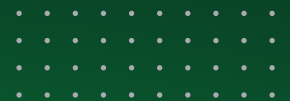




A COMPENDIUM OF 100 HIGH PROFILE CORRUPTION CASES IN NIGERIA

(Special Edition with some
West African Corruption Cases)

[As at 22nd of November, 2024]



A Publication of
Human and Environmental Development Agenda
(HEDA Resource Centre)

with the support of

**MacArthur
Foundation**



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(8th Edition)

By



HEDA
RESOURCE CENTRE

Supported by:

MacArthur
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Preface

The motivation for this compendium in 2017 was derived from the major concern for the cascading morality in the society with assorted nauseating manifestations. It became regular practice, celebrating those notorious for corruption and financial crime offences in the country, such that those accused are not only revered and elevated by social and religious institutions, but societies also elect them into otherwise respectable offices. The 2023 general elections still saw the election of suspects in corruption and financial crimes elected into political offices, especially the National Assembly. Obviously, the proceed 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 harassment. 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 background 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. 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 2017 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 valued feedback 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 believing in our vision on this project from inception till this 8th 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 who supervised the research and Ismail Tijani designed the graphics.

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.

Mr Olanrewaju Suraju
Chairman, HEDA Resource Centre



I have the honour to write the Foreword for the Compendium of 100 High Profile Corruption Cases in Nigeria, published by the Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA Resource Centre). It is pertinent to note that HEDA has consistently researched and interrogated into some high-profile corruption cases, which have either been under investigation or prosecution since 2005. I am gladdened by the tenacity, consistency, dedication and professionalism which this task has been carried out.

There cannot be peace without development and there cannot be development without peace. Corruption is an obvious threat to peace and development. The greatest impact of corruption is on the society, especially the weak and vulnerable populations. The costs of corruption have been document in the literature and even without recalling all, suffice it to state that corruption depletes national wealth; creates and widens inequality; hinders the development of fair market structures and distorts competition; it undermines the credibility of institutions and confidence in the government; and most importantly, corruption undermines the rule of law and stability of society. In this regard, corruption is an enemy to mankind. Yet, the fight against corruption remains a daunting task.

The good news, however, is that every one can stop corruption. The few examples of effective civil society actions against corruption, including the 2 million man-match in Hong Kong over the extradition of Peter Godber, and the 'Arab String' are landmarks for advocacy and anti-corruption crusade. Effective legislation is crucial to the fight against the menace, but that is not enough – pressurizing government to do the needful, supporting witnesses, raising awareness about the effects and impact of the problem, as well as involving critical stakeholders like the youth and civil society organizations are all opportunities for changing the narrative.

It is in this connection that the aim of HEDA in producing this compendium – which is to raise awareness by providing “members of the general public with verifiable information on some protracted 100 high profile corruption cases that began since 2005 detailing: parties involved, case number, nature of offence, amount involved, year case was filed, court and status, with the aim of increasing citizens' awareness of those cases and circumstances surrounding them”, is both laudable and commendable. As I understand, this initiative “is to also challenge the Administration of Criminal Justice system in Nigeria on the need for reforms and speedy dispensation of justice, while also emphasizing on the importance of transparency and accountability given corruption induced developmental setback in Nigeria”.

Foreword

The primary purpose of government is the well-being and welfare of the citizens. In this regard, fighting corruption is critical to attaining that goal. Section 15 (5) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) as Amended states that 'the State shall abolish all corrupt practices and abuse of power; while Section 4 vests the legislative power in the National Assembly. To this extent, the National Assembly is an important institution for the fight against corruption. Unfortunately, public complaints about certain corrupt practices, including budget padding, (mis)management of constituency projects, oversight functions and public hearings/investigations which revealed corrupt practices in the process, as well as the concealed allowances and other benefits of members of the National Assembly seem to have undermined the capacity of the National Assembly to effectively discharge its constitutional function in the fight against corruption.

The Executive Arm of the Government, which is responsible for enforcement of the law is equally bereft and incapacitated in several ways. Most of the names on the high-profile cases were from the executive either at the federal or state level. The anti-corruption agencies are no longer seen to be as effective in investigating corruption cases; while the Judiciary, despite its efforts to adjudicate corruption cases, has not impressed the public. That is not to say that the court of public opinion is the final arbiter, but perception, though could be subjective, is everything.

Nevertheless, hope is not lost as there are islands of integrity and patriotic citizens who are committed to pressurizing the government and consistently advocating for accountability to strengthen democratic practices. I sincerely commend HEDA for its commitment and dedication and appreciate the support of development partners, including MacArthur Foundation for supporting this effort.

Professor Abdullahi Shehu Yibaikwal

Former Director General, ECOWAS Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA)

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. Currently, in the 2022 corruption perception index, Nigeria ranks 150 with 24 points. (<https://www.transparency.org>).

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.

Background & Methodology

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:

- I. To investigate and collate otherwise isolated high-profile cases of corruption and financial crimes in governments at all levels, beginning from 2005.
- II. To examine the pattern of the management of the cases by officers (Prosecutors, defense counsels, judges, court officials etc) in the temple of Justice.
- III. To investigate and document the amounts involved in relation to the official status of each suspect.

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

Recommendations for speedy prosecution of corruption cases

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

1. Appointment of more honest and competent judges in all hierarchy of Courts.
2. Digitization of the court system to allow for electronic transmission and collation of court processes and documents.
3. Creation of special division within the Court to specifically handle corruption related cases. Lagos State already created a "Special Offenses Court" to prosecute corruption cases and other peculiar offenses.
4. Strict adherence to the provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act especially Section 396.
5. Amendment of the Constitution to restrict appeal of economic and financial crime cases and corruption related cases to the Court of Appeal.

David O. Ogungbesan, Esq
Legal/Program Manager
HEDA Resource Centre

Why The Compendium

“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

“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
Former Executive Secretary, PACAC

“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 (JODER)

“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

“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.”

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

Opening on the Compendium

“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
Former Special Adviser to the
President on Social Investments

“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.”

Mr Kunle Adegoke SAN
Principal Partner, Kunle Adegoke & Co

CASE 1

FRN VS Ali Bello & Dauda Sulaimon -



Jamilu Abdullahi, a Bureau de Change operator in Abuja, provided crucial testimony on September 26, 2024, in the ongoing trial of Ali Bello, who is facing charges of money laundering and misappropriation amounting to over N3 billion. Abdullahi detailed financial transactions between himself and the Kogi State government under former Governor Yahaya Bello, particularly regarding the payment of school fees for Bello's daughters.

During his testimony, Abdullahi recounted an instance where Abba Daudu, a co-defendant, delivered \$300,000 in cash for the payment of school fees. He explained that he was unable to count the money due to a power outage, so he secured it in his office safe until he could confirm the amount. Abdullahi then confirmed that the total of \$300,000 was indeed used for the school fees of Yahaya Bello's daughter, Naima Ohunene Bello, through four payments of \$75,000 each. He also identified additional payments for other family members, including \$42,170 for Naima and \$78,160 for another daughter, Fatima Oziohu Bello.

Abdullahi detailed various significant cash inflows into his companies, Kunfayakun and E-Traders International Limited, including multiple deposits ranging from N10 million to N400 million, many of which he attributed to Daudu's company, Keyless Nature Limited. The extensive nature of these transactions was emphasized as he recounted multiple cash deposits and transfers over several months.

During the proceedings, Ali Bello's counsel sought an adjournment to study the detailed evidence before cross-examining Abdullahi. The prosecution opposed this request, arguing that the witness had already been in court for an extended period. Justice Obiora Egwuatu ultimately adjourned the trial to October 25, 2024, and set additional dates for further proceedings in November.

On November 6, 2024, the Federal High Court in Abuja, presided over by Justice Obiora Egwuatu, directed EFCC lawyer Abbas Mohammed to verify and report whether a potentially misleading report about court proceedings, posted on the EFCC website, originated from the Commission.

The defense lawyers, Abubakar Aliyu (SAN) and Nureini Jimoh (SAN), representing Ali Bello and others accused of a ₦3 billion fraud, argued that the EFCC's media publications contradicted court proceedings, particularly about claims regarding funds allegedly used to pay the school fees of Yahaya Bello's children. They contended that such publications could undermine public confidence in the justice system. Jimoh sought a suspension of the trial until the EFCC rectifies the issue.

The EFCC lawyer acknowledged the publication but could not confirm its source immediately. Justice Egwuatu ordered the EFCC to investigate and report back at the next hearing, scheduled for November 28, 2024.

Despite the application, the trial proceeded with the cross-examination of prosecution witness Jamilu Abdullahi, a Bureau de Change operator. Abdullahi stated he could not recall who delivered \$300,000 to him or confirm the source of ₦2.1 billion deposited into the 2nd defendant's account, allegedly used for school fee payments.

CASE 2

FRN VS Usman Kwakwa, Abubakar Abdullahi Sambo, Emanuel Pada Titus, Harrietta Onormen Okoji, Umar Musa Karaye (Management Officers of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) Corruption Scandal -



RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AGENCY
ENERGY=EMPOWERMENT=EFFICIENCY

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) arraigned Usman Kwakwa, a management officer of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), on June 20, 2024, for allegedly embezzling N298 million through the REA's payment platform. Kwakwa, along with five other REA officials, is accused of misappropriating over N2 billion in funds intended for project supervision. Kwakwa was arraigned before Justice Emeka Nwite of the Federal High Court, Abuja, where he pleaded not guilty to four charges of fraud. The judge granted him N50 million bail, while three other REA officers - Titus, Karaye, and Okojie failed to appear and were ordered to be arrested.

The charges against Kwakwa include allegations that he transferred REA funds into his personal accounts using the Government Integrated Financial Management Information System (GIFMIS).

Other defendants, including Abubakar Sambo, the REA's Director of Finance, face multiple charges for unauthorized payments, misappropriation, and corruption. Sambo is accused of making unauthorized payments of N1.8 billion, while Titus allegedly received N261 million, and Okojie N342 million in kickbacks. Karaye is charged with defrauding N298 million through similar schemes involving project supervision funds.

During Kwakwa's trial, ICPC investigator Bariki Zaknayaba testified that Kwakwa had funneled N215 million into his company, Bizairabbi General Supply and Co Ltd, between March and June 2023. An additional N97 million was deposited into Kwakwa's personal account for supposed "project monitoring," bringing the total amount misappropriated to N312 million. These transactions were part of a larger investigation into financial misconduct at the REA, prompted by petitions from an NGO and the National Assembly. Kwakwa's counsel objected to the admissibility of certain evidence, including bank statements and petitions, on procedural grounds.

Justice Nwite adjourned the trial to November 21, 2024, for a ruling on the admissibility of the documents and the continuation of the trial. Kwakwa was initially arraigned on June 6, where he pleaded not guilty and was granted bail. The other REA officials, including Sambo, are facing separate but related trials in front of different judges at the Federal High Court in Abuja.

CASE 3

FRN Vs Willie Obiano
(Ex-Anambra State Governor)



N4 Billion
Embezzlement
Money Laundering



A Federal High Court in Abuja, on Monday, adjourned the alleged money laundering charge filed by the EFCC against former Anambra Governor, Willie Obiano, to 13th November, 2024 for the continuation of trial.

The matter, which is before Justice Inyang Ekwo, could not proceed because the court did not sit.

The judge was said to be attending a seminar at the National Judicial Institute (NJI) in Abuja.

Recall that Justice Ekwo had on June 26, 2024 fixed October 7-10, 2024 for the continuation of trial after the anti-graft agency's lawyer, Sylvanus Tahir, SAN, led two witnesses in evidence in the trial of the ex-governor.

A former commercial bank staff, Mr Ugochukwu Otubelu, revealed how he managed the security vote account under Obiano's government.

Otubelu, the 3rd prosecution witness PW-3, said though he was with the bank between 2nd November, 2008, and March 24, 2023, he is now a businessman.

He testified that the signatories to the security vote account were the former Principal Secretary to the ex-governor, Willy Nwokoye, and the Accountant, Theophilus Nweze. He said he interfaced with them mostly on a daily and weekly basis in processing their transactions. The PW 3, who admitted that funds from the security votes account went into six companies' accounts, said the money did not go to the account holders.

The EFCC also called Hayatu Hadejia, a Bureau De Change (BDC) operator as PW4. Hadejia told the court that he is a businessman, who runs BDC companies. He said he had five companies and was invited by the EFCC as part of its investigations into the financial activities of the government of ex-governor Obiano.

After giving his testimony and being cross-examined by Obiano's lawyer, Onyechi Ikpeazu, SAN, Justice Ekwo discharged him from the witness box and fixed October 7-10, 2024 for continuation of trial.

At the resumed trial on Wednesday, 13th November, 2024 Tanko admitted receiving N416 million under the ex-governor's administration, by proxy. He listed his company's accounts that received the funds as Sauki Bureau De Change and Zigaziga Trading and Company Ltd. However, under cross-examination by Obiano's lawyer, Onyechi Ikpeazu, SAN, the witness denied dealing directly with the ex-governor.

Other witnesses were called to support the EFCC's allegations against the ex-governor.

Justice Ekwo subsequently fixed February 24 to 26, 2025, for the continuation of the trial.

Obiano was Anambra governor between March 2014 and March 2022. The former governor, in a nine-count charge, was alleged to have among others, misappropriated over N4 billion from the state's treasury.

CASE 4 FRN VS Senator Orji Uzor Kalu -


N7.6 Billion
Money Laundering



The Abuja Court of Appeal on March 6, 2024, dismissed the Federal Government's request for a retrial of former Abia State Governor, Orji Uzor Kalu, over fraud and money laundering allegations amounting to N7.6 billion. The appellate court, led by Justice J.O.K. Oyewole, ruled that the Federal Government's record of appeal was incompetent due to improper transmission. As a result, the appeals against Kalu and his firm, Slok Nigeria Limited, were struck out.

Kalu had previously been convicted and sentenced to 12 years in prison by the Federal High Court in Lagos, alongside his firm and co-defendant, Jones Udeogu. However, the Supreme Court later quashed Udeogu's conviction, citing that the trial judge, Justice Mohammed Idris, had been promoted to the Court of Appeal before delivering the judgment. This led to Udeogu's retrial, but Kalu was excluded.

Following his release from prison, Kalu challenged the Federal Government's attempt to retry him, arguing it would constitute double jeopardy as there was no Supreme Court order for his retrial. In 2021, the Federal High Court agreed with Kalu and barred the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) from reopening the case.

Unhappy with the decision, the Federal Government appealed, but the Court of Appeal ultimately dismissed the case due to procedural errors, ending the legal attempts to retry Kalu. The EFCC as at the time of this report has not filed an appeal against this judgment at the Supreme Court.

CASE 5 FRN VS Abdullahi Umar Ganduje -


N7.6 Billion
Money Laundering



On July 11, 2024, the Kano State Government arraigned former Governor and current APC Chairman Abdullahi Ganduje, his wife Hafsat, son Umar, and six others in absentia for alleged bribery involving \$413,000 and N1.38 billion. The charges, filed by the government of Governor Abba Yusuf, were previously delayed due to difficulties in serving the defendants, leading to a substituted service via newspaper publication. At the hearing, the judge entered a not guilty plea for the defendants and set the next hearing for July 23 and 24, 2024, while also refusing a prosecution request for a bench warrant.

Ganduje and his co-defendants are accused of receiving kickbacks from contractors in 2016 and 2017 and conspiring to convert N1.376 billion meant for healthcare equipment between 2020 and 2021. The charges cite violations of Kano State's anti-corruption laws. Counsel for the defence challenged the court's jurisdiction and the validity of the substituted service.

In a shocking twist, the Kano State Government confirmed on August 14, 2024, that during a violent protest, thugs stormed the Kano State High Court and destroyed crucial documents related to the corruption case against Ganduje, adding further complications to the high profile legal proceedings. No fresh charge has been filed or a new adjourned date given in this trial at the time of this report.

CASE 6**FRN VS Olu Agunloye -**

**\$6 BILLION DOLLARS MAMBILLA
HYDROELECTRIC PLANT FRAUD**



Dr. Olu Agunloye, a former minister of power during President Olusegun Obasanjo administration, is currently on trial at the FCT High Court, facing allegations from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) related to the award of a \$6 billion contract for the Mambilla Hydropower plant in Taraba State. He is charged with seven counts, including forgery and disobedience to a presidential order, specifically regarding a contract awarded to Sunrise Power and Transmission Company Limited without proper budgetary approval.

During a recent court hearing on October 22, 2024, the prosecution presented an amended charge along with additional evidence. However, Agunloye's counsel, Adeola Adedipe (SAN), argued against the amendment, stating that the defence was prepared to cross-examine a prosecution witness (PW2) and that the prosecution should formally seek the court's permission to amend the charges.

The prosecution, represented by Abba Muhammad (SAN), contended that they had the right to amend charges at any stage of the trial. Justice Jude Onwuegbuzie directed the prosecution to formally apply for the amendment which would be considered in the next court session.

The case has been adjourned to November 11, 2024, for the continuation of the trial. In a previous testimony, the compliance officer from Jaiz Bank mentioned that the EFCC had inquired about Agunloye's accounts, revealing that N5.2 million was transferred to him by another individual between August and November 2019.

At Thursday November 14 2024 proceedings, the judge observed that the defence counsel has been in the habit of advancing excuses based on Agunloye's health, and age as well as the filing of diverse motions which have ensured that progress was not made in the trial.

Addressing the defence counsel, Justice Onwuegbuzie stated that "My principle of justice is that of no delay. The other time you brought the issue of amicus curiae and wasted the time of the court. You should also know that in my court I don't read processes. If you need time to serve processes, it must reach me on time and your colleague must also be duly aware in time. There must be mutual respect. Do not come and serve processes in court, I don't take that in my court," he said.

Prosecuting Counsel, Abba Mohammed, SAN, had at the beginning of proceedings informed the court that business of the day was the adoption of the prosecution's application for the amendment of the charge which was filed on October 30, 2024, to which the defence curiously responded with a counter-affidavit and a plea to the court to grant an adjournment to enable the prosecution study the affidavit.

Justice Onwuegbuzie adjourned the matter till November 28, 2024 for ruling on the adoption of the application.

CASE 7**FRN VS Tuoyo Omatsuli & ORS -**

N3.6 Billion Fraud



On January 31, 2024, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) requested the Federal High Court in Lagos, presided over by Justice Daniel Osiagor, to issue a warrant of arrest for former Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Executive Director on Projects, Tuoyo Omatsuli, who is accused of involvement in a N3.6 billion fraud. Omatsuli, along with Francis Momoh, Don Parker Properties Limited, and Building Associates Limited, faces charges of conspiracy and money laundering. The EFCC alleges that between 2014 and 2015, Omatsuli and his co-defendants laundered N3.645 billion, proceeds from corruption and kickbacks from government contracts.

Omatsuli and the other defendants pleaded not guilty. The EFCC called 16 witnesses and closed its case. However, the defendants filed a no-case submission, and in November 2020, the trial court discharged Omatsuli. The EFCC appealed the decision, and in April 2022, the Court of Appeal overturned the lower court's ruling, ordering Omatsuli to defend himself.

At the January 31 hearing, Omatsuli's counsel informed the court that he had an appeal pending before the Supreme Court and was unaware of the hearing. The EFCC applied for a bench warrant, but Justice Osiagor ruled that Omatsuli be notified of the next hearing, scheduled for March 22, 2024. The case has been further adjourned to November 11, 2024 for continuation of trial.

At the resumed date, Omatsuli's counsel informed the court that he had an appeal pending before the Supreme Court and was unaware of the hearing. The EFCC applied for a bench warrant, but Justice Osiagor ruled that Omatsuli be notified of the next hearing, scheduled for March 22, 2024. The case has been further adjourned to November 26 2024 for continuation of trial.

CASE 8 FRN VS Ahmad Idris -


N109 BILLION
FRAUD



On June 25, 2024, Abdulhamid Isa Muri, the third prosecution witness (PW3) in the trial of former Accountant General of the Federation (AGF) Ahmed Idris, testified in the ongoing trial-within-trial at the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court in Abuja. Muri, a staff of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), refuted claims that the EFCC promised Idris immunity from prosecution in exchange for his cooperation regarding his alleged embezzlement of N109 billion.

Muri explained that on June 10, 2022, Idris voluntarily submitted documents related to the investigation and made a statement in the EFCC's Kano office without any promises of immunity. He added that Idris was informed of his rights and voluntarily provided and signed his statement. Muri also denied that Idris was detained at the EFCC's Kano Zonal Command.

After cross-examination, the court discharged Muri and adjourned the case to October 29, 2024, for the defence of the trial-within-trial. After cross-examination, the court discharged Muri and adjourned the case until October 29, 2024, for the defense of the trial-within-trial. The case has been further adjourned to 4th December 2024 of the trial-within-trial.



CASE 9**FRN VS Bello Adoke****(Ex- Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) - Malabu Oil Scam:**

But, in the Federal High Court case in which judgement was delivered on Friday, the EFCC had charged Messrs Adoke and Abubakar, alleging money laundering to the tune of N300 million. The anti-graft agency had, on 4th August, 2020, re-arraigned Messrs Adoke and Mr Abubakar on an amended 14-count of money laundering.

The court upheld no case submission of Mr. Adoke on Friday, but ordered the proceedings to continue against his co-defendant, who entered his defence. Friday's ruling brings to an end at the Federal High Court, Mr Adoke's trial in connection with the controversial Malabu Oil scam. The EFCC, as at the time of this report, has not filed an appeal against this Judgment.

The Federal High Court in Abuja, on Friday, the 21st of June, 2024 dismissed money laundering charges filed against a former Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice, Bello Adoke.

The Honourable Judge, Inyang Ekwo, upheld the no-case submission application filed by Mr. Adoke after the prosecution, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), concluded its case. Mr. Adoke was standing trial along with Aliyu Abubakar, a businessman, on money laundering charges in the case.

In his ruling, Honourable Justice Ekwo held that the EFCC failed to provide any substantial evidence linking Mr. Adoke to the alleged offence. The judge went ahead to discharge and acquit Mr. Adoke of all the alleged offences. However, the judge dismissed Mr. Adoke's co-defendant's no-case submission, ordering Mr. Abubakar to enter his defence in the trial. The ruling tallies with the judgement of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court in Jabi, Abuja, which some weeks back, acquitted Mr. Adoke of complicity in alleged fraud in the controversial Oil Prospecting Licence (OPL) 245, widely known as Malabu Oil deal.

In the FCT High Court case, Mr. Adoke, who was the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice under former President Goodluck Jonathan administration, was charged alongside a businessman, Aliyu Abubakar; Rasky Gbinigie; Malabu Oil and Gas Limited; Nigeria Agip Exploration Limited; Shell Nigeria Extra Deep Limited and Shell Nigeria Exploration Production Company Limited over the Malabu oil scam. They were arraigned in 2020 by the EFCC on a 40-count amended charge.

EFCC had in the FCT High Court, conceded that it lacked evidence to prosecute Mr. Adoke and his co-defendants, but insisted that it had led credible evidence to warrant the former AGF to enter his defence in the matter.



CASE 10
FRN VS Patrick
Akpobolokemi
(Ex-DG, NIMASA) -


**₦8.5 BILLION
FRAUD**



On April 22, 2024, the Federal High Court in Lagos acquitted former Director-General of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Patrick Akpobolokemi, of a ₦8.5 billion fraud charge brought by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). Justice Ayokunle Faji ruled in favor of Akpobolokemi's no-case submission, declaring that the EFCC failed to establish a prima facie case linking him to the alleged crimes.

Akpobolokemi and his co-defendant, NIMASA staff member Josephine Otuaga, were discharged from the 22-count charge. However, co-defendants Major-General Emmanuel Atewe (rtd) and Kime Engonzu were ordered to enter their defence on counts 12 to 22, as the court found that they had a case to answer.

Akpobolokemi's lawyer, Joseph Nwobike (SAN), argued that the prosecution failed to connect his client to the crimes, and the court agreed, noting that out of 11 witnesses, only one mentioned Akpobolokemi's name, and others testified they had no dealings with him.

Justice Faji concluded that there was no credible evidence linking Akpobolokemi to the crimes in counts 1 to 11, thus acquitting him. However, Akpobolokemi still faces two separate charges, one before Justice Bukola Adebisi of the Lagos State High Court and another before Justice Faji.

CASE 11
FRN VS Francis
Atuche -


**N25.7 Billion
Fraud**



After a 13-year trial, the Supreme Court of Nigeria on June 28, 2024, upheld the conviction of Francis Atuche, former Managing Director of the defunct Bank PHB Plc, for a N25.7 billion fraud. The court ruled that Atuche failed to challenge the trial court and Court of Appeal's findings on his credibility.

Atuche, alongside Ugo Anyanwu, the former Chief Financial Officer of the bank, was convicted on 21 of 27 counts of conspiracy and stealing in 2021, receiving 12- and 10-year sentences, respectively. The Court of Appeal later reduced Atuche's sentence to six years and Anyanwu's to eight years.

Atuche's wife, Elizabeth, was acquitted as the prosecution couldn't prove her involvement. The Supreme Court's decision marks the conclusion of the long-running case.


**N25.7 Billion
Fraud**

CASE 12

FRN VS Major-General Emmanuel Atewe (RTD.), N8.5 BILLION (EX-NIMASA) - FRAUD



Justice Ayokunle Faji of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos, on Monday, April 22, 2024, held that a former Commander of the Joint Military Task Force, Operation Pulo Shield, Major-General Emmanuel Atewe (rtd.), and a staff of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA, Kime Engonzu, they have a case to answer in the alleged N8.5bn money laundering case brought against them by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

Atewe and Engonzu are standing trial on a 22-count charge bordering on money laundering to the tune of N8, 537,586,798.58, which also involves a former Director-General of NIMASA, Patrick Akpobolokemi, and Josephine Otuaga, also a staff of NIMASA.

One of the counts reads: "That you, Patrick Ziadeke Akpobolokemi, Major General Emmanuel Atewe, Kime Engonzu, and Josephine Otuaga, sometime in 2014, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Court, with intent to defraud, conspired amongst yourselves to commit an offence to wit: conversion of the sum of N8,537,586,798.58 property of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18 (a) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act 2012 and punishable under Section 15 (3) of the same Act."

They pleaded "not guilty" to the charges, thereby prompting the commencement of their trial. In the course of the trial, the prosecution called several witnesses and subsequently closed its case against the defendants.

However, the defendants, rather than open their defence, filed a no-case submission.

Akpobolokemi had, in a no-case submission, filed by his lawyer, Dr. Joseph Nwobike, SAN, prayed the court for an acquittal without having him present a defence.

Ruling on the no-case submission on Monday, Justice Faji discharged and acquitted Akpobolokemi and Otuaga, the fourth defendant. He however, ruled that Atewe, the second defendant, and Engonzu, the third defendant, should open their defence in counts 12 to 22 of the charge.

Consequently, the case was adjourned to the 15th of July, 2024 for continuation of trial. The matter has now been further adjourned to the 26th of November, 2024 for continuation of trial.

CASE 13

FRN VS Emmanuella Eteta Ita - N25.7 Billion Fraud



In the ongoing trial of Emmanuella Eteta Ita, Head of the Stakeholders Unit at the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), a prosecution witness (PW6), Ijeoma Matilda, testified on March 18, 2024, detailing how Ita diverted funds intended for FIRS Stakeholders' assignments to her private business, Surestart School Ltd. Matilda explained that funds meant for these assignments were traced to Ita's personal account and directly to the account of Surestart School Ltd.

During cross-examination, Matilda revealed that Ita admitted benefiting from the funds, offering to repay unaccounted sums and has refunded about N17 million, though she claimed to have received only N5 million. Investigations also indicated falsified receipts for events that were never executed, with a deceased FIRS staff, Daniel, allegedly involved. The case has been adjourned to November 26, 2024, for continuation of trial.

CASE 14

FRN VS Abdulfatah
Ahmed & Ademola Banu - **N1.22 BILLION
FRAUD**



On October 21, 2024, the Ilorin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) re-arraigned former Kwara State Governor Abdulfatah Ahmed and his Finance Commissioner, Ademola Banu, on a 14-count amended charge related to the alleged mismanagement and theft of public funds totaling N5.78 billion. The re-arraignment took place before Justice Mahmud Abdulgafar at the Federal High Court in Ilorin, following the transfer of the previous trial judge, Justice Evelyn Anyadike.

Ahmed and Banu had initially faced a 12-count charge on April 29, 2024, to which they pleaded not guilty. The new charges included allegations that Ahmed improperly spent over N1.61 billion intended for state security and administration to charter private jets. They were also accused of conspiring to steal funds allocated for paying teachers' salaries and for providing security and infrastructure in Kwara State.

During the proceedings, the EFCC counsel, Rotimi Jacobs, SAN, presented the new charges, which were accepted by the court after the defence did not object. Both defendants pleaded not guilty. The defence then requested bail for Ahmed and Banu, citing their compliance with previous bail conditions. Justice Abdulgafar granted bail at N100 million each, requiring two sureties, one of whom must be a permanent secretary.

The case was adjourned to December 4-5, 2024, for the commencement of the trial.

CASE 15

FRN VS Okpalugo Ifeoma
(Ex-commissioner of Police) & ORS - **N1.3 Billion
Fraud**



Justice O.O. Abike-Fadipe of a Lagos Special Offences Court adjourned the N1.3 billion fraud trial of retired Assistant Commissioner of Police Ifeoma Okpalugo and three others to April 18, 2024. The defendants, alongside two companies, face 14 counts of conspiracy and theft for allegedly diverting N1.3 billion belonging to the Nigeria Police Force.

The prosecution's first witness, EFCC investigator Chukwuma Orji, detailed how funds meant for police personnel were funnelled into personal accounts and used for property purchases. The defence objected to the admissibility of key documents, and the court will rule on this matter in the next adjourned date. The case has been further adjourned to February 20th and 27th and 4th 5th and 6th of March 2025 for continuation of trial.

CASE 16

FRN Vs Winifred Oyo-ita
(Former Head of Service
(HOS) - **N3 Billion
Fraud**



On April 25, 2024, eighth Prosecution Witness, Hamma Adama Bello, testified in the trial of former Head of Service (HoS) Winifred Oyo-Ita, before Justice James Omotosho at the Federal High Court in Abuja. Oyo-Ita and her subordinates are facing charges of misappropriation, money laundering, and corruption involving over N3 billion. Bello detailed how Oyo-Ita and her co-defendants used companies, such as Slopes International Limited and Asanaya Projects Ltd, to divert government funds for personal gain. The trial was adjourned to November 26, 2024, for continuation.

CASE 17 FRN VS Honourable Ericbona Ushie


**N35 MILLION
FRAUD**



On October 23, 2024, Justice O.O. Abike-Fadipe of the Special Offences Court in Ikeja, Lagos, adjourned the fraud trial of businessman Ericbona Elio Ushie to December 19, 2024.

Ushie had been arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on February 12, 2024, on 13 counts related to stealing, obtaining under false pretence, forgery, and possession of fraudulent documents, involving a total of N35,397,000.

After pleading not guilty, the prosecution, led by Bilikisu Buhari, planned to call 13 witnesses. During the proceedings, a viral video surfaced showing Ushie at his home, boasting that he had not been arrested or detained, which contradicted his court status. The video led Justice Abike-Fadipe to revoke Ushie's bail, imposing new conditions that he could not meet.

At the recent hearing, Ushie's new counsel, Victor Okpara, SAN, requested a variation of the bail conditions, which the judge granted. The trial is set to continue on December 19, 2024.

CASE 18 FRN VS Alhaji Idris Yahaya -


**N19.9 MILLION
FRAUD**

The Gombe Division of the Court of Appeal, on Thursday, February 22, 2024, upheld the conviction of Alhaji Idris Yahaya, Auditor General for Local Government, Yobe State.



He was convicted and sentenced to five years imprisonment on Monday, March 13, 2023 by Justice Muhammad Lawu Lawan of the Yobe State High Court, after being prosecuted by the Maiduguri Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on one count of criminal misappropriation to the tune of Nineteen Million, Nine Hundred Thousand Naira (N19, 900,000.00).

Yahaya received funds from the Office of the Auditor General for Local Government and Emirate Affairs, Yobe State, for the purchase of an official vehicle, a 2015 Toyota Corolla, and diverted part of the money to his personal use.

The lone 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 Honourable Court, received the sum of N19,900,000.00 via your personal account number 1001480930 with account name Alhaji Yahaya Idris domiciled in United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA) from the Local Government Audit Account Number 5030030060 domiciled in 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."

However, dissatisfied with the judgment, Yahaya approached the appellate court, where he raised five grounds of appeal and prayed the court to set aside the judgment of Justice Lawan.

While arguing against the appeal, counsel to the EFCC, Mukhtar Ali prayed the court to uphold the judgment of the lower court and dismiss the appeal on the grounds that "the prosecution did not prove its case beyond reasonable doubts".

Delivering judgment, the three-man panel led by Hon. Justice A.A B Gumel, upheld the conviction of Yahaya and unanimously dismissed the appeal and consequently affirmed the judgment of the trial court.



CASE 19 FRN Vs Darius Dickson Ishaku & Anor


**N27 Billion
Fraud**

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Monday, September 30, 2024, arraigned former governor of Taraba State, Darius Dickson Ishaku and former permanent secretary, Bureau for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs in the state, Bello Yero, before Justice S. C Oriji of the Federal Capital Territory High Court, Maitama, Abuja for fraud.

Both are being prosecuted on a 15-count charge, bordering on criminal breach of trust, conspiracy and conversion of public funds to the tune of N27, 000,000,000.00 (Twenty Seven Billion Naira).

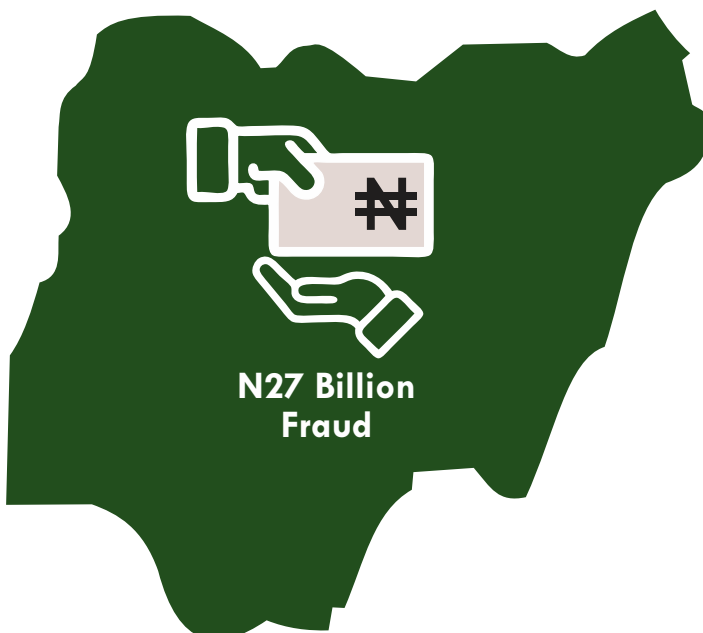
They pleaded "not guilty" when all the charges were read to them, prompting prosecution counsel, Rotimi Jacobs, SAN, to ask the court for a trial date as well as accelerated hearing of the matter, while Paul Haris Ogbole, SAN and Oluwa Damilola Kayode, counsel to Ishaku and Yero respectively made oral bail applications which Jacobs opposed, insisting on formal applications.

Justice Oriji, during the proceedings of Thursday, October 3, which was fixed for hearing on bail applications admitted both defendants to bail as the prosecution counsel did not oppose the bail granted to the defendants. Consequently, the court adjourned the matter to November, 4, 5 and 13 for commencement of trial.

On November 13, 2024, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court in Abuja, presided over by Justice S.C. Oriji, deferred ruling on a preliminary objection filed by former Taraba State Governor Darius Ishaku and ex-Permanent Secretary Bello Yero until the conclusion of their trial. The two are facing a 15-count charge by the EFCC for alleged criminal breach of trust, conspiracy, and diversion of ₦27 billion in public funds. They argued that the court lacked jurisdiction since the alleged offences did not occur in Abuja.

Prosecution counsel Rotimi Jacobs (SAN) opposed the objection, asserting that the court had jurisdiction. Justice Oriji cited Section 396(2) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2015, which mandates that objections to charges be decided alongside the judgment after trial.

The trial was adjourned to January 21, 28, and 29, 2025, for continuation.



CASE 20

FRN VS Ayodele Fisayo -


**N6.9 Billion
Money Laundering**



At the Federal High Court in Lagos, Ibrahim Mahe, a retired Permanent Secretary from the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, testified in the money laundering trial of former Ekiti State Governor Ayodele Fayose. Fayose is accused by the EFCC of a ₦6.9 billion fraud involving Sylvan Mcnamara Ltd.

Mahe, the 16th prosecution witness, stated that ₦2 billion disbursed into Sylvan Mcnamara's account was approved for security purposes, with mandates signed by himself and former National Security Adviser (NSA) Col. Sambo Dasuki (rtd). He clarified that such disbursements required the NSA's authorization and adhered to due process. Mahe added that it was the President and NSA's prerogative to determine the funds' use.

Fayose was initially arraigned in 2018 and granted bail but was re-arraigned in 2019 before Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke. The EFCC continues presenting its case, with Mahe confirming his role liaising with intelligence agencies and managing disbursements. Under cross-examination, Mahe noted that the NSA's office is political and accountable to the President. He also confirmed his retirement in 2014 without any official queries.

Justice Aneke adjourned the trial to November 29, 2024.

CASE 21 FRN VS Chief Cletus Ibeto -


**N4.8 BILLION
FRAUD**



On July 4, 2024, Justice Oyindamola Ogala of the Lagos High Court adjourned the fraud trial of Cletus Ibeto and his companies to October 21, 2024. Ibeto, Ibeto Energy Development Company, and Odoh Holdings Ltd face 10 charges related to an alleged N4.8 billion fraud, including false pretenses and forgery.

The case involves claims of fraudulently obtaining money for land that was not as described. At the hearing, prosecution counsel Rotimi Jacobs, SAN, questioned whether the defendants intended to settle out of court or continue litigation, given their negotiations with the EFCC. Defense counsel Adebayo Oshodi sought to re-list an application challenging the court's jurisdiction, which was opposed by Jacobs. Justice Ogala expressed displeasure with the defendants' actions but adjourned the case for further proceedings. The case has been further adjourned to 11th December 2024 for continuation of trial.

CASE 22 FRN VS Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu & ORS - N2 BILLION FRAUD



The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has approached the Court of Appeal to set aside a no-case ruling granted in favour of a former Governor of Niger State, Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu and former



Chairman, People's Democratic Party, Niger State, Tanko Beji by Justice Abdullahi Mukailu of the Niger State High Court sitting in Minna, on December 7, 2023.

The Commission had filed a seven-count charge bordering on conspiracy, abetment and criminal breach of trust before Justice Aliyu Mayaki (now retired) against Aliyu, Beji and a former Commissioner for Environment and Chief of Staff to Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu, Umar Mohammed Nasko.

The matter was later reassigned to Justice Abdullahi Mukailu. The EFCC called 11 witnesses and tendered over 400 exhibits and closed its case. However, the three defendants made a no-case submission before the court and His Lordship on December 7, 2023, granted the prayers in favour of Aliyu and Beji and directed Nasko to open his defence.

The EFCC, dissatisfied with the ruling of His Lordship on Aliyu and Beji regarding their no-case submission, and fully persuaded that a prima facie case had been established against them, filed a Notice of Appeal dated January 10, 2024. The Commission was optimistic that the Court of Appeal would do justice to the appeal. Surprisingly, on January 15, 2024, when the EFCC's counsel appeared in court to continue the trial of Nasko and without any prior notice, the Attorney General of Niger State made an appearance in court with an application to take over the case from the EFCC. Not done yet, the AG made another appearance four hours later and entered a nolle prosequi which His Lordship acted on and discharged Nasko.

The Commission has undertaken to proceed in its appeal against Aliyu and Beji at the Court of Appeal with all its evidence against them. Appeal is awaiting hearing date.

CASE 23 FRN Vs Honourable Nicholas Mutu

 **N320 Million
Money Laundering**



The Court of Appeal in Abuja has dismissed an appeal by a House of Representatives member, Nicholas Mutu against a January 22, 2024 ruling by a Federal High Court in Abuja ordering him to enter his defence in the money laundering charge brought against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

In a ruling on Thursday, 10th October, 2024, a three-member panel of the Court of Appeal, presided over by Justice Hamma Barka, granted the appellant's application to withdraw the appeal, marked: CA/ABJ/CR/112/2024.

Mutu, representing Bomadi/Patani Federal Constituency of Delta State, applied to withdraw the appeal after the EFCC, represented by Ekele Iheanacho (SAN), raised an objection, challenging its (the appeal's) competence.

The EFCC had argued, in its preliminary objection, that the appeal, an interlocutory one, was filed by the appellant without first obtaining the leave of the trial court.

Justice Folashade Giwa-Ogunbanjo of the Federal High Court had, in the January 22 ruling, rejected the no-case submission made by Mutu.

Justice Giwa-Ogunbanjo held that the prosecution adduced sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case against Mutu and two of his co-defendants to warrant their being called upon to enter a defence.

The judge proceeded to order Mutu and his co-defendants to enter their defence as they have a case to answer in respect of the allegations made against them in the 13-count amended charge on which they are being tried.

Mutu, described as the longest-serving member of the House of Representatives, who has maintained his seat since he was first elected in 1999, is, along with two others – Airworld Technologies Ltd, and Oyien Homes Ltd – accused of laundering about N320million.

Mutu was said to have committed the alleged offences between August 2014 and August 2016 when he served as the Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

In the charge, marked: FHC/ABJ/CR/123/2019 the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) alleged that Mutu, while being the Chairman of the House Committee on NDDC, between August 2014 and August 2016 “did procure Airworld Technologies Ltd to conceal of the sum of N320,159, 689.63 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.”

CASE 24 FRN VS Attahiru Bafarawa & Anor -


N4.6 BILLION
FRAUD



On April 24, 2024, during the trial-within-trial of former Sokoto State Governor Attahiru Bafarawa and four others, Hamza Abdullahi, the Second Prosecution Witness, testified that N4.633 billion was traced to the account of Dalhatu Investment Limited, where Bafarawa's son, Sagir Attahiru Bafarawa, was the sole signatory.

Abdullahi, who was with the Special Task Force on Fraud Investigation, stated that Dalhatu Investment was among 78 companies investigated for receiving unexplained funds from the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA).

Abdullahi confirmed that Sagir Bafarawa voluntarily provided statements during his interview on November 25, 2015, without any threats or promises. The witness also noted that Bafarawa had agreed to provide details on the fund beneficiaries. Justice Y. Halilu adjourned the case to May 22, 2024, for the defense to begin presenting their case. The case has been further adjourned to 16th December 2024 for continuation of trial.



CASE 25 FRN Vs Mamman Nasir Ali & Anor


N2.2 Billion
Subsidy Fraud

On May 22, 2024, the trial of Mamman Nasir Ali and

Christian Taylor for an alleged N2.2 billion oil subsidy fraud could not proceed before Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences Court in Ikeja, Lagos, due to the absence of the lead prosecuting counsel, S.K. Atteh. The defendants, including Nasaman Oil Services Limited, are facing an amended 49-count charge involving conspiracy, false pretenses forgery, and the use of false documents.

The charges relate to an alleged fraudulent claim of N749,991,273.36 for oil subsidies. The prosecution had previously closed its case after the testimony of the 11th witness. The court adjourned the matter to July 9 and 10, 2024, following a request for adjournment by S.O. Daji, who appeared on behalf of the EFCC. Trial has commenced in the case and the matter has been further adjourned to the 12th of December, 2024 for continuation of trial.



CASE 26 FRN Vs Aisha Alkali Wakil (Mama Boko Haram) & ORS


N40 Million
Fraud

On February 12, 2024, Justice Umaru Fadawu of the Borno State High Court convicted Aisha Alkali Wakil (known as Mama Boko Haram), Tahiru Saidu Daura, and Prince Lawal Soyade to ten years in prison each for conspiracy and obtaining money by false pretence. The charges involved defrauding Bashir Abubakar of N40 million under the pretence of executing a contract for X-ray machines. The court also ordered the defendants to repay the N40 million and stipulated that the prison terms run concurrently.

CASE 27

**FRN VS Godwin Emefiele
(Former CBN Governor) -**



On June 21, 2024, Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of the Federal High Court, Lagos, ordered the final forfeiture of properties worth N11.14 billion and an additional N1.04 billion linked to former CBN governor Godwin Emefiele. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) had alleged these properties were acquired with proceeds from crime, facilitated by CBN staff who secured foreign exchange allocations in exchange for kickbacks. The properties were initially subject to an interim forfeiture order on June 5, 2024. Recall that the EFCC had on May 15, arraigned Emefiele on a four-count charge before Justice Maryanne Anenih of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), sitting in Maitama, Abuja.

Emefiele however denied the charge and was admitted to bail in the sum of N300 million. In the four-count charge, the anti-graft agency claimed that Emefiele embarked on the naira redesign without the approval of the Board of the CBN as well as the then President, Muhammadu Buhari. Specifically, the EFCC is accusing Emefiele of approving the printing of various quantities of the new Naira notes "without the recommendation of the Board of Central Bank and the strict approval of the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria which conduct of yours caused injury to the public and you thereby committed an offence". The said case has been adjourned to November 14, for continuation of trial.

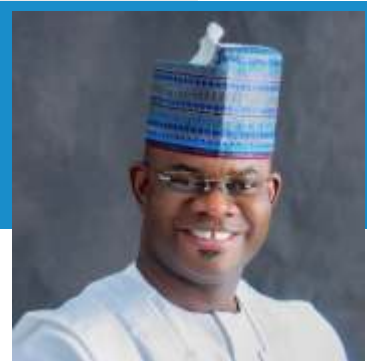
Also, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission had, on April 8, 2024, arraigned Emefiele on 23 counts bordering on abuse of office, accepting gratifications, corrupt demand, receiving property fraudulently obtained, and conferring corrupt advantage before Justice Oshodi of the Ikeja High Court of Lagos State. The second defendant, Henry Isioma-Omoile, was arraigned on three counts bordering on acceptance of gifts by agents. The case was adjourned till October 30 for continuation of trial. The said case has been adjourned till November 28, 2024 for continuation of trial.

Recently Justice Dehinde Dipeolu of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos, on Friday, November 1, 2024, ordered the final forfeiture of the sum of \$2.045m, seven landed properties and the two share certificates of Queensdorf Global Fund Limited Trust linked to a former Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, Godwin Emefiele

CASE 28

**FRN Vs Yahaya Bello
(Former Kogi State
Governor)**

**N80.2 Billion &
N10 Billion Fraud**



On August 20, 2024, the Court of Appeal in Abuja ordered former Kogi State governor Yahaya Bello to present himself for arraignment before Justice Emeka Nwite of the Federal High Court, Abuja. This decision overturned a prior judgment by Justice Isah Abdullahi Jamil of the Kogi State High Court which had shielded Bello from prosecution by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) under the guise of fundamental rights enforcement. The Appeal Court deemed the previous ruling "scandalous" and noted it aimed to shield Bello from his criminal trial. The EFCC's appeal was upheld, and the court emphasised that no court has the authority to prevent law enforcement from carrying out its duties. Yahaya Bello, along with others, faces 19 charges of money laundering and misappropriation totaling over N80 billion.

Meanwhile, Justice Maryanne Anenih of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court, Maitama, Abuja, on Thursday, October 24, 2024 dismissed oral bail applications of Abdulsalam Hudu and Umar Oricho, who are co-defendants with the former Kogi State governor, Yahaya Bello in a N110.4 billion fraud case, preferred against them by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

While defence counsel, J.B. Daudu, SAN and A.M. Aliyu, SAN, representing Hudu and Oricho, respectively argued that their clients were due for release from the holding facility of the Commission, the prosecution counsel, Rotimi Oyedepo, SAN, opposed their release on the basis of mere oral applications.

Justice Anenih upheld the prosecution's objection, stating that the bail applications should be made in writing. "You must come formally," she said, emphasizing the importance of following proper legal procedures.

Hudu and Oricho were arraigned on October 3, 2024 before Justice Anenih and were remanded in the EFCC's custody.

Oyedepo, during the Thursday's proceedings, informed the court that the EFCC had complied with its earlier order that the Commission should publish a public summons against Yahaya Bello in a national newspaper, as the former governor continues to dishonour court rulings for his appearance for arraignment. "We have complied with the court order and have filed an affidavit of compliance," he said.

It will be recalled that on October 3, 2024, the court issued a public summons against Yahaya Bello following his refusal to make court appearances for his arraignment on new 16-count charges of fraud to the tune of N110.4 billion, filed against him by the EFCC.

Justice Anenih adjourned the case to November 14 and 20, 2024, for Yahaya Bello's arraignment.

In a ruling on Thursday, November 14, 2024, Justice Anenih instructed that the hearing notice be pasted at Bello's residence at No. 9 Benghazi Street, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja, and displayed on the court's notice board. The court issued this order as the public summons requiring Bello's appearance is set to expire on November 17, 2024, allowing him a few remaining days to comply.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC requested an adjournment to allow Bello more time to respond to the public summons, which provides a 30-day period for his appearance. According to the counsel to the EFCC, Jamiu Agoro, the option of issuing a warrant of arrest is premature as the 30-day compliance period has not yet expired.

Justice Anenih thereafter granted the EFCC's request for an adjournment, setting November 27, 2024, as the new date for Bello to appear in court for arraignment.

Bello is also being awaited for arraignment before Justice Emeka Nwite of the Federal High Court, Abuja on an 18-count charge bordering on money laundering to the tune of N80.2 billion.

CASE 29 FRN VS Adesola Amosun & ORS -


N21 Billion
Fraud



On August 20, 2024, Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of the Federal High Court in Lagos dismissed a N21.5 billion money laundering charge against former Chief of Air Staff, Adesola Amosu, and two others. The defendants, originally charged with 26 counts in 2016, were later re-arraigned on 13 counts of money laundering. Justice Aneke ruled that the court lacked jurisdiction as the defendants being military officers at the time, should have been tried by a court-martial. The EFCC as at the time of this report has not filed an appeal against this Judgment.

CASE 30 FRN VS Hadi Abubakar Sirika & ORS -


N5.8 Billion Fraud



On June 11, 2024, at the Federal Capital Territory High Court Abuja, Mishelia Arhyel, a compliance officer from Zenith Bank, testified that Hadi Sirika's daughter, Fatima, and son-in-law, Jalal Hamma, owned Al-Buraq Global Investment Ltd, which is implicated in an aviation fraud case. The EFCC has charged Hadi Sirika, Fatima, Jalal Hamma, and Al-Buraq with contract fraud related to the Nigerian Air project and a N1.4 billion apron extension contract at Katsina Airport. The defendants have pleaded not guilty. Arhyel confirmed that Al-Buraq was registered with significant control held by Fatima and Jalal. The trial continues with further hearings scheduled for June 20, 2024.

After the trial began, Sirika's lawyer, Kanu Agabi (SAN), applied for leave, asking the court to allow his client to travel outside Nigeria with his aged, sick mother for adequate medical attention. The judge reserved his ruling on the motion for Thursday.

At the proceedings, EFCC counsel, James O. Shaba, withdrew his counter affidavit to the motion. In his ruling on Thursday, 21st November 2025 the judge granted the request, relying on the submissions of the defendant regarding the medical needs of his mother.

The court also directed the ex-minister to return to Nigeria on or before January 21, 2025, to face his ongoing trial. The court subsequently fixed January 23, 2025, for the continuation of the trial.

CASE 31 FRN VS Olakunle Oluomo & ORS -


N2.5 Billion
Fraud



A former Speaker of the Ogun State House of Assembly, Olakunle Oluomo and two other principal career officers of the assembly, Dayo Samuel and Adeyemo Adedeji, have been arraigned before a Federal High court sitting in Oke Mosan, Abeokuta, capital of the state, presided over by Honourable Justice O.O Okeke.

Oluomo and the officers were dragged before the court by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over alleged misappropriation of public funds to the tune of N2.5 billion.

He and others were allegedly said to have committed financial fraud while he was in office as the speaker in 2022. Eighteen out of 26 house members signed for his impeachment over alleged highhandedness, gross misconduct, arrogance, poor leadership style, lack of focus and transparency, and pitching members against themselves. But he approached the state high court to challenge his removal.

On Wednesday 24 April, 2024, the case was further adjourned due to the absence of Honourable Justice O.O Okeke. Consequently, the matter was further adjourned to the 26th of November 2024 for trial.

CASE 32

FRN VS Farouk Lawan -  \$500,000 Bribery
& Corruption



On January 26, 2024, the Supreme Court upheld the five-year prison sentence of former House of Representatives member, Farouk Lawan for accepting a \$500,000 bribe from businessman Femi Otedola. Lawan's appeal aimed to overturn the February 24, 2022 judgment of the Court of Appeal, which had reduced his sentence from seven to five years and acquitted him on two of the three charges. The Supreme Court found Lawan's appeal without merit and affirmed the appellate court's decision, maintaining his conviction on the third count. Lawan's lawyer had argued for his complete exoneration, but the Supreme Court ruled in favor of upholding the lower court's decision.

CASE 33
FRN VS Ismaila
Mustapha (Mompha) -  N5.9 Billion
Money Laundering



On July 1, 2024, Idi Musa, the sixth prosecution witness in the trial of Ismaila Mustapha (a.k.a. Mompha), testified that N35 billion was discovered in two bank accounts linked to Mompha. The EFCC had charged Mompha and his company, Ismalob Global Investment Limited, with multiple offences related to money laundering and criminal conduct. Musa detailed how the EFCC, acting on intelligence from the FBI, found substantial funds flowing through Mompha's accounts and revealed discrepancies between his declared business and the scale of transactions. Despite claiming to be in the Bureau De Change business, investigations suggested otherwise. Musa also recounted Mompha's attempt to evade arrest, his subsequent apprehension, and the seizure of evidence, including an iPhone used in the alleged crimes. The case has been adjourned to October 8, 2024, for further proceedings. The matter has now been further adjourned to the 3rd of December 2024 for continuation of trial.

CASE 34

FRN VS Suleimon Dabo -



Justice James Omotosho of the Federal High Court, Abuja, on Monday, granted bail to the former member of Kaduna State House of Assembly, Suleiman Dabo, in the sum of N40 million.

Dabo, who represented Zaria constituency in the Assembly, was arraigned by the police for alleged N30 million fraud on January 15, 2024. He was arraigned alongside his company, Ohman International Venture, on a seven-count charge of fraud for allegedly defrauding one Folashade .S. Mojeolaoluwa of N30 million.

The defendants, however, pleaded not guilty to the Charges. In his ruling, the judge held that though the defendant failed to appear for his trial, he would grant him bail in the interest of justice. He granted the ex-lawmaker bail in the sum of N40 million and two sureties in like sum. Justice Omotosho ordered that the two sureties, who must swear to an affidavit of means, must have landed property within the jurisdiction of the court. Alternatively, he directed Dabo to provide a bank guarantee of N40 million as part of the bail terms.

The judge who said that the bail would be on condition, threatened that if the former lawmaker failed to stand his trial, the court would not hesitate to withdraw the bail.

He adjourned the matter to February 21, 22, and 28, 2024 for commencement of trial. The matter has now been further adjourned to the 28th of November, 2024 for continuation of trial

CASE 35

FRN Vs Murtala Nyako & ORS -



On July 1, 2024, EFCC detective Adekunle-Christopher Odofin testified in the Federal High Court, Abuja, about former Adamawa Governor Murtala Nyako's alleged embezzlement of billions of naira. Nyako, his son Abdulaziz, and others are facing charges related to a ₦29 billion fraud. Odofin detailed how Nyako, who governed from 2007 to 2014, was accused of diverting state funds through inflated contracts and various companies. He provided evidence of extensive financial transactions and testified about the investigation process, including obtaining bank statements and other documents. The court admitted a petition against Nyako as evidence, and the case was adjourned to October 24 and 28, 2024.

**CASE 36**

FRN Vs Gabriel Suswan & Anor -



Abubakar Umar, the sixth prosecution witness in the trial of former Benue State Governor Gabriel Suswan, testified before

the Federal High Court in Abuja about a transaction involving N3.1 billion. Umar, a bureau de change operator and CEO of Fanffash Resources, stated that Suswan wired him this amount in multiple tranches in 2014, which he then converted to \$15.8 million at an exchange rate of N197 to a dollar.

Umar described how he met Suswan at his residence in Maitama, Abuja, where he provided his bank account number to a woman who facilitated the transfers. The first transfer of N413 million occurred on August 8, 2014, followed by subsequent transfers of N637 million, N363 million, N630 million, and N1.068 billion, bringing the total to N3.1 billion. He confirmed delivering the converted cash to Suswan at his home, stating that he had no formal records of the transactions and had not been coerced or threatened by the EFCC to testify against Suswan.

Justice Peter Lifu adjourned the trial to October 4, 2024, and later rescheduled it for November 11, 2024, for continued proceedings. The matter has now been further adjourned to the 4th of December, 2024 for continuation of trial.

CASE 37

FRN VS Haliru Bello -


N3 Billion
Money Laundering



On March 18, 2024, Haliru Bello, former national chairman of the PDP, was re-arraigned before Justice Peter Lifu on charges of money laundering and criminal breach of trust. Bello and his company, Bam Projects and Properties Ltd, pleaded not guilty to the four-count amended charge. His bail terms from the previous judge, Justice Ahmed Mohammed, were upheld despite past breaches. The trial is scheduled for May 7 and 8, 2024. Bello is implicated in the arms purchase scandal involving former national security adviser Sambo Dasuki and others. The matter has now been adjourned to the 26th of November, 2024 for trial.

CASE 39

FRN Vs Abiodun Agbele -



N1.2 Billion
Corruption



The EFCC has filed an appeal against the acquittal of Abiodun Agbele and three companies linked to him and former Ekiti State Governor Ayodele Fayose. Justice Nnamdi Dimgba of the Federal High Court had ruled on June 21, 2024, that Agbele and the companies, Sylvan McNamara Limited, De Privateer Limited, and Spotless Investment Limited had no case to answer in relation to the ₦1.2 billion money laundering charge.

The EFCC's appeal seeks to overturn this ruling, arguing that there was substantial evidence proving that the money, transferred from an NSA account, was unlawfully used to fund Fayose's election. The EFCC requests the Court of Appeal to set aside the acquittal and order the defendants to enter their defence on the charges. The hearing date for the appeal has not been given by the Appeal Court at the time of this report.



CASE 40
 FRN VS Adeyemi Ikuforiji
 & Anor -

N338.8 Million
Money Laundering

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has filed an appeal against the acquittal of former Lagos State House of Assembly Speaker, Adeyemi Ikuforiji and his former personal assistant, Oyebode Atoyebi, who were charged with money laundering involving N338.8 million. The duo was charged in March 2012 on 54 counts, but after a 12-year trial, they were acquitted by Justice Mohammed Liman on June 24, 2024, due to the EFCC's failure to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt.

Dissatisfied with the ruling, the EFCC's counsel, Godwin Obla, filed a Notice of Appeal on September 30, 2024, arguing that the trial court erred in stating that the charges were incompetent because they were filed under a repealed law. The EFCC also contended that the court incorrectly interpreted the law regarding its applicability to natural persons and corporate bodies, excluding the government.

Previously, the Lagos Division of the Appeal Court agreed with the prosecution, ordering a retrial, which was subsequently upheld by the Supreme Court. The case was reassigned to Justice Liman, who conducted a new trial leading to the acquittal of Ikuforiji and Atoyebi.

CASE 38

FRN VS Melrose General Services (Bukola Saraki & ORS)


N1.2 Billion
Paris Club Fraud



On June 7, 2024, the Supreme Court overturned a final forfeiture order for N1,222,384,857.84 linked to Melrose General Services Limited, which was associated with the Paris Club Refund controversy. The court led by Justice Inyang Okoro, ruled in favor of Melrose General Services which had challenged the Court of Appeal's decision ordering the forfeiture. The company, represented by Kehinde Ogunwumiju (SAN), argued that the funds were for legitimate contractual work and not proceeds of unlawful activity as claimed by the EFCC. The EFCC had alleged the money was fraudulently obtained under false pretences. The Supreme Court's decision favoured the appellant, setting aside the previous forfeiture orders.

The EFCC alleged that between April 2010 and July 2011, the respondents illegally accepted cash payments exceeding legal thresholds from the House of Assembly and misappropriated Assembly funds, in violation of the Money Laundering Act.

CASE 41

FRN VS Ladi Adebutu - Money Laundering & Corrupt Practices



The High Court of Ogun State sitting in Abeokuta, the Ogun State capital, presided over by Justice Abiodun Akinyemi, on Wednesday, admitted Ladi Adebutu's account opening forms alongside his statements of account.

Adebutu, the candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party in the March 18 governorship election in Ogun State, together with some members of his party are presently standing trial for alleged vote-buying perpetrated during the poll.

An official of Zenith Bank, Celestina Appeal, had testified on Tuesday that Adebutu ordered for 200,000 prepaid cards some days prior to the election.

Subsequently, the defence counsel, Gordy Uche (SAN), objected to the admissibility of the documents on the grounds that they were not certified, that no proper foundation was laid and that the prosecution did not comply with Section 90 (1) (e) of the Evidence Act as regards entries made in a banker's book.

However, in overruling the defendants' counsel, Justice Akinyemi agreed with the prosecuting counsel, Rotimi Jacobs (SAN), that there is no legal requirement that private documents must be certified.

Consequently, the court held that the documents are private documents that require no certification.


The trial judge further held that the prosecution witness, Celestina, in her testimony had earlier made reference to the certificate of compliance pursuant to Section 84 of the Evidence Act.

Although the documents are entries in a banker's book, strict adherence to Section 90 (1) (e) is no longer necessary since the documents were electronically generated and not produced in ledgers as contemplated by the said section.

The documents were, therefore, admitted as Exhibits 21, 22, and 23 respectively, as the matter was thereafter, adjourned to 2nd and 3rd May 2024 as well as 5th, 6th, and 7th June 2024 for further hearing. The matter has now been further adjourned to the 27th of November, 2024 for continuation of trial.

CASE 42

FRN Vs Suleiman Bulkwang - Money Laundering

 N223.4 Million



Suleiman Bulkwang, Director of Human Resources Management at the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), has been remanded in Kuje Correctional Centre after his arraignment by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on five counts of alleged money laundering and diversion of N223.4 million.

Bulkwang pleaded not guilty to the charges, which include counseling a consultant to transfer N138.1 million and converting N45 million, knowing the funds were proceeds of unlawful activity.

Justice Joyce Abdulmalik adjourned the case to February 3, 2025, for the hearing of Bulkwang's bail application, ordering his detention until then.



CASE 43

FRN VS Captain Everest Nnaji & Victor Uadili

 \$5 Million
Fraud

On June 13, 2024, Honourable Justice Mojisola Dada dismissed Capt. Everest Nnaji's application challenging the court's jurisdiction over his \$5 million fraud case. Nnaji, along with Victor Uadiale, faces charges of conspiracy and obtaining money by false pretenses. Justice Dada ruled that the application was a delay tactic and rejected it, ordering the defendants to continue with their defense.

The case will resume on October 3, 2024. The matter has now been further adjourned to the 6th of November, 2024 for continuation of trial. The case has now been scheduled for the 10th of December, 2024 for continuation of trial.

CASE 44

FRN VS Anthony Hassan - Forfeiture of NOK University Assets & Other Properties



On June 7, 2024, the Federal High Court in Abuja, presided over by Justice Joyce Abdulmalik, ordered the final forfeiture of NOK University and several other properties in Kaduna State, including Gwasmyen Water Factory, Gwasmyen Event Center, and Gwasmyen International Hotel. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) successfully argued that Anthony Hassan, a former Director of Finance and Accounts at the Federal Ministry of Health, had used proceeds from unlawful activities to build NOK University and acquire the other properties.

The court found that Hassan could not justify owning assets disproportionate to his legitimate income, ruling that the burden of proof rested on him to explain his wealth. The EFCC presented compelling documentary evidence, which outweighed the oral defence provided by Hassan.

The forfeited assets of NOK University include the Senate building, ICT building, Faculty of Medicine, Science Deanery, and other academic structures. The court had previously granted an interim forfeiture of these properties in June 2022 before issuing the final order based on the EFCC's evidence.



CASE 45

FRN VS Bature Umar Masari (Ex Director General, SMEDAN)

**N119.5 Million
Money Laundering**

On May 23, 2024, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) re-arraigned Bature Umar Masari, the former Director-General of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), before Justice O.A. Egwuatu of the Federal High Court, Abuja. Masari faces an amended 22-count charge related to alleged money laundering and gratification involving ₦119,507,080.

Key charges alleged that between June and July 2014, Masari used ₦10 million in his Diamond Bank account, knowing the funds were proceeds of unlawful activities, in violation of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act 2011.

Masari pleaded not guilty to all charges, and the defence requested that he continues to enjoy the bail granted in 2019 by Justice Okong Abang. The prosecution did not oppose the bail but requested confirmation of the availability of the sureties.

Justice Egwuatu allowed Masari to remain on bail and adjourned the trial to July 16, 2024. The matter has now been further adjourned to the 28th of November, 2024 for continuation of trial.



CASE 46

FRN VS Olugbenga Obadina -

**N2.17 Billion ONSA
Money Laundering
Scandal**

On May 20, 2024, the trial of Olugbenga Obadina, a contractor being prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), continued before Justice Nnamdi Dimgba of the Federal High Court in Abuja. Obadina, along with his company, Almond Projects Limited, faces eight charges of conspiracy, official corruption, and money laundering, related to payments of over ₦2 billion received from the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) under Colonel Sambo Dasuki in 2015.

During cross-examination, Obadina admitted that the payments made to his company were not for any power project, including the installation of a solar or power plant in Yobe State. Despite being asked to identify the project for which the funds were received, he confirmed that no site or location was mentioned in the payment descriptions, and no part of the payments was related to a power project.

The prosecution, using the defendant's extra-judicial statement as evidence, highlighted that there was no specific mention of a project site in Yobe State. Although Obadina contested this, he could not provide clear evidence to support his claim.

Justice Dimgba adjourned the trial to May 30 and 31, 2024, for continuation of trial.

CASE 47**FRN VS Saleh Mamman**

 **N33.8 Billion
Money Laundering
Scandal**



Abubakar Kweido, First Prosecuting Witness, PW1 in the trial of a former Minister of Power, Saleh Mamman, on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 told a Federal High Court sitting in Abuja before Justice James Omotosho that the former minister allegedly used funds from the Mambilla Hydro Project account to purchase Abuja properties.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC is prosecuting Mamman on a 12 - count charge bordering on conspiracy to commit money laundering to the tune of N33,804,830,503.73 (Thirty-Three Billion, Eight Hundred and Four Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty Thousand, Five Hundred and Three Naira, Seventy-Three Kobo).

During Wednesday's proceedings, Kweido, an operative of the EFCC while being led in evidence by prosecution counsel, Olumide Fusika, SAN, said investigation activities showed that some funds released to the former minister were used to purchase properties in Kado Estate and Wuse 2, Abuja. "We invited and presented the findings of the investigation to the minister, which he acknowledged and responded to in the presence of his lawyer. He denied connection to all the alleged properties, stating that one Maisbahu Idris who was his Personal Assistant usually received money from the Project Accountant of the Mambilla Hydro project to share with his staff in the ministry.

"We went ahead to conduct a search in the minister's house and we recovered some foreign currencies in cash. We also recovered CAC documents of Abangus Nig. Ltd whose investigation revealed that the company was one of the entities used by the minister to facilitate the diversion of funds from the project account of Mambilla", he said. Payment Vouchers for Bangus Nig. Ltd and Exhibit Form for some cash recovered at his residence were tendered and admitted in evidence.

Justice Omotosho adjourned the matter to October 23, 2024 for continuation of trial.

CASE 48**FRN VS Capt. Ezekiel Bala & Uche Obilor - Forfeiture of**

 **\$16,500 &
N127 Million
Belonging to NIMASA**




On July 9, 2024, the Federal High Court in Lagos ordered the final forfeiture of \$16,500 and ₦127 million fraudulently diverted

from the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) to the Federal Government of Nigeria. Justice Kehinde Ogundare granted the permanent forfeiture after an application from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), which established that the funds were proceeds of unlawful activities.

The case involved the misappropriation of ₦1.123 billion initially approved for International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) projects in 2013. Captain Ezekiel Bala Agaba, a NIMASA executive, and his associate, Uche Obilor, funneled funds through companies like Seabulk Offshore Operator Limited and Southern Offshore Limited without rendering any services. The diverted funds were converted into U.S. dollars and used for personal purposes. Following an interim forfeiture order on May 23, 2024, the EFCC published the order in a national newspaper, with no objections from any parties. The court thus granted the final forfeiture of the funds to the government, concluding the case.

CASE 49

SERAP VS Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (Sadia Umar-Farouk) - Account for Payments of

 **N729 Billion
to Poor Nigerians**



A Federal High Court in Lagos has ordered Sadiya Umar Farouq, former Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, to account for payments of

N729 billion to 24.3 million vulnerable Nigerians.

Umar Farouq was minister from 2019 to 2023 in the administration of ex-President Muhammadu Buhari.

In a judgment delivered by Honourable Justice Deinde Dipeolu on June 27, 2024, Sadiya Umar Farouq was ordered to provide the list and details of the beneficiaries who received the payments, the number of states covered and the payments per state.

The ruling followed a freedom of information request from the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP).

In the certified true copy of the judgment provided by Kolawole Oluwadare, deputy director of SERAP, the judge said:

“I therefore grant an order of mandamus directing and compelling the Respondent to provide the following information to the Applicant:

“Details of the proposed payments of N729 Billion to 24.3 million Nigerians for six months, including mechanisms and logistics put in place for the payments and list of beneficiaries”

“Details of how the proposed beneficiaries have been selected, the number of states covered and the projected payments per state.

“State whether the payments will be made in cash, through Bank Verification Numbers or other means.

“Explain the rationale for paying N5,000 to 24.3 million poor Nigerians, which translate to five percent of Nigeria's budget of N13.6 trillion for 2021.”

In December, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) invited the former minister over the alleged laundering of N37 billion by one James Okwete, a contractor who worked with the ministry.

CASE 50

FRN VS Major-General U.M.Mohammed - Final Forfeiture of properties Belonging Nigerian Army Properties Limited



Justice Chukujekwu Aneke of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos, on Wednesday, July 17, 2024, ordered the final forfeiture of five properties linked to a former Managing Director, Nigerian Army Properties Limited, NAPL, Major-General U.M.Mohammed.

The Judge gave the order following a motion on notice filed and argued by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, through its lawyer, A.O. Mohammed.

The properties are: No.8b, Bedwell Road, Ikoyi; No.3, Force Road, Ikoyi, Lagos; No.14, Glover Road, Ikoyi, Lagos; No.6, Marina, Ikoyi, Lagos and No. 28, Point Road, Apapa, Lagos.

Investigation revealed that the properties were fraudulently misappropriated and the proceeds of the sale diverted for personal use.

The judge had, on March 4, 2024, ordered the interim forfeiture of the properties reasonably suspected to be proceeds of an unlawful activity and also directed the publication of the order in a national newspaper for any interested person to show cause why they should not be permanently forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Moving the application for the final forfeiture of the properties on Wednesday, Mohammed told the court that the Commission had complied with the order of the court regarding the publication.

He also submitted that “it will be in the interest of justice for the court to grant the prayers being sought and also order the final forfeiture of the property to the Federal Government.”

The judge, after listening to the submissions of the EFCC counsel, ordered the final forfeiture of the five properties to the Federal Government in favour of NAPL.

CASE 51

Adebayo Adebawale Aderibigbe & Ogundele Mura Yisa-Yemi –



N60.4 Million
(Obtaining by False Pretence)



The EFCC arraigned Sir Adebayo Adebawale Aderibigbe, former General Manager and Head of Legal Services at NSITF, and lawyer Ogundele Mura Yisa-Yemi before Justice O.A. Musa at the FCT High Court, Abuja. They face three charges of conspiracy and obtaining N60.4 million by false pretence. The funds were allegedly exchanged as a corrupt payment related to a consulting contract for processing and regularising property documents for the NSITF. Both defendants pleaded not guilty and were granted bail of N50 million each, with conditions ensuring their appearance at trial. The case was set for trial on February 21 and 23, 2023.

Given the defendants' bail application was not challenged by the prosecution, however the prosecuting lawyer suggested that the court place such conditions that would make it impossible for the defendants not to appear for their trial. The trial judge thereafter granted the defendants bail in the sum of N50,000,000.00 (Fifty Million Naira) and one surety each in like sum. The surety should be a Deputy Director in a Federal Ministry. Also, sureties should deposit their letters of appointment and clear pictures of their residences showing them standing in front of their residences.

The judge, thereafter, adjourned the matter for trial.

CASE 52

NGOZI JULIET OLEJEME

 **N1.4 Billion & \$48.5 Million**



In July 2020, the Federal High Court in Abuja ordered the interim forfeiture of 46 properties linked to former NSITF Board Chairperson Ngozi Juliet Olejeme, in a motion by the EFCC. These properties, located in Abuja, Bayelsa, and Delta, were allegedly acquired with public funds diverted during her NSITF tenure from 2009 to 2015. One high-profile property in Maitama, Abuja, reportedly valued at N1.3 billion, was allegedly purchased with funds from contractor kickbacks.

The EFCC arraigned Dr. Ngozi Olejeme, former Board Chairman of the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF), before Justice Maryam Hassan Aliyu at the FCT High Court, Abuja, on charges of conspiracy, abuse of office, and money laundering. Olejeme is accused of misusing her position to obtain over ₦1.38 billion and \$48.5 million between 2012 and 2015. Specific charges include using her position to direct funds to companies she controlled and receiving kickbacks.

Olejeme pleaded not guilty. Her lawyer, Paul Erokoro (SAN), requested bail on health grounds, citing her long-term diabetic and hypertensive conditions, recent surgeries, and the need for close monitoring. The prosecution did not oppose bail but suggested terms to ensure her trial attendance. The judge scheduled a ruling on the bail application for October 21, 2021, and ordered her temporary remand in EFCC custody.

The case remains stalled with no updates on trial progress.

CASE 53

FRN VS Senator Stella Oduah -  **N7.9 Billion**



On July 21, 2023, the EFCC arraigned former Aviation Minister, Stella Adaeze Oduah and three associates on 25 counts of money laundering before Justice I.E. Ekwo of the Federal High Court in Abuja. The defendants including five companies, allegedly laundered funds between January and April 2014. One charge stated Oduah received N1.6 billion from I-Sec Security Nig. Ltd into an account for Global Offshore and Marine Ltd., funds reportedly linked to unlawful activities.

All defendants pleaded not guilty, and the court upheld their prior EFCC-issued administrative bail, setting trial for October 17, 2023. The case had been delayed since 2020 due to absences of defendants and adjournments.

At the resumed hearing on the 21st of July 2023, Justice Ekwo requested for the report of an investigation which he had ordered the EFCC to carry out with respect to an anonymous threat message he received via SMS in relation to the case. However, not satisfied with the response of the commission, he ordered that within two weeks, the file on the investigation of Stella Adaeze Oduah and eight others be transferred to the Attorney General of the Federation to continue with the prosecution.

CASE 54

FRN VS Olisa Metuh -

 **N400 Million Fraud**



Olisa Metuh was first arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on the 15th of January 2016, alongside his company Destra Investment LTD, on a 7-count charge of fraud of which he pled not guilty, and the court remanded him at the Kuje Prison, FCT, Abuja.

The Court of Appeal, Abuja had on Dec. 16, 2020, nullified a Federal High Court judgement that convicted and sentenced Metuh to seven years imprisonment for money laundering. His earlier conviction followed a seven-count charge that was preferred against him and his firm by the EFCC.

Metuh is expected to be re-arraigned before Justice Emeka Nwite of a Federal High Court (FHC), Abuja on allegations bordering on N400 million fraud. The re-arraignment was fixed after the Court of Appeal ordered that the case be retried after striking out the judgment of the trial court.

The EFCC iterated that there had been no reapplication for retrial as the matter was before the apex court and they were awaiting judgment against the discharge of the defendant (Metuh), by the Court of Appeal in the N400 million money laundering charges instituted against him.

CASE 55FRN VS Sule Lamido
& ORS -**N217 Million
Money Laundering**

The Court of Appeal sitting in Abuja, on the 25th of July 2023, dismissed the money laundering charges instituted eight years ago by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) against a former Jigawa state governor, Sule Lamido, and other defendants, including his sons. The suit was dismissed on the ground that the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja had no jurisdiction to try the suit and went ahead to uphold the no-case submission the defendants had filed at the trial court, the Federal High Court in Abuja to challenge the validity of the charges.

The EFCC had been prosecuting Mr Lamido, his two sons and their companies before the Federal High Court on 37 counts of money laundering involving about N1.35 billion. The commission accused Mr Lamido of abusing his position as governor between 2007 and 2015, allegedly laundering sums of money received as kickbacks from companies that were awarded contracts by the Jigawa State Government under his leadership.

Afterwards, the defendants opted for a no-case submission, arguing that the prosecution had not placed sufficient materials before the court to warrant them entering defence.

But the trial judge, Ijeoma Ojukwu, dismissed the no-case submission and ordered the defendants to open their defence. Mr Lamido, dissatisfied with this ruling, went on to appeal it.

In the lead judgment delivered by His Justice Adamu Waziri, the court resolved the issues raised in the appeal against the EFCC and in favour of the appellants, essentially ruling that the Federal High Court in Abuja lacked jurisdiction to entertain the charges.

The court ruled that the alleged offences took place in Jigawa State, therefore, the charges ought to be filed in Jigawa State and not in Abuja.

The court then struck out the charges and discharged the defendants. However, a notice of appeal dated 31st July 2023 was filed at the Supreme Court and it is still pending for hearing.

**CASE 56**FRN VS Colonel Sambo
Dasuki (RETD.) & 4 Others -**\$2.1 Billion Arms
Fund Diversion Trial**

Col. Sambo Dasuki, former national security adviser was first arraigned on December 14, 2015, before Justice Peter Affen of the Federal Capital Territory High Court but he was later elevated to the Court of Appeal, forcing the trial to begin afresh. The case was subsequently re-assigned to Justice Baba Yusuf. However, it was learnt that after Justice Yusuf was appointed as the Chief Judge of the FCT, he again assigned the case to Justice Yusuf Halilu.

He was arraigned on allegations of breach of trust and criminal misappropriation of public funds amounting to N23.3bn. The EFCC, which slammed 25 counts against Dasuki, Bafarawa and Yuguda, accused them of diverting various sums in various currencies to different bank accounts under the false pretence of using the funds for the procurement of security equipment.

In 2019, the State Security Service released Rtd. Colonel Sambo Dasuki from detention after it was assessed how unfair it had been keeping him in detention even though he had gotten four (4) bail orders from different high courts.

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. The matter is still ongoing.

**CASE 57**

FRN VS Ikedi Ohakim

**N270 Million**

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday, July 8, 2015, arraigned former state governor, Ikedi Ohakim of Imo State before Justice Ademola Adeniyi of the Federal High Court, Abuja. He was arraigned on a 3-count charge of money laundering. However, after the charges were read to him and he pled 'not guilty' to the charges whereas counsel to the defendant sought that the defendant be granted bail, but the Judge did not give a bench ruling, he adjourned till the next day for the ruling and rather remanded the defendant in EFCC custody.

The defence further raised a no case submission which was dismissed by the court, and they were ordered to open their case as the Judge held that the prosecution had successfully established a prima-facie criminal case against the defendant that would warrant him to enter his defence before the court.

The charge against Ohakim arose from his alleged purchase of the property at 60, Kwame Nkrumah Street, Plot No 1098, Cadastral Zone A04, Asokoro District, Abuja with cash payment of \$2.29 which was said to be dollar equivalent of N270m in November 2008.

The property, according to the agency, was acquired with funds the defendant allegedly laundered from Imo state treasury. He was also accused of failing to declare the property as part of his assets when asked by the EFCC to do so.

The case is currently stalled and status unclear.



CASE 58

Mukhtar Ramalan Yero
(Former Kaduna State
Governor) -

 N700 Million Money Laundering

On the 31st of May 2018, Mr. Ramalan Yero (Former Governor of Kaduna State) was first arraigned along three (3) others before Justice S. M. Shuaibu of the Federal High Court Kaduna on a 4-count charge of conspiracy, bribery, money laundering and criminal diversion of funds to the tune of N700 million as it was alluded that they had benefited from the funds diverted by former Minister of Petroleum Resources, Diezani Alison Madueke, shared to politicians among the 36 states of the Federation to influence the 2015 presidential election.

However, on July 13, 2021, following the transfer of the former Judge to another federal high court division. Mr Ramalan Yero and 3 others were re-arraigned on an eight-count amended charge before Justice M.G Umar who upheld the bail terms given by the previous Judge.

Another re-arraignment happened on Monday November 21, 2022, where the former governor Mukhtar Ramalan Yero and 3 others were re-arraigned before Justice R.M Aikawa of the Federal High Court sitting in Kaduna on an eight count amended charges bordering on money laundering for their alleged involvement in the receipt and disbursement of N700 million. The re- arraignment is sequel to the transfer of the former trial judge, Justice M.G Umar, from the State.

The case is however currently on hold.

CASE 59

Abdullahi Adamu -

 N15 Billion
Diversion of Public
Funds



Former Governor of Nasarawa State, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, was arraigned on Wednesday, March 3, 2010, with 18 others (Alhaji Halilu Bala Usman, Alhaji Usman Aboki, Prince Nicholas Ukachukwu, Prince and Princes Limited, Jonabel Engineering Nigeria Limited, JCC International, Mbani Construction Company Limited, Shinco Nigeria Limited, Henry & Nick Associates Limited, Water Search Nigeria, Sneccou Group of Companies, Nicas Industry Limited, Addais Nig Limited, Faslan Ventures Limited, Yoojin Nigeria, Kiagama Coy Limited, Sharafa Bros Nig and Riok International) before a Federal High Court in Lafia, on a 149-count charge by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). The suspects were arraigned before Justice I.M. Buba for allegedly looting the state treasury to the tune of about N15 billion during Adamu's eight-year tenure as governor of the state.

Currently, there is no further information on the suit.

CASE 60

Shamsudeen Bala
Mohammed -

 N1.1 Billion
Fraud



The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on Wednesday, March 22, 2023, filed an appeal challenging the High Court judgment that discharged and acquitted Shamsudeen Bala, son of the Bauchi State Governor, Bala Mohammed, on N1.1 billion fraud charges. The anti-graft agency appealed the decision which discharged and acquitted the defendant on nine counts before Hon. Justice Nnamdi Dimgba of the Abuja Division of the Federal High Court.

Earlier on February 1, 2017, Shamsudeen was arraigned before Justice Nnamdi Dimgba of the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja on 20 counts bordering on money laundering. According to the commission, the crime was committed during his father's tenure as FCT minister. The EFCC had alleged that Shamsudeen made payments of huge sums in cash for the purchase of properties in different parts of Abuja without going through a financial institution.

Delivering the ruling on December 14, 2021, on a no case submission, Hon. Justice Dimgba upheld Shamsudeen's submission in part by dismissing 11 out of the 20 charges and he was called upon to enter his defence on the remaining charges for his failure to declare some of his bank accounts and the amount in them as well as the offences of identity fraud and forgery. However, delivering judgment in a suit marked FHC/BAJ/CR/252/2016 on February 7, 2023, Justice Dimgba held that the EFCC failed to prove the allegations beyond reasonable doubt. Aggrieved by the acquittal, the EFCC, lodged an appeal on Wednesday with the lower court's judgment on 15 grounds.

Recall that Mr. Muhammed Bala, his father also faced corruption charges in a different case until he gained immunity after he was elected Bauchi governor in May 2019.

The date for the hearing of the said appeal as at the time of writing this report has not been given by the Court of Appeal



CASE 61

FRN VS Fatuyi Yemi Philips -
Obtaining by false pretense



N43.4 Million

On February 9, 2024, the Federal High Court in Abuja dismissed a suit by Hudu Yunusa-Ari, the suspended

Adamawa State Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC), seeking protection from arrest or prosecution. Justice James Omotosho ruled against granting immunity, stating the suit lacked merit. Yunusa-Ari faces a six-count charge for allegedly declaring falsified results in the Adamawa governorship election on April 16, 2023. Although scheduled for arraignment on July 12, 2023, he repeatedly failed to appear in court, with the latest absence on November 6, 2023. His surety, former Senator Ishaku Abbo, was also untraceable. On May 16, 2024, Justice Benjamin Manji-Lawan of the Adamawa State High Court ordered the Inspector General of Police to arrest Yunusa-Ari after several failed attempts to serve him, with reports that he was evading service.

The case remains pending in the Adamawa State High Court.

CASE 62

Abdulrasheed Maina



**N2.1 Billion
Fraud (Asset
Forfeiture)**



On July 5, 2024, the Federal High Court in Abuja ordered the final forfeiture of 20 properties linked to Abdulrasheed Maina, the former chairman of the Pension Reform Task Team (PRTT), who is currently serving an eight-year sentence for pension fraud totaling N2 billion. Justice Joyce Abdulmalik ruled that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) successfully proved these properties were acquired through illicit means. Maina's wife, Laila, and several associates had claimed ownership of 23 properties, but the court found their evidence insufficient. Consequently, only three properties were excluded from the forfeiture order. The seized properties are located across Abuja, Nasarawa, Kaduna, and Kano, and include residential buildings, farmland, and undeveloped plots.



CASE 63

Diezani Alison-Madueke



**\$20 Billion
Fraud**

In May 2024, The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission stated that it planned to join forces with the United Kingdom prosecutors as an interested party in the trial of former Petroleum Minister, Diezani Alison-Madueke, in a UK court. A team from the anti-graft commission is expected in London to initiate this process by filing relevant documents, the Nation reports. According to a source privy to the information, the EFCC intends to share its findings and the Abuja high court's forfeiture order concerning Diezani's \$2.5 million properties and vehicles with the UK court. Nigeria may not be able to retrieve questionable assets from Diezani if the EFCC does not file an application as an interested party. We have received an advisory on this important bend to Diezani's trial and we will be part of the case in the UK. A team will leave for London any moment from now to explore legal opportunities and file necessary papers as an interested party. The overall aim is for Nigeria to benefit from Diezani's trial, especially the recovery of all assets linked to funds looted in this country. The EFCC has sufficient evidence against Diezani, including a court order on the former minister's \$2.5 million homes and cars.

The EFCC had previously recovered \$153 million and secured the final forfeiture of over 80 properties in Nigeria valued at about \$ 80 million. The allegations against Diezani by the EFCC “border on the alleged stealing of about \$2.5 billion from Nigeria's coffers as a minister.” the source said. The source continued, “It is necessary for this nation to rise to the occasion because, in March 2023, the NCA also provided evidence to the US Department of Justice that enabled them to recover assets totalling \$53.1 million linked to Mrs. Alison-Madueke's alleged corruption.

Diezani is currently facing trial at the Southwark Crown Court in the UK over an alleged £100,000 bribe. The National Crime Agency alleged that Diezani could have received benefits worth at least £100,000, including cash, chauffeured cars, private jet flights, luxury family vacations, and multiple London properties.

On October 2, 2023, a Magistrate Court granted bail to the former Minister for £70,000, considering her a potential flight risk. The trial proceedings for Diezani's case are scheduled to commence in November 2025.

In October 2023, the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi, submitted a warrant of arrest and request to the Crown Prosecution Services of the United Kingdom for the urgent extradition of a former Minister of Petroleum, Diezani Allison-Madueke.

He said the charge was premature, adding that the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) ought to have allowed the police to exhaust their investigation and internal disciplinary action before instituting a suit against him. He told the court that the police had already commenced investigating allegations against him and issued an interim report. Kyari further argued that the Police Service Commission has similar powers to investigate and discipline erring officers in line with the Police Act and regulations, the same way the National Judicial Council (NJC) disciplines judicial officers. Consequently, he urged the court to quash the charge and discharge him. However, Emeka Nwite, the presiding judge, dismissed the application.

The matter is still ongoing at the trial court.



CASE 65

Ahmadu Umar Fintiri
& 1 other -



N2.9 Billion

On June 30, 2016, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) arraigned Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri, the former Speaker and Acting

Governor of Adamawa State, alongside Mayim Construction and Properties Ltd, on charges of laundering N2.9 billion. The case, heard by Justice Ahmed Mohammed of the Federal High Court, Abuja, involved allegations of laundering funds through Ecobank accounts and using illicit funds to purchase properties, including a tea plantation in Taraba State. Fintiri pleaded not guilty, was remanded initially, but later granted bail for N500 million.

Trial began on January 26, 2017, with the first EFCC witness, Ibrahim Andrew Welye, detailing financial irregularities allegedly overseen by Fintiri during his time as Acting Governor. Evidence presented include allegations of misappropriated funds for public projects, such as a construction project at Adamawa State University. The case proceeded with ongoing testimonies but was suspended after May 29, 2019, when Fintiri assumed office as Governor of Adamawa State, receiving immunity from prosecution under Section 308 of the Nigerian Constitution.



CASE 64

Abba Kyari & ORS. -



**Drug Trafficking &
\$61,400 Bribery**

The Court of Appeal in Abuja in July 2024 dismissed an appeal by a **s u s p e n d e d** Deputy

Commissioner of Police, Abba Kyari, seeking to quash the drug trafficking charge filed against him. In the judgement, a three-member panel of the appellate court dismissed Kyari's appeal for lacking in merit. Justice Adebukol Banjoko, who read the lead judgement, held that there was no reason to tamper with the findings and conclusions reached by the trial court on March 22, 2023. “The learned trial judge is directed to continue and conclude the trial at the Federal High Court,” Banjoko said. The appeal is found unmeritorious, and it is accordingly dismissed.” Other justices on the panel — Peter Obiora and Okon Abang — agreed with the lead judgement.

Kyari is standing trial alongside four members of his team —Sunday Ubia, Bawa James, Simon Agirigba, and John Nuhu — on eight counts of drug trafficking. In January 2023, Kyari submitted that the charge against him was legally defective.

CASE 66

**Prof. Cyril Osim Ndifon -
(Abuse of Office & Sexual
Harassment)**



Justice James Omotosho of the Federal High Court, Abuja, ordered the remand of suspended UNICAL Law Dean, Professor Cyril Ndifon, and lawyer Barrister Sunny Anyanwu at Kuje Correctional Centre pending the outcome of Ndifon's bail application. The Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) filed an amended charge against the two, adding Anyanwu as a co-defendant for allegedly threatening a key witness to deter her cooperation.

Ndifon was initially remanded on January 8, 2024, but granted temporary bail for glaucoma surgery on January 10. During trial proceedings, the ICPC presented evidence from a lead investigator detailing alleged misconduct, including sexual harassment and corruption. Forensic examination of Ndifon's phone reportedly revealed nude images of students.

Justice Omotosho emphasized the protection of witnesses' identities, barring the press from publishing their photos or names. After the prosecution had presented evidence, the defendants filed a no case submission which was overruled and then mandated to enter their defence.

During the course of trial, the defendant's counsel, Joe Agi, SAN has filed different applications challenging the jurisdiction of the court and the competence of the amended charge.

The case is ongoing.

CASE 67

**Abayomi Kukoyi, Kingsley Okpala,
Prince Chidi Okpalaeze, &
Prince Emmanuel Okpalaeze -**



**€2.556 Billion
Fraud Trail**



A Federal High Court sitting in Lagos on 4th July 2024 dismissed a “No-Case-Submission” application filed by three directors of an oil firm, Petro Union Oil and Gas Limited, who are standing trial over an alleged £2.6bn fraud. The trial judge, Justice Mohammed Liman, in his ruling on the application, held that the Federal Government had made out a prima facie case against the company and its directors, which requires them to enter a defence.

Justice Liman, however, ruled that the company's financial consultant, Abayomi Kukoyi, has no case to answer as his involvement in the series of incidents leading to the alleged crime was in a professional capacity. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is prosecuting three directors of the company – Kingsley Okpala, Prince Chidi Okpalaeze, and Prince Emmanuel Okpalaeze before the court on allegations of conspiracy, obtaining money by false pretences, an attempt to steal, and forgery.

The anti-graft agency had claimed that the defendants fraudulently procured a cheque from a foreign bank for £2.556 billion under the pretext that it was meant to construct three petrochemical refinery complexes in Nigeria.

They were also alleged to have, sometime in April 2007, forged a statement of account in the name of Goldmatic Limited, which was used to obtain the sum of £2,159,221,313.54 billion. The EFCC had also maintained that the offences are contrary to and punishable under sections 1(2), 1(2)(a) of the Miscellaneous Offences Act, Law of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990.

The anti-graft agency also insisted that the offences are contrary to and punishable under sections 509, 467(2)(I), and 468 of the Criminal Code Act, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

The case is ongoing against the other defendants.

CASE 68

Prof. Vincent Tenebe
(Former Vice Chancellor,
NOUN) -



N257 Million
Forfeiture of Asset



Justice Inyang Ekwo of the Federal High Court in Abuja on 28th October 2024 mandated the final forfeiture of Sunflower Hotel Ltd, a multi-million-naira property in Kaduna State linked to former Vice-Chancellor of the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Prof. Vincent Tenebe, to the Nigerian government. The order followed a motion for final forfeiture filed on 21 June and moved by EFCC counsel, F.O. Dibang. Justice Ekwo declared, "Order is hereby made forfeiting the property set out in the attached schedule, found in possession of the respondent, as properties reasonably suspected to be proceeds of unlawful activities, to the Federal Republic of Nigeria."

On 16 February, the court had initially granted an interim preservation order for the hotel, instructing the EFCC to publicise the order to allow claimants to come forward. According to PUNCH, an affidavit by EFCC operative, Dare Opeyemi, said the EFCC received intelligence in December 2022 of a conspiracy involving the theft and diversion of funds linked to Monday Onyeme, former Chairman of the Delta State Board of Internal Revenue, and Adamu Danlami, who remains at large. The investigation revealed Onyeme's involvement in the diversion of NOUN funds to various companies, including Crossbill International Ltd.

Further findings connected Prof. Tenebe to the diversion, revealing that N275,081,896.09 traced to his account was used to fund Sunflower Hotel Ltd's construction, a property acquired from his brother-in-law in Kaduna. No claims were made on the hotel during the publication period, and the EFCC argued it was in the public interest to finalise the forfeiture.

The case, FHC/ABJ/CS/33/2024, names the EFCC as applicant and Sunflower Hotel Ltd as respondent.

CASE 69

FRN VS Godwin Emefiele -



(Forfeiture of Asset)
\$2.045 Million



Justice Dehinde Dipeolu of the Federal High Court in Lagos ordered the final forfeiture of \$2.045 million, seven properties, and two share certificates linked to former CBN Governor Godwin Emefiele. The forfeited assets include multiple properties in Lagos, an industrial complex in Delta State, and shares in Queensdorf Global Fund Limited Trust.

This ruling follows a motion by EFCC counsel Rotimi Oyedepo, SAN, asserting that the assets were acquired through unlawful means. An interim forfeiture order had been issued on August 15, 2024, giving Emefiele time to contest, but he failed to do so. Justice Dipeolu concluded that Emefiele could not link his legitimate income to the properties and suggested a lack of transparency in their acquisition, ordering their final forfeiture to the Federal Government.

CASE 70

Kano State Vs. Bala
Inuwa Muhammed & 2ORS



N4 Billion Fraud



The Kano State Government (PCACC) in November 2023, arraigned Bala Inuwa Muhammad, his son Bala Inuwa Muhammad Junior, and an Association, Incorporate Trustees of Association of Compassionate Friends, before Justice Hafsat Yahaya Sanni on eight count charge bordering on criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, and theft. The 1st Defendant, Bala Inuwa is alleged to have criminally appropriated the sum of four billion naira (N4,000,000,000), a sum belonging to the Kano State Government in 2022, while serving as the Managing Director of Kano State Agricultural Supply Company Limited (KASCO). The Charge reads That Bala Inuwa, through the account of the Third Defendant, Incorporate Trustees of Association of Compassionate Friends, allegedly owned by him, transferred at different times chunks of 480million, 20million, 78million, et al, to various accounts directly from the account of KASCO. The charge also alleged that the 1st and 2nd defendants also transferred other huge sums of money to other accounts for the purpose of money exchange to dollar, and transferred some others to a fixed deposit account.

At the last adjourned date, June 12, 2024, the Judge struck out the defendant's motion for recusal and adjourned to October 10, 2024 for hearing. **Trial is ongoing.**

**CASE 71**

Kano State VS Dr. Jurilla Muhammad & Anor -

 **N212,381,000 Fraud**

The Kano State Government (PCACC) has filed a charge against Dr. Jurilla Muhammad and Dauda D. Sheshe before Justice Amina Adamu Aliyu on one count charge of criminal misappropriation and conversion of the sum of two hundred and twelve million, three hundred and eighty one thousand naira (N212, 381,000) meant for repairs of buses and purchase of textile materials. The Defendants were Managing Director and General Manager Property respectively of the Kano State Investment and Properties Limited. The charge alleged that they transferred the said sum to the account of the 2nd Defendant on the instruction of the 1st Defendant and made a false statement afterwards to cover the transaction.

The defendants are yet to be arraigned.

CASE 72

Kano State VS Hisham Imamudeen & 3 ORS



The Kano State Government (PCACC) on 26th July 2024, arraigned a former Managing Director of Kano State Drugs and Medical Consumables Agency, DMSCA Hisham Imamudeen, and three others including; Zailami Muhammed, Adamat Pharmacy Nigeria Limited, and Aznaf Pharmacy Limited on a three count charge of criminal misappropriation and theft.

The 1st defendant was said to have fraudulently and dishonestly approved a contract for emergency procurement to supply malaria commodities worth thirty four million, eight hundred thousand naira only (N34,800,000) to be paid to the account of the 3rd defendant from DMCSA's Account, and also the sum of N436,000,000 to the fourth defendant. These were monies remitted/paid to the account of DMCSA from the Kano State Federation Account (FACC).

The matter came up on 27th October 2024 for arraignment and further adjourned for trial.

**CASE 73**

Kano State VS Murtala Garo & 6 ORS

The Kano State Government (PCACC) has charged a former Commissioner of the Ministry for Local Government of Kano State, Murtala Garo and six other defendants for criminal misappropriation, criminal conspiracy, and fraud to the tune of over twenty six billion naira (N26,000,000,000). The 1st defendant is said to have fraudulently conspired with 2nd and 3rd defendants (his brothers), and diverted out of the total sum, the sum of N1,389,924,999 through the corporate account of MJ Multipurpose Services Limited (5th defendant). They allegedly used the money to acquire various properties including a choice apartment at Hilton Suites in Makkah Saudi Arabia. The 1st to 3rd defendants also fraudulently diverted the sum of N427,752,500 (four hundred and twenty seven million, seven hundred and fifty two thousand, five hundred naira only),

**CASE 74**

Kano State Vs. Bala Inuwa Muhammed & 2ORS

 **N4 Billion Fraud**

The ICPC has arraigned Hauwau Gimbiya Mukhtar Abdulkarim, Provost of Federal College of Education (Technical) Gusau, and Abdullahi Boyi, a lecturer at Sokoto State College of Education for alleged certificate forgery. They face a six-count charge in Sokoto State High Court, including forging a letter of appointment used to apply for the provost position at FCET Gusau and making false statements to ICPC investigators. Both defendants pleaded not guilty. The court granted them bail with conditions, requiring each to provide two sureties residing in Sokoto State, each signing a ₦1 million bond.

The trial is scheduled to begin on November 21, 2024, with the ICPC prepared to present witnesses and evidence.

**CASE 75**

Tiemo Joy Alagboha -
Certificate Forgery

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned one Tiemo Joy Alagboha on a 6-count

charge of forgery, intent to commit fraud and making of false statement amongst other misconducts.

The defendant who is a member of staff of the Nigerian Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF), was arraigned on the 30th of October 2024 before Honorable Justice Ogbonaya of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, Zuba. Alagboha, was accused of producing and presenting a forged Bachelor of Education certificate from the University of Calabar (UNICAL) to NSITF, knowing fully well that it was not genuine. She was therefore deemed to have committed an offence contrary to, and punishable under section 364 of the Penal Code, Laws of the FCT.

The accused was further arraigned for presenting a letter of certificate of confirmation, supposedly emanating from UNICAL, which confirmed that the falsified certificate of education was genuine. This according to the charge sheet read, contravened 25(1)(a) and was punishable under Section 68 of the Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Act 2000.

The defence counsel meanwhile, urged the court to grant bail to the defendant to which prosecuting counsel, Aniekan Ekong, did not oppose the application.

Ekong, however, urged that “should the court be minded to grant bail to the defendant, it should be on such terms and conditions that will guarantee the availability of the defendant for trial.”

The trial judge ordered that the defendant be remanded at the Suleja Custodial Facility pending ruling on her bail application.

The matter was adjourned to the 19th of February, 2025 for the hearing of the substantive case.

CASE 76

FRN VS Ebisintei Bietoru Awudu,
Kumeni Services Limited A &
Geolev Nigeria Limited -

 **N96 Million**
(Contract Fraud)



In July 2024, the Federal High Court in Abuja dismissed an application to vacate a final forfeiture order granted to the ICPC concerning a ₦96 million contract fraud case. The funds were allegedly linked to former Surveyor-General of the Federation, Ebisintei Bietoru Awudu, and companies Kumeni Services Limited and Geolev Nigeria Limited, with the money reportedly siphoned through unexecuted or inflated contracts.

Kumeni Services Limited, one of the defendants, challenged the court's jurisdiction and ICPC's authority to secure the forfeiture order. However, Justice Evelyn Maha ruled against the application, stating that the argument lacked legal basis and that ICPC had complied with necessary procedures, including publishing the forfeiture order. The judge emphasized that ICPC acted within its mandate and dismissed the application, calling it an abuse of court process. The ICPC had initially received a 2019 petition alleging fraudulent practices within the Office of the Surveyor-General, leading to this forfeiture case.

**CASE 77**

Kadir Ismail Adeyinka
- Passport Fraud

The ICPC secured the conviction of Quadri Ismail Adeyinka, a staff member of the Nigeria Immigration Service, for passport fraud.

Adeyinka was tried on four charges, including gratification, corrupt advantage, and cheating, under the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act and the Penal Code. He allegedly took ₦100,000 from Ovie Justice Ojeffia to regularize Ojeffia's international passport but failed to do so, prompting the victim to file a complaint with the ICPC. Justice Jude Onwuegbuzie of the FCT High Court in Abuja found Adeyinka guilty on all charges, sentencing him to a total of seven years for counts 1 and 2, five years for count 4, and two years for count 3, with all sentences to run concurrently.

**CASE 78**

EFCC VS. Lideal Mines Ltd & Etong Agrotech Nigeria Ltd (Involved in Illegal Mining Activities) – Asset Forfeiture - N2, 739,836,331.31

Justice Emeka Nwite of the Federal High Court, Abuja, ordered the final forfeiture of ₦2,739,836,331.31, funds linked to illegal mining in Nasarawa State, to the federal government. The order followed an application by the EFCC, which suspected the funds were from unlawful activities. An interim forfeiture order was initially granted in July 2024, published for public claims in August, but no legitimate claims were made. The funds, spread across four bank accounts, belonged to Lideal Mines Ltd and Etong Agrotech Nigeria Ltd. Counsel for the defendants withdrew their objection to the forfeiture. The case was adjourned to October 23, 2024, to address other funds linked to the defendants.

**CASE 79**

EFCC VS Chinedu Roland Okoronkwo C - N71,580,000 (Ponzi Scheme Fraud)

Justice F. O. Giwa-Ogunbanjo of the Federal High Court in Enugu has adjourned the trial of Chinedu

Roland Okoronkwo, accused of running a Ponzi scheme defrauding victims of ₦71,580,000, to October 29, 2024. Okoronkwo, alongside his company, Reliance Microfinance Cooperative Society Limited, faces 36 counts of unlicensed banking, forgery, and obtaining funds under false pretences. An EFCC witness, Abubakar Abubakar, testified that Okoronkwo lured victims, including one who invested ₦25 million, by promising returns after 90 days, which were not delivered. The EFCC investigation revealed that Reliance Microfinance was unregistered with the Central Bank of Nigeria, and funds from investors were diverted to Okoronkwo's personal account. Following multiple petitions, Okoronkwo was arraigned in October 2019 and pled not guilty.

**CASE 80**

EFCC VS Ramat Mercy Mba - Forgery of late Abba Kyari Signature

The Federal Capital Territory High Court in Gwagwalada, Abuja sentenced businesswoman and mother of five, Mrs. Ramat Mercy Mba, to one year in prison or a fine for her role in an employment scam involving forgery.

Mba was found guilty of cheating and forgery, including forging the signature of late Abba Kyari, former Chief of Staff to President Muhammadu Buhari, to deceive job seekers by promising positions at ICPC and NASRDA. The court convicted her on multiple counts related to fraud and forgery, sentencing her to six months' imprisonment or a ₦100,000 fine on three counts and one year or a ₦150,000 fine on a forgery-related count.

CASE 81

UMAR ISA GACHI -



N135 Million (Money Laundering & False Returns)



Umar Isa Gachi, an accounting officer with the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), was arraigned by the ICPC on charges of money laundering and making false returns. Accused of embezzling ₦135 million earmarked for public works, Gachi allegedly used fake receipts to retire funds meant for projects like streetlight repairs and drainage maintenance. He pleaded not guilty to all Charges which are punishable under the Money Laundering Act 2022 and the Corrupt Practices Act 2000. The trial began on November 15, 2022, and concluded on May 8, 2024, with final arguments set for June 24, 2024.

CASE 82

Prof. Ladi Aisha Hamalai



N12 Million (Diversion of Public Fund for Private Gain)



A Federal High Court in Apo, Abuja has issued an arrest warrant for Professor Ladi Aisha Hamalai, former Director General of the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILS) due to her repeated absences in a corruption case filed by the ICPC. Presiding Judge C. O. Oba made the order on April 22, 2024, after Hamalai missed four consecutive court appearances despite being served. The ICPC accused her of misusing ₦12 million allocated for renting a guest house to purchase property for herself and of seeking an additional ₦29 million for furnishing it. Hamalai's counsel cited illness as her reason for absence, but the court directed ICPC to arrest and present her at the next hearing. The matter is ongoing.



CASE 83
FRN VS Bola Audu -
**N72 Million (Misappropriate
of Public Funds)**

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) in February 2024, arraigned in court, a top civil servant, Mr. Bola Audu over an

alleged N72 million fraud.

The defendant, a public officer at the Office of Accountant General of the Federation, was arraigned before Justice Yusuf Halilu, of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, Abuja on Friday.

In one of the charges levelled against the defendant, he was alleged to have misappropriated the sum of N69 million meant for the purchase of a sport utility vehicle for the office the President, Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria (ASCSN). He was also charged to have diverted another N3 million into the union's election. Mr. Audu however pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to him.

Following the defendant's not guilty plea, counsel to the ICPC, Dr. Osuobeni Akponimisingha, requested a date for the commencement of trial but counsel to the defendant, Babatunde Adewusi prayed that the bail application of his client be heard before a date was chosen for the commencement of trial.

In considering the bail request, Justice Halilu said the alleged offences were bailable and thus admitted the defendant bail on the ground that he produces two sureties who must be Directors in the federal civil service. "The directors must produce their letters of employment and promotion to the directorship rank in the civil service." The judge said.

The suit which was adjourned to 6th of May, 2024 for commencement of trial has been further adjourned. Trial is ongoing.

It is noteworthy that Bola Audu is also being prosecuted by the Federal Republic of Nigeria through NAPTIP at the Court of Appeal in appeal No: CA/AB/CR/704/23, on suspected case of human trafficking and exploitation of the vulnerable.

CASE 84

FRN VS Professor Saviour
Nathan Agoro & Mr.
Perez Friday Lakemfa
– **N285 Million**
(Contract Fraud)



The ICPC secured a conviction against Professor Saviour Nathan Agoro, former Provost of Isaac Jasper College of Education in Sagbama, Bayelsa State, for awarding fraudulent contracts totaling ₦285 million. Alongside former college accountant Perez Friday Lakemfa, Agoro was charged with violating the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000 by awarding contracts to companies in which they and their relatives held interests. Agoro was found guilty on multiple counts and fined ₦1 million, while Lakemfa was fined ₦100,000. Investigations revealed Agoro had awarded contracts to his own company and those owned by his associates and relatives, breaching public procurement protocols.

CASE 85

Abdulsalam Saleh
Abdulkarim (APC Chieftan)



\$1.32 Million Fraud



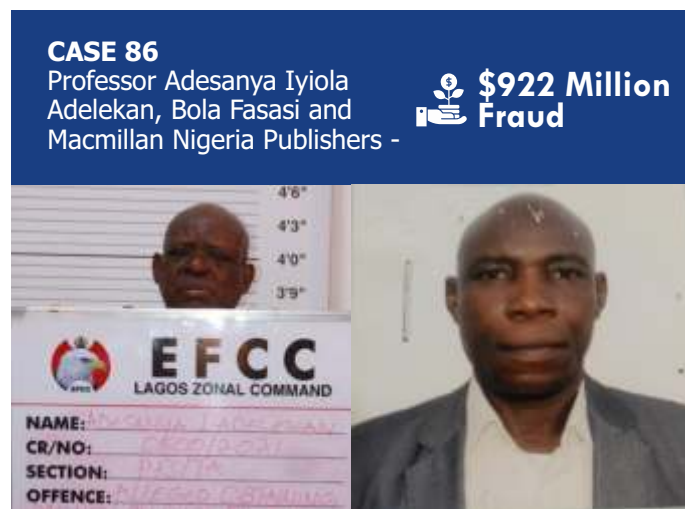
The trial of the All Progressive Congress (APC) chieftain, Abdulsalam Saleh Abdulkarim on a four-count charge of obtaining by false pretence before Hon. Justice Mohammed Nasir Yunusa of the Federal High Court, Kano Division, Kano was stalled due to an application filed by the defendant asking for a stay of proceedings after an appeal was lodged at the Supreme Court against the Court of Appeal judgment.

Recall that Saleh was arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on March 1, 2023 for allegedly defrauding a Kuwaiti citizen to the tune of \$1,320,000 (One Million Three Hundred and Twenty Thousand Dollars) under the guise that he was into real estate business in Dubai and other countries.

He pleaded not guilty to the charges and the matter was subsequently adjourned to May 2, 2023 for the commencement of trial. But while the case was pending, Saleh filed and served on the prosecution an application for stay of proceedings.

In response to the said application, the prosecution filed a counter affidavit and argued that by virtue of Section 360 of Administration of Criminal Justice Act, ACJA and section 40 of the EFCC Act, the court cannot entertain stay of proceedings in criminal trial.

Justice Yunusa then adjourned the matter to May 31, and June 1, 2023 for hearing of the application. The matter was further adjourned to the 26th of September 2023. The case was again adjourned to the 28th of November, 2023. It should be noted that the defendant's trial started afresh after the Court of Appeal nullified his acquittal by Justice A. L. Allagoa of the Federal High Court. He is alleged to have defrauded a Kuwaiti Citizen of the sum of \$1,320,000 (One Million Three Hundred and Twenty Thousand Dollars).



Professor Adesanya Iyiola Adelekan, Bola Fasasi and Macmillan Nigeria Publishers were on Thursday, February 2, 2023, arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) before Hon. Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos State on a six-count charge bordering on conspiracy and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of \$922m (Nine Hundred and Twenty Two Million United State Dollars). It said that the defendants under false pretence promised to sell the books and remit the proceeds within two weeks of receiving the bill of lading.

One of the counts as preferred against them reads: “That you, Macmillan Nigeria Publishers, Prof. Adesanya Iyiola Adelekan and Fasasi Bola, sometime in 2018, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, conspired amongst yourselves to obtain goods by false pretence, property of BHS Book Printing SD BHD of Selangor Malaysia and committed an offence of conspiracy to commit felony to wit: Obtaining goods by false pretence, contrary to Section 10(1)(2) of the Advanced Fee Fraud and other Related Offences Act No. 14 of 2006.”

Another count reads: “That you, Macmillan Nigeria Publishers, Prof. Adesanya Iyiola Adelekan and Bola Fasasi, sometime in 2018, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, obtained books for sale worth \$226,900.00 USD by false pretence, from BHS Book Printing SD BHD of Selangor Malaysia under the pretence that you would sell the books and remit the money from the sales within two weeks of receiving the bill of lading, which pretence you knew or ought to know is false and committed the offence of obtaining goods by false pretence, contrary to Section 1 (1)(c) and (3) of the Advanced Fee Fraud and other Related Offences Act No. 14 of 2006.”

All the defendants pleaded 'not guilty' to all the charges and in view of their pleas, the prosecution counsel for EFCC asked the court for a trial date. Hon. Justice Dada consequently adjourned the matter to March 31, 2023 for commencement of trial. Trial was further adjourned to the 5th of December, 2023 for continuation of trial. Trial is ongoing as parties are giving evidence.

CASE 87

FRN VS Morufu Adewale, (A.K.A Gbeganleri Adelana), Abayomi Alaska (a.k.a. Dauda Usman Alashe), Omitogun Ajayi, Ajisegiri Abiodun, Taiwo Ahmed, Raufu Raheem and Sanlabiu Teslim - **£1 Million Fraud**



Justice R.A. Oshodi of the Lagos Special Offences Court admitted a video confession as evidence in a £1 million fraud case involving seven defendants accused of duping Dr. and Mrs. Lateef Oladimeji Bello. The Lagos EFCC originally arraigned the defendants in February 2022, but the case was reassigned to Justice Oshodi due to the retirement of the former judge. The defendants, charged with obtaining money by false pretences and conspiracy, allegedly deceived the victims into paying for "spiritual cleansing" rituals. During the October 11, 2024 proceedings, the judge overruled an objection from the defence counsel, Olalekan Ojo, SAN and allowed a flash drive with a video confession from the sixth defendant to be admitted as evidence. The trial will continue on December 18 and 19, 2024.



CASE 88
Professor Lawrence Adedibu
Ojerinde & Ors. -

 **N5 Billion Fraud**

The ICPC arraigned former JAMB Registrar, Professor Dibu Ojerinde, and his children on June 15, 2023, on charges of corruption, abuse of office, and forgery. Ojerinde, alongside his children - Mary, Oluwaseun, Olumide, and Adebayo, and six associated companies allegedly engaged in fraudulent activities and asset concealment schemes. One count involves the illegal sale of a \$150,000 property in Ghana previously forfeited to Nigeria. They face charges under multiple laws, including the Corrupt Practices Act and the Advanced Fee Fraud Act. All defendants pleaded not guilty. Bail was granted, with Ojerinde's children required to post N20 million each and a surety with valuable property. The trial, initially scheduled for November 2023, is ongoing.

CASE 89
Adebayo Adebawale
Aderibigbe & Anor. -

 **N60.4 Million Fraud**



The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has arraigned Adebayo Aderibigbe, a former General Manager and head of legal services of the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund (NSITF), before Hon. Justice O.A. Musa, of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court in Jabi over an alleged fraud of N60.4 million. Aderibigbe was arraigned alongside one Ogundele Yisa-Yemi, a lawyer, on a three-count charge bordering on conspiracy and obtaining the sum of N6, 400,000 by false pretence. The commission alleged that Yisa-Yemi, between 2014 and 2016, gave the former NSITF general manager N60,400,000 "on account of a contract awarded to him as consultant for processing and regularising of the title deeds and survey plans for the property of the Fund at Era village Oto-Awori, Ijanikin, Badagry Expressway, Lagos". The offence is said to contravene section 8(1)(a) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000, and is punishable under section 8(11)(b) of the same Act. The defendants pleaded 'not guilty' to all the charges as read to them before Hon. Justice Musa.

In view of their respective pleas, J.A. Karon and I.O. Salawudeen, the defendants counsel respectively prayed the court to grant their clients bail. Although the said application was not opposed by the prosecution counsel, but he prayed the court to set terms and conditions that would compel the defendants to show up for trial.

Hon. Justice Musa then granted the defendants bail in the sum of N50 million and one surety each in like sum. The surety is expected to be a Deputy Director in a Federal Ministry. Sureties are also expected to deposit their letters of appointment and clear pictures of their residences showing them standing in front of the houses. The judge adjourned the matter to February 21 and 23, 2023 for trial.

The matter was further adjourned to the 22nd of November, 2023. The prosecution has commenced hearing in the matter by calling their witnesses. Trial is still ongoing in the matter.

CASE 90
Abdulsalam Saleh
Abdulkarim (APC Chieftan)

 **N114 Million Fraud**



The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on Wednesday May 3, 2023 arraigned an accountant with the Ahmadu Bello University, ABU, Zaria, Balarabe Hassan alongside Suraj Oyewepo, a senior cash office staff, before Hon. Justice Darius Khobo of the Kaduna State High Court, Kaduna. The duo was arraigned on a nine-count charge bordering on alleged theft to the tune of over N114 million (One Hundred and Fourteen Million Naira).

Among the allegations against Balarabe was that he fraudulently enrolled a company, RAYYAN GENERAL MERCHANT owned by Oyewepo into the GIFMIS platform on the basis of which the company received various payments without any legitimate reason. The EFCC further alleged that investigation also traced payments made by RAYYAN GENERAL MERCHANT into Balarabe's account. In addition EFCC revealed that Balarabe, who was also a signatory to the Staff Revolving Loan Account withdrew cash from the account and wasn't able to explain what it was used for.

They pleaded 'not guilty' when the charges were read to them. Based on their pleas, the prosecuting counsel urged the court to remand the defendants and fix a date for the commencement of trial. However, the defence counsel, applied for the bail of their clients.

Hon. Justice Khobo granted bail to the defendants in the sum of N10m each with one surety in like sum who must own a landed property within Kaduna. The trial is still ongoing.

CASE 91

Bashir Yuguda & Ors. -


**N23.338 Million
Fraud**


The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court in Abuja, Maitama has further adjourned the N23.338 billion fraud trial against Bashir Yuguda, a former Ambassador and former Finance Minister of State and others for continuation of trial in the said case. Yuguda, ex-National Security Adviser (NSA), Col. Sambo Dasuki (ret'd) and three others are charged with 25 counts bordering on alleged N23.3 billion fraud by the EFCC. Others charged are former governor of Sokoto state, Attahiru Bafarawa, his son, Sagir and their company, Dalhatu Investment Limited.

The matter which was slated for cross examination of EFCC first witness, Mr. Aliyu Mukadas, a staff of the Central Bank of Nigeria commenced in court. The witness in his testimony, it will be recalled, told the court how N4.6 billion in the account of the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) was moved to Dalhatu Investment. At the resumed sitting on Monday March 6, 2023, the EFCC witness, Mukadas, (PW1), told the court under cross-examination by counsel to Bafarawa and his son, Professor J. O. Olatoke, SAN, that ONSA's operations were covert for security reasons.

According to the PW1, who is a payment manager with the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, the operation of ONSA's accounts with the apex bank was in the exclusive domain of the account holder. He informed the court that though he was not a signature expert, it was only Dasuki and one S.A Salisu that signed the documents and presented the same for payment through their representatives. Mr. Mukadas added that he was not aware of the office of a procurement officer in government parastatals. PW1 also added that he was not the officer involved in the transaction that led to the case against the defendants. According to him, notwithstanding the fact that the ongoing case was instituted by EFCC in December 2015, he was only invited by the EFCC to give a statement on March 31, 2016 because he was a desk officer.

When Lateef Fagbemi (SAN), counsel to the 5th defendant, Dalhatu Investment Ltd, asked what his schedule of duty was, the witness told the court that he only effected payment when contracts had been executed. Justice Yusuf Halilu later adjourned the matter to May 17, 2023 at the request of the prosecution counsel, Oluwaleke Atolagbe. EFCC had arraigned the defendants first before Justice Peter Affen, now of the Court of Appeal, on Dec. 24, 2015. The matter was later transferred to Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf, now the FCT Chief Judge in October 2016.

The case could not take off since it was first brought to court largely due to the detention of the former NSA by the Department of State Service (DSS). On May 24, 2022, the defendants were re-arraigned before Justice Yusuf Halilu on an amended 25-count charge bordering on misappropriation, criminal breach of trust and receiving stolen property. They all, however, pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to them.

The trial which is ongoing has been slow

CASE 92

Abubakar Ali Peters -


**N1.4 Billion
Subsidy Fraud**


Hon. Justice C.A. Balogun of the Lagos State High Court sitting in Ikeja, on Tuesday May 16, 2023, dismissed the application filed by Nadabo Energy Boss, Abubakar Ali Peters, seeking him to disqualify or recuse himself from sitting on the alleged N1.4bn oil subsidy fraud trial “on the allegation of likelihood of bias.”

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC) is prosecuting Abubakar and his company, Nadabo Energy Limited, 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 preferred by the EFCC against the defendant 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 purported the Marine Insurance certificate to have been issued by Staco Insurance Plc to Nadabo Energy Limited.”

He pleaded “not guilty” to all the counts which in view of his plea set the stage for a full trial. It should be recalled that while the fifth prosecution witness, PW5, Abdurashed Bawa, the suspended Executive Chairman of the EFCC, was still being cross-examined in the course of the trial by the defence counsel, the defence had brought an application dated July 5, 2022, urging the trial Judge to “disqualify or recuse himself on the grounds of existence of likelihood of bias”. The prosecution, through its counsel had also in September 2022, responded to the said application via its counter-affidavit. Ruling on the application, Hon. Justice Balogun held that the allegation of “likelihood of bias” raised by the defence was a “mere conjecture”. The trial judge further noted that “the perceived judicial bias is very unfounded”. While striking out the application, Justice Balogun ruled that “This court shall continue to hear this matter.” The case was consequently adjourned to July 11, 2023 for continuation of trial.

The court did not sit on July 11, 2023 and the matter was further adjourned to the 7th of November, 2023 for continuation of trial. The matter was later adjourned to the 6th of February, 2024 for continuation of trial. **The trial is still ongoing.**



CASE 93

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 ordered 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 was assigned to Justice Sherifat Solebo was originally scheduled to commence trial on 12th September, 2022, but it could not go on as the judge was retiring from the bench by the end of the year. And the matter was reassigned to a new judge. The matter was subsequently adjourned to 12th January 2023 pending the re-assignment to another judge.

The matter which started de-novo was re-assigned to another judge

CASE 94

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** 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 had 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 commencement of trial. Trial is still ongoing.

CASE 95

Prof. Ibrahim Garba & ORS
(Ex-Abu Vice Chancellor) -

 N1 Billion Fraud



Ex-Vice Chancellor and Bursar of the Ahmadu Bello University, ABU, Prof. Ibrahim Garba and Ibrahim Usman, were taken to court for alleged fraud.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, arraigned the former officials before Justice R. M. Aikawa of the Federal High Court Kaduna State on Wednesday, March 30, 2023, on a nine-count charge bordering on money laundering of over one billion naira.

They are accused of diverting funds meant for the renovation of the popular Kongo Conference Hotel, Zaria sometime in December 2013, contrary to Section 18(a), 15 (2) (d) of the Money Laundering Prohibition Act, 2011 as amended. Garba and Usman pleaded 'not guilty' when the charges were read to them.

Prosecuting counsel, Jamil Musa, urged the court to remand them at the Kaduna Correctional Centre and fix a date for the start of the trial, while defence counsel, M.S. Aatu, SAN, however, urged the court to admit his clients to bail.

Justice Aikawa granted them bail in the sum of N5 million with one surety each, not below Grade Level 15 in the civil service, deposit their international passports with the court, and to report to EFCC every first Monday of the month.

Justice Aikawa thereafter adjourned the case to June 20-21, 2023, for commencement of trial. The trial is ongoing with witnesses being called.

CASE 96

Abdu Bulama (Former Minister of Science & Technology) -

 N450 Million Fraud



The Maiduguri Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, is prosecuting Mr. Bulama on a seven-count charge of criminal conspiracy and money laundering contrary to, and punishable under Section 18(a) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act 2011 as amended to the tune of N450 million.

Justice Fadima Murtala Aminu of the Federal High Court in Damaturu, Yobe State, adjourned the trial of the former Minister of Science and Technology, Abdul Bulama, to March 21, 2023.

The ex-minister allegedly received the said sum from Diezani Alison-Madueke, a former Minister of Petroleum Resources, to influence the outcome of the 2015 presidential election as the coordinator of former President Goodluck Jonathan's 2015 Re-election Campaign Committee in Yobe State.

Bulama was re-arraigned on the new charge on Monday, November 8, 2021, alongside Mohammed Kadai, a former Commissioner for Integrated and Rural Development in Yobe State, Abba Gana Tata, Muhammad Mamu and Hassan Ibn Jaks.

At the resumed hearing, counsel for the fifth defendant, M. Tatama through a letter, asked for an adjournment on the grounds that he was before the Court of Appeal Abuja Division for a pre-election matter. Justice Aminu adjourned the matter to March 21, 2023, to continue the cross-examination of the third prosecution witness, PW3.

It will be recalled that the defendants were first arraigned on Friday, May 29, 2018, before Justice Hammada Isa Dashen of the Federal High Court, Damaturu, Yobe State on a 7-count charge of criminal conspiracy and money laundering to the tune of N450 million.

But the trial judge, Justice Dashen granted the defendant's application for a no case submission, discharged and acquitted them.

Dissatisfied with the ruling, the EFCC approached the appellate court to set aside the decision of the lower court, and on March 3, 2021, the Appeal Court, in its judgment, upheld the argument of the EFCC that the lower court erred in law by discharging and acquitting the defendants and thereafter ordered that the case be returned to the Federal High Court and assigned to a judge other than Justice Dashen to be heard afresh.

On 19th July, 2023, the case came up before Justice Fadima Aminu of the Federal High Court sitting in Damaturu, Yobe state. The court, while ruling on a no case submission filed by the defendants, ordered the defendants to enter their defence. The judge ruled that based on the testimonies of witnesses and exhibits tendered before the court, the prosecution had established a prima facie case against the defendants to warrant them to enter their defence.

The court subsequently adjourned to 19th and 20th October 2023 for defendants to open their defence. The case is still ongoing.



CASE 97

Saadu Maiwada &
Sani Lawal Bk -



N289 Million Fraud

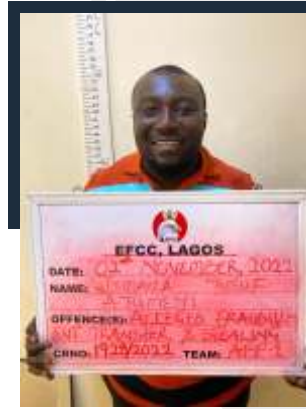
The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on Thursday June 8, 2023, arraigned the duo of Saadu Maiwada and Sani Lawal BK before Hon. Justice Musa Danladi of the Katsina State High Court on a five count charge of conspiracy and criminal breach of trust. The EFCC alleged that the defendants, in their capacity as then Sub Treasurer and Deputy Sub Treasurer in the office of Accountant General of Katsina State, allegedly conspired and converted the sum of N289,000,000 (Two Hundred and Eighty Nine Million Naira) from the coffers of Katsina State. The EFCC stated that their investigation revealed that the defendants laundered the stolen funds through the account of Integrated Gas Services Limited, a company where the first defendant (Maiwada) is a Director. The sum of N49, 000,000 was also allegedly transferred from the account of Integrated Gas Services Limited to the personal account of the second defendant (Lawal BK) who is now the Deputy Accountant General of the state.

One of the counts preferred against the defendants reads, "That you, Saadu Maiwada and Sani Lawal BK sometime in 2017 at Katsina within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court while being entrusted with dominion over money belonging to Katsina State Government dishonestly converted to your own use the sum of N120,790,942.86 (One Hundred and Twenty Million, Seven Hundred Ninety Thousand, Nine Hundred and Forty Two Naira, Eighty Six Kobo) which was transferred from Katsina State Government Sub-Treasury Expenditure Account number 1012424374 domiciled in United Bank for Africa (UBA) PLC to Integrated Gas Services Company Limited's Fidelity Bank account no 4010693761 (CO1717299) and you thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 297 of the Penal Code Law of Katsina State 2021".

Both defendants pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to them. In view of their pleas, counsel for the prosecution prayed the court for a trial date. Counsel for the defendants made an oral bail application on behalf of his clients but the prosecution counsel objected, demanding for a formal application as the court is a court of record.

Hon. Justice Danladi, however, admitted the defendants to bail in the sum of N5,000,000 (Five Million Naira) each.

The court ordered that each defendant must provide a surety with a landed property within Katsina state and present letters of introduction from a traditional ruler. Consequently, the matter was adjourned to the 7th of December, 2023 for continuation of trial as the prosecution is still giving evidence in the case. **The trial is still ongoing.**

**CASE 99**

Saadu Maiwada & Sani Lawal Bk -


N1.4 Billion Money Laundering

The first prosecution witness presented by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Olusegun Falola, in the ongoing trial of Ismaila Yusuf Atumeyi, a Kogi State

House of Assembly candidate of the New Nigeria Peoples Party, NNPP, and two others gave evidence before Hon. Justice Tijani Ringim of the Federal High Court Ikoyi Division, Lagos State on how N681 million was paid into the politician's business account. Atumeyi was the Kogi State House of Assembly candidate of the NNPP for Ankpa 11 Constituency. He is standing trial alongside Ngene Joshua Dominic and Abdulmalik Salau, a former employee of Union Bank Plc, on 18 counts bordering on alleged cybercrime and money laundering to the tune of N1.4 billion.

Led in evidence by the prosecution counsel, Rotimi Oyedepo, SAN, Falola, an Internal Auditor and Team Lead, General Investigations, Union Bank Plc, testified that sometime in October 2022, during the periodic internal review of accounts of customers, they observed that some accounts that were placed on No-Debit were debited and in the course of their review, it was observed that the methodology employed in debiting the said accounts was different from the way accounts are being debited in the normal banking activity.

He further testified that it was based on the above that the case was assigned to him for further internal investigation. He stated that during his review, he observed that beyond the few accounts that were referred to him for investigation, there were other numerous accounts that were being debited. Furthermore, the debits on these accounts were traced to two beneficiaries, Atus Homes Limited account and Fav Oil and Gas Limited. These two accounts received the sum of N681m and N1.38bn respectively from the account of 429 customers.

Falola also gave evidence before the court that further investigations revealed that Atumeyi is the signatory to the Atus Homes Limited account, while the signatories to Fav Oil and Gas are Shuaibu Yusuf and Nurudeen. According to him, all illicit debits on the customers' accounts were done via internet banking on one of the bank's platforms known as Union 360.

**CASE 98**

Kayode Odukoya -


N1.7 Billion Fraud

Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 adjourned to

December 1, 2023 for judgment on the alleged N1.7 billion fraud case involving the Chief Executive Officer of First Nation Airways Limited, Kayode Odukoya for the adoption of final written addresses. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is prosecuting Odukoya alongside First Nation Airways Limited and Belleview Airlines Limited on a seven-count charge bordering on forgery, use of false document, perjury, stealing and obtaining credit by fraud, contrary to the Criminal Law of Lagos State of Nigeria 2011.

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charges thereby prompting the commencement of trial. The prosecution, before closing its case on November 30, 2020, had called five witnesses and tendered several documents to prove its case against the defendants. However, the defendant through his counsel, had filed a no case submission which was subsequently dismissed by the trial judge on January 11, 2022, as he was then ordered to open his defence. The defendant, thereafter, 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.

At the next proceedings, the prosecution counsel adopted the final written address of the prosecution and urged the court to hold that the prosecution proved its case against the defendant.

The defence counsel also adopted their final address and urged the court to discharge and acquit his client. Consequently, Justice Dada adjourned to December 1, 2023 for judgment.

The first prosecution witness presented by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Olusegun Falola, in the ongoing trial of Ismaila Yusuf Atumeyi, a Kogi State House of Assembly candidate of the New Nigeria Peoples Party, NNPP, and two others gave evidence before Hon. Justice Tijani Ringim of the Federal High Court Ikoyi Division, Lagos State on how N681 million was paid into the politician's business account. Atumeyi was the Kogi State House of Assembly candidate of the NNPP for Ankpa 11 Constituency. He is standing trial alongside Ngene Joshua Dominic and Abdulmalik Salau, a former employee of Union Bank Plc, on 18 counts bordering on alleged cybercrime and money laundering to the tune of N1.4 billion.

Led in evidence by the prosecution counsel, Rotimi Oyedepo, SAN, Falola, an Internal Auditor and Team Lead, General Investigations, Union Bank Plc, testified that sometime in October 2022, during the periodic internal review of accounts of customers, they observed that some accounts that were placed on No-Debit were debited and in the course of their review, it was observed that the methodology employed in debiting the said accounts was different from the way accounts are being debited in the normal banking activity.

He further testified that it was based on the above that the case was assigned to him for further internal investigation. He stated that during his review, he observed that beyond the few accounts that were referred to him for investigation, there were other numerous accounts that were being debited. Furthermore, the debits on these accounts were traced to two beneficiaries, Atus Homes Limited account and Fav Oil and Gas Limited. These two accounts received the sum of N681m and N1.38bn respectively from the account of 429 customers.

Falola also gave evidence before the court that further investigations revealed that Atumeyi is the signatory to the Atus Homes Limited account, while the signatories to Fav Oil and Gas are Shuaibu Yusuf and Nurudeen. According to him, all illicit debits on the customers' accounts were done via internet banking on one of the bank's platforms known as Union 360. Giving further testimony, he stated that at the time of investigation, over N600m had been withdrawn from the account of Atus Homes Limited and over N800m withdrawn from Fav Oil and Gas.

He stated that they were able to make those fraudulent transfers because the bank system was fraudulently manipulated. It was this realization that made us know that only a person with privileged information on the bank's information technology could have carried out such illicit transactions and that it was based on that knowledge that we reported the matter to the EFCC for further investigation.

Oyedepo sought to tender the petition written to the EFCC, the correspondences between the agency and the bank as well as the defendants' statements of account that had been identified by the witness. However, counsel for the third defendant, Babatunde Ogunwo, objected to the admissibility of the attached statement of account on the grounds that the prosecution had not sufficiently complied with Section 84 (2) 2(4) of the Evidence Act, being a computer generated evidence. In a short ruling, Hon. Justice Ringim overruled the objection of the defence and admitted the exhibit in evidence.

The judge also granted the second defendant, Dominic, bail on the same terms as the 3rd defendant, as granted on January 6, 2023. Consequently, the matter was adjourned to February 2, 2023 for the continuation of trial. Trial is still ongoing in the matter as the prosecution is still giving evidence and the case has been further adjourned to the 6th of November, 2023 for continuation of trial. This case was further adjourned to the 29th of January, 2024 as trial is still ongoing in the matter.

CASE 100

FRN v. Hon. John Dyegh -
Abuse of office &
Money laundering -

 **N18.97 Million**



Hon. John Dyegh, a former House of Representatives member for Gboko and Tarka

Federal Constituency, was arraigned by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) before a Federal High Court in Makurdi, Benue State, on charges of abuse of office and money laundering.

The charges relate to Dyegh's alleged misappropriation of N18.97 million meant for school construction in Guma, Benue State, in 2014. The funds were reportedly funneled through companies linked to him, including Midag Limited and Kangnaan Global Resources Limited, violating the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000.

Initially remanded in custody, Dyegh was granted bail on November 11, 2024, by Justice M. Shitu Abubakar for N20 million, with two sureties required to surrender their international passports and provide verifiable addresses.

The case was adjourned to January 16, 2025, for a definite hearing.



**10 Cases within
6 West African Countries.**

CASE 1

Georges Bada, the former mayor of Abomey-Calavi, Benin's second-largest municipality, once held a trusted position in local governance, overseeing land use, urban development, and municipal planning. His role was crucial in managing resources meant for public welfare. However, in 2020, an investigation revealed a significant breach of trust. Bada had misappropriated 39 hectares of government land. This land, intended for public benefit, had been redirected under his authority to private interests, undermining both public resources and the integrity of the office he held.

The case came under the scrutiny of the Court for the Repression of Economic Crimes and Terrorism (CRIET), an agency led by President Jean-Claude Houssou and designed to combat economic crimes and corruption in Benin. CRIET took up the investigation with a focused intent underscoring Benin's commitment to addressing and reducing corruption within its public offices.

In 2021, Bada was formally charged, with CRIET taking the lead in prosecuting the offences related to his misappropriation of public land. After a thorough legal process, he sentence in 2022. Bada received a prison term of six years and was fined 5 million CFA francs (roughly \$8,900). The case sent a strong message across Benin, exemplifying the consequences of corruption and reaffirming the government's resolve to safeguard public assets against misuse by those in power.

CASE 2

Claude Gohou, once the Minister of Housing in Côte d'Ivoire, became embroiled in a corruption scandal that exposed serious flaws in the country's oversight of public resources. As a senior government official, Gohou was entrusted with the management of funds dedicated to housing projects aimed at addressing the country's pressing need for affordable homes. However, in June 2022, routine audits of these initiatives revealed troubling discrepancies, sparking an investigation that revealed the diversion of significant public funds into private accounts under Gohou's control. This misappropriation resulted in considerable financial losses for the government, shocking citizens and heightening calls for greater accountability within public institutions.

The National Agency for Asset Recovery (ANRAC) directed by Jean Claude Dossou, swiftly assumed responsibility for the case. Working in collaboration with law enforcement, ANRAC conducted a meticulous investigation, gathering substantial evidence against Gohou. By October 2023, the former minister faced formal charges for his actions, which had not only betrayed public trust but had also undermined the housing projects vital to the community's welfare.

In early 2024, the court delivered a strong ruling, sentencing Gohou to 10 years in prison and imposing a fine of 100 million CFA francs (about \$166,000). This judgment served as a stark warning to other public officials, reinforcing the nation's commitment to rooting out corruption and upholding integrity in government affairs. The case underscored the need for stricter oversight mechanisms and restored public confidence in the accountability measures Côte d'Ivoire has vowed to uphold.

CASE 3

Emmanuelle Amani, a senior official within Côte d'Ivoire's Ministry of Health, found herself at the heart of a high-profile corruption case involving the misappropriation of COVID-19 relief funds, resources that were intended to bolster the nation's public health response during the pandemic. As an influential figure overseeing critical health initiatives, Amani was entrusted with managing funds aimed at protecting the public. However, in March 2023, discrepancies in the financial records for COVID-19 emergency spending raised suspicions. Investigations revealed a troubling pattern; significant portions of these relief funds had been redirected to Amani's personal accounts instead of reaching the front line health initiatives they were meant to support.

The revelation triggered swift action from the Economic and Financial Criminal Division (Parquet économique et financier), with Prosecutor General Youssouf Koulibaly leading the inquiry. Through a rigorous investigation, the division compiled a compelling case, revealing the depth of Amani's embezzlement and its impact on the country's pandemic response. By April 2024, Amani faced formal charges for embezzlement and misappropriation, marking a significant moment in Côte d'Ivoire's efforts to confront corruption in the public health sector.

The case was closely watched by the public who were acutely aware of the stakes involved, particularly as the pandemic had put immense strain on the nation's health resources. In court, Amani was sentenced to five years in prison, and the ruling required her to repay the misappropriated funds. This verdict was not only a consequence for Amani but a signal to other officials that Côte d'Ivoire was serious about reinforcing transparency and accountability, especially where public welfare was concerned. Her case underscored the critical need for stringent oversight of public funds and illuminated systemic vulnerabilities within government agencies, prompting a deeper examination of financial management practices across the sector.

CASE 4

Mamadou Cellou Diallo, a former high-ranking official in Guinea's Ministry of Mines, became the central figure in a high-stakes corruption scandal tied to the country's vital bauxite industry. As a resource-rich nation, Guinea relies heavily on bauxite mining for economic growth, making transparency and integrity within the sector essential. Yet, in 2021, civil society organizations began to uncover evidence of corruption and mismanagement within the industry, sparking a public outcry and prompting a formal investigation into alleged irregularities in mining contracts.

The inquiry revealed troubling details; Diallo had allegedly orchestrated bribery schemes and manipulated contract negotiations to benefit certain mining companies. In exchange for substantial kickbacks, he is suspected of bypassing due diligence requirements and facilitating licenses for companies without thorough vetting. This unchecked granting of mining rights allowed private interests to secure lucrative contracts at the expense of public revenue, undermining the country's economic potential and depriving the government of critical funds that could have supported public welfare.

As the investigation progressed, Guinea's National Agency for Combating Corruption (ANLC), led by Alpha Abdoulaye Diallo, took charge of prosecuting the case. Determined to address the entrenched corruption within the bauxite sector, the ANLC brought formal charges against Mamadou Cellou Diallo in 2023. This move represented a significant step toward accountability and was seen as an attempt to reform a sector historically vulnerable to abuse. The ANLC's handling of the case has become a touchstone for the broader fight against corruption in Guinea, signaling to the public and government officials alike that corrupt practices within critical industries would not be tolerated.

Diallo's case, widely publicized, has underscored the urgency of reform within Guinea's mining sector, stirring hopes for improved governance and transparency in the management of the country's natural resources. The ANLC's efforts have set a precedent for increased scrutiny within the industry and sparked ongoing calls for further reforms to protect Guinea's economic interests from similar exploitation in the future.

CASE 5

The **BSGR and Simandou mine scandal** is one of the most significant corruption cases in Guinea's recent history, with far-reaching implications for both the nation's mining industry and its governance standards. At the center of the scandal is Beny Steinmetz Group Resources (BSGR), which allegedly secured rights to one of the world's richest iron ore deposits in Simandou through a complex network of bribes and influence. The Simandou region holds an estimated 2 billion tons of iron ore, making it one of the most valuable untapped resources globally and a critical asset for Guinea's economic future.

In 2008, BSGR obtained these highly sought-after mining rights, but by 2014, reports began to surface alleging that the company had engaged in corrupt practices to acquire them. Investigations revealed that BSGR allegedly paid millions in bribes to high-ranking Guinean officials, including those within the inner circle of then-President Lansana Conté. These payments were reportedly made to ensure that BSGR would outmaneuver competitors and secure exclusive access to the iron-rich Simandou deposits.

The international scope of the scandal attracted attention from anti-corruption agencies worldwide, including the FBI, due to the involvement of foreign nationals and financial transactions crossing multiple jurisdictions. These international investigations focused on uncovering the full extent of the alleged bribes, aiming to determine how much influence was exerted on Guinean officials and to identify all parties involved in the deal.

In Guinea, the Anti-Corruption and Asset Recovery Agency (ACARA), led by Taran Kone, took charge of pursuing accountability in the case. ACARA has been working diligently to build a legal case, seeking to reclaim substantial revenues lost due to the alleged bribery and misconduct. Despite the passage of years, the scandal remains unresolved, with legal proceedings ongoing as of 2023. The Guinean government continues its efforts to hold accountable those responsible for one of the nation's largest corruption cases, underscoring its commitment to reforming governance within its critical mining sector.

The BSGR-Simandou scandal has spotlighted the broader issue of corruption in resource-rich African nations, where public assets are vulnerable to exploitation by both domestic and foreign entities. The ongoing investigations and potential legal actions symbolize a strong stance by Guinea and the international community against corruption, as they seek to establish transparency and restore public trust in the country's mining operations.

CASE 6

In Guinea-Bissau, the conviction of **Jorge Gomes, former Minister of Civil Service**, has cast a spotlight on pervasive corruption within the public sector. This high-profile case, known as the "Civil Service Scam," has underscored systemic issues in government hiring practices and the need for accountability among top officials. The scandal, which surfaced in 2021, revealed a deeply embedded network of embezzlement and fraud linked to civil service appointments, tarnishing the integrity of government institutions.

Jorge Gomes was accused of orchestrating a bribery scheme that allowed individuals to buy public service positions for cash, bypassing standard qualifications and vetting processes. This practice eroded the trust in public services, placing unqualified individuals in roles essential for the country's governance and public administration. By accepting bribes in exchange for jobs, Gomes effectively sold public office, creating a corrupt environment that weakened the foundations of Guinea-Bissau's civil service.

The National Anti-Corruption Commission (CNA), under the leadership of Aldino Gomes, initiated an extensive investigation into the allegations. As evidence mounted, the CNA uncovered a web of officials complicit in enabling these transactions, demonstrating how widespread corruption had become within the ministry. The investigation shed light on the severity of the problem, revealing that the integrity of the civil service had been compromised on a grand scale.

In January 2024, after years of investigation and building public interest, Jorge Gomes was formally charged and brought to trial. The case attracted significant media coverage and public attention, as it was seen as a pivotal moment in Guinea-Bissau's anti-corruption efforts. During the trial, the court heard extensive details of the network Gomes had created to facilitate bribery, along with testimony from witnesses and insiders.

Ultimately, the court sentenced Gomes to 10 years in prison for his role in the Civil Service Scam. This conviction marked an essential step forward for the country's judiciary, signaling a stronger commitment to holding even high-ranking officials accountable. The outcome is viewed as a turning point for Guinea-Bissau, reflecting the government's intent to address corruption within critical sectors and restore trust in public institutions. The sentencing of Jorge Gomes may well set a precedent for future anti-corruption cases, reinforcing a message of accountability within the nation's leadership.

CASE 7

The corruption case against **Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz, Mauritania's former president**, has become one of the country's most closely watched trials, casting a spotlight on governance, accountability, and the role of the judiciary. Aziz, who led Mauritania from 2009 to 2019 after seizing power through a military coup, is facing charges of corruption, money laundering, and illicit enrichment. Known for his alliances with Western nations in the fight against terrorism in the Sahel, Aziz's decade-long rule was also marked by allegations of widespread corruption and human rights abuses, which have fueled public interest in the ongoing trial.

The investigation into Aziz's financial dealings began in earnest in May 2021, when a parliamentary inquiry raised concerns about questionable practices linked to offshore oil projects. These inquiries revealed extensive financial irregularities, suggesting that Aziz, along with associates, had benefited financially through covert illicit activities. The probe exposed dealings that allegedly diverted public funds for personal enrichment, amplifying concerns about the misuse of national resources under his administration.

Following a year of scrutiny and investigation, the public prosecution requested in May 2022 that the case be transferred to a specialised corruption court, signaling the state's readiness to hold Aziz accountable. Aliou Diallo, head of Mauritania's Anti-Corruption Office, spearheaded the case, coordinating the investigation and gathering substantial documentation and testimonies to substantiate the allegations. The referral to the specialised court underscored the gravity of the charges, marking a rare legal move against a former head of state in Mauritania.

As of early 2024, Aziz remains on trial, with the final verdict yet to be issued. This high-profile case is not only a landmark moment for Mauritania's judiciary but also a significant test of the country's political commitment to fighting corruption at the highest levels. The proceedings reflect Mauritania's evolving stance on political accountability, as the trial of a former president is virtually unprecedented in the nation's history.

For Mauritians, the trial of Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz represents both a reckoning with the past and a hopeful sign of increased transparency. While the outcome remains uncertain, the trial has sparked important discussions about the rule of law in Mauritania, a country where democratic governance is still being shaped. The case has raised hopes that Mauritania's judicial system might become a robust force for accountability, setting a new standard for governance in the country.

CASE 8

Abdel Kader Ould Mohamed, a former Minister of Transport in Mauritania, became the center of a corruption scandal that has brought renewed scrutiny to governance and accountability in the nation. Known for his oversight of crucial infrastructure projects during his tenure, Ould Mohamed held a position central to Mauritania's development goals. His ministry was responsible for key transportation and logistics projects that aimed to drive economic progress, but his role ultimately became entangled in allegations of mismanagement and corruption.

In early 2022, Mauritanian authorities initiated an audit of contracts and expenditures managed by the Ministry of Transport. This investigation, which began in February, was triggered by financial discrepancies in the handling of public contracts under Ould Mohamed's administration. Auditors reported significant irregularities in contract awards, suspect financial transactions, and the suspected embezzlement of public funds. The investigation revealed a troubling pattern of alleged misappropriation, pointing to Ould Mohamed's involvement in corrupt practices that diverted resources intended for public benefit.

By June 2022, sufficient evidence had been gathered to formally charge Ould Mohamed. The charges included embezzlement and abuse of power, casting a shadow over the former minister's career and amplifying calls for reform within Mauritania's government. His case garnered attention from both national and international observers, underscoring the systemic issues of corruption that have hindered governance in the country.

In April 2023, the court delivered a landmark judgment, sentencing Ould Mohamed to two years in prison. The decision was seen as a significant, if modest, step towards addressing entrenched corruption within Mauritania's government. For many Mauritians, the sentencing symbolised a growing commitment to accountability at high levels of government. Ould Mohamed's conviction not only highlighted the cost of corruption on national development but also renewed public hopes for transparency and ethical governance in Mauritania.

CASE 9

Jorge Borges, the former Minister of Justice in Cabo Verde, found himself at the heart of a major corruption scandal that underscored concerns over transparency in government spending. Tasked with overseeing critical reforms to Cabo Verde's legal system, Borges was responsible for managing budgets earmarked for judicial improvements and the modernization of public legal services. Yet, during a 2023 routine audit by the Ministry of Finance and the Judicial Police, investigators uncovered troubling discrepancies in the financial records for his department.

Under the leadership of Joaquim A. D'Ávila, the Judicial Police delved into the inconsistencies and discovered evidence suggesting that substantial funds intended for legal reforms had been redirected for Borges's personal use. As the investigation progressed, it became clear that the funds had been misappropriated, causing public shock and sparking widespread outcry. Citizens were outraged at the betrayal, especially given the funds' intended purpose of improving the judicial system for the public good.

In December 2023, Jorge Borges was formally charged with embezzlement, money laundering, and abuse of power. The case quickly gained public attention as prosecutors presented damning evidence of Borges's misappropriation of funds meant to support judicial advancements. This high profile trial resonated deeply across Cabo Verde, reflecting widespread frustration with corruption among public officials.

In January 2024, the court handed down a sentence of five years in prison for Borges, marking a pivotal moment in the fight against corruption in Cabo Verde. The verdict was broadly seen as a meaningful step towards greater accountability and transparency in the government, and it served as a reminder of the need for rigorous oversight in public financial management. For Cabo Verde's citizens, Borges's sentencing offered a measure of justice and a renewed hope for integrity within the country's institutions.

CASE 10

In 2023, a major corruption case emerged within **Cabo Verde's Ministry of Health**, sparking widespread concern over the misuse of funds intended to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The Ministry, which is responsible for safeguarding public health and managing essential resources, came under scrutiny after an audit conducted by the General Inspectorate of Health revealed troubling financial irregularities. Led by Inspector General Duarte Lopes, the audit uncovered evidence of mismanagement and potential embezzlement of funds that had been allocated for critical medical supplies and vaccines during the pandemic's peak.

The investigation was triggered by growing public concern over the government's transparency in handling pandemic-related expenditures. As reports surfaced of potential financial misconduct, citizens began demanding accountability, particularly regarding funds that should have supported public health efforts. The audit findings suggested that certain officials within the Ministry of Health had redirected these essential funds for personal benefit, compromising the nation's ability to manage COVID-19 effectively.

In June 2023, multiple ministry officials were formally charged with corruption and misuse of public resources, marking a significant step in the pursuit of justice. The case, which has since garnered international attention, highlights both the vulnerabilities in Cabo Verde's public health sector and the pressing need for stronger accountability measures. The accused officials are currently awaiting trial, while the Inspectorate continues its in-depth investigation to assess the full scope of the misconduct and identify any possible links to other government officials.

As the case unfolds, the trial promises to be a critical moment for Cabo Verde's efforts to strengthen transparency and integrity within its public institutions, particularly in sectors as essential as health. For many citizens, this investigation reflects a pivotal opportunity to hold leaders accountable and to reaffirm the importance of ethical governance, especially during crises that impact public welfare.

HEDA Acknowledges that reports were sourced from newspapers across West African countries and anti-corruption sources through their various websites including but not limited to *Transparency.org*, *crsreports.congress.gov*, *afdb.org*, *Wikipedia.org*, *africacenter.org*, *africanews.com*, *imf.org*, *independent.co.uk*, *resourcegovernance.org*, *apanews.net*, *knowledgehub.transparency.org*, *uncaccoalition.org*.

THE ANALYSIS

TOTAL AMOUNT RECORDED: N 1,372,276,197,331.31
 \$ 31,122,397,900.00
 € 2,556,000,000.00
 £ 1,000,000.00

Male	Female
N 576,241,435,331.31	N 812,312,000,000.00
\$ 9,030,942,900.00	\$ 20,048,500,000.00
€ 2,556,000,000.00	
£ 1,000,000.00	

Table 1

Frequency Counts and Percentages of Major Defendants in the Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Former Ministers and Advisers	9	9.0	9.0	9.0
Senators	2	2.0	2.0	2.0
Former Governors	15	15.0	15.0	15.0
Others	69	69.0	69.0	69.0
Total	95	95.0	95.0	95.0

Results in Table 1 shows that a total of 95 corruption cases were considered. Of this, 15% involve Former Governors of States in Nigeria, while 9% represent the involvement of Former Ministers and Advisers for Government office holders. The involvement of Senators are at 2%.

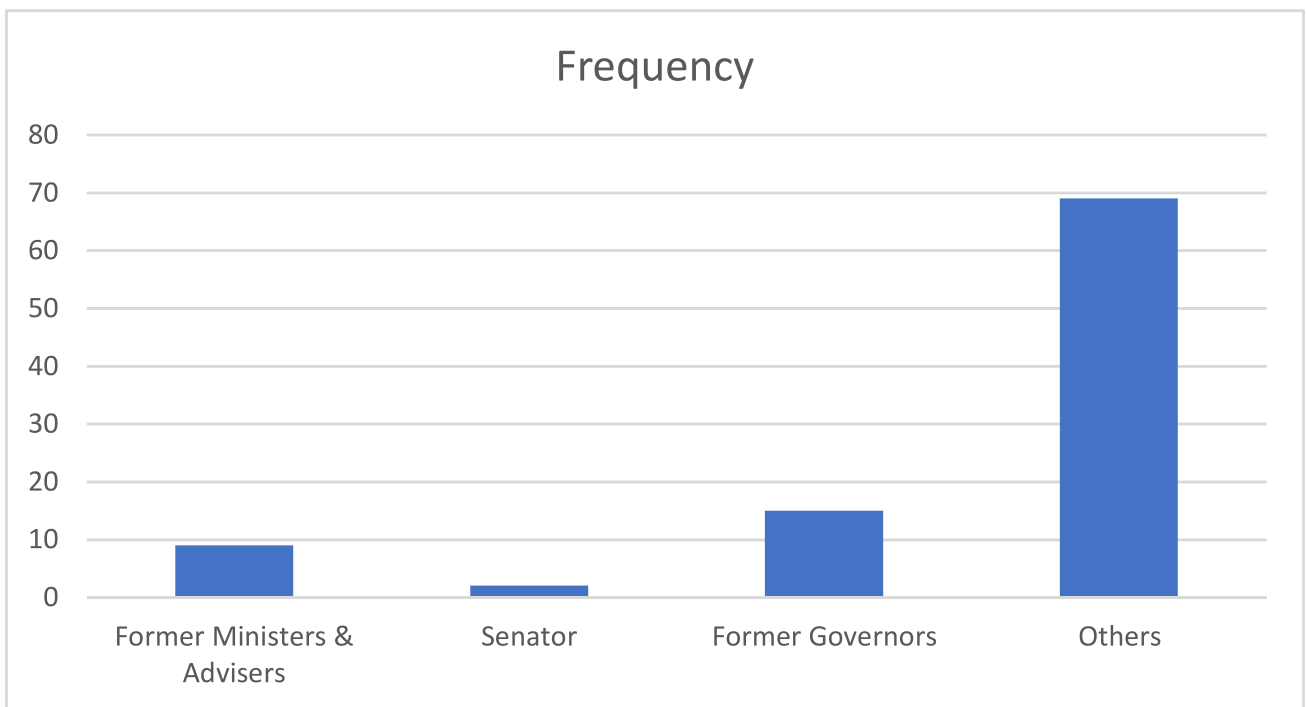


Fig 1: Chart of Personalities involved in the cases as Major Defendants.

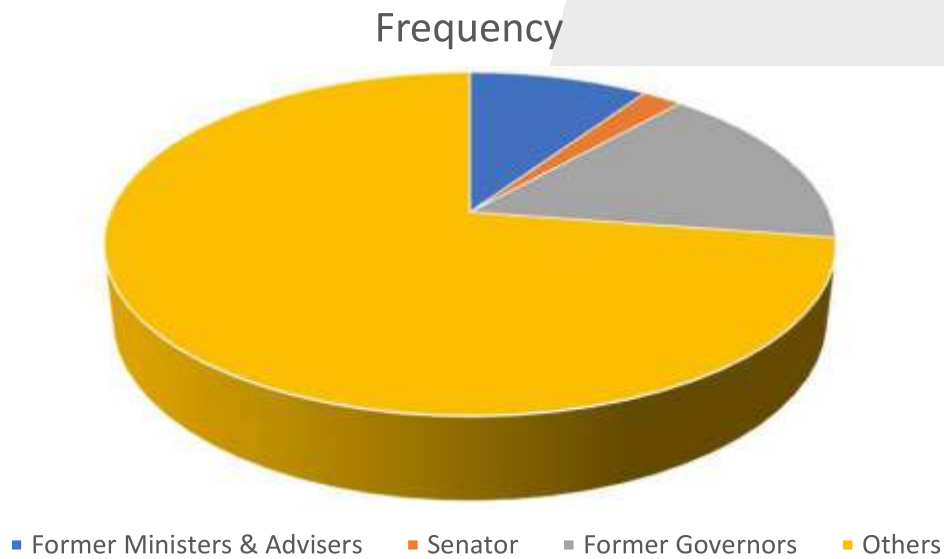


Table 2
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Year of Inception of Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
2007	1	1.0	1.0	
2008	0	0.0	0.0	
2009	0	0.0	0.0	
2010	1	1.0	1.0	
2011	2	2.0	2.0	
2012	1	1.0	1.0	
2013	1	1.0	1.0	
2014	3	3.0	3.0	
2015	7	7.0	7.0	
2016	3	3.0	3.0	
2017	1	1.0	1.0	
2018	1	1.0	1.0	
2019	5	5.0	5.0	
2020	3	3.0	3.0	
2021	2	2.0	2.0	
2022	10	10.0	10.0	
2023	34	34.0	34.0	
2024	10	10.0	10.0	
TOTAL	85			

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 2023 with 34 cases (34.0% of the total). Year 2022 and 2024 witnessed the inception of 10 (10.0%) cases. Other range from one to nine cases in a year. The distribution of the number of cases by year of inception is presented in Figure 2

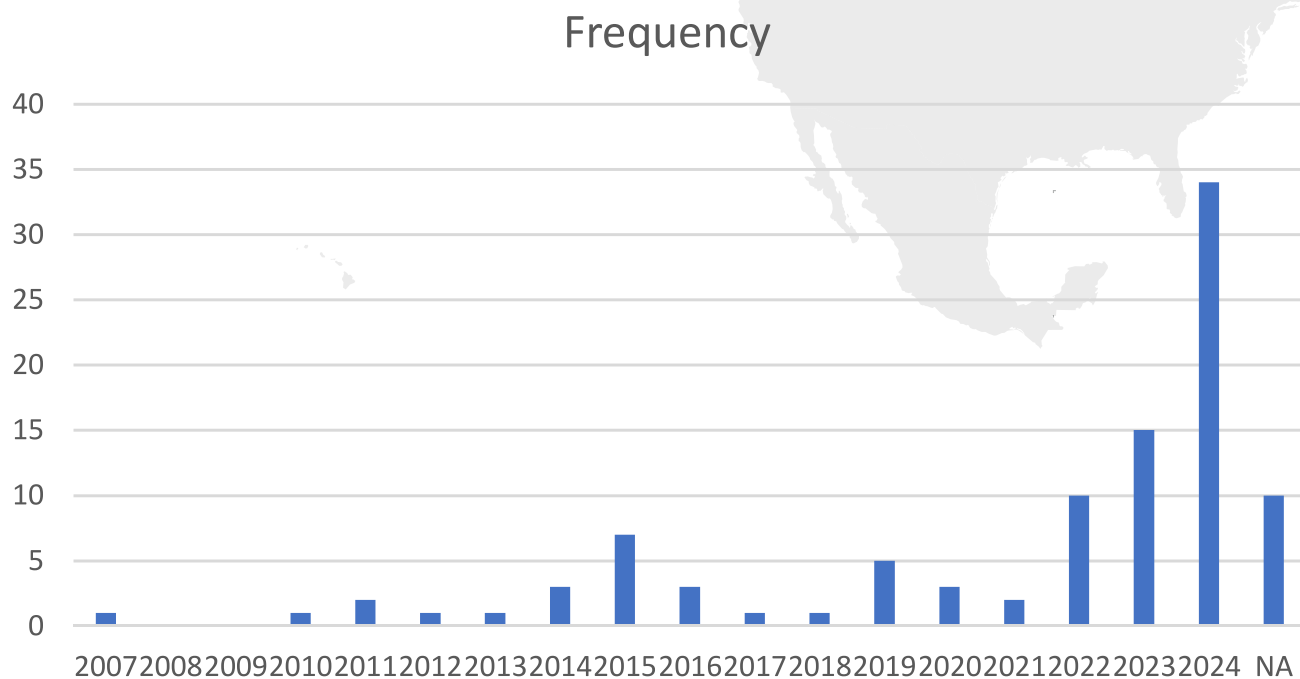


Fig 2: Chart of Year of Inception of Cases

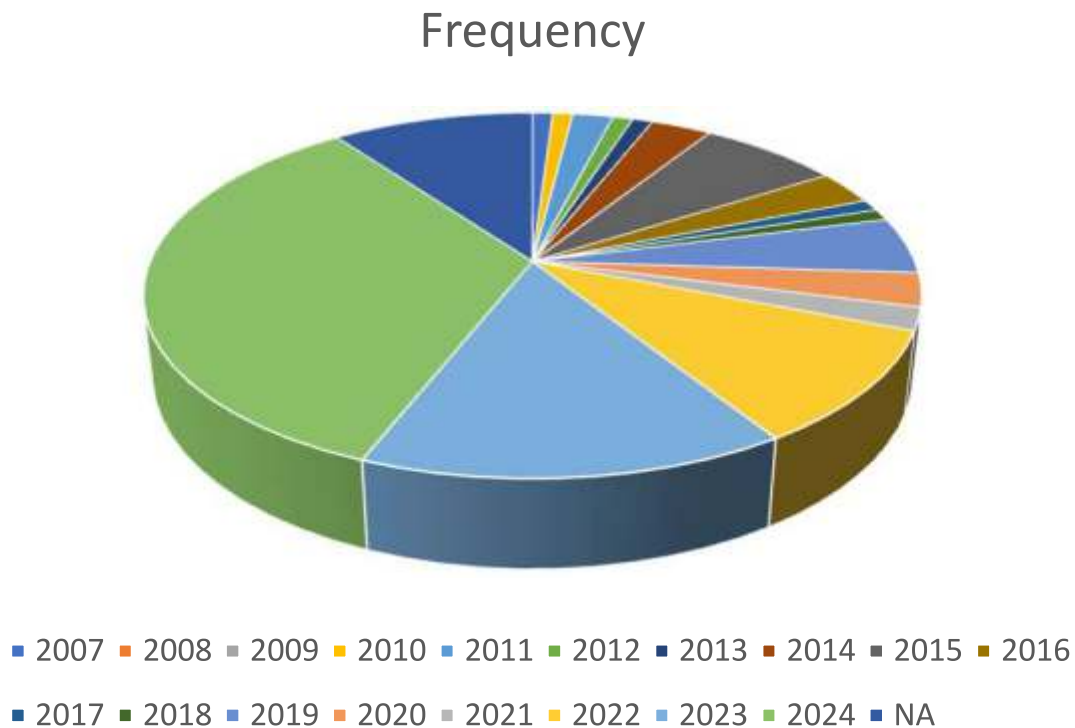


Table 3
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Prosecuting Agency of Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Information Not Available	14	14.0	14.0	
EFCC	69	69.0	69.0	
ICPC	14	14.0	14.0	
CCT	0	0.0	0.0	
SPIPRPP	0	0.0	0.0	
NDLEA	1	1.0	1.0	
KSPCAC	4	4.0	4.0	
Total	102	102.0	102.0	

Results in Table 3 indicated that a total of 100 corruption cases were considered. Sixty nine (69.0%) cases were prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes commission (EFCC) while Fourteen (14.0%) cases were prosecuted by the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC). The distribution of the prosecuting agencies is visually presented in Figure 3

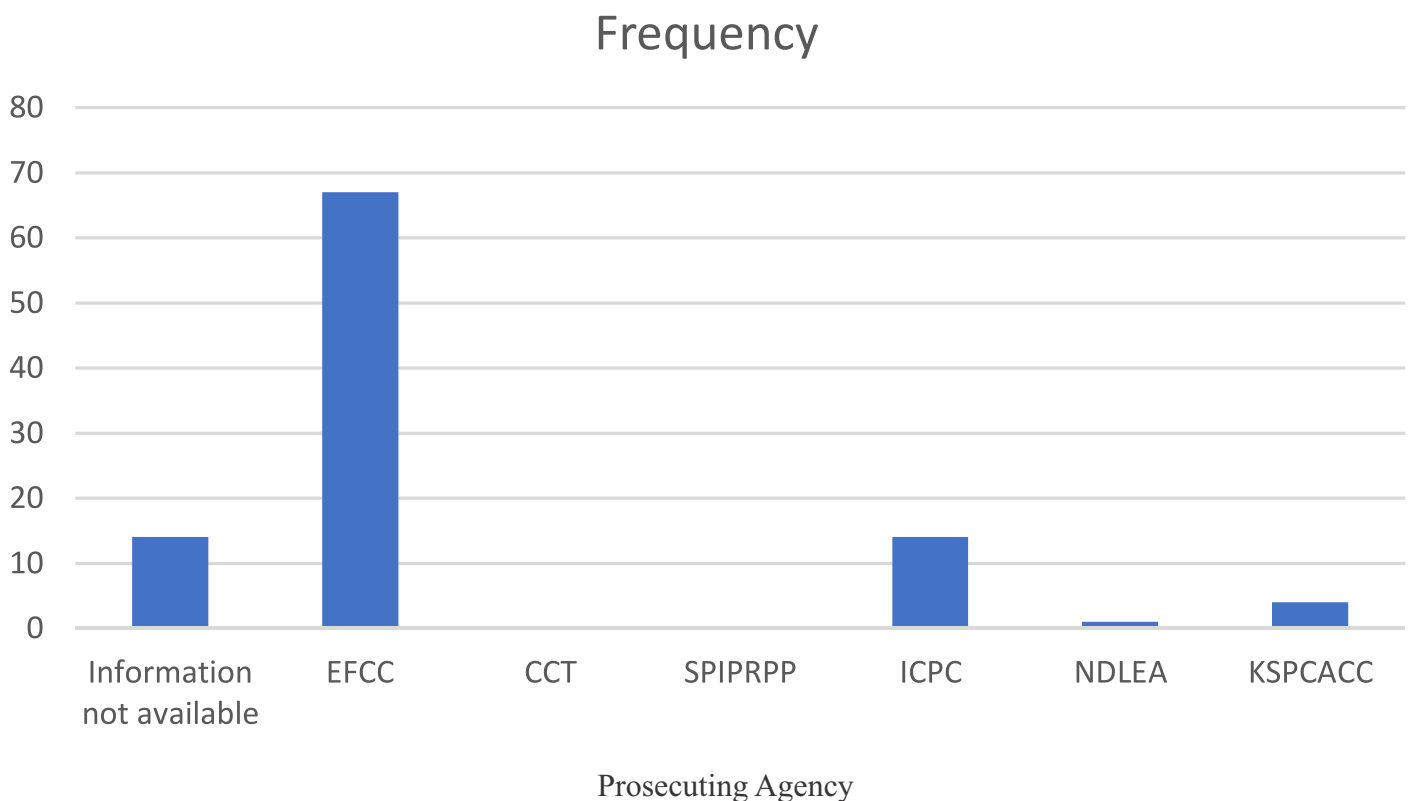
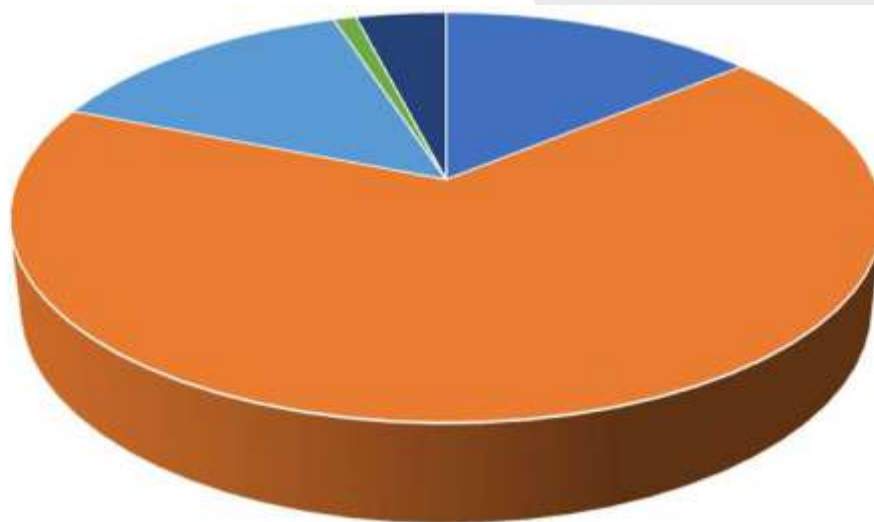


Fig 3: Chart of Prosecuting Agency

Frequency



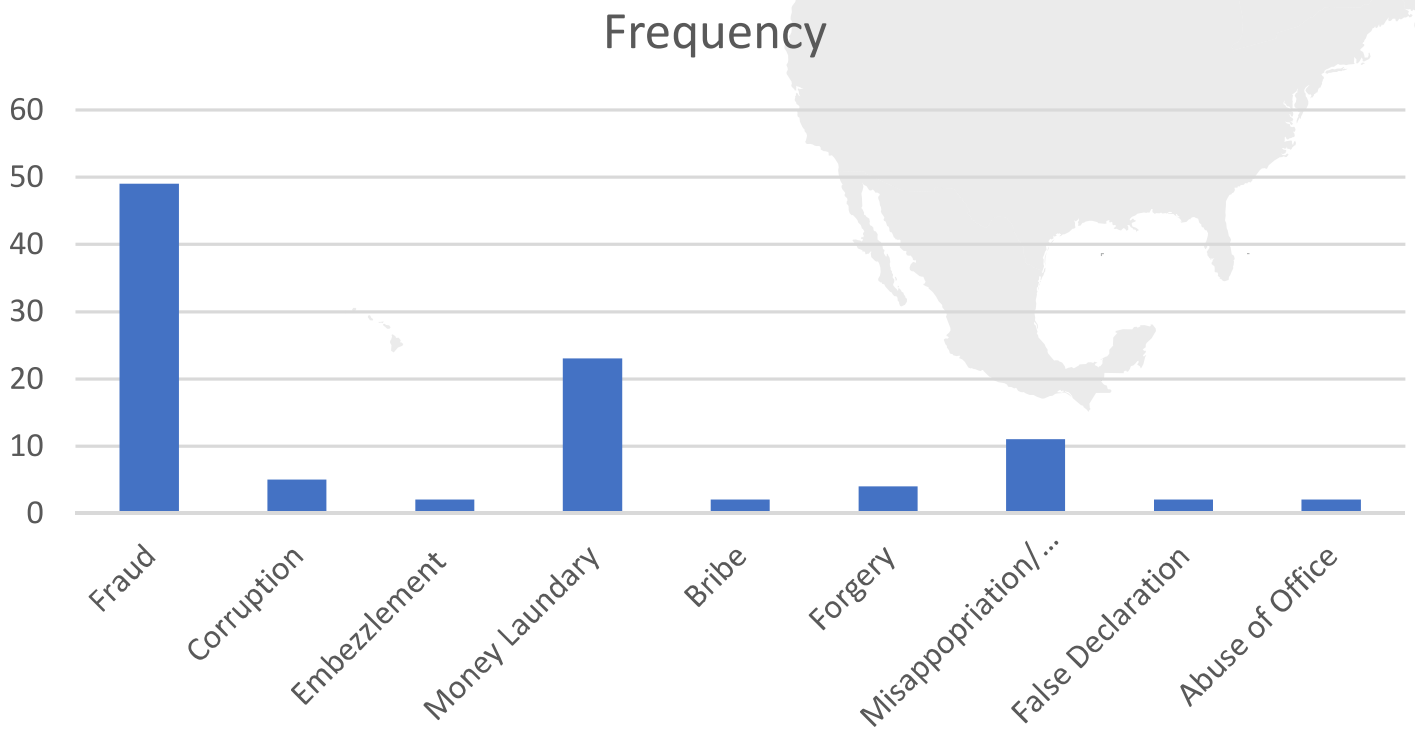
■ Information not available ■ EFCC ■ CCT ■ SPIRPP ■ ICPC ■ NDLEA ■ KSPCACC

Table 4
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Main Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Fraud	49	49.0	49.0	
Corruption	5	5.0	5.0	
Embezzlement	2	2.0	2.0	
Money laundering	23	23.0	23.0	
Bribe	2	2.0	2.0	
Forgery	4	4.0	4.0	
Misappropriation/Mismanagement	11	11.0	11.0	
False Declaration	2	2.0	2.0	
Abuse of Office	2	2.0	2.0	
Total	100			

Results in table 4 shows that of a total of 100 corruption cases considered, 49 (49%) of the cases bordered on fraud, while 23 (23%) were based on money laundering.

General corruption accounted for 5 (5%), while misappropriation or mismanagement of funds accounted for 11 (11%) of the cases examined.



Main Charges

Fig 4: Chart of Charges against Defendants

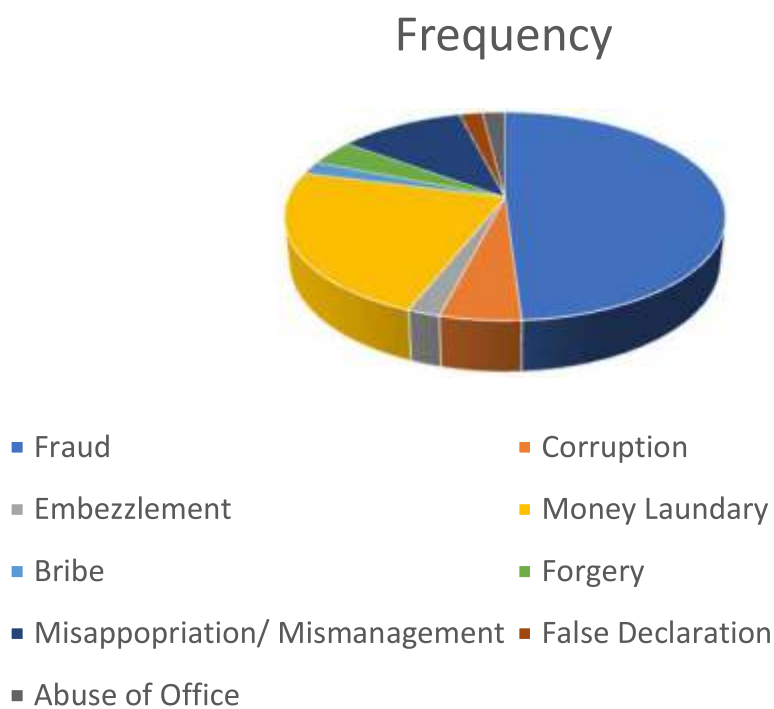


Table 5
Frequency Counts and Percentages of Judgments in the Charges

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Ongoing	60	60.0		
Pending	8	8.0		
Case Dismissed	9	9.0		
Sentenced	5	5.0		
Properties seized	8	8.0		
Convicted but later discharged	3	3.0		
Stalled	2	2.0		
Plea Bargaining	0	0.0		
Under Investigation	2	2.0		
Total	97	97		

Results in Table 5 indicate that a total of the 100 corruption cases considered number of cases under review. Sixty (60.0%) cases are ongoing while 8 (8.0%) are pending. 9 (9.0%) cases were dismissed while in 5 (5.0%) of the cases, defendants were sentenced. The distribution of the status of cases is graphically presented in Figure 5

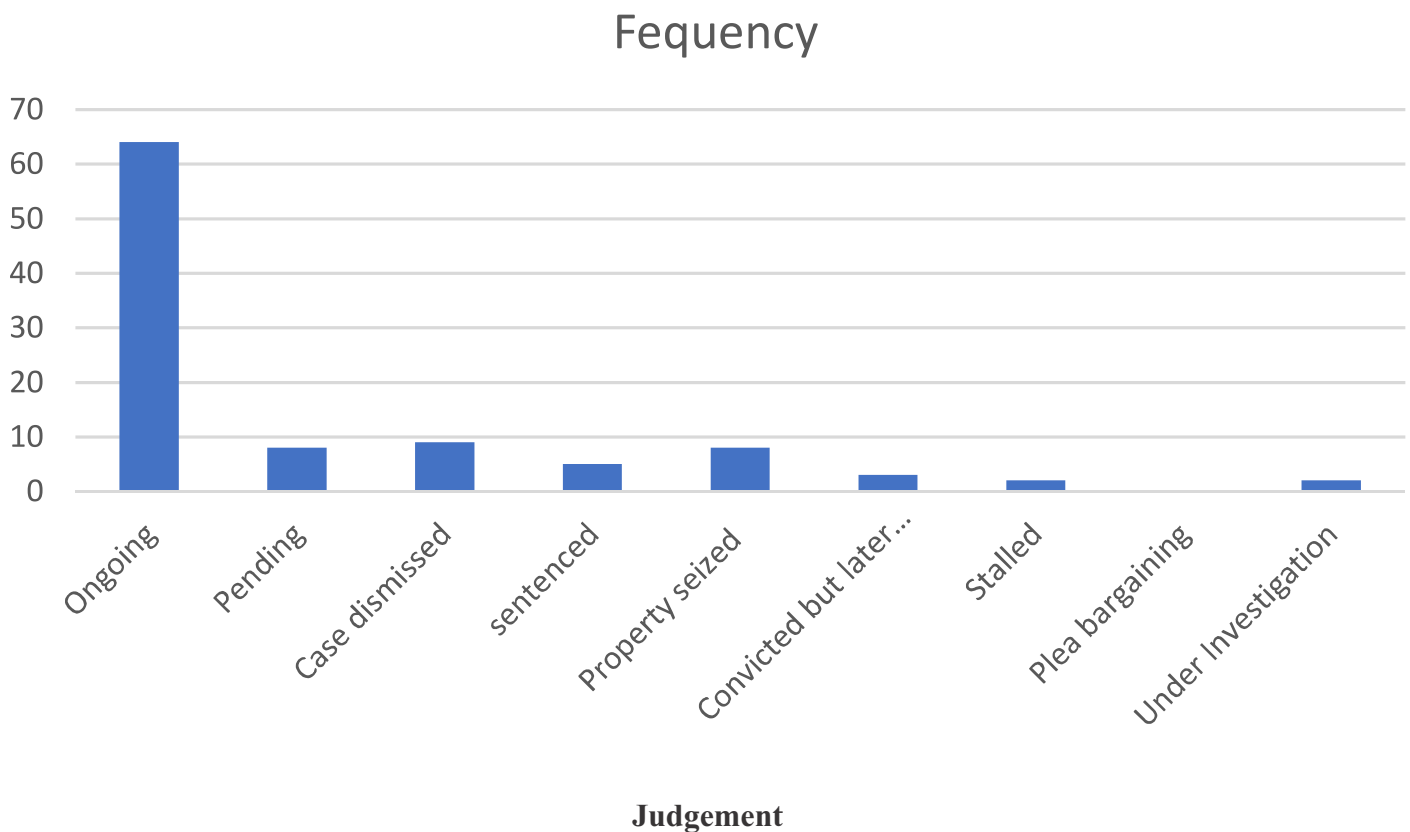
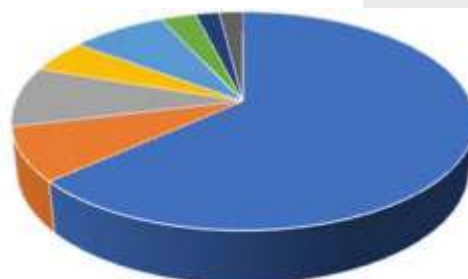


Fig 5: Chart of Status of Cases

Frequency



- Ongoing
- Pending
- Case dismissed
- sentenced
- Property seized
- Convicted but later discharged
- Stalled
- Plea bargaining
- Under Investigation

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

	Frequency	Percent
0-100	81	81.0
100-200	2	2.0
200-300	0	0.0
300-700	0	0.0
700-900	1	1.0
900 and above	4	4.0
Other offences	12	12.0
Total	100	100.0

Results in Table 6 revealed that a total of 100 corruption cases were considered. Out of these, 81 (81.0%) were below 100 billion Naira while two cases were between 100 – 200 billion Naira. This result is graphically presented in Figure 6.

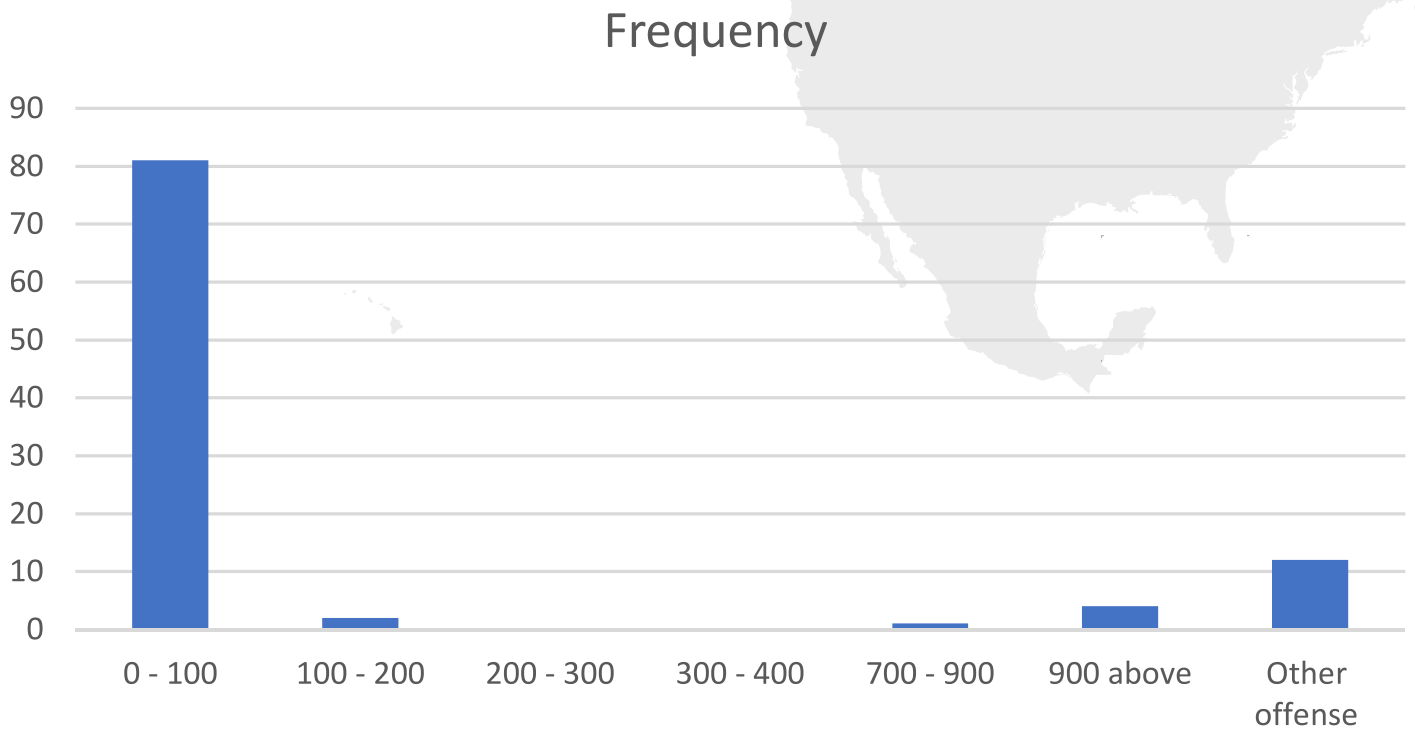


Fig 6: Chart of Amount involved in the cases (Billion Naira)

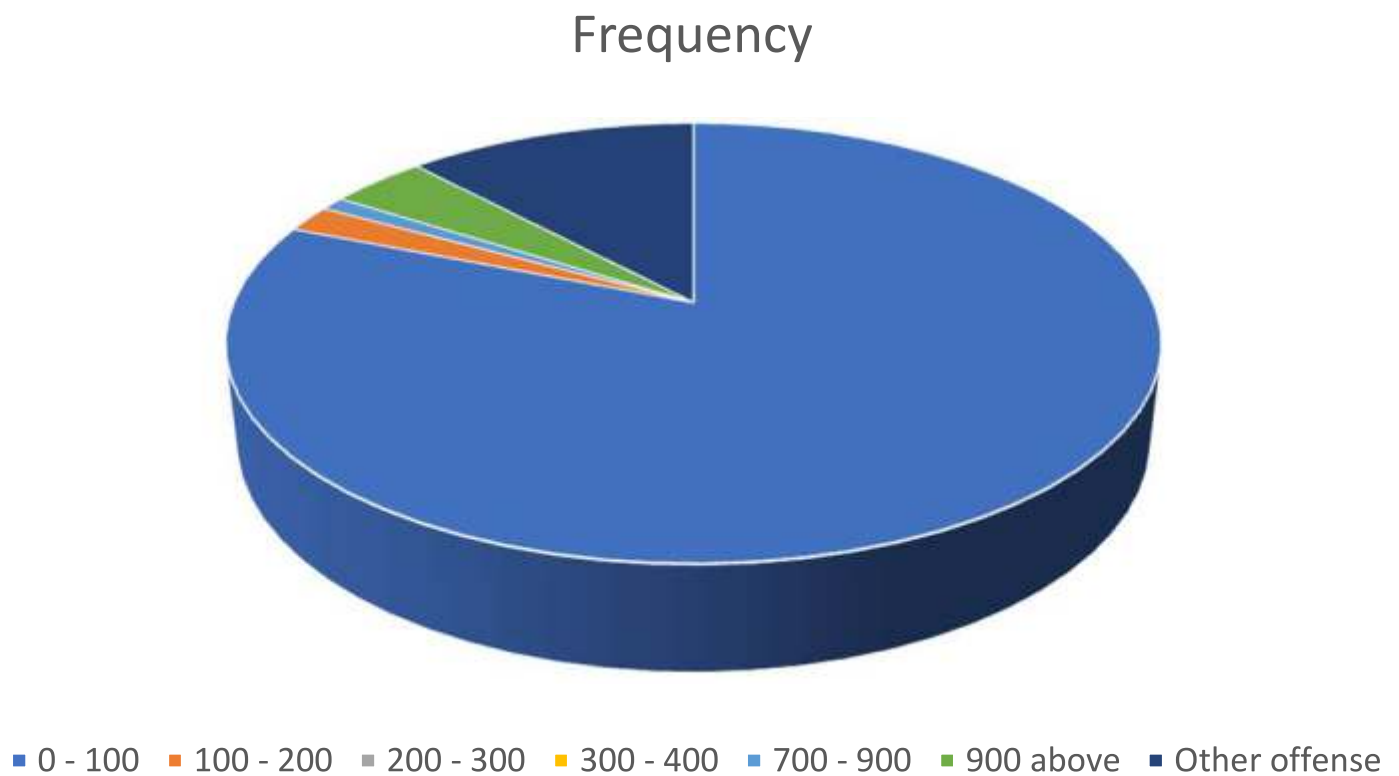


Table 7
Cross-tabulation of Main Charges by Major Defendant in the Charges

	Major Defendant				Total
	Former Minister and Adviser	Senator	Former Governor	Others	
Fraud	8	0	12	15	35
Corruption	2	1	7	2	12
Embezzlement	0	0	2	0	2
Money laundering	3	2	11	10	26
Bribe	1	0	0	1	2
Forgery	0	0	0	2	2
Misappropriation/Mismanagement	0	0	6	2	8
Conspiracy	0	1	2	0	3
Election Scandal	0	0	1	0	1
False Declaration of Assets	0	1	1	1	3
Forfeiture of properties	0	0	0	6	6
Total	14	5	42	39	100

Pearson Chi-Square $\chi^2 = 66.679$; $df = 36$; Asymptotic Significance (2-sided) = .001

Results in Table 7 showed that there was a significant difference in the distribution of charges by major defendant ($\chi^2 = 66.679$; $df = 36$; $p < .001$). More of the former Governors faced charges of fraud, money laundering and misappropriation/mismanagement of funds. The results are as presented in Figure 4.2

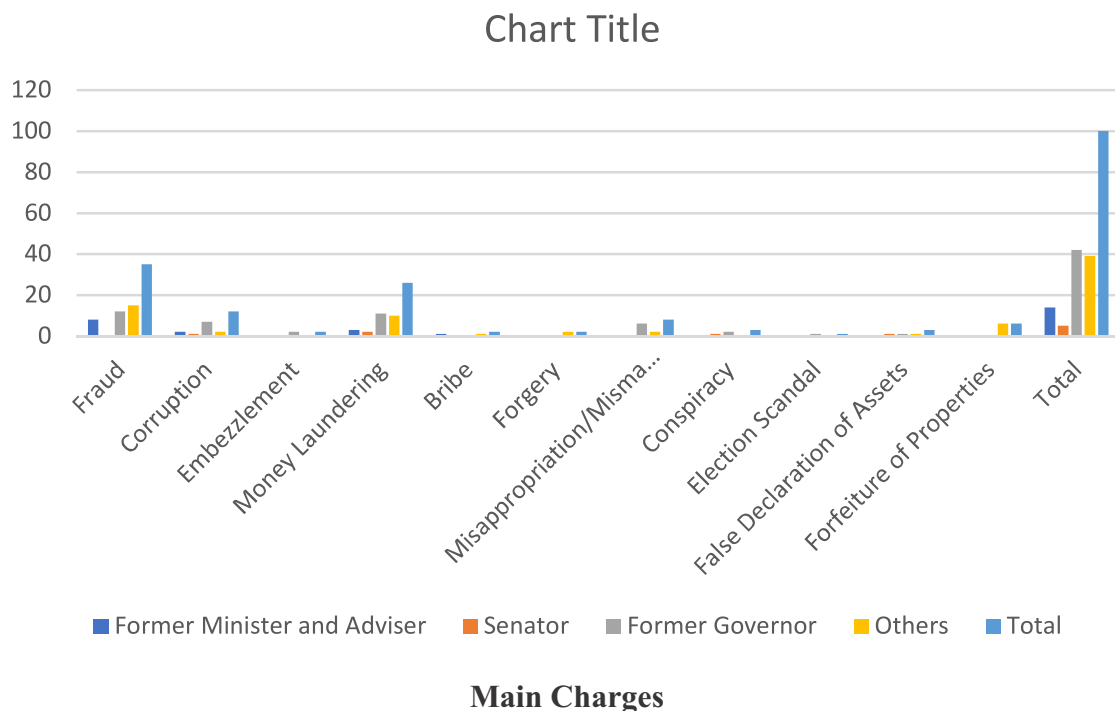


Fig 7: Chart of Charges by Major Defendant

Table 8

Cross-tabulation of Amount in Naira (Billion) Involved in the Charges by Major Defendant in the Charges

	Major Defendant				Total
	Former Ministers and Advisers	Senators	Former Governors	Others	
0-100	10	2	32	37	81
100-200	0	0	1	0	1
200-300	0	1	2	0	3
500 and above	2	0	1	1	4
Total	12	3	43	38	89

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

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

Chart Title

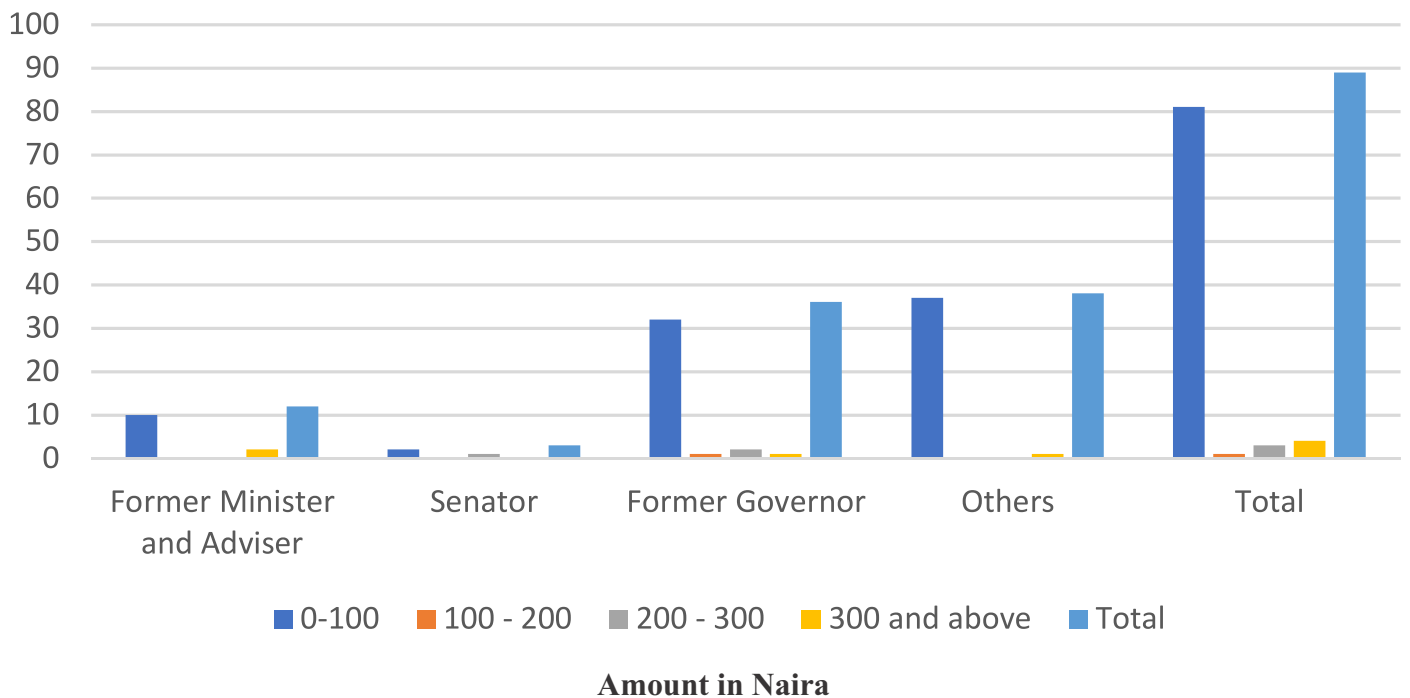


Fig 8: Chart of Amount involved in the cases (Billion Naira) by Major Defendant

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

	Major Defendant				Total
	Former Ministers and Advisers	Senators	Former Governors	Others	
Ongoing	6	2	15	16	39
Pending	2	1	6	9	18
Case Dismissed	3	0	7	1	11
Sentenced	0	0	3	5	8
Properties siezed	1	0	0	6	7
Convicted but later discharged	0	0	1	2	3
Stalled	1	0	4	0	5
Plea Bargaining	0	0	2	1	3
Under Investigation	1	0	2	3	6
Total	14	3	40	43	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 fifteen former Governors have their cases ongoing, six have cases pending against them. Also, whereas sixteen other government officials have their cases ongoing, 9 have the cases pending. The distribution of the case status and major defendant is graphically presented in Figure 9

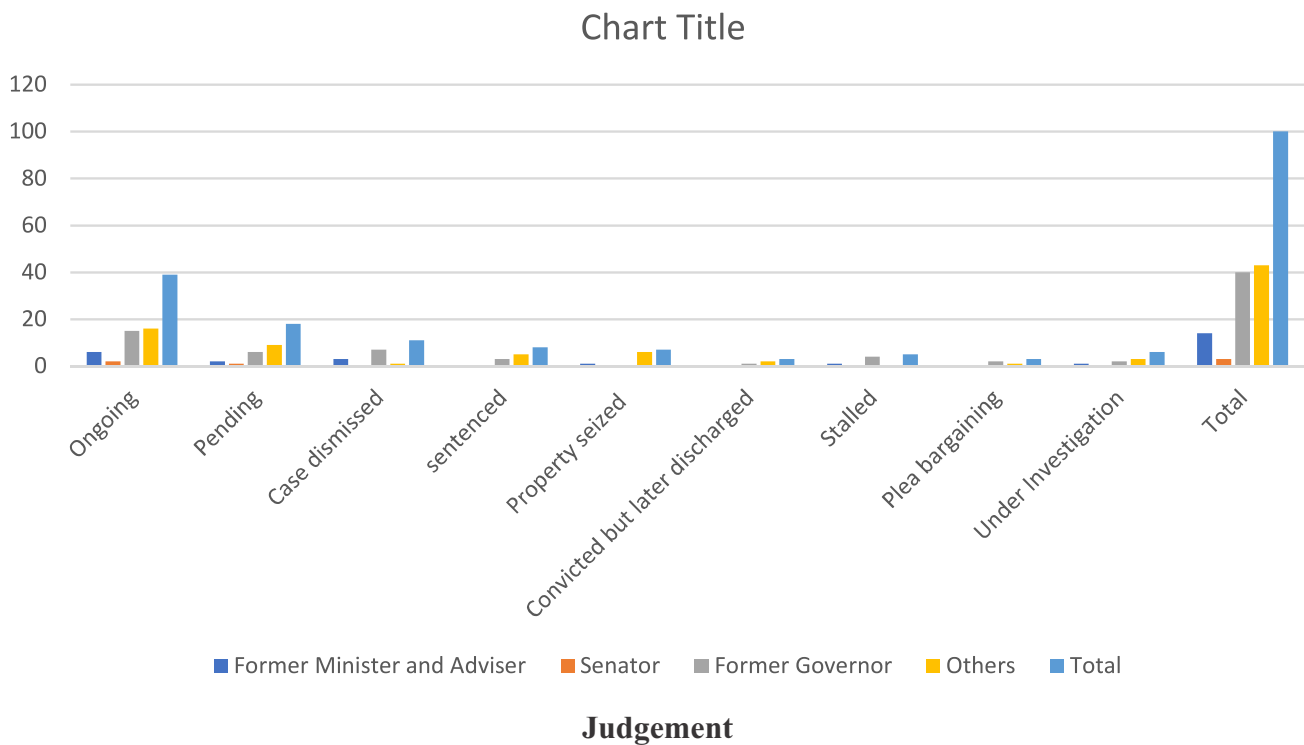
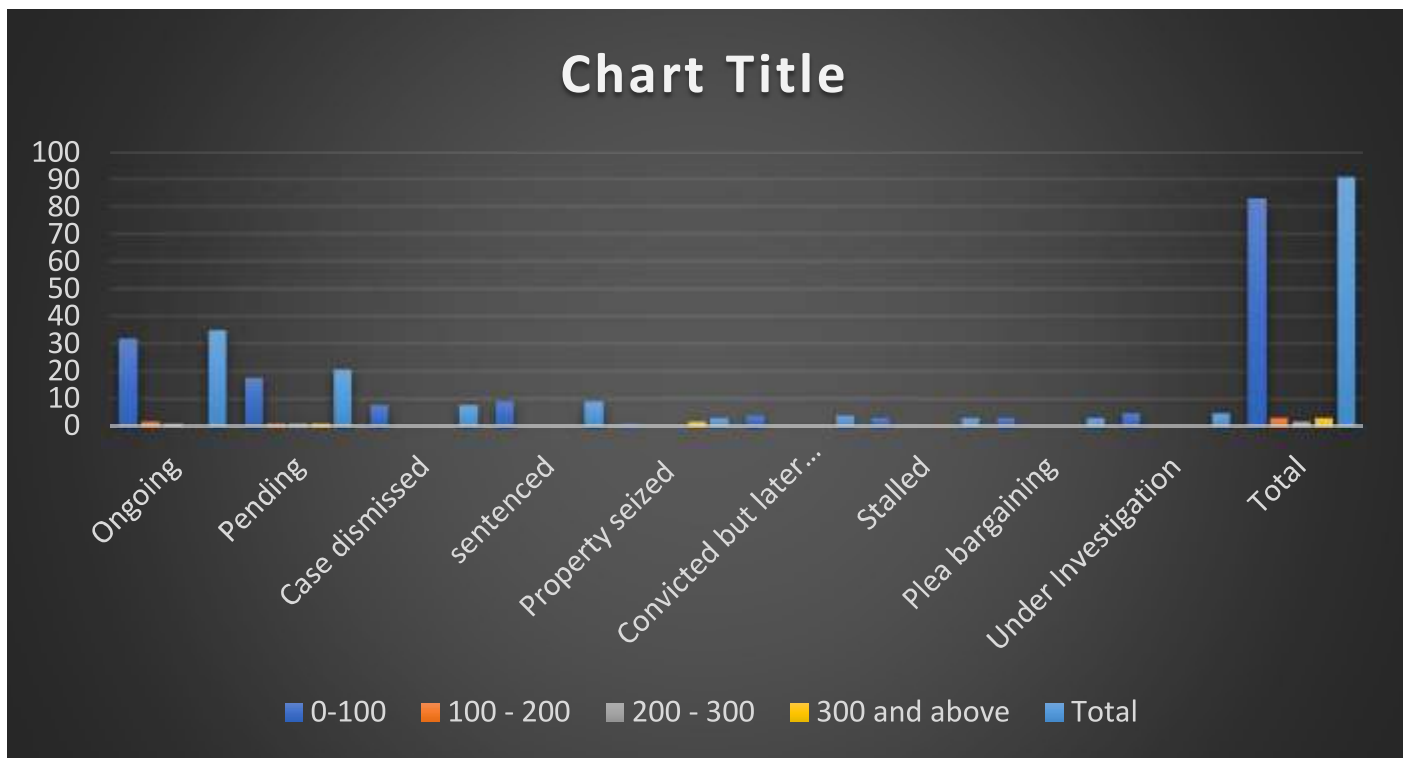


Fig 9: Chart of Status of Cases by Major Defendant

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

	Judgments						
	Ongoing	Pending	Case Dis- missed	Sentenced	Properties seized	Con- victed but later dis- charged	Stalled
0-100	32	18	8	9	1	4	3
100-200	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
200-300	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
300 and above	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
Total	35	21	8	9	3	4	3

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, 11 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



Amount in Naira

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.