



A COMPENDIUM OF 100 HIGH PROFILE CORRUPTION CASES IN NIGERIA

[As at 22nd of November, 2021]

5TH EDITION

REVISED

A Publication of Human and Environmental Development Agenda

Supported by

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Foundation

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BY



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PREFACE

The motivation for this compendium in 2017 was derived from the major concern for the cascading morality in the society with assorted nauseating manifestations. It became regular practice, celebrating those notorious for corruption and financial crime offences in the country, such that those accused are not only revered and elevated by social and religious institutions, but societies also elect them into otherwise respectable offices. The 2019 general elections still saw the election of suspects in corruption and financial crimes elected as governors in some of the states. Obviously, the proceeds of crimes are used by suspected Politically Exposed Persons to purchase immunity from prosecution and delay trials to escape public attention and possible justice.

For us at HEDA Resource Centre, researching, documenting and publishing this compendium has remained a remarkable achievement in the face of the threats and harassments. We have received impressive and remarkable accolades for the unprecedented and bold move inherent in the publication, and so are criticisms and threats from those affected by the audacity of this action. Our underlining objective, as stated from inception, was not to pass any verdict on any of the accused. “Rather, this is to document and assist the public, the media, especially those with a strong knack for insightful backgrounding as well as researchers with information handy enough for easy reference purpose.” Those affected by the publication or with reservation for bold move are advised to understand the civic duty of HEDA Resource Centre discharged through the work than taking it personal and attacking the organisation or its leadership. It is primarily pertinent for public to understand and interrogate why cases get delayed in courts. It is our belief that stakeholders in the dispensation of criminal justice, especially in corruption and financial crime cases are also due for scrutiny and account. Finally, the cost of corruption should be brought to public attention and consciousness. HEDA is strongly committed to these tasks

Remarkable achievements of the compendium as we progress was the use by international law enforcement agencies in the United Kingdom and United States as background for investigation into some corruption and illicit assets recovery cases for Nigeria. Also, a research project led by Northumbria University and supported by the FCDO-funded Global Integrity Anti-Corruption Evidence (ACE) Programme on Tracking Beneficial Ownership and the Proceeds of Corruption: Evidence from Nigeria used the Compendium as the foundational basis for its project. According to the recently released report, “*The starting point for a more specific investigation into the use of BO in the hiding of the proceeds of grand corruption was an interrogation of data collected by the Human Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA), a Nigerian non-governmental organisation (NGO) interested in raising public awareness of the court delays around high profile cases of corruption. Its first edition in 2018 - Compendium of 100 High-profile Corruption Cases in Nigeria - has been followed by those of 2019 and 2020.24 It constitutes the most detailed secondary source of information on corruption in Nigeria we had found...*”

To retain our established high standard of neutrality, integrity and professionalism in the compilation and publication, we increased number of independent researchers contracted to undertake the tedious data gathering in respect of one hundred high profile corruption and financial crime cases beginning from 2015 to date without any specific restrictions from the organisation and also secured professional support in matching reported cases with appropriate photographs of suspects.

We are conscious of plethora of cases under the definition of corruption and financial crimes cases, but focused on only 100 for the publication as promised from inception with substitution of some previously reported and recently decided cases with some latest cases. Appropriate computer software are still deployed to generate meaningful infographics after an initial coding. Specifically, IBM SPSS used to analyse the coded extraction from the raw data. The exciting outcomes of both the research and the infographics are found in this compendium.

Profound gratitude goes to our independent researchers, editors and analysts. Board members of the organization have consistently encouraged and support the management in organisation's projects. We have received and valued feedbacks and opinions on the compendium, some of them published in this edition. We shall continue to solicit and welcome more of the comments, opinions and criticisms.

We thank and express immense appreciation to MacArthur Foundation especially the Africa Director, Dr. Kole Shettima, for providing the indispensable support for the production of this compendium and for seeing and

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and believing in our vision on this project from inception till this 5th edition.

It is our fervent belief that this intervention will continue to effectively impact on anti-corruption campaign in Nigeria while also assisting the illicit assets tracing efforts of the country at the international jurisdiction. A critical review of majority of the cases reveals unimpressive respect, fidelity and adherence to provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015. Inaction on corruption pays no one.

Olanrewaju Suraju
Chairman, HEDA Governing Board



FOREWORD

As a major oil producer for well over half a decade, Nigeria should have been a wealthy country. Instead, its per capita income is amongst the lowest on the continent, ranking the country 17th out of 20 economies in 2019. It consistently ranks in the bottom quartile for all countries according to Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI), a position that has not changed for years. As was succinctly stated in the 'Background' to the Compendium published by HEDA in 2020 *'Corruption has robbed Nigeria of opportunities for development'*. It is not a phenomenon that exists only in the past as corruption appears to be a *continuing characteristic of Nigerian governance and a contributor to its poor GDP per capita*. The governance of Nigeria has been the subject of a wide range of publications, for example:

From the 'top down' perspective this quote from the 2018 Carnegie report:

"Corruption is the single greatest obstacle preventing Nigeria from achieving its enormous potential. It drains billions of dollars a year from the country's economy, stymies development, and weakens the social contract between the government and its people. Nigerians view their country as one of the world's most corrupt and struggle daily to cope with the effects...In Nigeria's political and institutional sectors, electoral corruption and kleptocratic capture of political party structures unlock corruption opportunities across a range of other sectors...the symbiotic relationship between legislative and bureaucratic corruption...influences a disproportionate share of government expenditures."

From the 'bottom up' perspective this quote from the 2019 UNODC Survey:

"While the prevalence of administrative, mainly low-value, bribery has decreased, the survey results suggest that the Government's anti-corruption agenda, which tends to be focused on large-scale corruption, has so far only marginally affected this type of bribe seeking behaviour. Consequently, a greater effort should be made and more attention paid to the eradication of bribe-seeking of this nature. The implementation of these actions, like those proposed by the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, which are specifically aimed at mainstreaming anti-corruption principles into governance and service delivery at all levels, can support this change."

Against this background corruption seems to be an inevitable *'state of nature'* which reflects a type of psychological resignation that can be found in many countries where corruption is endemic. There is no doubt that corruption is a complex problem with no easy solution. However, it should not be seen as an inevitable *'natural phenomenon'*; it is the outcome of the power to make decisions that circumvent existing rules and criteria to gain an advantage (or its expectation).

I have been leading a project supported by the FCDO-funded Global Integrity Anti-Corruption Evidence (ACE) Programme. Our project focused upon grand corruption in Nigeria with the objective of assessing and proposing improvements to the identification and tracking of beneficial ownership in Nigeria to increase the likelihood of recovering the proceeds of grand corruption. This project has sought to make practical and practitioner relevant recommendations with the intention of helping the Nigerian authorities. Our study made use of the data collated by HEDA and published in its various compendium volumes. The HEDA produced reports proved invaluable to our study because they constituted the most detailed secondary source of information on corruption in Nigeria we had found.

For the last few years, HEDA has been raising public awareness of the court delays around high profile cases of corruption. Over the period 2018 to 2020 HEDA had highlighted a total of 162 different cases. The cases involve a variety of people in public positions who were accused of grand corruption in one form or another. As we set out in our own report, these included elected politicians holding positions in the executive with the largest single group being State Governors. The cases involving State Governors illustrate the ease with which procurement rules can be circumvented. There were also allegations against, or convictions of, public officials in the central administration, military and to a lesser extent the police. The public corruption took various forms. 'Embezzlement' which included misappropriation, diversion or disappearance of public funds was the most frequently occurring type of grand corruption. The second most common offence is 'Fraud' which included forging documents, fraudulent accountancy and fuel subsidy fraud.

FOREWORD

While the data do not support a supposedly united and coordinated network of collaborating high office holders, the system runs on mutually beneficial tolerance and complicity. The main observed pattern is of extracting funds initially via phantom contracts to a shell company account (usually owned by a friend/family member), from which cash is then withdrawn or transferred to several other accounts (sometimes abroad) to either retain or invest (material purchase, property, gifting family/friends). Corruption networks tend to be close and trusted social contacts (including professionals) or family.

There is legislation in place to counter corruption but the implementation of this has suffered. As a result, the operation of the anti-corruption framework in practice faces numerous enduring challenges. These arise principally because of agency overlap and data deficiency. There also appears to have been a seemingly silent unwillingness to pick up and use the available legal tools even if they are imperfect. Previous editions of the compendium have highlighted the reluctance of the courts to fully apply the powers granted through the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015. This current edition has included some 46 new cases that have been brought in front of the courts in the last year. This also means that the other cases reported upon by HEDA continue to feature within the report as 'on-going' including 24 high profile cases that were first mentioned in the 2018 edition.

Our review of the cases of grand corruption pointed to continued delays in the prosecution of cases with too many adjournments taking place, sometimes caused by congestion but more often due to appeals or failure of either defendants or witnesses to appear in court. Other cases were dismissed (no case to answer) and acquitted with the judges citing a lack of evidence from prosecution or witnesses. Countering financial crime is highly technical and the courts must be able to grasp the complex financial structures and intercompany relationship evidence. A positive development that will assist prosecutors in evidence preparation is the passing of the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) 2020. The Corporate Affairs Commission should push ahead with implementing the provisions of the CAMA with respect to disclosure of significant control and beneficial ownership of companies. A further important contributor to corruption prevention is effective asset recovery. The Proceeds of Crime Act should be finalised as a matter of priority.

Corruption is not a natural state of affairs. There are certainly challenges in preventing its occurrence and in pursuing those that are corrupt. These include the general lack of transparency and tendency towards secrecy which compound a systematic data deficiency. Grand corruption has many roots, but opacity is the main condition in which it thrives. The major and ongoing contribution of HEDA is to shine a light on cases, on developments and on outcomes, but most importantly in fulfilling its objective of raising public awareness.

Dr Jackie Harvey
Emeritus Professor of Financial Management
Northumbria University

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 socioeconomic 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 : / / w w w . t r a n s p a r e n c y . o r g](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.

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.

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.

This phrase means if justice is not carried out at right time then even if it is carried out later it is not real justice, because when there was demand of justice there was lack of justice.

In Nigeria there are many reasons corruption cases take long to prosecute in our trial Federal and High courts. In the Appellate Courts there are provisions in the Rules of the Courts for fast track hearing of criminal appeals Therefore there is no much delay in criminal appeals as opposed to criminal trials. In my opinion the following are the reasons for delay in conclusion of Prosecution of corruption cases

1. Attitude of Counsel and Judges to Adjournment of Criminal Cases.

The attitude of counsel and judges to adjournment of criminal cases is largely responsible for delay in prosecution of corruption cases. Both prosecuting and defence counsel are guilty in this regard as they seek adjournment as a matter of course particularly when they realize that they do not have a good case or defence and thereby delay the proceedings.

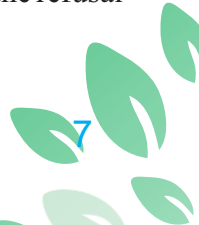
It is my opinion that a judge is under no obligations to exercise his discretion to grant an application for adjournment particularly in criminal proceedings solely because a counsel asked for it. As far back as 1968 Lewis JSC condemned unnecessary adjournment in the case of; Solanke v Ajibola 1968 LPELR 25527 SC, when he held as follows;

“We must say clearly and firmly that we do not consider that a judge is obliged to grant an adjournment solely because counsel on each side asks for one. That is a factor certainly to be taken into consideration but a judge must also bear in mind the necessity for ensuring speedy justice to the contesting litigants and he must also bear in mind that by adjourning a case on a day fixed for hearing it means further delay to other litigants who might otherwise have had their cases heard then. We would, moreover, add that it is sometimes, in our view, little less than scandalous that delays to a case are caused by the great number of adjournments that on records to us have occurred in simple and straight-forward cases.” Per LEWIS, JSC (P. 13, paras. C-F).

To accelerate prosecution of corruption cases incessant adjournment of proceedings should not only be discouraged but outlawed in the Administration of criminal justice Act/Law by limiting numbers of adjournment in criminal proceedings. I find support of the Supreme Court on this opinion of mine in the case of; Okon Udoh Akpan v. The State (1991) 5 SCNJ 1 at 13 Per Olatawura JSC (of blessed memory) when he stated thus:

“No encouragement should be given to Counsel who are not ready to prosecute their cases. Unnecessary and prolonged adjournments lead to frustration on the part of litigants and sometimes they may lead to a miscarriage of justice..... We must reduce to the barest minimum applications for adjournments. Adjournments which are designed to delay or defeat justice should be refused.”

In a similar case of; Donatus Ndu v. The State (1990) 12 SCNJ 50 at 60, Appellant was tried and convicted of murder. After the prosecution's case was closed, the defence Counsel sought for an adjournment several times through a period of about fifteen months. When eventually the last defence witness was called, defence Counsel was called upon to address the Court. He refused but instead asked for an adjournment. The Court refused to adjourn the case. The Court eventually ordered that the case be stood down for one hour for address. When the Court resumed sitting, defence Counsel repeated the application for an adjournment. The application was again refused. Counsel for the prosecution then addressed the Court and Judgment was reserved. Appellant was convicted. The Court of Appeal confirmed the Judgment of the trial Court. On a further, Appeal to the Supreme Court, the main issue for determination was whether the refusal



I by the trial Court to grant defence Counsel adjournment to enable him prepare his address was a denial of his right of address. The Appeal was dismissed and his conviction thus affirmed.”Per Akpata JSC (of blessed memory)

Therefore a trial Court in exercising its discretion as to whether to grant an adjournment should always bear it in mind that it is the duty of the Court to minimize time and costs of litigation and to see to it that justice is not unnecessarily delayed. The Court should therefore refuse an application by either party for an adjournment of the hearing, if it is of the opinion that the application was made only for purpose of delaying the proceedings. See; *Omegbe v. State (1964) 1 All NLR 179*.

2. **Incomplete Investigation, Lack of Prima Facie Evidence and Unpreparedness of Prosecution at the Time of Filing Charges in Court.**

Incomplete investigation, lack of prima facie evidence and unpreparedness of Prosecution at the time of filing charges in court are other reasons corruption cases take longer to prosecute. Some of these cases are filed to please the public commentators and the media who want suspects brought to court. Invariably when such cases are called for hearing the Prosecutor seeks for adjournment at the detriment of the Defendant who is presumed innocent. As there is no time bar for criminal prosecution, there should be no haste or rush in filing charges when investigation has not been concluded and prosecution not ready. While this is possible between Police Investigators and Office of the Attorneys General, I doubt if this can be achieved in EFCC whose Head of legal unit is answerable to the Chairman and not independent

I therefore recommend an independent prosecution agency which may be called Economic Financial crime and Corruption Prosecution Agency (EFCPA) with its separate Chairman and complement of Staff. The Agency shall give legal advice like a Ministry of Justice whether there is prima facie case to prosecute or not and not because the Head of Investigation Agency who may be not be a lawyer directs as in the present situation. This will reduce number of cases of civil wrongs like breach of contract and recovery of debt converted to corruption cases now pending in our courts.

3. **Unavailability of Witnesses particularly the Investigation Officer on Day of Trial.**

Unavailability of Witnesses particularly the Investigation Officer on relevant day and time of trial, is also one of the reasons for delay in criminal proceedings. Sometimes there is delay between the time of conclusion of investigation, filing of charge in court and the day of commencement of trial. In the Interregnum the witnesses may have relocated or sometimes passed on and in the case of Investigation officer he may have been posted outside jurisdiction of the court or may have retired from service and relocated. It therefore takes a long time and costs to locate and secure the attendance of such a witness in Court to testify.

It is advised that there should not be delay in filing charges and commencement of trial after conclusion of Investigation. It is also advised that Police or investigation Officer whose cases have not been concluded in courts should not be posted outside jurisdiction until the conclusion of evidence in his cases. The officer must obtain a clearance to that effect from the Attorney General's office.

4. **Insufficient fund to support investigation and prosecution**

The Insufficient funding of investigation and prosecution of corruption cases also contribute to delay in conclusion of corruption cases. There should not be insufficient funds to complete forensic investigation and secure attendance of witnesses with ease to testify in corruption cases. When I was Solicitor General of Lagos State and permanent Secretary in Ministry of Justice there was provision for transportation fare for local and out of stations prosecution witnesses including cost of hotel accommodation in Lagos for out of station witnesses who came to Lagos Courts to testify.

It is advised that any office or body engage in prosecution of corruption cases should emulate the above to

encourage and facilitate appearance of prosecution witnesses in court to testify and thereby reduce delay in conclusion of corruption cases

5. **Inadequate Courts/Judges**

The hopelessly inadequate number of judges and also courts in the country is undoubtedly one of the major reasons for delay in conclusion of corruption cases. No doubt due to population explosion and huge economic activities in Lagos State, FCT Abuja and some other States in Nigeria, the available Courts and judges are insufficient to cope with all the number of cases in the courts. The judges handling corruption cases also deal with other civil matters. A situation where a judge has about 100 cases with multiple parties and counsel to deal with in a year is bound to engender adjournment of some of the cases even when parties are ready for trial

It is therefore my opinion that unless more courts are built and more judges appointed, it will be a mirage or illusion not to expect delay in conclusion of corruption cases in Nigeria.

6. **Lack or inadequate deployment of technology**

The lack or inadequate deployment of technology to provide management and operational support for the judges to deal better with the increased size and complexity of corruption cases is another major reason corruption cases takes long to conclude. Most of our courts are still analogue as judges use long hand in recording proceedings and evidence which necessarily slow down trials and delay conclusion of cases.

The end of the twentieth century brought about the system of Information Communication Technologies (“ICT”) which represents the start of a new era. It is therefore advised that adequate ICT be used by the courts to enhance efficiency, timelines and transparency in the prosecution of corruption cases.

Conclusion

The Courts must balance the need not to delay justice with an important requisite in the administration of justice which is fair hearing to both the prosecution and the defence in corruption cases. While the Court must, at all times remain focused at striking a balance between the two, the consideration should be the ultimate goal of doing substantial justice. The court must also not interpret the procedural law or exercise its discretion to grant adjournment in breach of the constitutional provisions of presumption of innocence of an accused defendant in criminal proceedings.

Lawal Pedro, SAN. FCI Arb
(Former Solicitor General of Lagos State)



The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) provides in Section 36(1) thus:

In the determination of his civil rights and obligations, including any question or determination by or against any government or authority, a person shall be entitled to a fair hearing within a reasonable time by a court or other tribunal established by law and constituted in such manner as to secure its independence and impartiality.

Section 36(5) went further to provide:

Every person who is charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed to be innocent until he is proved guilty.

The above constitutional provision is to the effect that everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proven and declared guilty by a competent Court of law and the suspect shall be entitled to fair hearing within a reasonable time.

The above blanket provision is usually taken advantage of by defence counsel to delay justice under the guise of attaining justice. It is trite that whenever an application is made under the above provision or any other provision for that matter, the Court is obligated to consider such application. In the case of **Transnav P.N. Ltd v. Velcan E.H.D. Ltd**, the Supreme Court held that every pending application before the court, however frivolous, ought to be heard. Parties have over time taken advantage of this provision of the law to stretch out the time spent by the court on cases and this in turn, delay justice.

The Court has severally frowned against such frivolous application. However, in Criminal proceedings, the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015, prohibits the court from sanctioning parties filing frivolous application.

It is noteworthy that **Section 396 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015** has some provisions which intend to fast track prosecution of criminal and corruption related cases. However, the potency of these provisions has been sacrificed on the altar of technical justice. Some of the provisions in Section 396 are:

(2) After the plea has been taken, the defendant may raise any objection to the validity of the charge or the information at any time before judgement, provided that such objection shall only be considered along with the substantive issues and a ruling thereon made at the time of delivery of judgement.

(3) Upon arraignment, the trial of the defendant shall proceed from day-to-day until the conclusion of the trial.

(4) Where day-to-day trial is impracticable after arraignment, no party shall be entitled to more than five adjournments from arraignment to final judgment provided that the interval between each adjournment shall not exceed 14 working days.

(5) Where it is impracticable to conclude a criminal proceeding after the parties have exhausted their five adjournments each, the interval between one adjournment to another shall not exceed seven days inclusive of weekends.

(6) In all circumstances, the court may award reasonable costs in order to discourage frivolous adjournments.

The above provisions have the capability to reduce time spent on prosecution of corruption related cases if strictly adhered with. However, the reality of the Nigeria Court system makes it impracticable. It is a known fact that the Nigeria courts, from trial court to appellate courts, are over-stressed and congested. A typical Nigeria Judge has over 700 case file he is hearing, 25 cases on his cause list for the day which must be heard, judgments and rulings to write and other official duties and assignments to attend to. All these makes it impracticable for a judge to hear every criminal cases on a day-to-day basis or to ensure the strict compliance with Section 396 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015.

Recommendations

Achieving prosecution of corruption related cases within a short time in Nigeria Court is very possible if the following recommendations can be implemented:

1. Appointment of more judges in all hierarchy of Courts.
2. Digitization of the court system to allow for electronic transmission and collation of documents.
3. Creation of special division within the Court to specifically handle corruption related cases.
4. Strict adherence to the provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act especially Section 396.
5. Amendment of the Constitution to restrict appeal of economic and financial crime cases and corruption related cases to the Court of Appeal.

David Oyeniyi Ogungbesan, Esq
Legal Officer
HEDA Resource Centre

THE CASES



Case 1: Sambo Dasuki \$21.1 Arms Fund Diversion Trial

The trial of former National Security Adviser (NSA), Rtd Col. Sambo Dasuki and four others for alleged misappropriation of N19.4 billion arms funds was adjourned to 22 February, 2022 for continuation of trial.

Dasuki who is on trial on two separate cases alongside other defendants since December 2015 when he was arrested on allegations of diversion of \$2.1 billion from funds meant for the war against terrorism, denied any wrongdoing.

The EFCC arraigned Dasuki and others before Justice Peter Affen on a 22-count charge. He was charged with 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 on a 25-count charge bordering on criminal breach of trust and misappropriation of public funds to the tune of N19.4 billion.

Justice Affen granted Dasuki bail after the Court heard that he had been arraigned on the same charges of corruption. Dasuki and his co-accused persons were granted bail in sum of N250 million each with two sureties in like sum.

But the case was subsequently transferred to Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf's Court following the defense 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 however maintained the bail earlier granted by the former court.

Before the case was transferred to Justice Baba-Yusuf, Dasuki was standing trial before the judge 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. Mr. Dasuki and co-accused were re-arraigned on an amended 32-count charge bordering on criminal breach of trust and for illegally receiving various sums of money to the tune of N33.2 billion.



Case 2: Olisah Metuh N400 Million Fraud

A Federal High Court fixed February 15, 2022 for Olisah Metuh's retrial. Metuh was a former National Publicity Secretary of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) who was sentenced to seven years imprisonment on February 26, 2020.

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

Recall that Metuh was jailed over the allegation that he received the sum of N400 million from the former National Security Adviser, Rtd Col. Sambo Dasuki, prior to the 2015 Presidential Election, without contract approval or execution. His earlier conviction followed a seven-count charge that was slammed against him and his firm by the EFCC.

The Court of Appeal, Abuja, on December 16, 2020, nullified the Federal High Court judgment that convicted and sentenced Metuh to seven years imprisonment. In a unanimous agreement, a three-man panel of Justices of the appellate court, held that the judgment of the trial Judge, Okon Abang, delivered against Metuh on Feb. 25, 2020, was tainted with bias.

The appellate court held that Abang, had by some disparaging remarks he made in the judgment, betrayed his premeditated mindset against the defendant (Metuh) whom he accused of writing various petitions against him. According to Justice Stephen Adah who delivered the lead verdict of the appellate court, allowing the trial court's verdict to stand "will set a dangerous precedent."

Consequently, it voided the conviction and sentence that was handed to Metuh and his firm, Destra Investment Limited, and remitted the case file back to the high court for a re-trial by another judge.

Following the above, the case file has been reassigned to a new judge of an Abuja Federal High Court. The new case was scheduled to come up on October 14, 2021, before Justice Obiora Egwatu. However, due to the absence of the judge, it was adjourned till February 15, 2022.

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Case 3: Gabriel Suswam N3.1 billion Fraud Trial

Mr. Gabriel Suswam is a former Governor of Benue State and presently the Senator representing Benue North East Senatorial District. Mr.

Suswan is standing trial in three cases pending before the Federal High Court in Abuja over alleged diversion of N3.1 billion from Police Reform and Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme funds.

Mr. Suswam alongside his Commissioner for Finance, Omadachi Okolobia were accused of diverting the funds between 2012 and 2015 while Mr. Suswam was the Governor of Benue state.

As trial continued on the matter at the Federal High Court in Abuja on March 24, 2021, before Justice Okong Abang, the prosecution witness, Abubakar Umar, owner of Bureau De Change firm- Fanffash Resources, who has been in the witness box since 2016 reaffirmed his earlier statement that he handed over \$15.8 Million to Suswam at his residence in Maitama, Abuja.

Abubakar Umar also told the court that his company Fanffash Resources had no relationship with the Benue State Government and that he also had no business or contract with Elixir Investment Partners Limited and did not know where they were located. The matter has been adjourned to February, 15 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 4: Abidemi Rufai \$350,000 Fraud Trial

The Federal High Court in Lagos in September 1st, 2021, ordered the interim forfeiture of funds and assets linked to Abidemi Rufai, who is facing

fraud charges in the United States. Mr. Rufai and his firm, Omomayodele Global Investment, were respondents in the application. Mr. Rufai's assets affected by the said interim forfeiture order include: House 11, Omodayo Awotuga Street, Bera Estate, Chevy View, Lekki, Lagos and funds in his accounts with two banks.

Mr. Rufai who has been in detention in the U.S. over internet fraud related matters was an aide to Governor Dapo Abiodun of Ogun State until he was suspended following his arrest in the US.

Justice Tijjani Ringim granted the order of interim forfeiture following ex-parte application by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). Defending the ex-parte application for interim forfeiture, EFCC's lawyer, Ebuka Okongwu, said the commission's request was necessitated by the need to preserve assets and prevent their dissipation as the accused person was already moving monies from the suspected accounts being investigated.

The judge ordered the EFCC to advertise the order in newspapers within 14 days for any interested party to show reason or cause why the funds and assets should not be permanently forfeited to the federal government. The case is now adjourned to December 1, 2021.



Case 5: Muhammed Bello Adoke \$6,000,000 Fraud Trial

The trial of former Minister of Justice/ Attorney General of the Federation, Muhammed Bello Adoke and Aliyu Abubakar continued on 18th November, 2021

as the first defendant filed an application at the Abuja division of the Federal High Court seeking to extend the medical trip granted him by Justice Ekwo for medical check, from 11 – 15th November, 2021. The judge granted the prayer of the defendant and adjourned the matter to December 6, 2021.

Adoke who is on trial over his role in the “fraudulent” transfer of ownership of an oil bloc, OPL 245 took fresh plea before the court alongside two others co-accused; Aliyu Abubakar, Rasky Gbinigie and four companies namely: Malabu Oil and Gas Limited, Nigeria Agip Exploration Limited, Shell Nigeria Ultra Deep Limited and Shell Nigeria Exploration Production Company Limited.

The defendants who were initially arraigned in court on January 23, 2020, pleaded not guilty to the amended charge that was read to them before Justice Abubakar Kutigi. The prosecution counsel, Mr. Bala Sanga said the charge was amended “to enlarge the scope of criminal liabilities” against the defendants. The case thus adjourned to April 14, 2021 for the commencement of hearing was however halted by the prolonged strike embarked upon by judiciary workers. However, trial has continued and the case has been further adjourned to May 9, 2022 for continuation of hearing.

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Two oil giants, Eni and Shell, were accused of paying bribes to Nigerian officials in respect of the OPL 245 oil block. However, the Milanese trial court had acquitted Eni and Shell in March 2021.

Mr. Adoke sent a petition to the Nigerian Police accusing a Nigerian anti-corruption activist, and Chairman of the Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA Resource Centre), Olanrewaju Suraju, of allegedly circulating an email presented in London court and an interview tape he purportedly granted an Italian journalist claiming the Malabu transaction was not real.

HEDA Resource Centre, in a bid to ensure that parties involved in the above gigantic fraud are brought to book, instituted an action before the Federal High Court sitting in Lagos. HEDA Resource Centre 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 Lease (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 having been obtained fraudulently through corrupt practices.

The Court granted leave to HEDA Resource Centre to make the said application. However, the court subsequently in its ruling in July 3, 2019 struck out the case on grounds of lack of jurisdiction. HEDA Resource Centre however on July 8, 2019 filed a notice of appeal before the Court of Appeal challenging the decision of the Federal High Court.

The matter came up at the Court of Appeal, Lagos in September 28, 2021. All counsels were in court except the counsel to the 1st Respondent, the AGF presumptively that the Court Registrar failed to serve hearing notice on the 1st Respondent. Consequently, the appeal was adjourned to October 20, 2021 for hearing. However, the Court did not sit on the said date. The matter was adjourned to a yet to be determined date.



Case 6: Abdulaziz Nyako
N29 Billion Fraud Trial

Abdulaziz Nyako is the son of former Governor of Adamawa State, Murtala Nyako, who was also Senator representing Adamawa Central in the Senate. Justice Okon Abang of the Federal High

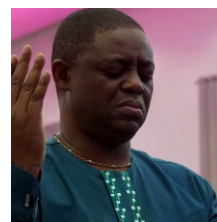
Court, Abuja dismissed Mr. Nyako's no-case-submission plea and ordered him to enter his defense.

Abdulaziz alongside his father and two others are standing trial on a 37-count charge of criminal conspiracy, stealing, abuse of office and money-laundering. The companies that allegedly served as conduit pipes for the illegal diversion of the funds namely; Blue Opal Limited, Sebore Farms & Extension Limited, Pagoda Fortunes Limited, Tower Assets Management Limited and Crust Energy Limited were joined as co-defendants in the case.

The EFCC on Tuesday, November 5, 2019 called its last witness, Mr. Kobis, a former Secretary to Adamawa State Government who testified via a video link from London. On December 20, 2019, the EFCC informed the Court of its decision to close its case against, Abdulaziz Nyako, his father, the former governor of Adamawa State, Murtala Nyako and others.

The EFCC eventually closed the case on January 16, 2020, after calling 21 witnesses. Upon continuation of the trial on March 11, 2020, former Governor Murtala Nyako, his son, Abdulaziz and some other defendants in a no-case submission told the Judge that “no case has been established by the prosecutors to warrant the defendants to enter defense. On July 19, 2021, the trial Judge Okon Abang however dismissed the no-case submission and urged the accused persons to enter their defense.

On October 4, 2021, the defendants filed an application asking the court to stay proceedings in the matter pending the outcome of an appeal challenging the dismissal of their no-case submission at the appellate court. The matter was adjourned to December 10, 2021 for mention and also for counsels to give a report on the state of the appeal before the appellate court.



Case 7: Femi Fani-Kayode
N4.6 Billion Fraud Trial

Chief Femi Fani-Kayode, a former Minister of Aviation is standing trial alongside a former Minister of State for Finance, Mrs. Esther Nenadi Usman, Mr. Danjuma Yusuf and a company, John Trust Dimensions Nigeria Limited before a Federal High Court in Lagos on a 17 count charge over an alleged N4.6 billion fraud.

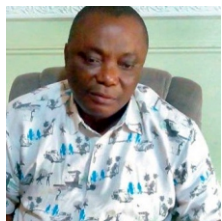
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On resumption of hearing in the matter on February 23, 2021, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) presented its third witness Mr. Mohammed Goji, who told the court that the Commission in the course of investigating contracts executed by the Office of the National Security Adviser NSA discovered that Col. Sambo Dasuki illegally released the sum of N26 million to Mr. Femi Fani-Kayode who served as the Director of Media Campaign to former President Goodluck Jonathan ahead of 2015 general elections.

They were alleged to have committed the offence between January and March 2015. In counts one to seven of the charges, 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 8 to 14, the defendants were alleged to have unlawfully diverted over N970 million from the said illegal transactions. In counts 15 to 17, Fani-Kayode and one Olubode Oke who was 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.

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 trial Judge Justice Aikawa was transferred out of the Lagos division and the case was consequently assigned to a new judge, Daniel Osaigor, and the defendants had to start the case de novo (afresh).

The Defense counsel, Ferdinard Orbih (SAN), urged the court to allow the defendants to continue on the existing bail conditions granted by the former trial judge. The Judge granted his application and adjourned the case until March 11, 2022 for trial.



Case 8: Senator Peter Nwaoboshi N322 Million Fraud Trial

Mr. Peter Nwaoboshi representing Delta North Senatorial District of Delta State alongside his two firms – Golden Touch Construction Project

Ltd and Suiming Electrical Ltd were on June 18, 2021 discharged of the N322million money laundering charges filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) at a Federal High Court sitting in Lagos.

The trial Judge, Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke held that the anti-corruption agency has failed to prove the elements of the offences for which it charged the lawmaker.

Nwaobosi was first arraigned before the Federal High Court in Lagos on April 25, 2018 on a 2-count charge alongside the two firms. The EFCC, in the charge, 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.



Case 9: Professor Lawrence Adedibu Ojerinde N5 billion Fraud Trial

Professor Lawrence Adedibu Ojerinde, former Registrar of Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) was on July 17, 2021 released on bail after spending 10 days at the Suleja prison in Niger State. He was released after meeting the N200 million bail condition granted by a Federal High Court in Abuja on July 8, 2021.

Ojerinde was arraigned on an 18-count charge in suit number FHC/ABJ/CR/97/2021 wherein he was accused of complicity in the diversion of over N900 million. The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) alleged that Ojerinde committed the offences when he served as the Registrar of the National Examination Council (NECO) from 2003.

Ojerinde pleaded not guilty when the charge was read to him. His lawyer, Peter Olorunnishola subsequently informed the court about a bail application he filed and served on ICPC.

Ojerinde was alleged to have used his position to gratify himself by “corruptly converting the sum of N27 million, property of the Federal Government of Nigeria, to personal use, to acquire a property known as Tejumola House, Ikeja, Lagos in the name of Doyin Ogboshi Industries Ltd, a company in which he had a private interest.

Justice Obiora Ekwuatu in a ruling on Ojerinde's bail application on July 8, 2021 held that bail was at the discretion of the court, adding that there was no evidence before him why the defendant should not be admitted to bail.

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However, he ordered that Ojerinde be admitted to bail in the sum of N200 million, two sureties in like sum; one of whom must be a resident of Abuja with ownership of landed property with evidence of three years tax payment.

Justice Egwuatu however adjourned the matter to July 22 and 23, 2021 for trial.

However, on September 29, 2021, the court was notified of Prof. Ojerinde's decision to change his lawyer. The counsel consequently asked for an adjournment to enable Ojerinde and himself harmonize the issues between them before engaging another counsel.

In absence of any objection from the prosecuting counsel, the Judge ruled that the prosecution should present its witnesses on October 8, 2021. At the resumed proceeding, the prosecuting counsel presented three witnesses while the new counsel to Ojerinde, Dr. Doyin Awoyale prayed for an adjournment to allow them get familiar with the matter. Counsel to ICPC, Ebenezer Shogunle however prayed for an award of a fine in favour of one of the witnesses who travelled from Ibadan to testify in the money laundering trial. The judge lamented how the defendant had sought for an adjournment on three different occasions and therefore ordered the defense to pay the witness who travelled from Ibadan the sum of N100, 000 on or before October 11, 2021 and thereafter adjourned the matter to February 8 and 9, 2022 for commencement of trial.



Case 10: Muktar Ramalan Yero N700 million Money Laundering

Muktar Ramalan Yero is the former Governor of Kaduna State. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on July 13, 2021 re-arraigned Yero before Justice M.G Umar of the Federal High Court, Kaduna, on an eight-count amended charge of money laundering.

Yero is being prosecuted alongside Nuhu Somo Wya (a former minister), Ishaq Hamsa (a former Secretary to Kaduna State Government) and Abubakar Gaiya Haruna (a former Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Kaduna state) for alleged involvement in the conversion of N700 million said to have been provided by former Minister of Petroleum Resources Diezani Alison-Madueke to influence the outcome of

the 2015 presidential election. They all pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Prosecution counsel, Joshua Saidi prayed the Court for a date for commencement of trial, while the accused persons are remanded in prison custody. The defense counsel, Yunus Ustaz-USman on the other hand made an application for bail orally. Justice Shuaibu however refused oral application for bail maintaining that formal applications for bail for the accused persons must be filed. He therefore adjourned the matter to June 6, 2018 for hearing of bail application. He also ruled that the accused be remanded in prison custody.

At the resumed proceeding in July, 2021, EFCC Counsel; Nasiru Salele told the Court that the case was for re-arraignment of the defendants and urged the court to ask them to take their pleas. The charges were thereafter read to the defendants and they all pleaded 'not guilty'. In view of their pleas, the EFCC counsel asked the court to fix a date for trial.

The defense counsel drew the attention of the court to the previous bail granted the defendants, asking that the status quo be sustained which the prosecution counsel did not oppose.

The court adopted the bail earlier granted the defendants and adjourned till October 13, 2021 for commencement of trial.

At the resumed sitting, Justice M.G Umar adjourned to February 24, 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 11: Orji Uzor Kalu N7.1 Billion Fraud Trial

Senator Orji Kalu, a former Abia State Governor and currently a Senator representing Abia North alongside Mr. Udeogu, Kalu's company, Slok Nigeria Limited have been on trial on corruption charges brought against them by Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) since 2017 leading to the conviction of the former governor on December 5, 2019.

The EFCC in 2007 slammed a 36-count charge against Udeogu, Kalu and his company. After series of counter applications and delay, Kalu was on December 5, 2019 sentenced to 12 years imprisonment by Justice Mohammed Idris for allegedly stealing public funds while in office. His co-accused Mr. Udeogu was

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sentenced to 10 years in prison. The third defendant, Mr. Kalu's company, Slok Nigeria Limited was ordered to be wound up and its assets forfeited to the Nigerian government.

However, the Supreme Court on May 8, 2020 considered null and void the trial following an appeal filed by Kalu's co-defendant. The Supreme Court nullified the trial on the basis that Mohammed Idris, the trial judge had no subsisting legal ground to hear the matter since he has been elevated to the Court of Appeal. Based on the apex court's verdict, the EFCC, which prosecuted the case, filed a retrial suit against Kalu and other defendants at a Federal High Court, Abuja and asked the court to transfer the matter to the Lagos division of the court.

Justice Inyang Ekwo of a Federal High Court, Abuja, on July 26, 2021 fixed September 29, 2021 for judgment in a suit filed by Slok Nigeria Limited against the EFCC. Slok, which is owned by Orji Uzor Kalu, was seeking the court order restraining the EFCC from retrying the firm and its chairman (Kalu) in the alleged N7.1 billion fraud case.

Slok Nigeria Limited, in an ex parte application, requested for an order prohibiting the federal government through the EFCC, her agents, her officers, servants, privies and any other person or bodies deriving authority from the Federal Republic of Nigeria from retrying the applicant on charge No. FHC/ABJ/CR/56/07 or any other charge based on the same issue. The company which claimed that they were being embarrassed and harassed by the anti-corruption commission urged the court to stop the EFCC from further retrial.

Following adoption of processes filed by the counsels to the parties. Justice Ekwo adjourned the matter to September 29, 2021 for judgment in the suit filed by Slok Nigeria Limited against the EFCC. On September 29, 2021 the court granted the Motion on Notice filed by counsel to Orji Uzor Kalu urging the Court to stay his prosecution. The EFCC however vowed to appeal the ruling.



Case 12: Adesola Amosu N21.4 Billion Fraud Trial

Air Marshall Adesola Amosu, (rtd) a former Chief of Air Staff (CoAS) alongside two erstwhile officials of the Nigerian

Air Force (NAF); Air Vice Marshall Jacobs Adigun, a former Chief of Accounts and Budgeting and Air Commodore Gbadebo Owodunni, a former Director of Finance and Budget are undergoing prosecution by Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on amended 13-count charge connected with diversion of N21 billion belonging to NAF.

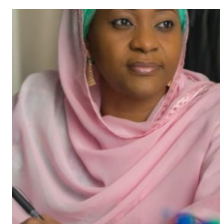
The case came up before Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of the Federal High Court Lagos on January 18, 2021 with the prosecution witness Mr. Okechukwu Akubue telling the court that the N3 billion credited to NAF between August and September 2014 by the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) was diverted to personal use by the defendants.

Mr. Okechukwu Akubue who is the first prosecution witness told the court that NIMASA paid the N3 billion to NAF in three tranches. He explained that NAF received the first tranche of N1 billion on August 28, 2014 while the second and the third tranches of N1 billion each were received on September 15, 2014 and September 23, 2014.

Mr. Akubue also told the court that two companies; Rite Options Oil and Gas and Juda Oil Limited were owned and controlled by the second defendant with no contractual agreements with the NAF.

Mr. Akubue told the court that Lebol Oil and Gas was paid N146, 298,479.31 and N153,701,520.69 on same day with the same company receiving separate lodgments of N135, 219,625.27; N185, 880,374.73; N186, 410,750.12 and N168, 489,249.88 on September 24, 2014.

Upon conclusion of proceedings for the said day, the judge adjourned the trial to April 12, 15 and 20, 2021. The matter is still ongoing.



Case 13: Aishatu Bandado Magaji N1.3 billion Illicit Proceeds Trial

Justice Mohammed Mohammed of the Sokoto State High Court on July 19, 2021 granted a final Order, forfeiting the sum of N1, 362,675,353.56 (One Billion, Three Hundred and Sixty-Two Million, Six Hundred and Seventy Five Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifty Three Naira, Fifty Six Kobo) to the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Economic and

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Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The Judge had on July 2, 2021 granted an interim order of forfeiture of the said amount following an ex parte application by the commission and directed that the order be published in a national newspaper for any one with interest in the said asset to show cause, why it should not be finally forfeited the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The EFCC had through intelligence traced the funds, suspected to be proceeds of illicit activities to the account of the first respondent, Aishatu Bandado Magaji domiciled in a new generation bank.

The respondents in the charge are Aishatu Bandado Magaji, First Ninety Degrees Continental Ltd, Priceless Legacy Hub Ltd, ABM International Ltd and Zenith Bank Plc. The Commission did not give the particulars of the alleged criminal activities.

As hearing continued on the matter, counsel to the EFCC, Mr. S. H Sa'ad informed the Court that the Commission had complied with its Order for the publication of the interim Order and urged the Court to Order the final forfeiture of the said amount to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Shamsu Dauda, Counsel to the five respondents did not oppose the application. Justice Mohammed consequently ordered the final forfeiture of the sum to the Federal Government of Nigeria. Thus, the EFCC secured a forfeiture of N503m to the Federal Government.



Case 14: Sarah Ochekepe & 3 Others N450 Million Fraud Trial

Sarah Ochekepe is a former Minister of Water Resources under the former President Goodluck Jonathan. She was arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) alongside Raymond Dabo; a former chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party in Plateau State and one Evangelist Lyons Sunday Jatau before the Federal High Court in Jos for alleged embezzlement of N450 million.

Sarah Ochekepe and the two other accused persons were charged with illegally receiving money from a former Minister of Petroleum Resources, Diezani Alison-Madueke, to finance the re-election campaign of former President Goodluck Jonathan and his Vice-President.

At the first hearing of the suit, Mrs. Ochekepe told the trial judge, Musa Kurya of the Federal High Court sitting in Jos, that she handed over the said sum to the PDP governorship candidate in the 2015 gubernatorial election in the state, the late Gyang Pwajok. Mr. Pwajok had died in an Indian hospital after a protracted ailment after the election which he lost to Simon Lalong of the All Progressives Congress.

EFCC prosecution counsel, Yusuf Muchaka, said the accused persons breached the law by receiving money they knew was corruptly sourced. He supported the charge with an affidavit sworn to by Olayinka Rotimi, an operative with EFCC who was part of the team that investigated the case.

The accused persons' counsel filed an application for their bail. The Judge granted the bail on self-recognizance and adjourned the case to February 13 and 14, 2018 for further hearing.

The trio of the accused persons; Ochekepe, Dabo and Jitung subsequently entered a plea of no case submission which was rejected by the court and the case was adjourned for continuation of trial.

Justice Haruna Kurya delivered judgment and found the accused persons guilty on two counts out of the three filed by the EFVV for conspiracy as well as retention of N450 million which is above the amount allowed by law. They were thereby sentenced to three years imprisonment each for money laundry with an option of N1million fine on each count. The trio, were, however, released after payment of the N1million option of fine.



Case 15: Farouk Lawan \$500,000 Bribery Trial

Farouk Lawan, a former Chairman of the House of Representatives Adhoc Committee on Fuel Subsidy was on June 22, 2021 sentenced to seven years imprisonment for receiving \$500,000 bribe while serving as the Chairman of the House's Ad-hoc Committee investigating fuel subsidy scam in 2012.

Lawan was arraigned 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.

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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 a no case submission through his lawyer, Mr. Mike Ozekhome (SAN).

The trial Judge on October 17, 2019 dismissed the said "No Case Submission" filed by Lawan. The Judge held that the evidence before the court showed that the prosecution had made a case sufficient enough for the defendant to enter his defense on the matter. Two judges who earlier handled the matter could not see the matter to the end as the first one was elevated to the Court of Appeal while the second withdrew after Mr. Lawan accused her of bias. Justice Otaluka is the third judge to handle the trial which spanned over nine years.



Case 16: Jona Jang N6.3 Billion Fraud Trial

Jona Jang is a former Governor of Plateau State from 2007 to 2015 and subsequently a senator representing Plateau North Senatorial District.

Mr. Jona Jang is facing corruption trial in an alleged N6.3 billion money laundering case filed against him and one Mr. Yusuf Pam, a former cashier in the Office of the Secretary to the State Government by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). The resumed hearing in the case came up on July 13, 2021 but could not continue due to the absence of Prosecution Counsel, Mr. Rotimi Jacobs (SAN).

Mr. Jang and his co-accused -Mr. Pam were first arraigned in June 2018 on 17-count charge bordering on criminal breach of trust and misappropriation of funds 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 and 22(5) of the Penal Code Law and Corrupt Practices Act 2004, (as amended).

The duo had submitted that the prosecution agency could not prove the 17-count charge of money laundering allegations labeled against them and consequently made a No Case Submission. Justice Longji however ruled that a prima facie case has been established against the accused persons.

The EFCC re-arraigned the accused persons in February 2020, following the re-assignment of the case

to Justice Dabup by the Plateau State Chief Judge, Justice Yakubu Dakwak after the initial trial judge, Justice Daniel Longji, at the last sitting in December 29, 2019, dismissed the defendants' No Case-Submission and held that they had a case to answer.

At the resumed hearing on July 13, 2021, EFCC's Counsel, Mr. S.E. Okene told the court that the lead counsel Mr. Rotimi Jacobs SAN could not make it to court because of cancellation of a flight from Lagos to Jos and prayed the court for an adjournment. Justice Christy Dabup consequently adjourned the case to November 24, 25 and 26, 2021 for the continuation of the case.



Case 17: Dr. Ebisintei Awudu N2.8 billion Fraud Trial

Dr. Ebisintei Awudu is a former Surveyor-General of the Federation (SGOF) who is currently standing trial following the charges levied against him by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) over fraudulent diversion of N2.8 billion.

Awudu was on July 12, 2021 arraigned before Justice Olusegun Adeniyi of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court 9, Maitama on a 22-count charge bordering on alleged abuse of office, gratification and virement.

The charge in part was that between November 16, 2017 and January 2018, Awudu used his official position as the Surveyor-General of the Federation to confer unfair advantage upon a relation and associate by awarding five different contracts with worth N808,592,200 (Eight Hundred and Eight million, Five Hundred and Ninety-Two Thousand, Two Hundred Naira) to Geolev Nigeria Ltd; a company in which he had been a Director and wherein his half-brother and other associates are still Directors and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000.

It was alleged that the sum of N1,253,428,269 was collected by the accused at different times between February and December, 2018, from various contractors handling projects for the Office of the Surveyor-General of the Federation as gratification. It was also alleged that without appropriate approval, Awudu allegedly diverted the sum of N42,156,061.46

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allocated for the purchase of two Toyota Hilux vehicles and a purchase of a Toyota Land Cruiser and also diversion of allocation meant for International Earth Science Summit and Remote Sensing Conference and Training into acquiring Information and Technology Equipment. Upon arraignment, Awudu pleaded not guilty to all the counts in the charge.

Justice Adeniyi who granted the defendant bail in the sum of N100 million also ordered that he should be remanded in ICPC custody pending the fulfillment of the bail conditions. The case was subsequently adjourned to September 13, 2021 for the commencement of trial.

However, at the commencement of trial on 14th September, an investigator with ICPC reeled a potpourri of infractions of the law perpetrated by Awudu. Led in evidence by ICPC counsel, Wahab Kunle Shittu, Oshinyemi Oluwasegun, who works in the Financial Investigation Unit of the anti-graft commission, he told Justice Adeniyi of how Awudu convened series of meetings at hotels and in his office with contractors, and at such meetings, Awudu allegedly asked and instructed the contractors to pay 35% to 60% of the value of their contracts.

The matter was further adjourned till 23rd and 26th October 2021 for the continuation of the trial.



**Case 18: Patrick Akpobolokemi
& Captain Ezekiel Bala Agaba
N86 Million Fraud Trial**

Margaret Ekong, a witness in the trial of the former Director-General of the Nigeria Maritime and Administration Agency (NIMASA) Patrick Akpobolokemi on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 testified before a Federal High Court sitting in Lagos that the defendant and his management team spent the agency's N18 million meant for intelligence gathering on massage chairs for personal use.

Captain Agaba, who was at the NIMASA Directorate of Intelligence Gathering at the time is already serving a seven-year jail term in relation to another charge bordering on breach of trust.

Parts of the counts against Akpobolokemi read: (a) “that you, Patrick Akpobolokemi and Captain Ezekiel Bala Agaba on or about the 10th of July 2014, in Lagos,

within the jurisdiction of this Court converted the sum of N86 million, property of NIMASA which you reasonably ought to have known forms part of proceeds of an unlawful act to wit: criminal breach of trust and you thereby committed an offence contrary to section 15 (2)(a) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 as amended and punishable under section 15 (3) of the same Act”; (b) “That you, Patrick Akpobolokemi and Captain Ezekiel Bala Agaba, on or about the 10th of July, 2014, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this court converted the sum of N18,080,000, property of NIMASA through Kachos Niger 4 Limited, which you reasonably ought to have known forms part of proceeds of an unlawful act to wit: criminal breach of trust and you thereby committed an offence contrary to section 15 (2)(a) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 as amended and punishable under section 19 of the same Act”.

Led in evidence by the EFCC counsel, Rotimi Oyedepo, the witness, Margaret Ekong reiterated that she submitted two companies' names for the contract as requested by the then NIMASA management. The Witness claimed that the massage chairs were supplied in 2013 and payment was made in 2014 after series of reminders.

The 9th prosecution witness, Ekene Nwaku, in his testimony also claimed that all transactions were his responsibility. Justice Faji thereafter adjourned the case till November 29, 30, and December 1, 2021 for the continuation of trial.



**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 case against Mrs. Alison-Madueke, who is believed to be in the United Kingdom (U.K.), last came up before Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu, the trial judge at the Federal High Court in Abuja, on 3rd March, 2021, but could not proceed due to the absence of the accused person.

The chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Abdulsheed Bawa, in an interview in the April edition of the Commission's

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magazine, EFCC Alert revealed that \$153 million and over 80 properties have been recovered from a former Minister of Petroleum Resources, Diezani Alison-Madueke.

Similarly, in May 2021, the Anti-graft boss revealed that the Agency has seized jewelries worth N14.6 billion and houses worth \$80m from the Ex-Minister.

Alison-Madueke, who is believed to have escaped to the United Kingdom and remained there after her exit from public office, ran the petroleum ministry which superintends over the opaque Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) between 2010 and 2015 under the administration of former President Goodluck Jonathan. Her name has been mentioned either as the main defendant or an accomplice in numerous corruption cases filed in court by the EFCC since her exit from office. Her extradition to Nigeria to face pending charges against her has been very difficult for the EFCC. There has been series of adjournment on the matter.

In 2017, a Federal High Court in Lagos ordered the forfeiture of N7.6 billion allegedly linked to her to the federal government. Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu of the Federal High Court in Abuja on 12th, November 2019, gave EFCC till March 20, 2020 to produce her for trial in the corruption case.

Farouk Abdullah, counsel to EFCC made an application for the arrest of the ex-minister. He claimed all efforts by the Commission to extradite her have been unsuccessful, hence the oral application for an arrest warrant. He said the warrant was necessary to enable the international police (INTERPOL) to bring back the defendant to answer for the charges brought against her. He noted that the arrest warrant was part of the requirement by the office of the Attorney General of the Federation for the extradition. The judge granted the request made by EFCC and then adjourned the matter pending the arrest of the ex-minister.



Case 20: Dr. Doyin Okupe
N702 Million Money Laundering

Dr. Doyin Okupe is erstwhile spokesperson to former President Goodluck Jonathan. The trial of Doyin Okupe came up for hearing on March 5, 2021 before Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu of the Federal High Court Abuja with the fifth defendant witness tendering the mandate card

and statement of account of Romiox Soiffix International Limited, following a subpoena on his bank.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is prosecuting Dr. Okupe on a 59-count charge bordering on “money laundering and criminal diversion of funds” to the tune of N702, 000, 000 (Seven Hundred and Two Million Naira) alongside two of his companies: Value Trust Investments and Abrahams Telecoms for alleged laundering of N702 million.

The EFCC on June 26, 2019, after the testimony of its sixth witness, Shuaibu Salisu, a former Director, Administration and Finance in the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA), closed its case against Okupe.

At the resumed trial on February 8, 2021, Bamidele Sala told the court that Mr. Okupe has no personal house in Abuja. He however admitted that Mr. Okupe's office received N10 million monthly from Office of the National Security Adviser to the President headed by Sambo Dasuki. He argued that the N10 million was used by Mr. Okupe's office for logistics and other purposes.

On further interrogation, the witness revealed that a programme on the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA) called 'The Insight' was paid for by Mr. Okupe's office which is contrary to the insinuation that it was part of the corporate social responsibility of the TV station.

Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu adjourned the matter to April 4, 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 21: Ayodele Fayose
N6.9 Billion Money Laundering

The trial of the former Governor of Ekiti State, Ayodele Fayose, for alleged money laundering at Federal High Court in Lagos was on October 11, 2021 stalled due to prosecutor's illness.

Fayose is being prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for money laundering offences to the tune of N6.9 billion. He was first arraigned on October 22, 2018, before Justice Mojisola Olatoregun alongside his company; Spotless Investment Ltd on 11-count charge. He pleaded not

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guilty to the charges and was granted bail on Oct. 24, 2018, in the sum of N50 million with sureties in like sum.

The defendant was subsequently, re-arraigned before Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke on July 2, 2019 after the case was withdrawn from Olatoregun, following EFCC's petition. Mr. Fayose again pleaded not guilty to the charges and was allowed to continue on the earlier bail granted while the case was adjourned for trial.

According to the charge, Fayose and one Abiodun Agbele were said to have taken possession of the sum of N1.2 billion on June 17, 2014 for the purposes of funding his gubernatorial election campaign in Ekiti state which sum he reasonably ought to have known formed part of corruption proceeds.

On the March 18, 2021, the matter could not go on due to the absence of the trial judge, Justice Aneke who was said to be away on a valedictory court session in honour of a retired brother Judge, Saliu Saidu.

However, when the matter resumed on Monday October 11, 2021, Mr. Rotimi Jacob (SAN) with two other counsel appeared for prosecution while Mr. Ola Olanipekun (SAN) appeared for Ayodele Fayose. Olalekan Ojo appeared for Spotless Nigeria Limited, a company charged alongside Fayose.

EFCC counsel, Mr. Jacob sought an adjournment of the case on the ground of ill health. Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke adjourned the case till December 1, 2 and 3, 2021 for continuation of trial.



Case 22: Peter Odili N100 Billion Fraud Probe

Dr. Peter Odili is a former Governor of Rivers State between 1999 and 2007. He has since been under investigation for allegedly diverting about N100

billion for personal use.

EFCC Chairman, Mr. Bawa on June 18, 2021 reiterated the commission's commitment to reopen the corruption cases of Peter Odili, other former governors and top government officials.

Odili is also 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.

EFCC in a fact sheet on the probe also alleged that N1.5 billion out of the amount was used by the former governor to obtain an honorary doctorate degree and naming of a hall after him in Lincoln University, USA.

It is also 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 under probe, the administration of Governor Nyesom Wike is alleged to have transferred suspicious N2 billion to some firms belonging to Odili between 2016 and 2018 respectively.

But Peter 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.

In September, 2020 the former governor sued Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) for seizing his passport at the airport.

However, in November, 2021 the NIS informed the court that it would be appealing the ruling and hence could not return Odili's passport just yet. The NIS based its appeal on three grounds, one of which was that should Odili's passport be returned to him, it could undermine the appeal.

Justice Ekwo subsequently directed that Odili's passport be handed over to the court and adjourned the matter till December 13, 2021.



Case 23: Osagie Ize-Iyamu N700 Million Fraud Trial

Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu was a gubernatorial candidate in Edo State at different times for the two leading political parties in Nigeria - the All Progressives

Congress (APC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

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, Hon. Tony Aziegbemi; former Deputy Governor of Edo State, Mr. Lucky Imasuen and Efe Erimuoghae Anthony.

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At the resumed hearing on the case at the Federal High Court sitting in Benin, the judge ruled it will continue to hear the money laundering charge brought against Pastor Ize-Iyamu and others. Counsel to the 1st defendant (Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu), Charles Edosomwan (SAN) told 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 tender the certificate of his ill-health as certified by his medical doctor.

Having listened to Ize-Iyamu's counsel, Justice Garba adjourned the case to July 14, 2020 for hearing. At the resumed hearing on July 14, 2020, the court again adjourned the case to 15th October, 2020.

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 thereafter adjourned the case to October 15, 2020, for further hearing.

Ize-Iyamu had on July 14, 2020, through his lawyer, Charles Edosomwan, challenged the court's jurisdiction to hear the case. The court however, on March 23, 2021 ruled that it will continue to hear the matter. The court maintained that the matter before it borders on money laundering which the Federal High Court has exclusive jurisdiction to hear. The judge thus dismissed the defendant's application while berating the defendants for filing the motion which he said was intended to waste the time of the court. The case has been adjourned to March 17, 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 24: Bayo Somefun N3.4 billion NSITF Scam

Bayo Somefun is a former Managing Director, Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF). Somefun alongside 12 management staff of NSTIF was on May 31, 2021 relieved from duty over alleged N3.4bn fraud. They were accused of spending the sum on “non-existent staff training”. A new management board was inaugurated on June 1, 2021 following the sack of Somefun's team by Minister of Labour and Employment, Christopher Ngige.

Somefun alongside three Executive Directors and some other top management staff of the agency were earlier suspended on Thursday July 2, 2020 over corruption allegations. However, the Somefun-led management denied any wrongdoing and rejected the suspension; claiming President Buhari did not give such directive. The government later set up a committee to probe panel which subsequently indicted Somefun and other top NSITF officials.

Charles Akpan, deputy director of press and public relations, Ministry of Labour and Employment confirmed that President Buhari approved the appointment of Akabogu Michael as the new managing director. The statement further directed that the indicted Managing Director, Somefun and the three Executive Directors are to refund the NSITF Treasury the total sum of One Hundred and Eighty One Million, Fifty Six Thousand Naira (N181,056,000) being illegal over payments in salaries, allowances such as overseas travels, leave allowances for self and spouses, house allowance, DSTV and club registration and extraneous allowances not approved by the National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission (NSIWC).

Other nine top management staff whose appointments were terminated for various infractions and who have also allegedly benefited from the excess remuneration were also ordered to refund such overpayments to the Panel. The statement added that any official who fails to make refund will be handed over to anti-graft agencies.



Case 25: Hassana Moyi N553,985,624.10 Misappropriation

Hassana Moyi is the Director of Finance and Supply, Sokoto State Primary Education Staff Pension Board.

Moyi alongside four officials of the board; Abubakar Aliisa, Secretary; Haliru Ahmad, Deputy Director of Finance and Supply; Kabiru Ahmad, Accountant; and Dahiru Muhammad Isa, Cashier were on June 28, 2021 arraigned before the Sokoto State High Court on 28-count charge bordering on forgery, criminal breach of trust and misappropriation brought against them by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

EFCC Zonal Head, Usman Bawa Kaltungo said the suspects diverted the money meant for payment of gratuities and pension to retired teachers. Kaltungo further explained that the suspects forged vouchers and

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withdrew the money in tranches. He further revealed that the Commission acted on a petition brought to them by one of the pensioners and that investigations revealed that between January 17, 2017 and March, 2020, the Deputy Director of Finance and Supply, Haliru Ahmad withdrew the sum of N83.2 million from the pension board account with Polaris Bank. Haliru and the Accountant Kabiru Ahmad are also alleged to have withdrawn N203,217,770.71 and N266,567,053 respectively from the same account in the name of pensioners. According to Kaltungo “we had to pay for the transport fares of some of the pensioners before they could come and testify. They were however shocked to find out that their long-awaited pensions and gratuities had been diverted”.

At the resumed trial on June 28, 2021, the defendants pleaded 'not guilty' when the charges were read. Justice Muhammad granted the accused persons N55,000,000 bail each and one surety in like sum. The matter was adjourned to February 21, 2022.



Case 26: Muhammed Kuchazi Complicit in \$9.6 Billion P&ID Award

Muhammed Kuchazi is a Commercial Director of the Process & Industrial Development (P&ID). The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) initially arraigned Kuchazi on February, 2021 before Justice Folashade Giwa-Ogunbanjo of the Federal High Court, Abuja, on eight counts charge bordering on money laundering and failure to comply with regulations of the special control unit against money laundering (SCUML) as required by the Money Laundering Prohibition Act.

Kuchazi was arraigned alongside his company, Kore Holdings Limited, on alleged money laundering related charges. While the company is the 1st defendant in the suit marked: FHC/ABJ/CR/319/2020, Kuchazi is the 2nd defendant.

Kuchazi, a Nigerian and a sole signatory to the company, would have benefitted the sum of 300 million dollars in the P&ID's 9.6 billion dollars judgment deal against Nigeria should the case have succeeded. The EFCC had on Oct. 21, 2019, arraigned James Nolan and Adam Quinn (at large), both British Nationals and Directors of Goidel Resources Limited

and ICIL Limited before Justice Okon Abang over their alleged complicity in the 9.6 billion dollars judgment against the country.

P&ID, an Irish engineering company, had secured the award against Nigeria following the non-execution of a 20-year Gas and Supply Processing Agreement (GSPA) the company had with the Federal Government.

After all the counts were read to him, Kuchazi pleaded not guilty. The EFCC counsel, Bala Sanga, prayed the court to remand him in Kuje Correctional Centre, pending the determination of the matter.

But Kuchazi's counsel, Aniah Okwen, moved an oral bail application for his client. Okwen hinged his reason on medical ground. He argued that Kuchazi was indisposed and needed medical attention. Sanga, in his argument, disagreed with Okwen on the oral application for bail after arraignment and the judge aligned with him.

Okwen, however, urged the court to allow him to be kept at the EFCC custody, while praying the court for a short time to file the bail application. Justice Giwa-Ogunbanjo, adjourned the hearing of the bail application.

Mr. Kuchazi was re-arraigned at the Abuja division of the Federal High Court by the EFCC before Justice Zainab Abubakar granted him bail following his plea of 'not guilty' to the charges proffered against him by the EFCC. The Judge also adjourned the matter till February 1, 2022, for trial.



Case 27: Stephen Oronsaye N2 billion Fraud Trial

Stephen Oronsaye is a former Head of Service of Nigeria. He is currently standing trial over charges bordering on alleged stealing and obtaining money by false pretense before a Federal High Court in Abuja.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) arraigned Oronsaye and one Afe, Managing Director of Federick Hamilton Global Services Limited, on an amended 35-count charge bordering on stealing and obtaining money by false pretense.

They are being charged along with five companies – Hamilton Global Services Limited; Cluster Logistic

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Limited; Kangolo Dynamic Cleaning Limited; and Drew Investment & Construction Company Limited, alleged to have been used to perpetrate the fraud.

The prosecution counsel announced the closure of its case against Oronsaye, after calling 21 witnesses and tendering documents in support of its case. Counsel to the former Head of Service, Joe Agi (SAN) applied for an adjournment to enable him to open his defense with only two witnesses. The court subsequently adjourned till March 9 and 10, 2022 for Oronsaye to open his defense.



Case 28: Babangida Aliyu & 3 others N1.9 Billion Money Laundering Trial

Babangida Aliyu is the former Governor of Niger State. He is being prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, along with his then Chief of Staff and former governorship candidate of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in the state, Umar Nasko, and Barrister Tanko Beji; the former Chairman of the PDP, Niger State Chapter. The ex-governor is on trial before Justice Mikailu Abdullahi, of the Niger State High Court, based on a seven-count amended charges, bordering on criminal breach of trust over an alleged N1.9 billion money laundering.

One of the charges against the defendants reads: "That you, Tanko Beji, sometime between 1st January, 2011 and 31st May, 2011 in Minna within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, abetted the commission of criminal breach of trust by intentionally aiding Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu, the former Governor (also known as Chief Servant) of Niger State to dishonestly convert to his own use, the sum of N937,110,500 which was withdrawn from Niger State Government House Security Account." They all pleaded not guilty to the charges. Though, they were initially arraigned in Abuja before Justice Nnamdi Dingba in 2017, however, following an application by the defendants, the case was transferred to the Minna Division of the Federal High Court.

Following the transfer of the case to Niger State, it was assigned to Justice Yellim Bogoro by the then Chief Judge, CJ and the defendants were arraigned afresh

and released on bail on Nov. 16, 2017.

However, midway into their trial, the Chief Judge, in June 2019, ordered Justice Bogoro to hands-off the case. The Chief Judge subsequently transferred the case to Justice Aliyu Bappa for the trial to begin afresh, citing a petition that was brought to him by the EFCC.

Dissatisfied with the Chief Judge's decision, the former governor filed a suit to challenge it, insisting that the aim was to unnecessarily prolong his trial. In the suit marked FHC/ABJ/CS/620/2020, which has the Federal High Court Chief Judge, the EFCC and the Attorney-General of the Federation as 1st to 3rd defendants respectively, Aliyu urged the court to reverse the decision. Meanwhile, in his judgment on the matter, Justice Ekwo agreed with the former governor to the effect that the Chief Judge acted beyond his administrative powers.

Justice Ekwo held that the suit called for the judicial review of the action of the Chief Judge in transferring a judicial proceeding mid-stream, from one judge to another, after the prosecution had called 10 witnesses. The Judge noted that EFCC only had four pending witnesses to conclude its case before the matter was handed to a new trial judge.

He then made an order directing the Chief Judge to recall the case-file from Justice Bappa and to remit the same to Justice Bogoro to continue and conclude the case. As well as, "an order directing Justice Bogoro to complete the trial, having heard 10 prosecution witnesses".

The Federal High Court, Abuja, on Monday, ordered the resumption of trial in the N1.9 billion money laundering charge against former Governor of Niger, Babangida Aliyu. Delivering judgment, Justice Inyang Ekwo, dismissed an administrative directive that okayed the trial of Aliyu, which started in 2017, to start de-novo (afresh).

Prosecution counsel, Faruk Abdalla, on October 13, 2021 filed a motion requesting the court to set aside its previous ruling of June 19, 2021 and an order for the relisting of the charge. The trial judge granted the prayers to relist the case and adjourned the matter to November 23 and 24, 2021 for the continuation of trial.

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Case 29: Benjamin Dikki N26bn Corruption Trial

An Abuja High Court sitting at Maitama District, Abuja on March 3, 2021, granted bail to a former Director-General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) Benjamin Ezra Dikki who is facing a 4-count corruption charge.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) alleged that Mr. Dikki received gratification to the tune of N1 billion between January and February, 2015. It is alleged that Dikki who was charged alongside his company, Kebna Studios & Communications Limited got N1bn gratification from BestWorth Insurance Brokers for facilitating the approval of outstanding insurance premiums and claims of deceased and incapacitated staff of Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN).

Dikki's lawyer, Abdul Muhammed, argued that the charge against the Defendants contained bailable offences and thereby prayed the court to release his client on bail pursuant to Sections 158, 162 and 163 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, ACJA, 2015.

Counsel to the EFCC, Dianne Nkwap, urged the court to turn down the bail request, contending that Dikki failed to place sufficient materials to warrant the exercise of the court's discretion in his favour.

Trial judge, Justice Yusuf Halilu remanded Dikki at the Kuje Correctional Center, pending the determination of his request for bail following the defendants no guilt plea.

The matter was adjourned to April 15, 2021 for trial. However, the matter could not go as scheduled owing to strike by judiciary workers. No information on a new date for continuation of proceedings on the case as at the time of compiling this report.



Case 30: John Yakubu N25 Billion

In 2013, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) charged Mr John Yakubu; a former official of the Police Pension and others before Hon. Justice Abubakar Talba of the FCT, High Court, Gudu, Abuja

for embezzling N25 Billion. John Yakubu pleaded guilty to stealing the humongous amount of N25 Billion and the trial court sentenced him to 2 years imprisonment with an option of fine off N750,000.

Following the decision of the trial Court in 2013, the EFCC through its counsel, Rotimi Jacobs, SAN, filed an appeal at the Court of Appeal in Abuja. After adoption of all brief of arguments by both parties, the Court of Appeal on March 21, 2018 delivered its judgment, upturning the trial court judgment, convicting and sentencing Mr John Yakubu to six years imprisonment and also to refund N22.9 Billion to the public treasury.

In its decision, the Court of Appeal stated that the convict admitted to misappropriating or stealing N24 billion but was given the option to pay a fine of N750,000 fine for him to enjoy the huge balance he had in his possession. The Court added that the funds stolen or misappropriated by the convict are police pension funds for the payment of monthly pensions and other retirement benefits of police officers nationwide.

Not being satisfied with the Court of Appeal judgement, Mr John Yakubu further appealed to the Supreme Court. After adoption of all brief of arguments, the Supreme Court has fixed April 6, 2022 for judgment.



Case 31: Dr. Abdu Bulama & 4 others N450 Million Fraud Trial

A Federal High Court in Damaturu, Yobe State, has rejected applications seeking for "stay of proceedings" filed by a former Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Abdu Bulama; and four others in a N450 million fraud case.

Bulama was re-arraigned on November 8, 2021 alongside a former Commissioner for Integrated and Rural Development in Yobe State, Mohammed Kadai, Abba Tata, Muhammad Mamu and Hassan Jaks on a seven-count charge of criminal conspiracy and money laundering, following the judgment of the Appeal Court in Gombe State which upheld the argument of the Economic and Financial Crimes that the Lower Court erred by discharging and acquitting the defendants following their 'no case submission' upon the closure of the prosecution's case.

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The ex-minister allegedly received the N450m from Diezani Alison-Madueke, a former Minister of Petroleum Resources, to influence the outcome of the 2015 Presidential election as the Coordinator of former President Goodluck Jonathan's 2015 Re-election Campaign Committee in Yobe State. Kadai was Deputy Coordinator, while the other three defendants were members of the committee.

At the resumed sitting on Tuesday, the defendants through their lawyers, J.J. Usman and U.M. Isah informed the court that they have approached the Supreme Court to set aside the judgment of the appellate court which dismissed their no-case submission and ordered a return to the Federal High Court in Yobe State for the continuation of trial.

They argued that it would not be proper for the lower court to proceed on the matter during the pendency of the appeal at the apex court.

Opposing the prayers of the defendants, prosecution counsel, Mukhtar Ali Ahmed told the court that the EFCC is not oblivious of the fact that there was an appeal before the Supreme Court and all processes of the appeal have been received by the prosecution. However, he said the EFCC is not aware of any order directing the court and the judge to stay proceedings in the case. The case was adjourned to April 28, 2022.



Case 32: Olatunji Oyeyemi Moronfoye N371m Contract Scam Trial

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on May 13, 2015 arraigned the former Commissioner for Information in Kwara State, Prince Olatunji Oyeyemi Moronfoye, and Ope Saraki, Cousin to former governor Bukola Saraki, before Justice R.N Ofili-Ajumogobia for allegedly awarding contracts for the renovation of Ijagbo Primary Health Centre and Specialist Hospitals within the State to a company in which the accused have interest.

They were also accused of procuring 13 Hiace buses from a "Local Car Dealer" and converted same to ambulance in place of a factory-built ambulance. The defendants pleaded not guilty to the charges brought against them.

The trial resumed on June 29, 2021, with the 3rd

prosecution witness, Dr. John Adeyeye Abiodun telling the court how the defendant introduced him to Chemiroy Nigeria Limited and how both agreed to refurbish and convert thirteen Toyota Hiace Buses to Ambulances.

However, the Ilorin Zonal Office of the EFCC, is prosecuting Saraki on two counts charge bordering on contract scam before Justice Adenike Akinpelu of the State High Court sitting in Ilorin. After the testimony of the third prosecution witness, Justice Akinpelu adjourned proceedings on the matter till September 21, 2021 for continuation of proceedings.

On November 22, 2021 the EFCC re-arraigned Mr. Moronfoye and Ope Saraki before a Federal High Court sitting in Ilorin, Kwara State, the duo were re-arraigned on separate charges before Justice Muhammed Sani of the Federal High Court, Ilorin. Saraki, while being the Senior Special Assistant on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), allegedly received a cash payment of N11,180,000.00 from Kunle Adimula, a sum which exceeded the cash amount payable to an individual.

Similarly, Moronfoye while being the Special Adviser on MDGS, allegedly committed procurement fraud by means of unlawful influence in the award of two contracts involving renovation of Ijagbo Primary Health Centre and supply of medical equipment to two hospitals in Kwara State.

The two defendants pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to them.

Justice Sani, after listening to the submissions by counsel, admitted the defendants to bail on the terms earlier granted them by the first trial judge and adjourned till February 16, 2022 for commencement of trial for Ope Saraki and February 22, 2022 for Moronfoye.



Case 33: Ngozi Olejeme N69 Billion NSITF Fraud Trial

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on October 21, 2021 arraigned Ngozi Olejeme, a former Chairperson of Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Funds, NSITF from 2009 to 2015 before Justice Maryam Aliyu of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, Jabi in Abuja.

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Dr. Olejeme was arraigned on nine counts charge bordering on criminal conspiracy, abuse of office, diversion of public funds and money laundering. She was alleged to have abused her position to obtain over N1.384 billion and \$48,485,127 while in office.

The defendant pleaded 'not guilty' when the counts were read to her. Upon her plea, counsel to the EFCC, Steve Odiase, asked for a trial date. As trial resumed on the matter, the defense counsel, Paul Erokoro, informed the court of a pending bail application which was filed on October 18, 2021 and urged the court to grant his client bail on self-recognisance or in the alternative, in the most liberal terms. He informed the court that his client was not a flight risk as she voluntarily returned to Nigeria when she heard that the prosecution wanted to question her.

Mr. Monday Ubani Former 2nd Vice-President of Nigerian Bar Association, NBA, in a long post on his social media handle on 16th April, 2021 said that the return of the former Chairman of Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund, NSITF, Mrs. Ngozi Olejeme to the country to face allegations of N69billion fraud by the EFCC has vindicated him of any role in her initial disappearance.

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.

Erokoro further stated that the bail application was predicated on medical grounds as the defendant has been diabetic and hypertensive for 30 years, and has had four major surgeries in the U.S and South Africa. Trial Justice Maryam Hassan Aliyu adjourned the matter after Olejeme's Counsel Mr. Erokoro prayed the court to adjourn her case to December 6, 2021 on medical grounds.



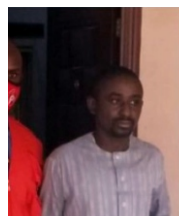
Case 34: Chima Igwe Certificate Forgery

On Friday, November 12, 2021, Mr Chima Igwe, a former acting director-general of the Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi (FIIRO) Lagos was arraigned before Justice Solebo of the Special Offences Court in Ikeja, Lagos by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC). He pleaded not guilty to the charge and was granted bail in the sum of N500,000 and two sureties with verifiable residential addresses in Lagos.

The former DG was amongst others accused of using false attestation letter to acquire many promotions which made him rise to director grade in the civil service. One of the three counts read thus: Chima Cartney Igwe (m) sometimes in December 2002 or thereabout in Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, while being a Public Officer with Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi (FIIRO) knowingly gave, with intent to deceive an attestation letter signifying the completion of PhD Degree programme from University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC), Republic of Benin, to the Federal institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi (FIIRO).

The Court orders that Mr Chima Igwe be remanded at a correctional centre until he fulfills his bail condition and adjourned the case to February 20, 2022 for commencement of trial.

It will be recalled that the Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA Resource Centre) wrote the petition that led to investigation of Mr Chima Igwe by the ICPC and when it appears ICPC are not willing to prosecute Mr Igwe, HEDA Resource Centre instituted an action against ICPC at the Federal High Court, Lagos for an order to mandate ICPC to prosecute Mr Igwe. The matter at the Federal High Court had been withdrawn following the arraignment of Mr Igwe.



Case 35: Waziri Lukman N250 Million Fraud Trial

A Sokoto State High Court on March 19, 2021 remanded in prison custody Lukman

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Sani Waziri, former Accountant at the Usmanu Danfodio University Teaching Hospital, Sokoto pending the determination of bail application.

Lukman Sani appeared in court in connection with false pretense and fraud to the tune of N249,984,847.62 (Two Hundred and Forty-nine Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty-four Thousand, Eight Hundred and Forty-seven Naira, Sixty-two Kobo) from the Integrated Personnel Payroll Information System (IPPIS) and Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS) platforms. Lukman Sani is alleged to have perpetrated the crime while serving as Accountant with the Finance Department of Usmanu Danfodio University Teaching Hospital, Sokoto.

The matter was adjourned to March 25, 2021, for hearing of the bail application and April 7, 2021 for trial. However, the case could not proceed as planned owing to the strike embarked upon by judiciary workers between April and June, 2021. A new date for the continuation of the case was yet to be fixed at the time of compiling this report.



Case 36: Mr. Gimba Kumo \$65 million Fraud Scandal

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) on Thursday 13, May 2021 declared Mr. Gimba Kumo

alongside Tarry Rufus and Bola Ogunsola wanted in connection with allegation bordering on misappropriation of national housing funds and diversion of the sum of \$65,000,000 (Sixty Five Million dollars) at the Federal Mortgage Bank Nigeria (FMBN). A statement signed by ICPC spokesperson, Azuka Ogugua urged the public to provide information about the whereabouts of the wanted persons.

The Senate Committee on Public Accounts had in April, 2021 summoned Mr. Kumo to explain the alleged irregular awarded contract when he was still at FMBN. The Committee issued the Summons following a query raised in a 2015-2018 report by the Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation (AuGF) against the FMBN. According to the report, the contract was awarded in four phases and was overpaid to the tune of N3,045,391,531.97.

Mr. Kumo, a former Managing Director of Federal

Mortgage Bank of Nigeria reportedly married a daughter of President Muhammadu Buhari in Daura, Katsina State in 2016. However, presidential spokesperson, Garba Shehu said Mr. Kumo only had a marriage relationship with the President's family member in the past. Nothing was however heard about the matter up till the time of compiling this report.



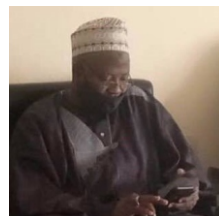
Case 37: Ihedi Ohakim \$2.2 Million Money Laundering Trial

Ihedi Ohakim is a former Governor of Imo State.

The ex-governor was first arraigned on July 8, 2016 before Justice B.O Quadri on a 3-count charge bordering on money laundering. He allegedly made cash payment to the tune of \$2,290,000.00 (about N270,000,000) for the purchase of a property situated at Plot 1098 Cadastral Zone A04, Asokoro District, otherwise known as Number 60, Kwame Nkurumah Street, Asokoro in Abuja.

The defendant, in his testimony, denied ever asking one of the prosecution's witness, Abu Sule to purchase the property in his name and also denied ever releasing \$2.29 million cash to the same witness to purchase the Asokoro house. The defendant, however, admitted ownership of a bank account with number 5010140626 with Fidelity Bank which he used in purchasing a N270 million house at Maitama District in Abuja as against the Asokoro house traced to him by EFCC.

The case is ongoing and has been adjourned to April 27, 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 38: Imam Aminu Certificate Forgery Trial

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) on September 21, 2021

arraigned Imam Aminu; a retired Chief Superintendent of Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) over alleged forgery of academic certificates.

Aminu who was arraigned before Justice A.O. Abang of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, Gwagwalada, Abuja however pleaded not guilty to the 4-count charge.

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According to the charge referenced number CR/821/2021, the accused person forged a National Diploma Certificate in Public Administration from the Kaduna State Polytechnic and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management from the University of Calabar contrary to Section 364 of the Penal Code and therefore liable to a prison term of not less than 14 years. The prosecuting counsel, Mashkur Salisu, informed the court that the defendant had used the above-mentioned certificates to enlist into NIS and to also advance his career to the rank of a Chief Superintendent.

The prosecuting counsel thereafter asked for a date for hearing and for the accused to be remanded in Kuje prison. Mr Aminu was however granted bail in the sum of N500,000.00 and a surety in like sum who must reside within the jurisdiction of the court. The judge also ordered the accused person to deposit his travel documents at the court's registry. The case was adjourned to November 9, 2021 for commencement of trial.



Case 39: ACP Abba Kyari
N8 Million (\$20,600) Bribery
Indictment

A bba Kyari, Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) and the erstwhile Head of the Police Intelligence Response Team (IRT) is being investigated by the United States Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) over alleged complicity in internet fraud involving Ramon Abbas, popularly known as Hushpuppi. DCP Kyari's indictment bothers on allegations of corruption and inducement by Hushpuppi for premeditated and unlawful arrest.

DCP Kyari was suspended on the 31st July, 2000 by police authorities following a warrant of arrest by a U.S Magistrate Judge, Otis Wright.

On 2nd August, 2021, the IGP appointed a Deputy Commissioner of Police, Tunji Disu as the new Head of the Police IRT pending the conclusion of investigation into Kyari's indictment. The Nigerian Police force, in a statement made on the August 18, 2021, said investigations into the alleged indictment of Abba Kyari by the FBI was still ongoing.

On the August 19, 2021 Justice Ahmed Mohammed of the Federal High Court in Abuja rejected an ex-parte application filed by the Incorporated Trustee of Northern Peace Foundation praying the court to

restrain the Nigerian Police Force (NPF) and the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) from arresting and extraditing Mr. Kyari.

Furthermore, the judge directed the counsel the plaintiff to turn the ex parte motion to Motion on Notice and serve same on NPF and AGF. The Judge further ordered the applicant to serve all court processes in respect to the case on the two defendants and consequently fixed September 9, 2021, for the application to proceed. However, in a process filed by Tracy Wikinson in the US Court; the prosecuting counsel and the defense counsel, on September 24, 2021, agreed to proceed with the trial of Motunrayo Fashola, Bolatito Agbabiaka and Yusuf Anifowoshe who are co-accused in the matter since Abba Kyari is believed to be at large. The trial is scheduled to commence in October 2021.

Case 40: Okoi Obono-Obla and
two others
N10.1 Million Fraud Trial



Mr. Okoi Obono-Obla was the Chairman of the Special Presidential Investigation Panel for the Recovery of Public Property (SPIP) who is currently facing trial before a High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in Apo, Abuja over allegations bordering on fraud.

In the charges filed against him, the ICPC alleged, among others, that Mr Obono-Obla, his former Senior Assistant, Special Duties, Aliyu Ibrahim, and the Managing Director of ABR Global Petroleum Resources Ltd, Daniel Omughele Efe, conspired in 2018 to use their offices to confer an unfair advantage on Mr. Ibrahim by allegedly diverting N19,994,185 received from the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) to furnish SPIP offices.

The money was said to have been diverted into “the personal account of Aliyu Ibrahim, using proxy companies, without furnishing the said SPIP offices as proposed to the NDIC.

On October 11, 2021, The Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC), re- arraigned Okoi Obono-Obla, before Justice C.L. Dabup of the Jos Judicial Division of the High Court of Plateau State, on two count charges of falsification and forgery of school results. Obono-Obla entered a “Not guilty plea” on each of the two counts

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when they were read to him. His counsel, M.A. Agara, filed an application in which he urged the court to grant his client bail on self-recognition. The judge later adjourned the case till November 25, 2021 for trial.



Case 41: Mrs. Grace Taiga \$ 5,000 Fraud Trial

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on Thursday October 7, 2021, re-arraigned Mrs. Grace Taiga in connection with multiple frauds involving Process & Industrial Development Limited (P&ID) before Justice Obiora Egwuatu of the Federal High Court, Abuja. Taiga was arraigned on a 9-counts amended charge bordering bribes and other related crimes.

Part of the charges slammed against Mr. Taiga reads: "That you Grace Taiga, Enameg Vera Mases Taiga (at large) Brendan Cahill (at large), Michael Quinn (deceased) on or about the 30 of January, 2012 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did conspire to commit an offence to wit; money laundering by disguising the origin of the sum of Five Thousand United States of America Dollars (\$5,000) paid by Kristholm Limited -a company controlled by the owners and promoters of Process & Industrial Development Limited (P&ID) - into the HSBC bank account of Enameg Vera Moses Taiga domiciled at No.8, Canada Square, London branch of HSBC, which money you reasonably ought to have known formed part of the proceeds of an unlawful act, to wit; bribery and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 18(a) and punishable under section 15(2)(a) and (3) of the Money Laundering Prohibition) Act,'2011 (as amended)".

The accused person pleaded not guilty to all the charges. The prosecution counsel, Abba Mohammed prayed the court for a trial date and for the defendant to be remanded in prison custody.

The defense counsel, Ola Olanipekun (SAN) reminded the court that he filed a bail application on behalf of the defendant on March 18, 2021, praying the judge to admit her to bail on the grounds of ill-health and being a senior lawyer and former Director, Legal Services in the Ministry of Petroleum Resources who was called to the Bar in 1977. The fourth prosecution witness, Aminu Lawal on January 9th, 2022, told the court how Grace Taiga

received \$4,969 and \$5,000 through her daughter's account. Lawal explained that, "The money was paid by Marsh Pearl Ltd, through her daughter's account eleven days before the signing of the GSPA. When the witness was discharged from the witness box, the case was thereafter adjourned till March 8 and 16, 2022 for cross-examination of the witness.



Case 42: Rt. Hon. Adeyemi Ikuforiji N333.8 Million Money Laundering Trial

On March 1, 2012, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) had arraigned Ikuforiji and his former personal assistant, Oyebode Atoyebi before Hon. Justice Okechukwu Okeke of the Federal High Court on a 20 – count charge bordering on misappropriation, money laundering and also receiving cash payments above the threshold set by the Money Laundering Act without going through a financial institution. They had pleaded not guilty to the charges and were granted bail.

The defendants were subsequently re-arraigned before Hon. Justice Ibrahim Buba following re-assignment of the case. On September 26, 2014, Justice Buba discharged Mr Ikuforiji and his aide of the charges, after upholding a no case submission of the defendants.

Dissatisfied with the ruling on the no-case submission, the EFCC through its counsel, Godwin Obla, SAN, filed a notice of appeal dated September 30, 2014, challenging the decision of the trial court. Mr Obla had argued that the trial court erred in law when it held that the counts were incompetent because they were filed under Section 1(a) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2004 which was repealed by an Act of 2011.

The EFCC also argued that the lower court erred in law when it held that the provisions of Section 1 of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2004 and 2011, only applied to natural persons and corporate bodies other than the Government. The commission had also submitted that the trial judge erred in law when it held and concluded that the testimonies of the prosecution witnesses supported the innocence of the respondents. Delivering its judgment in November 2016, the Court of Appeal, Lagos Judicial Division, agreed with the prosecution and ordered a fresh trial of the defendants before another judge.

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On further appeal to the Supreme Court by Mr Ikuforiji and other Defendants, the Supreme Court agreed with the Court of Appeal and ordered the case to be sent back to the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court for reassignment to another judge.

Following the decision of the Supreme Court, the defendants were re-arraigned before Hon. Justice Mohammed Liman, on a 54 - count charge. They pleaded not guilty to all the charges and were granted bail on the same condition as at 2012, they were first arraigned.

The Prosecution had presented two witness; one Adebayo Adeniyi, an operative with the EFCC and Adewale Olatunji, a former clerk of the Lagos State House of Assembly in proving the allegation against the former Speaker and his former Personal Assistant and had closed its case on March 17, 2021.

The matter came up on May 11, 2021, but could not proceed due to the strike by the Judiciary workers (JUSUN). The matter also came up on November 15, 2021, but could not go ahead as the judge was indisposed. The matter was then adjourned to March 17, 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 43: Abdulazeez Abubakar Yari
N200 Billion Fraud Trial

A Federal High Court in Abuja, on January 26, 2021, ordered the final forfeiture of funds belonging to a former governor of Zamfara, Abdulaziz Yari, domiciled in Zenith and Polaris Banks.

The court made the order following the former governor's inability to prove ownership of \$56, 056.75 lodged in Polaris Bank account and the sums of N12.9 million, N11.2 million, \$301, 319.99; N217, 388.04 and \$311, 872.15 deposited in different Zenith Bank accounts in the name of Mr. Yari and his companies.

The Judge, Ijeoma Ojukwu, held that the former governor had not shown good cause why the order sought by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) should not be granted. Former governor Yari is the first defendant, his two companies; Kayatawa Nigeria Ltd and B. T. Oil and Gas Nigeria Ltd were second and third respondents respectively.

The ICPC had instituted a suit marked: FHC/ABJ/CS/916/2019, praying the court for an order requesting the former governor to present evidence why the money under investigation should not be forfeited to the federal government.

Justice Taiwo Taiwo had, on August 16, 2019, granted the order for interim forfeiture of the assets in an ex-parte motion brought by ICPC through his lawyer, Osuobeni Akponimisingha. The judge directed ICPC to publish the forfeiture order in national dailies for any interested party to show cause why the money should not be finally forfeited to the Federal Government.

The court made an order of final forfeiture of the total sum of N12, 912, 848.68 lodged in the name of Abdulazeez Abubakar Yari in the said banks accounts since he failed to establish the legitimate sources of the funds.



Case 44: Mrs. Winifred Oyo-Ita
N570 Million Fraud Trial

Mrs. Winifred Oyo-Ita is a former Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (HOCSF). She was arraigned, on March 23, 2020 alongside Frontline

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

Mrs. Oyo-Ita and co-accused were arraigned on 18-count charge marked FHC/ABJ/CR/60/2020, relating to fraudulent practices in administration of duty tour allowances (DTA); estacodes; conference fees fraud, kickback on contracts and failure to fully disclose assets. The EFCC filed an ex-parte motion before Justice Folashade Giwa-Ogunbanjo, requesting that the bank accounts of the fourth, fifth and sixth defendants in the alleged N570 million money laundering trial be frozen.

However, the trial Judge, Taiwo Taiwo of the Federal High Court, Abuja, on March 3, 2021, ordered a stay of proceedings in the ongoing trial. Justice Taiwo, in his ruling described the action of the EFCC in obtaining ex-parte order from another court to freeze bank accounts of the defendants in the matter as an abuse of the court process. Trial continued in the case and the matter was subsequently adjourned till February 28th, 2022.

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Case 45: Haruna Momoh \$700 Million Fraud Trial

Haruna Momoh a former Managing Director, Pipelines and Products Marketing Company is standing trial over an alleged involvement in defrauding the agency to the tune of \$700 million.

Jane Asuquo, a witness of the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, told a Federal High Court in Abuja that Haruna Momoh laundered the Agency's \$700 million through his wife, Ochuko. However, another witness told the court on the February 19, 2021 that Haruna Momoh, did not launder \$700 million of the Agency.

Momoh's wife- Ochuko was on March 9, 2020 arraigned before Justice Taiwo at the Federal High Court in Abuja, alongside Blessing Azuka-Ngozi, Stanbic-IBTC Bank Plc, Energopol Nigeria Limited, Blaid Construction Limited and Blaid Farms Limited, on a 22-count charge which was later reduced to 13-count on an amended charge. The first defendant in the new charge, Haruna Momoh is however said to be at large.

Witness- Jane Asuquo, while being cross-examined by Ade Adedeji (SAN), counsel to the 1st, 5th and 6th defendants in the money laundering trial could not categorically ascertain if the former Managing Director, of the aforementioned Company, Haruna Momoh defrauded the agency of \$700 million. He said the Commission cannot categorically state how much money was allegedly stolen by Haruna.

Asked if the ICPC was able to confirm the report that \$700 million disappeared from the coffers of the PPMC, Asuquo said: "We were able to confirm the fact that the 1st defendant (Haruna) laundered huge amount of money but not the exact sum."

Justice Taiwo however fixed March 29 and 31, 2021 for continuation of the trial. Trial was concluded in the case on November 23, 2021, with Stanbic IBTC calling its sole witness, following which the trial judge, Justice Taiwo Taiwo adjourned till February 9, 2022, for parties to adopt their final written addresses.



Case 46: Kayode Odukoya Forgery and Corruption Trial

Kayode Odukoya, the Chief Executive Officer of the now defunct First Nation Airways Limited was arraigned alongside his company by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in November 2020, on a 7-count charge bordering on forgery, use of false document, perjury, stealing and obtaining credit by fraud among other charges.

Kayode Odukoya pleaded not guilty to the charges and filed a 'no case submission'. On August 2, 2021, the defense counsel, Edoke Onyeke, urged the court to dismiss the 7-count charge and discharge the defendant.

The presiding Justice Mojisola Dada adjourned the sitting to October 22, 2021, for ruling on Kayode's no case submission. At the sitting on October 22, 2021, Justice Mojisola Dada dismissed the No Case Submission of Mr. Odukoya and ordered him to open his defense by January 17, 2022.



Case 47: Otunba Alao-Akala N11.5bn Fraud Trial

Adebayo Alao-Akala, a former Governor of Oyo State and two others were on Thursday 2nd December, 2021, discharged and acquitted of corruption cases by Court of Appeal sitting in Ibadan, the Oyo state capital over an alleged N11.5bn fraud by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.

Alao-Akala was arraigned alongside Hosea Agboola, former Oyo State Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters, and Femi Babalola, an Ibadan-based businessman over 11-count charge of conspiracy, awarding contract without budgetary provision, obtaining by false pretense, acquiring property with money derived from illegal act and concealing the ownership of such property, among others.

The EFCC said the firm, owned by Babalola, handled the contract on behalf of the 33 Local Governments without budgetary provision.

Alao-Akala was said to have ordered the supply of

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drilling machines on behalf of the 33 Local Governments in the state to the tune of N3.5 billion. He was also alleged to have conspired with Ayoola to withdraw N2.9 billion from the Oyo State Local Government Joint Account.

The prosecution agency also alleged that Alao-Akala illegally acquired some property along old Bodija road, off Rotimi Williams road, Ibadan, when he was the Governor of the State.

The defendants, however, filed a no-case submission after the EFCC closed its case. The trial court, presided over by Justice Muniru Owolabi, struck out eight out of the 11 count-charge against the trio. He then ordered them to enter defense for the remaining three counts-counts 1, 2 and 5 (conspiracy, obtaining money by false pretense and award of contract without budgetary provision).

Justice Owolabi discharged the former governor on charges of acquiring property with money allegedly derived from an illegal act and concealing ownership of such property. The judge said the witnesses called by the prosecutor could not link evidence to the acquired property and that the EFCC failed to prove genuine ownership of the property.

The defendants, through Prince Lateef Fagbemi (SAN), appealed the ruling of the lower court which said they had a case to answer.

Delivering judgement on the appeal on Thursday, the judges in a unanimous decision set aside the ruling of the lower court, on grounds that the trial court erred by ordering the defendants to enter defense for the three counts because the prosecution led by the EFCC failed to establish a prima facie case against them.



Case 48: Mohammed Wakil N118 Million Bribery Trial

A Federal Capital Territory High Court on March 8, 2021, remanded Mohammed Wakil, former minister of State for Power in the custody of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over allegations of corruption.

Wakil was arrested by the EFCC at his Abuja residence on March 7, 2021 and arraigned the next day before Justice S.B. Belgore, on a 2-count charge bordering on

corruption and abuse of office. He was arraigned alongside two companies, Corozzeria Nigeria Limited and Pikat Properties Nigeria Limited.

According to the anti-graft agency, the former minister allegedly received N118 million as gratification from Bestworth Insurance Brokers Limited. The gratification sum was said to be part of the N27,188,232,208 approved outstanding insurance premiums and claims of deceased and incapacitated staff of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), thereby committing an offence contrary to Section 8(1)(a) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000, and punishable under Section 8(1)(b)(ii) of the same Act. He pleaded not guilty to the charges. Oral application for bail by the Counsel to the defendant, Bert Igwilo, was opposed by the prosecution counsel, Benjamin Manji, who insisted that the defendant has to bring a formal application before the court.

The prosecution Counsel also prayed the court to set a date for the commencement of the trial and for the remand of the defendant at a Correctional Center, pending trial. The matter was adjourned to 28th & 29th March, 2022.



Case 49: Paul Usoro N1.4 Billion Fraud

A Federal High Court in Lagos State has discharged and acquitted a former President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Mr. Paul Usoro (SAN). Mr. Usoro had been standing trial on 10-count charge bordering on fraud and money laundering filed against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The EFCC arraigned Usoro on December 18, 2018, before Justice Muslim Hassan on 10-count. He was subsequently re-arraigned before Justice Aikawa on the offence purportedly committed on May 14, 2016, when he conspired to convert the sum of N1.4 billion being property of Akwa Ibom State Government, which the anti-graft agency claimed he ought to have known was an illicit transaction. He pleaded not guilty to the offence; insisting that the anti-graft agency had established no case against him to warrant him to enter a defense.

Justice Rilwan Aikawa held that the anti-graft agency

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failed to establish prima facie case against Usoro. The judge noted that the penal code, under which the former NBA President was charged, is not applicable to the southern states of Lagos and Akwa-Ibom which were the locations of the alleged offences. The court held that the prosecution has failed to establish any prima facie case against the defendant and therefore discharged and acquitted Mr. Usoro accordingly.



Case 50: Ahmadu Umar Fintiri & 1 other **N2.9 Billion Money Laundering**

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission had on June 30, 2016 arraigned the current Governor of Adamawa State and Mayim Construction and Properties Ltd before Justice Ahmed Mohammed of the Federal High Court, Abuja on a five count charge of money laundering to the tune of N2.9 billion. They pleaded not guilty.

As at 2016, Ahmed Fintiri was a former Speaker of the Adamawa State House of Assembly and also former acting Governor of Adamawa State.

Fintiri was charged with laundering money through his naira and dollar accounts domiciled at Ecobank Plc, and made a large cash payment for the purchase of a piece of property at Plot no. 7, Gana Street, Maitama, Abuja. One of the Counts read: “That you, Ahmadu Umaru (Alias Rt. Hon. Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri) and Mayim Construction and Properties Limited on or about the 9th October 2014, in Abuja within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did indirectly disguise the origin of the aggregate sum of N550,000,000 (Five Hundred and Fifty Million naira) through a term loan of twelve months purportedly granted to you by Ecobank Plc, for the acquisition of a tea plantation farm from Nigeria Agricultural Bank in Taraba State which loan you repaid within three months as acting Governor of Adamawa State from sum which you know formed part of proceeds of unlawful act to wit: Corruption and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 15(2)(a) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 as amended in 2012 and punishable under Section 15(3) and (4) of the same Act.”

Upon reading of the charge to the defendants, they pleaded not guilty and the defense Counsel made an application for the bail of the defendant which was vehemently opposed by the EFCC Counsel. The Court

adjourned the case to the next day for ruling on the bail application and ordered the defendant to be remanded in Kuje prison. At the resumed hearing, the Court granted bail to Fintiri in the sum of N500 Million and adjourned for commencement of trial.

Trial commenced on January 26, 2017, with the presentation of EFCC first witness, Ibrahim Andrew Welye who was a Secretary to the Adamawa State Government and the author of a petition against Fintiri dated May 11, 2015. Welye, while being led in evidence by counsel to the EFCC, Larry P. Aso, told the court that when he was appointed Secretary to the State Government, he requested for briefing from various ministries and their responses showed that state funds running into billions of naira were misappropriated. He also explained how Fintiri, during the press briefing as the Acting Governor, claimed to have received N21 billion in the 86 days he spent in office. The witness went further to explain how the defendant also claimed to have spent N2.8 billion on projects, mainly in Malamre ward in Jimeta Local Government Area, which was under attack by the insurgency at that time. On the transaction of N475 million, which was meant for the construction of Faculty of Law at the Adamawa State University, the witness said that there was no construction, adding that only the foundation was laid. Two documents were tendered as exhibits.

The case was thereafter adjourned to March 2, 2017 for the continuation of trial.

The case had come up at different dates with the prosecution still giving evidence until the case was suspended due by reason that Ahmadu Umar Fintiri was sworn in as Governor of Adamawa State on May 29, 2019. Section 308 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) grants all Governors immunity from prosecution by providing that no civil or criminal proceedings shall be instituted or continued against a sitting Governor.



Case 51: Ibrahim Mohammed Umar **N362 Million Fraud Trial**

The Yola Division of the Court of Appeal in Adamawa State on April 14, 2021, affirmed the conviction of Ibrahim Mohammed Umar, who served as former electoral officer with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC)

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in Yola South Local Government Area of Adamawa State. Ibrahim Mohammed Umar was convicted for receiving monetary benefits to the tune of Three Hundred and Sixty-Two Million Naira (N362 million). The money was part of the bribe dispensed by former Petroleum Minister, Diezani Alison-Madueke towards influencing the 2015 elections.

The EFCC had, on September 28, 2018, arraigned Ibrahim Umar alongside a former staff of a new generation bank. Both were convicted of a three-count charge by an Adamawa State High Court and sentenced to seven years imprisonment without an option of fine. The court presided over by Justice Nathan Musa in the judgment delivered on December, 12 2019, held that EFCC had proved its case beyond reasonable doubt as investigation showed that the convicts were identified culpable in the receipt of the bribery sum.

Dissatisfied with the judgment, Ibrahim Umar approached the Court of Appeal on March 4, 2020, seeking that the judgment of the lower Court be set aside. On April 14, 2021, the appellate court delivered a unanimous judgment affirming the judgment of the lower court.



Case 52: Prof. John Ibu & 2 others N24.65 Million Fraud Trial

Professor John Ibu is the Chairman of Benue State University Teaching

Hospital.

The Makurdi Zonal Office of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) arraigned Professor John Ibu alongside Chief Abukenchi Suleiman and his company, ADB Motors Venters Nigeria Limited, before Justice Abdu Dogo, of the Federal High Court sitting in Makurdi, Benue State on charges of conspiracy and obtaining N24,650,000 (Twenty-Four Million, Six Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only) by false pretense.

They allegedly obtained the said sum from the Benue State University Teaching Hospital under the guise of purchasing a Toyota Land cruiser Prado 2018 Model which they never did. This constitutes an offence contrary to Section 8(a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006, and punishable under section 1(3) of the same Act.

Count one of the charge reads: “That you, Professor John Ibu, being the Board Chairman, Benue State University Teaching Hospital; you Chief Abukenchi Suleiman, being the Managing Director ADB Motors Ventures Nigeria Ltd; and you, ADB Motors Ventures Nigeria Ltd sometime in July, 2019 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud conspired amongst yourselves and obtained the sum of N24,650,000 (Twenty Four Million Six Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only) from the Benue State University Teaching Hospital Board for the purchase of a Toyota Land cruiser Prado 2018 Model under false pretense that you have the capacity to supply which pretense you knew was false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 8(a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under section 1(3) of the same Act”.

The defendants pleaded “not guilty” to the charges slashed against them.

Based on their pleas, prosecution counsel, George Chia-Yakua asked for a trial date and that the defendants be remanded in a Correctional Facility.

However, counsel to the 1st defendant: S. O. Vekuwu moved a motion for the bail of his client on self-recognition. He informed the Court that his client had been on administrative bail offered by the EFCC.

Justice Dogo, after listening to the counsel, granted the defendants bail in the sum of N10million each with one surety in like sum.

The case was adjourned till September 27, 2021 for the commencement of trial. After hearing on the said date, the case was subsequently adjourned to May 16, 2022.



Case 53: Mohammed Adoke, Dan Etete, Aliyu Abubakar and Others \$1.09 Billion Malabu Scam

The EFCC on September 8, 2020, re-arraigned Malabu Oil Ltd, a businessman Aliyu

Abubakar alongside six other companies on a 67-count charge bordering on money laundering. They were arraigned before Justice Inyang Ekwo of the Federal High Court, Abuja. The companies listed in the charge are: A-Group Construction Company Ltd, Rocky Top Resources Ltd, Mega Tech Engineering, Novel Properties Ltd and Carlin International Ltd. The suit which initially had a 9-count charge was filed in 2016

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which had the names of former Attorney General of the Federation / Minister of Justice; Mohammed Adoke and former Petroleum Minister, Dan Etete. However, the names of Adoke and Etete were allegedly said to have been removed in the amended 48-count charge on July 1, 2021. The EFCC has however denied removing the names of the indicted former ministers from the suit.

At the commencement of court proceedings, all the defendants (except Dan Etete, Munamuna Seidougha and Joseph Amaran who were at large) pleaded not guilty to the charges. Before Justice Ekwo adjourned the commencement of trial to September 10, 2020, EFCC's lawyer, Bala Sanga told the court that Malabu Oil alongside former Petroleum Minister, Dan Etete, Munamuna Seidougha, and Joseph Amaran, the alleged owners of Malabu Oil who have been on the run “took control of the sum of \$401, 540,000 paid from the Federal Government of Nigeria Escrow account. The Malabu scandal involved the transfer of about \$1.1 billion by oil multinationals, Shell and ENI, through the Nigerian government to accounts controlled by a former Nigerian oil Minister, Mr. Dan Etete.

On January 28, 2021, EFCC re-arraigned former Attorney General / Minister of Justice Mohammed Adoke before an FCT High Court on an amended 42-count corruption charge. Adoke is facing trial alongside six others over alleged role in the fraudulent transfer of ownership of the Malabu oil bloc deal to the tune of \$1.1 billion. It was alleged that Adoke mediated controversial agreements that ceded OPL 245 to two oil giants, Shell and ENI which in turn paid \$1.1 billion to accounts controlled by Dan Etete.

Meanwhile, Dan Etete and some top executives from Shell and ENI have undergone corruption trial in an Italian Court with all parties acquitted of corruption on March 18, 2021, in spite of ongoing trial in Nigeria. The Defendants who were initially arraigned on January 23, 2020, pleaded not guilty to the amended charge that was read to them before the trial Justice-Abubakar Kutigi. The Prosecution counsel, Mr. Bala Sanga, said the charge was amended “To enlarge the scope of criminal liabilities” against the defendants. The case which was adjourned to April 14, 2021, for commencement of hearing was however halted by the strike embarked upon by judicial workers.

On July 2, 2021, an online media reported that Adoke had lodged a formal complaint with the Italian government alleging professional misconduct by

prosecutors in the OPL 245 trial. The two Italian prosecutors are Fabio De Pasquale and Sergio Spadaro.



Case 54: Senator Shehu Sani \$25,000 Bribe Trial

On January 27, 2020, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) arraigned the former Senator representing Kaduna Central Senatorial District, Shehu Sani for influence peddling and fraud at the Federal High Court, Abuja. The charge against Senator Shehu Sani involve alleged extortion of \$25,000 from Alhaji Sani Dauda, the Chairman of ASD Group of Companies and board member, Peugeot Automobile Ltd. The EFCC alleged that Shehu Sani fraudulently obtained the money as bribe meant for the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Acting Chairman of EFCC, Ibrahim Magu.

Alhaji Sani Dauda had earlier testified on how he gave out the money to Shehu Sani in two tranches of \$15,000 and \$10,000 in November 2019. He told the Court that Shehu Sani later returned the \$25,000 to him upon learning that the matter was before the EFCC. He said the EFCC then collected the money from him as an exhibit. Consequently, Justice Ekwo had on October 21, 2020, admitted the \$25,000 cash and two Samsung phones in evidence. On March 15, 2021, the trial of Shehu Sani resumed before the Federal High Court in Abuja where the EFCC played an audio recording in Hausa language as evidence against Shehu Sani in the said bribery allegation. However, an attempt by the prosecution counsel to play the English version of the recorded conversation between Shehu Sani and Alhaji Sani Dauda failed due to technical hitches. On March 16, 2021, Justice Inyang Ekwo threatened to strike out the bribery charge preferred against Shehu Sani if the EFCC continues to misrepresent proceedings at the Court on social media. Further hearing was adjourned to May 24, 2021, which could not go owing to the strike embarked upon by judicial workers. The case is to come up for hearing on March, 22, 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 55: Mukhtar Ishaq Yakasai N86 Million Corruption Case

As serving Kano State Commissioner for Special Duties, Mukhtar Ishaq Yakasai, was arrested by the EFCC

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in Kano State on February 20, 2020, for allegedly diverting fund to the tune of N86 million. The accused person allegedly diverted Eighty Six Million Naira (N86,000,000.00) which was meant for projects, development and empowerment of residents and indigenes of Kano Municipal Local Government when he served as Chairman. The petition further alleged that the suspect ordered the deduction of N30,000.00 (Thirty Thousand Naira) from the account of staff without justification. The Commissioner is also alleged to have converted property of Kofar Nasarawa Primary School into shops and sold same at the rate of Ten Million Naira (N10, 000,000) per shop and diverted the money for personal use. EFCC vowed to charge Mr. Mukhtar Ishaq to court as soon as further investigation is completed.



Case 56: Patience Jonathan **\$8.4m Illicit Wealth Acquisition** **Forfeiture**

On June 29, 2021, Justice T.G. Ringim of the Federal High Court in Ikoyi, Lagos adjourned to October 7, 2021, to hear a motion filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) seeking final forfeiture of \$5.78m and N2.4 billion linked to the wife of former President Goodluck Jonathan/ former First Lady, Dame Patience Jonathan. The EFCC had filed an application before Justice Mojisola Olatoregun for the forfeiture of the sums of money domiciled in Skye Bank Plc and Eco-Bank Plc respectively. Following an ex-parte application by the EFCC, Justice Olatoregun had, on April 26, 2017, ordered temporary forfeiture of the money.

Dissatisfied with the order of the lower court, Patience Jonathan alongside other respondents first approached the Court of Appeal and subsequently the Supreme Court to reverse the order. However, both the appellate court and the apex court affirmed the forfeiture order of Justice Olatoregun.

At the resumed hearing on the matter, counsels to Patience Jonathan and the companies urged the court to adjourn the case on the premise that it was starting afresh which will require a new application. EFCC's counsel opposed the application. In a bench ruling, Justice Ringim held that the proceeding was a special one that cannot be truncated by any application and that the court will adjourn for hearing of the motion for the pending final forfeiture. The judge also held that the second respondent should file an application to be

heard alongside the motion for final forfeiture. Further proceeding on the matter which was adjourned to October 7, 2021 is however still pending in court.



Case 57: Prof. Magaji Garba **N260 Million Fraud Trial**

On January 28, 2021, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) detained the Vice Chancellor of Federal University, Gusau, Zamfara State, Prof. Magaji Garba who had been accused of abuse of office, corrupt practices and contract scam. The Vice Chancellor allegedly connived with some officials of the University to execute the failed perimeter fencing contract worth N3 billion. Two of the contractors were said to have paid Prof. Magaji Garba kickbacks in anticipation of the award of the contract.

Prof. Magaji Garba was also alleged to have fraudulently obtained the sum of Two hundred and Sixty Million Naira (N260,000,000) from a contractor on the pretext that the University was going to award a contract worth N3 billion for the construction of perimeter fence around the institution which never materialized in 2018 prompting the victim to petition the EFCC.

Subsequently, on October 12, 2021, Prof. Magaji Garba was arraigned before Justice Maryam Hassan-Aliyu of the Federal High Court in Abuja on 5-count of fraud including obtaining money by false pretense and forgery to the tune of N260 million. Prof. Magaji Garba pleaded not guilty to all the charges. Justice Aliyu adjourned the matter until October 14, 2021 for further hearing of the application while the defendant was remanded in the custody of Nigerian Correctional Service. The defendants was granted bail and trial commenced. The case was adjourned to December 14, 2021.



Case 58: Loko Tersoo Joseph **& Others** **N500 Million Fraud Trial**

The EFCC on June 29, 2021 arraigned the Chairman of Benue State Independent Electoral Commission (BSIEC), Dr. Loko Tersoo Joseph, including eight other members of the Commission over financial fraud of N500 million at

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the Federal High Court, Makurdi. Dr. Loko Tersoo and the co-accused was arraigned on a 23-count charge of conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, misappropriation, forgery and money laundering. All the defendants pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to them. Prosecution counsel asked for a trial date and also requested that the defendants be remanded in a correctional facility. Counsel to the defendants made an oral application asking the court to admit the defendants to bail on self-recognisance or, in the alternative, grant them bail on liberal ground. Justice Abdu Dogo therefore granted the defendants bail in the sum of N10 million each with one surety in like sum. The Case was adjourned till September 28, 2021 for commencement of trial and further adjourned to March 4, 2022.



Case 59: Adamu Mustapha Danze
N10 Million Bribe

The ICPC on 22, November 2021, arraigned the Chairman of Gwagwalada Area Council, Adamu Mustapha Danze, for allegedly receiving N10 million kickback from one Engineer Aremu Omotosho, a contractor handling construction in his Area Council. Adamu Danze was arraigned before Justice U.P. Kekemeke of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) on allegations bordering on abuse of office and gratification. The Local Council boss was alleged to have committed the offence in March 2018, when he directed the contractor to transfer the money to his lawyer handling his election tribunal case. Adamu Danze was admitted to bail in the sum of N20million and a surety in like sum while the case was adjourned until March 1, 2022 for trial.



Case 60: Abiodun Waheed Hassan
N26 Billion PHCN Pension Fraud

An Insurance broker Abiodun Waheed Hassan, was arraigned on February 25, 2021, alongside his firm Bestworth Insurance Brokers Ltd on a 5-count charge bordering on criminal breach of trust and misappropriation of over N26 billion pension fund. Hassan was arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) before Justice S.C. Orji, of the Federal Capital Territory High Court, Abuja. It was alleged that Abiodun Hassan diverted the funds meant for the payment of outstanding insurance premiums and

claims of deceased and incapacitated staff of the defunct PHCN into private accounts. The accused person pleaded not guilty to the charges. The case was adjourned till March 4, 2021 for hearing on bail application while the court ordered the defendant to be remanded in EFCC custody. On the March 4, 2021, the defendant was granted bail in the sum of N300m bail and three sureties. The case was adjourned to May 13, 2021 for trial. The case is however still pending before the court as at the time of compiling this report.



Case 61: Bello Haliru, Son & others
N300 Million Arms Funds Diversion

Former Peoples Democratic Party, National Chairman, Haliru Mohammed, was on Tuesday, January 6, 2016, arraigned before a Federal High Court in Abuja, on a 4-count criminal charge alongside his son, Bello Abba and two of his companies for their involvement in the \$2 billion arms deal.

The former PDP chairman who is being prosecuted along with his son, for their role in the alleged diversion of funds amounting to N300m meant for procurement of arms by the office of the National Security Adviser (NSA) arrived the court premises in a wheelchair. When the charge was read to them, they pleaded not guilty. Their bail application was moved but the court adjourned ruling on the bail application to the next day and ordered Bello Haliru to be in the care of the Inspector General of Police since he was to go back to the hospital while his son should be remanded in Kuje Prison. At the resumed hearing, the Court granted bail and adjourn to February 17 and 23, 2016 for commencement of trial.

On February 17, 2016, the prosecution opened its case by presenting its first witness who gave evidence in the trial. On March 24, 2016, the Defense Counsel brought an application seeking for the Court's permission for Bello to travel abroad for medical check-up. The application not opposed by EFCC Counsel; Rotimi Jacobs, SAN, the Court granted Defense request and adjourned the case. At the resumed trial on April 10, 2018, the Defense Counsel again requested permission for Bello to travel abroad for medical check-up which was not objected to by the prosecution counsel and was granted by the court. Since the grant of travel request by the Court, the Bello had refused to show for the trial.

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At the resumed hearing on October 31, 2018, Defense Counsel informed the Court that the Defendants are yet to return from the medical trip. Request for a bench warrant was rejected by the Court as the Court noted that the Defendant had never defaulted in his appearance and the court was also in receipt of a medical report that confirmed why the defendant was not available for the proceeding. The Court adjourned to December 13, 2018, for continuation of trial. The prosecution of this case has been dragging due to the health of the Bello. As at the time of compiling this compendium, the case is still ongoing.



Case 62: Otunba Gbenga Daniel
N211.3 Million Fraud Trial

The former Governor of Ogun State, Otunba Gbenga Daniel has been re-arraigned by the EFCC on a 38-count charge bordering on misappropriation of funds to the tune of N211.3 million for which he pleaded not guilty. At the resumed hearing in May 2019, Justice Olanrewaju Mabekoje of the Ogun State High Court dismissed the no-case submission filed by Gbenga Daniel and ordered him to enter his defense in respect of 18-count charge while discharging the remaining 14 counts slammed against him.

Instead of entering his defense, Gbenga Daniel appealed the no-case submission at the Court of Appeal. After adoption of all briefs of argument, the Court of Appeal has fixed April 12, 2022 for judgment.

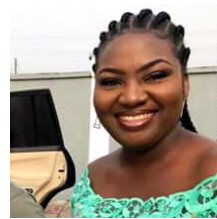


Case 63: Prof. Maurice Iwu
N1.23 Billion Fraud Trial

A former Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Maurice Iwu is facing a three-count charge bordering on fraud and money laundering before the Federal High Court in Lagos State. Between December 2014 and March 27, 2015, Prof. Iwu allegedly aided the concealment of the money in the account of Bio-Resources Institute of Nigeria Ltd domiciled in the United Bank for Africa (UBA).

The EFCC said Iwu ought to have known that the N1.2 billion formed part of the proceeds of an unlawful act and was consequently first arraigned on August 8, 2019, before Justice Chuka Obiozor, who granted him

bail in the sum of N1 billion. Following the transfer of the case to Justice Nicholas Oweibo, Prof. Iwu was re-arraigned by the EFCC on October 24, 2019, on a four-count charge of money laundering. Iwu had urged the court to transfer the case to Abuja due to 'old age'. Justice Nicholas Oweibo on March 6, 2020 however dismissed his application. Further hearing on the case is still ongoing as at the time of filling this report.



Case 64: Jennifer Timinipre Turnah
N2.9 Billion Fraud Trial

On March 2020, a Federal High Court sitting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, dismissed the application by Jennifer Timinipre Turnah, wife of George Turnah (who is also standing trial alongside his wife for concealing information from the EFCC about their company while filing their asset declaration forms) and former Special Adviser to Mr. Dan Abia, erstwhile Managing Director of Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, challenged the admissibility of the statement she had volunteered to EFCC.

Turner, two others and nine companies are also facing trial bordering on obtaining money by false pretense, money laundering to the tune of N2.9 billion and abuse of office.

Efforts by the EFCC's lawyer to tender evidence extracted from Jennifer on February 27, was opposed by the defense lawyer, Prof. Amuda-Kannike (SAN), 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".

Justice Mohammed similarly dismissed the application by the lawyer to the 9th defendant, Concerned Niger Delta Youth Initiative, Prof Kannike, 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. Jennifer testified that when EFCC gave her the Asset Declaration Form to fill, she did not have the necessary information available at her disposal to enable her fill the form accurately.

Justice Mohammed adjourned the case and hearing continues.

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Case 65: Dr. Olufemi Martins Thomas and Kabiru Sidi \$2.2 Million Fraud Trial

Justice Ayokunle Faji of the Federal High Court in Lagos, has ordered Dr. Olufemi Thomas who is standing trial on the alleged fraud of N2.2 billion to enter his defense. In his preliminary ruling on January, 20 2021, Justice Faji ordered Dr. Femi Thomas to testify.

On January 14, 2021, Femi Thomas' counsel sought to open his defense by calling a witness other than the respondents. The prosecutor objected prompting defense counsel to apply for time to respond to the submission of the prosecutor. The matter was adjourned to February 11 and 12, 2021.

Dr. Olufemi Thomas was a former Executive Secretary, National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and former two-term Commissioner for Health in Ekiti State. He is standing trial for alleged money laundering to the tune of \$2,198,900 alongside Kabiru Sidi, a Bureau De Change operator on an amended 7-count charge bordering on money laundering brought against them by the EFCC.

The accused were alleged to have conspired with the wife of the first defendant, Funmi Thomas, to make a cash payment of \$2,198,900 to one Ibitoye Bamidele at their residence in Lagos. Sidi was alleged to have lied to an EFCC investigator that he was the owner of the money that Femi Thomas and his wife transacted with.

Justice Ayokunle Faji on March 13, 2020 dismissed the no-case submission filed by Dr. Thomas contending 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.

Since the no-case submission by Femi Thomas was dismissed by the court, he has been absent in court on subsequent adjourned dates.

The Court after listening to submissions of parties, Justice Faji warned the defendant not to take the court for granted. The Court thereafter ordered the prosecutor to serve the defendant with a Court summon and adjourned further hearing to December 3, 2021.



Case 66: Fatimah Yusuf & two Others N100 Million Fraud Trial

The Ilorin Zonal Office of the EFCC is prosecuting Hajia Fatima Yusuf, the immediate past Chairperson of Kwara State Scholarship Board alongside Fatai Lamidi, former Executive Secretary of the Board and the Accountant, Ajewole Stephen. Hajia Fatima Yusuf and co-accused were arraigned on a 7-count charge bordering on stealing, fraudulent conversion of government's fund and forgery before Justice Sikiru Oyinloye of the Kwara State High Court, Ilorin on January 15, 2020. While Hajia Yusuf is listed as first defendant, Lamidi and Stephen appeared as 2nd and 3rd defendants, respectively on the charge sheet.

The three accused persons allegedly diverted State's funds to the tune of N100million meant for payment of 2018 bursary allowances to students of Kwara State origin in various tertiary institutions. Counsel to the EFCC, O. B Akinsola, had while announcing her appearance told the court that her witnesses were in court, adding that the prosecution was ready to proceed with the case.

Notwithstanding, the trial of Hajia Fatima Yusuf and two others could not continue at the last adjourned date. Though, all parties in the case were present in court, the counsel to Hajia Yusuf, Y. O Ahmed was absent without any formal notice or explanations. Saka Isau (SAN) and Adewale Olatunde announced their appearances for the 2nd and 3rd defendants.

Following the absence of counsel to the first defendant, Akinsola told the Court that it would be in the interest of fair hearing to seek an adjournment for the defendant to be present in court with her counsel to which the two other defense counsel agreed. In the circumstance, the court adjourned to January 26, 2021 for continuation of hearing. The case is still ongoing as at the time of compiling this report.



Case 67: Sanda Jonathan Lamurde N379 Million Fraud Trial

A former Commissioner of Finance in Adamawa State who also served as Chairman, Adamawa State

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Committee on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Welfare between 2014 and 2015, Sanda Jonathan Lamurde is standing trial before Hon. Justice Nathan Musa of the Federal High Court Yola in Adamawa State on a 21-count charge bordering on criminal breach of trust and forgery.

The EFCC arraigned Lamurde on March 24, 2020 for diverting about Three Hundred and Seventy Nine Million Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N379,500,000) meant for the purchase of food items for the IDPs in Adamawa State. The accused 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. Sanda Jonathan Lamurde pleaded "not guilty" to the charges. While adjourning the matter until April 16, 2020 for commencement of trial, Justice Nathan Musa granted bail to the defendant in the sum of N20 million and one surety in like sum. The case is still ongoing as at the time of compiling this report.



Case 68: Stephen Oshinowo
N127 Million Scholarship Fraud

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on July 2, 2020 arraigned a former Executive Secretary, Lagos State Scholarship Board, Stephen Oshinowo before Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo of the Special Offences Court in Ikeja, Lagos State for alleged N127m fraud.

The accused was arraigned on an amended 8-count charge bordering on criminal conversion to the tune of One Hundred and Twenty-Seven Million Naira only (N127,000,000). Investigation revealed that Oshinowo at various times, allegedly diverted the sum of N127,164,066 meant for the Scholarship Board, staff welfare and office renovation for his personal use. It was discovered that he sent part of the funds to his wife, paid for flight trips, engaged in shopping and kept funds in a fixed deposit account. He pleaded not guilty to the charges when they were read to him.

Prosecuting counsel, Usman Buhari, asked the court for a trial date and also prayed that the accused be remanded. However, Defense Counsel, Lawal Pedro, (SAN) prayed the court for a short adjournment to hear the bail application of his client which was eventually granted. At the resumption of trial on April 1, 2021, the accused led in evidence by Defense Counsel stated that

his statement admitting to the fraud was obtained by coercion while in EFCC detention.

On August 4, 2021, Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo admitted the statements of the defendant made to the EFCC in 2019, and adjourned the case till October 8, 2021, for the continuation of trial. The case is still ongoing as at the time of compiling this report.



Case 69: Samuel Saleh and Philomena Chieshe
N35 Million Fraud

The former Benue Zonal Coordinator of the Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board, JAMB, Samuel Saleh Umoru, and a former clerical officer with JAMB in Benue State, Philomena Chieshe, are standing trial before Justice Peter Affen of the FCT High Court sitting in Abuja- for allegedly diverting the sum of N35,480,000.00 million belonging to the examination body.

The EFCC arraigned Samuel Saleh Umoru in May 2019, shortly after Chieshe made an outlandish claim that the N35 million cash realized from the sale of e-JAMB cards kept in her custody was swallowed by a mysterious snake. They were arraigned on eight counts bordering on refusal to account for the board's money before the abolition of scratch cards.

At the resumed hearing of the case on 17 March, 2020, Stanley Ani, an investigator with the EFCC told the court that Samuel Umoru, at various times, instructed Chieshe to pay some money into his account as a loan.

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 Zonal coordinator, Samuel 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 N29,034,253.72 inflow that her Zenith Bank account received between January 2014 and February 2017, only N2,094,433.72 were legitimate earnings that came in from JAMB in terms of salary, allowances and dividends from the cooperative society.

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Ani then said a total of 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 N1,768,480.00 million were paid into the account by various agents who sold the JAMB e-facility cards on her behalf. She further revealed that there were no transfers made to JAMB's revenue account as remittance; instead almost all the money withdrawn was through ATM. Justice Peter Affen adjourned the matter till June 1, 2020 for continuation of trial. No further update from the court or EFCC on the matter since the last adjourned date.



Case 70: Sule Lamido **N1.35 Billion Fraud Trial**

Sule Lamido, the former Governor of Jigawa State from 2007 to 2015 and his two sons were arrested by the EFCC in 2015 over allegations of money laundering and corruption. On October 24, 2018, the EFCC re-arraigned the trio at a Federal High Court in Abuja on an amended 43-count charge for allegedly defrauding Jigawa State of N1.35 billion. According to the EFCC, the defendants used their companies to receive several payments alleged to be kickbacks from contractors. The contracts were said to be masked as sub-contracts which were awarded during Lamido's tenure as governor. Lamido was equally alleged to have collected kickbacks from contractors engaged by Jigawa State with the funds allegedly paid into accounts that were managed by his sons.

The trial resumed on February 5, 2020 and February 20, 2020 at the Abuja division of the Federal High Court presided over by Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu. More evidence was tendered as the trial resumed on March 18, 2021. Micheal Wetkas, a witness of the EFCC narrated how investigations began in 2013 and how the Commission's investigation and forensic team discovered that huge sums of money had been paid into Dantata and Sawoe Construction Company's accounts in Intercontinental Bank (now Access Bank), Zenith and Sterling banks from the Jigawa State treasury which were linked to the defendants. Wetkas also gave an account of how certain large sums of money allegedly ended up in Lamido's private account while others were transferred in favour of a company, Speeds International in which Lamido was a signatory.

Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu, the presiding Judge adjourned the matter till May 19 and 20, 2021 for cross examination of the witness. The case is still ongoing as at the time of compiling this report.



Case 71: Shamsudeen Bala Mohammed **N1.1 Billion Fraud Trial**

Shamsudeen Bala Mohammed, son of Bala Mohammed the Governor of Bauchi State was on May 30, 2017 re-arraigned by the EFCC on a 15-count charge for money laundering. The defendant, who was initially docked before the Court on February 1, 2017 took a fresh plea before Justice Dimgba of the Federal High Court, Abuja. The defendant is facing trial alongside four firms which were used to launder over N1.1 billion.

EFCC alleged that the defendant in a bid to conceal stolen funds at his disposal resorted to acquisition of houses within the highbrow areas in Abuja. EFCC told the court that the defendant paid cash for five plots of land and four other choice properties in Abuja.

On February 21, 2021, the defendant told the court that he had no case to answer in the money laundering case. Justice Dimgba adjourned the matter till April 26, 2021 for the hearing of the no-case submission.

At the resumed hearing held on September 27, 2021, the defendant's counsel prayed the court to uphold the no-case submission on the ground that the prosecution had failed to establish a prima facie case against his client. Counsel to the other defendants also told the court that they had filed no-case submissions and prayed for the discontinuation of the case against their clients. Justice Nnamdi Dimgba adjourned the matter to 13th December 2021, to rule on the no-case submission.



Case 72: Emmanuela Eteta Ita **N145.8 Million Fraud Trial**

The former Head of Stakeholders Unit of the Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS), Emmanuela Eteta Ita and Surestart School Ltd are being prosecuted by the EFCC on a 25-count charge of corruption, fraud and criminal misappropriation of funds to the tune of One Hundred and Forty-Five Million, Eight Hundred

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and Nineteen Thousand Naira (N145,819,000). 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.

The first prosecution witness earlier testified before the court on July 23, 2020. EFCC presented additional two prosecution witnesses who confirmed Emmanuela Ita as the sole signatory of the Surestart School Ltd account. Hence, the account details and record of financial flow was among the exhibits tendered by prosecuting counsel. After the first hearing in the trial before Justice F.O.G. Ogunbajo of the Federal High Court, Abuja, the matter was adjourned till November, 2020 for continuation of trial.

At the resumed hearing, prosecution witnesses gave evidence in the trial and they were cross-examined by the defense counsel. Further hearing was adjourned to November 26, 2021.



Case 73: Erastus Akingbola
N179 Billion Fraud Trial

Erastus Akingbola, the former Managing Director of the defunct Intercontinental Bank Plc is standing trial over alleged N179bn fraud charges levelled against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The matter came up on the February 19, 2021, before Justice A.O. Faji of the Federal High Court, Abuja, with witness for the EFCC, Babatunde Aro, telling the court that Mr. Akungbola bypassed banking protocols to transfer \$11.8 million and £8.54 million offshore without recourse to the bank's standard procedures. Akingbola is being prosecuted by EFCC for an alleged N179 billion fraud committed when he was the Managing Director of defunct Intercontinental bank.

According to Babatunde Aro, the sum of £8.54 million was transferred on March 11, 2009, from the bank's Deutsche Bank Nostro account to a certain Messrs-Fugler Solicitors on the instruction of Dr. Erastus Akingbola. The instruction was not signed and at that time, his domiciliary account with the bank had \$19 and £10,000. The Visa Card account was also not funded at that time, so also the Naira account of Dr. Erastus Akingbola with the bank did not have the equivalent of £8.54million.”

The witness further told the court that the team of internal auditors found out that the bank's Nostro account with Deutsche Bank was debited to the tune of \$9.8million and a corresponding £7.1million was put in the bank's GBP Deutsche Bank Nostro Account. Babatunde Aro however added that there was no deduction of charges from Akingbola's account which is deemed contrary to the normal procedures for such deduction. The case which was adjourned to March 1, 2021 is however still pending before the court as at the time of filling this report.



Case 74: Raymond Dokpesi
N2.1 Billion Fraud Trial

On July 13, 2021, Mr Raymond Dokpesi asked the Federal High Court, Abuja to make an order to unfreeze his accounts and release his documents in the custody of the court on the grounds that the court order freezing his accounts that were connected to the money laundering charge levelled against him had been quashed by the Court of Appeal. However, the EFCC had on March 25, 2021, bemoaned the delay in the corruption trial of Raymond Dokpesi, founder of Daar Communications Plc.

Dokpesi is being prosecuted in the court presided over by Justice John Tsohoz for the diversion of N2.1 billion received from the office of former National Security Adviser, Sambo Dasuki. At the resumed trial, proceedings were again stalled after defense counsel asked for an adjournment on the ground that the principal witness was currently on admission in the hospital thus making the defense to continue with evidence. In response, prosecuting counsel Rotimi Jacobs (SAN) called the court's attention to what he called deliberate tricks by the defense to delay the trial. He reminded the court that the prosecution filed the application being decided upon in February 2016 after which 14 witnesses had been called to testify. The Prosecuting Counsel said the defendant did not open his defense until January 21, 2020, after his no-case submission was rejected by the court.

Justice John Tsoho acknowledged the concern of the prosecution and asked the defense to conclude the testimony of the first defendant on the next adjourned date before making excuses for a witness who is yet to appear. He adjourned the trial till May 24 and 25, 2021. After Dokpesi requested the Court to unfreeze his accounts and release his documents on July 13, 2021, Justice John Tsoho adjourned the matter to July 19,

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2021 for hearing. On 19th July 2021, EFCC had approached the Supreme Court to appeal the judgment of the Court of Appeal granted in favour of Raymond Dokpesi which cleared him of all charges on April 1, 2021.

The Abuja Division of the Court of Appeal discharged and acquitted Dokpesi over the alleged N2.1 billion fraud case being part of the controversial funds released by the Office of the National Security Adviser between October 2014 and March 2015, under Sambo Dasuki.



Case 75: Ibrahim Abdulsalam N2.8 Billion Fraud Trial

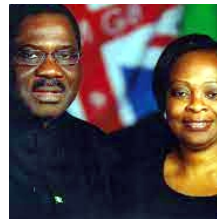
In the ongoing trial of former employees of Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) over N6.8 billion fraud, the first prosecution witness for the EFCC narrated to the Court how funds belonging to NAMA were allegedly converted by some officials of the agency. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) had charged former Managing Director of NAMA, Engr. Ibrahim Abdulsalam alongside a former General Manager of Procurement, Olumuyiwa Adegorite; former General Manager of Finance, Segun Agbolade; former acting General Manager of ICT, Bolaniran Akinribido; Sesebor Abiodun and Joy Adegorite. Also charged are two limited liability companies, Randville Investment Limited and Multeng Travels & Tours Limited. The accused are being prosecuted on a 21-count charge of N6.8 billion fraud.

The EFCC alleged that all the defendants including Nnamdi Udoh (still-at-large) conspired 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. The defendants were also alleged to have engaged in forgery and conversion of various sums of money belonging to the agency for personal use.

Nurudeen Bello, an investigator with the EFCC narrated how Ibrahim Abdulsalam and others allegedly defrauded the agency to the tune of N2.8bn. Appearing before Justice Babs Kuewumi of the Federal High Court in Ikoyi, Lagos in 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 analyzed while letters were subsequently written to various relevant banks to furnish EFCC with all account statements of NAMA. At the resumed trial, Nurudeen 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.

However, commencement of the trial before the court suffered setback ranging from the trial Judge's absence and amendments to charges to include three more accused persons who were later re-arraigned. At the continuation of the trial, other witnesses were called and upon conclusion of the testimonies, the presiding Judge admitted the documents that were presented by the prosecutor. The case is still ongoing and has been adjourned to March (no specific date) 2022 for further trial.



Case 76: Dr. Reuben Olu Obaro & Mrs. Ayodele Obaro N233.6 Million Fraud Trial

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) charged a United Kingdom-based Professor of Neurology, Reuben Obaro and his wife, Mrs. Ayodele Obaro, a practicing nurse in the UK to court for allegedly misappropriating N233.6m belonging to the Federal Government.

The ICPC had on May 28, 2018, arraigned the couple for misappropriation of N186 million out of the sum of N450 million seed grant given to them by the Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme (Sure-P) in support of a hospital project.

The anti-graft agency called five witnesses and tendered several documents and closed its case prompting the defendants to file a no-case submission. Justice A. O. Ebong on February 4, 2021, while delivering his ruling on the no-case submission, agreed with Obaro's counsel, Mr J. N. Egwuonwu that the 8-count charge was unfounded and could not be established against the defendants as required by law. The judge further held that the ICPC failed to prove the ingredients of conspiracy, misappropriation and false information levelled against the two medical personnel

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beyond reasonable doubt.

The judge contended that the hospital was an artificial body that had no mind of its own and as such could not conspire with a human being to commit fraud. The court in addition noted that the ICPC as well as its witnesses failed to tender documents to establish concrete allegations. Justice A.O. Ebong consequently dismissed the fraud charges against the couple.



Case 77: Gbadegun Isaiah Abiodun & two Others **N177.3 Million Fraud Trial**

On August 1, 2018, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) arraigned three staff of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) over N177.3 million fraud based on a 5-count charge bordering on conspiracy and money laundering.

The staff Gbadegun Isaiah Abiodun, Oladipo Oladapo and Afolabi Peter Albert were with the Osun State INEC when they received the sum in cash from former Minister of Petroleum, Diezani Allison-Madueke. The sum was reportedly received a day before the 2015 elections without disbursing the money through a financial institution. The defendants pleaded not guilty to the charge. Justice Chuka Obiozor adjourned the case for the hearing of the bail application while ordering that the defendants be remanded in Ikoyi prison.

On August 18, 2018, the three INEC officials were granted bail in the sum of N100 million with one surety each in like sum. According to the Judge, a defendant is presumed innocent until the contrary is proven in court and where the prosecution has not provided any evidence to show that the defendants jumped bail while they were on administrative bail, the court will not deny bail. The case is still ongoing as at the time of compiling this report.



Case 78: Jumoke Akinjide **N650 Million Money Laundering Case**

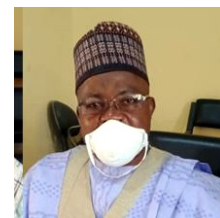
A former Minister of State for the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Ms. Jumoke Akinjide and two other chieftains of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP), Senator Ayo Adeseun and Olanrewaju Otiti, are standing trial on an

amended 24-count charge bordering on money laundering to the tune of N650 million brought against them by the EFCC. The money was said to be part of the \$115 million allegedly shared by a former Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke; allegedly to influence the outcome of 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. It should be noted that 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 Chukwujekwu Aneke's court. At the resumed hearing on January 18, 2021, the prosecutor informed the court of some motions filed by the defense counsel to which he would need time to respond to them.

At the resumed hearing of the matter sometime in March 2021, Justice Aneke of the Federal High Court struck out the charge for being incompetent. After hearing the application, the Court ruled that the charge was vague and defective as it did not specifically mention where the offences were allegedly committed.



Case 79: Jedua Ahmed Dawud & three Others **N104.2 Million Fraud Trial**

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 6-count charge bordering on conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, forgery and stealing.

The accused persons were first arraigned on July 6, 2020 by the Gombe Zonal Office of the EFCC. The suspects were alleged to have stolen a total of One Hundred and Four Million, Two Hundred Thousand Naira (N104,200,000) from the coffers of Sardauna Local Government Area 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

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of Sardauna and Kurmi Local Government Areas, respectively.

According to EFCC, the offences committed run contrary to Sections 96, 315 and 366 of the Penal Code of Taraba State and punishable under Section 315 of the same law. The accused persons pleaded not guilty to the charges, upon which the 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 who must either be a Taraba State House of Assembly member, Commissioner in the State Executive Council or Permanent Secretary. The trial Judge adjourned the case July 29 and 30 2020, for commencement of trial. The case is still ongoing as at the time of compiling this report.



Case 80: Kabiru Tanimu Turaki, SAN
N714. 6 Million Fraud Trial

Former Minister of Special Duties and Intergovernmental Affairs, Kabiru Tanimu Turaki (SAN) was arraigned on a 16-count charge at the Federal High Court, Abuja presided over before Justice Inyang Ekwo for alleged Seven Hundred and Fourteen Million, Six Hundred and Seventy Thousand, Fourteen Naira and Eighty-Seven Kobo (N714,670,014.87) fraud by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on May 4, 2020. According to EFCC, the funds was earmarked for sensitization of Muslim youths were allegedly diverted to the account of the first defendant's wife. Also arraigned with the former minister were his Special Assistant, Sampson Okpetu and two companies: Samtee Essentials Limited and Pasco Investment Limited.

Turaki who was also the chairman, Presidential Committee on Dialogue and Peaceful Resolution of Security Challenges in the North pleaded not guilty and was consequently granted bail. At the resumed trial in January 2021, account statement, transactions opening package and cash inflows made into the defendants' accounts were tendered and admitted in evidence.

At the conclusion of the prosecution's case, the defense counsel filed a "No case submission". The hearing of the "No case submission" has been adjourned to the March 28, 2022 for hearing.



Case 81: Air Marshall Mohammed Dikko Umar (rtd)
N9.7Billion Fraud Trial

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on May 11, 2016, arraigned a former Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshall Mohammed Dikko Umar (rtd) before Justice Binta Nyako of the Federal High Court, Abuja on a 7-count charge bordering on money laundering, criminal breach of trust and corruption to the tune of about N9.7 billion. EFCC alleged that the defendant while in office as the Air Force Chief, illegally withdrew the money from the Air Force account and used same for choice properties within Abuja and Kano. The accused person however pleaded not guilty to all the charges when they were read to him.

At the resumed hearing February 5, 2019, Justice Nnamdi Dimgba who presided over the trial drew attention of the prosecution to the fact that he was recently transferred out of Abuja. On February 23, 2021, the defendant was discharged and acquitted on 6 out of the 7-count money laundering charge.

The Court, in a ruling was delivered by Justice Nnamdi Dimgba said it found merit in a no-case submission the defendant filed and held that a holistic review of the totality of evidence before the court showed that the EFCC failed to establish a prima facie case that would warrant the defendant to be called upon to enter his defense for 6 out of the 7-count charge. According to Justice Dimgba, the allegations in counts 1-6 of the charge were based on speculation, suspicion and assumptions.

The judge however contended that the defendant has a case to answer with respect to the seventh count of the charge which bothers on transfer of the sum of N66 million from the Air Force account into his lawyer's account to renovate his property in Abuja around March 2012.

The Court also directed the defendant to open his defense in relation to the seventh count. On September 27, 2021, the defendant gave evidence and Justice Dimgba thereafter adjourned the matter till September 30, 2021 for continuation of trial.

At the resumed hearing of the trial, both parties adopted their respective final written address and the court adjourned to March 17th, 2022 for judgment.

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Case 82: Dr. Saadu Alanamu N182 Million Fraud and N5 Million Bribery Case

The Supreme Court on the June 18, 2021, affirmed the 12-year jail term handed down by Kwara State High Court to Dr. Saadu Alanamu, a former Chairman of the Governing Council of the Kwara State Polytechnic. Dr. Saadu Alanamu, prior to his conviction by the lower Court, was nominated in 2017 into the Board of ICPC before he was dropped following allegations of corruption. On October 2 2017, Dr. Saadu Alanamu was arraigned by the ICPC on allegations of receiving Five Million Naira (N5,000,000) from a contractor in February, 2015 as kickback for the award of contracts in the Polytechnic. He is also alleged to have awarded a contract for the construction and furnishing of an auditorium in Kwara State Polytechnic at the cost of N182 Million to the company of his crony who was not qualified to execute the project.

Dr. Saadu Alanamu was found guilty by Justice Mahmud Abdulgafar who sentenced him to 12 years imprisonment. Dissatisfied with the ruling, Dr. Alanamu approached the Court of Appeal; hoping to quash the judgement of the trial Court. However, the appellate court upheld the judgment of the lower court and dismissed Alanamu's appeal for lack of merit. Still dissatisfied with the judgment of the Court of Appeal, Alanamu approached the Supreme Court which delivered its judgment on June 18th 2021 and struck out all the grounds of appeal as incompetent, misconceived and lacking in merit and accordingly affirmed the 12 years conviction and the sentences handed down to him by the trial Court.



Case 83: Ramon Abbas Igbalode (Alias Hushpuppi) N168 Billion Internet Fraud Trial

A Nigerian Instagram celebrity, Ramon Abbas Igbalode also known as Hushpuppi pleaded guilty for fraud charges at United States District Court in California and risks 20 years in prison. Hushpuppi is alleged to be the leader of a mafia facilitating intrusion, business email compromise fraud and money laundering. FBI says Hushpuppi target victims; majorly in the U.S. who have been duped hundreds of millions of dollars. He was arrested alongside dozens of his co-conspirators following an

overnight raid of his apartments in Dubai on June 10, 2020. The Emirati police and prosecutors said about N16 billion worth of cash was found with him out of an estimated N168 billion online scams linked to the syndicate.

Following an initial tussle over his custody between Nigeria and the U.S., Mr. Ramon Abbas was ultimately handed over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (F.B.I.) on the July 2, 2020. He arrived in the U.S. on July 3, 2020 and made an initial court appearance in Chicago.

Court hearings have since commenced in the trial of Mr. Ramon Abbas who is to be moved from Chicago to Los Angeles to face trial following his indictment on June 25, 2020 and a warrant issued for his arrest.

Meanwhile, the EFCC has stated that Hushpuppi has considerable cases of cybercrimes to answer in Nigeria. The Commission is currently engaging with the FBI in tracing victims of his fraudulent transactions, networks and other fraudsters directly or indirectly linked to him.



Case 84: Abayomi Kukoyi & three Others €2.556 Billion Fraud Trial

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on January 27, 2021 re-arraigned four directors of an oil firm; Petro Union and Gas Limited, on a 13-count charge of alleged \$2.6 billion fraud, approximately (N1.4 trillion), at a Federal High Court in Lagos presided over by Justice Mohammed Liman.

The four directors, Abayomi Kukoyi (trading under the name and style of Gladstone Kukoyi & Associates); Kingsley Okpala, Chidi Okpalaeze and Emmanuel Okpalaeze were earlier on February 13, 2020, arraigned by EFCC on a 7-count charge bordering on conspiracy, false presence, attempt to steal and forgery. The accused persons are alleged to have forged a Barclay Bank's cheque and attempting to use it to obtain €2.556 billion pounds from the CBN. They are also accused of forging a CBN statement of account purporting to be that of Goldmatic Ltd with which they tried to prove there was actual transaction.

The trial of the defendants promptly commenced following their no-guilty-plea to the amended charge. Eight witnesses, including Senator Nenadi Usman,

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former finance minister have testified against the defendants. At the resumed hearing of the case on February 3, 2021, the court admitted more evidence tendered by EFCC. The case was thereafter adjourned till March 10, 2021, for continuation of trial. The case came up at the adjourned date wherein the prosecution gave more evidence. The case was further adjourned to March 16, 2022, for the prosecution to continue.



Case 86: Stella Oduah N9 Billion Fraud Trial

Stella Oduah, a former Minister of Aviation from 2012 to 2014 and two-term Senator currently representing

Anambra North Senatorial District is facing trial for diverting N3.9 billion out of N9.4 billion meant for the installation of security devices in 22 airports. Mrs. Stella Oduah is alleged to have connived with some bank officials to divert the fund to procure equipment, a newspaper printing press, six dredgers and a quarry.

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 however consistently denied all allegations. Following EFCC's request and investigations, the court had on October 18, 2019 made an interim order of forfeiture of some assets of the serving 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 EFCC had linked to corruption investigations involving Stella Oduah.

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 Court also struck out EFCC's affidavit in support of the forfeiture order on the grounds that it was filed out of time without first seeking the court's leave for an extension of time to file. The EFCC expressed dissatisfaction with the ruling and promised to file an appeal against it accordingly.

On February 8 and 22, 2021, the scheduled arraignment of Stella Oduah alongside seven other accused persons charged was stalled due to non-service of the charges on the defendants. The matter was adjourned to April 19, 2021 for arraignment.

On July 12, 2021, Justice Inyang Ekwo threatened to issue arrest warrant against Stella Oduah and eight others named in the charge should they fail to attend court on the next date. The judge fixed October 19 for arraignment but the case could not go ahead as that day fell on Eid-el Maulud holiday. Consequently, the case was adjourned to November 22, 2021 for arraignment.



Case 85: Peter Hena and Others N4.5 Billion Fraud

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on April 25, 2019, arrested the former Coordinating Director, Support Service Group of FIRS, Peter Hena for an alleged N2.1 billion scam. Nine officials of the revenue agency were also interrogated by the EFCC in relation to the matter. The arrest and detention of Mr. Peter Hena was triggered by a petition written by an insider within the FIRS.

The EFCC arraigned the defendants on the March 11, 2021 before Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu of the Federal High Court Abuja who granted bail to the defendants.

On June 23, 2021, EFCC re-arraigned Peter Hena and eight other officers of the agency before Justice Toyin Bolaji Adegoke of the Federal High Court, Abuja. The other defendants are Mohammed Bello Atta, Amina Sidi, Umar Aliyu Aduka, Obi Okeke Malachy, Obaje Napoleon Adofu, Udo-Inyang Alfred and Benjamin Jiya. Their re-arraignment followed the transfer of the former trial Judge, Ijeoma Ojukwu.

The defendants were docked on a 42-count charge bordering on corruption, fraud and criminal misappropriation of funds to the tune of N4.5 billion. The defendants all being staff of the FIRS between January 2017 and December 2018 conspired to conceal funds which are proceeds of unlawful activities to wit: Corruption, fraud and criminal misappropriation of funds.

The defendants however pleaded “not guilty” to the charges. Justice Toyin Bolaji Adegoke however granted the defendants bail and fixed September 28, 2021, for commencement of trial. On the said date after hearing, the case was further adjourned to May 12, 2022, for continuation of trial.

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On the said date, defense Counsel, Ogwu Onoja SAN objected to the arraignment of the defendants on the ground that the aggrieved defendants had petitioned the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) Mr Abubakar Malami, SAN, seeking the review of the charges against them and the AGF had written to the EFCC Chairman directing the EFCC to remit the case file to the AGF office for review. EFCC disagreed with the objection but the Court ordered parties to file written addresses for and against the objection raised and adjourned the case to February 10, 2022 for adoption.



**Case 87: Bashir Yuguda
and Others**
N19.4 Billion Fraud Trial

Bashir Yuguda, a former Ambassador and a former Minister of Finance was arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over corruption connected with the office of the National Security Adviser (NSA), Colonel Sabo Dasuki. An FCT High Court in Abuja fixed December 11, 2019 to hear a Motion on Notice filed by the EFCC in the corruption trial of the former NSA and Bashir Yuguda. They were accused of misappropriating N19.4 billion arms funds.

The EFCC 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). A 25-count charge bordering on criminal breach of trust and misappropriation of public funds to the tune N19.4 billion was preferred against them.

During the court session held in December, 2020, EFCC lawyer, Oluwaleke Atolagbe, told the court of the readiness of the anti-graft agency to call witnesses. Subsequent trial of the case was stalled due to the absence of presiding judge. In spite of the ongoing trial for corruption charges, Bashir Yuguda was appointed honorary special adviser to the Governor of Zamfara State, Dr. Bello Matawalle.

On March 13, 2020, the prosecution sought to tender a document through their first witness but all the counsels for the defendants objected. Again, during trial on February 24, 2021, the prosecuting counsel applied to withdraw the said document with counsel

for defendants objecting to the withdrawal of the document. Justice Husseini Baba-Yusuf of the FCT High Court, Abuja held that defendants' objection was misconceived because the prosecutor was within his right to withdraw the document. The case is still ongoing as at the time of compiling this report.



Case 88: Bassey Akpan
Non-Declaration of Assets
and N30 Billion Fraud Trial

Bassey Akpan, a former Commissioner of Finance and Senator representing Akwa-Ibom North-East is standing trial over non-declaration of assets and N30 billion fraud. On June 21, 2019, a Federal High Court in Abuja ruled that the detention of Bassey Akpan by the EFCC over allegations of misappropriation, abuse of office and money laundering involving about N30 billion was lawful and constitutional. Justice Okon Abang therefore ordered the Senator to pay the sum of N20,000 to EFCC as compensation for the cost of the suit.

In a recent development, a Federal High Court in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State ordered Senator Bassey Akpan to enter his defense against the N204 million fraud case against him by EFCC on account of his stewardship as Commissioner for Finance in Akwa Ibom State thereby rejecting his no-case submission.

The EFCC has levied a 6-count charge of alleged money laundering and for being in possession of six vehicles worth N204 million provided by one Olajide Omokore whose companies allegedly executed contracts for the Akwa Ibom State government.

The EFCC closed its case after calling several witnesses and tendering documents which were admitted in evidence. However, when the matter came up on March 8, 2021, the defendant rather than enter his defense, introduced two motions, one for a no-case submission and the other asking the Court to quash the charges against him.

Ruling on the applications, the Court presided over by Justice Agatha Okeke upheld the argument of the prosecution and dismissed the two applications as incompetent and ordered the defendant to enter his defense.

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Dissatisfied by the ruling, the defense initiated fresh process, seeking leave of the court to appeal the ruling of March 8. On March 22, 2021, the court subsequently granted the leave sought to appeal the ruling. The appeal on the dismissed applications is currently at the Court of appeal without hearing date at the time of compiling this report.



Case 89: Theodore Orji **N7.6 Billion Money Laundering**

A former Governor of Abia State, Senator Theodore Orji, on February 10, 2020, told the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) details of how he spent the N38.8 billion security votes during his eight years in office. Orji who oversaw the state between 2007 and 2015 is under investigation by the anti-graft commission for corruption. Operatives of EFCC yet again invited Orji and his son in continuation of the investigation on February 5, 2021. The former governor reportedly insisted 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), the local government security informants, and security agencies as part of what he described as statutory allocations.

The former governor reportedly told interrogators that he did not have a comprehensive list of all the beneficiaries of the said security vote because the Government House staff responsible for the disbursement of the cash was no more. Former Governor Orji said he did not ask for the list from Felix who he only issued directives to on how to disburse the security votes.

The EFCC however insisted that Orji collected N48 billion in eight years and that 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 and a written petition made by a group against him, EFCC said it is only following its procedure and that investigations do not always begin immediately with a petition.

In a related development, a Federal High Court in Abuja struck out the ex-parte application filed by a lawyer- Monday Ubani seeking to compel the EFCC to prosecute Orji and his son, Chinedum who is the speaker of the Abia State House of Assembly for allegedly embezzling Abia State funds. According to Ubani, failure to prosecute former governor Orji constitutes a serious defect in justice which can only be remedied if leave for order of mandamus is granted expeditiously. Justice I.E. Ekwo struck out the application on the grounds that exhibits placed before the court was of no probative value.



Case 90: George Ali & 3 Others **N792 Million Fraud Trial**

The EFCC, Makurdi zonal office arraigned Chairman of Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State, George Ali, and three other top council officials in the Benue State High Court on 11th June 2020, over an alleged fraud of N792,025,996.90. George Ali was arraigned alongside the Director-General and Administration, Mohammed Audu; Treasurer, John Ali, and Cashier, Morgan Ejoga, all of Otukpo LGA on a five-count charge bordering on conspiracy criminal breach of trust and abuse of office. The suspects however, pleaded not guilty to the charges. The Presiding Judge, M.A. Ikpambese granted the defendants bail in the sum of N2m each and adjourned the case till 23rd June, 2020 for the commencement of trial.



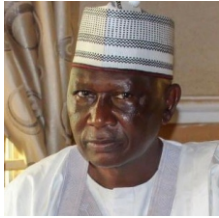
Case 91: Prof. Adewale **Musa-Olomu** **N24.6 Million Fraud Trial**

Prof. Adewale Musa-Olomu is the Chief Medical Director of the Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta. An action was instituted against him by a NGO; All Youths Reoriented Initiative of Nigeria at the Federal High Court, Abeokuta in a suit marked FHC/AB/CS/100/21.

The NGO had through an originating summons filed in August 31, 2021, sought an order restraining the Federal Ministry of Health from re-appointing Prof. Musa Olomu as the Medical Director over allegation of abuse of office, age falsification, mismanagement of funds, employment of his biological son and within a year of employment, granted his son study leave to an European country with pay. The matter is ongoing at the Court.

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HEDA Resource Centre had also petitioned the ICPC to diligently investigate the allegation and prosecute same accordingly.



Case 92: Yusuf Ibrahim Gokaru and Muhammed Lele
N258 Million Fraud Trial

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Gombe Zonal Office on April 7, 2021, secured the conviction of Yusuf Ibrahim Gokaru who was the first defendant in a N258 million fraud case.

Mr. Ibrahim Gokaru is a former Bauchi State Accountant General. Justice Muazu Abubakar of the Bauchi State High Court handed down the sentence following successful prosecution of corruption charges bordering on obtaining money by false pretense, money laundering and concealment of the source of the money.

The court concluded that the Accountant General abused his office by falsely obtaining the sum of N108,363,200.00 for his personal use.

The fund diverted by the Accountant General for personal use is from the World Bank assistance to Bauchi State Government under the programme of State Education Programme Investment Project (SEPIP).

The Accountant General and other defendants allegedly concealed the source of the money by transferring it from the Bauchi State Consolidated Naira Account domiciled at Polaris Bank to a private account in Unity Bank.

N31million was said to have been recovered from the Accountant General in the course of investigation. Whereas the accused pleaded not guilty upon arraignment in court on March 13, 2020, he however recanted at the resumption of trial on April 7, 2021 by pleading “guilty” as charged.

The judge pronounced the accused guilty and sentenced him to one year imprisonment with an option of fine. Justice Abubakar also ordered the convict to pay the sum of Seventy-Seven Million Naira (N77m) as restitution to the Bauchi State Government within one year.



Case 93: Patrick Abba Moro
Employment Scam Trial

Former Minister of Interior, Patrick Abba Moro on December 4, 2020, began his defense in the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) scam trial at the Federal High Court; Abuja presided over by Justice Nnamdi Dimgba.

In his testimony, Abba Moro said that the fatal NIS recruitment exercise in 2014 was marred with controversies which unfortunately derailed the recruitment. Testifying as first defense witness and led by his counsel, Paul Erokoro (SAN), former minister Abba Moro said he could not have caused the stampede because the recruitment process started in 2012 and was eventually carried out in 2014.

He also said he was not a member of the procurement department and so could not have influenced anybody and therefore did not commit any fraud. Justice Dimgba adjourned the matter till February 23, 24 and 25, 2021 for Moro's cross-examination and continuation of trial.

At the resumed date, the defendants gave their evidence in defense of the charge. After the close of the defendants' case, the Court ordered the filing of final written addresses which were adopted. The Court thereafter adjourned the case to 7th April 2022 for judgment.

On June 25, 2020, Abba Moro was discharged of seven out of the 11-count criminal charge brought against him by the EFCC and was ordered by the Court to open his defense to 4-count charge bordering on money laundering and procurement fraud to the tune of “Six Hundred and Seventy Five Million, Six Hundred and Seventy Five Thousand Naira (N675,675,000)” accruing from the N1,000 charged from 678,675 applicants who participated in the recruitment exercise.

The former minister is on trial alongside a former Secretary in the Ministry of Interior, 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) which resulted in the deaths of fifteen applicants. The case is still ongoing as at the time of compiling this report.

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Case 94: Andrew Yakubu \$9.7 Million and £74,000 Fraud

On June 30, 2021, Mr. Andrew Yakubu, former Group Managing Director of the now defunct National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) opposed a request by the EFCC, seeking to display evidence against him in court. Counsel to the EFCC sought the permission of the court to display the content of a memory card and compact marked as exhibits M, N, and NI, but Ahmed Raji, counsel to Yakubu opposed the application by the prosecution. Counsel to the EFCC asked the court to determine whether the said documents were tendered and marked as exhibits before the court. Justice Ahmed Mohammed then adjourned the matter till July 14, 2021 for ruling.

Andrew Yakubu was arraigned on March 15, 2017, on a 6-count charge bothering on money laundering and false declaration. The Federal High Court, Abuja had on June 17, 2021 dismissed EFCC's request to amend the criminal charge filed against Mr. Yakubu. Justice Ahmed maintained that an amendment to the charge was subject to the discretion of the court, citing Section 216 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) and that the Court could not allow the amendment as it would amount to a breach of the decision of the subsisting appellate court order made on April 24, 2020.

On July 14, 2021, Andrew Yakubu while tendering his evidence, informed the court that the money recovered in cash from him by EFCC were gifts from friends during occasions and celebration. Justice Mohammed adjourned the matter till the July 29, 2021 for continuation of trial and cross examination. Following adoption of processes by parties in the suit on September 22, 2021, the court adjourned the matter till November 18, 2021, for judgment but the court could not deliver judgment to that date, and further adjourned the case to March 31, 2022 for judgment.

In another development, the Supreme Court on July 15, 2021 dismissed the appeal by Andrew Yakubu challenging the order for the forfeiture of the sum of \$9.7m and £74,000 allegedly seized from one of his properties. The Federal High Court on May 10, 2017, dismissed the same application and affirmed the order of interim forfeiture it granted on February 13, 2017.



Case 95: Cecilia Osipitan N6 Billion Fraud Trial

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), on March 26, 2021, arraigned Cecilia Osipitan, the wife of Prof. Taiwo Osipitan (SAN) at a Federal High Court in Abuja over money laundering. Mrs. Osipitan who is the Managing Director of a firm; PJO Ventures Limited in 2014 took possession of the sum of N6 billion that was paid into the account of the company from Bestworth Insurance Brokers Limited. The said amount was part of funds earmarked for the payment of outstanding insurance premium of deceased and incapacitated staff of Power Holding Company of Nigeria, PHCN.

EFCC alleged that Mrs. Osipitan used the fund to acquire several landed properties in highbrow areas of Lagos and Oyo states. After the arraignment, Osipitan was granted bail by Justice Inyang Ekwo in the sum of N200 million with one surety in like sum.

On October 22, 2021, Cecilia Osipitan was again arraigned before Justice U.P. Kekemeke of the FCT High Court and was granted bail in the sum of N500 million with two sureties in like sum. The case was adjourned until January 20, 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 96: Ope Saraki N220 Million Contract Scam

Ope Saraki, former Special Assistant to Kwara Governor Abdulfatah Ahmed on Millennium Development Goals was first arraigned in court on March 19, 2019. The trial resumed on June 29, 2020, with prosecution witness, John Adeyeye narrated how he and Ope both agreed to refurbish and convert 13 Toyota Hiace buses to ambulances. Under cross-examination, the witness admitted paying money to Ope Saraki but that the money was never a bribe or gratification.

The EFCC is prosecuting Ope Saraki, a cousin to the former Senate President, Bukola Saraki, on a 2-count charge bordering on contract scam to the tune of N220, 000,000 million at Kwara State High Court Ilorin presided over by Justice Adenike Akinpelu.

The EFCC alleged that the defendant, while serving as

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Special Adviser to the Kwara State Government, knowingly acquired a contract for the supply 13 Ambulances to General/Specialist Hospitals through Chemiroy, a company which he had interest. Justice Akinpelu adjourned till September 23, 2021, for continuation of trial but trial did not go ahead on the said date. The case was further adjourned to February 16, 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 97: Abba Yusuf N118.3 Million Fraud Trial

A Permanent Secretary with the Borno State Road Maintenance Agency (BORMA), Engr. Abba Yusuf and other officials are answering to a 36-count amended charge before Justice Aisha Kumaliya of the Borno State High Court, Maiduguri. The officials have been accused of forging receipts of different companies and inflating the costs of officially procured items with the intent of defrauding BORMA.

Following arraignment on May 25, 2019, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on 23rd March, 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 pretense, misappropriation and diversion of public funds.

The first prosecution witness, 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, the first witness 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. The trial was however stalled as a result of an objection raised by the defense counsel.



Case 98: Abdul-Rasheed Maina, Faisal Maina & 1 Other N2.1 Billion Pensions Biometric Scam

Abdul- Rasheed Maina is standing trial on alleged money laundering to the tune of N2.1 billion. On March, 2021, a defense

witness Ngozika Ihuoma in the trial of Maina admitted receiving the sum of N45million from Abdul-Rasheed Maina being a consultant to Pension Reform Task Team. The EFCC had charged Maina and his son, Faisal, alongside his firm, Common Input Property and Investment Ltd. While Maina faced a 12-count charge bordering on money laundering, his son Faisal answered to a 3-count charge of arms possession and violent act. However, both father and the son pleaded not guilty to all the charges. The EFCC re-arraigned Faisal Maina, on an amended 3-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 N100billion of pension funds and his son was accused of operating an account he used to divert various sums of money including N58 million.

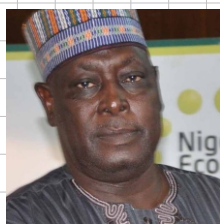
Maina was arraigned before Justice Okon Abang, on October 25, 2019, alongside his firm. Maina pleaded not guilty to the 12-count charge bordering on money laundering to the tune of N2 billion. The Court had once ordered the trial of Maina in absentia after he jumped bail in December 2020. Subsequently, the court ordered Maina to be remanded in prison custody after he was rearrested.

On December 21, 2020, Justice Okon Abang ruled that Maina may call as many as 21 witnesses as already indicated in his processes to testify on his behalf. Maina was also ordered to open his defense on January 26, 2021.

On March 10, 2021, Justice Okon Abang of the Federal High Court Abuja held that Maina's request seeking the court to compel some witnesses to testify in the ongoing trial was done in haste. On July 16, 2021, an officer of the Nigerian Correctional Service, Kuje told the Court that Maina was not in Court because of knee problems. Earlier, Maina's counsel, Abel Adaji had prayed the Court for a short adjournment. Following controversies surrounding Maina violation of his bail condition, his surety, Senator Ali Ndume approached the Federal High Court, Abuja on July 19, 2021, asking to be withdrawn as surety.

After considering all arguments by counsel, Justice Okon Abang on October 7, 2021, convicted and sentenced Maina's son; Faisal in absentia to 14 years imprisonment for money laundering. On November 8, 2021, Abdul-Rasheed Maina was also sentenced by Justice Abang to a cumulative 61 years imprisonment.

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Case 99: Babachir Lawal N544.1 Million Grass Cutting Contract Scam

Justice Charles Agbaza admitted more exhibits tendered by the EFCC against the former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Babachir Lawal. EFCC's counsel, Ofem Uketin had initially expressed frustration over the attitude of witnesses from the Office of the SGF.

On February 18, 2021, Hamza Buwai who is the prosecution witness told the court that Babachir Lawal was not culpable in the N544 million grass-cutting contract scam.

Mr. Lawal is facing trial alongside six others in an alleged N544.1 million grass-cutting scandal which led to his unceremonious removal from office in 2017. Mr. Lawal was arraigned alongside his brother, Hamidu Lawal, who is a director of Rholavision Engineering Limited, including an employee of the company, Sulaiman Abubakar and the Managing Director of Josmon Technologies Limited, Apeh John.

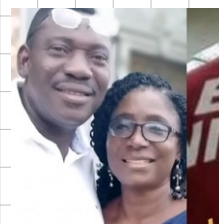
The accused persons are facing 10-count charge bordering on diversion of funds, criminal conspiracy and official corruption. The six defendants pleaded not guilty to the charges slammed against them before the FCT High Court Abuja.

The trial however suffered a setback on the June 28, 2021, as the court rejected the forensic report and exhibits sought to be tendered against Babachir Lawal by EFCC on the ground that the conditions for their admissibility violated the provisions of the Evidence Act, 2004.

On July 8, 2021, the legal team of the defendants cross-examined the third prosecution witness, a digital analyst, over pieces of phone evidence tendered against Babachir Lawal.

Justice Charles Agbaza adjourned the matter till October 6 and 7, 2021 for cross-examination of the witness by the remaining four defense lawyers.

The case came up on the aforementioned date for continuation of trial, but the case was further adjourned to January 12, 2022 for the prosecution to continue giving evidence.



Case 100: Embelakpo Apere and wife N200 Million Fraud Trial

Embelakpo Apere, a former aide on Sustainable Development Goals to former governor Seriake Dickson, former Governor of Bayelsa State was on October 8, 2021, arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) mr. Embelakpo Apere and his wife, Beauty Apere before a Federal High Court in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, for money laundering allegedly perpetrated to the tune of N200 million in 2015.

The EFCC alleged that the said N200 million was proceeds of unlawful acts, punishable under the Money Laundering Prohibition Act. Embelakpo Apere and his wife were arraigned on 7-count charge. The defense counsel however argued that defendants had earlier been discharged by a court and could not be tried for a second time for the same offence. The prosecuting counsel countered the argument, insisting that the accused was not discharged on merit.

The trial Judge, Justice I.D. Ndahen adjourned the case till October 19, 2021 for preliminary ruling. At the resumed hearing on October 20, 2021, prosecuting counsel told the court that the EFCC was not ready to proceed with the trial as the star witness was not released by Port Harcourt zonal office of EFCC. The trial Judge, Justice Ndahen therefore adjourned the case to 3rd November, 2021 for continuation of trial.

At the resumed date, the Court could not deliver its ruling on the objection of the defense on the arraignment of the defendant and further adjourned the case to December 15, 2021 for ruling.

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TOTAL AMOUNT RECORDED: N17,014,169,150,000
\$35,446,185,729

Male	Female	Couple
N7,329,624,550,000 \$15,270,051,145	N9,684,111,000,000 \$20,175,231,250	N433,600,000 \$903,333

Table 1
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Major Defendants in the Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Former Ministers and Advisers	13	13.0	13.0	13.0
Senators	2	2.0	2.0	2.0
Former Governors	15	15.0	15.0	15.0
Others	70	70.0	70.0	70.0
Total	100	100.0	100.0	100.0

Results in Table 1 shows that a total of 100 corruption cases were considered. Of this, 15% involve former Governors of States in Nigeria, while 13% represent the involvement of former Ministers and Advisers for Government office holders. The involvement of Senators are at 2%.

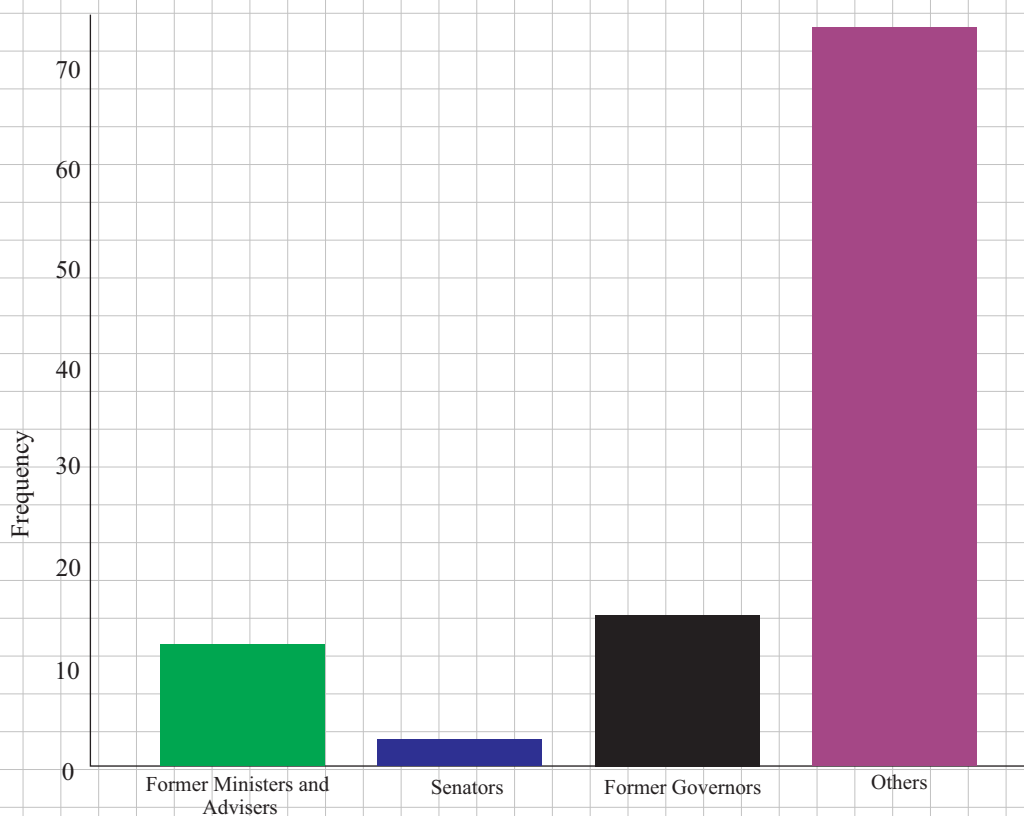


Fig 1: Chart of Personalities involved in the cases as Major Defendants.

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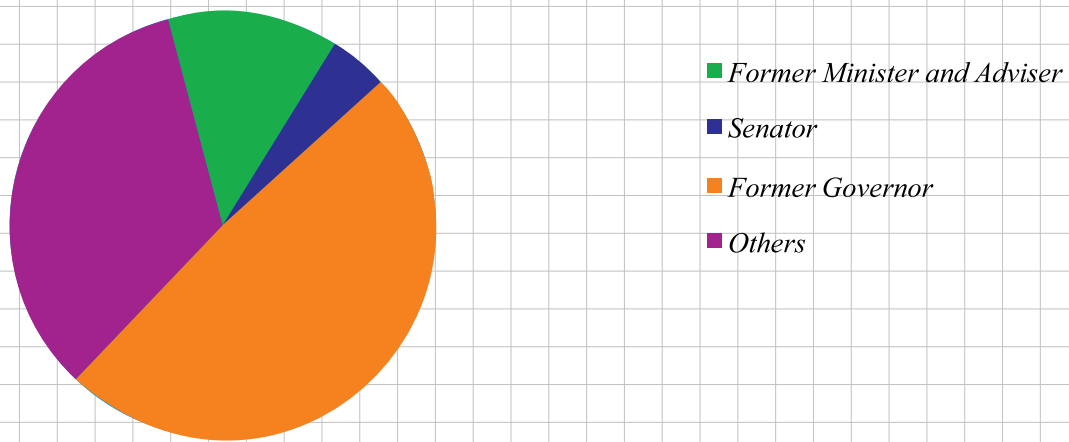


Table 2
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Year of Inception of Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
2007	2	2.0	2.0	
2008	1	1.0	1.0	
2009	2	2.0	2.0	
2010	0	0.0	0.0	
2011	1	1.0	1.0	
2012	3	3.0	3.0	
2013	3	3.0	3.0	
2014	1	1.0	1.0	
2015	11	11.0	11.0	
2016	9	9.0	9.0	
2017	7	7.0	7.0	
2018	15	15.0	15.0	
2019	12	12.0	12.0	
2020	22	22.0	22.0	
2021	19	21.0	21.0	
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

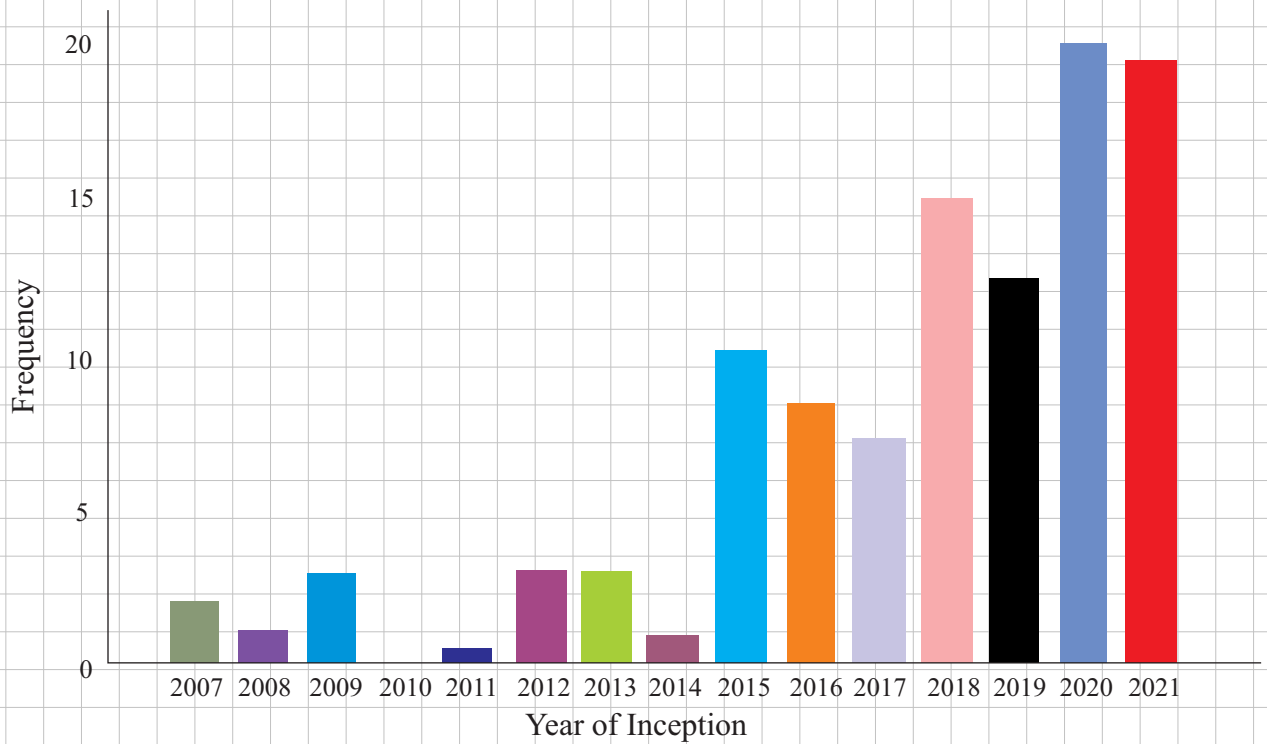
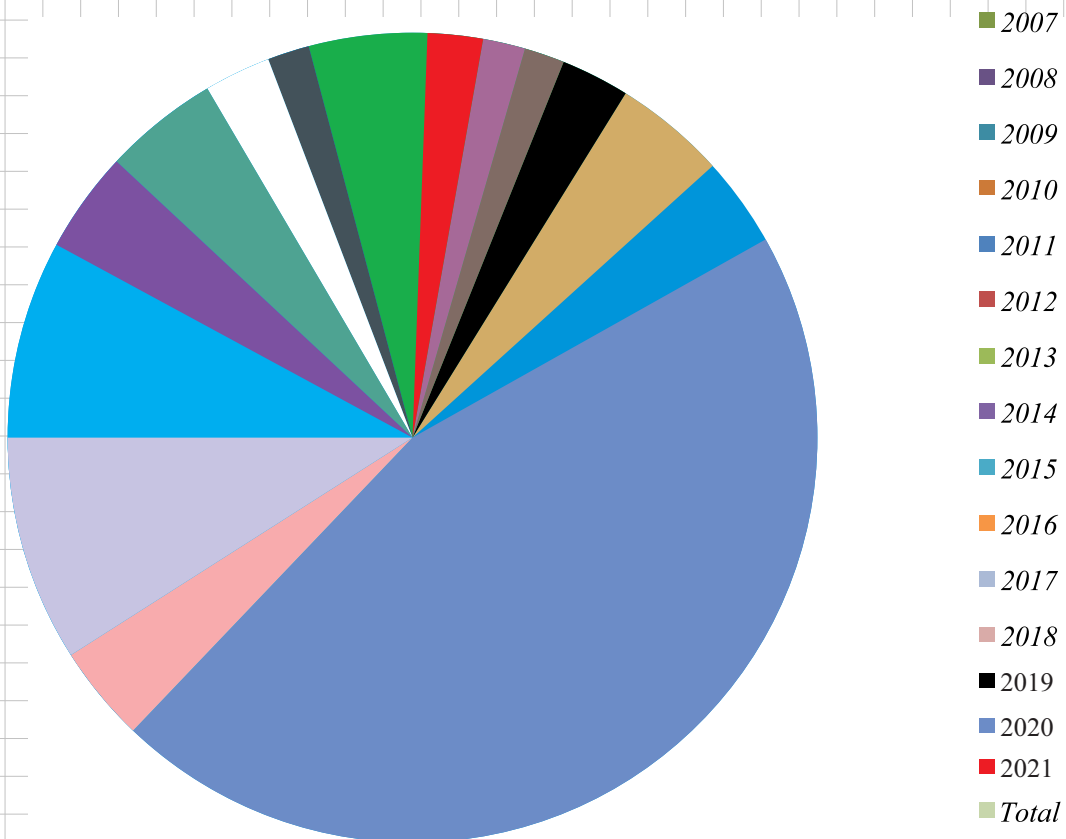


Fig 2: Chart of Year of Inception of Cases



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Table 3

Frequency Counts and Percentages of Prosecuting Agency of Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Information Not Available	13	8.0	8.0	
EFCC	82	77.0	77.0	
ICPC	5	12.0	12.0	
CCT	0	1.0	1.0	
SPIPRPP	0	2.0	2.0	
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

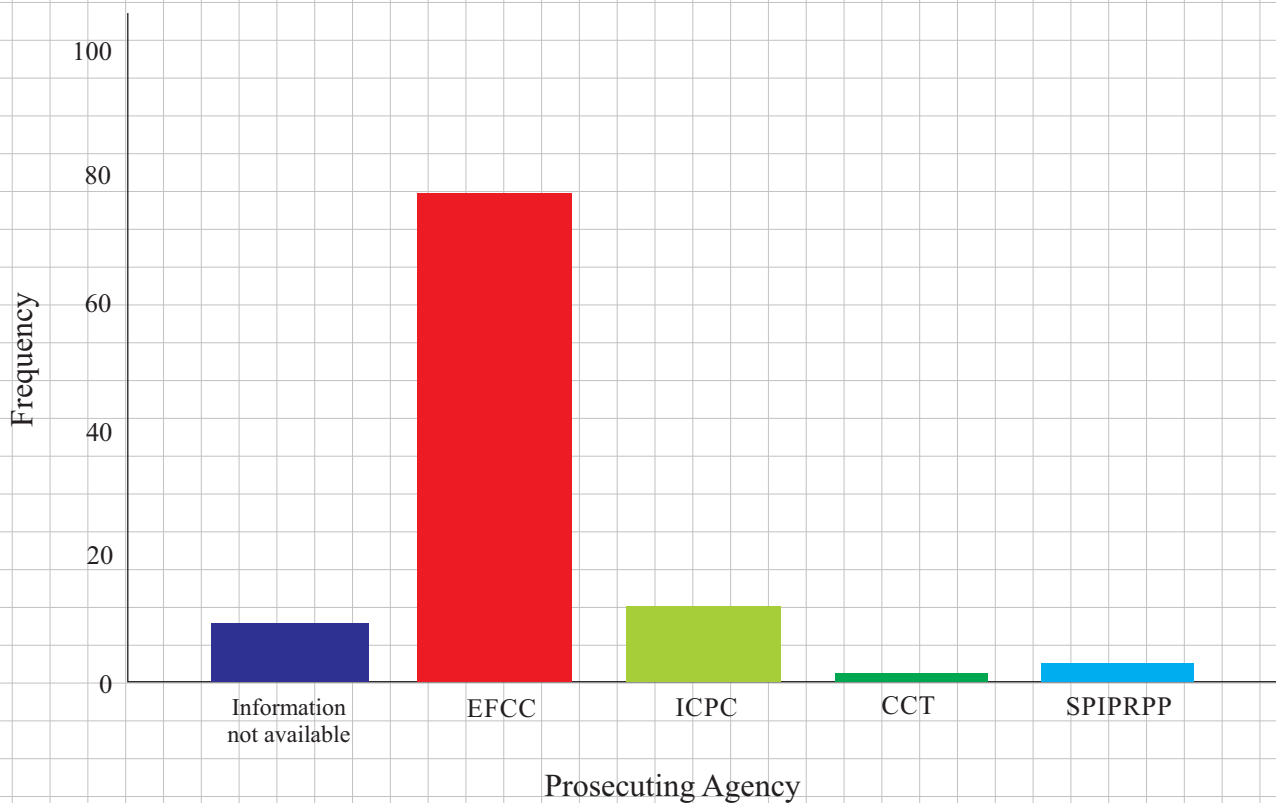


Fig 3: Chart of Prosecuting Agency

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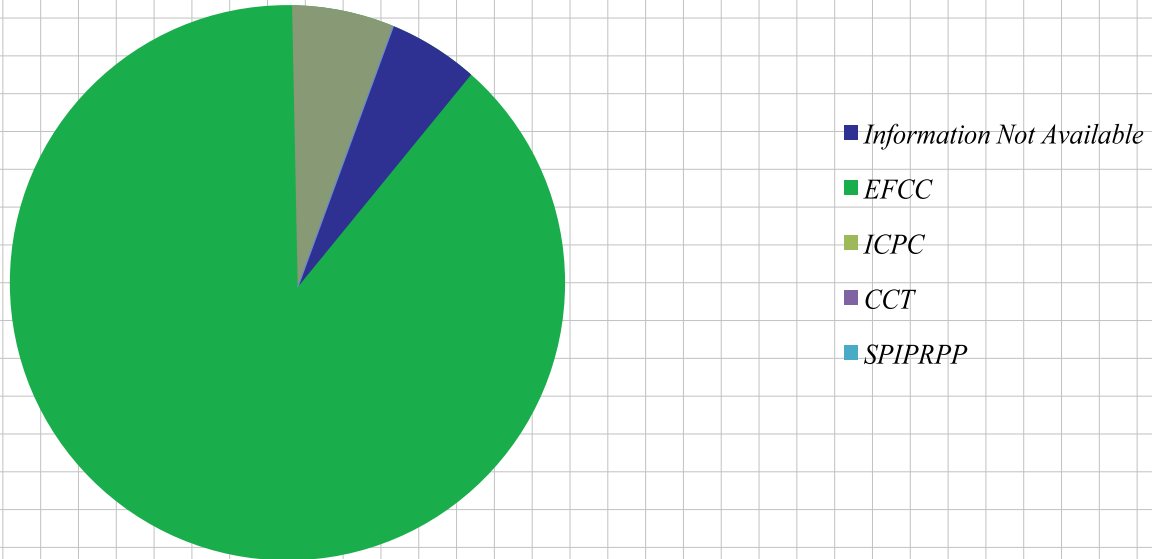


Table 4
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Main Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Fraud	43	64.0	64.0	
Corruption	7	13.0	13.0	
Embezzlement	3	2.0	2.0	
Money laundering	26	6.0	6.0	
Bribe	6	6.0	6.0	
Forgery	7	3.0	3.0	
Misappropriation/Mismanagement	7	3.0	3.0	
Conspiracy	1	1.0	1.0	
Total	100			

Results in table 4 shows that of a total of 100 corruption cases considered, 43 (43%) of the cases bordered on fraud, while 26 (26%) were based on money laundering. General corruption accounted for 7 (7%), while misappropriation or mismanagement of funds accounted for 7 (7%) of the cases examined.

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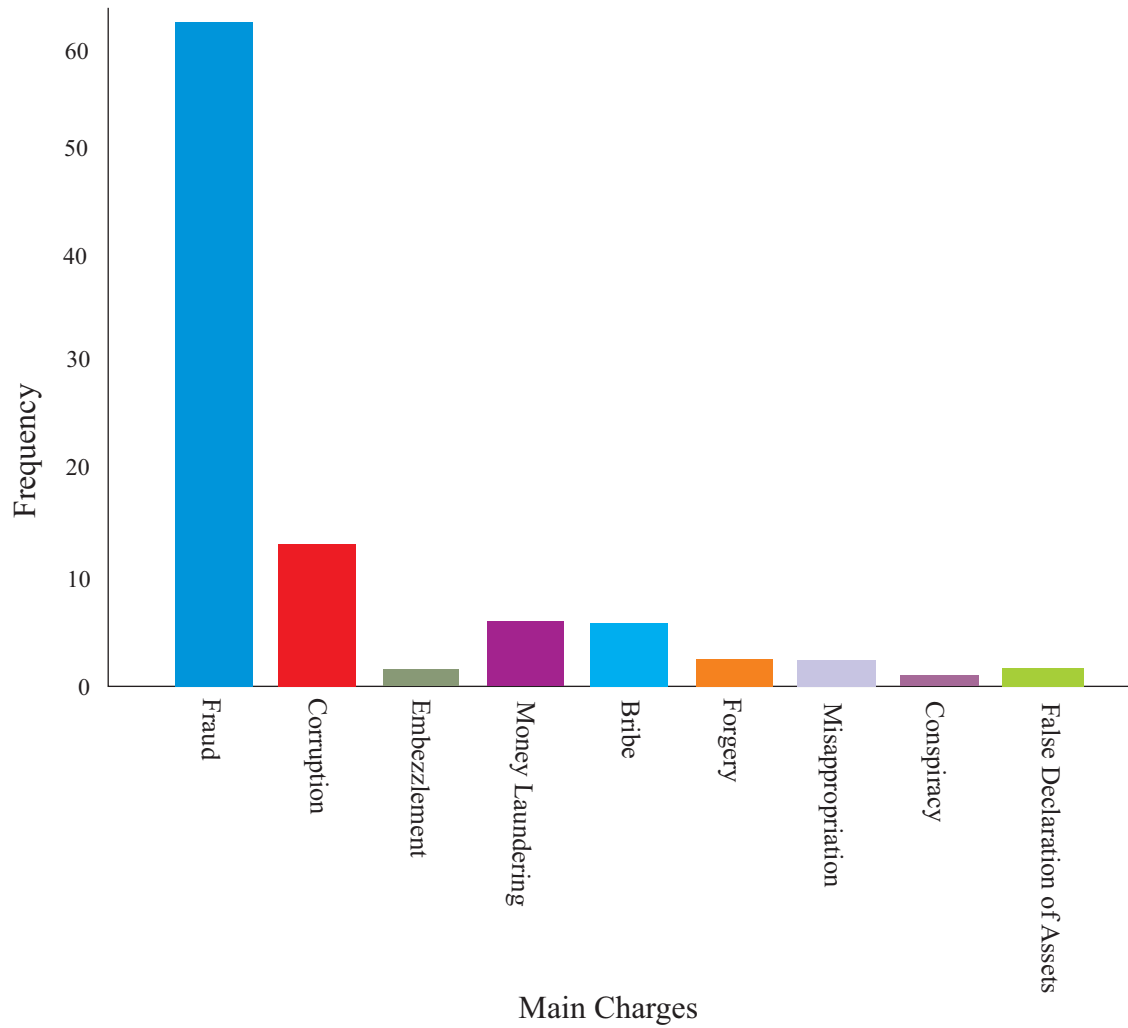
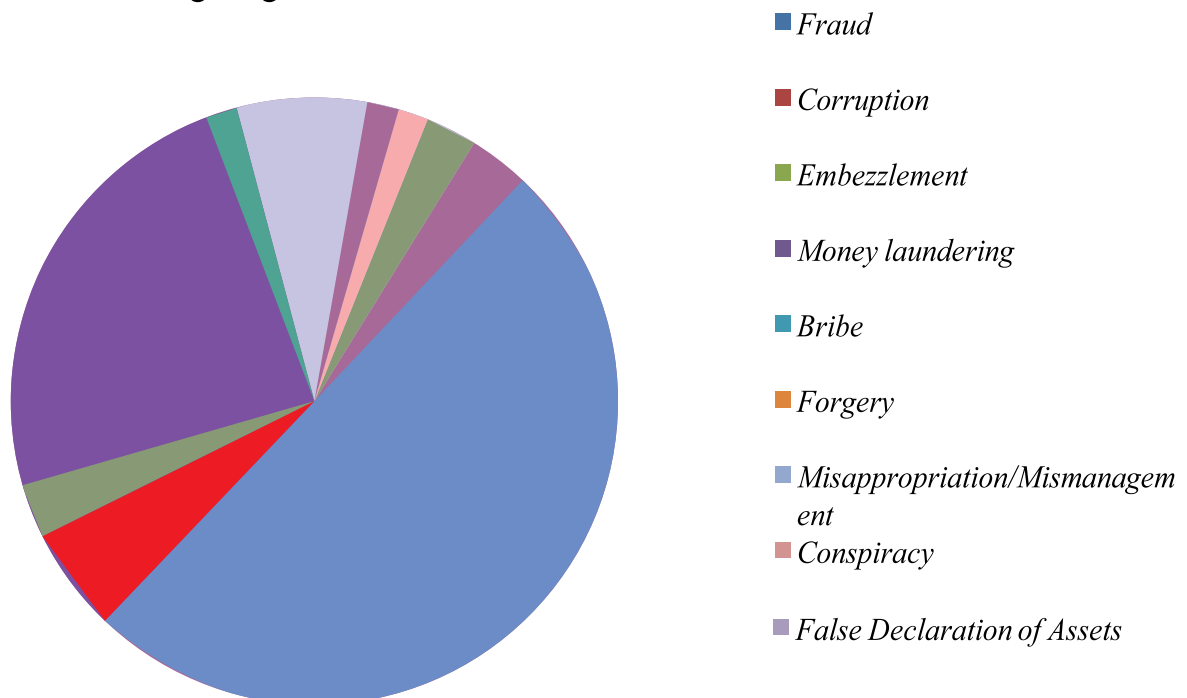


Fig 4: Chart of Charges against Defendants



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Table 5
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Judgments in the Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Ongoing	72	72.0		
Pending	8	8.0		
Case Dismissed	8	8.0		
Sentenced	4	4.0		
Properties seized	2	2.0		
Convicted but later discharged	3	3.0		
Stalled	2	2.0		
Plea Bargaining	0	0.0		
Under Investigation	1	1.0		
Total	100	100		

Results in Table 5 indicate that a total of the 100 corruption cases considered number of cases under review. Seventy-two (72.0%) cases are ongoing while 8 (8.0%) are pending. Eight (8.0%) cases were dismissed while in four (4.0%) of the cases, defendants were sentenced. The distribution of the status of cases is graphically presented in Figure 5

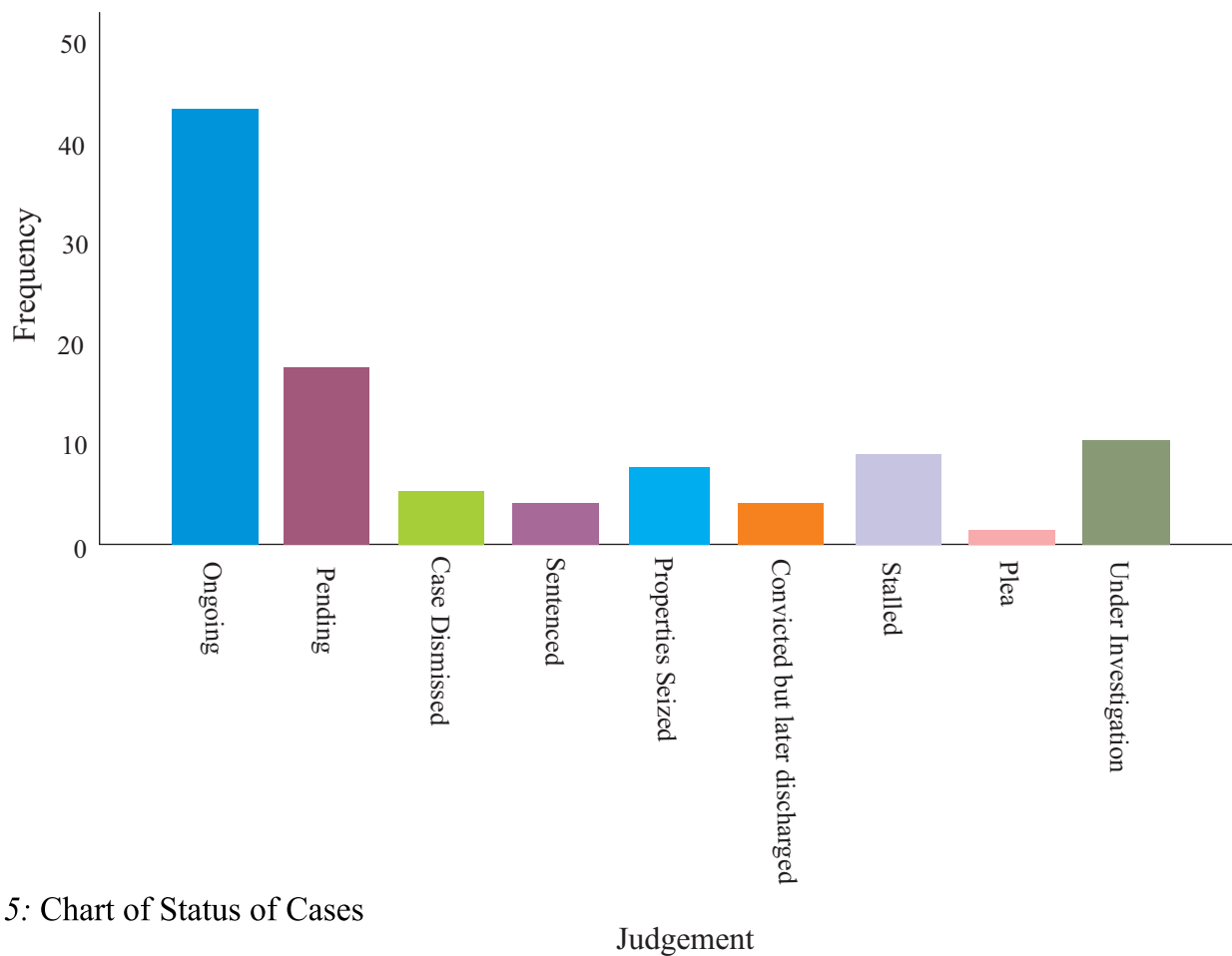


Fig 5: Chart of Status of Cases

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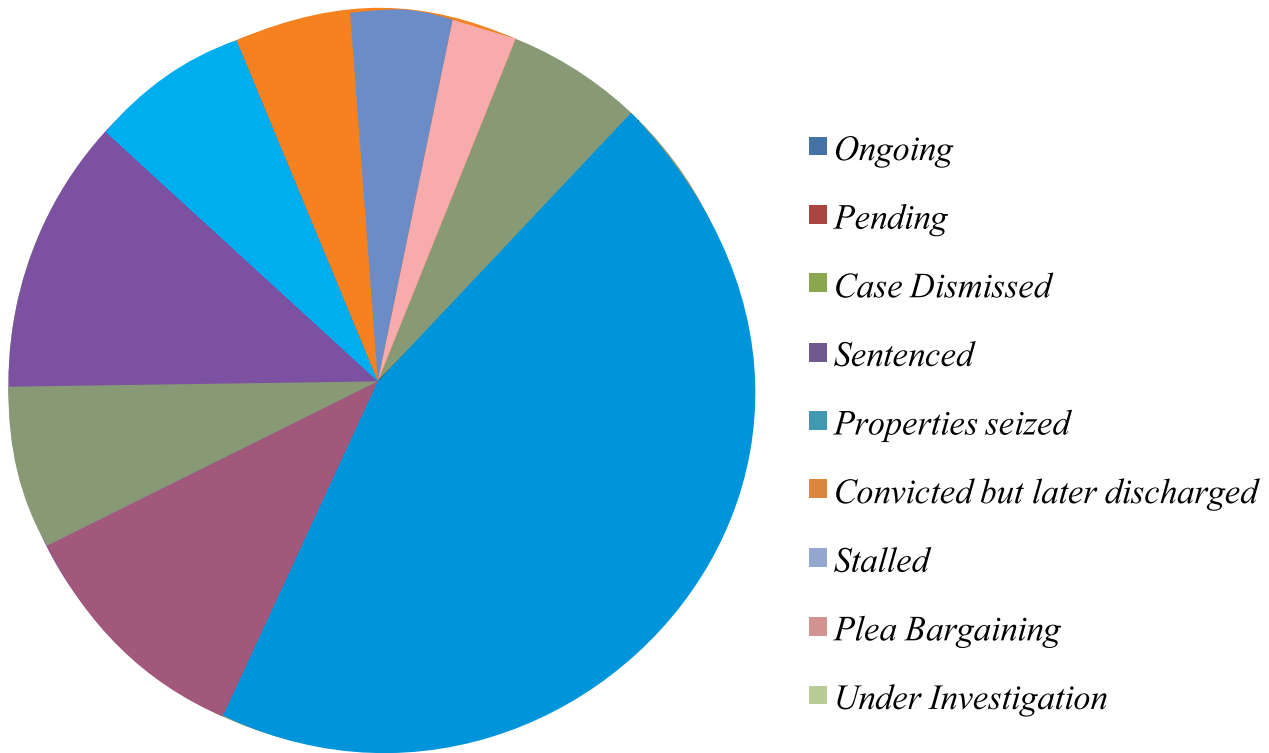


Table 6
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Amount in Naira (Billion) Involved in the Charges

	Frequency	Percent
0-100	87	87.0
100-200	4	4.0
200-300	0	0.0
300-700	1	1.0
700-900	1	1.0
900 and above	3	3.0
Total	96	96.0
Other offences	4	4.0
	100	100.0

Results in Table 6 revealed that a total of 100 corruption cases were considered. Out of these, 87(87.0%) were below 100 billion Naira while four cases were between 100 – 200 billion Naira. This result is graphically presented in Figure 6.

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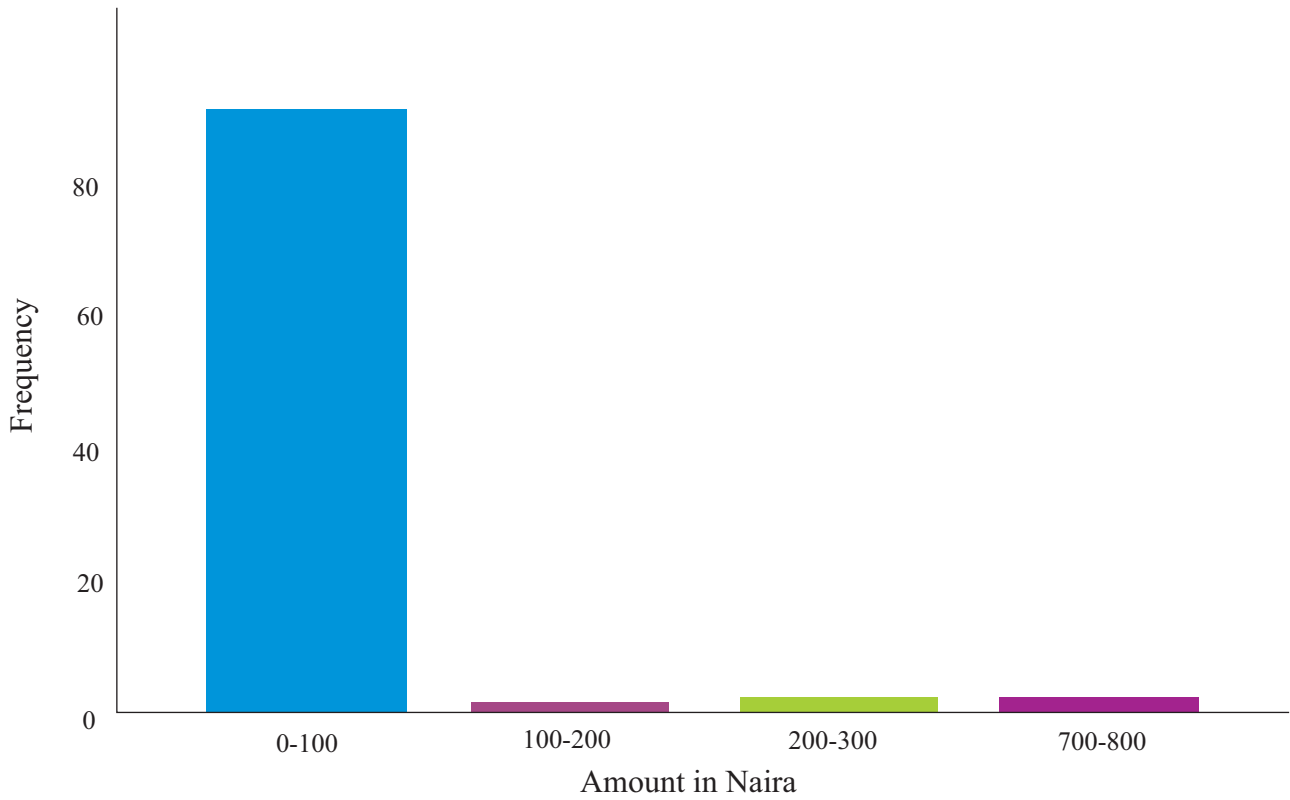
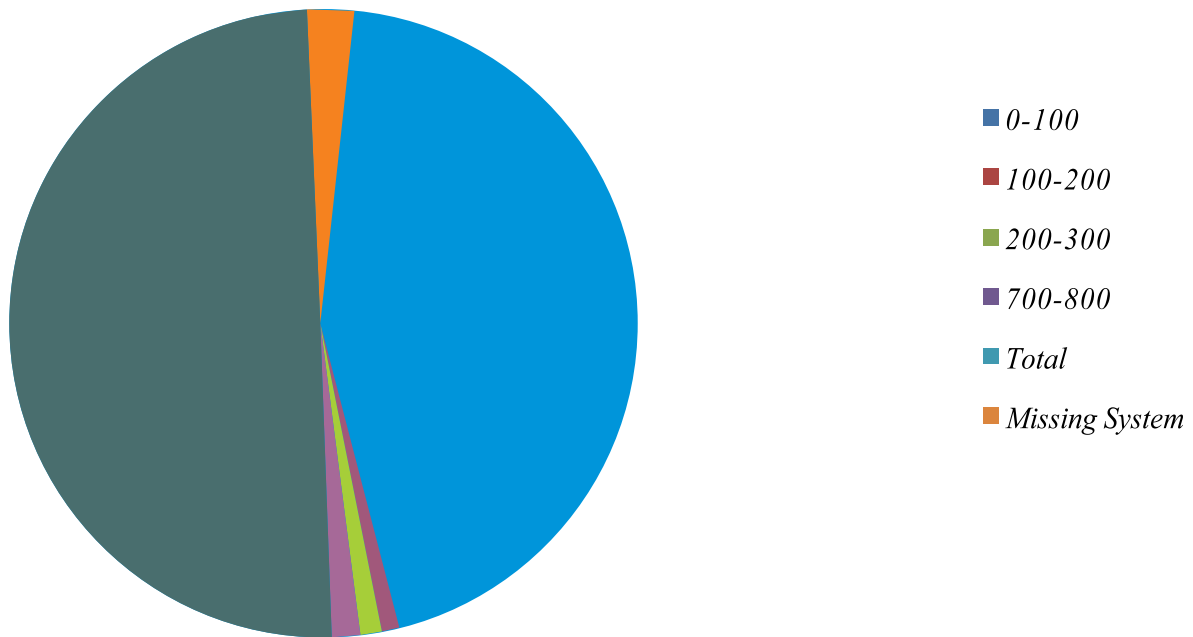


Fig 6: Chart of Amount involved in the cases (Billion Naira)



THE DATA ANALYSIS

Table 7
Cross-tabulation of Main Charges by Major Defendant in the Charges

	Major Defendant				Total
	Former Minister and Adviser	Senator	Former Governor	Others	
Fraud	7	0	11	22	40
Corruption	1	0	7	2	11
Embezzlement	0	0	3	0	3
Money laundering	3	2	13	10	28
Bribe	1	0	0	0	2
Forgery	0	0	0	1	1
Misappropriation/Mismanagement	0	0	7	2	9
Conspiracy	0	0	2	0	2
Election Scandal	0	0	0	1	1
False Declaration of Assets	0	1	1	1	3
Total	12	3	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

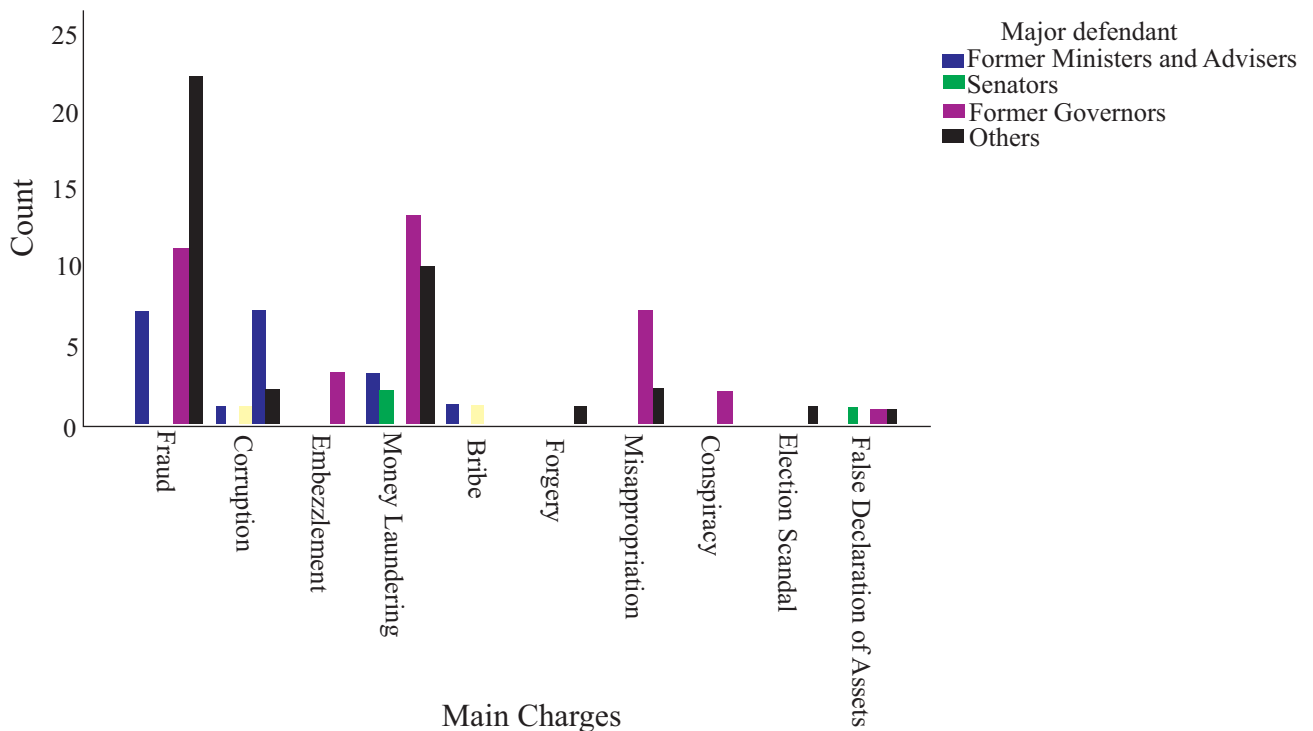


Fig 7: Chart of Charges by Major Defendant

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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	Former Governors	Others	
0-100	13	2	41	36	92
100-200	0	0	1	0	2
200-300	0	0	1	0	2
700-800	2	0	0	0	2
Total	15	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 graphically in Figure 8

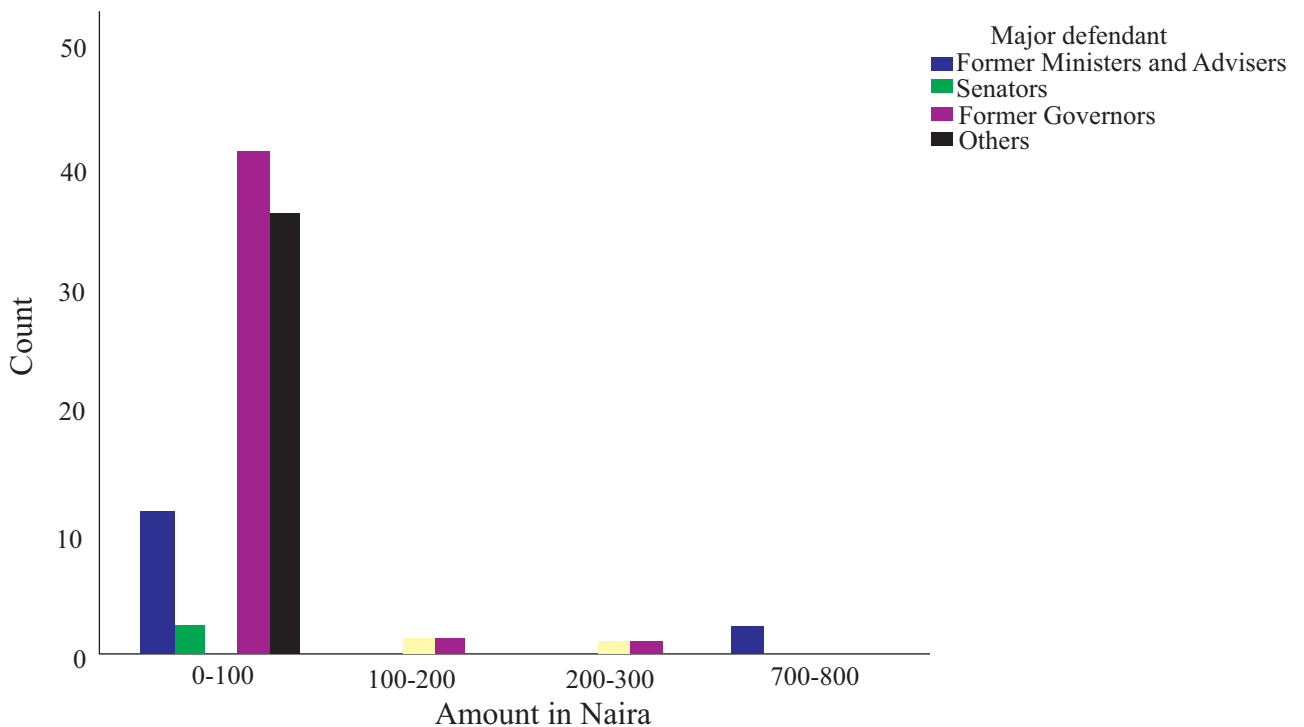


Fig 8: Chart of Amount involved in the cases (Billion Naira) by Major Defendant

THE DATA ANALYSIS

Table 9
Cross-tabulation of Judgments by Major Defendant and the Judgment

	Major Defendant				Total
	Former Ministers and Advisers	Senators	Former Governors	Others	
Ongoing	5	2	16	18	43
Pending	2	1	9	9	21
Case Dismissed	2	0	7	1	10
Sentenced	0	0	3	5	8
Properties seized	1	0	0	3	4
Convicted but later discharged	0	0	1	3	4
Stalled	1	0	2	0	3
Plea Bargaining	0	0	2	1	3
Under Investigation	1	0	3	0	4
Total	12	3	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

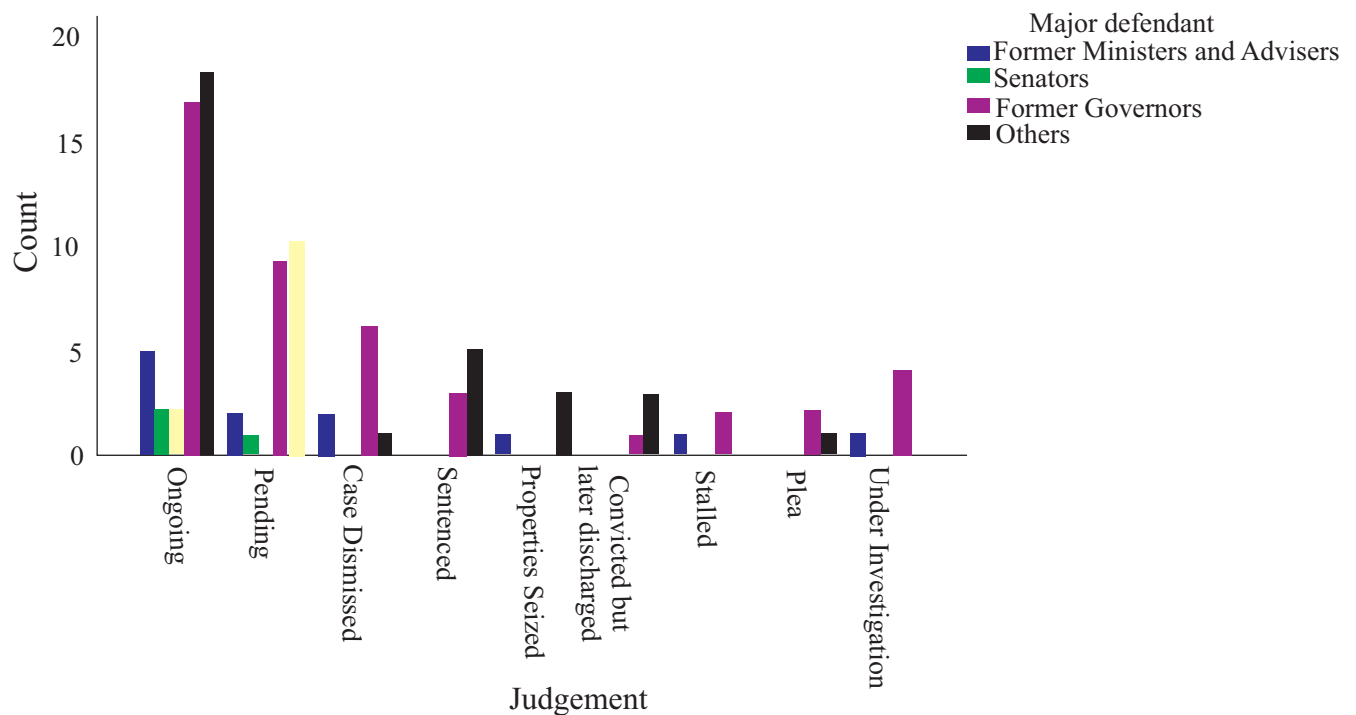


Fig 9: Chart of Status of Cases by Major Defendant

THE DATA ANALYSIS

Table 10
Cross-tabulation of Amount in Naira (Billion) by Judgments in the Charges

	Judgments									
	Ongoing	Pending	Case Dis- missed	Sentenced	Properties seized	Con- victed but later dis- charged	Stalled	Plea Bar- gaining	Under Inves- tiga- tion	Total
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

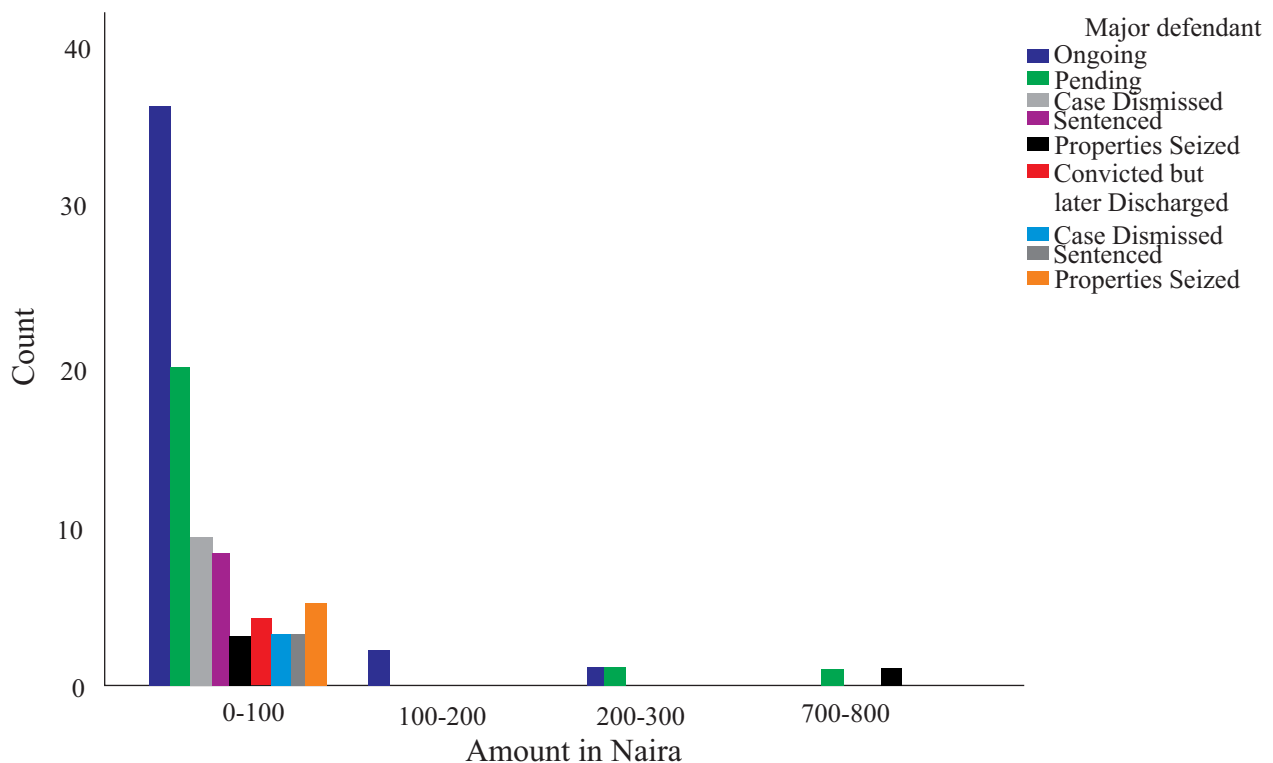


Fig 10: Chart of Amount involved in the cases (Billion Naira) by Status of cases



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.

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