. Consequently, Justice Seidu adjourned to January 8, 2019 for "commencement of trial".

Justice Chuka A. Obiozor of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos had on Monday December 10, 2018, ordered the final forfeiture of a number of properties worth N1.8bn recovered from Omatsuli to the Federal Government. Earlier on Thursday May 17, 2018, he had ordered the interim forfeiture of the properties following an ex parte application filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The properties are: Block 117, Plot 4, Lekki Peninsula Scheme, TPAO 992, Ikate Ancient City, Eti-Osa L.G.A, Lagos, measuring 1804.089Sqm and Plots 1-18, Block 43, TPAO 992, Ikate Ancient City, Lekki Peninsula, Eti-Osa, Lagos, measuring 10,000Sqm. Others are: Plot 1b, Northern Business District, Lekki Peninsula Scheme 1, measuring 1000Sqm and Plot 1; Block 25, Lekki Peninsula Residential Scheme 1, Eti-Osa L.G.A, measuring 2989.10Sqm.

Moving the ex-parte application, counsel to the applicant, Ekene Iheanacho had referred to paragraph four of the affidavit detailing how a contractor with the NDDC, Starline Consultancy Services Limited, was paid the sum of N10, 218, 019, 060.59) (Ten Billion, Two Hundred and Eighteen Million, Nineteen Thousand and Sixty Naira) as consultancy fee for levies collected from oil processing companies in the Niger Delta region.

It was further stated that out of the money paid to Starline, a sum of N3, 645, 000. 00 (Three Billion, Six Hundred and Forty Five Thousand Naira) was paid as kickback to Omatsuli through a company named Building Associates Limited.

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The applicant also told the court that one Francis Momoh, who was described as the majority shareholder in Building Associates Limited, was introduced as a shareholder in Don Parker Properties Limited so as to disguise the nature of the crime.

After hearing the submissions, Justice Obiozor had granted all the reliefs sought by the applicant and ordered the interim forfeiture of the properties to the Federal Government.

The Judge had further directed the commission to publish the order in any national newspaper within 14 days, notifying the respondents or anyone interested in the properties to appear before the court and show cause why the properties should not be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The applicant in compliance with the court's order had published the interim forfeiture order in The Nation Newspaper of May 26, 2018. However, the respondents had on October 1, 2018, opposed the application claiming ownership of the properties. Delivering his judgment Justice Obiozor held that the properties were acquired through proceeds from kickbacks received by Building Associate Limited operated by Momoh on behalf of Tuoyo. The Judge, therefore, ruled that the property should be finally forfeited to the Federal Government.

The EFCC on Tuesday, July 7, 2020, closed its case against Omatsuli, and Momoh before Justice Saliu Saidu of the Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos.

At the resumed sitting on Tuesday, prosecution counsel, Ekene Iheanacho, told the court that it was closing its case against the defendants after the testimony of the 16th prosecution witness, SegunT emitope, a staff of the Special Control Unit Against Money Laundering SCUML.

It could be recalled that on Monday July 6, 2020, Babajide Tinubu, Managing Director, Tenax Marine Limited, who in 2014, sold a landed property located in highbrow Lekki Phase 1, Lagos, to Don Parker Properties Ltd (second defendant, belonging to Omatsuli) at the cost of N3.645billion with the payment made by Building Associates Limited (fourth defendant, belonging to Momoh), testified as prosecution witness 14 (PW14) and was cross-

examined by Norris Quakers, SAN, counsel for the second, third and fourth defendants. Also Dr. Henry Ogiri, who worked as Executive Director, Finance and Administration, NDDC, between December 2013 and December 2015, testified as prosecution witness, PW15 and was cross-examined by Omatsuli's counsel, Prof. Amuda A. Kamke, SAN.

Justice Saidu adjourned the matter till October 12 and 13, 2020 for the defendants to open their defence. Case is pending for accused persons to open their defence.



Case 36: Nanle Dariye

N1.5 Billion Fraud

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday February 27, 2018, arraigned Nanle Miracle Dariye, son of former Plateau State Governor, Joshua Dariye, on a 6-count charge of money laundering to the tune of N1.5 billion before Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu of the Federal High Court, Abuja. Dariye was arraigned alongside Apartment le Paradis, a hotel where he was a director.

The defendant sometime in 2013 failed to report a cash transaction to the tune of N1.5billion which he received through the hotel's account in one of the old generation banks. The amount is above the threshold of the N10 million permissible by law. Additionally, the hotel was also not registered as Designated Non-Financial Institution, DNFI.

The offence is in contravention of Section 5(1) (a) of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act, 2011 as amended and punishable under Section 5 (b) of the same Act.

The defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge when they were read to him.

Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu of a Federal High Court, Abuja on Monday May 13, 2019, fixed July 1, 2019, for adoption of addresses on Nanle Dariye, son of a former Plateau State governor, Joshua Dariye.

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A defence witness, Mr. Nicholas, Manager of Apartment Le Paradise said he was employed in the year 2012 but never performed as a manager but was asked to supervise the renovation of the apartment.

The prosecuting counsel, Ike Okonjo, who cross-examined the witness, demanded to know from him if he has seen the charge sheet and the six count charge; if he was aware of the financial transactions of the company and if Apartment Le Paradise has an account with First Bank.

Nicholas claimed that he didn't know about any financial transactions of the company since he did not perform his role as the manager. He disclosed that he had seen the charge sheet, but cannot ascertain if the company has an account with First Bank.

The prosecuting counsel made an observation that the defence counsel had failed to pay the cost of N300,000 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira) awarded against it for failing to appear in court at the last adjournment date. The defence counsel admitted that the cost has not been paid and disclosed that N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) was available to be paid.

The judge asked the defence counsel to pay the available N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) and then pay the remaining N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) later. The case was adjourned to July 1, 2019 for adoption of address. However, the case is still pending as the accused person is yet to open his defence.



Case 37: Captain Junaid Abdullahi

N18 Billion Diversion

Captain Junaid Abdullahi is President Muhammadu Buhari's son-in-law who was appointed the head of Nigeria's Border Communities Development Agency in 2018. Abdullahi who is a retired pilot married Zulaihat, Buhari's first daughter who died in 2012 at the age of 40.

A Federal High Court in Kaduna ordered the interim forfeiture of the property of the Executive Secretary of Border Communities Development Agency, Captain Junaid Abdullahi, located at Jabi Road, Kaduna State.

In an order brought before the court via an ex parte motion dated September 27, 2019, in a suit No. FHC/KD/CS/76/2018 between Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria and First Aviation Limited, Captain Junaid Abdullahi, as first and second defendants.

The order signed by the presiding Judge, and senior Registrar 1 of the Court, Justice Z. B. Abubakar and Mubarak Argungu respectively, stated that the property situated at No.7, Jabi Road, Kaduna by Certificate of Statutory Right of Occupancy No KD/10914 and the property with Certificate of Occupancy No LKN/RES/81/139 situated at No.6 Niger Street, Kano, used as security for the loan advanced to the defendants by Intercity Bank Plc and Unity Bank Plc is hereby forfeited in the interim to the plaintiff/applicant pending the determination of the suit.

The decision was sequel to an order brought before the court via an ex parte motion dated September 27, 2019, in suit No. FHC/KD/CS/76 /2018 between AMCON and First Aviation Limited and Captain Junaid Abdullahi, as first and second defendants.

The order also stated that the account maintained by the first defendant with Keystone Bank, and another account maintained by the second defendant with Guaranty Trust Bank were hereby frozen pending the determination of the suit. The matter was adjourned to December 4, 2019.

Also, a petition was published in the media on Oct 20, 2019 calling on President Muhammadu Buhari to sanction Captain Junaid Abdullahi, over several allegations of public finance infractions considered as “misconduct in public office, breach of the Federal Civil Service Rules on Bankruptcy, Financial Embarrassment, and also, making questionable expenditures above his statutory approval limit without the approval of the board.”

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The petition dated Friday, October 18, 2019, which was copied to the Vice President Professor Yemi Osinbanjo and the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, signed by its Executive Chairman, Dr. Hassan Idris Bello, appealed to the President to ask Captain Abdulahi, to step down as the head of the agency to allow for a proper investigation into the allegations against him which they said have rendered him “inefficient and ineligible” to continue to manage the affairs of the agency. The PSIW told the President that BCDA under Abdulahi, who he appointed as Executive Secretary a year ago, has “sadly become notorious as a cesspool of corrupt practices and conduit for laundering public funds, instead of stridently pursuing the agency's core mandate of developing the nation's border communities.”

Citing relevant sections of the Federal Civil Service Rules, the petition stated: “Section 030414 – (1) of the Public Service Rules states: “For the purpose of these rule, the expression 'serious financial embarrassment' means the state of an officer's indebtedness which, having regard to the amount of debts incurred by him/her has actually caused serious financial hardship to him/her, and, without prejudice to the general meaning of the said expression, an officer shall be deemed to be in serious financial embarrassment;

“(a) If the aggregate of his/her unsecured debts and liabilities at any time exceed the sum of three times his/her monthly emoluments; (b) Where he/she is a judgment debtor, for as long as the Judgment debt remains unsettled or; (c) Where he/she is adjudged bankrupt or as the case may be for as long as any Judgment against him/her in favour of the official assignee remains unsatisfied.

“(2) Serious financial embarrassment from whatever cause shall be regarded as necessarily impairing the efficiency of an officer and rendering him/her liable to disciplinary action. “Having breached this section of the rules, Your Excellency, Abdulahi's inefficiency to continue to run the affairs of BCDA, is no longer in doubt, and thus, should be asked to step down.

“Yet, Captain Abdullahi has continued to boast of his untouchable status, citing his status as son in-law of President Muhammadu Buhari.”



Case 38: Hope Uzodinma

N4.3 Billion (\$12Million) Fraud

Hope Uzodinma is the current Imo State Governor and a former senator of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC). On 14 January, 2020, the Supreme Court in Nigeria declared Hope Uzodinma of the All Progressives Congress winner of the 2019 governorship poll in Imo State nullifying the election of incumbent Emeka Ihedioha.

On November 11 2018, Uzodinma was allegedly arrested by a special investigation panel for the failure of one of his companies to execute a US\$12 million contract for the dredging of Calabar channel. Uzodinma later denied ever being arrested, saying it was an attempt to stop his campaign to become governor.

The Special Presidential Investigation Panel for Recovery of Public Property, SPIRPP, on November 12, said it granted him administrative bail after he developed high blood pressure in detention. SPIRPP Chief Okoi Obono-Obla was said to have confirmed his temporary release on bail.

The Presidential Panel Chairman also said that Uzodinma was facing investigation for allegedly engaging in economic sabotage, due to alleged failure of his company to execute a contract of \$12m the Nigerian Ports Authority, NPA, awarded to him for the dredging of Calabar channel.

The SPIRPP had earlier preferred two-count criminal charge of non-disclosure of assets against Uzodinma before Justice Babatunde Quadri of the Abuja Division of the Federal High Court.

The charge, which had been assigned for trial before Justice Babatunde Quadri, reads: “That you, Senator Hope Uzodinma (Male) on or about March 5, 2018, being a public officer with the National Assembly, Abuja, within the jurisdiction of this honourable Court, committed an offence to wit: refused to declare your assets without reasonable excuse and upon notice to declare your assets before the Special

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Presidential Investigation Panel for the Recovery of Public Property, Abuja, contrary to and punishable under Section 3 (3) (1) (a) of the Recovery of Public Property (Special Provision) Act 2004.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission is also investigating Uzodinma for allegedly issuing a N200m dud cheque. It however said the new governor could not be touched because of his immunity.

Uzodinma now enjoys immunity from prosecution according to the Nigerian constitution.



Case 39: Usman Yusuf

N919 Million NHIS Fraud

Prof. Usman Yusuf, is a former Executive Secretary of the National Health Insurance Scheme, NHIS, who was dismissed on July 2, 2019. Prof. Yusuf was enmeshed in different scandal including financial misappropriation and lack of proper management of the scheme.

Isaac Adewole, Minister of Health, first suspended him in June 2017, after an administrative panel found him guilty of allegations of gross misconduct, nepotism, financial recklessness and theft of public funds to the tune of N919 million. In October 2017, Adewole made the suspension indefinite pending action from President Muhammadu Buhari. However, in February 2018, the President reinstated him. The reinstatement was confirmed by a letter to the Minister signed by the then Chief of Staff to the President late Abba Kyari, which made no mention of the allegations against Yusuf but simply urged him to “work harmoniously with the Minister”.

He was again suspended in October 2018 after which a panel set up by the Federal Ministry of Health recommended his dismissal following findings that he allegedly mismanaged N919m. Not satisfied, a panel was set up by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation in December 2018. The panel found him culpable of the allegations made against him and also recommended him for dismissal.

There was a report suggesting that the management of NHIS might be compelled to pay him a huge severance package of N70 million. Despite being relieved of his job based on the recommendations of two separate investigative panels, Yusuf was said to have demanded to be paid his severance package and he is currently not facing any prosecution of the corruption case.



Case 40: Otunba Iyiola Omisore

N1.3 Billion Fraud

Otunba Iyiola Omisore, is a former Deputy Governor of Osun state, former senator, former gubernatorial candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP in the 2014 Osun governorship election and flag bearer for the Social Democratic Party in the Osun state September 22, 2018 governorship election.

He was alleged to have received over N1.3 billion from funds pilfered from the office of the National Security Adviser to fund and rig ex-Governor Ayodele Fayose into office in 2014. Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC arrested him on July 3, 2016 in Abuja. According to the EFCC, the money was traced to Omisore's account from the account of another then PDP stalwart and former Minister of State for Defence, Senator Musiliu Obanikoro. The commission said that Omisore lodged the money in the accounts of five companies belonging to him and that it had since frozen those accounts as investigation continues.

The anti-graft commission moved him to the National Hospital, Abuja, after he complained that his health was failing. He was however kept under close watch by two well-armed police officers. Then, his lawyers approached the Federal High Court in Abuja to press for bail but the court, on July 15, dismissed the application for lack of competence. He was said to have approached the EFCC and agreed to refund the money he was alleged to have fraudulently received and after, he struck a deal with the commission to refund the N1.3 billion in installments.

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On July 23, 2016, the EFCC granted him administrative bail after he paid the first installment of N300 million before he was allowed to go home but his passport was seized by the commission. Omisore had earlier denied benefiting from #Dasukigate and had sued the EFCC, seeking N10 billion damages, after he was declared wanted in May, 2016. However, Senator Omisore had written to the EFCC, requesting that his passport be returned to him so that he could travel for medical treatment but his request was turned down then. Consequently, he alongside former defence minister Senator Musiliu Obanikoro in October 2018 had their international passports returned to them by EFCC despite being under investigation.

Jide Fakorede, Senator Omisore's spokesman recently said that his boss was no longer under investigation by the EFCC and that he was free to travel. He added: "Senator Iyiola Omisore was wrongly accused in 2016 and he surrendered himself to the EFCC for investigation and was given a clean bill of health by the anti-graft body after a thorough investigation. "It is on record that no case was instituted against him in any court of our land and neither was he arraigned before any court either. He has been enjoying his freedom and has even presented himself for election into public office passing through all security screenings, so we ask, what is the noise about?" Nothing is being heard of the case anymore.



Case 41: Margareth Igbeta

N870 Million Bank Fraud

Margareth Igbeta is a retired Judge of the Benue State Customary Court. She was in September 2019 alleged by Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission to have opened N870 million Bank Account in her maid's name.

She was said to have opened the account with her passport and the name of Atsu on the 5 March 2008 with an initial deposit of N8 million. The Judge, Igbeta, has since been dragged before a Federal High Court in Abuja by the ICPC. The anti-graft agency

has filed an ex parte motion seeking for the interim forfeiture of the N870 million. The ICPC said the order would prevent Igbeta from accessing the money alleged to have been obtained fraudulently in the course of her official duties.

She was accused of operating a proxy fixed deposit account in the name of her maid, Theodora Atsu, with Ecobank Plc, saving N870,321,492.15 between 2008 and 2019. The account, according to the ICPC, was opened with the Judge's passport but Atsu's name on March 5 2008, with an initial deposit of N8 million. Deposits of N123,745,925.57 and N5 million among others were made in March and May 2008.

The ICPC said the money was far above Igbeta's legitimate earnings both as a Judge and as President of the Customary Court of Appeal within the period that the account was operated.

No update to confirm whether ICPC has been able to recover the money.



Case 42: John Babani Elias

N51.5 Million Fraud

John Elias is a former Commissioner of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs in Adamawa state who was on December 4, 2015 sentenced to 10 years in prison for defrauding Adamawa State Government of the sum of N51.5 million while in office.

Justice Bilkisu Bello Aliyu found Elias guilty of the four count charges of fraud brought against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). He was arraigned on October 22, 2015.

The ex-commissioner was prosecuted along with his three companies - Oil Trust Limited, AL-Akim Investment Nigeria Limited and Da'ama Specialist Hospital for conspiracy and unlawful dealing in forfeited property. He allegedly sold and appropriated some properties which were under interim forfeiture to the Federal Government.

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An evaluation exercise conducted by the EFCC on the forfeited properties revealed that the accused person sold a landed property situated at Galadima Aminu Way, Yola, to one Hamid Yusuf for N20,000,000.00 (Twenty Million Naira) through his agent, Jibril Mairiga. He also allegedly gave another property on Atiku Abubakar Way, Yola, Adamawa State, to his brother, Dr. Joel Yohanna, for use as a private hospital.

One of the charges reads: “That you, Al-kim Investment Nigeria Limited and John Babani Elias (M), sometimes in February, 2011, at Jimeta-Yola, Adamawa State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court and without due authorization by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission dealt with, having put tenants and collecting rents in and over the property known as four unit houses behind First Bank of Nigeria Plc. Jimeta, Yola and which property is a subject of an interim order of forfeiture issued on the 13th day of December, 2005 by the Federal High Court, Lagos in charge No. FHC/L/CS/1258/2005, contrary to and punishable under Section 32(1) of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act 2004”.

In her judgment, Justice Aliyu said, "I hereby sentence the first convict, John Babani Elias to 10 years imprisonment on count 3 and another 10 years imprisonment on count 4 but the two sentences will run concurrently," Justice Bilkisu Aliyu ruled. "In addition, the first convict must return/refund the sum of N51.5 million to Adamawa State Local Government joint account fund from where it was stolen and diverted by him and his company". The Judge also ordered the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) to shut down Al-Akim Investment Limited and have its assets forfeited to the federal government of Nigeria. Case closed.



Case 43: Abdulazeez Abubakar Yari

N200 Billion

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) on August 16, 2019 disclosed findings from its preliminary

investigation of allegations of money laundering and diversion of public funds against former governor of Zamfara State, Abdulazeez Yari.

The ICPC, in documents filed before the Federal High Court, Abuja gave details from the report of its interim investigation of Yari's asset declaration before the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB and accounts linked to him in two banks. The agency, while accusing Yari of not being truthful in his assets declaration, claimed that the ex-governor diverted Zamfara State's funds, using some companies in which he allegedly has interest – Kayatawa Nigeria Limited and B. T. Oil and Gas Nigeria Limited.

The ICPC also claimed that it found that Yari, who was the then Chairman of the Nigeria Governors Forum transferred funds from the group to one of his firms. It alleged that on June 18, 2015, the 3rd respondent i.e B.T. Oil and Gas Nigeria Limited received a transfer of the sum of N150,000,000.00 from the Nigeria Governors Forum through the 1st respondent when (he) the 1st respondent was the Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum.

Justice Taiwo Taiwo of the Federal High Court, Abuja on August 16, 2019 granted an ex-parte motion by the ICPC, in which it sought to temporarily freeze the accounts allegedly linked to Yari and both companies in the two banks, pending the conclusion of investigation.

ICPC's lawyer, Osuobeni Akponimisingha, had argued that motion, marked: FHC/ABJ/CS/916/2019 on Wednesday 14 August 2019 following which Justice Taiwo fixed ruling for August 16, 2019. The motion has Yari, Kayatawa and B.T. Oil and Gas as respondents.

Justice Taiwo, in the ruling granted the nine reliefs sought by the ICPC. He ordered the agency to make the order public by publishing it in a national daily within 14 days, and for any party affected by the order to respond within seven days by justifying their ownership of the affected funds and be convincing why the money in the accounts and other affected assets should not be permanently forfeited to the Federal Government.

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The reliefs granted by the court, and as prayed by the ICPC are the following, among others:

*An order of interim forfeiture of the sum of N12,912,848.68 being proceeds of some unlawful activity allegedly stashed in Zenith Bank Plc with account number: 1001381684 in the name of Abdulazeez Abubakar Yari.

*An order of interim forfeiture of the sum of \$56,056.75 being proceeds of some unlawful activity allegedly stashed in Polaris Bank with account number: 21 10000928 in the name of Abdulazeez Abubakar Yari

*An order of interim forfeiture of the sum of N11,159,674.17 being proceeds of some unlawful activity allegedly stashed in Zenith Bank Plc with account number: 1010757436 in the name of Kayatawa Nigeria Limited. *An order of interim forfeiture of the sum of \$301,319 being proceeds of some unlawful activity allegedly stashed in Zenith Bank Plc with account number: 5360050304 in the name of Kayatawa Nigeria Limited.

*An order of interim forfeiture of the sum of N217,388.04 being proceeds of some unlawful activity allegedly stashed in Zenith Bank Plc with account number: 1012556798 in the name of B.T. Oil and Gas Nigeria Limited.

The judge thereafter adjourned the matter till Sept. 11, 2019. Justice Taiwo Taiwo had on Monday 19, August 2019 ordered the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to unseal a property of Yari located in Maitama, Abuja.

In an ex parte application brought on his behalf by his counsel, Mahmud Magaji, SAN, the ex-governor said the EFCC sealed the property contrary to the provision of the law. Magaji, while arguing the motion on the ruling, contended that the EFCC was in error by sealing his client's properties without abiding by the provision of the law. The lawyer said that the motion was to ensure that each government agency operates within the confines of the law, and urged the court to invoke his power to direct the EFCC to go and remove the red inscription pasted on the house.

Also, the EFCC Zonal Head of Operations, Mr. Abdullahi Lawal, spoke in Sokoto on Monday December 16, 2019 and hinted that more than 60 cases involving over N200 billion under the administration of Abdulaziz Yari were being investigated, Lawal said the cases ranging from individuals, public and private corporate organisations, Ministries, Department and Agencies (MDAs) were part of over 200 petitions received in the zone.

According to him, the commission had frozen all bank accounts linked to the fraudulent activities in the course of investigation. He said evidences have been established on the over N200 billion worth of cases under EFCC investigation.

According to him, going by the petitions before the state government, it is about N2 trillion. Even the social media report is N900 billion. "But, that is not the case; we are working with official record of investigation which is N200 billion."

The interim report presented to the state government on February 13 2020, by a the committee chaired by Alhaji Ahmad Abubakar Gusau said the purchased vehicles represents 66% of the vehicles bought between 2011 and 2019 which have not been accounted for. Gusau explained that the vehicles were procured through the office of the then Secretary to the State Government (SSG) without any accounting officer because only the SSG and the former Governor were awarding contracts.

The committee further stated that in the course of borehole construction in the state, two companies were over paid with N63 million.

The committee however recommended that a total of N9.7 billion be returned to the state government and those involved in siphoning the state funds be brought to Justice.

However, the corruption cases against Yari are still hanging.

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Case 44: Mrs. Winifred Oyo-Ita

N570 Million Fraud

Mrs. Winifred Oyo-Ita is the immediate past Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, HoCSF. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Monday, March 23, 2020 arraigned Oyo-Ita before Justice Taiwo Taiwo of the Federal High Court, sitting in Abuja.

She was arraigned along with Frontline Ace Global Services Limited; Asanaya Projects Limited; Garba Umar and his companies: Slopes International Limited; Gooddeal Investments Limited; Ubong Okon Effiok and his own company, U & U Global Services Limited and Prince Mega Logistics Limited.

They were arraigned on 18 counts charge in the charge marked: FHC/ABJ/CR/60/2020, alleging that the former HoS was involved in fraud in relating to Duty Tour Allowances, DTA; Estacodes; conference fees fraud, receiving kickback on contracts and failure to fully disclose their assets.

According to the EFCC Acting Head, Media & Publicity, Tony Orilade, it was discovered that Oyo-Ita, in her roles in the civil service as Director, Permanent Secretary and Head of Service, used her companies as well as Effiok's and Umar's companies as fronts to receive kickback from contractors of various ministries and parastatals where she worked.

The former head of service in collusion with Effiok who was her Special Assistant, along with one Titus Okunriboye Tomisin, allegedly made bogus claims of fictitious DTA, Estacodes, conference fees which were paid by the government to the accounts of the suspects.

They all pleaded not guilty to the charge, even as they begged the court, through their respective lawyers to release them on bail pending the determination of the charge against them.

In his submission, Oyo-Ita's lawyer, Mr. Paul Erokoro, SAN, pleaded the court to take into consideration, "the raging coronavirus pandemic", and grant his client bail. He argued that the charge against the defendants contained bailable offences and undertook to ensure that his client would be available to face her trial.

The EFCC lawyer, Mr. Mohammed Abubakar, urged the court to impose conditions that would guarantee the availability of all the defendants for trial, especially the former HoS. He told the court that Oyo-Ita's "antecedents and conduct have been problematic for the prosecution". EFCC also urged the court to take into account the nature of the charge that bordered on corruption.

Oyo-Ita was granted bail in the sum of N100m and two sureties in like sum, while the two others were granted N50m bail and two sureties in like sum. Justice Taiwo Taiwo while approving the bail, said, "The coronavirus pandemic is something that must be on the minds of all of us. "Social distancing is being preached, I shall, therefore, grant bail to the defendants not only based on coronavirus but also on the Administration of Criminal Justice Act."

Justice Taiwo directed the defendants to surrender their international passports to the Deputy Chief Registrar of the Court. Though he handed the defendants over to their lawyers, the trial Judge ordered that they must report to the EFCC daily within seven days. He said the defendants should be taken into custody by the EFCC in the event that they failed to perfect their bail conditions within the seven days.

The judge thereafter adjourned the matter till May 27, 28 and 2, 3 and 4 of June, 2020 for trial.

Justice Taiwo Taiwo on May 207, 2020 when the matter came up before him at the Federal High Court, Abuja adjourned the case till July 8, 2020 following the absence of a prosecuting counsel from the EFCC. The judge again on Wednesday 8, fixed October 20, 2020 for continuation of trial of the immediate past HoS, Oyo-Ita.

Justice Taiwo adjourned the trial on the grounds that he was not properly briefed about the latest

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scheduled date. According to him, “I am not aware that the matter will be coming up today and since the matter is not timed, it is better to adjourn it for another date. “Besides, the recorder is not here and I believe that we should all keep safe. “This court is too congested,” he added.

The Judge also said that due to the spike of COVID-19 pandemic, it was necessary for everyone to comply with public health advisory. He further said that the trial would continue when the court returns from vacation.

Justice Taiwo then adjourned till Oct. 20 and Oct. 21 for trial continuation.



Case 45: Haruna Momoh

\$ 700 Million Fraud

Haruna Momoh is a former Managing Director, Pipelines and Products Marketing Company. The ex-PPMC MD was alleged to have used his wife to launder agency's \$700m

Jane Asuquo, an Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission's witness, on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, told a Federal High Court in Abuja that Haruna Momoh, former Managing Director, Pipelines and Products Marketing Company, used his wife, Ochuko, to allegedly launder the agency's \$700 million.

Asuquo, while testifying as 1st prosecution witness before Justice Taiwo Taiwo, said the act was perpetrated between 2012 and 2015 when the defendant was the MD.

It could be recalled that Ochuko was on March 9 arraigned before Justice Taiwo by the ICPC. She was arraigned alongside Blessing Azuka-Ngozi, Stanbic-IBTC Bank Plc, Energopol Nigeria Limited, Blaid Construction Limited and Blaid Farms Limited on a 22-count charge but later reduced to 13 counts. However, Haruna, the 1st defendant in the new charge, is said to be at large.

received a petition against Haruna Momoh on how he defrauded PPMC of about \$700 million.

The petition was initially assigned to another team at that time, which had Paul Bassey, James Udoh, etc as members.” On why the case was reassigned to her team, she said: “If the management is not satisfied by investigation carried out by a team, it can reassign the case.”

The witness, who is also an Assistant Chief Investigative Officer with the commission, said the case was reassigned to her team on July 19, 2018. “We went through the file to see what our colleagues had done,” Asuquo said. She said the team discovered that Mrs. Haruna had a number of companies she used in connivance with her husband to defraud PPMC.

She added: “After we gone through the file, we sent letters of invitation to the 1st and 2nd defendants and requested for documents from financial institutions used, the Bureau de Change operators, Corporate Affairs Commission, FCTA and other companies registered under the Companies and Allied Matters Act, etc. “We received responses to letters sent out such as statements of account, account opening documents and other relevant documents.”

She said letters were written to Stanbic-IBTC Bank, Union Bank, UBA, Access Diamond Bank Heritage Bank and City Bank. Asuquo, however, said three letters were written to Ochuko, inviting her to the office, but she failed to honour them. She narrated how money was moved out of PPMC in tranches in the name of award of contracts.

The witness said investigation by the commission revealed that Ochuko and her children had over 50 accounts domiciled in different banks. She said: “There were lots of cash flows in these accounts running into billions in naira and in dollars”. “The investigation also revealed that the accounts were opened between 2012 and 2015 when Momoh was head of PPMC. “We had course to invite some banks like Stanbic-IBTC because when we went through the bank statements of Stanbic-IBTC, we discovered lots of abnormal inflows, a situation of somebody making a deposit of about N10 million in one day”.

“We drew the attention of the bank to these and invited them if such transactions were normal and if they reported this to NFIU and CBN.”

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The witness said that the bank, in a response letter, admitted that such act was “abnormal.” Asuquo said in the course of the investigation, it was discovered that Energopol Nigeria Limited had no office in Port Harcourt as claimed in their documents. “The company address only exists on paper,” she said.

She said further investigation showed that the bank statements of Blaid Construction Limited, though duly registered with CAC, did not indicate how salaries of staff were paid contrary to the claim that they have over 10 employees working in the company.

On the Blaid Farm, Asuquo wrote that it was yet to take off. She said: “We requested for contract documents from PPMC and they obliged us. “When we analysed it, we discovered that in 2013, when Momoh was still the MD, he awarded a contract of N250 million to Blaid Construction Company owned by his wife. “We sought to invite the former PPMC MD, but they responded that he could not be traced through his last address.”

Asuquo said Azuka-Ngozi could not provide the commission with any document since she said she was no longer working with Energopol Nigeria Limited. She said: “We wrote letters to CAC on the following companies: Ambassador International and Suit Limited, Blaid Engineering, Blaid Construction limited, etc and they responded.

“We wrote to PPMC to invite Haruna Momoh but they wrote to us that they couldn't get his last address. “We wrote for the list of contracts awarded and PPMC wrote to us through a letter.”

Asuquo added that the 313 Bureau De Change operators, one Abubakar Bashir, also wrote a letter to the commission in response to its findings. The ICPC lawyer then tendered the documents in evidence.

Justice Taiwo later adjourned the matter until October 28 and 29, 2020 for trial continuation.



Case 46: Mudashiru Obasa

N258 Million Fraud

Mudashiru Obasa is the current Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly.

An online news platform on May, 23, 2020 through series of publications alleged that at least 64 bank accounts were discovered to be linked to Obasa's Bank Verification Number.

It was also alleged that the accounts registered with various names, are being used to siphon public funds in Lagos. The BVN: 2296663231, reveals that Obasa operates accounts with multiple names in Polaris Bank, Zenith Bank, Access Bank, Ecobank Nigeria, Stanbic IBTC Bank, Guaranty Trust Bank, United Bank for Africa, First City Monument Bank and Wema Bank.

To conceal his identity, the Speaker changed his name and date of birth in some of the accounts. Aside from using Ajayi Mudashiru Obasa, he also used Obasa Abdulrahman Gbadunola and Gabriel Adedoyin Savage to register some of the bank accounts.

Some of the companies linked to the BVN include Adesav International Ventures, Fabric Splash Ventures, Swifthill International Ventures and Quick Solution International.

Others are Quick Solution International Ventures, White Honey Enterprises, Cream on Ice Services, A.B DELCO Nigeria Company, and Fabric Splash Ventures, Skye-Macosh Company, Swifthill International Ventures, Silver Section Global, Davedab Global Ventures and Jose-Macosh Company and De Kingrun.

In a series of reports in recent weeks the online news platform exposed how Obasa awarded contracts to himself using different companies owned by him and how he got the Assembly to approve N258m for printing of invitation cards for the inauguration of lawmakers two months after the event held.

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The online publication also exposed how he approved various sums running into several millions of naira through various guises. Obasa was however accused of setting up a panel that appears destined to exonerate him from raging allegations of graft.

The Human and Environmental Development Agenda, (HEDA Resource Centre) faulted the composition of an ad hoc committee set up by the Lagos state house of Assembly to probe Obasa. The outcome of the panel is predictable: Obasa will be cleared by his friends fronting as investigators, alleged HEDA.

HEDA contended that the House of Assembly's ad hoc committee could not reach a just outcome, as it was allegedly composed of Obasa's cronies. According to HEDA's Chairman, Mr. Olanrewaju Suraju, some of the members of the committee had already spoken in his defence. Suraju, in a statement, maintained that the allegations against Obasa were criminal and should be handled by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

HEDA said its petition to the EFCC subsists and that the Speaker and its panel should not assume they can take over the work of the anti-graft institution. As predicted by HEDA, the Lagos State House of Assembly on Monday June 8, 2020 cleared Obasa of corruption allegations leveled against him.

Speaking before the panel on Saturday, Obasa told the nine-man fact-finding panel chaired by Victor Akande, representative of Ojo Constituency I, that the allegations were untrue. At the plenary session on Monday, Akande presented the report of the fact-finding adhoc committee to the house.

While presenting his report on the floor of the house on Monday, Akande said all the allegations made against Obasa were "frivolous." Akande said the speaker followed due process in all his dealings. The Chairman of the probe panel recommended that Azeez Sanni, Clerk of the House, investigate how documents which led to the allegations against the Speaker leaked.

No indication as to whether the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC will intervene or prosecute him in the nearest future.



Case 47: Anyim Pius Anyim

N396 Billion Ecological Fund
Scandal, N520 Million
"Dasukigate"

Anyim Pius Anyim, is a former Senate President who also served as Secretary to the Government of the Federation in the Goodluck Jonathan administration. He was arrested by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC on November 17 2017 for his role in the alleged mismanagement of ecological fund while in office as SGF, among other matters.

While serving as SGF in 2012, Mr. Anyim was allegedly linked to shortfalls of about N396 billion in the Ecological Funds deductions. Subsequently, he was invited by the Senate Committee on Special Duties and House Committee on Environment to provide details of how money for the Ecological Fund office was spent but he never showed up in any of the committees. The Ecological Fund headed by a Permanent Secretary is domiciled in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), where Anyim superintended during the Jonathan administration. Anyim was accused of awarding contracts to some companies linked to him through which ecological funds were allegedly diverted.

The companies include Foundation Years Limited, Precious Integrated, Precious Petroleum, Mak&Mak, Chap Construction, Eldyke Engineering, Pryke Limited, Chipa Nigeria Limited, Prima A11 Limited, Pima International, Chanto Engineering, Ishiagu Microfinance Bank, Mulak Ventures, Vitro Engineering and Tip Top Nigeria.

Anyim was SGF from May 2011 to May 29, 2015. During this period, specifically May 2012 to May 2015, the SGF Ecological Fund Account with the Central Bank of Nigeria received an inflow of N58,146,983,677.85. "From this fund, three of the companies linked to Anyim – Foundation Years, Obis Associate and Eldyke Engineering received contracts worth over N13bn. Foundation Years alone received a net payment of N10,308,017,838.85 between 2014 and 2015.

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“Curiously, on receiving the fund, Foundation Years and another Anyim company, Br-Kthru made several transfers to 37 entities. Some of the organisations and individuals have no nexus at all with ecological issues. Investigators are probing the reasons behind the wild disbursement.”

Also, the EFCC gave Pius Anyim the option of returning the N520m he allegedly collected from a former National Security Adviser, Col. Sambo Dasuki (retd.), or be prosecuted for money laundering.

He was held in EFCC custody on November 16, 2017 for questioning after the anti-graft agency opened another flank of investigations over alleged contracts involving some companies linked to Anyim in the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) and Centenary City project.

Though, the EFCC said then that it obtained a warrant to detain Anyim for 30 days, but he was later released on Tuesday November 23rd, 2017 after handing over his international passport to the EFCC and was also instructed to report to the commission every two weeks and also return some of the money traced to him. Nothing has been heard of the case since then.



Case 48: Justice Hyeladzira Nganjiwa

\$260,000, N8.6m Fraud

Justice Hyeladzira Nganjiwa is a Federal High Court Judge who was arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Friday June 23, 2017 before Justice Adedayo Akintoye of the Lagos State High Court sitting in Igbosere, Lagos on a 14-count charge bordering on unlawful enrichment and giving false information to the EFCC. Justice Nganjiwa faced trial for failure to disclose the source of the sum of over \$260,000 that he allegedly received through his bank account between 2013 and 2015. He also allegedly received the sum of N8.6 million from unknown sources within the same period.

One of the charges reads: "That you, HYELADZIRA AJIYA NGANJIWA between the 18th day of January and the 16th day of December, 2013 in Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, being a Judge of the Federal High Court enriched yourself with an aggregate sum of \$144,000:00 (One Hundred and Forty Four Thousand United State Dollars) through your account No. 328/446178/2/1/0 domiciled in Guaranty Trust Bank Plc so as to have a significant increase in your assets that you cannot reasonably explain the increase in relation to your lawful income."

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charges when they were read to him.

In view of his plea, Oyedepo asked the court for a trial date and prayed that the accused be remanded in prison custody.

However, Chief Robert Clarke, SAN, urged the court to grant his client bail on self-recognizance. After listening to both counsels, Justice Akintoye granted the defendant bail on self-recognizance.

The accused was ordered to deposit his international passport with the Chief Registrar of the Court within seven days. The matter was adjourned to October 6 and 10, 2017 for trial.

At resumed trial on October 6, Nganjiwa wants a stay of proceedings pending the outcome of the Court of Appeal's decision where he is challenging the jurisdiction of the High Court to try him. Justice Adedayo Akintoye of an Igbosere High Court, Lagos, however, dismissed Justice Hyeladzira Nganjiwa's application seeking to stay proceedings in his trial.

The Judge, however, granted his request and adjourned the case till Nov. 13 for trial.

On Monday December 11, 2017, the Court of Appeal, Lagos Division presided over by Justice Adejumo Obaseki quashed the 14 charges pressed against Justice Nganjiwa.

The Appeal Court's ruling followed an appeal filed by Justice Nganjiwa, through his lawyer, Chief Robert Clarke (SAN), challenging Justice Akintoye's jurisdiction to entertain the charges.

The Appellate Court, in a lead judgment by Justice Abimbola Obaseki-Adejumo, held that the anti-graft agency could not prosecute a serving Judge unless such a Judge had been first sanctioned by the

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National Judicial Council. The EFCC rejected the said judgment of the Court of Appeal which quashed the 14 corruption charges it filed against Justice Hyeladzira Nganjiwa.

The anti-graft agency approached the Supreme Court seeking to overturn the Appellate Court's judgment and restore the charges against the Judge. Mr. Shittu, among other grounds, contended that the Appellate Court erred in law when it held that the NJC was the sole body empowered by the constitution to determine allegations of misconduct and crime against judicial officers.

He stated: “There is no provision of the constitution making the exercise of powers of law enforcement agencies on investigation and prosecution dependent on the exercise of powers by the National Judicial Council in the context of criminal offences allegedly committed by judicial officers in the discharge or outside the discharge of duties by judicial officers.

“The Court of Appeal assaulted the principle of Separation of Powers enshrined in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) by shackling law enforcement agencies from operating independently and freely.” He therefore urged the apex Court to apply the law without discrimination or favour even when a Judge is involved.

Since then, there has not been a word from the prosecution agencies, the EFCC, the Ministry of Justice and Office of the Attorney General of the Federation or the NJC.

The anti-graft agency approached the Supreme Court seeking to overturn the Appellate Court's judgment and restore the charges against the Judge.

No update on the outcome of the case from the EFCC's objection to the Appeal Court's ruling from the Supreme Court.

Paul Usoro is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) and President of the Nigerian Bar Association, (NBA). Usoro was first arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, before Justice Muslim Hassan's court on December 18, 2018 over an alleged N1.4bn fraud. He was later re-arraigned on March 1, 2019 before Justice Aikawa on a 10-count charge.

Usoro was charged alongside Akwa Ibom State Governor, Emmanuel Udom and others. Usoro pleaded "not guilty" to the charge preferred against him by the EFCC.

At the resumed sitting on March 9, 2020, the first prosecution witness, Idongesit Udom, Deputy Manager, Zenith Bank Plc, was cross-examined by the defence counsel, Offiong E.B. Offiong, SAN. Udom, under cross-examination, told the court that she and one Irene Akpabio were the Relationship Managers of the account of the firm belonging to the defendant.

She said: “I made the first statement to the EFCC on July 12, 2018 and the second on July 19, 2018.” According to her, the defendant, his staff and she exchanged a series of emails. Udom also told the court that no email was sent to the defendant informing him that there was a payment of the sum of N300m or any email or even letter to him by the bank informing him that the sum of N300m was paid into the his account.

Justice Rilwan Aikawa of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos thereafter, adjourned till March 23, 2020 and April 21 and 22, 2020 for continuation of cross-examination. However, the Appeal Court sitting in Lagos, on Friday July 27, 2020 struck out four of the 10 count charges filed by the EFCC against Usoro, SAN, Akwa Ibom State Governor, Udom Emmanuel, and two others over alleged N1.4 billion fraud. Others mentioned in the charged include Akwa Ibom State Commissioner for Finance, Nsikan Nkan; Accountant-General of the State, Mfon Udomah; State Attorney-General, Uwemedimo Nwoko, and Margaret Ukpe.

Governor Emmanuel Udom was described in the charge as being “currently constitutionally immune from prosecution.”



Case 49: Paul Usoro

N1.4 Billion Fraud

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Justice Rilwan Aikawa of the Federal High Court, Lagos, had on May 30, 2019, dismissed an application filed by Udom, seeking to quash the entire charges preferred against Uoro and other defendants by the EFCC. Justice Aikawa held that Udom's application lacked merit because he was not a party to the suit. Dissatisfied with the ruling, Udom's lawyer, Dr Charles Mekwunye filed an appeal against the court's decision.

The Court of Appeal on Friday July 27, 2020 in a unanimous judgment read by Justice Bello Aliyu allowed the appeal filed by Udom against the ruling of the Federal High Court. The court subsequently nullified four of the 10 counts which particularly alluded to Governor Udom's involvement in the alleged crime.



Case 50: Chief Godswill Akpabio

N108 Billion Akwa Ibom State
Fraud and N81.5 Billion NDDC
Scam

Chief Godswill Akpabio is a former Governor of Akwa Ibom state, a former Senator and PDP stalwart and the current Minister of Niger Delta Affairs. He was in 2015 accused of diverting over N100 billion from the oil-rich state between 2007 and 2015, an allegation which he has denied.

He has a baggage of corruption allegations with the EFCC over misappropriation when he was governor and alleged to be deeply involved in the ongoing investigations on N81.5 billion funds misappropriation at NDDC. Akpabio was alleged to have in 2013 paid N566,883, 728. 66, N441, 808,081.90 and N392, 631,943.37 as gifts to a new generation bank. The investigation is being handled by the Counter-Terrorism and General Investigation Section of the anti-graft agency.

The allegations against Akpabio border on the award of bogus contracts to cronies who used the proceeds to buy several properties in Lagos and Abuja. The allegations include the alleged withdrawal of N18bn fraudulently from the state's Federal Accounts Allocation Committee in tranches of N10m and above in a surreptitious manner to conceal their

dishonest intention; spending of over N50bn state funds by the former governor during the last general elections; and alleged withdrawal of N18bn from the state's coffers under the guise of special services, reception of very important guests and sundry items. The ex-governor is also under probe for allegedly acquiring some assets through surrogates, including a multi-billion naira mansion at Plot 5, Ikogosi Spring Close, off Katsina-Ala Crescent, Maitama-Abuja; a multi-billion naira mansion at Plot 28 Colorado Close, Maitama, Abuja; 22 Probyn Road, Ikoyi, Lagos; Plot 23 Olusegun Aina Street, Parkview, Lagos and a multi-billion naira 25-storey building at Akin Adesola Street, Victoria Island, Lagos.

The anti-graft agency was said to have written to five banks demanding information on Akwa Ibom State finances under Akpabio's administration. According to an interim report by the EFCC, the former governor allegedly gave a bank N1.4bn for unknown reasons.

A school, St. John Paul II School, in Shelter Afrique, Uyo, Akwa Ibom state, allegedly belonging to Unoma, Akpabio's wife, was subsequently seized by the EFCC in 2017.

The EFCC had in August 2018 informed the media that the commission was yet to close the corruption case against him. But, Akpabio described himself as a man of peace that had no case to answer with the EFCC, adding that the young man who wrote petition against him to the commission could not prove his case.

In April 2020, Akpabio was again dragged to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) on allegations of corruption and financial recklessness in the Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC). The petition to the anti-corruption agencies was dated April 07, 2020 and signed by Mrs. Hosanna Oluyemi Jalogho-Williams. Both agencies have acknowledged receiving the petition. Titled: "Petition Against Chief Godswill Akpabio over Gross Mismanagement, Financial Recklessness, Fraud and Indebtedness of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

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Under His Supervision/Leadership as Minister for Niger Delta Affairs', the five-page document details allegations of graft and financial recklessness in the NDDC orchestrated by Chief Akpabio and the interim management committee.

Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project, SERAP, in a petition dated July 18, 2020 urged President Muhammadu Buhari to urgently set up a presidential investigative panel to probe grave corruption allegations in the NDDC under Akpabio's supervision. SERAP, specifically, called for a probe over allegations that the agency illegally spent N81.5 billion, on travels, 'condolences', consultancy and 'public communication' between January and July 2020.

The organisation, which made the call in a letter signed by its Deputy Director, Kolawole Oluwadare, addressed to Buhari, asked the president to "immediately suspend Akpabio, and all those implicated in the allegations pending the outcome of any such investigation"

The House Committee on NDDC on Friday 17, July 2020 summoned Akpabio, to appear before it on Monday 20th of July after the former acting Managing Director of NDDC, Dr Joy Nunieh, made a series of allegations against him, concerning his administration of the NDDC. Dr. Nunieh accused Akpabio of corruption, graft and unwarranted meddlesomeness.

In a dramatic turn of event, Akpabio, on Monday 20th, July 2020, accused members of the National Assembly of being the beneficiaries of most of the contracts from the NDDC when he appeared at the public hearing of the investigative panel at the House of Representatives which was set up to probe the corruption allegations against him and members of the Interim Management Committee (IMC) of the NDDC. He pointed out that those that have done jobs for the commission should be paid while revealing that members of the national assembly were the greatest beneficiaries..

According to Akpabio, "The NDDC plays a vital role in ensuring the peace and security of the region and 90% or more of the resources of the country come from there." He said you cannot close down the

NDDC because of the security implication on the region. "If you close it down in totality all you will have is chaos. You will have a lot of, not just militancy, you will have a lot of insurrection." "So it is important that people who have gone to court, people who genuinely did jobs should be paid for their jobs. For me, I am not against it because, of course, who are even the greatest beneficiaries? It is you people."

The Acting Managing Director of the Commission, Prof. Daniel Pondei had accused the chairman of the house committee on NDDC, Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, of corruption. He said because of that, his team will not speak before the committee. In May 2020, a group accused Mr. Tunji-Ojo of having benefited from award of contracts in the commission. The lawmaker described the allegations as shameful and baseless.

A lot of controversies have emerged in the NDDC in the past one year which made President Muhammadu Buhari in 2019 ordered a forensic audit of the operations of the organisation from 2001 to 2019.

Consequently, the National Assembly and the House of Representatives issued Akpabio a 48-hour ultimatum on Tuesday July 21, to release a detailed list of lawmakers who have benefited which Akpabio did.

Despite the pending and huge corruption allegations against Akpabio, he remains the minister of NDDC.



Case 51: Late Esai Dangabar and others

N32.8 Billion Police Pension Fraud

Esai Dangabar was a Director in the Police Pension office. Following his death on October 18, 2019, his trial in an allegation of fraud to the tune of N32.8 billion suffered a setback. The development made the EFCC filed a motion before Justice Hussein Baba Yusuf of the Federal High Court in Maitama, Abuja. In the suit, the anti-graft agency sought to amend the charges in the criminal breach of trust and fraud.

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The EFCC said the complex scheme involved several transfers of huge sums between banks and use of illegal accounts and falsification of names which were said to have been conducted between the officials and a former Director of Police Pension Fund, Esai Dangabar. Mr. Dangabar was charged to court. He later told the EFCC part of the money was shared among the officials and the pension committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

However, the EFCC on June 23, 2020 re-arrested a former Assistant Director in the Federal Civil Service, John Yusuf, who was convicted for a N32.8 billion pension fraud. Mr. Yusuf was tried on a 20-count charge in 2013 alongside four other officials - Atiku Abubakar, a permanent secretary; Ahmed Wada, a director; Veronica Onyegbula, a cashier; and Sani Zira, an ICT officer.



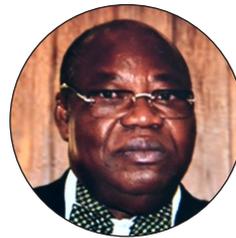
Case 52: Tunde Ayeni and Timothy Oguntayo

N25 Billion Fraud

Former Chairman, Board of Directors, Skye Bank Plc; (now Polaris Bank), Tunde Ayeni and the Former Managing Director of the bank, Timothy Oguntayo are facing a 10-count charge, bordering on money laundering to the tune of N25,415,080,000 (Twenty-Five Billion, Four Hundred and Fifteen Million, Eighty Thousand Naira). They were arraigned on March 7, 2019 alongside two companies, Control Dredging Company Ltd and Royaltex Paramount Ventures Ltd, for allegedly conspiring at different times to fraudulently divert depositors' funds domiciled in the defunct Skye Bank Plc.

The defendants approached the court on April 7, 2020 to request for out of court settlement that will involve the prosecuting Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC and the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN. At the resumed sitting on April 21, counsel for the first, third and fourth defendants, Dele Adesina, SAN, and Ahmed Raji, SAN, and O. Akanni, counsel to the second defendant, appeared on behalf of the defendants and applied for an adjournment to avail their clients the opportunity to conclude the out-of-court settlement agreement between the defendants,

EFCC and the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN. According to Raji, the settlement has reached a very advanced state. The prosecution counsel, however, told the court that he has information that the court will not give any indulgence to out-of-court settlement, and as such had brought two witnesses to the court for the continuation of the trial. The matter is pending before the court.



Case 53: Dan Etete, Munamuna Seidougha and Joseph Amaran

(\$1.09 Billion Malabu Oil and Gas
Scam)

An FCT High Court sitting in Gwagralada, Abuja, Nigeria in January 2020 ordered the arrest of former Petroleum Minister, Dan Etete, Munamuna Seidougha, and Joseph Amaran, who are the alleged owners of Malabu Oil, operational mining license (OML 245). This was sequel to an ex-parte motion filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), brought in pursuant to Section 3, 35, 36 and 37 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015. In granting the prayers of the EFCC, Justice Abubakar Idris Kutigi, said it was imperative to grant the order as prayed for the delivery of justice.

The commission held that the charges against the three suspects involved over \$1.09bn Malabu Oil Block (OPL 245) Settlement Agreement. The EFCC alleged that Etete, Seidougha, and Amaran (all at large) in 2013, in Abuja, dishonestly used as genuine the forged form CAC 7 and Board Resolution of Malabu Oil and Gas Limited and the letter of resignation of one Mohammed Sani, which they then knew to be forged documents, to open a bank account No. 2018288005 to receive \$401,540,000.00 .

According to an ex parte application by the EFCC counsel, Bala Sanga, the suspects have been residing in France and in some Africa countries. EFCC also said the suspects were occasionally sighted in different parts of Europe. The anti-graft agency prayed the court to issue a warrant of arrest which is a pre-condition for the extradition of the suspects. An affidavit sworn to by an Investigating Officer, Ibrahim Ahmed, said Etete and others are wanted

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because they are part of the brains behind Malabu Oil and Gas Limited.

In June 2020, the Federal Government seized a luxury private jet which is owned by the country's former Petroleum Minister, Dan Etete, over his alleged involvement in the \$1.1 billion Malabu oil scam. The luxury private jet was alleged to have been purchased with proceeds from that oil deal.

Dan Etete is alleged to have paid a total of \$57 million for the jet in 2011, which was part of the spending spree that the former petroleum minister was alleged to have embarked on after allegedly receiving \$336 million from the OPL 245 deal. Etete, during his days as the petroleum minister, awarded the prospecting rights to the huge OPL 245 block to Malabu Oil and Gas, a company he secretly controlled. After the death of the then head of state, Sani Abacha, he retained the rights to the oil block as a private citizen until he offloaded them to oil giants, Shell and Eni in 2011, who both paid \$1.3 billion to the Nigerian government. Meanwhile, the OPL 245 deal is undergoing corruption trial in an Italian court, where Etete is an accused, together with alleged middlemen and some top executives from Shell and Eni. All parties in the Milan trial have denied the charges against them.

A civil society organisation; Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA) Resource Centre in a bid to ensure that parties involved in the above mammoth fraud are brought to book also instituted an action before the Federal High Court sitting in Lagos. The organisation filed an originating motion before the court asking for a judicial review and an order of mandamus compelling the respondent to revoke the Operating Production Licence (OPL) 245 on grounds that the entire Malabu transaction in relation to the OPL 245 is unconstitutional, illegal and void as it was not legally granted, same having been obtained fraudulently via corrupt practices. The court granted leave to the applicants to make the said application, however, the court subsequently in its ruling on the 3rd of July, 2019 struck out the case on grounds of lack of jurisdiction. The organisation has however on the 8th of July, 2019 filed a Notice of Appeal before the Court of Appeal challenging the decision of the Federal High Court. The case is ongoing.



Case 54: Senator Shehu Sanni

\$25,000 Bribe

The trial of the former Kaduna Central Senator, Shehu Sani, on \$25,000 extortion charges, was stalled at the Federal High Court in Abuja in July 2020. This was due to the inability of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission to retrieve the \$25,000 exhibit from the custody of the Central Bank of Nigeria ahead of Thursday's proceedings.

EFCC had on January 27, 2020 arraigned the former senator for fraud involving an alleged extortion of \$25,000 from Alhaji Sani Dauda, who runs A.S.D Motors. The commission alleged that Sani fraudulently described the money as bribe for "the Chief Justice of Nigeria" and the Acting Chairman of EFCC, Ibrahim Magu. Dauda had earlier testified on how he gave out the money to Sani in two tranches of \$15,000 and \$10,000 in November 2019. He told the court that Sani later returned the \$25,000 to him after he reported the case to EFCC. He had said the EFCC then collected the money from him as an exhibit. Trial continues.



Case 55: Mukhtar Ishaq

N76 Million Fraud

A serving Kano State Commissioner for Special Duties, Mukhtar Ishaq was arrested by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, on February 20, 2020 for allegedly diverting monies meant for Kano Municipal Local Government while he was chairman

It was alleged that while he was Chairman, Kano Municipal, Mukhtar allegedly diverted N76,000,000 (Seventy Six Million Naira) which was meant for projects, development and empowerment of the people. The petitioner further alleged that the suspect ordered the deduction of N30,000 (Thirty Thousand Naira) only from the account of each council member without justification.

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The commissioner is also alleged to have converted property of Kofar Nasarawa Primary School, Kano, into shops and sold same at the rate of N10,000,000 (Ten Million Naira) only per shop and diverted the money to personal use. He is yet to be charged to court.



Case 56: Mustapha Maihaja

N5.8 Billion and N33 Billion
NEMA Scandal

In May 2018, a House of Representatives Committee on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness threatened to issue an arrest warrant against the Director General of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Mustapha Maihaja, after he failed to appear for questioning over the allegations of violation of public trust. The lower chamber of the National Assembly indicted Maihaja and NEMA for mismanaging N5.8 billion earmarked for the North East Intervention Fund. The legislative chamber called for Maihaja's dismissal and prosecution for fraud, corruption and embezzlement of N33 billion Emergency Intervention Fund, as well as all the government officials involved in the approval, processing, release and diversion of the fund.



Case 57: Alhaji Musa Saleh and 3 others

N71.8 Million Fraud

The defendants Alhaji Musa Saleh, Mr. Bala Mato, Mr. Garba Ado and Mr. Shuaibu Mohammed allegedly conspired to fraudulently divert the sum of N71.8 million meant for the supply of rice and spaghetti to members of National Union of Teachers, Gwarzo Branch, Kano State. The suspects were first arraigned on July 27, 2020. Following the not-guilty plea of the defendants, the EFCC asked the court for a hearing date.

However, counsel representing the 2nd defendant, applied for bail on behalf of his client. Justice Wada thereafter, admitted the 2nd defendant to bail in the of sum N5,000,000:00 with two reliable sureties. The 3rd and 4th defendants were also admitted to bail on the same conditions as the 2nd defendant.

However, the court granted the 1st defendant, whose name appeared in all the eight-count charges bail in the sum of N20,000,000.00 and two reliable sureties. The Judge ordered that all the sureties must be civil servants not below grade level 12. He added that the sureties must also swear to an affidavit of means of livelihood and adjourned the matter for commencement of trial.



Case 58: Bolade Ajuwan, Samuel Ogbiede and Six Central Bank Officials

N900 Million Fraud

A Federal High Court in Ibadan, Oyo State, ordered the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to produce 106 boxes containing N900 million allegedly stolen by two staff of Zenith Bank. The EFCC charged Bolade Ajuwan and Samuel Ogbiede alongside six Central Bank officials for the alleged offence. The commission accused the CBN's employees of stealing huge sums of mutilated higher denomination Naira currencies meant to be exchanged for new notes.

The other bankers allegedly acted as accomplices to the crime and also helped themselves to a sizeable chunk of the money. When the charges were read to them, they pleaded not guilty. Justice P.I. Ajoku of the Federal High Court ordered the EFCC to produce the boxes containing the money. It gave the order after an EFCC witness, Saliu Kadir, testified alongside two CBN officials, Kolawole Babalola and Muniru Olaniran. The EFCC said that each of the 106 boxes was meant to contain N10 million of N1000 denomination, instead, they were found to be containing interleaves and lower denominations such as N100, N50, N20 and even ordinary papers. Trial continues.



Case 59: Chidi Adabanya

N1.9 Billion Fraud

Chidi Adabanya is an ex-staff of Shell Petroleum Development Company, SPDC, who was arraigned alongside 11 others on June 18, 2012 on a 22-count

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charge that borders on money laundering involving Ubie Gas Project. The accused persons were alleged to have between April and July 2010 transferred various sums of money totaling about N1.9 billion from Forstech Technical Nigeria Limited in Stanbic IBTC Bank to Gastroil Venture Limited's account with Stanbic IBTC Stockbrokers Limited.

According to the EFCC, it was an attempt to disguise the illicit origin of the fund which is alleged to be phony consultancy service charge for Shell to secure construction permit for the Gbaran-Ubie project from the Bayelsa State Ministry of Housing and Urban Development. The accused persons were in November 17, 2014 re-arraigned before Justice Ademola Adeniyi of the Federal High Court Abuja. However, a Federal High Court in Lagos which was unaware of the criminal charge pending before a sister court in Abuja lifted the freeze order but the EFCC swiftly applied for the order to be reinstated. The accused persons were re-arraigned in January 2015. The matter started afresh before Justice Adeniyi sequel to the retirement of Justice Gladys Olotu. The case is still pending.



**Case 60: Aliko Dangote,
Theophilus Danjuma and
Others**
Panama Papers' Scandal

The Panama Papers is a leakage of sensitive documents detailing how political world leaders, celebrities, athletes, FIFA officials and so on, have hidden money using anonymous shell corporations across the world. The 11.5 million documents held by Panama-based Mossack Fonseca, were released to Süddeutsche Zeitung, a German newspaper, and an International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

Since the revelations were made, several countries have taken major steps to prosecute their citizens and officials involved, but reverse is the case in Nigeria. Former Senate President, Bukola Saraki, his predecessor David Mark; a former Delta State Governor, James Ibori; a former Army Chief and Minister of Defence, Gen. Theophilus Danjuma (retd.); Africa's richest man, Alhaji Aliko Dangote; and his cousin, Sayu Dantata, are the prominent

Nigerians named to have links with the offshore assets revealed in the Panama Papers. Although, the EFCC promised to investigate Nigerians fingered in the scandal, nothing has been heard of the case since 2016 when the promise was made.



**Case 61: Dina Jihad Khali and
Chamseddine Waell
Mohammed**
\$890,000 Fraud

A Federal High Court in Rivers State on August 20th, 2020 sentenced two Lebanese citizens to a prison term of two years each for attempting to smuggle \$890,000 out of the country.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) commenced investigation of two Lebanese: Dina Jihad Khali and Chamseddine Waell Mohammed, who were arrested by officers of the Customs Area Command, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, for attempting to smuggle a total sum of \$890,000 USD (Eight Hundred and Ninety Thousand United States Dollars) out of Nigeria, through the Port Harcourt International Airport, Omagwa. The suspects were arrested on Wednesday, August 12, 2020 and handed over to the Port Harcourt Zonal Office of the EFCC for further investigation.

Speaking while handing over the two suspects, A.B Mohammed Olayinka, Customs Area Controller, disclosed that Khali with Passport Number: LR152975 (Republic of Lebanon) was arrested with \$670,000USD (Six Hundred and Seventy Thousand Dollars) while Mohammed with Passport Number: LR0356598 (Republic of Lebanon) had \$220,000USD (Two Hundred and Twenty Thousand Dollars).

They were both arrested while trying to board a flight to Lebanon. He further disclosed that the money recovered from the suspects, which they failed to declare to Customs, has been deposited with the Central Bank of Nigeria, Rivers State Branch, for safe keeping. The case is closed.

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Case 62: Gbenga Daniel

N2.6 Billion Fraud

The former Governor of Ogun State Gbenga Daniel was arraigned by the EFCC on November 28, 2011 at the Ogun State High Court on charge ID: AB/EFCC/02/11 on a 43-count charge of corruption allegedly committed while in office. The case which ought to have been closed on June 8, 2018 as promised by the EFCC to allow Daniel to open his defence against the charges is still pending. On June 27, 2018, the EFCC further increased its official corruption charges against Daniel.

The former governor was filing his fresh application to put a stop to endless amendments by EFCC, to close the almost nine years old trial. The EFCC after the first 16 count charge earlier filed, amended the case with additional 27. The former governor was accused of diverting public funds into his personal accounts during his eight years as governor of the state. Daniel's lead counsel, Taiwo Osipintan, suggested January 19 and 20, 2012 as adjournment date after consultation with the EFCC counsel, Rotimi Jacobs and was later granted bail by the judge. In his ruling on the adjournment date, Mabekoje stated that trial would commence by January 19 and 20, 2012 and that Daniel would take his pleas on the new corruption charges urging the two parties to prepare for the trial.

However, in the EFCC charge sheet containing the fresh 27 charges among others allegations, the former governor was alleged to have fraudulently converted aggregate sum of Two Billion, Six Hundred and Thirty Six Million, Nine Hundred and Forty Thousand, Ninety Nine Naira and Fifty Kobo (N2,636,940,99:50k) to private use. The EFCC in its charge sheet alleged that Daniel in conjunction with Toner World Limited, TWL, (now at large) between 2009 and 2010 converted the said sum to the use of Toner World and Gas Limited, TWOGL. The State High Court in Abeokuta, Ogun State on March 2, 2012 discharged and acquitted the former governor of Ogun state, Gbenga Daniel of corruption charges. The Ogun State High Court Judge stated that the

EFCC, had not provided sufficient evidence of corruption against Mr. Daniel.

On April 2, 2014, the EFCC tendered 25 evidences as exhibits against Daniel on the alleged corruption allegation leveled against him, as his trial over corruption charges resumed proceeding before the trial Judge, Justice Olanrewaju Mabekoje. The commission also called two witnesses from the Bureau of Land who were cross examined by both counsels to Daniel and EFCC, Professor Taiwo Osipintan SAN and Rotimi Jacobs SAN respectively. Justice Olanrewaju Mabekoje adjourned further hearing till September 10 and 14, 2018. The trial has since been stalled.



Case 63: Prof. Maurice Iwu

N1.23 Billion Fraud

A former Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission, Prof Maurice Iwu is facing three counts charge bordering on fraud and money laundering before the Federal High Court in Lagos State. Iwu, between December 2014 and March 27, 2015, allegedly aided the concealment of the money in the account of Bioresources Institute of Nigeria Limited with number 1018603119 domiciled in the United Bank for Africa, UBA.

He was first arraigned on August 8, 2019 before Justice Chuka Obiozor. Following the transfer of the case to Justice Oweibo, Iwu was re-arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission on October 24, 2019. Iwu, had urged a federal court in Lagos to transfer the case to Abuja due to 'old age'. Justice Nicholas Oweibo of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos, on March 6, 2020 however dismissed the application. Hearing is ongoing.



Case 64: Christopher Adaji and Torese Agena

N5.2m Fraud

Justice S.O. Itodo of the Benue State High Court sitting in Makurdi on Monday, July 27, 2020 adjourned a fraud case involving the Deputy Speaker

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of Benue State House of Assembly, Christopher Adaji and the Clerk of the House, Torese Agena to October 14, 2020, owing to a report that Adaji had tested positive to the corona virus pandemic.

At the resumed sitting of the matter on Monday, counsel to the EFCC, George Chia-Yakua told the court that two of the prosecution witnesses were in court adding that he was ready to proceed with the matter. However, Barnabas Iorheghem, holding brief for Sebastine Hon, SAN, counsel to the deputy speaker, informed the court that his client was not ready to proceed with the case. Counsel to Agena, S.E Irabor, confirmed the report by Iorheghem, adding that, “being a principal officer of the house working closely with the Deputy Speaker, the Clerk was asked to be quarantined.” The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, had on June 17 arraigned the two principal officers of the House for their complicity in an alleged fraud totaling N5,040,950 (Five Million, Forty Thousand, Nine Hundred and Fifty Naira). Adaji and Agena were arraigned on two count charges bordering on abuse of office and criminal misappropriation of public funds. They both pleaded “not guilty” to the charges. Specifically, the Deputy Speaker, Adaji, was accused of collecting the sum of N4,840,950 (Four Million, Eight Hundred and Forty Thousand, Nine Hundred and Fifty Naira) sometimes in 2019, as money for legislative tour which he did not accomplish but converted to personal use. In his own case, the Clerk, Agena, was alleged to have abused his office sometimes in 2019 by taking a bribe to the tune of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira).

Chia-Yakua did not object to the application for adjournment by the defence. Justice Itodo thereafter, granted the application and adjourned the matter till October 14, 2020 for trial.



**Case 65: Dr. Olufemi Martins
Thomas**

\$2 Million Fraud

A former Executive Secretary, National Health Insurance Scheme, NHIS, Dr. Olufemi Martins Thomas, is standing trial for alleged money laundering to the tune of \$2,198,900.

Thomas is standing trial alongside Kabiru Sidi, a Bureau De Change operator, on an amended seven-count charge bordering on money laundering brought against them by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

They are alleged to have conspired with the wife of the first defendant, Funmi, to make a cash payment of \$2,198,900 to one Ibitoye Bamidele at their residence at No. 20, Lagos University Teaching Hospital Road, Idi-Araba, Lagos.

Justice Ayokunle Faji of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos, on March 13, 2020, dismissed the no case submission filed by Dr. Thomas. Thomas filed a preliminary objection of no case submission that the court did not have jurisdiction in view of the earlier judgment in a fundamental case before the Court of Appeal at the last sitting. He argued that the charges filed against him were not known to law and that the prosecution had not made out a case against him. At the resumed sitting, Justice Faji, in a short ruling, dismissed all the grounds of preliminary objections by the defendant. Trial has commenced.



Case 66: Steve Oronsaye

N123 Billion Fraud

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) revealed how one of the suspects in the trial of a former Head of Service of the Federation (HoS), Steve Oronsaye, explained how he benefited from the funds allegedly laundered through his company. Mr. Gadanya testified in a trial within trial over contestation of the statements obtained from Osarenkhoe Afe who is the second defendant in the trial. He told Justice Inyang Ekwo of the Federal High Court, Abuja that he got N35 million from the N300 million paid into his accounts.

Messrs Oronsaye and Afe were arraigned in 2016 alongside three companies, for alleged fraud in awarding purported contracts for biometric data capturing to the tune of N292 million. At the resumed hearing of the case, a counsel to Mr. Orosanye; Ade Okeaya-Inneh, announced that he wanted to withdraw his application for a trial within trial on Mr. Oronsaye's statements.

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He said he has decided to take the issue into the main trial on points of admissibility of the statement. But counsel to Mr. Afe and his company, Fredrick Hamilton Global Services Ltd, Oluwole Aladodeye, proceeded with his application to contest the statements obtained from his client. In his testimony, Mr. Gadanya said the suspect had his statement taken in an 'open space' on February 24, 2011, "without any coercion".

The court at its last sitting had admitted in evidence the audit report on pensions payments commissioned by the Auditor General of the Federation. In 2014, the Auditor General had indicted Mr. Oronsaye for the N123 billion allegedly diverted between 2009 and 2010 under his watch. The report found that the pension payroll was never subjected to internal audit between June 2009 and December 2010; and that over N52 billion paid as monthly pension under Mr. Oronsaye remained unaccounted for. The case has lasted for six years since it began in 2014.



Case 67: Sanda Jonathan Lamurde

N379 Million Fraud

A former Commissioner of Finance in Adamawa State, Sanda Jonathan Lamurde, is standing trial on a 21-count charge bordering on criminal breach of trust, forgery and using fake documents as genuine. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission arraigned him before Justice Nathan Musa of the Adamawa State High Court in March, 2020. The former Adamawa Commissioner of Finance who also served as Chairman, Committee on Internally Displaced Person's Welfare during the tenure of Bala Ngilari was alleged to have diverted about N379, 500, 000 (Three Hundred and Seventy Nine Million Five Hundred Thousand Naira) meant for the purchase of food items for Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs in Adamawa. He was also alleged to have forged cash/credit invoice of AIG Enterprises to raise payment vouchers of fictitious contracts and converted the funds to his own personal use. He pleaded "not guilty" to the charges. While adjourning until April 16, 2020 for commencement of trial, Justice Nathan granted him bail in the sum of N20, 000, 000 (Twenty Million Naira) and one surety in

like sum, who must be a Permanent Secretary in the State. Trial is ongoing.



Case 68: Stephen Oshinowo

N127 Million Scholarship Fraud

A former Executive Secretary, Lagos State Scholarship Board, Stephen Oshinowo, was arraigned for alleged N127m fraud before Justice O.A. Taiwo of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos State by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Lagos Zonal office, on July 2, 2020. He was arraigned on an amended eight-count charge bordering on criminal conversion to the tune of N127,000,000 (One Hundred and Twenty-Seven Million Naira only).

One of the amended eight-count charge reads: "That you, Stephen Oshinowo, between 8th day of February, 2016 and 30th day of December in Lagos and within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, being the Secretary of Lagos State Scholarship Board, dishonestly converted to your own use, through Julikam International Limited, the sum of N39, 934,919 (Thirty Nine Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Nineteen Naira), property of Lagos State Board."

Investigation revealed that Oshinowo, at various times, allegedly diverted to his personal use the sum of N127,164,066 meant for the Board. He pleaded not guilty to the charges when they were read to him. In view of his plea, prosecution counsel, Usman Buhari, asked the court for a trial date and also prayed for the remand of the defendant. However, defence counsel, Lawal Pedro, SAN, prayed the court for a short adjournment to hear the bail application of his client. The defendant is remanded in the EFCC custody as trial continues.



Case 69: John Yakubu Yusuf

N32.8 Billion Pension Fraud

The Cases

A former Assistant Director in the Federal Civil Service, John Yakubu Yusuf, who has been on the run since 2018 after the Court of Appeal, Abuja Division, sentenced him to six years imprisonment and a fine of N22.9 billion, for conniving with five other suspects to steal N32.8 billion Police Pension Fund was re-arrested by the Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC in June, 2020. Based on his re-arrest, Justice Baba Yusuf of the FCT High Court on Monday, June 22, 2020, issued a remand order that will enable him serve his six years jail term in Kuje Correctional Service, Abuja.

Yusuf was initially convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment with an option of fine of N750,000 (Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only) by a Federal Capital Territory High Court presided over by Justice Abubakar Talba, in a plea bargain arrangement. The conviction, considered to be a slap on the wrist, sparked national and international outrage. The EFCC, dissatisfied with the judgment of the trial court, approached the appellate court to set aside the judgment. Ruling on the substantive matter, the Justices of the Court of Appeal held unanimously that the three counts involving Yusuf (Counts 17, 18 and 19) clearly stated the amounts he converted for his personal use. He pleaded guilty to the three counts and thereby admitted to the conversion of an aggregate sum of about N24 billion to his personal use.

The court stressed that the sentence of the trial court did not serve as deterrence to both the convict and others. Consequently, the Justices ruled that the sentence is “hereby quashed and deserves to be reviewed as follows: on Counts 17, the Respondent is hereby sentenced to two years imprisonment with an addition of fine of N20 billion Naira; on Counts 18, the Respondent is hereby sentenced to two years imprisonment with an addition of fine of N1.4 billion Naira; on counts 19, the Respondent is hereby sentenced to two years imprisonment with an addition of fine of 1.5 billion Naira. The sentence of imprisonment is to run concurrently and the fine is to be cumulative”



Case 70: Governor Sule Lamido

N1.35 Billion Fraud

The former Governor of Jigawa State, Sule Lamido, is being prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) on a 43-count amended charge bordering on abuse of office and money laundering to the tune of N1.35 billion. He was accused of awarding contracts to companies in which he had an interest, using his two sons as fronts during his term in office between 2007 and 2015.

The trial resumed in February 2020 at the Abuja division of the Federal High Court before Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu. The case had previously been heard by Justices Adeniyi Ademola, and Babatunde Quadri, before its eventual transfer to Justice Ojukwu by the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Justice Abdul Kafarati. Mr Lamido had earlier challenged the transfer of his case at the Federal High Court, Abuja from Justice Adeniyi Ademola (now retired) to Justice Babatunde Quadri for determination. Lamido was equally alleged to have collected kickback from contractors in the state, with the funds allegedly paid into accounts that were managed by his sons.

More evidences were tendered as the trial resumed in February 2020. Micheal Wetkas, an investigator of the EFCC, had narrated how investigations began in 2013, and how the Commission's investigation and forensic team discovered that huge sums had been paid into Dantata and Sawoe Construction Company's accounts in Intercontinental (now Access Bank), Zenith and Sterling banks from the Jigawa State treasury. The second defendant (Aminu Sule Lamido) was arrested in 2012 at the Aminu Kano Airport in possession of undeclared funds.

When the matter was eventually referred to the EFCC, preliminary investigations revealed his links to a number of companies. In the course of investigation, it was discovered that during the time Lamido was the governor of Jigawa State, Dantata & Sawoe Construction Company was the biggest and the main contractor at the time.

The Cases

It was also discovered that between 2007 and 2013, the company had been awarded contracts with a cumulative cost up to N30bn. Further investigations revealed that during this period, three of Lamido's companies; Gada Construction Company, Bamaina Company Nigeria and Speed International Limited were continually awarded sub-contracts for the supply of bitumen, diesel, steel iron rods and reinforcement iron rods by Dantata & Sawoe Construction Company. Wetkals also gave an account of how N1, 356,223,854.28 and N583, 785, 81.14, paid on 11 December, 2012 and 18 December, 2009 respectively, allegedly ended up in Lamido's private account. Others such payments include, N206, 463,210.14 and N6288, 947.17 made in February 6, 2013. Furthermore, Wetkas revealed that on April 18, 2008, two cheques to the tune of N14, 079,595 and N10, 377,310 respectively were transferred in favour of a company, Speeds International in which Lamido was a signatory. Trial has lasted over five years and still remains inconclusive.



Case 71: Samuel Bulus Adamu

N97 Million Fraud

Samuel Bulus Adamu, a former Chairman of Shongom Local Government Area of Gombe State, was arraigned on March 9, 2015 on a seven-count charge bordering on fraud, cheating and money laundering to the tune of N97, 640, 000.00k (Ninety-Seven Million, Six Hundred and Forty Thousand Naira only).

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Gombe zonal office secured his conviction before Justice N. I. Afolabi of Federal High Court Gombe in 2020. He convicted and sentenced him to five years imprisonment on counts 1, 2 and 4 without an option of fine. On count 3, the court sentenced him to seven years imprisonment without an option of fine and on counts 5, 6 and 7, the court sentenced him to 3 years imprisonment each without an option of fine. The sentence commenced from July 10, 2020, and to run concurrently.

Justice Afolabi also ordered the convict to pay the

sum of N31, 640, 000 (Thirty One Million, Six Hundred and Forty Thousand Naira only) to the coffers of Shongom Local Govt through the registry of the court under the supervision of the EFCC.

A firm, TICAN Engineering Enterprises, had petitioned the Gombe zonal office of the EFCC on May, 9, 2011. The allegations bordered on fraud, cheating and money laundering to the tune of N97, 640, 000 by way of inflation of contracts for rural electrification of Keffi; Kwara; Gangamari; Daja; Gurwa; Gundale; Bebbulo, Kuka, and Damjigiri areas of Shongom Local Govt., from N66, 000, 000 which was initially approved by the Tender Board of Gombe state to N97.6 million. The EFCC investigated the case and established that Adamu committed the offence, hence his prosecution and conviction.



Case 72: Emmanuel Eteta Ita

N145.8 Million Fraud

The former Head of Stakeholders Unit of the Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS) and Surestart School Ltd are being prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC on 25-count charge of corruption, fraud and criminal misappropriation of funds to the tune of N145,819,000 (One Hundred and Forty Five Million, Eight Hundred and Nineteen Thousand Naira).

The offence is contrary to Section 18 and punishable under Section 15(2) and (3) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 (as amended by Act No.1 of 2012). EFCC on July 23, 2020 presented additional two prosecution witnesses in the trial before Justice F.O.G. Ogunbanjo of the Federal High Court, Abuja. After the first hearing, the matter was adjourned till November 10, 17 and 18, 2020 for continuation of trial.

The Cases



**Case 73: Abdulkadir
Mohammed Salihu**
N6 Billion Fraud

Abdulkadir Mohammed Salihu is a former Sales Assistant of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, Kaduna Depot. Salihu who was in charge of loading manifest at the Kaduna Depot of the NNPC, was arrested on 29th October, 2019 and arraigned on March 25, 2020. He was arraigned on three count charge bordering on fraud to the tune of N6 billion before Justice Z. B Abubakar of the Federal High Court in Kaduna State.

Trouble began for the convict when several petitions against him were submitted to the Kaduna Zonal office of the EFCC and upon investigation, it was discovered that he conspired with other marketers to lift petroleum products without payment at NNPC depot, Kaduna State worth over N6 billion. Investigation further revealed that he was part of the cartel behind multiple loading of petroleum products and he committed the fraud between 2009 and 2017 at Kaduna Depot without corresponding payments. He pleaded guilty to the three counts charge when it was read to him, paving way for EFCC prosecution lawyer, Deborah Ademu Eteh, to ask for sentencing accordingly.

Following his guilty plea, Justice Abubakar sentenced the suspect to a term of three years imprisonment with an option of fine to the tune of One Million Naira. The accused also forfeited the following items: One unit of three bedroom apartment and one unit of two bedroom boy's quarter situated at 2, Kpak close, off College Road, Kurmin Mashin, Kaduna; One-storey building containing four bedrooms and one bedroom self-contain with its appurtenances situated at 4 Kpak close, off College Road, Kurmin Mashin, Kaduna; One unit of three bedroom apartment with two parlours and one self-contain bedroom situated at 6 Kpak close, off College Road, Kurmin Mashin, Kaduna; a water factory known as Ummus Water and Drinks Ltd, situated at Birnin Yero, Igabi Local Government in Kaduna; One Fuel Station with four pumps with the name Aminu and Salihu Ltd, situated at Sabon Gayan,

Panturawa, along Saminaka, Jos Road, Kaduna. Other properties forfeited to the Federal Government are: Five vehicles. They are: One Odyssey Space Bus; One Toyota Tacoma Pick-up; One Toyota RAV 4 Jeep; One Lexus 350 Jeep; One Mitsubishi Petroleum Tanker.

The Judge also ordered the defendant to forfeit his gratuity and 30% of his monthly pension to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



Case 74: Raymond Dokpesi
N2.1 Billion Fraud

The Federal High Court Abuja in March 2020 adjourned the trial of Chairman emeritus of DAAR communications PLC, Raymond Dokpesi until May 14 to enable him produce more documents in his defence. At the resumed trial, counsel to Dokpesi, Mike Ozekhome, SAN, asked the court for an adjournment to enable him access documents from the presidency and some ministries.

Dokpesi was first arraigned in 2015 by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, but was later re-arraigned on February 17, before Justice Tsoho, of a Federal High Court, Abuja, on a six-count charge bordering on alleged procurement fraud and breach of public trust to the tune of N2.1 billion. His re-arraignment followed the reassignment of the case file by Justice Ibrahim Auta, Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, from Justice Gabriel Kolawole to the new judge.

Dokpesi, who was arraigned alongside his firm DAAR Investment and Holdings Ltd, owners of African Independent Television, AIT, and Raypower, was alleged to have received N2.1 billion from the Office of the National Security Adviser, ONSA, between October 2014 and March 2015, which was used for the Peoples Democratic Party's presidential media campaign, an offence in breach of provisions of the Public Procurement Act, Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act and the EFCC Establishment Act. The trial has lasted for five years and still remains inconclusive.

The Cases



Case 75: Ibrahim Abdulsalam

N2.8 Billion Fraud

Abdulsalam is facing trial alongside Nnamdi Udoh (still at large), Adegorite Olumuyiwa, Segun Agbolade, Clara Aliche, Joy Ayodele Adegorite, Randville Investment Limited and Multeng Travels and Tours Limited for conspiring to induce NAMA to deliver the sum of N2.8 billion to Deposit Limited, Air Sea Delivery Limited and Sea Schedule Systems Limited under the pretext that the money represented the cost of clearing NAMA's consignments.

Nurudeen Bello, an investigator with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), narrated how Ibrahim Abdulsalam, former Managing Director of the National Airspace Management Agency (NAMA), and others allegedly defrauded the agency to the tune of N2.8bn. Appearing before Justice Babs Keuwumi of the Federal High Court, sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos, March 2020, Nurudeen tendered a petition leading to the investigation and subsequent prosecution of Abdulsalam and others. Nurudeen, who was led in evidence by the EFCC counsel, Rotimi Oyedepo, told the court that a petition was assigned to his team on February 5, 2016, which was analysed and subsequent letters were written to various banks of the agency to furnish the commission with all account statements of NAMA.

At the resumed trial, Nurudeen was also showed the statement of the third defendant, which he identified as the statement he took on February 15, 16, 18, 22 and March 12, 2016, and also identified the responses from the letters he wrote to Customs and their replies to the EFCC. Trial is still ongoing.



Case 76: Emmanuel Atewe

N8.5 Billion Fraud

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, in March 2020, presented its third witness in the ongoing fraud trial of a former Joint Military Task Force Commander, Emmanuel Atewe.

At the resumed hearing on the matter, the EFCC presented a forensic analyst as its third witness to give an analysis on a disputed document relevant to the matter.

The retired Major General is standing trial for alleged fraud to the tune of N8.5bn before Justice Ayokunle Faji of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos. Atewe is being prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, alongside Patrick Akpobolokemi, a former Director-General of Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA on a 22-count charge of conspiracy, stealing and money laundering to the N8.5billion.

According to a statement signed by the Commission's spokesperson, Tony Orilade, the defendants allegedly conspired amongst themselves to defraud NIMASA of the said sum, using companies namely: Jagan Limited, Jagan Trading Company Limited, Jagan Global Services Limited, Al-Nald Limited, Paper Warehouse Limited, Eastpoint Integrated Services Limited and De-Newlink Integrated Service Limited. Trial is ongoing.



Case 77: INEC Officials

N177.3 Million Money Laundering

Those arrested are Hassan Aliyu, administrative secretary, Hussain Jafar, Head of Operations, Abdullahi Abubakar, Accountant, and Abdulmumin Usman, all are officials of INEC in Zamfara State.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission has arrested four officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission for alleged diversion of over N84.6 million meant for ad doc staff's allowances. Those arrested are Hassan Aliyu, Administrative Secretary, Hussain Jafar, Head of Operations, Abdullahi Abubakar, Accountant, and Abdulmumin Usman, all are officials of INEC in Zamfara State. According to EFCC's spokesman, Wilson Uwujaren, the arrest was due to a petition by one Abdullahi Nasiru who wrote on behalf of all presiding officers that worked for INEC during the 2019 general elections in Zamfara State. Trial is ongoing

The Cases



Case 78: Jumoke Akinjide

N650 Million Money Laundering

A former Minister of State for the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), and two other chieftains of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Senator Ayo Adeseun and Olanrewaju Oti are standing trial on an amended 24-count charge bordering on money laundering to the tune of N650 million brought against them by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC. The defendants are currently standing trial on an amended 24-count charge of alleged N650 million money laundering. The money was said to be part of the \$115 million allegedly shared by a former Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke, to influence the outcome of the 2015 general election.

After the last hearing in October 2019, Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of the Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos adjourned the case to January 17, 2020 for continuation of trial. Akinjide and her co-defendants were first arraigned on January 16, 2018 before Justice Muslim Hassan on a 24-count charge to which they pleaded not guilty. However, following an application filed by the defendants, the case was subsequently transferred to Justice Aneke's court. Trial is still ongoing.



Case 79: Jedua Ahmed Dawud, Oliver Wubon and Joseph Danladi John

N104 Million Fraud

The trio of Jedua Ahmed Dawud, Oliver Wubon and Joseph Danladi are standing trial before Justice F. Agya of Taraba State High Court on a six-count charge, bordering on conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, forgery and stealing. They were first arraigned in July, 2020 by the EFCC. The suspects were alleged to have stolen from the coffers of Sardauna Local Government Area, a total of N104,200,000 (One Hundred and Four Million, Two Hundred Thousand Naira), being funds meant for capital projects in the local government area.

The first defendant, Jedua Ahmed Dawud is currently a serving member of Taraba State House of Assembly, representing Sardauna Local Government Area of the state, while the second and third defendant, Oliver Wubon and Joseph Danladi John are current Chairmen of Sardauna and Kurmi Local Government Areas, respectively. The offences run contrary to Sections 96, 315 and 366 of the Penal Code of Taraba State and punishable under Section 315 of the same law. They all pleaded not guilty to the charges, upon which prosecution counsel, Abubakar Aliyu applied for a trial date.

Justice Agya granted bail to the defendants in the sum of N2 million and one surety each. The surety, the judge said must either be a Taraba State House of Assembly member, Commissioner in the State Executive Council or Permanent Secretary. Each surety must swear to an affidavit of means of livelihood and deposit their two recent passport photographs. Trial is ongoing.



Case 80: Kabiru Tanimu Turaki

N714. 6 Million Fraud

Former Minister of Special Duties and Inter-governmental Affairs, Kabiru Tanimu Turaki, SAN, was arraigned for alleged N714, 670, 014.87 (Seven Hundred and Fourteen Million, Six Hundred and Seventy Thousand, Fourteen Naira and Eighty Seven Kobo) fraud by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on Monday, May 4, 2020, before Justice Inyang Ekwo of the Federal High Court, Abuja on a 16 count charge. Also arraigned with him were his Special Assistant, Sampson Okpetu and two companies: Samtee Essentials Limited and Pasco Investment Limited.

Turaki was the Minister for Special Duties and Inter-Governmental Affairs from 2013 to 2015. He also served as the Minister of Labour Count one of the charge reads: "That you Kabiru Tanimu Turaki (whilst serving as Minister for Special Duties and Inter Governmental Affairs) sometime in January 2015 within the jurisdiction of this honorable court did use the sum of N159,104,000 (One Hundred and Fifty Nine Million, One Hundred and Four Thousand only) out of the sum of N359, 104,000

The Cases

(Three Hundred and Fifty Nine Million, One Hundred and Four Thousand Naira only) released to the Federal Ministry of Special Duties and Inter-governmental Affairs for the purpose of sensitization and enlightenment of Muslim Youths, knowing that the said sum is proceed of unlawful activity to wit: criminal misappropriation and you thereby committed an offense contrary to section 15(2)(d) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 (as amended) and punishable under section (15(3) of the same Act." Trial is ongoing.



Case 81: Saidu Usman Dakingari

N450 Million Fraud

The trial of former Governor of Kebbi State, Usman Dakingari, was stalled due to the absence of his counsel, A.A. Awomolo (SAN) and the counsel to the second defendant, O.A. Dada. Prosecution witness, Olabode Omolola was also absent in court due to the subsisting lockdown. At the last adjourned date, the matter was stalled due to the absence of the second defendant and it was subsequently adjourned to Monday, June 29, 2020 for continuation of trial.

The case is waiting for cross examination and final ruling.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on December 6th 2018, arraigned the former governor of Kebbi State, Usman Saidu Dakingari alongside two others before Honourable Justice Basse Onu of the Federal High Court sitting in Kebbi. They were arraigned on a 13- count charge of conspiracy and money laundering to the tune N450,000,000 (Four Hundred and Fifty Million Naira) only.

Dakingari was arraigned along with Sunday Dogonyaro and Garba Rabi Kamba for allegedly conniving to collect the sum of N450 million (Four Hundred and Fifty Million Naira) being part of the \$115,000,000 (One Hundred and Fifteen Million Dollars) warehoused in Fidelity Bank and shared by the a former Minister of Petroleum Resources, Deizani Alison-Madueke for the purpose of influencing the 2015 general election.



Case 82: Ismaila Mustapha (alias Mompha)

N32.9 Billion Fraud

The N32.9 billion fraud trial of alleged internet celebrity, Ismaila Mustapha (alias Mompha), continued in January, 2020 before a Federal High Court in Lagos State. Mr. Mustapha is charged by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on 14 counts bordering on fraud, money laundering and operation of a foreign exchange business without the authorisation of the Central Bank of Nigeria. He was arraigned alongside a firm, Ismalob Global Investment Ltd. He pleaded not guilty to the charges, and was granted bail in the sum of N100 million with one surety in like sum.

EFCC accused the defendant of procuring Ismalob Global Investment Ltd. and retaining in its account, an aggregate sum of N32.9 billion between 2015 and 2018. The prosecution alleged that Mr. Mustapha laundered N32.9 billion through Ismalob Global Investment Ltd. from 2015 to 2018 and has since opened its case leading several witnesses in evidence. Both defendants were alleged to have negotiated foreign exchange transactions in various sums such as N9.4 million, N20 million, N10.4 million, N2.4million, N100 million, N61 million, N40.7 million and N42 million, among others. Mr Mustapha was alleged to have aided the Ismalob to retain in its account, an aggregate sum of N14 billion procured from Pitacalize Ltd. The alleged offences contravene the provisions of sections 15(2) and 18(3) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 as amended. The trial continues.



Case 83: Ramon Abbas Igbalode, (Alias Hushpuppi)

N168 Billion Fraud

Ramon Abbas popularly known as Hushpuppi is an alleged internet fraudster and Instagram celebrity from Lagos State, South West Nigeria. He was arrested alongside dozens of his alleged co-conspirators following an overnight raid of his apartments in Dubai on June 10, 2020.

The Cases

The Emirati police and prosecutors said about N16 billion was found in cash out of an estimated N168 billion online scams linked to the syndicate. Following an initial tussle over his custody between Nigeria and the United States, Mr. Abbas was ultimately handed over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (F.B.I.) on July 2, 2020.

He arrived in the U.S. on July 3 and made an initial court appearance in Chicago. Court hearings have commenced for Mr Abbas to be removed from Chicago to Los Angeles where he was indicted on June 25 and a warrant issued for his arrest. He and his accomplices in Nigeria, Dubai and other countries allegedly defrauded the US of over \$100 million meant for native Americans in the battle against the coronavirus pandemic. It was alleged that Hushpuppi was arrested alongside two of his friends after weeks of investigation by the US Secret Service, following the alarm raised in May about a crime ring of suspected Nigerians who broke into the personal information of citizens and used factitious unemployment claims to steal hundreds of millions of dollars reserved to help jobless American people. The syndicate was alleged to have filed in so many names of Americans who were still working to various state unemployment offices and collected money from the system. They were alleged to have used information stolen from first responders, government personnel and school employees.

Meanwhile, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) stated that Hushpuppi has considerable cases of cyber crimes to answer in Nigeria. The commission said details of his money laundering transactions involving many high-profile cyber criminals are being investigated in Nigeria. The commission is currently engaging with the FBI in tracing victims of his fraudulent transactions and other fraudsters having direct involvement with him. Local cyber criminals with money laundering networks with him are also being investigated.



**Case 84: Abayomi Kukoyi,
Prince Kingsley Okpala, Prince
Chidi Okpalaeze and Prince
Emmanuel Okpalaeze**
€2.556 Billion Fraud

Four suspected fraudsters, Abayomi Kukoyi, Prince Kingsley Okpala, Prince Chidi Okpalaeze and Prince Emmanuel Okpalaeze are standing trial on a seven-count charge bordering on conspiracy, obtaining by false pretence, attempt to steal and forgery to the tune of £2,556,000,000 (Two Billion, Five Hundred and Fifty Six Million Pounds). They were arraigned alongside a company, Petro Union Oil & Gas Company Limited on February 13, 2020 before Justice A. Mohammed Liman of the Federal High Court, sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos.

One of the counts preferred against them reads: "That you, Petro Union Oil and Gas Company Limited, Prince Isaac Okpala (now deceased), Abayomi Kukoyi, Prince Kingsley Okpala, Prince Chidi Okpalaeze, Prince Emmanuel Okpalaeze and Princess Gladys Okpalaeze (now at large), on or about 29th December, 1994, within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, fraudulently procured a Barclays Bank cheque dated 29th December, 1994 in the sum of £2,556,000,000.00 (Two Billion, Five Hundred and Fifty Six Million Pounds) made payable to Gladstone Kukoyi & Associates, purporting the said cheque to be meant for foreign investment in the construction of three refineries and petrochemical complex in Nigeria, when you knew the said cheque to be false and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1 (2) (a) of the Miscellaneous Offences Act, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990 and punishable under the same section." Trial is ongoing.



**Case 85: Babatunde
Morakinyo**
\$1.29 Million - N46 Million Fraud

The Managing Director of a property company, Renoccon Properties Development Limited, Babatunde Morakinyo, was arraigned for allegedly laundering the sum of \$1.29 million and N46 million respectively on July 27, 2020. Mr. Babatunde was docked before Justice Rilwan Alkawa of the Federal High Court sitting in Lagos on a six-count charge bordering on money laundering. The defendant allegedly received the sum of \$1.29 million and N46 million without notifying the EFCC, as required under Section 5(1)(a) and 10(1)(b) of the Money Laundering Act.

The Cases

EFCC counsel, Ebuka Okongwu told the court that Morakinyo and his firm failed to notify the commission in writing when four transactions: \$1 million, \$290,703, N16 million and N30 million were made into the accounts of Renocoon Properties Development Limited. The transactions were allegedly made between 2013 and 2015 in violation of the provisions of the Money Laundering Act 2011. Morakinyo and his firm pleaded “not guilty” to the charges when read to them. Trial is ongoing.



Case 86: Stella Oduah

N9 Billion Fraud

Stella Oduah is a former Minister of Aviation and two term senator representing Anambra North Senatorial District. In 2018, Nigeria's Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Muhammed mentioned Oduah's name in the list of looters published. She was accused of diverting N3.9 billion out of N9.4 billion meant for the installation of security devices in 22 airports while the rest was embezzled. Earlier in February 2014, Mrs. Oduah was removed from office after she was found to have received armoured BMW cars, worth N255 million from an agency she supervised. The accused has consistently denied all allegations. Following the EFCC's request and investigations, the court had on October 18, 2019, made an interim order of forfeiture of some assets of the senator to the Federal Government.

However, the Federal High Court in Abuja on June 8, 2020 discharged the interim forfeiture order placed on some assets which the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission had linked to corruption investigations involving the former Minister of Aviation. Justice Inyang Ekwo, in a judgment, vacated the interim forfeiture order on the grounds that the two companies, Crystal Television Limited and Sabora International Limited, in whose name the assets were acquired, had no link to Oduah. The EFCC expressed its dissatisfaction with the ruling and promised to file an appeal against it accordingly.



Case 87: Bashir Yuguda and Others

N19.4 Billion Fraud

Bashir Yuguda is a former Governor of Zamfara State. The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court had fixed December 11 2019 to hear a Motion on Notice filed by the anti-graft agency, EFCC, in the corruption trial of a former National Security Adviser (NSA), Sambo Dasuki, and Bashir Yuguda. They were accused of misappropriating N19.4 billion arms funds. The EFCC had charged Mr. Dasuki (first defendant) and Yuguda (second defendant) alongside former governor of Sokoto state, Attahiru Bafarawa (third defendant); his son, Sagir (fourth defendant) and his company, Dalhatu Investment Limited (fifth defendant). They were charged on 25 counts bordering on criminal breach of trust and misappropriation of public funds to the tune N19.4 billion. During the court session held in December, the EFCC lawyer, Oluwaleke Atolagbe, told the court that the matter was for hearing and they were ready with their witness.

Despite the ongoing trial of corruption charges, Bashir Yuguda was appointed Honorary Special Adviser to the Governor of Zamfara State, Bello Matawalle.



Case 88: Bassey Akpan

Non Declaration of Assets and
N30 Billion Fraud

Bassey Akpan is a former Commissioner of Finance and Senator representing Akwa-Ibom North. He is standing trial over non declaration of assets and thirty billion naira fraud. On June 21, 2019, a Federal High Court sitting in Abuja ruled that the detention of Bassey by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission was lawful and constitutional. Senator Akpan had been detained by the EFCC over allegations of misappropriation, abuse of office and money laundering involving about N30bn said to have been voted to the inter-ministerial direct labour scheme of Akwa Ibom State while he was the Commissioner of Finance in the state.

The Cases

Delivering judgment, Justice Okon Abang, dismissed the fundamental rights enforcement suit filed by the senator to claim the sum of N250m as compensation for his alleged illegal detention by the commission and its Acting Chairman, Mr. Ibrahim Magu. The Court held that the suit lacked merit and amounted to an abuse of judicial process. It ordered the senator to pay the sum of N20,000 to EFCC and Magu as compensation for the cost of the suit.

In dismissing the claim by Senator Akpan that he was being intimidated, embarrassed and harassed with incessant invitations, arrests and detention by the EFCC, Justice Abang held that by virtue of Sections 6, 7 and 13 of the EFCC (Establishment) Act, “it is lawful for the EFCC to invite him for questioning”. The judge noted that the EFCC had claimed to have detained Akpan for only one night between May 14 and May 15, 2018. The court added that in the absence of any evidence from the applicant showing that he was still in detention as of May 17, 2018, when the suit was filed, it was unjustifiable that the affidavit filed in support of the suit was not personally deposed to by the senator but by his legislative aide. No date is yet fixed for trial.



Case 89: Theodore Orji

N7.6 Billion Money Laundering

A former Governor of Abia State, Senator Theodore Orji furnished the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) with details of how he spent his N38.8 billion security votes during his eight years in office. Orji who was in charge of the state between 2007 and 2015 is being investigated by the anti-graft commission for corruption.

He said he collected N38.8 billion as security votes during the period and not N48 billion as alleged by the EFCC. Orji who is currently representing Abia Central Senatorial District in the National Assembly said he shared much of the N38.8 billion with members of the State House of Assembly, his security informants and traditional rulers. He claimed to have also given part of the money to military units, the police, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps

(NSCDC) and security agencies as what he called statutory allocations.

The former governor said he gave successive members of the State House of Assembly N5,760 billion at N60 million per month in eight years. He also claimed to have paid N75 million monthly to security informants in 15 of the 17 local government areas of the state within the same period. The yet-to-be identified informants allegedly pocketed a total of N7.200 billion between 2007 and 2015. Some of the security agencies, according to him, received N2 million per month. However, he told the interrogators that he did not have a comprehensive list of all the beneficiaries of the largesse because the Government House staff who used to disburse the cash is no more. He gave the man's name simply as Felix. Orji said he did not ask for the list from Felix at the expiration of his tenure as governor. He only issued directives to Felix on how to share the security votes. He also said he never collected cash either from the Director of Finance or the Cashier in Government House.

The EFCC insisted that Orji collected N48 billion in eight years. It has retrieved five huge bags of documents from the relevant desks in Abia state on the ex-governor's financial transactions. Based on Orji's confessions, the EFCC is expected to arraign him in court soon being in what a source described as “a straightforward case.” The former governor made the revelations during a session on oath in the presence of his lawyer, who he referred to as Edmund.

It was the first time Orji would open up after many years of trying to make him respond to allegations against him. Orji said he received N370 million monthly as security votes in 2007 and N410 million monthly from 2008 to 2015. He said that from his assumption of office up to his exit the funds were distributed in cash. “There were also statutory funds to the security agencies,” he was quoted as saying. He said the first Speaker in 2007 and the last Speaker in his second term confirmed the receipt of N60 million monthly from his security votes.

He said the Majority Leader also attested to the receipt of the monthly cash although he claimed he did not know “how they shared the money.”

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He could not explain what the monthly cash to the lawmakers was meant for or remember the exact amount he was giving the traditional rulers monthly.

Orji admitted that all disbursements by the late Felix were based on his directives. Usually, according to him, the funds were brought by the Director of Finance (DF) in batches. The DF would then inform the ex-governor on how much had come and would then be kept in the accounts. Orji would in turn issue directive to the late Felix on what to disburse and to whom. He was quoted as saying “Felix comes to show me how disbursement is made. After disbursement, Felix keeps the list for safety. As I was leaving the Government House, I didn't ask him for the list.” He claimed that he never personally collected any cash from the votes whether from the Director of Finance or Government House cashier.

The EFCC claims it is still working on the charges against Orji. In June 2020, EFCC said some property suspected to be from proceeds of fraud to former Abia governor, Sen. Theodore Orji, were traced. It revealed that the properties which were sealed in Umuahia, the state capital on June 24, 2020 were traced to the former governor in the course of ongoing investigations of Orji's alleged financial malfeasance. He had been under investigation by the anti-graft agency since 2018 for allegedly misappropriating over N48 billion. This followed a petition by a group, Fight Corruption: Save Nigeria Group.



Case 90: Aisha Alkali Wakil (Mama Boko Haram)

N66 Million Fraud

Aisha Alkali Wakil, a lawyer, popularly known as Mama Boko Haram was charged before Justice Aisha Kumaliya of the Borno State High Court, Maiduguri on a three-count charge of conspiracy and cheating to the tune of N66 million. The woman who had performed several liaisons between the government and the insurgent Boko Haram was charged by the EFCC along with Tahiru Saidu Daura, Programme Manager of Wakil's NGO, Complete Care and Aids Foundation. The prosecution of the duo followed a petition written by Ali Tijjani, the CEO of AMTMAT Global Ventures against Complete Care and Aids

Foundation, a non-governmental organisation (NGO), run by Wakil.

The petitioner alleged that, on September 7, 2018, Complete Care and Aids Foundation awarded his company a contract to supply it processed maize grain, referred to as “biski” in native language, worth N15 million, which the second defendant, Wakil received on behalf of Complete Care and Aid Foundation upon delivery. According to Tijjani, his company upon the request of the defendants equally processed and funded their trip to Morocco to the tune of N51 million, a cost they refused to defray. The trial commenced on March 18, 2020 with the EFCC, presenting its first witness. Hearings are ongoing.



Case 91: Jennifer Timinipre Turner

N2.9 Billion Scam

A Federal High Court sitting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, dismissed the application by Jennifer Timinipre Turner, wife of George Turnah, former Special Adviser to Mr. Dan Abia, erstwhile Managing Director of Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, challenging the admissibility of the statement she had volunteered to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC. Turner, a former Special Adviser to Mr. Dan Abia, erstwhile Managing Director of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) has been undergoing trial over alleged N2.9bn scam. Turnah, two others and nine companies are also facing trial bordering on obtaining money by false pretence, money laundering and abuse of office.

Efforts by the EFCC's lawyer to tender evidence extracted from Jennifer on February 27, was opposed by the defence lawyer, Prof. Amuda Kaneke, who relied on Section 232 of the Evidence Act. At the resumed hearing of the case on March 20, 2020, Justice Mohammed upheld the submission of the prosecution and admitted the statement in evidence as “Exhibit C”.

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Justice Mohammed similarly dismissed the application by the lawyer to the 9th defendant, Concerned Niger Delta Youth Initiative, Prof Akaneke, who claimed that his client was not known to law since it was not registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), and could not sue or be sued. Hearing continues.



Case 92: Yusuf Ibrahim Gokaru and Ibrahim Muhammed Lele

N258 Million Fraud

An ex-Accountant General of the Bauchi State Government, Yusuf Ibrahim Gokaru and the State Director of Finance, Ibrahim Muhammed Lele are standing trial on 42 counts charge, bordering on obtaining by false pretence, conspiracy, money laundering and concealment of the source and origin of the money. The Gombe Zonal Office of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on March 18, 2020, arraigned them before Justice A.H Suleiman of the Bauchi State High Court.

The arrest and arraignment of the defendants was sequel to a petition from Bauchi State Government, dated August 26, 2019. Gokaru and Lele were alleged to have connived and used their official positions as Accountant General of Bauchi State Government and Director Finance of the same office to obtain the sum of N258, 363, 200, (Two Hundred and Fifty Eight Million, Three Hundred and Sixty Three Thousand and Two Hundred Naira) only, for their personal use. The money was from the World Bank as an assistance to Bauchi State Government under the programme of State Education Programme Investment Project (SEPIP), instead of using the fund for the project, the defendants allegedly concealed the source of the money by transferring from the Bauchi State Consolidated Naira Account, domiciled at Polaris Bank to a Unity Bank, suspected to be their personal accounts. Operatives of the Commission in the course of investigation, recovered more than N80 million, prompting the EFCC to charge the defendants to Court. Trial is ongoing.



Case 93: Abba Moro

Employment Scam

Former Minister of Interior, Senator Abba Moro was discharged of seven out of the 11-count criminal charges brought against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), and was ordered by the court to open his defence in four-count charges on June 25, 2020. The court discharged Moro of the counts bordering on fraud and money laundering, and ordered him to open his defence in the counts relating to breach of procurement laws as a public servant. Moro is standing trial on an 11-count criminal charge bordering on money laundering and procurement fraud to the tune of N675, 675, 000. He is being tried alongside a former Secretary in the ministry, Mrs. Anastasia Daniel-Nwobia; a Deputy Director in the ministry, F. O. Alayebami; Mahmood Ahmadu, and Drexel Tech Nigeria Limited, a firm involved in the ill-fated 2014 nationwide recruitment exercise of the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) that resulted in the deaths of some applicants.

In prosecuting its case against the defendants, the EFCC called over 10 witnesses before closing its case late last November 2019. Instead of opening their defence, the defendants, including the former minister, now a Senator representing Benue South Senatorial District at the National Assembly, Moro, entered a no case submission. They submitted that the anti-graft agency failed to establish any element of crime preferred against them in the charge. Delivering ruling in the no-case submission, the trial judge, Justice Nnamdi Dimgba, however, agreed partially with Moro and other defendants that the prosecution failed to prove its case against them. While Justice Dimgba held that Moro, Mrs. Daniel-Nwobia and Alayebami had case to answer in four of the counts, the judge discharged and acquitted Dretex Tech Nigeria Limited and its owner, Alhaji Ahmadu Mohammed of the entire charges. Dretex was a private Information Communication Technology (ICT) company used by the Ministry of Interior under Moro to carry out the 2014 recruitment exercise that brought about the criminal trial. The trial is ongoing.

The Cases



Case 94: Andrew Yakubu

\$9.7 Million and £74,000 Fraud

A former Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Mr. Andrew Yakubu, in July 2020 told the Federal High Court in Abuja that the \$9.7 million and £74,000 found in his house in 2017 by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), were part of monies people gave to him as gifts. Yakubu is facing money laundering charge at the Federal High Court in Abuja. The former NNPC boss, who opened his defence before the trial court, said he received the monies in tranches of not more than \$10,000 and not more than £5,000.

Testifying as his own witness, Yakubu told the court that people gave him monetary gifts on occasions such as birthdays, thanksgiving services, and other celebrations he hosted after he left service. Officials of the EFCC had on the strength of a tip-off by a whistleblower, raided the defendant's guest house situated at Sabon Tasha, Kaduna State, and recovered alleged loot, which was in foreign currencies. EFCC said it discovered the sum of \$9.7million and £74,000 that Yakubu hid in a fireproof safe inside the house. Following the discovery, a Federal High Court in Kano, on February 13, 2017, issued an interim order that forfeited the recovered monies to the federal government.

The anti-graft agency later preferred a six-count criminal charge against Yakubu but the trial court, on May 16, 2019, struck out counts 5 and 6 of the charge based on a no case submission that was made by the defendant. Also, following an appeal by defendant, the Abuja Division of the Court of Appeal further struck out counts 1 and 2 of the charge and ordered him to open his defence with respect to only counts 3 and 4 of the charge. At the resumed trial, the defendant mounted the witness box to narrate his own side of the story. Led in evidence by his lawyer, Mr. Ahmed Raji (SAN), the defendant said: "Yes my lord, I confirm that the monies were contained in a safe taken from my property.

"As I stated in my statement with the EFCC, the money found in the safe, is mine. The money was not received in bulk. It was received in tranches of not more than \$10,000 and not more than £5,000. While being cross-examined by the prosecution counsel, Mr. M.S. Abubakar, Yakubu told the court that he joined NNPC in 1980 and became the Managing Director of a subsidiary of NNPC Warri Petrochemical & Refining Company in 2007.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission is prosecuting Yakubu on charges bordering on the sums of \$9,772,800 and £74,000.00, recovered from his home in Kaduna, Kaduna State, on February 3, 2017. Justice Ahmed Mohammed on July 9, 2020 ruled that although both the prosecution and the defence had appealed to the Supreme Court to challenge various parts of the April 24 judgment of the Court of Appeal in Abuja on the defendant's no case submission, he lacked the power to stay proceedings in the case by virtue of Section 306 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act. Trial continues.



Case 95: Onwuzuruike Ikenna Kingsley

\$8.5 Million Internet Scam

Onwuzuruike Ikenna Kingsley, a native of Umurokoala North local government area of Abia State, is being prosecuted on eight-counts charge bordering on conspiracy, impersonation, forgery, possession of proceeds and obtaining money by false pretence to the tune of Eight Million, Five Hundred and Two Thousand Dollars (\$8,502,000:00).

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on July 13, 2020 continued with the trial in the fraud charge bought against the alleged internet kingpin. The matter is before Justice A. T Mohammed of the Federal High Court sitting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, and the prosecution presented its first witness, Abbas Suleiman, an Assistant Detective Superintendent (ADS) of the EFCC, before the court. While being led in evidence by prosecuting counsel, M.T. Iko, Suleiman told the court how the commission, on receiving an intelligence on the alleged fraudulent activities of the defendant, commenced investigation which later led to his arrest in Umuahia, Abia State.

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The defendant was arrested with the following items: One Samsung Galaxy Phone, one Iphone 11, one black Dell laptop, three Nigerian international passports and one Accura car.

Suleiman disclosed that in the course of investigation, letters of investigation activities were written to Egypt Embassy, Thailand Embassy, United States Embassy and some banks, such as United Bank for Africa, UBA, Polaris and Ecobank, and responses were also received from them. Iko sought the permission of the court to tender the letters of investigation activities in evidence and were accepted and marked as Exhibit A1 to E respectively. Trial continues on the case.



Case 96: Ope Saraki

\$8.5 Million Internet Scam

Ope Saraki is a cousin to the immediate past President of the Nigerian Senate, Dr. Bukola Saraki. EFCC arraigned Ope Saraki before Justice Adenike Akinpelu of the Kwara State High Court sitting in Ilorin on two counts charge bordering on contract scam to the tune of Two Hundred and Twenty Million Naira (N220,000,000).

The EFCC alleged that the defendant, while serving as Special Adviser to the Kwara State Government, knowingly acquired a contract for the supply 13 Ambulances to General Hospitals to a company which he had interest.

Prosecuting counsel, Sesan Ola, prayed the court for trial date that in view of the plea of the defendant. He also asked that the defendant be remanded in the custody of the Nigeria Correctional Service pending the hearing and determination of the case. Justice Akinpelu, in her ruling, granted bail in the sum of N300,000,000 (Three Hundred Million Naira) to the accused person. The Judge also said that the defendant must produce two sureties with verifiable addresses. She said Saraki should remain in the custody of the EFCC till he perfects his bail conditions. Trial is ongoing.



Case 97: Abba Yusuf

N118.3 Million Fraud

A Permanent Secretary in the Borno State Road Maintenance Agency is facing a 36-count amended charge before Justice Aisha Kumaliya of a Borno State High Court, Maiduguri. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on March 23, 2020 presented three witnesses against Abba Yusuf. Yusuf is being prosecuted alongside Mustapha Kura, transport officer, and Abubakar Mustapha, cashier for criminal conspiracy, forgery, obtaining money by false pretence, misappropriation and diversion of public funds.

Testifying as the first prosecution witness (PW1), Mustapha Muhammad narrated how transactions made between Muhammad and the first defendant did not conform to financial regulations. Led in evidence by counsel for the EFCC, Mukhtar Ahmed, he said he was in court because of a petition he wrote to the EFCC in respect of a financial transaction that took place while he was the Chief Accountant of BORMA.

During the proceeding, Justice Kumaliya admitted and marked as exhibits, the petition written against the defendant, seven payment vouchers in evidence as A-H10. Hearings are ongoing.



Case 98: Abdul-Rasheed Maina

N2.1 Billion Pension Fraud

The ex-Chairman, defunct Pension Reform Task Team (PRTT) Abdulrasheed Maina is standing trial over alleged fraud in police pension. Khalid Aliyu, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, prosecution witness (PW5) disclosed that the PRTT rejected N2 billion bribe from the accused persons in the police pension fraud. Aliyu, who is also Maina's younger brother, made the disclosure during a cross examination before Justice Okon Abang of the Federal High Court, Abuja.

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The EFCC had charged Maina and his son, Faisal, before the court alongside his firm, Common Input Property and Investment Ltd. While Maina was facing a 12-count charge bordering on money laundering, Faisal was charged on a three-count charge of arms possession and violent act. However, both the father and the son pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

At the resumed trial, counsel to Maina (1st defendant), Afam Osigwe, asked Aliyu to repeat what he told the court the previous day. Giving his evidence-in-chief before the court, Aliyu narrated how Maina and his team rejected N2 billion in dollar currency from a driver of one Yusuf Teidi and others who were under probe by the PRTT. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), re-arraigned Faisal Maina, on an amended three-count charge bordering on money laundering and false declaration of assets. Faisal was arrested alongside his father in September 2018. The father was accused of diverting N100 billion of pension funds and his son was accused by the anti-graft agency of operating an account he used to divert various sums of money including N58 million. At the last adjourned date on March 17, 2020, the prosecution commenced its evidence in-chief with presentation of its six prosecution witness, (PW6), a banker at the marketing department of a new generation bank, who told the court that he is a friend and former colleague to Khalid Aliyu, the PW5 and a brother to Maina. During examination in-chief, the PW6 explained his relationship with Maina and how he was involved in the alleged N2 billion money laundering.

It will be recalled that the EFCC on October 25, 2019 arraigned Maina and his son, Faisal, before the court alongside his firm, Common Input Property and Investment Ltd. Maina is facing a 12-count charge bordering on money laundering while Faisal was charged on a three-count charge of arms possession and violent act.

The trial is ongoing.



Case 99: Babachir Lawal

N544.1 Million Grass Cutting
Contract Scam

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) counsel in the ongoing trial of a former Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Babachir Lawal, in an FCT High Court expressed frustration over the attitude of witnesses from the Office of the SGF. The EFCC counsel, Ofem Uket, made this known after leading Aminu Muhammed, a Principal Procurement Officer in the OSGF, in evidence. The witness testified as the fourth prosecution witness (PW4) in the case. He said 80 per cent of the witnesses called by the anti-corruption commission so far were from the OSGF, adding that he knew what he was facing from them. Mr. Lawal is facing trial alongside six others in an alleged N544.1 million grass-cutting scandal.

He was arraigned alongside his brother, Hamidu Lawal, who is a director of Rholavision Engineering Limited. Also, an employee of the company, Sulaiman Abubakar and the Managing Director of Josmon Technologies Limited, Apeh John are being prosecuted by EFCC. They are being prosecuted on a 10-count charge bordering on conspiracy and fraud. The six defendants pleaded not guilty to the charge preferred against them. The trial continues in evidence as A-H10. Hearings are ongoing.



Case 100: Samuel Saleh and Philomena Chieshe

Missing JAMB N35 Million Fraud

The former Zonal Coordinator of the Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board, JAMB, Samuel Saleh Umoru and the former Revenue Officer, Philomena Chieshe, are standing trial before Justice Peter Affen of the FCT High Court sitting in Maitama, Abuja for allegedly diverting the sum of Thirty Five Million, Four Hundred and Eighty Thousand Naira (N35,480,000.00) belonging to the examination body.

The EFCC arraigned the accused in May 2019, shortly after Chieshe reported the N35 million kept in her custody was swallowed by a mysterious snake. At the resumed hearing of the case in March, 2020, Stanley Ani, an investigator with the EFCC, told the court that Umoru, at various times, instructed Chieshe to pay some money into his account as a loan.

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In his examination-in-chief led by Ekele Iheanacho, Ani, who led the team of investigators in the case, told the court that the second defendant, Chieshe, said in her volunteered confessional statement that her coordinator, Umoru who is the first defendant had instructed her at various times to pay in some amount of monies into his personal account.

The court was further told that an extraction of details were done on the two bank accounts statements of Chieshe and it was discovered that out of the total Twenty Nine Million, Thirty Four Thousand, Two Hundred and Fifty Three Naira, Seventy Two kobo (N29,034,253.72) inflow that her Zenith Bank account received between January 2014 and February 2017, only Two Million, Ninety Four Thousand, Four Hundred and Thirty Three Naira, Seventy Two kobo (N2,094,433.72) were legitimate earnings that came in from JAMB in terms of salary, allowances and dividends from the cooperative society. Ani then said a total of Twenty Six Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty Naira (N26,939,820.00) were paid into the account by agents contracted by Chieshe to sell e-facility cards on her behalf.

While also giving the analysis of the second defendant's Eco Bank account statement, the witness said a total inflow of One Million, Seven Hundred and Sixty Eight Thousand, Four Hundred and Eighty Naira (N1,768,480.00) were paid into the account by various agents who sold the JAMB e-facility cards on her behalf. He further revealed that there were no transfers made to JAMB's revenue account as remittance; instead almost all the money withdrawn was through ATM. Trial is ongoing.

SUMMARY OF CASES IN PREVIOUS EDITIONS THAT ARE EXCLUDED IN THE CURRENT EDITION

CASE NAME	DESCRIPTION	REASON FOR EXCLUSION
Rashidi Ladoja	N4.7Billion Fraud	Dismissed on February 8, 2019. The judge said most of the documents tendered to pursue the case by EFCC lacked proactive support.
Adeseye Ogunlewe	N409 Million Fraud	Discharged and acquitted on May 16, 2018 over EFCC failure to prove all allegations against the accused persons.
Ibrahim Shekarau	N905 Million	Expected to open defence on November 18 and 19, 2019, but no update on the case. Excluded to avoid redundancy.
Rita Ofili-Ajumogobia	\$793,800 Fraud	EFCC was set to prefer the criminal charge against the defendant on May 31, 2019, but Rita Ofili-Ajumogobia was said to be on hospital admission and no update to determine the current status of the case.
Rita Ofili-Ajumogobia	\$793,800 Fraud	EFCC was set to prefer the criminal charge against the defendant on May 31, 2019, but Rita Ofili-Ajumogobia was said to be on hospital admission and no update to determine the current status of the case.
Danjuma Goje	N25 Billion Fraud	Federal High Court in Jos on July 5, 2019 thrown out the case.
John Abebe	\$4 Million Fraud	Docked on a four count charge and granted bail on August 2018. The court fixed October 23, 24, and 25 2018 for trial, but no update to determine the current state of the case.

CASE NAME	DESCRIPTION	REASON FOR EXCLUSION
Benjamin Adefemi Ogunbodede	N177 Million Fraud	Convicted with four years imprisonment on October 3, 2017.
Saido Kunmo	N450 Million Money Laundering	The case was adjourned to December 5, 2018, but no update to track the current instance of the matter.
Ibrahim Shekarau	N905 Million	Expected to open defence on November 18 and 19, 2019, but no update on the case. Excluded to avoid redundancy.
Adamu Aliero	N10.2 Billion Fraud	A Federal High Court in Abuja in July 2018 summoned both EFCC and ICPC to explain why they failed to investigate the corruption allegations against the accused person. But nothing has been heard of the case up till now.
Chimaroke Nnamani	N5.3 Billion Fraud	The Federal High Court in Lagos on February 20, 2018 dismissed the corruption charges against the accused. No fresh charge as threatened by the EFCC. Case assumed closed.
Mukhtar Shagar	N500 Million Money Laundering	The case was adjourned to October 3, 2018 but, no available information to establish the hearing of the case on the date and up till now. Excluded because of redundancy.
Abdullahi Adamu	N15 Billion Misappropriation	A Federal High Court in Lafia on June 28, 2016 struck out the corruption case against Abdullahi Adamu and he was discharged. Case closed.
Senator Ahmed Yerima	N1 Billion Fraud	The court on December 5, 2017 dismissed the 19 count charge of corruption against Yerima. Case closed.

CASE NAME	DESCRIPTION	REASON FOR EXCLUSION
Walter Wagbatsoma	N1.9 Billion Fuel Subsidy Scam	Convicted with 10 years imprisonment on January 2017 by Lagos High Court while Lagos Division of the Court of Appeal on February 9, 2019 discharged the convicted persons. He was also convicted by a Leicester Crown court in January 2018. No fresh update on the case.
Joshua Chibi Dariye	N1.2 Billion Money Laundering	Sentenced to 14 years imprisonment on July 12, 2018 by the Federal Capital Territory, FCT High Court. Case concluded.
Oluwaseun Ogunbambo	N5.46 and N1 Billion Fuel Subsidy Scam	Declared wanted by the EFCC since 2016. Case still pending with no update.
Audu Abubakar	N10 Billion Fraud	The death of the accused person in 2015 brought a sort of an end to the case.
Timipre Sylva	N2.45 Billion Fraud	The EFCC in 2015 dropped the criminal charges against Timipre Sylva after the court dismissed the case and returned his 48 properties earlier confiscated.
Lucky Igbinedion	N25 Billion Fraud	Igbinedion was earlier sentenced to six months in prison with an option of N3.5million in a 191 fraud charge. He was convicted in 2011 in another 58 criminal counts charges but, was discharged in June 2011. Again, he was on April 30, 2015 fined N3.5million following a plea bargain with the EFCC to return N500 million of the stolen funds and returned three of the houses acquired with the embezzled money.

CASE NAME	DESCRIPTION	REASON FOR EXCLUSION
Jolly Nyame	N1.6 Billion Misappropriation	Jolly Nyame was on May 30, 2018 sentenced to 14 years by the FCT High Court which the Appeal Court in November 2018 reduced to 12 years jail term with an option of N495 million. Case closed
Boni Haruna	N16.125 Million	The court on January 29, 2014 discharged Boni Haruna of the criminal charge brought against him by the EFCC. Case closed
James Bala Ngilari	N167 Million Contract Scam	A Yola High Court on March 3rd, 2017 sentenced Ngilari to five years imprisonment without option of fine. The judgment was overturned by an Appeal Court in Yola on July 19, 2017 hereby discharged and acquitted him of the corruption charge.
Adamu Mu'azu	N19.8 Billion Fraud	Adamu Mu'azu in April, 2017 disowned ownership of the house where EFCC officers discovered over \$50 million hidden behind a false wall in a swanky apartment tower in Ikoyi, Lagos despite being listed as the owner of the house by the construction firm that built the house. However, in a ruling on Thursday, April 13, 2017 Justice Muslim Hassan of the Federal High Court in Lagos has ordered the temporary forfeiture of the recovered funds. No update on the case.
Tafa Balogun	N13 Billion Fraud	Arraigned on April 4, 2004, he collapsed at a court hearing on his case on June 29, 2005, sentenced to six months imprisonment on November 22, 2005 and was released on February 9, 2006.

CASE NAME	DESCRIPTION	REASON FOR EXCLUSION
Gbenga Makanjuola	N3.5 Billion Fraud	The Federal High Court in Lagos on April 27, 2018 ordered final forfeiture of N1.4 Billion to the Federal Government. The judgment which the Appeal Court validated with a dismissal of the defendants appeal and a fine of additional N100,000 cost to the EFCC. Case closed
Bode George	N85 Million Contract Scam	The Supreme Court on December 13th, 2013 discharged and acquitted Bode George after he was, in a court ruling of October 2009, sentenced to 28 years in prison for being guilty of 47 of the 68 counts charge leveled against him by the EFCC. Case closed
James Ibori	N9.2 Billion	Acase closed. In 2009, a high court in Asaba quashed all corruption charges against Ibori. Although the EFCC appealed the judgment, it failed to diligently prosecute the appeal. Thus, the case remains closed
Thomas Iseghohi	N15 Billion	The Court of Appeal in Abuja discharged and acquitted the former Group Managing Director of Transcorp Plc, Mr. Thomas Iseghohi as far back as 2017. The EFCC is yet to appeal the judgment at the Supreme Court
Aliyu Wamako.	N15 Billion	Trial is yet to commence despite the reminder given to the EFCC in January 2019 by the former Governor of Sokoto State, Attahiru Bafarawa.
Ali Modu Sheriff	N300 Billion	Since the accused decamped to the ruling All Progressives Congress, his trial has been stalled.

CASE NAME	DESCRIPTION	REASON FOR EXCLUSION
Oni Ademola Dolapo	N8 Billion	Convicted and sentenced to 12 years imprisonment. He also forfeited several properties to the federal government. Case closed.
Umar Saidu Bamali and Adeniyi Adeosun	N70 Million	The case was closed in 2019 after a successful plea bargain between the accused and the EFCC.
Ayodele Festus	N8.2 Billion	The suspect was granted bail in 2018 but there has been no update on his trial ever since.
Chidi Adabanya	N1.9 Billion	The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on November 17, 2015 re-arraigned Chidi David Adabanya and 11 others before Justice Ademola Adeniyi of the Federal High Court Abuja on a 22-count charge bordering on money laundering. The case was adjourned to 20th, 21st and 22nd January 2015 for hearing but nothing has since been heard of it.
Samuel Ibi Geke	N5 Billion	Convicted and sentenced to three years imprisonment with an option of N5million fine. The judgment is yet to be appealed by the EFCC.
Babalola Borishade	N5.2 Billion	Borishade died on April 27, 2017 in London after a brief illness. Thus, the case is assumed closed.
Sanni Lulu	N2.2 Billion	Discharged and acquitted on February 6, 2018 by Court of Appeal in Abuja.
Temisan Omatseye	N1.5 Billion	He was discharged and acquitted on May 11, 2017 by the Court of Appeal in Lagos led by Justice Yargata Nimpar.

CASE NAME	DESCRIPTION	REASON FOR EXCLUSION
Musiliu Obanikoro	N4.1 Billion	Trial began in November 2018 and Justice Mojisola Olatoregun adjourned the case to February 6, 2019, for counsel to address the court on the admissibility of an extrajudicial statement. Nothing has been heard of the case ever since.
Abiodun Agbele	N1.2 Billion	Court ruled that EFCC should pay N5million to the accused for unlawful detention in 2015. The trial has since been stalled with no updates.
Kayode Fayemi	N2 Billion	Governor currently has immunity as the Executive Governor of Ekiti State.
Ibrahim Shehu	N11 Billion and N5.7 Billion	Trial is ongoing.
Robert Azibaola	\$40 Million	He was discharged and acquitted in April, 2020.
Calistus Obi	N136 Million	He was convicted and sentenced to seven years imprisonment by a Federal High Court in Lagos on June 3, 2019.
Ike Ekweremadu	Non declaration of assets	Justice Binta Nyako of the Federal High Court, Abuja in February, 2020 struck out the criminal charge filed against the former Deputy Senate President, Ike Ekweremadu, for lack of diligent prosecution. He stands discharged and acquitted.
Bukola Saraki	N1.36 Billion	Justice Rilwan Aikawa ruled that there was no sufficient basis in the EFCC application for the permanent forfeiture of Mr. Saraki's houses. He was discharged and acquitted.

CASE NAME	DESCRIPTION	REASON FOR EXCLUSION
Auwal Ibrahim	N623 Million	Trial commenced since 2017 but no ruling has been made.
Patience Jonathan	\$15, 591,700	The Federal High Court in Lagos, in July 2019, ordered the permanent forfeiture of the sum of N9.2bn and \$8.4m recovered from the wife of former President Goodluck Jonathan, Patience. The case is closed.
Munir Gwazo	N155 Million	He was discharged and acquitted by a Federal High Court in Abuja on April 17, 2019.
Isa Yuguda	N21 Billion	He was indicted by a committee set up to carry out forensic audit of all major contracts between 2007 and 2015 when he was governor of Bauchi State but he has not been prosecuted in law court.
Martin Elechi	\$12 Million	Trial of his case has not commenced since 2016 when he was initially investigated by the EFCC. The former governor decamped from PDP to the ruling APC in 2017.

THE DATA ANALYSIS

Table 1

Frequency Counts and Percentages of Major Defendants in the Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Former Ministers and Advisers	11	11.0	11.0	12.0
Senators	5	3.0	3.0	15.0
Judges	3	2.0	2.0	17.0
Former Governors	17	20.0	20.0	61.0
Others	64	64.0	64.0	100.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	100.0

Results in Table 1 showed that a total of 100 corruption cases were considered. Of this, 17 accounting for 20.0% involved former Governors of States while 39 (39.0%) involved other Government officials. Twelve (12.0%) of the cases involved former ministers and Special Assistants to the President while only five (3.0 %) and two (2.0%) involved Senators and Judges respectively. The distribution of the major defendants in the charges is graphically presented in Figure 1

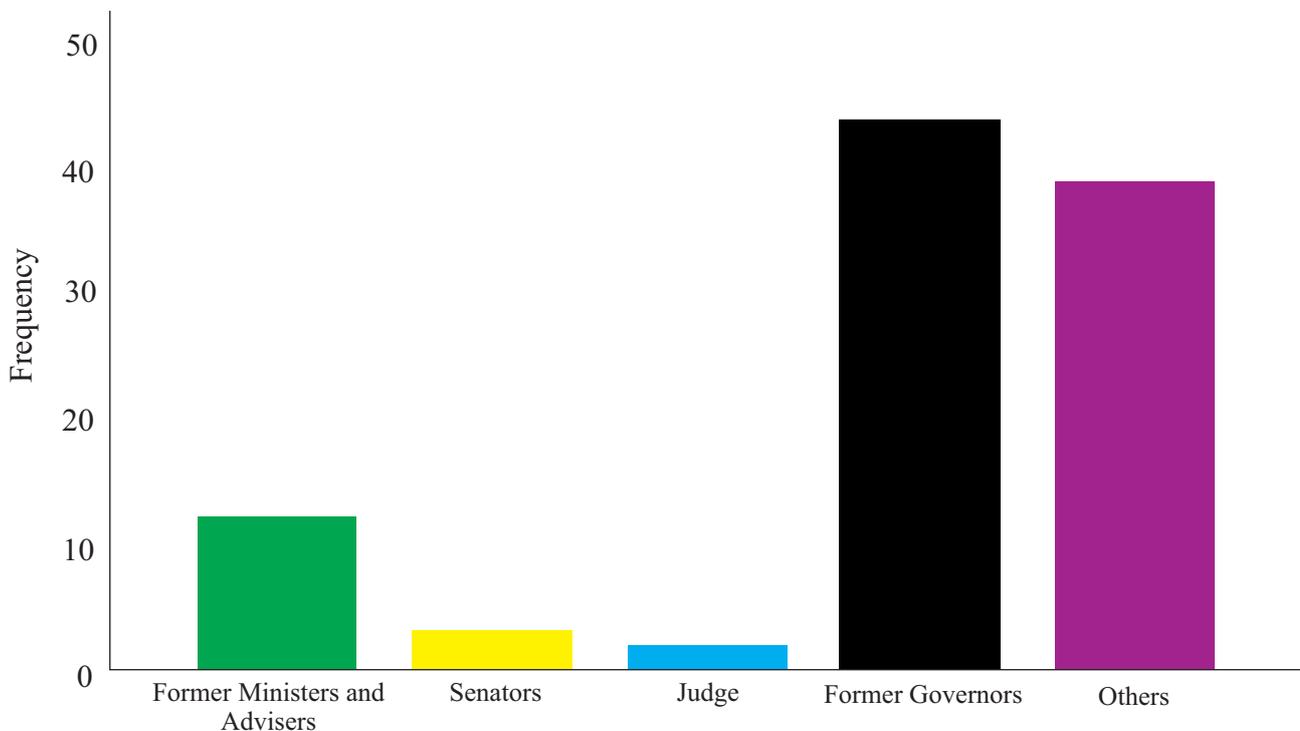


Fig 1: Chart of Personalities involved in the cases as Major Defendants.

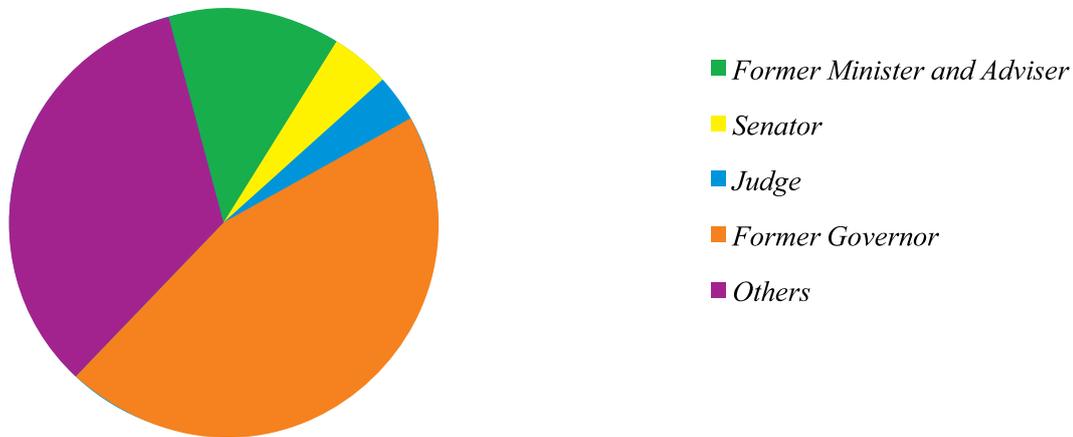


Table 2
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Year of Inception of Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
2007	2	2.0	2.0	1.0
2008	1	1.0	1.0	3.1
2009	2	2.0	2.0	8.3
2010	0	0.0	0.0	14.6
2011	1	1.0	1.0	17.7
2012	3	3.0	3.0	20.8
2013	3	3.0	3.0	26.0
2014	1	1.0	1.0	32.3
2015	11	11.0	11.0	35.4
2016	9	9.0	9.0	37.5
2017	7	7.0	7.0	50.0
2018	15	15.0	15.0	70.8
2019	12	12.0	12.0	80.2
2020	22	22.0	22.0	84.7
Missing System	11	11.0	11.0	100.0
Total	100			

Results in Table 2 revealed that a total of 100 corruption cases were considered. In 11 (11.0%) of the cases, year of inception of cases was not available. The highest year of case inception was 2020 with 22 cases (22.0% of the total) and 2018 with 15 (15.0% of the total). Year 2015 witnessed the inception of 11 (11.0%) cases. Others ranged from one to nine cases in a year. The distribution of the number of cases by year of inception is presented in Figure 2

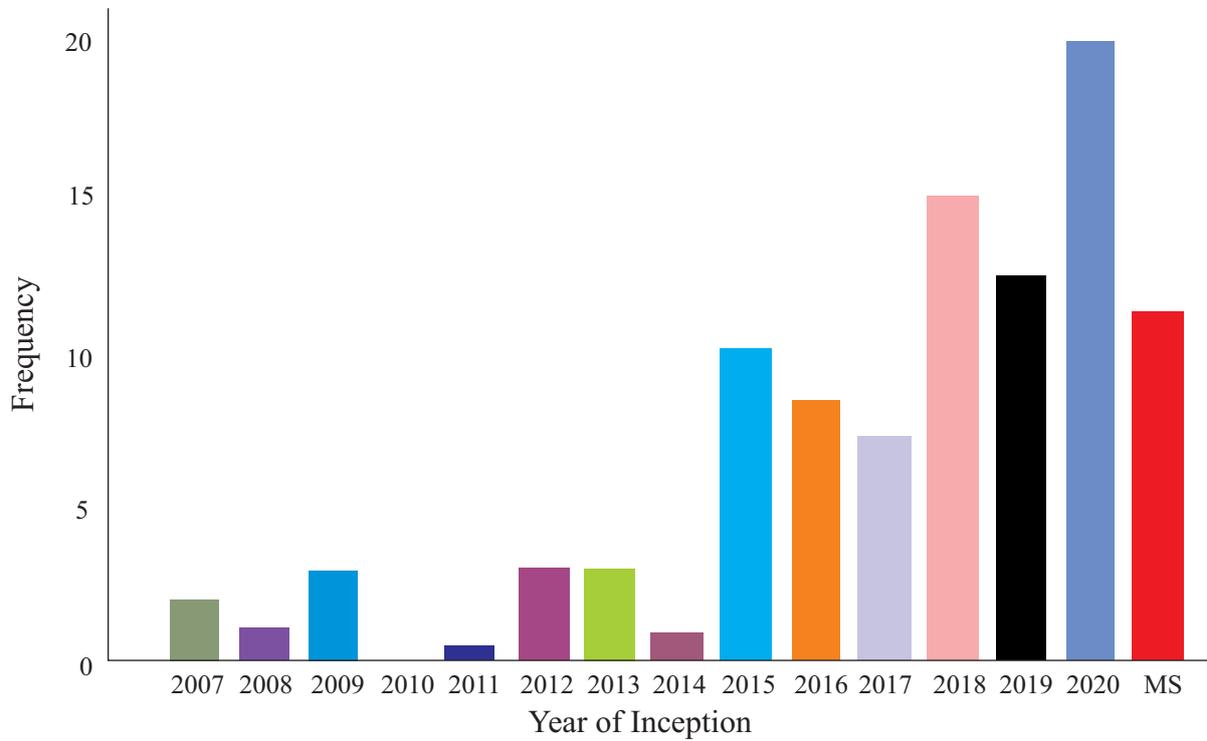


Fig 2: Chart of Year of Inception of Cases

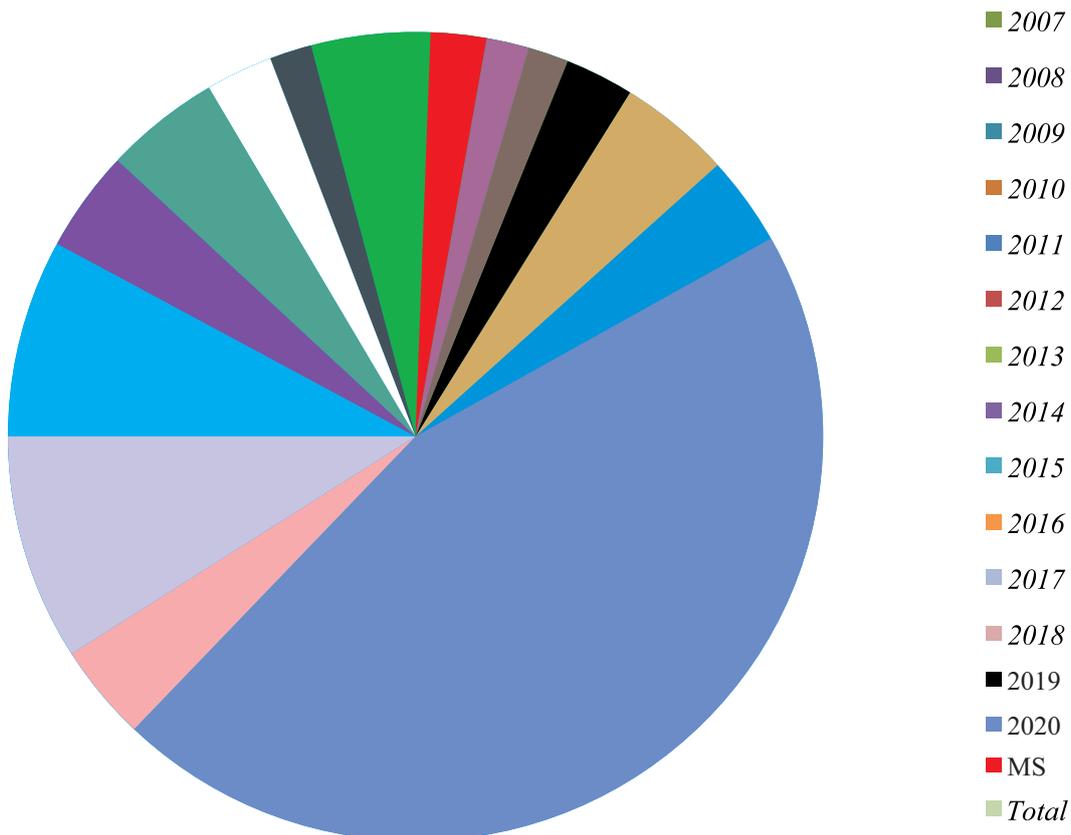


Table 3
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Prosecuting Agency of Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Information Not Available	9	9.0	9.0	
EFCC	80	80.0	80.0	
ICPC	10	10.0	10.0	
CCT	0	0.0	0.0	
SPIPRPP	1	1.0	1.0	
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Results in Table 3 indicated that a total of 100 corruption cases were considered. Eighty-nine (80.0%) cases were prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes commission (EFCC) while ten (10.0%) cases were prosecuted by the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC). The distribution of the prosecuting agencies is visually presented in Figure 3

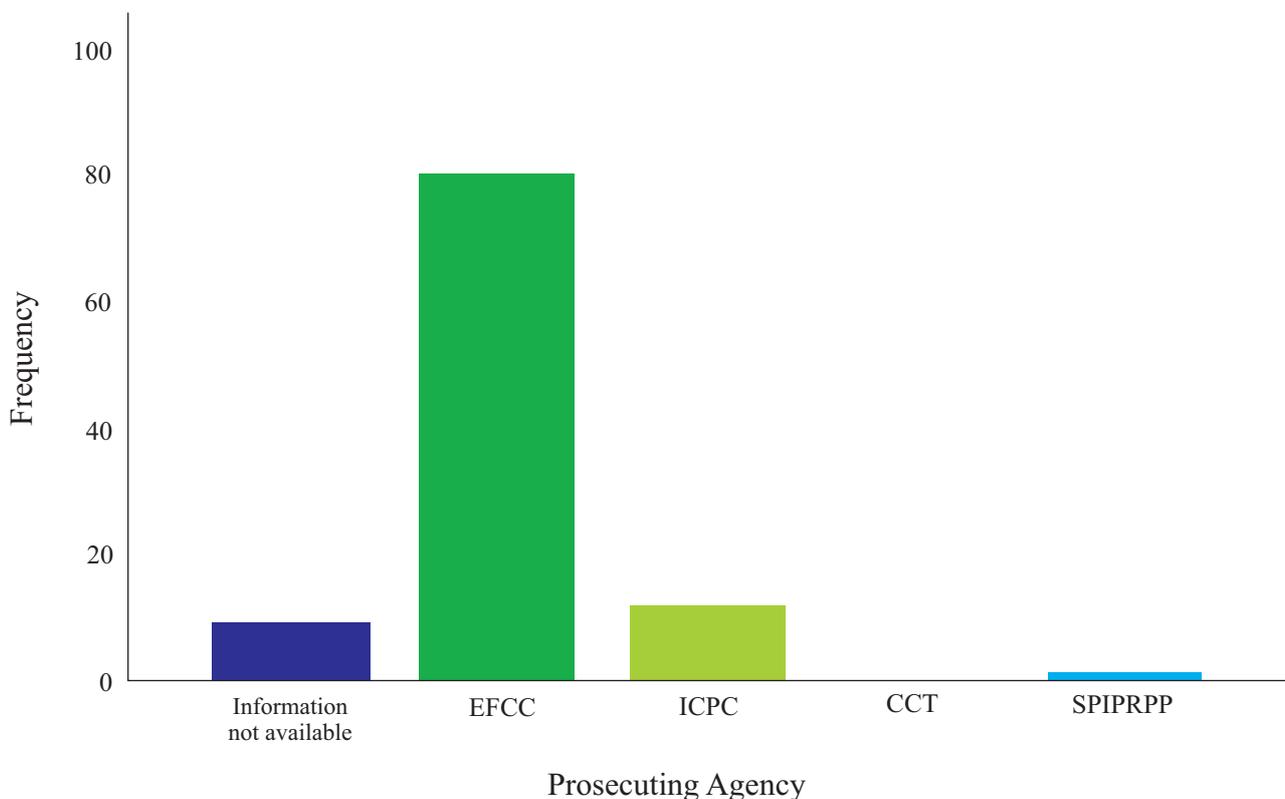


Fig 3: Chart of Prosecuting Agency

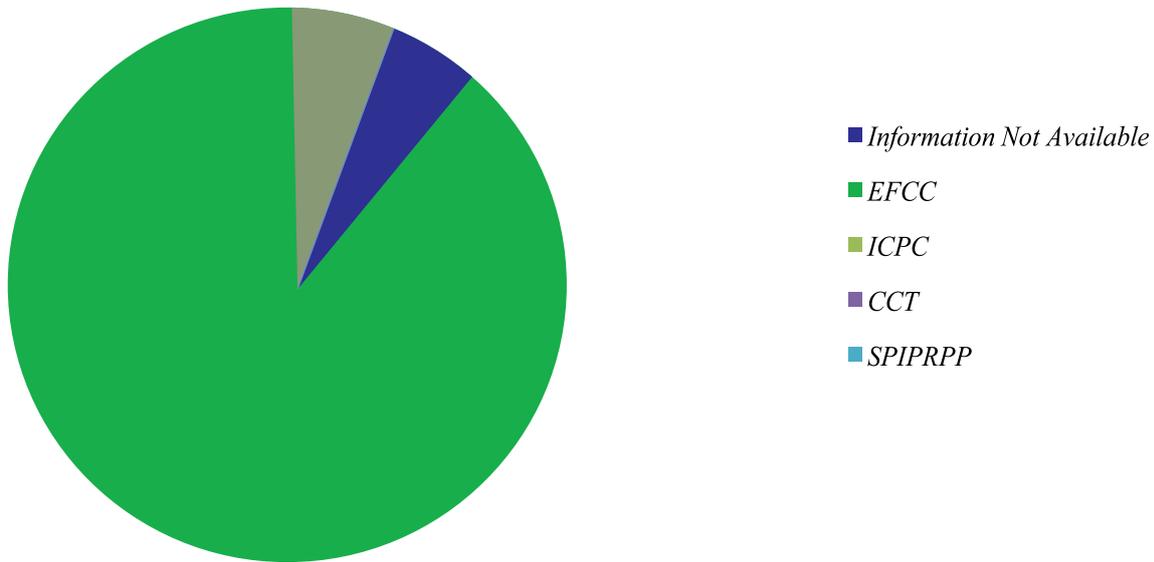


Table 4
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Main Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Fraud	40	40.0	40.0	
Corruption	11	11.0	11.0	
Embezzlement	3	3.0	3.0	
Money laundering	18	18.0	18.0	
Bribe	2	2.0	2.0	
Forgery	1	1.0	1.0	
Misappropriation/Mismanagement	9	9.0	9.0	
Conspiracy	2	2.0	2.0	
Election Scandal	1	1.0	1.0	
False Declaration of Assets	3	3.0	3.0	
Total	100			

Results in Table 4 showed that a total of 100 corruption cases were considered. Forty (40.0%) of the cases bothered on fraud while 18 (18.0%) bothered on money laundering. General corruption accounted for 11 (11.0%) while misappropriation or mismanagement of funds accounted for nine (9.0%) of the cases examined. This result is graphically show in Figure 4

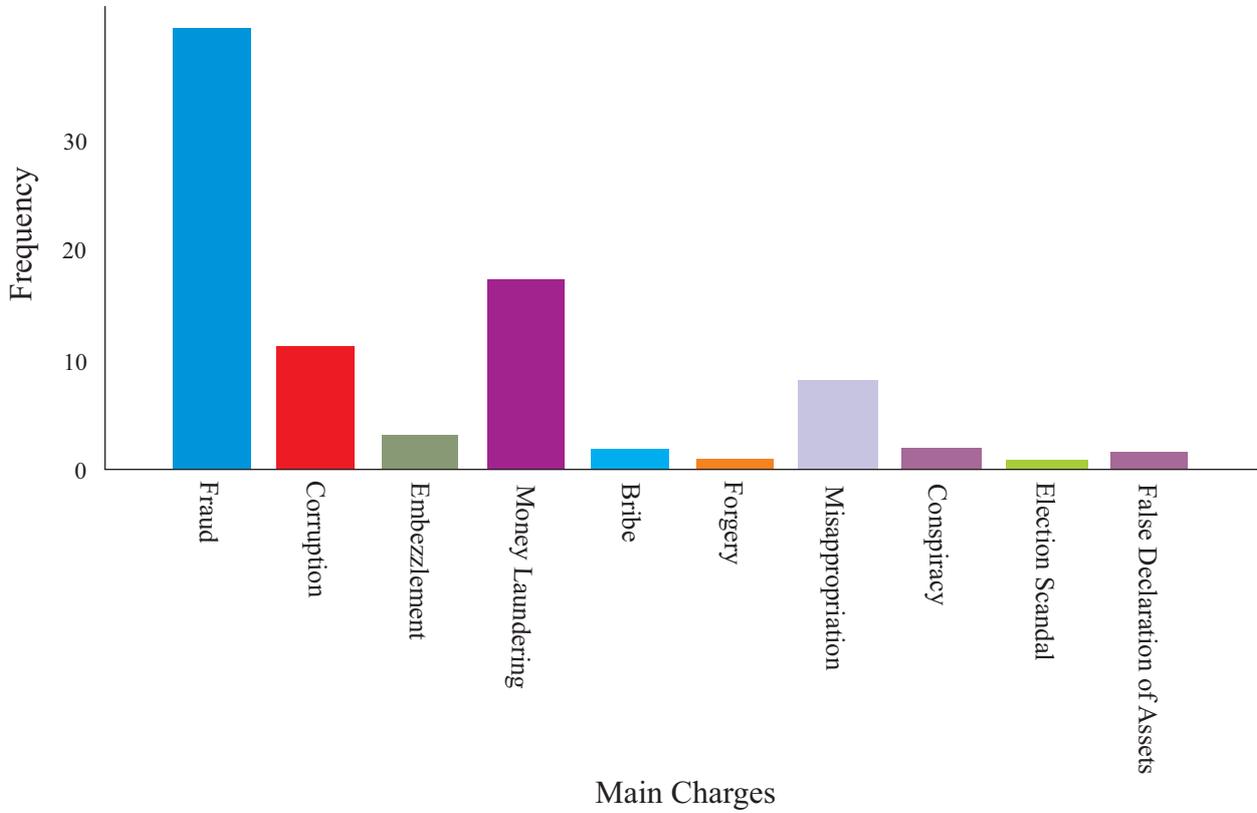


Fig 4: Chart of Charges against Defendants

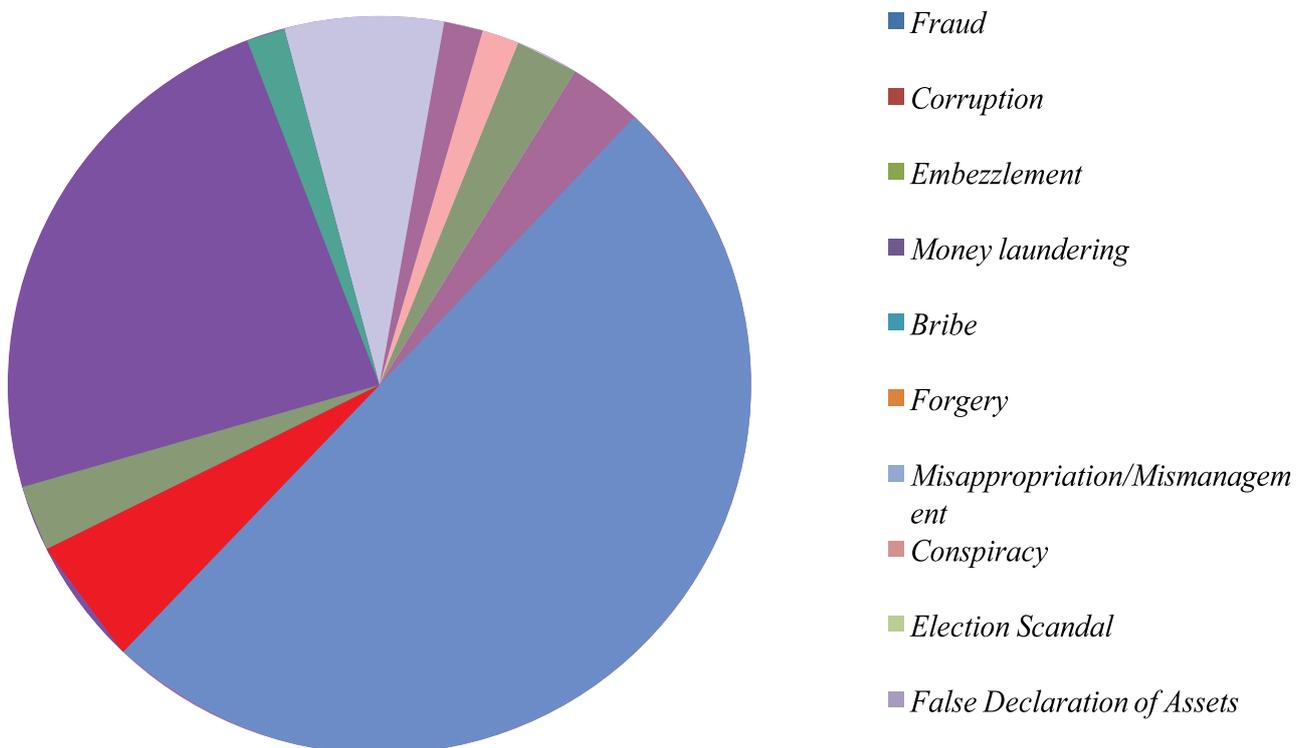


Table 5
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Judgments in the Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Ongoing	45	45.0		42.0
Pending	16	16.0		64.0
Case Dismissed	6	6.0		73.0
Sentenced	10	10.0		81.0
Properties seized	5	5.0		85.0
Convicted but later discharged	4	4.0		89.0
Stalled	3	3.0		92.0
Plea Bargaining	2	2.0		95.0
Under Investigation	9	9.0		100.0
Total	100	100		

Results in Table 5 indicate that a total of the 100 corruption cases considered number of cases under review. Forty-five (45.0%) cases are ongoing while 16 (16.0%) are pending. Six (6.0%) cases were dismissed while in ten (10.0%) of the cases, defendants were sentenced. The distribution of the status of cases is graphically presented in Figure 5

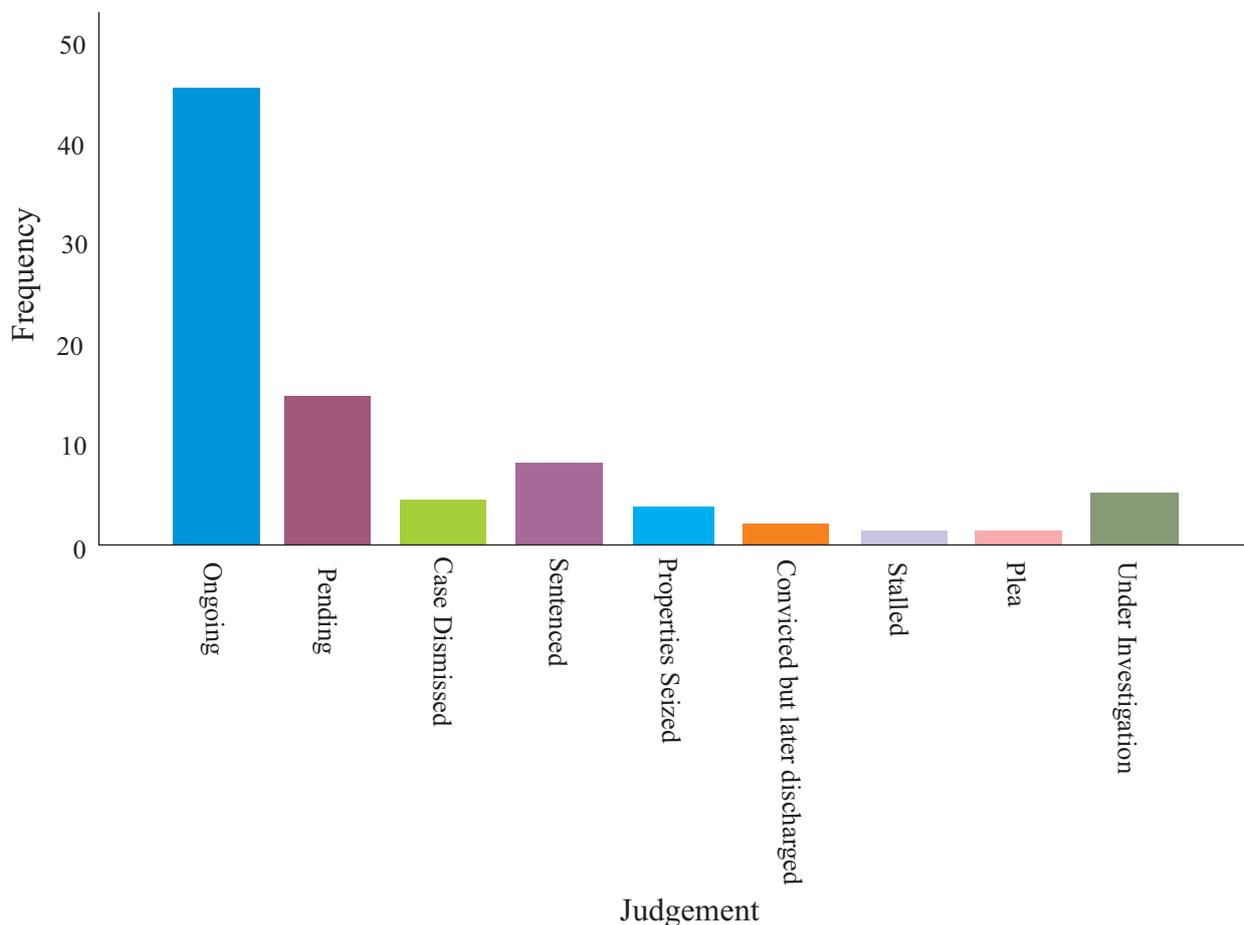


Fig 5: Chart of Status of Cases

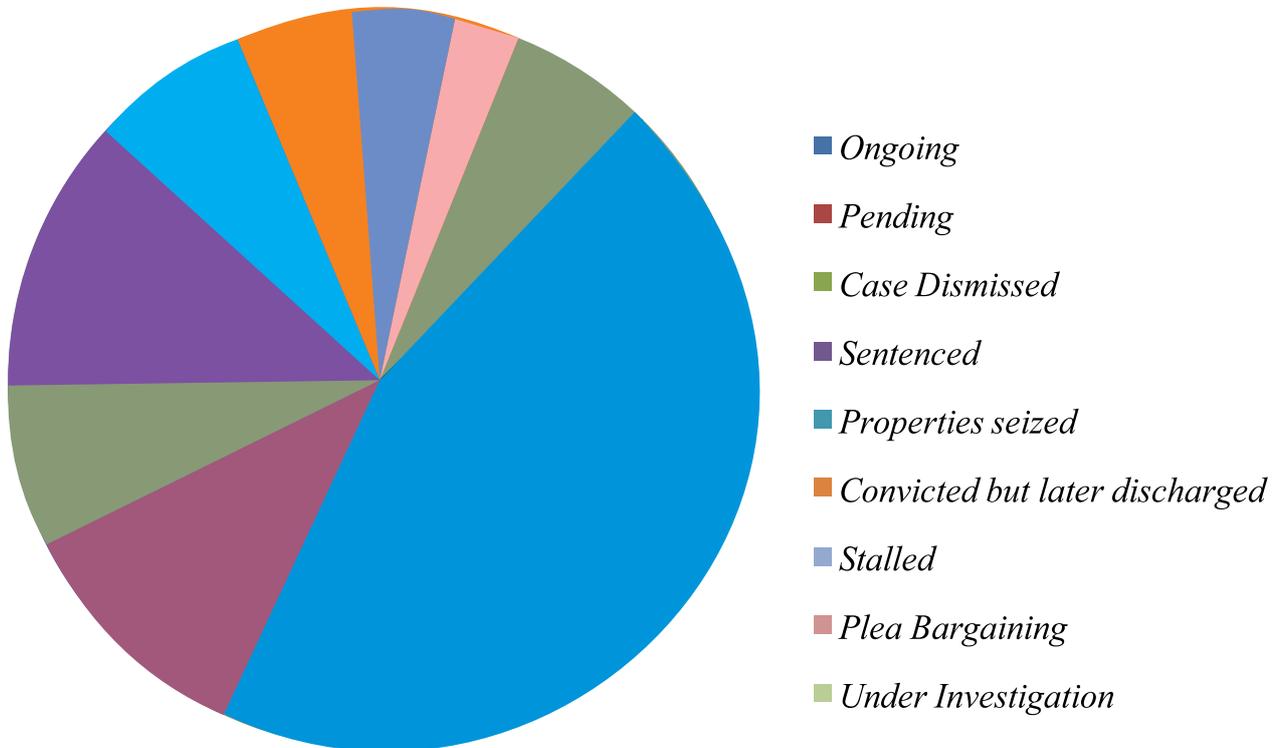


Table 6
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Amount in Naira (Billion) Involved in the Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
0-100	91	91.0	93.8	93.8
100-200	2	2.0	2.1	95.9
200-300	2	2.0	2.1	97.9
700-800	2	2.0	2.1	100.0
Total	97	97.0	100.0	
Missing System	3	3.0		
	100	100.0		

Results in Table 6 revealed that a total of 100 corruption cases were considered. Out of these, 91 (91.0%) were below 100 billion Naira while two cases were between 100 – 200 billion Naira, between 200 – 300 billion Naira, and between 700 – 800 billion Naira. This result is graphically presented in Figure 6.

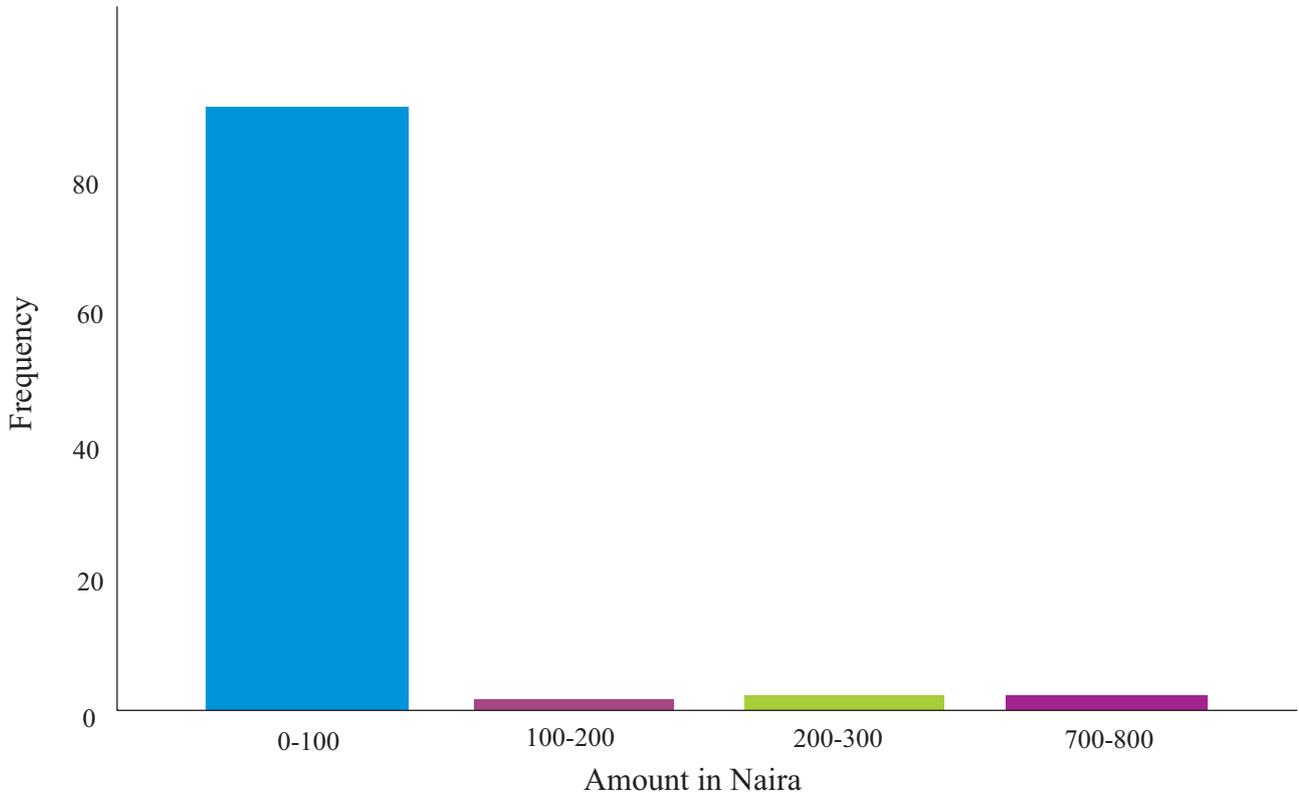


Fig 6: Chart of Amount involved in the cases (Billion Naira)

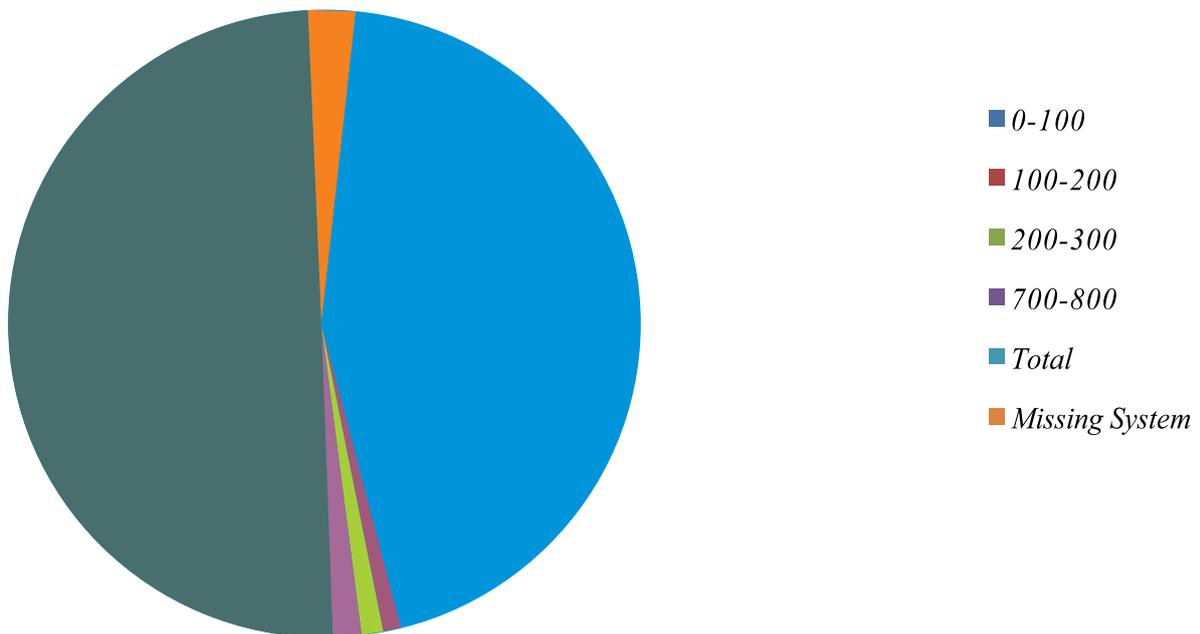


Table 7
Cross-tabulation of Main Charges by Major Defendant in the Charges

	Major Defendant					Total
	Former Minister and Adviser	Senator	Judge	Former Governor	Others	
Fraud	7	0	0	11	22	40
Corruption	1	0	1	7	2	11
Embezzlement	0	0	0	3	0	3
Money laundering	3	2	0	13	10	28
Bribe	1	0	1	0	0	2
Forgery	0	0	0	0	1	1
Misappropriation/Mismanagement	0	0	0	7	2	9
Conspiracy	0	0	0	2	0	2
Election Scandal	0	0	0	0	1	1
False Declaration of Assets	0	1	0	1	1	3
Total	12	3	2	44	39	100

Pearson Chi-Square $\chi^2 = 66.679$; $df = 36$; Asymptotic Significance (2-sided) = .001

Results in Table 7 showed that there was a significant difference in the distribution of charges by major defendant ($\chi^2 = 66.679$; $df = 36$; $p < .001$). More of the former Governors faced charges of fraud, money laundering and misappropriation/mismanagement of funds. The results are as presented in Figure 4.2

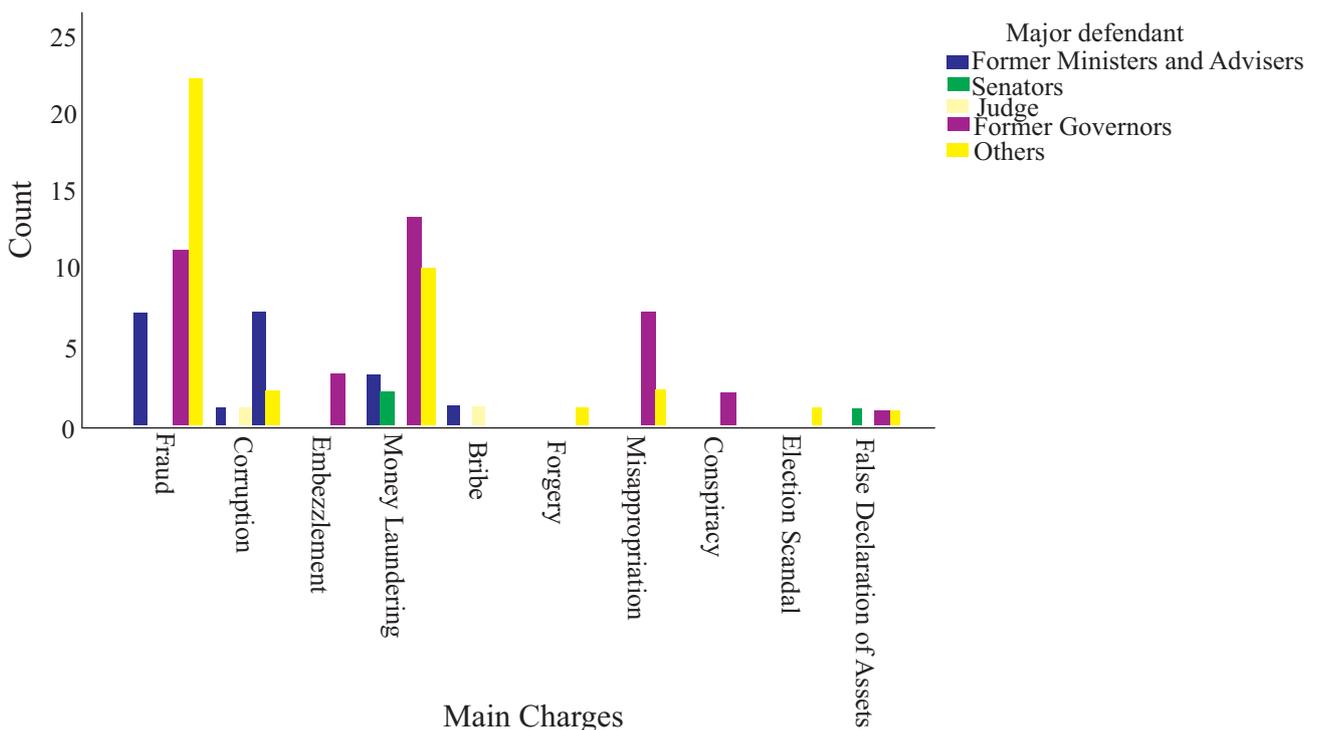


Fig 7: Chart of Charges by Major Defendant

Table 8

Cross-tabulation of Amount in Naira (Billion) Involved in the Charges by Major Defendant in the Charges

	Major Defendant					Total
	Former Ministers and Advisers	Senators	Judge	Former Governors	Others	
0-100	13	2	0	41	36	92
100-200	0	0	1	1	0	2
200-300	0	0	1	1	0	2
700-800	2	0	0	0	0	2
Total	15	2	2	43	36	98

Pearson Chi-Square $\chi^2 = 63.113$; $df = 12$; Asymptotic Significance (2-sided) = .000

Results in Table 8 revealed that there was a significant difference in the amount involved in the cases by major defendants ($\chi^2 = 63.113$; $df = 12$; $p < .001$). While 41 former Governors and 36 other defendants were involved in less than 100 billion Naira, two former Minister/ Special Adviser were involved in a staggering sum of over 700 billion Naira. This result is shown in graphically in Figure 8

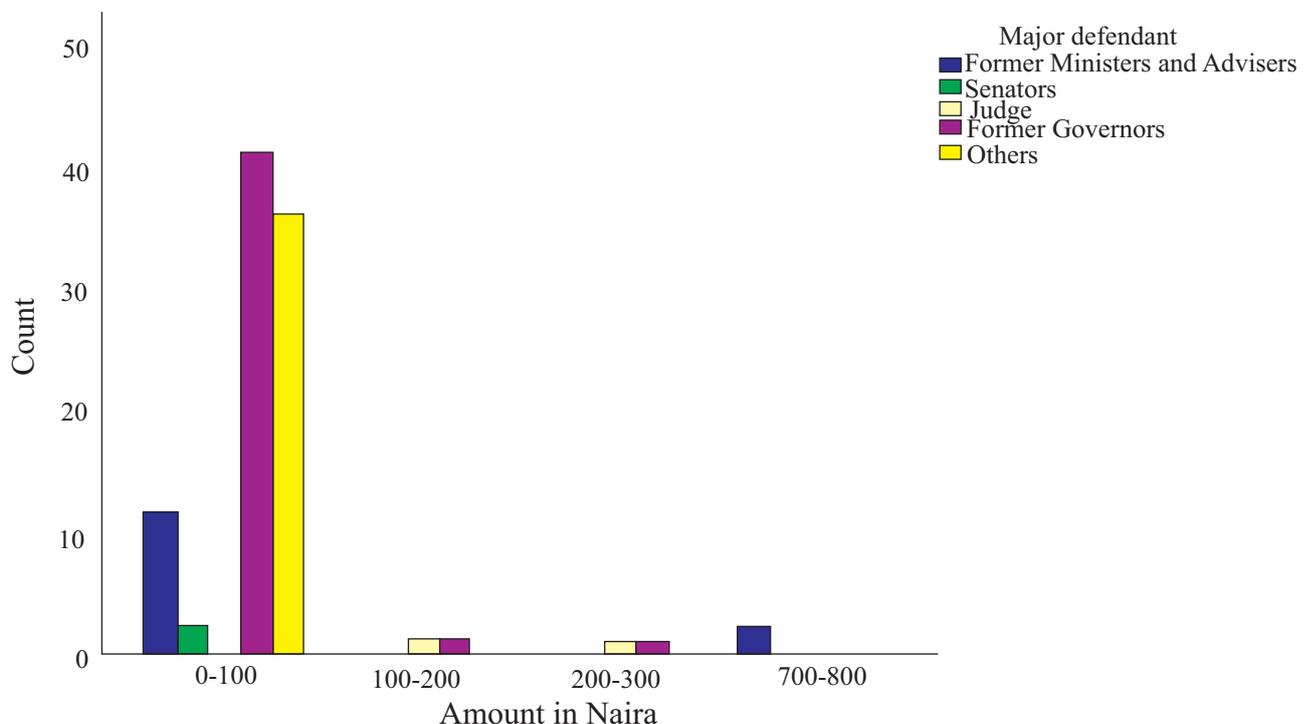


Fig 8: Chart of Amount involved in the cases (Billion Naira) by Major Defendant

Table 9

Cross-tabulation of Judgments by Major Defendant and the Judgment

	Major Defendant					Total
	Former Ministers and Advisers	Senators	Judge	Former Governors	Others	
Ongoing	5	2	2	16	18	43
Pending	2	1	0	9	9	21
Case Dismissed	2	0	0	7	1	10
Sentenced	0	0	0	3	5	8
Properties seized	1	0	0	0	3	4
Convicted but later discharged	0	0	0	1	3	4
Stalled	1	0	0	2	0	3
Plea Bargaining	0	0	0	2	1	3
Under Investigation	1	0	0	3	0	4
Total	12	3	2	43	40	100

Pearson Chi-Square $\chi^2 = 23.689$; $df = 24$; Asymptotic Significance (2-sided) = .846

Results in Table 9 showed that there was no significant difference in the status of the cases by major defendant. Most of the cases are either ongoing or pending. While seventeen former Governors have their cases ongoing, nine have cases pending against them. Also, whereas sixteen other government officials have their cases ongoing, ten have the cases pending. The distribution of the case status and major defendant is graphically presented in Figure 9

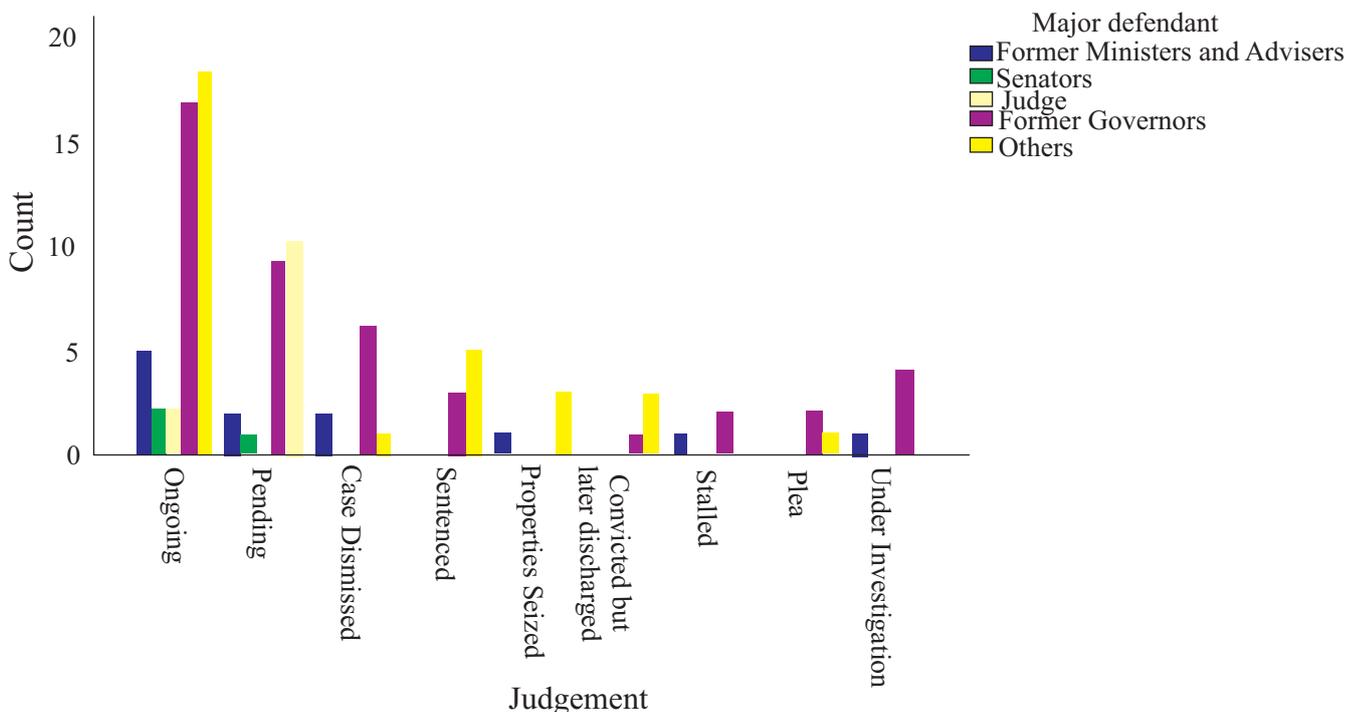


Fig 9: Chart of Status of Cases by Major Defendant

Table 10

Cross-tabulation of Amount in Naira (Billion) by Judgments in the Charges

	Judgments										Total
	Ongoing	Pending	Case Dis- missed	Sentenced	Properties seized	Con- victed but later dis- charged	Stalled	Plea Bar- gaining	Under Inves- tiga- tion		
0-100	36	20	9	8	3	4	3	3	5	91	
100-200	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
200-300	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
700-800	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	
Total	39	22	9	8	4	4	3	3	5	97	

Pearson Chi-Square $\chi^2 = 17.063$; df = 24; Asymptotic Significance (2-sided) = .846

Results in Table 10 showed that there was no significant difference between amount involved in the cases and status of cases. Of the 100 cases with amount below 100 billion naira, 36 are ongoing while 20 are pending. Nine have been dismissed while eight defendants got sentenced. However, four got initial conviction but later got discharges by higher courts. Three of the cases went through plea bargaining while five are still under investigation. This result is visually shown in Figure 10

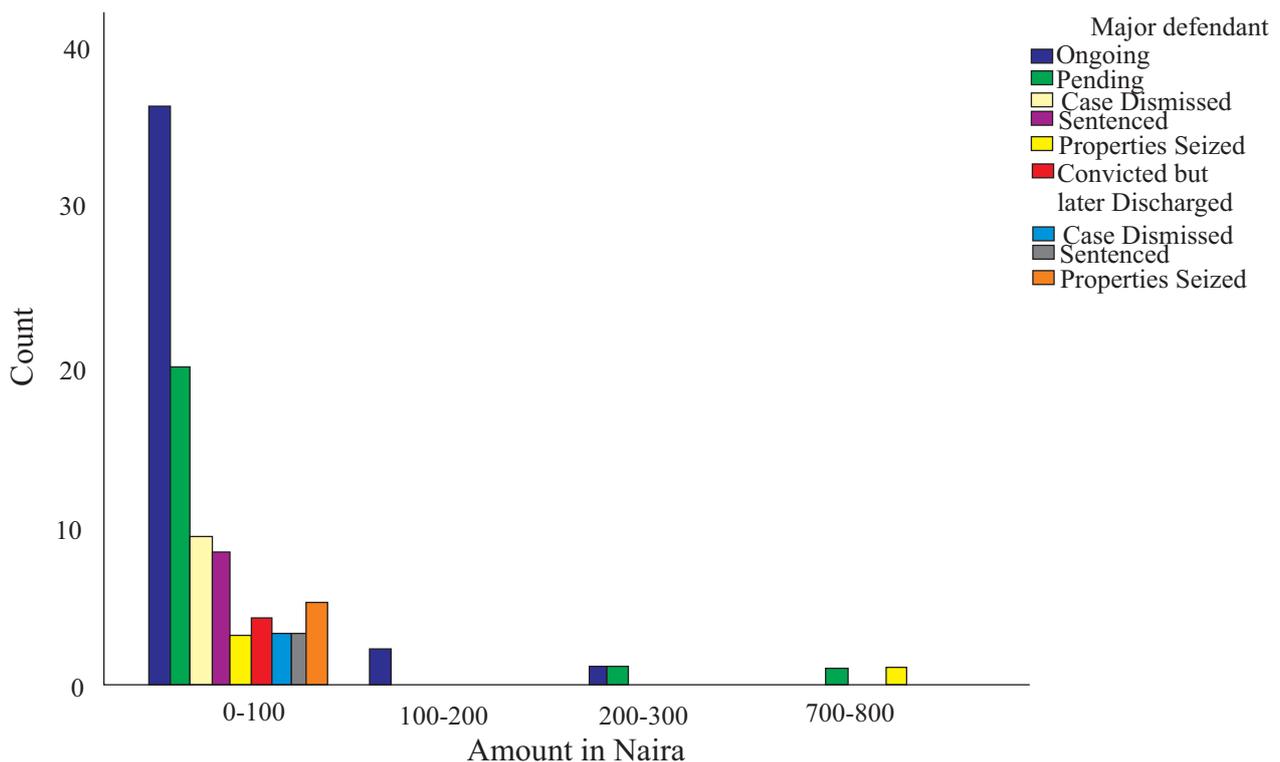


Fig 10: Chart of Amount involved in the cases (Billion Naira) by Status of cases



ABOUT HEDA

Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA Resource Centre) was founded in November 2001 and incorporated in 2004 as a Non-Governmental Organization under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990. The core mandate of HEDA is to partner global stakeholders towards entrenching – (a) Good Governance and Human Rights (b) Environmental Justice and Sustainable Development. The Centre deploys research, policy advocacy, training, as well as citizens' awareness and mobilization on critical human development issues, including agriculture, food security, climate change, human rights, public sector accountability and electoral reform processes. In partnership with local, international and multilateral institutions HEDA promotes transparency, accountability, inclusion and responsiveness in governance, whilst striving to shape the content and context of public policies and programs. HEDA works with others to advocate for fair economic and climate deals for Africa; in particular for small scale farmers and other vulnerable sectors. HEDA has observer status with the UN ECOSOC, UNFCCC as well as the Green Climate Fund. HEDA is keen on deploying new media as an advocacy and change tool and also maintains strong partnership with the broadcast and print media for informed views on policies/programs on good governance, food security and sustainable development. HEDA is a leading anti-corruption platform working with agencies and institutions within and outside Nigeria. In recognition of efforts, HEDA was given an observer status with the National Committee on the Monitoring of Trials of Financial Crimes and Corruption Cases across the country and also a member of the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee of the country's implementation of National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

Vision

To be a leading catalyst for development; ensuring that all persons; regardless of location and situation are treated with dignity with unhindered access to good governance in a sustainable environment.

Mission

To serve as a platform for promoting human rights, good governance and sustainable environment through research, training, advocacy and policy engagement.