



A COMPENDIUM OF 100 HIGH PROFILE CORRUPTION CASES IN NIGERIA

[As at 22nd of November, 2022]



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by



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PREFACE

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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.

Mr Adeola Soetan provided thorough supervision for the editing legs of the engagement culminating in the publication of this compendium. We are most grateful to you all for your time and support. Our in-house lawyer, David Ogungbesan and other officers, Ridwan Sulaimon, and Omokolade Ositade, who under the supervision of Mr. Olusina Odugbemi were also fully supportive throughout.

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

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TO 100 HIGH PROFILE CASES OF CORRUPTION IN NIGERIA JUSTICE RICHARD GOLDSTONE (RTD) ¹

I am a member of the board of a recently established non-governmental organisation that has, as one of its goals, support for the establishment of a permanent International Anti-Corruption Court. Such a court would have similarities to the International Criminal Court but be quite separate from it. The organisation is called Integrity Initiatives International (III) or simply Triple I.

I doubt that any nation is free from corruption. However, what III is concerned about is Grand Corruption, i.e. the abuse of public office for personal gain. It also goes under the name of kleptocracy. In the great majority of cases, crooked leaders enjoy effective immunity because they control the police, the prosecutors and the courts - or at least, some of them.

In 2016, more than 40 countries met in London for an Anti-Corruption Summit. They endorsed a Global Declaration Against Corruption that commits each of them to the proposition that "the corrupt should be pursued and punished." The Declaration emphasised the "centrality" of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption ("UNCAC"), in which now 186 countries have pledged to enact laws criminalising corruption and to enforce them even against their nation's leaders. Implicitly recognising that existing institutions and efforts have not been adequate, the participating governments committed themselves to "exploring innovative solutions" to combat corruption.

Judge Mark Wolf, a senior Federal judge in Boston, is the chairman and founder of III. In a recent article published in the Magazine Daedalus Judge Wolf said:

"It is estimated that trillions of dollars are paid in bribes annually and that the cost of all forms of corruption is more than 5% of global GDP. Developing regions lose ten times more to corruption than they receive in foreign aid. Illicit outflows of funds that developing countries desperately need total more than \$1 trillion a year.

World-renowned South African judge, Richard Goldstone has served in the most influential courts in the country as Judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in 1989 and Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa from July 1994. He has also served as prosecutor and commission member in several other countries, including genocide investigations and judgments for Bosnia in The Hague. Goldstone has established himself as an international law expert as well as an academic. He was Chancellor of the University of the Witwatersrand, and served on the board of its law school. In Jerusalem, Israel, he was a Governor of the Hebrew University.

He also led World ORT, a global technology and technical training organisation. When the Argentinean government decided to monitor an International Panel established in August 1997 to study Nazi activities in their country since 1938, they included Goldstone. He has been honoured with numerous awards that include the International Human Rights Award from the American Bar Association in 1994, and Honorary Doctorates from the Universities of Cape Town, Natal, the Witwatersrand, Jerusalem, the Hebrew University, Notre Dame, the Mary University College and Wilfred Laurier in Ontario Canada. The Universities of Glasgow, and the Catholic University of Brabant in Tilburg, the Netherlands, Calgary and Emory also awarded him honorary qualifications.

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The cost of corruption is not limited to poorer countries. For example, in 2011, Russia had the third largest outflow of illicit capital in the world. Bribery, theft, kickbacks, and corruption had cost the country \$427 billion from 2000 to 2008. Russia's leaders evidently contribute a great deal to the illicit capital that leaves the country.”

In 2016, the massive leak of documents known as the "Panama Papers" revealed that close associates of President Vladimir Putin moved \$2 billion, in transactions involving as much as \$200 million at a time, through international banks and companies created to mask their true beneficial owners. Putin's closest friend, a cellist who had claimed he was not wealthy, had almost 19 million pounds in a Swiss Bank, as well as investments in numerous Russian and off-shore entities. This including a 3.9% share of a Russian bank with assets of almost \$11 billion. In 2017, it was revealed that Russian Prime Minister Dimitri Medvedev had accumulated more than \$1 billion worth of property, including vast estates in Tuscany as well as Russia, and owned two yachts.

Judge Wolf also quotes the former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, as saying in 2013 that:

“Corruption kills...The money stolen through corruption every year is enough to feed the world's hungry 80 times over...[C]orruption denies them their right to food, and, in some cases, their right to life.”

Nicholas Kristof of the New York Times reported in 2015 that:

“Grand corruption also has fatal consequences in other ways. In Sierra Leone one-third of the funds allocated to combat Ebola in 2014 could not be accounted for, although some of those funds were found in the bank accounts of health officials administering the program.”

Corruption has marked the Administration of former President Jacob Zuma in my own country. Billions of South Africa Rands were stolen from government departments and state owned enterprises. The magnitude of what has been called “state capture” is coming to light in consequence of evidence led before ongoing official inquiries. Action to prosecute those responsible and attempts to follow the stolen funds have been set in motion by the administration of President Cyril Ramaphosa. I sincerely hope that the necessary political will continue to move this endeavour forward.

I was staggered by my experiences some fourteen years ago with the corruption associated with the United Nations Iraq Oil for Food Program. That Program was set up to maintain the strong sanctions against the regime of Saddam Hussein whilst maintaining minimum

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standards of health and nutrition for the people of Iraq. The Program lasted for seven years, from 1996 until the US led invasion of Iraq in 2003. It involved some \$110 billion of sales of Iraqi oil and the purchase with the proceeds of humanitarian goods – all under UN surveillance. It was the largest effort to provide humanitarian relief in the history of the United Nations. As the Program ran, so reports and rumours began to emerge of surcharges and bribes and, so too, of administrative failures and corruption within the UN itself. In the early part of 2004, the then Secretary-General of the UN, Kofi Annan, felt obliged to set up a UN inquiry into the allegations. I was one of the members of a three-person team. Four thousand and five hundred companies were involved in the supply of humanitarian goods. Some 2200 of them from 66 countries paid bribes to Saddam Hussein. The bribes amounted to over \$8 billion dollars. The universal nature of corruption was graphically demonstrated.

Too few States investigate corruption at home. The requirements of the UN Convention Against Corruption are hardly ever complied with and domestic laws are often weak and too frequently ignored.

To extend the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court would not be practical or efficient. It would require an amendment of the Rome Statute and that would take some years to achieve. Even if that obstacle is overcome, it would be difficult for the Office of the Prosecutor to prioritise corruption over the most serious war crimes.

One of the most important advantages of an International Anti-Corruption Court would be the pressure it would place on domestic authorities to investigate and prosecute grand corruption at home within a reasonable time. In that way, and that way only, would they be able to avoid the international court assuming jurisdiction.

The one hundred prosecutions that are summarised in this useful report establish the intent of prosecution authorities in Nigeria to investigate and indict those against whom evidence of corruption has been amassed. It is equally important that the trials of those charged should be pursued with vigour and efficiency. This Report is likely to encourage that result. It is much to the credit of those who have collected and recorded this information.

Justice Richard Goldstone (Rtd)
Former Justice of Constitutional Court of South Africa

BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

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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://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?

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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.

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JUSTICE DELAYED IS JUSTICE DENIED

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

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1 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

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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)

OPINIONS ON PREVIOUS EDITIONS

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“The publication on stolen public funds and the main actors as an anti-corruption drive is unique. It empowers people to act on their own in preventing corruption and exposing those responsible for stolen public funds. It is impactful and refreshes memory of Nigerians about the past and the present, strengthening our consciousness and determination never to relent in the crusade against corruption. It is another alternative dark list that puts a tag on corrupt officials as a reminder of Nigeria's sordid past.”

Mr. Wale Adeoye
Journalists for Democratic Rights

“It is a pioneering publication that is so data laden, that no researcher on development in Nigeria can afford to ignore. It has come to fill a huge vacuum of hitherto scattered statistics on corruption especially at the very high levels of governance in the country. It is by no means a most fulfilling initiative that has come to help preserve for generations indispensable bits of information on corruption across different spheres of governance in the country.”

Dr. Tunde Akanni
School of Communication,
Lagos State University.

“It is very good and reasonably up-to-date. It gives Nigerians and even foreigners a good picture of how corruption is being fought in Nigeria. It demonstrates how CSOs, the Federal Government and Anti Corruption Agencies are jointly tackling corruption. Publication of this nature is very essential as it will ensure transparency and accountability. We need to monitor corruption cases, confiscation and management of properties. Hence, we may need to advocate for a SPECIAL CRIMES COURT and the PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT.”

Prof. Isah Raddah
Executive Secretary, PACAC

“Having a compendium of high-profile cases in Nigeria is a useful addition to available resources to evidence the scale and depth of corruption in the country. It is capable of enriching the quality of discussions on cost of corruption in Nigeria. As such, I commend HEDA for taking up the challenge.”

Mr. Dayo Olaide
Deputy Director, Nigeria Office
MacArthur Foundation

“HEDA's Compendium of 100 High Profile Corruption Cases in Nigeria is a commendable effort. At first sight, I was astounded to realize there are so many cases. My other concern is the credibility of the exercise. We need to be more sensitive to the fact that one or few of those mentioned may not be liable, we must be clear that they are all allegations. I am of the opinion that such compilation is good for our history.”

Mrs. Maryam Uwais
Special Adviser to the President
on Social Investments

“The publication is a commendable initiative by HEDA. The compendium is no doubt a good advocacy to call on both government and citizens to the problem in these cases. It provides useful information but most importantly more has to be done. At a close look you will realize that more than a number of the cases have been in court for close to 10 years. It will help policy makers in asking questions: Why are the cases being delayed in court? Who has the fault? The Judiciary? Is it poor investigation or lack of diligent investigation?”

Prof. Shehu Abdullahi
Professor of Criminology
Former Director General, GIABA

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“I continue to wonder, what type of system makes high profile corruption so easy and the prosecution of corruption cases in court so difficult? Such system needs to be discarded forthwith for the nation to survive this elite conspiracy to loot with impunity and immunity. Going through the 100 high profile cases compendium and the wide range of actors involved cutting across all arms of government and the private sector, will lead to a conclusion that elite corruption in Nigeria is a highly endemic and contagious social disease that endangers the nation's development. HEDA has really done a very good incisive work to educate and broaden the vista of advocacy against corruption.”

Comrade Adeola Soetan
National Coordinator,
Democracy Vanguard

“HEDA is to be congratulated for this groundbreaking report. It is an invaluable and much needed tool in the fight against corruption. Those who have stolen Nigeria's wealth must be exposed - and their assets reclaimed. The book provides a rich resource for activists and investigators not only in Nigeria but also abroad.”

Mr. Nick Hildyard
Journalist, The Corner House

“A Compendium of High Profile Corruption Cases is a painstaking effort at documenting the struggle of the Nigerian state with the incubus of corruption. While it exposes the rot terrorising the well being of the people, denying them of provision of public utilities and infrastructures, the publication is a complete shaming of the anti-people elements whose paternalistic toga in politics and business needs be shredded to assist posterity in its balanced judgement. This publication is, therefore, a just attempt at putting history straight in a society lacking in adequate preservation of public record. It gives a reference material to all researchers on corruption in Nigeria and efforts being made to tackle the monster. It should grace the libraries of public offices to guide in a quick search on integrity of some public figures.”

Kunle Adegoke Esq.
Principal Partner,
Kunle Adegoke & Co

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Case 1: Ahmed Idris and 3 others N109.4 billion illegal diversion of public funds

A High Court of the Federal Capital Territory is trying Mr. Ahmed Idris for alleged complicity in the illegal diversion of public funds to the tune of about one hundred and nine billion, four hundred thousand naira. (N109.4 billion).

Mr. Idris is charged alongside Godfrey Olusegun Akindele, Mohammed Kudu Usman and Gezawa Commodity Market and Exchange Limited on a 14-count charge bordering on conspiracy, criminal breach of trust and money laundering.

Mr. Idris is said to have diverted funds between February and December 2021 while being the Accountant General of the Federation which he accepted from Mr. Olusegun Akindele as gratification to accelerate the payment of 13% derivation to the nine oil-producing states in the Federation.

Presiding Judge, Justice A.O. Adeyemi Ajayi remanded the ex-AGF after he was arraigned and pleaded not guilty to the charge and adjourned to October 4, 2022 for commencement of trial. Subsequently, Justice Adeyemi on July 28, 2022 granted the former AGF bail in the sum of N5bn with two sureties and equally granted the 2nd and 3rd defendants bail in the sum of N2bn each with two sureties that must be directors.

In a recent development, Ahmed Idris, has approached the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, for a plea bargain.

In another recent development, the trial of the suspended Accountant General of the Federation, Ahmed Idris and three others has been reassigned to a new Judge by the Chief Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory.

Ahmed Idris, his co-defendants; Idris; Godfrey Olusegun Akindele; Mohammed Kudu Usman and Gezawa Commodity Market and Exchange Limited will now be standing trial before Justice Yusuf Halilu.

The judge on October 4th 2022, said the case was being mentioned before him for the first time, he therefore adjourned to October 26, 2022 for re-arraignment of the defendants.

On October 26, 2022, the former Accountant General Ahmed Idris was arraigned but he pleaded not guilty to

the charge.

Following his not guilty plea, Justice Halilu, ruling on the bail application by his lawyer Chris Uche SAN, held that bail is a constitutional right of a defendant and ordered the submission of the defendant's passports to the court registrar.

The Judge, however, adjourned the case to 23rd November 2022 for a hearing.



Case 2: Rochas Okorochoa N2.9 Billion fraud

Mr. Rochas Okorochoa is the former Governor of Imo State and presently the Senator representing Imo West Senatorial District. Mr. Okorochoa is standing trial alongside chieftain of the APC, Ms. Anyim Nyerere Chinenye, and five companies- Naphtali International Limited, Perfect Finish Multi Projects Limited, Consolid Projects Consulting Limited, Pramif International Limited, and Legend World Concepts Limited.

Mr. Okorochoa alongside the defendants were alleged to have siphoned funds from the Imo State Government House account and Imo State Joint Local Government Project account, and diverted same into accounts of private firms between October 2014 and February 2016.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission in January 2022, filed a 17-count charge against the former governor over allegations of stealing N2.9 billion public funds.

The defendants pleaded not guilty to the charges against them before Justice Inyang Ekwo after an arrest warrant was issued following the refusal by the former governor to make himself available for trial and deliberately evading service of the charge on him.

After arraignment, Mr. Okorochoa's lawyer, Mr. Okey Amaechi, prayed the court to release him on bail pending the determination of the case against him but EFCC's lawyer, Mr. Gbolahan Latona, asked the Court for an adjournment to reply to the defendant's bail application.

Following the bail application hearing, Justice Inyang on July 6, 2022, granted permission to the former governor to travel to the United Kingdom for medical care and ordered the EFCC to release his passport to him.

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The Court equally warned that Mr. Okorochoa would be declared wanted if he abuses the indulgence and thereafter, fixed November 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, 2022 for trial. On October 28, 2020, Okorochoa through his lawyer, Ola Olanipekun SAN, filed an application marked: FHC/ABJ/CR/28/22 praying for an order quashing the charge and/or all counts of the charge preferred against him as a result of the investigation by the EFCC into his activities while in office as governor of Imo State between 2011 and 2019.

However, Justice Inyang Ekwo adjourned the matter to November 22, 2022 to allow EFCC's counsel, G.K. Latona, respond to the preliminary objection filed by Sen. Rochas Okorochoa, praying for an order quashing the EFCC's N2.9 billion charge against him.



Case 3: Femi Fani-Kayode 1.N26 Million money laundering

Chief Femi Fani-Kayode, a former Minister of Aviation was docked by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on a 5-count charge bordering on money laundering and criminal breach of trust before a Federal High Court Abuja.

He allegedly collected N26 million from the office of the former National Security Adviser, Sambo Dasuki, and using same for media campaign, contrary to Section 15 (2) (b) of the Money Laundering Act. He pleaded not guilty to the charge and was admitted to bail in the sum of N50 million and one surety in like sum. At the resumed hearing on June 20th 2022, the trial of former Aviation Minister, Femi Fani-Kayode could not go on at the Federal High Court Abuja due to the absence of his lead counsel, Mr. Ahmed Raji, SAN.

The prosecution counsel, Mr. Farouk Abdullah told the court that the business of the matter was for continuation of trial to allow the defence team cross-examine the third prosecution witness. But, Fani-Kayode's counsel, Mr. Zakari Garba who was holding brief for Mr. Raji informed the court that the lead counsel intends to cross examine the witness himself to ensure that the justice of the case was served.

He added that the case was a sensitive criminal matter and it would not serve the interest of justice should the defendant be foreclosed from cross examining the witness.

The EFCC opposed the application for an adjournment saying that Raji was not in court when the third prosecution witness gave his testimony so it was untenable for the defence to base its application for adjournment on that ground. He urged the court to

foreclose their right to cross examine the witness.

In his ruling, Justice John Tsoho said that the court's records showed that Raji was the lead counsel in the case having participated in the case before and cross-examined the second prosecution witness. He thereafter, adjourned the case to October 26, 2022 for the defence to cross-examine the third prosecution witness.

When the matter was called at the adjourned date, prosecuting counsel, Mr. Farouk Abdullah, told the court that the cross-examination of the third prosecution witness would not be possible because the witness was indisposed, and following a no objection from the defence, the trial judge, Justice John Tsoho adjourned the matter to December 7, 2022 for cross-examination of the third prosecution witness.



Case 4: Edike Mboutidem Akpan N26.7 Million fraud trial

Mr. Edike Mboutidem Akpan, is a Deputy Commandant of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), enmeshed in alleged N26.7 million fraud scandal. Mr. Akpan, has been charged before a Federal Capital Territory High Court, sitting in Kwali, on a 17-count charge before Justice Garba by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC), for using a private real estate company, Danemy Nig Ltd, to defraud land subscribers of N26.7m.

Mr. Akpan convinced many subscribers with the claim of being in partnership with NSCDC, to pay various sums of money for plots of land both in Karshi, Nasarawa State and Sabon Lugbe Extension, Airport Road, Abuja, which were never allocated to them.

ICPC told the court that the offence, committed between 2010 and 2015, violated Sections 19 and 26 (1) (c) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000 and was punishable under Section 19 of the same Act.

He allegedly received N13,350,000 in 2011 from a subscriber, Mr. Igwe Onus Nwankwo, through his company Danemy Nig Ltd, as payments for 10 plots of land at Airport Road, and also received N1,305,000 from Doctors Robert Okoro and Akuneme Marcel Ikwuoma, each, for the allocation of plots of land at the Defenders Family Estate Homes Scheme, Airport Road. He equally received N2,610,000 from Mrs. Chidinma Obasi for two plots of land and N1,205,000 from Mr. Etuechere Martins, for a plot.

Mr. Akpan pleaded not guilty to the charges and was admitted to bail in the sum of N5 million with two sureties in like sum and the matter adjourned to November 7, 2022 for trial.

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Case 5: Abdu Bulama N450 Million money laundering

Justice Fadima Murtala Aminu of the Federal High Court sitting in Damaturu, Yobe State on June 20, 2022, admitted in evidence the confessional statements made by a former Minister of Science and

Technology, Abdu Bulama.

Bulama who was the coordinator of former President Goodluck Jonathan's 2015 re-election campaign committee in Yobe State, is being prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, alongside a former Commissioner for Integrated Rural Development in Yobe State, Mohammed Kadai, Abba Gana Tata, Muhammad Mamu and Hassan Ibn Jaks for allegedly receiving the sum of N450 million from Diezani Alison-Madueke, former Minister of Petroleum Resources, to influence the outcome of the 2015 presidential election.

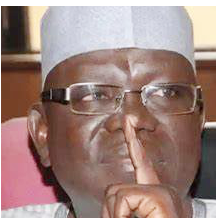
The defendants were re-arraigned on November 8, 2021, on a seven-count charge of criminal conspiracy and money laundering, following the judgment of an Appeal Court in Gombe State, which set aside the judgment of the lower court which had discharged and acquitted the defendants. The appellate court had ordered a re-trial of the case before another Judge.

On February 28, 2022, a prosecution witness, Dauda Umar, an operative of the EFCC led in evidence by the prosecution counsel, Mukhtar Ali Ahmed, told the court that the defendant's extra judicial statements were obtained voluntarily.

Umar, who testified in a trial-within-trial, after the defendants had claimed that they made statements under duress, said the EFCC operates according to international best practices and has no history of extracting statements from suspects by force.

Justice Aminu in her ruling, admitted in evidence the extra-judicial statements of the defendants after which holding brief counsel Mr. E. A Adeniton, prayed the court for an adjournment to enable lead counsel J.J Usman SAN, to cross-examine the EFCC witness.

Justice Aminu thereafter, adjourned the case to November 1, 2022 for cross-examination of Pw3.



Case 6: John Yusuf N22.9 Billion fraud

The Supreme Court in Abuja on April 13, 2022, affirmed the six years imprisonment imposed on a former Federal Director of Pensions (FDP,) Mr.

John Yakubu Yusuf for misappropriating N22.9bn police pensions fund.

The apex court apart from affirming the six years sentence also ordered him to refund the N22.9bn to the federal government coffer.

Justice Tammam Abubakar in his judgment in an appeal filed by Mr. Yusuf upheld the decision of the Court of Appeal which in 2018 sentenced him to six years imprisonment in addition to ordering him to refund the huge sum.

The apex court held that the appeal of the former federal pension director seeking to set aside the six years jail term against him was frivolous, vexatious and devoid of merit. Yusuf and others engaging in fraudulent practices must be told in clear language through court judgments that it is no longer business as usual.

They described the judgment of the Federal Capital Territory High Court which in 2016 sentenced Yusuf to two years imprisonment with an option of N750, 000 as a slap on the wrist and held that victims of the convicted director deserved restitution which can only be achieved through justice.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC had arraigned Yusuf before FCT High Court in 2016 where he admitted committing the fraud and subsequently entered into a plea bargain with the anti-graft agency.

Justice Abubakar Talba of the FCT high court had upon the plea bargain, sentenced the former director to two years imprisonment with an option of a N750.000 fine which he promptly paid and escaped imprisonment.

Irrked by the sentence considered to be too ridiculous, EFCC had challenged the decision at the Court of Appeal in Abuja who quashed the plea bargain, sentenced the former director to six years imprisonment without the option of a fine and also ordered him to refund the N22.9 billion naira to the covers of the federal government.

Not satisfied with the Court of Appeal decision, Yusuf approached the Supreme Court, challenging the Court of Appeal judgment on the ground of gross miscarriage of justice.

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Case 7: Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu N700 Million fraud trial

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is prosecuting Pastor Osagie Ize-Iyamu a gubernatorial candidate in Edo State at different times for the two leading political parties in Nigeria – the People's Democratic Party and the All Progressives Congress (APC)

Pastor Ize-Iyamu and other defendants in the suit including former Edo State People's Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman, Chief Dan Orbih, Hon. Tony Aziegbemi; former Deputy Governor of Edo State, Mr. Lucky Imasuen and Efe Erimuoghae Anthony are being charged on a 28 count-charge bothering on forgery, criminal breach of trust, and misappropriation. They are alleged to have diverted the money meant for payment and gratuities and pensions to retired teachers.

At the beginning of trial July 14, 2020, Pastor Ize-Iyamu through his lawyer, Mr. 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 while maintaining 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 and adjourned to March 17, 2022 for continuation of trial.

The matter has now been adjourned to November 3rd, 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 8: Mukhtar Ramalan Yero & 3 others N700 Million money laundering

Mukhtar 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 People's 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.

At the resumed proceeding in July 2021, EFCC Counsel, Mr. 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.

On application for bail, the court adopted the terms of bail earlier granted the defendants and adjourned till October 13, 2021 for commencement of trial, but at the resumed sitting, Justice M.G Umar again, adjourned to February 24, 2022 for continuation of trial.

The matter has now been adjourned to November 21st, 2022 for continuation of trial.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Monday November 21st, 2022 re-arraigned a former governor of Kaduna State, Mukhtar Ramalan Yero before Justice R.M Aikawa of the Federal High Court sitting in Kaduna on an eight count amended charges bordering on money laundering. The re-arraignment is sequel to the transfer of the former trial judge, Justice M.G Umar, from the State.

Yero is being prosecuted by the EFCC 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 the state) for their alleged involvement in the receipt and disbursement of the sum of N700 million paid to them by a former Minister of Petroleum Resources, Diezani Alison-Madueke to influence the outcome of the 2015 presidential election.

At today's sitting, the prosecution 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 read to the defendants and they all pleaded 'not guilty'.

One of the amended counts reads: "That you, Mukhtar Ramalan Yero (while being the Executive Governor of

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Kaduna state), Nuhu Somo Wya (whilst being a former minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria) and Abubakar Gaiya Haruna (whilst being the chairman people's Democratic Party (PDP), Kaduna State Chapter, sometimes in 2015 in Kaduna within the jurisdiction of the Honourable Court (Federal High Court) did conspire among yourselves to commit a felony to wit: indirectly taking possession of the sum of N700,000,000.00 (Seven Hundred Million Naira) which you ought to have known forms part of unlawful activity to wit; bribery and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(a) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition Act 2011 (as amended) in 2012 and punishable under Section 15(3) of the same Act”.

Another count reads: “That you Mukhtar Ramalan Yero (whilst being the Executive Governor of Kaduna state), Nuhu Somo Wya (whilst being a former minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria), Ishaq Hamza (whilst being the secretary to the Kaduna state government), and Abubakar Gaiya Haruna (whilst being the chairman people's Democratic Party (PDP), Kaduna State Chapter, sometimes in 2015 in Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court (Federal High Court) did indirectly take possession of the aggregate sum of N700,000,000.00 (Seven Hundred Million Naira), which you reasonably ought to have known forms parts of the proceeds of unlawful activity to wit: bribery and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 15(2)(d) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act 2011(as amended) in 2012 and punishable under Section 15(3) of the same Act”.

Following their pleas, the defence counsel, Yunus Ustaz Usman urged the court to extend to the defendants, the terms of the bail earlier granted them by the former judge.

The prosecution counsel, Nasiru Salele, appearing with M.E Eimonye and P.C Onyeneho, did not object to the application.

Justice Umar granted bail to the defendants on the same terms earlier offered them by the court

The case was adjourned till 16th, 17th and 18th January, 2023, for trial.



Case 9: Patrick Akpobolokemi and Captain Ezekiel Bala Agaba N86 Million fraud trial

The trial of Patrick Akpobolokemi, a former Director General, Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), and Ezekiel Bala Agaba, before Justice R.I.B. Adebisi of the Lagos State High Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos for an alleged N754.8 million fraud

continued on Monday, May 9, 2022, with the trial judge upholding the application by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, to have its next witness who is based in the United States of America testify through electronic means.

The prosecuting counsel, Kufre Uduak, told the court that the witness, one Charles Aroawode Oboh, a Director in Aroward Nigeria Limited, is based in the United States of America.

The prosecution had, at the last sitting on March 18, 2022, approached the court with the application seeking leave to call the witness based in the United States of America to testify through electronic means but counsel to the second defendant, Mr. E.D. Onyeke, had opposed the application arguing that the testimony will be prejudicial since the witness was not situated within jurisdiction.

In his ruling, the judge, dismissed the opposition of the defence as lacking in merit, granted the prayers of the prosecution, and subsequently adjourned to June 30, 2022 for continuation of trial.

The matter has now been adjourned to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, December, 2022 for continuation of trial.

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Case 10: Dr. Doyin Okupe N702 Million money laundering

Dr. Doyin Okupe is erstwhile spokesperson to former President Goodluck

Jonathan.

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.

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, a witness 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 the Office of the National Security Adviser to the President formerly headed by Sambo Dasuki. He argued that the N10 million was used by Mr. Okupe's office for logistics and other purposes.

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

The matter has now been adjourned to October 14, 2022 for continuation of trial.

On October 14, the matter couldn't go on because the prosecution served the final written address out of time.

The court thereafter, adjourned to Monday 7th November, 2022 for adoption of final written addresses.



Case 11: Hassana Moyi and others N553,985,624.10 Misappropriation of funds

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 alleges that the suspects diverted the money meant for payment of gratuities and pension to retired teachers, and explained that the suspects forged vouchers and withdrew the money in tranches. The commission filed the suit based on a petition brought to them by one of the pensioners and those 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.

On June 28, 2021, the defendants pleaded 'not guilty' when the charges were read to them and bail was subsequently granted by Justice Muhammad to the tune of N55,000,000 with one surety in like sum and adjourned to February 21, 2022 for commencement of trial.

The matter has now been adjourned to November 9, 2022 for continuation of trial.

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Case 12: Muhammed Kuchazi \$9.6 Billion P&ID award

Muhammed Kuchazi is a Commercial Director of the Process and Industrial Development (P&ID). The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) initially arraigned Kuchazi alongside his company, Kore Holdings Limited on February, 2021 before Justice Folashade Giwa-Ogunbanjo of the Federal High Court, Abuja, on eight counts 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, 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 had succeeded. Again, in relation to this case, the EFCC 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.

On November 22, 2021, Mr. Kuchazi alongside his company, were re-arraigned before Justice Zainab Abubarkar of the Federal High Court Abuja. Mr. Kuchazi pleaded not guilty to the charges and the court subsequently, granted him bail based on previous terms and adjourned to February 1, 2022 for commencement of trial.

The matter has now been adjourned to November 10, 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 13: DCP Abba Kyari Drug trafficking And \$61,400,00 bribery

A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja has fixed October 19, 20 and 21st, 2022 as the trial dates for the embattled Deputy Commissioner of Police, Abba Kyari and four others. In his ruling on August 29, 2022, Justice Emeka Nwite

declined to grant bail to suspended Deputy Commissioner of Police, Abba Kyari and four others.

Justice Nwite, therefore, reaffirmed his earlier ruling of March 28, 2022, ordering an accelerated hearing saying that the applicants failed to present sufficient materials and evidence to warrant the granting of the fresh application.

The suspects are to be remanded at the Kuje Correctional Centre in Abuja, pending the commencement of their trial in October.

National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) is prosecuting DCP Abba Kyari alongside 4 suspended police officers ACP Sunday Ubia, ASP James, Inspector Simon Agirigba and Inspector John Nuhu as 2nd to 5th defendants respectively on allegations bordering on a cocaine deal.

While the 6th and 7th defendants Patrick Umeibe and Emeka Ezenwanne who pleaded guilty to the charges were sentenced to 6 years imprisonment on three count charges and their sentences to run concurrently after entering a plea bargain agreement with the NDLEA.



Case 14: Prof John Ibu & 2 others N24.65 Million fraud trial

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission on June 28, 2021, arraigned the Chairman of Benue State University Teaching Hospital, Professor John Ibu for alleged N24.65 million fraud, alongside one 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.

They were arraigned on charges of conspiracy and obtaining N24, 650,000 (Twenty-Four Million, Six Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only) by false pretence 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 EFCC alleged that the duo obtained the said sum from the Benue State University Teaching Hospital under the guise of purchasing a Toyota Landcruiser Prado 2018 Model which was never bought. And in addition, Professor John Ibu, being the Board Chairman, Benue State University Teaching Hospital

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sometime in July 2019 used his position to collect a bribe of N10, 900,000 from one Chief Abukenchi Suleiman of ADB Motors Venters Nig. Ltd, on behalf of Atirogo & Sons Enterprises, paid into Access Bank account Number 0049185884, a company he is the Managing Director.

The defendants pleaded “not guilty” to the charges preferred against them and bail was subsequently granted by the court. The case was adjourned to September 27, 2021 and subsequently to May 16, 2022 for the commencement of trial.

On September 22nd, 2022, the matter came up for adoption of final written addresses of the parties but the court did not sit. There is currently no adjourned date as election petition matters have taken precedence. Follow up will be done.



Case 15: Senator Shehu Sani \$25,000 fraud

The trial of former Senator Shehu Sani was on March 24, 2022, stalled at the Abuja Division of the Federal High Court due to the absence of a prosecution witness (PW12), slated to give evidence. The former senator was arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for alleged bribery, name-dropping and influence peddling.

EFCC alleged that Senator Sani fraudulently obtained \$25,000 from ASD Group of Companies' Chairman, Sani Dauda, and collecting the money under the false pretence that it would be used to bribe the former EFCC chairman Ibrahim Magu to shield him (Mr. Dauda) from investigation and prosecution.

The former senator, however, pleaded not guilty to all the allegations.

During trial, prosecution counsel, Abba Mohammed, told the court that the matter was for the continuation of trial but that the witness had difficulty reaching the court on time due to transportation issues. The court, thereafter, adjourned the matter to June 22 and June 23 for the prosecution to call its 12th witness.

At continuation of trial on June 22nd, trial could not proceed and no new date has yet been fixed at the time of filing this report.

The matter has now been adjourned to 15th, 16th and 17th November 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 16: Otunba Gbenga Daniel N211.3 Million fraud trial

The former Governor of Ogun State, Otunba Gbenga Daniel was 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 defence in respect of 18-count charge while discharging the remaining 14 counts preferred against him.

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

The Court of Appeal, Ibadan Division, in delivering its judgment on April 12, discharged and acquitted the former governor of all 15 charges levelled against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Justice Yargata Nimpar, who read the judgement, found merit in the eight issues adduced by the ex-Ogun state governor against the EFCC and acquitted him on all counts, ending an eleven-year-old litigation against the former governor.

Justice Nimpar described the prosecution as malicious, stating that the anti-graft agency should not make use of state fiat to prosecute a governor for an action protected by federal legislation like the Land Use Act as it empowers the governor to allocate land to all Nigerians, including churches and for all purposes.



Case 17: George Turnah N2.9 Billion scam

Justice A.T. Mohammed of the Federal High Court in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, has convicted and sentenced a former Special Adviser to Mr. Dan Abia, erstwhile Managing Director of Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC Mr. George Turnah, to four years imprisonment on May 20, 2022. Mr. Turnah, was standing trial alongside his wife, Jennifer Timinipre Turnah, on four-count amended charges, for concealing information from the EFCC about their company while filing their asset declaration forms. the court found out that he was one

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of the Directors and majority shareholder of Ashford Consult and Events Nig. Ltd.

Mr. Turnah was prosecuted by the Port Harcourt's Zonal Command of the EFCC, between 2017 and 2022, for obtaining money by false pretence, money laundering and abuse of office and subsequently jailed for failure to make full disclosure of his assets in his disclosure to the EFCC.



Case 18: Senator Abba Morro & 4 others N675.6 Million employment scam

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

On June 25, 2020, Abba Moro was discharged of seven out of the 11-count criminal charges brought against him by the EFCC and was ordered by the court to open his defence 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 678,675 applicants who participated in the recruitment exercise.

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 defence 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 to 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 defence 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 the day of judgment April 7, 2022, Justice Nnamdi Dimgba noted that the Economic and Financial Crimes

Commission (EFCC), did not prove its case against Senator Abba Moro and Mr. Alayebami. He thereafter, discharged and acquitted them but convicted one defendant, a former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Interior, Mrs. Anastasia Daniel-Nwobia for procurement infractions.

The court held that the recruitment exercise contract was awarded through selective tendering procedure by invitation of four firms without seeking approval of the Bureau for Public Procurement contrary to section 40, 42, and 43 of Public Procurement Act. No 65 of 2007 and punishable under Section 58 of the same Act.

The recruitment exercise which was conducted in March 2014, led to the death of no fewer than 20 applicants while many others were injured in stampedes in Moshood Abiola Stadium Abuja, Port Harcourt stadium and Minna Stadium.



Case 19: Air Commodore Umar Mohammed (retd.) \$1 Million fraud

Federal High Court, Abuja, on Jan. 14, 2022, discharged and acquitted Air Commodore Umar Mohammed (retd) of money laundering charge preferred against him.

Justice Inyang Ekwo, in a judgment, held that the prosecution had failed to prove the essential ingredients of the charge thereby failing to discharge the burden of proof as required by law in this case.

The Office of the Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) had sued Mohammed and his company, Easy Jet Integrated Service Ltd, as 1st and 2nd defendants in the money laundering suit.

Mohammed and his company, were prosecuted on five counts of money laundering, illegal possession of firearms and possession of classified documents without lawful authority. He and his company were accused of accepting one million, thirty thousand dollars (\$1,030,000) of one hundred dollars (\$100) denomination in cash from a firm, Worldwide Consortium PTY Ltd "as payment for flight services" without going through a financial institution as required by the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act.

The government also accused him of having in his possession, at his No: 4, Lungi Close, Mississippi, Maitama, Abuja home, "classified/official documents without lawful authority and thereby committed an

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offence contrary to Section 1(1)(b) of the Official Secret Act and punishable under Section 7(1)(a) of the same law.

Mohammed was accused of being in illegal possession of two pump action guns (marked: SBSG Magnum 397 and SBGS Interpress 09-1573) between June 1, 2011 and June 19, 2016 without valid licence thereby committing an offence contrary to Section 4 of the Firearms Act 2004 and punishable under Section 27(1)(b)(i) of the Act.

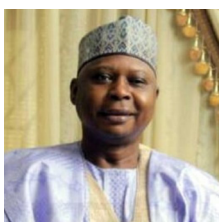
The retired officer, who was a member of the defunct Presidential Investigative Committee on Procurement of Arms and Equipment in the Armed Forces set up by President Muhammadu Buhari shortly after assuming office as President in 2015, had pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

In the course of the trial, the Attorney General called a sole witness (PW1), Stephen Olatubosun, who is a State Security Service (SSS) official who testified that the said monies were recovered from Mohammed's residence and was cross-examined by the defence lawyer.

However, after Mohammed was led in evidence as first defence witness (DW1) and a sole witness in his case, the prosecution closed their case without cross-examined him.

Delivering the judgment, the judge noted that in criminal cases, failure to cross-examine a witness on vital evidence elicited during examination-in-chief is fatal as the prosecution has no other method of disputing such witness or his evidence save by cross-examination. While noting that Mohammed had said the money found in his residence was his personal money used in his business but the prosecution did not cross-examine him but instead, applied to close his case.

He said the sum of \$1,030,000 mentioned in count one of the charges was never tendered in court throughout the proceeding.



Case 20: Kabiru Turaki N715 Million money laundering

A Federal High Court Abuja, on March 28, 2022, discharged and acquitted former Minister of Special Duties and Inter-Governmental Affairs, Kabiru Turaki, of a money

laundering charge.

Justice Inyang Ekwo, in a ruling on the no-case

submission filed by the defence, said the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) had failed to link Turaki and his co-defendants with the offences

contained in the 16-count charge. He said that the prosecution could not establish a prima facie case against them.

Justice Ekwo said that the defendants dislodged all the evidence of the prosecution witnesses called in the matter during cross-examination.

The judge further described the 12 witnesses relied on by EFCC as "tainted witnesses."

The judge said that it was established during cross-examination that Turaki was not a signatory to the account of the ministry and did not authorise any payment or make any transfer of funds.

He aligned with the argument that said the former minister was not a member of the Ministerial Tender Board and that there was no inflow of funds from the account of the ministry to Turaki's company.

The EFCC had, in the 16-count charge, arraigned Turaki, alongside three others for unlawful and criminal misappropriation of funds to the tune of N715 million.

Other defendants are Sampson Okpetu, who served as his special assistant; Samtee Essentials Limited and Pasco Investment Limited — companies linked to Okpetu.

Case 21: Ismaila Mustapha (a.k.a. Mompha) N6 billion Money laundering



Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on Wednesday, November 16, 2022, adjourned till December 16, 2022 the trial of one Ismaila Mustapha, also known as

Mompha, over an alleged N6 billion fraud.

The Lagos Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, is prosecuting Mompha alongside his company, Ismalob Global Investment Limited, on an eight-count charge bordering on conspiracy to launder funds obtained through unlawful activity, retention of proceeds of criminal conduct, laundering of funds obtained through unlawful activity, failure to disclose assets and property, possession of documents containing false pretence and use of property derived from unlawful act.

Mompha alongside his company, Ismalob Global Investment Limited, was first arraigned by the EFCC on January 12, 2022.

One of the counts reads: "Ismaila Mustapha, Ahmadu Mohammed (at large) and Ismalob Global Investment

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Limited, sometime in 2016, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, conspired amongst yourselves to conduct financial transactions to the tune of N5,998,884,653.18 (Five Billion Nine Hundred and Ninety-eight Million Eight Hundred and Eighty-four Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty-three Naira Eighteen Kobo) with the intent of promoting the carrying on of specified unlawful activities to wit: obtaining by false pretence."

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charges.

The EFCC had, during the proceedings of June 10, 2022, informed the court that Mompha was in possession of another passport aside the one submitted to the court as part of his bail conditions and that he used the same to travel from Ghana to Dubai on April 11, 2022 via Emirates Airlines in violation of the court order.

Consequently, Justice Dada revoked the N25 million bail variation granted to the defendant.

The court also issued a bench warrant for his arrest because he stopped appearing in court.

The EFCC also declared him wanted.

However, since June 16, 2022, Mompha has absconded from the trial, even as the EFCC continues with efforts to secure his arrest and appearance in court.

Given his continued absence in court and the inability of the prosecution and defence to produce him in court, Justice Dada, on September 22, 2022, ordered that the trial would continue in absentia.

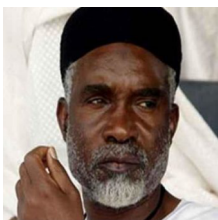
The prosecution was also ordered to ensure that it brings its witnesses to court at the next sitting.

At today's proceedings, the prosecuting counsel, S.I. Suleiman, informed the court that the prosecution was in court with two witnesses, as the court had fixed today for the commencement of trial.

He, however, informed the court of the absence of the lead defence counsel, Gboyega Oyewole, SAN.

"There's no representation for the defence and I tried reaching the junior counsel who said that the SAN ought to be here," he said.

Thereafter, Justice Dada adjourned till December 16, 2022 for trial.



Case 22: Vice Admiral Muritala Nyako (retd) and Senator Abdulaziz Nyako N29 billion fraud

A Federal High Court in Abuja on January 24, 2022, gave a former Governor of Adamawa State, Vice Admiral

Muritala Nyako (retd) and his son, Senator Abdulaziz Nyako, a 24-hour ultimatum to enter their defence in the N29 billion fraud charges brought against them by the Federal Government. Justice Okon Abang issued the ultimatum following the persistent claims of the

former governor and his son that they were not yet ready to open defence in the criminal charges against them.

At the resumption of the trial, where the ex-governor and his son were billed to kick-start the process of establishing their innocence, the former governor told Justice Abang that he was not yet ready to do that.

His position was adopted by his son who asked the court to give them time to go and prepare for the defence.

In a short ruling on the request for time, Justice Abang rejected the plea but stood down trial to enable the defendants put their house in order.

Justice Abang recalled the judgment of the Court of Appeal delivered on January 18 which dismissed the no-case submission of the two defendants and ordered them to return to the High Court to open their defence.

At the last date in February 2022, defence counsel sought to tender documents from the bar but was opposed by prosecution counsel Rotimi Williams SAN. The court adjourned to March 10, 2022 for ruling on the application.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, had on January 18 secured nine judgments against the former governor, his son, Senator Abdulaziz Nyako and seven of his business partners.

The Court of Appeal, Abuja Division, delivered all the nine judgments in separate nine appeals filed by the nine defendants to seek nullifications of the N29 billion money laundering charges against them.

The appeals are: CA/A/CR/589/2021 (by Nyako), CA/A/CR/590/2021 (by Zulfizil Abba), CA/A/CR/591/2021 (by Crust Energy), CA/A/CR/595/2021 (by Sebore Farms), CA/A/CR/596/2021 (by Blue Opal Ltd), CA/A/CR/597/2021 (by Abdulaziz), CA/A/CR/594/2021 (by Pagado Fortunes), CA/A/CR/593/2021 (by Abubakar Aliyu) and CA/A/CR/592/2021 (by Tower Asset Mgt).

In the nine separate judgments, a three-member panel of the court, led by Justice Peter Olabisi Ige, dismissed the appeals by Nyako and eight others and ordered them to return to the Federal High Court and enter their defence to the 37-count charge pending against them by providing answers to questions raised in the evidence presented by the Federal Government.

Nyako and the others had appealed against the July 19, 2021 ruling by Justice Okon Abang of the Federal High Court, Abuja, which rejected their no-case submissions.

The other defendants are Nyako's son, Abdulaziz; Zulfizil Abba, Abubakar Aliyu, Sebore Farms and

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Extension Limited, Pagado Fortunes Limited, Blue Opal Limited, Tower Assets Management Limited and Crust Energy Limited.

The matter has now been adjourned to 19th, 20th, and 21th October 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 23: Mrs Cecilia Osipitan N6 Billion fraud

A Federal High Court, Abuja, has threatened to strike out a N6 billion suit filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) against wife of a Senior Advocate of Nigeria

(SAN), Mrs. Cecilia Osipitan.

Justice Inyang Ekwo gave the warning on January 26, 2022 following the late filing of documents needed in the commencement of Osipitan's trial by counsel to the EFCC, Chris Mshelia.

Mrs. Osipitan and her company, PJO Ventures Limited, were sued in a nine-count money laundering charge to the tune of N6 billion by the anti-graft agency.

Osipitan, who was arraigned on March 26, 2021, alongside her company as 2nd defendant, was admitted to bail in the sum of N200 million with a surety in like sum.

She was alleged to have received the money through her company to acquire choice property in parts of the country.

However, at the resumed trial, the EFCC lawyer said though the matter was slated for trial commencement and a witness was in court, he informed that an additional proof of evidence and additional list of witnesses had just been filed the previous day.

The judge, who recalled that the last proceeding in the matter was on July 13, 2021, expressed surprise that the lawyer only came to file his documents a day before sitting.

The judge, while adjourning the trial to April 5, 6 and 7 2022, warned against further delay. He threatened to strike out the charge if there are further delays in the case.

The matter has now been adjourned to 28th, 29th and 30th November 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 24: Kenneth Minimah N13 Billion fraud

Justice Inyang Ekwo of the Federal High Court Abuja has threatened to strike out a suit filed by a former Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant General Kenneth Minimah, and two others, challenging the propriety of a criminal charge instituted against them by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The warning came shortly after counsel to Minimah, Efut Okoi, asked the Judge for more time to complete his amended processes.

Okoi told the court that in the process of filing the statement of claims, one of the deponents was indisposed and that caused delay.

Registering his displeasure, the trial judge stated that the application was brought since 2020.

Justice Ekwo adjourned the case to March 23 for hearing. He, however, warned that he will strike out the suit if he wasn't ready by that date.

General Minimah and a one-time Chief of Accounts and Budget, Major General A. O. Adetayo, as well as the former Director, Finance and Accounts Brigadier General R. I. Odi, had instituted a case in 2020, praying for an order restraining the Attorney General of the Federation and the EFCC, from trying them at an FCT High Court on an alleged diversion of N13 billion meant for procurement of arms.

Part of their arguments is that they can only be tried by a court-martial within the Nigerian Army.

The matter has now been adjourned to November 21st, 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 25: Chief Adebayo Alao-Akala N11.5 Billion corruption charges

The Court of Appeal, sitting in Ibadan, on December 2, 2021, discharged and acquitted a former Governor of Oyo State, Chief Adebayo Alao-Akala, over N11.5 billion corruption charges levelled against him by Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Alao-Akala was discharged and acquitted along with a former Deputy Chief Whip of the Senate, Sen. Hosea Agboola and a business mogul, Mr Femi Babalola.

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Agboola is currently the Chairman of Advisory Council to Gov. Seyi Makinde of Oyo State. He served as Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Matters during Alao-Akala's administration between 2007 and 2011, while Babalola owns Pentagon Engineering Services, the engineering firm that executed some contracts during the period.

The litigation, which started 11 years ago, was concluded by a three-man panel, presided over by Justice Jimi Bada, with Justices Abba Muhammed and Abdulazeez Waziri as members.

The justices, in their unanimous judgment, set aside the ruling of the lower court. They said the trial court erred by ordering the defendants to enter defence for the three counts because the prosecution led by EFCC failed to establish a prima facie case against them.

Alao-Akala and the two others were arraigned before an Oyo State High Court, Ibadan in 2012 by EFCC on an 11-count charge of N11.5 billion fraud bothering on conspiracy, awarding contract without budgetary provisions, obtaining by false pretence, acquiring property with money derived from illegal acts and concealing the ownership of such property, among others.

EFCC had told the court that when Alao-Akala was the governor, he awarded a road contract worth N8.5 billion between 2007 and 2009 to Babalola's firm, Pentagon Engineering Services.

He said that the former governor ordered the supply of drilling machines on behalf of the 33 local government areas at the cost of N3.5 billion without budgetary provision.

The EFCC also said Alao-Akala conspired with Ayoola to withdraw N2.9 billion from the Joint State and Local Government Account.

The trial court, presided over by Justice Muniru Owolabi, had struck out eight out of the 11 count-charge against Alao-Akala and the two others but ordered Alao-Akala to enter defence for the remaining three counts, bordering on conspiracy, obtaining money by false pretence and award of contract without budgetary provision.

Having dissatisfied with the judgment by the lower court, Alao-Akala and the two other defendants then headed for the Court of Appeal.



Case 26: Alhaji Yahaya Wakil Idris N19.9 Million criminal misappropriation

The Maiduguri Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday November 9, 2022, arraigned the Auditor General for Local Governments of Yobe State, Alhaji Yahaya Wakil Idris before Justice Mohammed Lawu Lawan of the Yobe State High Court, Damaturu on a one-count charge of criminal misappropriation to the tune of Nineteen Million, Nine Hundred Thousand Naira (N19,900,000.00).

The count reads: "That you, Yahaya Lawal Idris, being the Auditor General for Local Government, Yobe State, between the 20th to 21st day of May 2017 at Damaturu, Yobe State within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, received the sum of N19,900,000.00 via your personal account number 1001480930 with account name Alhaji Yahaya Idris domiciled with United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA) from the Local Government Audit Account Number 5030030060 domiciled with Fidelity Bank Plc for the purchase of a Brand new Toyota Corolla 2015 Model, did dishonestly misappropriated the gross sum of N10,100,000.00 (Ten Million, One Hundred Thousand Naira) only being the money made for the purchase of the said brand new Toyota Corolla 2015 for the office of the Local Government Auditor General, Yobe State, and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 308 of the Penal Code Cap 102 Laws of Yobe State of Nigeria and punishable under Section 309 of the same Law."

The defendant pleaded 'not guilty' to the charge preferred against him by EFCC.

Counsel for the prosecution J. A Ojogbane who appeared alongside M. A Ahmed prayed for a trial date in view of the plea of not guilty by the defendant. However, counsel for the defendant, M. Baba Zau through an application for bail, urged the court to admit his client to bail pending the determination of the case. Justice Lawan, thereafter, admitted the defendant to bail in the sum of Two Million Naira with one surety in like sum. The surety must be a landed property owner in Damaturu.

The matter was adjourned to November 30, 2022 for commencement of trial.

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Case 27: Jonah Jang N6.3 Billion fraud

A plateau High Court, on September 2, 2022, discharged and acquitted Sen. Jonah Jang and Mr. Yusuf Pam of N6.3 billion corruption charges proffered against them by the Economic Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Jang, a former governor of Plateau and Mr. Yusuf Pam, a former cashier in the office of the Secretary to the State Government have been standing trial since May 4, 2018.

The EFCC charged the duo to court over 17 count charges bothering on diversification and misappropriation of state funds.

Justice Christen Dabup who delivered the judgement, said the court did not find the accused persons guilty of any of the charges and therefore, discharged and acquitted them.

Jang's lawyer, Mike Ozekhome SAN said there was no evidence that the money which was a loan from Central Bank of Nigeria taken by Plateau State Government, was stolen by Jang. According to him, there were evidences that the money was duly utilised with all the heads of government validated by the Plateau State House of Assembly under an enabling and extant law. EFCC Counsel, Mr. Oluwaleke Atolagbe said the Commission would review the judgment and see whether there were grounds for appeal. No appeal has been filed at the time of writing this report.



Case 28: Olakunle Oluomo N2.4 Billion fraud

Embattled Speaker of the Ogun State House of Assembly, Olakunle Oluomo has been remanded pending his fulfillment of N300 million bail bond.

Justice Daniel Osiagor of the Federal High Court in Lagos on September 6, 2022, made the order following Oluomo's arraignment by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over an allegation of N2.475 billion accrued from money laundering and forgery charge.

Oluomo was arraigned alongside Oladayo Samuel and the Clerk of the House, Taiwo Adeyemo on an 11-count charge bothering on money laundering and forgery. His two co-defendants were admitted to bail following their plea of not-guilty as well, in the sum of N100 million each with two sureties each, on the

condition that one of whom must not be lower than level 14 in the civil service. Defendants have also submitted their travel documents to the court.

The fourth defendant in the matter, Adeyanju Nimota Amoke is said to be at large.

They defendants were alleged to have conspired to launder the funds from the treasury of the Ogun State House of Assembly sometime in 2019 thereby contravening sections 18 (a), 15 (2) (d) of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act, 2011 as amended and punishable under section 15 (3) of the same Act.

The matter has now been adjourned to November 10, 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 29: Francis Atuche & 1 other N25 Billion fraud

The Court of Appeal, Lagos Division, on June 23, 2022, upheld the conviction of ex-Managing Director of the defunct Bank PHB Plc, Francis Atuche and its ex-Chief Financial Officer, Ugo Anyanwu.

Atuche and Anyanwu had approached the appellate court to set aside their conviction by Justice Lateefa Okunnu of the Lagos State High Court in Ikeja who found them guilty for N25.7 billion fraud on June 16, 2021.

Justices Sadiq Umar, Adebukola Banjoko and Kayode Bada resolved all the issues in the appeal in favour of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, but reduced Atuche's jail term to 12 years and that of Anyanwu to 8 years.

The court also affirmed the discharge and acquittal of Atuche's wife, Elizabeth.

About three years after their arraignment by the EFCC in 2011, the convicts approached the Court of Appeal to challenge their trial by the lower court for lack of jurisdiction.

In September 2016, the court ordered Justice Okunnu to hands-off the trial, but did not quash the numbers of counts against the defendants.

The EFCC, thereafter, approached the Supreme Court to set aside the judgment and order a trial, which the apex court did and ordered that the case be returned to Justice Okunnu for continuation of trial.

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Case 30: Aisha Alkali Wakil A.k.a. Mama boko haram N71.4 Million fraud

The Maiduguri Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission, EFCC, on June 14, 2022, secured the conviction and sentencing of Aisha Alkali Wakil, aka Mama Boko Haram, alongside one Prince Lawal Shoyode and Tahiru Saidu Daura before Justice Aisha Kumaliya of the Borno State High Court, Maiduguri.

The defendants, who are promoter and managers of a non-governmental organisation, Complete Care and Aids Foundation, had on September 7, 2018, induced one Ali Tijjani, and his company, AMTMAT Global Ventures to supply N51 million worth of processed maize grain for which they refused to pay.

The defendants had pleaded “not guilty” to all the charges, leading to their full trial.

The judgment was the climax of a process that commenced on Monday, September 14, 2020 when the defendants were re-arraigned on a two-count charge of conspiracy and obtaining money by false pretence to the tune of N71,400,000 (Seventy One Million, Four Hundred Thousand Naira only)

Delivering judgement, Justice Kumaliya sentenced the first defendant to five years imprisonment without an option of fine.

The Judge also sentenced Wakil, Daura and Shoyede to seven years imprisonment for the offence of conspiracy without option of fine and seven years on the count of cheating also without option of fine.

On the second count of cheating the court sentenced the convicts to seven years imprisonment each without an option of fine and ordered the defendants to pay the sum of N51 million to Ali Tijjani or in default serve fifteen years imprisonment.



Case 31: Okey Nwosu N19 Billion fraud

The Court of Appeal sitting in Lagos on June 9, 2022, upheld the judgment of the lower court and affirmed the conviction of ex- Finbank MD,

Okey Nwosu and Dayo Famoroti's conviction. The duo had attempted to set aside their conviction by Justice Lateefa Okunnu of the Lagos High Court. The Appellate court, however, reduced the restitution from N18 billion to N10 billion on grounds that Finbank had recovered about N8 billion.

In January 2021, Justice Okunnu convicted and sentenced Nwosu and Famoroti to three years imprisonment on a 26-count amended charge bothering on stealing and illegal conversion to the tune of N19.2 billion.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission that prosecuted them alongside Agnes Ebubedike and Danjuma Ocholi, said the defendants perpetrated the fraud while they were directors of the bank.



Case 32: Titus Joshua N200 Million fraud

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has arraigned an alleged fraudster Titus Joshua who claimed to be the Chief Security Officer to the President before Justice S.M. Shuaibu of the Federal High Court in Benin.

The suspect was arraigned on May 12, 2022 on a five-count charge bordering on conspiracy and obtaining by false pretence. Joshua is alleged to have defrauded his victims of over N200 million under the pretence of helping them secure top management positions at the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

The EFCC alleges that the defendant on 10th August, 2018 and 30th September, 2021 at Orhionmwon Local Government, fraudulently obtained N12,216,000 from one Engineer James Igbinosun while claiming that the money was to facilitate the application of the Igbinosun into the position of NDDC Managing Director. The offence violates Section 1(1)(b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act”.

The defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge when it was read to him.

Justice Shuaibu thereafter, adjourned the matter to May 30, 2022 for hearing on the bail application and ordered the defendant remanded at the custodial center of the Nigeria Correctional Service

The matter has now been adjourned to 7th and 8th December 2022 for continuation of trial.

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Case 33: Abdussalam Abdulkarim Zaura \$1,320,000 Fraud

The Court of Appeal, Kano Division on April 13, 2022, set aside the Judgment of a Kano Federal High Court that discharged and acquitted Abdussalam Abdulkarim Zaura in an alleged multimillion dollar fraud and ordered his retrial.

The Economic and Financial Crime Commission, (EFCC) had some time last year arraigned Zaura, an APC gubernatorial aspirant in the recently concluded gubernatorial election primaries in Kano before a Federal High Court in Kano, accusing him of defrauding a Kuwaiti of \$1,320,000 which he obtained through false pretence, claiming he was a developer who specialised in buildings in Dubai, Kuwait and some Arab countries.

However, the Federal High Court after carefully prosecuting the case, discharged and acquitted Zaura of all allegations but the EFCC appealed the case at an appellate court in Kano.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission prosecuted Zaura on five-count charges bothering on fraud and obtaining by false pretence

In a unanimous decision by a three-man panel of judges of the Court of Appeal and delivered by Justice Abdullahi M. Bayero, the judgment of the Federal High Court was set aside and an order made that the defendant be tried afresh by a different judge other than Justice Allagoa.

The main point of contention in the appeal was that the accused person was absent when the judgment was delivered and based on several judgments of the Supreme Court, it was held that an accused person must always be present in court throughout his trial including judgment. It was in that regard that the court of appeal found merit in the appeal and upheld the same accordingly.

Following the Court of Appeal Judgment, The EFCC filed a charge of criminal conspiracy and obtaining money by false pretence to the tune of \$1.3 million against the defendant.

But when the case came up for arraignment, EFCC's lawyer, Aisha Habib, told the court that the defendant

was nowhere to be found for arraignment, and that since it is a criminal case, the defendant must be in court to answer his plea even if he is challenging the jurisdiction of the court to arraign him.

However, counsel to the defendant, Ibrahim Grabar-Waru, told the court that the presence of the defendant is not mandatory. Quoting Section 266(b) of Administration of Criminal Justice Law 2015, he said although the presence of the defendant is necessary in a criminal trial, there is an exception where there exists an interlocutory application challenging the jurisdiction of the court to arraign him. He further told the court that the defendant was not in court because he was not physically fit to stand trial.

In his ruling, the presiding judge, Justice Muhammad Nasir-Yunusa, said the defendant must be in court in a criminal trial. He, thereafter, ordered both parties to file a written address on whether or not the defendant ought to appear before the court, and adjourned the matter to December 5, 2022 for arraignment.



Case 34: Nurudeen Musa Abdullahi N100 million Fraud

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has secured the conviction of Nurudeen Musa Abdullahi, a Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) contractor who was arraigned for fraud.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) arraigned the consultant and software engineering on offences bordering on conspiracy and obtaining money by false pretence.

Abdullahi was charged to court after three oil and gas companies in Kaduna petitioned the commission. The firms said in 2018, they received letters from the NNPC demanding settlement of outstanding balance of products lifted from the Kaduna Depot between 2008 and 2018.

In the course of inquiries, the complainants discovered that their companies were impersonated to defraud the NNPC.

EFCC said Abdullahi had been engaged by the corporation to develop and manage its billing software payment system regarding lifting of petroleum products.

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Justice Mallong convicted and sentenced him on January 24, 2022, with a fine of N1 million, and ordered that he forfeits his properties in Kaduna, comprising one unit of two storey building; one unit of storey building with six rooms, One unit of three-bedroom guest chalet; one unit of six-bedroom boys' quarters; one unit of one bedroom security house, a mosque and generator house.

Others are one aluminium melting furnace, one hydraulic cutting machine, one manual cutting machine, one roller, one Ercole 360 cutting machine, two metal milling machine, two drilling machine, one Mitchel of Keighley milling machine, and other machines



Case 35: Kawu Chindo and Ali Baba N73.7 Million fraud

Justice Mu'azu Abubakar of the Bauchi Division of the Federal High Court on February 19, 2022, convicted and sentenced two former accounts officials of Bauchi State Government to prison for financial misappropriation.

The two convicts, Kawu Chindo, a former Chief Accountant of Bauchi State Muslims Pilgrims Welfare Board and Ali Baba of the Office of the Accountant-General of the State, were dragged before the court by Gombe Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The Bauchi State Ministry of Finance and Economic Development had petitioned the Commission that both Chindo and Baba printed and issued fake revenue receipts to intending pilgrims to Saudi Arabia for Hajj in 2019. Following a petition, the EFCC investigated and arraigned the duo before the court, accusing them of conspiring to appropriate to themselves public funds to the tune of N73.7million by diverting the said amount to personal accounts, thereby committing the offence of fraud.

Delivering judgment in the case Justice Abubakar found the defendants guilty of the charge filed against them by EFCC, and sentenced Chindo to seven years imprisonment, while Baba was sentenced to three months imprisonment.



Case 36: Haruna Jauro N156.4 million fraud

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on May 12, 2022, re-arraigned a former Director-General of the

Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Haruna Jauro, before a Federal High Court, Lagos, over alleged N156.4 million money laundering.

The defendant was arraigned alongside one Dauda Bawa and Thlumbau Enterprises Ltd., on a 19-count charge bordering on money laundering.

The EFCC alleged that the defendants in January 2014, converted N156.4 million belonging to the Agency to their own use.

The defendants were earlier arraigned before Justice Mojisola Olatoregun (now retired), on April 12, 2016, on the 19 counts.

The anti-graft agency had during the trial before Justice Mojisola Olatoregun, called 16 witnesses and tendered several exhibits, while the defence called five witnesses.

However, following the retirement of Justice Olatoregun, the trial has commenced afresh before Justice Chuka Obiozor.

The defendants were, therefore, re-arraigned before Obiozor, where they, again, pleaded not guilty and were allowed to continue on the earlier bail.

However, following the transfer of Justice Obiozor from the Lagos Division, the case was transferred to a new judge, Justice Tijani Ringim, and the charge was fixed for re-arraignment.

When the case came up for hearing on Thursday, Mr. A.O Mohammed, announced appearance for the prosecution, while N.Y Chiwar announced appearance for the defendants.

The defendants were consequently re-arraigned on the charges and they again pleaded not guilty to all counts.

After their pleas, the defence counsel urged the court to allow the defendants to continue on their existing bail, on the ground that they had religiously attended trial up till date.

In a short ruling, the court granted the defence counsel's application, and allowed the defendants to continue on their existing bail.

The prosecutor then called its witness, Clement Ngeolu, a bank compliance officer who told the court that he worked as a compliance officer at Ajose Adeogun, in Victoria Island, adding that his schedule included undertaking duties assigned by the bank's management. He confirmed that the defendants were customers of the bank and that the statements sent to the EFCC upon request were from the books of account, which were accurate with the bank's records.

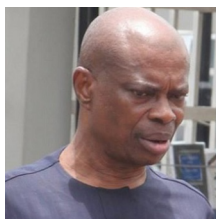
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When prosecution sought to tender the bank's letter dated Feb 23, 2016, as well as Oct. 5, 2015, addressed to the Head of Operations, EFCC, the defence counsel raised objection to the tendering of the document on the grounds that they were duly signed and executed by people who were not in the witness box even though they were available and said the document would amount to a hearsay and urged the court to reject the same.

In response, the prosecutor argued that the basis for admissibility of a document was relevant, adding that the transaction on which the defendants were facing trial were made through the statement of account. He noted that the instruments attached were the same for which the defendants were being charged, adding that the content of the letters were the foundation upon which the case of the prosecution was built.

The court overruled the objection of defence counsel and admitted the document under the provisions of Section 83(2) (a) of the Evidence Act. He thereafter adjourned to October 24 and 25, 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 37: Clement Illoh N97.3 Million fraud

A Federal High Court sitting in Lagos on May 5, 2022, sentenced a former Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Productivity, Dr.

Clement Illoh, to four years imprisonment each, in a three-count charge bordering on non-declaration of assets.

Justice Babs Kuewunmi sentenced the defendant, after he changed his “not guilty” plea to “guilty”, to four years imprisonment after the prosecution had closed its case.

The judge also ordered the forfeiture of the sum of N97,300,613.44, \$139,575.50 and £10,121.52 respectively, to the Federal Government of Nigeria, being proceeds of unlawful activities.

In the first count preferred by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, the defendant on April 19, 2016, in Lagos failed to make full disclosure of assets worth about N97.3 million, an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 27 Subsection 3c of the EFCC Establishment Act of 2004.

He was also accused of failing to disclose the sum of \$139,575, while in the third count, he failed to disclose assets of £10,121.

At the last trial date during cross-examination by EFCC counsel, Rotimi Oyedepo, Mr. Illoh revealed that he received funds to the tune of N65 million from SURE P project contractors to his personal bank account.

In the middle of proceedings, defence counsel, T.S.

Awana then sought the court's permission to confer with his client, following which he applied to the court for the defendant to change his plea.

Justice Kuewunmi granted the application and Mr. Illoh pleaded guilty.

Accordingly, he was convicted and sentenced to four years imprisonment on each of the counts running concurrently.

Though the offences were bailable, the defendant's bail was revoked in 2019, after Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo of the Lagos State Special Offences Court sentenced him to five years in jail over a N14.1 million fraud.

Since then, he had been attending his trial in Ikoyi from the custody of the Nigerian Correctional Service.

Before Illoh's second sentencing on May 5, 2022, the judge heard his allocutus, where he requested that the judge temper justice with mercy. Justice Babs Kuewunmi consequently, sentenced the defendant to four years in each of the counts to run concurrently from the 10th of October 2019.



Case 38: Baba Chado Kantigi Property forfeiture

A three-man panel of Judges of the Court of Appeal, Abuja, led by Justice Bature Isah Gafai, has dismissed an appeal filed by Baba Chado Kantigi claiming

ownership of House No. 10, Kinshasa Street, Wuse Zone 6, Abuja.

The appeal was dismissed on Monday, October 31, 2022.

Kantigi filed the appeal to claim ownership of the property linked to Alhaji Liman Kantigi, a former Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs in Niger state while Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu was governor.

The EFCC, had, sometime in 2017, confiscated some properties linked to Kantigi based on intelligence linking him with money laundering and fraudulent acquisition of assets. Another landed property linked to Kantigi was House Block 5, Flat 3, Divo Street, Foreign Affairs Quarters, Abuja.

Delivering the lead judgment on Monday, Justice Gafai dismissed the appeal and directed that the property be permanently forfeited to the Federal Government.

Other parties who forfeited properties to the government in a different appeal before the court are: Janet Ojeneti Enemosah: Block 4, Flat 3, Divo Street, Foreign Affairs Quarters, Abuja, Mrs. Rakiya Baba: Block 5, Flat 3, Divo Street, Foreign Affairs Quarters, Abuja and Olalekan Olakehinde : Mercedes Van January 2014 model, Toyota Land Cruiser bullet proof jeep, 2013 model, Toyota Tundra pickup edition, 2014 model , Volkswagen Passat

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2013 model and Mini Cooper Countryman, 2013 model.



Case 39: John Abebe and 2 others N120,000,000 stealing

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on October 6, 2022, arraigned John Abebe, a younger brother of the late former First Lady of Nigeria, Stella Obasanjo before the Lagos State Special Offences Court in Ikeja over allegations of fraud.

Abebe was docked alongside a former Head of First bank Plc, United Kingdom Correspondent Office, Kamoru Alade Oladimeji, and Inducon Nigeria Limited before Justice Olubunmi Abike-Fadipe on a six-count charge of conspiracy, stealing, and obtaining money under pretence, the sum of N120 million being property of Arsenal Technologies Limited. The defendants, however, pleaded not guilty to the charge and afterwards, the prosecutor, Mr. Sulaimon Sulaimon urged the court to fix a trial date and to remand the defendants in the custody of the Nigerian Correctional Services until the hearing and determination of the charge.

However, the defence counsel, Anthony Popo and Sam Etaifo urged the court to grant their clients bail in the most liberal terms arguing that the matter before the court was a commercial transaction between the first defendant and the nominal complainant, which he is ready to settle out of court.

In her ruling, Justice Abike-Fadipe granted the first defendant bail in the sum of N20 million with one surety in like sum, and also admitted the second defendant to bail in the sum of N10 million with one surety in like sum, who must be a resident of the state.

Justice Abike-Fadipe further ordered that the defendant shall continue to enjoy the administrative bail earlier granted to them by the EFCC but if they failed after seven days to perfect the terms of the bail she granted them, they shall be arrested and remanded in prison.

She then fixed December 6, 2022 for the commencement of the trial.



Case 40: Nadabo Energy, Abubakar Ali Peters N1.4 billion – oil fraud

Justice C.A Balogun of the Lagos State High Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on Tuesday, October 4, 2022, adjourned to November 1, 2022, the case involving Abubakar Ali Peters and his company, Nadabo Energy Limited, over an alleged N1.4 billion fraud. The EFCC is prosecuting Abubakar and his company, on 27-count charges, for allegedly using forged documents to obtain the sum of N1,464,961,978.24 from the Federal Government as oil subsidy, after allegedly inflating the quantity of Premium Motor Spirit, PMS, purportedly imported and supplied by the company.

The defendants are alleged to have forged a document titled: Certificate of Marine Insurance no. 0047851 and purported the Marine Insurance certificate to have been issued by Staco Insurance Plc to Nadabo Energy Limited. At the resumed sitting on October 4, 2022, prosecuting counsel, S.K. Atteh, informed the court of the prosecution's counter affidavit to the application filed by the defence, urging the trial judge to recuse himself from the case over an alleged bias. The judge, however, noted that the court was not in possession of the counter affidavit.

In his submission, defence counsel, E.O. Isiramen, informed the court that the matter was slated for hearing of the application of the defence, urging the judge to stop sitting on the matter and for the continuation of the cross-examination of the Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Abdurashheed Bawa.

Mr. Isiramen also noted that he was yet to see a copy of the counter-affidavit. In response, Atteh explained that the said counter-affidavit was served on the Lagos office of the defendant. A copy of the counter-affidavit was, thereafter, served on the defence in the open court and another copy submitted to the court.

The judge noted that the defence was just seeing the document for the first time, adding that trial can continue until the processes are properly received by all parties and the court since the defence can raise the issue even at the address stage.

The case was thereafter adjourned to Tuesday, November 1, 2022 for hearing of the pending application and hearing of the main case.

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Case 41: Saminu Turaki N36 billion fraud

A Federal High Court sitting in Dutse, Jigawa State, on Thursday October 13, 2022, struck out a N36 billion corruption case against former governor of

Jigawa state, Saminu Turaki.

The trial judge, Hassan Dikko, struck out the case over lack of “diligent prosecution” by the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC).

While the prosecution counsel of the EFCC was absent from court, the defence counsel, Michael Aondoakaa (SAN) urged the court to strike out the case since the case was slated for hearing, and neither the prosecution counsel nor witnesses were in court.

He argued that the sitting was the sixth adjournment since the case was brought before the court in Dutse, and there was no reason given to the court by the prosecutor (the EFCC) for their non-appearance.

The judge thereafter struck out the case and discharged the first defendant (Turaki) and ordered the prosecution (the EFCC) to do the needful when they are ready to proceed with the case.

Recall that Turaki, who served as governor of Jigawa from 1999 to 2007, was first arraigned by the EFCC before Binta Nyako of the Federal High Court in Abuja on July 13, 2007 on a 32-count charge of misappropriating N36 billion while in office.

In 2011, the case was transferred to the Federal High Court, Dutse after he successfully challenged the territorial jurisdiction of the Federal High Court in Abuja to hear the case.

He was subsequently re-arraigned on the same 32-count charge at the Dutse Division of the Federal High Court but after his arraignment, the trial could not proceed because of his absence in court until he was arrested by the EFCC at an event in Abuja in 2017.

He was subsequently re-arraigned in 2021 but since then, the case suffered setbacks following absence of the prosecution at all the dates fixed for hearing.



Case 42: Supo Shasore \$100,000 Money laundering

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has charged ex-Lagos Attorney-General and

Commissioner for Justice, Supo Shasore (SAN), for money laundering.

The EFCC filed four count charges against the founding partner of Africa Law Practice NG & Co. before the Federal High Court in Lagos.

Mr. Shasore is accused of inducing one Olufolakemi Adelere to accept \$100,000 cash without going through a financial institution.

The payment to Ms. Adelere was allegedly made through two persons, Auwalu Habu and Wole Aboderin.

The former AG also allegedly made cash payment of \$100,000 to one Ikechukwu Oguine without going through a financial institution.

The anti-graft agency said the alleged offences were committed on or about November 18, 2014.

They contravened sections 78(c), 1(a) and 16(1)(d) and 18(c) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 (as amended) and are punishable under section 16(6) and 16 (2)(b) of the same Act.

Adelere and Oguine were lawyers for the Ministry of Petroleum Resources and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC).

The [EFCC grilled Shashore in January over Nigeria's case against Process and Industrial Development \(P&ID\)](#).

In 2012, the company won a \$9.6 billion arbitral award against the federal government after claiming breach of contract.

Shasore, who represented Nigeria, is accused of weakening the nation's defence against the British Virgin Island firm.

The authorities said he allegedly worked against national interest, engaged in corruption and failed to cross-examine the late Michael Quinn, P&ID founder.

Also, Shasore allegedly failed to timely hand over key documents to Bolaji Ayorinde, the Senior Advocate who replaced him in the case.

Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of the Federal High Court fixed October 20, 2022 for the arraignment of Shasore.

On October 20, 2022, the former Lagos State Attorney General, pleaded not guilty to the four count-charge at the Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos, before Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke.

Justice Aneke thereafter, granted bail to the defendant in the sum of 50 million naira and he's to provide a surety in like sum, and adjourned to November 24, 2022 for trial.

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Case 43: Steven Oronsaye N2 billion stealing

Stephen Oronsaye is a former Head of Service of Nigeria. He is facing charges bothering on siphoning money through a biometric enrolment contract purportedly for the reform of the civil service pension system alongside Mr. Osarenkhoe Afe, the Managing Director, Fredrick Hamilton Global Services Limited before a Federal High Court in Abuja.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) arraigned the defendants on an amended 35-count charge bordering on stealing and obtaining money by false pretence. They are being charged along with five companies – Hamilton Global Services Limited; Cluster Logistic Limited; Kangolo Dynamic Cleaning Limited, and Drew Investment & Construction Company Limited; alleged to have been used to perpetrate the fraud.

The prosecution closed its case after calling 21 witnesses and tendering documents in support of its case.

Opening its defence on May 26, 2022 in the money laundering charges, the former Head of Service told the court that he had no knowledge of the alleged 66 accounts as he was not the Accountant General of the Federation.

Led in defence by his lead counsel, Mr. Joe Agi SAN, the defendant alleged that the investigation carried out by EFCC in the petition against him was poor and shoddy adding that if a thorough investigation had been conducted, charges against him would have been unnecessary.

He testified that during his tenure in office, he had headed five special Presidential Committees but never signed any payment mandate or had any dealings with the Bureau of Public Procurement.

The defendant also told the court that the prosecution were yet to show him a copy of the alleged petition against him, or even an opportunity to peruse the document.

Mr. Oronsaye also told the court under cross-examination that he remained a signatory to an account he handled even while he no longer worked at the state house because the then president asked him to continue managing the account.

The court thereafter adjourned to Oct. 5, 6 and 7, 2022 for continuation of trial and ordered parties to obtain records of the proceedings in the case so far.

On Friday October 7, 2022, the EFCC abruptly discontinued the cross-examination of Mr. Stephen Oronsaye, in the alleged N2 billion fraud charges brought against him by the Federal Government.

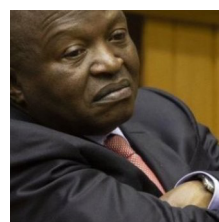
Oronsaye was called into the dock for the cross-

examination, but Mr. Oluwaleke Atolagbe, counsel to EFCC told Justice Inyang Edem Ekwo that he would not continue. He, however, did not give any reason for the decision.

However, answering a question from his counsel, the former Head of Service told the court that money in the Presidency's Contingent Account is not budgeted for.

Oronsaye subsequently announced the closure of his defence in the alleged fraud charges.

Justice Ekwo adjourned to October 20, 2022 for address.



Case 44: Peter Hena and 8 others N2.1 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 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 staff of the FIRS between January 2017 and December 2018 were accused of conspiring to conceal funds which were said to be 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.

The absence of the eighth defendant, Udo-Inyang Effiong Alfred due to ill-health on the adjourned date stalled the trial.

Justice Bolaji thereafter, adjourned to 12th and 17th May 2022 for definite hearing. On the new date, trial could not proceed. No new date has been fixed for trial at the time of filing this report.

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Case 45: Ayodele Fayose N6.9 Billion money laundering

The money laundering trial of the former Governor of Ekiti State, Ayodele Fayose, was on July 4, 2022, stalled before a Federal High Court Lagos as the trial court did not sit.

The case which was fixed for continuation of trial, could not proceed as the trial judge Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke was said to be attending a conference.

Mr. Fayose is being prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for money laundering offences to the tune of N6.9 billion contrary to Sections 15(1), 15 (2), 15 (3), 16(2)(b), 16 (d), and 18(c) of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act 2011.

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 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 however, subsequently, re-arraigned before Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke, on July 2, 2019, after the case was withdrawn from Justice Olatoregun, following EFCC's petition.

In December 2021, EFCC had called its 11th witness, one Mrs. Joanne Tolulope, who had narrated how Abiodun Agbele, an associate of Fayose, bought properties worth several millions.

According to the charge, Mr. 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.

During trial before the former Judge, Justice Olatoregun. the former Minister of State for Defence, Sen. Musiliu Obanikoro had testified that Mr. Fayose received a cash payment of five million dollars, (about N1.8 billion) from him without going through any financial institution.

He is also alleged to have retained the sum of N300 million in his account and took control of the aggregate sums of about N622 million, procured De Privateer Ltd and Still Earth Ltd, to retain the aggregate sums of

N851 million, and used N200 million, to acquire a property in Abuja, in the name of a family member, all of which he reasonably ought to have known formed part of crime proceeds.

On the last adjourned date, 4th of November 2022, the Federal High Court Lagos adjourned the trial to January 31 and February 1, 2023.



Case 46: Prof. Magaji Garba N260 Million fraud

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

After the prosecution closed its case, the defendant Mr. Magaji Garba made a no case submission but was dismissed and he was ordered to enter his defence. On June 27, 2022, the defendant called one witness (hostile witness) in his defence and tendered

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documents. He did not testify in his case. The court subsequently adjourned to September 22, 2022 for adoption of final written addresses.

The matter has now been adjourned to November for adoption of final written addresses.



Case 47: Portia Emilia N110 Million fraud

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on August 17, 2022, arraigned an internet influencer, Portia Emilia, before a Lagos Special Offences Court, in Ikeja, over alleged N110 million fraud and obtaining under false pretence.

Emilia was arraigned alongside her company, Savanah Crest Investment Limited, on a six-count charge bordering on conspiracy, obtaining by false pretence and stealing.

The commission said that the defendants allegedly conspired amongst themselves and stole the sum of N50 million, fraudulently obtained the sum of N20 million from one Racheal Akintola and dishonestly converted to personal use, dishonestly obtained the sum of N20 million from one Wendy Daniel, and also obtained N20 million from one Ruth Boloatte, sometimes in 2018 in Lagos.

Following the plea of not guilty of the defendants, EFCC counsel, Innocent Akanno, asked for a trial date and for the defendant to be remanded, pending the perfection of their bail condition.

In her ruling, trial Justice Abike Fadipe, granted bail to the defendant noting that she was not a flight risk, having not jumped administrative bail at the Commission, and thereafter, granted bail in the sum of N10 million with a surety who must be a relative with a bank insurance of N10 million and a landed property.

The case was adjourned to September 23, 2022 for trial.

On October 14, 2022, the court did not sit. The case was subsequently adjourned to November 16, 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 48: FASASI BOLA \$156,711 FRAUD

Justice Mojisola Dada of the Ikeja Special Offences Court, Lagos State, on July 8, 2022, granted one of Macmillan's book publishers, Fasasi Bola, N20 million bail over an alleged \$156,711 fraud case involving another Macmillan Nigeria Publisher, Prof. Adesanya Adelekan who is still at large, according to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.

The defendant, alongside Macmillan Nigerian Publishers Limited, was arraigned by the EFCC on an amended six-count charge bordering on obtaining goods by false pretence belonging to BHS Printing SDN BHD of Selangor Malaysia and under the pretence that the books would be sold and they would remit the money from the sales within two weeks of receiving the bill of lading.

Justice Dada granted N20 million bail to the defendant and ordered Fasasi to produce two sureties in like sum who are gainfully employed and have evidence of three years' tax payment to the Lagos State Government.

Justice Dada ordered that the defendant submit his international passport to the EFCC and adjourned the matter to October 18, 2022, for commencement of trial.



Case 49: Dr. Solomon Okpa Ita and others N45 Million fraud

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) on September 27, 2022, arraigned Dr. Solomon Okpa Ita, a director with Niger-Delta Development Commission (NDDC), for alleged diversion of N45 million.

He was arraigned before Justice Zainab Abubakar of a Federal High Court in Abuja, and pleaded not guilty to the charge preferred against him.

Solomon Ita was arraigned on a 4-count charge, filed by the ICPC via its lawyer, Osuobeni Akponimsingha, for diverting part of the funds paid for a contract awarded to a group, Radiant Women Association.

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Following his not guilty plea, Justice Zainab granted him a N50 million bail with one surety who must own a property within the nation's capital, and the certificate of occupancy of the property, should be verified by the registrar and deposited at the court registry.

Justice Zainab Abubakar also ordered that he be remanded in the ICPC's custody pending when he meets the bail condition, and adjourned to October 25, 2022 for trial.



Case 50: Gabriel Nathaniel N3 Billion fraud

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) on September 27, 2022, arraigned Gabriel Nathaniel a staff in the Accounts Department of the Abuja Metropolitan Management Council (AMMC), over allegations bordering on diversion of about N3 billion from his office.

He was arraigned before Justice Zainab Abubakar of a Federal High Court in Abuja, and pleaded not guilty to the charge preferred against him.

Nathaniel was arraigned on a fourteen-count charge filed by the ICPC via its lawyer, Osuobeni Akponimsingha.

Following his not guilty plea, Justice Zainab granted him bail and adjourned to October 25, 2022 for trial.



Case 51: Supo Shasore \$109,000 Money laundering

Former Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice in Lagos, Olasupo Shasore has been arraigned on fresh Money Laundering charges involving N109.8m before Justice Iyang Ekwo of the Federal High Court Abuja.

Shasore, a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) was slammed with 14-count criminal charges along with his personal company, Middlesex Investment Limited.

Among others, the former Attorney General was said to have failed to report in writing to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC), a single lodgment of N60m into his company's account number

0005659394 with a commercial bank.

The alleged offence is said to be contrary to section 10 of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act 2011. He was also alleged to have failed to report to EFCC, a single lodgment of another N48.8m into the same account in breach of money laundering laws.

The charge sheet further indicated that Shasore in November 2017 committed same offence by transferring \$300,000 single lodgment into his company account where he is a sole signatory.

Besides, the former Lagos AG was said to have failed to establish an anti Money Laundering Desk and designate a Compliance Officer in his company as required by law.

Shasore, however, pleaded not guilty to the offences alleged to have been committed in Abuja along with the Company.

Following no objection to his bail request by EFCC'S lawyer, Mr. Bala Sanga, Justice Inyang Ekwo ordered the ex-Attorney General to continue to enjoy the terms and conditions of the administrative bail granted him by EFCC.

Justice Ekwo in the bid to ensure speedy trial of the charges, fixed March 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, 2023 for the trial.

The Judge directed Chief Olawale Akoni SAN who stood for the defendant and Bala Sanga for the EFCC to put their houses in order ahead of the trial dates.



Case 52: Saminu Turaki N8.3 Billion fraud

On 13th October, 2022, a Federal High Court sitting in Dutse, Jigawa State discharged and acquitted Ibrahim Saminu Turaki, former governor of Jigawa State of all 33 count charges filed against him by EFCC.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is prosecuting Turaki, over alleged N8.3billion fraud.

While delivering the judgment, the trial judge, Justice Hassan Dikko cleared the accused and three other companies of all the 33 count charges bordering on alleged N8.3bn fraud.

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The court also directed the EFCC to release the traveling documents of Turaki, which was seized during the trial.

After taking his plea at the last sitting, the Judge had adjourned the matter to October 10, 11, 2022.

It will be recalled that EFCC arrested and arraigned Saminu Turaki before Federal High Court Abuja in 2007 over alleged corruption and embezzlement of public funds totalling N8.3bn belonging to the Jigawa State government.



Case 53: Sule Lamido N712 Million fraud

EFCC is prosecuting Lamido over an alleged misappropriation and money laundering of N712,008,035 belonging to the Jigawa State Government.

In September 2022, the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja declared that former Jigawa State Governor, Sule Lamido, has a case to answer.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is prosecuting Lamido over an alleged misappropriation and money laundering of N712,008,035 belonging to the Jigawa state government.

At the last sitting, the trial judge, Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu while ruling on a seven-point no-case submission said Lamido has a case to answer.

The court has since ordered him to open his defence and has adjourned to November 8 - 11, 2022.

Lamido is standing trial alongside two of his sons: Aminu Sule Lamido, Mustapha Sule Lamido, his business associate, Aminu Wada Abubakar and four companies: Bamaina Company Nigeria Limited, Bamaina Aluminium Limited, Speeds International Limited and Batholomew Darlington Agoha in a 37-count further amended charge bordering on money laundering to the tune of N712,008,03

The former governor and his co-accused were first arraigned before Justice Evelyn Anyadike of the Federal High Court, sitting in Kano, on July 9, 2015 for allegedly misappropriating funds belonging to Jigawa state.

Lamido had been re-arraigned several times before his further arraignment before Justice Ojukwu on February 14, 2022.



Case 54: Jonah Ogunniyi Otunla Final forfeiture of N775m and luxury apartments

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Monday, November 21, 2022, secured the final forfeiture of the sum of N775,000,000.00, (Seven Hundred and Seventy-five Million Naira), and three properties located at No. 8 Ajay Crowther Street, Asokoro, Abuja; a plot of land at Plot 1960 Cadastral Zone A05 Maitama District, FCT, Abuja; a hotel which is under construction with generating set, located at Plot 621, Road 37, Gwarimpa, FCT, Abuja and a twin 4 bedroom duplex with guard quarters located at Plot 736, 7th Avenue Gwarimpa, FCT, Abuja, before Justice D.U. Okorowo of the Federal High Court, Abuja.

The money and properties are the product of illicit activities of a former Accountant General of the Federation Jonah Otunla and Colonel Bello Fadile, aide to former National Security Adviser, Col. Sambo Dasuki.

Moving a motion for the final forfeiture of the assets today, Counsel to the EFCC, Christopher Mshelia, informed the court that the assets recovered by the Commission in the course of investigating contract fraud in the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) under Sambo Dasuki, were proceeds of the unlawful activities of Colonel Bello Fadile and Mr. Jonah Otunla.

The N775,000,000.00 (Seven Hundred and Seventy-five Million Naira) was refunded by Otunla and Otunba Ade Adedokun (late) during the investigation, whilst the landed properties sought to be forfeited are “reasonably suspected to be proceeds of an unlawful activity received, retained, concealed and converted by the respondents from the office of the National Security Adviser to the President”.

The Commission had on July 20, 2020 secured an interim forfeiture order on the assets and also published the Order of the Court on August 11, 2022, in Thisday Newspaper, for the respondent to show cause why the money and properties should not be permanently forfeited to the Federal Government.

Justice Okorowo in granting the final forfeiture, stated that the court was satisfied with the evidence before it and ordered the final forfeiture of the assets to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

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Case 55: Sunny Antai N810,622,546.56 fraud

Justice Babangida Hassan of High Court of the Federal Capital Territory has adjourned the criminal trial of a former President of the Joint Federal Staff Cooperative Thrift and Loans, Mr, Sunny Antai, to November 14, 2022.

The matter was adjourned after the first prosecution witness, Mr. Ndukuba Joseph, concluded his evidence and was discharged.

Upon cross-examination by counsel to the 1st defendant, Mrs J. O. Obono-Obla, the PW1 told the court that he personally lost N1.4million in the fraudulent land scheme.

The charge alleged that Antai and one Emenogu Ruth Nwachi had between 2002 and 2015, conspired with the intent to defraud, and fraudulently obtained the sum of N810,622,546.56 from members of the Joint Staff Cooperative Thrift and Loan Society on the false pretence to acquire land.

The offence is said to be punishable under section 1 of the Advance Free Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004.

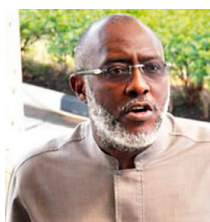
Part of the charges are that Sunny Antai and Emenogu Ruth Nwachi on or between 2016 to 2017, dishonestly and fraudulently under false pretence, signed and delivered a letter to Unity Bank of Nigeria plc, after leaving office as President and Treasurer respectively of the Joint Staff Cooperative Thrift and Loans Society with the intention to cause the management of the Bank to believe that both of you are still signatories to the account domiciled with the Bank thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 5 of the Advance Fee Fraud and other related offences Act, Laws of Federation of Nigeria 2004.



Case 56: Ochuko Momoh N3 Billion money laundering

In June 2022, a Federal High Court in Abuja discharged and acquitted Mrs. Ochuko Momoh and five others, on money laundering

related charges.



Case 57: Olisa Metuh N400 Million fraud

The Federal High Court (FHC) in Abuja has quashed a retrial suit filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) against former National Publicity Secretary of the People's Democratic Party,

Ochuko is the wife of a former Managing Director of Pipelines and Products Marketing Company (PPMC), Haruna Momoh.

Mrs. Momoh is alleged to have gotten contracts by favourable means through the office of her husband Haruna Momoh and laundered money through her personal company to the tune of N3 billion. She was tried with Blessing Azuka-Agozi, Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc, Energopol Nigeria Limited, Blaid Construction Limited and Blaid Farms Limited on a 22-count charge brought by the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC).

The commission accused Mrs. Momoh of laundering funds estimated at N3bn through her companies – Blaid Construction and Blaid Farms.

Justice Taiwo Taiwo in his judgment held that the prosecution failed to prove its case against the defendants beyond reasonable doubt.

The judge upheld the argument by Mrs. Momoh's counsel, Mr. Ade Adedeji (SAN), that the prosecution's case was based on mere speculation and conjecture, having failed to conduct credible investigation to support its allegations against the defendants.

The ICPC accused Stanbic IBTC of failing to report suspicious transactions in the accounts of Blaid Construction and Blaid Farms to relevant authorities as required by law.

Justice Taiwo held further that there was no evidence to show that Haruna Momoh (as the MD of PPMC) committed any offence when his wife's firm got contract during his tenure.

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

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Olisa Metuh. In his verdict, Justice Emeka Nwite cited an abuse of court process by the anti-graft agency.

The seven-count criminal charge is in a suit marked: FHC/ABJ/CR/05/2022. It was filed against Metuh and his company, Destra Investments Ltd, which is the 2nd defendant in the matter.

Justice Nwite held that he aligned with the counsel's arguments for Metuh, Afam Osigwe, SAN, and his company lawyer, Tochukwu Onwugbufor, SAN, that while the matter was pending before the Supreme Court, it was a gross abuse of the court for the commission to have filed the same matter for retrial before him.

At the resumed hearing on 25 September 2022, Justice Nwite had asked counsel to the EFCC, Olanrewaju Adeola, about the current position of the matter. Metuh was convicted by the trial court and went to the Court of Appeal where the decision of the lower court was overturned.

The counsel had challenged the decision of the Appeal Court. We understand that the matter was listed this morning at the instance of the defendant for application for his international passport.

The judge held that there was no way the matter could come back to his court without resolving the issues before the Supreme Court.

The suit was subsequently struck out for being an abuse of court process.



Case 58: Charles Agulanna N23.50 Million fraud

In 2021, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) arraigned the Director General of Project Development Institute (PRODA) Enugu, Charles Agulanna before Hon. Justice Buba Ibrahim of the Federal High Court sitting in Enugu.

Agulana is facing procurement fraud allegations. Agulanna, is facing a one-count charge bordering on procurement fraud where he awarded a contract for the revaluation of land belonging to the institute in the sum of N23,500,037.50 to T.O. Thomas & Co.

The company was not a registered surveyor/valuer and

did not submit any Memorandum of Understanding with any registered surveyor/valuer in its tender bid.

At the trial, the defence counsel, G.D. Joshua Esq, submitted a written bail application and prayed the court to grant his client bail. He argued that his client was a man of credible personality that would not jump bail. The ICPC counsel, O.J. Ochigbo did not oppose the bail, but said the court should grant him bail with stringent conditions.

The presiding judge, Justice Buba Ibrahim granted bail to the defendant in the sum of N5m and two reliable sureties in like sum and adjourned the matter to October 21, 2022 for hearing.



Case 59: Phillips Nto N700 Million fraud

On the 18th February 2022, Ex - Abia Finance Commissioner, Phillips Nto was acquitted by an Abia State High Court sitting in Umuahia.

Justice Chijioko Thomas Adiele, discharged and acquitted Philip Nto, a former Abia Commissioner for Finance and Economic Planning over alleged conspiracy and corruption charges of N700 million leveled against him by Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC). Nto was accused of allegedly using his position as a Commissioner of Abia State Government to confer corrupt advantage on the 2nd and 3rd accused when he authored some letters introducing them to Keystone Bank Plc.

The Judge noted that Nto was not guilty of the three count charges slammed on him by anti-graft body since the prosecution could not prove its case. The court ordered co-defendants, Ikechukwu Onuh and Consolidated Business Associates Limited to forfeit the sum of N550 million within 30 days to Abia state which Onuh, the managing director of the consulting firm collected on behalf of the state government as excess refund charges by Keystone Bank which was part of the N700 million excess charges refund.

He said a handwriting expert testified in court that letters said to have been written by the former commissioner engaging the consultant and authorizing Keystone Bank to pay them money were all forged and were not signed by Nto.

Meanwhile, the ICPC has said the Commission would study the judgment to know the next line of action.

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Case 60: Ramon Abass Olorunwa a.k.a. Hushpuppi \$1.1 million fraud

In 2021, a Nigerian socialite, Ramon Olorunwa Abbas aka Hushpuppi, alleged that he bribed Abba Kyari, a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) and super cop, to arrest a co-fraudster in a whopping \$1.1 million deal.

US Department of Justice statement also quoted Ramon Olorunwa as asking Mr. Kyari to jail Kelly Chibuzor Vincent, one of his colleagues, after both were locked in a dispute over the sharing formula in a \$1.1 million loot received from a Qatari business person.

Kyari was the head of the Inspector-General of Police's Special Intelligence Response Team (IRT).

US court documents allegedly revealed the deal during one of its proceedings.

Ramon Olorunwa aka Hushpuppi was arrested in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in June 2020 alongside 11 of his associates on hacking, impersonation, scamming, banking fraud, and identity theft allegations. Hushpuppi was also quoted as saying that Kyari allegedly sent photos of Vincent in jail and followed this up with a bank account number to which a wire transfer should be made for the successful arrest and detention of his co-fraudster.

Kyari has since denied demanding or receiving a bribe from Hushpuppi. Consequently, a suit seeking to extradite Kyari at the request of the American government to face trial has been thrown out by Justice Inyang Ekwo. Also, a US Court on November 7, 2022, convicted Hushpuppi to 11 years, three months imprisonment and ordered him to pay \$1.4 million fine.



Case 61: Marqott Nig Ltd \$9.6 Billion fraud

A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja has convicted and wound up Marqott Nigeria Limited, one of the 30 companies associated with the Process and Industrial Development Limited, P&ID, for money laundering.

Justice D.U Okorowo of the Federal High Court convicted the company in June 2022, after being found guilty of four-count charges bordering on money laundering preferred against it by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Delivering his judgment, Justice Okorowo found Marqott Nigeria Limited guilty of all the four-count charges and convicted it accordingly.

He also ordered that the company be wound up and its entire assets forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria. Marqott was first arraigned on Monday, February 7, 2022, for being an accomplice in the \$9.6bn Gas Supply and Processing Agreement between the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources and P&ID.



Case 62: Andrew Yakubu \$9.8 Million money laundering

A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja had in March 2022 discharged and acquitted Andrew Yakubu, a former Group Managing Director (GMD) of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) of \$9.8 million money laundering charge.

While delivering the verdict in the alleged fraud related matter, Justice Ahmed Mohammed discharged and acquitted the defendant.

The court stated that the two counts upon which judgment was delivered were pegged on the defendant's inability to make full disclosure of assets to EFCC upon his arrest, receiving cash without going through a financial institution in alleged violation of Section 1(1) of the Money Laundering Act, 2011 and punishable under Section 16(2) (b) of the Act, none of which was proven.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), had in 2017 stormed Yakubu's residence at Sabon Tasha in Kaduna where \$9.8 million was found and seized from him.

While ruling on a no-case submission filed by the defendant, the Court of Appeal dismissed the other four charges leaving counts 3 and 4.

Delivering his judgment, Justice Mohammed described Yakubu's evidence as credible and reliable, declaring that the prosecution failed to establish the necessary ingredients of the charges to warrant his conviction.

Consequently, the trial judge ordered the immediate refund of the confiscated sum of \$9,772, 800 and £74, 000 to the defendant.



**Case 63: Farouk M. Lawan
\$500,000 Fraud**

Farouk Lawan was in 2021 sentenced to seven years imprisonment over \$500,000 bribery allegations. The judgment was in Suit No FCT/HC/CR/76/2013, between the federal government and Farouk M. Lawan.

Farouk was arraigned for receiving a bribe of \$500,000 from Femi Otedola, a billionaire oil magnate. The money, it was alleged, was part of the \$3 million Lawan requested to have the businessman's firms removed from the list of companies indicted for fuel subsidy fraud.

Justice Angela Otaluka of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court in Apo, Abuja gave the verdict.

The bribery allegation stemmed from his involvement with some companies allegedly indicted for fuel subsidy fraud while he was serving as the chairman of the defunct House of Representatives ad-hoc committee investigating the fraud around fuel subsidy regime in 2012.

An appeal was filed at the appellate court and in a unanimous judgment in February 2022, a three-member panel of the Court of Appeal, led by the court's President, Justice Monica Dongban-Mensem JCA, quashed Lawan's conviction on counts one and two.

The appellate court found that the prosecution was only able to prove the third count relating to his accepting a bribe of \$500,000. The court then acquitted Lawan on counts one and two (on which he was sentenced to seven years per count), but convicted him on count three (on which he was sentenced to five years).



**Case 64: Sarah Ocheke
N450 Million fraud**

A Federal High Court sitting in Jos in February 2022 sentenced former Minister of Water Resources, Sarah Ocheke to prison. She was sentenced alongside Raymond Dabo and Leo Jitung to three months imprisonment each over N450 million fraud.

The trio were in 2018 charged for conspiracy and money laundering by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). They were alleged to

have violated the law when, during President Goodluck Jonathan's regime, they took N450 million campaign fund to the party secretariat to distribute in cash.

Justice Musa Kurna in her verdict gave the convicts an option to pay a fine of N1 million each. The judge held that after withdrawing the said amount from the bank, they did not withhold the money to themselves but delivered same to a governorship candidate and as such were not guilty of retaining the sum for themselves.

The matter has since been filed at the Court of Appeal by the defendant, but no date has yet been fixed for hearing.

**Case 65: Sen. Peter Nwaoboshi
N322 Million fraud**



In July 2022, the Court of Appeal, Lagos Division, sentenced Peter Nwaoboshi, the Senator representing Delta North Senatorial District, to seven (7) years imprisonment over N322 million fraud.

The appellate court ordered in its ruling that the lawmaker's two companies, Golden Touch Construction Project Ltd and Suiming Electrical Ltd, be wound up in line with the provisions of Section 22 of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act 2021.

A Federal High Court in Lagos State had earlier discharged and acquitted Nwaoboshi of the same charge.

Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke held in his ruling that the EFCC failed to prove the elements of the offences for which it charged Nwaoboshi.

Aneke also discharged Nwaoboshi's two companies – Golden Touch Construction Project Ltd and Suiming Electrical Ltd on the same ground.

**Case 66: Innocent Ezeonwuka
N66.5 million money laundering**



A former Treasurer with the Anambra State Ministry of Finance, Innocent Ezeonwuka, was sentenced to eleven (11) years imprisonment

for defrauding pensioners of N66.5 million in March 2022.

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Ezeonwuka, a Sub-Treasurer with the Ministry was sentenced by an Anambra State High Court, in Awka, presided over by Justice Arinze Akabua after he was found guilty of diverting the money meant for the payment of gratuities to retired civil servants under Aguata Sub-Treasury, Anambra State.

He was arraigned by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) on a three-count charge bordering on abuse of office by conferring corrupt advantage on himself when he embezzled N66,520,564.62 meant for paying gratuities of the retired staff of the Aguata Sub-Treasury.

Justice Akabua found Innocent Ezeonwuka guilty on all three counts and therefore sentenced him to five years imprisonment on counts one and two, and one year imprisonment on count three. The sentences are to run concurrently.

Case 67: Prof Francisca Bassey N20.6 Million contract fraud



In September 2022, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission arraigned a Dean in the University of Calabar, Prof Francisca Bassey, for alleged involvement in a N20.6 million contract fraud.

Bassey, a Dean and Director of the Pre-Degree Programme of the university, was arraigned for allegedly having private interests in multiple contracts awarded by the school to four companies owned by her in a 10-count charge filed before Justice Elias Abua, the commission noted that the alleged crime occurred between 2013 and 2017, in violation of section 12 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000.

The accused entered a not guilty plea when the charge was read to her, as her counsel, Joseph Oloku, filed a bail application praying the court to admit her to bail on self-recognition. The bail was not opposed by counsel to ICPC, Kioba Anabraba, who prayed the court to grant her bail on terms that would make her attend her trial.

The presiding judge after granting her bail in the sum of N5 million with one surety in like sum and landed

property adjourned to October 11 and 12, 2022 for trial.



Case 68: Abubakar Peter Ali N1.4 billion subsidy scam

Justice C.A. Balogun of the Lagos State High Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, adjourned to November 29, 2022 for ruling on the application filed by Abubakar Peter Ali, owner of Nadabo Energy Limited, seeking the trial Judge to recuse himself from continuing to sit on the alleged N1.4bn oil case on the basis of bias.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, is prosecuting Abubakar and his company on a 27-count charge for allegedly using forged documents to obtain the sum of N1,464,961,978.24 from the Federal Government as oil subsidy, after allegedly inflating the quantity of Premium Motor Spirit, PMS, purportedly imported and supplied by the company.

One of the counts reads: "Nadabo Energy Limited and Abubakar Ali Peters, on or about the 3rd day of April, 2012 at Lagos, within the Lagos Judicial Division, with intent to defraud, fraudulently obtained the sum of N978,401,732.09 (Nine Hundred and Seventy Eight Million Four Hundred and One Thousand Seven Hundred and Thirty Two Naira Nine Kobo) from the Federal Government of Nigeria by falsely claiming that the sum represented subsidy accrued to Nadabo Energy Limited under the Petroleum Support Fund for the importation of 19,488,992 litres of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), which Nadabo Energy Limited purported to have purchased from Ashland SA Geneva Switzerland, and transported the 19,488,992 litres of PMS through MT American Express (Mother Vessel) and MT. St. Vanessa (Daughter Vessel) to Nigeria, whereas Nadabo Energy Limited only imported 6,505,140.04 litres of PMS to Nigeria through MT Evridiki (Mother Vessel) and MT St Vanessa (Daughter Vessel)."

Another count reads: "Nadabo Energy Limited and Abubakar Ali Peters, on or about the 25th day of October 2011 at Lagos, within the Lagos Judicial Division, with intent to defraud and in order to facilitate your obtaining money by false pretence from the Federal Government of Nigeria under the Petroleum Support Fund (PSF), forged a document titled: Certificate of Marine Insurance no. 0047851 and

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purported the Marine Insurance certificate to have been issued by Staco Insurance Plc to Nadabo Energy Limited.”

They pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when they were arraigned on December 10, 2012.

At the sitting on May 18, 2022, the Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Abdurashheed Bawa, testifying as the fifth prosecution witness, PW5, had continued with his cross-examination by E.O. Isiramen, which began on December 20, 2021.

During the May 18, 2022 proceedings, Bawa had told the court that the defendant had only one confirmed, genuine transaction with St Vanessa, which was about 5,000 MT.

According to him, in the course of the investigation, the EFCC contacted the owners of MT St Vanessa and the owners confirmed the position of the EFCC.

“The owners of St Vanessa refuted the entirety of the contents of exhibits B24, B33, B43 in which the defendant claimed that MT St Vanessa received about 14,000 MT of PMS and discharged 14,000 MT at Masters Energy.

"They refuted all of that, and said that their Vessel picked 6 million litres (about 5,000 MT) of PMS and discharged 6 million litres and that anything contrary to that is unknown to them.

"They informed us that about 6 million litres were imported and discharged, and anything contrary is unknown to them," he had said.

The case was subsequently adjourned to July 6 and 7, 2022 for continuation of the cross-examination by the defence.

However, rather than continue with the cross-examination, the defence counsel, Isiramen, had brought a new twist to the trial, as he filed an application urging the trial Judge to recuse himself from continuing to sit on the matter on the allegation of “possible bias.”

At today's sitting, Isiramen moved the the said application dated July 5, 2022.

The prosecuting counsel, S.K. Atteh, also informed the court of the prosecution's counter affidavit dated September 30, 2022, and other processes filed before the court in reply to the application of the defence.

Moving the said application, Isiramen, who adumbrated on its contents, raised the issue of bias.

In his argument, he made references to several

publications in some newspapers and some online publications, in which it was reported by a section of the media that the EFCC Chairman met with the Chief Judge of the Lagos State High Court, and that Justice Balogun, afterwards, was seen coming out from the CJ's office on the same day that the matter came up before him.

He said: “The PW5, who is the EFCC Chairman, irrespective of his position, is a witness in this matter.

“Immediately after being cross-examined, he walked straight into the office of the Chief Judge of this High Court.

“It gives an impression of suspicion that a witness who, after being dissatisfied by the manner of his cross-examination, walked straight to the office of the Chief Judge.”

Atteh, while moving the counter affidavit of the prosecution, in response to the arguments canvassed by the defence, argued that the defence "has not been able to provide any facts to prove its allegation.”

"The allegation cannot be founded on mere conjectures.

“It is unfounded. We, therefore, urge the court to dismiss the application and continue with the trial, as it is mere delay tactics.”

The trial judge could not hold himself back from declaring in the open court that "I have no personal interest in this case, whatsoever."

The case was adjourned till November 29, 2022 "for ruling on the application just argued".



Case 69: Mrs. Grace Taiga \$10,000 fraud

A former Director of Legal Services in the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Mrs. Grace Taiga, has been arraigned before a High Court of the Federal Capital Territory over her alleged

involvement in the signing of the controversial gas supply contract between the Ministry of Petroleum Resources and an Irish firm, Processes and Industrial Development (P&ID).

Taiga is facing prosecution by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for allegedly receiving \$10,000.00 bribe to facilitate the award of contract in the infamous Process & Industrial

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Development Limited (P&ID) scam.

Mrs. Taiga was arraigned on an eight-count charge bordering on criminal breach of trust and gratification among others.

In the charges, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), specifically accused Taiga of signing the said agreement without obtaining approval of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) as required by law.

She has since pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

Following her plea, counsel to the EFCC, Bala Sanga, asked that the defendant be remanded in prison custody pending the commencement of trial.

Sanga, at the last hearing, also asked for an adjournment to enable the prosecution call its witnesses to prove the charge against the defendant. Her counsel, Ola Olanipekun, SAN, moved an oral application for her bail but was turned down by the court.

The EFCC counsel also objected her demands to be remanded in its custody.

After hearing out parties, the trial judge, Justice Olukayode Adeniyi of the Federal Capital Territory High Court sitting in Abuja ordered that Taiga be remanded in Suleja correctional centre pending the hearing and determination of the bail application.

He then adjourned the trial to September 29, 2022 for continuation of trial.



Case 70: Professor Alex Akpa N400 Million fraud

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission, ICPC, has arraigned a former Acting Director General of the National Biotechnology Development

Agency (NABDA), Professor Alex Akpa, on a 4-count charge, bordering on fraud, abuse of office and other ancillary offences.

This was contained in a statement released to DAILY POST on Thursday by the commission's spokesperson, Mrs. Azuka Ogugua.

Professor Akpa was docked alongside Mr. Famous

Daunemigha and Wesley Ebi Siasia, a former member of the Governing Board and an Ex-Director of Finance and Accounts of the Agency respectively.

ICPC in a Charge No: FHC/ABJ/CR/302/22, brought before Honourable Justice Inyang Ekwo of the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja, had accused the defendants of diverting into private pockets the sum of N400m meant for the establishment of Bioresources Development Centres in four states of the Federation.

The court was further informed of how the said sum of N400m which the former Acting DG claimed to be an intervention fund for the biotechnology agency was shared among the trio in the ratio of N260m, N50m and N40m.

Counsel to ICPC, Golden Iwuagwu, also told the court that the Commission has readied up seven witnesses to testify against the accused.

Their action is contrary to Section 18 (2) (d) and punishable under Section 18 (3) of the Money Laundering Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022.

The accused persons all entered a "Not Guilty" plea when the charges were read to them.

The trial judge consequently granted them bail on terms of the administrative bail that had earlier been granted by ICPC.

The Judge also ordered the prosecution to forward to the Registrar of the Court within seven days the documents of the administrative bail granted the defendants by the ICPC.

The matter was then adjourned to the 6th, 7th and 8th March 2023 for hearing.



Case 71: 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

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which initially had a 9-count charge was filed in 2016 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.

Mr Adoke is standing trial in two separate courts: Federal High Court, Abuja before Justice Inyang Ekwo in suit no: FHC/ABJ/CR/39/2017 and FCT High Court Gwagwalada before Justice Idris Kutigi in suit no: FCT/CR/151/2020.

At the commencement of court proceedings at the Federal High Court, 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 the 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.

At the Federal High Court, the matter came up on 5th October 2022 for argument on Adoke's co-defendant; Abubakar's no case submission. Counsel to Abubakar, Chief Wole Olanipekun SAN argued the no case submission and pray the court to uphold same. Counsel to Adoke, Kanu Agabi SAN aligned with the argument of Olanipekun SAN. The Federal High Court adjourned the matter to 12th December 2022 for ruling on the no case submission.

In the meantime, the case filed by Nigeria at the Commercial Court of England and Wales against JP Morgan Chase Bank on the ground of "Quincecare duty" alleging that the bank ought to have known that there was corruption and fraud in the transaction which saw Malabu Oil & Gas Ltd sell its 100 percent stake in OPL 245 to Shell and ENI for \$1.1 billion in 2011. The UK Court delivered judgment against Nigeria stating that Nigeria did not prove its case.



Case 72: Dr Loko Tersoo Joseph and 8 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 the Federal High Court, Makurdi. Dr. Loko Tersoo and the co-accused were 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 to September 28,

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2021 for commencement of trial and further adjourned to March 4, 2022.

The matter came up on 4th March 2022 for ruling on the preliminary objection filed by the defendants challenging the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court, Makurdi to try them. The court while delivering its ruling dismissed the preliminary objection and held that the EFCC can prosecute without a fiat. The court then adjourn the matter to 19th May 2022 for trial. The case is still ongoing.



Case 73: 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 to 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. Counsels 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.

At the resumed date, the Federal High Court, Abuja delivered its ruling on the no case submission filled by the defendant, dismissed 11 out of the 20 charges filed by the EFCC and adjourned to 28th April 2022 for the

defendant to open his defence. The case is still ongoing in court.



Case 74: Ibrahim Abdulsalam and 9 others N6.95 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 analysed 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

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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 2022 (no specific date for further trial)

At the resumed date for trial on 2nd July 2022, the Federal High Court in Lagos ordered the arrest of the DG of the National Airspace Management Authority (NAMA) Mr Matthew Pwajok for disobedience to a court summons. The summons was ordered by the court on the application of counsel to the 3rd and 8th Defendants, Mr Olalekan Ojo, SAN. The court then adjourned further proceedings to 10th and 11th January 2023.



Case 75: Air Marshal Mohammed Dikko Umar (retd)

N9.7 billion 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 (retd) 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 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 defence 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 borders 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 defence in relation to the seventh count. On September 27, 2021, the defendant gave evidence and Justice Dimgba thereafter adjourned the matter to 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.

At the resumed date, the court delivered judgment, discharging and acquitting the defendant.

In another development, the EFCC had earlier appealed the ruling on the no case submission wherein the trial court dismissed 6 out of the 7 count charge against the defendant. In a unanimous decision by the justices of the Court of Appeal in August 2022, the court upturned the judgment of the Federal High Court and ordered that the defendant continue with his defence on count 1,2,3,5 and 6.

No new date has been stated for defence at the trial court.



Case 76: Abayomi Kukoyi and 3 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 (N1.4trillion), 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 the EFCC on a 7-count charge bordering on conspiracy, false pretence, 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.

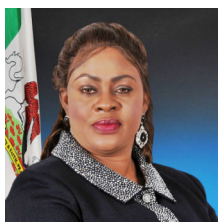
The trial of the defendants promptly commenced following their no-guilty-plea to the amended charge. Eight witnesses, including Senator Nenadi Usman, former finance minister have testified against the defendants. At the resumed hearing of the case on February 3, 2021, the court admitted more evidence tendered by EFCC. The case was thereafter adjourned to 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.

At the resumed date, the prosecutor, EFCC, presented its 11th prosecution witness (PW11) Ahmad Sulaiman, an EFCC official. Sulaiman testified as to the investigation he carried out and also tendered some bank documents and copies of DVD in evidence. Since the defendants have not been served copies of the DVD, the court had to adjourn the matter for the defendants to be served and for cross-examination.

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The matter was adjourned to 24th and 25th May 2022 for continuation. Trial is still ongoing.



Case 77: Senator Stella Oduah and 7 others

N7.9 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.

On the said date, defence 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.

The trial of Senator Stella Oduah has been stalled for so many times as the office of the Attorney General of the Federation did not give the nod for the commencement of trial. However, on the 11th October 2022, the prosecutor informed Justice Inyang Ekwo of the Federal High Court, Abuja that they are ready to commence prosecution. The court then adjourned the case to February 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17, 2023 for arraignment and full scale accelerated trial.



Case 78: 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 N109.4 billion arms funds.

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 Hussein 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.

On 23rd May 2022, the Federal Government re-arraigned former National Security Adviser NSA, Col Sambo Dasuki, former Sokoto State Governor, Attahiru Bafarawa and former Minister of State for Finance, Bashir Yuguda on corruption charges. They were re-arraigned at a High Court of the Federal Capital Territory FCT on allegations of breach of trust and criminal misappropriation of public funds amounting to N388 billion. In the 16-count criminal charges, Dasuki, Bafarawa and Yuguda were alleged to have diverted various sums in various currencies to different bank accounts under the pretext of using the funds for the procurement of security equipment.

Following a passionate plea by a Senior Advocate of Nigeria SAN, Prince Lateef Olasunkanmi Fagbemi, Justice Halilu Yusuf adopted the earlier bail conditions granted them in 2018 when they were first arraigned.

The Judge fixed the trial for June 7, 2022. Trial is still ongoing.

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Case 79: 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.

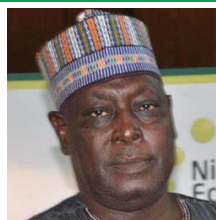
Orji who is currently representing Abia Central Senatorial District in the National Assembly said he shared much of the N38.8 billion with members of the State House of Assembly, his security informants and traditional rulers. He claimed to have also given part of the money to military units, the police, 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.

It appears the EFCC has abandoned the prosecution of this case.



Case 80: 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 to October 6 and 7, 2021 for cross-examination of the witness by the remaining four defence 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.

The matter came up for continuation of trial on the 12th and 13th January 2022 for the prosecution to continue giving evidence. A staff of Eco bank was called to testify for the prosecution and also an operative of EFCC. The trial continued on 31st March and 1st April 2022. At the resumed date, the EFCC after fielding its 11 witnesses to prove its case on the amended 10 charges, closed its case. The defendants thereafter filed a no-case submission.

The High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, on Friday, 18th November 2022 discharged the former Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Babachir Lawal, and five others of the N544 million grass-cutting contract fraud charges.

The judge, Charles Agbaza, dismissed the charges in a ruling on a no-case submission filed by Mr Lawal and his co-defendants. Mr Agbaza upheld the no-case submission, ruling that the prosecution, EFC, failed to establish a prima facie case against the defendants.

The EFCC, being dissatisfied, with the ruling on the no-case submission discharging the defendants said it will appeal the ruling at the Court of Appeal.

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Case 81: Col. Sambo Dasuki (retd) and 4 others \$2.1 Billion arms fund diversion

The trial of former National Security Adviser (NSA), Col. Sambo Dasuki (retd) and four others for alleged misappropriation of N109.4 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 N109.4 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 defence team's complaints that it would amount to double jeopardy for their clients to be standing trial in two courts simultaneously on similar charges. The new judge 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 billion.

However, it was learnt that Justice Yusuf was appointed as the Chief Judge of the FCT, he again assigned the case to Justice Yusuf Halilu. The EFCC re-arraigned him and others on Monday 23rd May, 2022 on allegations of breach of trust and criminal

misappropriation of public funds amounting to N23.3bn.

Dasuki, Bafarawa and Yuguda were slammed with 25 count charges and accused of diverting various sums in various currencies to different bank accounts under the false pretence of using the funds for procurement of security equipment. They all pleaded not guilty after which the former NSA applied for permission to travel overseas for medical reasons after which Justice Halilu adjourned the matter to June 7.



Case 82: Gabriel Suswan N3.1 billion fraud trial

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

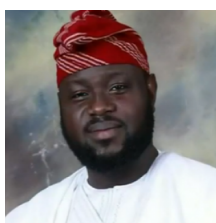
District. Mr. Suswan is standing trial in three cases pending before the Federal High Court in Abuja over alleged diversion of N3.1 billion from Police Reform and Subsidy Reinvestment and Empowerment Programme funds.

Mr. Suswan alongside his Commissioner for Finance, Omadachi Okolobia were accused of diverting the funds between 2012 and 2015 while Mr. Suswan 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 Suswan 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. The matter is still ongoing.

Case 83: Abidemi Rufai \$350,000 Fraud



The Federal High Court in Lagos in September 1st, 2021, ordered the interim forfeiture of funds and assets linked

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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 was adjourned to December 1, 2021.

Abidemi Rufai has since been sentenced to 60 months in a United States District Court in Tacoma by Judge Benjamin Settle, who said during the sentencing that "The motivation was greed, unrestrained greed, and callousness towards those who have suffered." He was also ordered to pay more than \$600,000 in restitution.



Case 84: 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 Ogbohi Industries Ltd, a company in which he had a private interest.

Justice Obiora Egwuatu 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.

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 defence 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. Matter is still ongoing in court.

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Case 85: Orji Uzor Kalu and 2 others 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 the 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 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.

At the resumed hearing of the case on Thursday, 10 March 2022, the EFCC, through its lawyer, Oluwaleke Atolagbe, applied for the transfer of the trial to the Lagos division of the court. Mr Atolagbe cited Sections 18, 19, 22 and 45 of the Federal High Court Act 2010 and Section 93 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015.

The EFCC, in its application, raised five grounds for seeking the transfer of the case to the Lagos division of the court. One of the grounds is that the Abuja division of the court lacks the requisite territorial jurisdiction to entertain and try the defendants in respect of the charge. The anti-graft agency recalled that the charges were originally filed at the Federal High Court Abuja in 2007.

Mr Atolagbe said following the decision of the Supreme Court that many of the ingredients of the offences occurred in Lagos and that most of the proposed prosecution witnesses were residing in Lagos, the EFCC applied to the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court to transfer the matter to Lagos division of the court where the defendants were prosecuted and judgment delivered in the matter

The judge, Mr Ekwo, said he would not take the application in view of the approaching Easter holidays. The judge adjourned to May 17. At the resumed date, the prosecutor moved its application to transfer the case to Lagos. However the court refused the application on the ground that it is only the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court that has the power to transfer in line with Section 98 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015.

Justice Ekwo also held that the prosecution counsel, Mr Rotimi Jacobs had on two previous occasions written to the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court for the transfer of the case to Lagos. However, the request was denied and the prosecution ought to abide by the court's decision.

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Case 86: 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), Abdulrasheed Bawa, in an interview in the April edition of the Commission's magazine, EFCC Alert revealed that \$153 million and over 80 properties had 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.

The matter which is now re-assigned to Justice Olajuwon of the Federal High Court came up on January 24th 2022. EFCC counsel, Farouk Abdullah applied for a fresh warrant of arrest to process the defendant's extradition to face her trial, the court granted the application for warrant of arrest and adjourned the case indefinitely (sine die) till when the defendant is arrested and produced in court.



Case 87: Dr. 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 People's 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

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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 to December 13, 2021.

At the resumed date, the court imposed a cost of N2 million on the lawyer to the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) over their refusal to obey the court order of releasing Odili's international passport to him and their willful absent from court.



Case 88: Babangida Aliyu and 3 others N1.9 Billion money laundering

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 Servant Leader) 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 Dimgba 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, 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 midstream, 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 commencement of trial.

The defendant is also facing trial before Justice Mikhail Aliyu of the Niger State High Court for allegedly diverted N2 billion ecological funds for election campaign. On 12th May 2022, the 11th prosecution witness testified against the former governor and the other defendant. Trials at both the Federal High Court and the Niger State High Court are still ongoing.

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Case 89: Benjamin Dikki N26 Billion corruption

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.

In January 2022, the DG Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) testified for the defendant saying that the defendant, his predecessor had no control over the N27.1 billion funds of the National Council on Privatisation. He explained that once the approved N27.1 billion was remitted to the office of the Accountant General of the Federation, the defendant no longer had control over the money. The witness was cross-examined by the prosecution counsel and the court adjourned the matter to 14th March, 2022 for continuation of defence. The matter is still ongoing.



Case 90: Ngozi Olejeme N1.3 Billion NSITF fund Mismanaged

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.

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 defence 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 N69 billion 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

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medical grounds.

The matter came up on 30th May 2022 for continuation of trial, but trial could not go on as the defendant's lawyer wrote a letter to the court seeking adjournment. Upon no objection from the prosecution counsel, the court adjourned the matter to 27th June 2022. The matter is still ongoing.



Case 91: Mr 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.

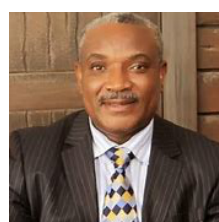
The former DG was amongst others accused of using false attestation letter to acquire many promotions which made him rise to director grade in the civil service. One of the three counts reads thus: Chima Cartney Igwe (m) sometimes in December 2002 or thereabout in Lagos within the jurisdiction of this 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 appeared ICPC were 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.

The matter which is assigned to Justice Sherifat Solebo was originally scheduled to commence trial on 12th September, 2022 but it could not go on as the judge is retiring from the bench by the end of this year. And the matter would be reassigned to a new judge.

The matter has been adjourned to 12th January 2023 pending the re-assignment to another judge.



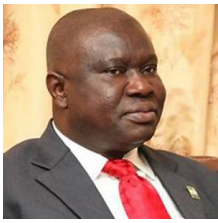
Case 92: Okoi Obono-Obla and 2 others N10.1 Million fraud trial

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 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-recognisance. The judge later adjourned the case to November 25, 2021 for trial.

Following an objection brought by counsel to the defendant against the charge of forgery brought by ICPC at the High Court of Plateau State, the court in February 2022, discharged the defendant on the ground that the charge was an abuse of court process and that ICPC cannot prosecute for an offence that was purportedly committed 15 years before it was established.



Case 93: Rt. Hon. Adeyemi Ikuforiji
N333.8 Million

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.

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 witnesses; 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.

On the 17th March, 2022 when the matter was supposed to come up, it was not listed on the court's cause list even though EFCC counsel, Mr Ekene Ihenacho was in court. A new date for continuation of trial will be communicated to parties.



Case 94: Mrs. Winifred Oyo-Ita
N570 Million fraud

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 to February 28th, 2022.

The matter came up on 28th February 2022 but Justice Taiwo Taiwo of the Federal High Court, Abuja ordered an indefinite stay of proceeding due to a misconduct by EFCC. EFCC got an order freezing the bank account of the defendant from a sister court. Justice Taiwo held that EFCC's action was condemnable and amounted to

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an abuse of court process, forum shopping and contempt of court. The court then adjourned the matter to 4th and 5th May 2022. At the resumed date, the matter could not go on as the judge was absent in court. It was further adjourned to 7th July for continuation of trial.

Justice Taiwo has retired from the bench and the matter has suffered setbacks.



Case 95: Haruna Momoh \$700 Million fraud

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 \$770 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 to February 9, 2022, for

parties to adopt their final written addresses.

At the resumed date, all parties adopted their final written addresses and in June 2022, the Court delivered its judgment discharging and acquitting all the defendants stating that ICPC failed to prove its allegation against the defendants beyond reasonable doubt.

Case 96: Adewale Musa-Olomu Abuse of office



Prof. Adewale Musa-Olomu is the Chief Medical Director of the Federal Medical Centre, Abeokuta. An action was instituted against him by an 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.

In March 2022, the Federal High Court, Abeokuta dismissed the suit on the ground that the plaintiff lacks the locus standi to institute this action and non-disclosure of reasonable cause of action against the defendant.

Following HEDA Resource Centre's petition against Professor Musa-Olomu, the ICPC has opened an investigation which is currently ongoing.

Case 97: Hon. Nicholas Mutu Ebomo N320 Million proceeds of corrupt practice



The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on February 3, 2020, arraigned a former Chairman of the

House of Representatives Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, Nicholas Mutu Ebomo, Airworld Technologies LTD, Oyien Homes LTD, and one Blessing Mutu (now at large) before Justice F. O. G. Ogunbanjo of the Federal High Court, Abuja on an 11-count charge for alleged fraud and abuse of office.

One of the charges reads: "That you, Hon. Nicholas Mutu Ebomo (m) whilst being the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on the Niger

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Delta Development Commission, between August 2014 and August 2016 in Abuja, within the Jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did procure Airworld Technologies Ltd to conceal the sum of N320,159,689.63 (Three hundred and twenty million, one hundred and fifty-nine thousand, six hundred and eighty-nine naira, sixty-three kobo) to be paid by Starline Consultancy Services Ltd when you reasonably ought to have known that the said sum of N320,159,689.63 formed part of proceeds of corruption, gratification and fraudulent acquisition of property and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(c) (d) of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act 2011 as amended by Act No. 1 of (2012) and punishable under section 15(3) of the same Act."

The defendant pleaded "not guilty" to the charges.

The fraud trial of Nicholas Mutu Ebomo, former chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission, NDDC, continued on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 with the fourth prosecution witness, Adamu Yusuf, an operative of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, continuing his examination-in-chief.

Ebomo is being prosecuted alongside, Airworld Technologies Ltd for allegedly receiving gratification for influencing an NDDC contract for the collection of statutory levies from oil and gas companies in the Niger Delta.

Under cross-examination by the defence counsel, E.I Ikwueto and J.O Asoluka, Yusuf affirmed that the investigation established that Mutu used his companies to obtain gratification from Starline Consulting Ltd, which proceeds he used to acquire properties.

He told the court that Starline Consultancy Ltd recovered more than N100bn as remittance from the oil and gas companies in the Niger Delta, pointing out that the second defendant, Airworld Technologies Ltd, who was not part of the contract's execution, was paid the total sum of N320,159,689.62, while the third defendant, Airworld Technologies Ltd, received the sum of N80m. Other funds were disbursed into the accounts of private companies and individuals, including Forest Shippers Ltd, where the first defendant is a director.

Yusuf further disclosed that Starline Consultancy Ltd employed the services of Tareb Consultancy Ltd, an accounting firm, in the collection of levies from the oil and gas companies. The investigation, he said, revealed that the consulting firm remitted more than N700m.

"Mutu in an attempt to cover up, contacted Tareb Consultancy Ltd to procure and forge documents and invoices to show that contracts were awarded and

payments made to his companies.

"Unfortunately, the letterheads, addresses, website and some features on these documents did not correspond with the ones submitted during the forfeiture process and those that reflected the payment process", the witness said.

Justice Giwa-Ogunbanjo adjourned further hearing until February 2 and 3, 2022.

At the resumed date, the prosecutor counsel Ekele Iheanacho presented a 13-count amended charge bordering on money laundering and collection of gratification and sought the leave of the court for the defendants to take fresh pleas to the amended charge. But the defence counsel, J.O Asoluka, objected, arguing that at this stage of the trial an amendment was not necessary and unfair to the defendants.

Justice Ogunbanjo adjourned the matter till March 29, 30, 31, 2022 for ruling. On the adjourned date, the defendant's absence stalled trial and the court had to adjourn. The matter is ongoing.



Case 98: Senator Albert Bassey N204 Million money laundering

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, is prosecuting Senator Albert Bassey on six counts of Money Laundering before Justice Agatha A. Okeke of the Federal High Court,

Uyo, Akwa Ibom. The charge arose from the allegation that he took possession of six vehicles worth N204 million, at the instance of one Olajide Omokore, whose companies had contracts with the State Government at the time. Investigations revealed that the said vehicles were proceeds of crime and that he committed the offence while he served as Commissioner for Finance, Akwa Ibom State and Chairman of Akwa Ibom State Inter-Ministerial Direct Labour Coordinating Committee, in December 2012. The offence contravenes Section 15 (2) (d) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 (as amended) and punishable under Section 15 (3) of the same Act.

EFCC had closed its case at the last adjourned date and in February 2022, the defendant opened his defence and 2 witnesses who testified for the defendant were also cross-examined by EFCC counsel, Attah Ochoi. The witnesses under cross-examination claimed that they were members of the defendant's campaign team and they each received buses for campaign purposes. However, they were unable to disclose the particulars of the vehicles and did not state whether they personally took possession of the vehicles. They later concluded that they were not privy to the procurement

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of the vehicles.

The court adjourned continuation of defence to May 2022.

At the resumed date, Mike Ozekhome SAN, sought for an adjournment on the ground that lead counsel Kanu Agabi SAN was away on medical ground. After listening to arguments from both counsels, the court adjourned the matter to July 2022 for adoption of final written addresses.

At the resumed trial of the matter on Thursday, July 14, 2022, Bassey, while being led in evidence by the lead defence counsel, Kanu Agabi, SAN, admitted receiving cars from Omokore. According to him, he had been friends with Omokore for nine years before he joined politics. He, however, denied knowing Omokore's companies, and also denied being involved in the award of contracts to any of his companies in November 2013 before he left office as the Commissioner for Finance in April 2014.

In a cross-examination by the EFCC's counsel, E. E. Iheanacho, Bassey admitted that he was aware that contracts were awarded to companies while he was the Commissioner for Finance and the Chairman of the Inter-Ministerial Direct Labour Coordinating Committee-IMDLCC, but did not know if the said Committee he chaired received over N30 billion as alleged.

The prosecutor further asked the Senator if he knew that the cars mentioned in the charge were luxury cars, Bassey affirmed that they were bullet-proof cars, but denied knowing if they were luxury cars. Bassey was also asked if he would be surprised to know that the said Committee he chaired, made payments to Omokore's companies during the period in question, and he responded that he would not be surprised.

Justice Okeke adjourned the matter to September 26, 2022 for adoption of written addresses. The matter is still ongoing.



Case 99: Ahmadu Umar Fintiri and 1 other N2.9 billion

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 reads: "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 defence 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. Though the defence counsel, M. A. Magaji (SAN), objected to their admissibility, his objection was overruled and the

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documents were admitted as exhibit A and B. 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 100: Kayode Odukoya N1.7 billion fraud

Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on Wednesday,

November 10, 2022, adjourned to March 8, 2023 for the adoption of final written addresses in the alleged N1.7 billion fraud case involving Kayode Odukoya, Chief Executive Officer, First Nation Airways Limited.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, is prosecuting Odukoya alongside First Nation Airways Limited and Bellview Airlines Limited on a seven-count charge bordering on forgery, use of false document, perjury, stealing and obtaining credit by fraud, contrary to Sections 85(1), 86(1), 278(1)&(b), 285(1), 313(1)(a) &(b), 361(1)(a) & (b), 363 (1) and 364(1) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State of Nigeria 2011.

One of the counts reads: “Kayode Odukoya and First Nation Airways, on or about the 29th day of August, 2013 in Lagos, within the Ikeja Judicial Division, by means of fraud, obtained the credit of N307,268,406.43 for yourselves from Skye Bank Plc (Now Polaris Bank Ltd) and made the bank to incur liability by presenting a Memorandum of Loss of Lagos State Certificate of Occupancy registered as No.33 at page 33 in Volume 1011 at the Lagos State Registry, Alausa, Ikeja in respect of property being and situate at No. 29 Oduduwa Street, Ikeja GRA. Lagos State.”

Another count reads: "Kayode Odukoya, First Nation Airways Limited and Bellview Airlines Limited, on or

about the 7th day of October, 2016 in Lagos within the Lagos Judicial Division, dishonestly converted to your own use the sum of N1, 742,994,962.04 (One Billion, Seven Hundred and Forty-two Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety-four Thousand, Nine Hundred and Sixty-two Naira, Four Kobo) property of Skye Bank Plc.”

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charges, thereby prompting the commencement of trial.

The prosecution had, in the course of the trial, called five witnesses and tendered several documents to prove its case against the defendant.

After the prosecution had closed its case on November 30, 2020, the defendant, through his counsel, E.D. Onyeke, had applied for a no-case submission.

Ruling on the no-case submission on January 11, 2022, Justice Dada dismissed the application and ordered the defendant to open his defence.

Consequently, the defendant took to the dock to defend himself.

Following the conclusion of his defence, Justice Dada, on November 9, 2022 adjourned the matter to March 8, 2023 for the adoption of final written addresses.

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TOTAL AMOUNT RECORDED: N21,063,943,871,284
\$47,441,315,025.41

Male	Female	Organisation
N7,901,634, 931,284 \$17,796,475,070.46	N8,899,908,970,000 \$20,044,839,954.96	N4,262,400,000,000 \$9,600,000,000

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

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Former Ministers and Advisers	8	8.0	8.0	8.0
Senators	5	5.0	5.0	5.0
Former Governors	14	14.0	14.0	14.0
Others	73	73.0	73.0	73.0
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%.

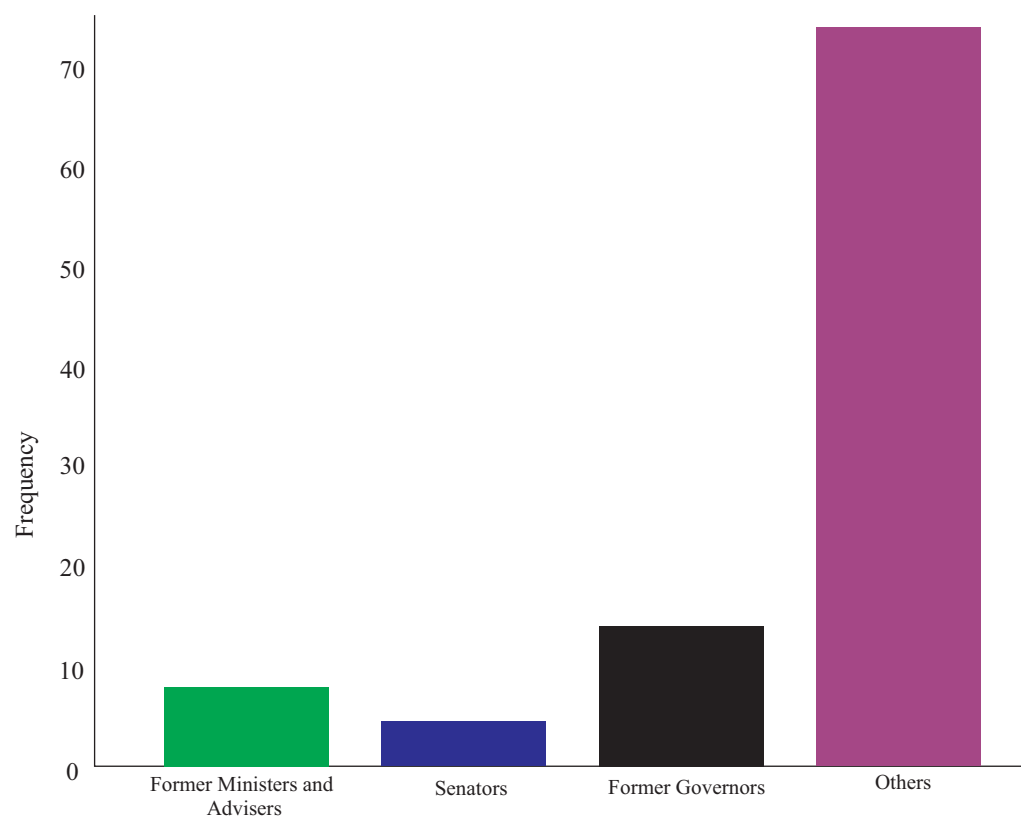


Fig 1: Chart of Personalities involved in the cases as Major Defendants.

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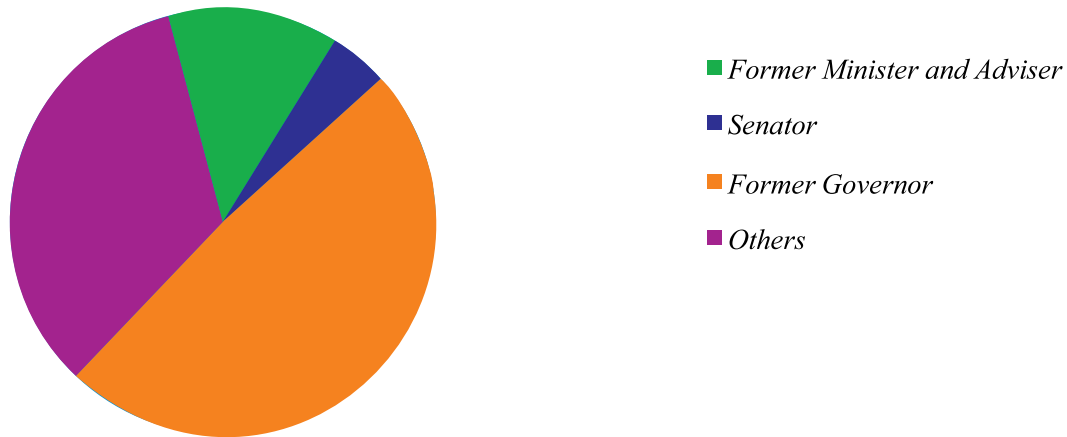


Table 2
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Year of Inception of Charges

	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	19.0	19.0	
2022	24	24.0	24.0	
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 (20.0% 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

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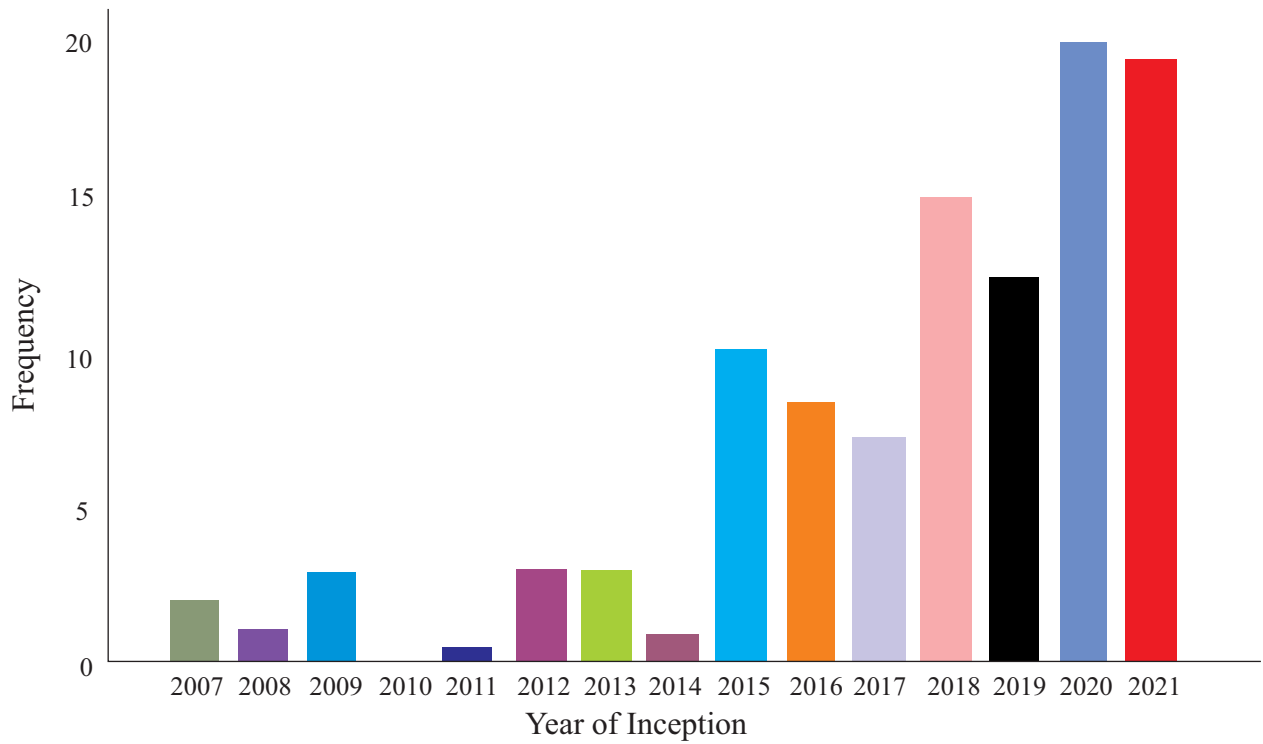
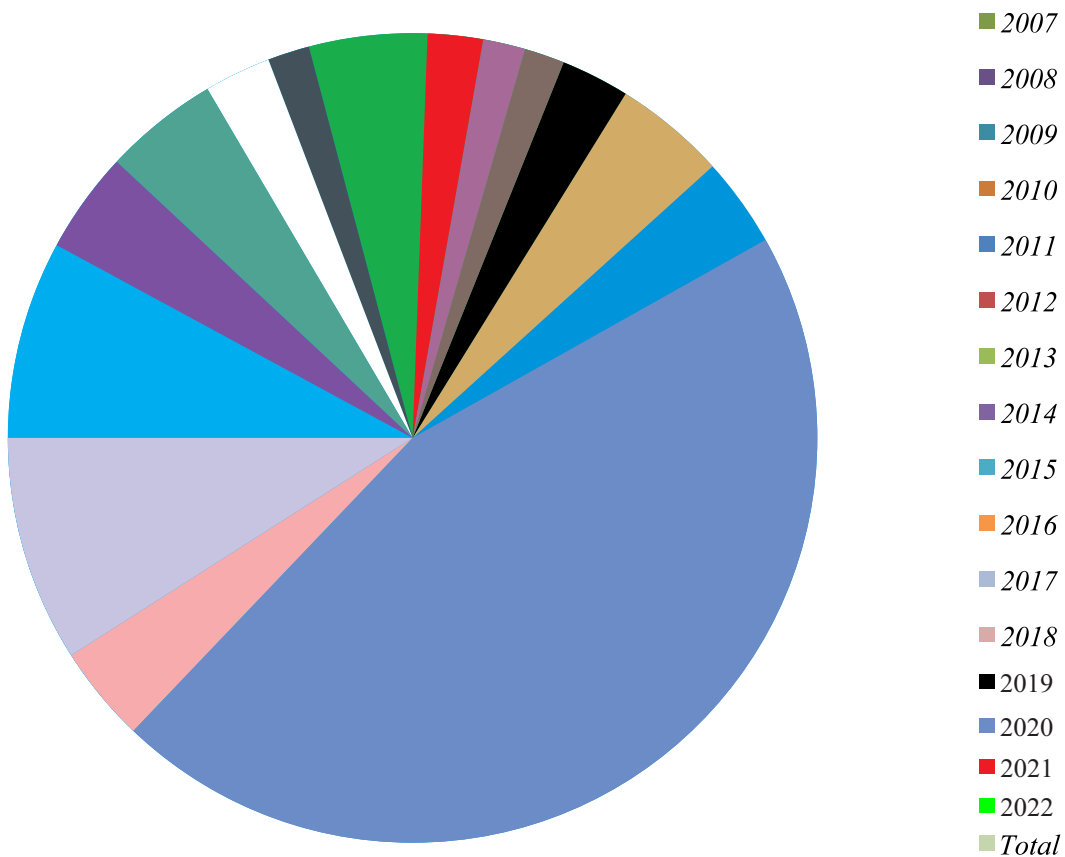


Fig 2: Chart of Year of Inception of Cases



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Table 3

Frequency Counts and Percentages of Prosecuting Agency of Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Information Not Available	6	6.0	6.0	
EFCC	79	79.0	79.0	
ICPC	13	13.0	13.0	
CCT	0	0.0	0.0	
SPIRPP	1	1.0	1.0	
NDLEA	1	1.0	1.0	
Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Results in Table 3 indicated that a total of 100 corruption cases were considered. Eighty-nine (80.0%) cases were prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes commission (EFCC) while ten (10.0%) cases were prosecuted by the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC). The distribution of the prosecuting agencies is visually presented in Figure 3

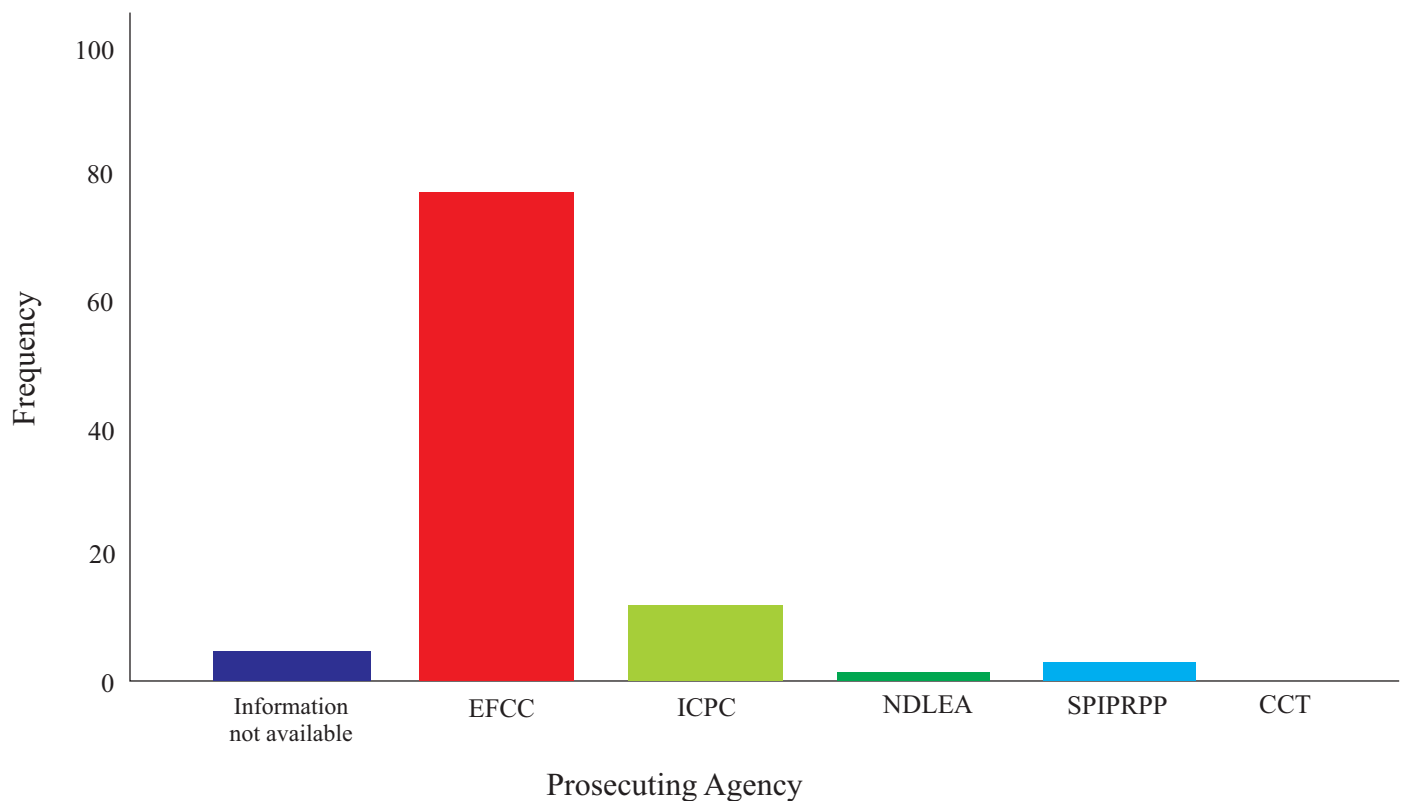


Fig 3: Chart of Prosecuting Agency

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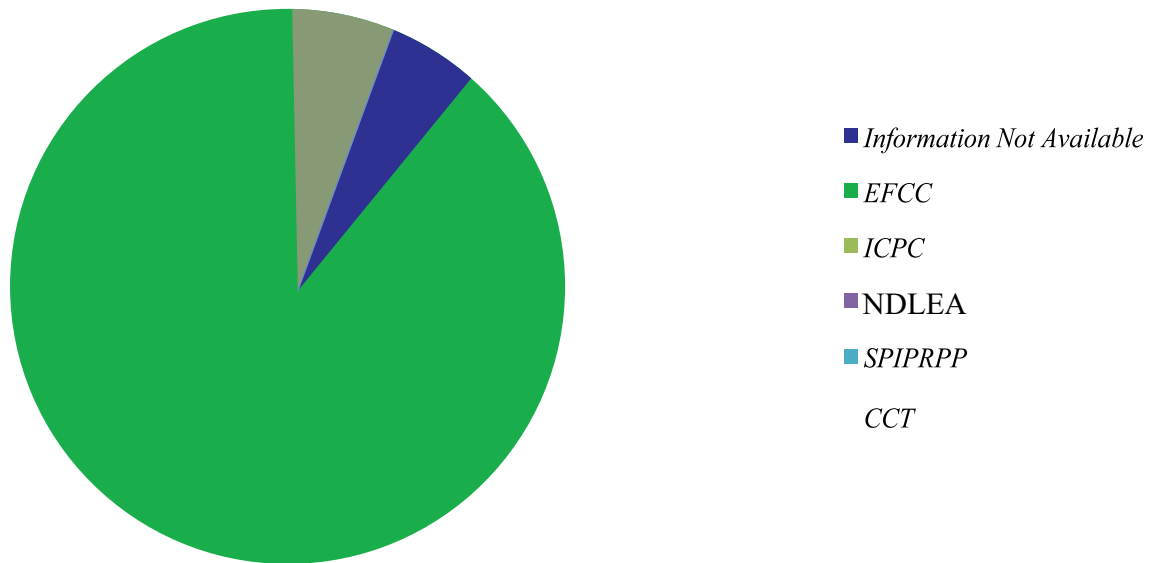


Table 4
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Main Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Fraud	63	63.0	63.0	
Corruption	6	6.0	6.0	
Embezzlement	4	4.0	4.0	
Money laundering	20	20.0	20.0	
Bribe	1	1.0	1.0	
Forgery	1	1.0	1.0	
Misappropriation/Mismanagement	5	5.0	5.0	
Conspiracy	0	0.0	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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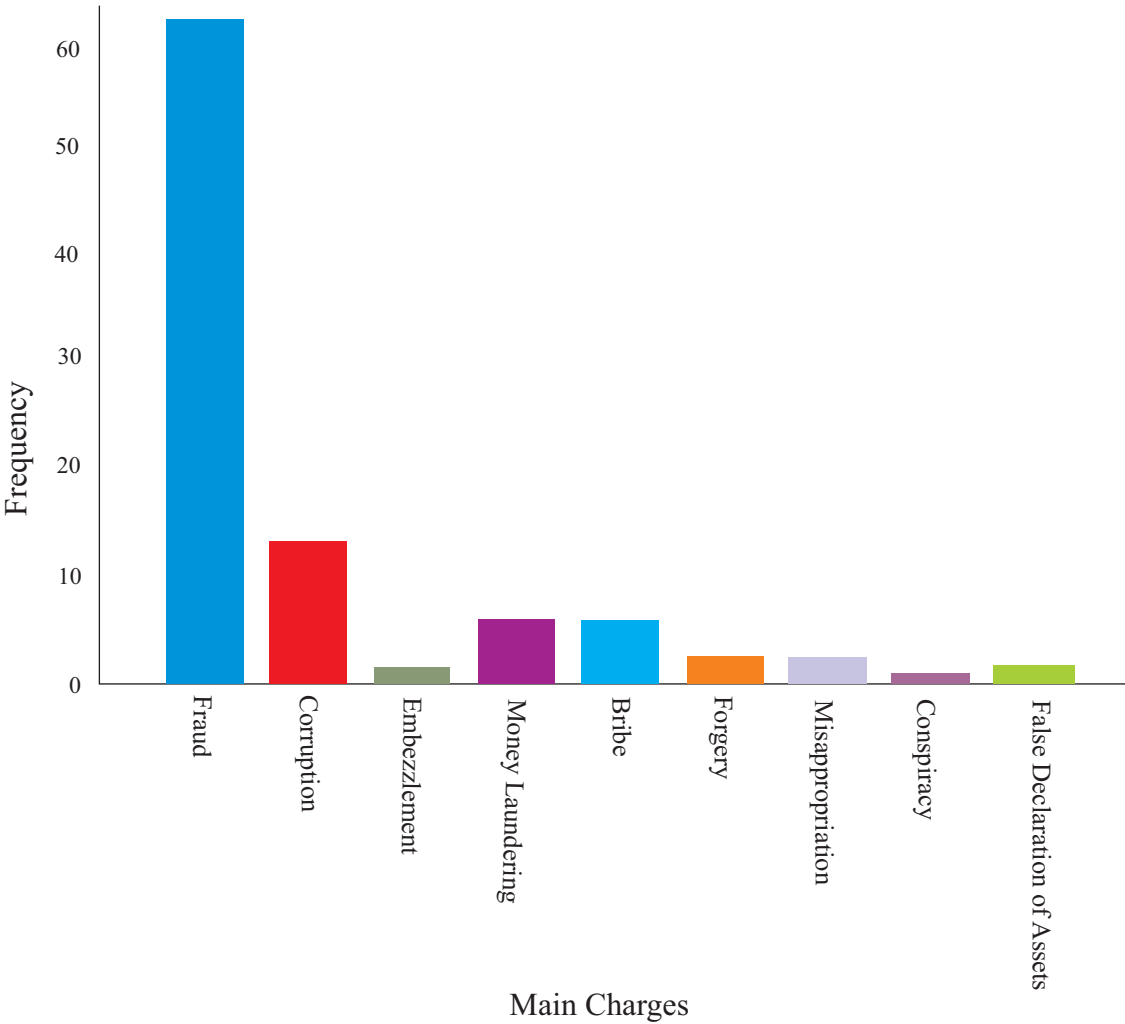
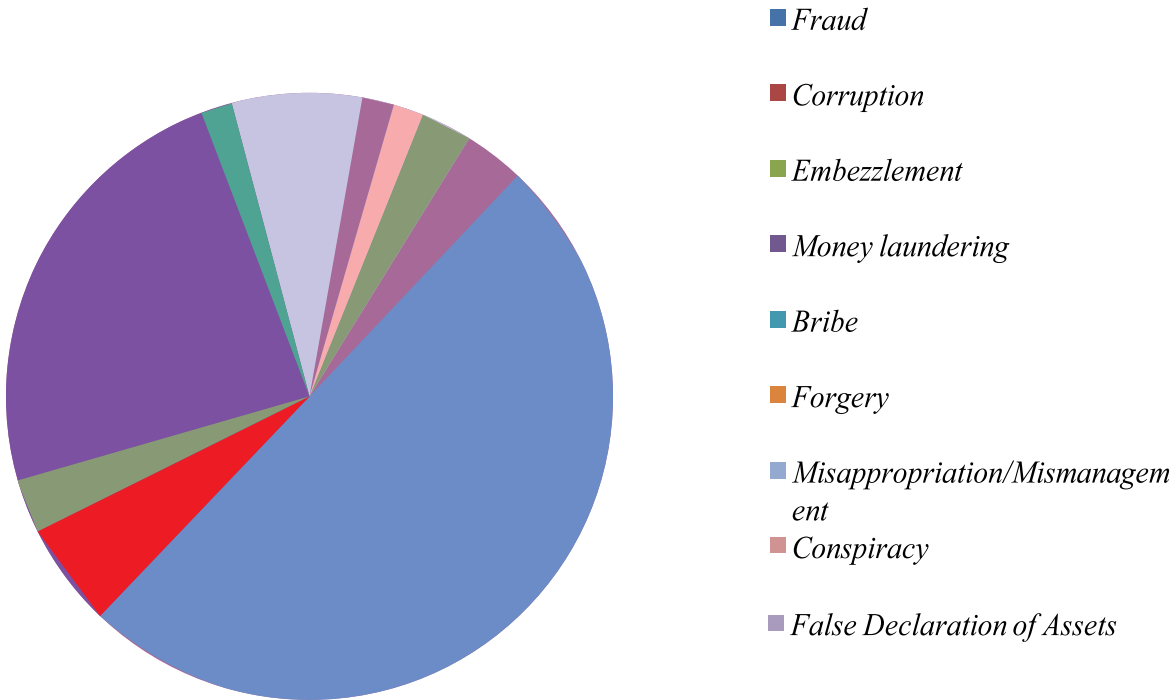


Fig 4: Chart of Charges against Defendants



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Table 5

Frequency Counts and Percentages of Judgments in the Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Ongoing	61	61.0		
Pending	10	10.0		
Case Dismissed	2	2.0		
Sentenced	11	11.0		
Properties seized	1	1.0		
Convicted but later discharged	12	12.0		
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

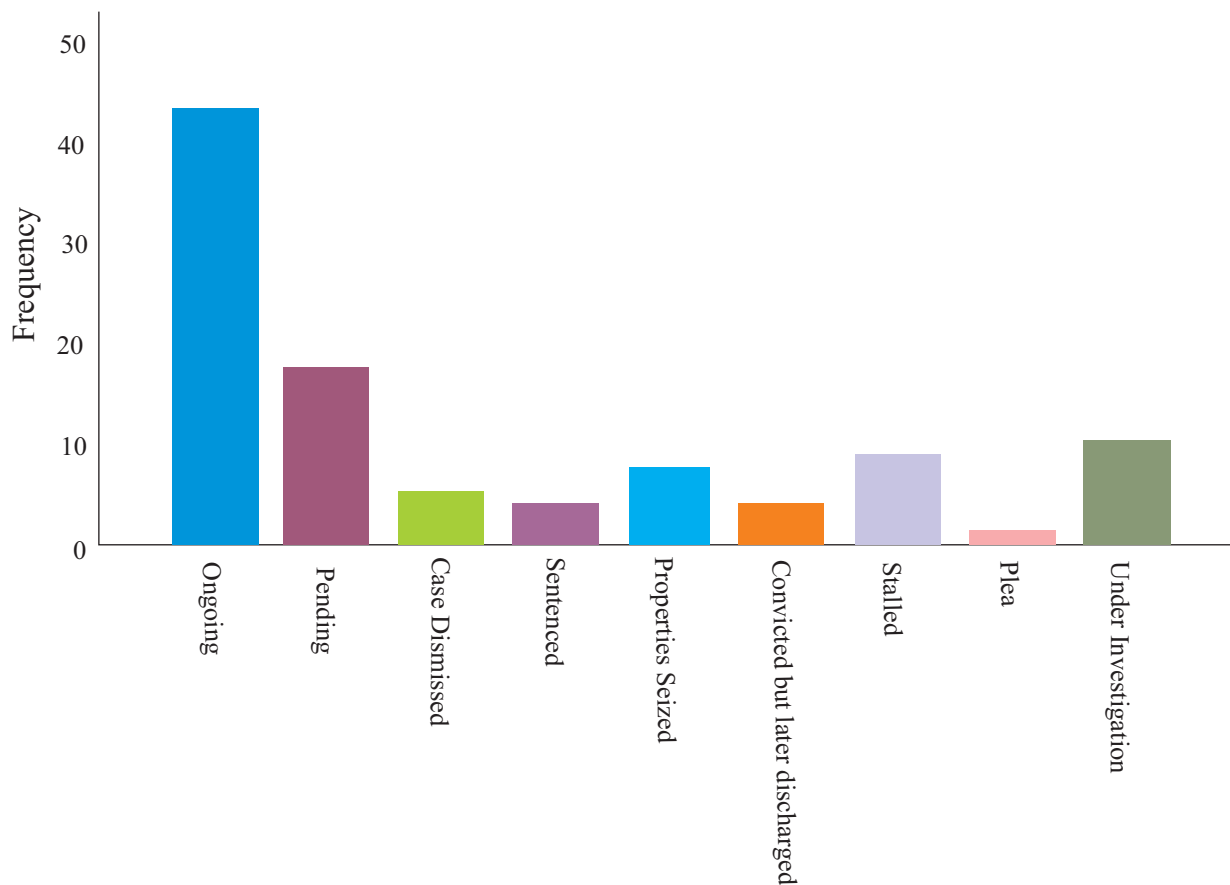


Fig 5: Chart of Status of Cases

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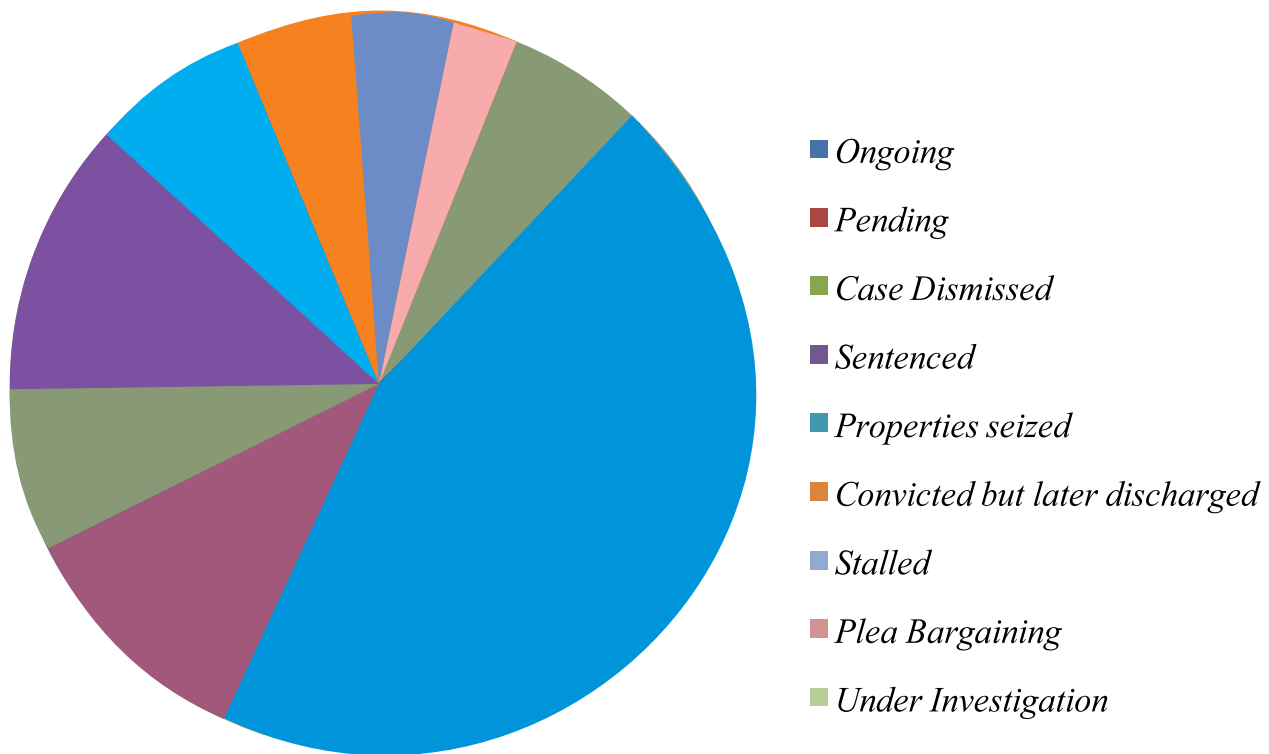


Table 6
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Amount in Naira (Billion) Involved in the Charges

	Frequency	Percent
0-100	88	88.0
100-200	3	3.0
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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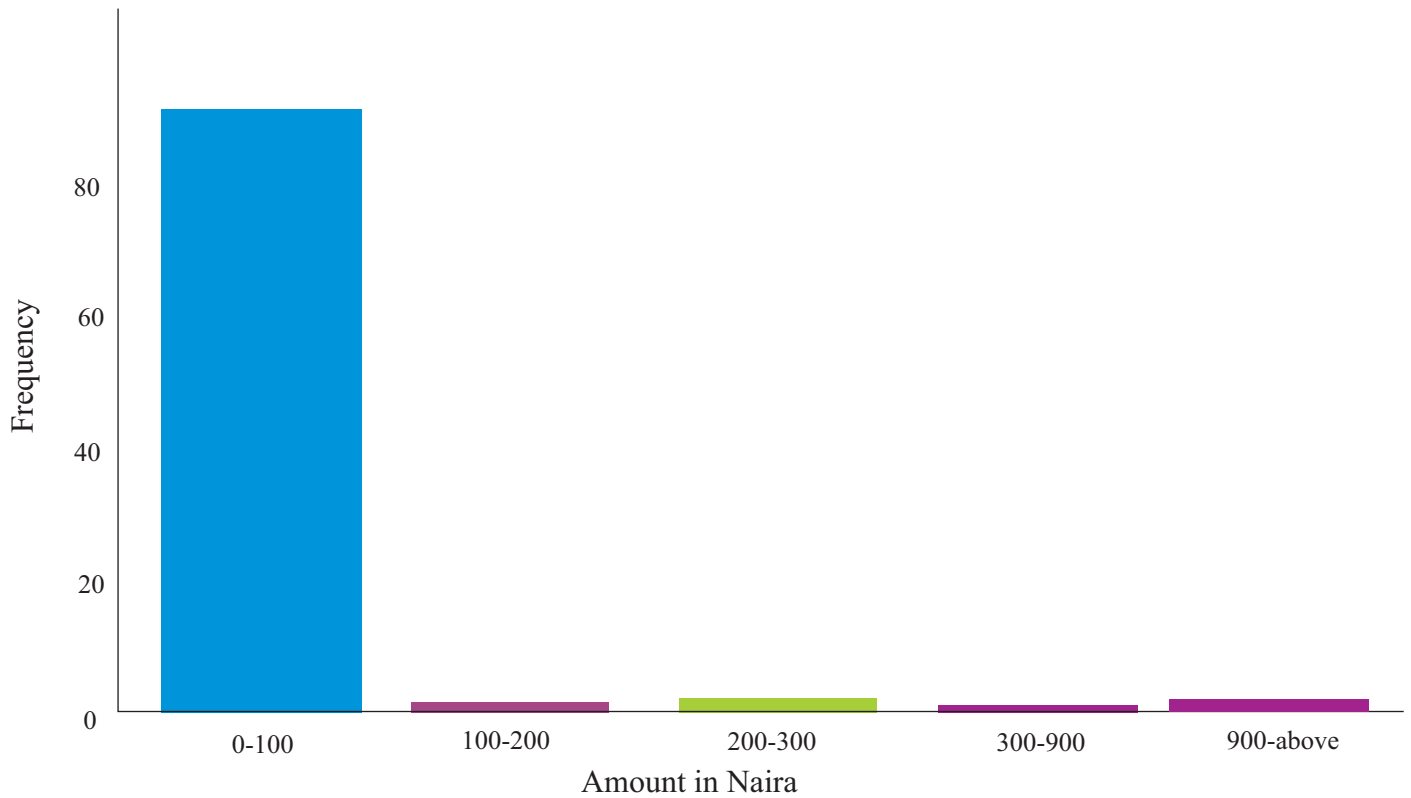
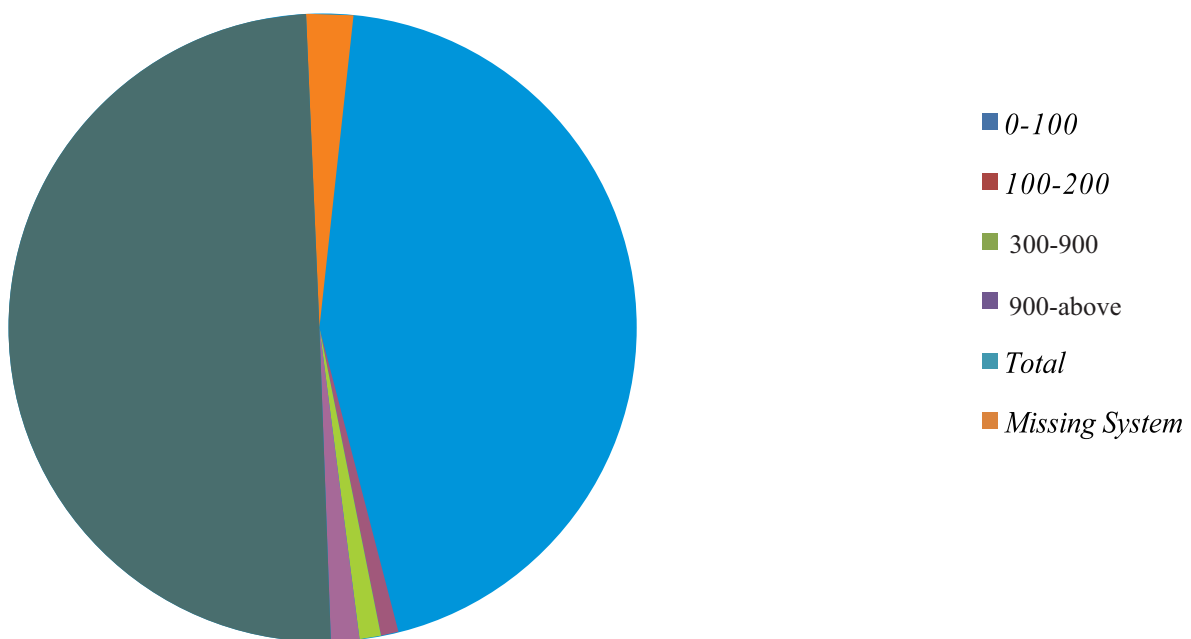


Fig 6: Chart of Amount involved in the cases (Billion Naira)



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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

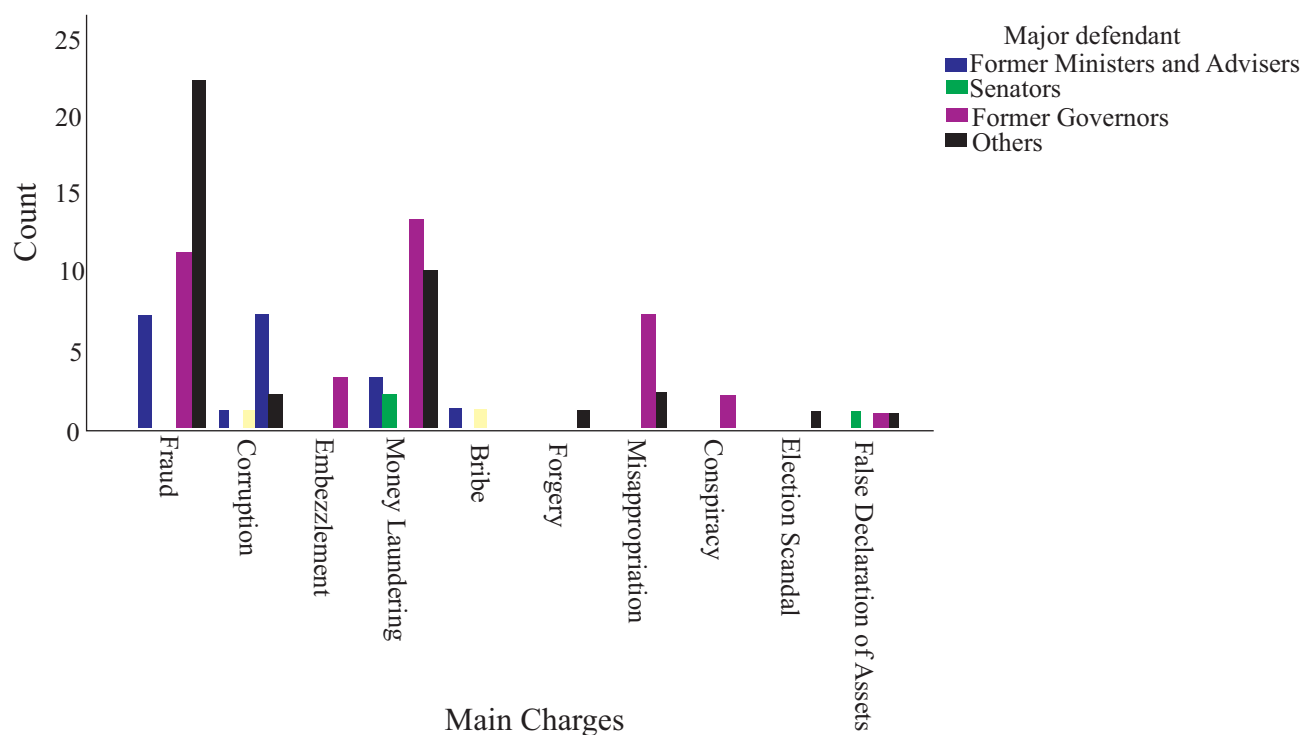


Fig 7: Chart of Charges by Major Defendant

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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	34	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	34	96

Pearson Chi-Square $\chi^2 = 63.113$; df = 12; Asymptotic Significance (2-sided) = .000

Results in Table 8 revealed that there was a significant difference in the amount involved in the cases by major defendants ($\chi^2 = 63.113$; df = 12; $p < .001$). While 41 former Governors and 36 other defendants were involved in less than 100 billion Naira, two former Minister/ Special Adviser were involved in a staggering sum of over 700 billion Naira. This result is shown in graphically in Figure 8

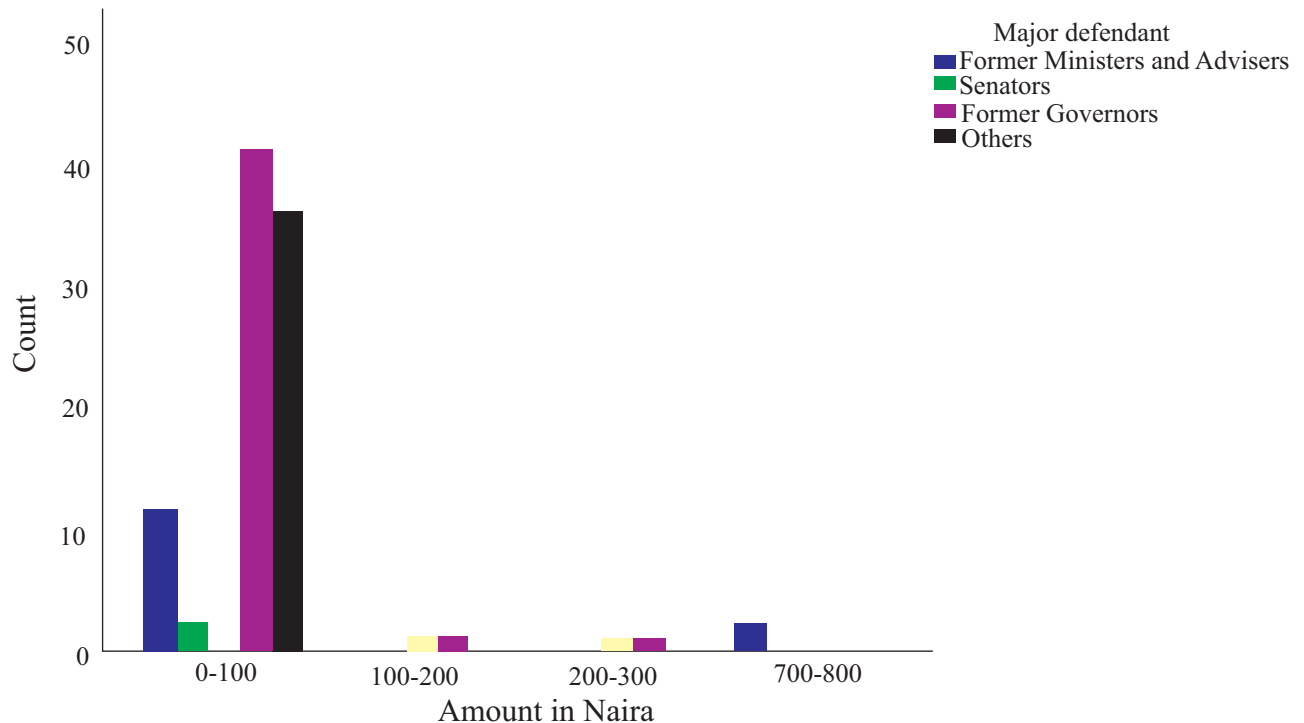


Fig 8: Chart of Amount involved in the cases (Billion Naira) by Major Defendant

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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

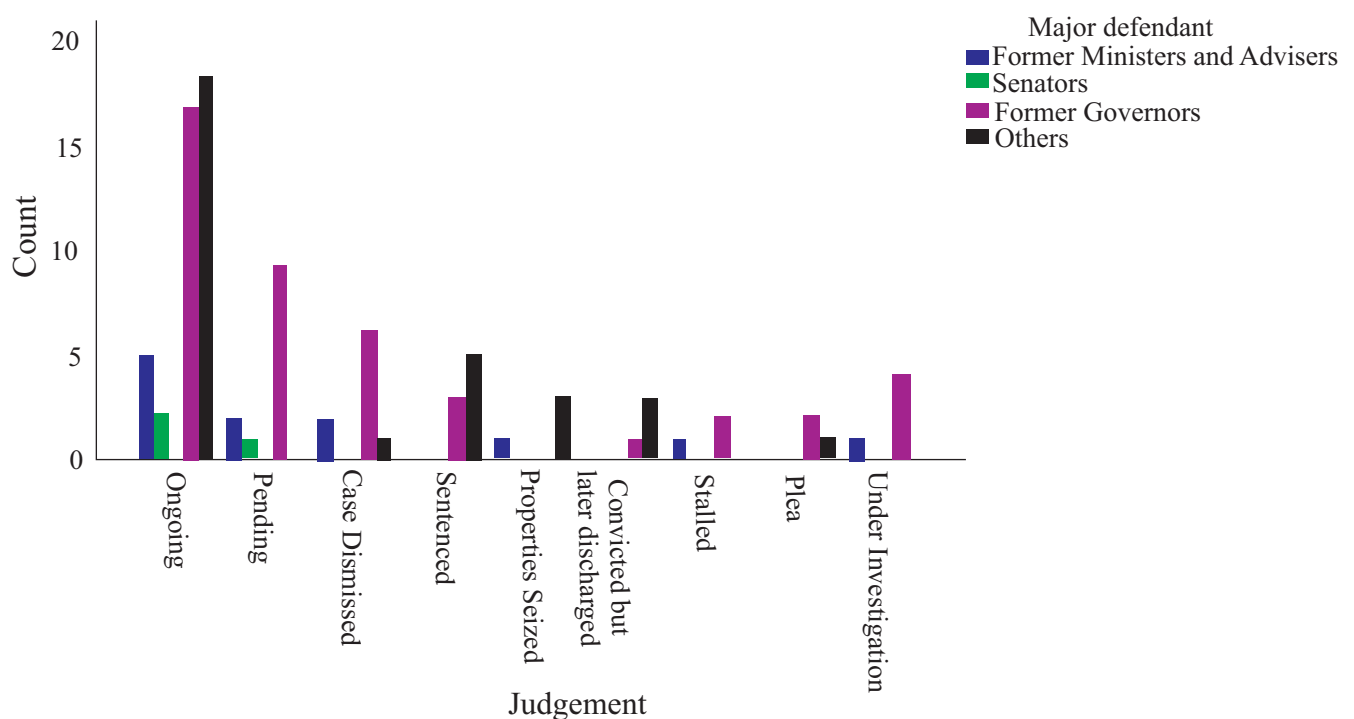


Fig 9: Chart of Status of Cases by Major Defendant

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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

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

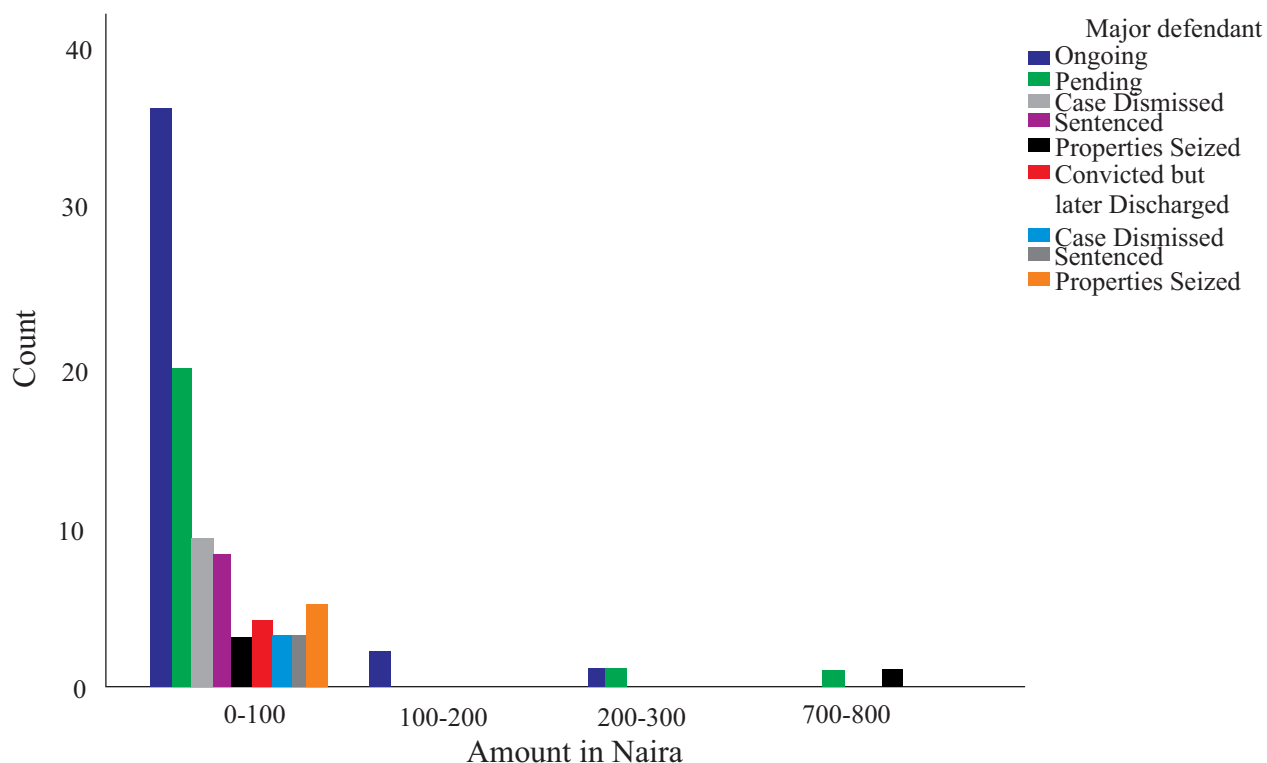


Fig 10: Chart of Amount involved in the cases (Billion Naira) by Status of cases



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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