

# A COMPENDIUM OF 100 HIGH PROFILE CORRUPTION CASES IN NIGERIA

with

NOTABLE HIGH PROFILE CORRUPTION CASES IN AFRICA

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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 2020.24 It constitutes the most detailed secondary source of information on corruption in Nigeria we had found... ”*

To retain our established high standard of neutrality, integrity and professionalism in the compilation and publication, we increased number of independent researchers contracted to undertake the tedious data gathering in respect of one hundred high profile corruption and financial crime cases beginning from 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 organisaiton'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 8<sup>th</sup> 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**

# FOREWORD



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 documented 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 Spring' 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”.

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)**

## BACKGROUND & METHODOLOGY

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.

## OPINIONS ON 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)**

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.**

“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**

## PROF. USMAN YUSUF - N90.4 MILLION EMBEZZLEMENT AND MONEY LAUNDERING

CASE  
1



On February 3, 2025, the EFCC arraigned Professor Usman Yusuf, former Executive Secretary of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), before Justice Chinyere Nwecheonwu of the FCT High Court, Kuje, on a five-count charge of embezzlement, undue advantage, and fraud involving N90.4 Million.

He pleaded not guilty. The EFCC, through counsel Francis Usani, opposed his bail application, arguing that the offences undermined public welfare, Nigeria's reputation, and development efforts. Usani further submitted that the evidence was overwhelming, that Yusuf had violated earlier administrative bail conditions, and that he might abscond if released.

However, Yusuf's lawyer, O. I. Habeeb, SAN, argued that the charges were bailable offences, that his client had met all necessary conditions, and urged the court to grant bail on liberal terms.

Justice Nwecheonwu initially remanded Yusuf in Kuje Prison pending ruling. On February 27, 2025, the court granted him bail and adjourned the matter for trial. The case is now coming up on November 19, 2025 for trial.



## ANDY UBA, BENJAMIN ETU & HAJIYA FATIMO - N 400 MILLION - FRAUDULENTLY OBTAINED BY FALSE PRETENCE

CASE  
2



RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AGENCY  
ENERGY=EMPOWERMENT=EFFICIENCY

The Inspector-General of Police (IGP) has formally withdrawn the N400 million fraud charge filed against former Anambra

South senator, Andy Uba, after prosecutors informed the court that the matter had been amicably resolved. Uba and his co-defendant, Benjamin Etu, were previously accused of conspiring with a third suspect, Hajiya Fatima (who remains at large), to fraudulently obtain N400 million from businessman George Uboh in 2022.

According to the charge, the defendants allegedly claimed they had the capacity to facilitate the appointment of a managing director of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) in exchange for payment; an assertion the prosecution said was false and constituted an offence under Section 8 and Section 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud Act. The Attorney-General of the Federation had granted approval on July 7 for the police to prosecute the case.

Over several months, efforts to arraign Uba and his co-defendant were unsuccessful, prompting the court on September 24 to warn that an arrest warrant would be issued against Uba if he failed to appear at the next adjourned date.

However, at the latest proceedings, IGP counsel Aminu Abdullahi informed the court that a notice of discontinuance had been filed and served earlier that morning. He further disclosed that the complainant, Uboh, had been fully refunded the N400 million at the centre of the dispute. Defence counsel, C.F. Odiniru, raised no objection to the withdrawal.

With the non-objection, the court granted the discontinuance application, bringing the high-profile matter to a close.

**WILLIE OBIANO (EX-ANAMBRA STATE GOVERNOR) - N4 BILLION EMBEZZLEMENT AND MONEY LAUNDERING**

**CASE  
3**



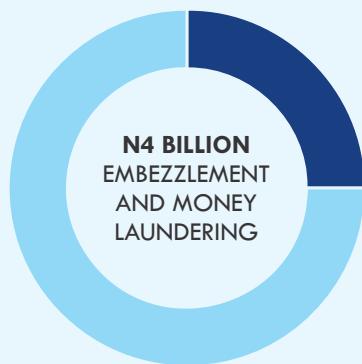
Justice Mohammed Umar of the Federal High Court, Abuja, on Thursday, July 24, 2025 fixed November 25, 2025 for the trial of former Anambra State governor, Willie Obiano.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, is prosecuting Obiano on a nine-count charge bordering on money laundering, diversion of funds, stealing and corruption to the tune of N4 billion.

Obiano's trial is starting afresh under Justice Umar, who was assigned the case on May 8, 2025 by the Chief Judge of Federal High Court, Justice John Tsoho.

The former trial judge, Justice Inyang Ekwo, had fixed May 26, 2025 for continuation of the trial before the reassignment. Justice Umar, who was transferred from Enugu Judicial Division of the Federal High Court could not sit on the date of adjournment and the case was adjourned for Thursday, July 24, 2025 for mention.

Obiano was Anambra Governor between March 2014 and March 2022.



**SENATOR ORJI UZOR KALU - N7.6 BILLION MONEY LAUNDERING**

**CASE  
4**



On March 21, 2025, the Court of Appeal in Abuja granted the EFCC leave to appeal a 2021 ruling of the Federal High Court that barred it from retrying former Abia State Governor and serving senator, Orji Uzor Kalu, over an alleged ₦7.1 billion fraud.

Mr. Kalu had been convicted in December 2019 by the Federal High Court in Lagos and sentenced to 12 years imprisonment alongside his company, Slok Nigeria Ltd, and former state finance director Jones Udeogu. But in May 2020, the Supreme Court overturned Udeogu's conviction on grounds that the trial judge, having been elevated to the Court of Appeal, lacked jurisdiction to deliver the judgement. The apex court ordered a retrial for Udeogu, leading to Kalu's release after he successfully argued that his own conviction was also affected.

While the EFCC sought to restart Kalu's trial, he and his company filed suits to stop the move, contending it would amount to double jeopardy, since the Supreme Court's order for retrial applied only to Udeogu. In September 2021, Justice Inyang Ekwo of the Federal High Court sided with Kalu, ruling that he could not be retried without an express order of the Supreme Court.

The EFCC appealed but suffered a setback in March 2024 when the Court of Appeal struck out its case over procedural lapses. After correcting the errors, the commission refiled the appeal.

Kalu's lawyers objected, insisting the appellate court had become functus officio, but the Court of Appeal, led by Justice Ishaq Sanni, dismissed the objections, noting that the earlier dismissal was based on technicalities, not merit.

The court subsequently allowed the EFCC to file its appeal within 14 days, paving the way for a potential retrial of Mr. Kalu. A hearing date is yet to be fixed.

### **OLU AGUNLOYE - \$6 BILLION DOLLARS MAMBILLA HYDROELECTRIC PLANT FRAUD**

**CASE  
5**



The trial of former Minister of Power and Steel, Olu Agunloye continued on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court, Apo, Abuja.

Giving testimony before the court presided over by Justice Jude Onwuegbuzie, the third Prosecution Witness, PW3, Umar Hussein Babangida, an assistant commissioner of police (ACP), informed the court that the defendant disregarded the directive and resolution of the Federal Executive Council, FEC, meeting of May 21, 2003 by awarding the Mambilla Power Project contract to Sunrise Power and Transmission Company Limited to the tune of \$6billion (Six Billion US Dollars).

Responding under cross-examination by the defendant's counsel, Adeola Adedipe, SAN, the witness disclosed that the FEC meeting, presided over by the then President Olusegun Obasanjo had resolved that the defendant should not award the contract to Sunrise Power and

Transmission Company Limited and directed him accordingly not to do so, but he disregarded the resolution and the directive and proceeded to award the contract to the company. Under cross-examination by defence counsel Adeola Adedipe, Babangida confirmed that the first count in the charge concerns disobedience to a presidential directive.

However, when asked to identify the specific directive within the minutes of that FEC meeting tendered in evidence as "Exhibit EFCC 3(d)", the witness admitted there was no specific presidential directive contained in the document. Babangida testified that he nonetheless recommended that Agunloye be charged for abuse of office, citing his alleged relationship with Adesanya, the promoter of SPTCL. However, when asked to read the specified portion of Agunloye's statement at EFCC already admitted as exhibit which states that he has met Adesanya before, the witness confirmed via the statement that it was not stated in the said statement that Agunloye had met Adesanya before.

Agunloye is being prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on amended seven-count charge, bordering on official corruption and fraudulent award of Mambilla Power Project contract to the tune of \$6 billion (Six Billion US Dollars). He pleaded 'not guilty" to the charges, thus setting the stage for his trial.

Justice Onwuegbuzie, after listening to the testimony of PW3, adjourned the matter till November 3, 10, 12 and December 1, 2025 for continuation of trial.

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

## TUOYO OMATSULI & ORS - N3.6 BILLION FRAUD

CASE  
6



On May 19, 2025, the EFCC re-arraigned Tuoyo Omatsuli, former Executive Director (Projects) of the NDDC, alongside Francis Momoh, Don Parker Properties Ltd., and Building Associates Ltd., before Justice Daniel Osiagor of the Federal High Court, Lagos. They face an amended 46-count charge of conspiracy and money laundering involving over ₦3.6 billion.

The case has a long history. In 2019, the defendants were arraigned before Justice Saliu Seidu, who discharged Omatsuli on a no-case submission while ruling that the other three had a case to answer. Dissatisfied, both the EFCC and the co-defendants appealed. On December 15, 2021, the Court of Appeal, Lagos Division, overturned Justice Seidu's ruling and ordered a retrial. However, Justice Seidu's retirement in 2020 stalled the proceedings, prompting a fresh trial before Justice Osiagor.

At the resumed hearing, Justice Osiagor allowed the proceedings and 34 exhibits already admitted in the earlier trial to be adopted in order to save time and costs. The first prosecution witness, Usman Yusuf Adamu, an EFCC operative, confirmed that 16 witnesses had testified previously and many were no longer easily reachable, with some relocated abroad. The court admitted the earlier records and exhibits (ET01-ET34) as evidence.

The prosecution, led by Ekele Iheanacho, SAN, successfully applied to adopt the previous testimony of the 13th prosecution witness and have the exhibits marked ET01 to ET34 taken as read. With no objections from the defence, the court granted the applications. The matter was adjourned to July 2, 3, and 4, 2025, for continuation of trial.

**The matter has now been adjourned to December, 10 2025 for continuation of trial.**

## AHMED IDRIS (FORMER ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION) - N109 BILLION FRAUD

CASE  
7



A former Accountant-General of the Federation (AGF), Ahmed Idris, on Wednesday 7 May, 2025 informed the court that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) withheld some of the confessional statements he made at their office, amid the alleged N109 billion fraud charges instituted against him.

The ex-AGF disclosed this before Justice Yusuf Halilu of the Federal Capital Territory High Court during a trial within trial proceeding. A trial within trial is a legal process in which lawyers determine whether a statement made by an accused person was voluntarily obtained by the prosecution.

Recall that the EFCC arraigned Idris before the Federal Capital Territory High Court in July 2022.

He was arraigned alongside Godfrey Olusegun Akindele, Mohammed Kudu Usman, and Gezawa Commodity Market and Exchange Limited. All defendants pleaded not guilty, paving the way for trial.

What transpired in court was that when he was led in evidence during the trial within trial by his counsel, Chris Uche, SAN, Idris referred to statements he made concerning allegations of gratification and theft.

He testified before the judge that, *“Apart from the 13 statements brought to court by the EFCC, I made a total of 16 statements on different days during the course of the investigation.”*

Idris informed the court that he was taken to the EFCC procurement unit three times, during which he made additional statements regarding the consultancy in question and the entire process involved in the matter. He also denied writing any of the cautionary words in the respective statements, alleging that they were dictated to him by EFCC investigators. Following his testimony, Justice Halilu adjourned the matter until July 17, 2025 for cross-examination of the former AGF by the EFCC. The case has now been adjourned to November 12, 2025 for continuation of trial.

The ex-AGF and two others are standing trial on charges bordering on gratification, theft, and criminal breach of trust. He is specifically accused of using public funds to purchase properties across Nigeria, but he pleaded not guilty. On February 1, 2024, the former AGF's lawyer, Chris Uche, SAN, alleged that the EFCC coerced his client into making self-incriminating statements under duress. The allegation temporarily paused the main trial and led to the commencement of a trial within trial.



## MELE KYARI (FORMER GCEO, NNPL) – N661 MILLION (CONSPIRACY, FRAUD, ABUSE OF OFFICE, AND MONEY LAUNDERING)

CASE  
8



The case involving the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the immediate past Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPL), Mele Kyari, has been transferred to the Federal High Court registry for reassignment.

Justice Emeka Nwite of the Federal High Court, Abuja, made the decision in respect of the matter marked FHC/ABJ/CS/1641/2025, which was earlier scheduled for a compliance report on September 23, 2025. The development followed an earlier order that temporarily froze four Jaiz Bank accounts linked to Kyari on August 19, 2025. The EFCC, through its counsel, Ogechi Ujam, informed Justice Nwite on the last adjourned date that investigations were ongoing and that the commission required more time to finalize its findings. The commission had argued that the bank accounts in question were under investigation in relation to misappropriation of funds and criminal breach of trust. It also stated that preliminary findings revealed the accounts were connected to Kyari, “who is currently being investigated in a case involving the offences of conspiracy, abuse of office and money laundering pending the conclusion of the investigation.”

Justice Nwite, having presided over the matter during the vacation period, left the case to be reassigned. The Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Justice John Tsoho, may reassign the file back to Justice Nwite or another judge, exercising his discretionary powers.

## ALI BELLO & DAUDU SULAIMAN - N10 BILLION FRAUD

CASE  
9



The Sixth Prosecution Witness, PW6, Remigius Egu in the trial of Ali Bello, Yakubu Isiaka Adabenege, Abba Adaudu and Iyada Sadat on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, narrated before Justice Obiora Egwuatu of the Federal High Court, sitting in Maitama, Abuja, how funds belonging to various Local Government Areas, LGAs, of Kogi State were allegedly diverted and laundered through private accounts.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC is prosecuting the quartet on 18-count charge, bordering on money laundering and misappropriation of public funds to the tune of over N3 billion. Bello, the first defendant is nephew of the former Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello as well as the current Chief of Staff to Kogi State Governor, Usman Ododo.

Meanwhile, The Federal High Court in Abuja on Wednesday 2nd of July, 2025 granted permission to Ali Bello, the accused nephew of former [Kogi State](#) Governor Yahaya Bello, to travel abroad for medical reasons. Judge Obiora Egwuatu granted foreign trip permission to both Ali Bello, the first defendant, and Yakubu Adabenege, the third defendant, on Wednesday. But while Mr. Bello was granted permission to travel to the United Kingdom for medical reasons, Mr. Adabenege got the court's approval to travel for religious purposes. Mr. Adabenege had sought the court's permission to travel for Hajj in Saudi Arabia between 28 July and 27 August.

Justice Egwuatu granted both requests, ordering the release of their passports seized as part of the conditions of the bail earlier granted to the applicants. He also gave deadlines for them to return their passports to the court registrar on returning from their respective foreign trips.

While he asked Mr. Bello to return his on or before 12 September, he ordered Mr. Adabenege to do the same by 30 August. Justice Egwuatu then adjourned proceedings until 13 and 14 October for continuation of trial. The case has been further adjourned to the December 15, 2025 for continuation of trial.

## GODWIN EMEFIELE (FORMER CBN GOVERNOR) - CORRUPTION AND FORFEITURE OF PROPOERTIES

CASE  
10



Justice Ayokunle Faji of the Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos, on Thursday, March 6, 2025, ordered the final forfeiture of \$1,426,175.14 (One Million, Four Hundred and Twenty Six Thousand, One Hundred and Seventy Five United States Dollars, Fourteen cents) linked to a former Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, Godwin Emefiele.

The order followed a motion filed by the respondent seeking to set aside the court's final forfeiture order of June 25, 2024. The court had given the final forfeiture order after a motion on notice filed and argued by Bilkisu Buhari, counsel for the EFCC, which went uncontested by any interested parties.

The motion was supported by an affidavit deposed to by David Jayeoba, an investigating officer with the EFCC who stated that investigation carried out showed that the fund was reasonably suspected to be proceed of unlawful activities "warehoused" in Donatone Limited's (DL)'s Titan Trust Bank account.

Meanwhile, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Monday, June 16, 2025, arraigned the former Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, Godwin Ifeanyi Emefiele, before Justice Yusuf Halilu of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court, Maitama, Abuja, on an eight-count charge bordering on criminal breach of trust, conspiracy, forgery, and unlawful possession of property suspected to be proceeds of crime to the tune of ₦7,831,002,396 (Seven Billion, Eight Hundred and Thirty One Million, Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Ninety Six Naira).

Emefiele is facing trial for allegedly using his privileged position to unlawfully acquire properties and control large sums of money suspected to be proceeds of unlawful activity.

Furthermore, Justice Rahman Oshodi of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on October 9, 2025, admitted more evidence against the former Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Godwin Emefiele, in an alleged \$4.5bn fraud. Emefiele is standing trial on a 19-count charge bordering on receiving gratification and corrupt demand preferred against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). His co-defendant, Henry Omoile, is facing a three-count charge bordering on unlawful acceptance of gifts by agents. The case was adjourned till December 2 and 3, 2025 for mini trial. Emefiele is standing trial on a 19-count charge bordering on receiving gratification and corrupt demand preferred against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

## YAHAYA BELLO (FORMER KOGI STATE GOVERNOR) - N80.2 BILLION FORFEITURE & N110 BILLION FRAUD

### CASE

**11**



On August 6, 2025, the Court of Appeal, Lagos Division, restored the preservation order on 14 properties and ₦400 million linked to former Kogi State Governor Yahaya Bello. The properties include a luxury apartment in Burj Khalifa, Dubai, among others, which the EFCC alleged were acquired with proceeds of unlawful activities.

Originally, on February 22, 2023, Justice Nicholas Oweibo of the Federal High Court, Lagos, had granted the preservation order under the Proceeds of Crime (Recovery and Management) Act, 2022. However, on April 26, 2023, the court struck out the EFCC's suit for final forfeiture on the grounds that Bello, then a sitting governor, was shielded by the constitutional immunity clause under Section 308 of the 1999 Constitution.

Dissatisfied, the EFCC, led by Rotimi Oyedepo, SAN, and other counsel, appealed, arguing that immunity does not cover assets suspected to be proceeds of crime. They cited EFCC v. Fayose and Fawehinmi v. IGP to back their position.

Delivering the lead judgment, Justice Nimpar Yargata held that the trial court misapplied Section 308 and erred in striking out the case, especially since Bello had failed to prove the legitimate origin of the funds used in acquiring the properties. The appellate court consequently restored the preservation order and directed that the case for final forfeiture should proceed.2025.

Also, in a separate proceeding, on July 3, 2025, Justice Emeka Nwite of the Federal High Court, Abuja, adjourned the ongoing ₦80.2 billion fraud trial against Bello. The adjournment followed the absence of the EFCC's fourth prosecution witness, a compliance officer from Zenith Bank. The trial is now set to continue on October 7 and 10, 2025, with further hearings scheduled for November 8 and 9,

Meanwhile, the trial of the former Kogi State Governor, Yahaya Bello, before a High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), on money laundering allegations has been adjourned till November 12, 2025 for continuation of trial. The trial Judge, Justice Maryann Anenih, announced the adjournment on Thursday, 16 October 2025 after the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) called its sixth witness to prove its case against the defendants, which include Umar Oricha and Abdulsalami Hudu, both officials of the Kogi State Government. The witness, just like three previous ones, is an official of another commercial bank in the country.

The sixth prosecution witness (PW6), Mshelia Arhyel B, was then called for evidence in chief. The former governor's lawyer however told the court that he had not concluded the cross-examination of the same witness in another court on a similar subject matter. The court, however, held that the matter before it was independent and that the defence counsel held the discretion to cross-examine or not.

The prosecution asked similar questions posed to the same witness at the June 26, 2025 examination before Justice Emeka Nwite of the Federal High Court. He reiterated that prior to 2023, there was no strict withdrawal limit as long as the amount written on the cheque did not exceed N10 million. The EFCC counsel told the witness to examine the transactions of February 22, 23 and 25, as well as March 3, 2016, up to May 6, 2022. He confirmed multiple transactions of N10 million each but admitted they were within the approval threshold, putting the total transactions as at January 31, 2018 at N707,267,000.

The witness also confirmed certain transactions in December 2016 from the Kogi State Internal Revenue Service, totalling N202 million.

The judge indicated that the session must end at 3 pm and adjourned the case to November 12 and 13, 2025, for continuation of examination of the sixth witness. The third prosecution witness had, at the preceding hearing, said no banking regulation was breached by the defendants. The witness, Williams Abimbola, a Compliance Officer with UBA, had also admitted not being the relationship or account manager of the Kogi Government House account, noting that the transactions were in line with stipulated guideline

## **PATRICK AKPOBOLOKEMI (EX-DG, NIMASA) - N78.5 MILLION FRAUD**



On June 13, 2025, the Court of Appeal, Lagos Division, discharged and acquitted former NIMASA Director-General Patrick Akpobolokemi of alleged ₦754.8 million fraud.

The EFCC had accused him of conspiracy, stealing, and forgery over alleged illegal transfers from the VIMSAS Committee account. Initially arraigned with several others, the case was later narrowed down to him and one co-defendant. At the Ikeja High Court, Justice Raliatu Adebiyi dismissed his no-case submission, holding that the EFCC had established a *prima facie* case on some counts, and ordered him to open his defence.

Akpobolokemi appealed, arguing through his lawyers, Collins Ogbonna and Kunle Gbolahan, that the EFCC failed to link him to the transactions, relying instead on inadmissible evidence and unreliable witness testimonies.

The Court of Appeal agreed, ruling that he was neither a member of the VIMSAS Committee nor a signatory to its accounts, and had not approved or signed any withdrawal instructions. The court emphasized that a trial court cannot rely on inadmissible evidence, even where no objection is raised, and concluded that the EFCC failed to establish any case against him.

In its unanimous judgment, the appellate court set aside the lower court's ruling, struck out the 12-count charge, and acquitted Akpobolokemi, thereby ending the long-standing prosecution in his favour. The EFCC as at the time of this report has not filed any appeal against this decision.

## CASE 13 FATUYI YEMI PHILLIPS - N43.5 MILLION FRAUD



Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on Monday, November 18, 2024, convicted and sentenced Fatuyi Yemi Phillips, Chairman, Natural

Oil and Gas Suppliers Association of Nigeria, NOGASA, to 21 years imprisonment for N43.5m fraud.

The Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on April 5, 2022, arraigned Phillips alongside his firm, Oceanview Oil and Gas Limited, on a two-count charge bordering on obtaining money by false pretence to the tune of N43, 502,000.00. He pleaded "not guilty" to the charges, thereby leading to his full trial.

In the course of the trial, prosecution counsel, M.S. Owede, tendered several documentary evidence and called five witnesses to substantiate the allegations against him and his company. The defence, on its part, called three witnesses during the trial.

Delivering judgment on Monday, Justice Dada held that the prosecution proved its case against the defendants beyond reasonable doubts. Consequently, the judge sentenced Phillips to 14 years imprisonment on count one and seven years on count two, without an option of fine. The sentences are to be served concurrently. The Judge also ordered the second defendant, Oceanview Oil and Gas Limited, to pay a fine of N500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) in respect of count one and another N250,000 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) in respect of count two within 30 days or be wound up. The court further ordered the convicts to make restitution in the sum of \$90,202.00 or the prevailing Naira equivalent to the nominal complainants.

Phillips' journey to the Correctional Centre began when he collected the sum of N43, 502,000.00 from Elochukwu Okoye and Elebana Unique Ventures Nigeria Limited on behalf of WAPCIL Nigeria Limited with a false promise of selling its dollar equivalent (\$98,870.00) to them. He neither returned the naira nor dollar equivalent to the petitioners.

## ABDULFATAH AHMED & ADEMOLA BANU – N5.78 BILLION FRAUD



### CASE 14

On July 22, 2025, the EFCC's Ilorin Zonal Directorate continued its prosecution of former Kwara State Governor Abdulfatah Ahmed and his ex-Commissioner for Finance, Ademola Banu, over an alleged ₦5.78 billion fraud.

At the resumed hearing before Justice Mahmud Abdulgafar of the Kwara State High Court, the sixth prosecution witness, Suleiman Oluwadare Ishola, who served as Accountant-General of Kwara State (2013–2019), testified that in 2015, the administration borrowed ₦1 billion from the UBEC matching grant.

to pay salaries and pensions. He emphasized that neither of the defendants personally authorized the vouchers nor received direct payments. His account corroborated earlier testimony from Lanre Daibu, former SUBEB Chairman, who also confirmed formal government approval for the loan.

Following cross-examination by defence counsel J.A. Mumini (SAN) and Gboyega Oyewole (SAN), Ishola was discharged. The prosecution then called its seventh witness, Stanley Ujilibo, an EFCC Assistant Commander, who was part of the investigation team.

Ujilibo explained that the EFCC acted on an April 17, 2024 petition from the Kwara State Ministry of Justice, which alleged diversion of UBEC funds meant for school infrastructure across the state's 16 LGAs. During the investigation, the EFCC obtained documents from UBEC and banks (Polaris and GTBank), and also interviewed key officials including SUBEB executives and the Ministry of Finance. He stated that both defendants gave voluntary statements in the presence of their lawyers, with no objection raised when the statements were admitted as evidence.

The case was adjourned to October 16 and 17, 2025 for continuation of hearing. Further hearing has been adjourned to December 14, 2025.

## FRED AJUDUA - \$1 MILLION FRAUD

CASE  
15



The trial of Fred Ajudua, a socialite, before Justice M.A. Dada of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, continued on Friday, October 10, 2025, with Ajudua informing the court that he had withdrawn a motion previously filed before the Supreme Court. Ajudua is standing trial for allegedly obtaining the sum of \$1,043,000 - One Million, Forty Three Thousand Dollars from a Palestinian, Zad Abu Zalaf, in fraudulent circumstances.

At the beginning of trial in 2005 before Justice M.O Obadina of the Lagos State High Court sitting in Ikeja, proceedings were stalled, which made his arraignment difficult until the matter was reassigned to Justice J. E Oyefeso and later Justice M. A Dada before whom he was arraigned on June 4, 2018.

At the resumed sitting on Friday, Ajudua's counsel, Olalekan Ojo, SAN, stated that his client had filed a notice of withdrawal at the Supreme Court on August 22, 2025. The motion was initially filed on June 24, 2025.

"We decided to withdraw the motion we filed at the Supreme Court to allow this Honourable Court to deliver its ruling on the bail application." He also submitted an affidavit and a copy of the notice of withdrawal to the court. Ojo noted that although his client is battling chronic kidney disease and severe hypertension, he insisted on appearing in court to comply with his legal undertakings. He, therefore, urged the court to proceed with its ruling on the bail application originally scheduled for July 3, 2025, which had been stalled due to the appeal before the Supreme Court.

Responding, the prosecution counsel, Seidu Atteh, however, argued that the court should await a formal pronouncement from the Supreme Court. "When you file a motion before the court, it is given a number. The applicant has the right to withdraw, but they must wait for a Supreme Court ruling," he argued. Atteh also confirmed that the prosecution had filed a counter-affidavit and a written address on September 26, 2025. Thereafter, the third prosecution witness, Afanda Bashir Emmanuel, an investigator with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), was cross-examined by the defence.

The case was adjourned till October 31, 2025, for cross examination and to November 20, 2025, for continuation of trial.

## WINIFRED OYO-ITA (FORMER HEAD OF SERVICE (HOS) - N3 BILLION FRAUD

CASE  
16



The First Prosecution Witness, PW1, Hamma Adama Bello in the trial-within-trial of the former Head of Service, HoS, Winifred Oyo-Ita on Monday, presented before Justice James Omotosho of the Federal High Court, Maitama, Abuja, video evidence of the defendant writing down her confessional statements unperturbed in the office of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC. The witness tendered the video recording of the confessional statements while being led in evidence by prosecution counsel Faruk Abdullahi to prove that Oya-Ita was never threatened, harassed or put under duress while in EFCC's office against her claim that she wrote her statements under duress in the Commission's office.

Oyo-Ita, the first defendant is facing criminal prosecution by the EFCC alongside her special assistants, Ugbong Okon Effiok, seventh defendant, Garba Umar, fourth defendant and six companies: Frontline Ace Global Services Limited, Asanaya Projects Limited, Slopes International Limited, U and U Global Services Ltd, Prince Mega Logistics Ltd and Good Deal Investments on 18-count charge bordering on misappropriation of funds, official corruption, money laundering and criminal diversion of funds to the tune of over N3 billion. Justice Omotosho adjourned the matter till October 14 and 16, 2025 for continuation of trial. The case has now been further adjourned to December 10, 2025 for continuation of trial within trial.

## DR. OLUFEMI MARTINS THOMAS - \$2.1 MILLION FRAUD

CASE  
17



On July 24, 2025, Justice Ayokunle Faji of the Federal High Court, Ikoyi, Lagos, convicted Dr. Olufemi Martins Thomas, a former Executive Secretary of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), and Kabiru Sidi, a Bureau De Change operator, over a \$2.19 million fraud case brought by the EFCC.

Thomas faced six counts of money laundering involving cash transactions exceeding lawful thresholds without passing through financial institutions, while Sidi was charged with making false statements to EFCC investigators. Both had pleaded not guilty, leading to a full trial.

The prosecution, led by Ekele Iheanacho, SAN, presented six witnesses and argued that Thomas failed to justify the legitimate source of the funds, despite claiming they came from farming ventures. The court noted that money laundering laws require such transactions to pass through financial institutions to ensure transparency.

In its judgment, the court found Thomas guilty of transacting beyond legal thresholds without using financial institutions, and imposed a ₦10 million fine. He was, however, discharged on five other counts. Sidi was found guilty of making false statements to EFCC officials and fined ₦100,000.

This ruling capped a long-running prosecution that had survived a no-case submission and appellate challenges, with the court affirming that the EFCC had successfully established a *prima facie* case.

**CASE  
18****DARIUS DICKSON ISHAKU  
& ANOR - N27 BILLION NAIRA  
FRAUD**

The First Prosecution Witness, PW1, Ismail Lawal in the trial of a former governor of Taraba State, Darius Ishaku on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, testified

before a Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court, presided over by Justice S.C. Oriji how he took delivery of money in cash and in transfers and disbursed them on the instruction of the former governor.

Ishaku, the first defendant, is facing prosecution by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC alongside a former permanent secretary, Bureau for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Bello Yero, 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).

While under cross-examination by Ishaku's counsel, P. H. Ogbole, SAN, the witness stated that "the instructions were verbal, but sometimes through text messages and sometimes through writing on paper."

When asked if such money came from Taraba State Government House, he stated that "there is money collected from the liaison officer, Mr. Dauda, N10 million on December 13, 2020 in Abuja." Citing Exhibit 3, he also stated that on December 11, 2020 that he collected N7million from one Mr Emmanuel Ifun, Director of Finance in Government House.

Giving further breakdown from his hardcover notebook, he said, "Money collected from Perm Sec, 20 December, 2020, N50million; money collected from Perm Sec, on January 12, 2021, N30million; money collected from liaison officer, N15million on January 12, 2021;

on the 27th January, 2021, money collected from Perm Sec, N20million; on the 30th January, 2021, money collected from Mr. Emmanuel Ifun, N4million; money collected from Emmanuel Ifun on 1st January, 2022, N10million; on the same day another N13million, collected from Mr. Emmanuel Ifun."

"On the 3rd of February 2021, I collected N20m again from Mr. Emmanuel Ifun; on the 5th of February, 2021, I collected N6.5million from Mr. Emmanuel Ifun; On the 6th of February, money collected from Mr Emmanuel Ifun, N20million; on the 10th of February 2021, money collected from Mr. Emmanuel Ifun, N14million; on the 10th of February, 2021, money collected from Zenith Bank, N30million. That was part of the money that was sent to my account," he testified.

He further testified that all the entries on the money collected as contained in his notebook were made by him, adding that "this record is strictly between me and His Excellency. Any money I received I recorded it here. It is a record book between me and His Excellency. I kept the record and his Excellency verified it."

**Justice Oriji adjourned the matter till October 20 and November 4 and 6 for continuation of trial.**

**CASE  
19****AYODELE FAYOSE -  
N6.9 BILLION MONEY  
LAUNDERING**

On July 16, 2025, the Federal High Court in Lagos, presided over by Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke, discharged and acquitted former Ekiti State Governor, Ayodele Fayose, after upholding his **no-case submission** in the money laundering trial brought by the EFCC.

The court ruled that the **prosecution failed to establish a prima facie case**, noting that neither the witnesses' testimonies nor the documents tendered were sufficient to link Fayose to the alleged offences.

Justice Aneke also agreed with Fayose's argument that the **predicate offences** forming the basis of the charges "did not hold water," stressing that no co-conspirators were arraigned alongside him and that the evidence lacked credibility.

Fayose, alongside his company **Spotless Investment Ltd.**, had faced an **11-count charge** bordering on laundering over **₦1.6 billion** and allegedly receiving **\$5 million in cash** from former Defence Minister **Musiliu Obanikoro**, bypassing financial institutions. The EFCC claimed the funds were linked to the office of the former National Security Adviser and were used to finance Fayose's **2014 gubernatorial campaign** and property acquisitions through proxies.

However, the judge held that the prosecution's case was riddled with inconsistencies. He found **Obanikoro's testimony unreliable**, questioned the lack of proof regarding the source of funds, and dismissed the bank staff testimonies as unsubstantiated.

He also ruled that Fayose, being a **private citizen at the time of arraignment**, could not be charged with failure to declare assets, a duty limited to public officials.

In conclusion, Justice Aneke held that the EFCC failed to prove its case beyond reasonable doubt and discharged both Fayose and Spotless Investment Ltd. Reacting to the verdict, the EFCC, in a statement on Wednesday, July 16, 2025 by its Head of Media and Publicity, Dele Oyewale, said it is currently studying the judgment and has begun the process of filing an appeal. The EFCC as at the time of this report has not entered an appeal to the said acquittal.



**CASE  
20**

## **ONYEKACHI NWOSU - N50 MILLION LOAN FRAUD**



The **Enugu Division of the Court of Appeal** has upheld the conviction and **seven-year prison sentence** of **Onyekachi Nwosu**, a former senior bank supervisor of **Guaranty Trust Bank (GTB)**, for his role in a **₦50 million loan fraud**.

Nwosu was earlier tried by the **EFCC's Enugu Zonal Directorate** before Justice R. O. Dugbo Oghoghorie of the Federal High Court, Enugu, who on **January 14, 2021**, convicted him on a nine-count charge of **forgery and obtaining by false pretence**. He had used a forged mortgage document to trick GTB into approving a loan for **Floxy Aluminium Odiofele Products Ltd.**, while personally diverting **₦40 million** from the loan proceeds.

During the trial, the EFCC presented four witnesses and tendered 16 exhibits, which convinced the trial court that the case was proven beyond reasonable doubt.

Nwosu was convicted and sentenced accordingly. Unhappy with the judgment, Nwosu appealed, urging the Court of Appeal to set aside the conviction. However, the appellate court, in a **unanimous decision delivered by Justice Zainab Babe Abubakar**, dismissed most of his grounds of appeal. While it set aside his conviction on **counts one to eight**, it upheld his conviction on **count nine**, which specifically established that he unlawfully benefited **₦40 million** from the fraudulent loan.

The Court of Appeal agreed that his own confession, corroborated by prosecution witnesses, proved the offence beyond reasonable doubt. It therefore affirmed the trial court's judgment sustaining his conviction and sentence on count nine.

## MAMMAN NASIR ALI & ANOR - N2.2 BILLION OIL SUBSIDY FRAUD



**CASE  
21**

On May 27, 2025, Justice Mojisol Dada of the Special Offences Court in Ikeja convicted two oil

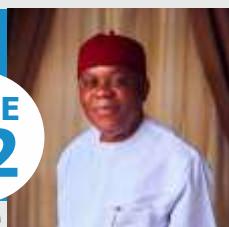
marketers, Mamman Nasir Ali and Christian Taylor, of a ₦2.2 billion oil subsidy fraud and sentenced them to 14 years imprisonment each. Their company, Nasaman Oil Services Limited, was also re-arraigned on a 57-count charge after the case was transferred from Justice Adeniyi Onigbanjo who had earlier withdrawn.

During the trial, the EFCC, led by prosecutor Seiduh Atteh, presented witnesses and documentary evidence showing that the defendants fraudulently obtained over ₦1.48 billion from the Federal Government under the Petroleum Support Fund by falsely claiming to have imported more than 20 million litres of petrol.

Justice Dada held that the evidence against the defendants was compelling, ruling that their actions not only defrauded the government but also undermined the integrity of Nigeria's oil subsidy programme. In addition to their prison terms, the court ordered the forfeiture of assets and accounts linked to the fraud, and issued warrants for the arrest of two other suspects, Oluwaseun Ogunbambo and Olabisi Abdul Afeez, who remain at large.

## THEODORE AHAMEFULE ORJI & ORS - N60.85 BILLION FRAUD

**CASE  
22**



On February 28, 2025, the EFCC arraigned former Abia State Governor, Theodore Ahamefule Orji alongside his son, Engr. Chinedum Orji, Dr. Philip Nto, Onwumene King Obioma, and Romanus K. Madu, before Justice Lilian Abai of the Federal High Court, Umuahia. They faced a 16-count charge bordering on conspiracy, corruption, stealing and diversion of public funds allegedly involving over ₦60.85 billion in security votes between 2011 and 2015.

All defendants pleaded not guilty. Prosecution counsel, Dr. Pinheiro (SAN) applied for a trial date while defence counsel led by Bode Olanipekun (SAN) and others sought bail for their clients. Justice Abai granted each defendant bail in the sum of ₦50 million with one surety in like sum, requiring that the surety possess landed property in Umuahia with a Certificate of Occupancy, depose an affidavit of means, and submit passport photographs. The defendants were also ordered to deposit their international passports with the court. Trial was fixed for June 18 and 19, 2025, later adjourned to November 12, 2025.

In a related development, the Federal High Court in Abuja fixed May 28, 2025, to hear an EFCC motion seeking the final forfeiture of ₦228.4 million allegedly linked to Theodore Orji. Justice Emeka Nwite set the date after EFCC counsel, Fadila Yusuf, confirmed compliance with an earlier interim forfeiture order issued on January 8, 2025.

**CASE  
23**

## HADI ABUBAKAR SIRIKA & ORS - N2.7 BILLION FRAUD



Justice S.C. Oriji of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court Maitama, has adjourned till December 9, 2025 for the adoption of written addresses by the prosecution and defence counsel in the trial within trial of a former Minister of Aviation, Hadi Abubakar Sirika.

Sirika is on trial alongside his daughter Fatima Hadi Sirika, son-in-law, Hamma Jalal Sule on six-count charge bordering on abuse of office and money laundering to the tune of N2.7 billion. Specifically, he is facing prosecution for allegedly conferring undue advantage on Al Buraq Global Investment Limited, a company linked to his daughter while serving as Aviation Minister

In the ongoing hearing of the trial within trial on Tuesday, October 28, 2025, Justice Oriji ordered the counsel to file and serve their written addresses to determine compliance with ACJA Section 15 (4) and 17 (2).

Following claims of the 2nd and 3rd defendants that the statements they made to operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, were not made voluntarily, the judge ordered for a trial within trial to determine if the statements were made voluntarily and in compliance with ACJA Section 15 (4) and 17 (2).

The Investigation Officer and Prosecution Witness 12, PW12, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE II Christopher Odofin stated while giving his examination in chief on Monday, October 27, 2025, that both the 2nd and 3rd defendants were not arrested but invited to the Commission and in the presence of their lawyers.

“They both gave their statements, free of duress, intimidation, and neither were they forced nor promised anything”, he said. Responding to the submissions and testimonies made, Justice Oriji ordered that, “the defendants are directed to file and serve their respective written addresses of the trial within trial within 14 days from October 29, 2025. Prosecution is also directed to file and serve its written address of the trial within trial within 14 days from the date of service of the last written address of the defendant”

**CASE  
24**

**ISMAILA MUSTAPHA (MOMPHA)  
& ANOR - N5.9 BILLION MONEY  
LAUNDERING CHARGE**



Honourable Justice Mojisol Dada of the Lagos State Special Offences Court, Ikeja, has dismissed the no-case submission filed by social media personality Ismaila Mustapha (popularly known as Mompha) and his company, Ismalob Global Investment Limited, in their ongoing money-laundering trial.

Mompha and his firm were arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on January 12, 2022, on an eight-count charge bordering on conspiracy to launder proceeds of unlawful activities, retention of criminal proceeds, failure to disclose assets, and possession

of documents containing false pretences. The prosecution alleges that the defendants conspired to conduct financial transactions amounting to N5.99 billion with the intent to promote fraudulent activities.

After the EFCC presented five witnesses and closed its case, the defence filed a no-case submission, arguing that the prosecution had not established any link between the defendants and the alleged offences.

In a ruling delivered on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, Justice Dada held that the prosecution had established a *prima facie* case requiring the defendants to enter their defence. The no-case submission was accordingly dismissed.

The matter has been adjourned to January 27 and 28, 2026 for the commencement of the defence.



**DR. NURA ALI -  
FORFEITURE OF  
\$49,700 BEING  
PROCEEDS OF  
FRAUD**

**CASE  
25**

Justice Emeka Nwite of the Federal High Court, Abuja, has ordered the permanent forfeiture of \$49,700 recovered from Dr. Nura Ali, a former Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Sokoto State. The funds were seized during the 2023 general elections following a search operation conducted jointly by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Department of State Services (DSS).

Delivering his ruling on October 30, 2025, Justice Nwite granted ICPC's application for final forfeiture, noting that the commission had complied with all procedural requirements, including the publication of a public notice inviting any interested parties to claim ownership of the money. Since no objections were filed, the court held that the application was meritorious and ordered the funds forfeited to the Federal Government. The case originated from an earlier interim forfeiture order made on December 30, 2024, after the ICPC and DSS filed a motion *ex parte* seeking to preserve the funds pending investigation.

According to the supporting affidavit, the money suspected to be proceeds of unlawful activity was discovered in Ali's residence in Kano. The ICPC stated that INEC does not pay staff in foreign currency, and Ali had admitted in his statement to receiving \$150,000 from former Sokoto governors Aminu Tambuwal and Aliyu Wamakko, claiming it was a gift.

Having failed to justify ownership or provide evidence of lawful acquisition, the court has now ordered the permanent forfeiture of the \$49,700 to the Federal Government's account at the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN).

#### OLAJIDE OGUNMOROTI, MICHAEL IGBOMINA & ORS - N5.7 BILLION FRAUD



On May 15, 2025, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) opened its case in the alleged N5.7 billion fraud involving former Access Bank staff, Olajide Ogunmoroti, alongside Michael Igbomina, David Onyeike, and Moses Iruolaje, before Justice O.O. Abike-Fadipe of the Special Offences Court, Ikeja, Lagos State.

The prosecution's first witness, Abdulmajeed Agboola, an Access Bank staff, testified that Ogunmoroti, who was the ICT representative at the bank's Abakaliki branch, manipulated the system by creating fraudulent overdraft limits on customer accounts. This allowed withdrawals from unfunded accounts, leading to transfers worth over N5 billion to various accounts within Access Bank and other banks.

Agboola further revealed that CCTV footage of the activities had been wiped, and during investigations, Ogunmoroti admitted to connecting a private laptop to the bank's server - an action against the bank's policy. The court admitted the bank's petitions as evidence, and the case was adjourned to May 20, 2025 for continuation of trial.

**The case will come up on the November 4, 2025 and subsequently on November 17, 2025 for continuation of trial.**

#### GABRIEL SUSWAM & ANOR - N3.1 BILLION FRAUD



Testifying in his own defence in the ongoing N3.1 billion money laundering trial, Suswam testified before the court on October 23, 2025 that although his official salary as governor was about N700,000, he legitimately earned additional income from large-scale rice farming, which included operating a rice mill and cattle ranch ventures he said were permissible under the constitution for public officers.

“The office of the governor may sound big, but the income is low,” he testified. Led in evidence by his counsel, Mrs. Chinelo Ogozor, the former governor denied receiving any money alleged to be proceeds from the Benue State government's shares in the Benue Cement Company. He also denied instructing one Abubakar Umar, a bureau de change operator, to collect or convert funds on his behalf.

Umar, who testified earlier as the fifth prosecution witness for the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), had claimed he delivered \$15.8 million (equivalent to N3.1 billion) to the Benue State Government Lodge in Maitama, Abuja. Responding to the allegation, Suswam testified, informing the court that “My Lord, I know Abubakar Umar, but in this particular case, I had no transaction with him regarding the facts of this case. At no time did I instruct him to collect the said amount, convert it, or return it to me as alleged in the charge.”

**Consequently, Justice Peter Lifu adjourned the case to November 5 and 12 for continuation of hearing.**

AHMED HUSAIN OLAREWAJU  
& 6 ORS - N96 MILLION  
SUBEB FRAUD

CASE  
28



The Ilorin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has arraigned six officials of the Kwara State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) before Justice Akanbi of the Kwara State High Court for alleged fraud involving N96 million.

The defendants - Ahmed Husain Olarewaju (Director, Finance and Supply), Omole Omololu John (Controller, Finance and Accounts), Fatai Oyerinde (Coordinator, Salary Unit), Mujeeb Ibrahim (Executive Officer, Accounts and Salary Schedule), Salami Temitope Bashir and Dauda Aweda Quozim (both of the Salary Unit) are accused of criminal breach of trust and misappropriation of SUBEB funds between 2018 and 2019. They allegedly diverted over N33 million between September and December 2018, and another N30 million between January and June 2019 from a SUBEB account domiciled at Sterling Bank. The defendants pleaded not guilty to the four-count charge.

While the prosecution sought their remand in custody, the defence applied for bail. Justice Akanbi ordered their remand at the Nigerian Correctional Centre, Ilorin, and adjourned the case to April 16, 2025, for trial. The case has been further adjourned to December 11, 2025 for continuation of trial.

CHUKWUNYERE ANAMEKWE  
NWABUOKU - N868.4 MILLION  
FRAUD

CASE  
29



On Wednesday, July 16, 2025, former Acting Accountant General of the Federation, Chukwunyere Anamekwe Nwabuoku, failed to fulfill his earlier promise to file a no-case submission in his trial before Justice James Omotosho of the Federal High Court, Maitama, Abuja. Nwabuoku, who is facing a nine-count amended charge of money laundering involving N868.4 million, pleaded for more time. The judge granted his request and adjourned the case to November 3, 2025, for hearing on the application.

**N868.4  
Million  
Fraud**

CASE  
**30**

## GRACE UMEZURIKE & ANOR - N1 BILLION INTERIM FORFEITURE



On July 8, 2025, the Federal High Court in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, presided over by Justice Maurine Onyetenu, granted an interim forfeiture order on funds exceeding N1 billion allegedly linked to Ebonyi State Secretary to the Government, Professor Grace Umezurike, and her aide, Ngene Nwanna Onyeabor.

The order followed an ex-parte application by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), which accused the two officials of diverting public funds earmarked for the purchase of rice for Ebonyi residents during the 2024 Christmas celebrations. According to the EFCC, the funds were traced to six United Bank for Africa (UBA) accounts - four belonging to Umezurike, one to Onyeabor, and another to Affordable Multi Services Nigeria Limited.

Granting EFCC's prayers, Justice Onyetenu ordered the interim forfeiture of the monies for 60 days, pending final determination of the case. The court also directed the respondents to publish notices so that any interested parties could show cause why the funds should not be permanently forfeited to the Federal Government. No final forfeiture order has been made by the court as at the time of this report.

N1 BILLION  
INTERIM FORFEITURE

CASE  
**31**

## OLUGBENGA OBADINA - N2.17 BILLION ONSA MONEY LAUNDERING SCANDAL



An investigator with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Bello Umar, has testified that Olugbenga Obadina, Chairman and CEO of Almond Projects Limited, received a staggering N2.1 billion from the office of the former National Security Adviser (NSA), Col. Sambo Dasuki (retd.), without executing any contract.

Umar, who appeared as the first prosecution witness (PW-1), gave this account before Justice James Omotosho of the Federal High Court in Abuja. He was led in evidence by EFCC's counsel, Ibrahim Buba. The case forms part of a broader probe into the alleged diversion of N33.2 billion intended for arms procurement under the administration of former President Goodluck Jonathan. The funds were reportedly meant to combat Boko Haram insurgents in Nigeria's northeast. According to Umar, the EFCC's investigation began following a petition from the NSA's office alleging that Obadina had received full payment for a project that was never carried out. He explained that the investigation involved letters to multiple banks and regulatory agencies, including a request to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), which confirmed Obadina as the owner of Almond Projects Limited. "The total amount of the money is N2.1 billion naira," Umar said, noting the payments were made in six instalments across GTBank and Zenith Bank accounts linked to Obadina and his company.

The EFCC investigator stated that when Obadina was invited for questioning, “all the explanations he gave could not hold water,” adding that no evidence of any executed contract was provided.

Obadina's extra-judicial statement was reportedly taken in the presence of his lawyer, identified as Dr. Nasiru. EFCC prosecutor Buba sought to tender six documents, including payment statements and correspondence from the NSA's office. While Obadina's lawyer, Adeola Adedipe, SAN, raised no objection to the CAC documents and bank statements, he strongly opposed the admissibility of a letter from the NSA dated May 5, 2016, as well as the extra-judicial statement.

Adedipe argued the statement was “not voluntarily made,” claiming Obadina had spent around 40 days in EFCC custody before it was obtained. “In fact, the defendant has to approach a court for his fundamental right and there is judgment to the effect,” Adedipe told the court. He cited violations of Sections 28 and 29 of the Evidence Act and Section 17(2) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), 2015, stating there was no video evidence and no legal representation during the statement's recording.

Buba countered the objections, asserting that the documents from the NSA's office were properly sourced and relevant. “These documents are in the office of the NSA and it is the NSA that is competent to certify them,” he said. He also clarified that the extra-judicial statement was not confessional in nature, and was recorded with a lawyer present. “If the defence is insisting that the statement was not voluntary, the prosecution would be applying for a trial-within-trial,” Buba added.

Justice Omotosho admitted four documents as exhibits - the GTBank and Zenith Bank statements, the CAC confirmation, and one NSA letter. However, he postponed ruling on the admissibility of the NSA's May 5, 2016 letter until December 2, 2025.

The money was allegedly part of funds earmarked by the Federal Government to fight Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast. The EFCC had, in the charge marked:

FHC/ABJ/CR/142/2016, listed Obadina and Almond Project Limited as 1st and 2nd defendants. The money was allegedly paid from the account of the Office of the NSA from the Central Bank of Nigeria without contract award.

The agency said the fund formed part of the proceeds of an unlawful activity of Col. Dasuki and the offence is contrary to Section 15(2), (d) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 as amended in 2012 and punishable under Section 15(3) of the same Act. Obadina was earlier arraigned before Justice Nnamdi Dimgba in 2016.

Justice Dimgba had, on July 4, 2024, adjourned for adoption of final written addresses after the EFCC had closed its case after calling four witnesses and the defendants called two witnesses before he was elevated to the Appeal Court.

## SALEH MAMMAN - N33.8 AND N31.70 BILLION MONEY LAUNDERING SCANDAL



A Federal High Court in Abuja has admitted in evidence the confessional statement made by former Minister of Power, Engr Saleh Mamman, while being investigated over the N33.8 billion money laundering case brought against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Justice James Omotosho, in a ruling on October 10, 2025 dismissed the objection raised by Mamman to the admissibility of the statement he made on February 20, 2024 and eight other statements. The ruling was on the trial-within-trial conducted by the court following claim by the ex-minister that he did not make the statement of February 20, 2024 voluntarily and that he was not supplied with video recordings of the sessions where he made the other eight statements.

Justice Omotosho upheld the case of the prosecution that the defendant volunteered the statement of February 20, 2024 after the words of caution were administered to him as required. The judge held that, as against the defendant's claim that he was not in a good frame of mind when he was asked to make the statement of February 20, 2024, there was no evidence to support such claim.

He found that although the ex-minister claimed to be ill on the said day, he did not ask to be excused, but instead, he directed his lawyer, Mohammed Ahmed, to write the statement for him while he dictated what should be written. The judge also rejected the defendant's claim that he was not sure his lawyer wrote exactly what he dictated and that the lawyer could have added other information outside what he dictated.

Justice Omotosho wondered why the ex-minister, who had promised to call the said lawyer as his witness in the trial-within-trial, failed to do so when he had the opportunity.

Justice Omotosho said he ought to have applied to the court to order the prosecution to provide him with all the materials he requires if indeed he actually wanted them. The judge held that the right to adequate facilities to prepare defence is not automatic, adding that he was to apply to the court to order the prosecution to make the video available to him; an option he failed to take. Justice Omotosho found that the ex-minister failed to prove that he was forced to make the confessional statement, adding that his complaint that he was not given the video recordings was belated. He proceeded to admit the nine statements in evidence and adjourned till November 3, 2025 for continuation of trial.

Apart from the statement he made on February 20, 2024, other statements admitted by the court included those the defendant made on May 10, 2023; May 11, 2023; May 12, 2023; May 15, 2023; May 17, 2023; May 19, 2023; August 3, 2023 and August 29, 2023.

Mamman, who was a minister under former President Muhammadu Buhari from 2019 to 2021, was accused by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in a 12-count charge of diverting N33,804,830,503.73 released for the Mambilla and Zungeru Hydroelectric Power Plant Projects by the Federal Government.

The EFCC said the offence was contrary to Sections 18(a), 15(2)(b) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 (as amended), and punishable under Section 15(3) of the same Act.

Meanwhile, the EFCC has filed a fresh nine-count charge against the former Minister of Power, Saleh Mamman, accusing him of complicity in a N31.70 billion fraud before the Chief Judge, Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf. In the charge marked: CR/375/25, which was filed before a High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, the anti-graft agency alleged that the erstwhile Minister perpetuated the fraud between 2019 and 2022. Seven other persons - Mustapha Abubakar Bida, Joseph Omotayo Adewunmi, Ben Nsikak, Stephen Ojo, Oladipo Adebawale, Micheal Achua, Ogunjobi Olusola were also cited as defendants in the case.

EFCC alleged that the defendants conspired and used bank accounts of various private companies to siphon funds from the coffers of the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing, on false pretence that it was used for the payment of compensations. According to the anti-graft agency which filed the charge in the name of the Federal Government, the defendants committed an offence contrary to Section 8(a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act.



## **AUGUSTINE OJO OLOWONIYAN & ANOR - N1.93 BILLION FRAUD**



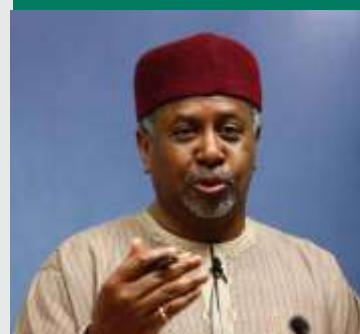
## CASE 33

On May 15, 2025, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) presented its first prosecution witness, William Abimbola, in the trial of a former Deputy Director of Highways at the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, Augustine Ojo Olowoniyi and a surveyor, Sulaiman Abdulkadir Mohammed, before Justice Jude Onwuegbuzie of the FCT High Court, Apo, Abuja. The defendants are facing a three-count charge of alleged diversion and misappropriation of N1.93 billion meant for the acquisition of titles for federal roads between March 2019 and July 2020.

Abimbola, a compliance officer with UBA, told the court that the EFCC had written to the bank requesting details of accounts linked to the defendants and another customer, Ogueri Paschal. He confirmed that the statements of account and account opening documents were retrieved from the bank's system, verified, and sent to the EFCC with a certificate of identification. The court admitted several documents, including EFCC's letters and UBA's responses, as exhibits. The case was adjourned to May 26 and 29, 2025, for continuation of hearing.

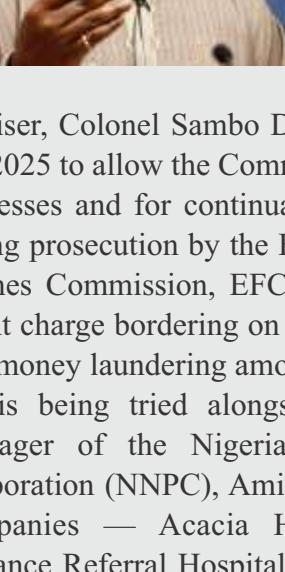
In a separate but related matter, another witness, Remigius Ugwu, a staff of Zenith Bank, also testified against Olowoniyan. He confirmed that the EFCC, in 2021 and 2023, requested details of accounts belonging to the first defendant and other customers, Olasehinde Jolami and Mohammed Ahmad. Ugwu explained that his team printed and verified the account statements before forwarding them to the EFCC with a certificate of identification.

The court admitted EFCC's letters to Zenith Bank and the bank's replies as evidence. Justice Onwuegbuzie adjourned this case to June 5 and 11, 2025, for further hearing. The case has now been adjourned to November, 18, 2025 for continuation of trial.



# COLONEL DAMBO DASUKI - N33.2 BILLION ARMS PROCUREMENT FRAUD

## CASE 34

High Court, Abuja on Tuesday, October 8, 2025 adjourned the trial of former National Security Adviser, Colonel Sambo Dasuki (retd) to October 31, 2025 to allow the Commission update its list of witnesses and for continuation of trial. Dasuki is facing prosecution by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on an amended 32-count charge bordering on criminal breach of trust and money laundering amounting to N33.2 billion. He is being tried alongside a former General Manager of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Aminu Baba-Kusa, and two companies — Acacia Holdings Limited and Reliance Referral Hospital Limited. They pleaded “not guilty” to the charges when they were read to them.

Testifying before the court, an EFCC detective, Adariku Michael, stated that the anti-graft agency acted on intelligence report in September 2015 alleging large-scale movement of funds by the ONSA between October 2014 and April 2015 adding that the case was assigned to a special task force led by ACE 1 Halimah Kazeem, and that investigation activities began with a letter to the CBN. Solomon Umoh, SAN, counsel to Baba-Kusa objected to Micheal's testimony arguing that his name was not included on the EFCC's original witness list.

Responding, counsel to the EFCC, O. Atolagbe explained that the witness had earlier testified before the chief judge and that the witness already tendered documents to the court. Atolagbe further informed the court that the matter before the court had lasted for almost ten years, prompting him to request for an adjournment to regularise the list of witnesses the Commission has which was not objected by the defence.

**After hearing from both sides, the judge adjourned the matter to October 31, 2025 for continuation of trial.**

**MUIZ TIJANI ADEYINKA –  
N35 BILLION FRAUD &  
FINAL FORFEITURE OF  
PROPERTIES.**

On April 10, 2025, Justice Dehinde Dipeolu of the Federal High Court in Ikoyi, Lagos, ordered the final forfeiture of seven properties linked to Muiz Tijani Adeyinka, a former staff of First Bank Plc. The ruling followed an application by the Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), filed through its counsel, Zeenat Atiku. The EFCC had earlier secured an interim forfeiture order and published it in a national newspaper, inviting interested parties to show cause within 14 days. With no objections received, the commission proceeded with its application for final forfeiture.

According to an affidavit deposed to by EFCC operative, Isah Yusuf Nadabo, Tijani, who worked at the bank's settlement office, exploited privileged access to carry out fraudulent activities against First Bank. Investigations revealed that he and his associates illicitly benefitted from about ₦35 billion which was traced to the acquisition of the forfeited properties.

After reviewing the evidence, Justice Dipeolu ruled in favour of the EFCC and ordered the permanent forfeiture of the assets to the Federal Government.

**PROFESSOR PETER OGBAN –  
MANIPULATION OF ELECTION  
FOR SENATE PRESIDENT  
GODSWILL AKPABIO**

**CASE  
36**



On April 30, 2025, the Court of Appeal in Calabar upheld the conviction of Professor Peter Ogban, a University of Calabar soil science lecturer, who was jailed in 2021 for rigging the 2019 Akwa Ibom North-West senatorial election in favour of Godswill Akpabio. Ogban, who served as a returning officer, had falsified results in Oruk Anam and Etim Ekpo LGAs, including adding about 5,000 fake votes to boost the APC's tally.

Although Akpabio, now Senate President, lost that election to PDP candidate Chris Ekpenyong, the case marked a significant precedent as the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) successfully prosecuted Ogban. Despite pleading for leniency, the trial judge, Augustine Odokwo, sentenced him to three years' imprisonment, noting that the prosecution proved its case beyond reasonable doubt.

Similarly, another academic, Professor Ignatius Uduk of the University of Uyo, was convicted and sentenced to three years for falsifying election results in Essien Udim Constituency during the 2019 polls. Uduk, who acted as INEC's collation and returning officer, manipulated results in favour of APC's Nse Ntuen, an ally of Akpabio. He was later granted bail by a State High Court in Uyo.

Both cases highlight INEC's rare but successful prosecutions of academics who compromised Nigeria's electoral process through fraudulent result declarations.

**JUDE OKOYE (BROTHER & EX-P-SQAURE MANAGER) - N1.38 BILLION FRAUD**



**CASE  
37**

On June 4, 2025, Justice A. Owoeye of the Federal High Court in Ikoyi, Lagos, adjourned to October 23, 2025, the hearing of the alleged ₦1.38 billion fraud case involving Jude Chigozie Okoye, elder brother and former manager of the music duo Paul and Peter Okoye. Jude and his company, Northside Music Limited, are facing a seven-count charge by the EFCC bordering on money laundering, including allegations that he acquired a property worth ₦850 million with proceeds of unlawful activity.

At the resumed trial, the first prosecution witness, Peter Okoye, told the court under cross-examination that he never signed cheques or had access to company accounts while with Northside Entertainment. He admitted receiving payments from the company's Ecobank account but insisted they were not royalties, as the account also handled millions from endorsements and performances. Peter further revealed he was unaware of the existence of Northside Music Limited until late 2022 and that he never received proceeds from Lex Records.

Jude Okoye had pleaded not guilty when first arraigned on February 26, 2025. The case is slated to continue on October 23 and November 10, 2025.

**The case remains stalled with no updates on trial progress.**

**N1.38 BILLION FRAUD**

**ADEFOWORA ABIODUN OLANIPEKUN & 2 ORS - \$1 BILLION CBEX PONZI SCHEME FRAUD**

**CASE  
38**



**SEYI OLOYEDE**  
Oloyede's last known address is at No. 106, Idumegbede Road, Lagos State.



**EMMANUEL UKO**  
Uko's last known address is at No. 106, Idumegbede Road, Lagos State.



**ADEFOWORA OLUWANISOLA**  
Oluwanisola is 37 years old and her last known address is at 15...



**ADEFOWORA ABIODUN OLANIPEKUN**  
Olanipekun is 44 years old and his last known address is at 15...

The trial of two of the promoters of Crypto Bridge Exchange (CBEX) over allegations bordering on investment fraud was stalled on Monday, 13 October 2025 due to the absence of the prosecution lawyer.

Justice Mohammed Umar had, in July, 2025 fixed Monday for the trial of Awerosuo Otorudo and Chukwuebuka Ehirim, after they were admitted to bail. However, when the matter was called on Monday, only counsel for the defendants, Justice Otorudo, was in court.

It was, however, learnt from the court record that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)'s lawyer had earlier filed a letter seeking an adjournment of the case. Justice Umar subsequently adjourned the matter until November 5, 2025 for the commencement of the trial. The judge had granted the duo bail in the sum of N10 million each with two sureties each in like sum.

The commission had arraigned the defendants on an amended three-count charge over allegations bordering on illegal financial operations and unlicensed investment activities. In the charge marked: FHC/ABJ/CR/216/2025, the defendants were alleged to have collected public funds and promised up to 88 per cent returns on investment without regulatory approval.

They, however, pleaded not guilty to the amended counts. CBEX was one of several digital platforms that collapsed after allegedly collecting billions of naira from unsuspecting investors.

Recall that Justice Nwite had earlier, on April 24, 2025, authorized the EFCC to arrest and detain six CBEX operators, including Abiodun, Otorudo, Ehirim, Oluwanisola Adefowora, Emmanuel Uko, and Seyi Oloyede, over the alleged scam. Defence counsel urged the court to vary that detention order and grant bail, citing health concerns for Abiodun, but the prosecution strongly opposed, stressing that the fraud exceeded \$1 billion which was larger than the combined budgets of several Nigerian states, and that petitions from victims were still pouring in.

In his ruling, Justice Nwite agreed with the EFCC, noting that the defence had not proven that the commission could not provide medical care for the defendants. He therefore dismissed the bail applications, directing that the matter proceed before the trial court where the charges are pending.



**CASE  
39**

**OBA OTUDEKO -  
N12.3 BILLION  
FRAUD**

On July 23, 2025, the Federal High Court in Lagos, presided over by Justice Chukwujekwu

Aneke, struck out the criminal charge filed by the EFCC against Honeywell Group Chairman, Oba Otudeko, former First Bank Managing Director, Olabisi Onasanya, former Honeywell board member, Soji Akintayo and Anchorage Leisure Ltd.

The EFCC had earlier filed a 13-count charge against them, but the matter was adjourned in March 2025 after counsel informed the court that the Attorney General had convened a meeting to explore settlement. At Wednesday's proceedings, both prosecution and defence counsel confirmed that all issues had been fully resolved between the defendants and the nominal complainant, First Bank.

The EFCC, through its counsel Rotimi Oyedepo (SAN), recalled the settlement process and invoked Section 180 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2015, arguing that discontinuance was in the interest of justice and public policy. Defence counsel and counsel for First Bank all confirmed the settlement.

**Justice Aneke consequently struck out the charge.**



**HALIMA BUBA &  
ANOR - \$12 MILLION  
MONEY LAUNDERING**

Mr. Trinity Usman, an Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)'s witness on

Friday, 17 October 2025 testified before the Federal High Court in Abuja that he received and transferred three million dollars into Mrs. Aisha Achimugu's company account. Usman, the 2nd prosecution witness (PW-2), told Justice Emeka Nwite while being led in evidence by the EFCC's lawyer, Ekele Iheanacho, SAN.

The PW-2, a Bureau De Change (BDC) operator, testified in the ongoing trial of Halima Buba, Managing Director of SunTrust Bank, and her co-defendant, Innocent Mbagwu, the Executive Director/Chief Compliance Officer of the bank. The duo are being prosecuted on money laundering offences to the tune of \$12 million.

In a six-count charge, they were alleged to have aided high-value cash transactions without routing them through a financial institution. The offence is said to be contrary to Section 21(a), 2(1), and 9(1)(d) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022, and punishable under Section 19(2)(b) of the same Act.

The defendants were, on June 13, 2025 arraigned by the anti-graft agency. They, however, pleaded not guilty to the counts, and admitted to a N100 million bail with one surety, each in like sum.

At the resumed trial, the witness said he was in court to tell what he knew about the transactions he did with Oceangate Engineering Oil & Gas Ltd, owned by Achimugu. Usman testified before the court that he did the transactions with Triple A and Tee Oil Nig Ltd. But when Iheanacho asked the PW-2 if his BDC company, Triple A and Tee BDC Ltd, featured in the transaction, counsel for the 1st defendant (Buba), Johnson Usman, SAN, raised an objection. The senior lawyer argued that Iheanacho's question was a ploy to give the witness tips on what to say and the judge directed him to rephrase the question.

The witness said that the licence of Triple A and Tee BDC Ltd, as at the time of the transactions, had been suspended. He said the cash transactions from Ciroma were made through his staff. He mentioned the names of the staff as Abdulkadir Mohammed and Kabir Haruna.

The BDC operator also said that he equally did a naira to dollar transaction with Ciroma. "The naira was transferred into Triple A and Tee Service Venture Ltd Bank account. "The naira also was converted into dollars and I sent the equivalent into Oceangate account," he said. However, during cross-examination by Buba's counsel, Usman SAN, the witness was asked to confirm to court that Triple A and Tee BDC Ltd had been in operations till date and he responded in affirmative. "After they suspended our licence, we proposed Triple A and Tee BDC Ltd to CBN last year and we have an approval in principle with CBN," the witness responded. "Ciroma Suleiman contacted you in these transactions because he knows you as BDC operator?" the lawyer asked and the PW-2 responded in affirmative.

When Usman asked the witness that it was on the basis of that knowledge that the PW-2 sent his staff to collect the dollars from Ciroma, Iheanacho objected to the question. The witness admitted that he did not tell the defendants before the transactions that his BDC license was suspended at any time. He said his oil company account was used for the transactions because it was the account he had available dollars. 'The choice of using your oil and gas company account to transfer the dollars to Oceangate was your own decision,' the lawyer asked and the witness responded in affirmative.

Counsel to the 2nd defendant (Mbagwu), M.S. Ibrahim, SAN, asked the witness if he made any profit from the transactions and he responded in affirmative. "Did you tell the defendants whom you have never seeing or know before that you were going to make inflow payment from your oil and gas company's account?" Ibrahim asked and the PW-2 said, "No." After the cross-examination, the witness was discharged and Justice Nwite adjourned the matter until Dec. 10 and Dec. 11 2025 for continuation of trial.

Earlier on Thursday during the cross-examination of Suleiman Ciroma, the owner of Funnacle BDC Ltd and the PW-I by Usman SAN, the witness said the reason Achimugu requested for the transfer of the money was that if she had deposited the money in cash in the bank, she would not be able to transfer same.



On June 17, 2025, the EFCC's Port Harcourt Zonal Directorate arraigned Ugochukwu Joseph Nwaemere, Executive Director of Pennhydro-Pell Oil and Gas Limited, before Justice E.A. Obile of the Federal High Court, Port Harcourt. He faces a 10-count charge of conspiracy, forgery, and obtaining money under false pretence involving N750 million.

The EFCC alleged that in April 2023, Nwaemere and a co-conspirator, now at large, fraudulently obtained a loan from Polaris Bank by claiming to have secured a contract for dredging and stockpiling sand on the Bodo-Bonny Road Project. To support the claim, he allegedly forged an invoice purportedly cleared by Julius Berger Nigeria Plc. Nwaemere pleaded not guilty to all charges. While the prosecution sought a trial date, his counsel applied for bail. Justice Obile ordered his remand at the Port Harcourt Correctional Centre and adjourned to June 21, 2025 for ruling on the bail application.

Investigations revealed that the contract claim was false, and despite efforts, the bank has been unable to recover the funds. The case has now been adjourned to the 13th of November, 2025 for trial.



CASE  
42

**YUSUF YAHAYA  
KWANDE, OSAHON  
ASEMOTA & ORS -  
\$8.4 MILLION FRAUD**

Yusuf Yahaya-Kwande was acquitted and discharged on May 6, 2025 by Justice Mojisol Dada in a long-standing oil dispute case after the Attorney General's office took over the case from police prosecutors and filed a Notice of Discontinuance. He was initially being prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in relation to an \$8.4 million fraud trial involving oil marketers which began in 2018.

It will be recalled that the EFCC had charged Yusuf Yahaya-Kwande and others with defrauding Nigerian companies of Automotive Gas Oil (AGO) worth N200 million and \$8,442,806.094.

CASE  
43

**STEVE OLUSEGUN OGIDAN -  
N1.5 BILLION FINAL  
FORFEITURE (NIRSAL)**



On June 20, 2025, the Court of Appeal, Abuja Division upheld a Federal High Court ruling ordering the final forfeiture of ₦1.582 billion to the federal government through the EFCC from Steve Olusegun Ogidan,

former National Coordinating Consultant of NIRSAL. Ogidan, investigated alongside former NIRSAL MD Aliyu Abba Abdulhameed, was accused of criminal breach of trust, bribery, and money laundering. EFCC findings showed he collected bribes from consultants he was meant to supervise, leaving the projects undone. An interim forfeiture order had earlier been granted in February 2024.

Dissatisfied, Ogidan and Abdulhameed appealed, arguing that Section 17 of the Advance Fee Fraud Act was wrongly applied. The Court of Appeal, however, unanimously dismissed the appeal. In the lead judgment, Justice Okon Abang held that the trial court acted properly especially since Ogidan had voluntarily sought an out-of-court settlement and returned the funds to the government through the EFCC.

**PROFESSOR DIBU OJERINDE -  
N5.2 BILLION FRAUD**

CASE  
44



The former Registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Professor Dibu Ojerinde, and the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) have opted to explore an out-of-court resolution in the ₦5.2 billion fraud case.

Counsel to Ojerinde, Eteya Ogana, informed Justice Obiora Egwuatu of the Federal High Court, Abuja, of the development during proceedings. Although the matter had been scheduled for the defence to begin, Ogana noted that both parties were considering an administrative resolution.

Justice Egwuatu consequently adjourned the case to November 11, 2025 for a status update on the settlement or commencement of defence.

The ICPC initially arraigned Ojerinde in July 2021 on an 18-count charge bordering on corruption and fraud allegedly committed during his tenure at NECO and JAMB. He pleaded not guilty.

A previous plea bargain attempt in February 2022 fell through, and in June 2024, Justice Egwuatu dismissed Ojerinde's no-case submission, ruling that he must open his defence. The defence argued that the prosecution had failed to present a *prima facie* case warranting trial.

CASE  
**45**

**AMINA SIDI GARUNBABA -  
FORFEITURE OF PROPERTIES**



On April 3, 2025, Justice Obiora Egwuatu of the Federal High Court, Abuja ordered the final forfeiture of two properties linked to Aminu Sidi Garunbabba, a senior staff of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), to the federal government.

The forfeited properties include a four-bedroom terrace duplex with boys' quarters in Barumark Groove Estate, Wuye District, Abuja, and another at No. 5 Lodge Road, Kano. The EFCC through counsel Ekele Iheanacho, SAN, had applied for their forfeiture under Section 44(2) of the Constitution and Section 17 of the Advance Fee Fraud Act, 2006, after an interim order was granted in February 2022.

The defence argued that the case was premature since an internal disciplinary action against the officer had not been concluded. However, the judge dismissed the objection, ruling that non-conviction-based forfeiture is distinct from a criminal trial and can proceed simultaneously.

Justice Egwuatu held that the EFCC had shown reasonable suspicion that the properties were acquired with illicit funds while the respondent failed to justify that they were from legitimate earnings. The forfeiture followed EFCC's intelligence uncovering a fraudulent Duty Tour Allowance scheme within the FIRS.

**EZEKIEL ONYEDIKACHUKWU  
THANKGOD (EEZEE TEE)  
MERCY CHINWO MANAGER  
- \$397,106 FRAUD**

CASE  
**46**



Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of the Federal High Court, Ikoyi, adjourned the trial of music promoter Ezekiel Onyedikachukwu ThankGod (popularly known as Eezee Tee) and his company, Eezee Global Concepts Limited, to November 11, 2025 for continuation of trial or possible resolution.

ThankGod is facing an amended seven-count charge by the EFCC over alleged foreign exchange malpractice and money laundering involving \$397,106. One of the charges accuses him of conducting an unauthorized forex transaction of \$52,895 in June 2023 contrary to the Foreign Exchange Monitoring Act.

At the resumed hearing, the prosecution called its first witness, but defence counsel, Chikaosolu Ojukwu (SAN), informed the court that parties were close to reaching a settlement and requested more time. The judge granted the request and adjourned the matter for continuation of trial or possible resolution.

## AHMED KURU (FORMER MD, AMCON) & ORS - N33.8 BILLION MONEY LAUNDERING

CASE  
47



Justice Rahman Oshodi of the Lagos State Special Offences and Domestic Violence Court, Ikeja, has struck out the N60bn fraud case against former Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) Managing Director, Ahmed Kuru, after the Federal Government withdrew the charges. The withdrawal, filed by the Director of Public Prosecutions of the Federation, M.B. Abubakar, on July 24, 2025, ended proceedings that never went to trial after Kuru's February arraignment on six counts of conspiracy, stealing, and transfer of property derived from an illegal act.

Kuru was charged alongside Sigma Golf Nigeria Limited which had earlier pleaded guilty in a plea bargain with the EFCC. Justice Oshodi then ordered the forfeiture of 6.3 billion ordinary shares in Keystone Bank tied to Sigma Golf's fraudulent conversion of N20bn AMCON funds to the Federal Government.

Prosecutors had alleged that the diverted funds were channelled through Heritage Bank to benefit Sigma Golf's acquisition of Keystone Bank with Kuru and then-Heritage Bank MD Ifie Sekibo (now at large) accused of concealing another N20bn.

At Monday's hearing, EFCC counsel V.J. Alma applied for the charges to be discontinued. Defence counsel Olasupo Shasore (SAN) did not oppose the request and sought the release of Kuru's sureties and bond.

Justice Oshodi upheld the prosecution's right to withdraw at any stage, discharging Kuru under the Administration of Criminal Justice laws and ordering the release of his sureties, the return of his passport and the lifting of travel restrictions.

## FRANCIS ATUCHE & ORS – FORGERY AND CORRUPT PRACTICES

CASE  
48



Justice Olubunmi Abike-Fadipe of the Lagos State High Court has expressed strong disapproval over the persistent delays in the ongoing trial of Francis Atuche, former Managing Director of the defunct Bank PHB, warning that the court would no longer tolerate any tactics aimed at frustrating justice.

At the hearing on May 21, 2025, the judge criticized the habitual lateness and absence of the defence counsel, describing it as a deliberate attempt to stall proceedings. She reminded legal practitioners of their duty to act with professionalism and diligence, particularly in sensitive cases involving financial crimes.

Atuche, alongside Nnosi Joachim (a.k.a. Ifeanyi) and Uguru Onyike, is standing trial on a nine-count charge filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), bordering on conspiracy to commit felony and forgery. The EFCC re-arraigned the defendants on December 16, 2024 after the matter had suffered several restarts due to multiple judicial transfers — beginning with Justice Habeeb Abiru, then Justice Adeniyi Onigbanjo, and now before Justice Abike-Fadipe.

One of the charges alleges that on March 4, 2013, the defendants forged a document titled "*Board Resolution*" of Future View Securities Limited, while another accuses Joachim of presenting a falsified board resolution of Trajek Nigeria Limited to Keystone Bank as genuine. The defendants have all pleaded not guilty.

During proceedings, Michael Aghama, former legal adviser and secretary of Bank PHB and Keystone Bank, testified on Atuche's involvement in handling a disputed bank document. The court has now adjourned the case to January 26–29, 2026 for continuation of trial with a stern warning against further adjournment tactics.

It will be recalled that the Supreme Court, in a judgment delivered on June 28, 2024, by Justice Moore Adumein, upheld Atuche's earlier conviction over the ₦25.7 billion fraud case, affirming the decisions of both the Court of Appeal and the Lagos High Court which had found him guilty in 2022.

### **DIEZANI ALLISON MADUEKE - \$20 BILLION FRAUD & FORFEITURE OF PROPERTIES**



Former Petroleum Minister, Diezani Alison-Madueke, remains the subject of ongoing corruption-related proceedings in Nigeria and the United Kingdom.

In Nigeria, she has filed a suit before the Federal High Court, Abuja, challenging the final forfeiture of her assets to the Federal Government. The case, presided over by Justice Mohammed Umar, was adjourned to October 6, 2025, after her counsel argued that the forfeiture orders were issued without jurisdiction and in violation of her constitutional right to fair hearing, alleging she was not served court processes. The EFCC, however, maintains that due process was followed, stressing that the proceedings were *in rem*, public notices were duly published, and a lawyer had once appeared on her behalf. The Commission emphasized that the contested orders date back to 2017 and remain unchallenged, asserting that the forfeited assets are proceeds of unlawful activities.

At the same time, the EFCC has been working internationally to secure asset recovery. In May 2024, the agency announced plans to join UK prosecutors as an interested party in Diezani's trial at the Southwark Crown Court, with a team expected in London to file relevant documents. The EFCC intends to present Nigerian court forfeiture orders, including those on \$2.5 million worth of properties and vehicles, to ensure Nigeria benefits from the UK proceedings. The agency has already recovered \$153 million and secured final forfeiture of over 80 properties valued at about \$80 million in Nigeria. Diezani is accused of stealing about \$2.5 billion from Nigeria during her tenure as minister.

Internationally, she is facing trial in the UK for alleged £100,000 bribery, with the National Crime Agency linking her to benefits such as cash payments, chauffeured cars, private jet flights, luxury vacations, and multiple London properties. She was granted £70,000 bail by a Magistrate Court in October 2023 and declared a potential flight risk. Her trial is scheduled to commence in November 2025.

Additionally, the Attorney-General of the Federation, Lateef Fagbemi, submitted a warrant of arrest and extradition request to UK authorities in October 2023.

### **\$20 BILLION FRAUD & FORFEITURE OF PROPERTIES**



**CASE  
50**

**SIRAO MUHAMMAD  
JAJA & ORS -  
N1.4 BILLION  
FRAUD**

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday, June 17, 2025, re-arraigned the Bauchi State's Accountant General, Sirajo Muhammad Jaja before Justice O.A. Egwuatu of the Federal High Court, Maitama, Abuja.

Jaja was arraigned alongside a bureau de change operator, Aliyu Abubakar whose trading name is Jasfad Resources Enterprise. Other defendants at large are: Abubakar Muhammed Hafiz, Ari manga and Muhammed Aminu Bose. They are facing prosecution on a five-count amended charge bordering on money laundering, stealing and conversion of public funds to the tune of N1,488,425,629.000 (One Billion, Four Hundred and Eighty-eight Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-five Thousand, Six Hundred and Twenty-nine Naira only).

They pleaded "not guilty" to the charges, prompting counsel to first and second defendant, Gordy Uche, SAN and Chris Uche, SAN, respectively to pray the court to allow the subsisting bail of the defendants to continue to prevail and further asked the court for adjournment to allow them study the amended charge. Their plea on the bail was not objected to by the prosecution counsel, Abba Muhammed, SAN.

Justice Egwuatu upheld that the subsisting bail of the defendants should continue and adjourned the matter till July 21, 2025 for commencement of trial. The case has been further adjourned to November 18, 2025 for trial.



**ABDULLAHI UMAR GANDUJE -  
N7.6 BILLION MONEY  
LAUNDERING**



**CASE  
51**

A Kano State High Court has cleared the way for the trial of former governor Abdullahi Ganduje, his wife Hafsat, and six others over allegations of bribery, conspiracy, misappropriation, and diversion of public funds running into billions of naira.

Justice Amina Adamu-Aliyu dismissed multiple preliminary objections filed by the defendants, which challenged the court's jurisdiction and sought to quash the charges. The judge held that the 11-count charge filed by the Kano State Government in May 2024 was competent and properly before the court, describing the objections as incompetent and lacking merit.

The ruling means the case will proceed to trial in the absence of Ganduje and six other defendants. The judge also issued a summons to Lamash Properties Limited, one of the companies listed as defendants.

Earlier, defence counsel, including senior advocates representing Ganduje's wife, Umar, and several of the corporate defendants had filed various preliminary objections between September and November 2024. They argued that the charges were defective and urged the court to strike them out. However, the prosecution, led by Adeola Adedipe, SAN, opposed the applications and urged the court to dismiss them.

Justice Adamu-Aliyu sided with the prosecution, ruling that the charges were valid and the matter should go to full trial. The case which was adjourned to July 30 and 31, 2025, for hearing is ongoing.



### CASE CHIEF CLETUS IBETO - 52 N4.8 BILLION FRAUD

A Lagos State High Court sitting in Ikeja, has struck out the alleged N4.8 billion fraud charge instituted against the embattled Chairman of

Ibeto Energy Development Company, Chief Cletus Ibeto, by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

Trial judge, Justice Oyindamola Ogala struck out the charge after she was informed by the EFCC counsel, Rotimi Jacobs, SAN, that the businessman had refunded N3.2 billion of the money he was accused of stealing from his alleged victim, Chief Daniel Chukwudozie by the EFCC. The anti-graft agency had filed a 10-count charge of conspiracy, fraud, forgery, and fraudulent use of documents against Ibeto and his companies Ibeto Energy Development Company and Odoh Holdings Limited.



### DR. MUAZU BABANGIDA ALIYU & ORS - N2 BILLION FRAUD

CASE  
53



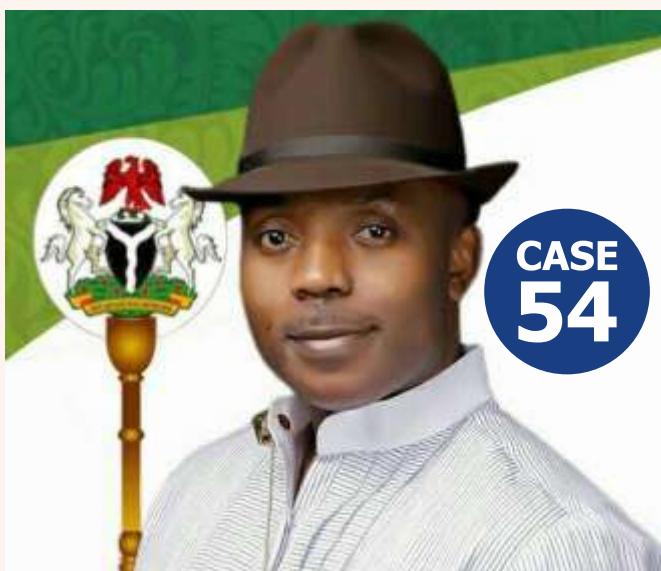
The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has approached the Court of Appeal to set aside a no-case ruling granted in favour of a former Governor of Niger State, Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu and former Chairman, People's Democratic Party, Niger State, Tanko Beji by Justice Abdullahi Mukailu of 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 pending as there is no information in public domain.

## HON. NICHOLAS MUTU - N320 MILLION MONEY LAUNDERING



Nicholas Mutu, the longest-serving member of the House of Representatives and current representative of Bomadi/Patani Federal Constituency of Delta State, is standing trial on a 13-count charge of money laundering to the tune of ₦320 million. The charges, filed by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), stem from his tenure as Chairman of the House Committee on the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) between August 2014 and August 2016, during which he allegedly procured companies – Airworld Technologies Ltd and Oyien Homes Ltd – to launder funds that were proceeds of corruption and gratification.

On January 22, 2024, Justice Folashade Giwa-Ogunbanjo of the Federal High Court, Abuja, rejected Mutu's *no-case submission*, ruling that the prosecution had presented sufficient evidence to establish a *prima facie* case against him and his co-defendants.

The court ordered them to open their defence. Mutu challenged this ruling at the Court of Appeal, Abuja, but on October 10, 2024, a three-member panel led by Justice Hamma Barka dismissed his appeal after he applied to withdraw it. The EFCC had objected to the appeal, arguing that it was incompetent as it was filed without leave of the trial court.

Amid the ongoing trial, Mutu's bail conditions became a major issue. On November 21, 2024, Justice Giwa-Ogunbanjo expressed displeasure upon discovering that Mutu had been traveling abroad with an undeclared passport, contrary to his bail terms which required express permission from the court before leaving the country. Investigations by the Nigerian Immigration Service revealed that Mutu had been jetting out with a passport not among the three earlier surrendered to the EFCC and deposited with the court. The development prompted the EFCC, represented by Ekele Iheanacho, SAN, to apply for the revocation of his bail under Sections 173 and 175 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act.

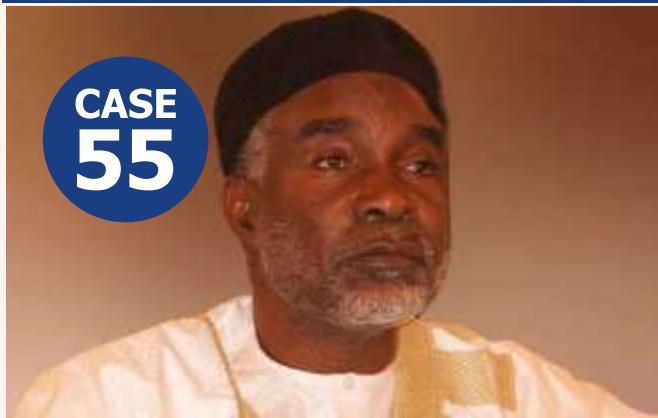
The judge condemned the conduct as contempt of court and ordered Mutu to deposit all his passports with the registrar, while also barring him from further overseas travel until the matter is resolved. In an unusual twist, the court itself tendered an apology to the prosecution after the previously surrendered passports, which had been missing for months and blamed on the EFCC, were later discovered in the court registry.

The case, marked FHC/ABJ/CR/123/2019, which was adjourned to February 17 and 18, 2025, for continuation of trial is ongoing.

N320 MILLION  
MONEY  
LAUNDERING

## MURTALA NYAKO & ORS. - N29 BILLION FRAUD

CASE  
55



Former Adamawa State Governor, Admiral Murtala Nyako (rtd.), his son, and several others facing trial over alleged diversion of N29 billion may be nearing an out-of-court settlement with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

At the resumed hearing, EFCC's prosecuting counsel, Rotimi Jacobs, SAN, informed the Federal High Court, Abuja, that discussions between the parties had reached an advanced stage and requested a short adjournment to finalize details. Nyako's lawyer, Michael Aondoakaa, SAN, confirmed this, stressing that the resolution was not a plea bargain but an amicable settlement, considering Nyako's age of 81. He argued that a plea bargain would imply guilt, whereas the move was aimed at ending a protracted trial that has spanned a decade.

Nyako, his son, and several companies including Sebore Farms, Pagado Fortunes Ltd, Blue Opal Ltd, Tower Assets Management Ltd, and Crust Energy Ltd are standing trial on 37 counts of money laundering. The EFCC alleges that between 2011 and 2014, the defendants diverted billions of naira from Adamawa State's treasury using companies as conduits, later converting the funds for personal use and property development in Abuja.

The trial, which began in 2015, has faced repeated delays and restarts, first before Justice Evoh Chukwu (who passed away in 2016), then Justice Okon Abang (later elevated to the Court of Appeal), and now Justice Peter Lifu.

Justice Lifu adjourned the case to July 18 for the parties to report back on the settlement discussions which is still ongoing.

## ADEYEMI IKUFORIJI & ANOR. - N338.8 MILLION MONEY LAUNDERING

CASE  
56



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. 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  
57****OBINNA NWAOBI - \$510,000  
(FRAUDULENT DIVERSION  
AND FORGERY)**

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has arraigned a former Head of Operations at Access Bank, Obinna Nwaobi, before the Federal High Court in Enugu for allegedly

diverting \$510,000 belonging to a bank customer and forging documents. According to a statement released by the Commission, the case originated from a petition filed by Access Bank on September 11, 2024, reporting unauthorized transfers from the account of Lantern Gate Nigeria Limited. The bank alleged that the funds were moved into six different accounts on the instructions of Nwaobi without the customer's approval. Following investigations, Nwaobi was charged with nine counts bordering on forgery and criminal diversion, offences said to contravene Section 1(b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006. At his arraignment before Justice F. O. Giwa-Ogunbanjo, he pleaded not guilty to all charges. During proceedings, defence counsel F. C. Obinna urged the court to grant bail based on an application filed on October 24, 2025. However, EFCC counsel Adaka Ekwu opposed the application, arguing that the strength of the evidence might prompt the defendant to flee. After considering both arguments, the court granted Nwaobi bail in the sum of N250 million, with three sureties in like sum. Two sureties are required to possess landed property in Enugu State, while the third must be a relative of the defendant with evidence of three years' tax payments. The defendant is also to deposit his international passport, National Identification Number, and passport photographs with the court. The case was adjourned to March 10, 11, and 12, 2026, for trial. Nwaobi was remanded at the Nigeria Correctional Service facility in Enugu pending the fulfilment of his bail conditions.

**NGOZI JULIET OLEJEME – N1.38 BILLION  
& \$48.5 MILLION MONEY LAUNDERING****CASE  
58**

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 N1.38 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.

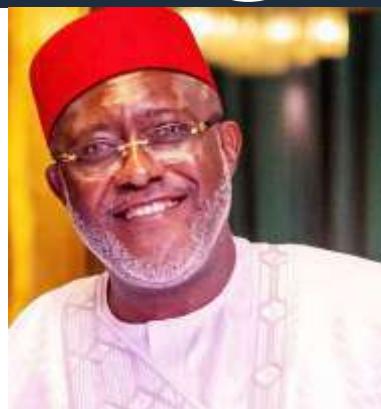
Olejeme pleaded not guilty. Her lawyer, Paul Erokoro (SAN), requested bail on health grounds, citing her long-term diabetic and hypertensive conditions, recent surgeries, and the need for close monitoring. The prosecution did not oppose bail but suggested terms to ensure her trial attendance. The judge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

**The case remains stalled with no update on trial progress.**

## OLISA METUH – N400 MILLION FRAUD

CASE  
**59**

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 pleaded not guilty, and the court remanded him in 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.

CASE  
**60**

## SULE LAMIDO & ORS - N712 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 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.

**N712 MILLION  
MONEY  
LAUNDERING**

CASE  
**61**

## IKEDI OHAKIM - N270 MILLION MONEY LAUNDERING



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 pleaded '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, 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 \$2.29m 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.**

## MUKHTAR RAMDAN YERO (FORMER KADUNA STATE GOVERNOR) - N700 MILLION MONEY LAUNDERING

CASE  
**62**

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 benefitted 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 rearraigned on an eight-count amended charge before Justice M.G Umar who upheld the bail terms given by the previous Judge

Another re-arrangement happened on Monday November 21, 2022, where the former governor Mukhtar Ramalan Yero and 3 others were rearraigned 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-arrangement is sequel to the transfer of the former trial judge, Justice M.G Umar, from the state.

**The case is however currently on hold.**



## ABDULLAH ADAMU - N15 BILLION (DIVERSION OF PUBLIC FUNDS)

CASE  
63



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  
64

## SHAMSUDEN BALA MOHAMMED - N1.1 BILLION FRAUD



High Court, Abuja, involved allegations of laundering funds through Ecobank accounts and using illicit funds to purchase properties, including

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

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.

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 state governor in May 2019.

As at the time of writing this report, there is no information in public domain on hearing of the said appeal by the Court of Appeal.

## ABBA KYARI & ORS - DRUG TRAFFICKING & \$61,400 BRIBERY

CASE  
65



The trial of suspended Deputy Commissioner of Police, Abba Kyari, took a major turn when the Federal High Court in Abuja dismissed the no-case submission he and his co-defendants filed.

Delivering ruling, Justice Emeka Nwite held that the prosecution, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), had established a *prima facie* case of drug trafficking and tampering against the defendants, thereby requiring them to enter their defences.

Kyari, alongside four police officers - Sunday Ubia, Bawa James, Simon Agirigba, and John Nuhu, as well as two alleged traffickers, Chibunna Patrick Umeibe and Emeka Alphonsus Ezenwanne, was arraigned in March 2022 on a five-count charge bordering on conspiracy, drug trafficking, and tampering with evidence. They were accused of removing 17.55kg from 21.35kg of cocaine seized from Umeibe and Ezenwanne, while substituting the balance with another substance.

While Umeibe and Ezenwanne pleaded guilty, entered a plea bargain, and were sentenced to two years' imprisonment in June 2022, Kyari and the other officers denied the charges and challenged the sufficiency of the prosecution's evidence.

Justice Nwite, however, rejected their no-case submissions, stressing that under Section 14(b) of the NDLEA Act, liability does not depend on the precise quantity of cocaine tampered with. The offence, he ruled, lies in tampering or dealing with narcotics, irrespective of weight.

Accordingly, the court ordered Kyari and the remaining defendants to open their defence on all counts, and adjourned the matter to May 21, 2025, for commencement of defence. Trial is ongoing.

## AHMADU UMAR FINTIRI & 1 OTHER – N2.9 BILLION MONEY LAUNDERING

CASE  
66



On June 30, 2016, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) arraigned Ahmadu Umar 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, he 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, thereby enjoying immunity from prosecution under Section 308 of the Nigerian Constitution.

## ALHAJI MOHAMMED BASHIR SA'IDU - N155,000,000M MONEY LAUNDERING



CASE  
67

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has filed fresh charges against Alhaji Mohammed Bashir Sa'idu, former Chief of Staff to ex-Kaduna State Governor Nasir El-Rufai and one-time Commissioner of Finance.

According to court documents filed on January 7, 2025 before the Federal High Court in Kaduna, Sa'idu is accused of accepting a cash payment of N155 million from Ibrahim Muktar, a public officer in the Ministry of Finance, in March 2022. The ICPC alleges that the money was collected through Sa'idu's Special Assistant, Muazu Abdu, in violation of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022.

The charge sheet outlines two counts: first, that Sa'idu unlawfully accepted cash exceeding the amount permitted by law; and second, that he indirectly took control of the funds, which he "reasonably ought to have known" were proceeds of corruption. Under Section 18(3) of the Act, the offence carries a penalty of not less than four years and up to fourteen years in prison, or a fine of at least five times the value of the illicit funds, or both.

The case contradicts earlier claims that Sa'idu had been cleared after a 10-month investigation. He had previously been investigated for allegedly laundering N3.96 billion and misappropriating N244 million during his time in office.

The development comes against the backdrop of the Kaduna State House of Assembly's indictment of the El-Rufai administration for allegedly siphoning over N423 billion public funds.

MORUFU ADEWALE (A.K.A GBEGUNLERİ  
ADELANA), ABAYOMI ALASKA  
(A.K.A. DAUDA USMAN ALASHE),  
OMITOOGUN AJAYI, AJISEGIRI ABIODUN,  
TAIWO AHMED, RAUFU RAHEEM AND  
SANLABIU TESLIM - £1 MILLION FRAUD.



CASE  
68

On December 19, 2024, Justice R.A. Oshodi of the Special Offences Court, Ikeja, Lagos State, dismissed an application by defence lawyers seeking to halt proceedings in the ongoing trial of seven men accused of defrauding a couple of over £1 million and ₦175 million under the guise of conducting spiritual cleansing prayers.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) had first arraigned the suspects in February 2022 before Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo, but the matter was reassigned to Justice Oshodi following Justice Taiwo's retirement. The defendants — Morufu Adewale (a.k.a. Gbegunleri Adelana), Abayomi Alaka, Omitogun Ajayi, Ajisegiri Abiodun, Taiwo Ahmed, Raufu Raheem, and Sanlabiu Teslim — were re-arraigned in December 2022 on amended charges of conspiracy and obtaining money by false pretence.

Prosecutors alleged that between May and July 2018, the defendants collected £1,000,000 from Dr. and Dr. (Mrs.) Lateef Bello for supposed prayers, promising to refund the money within a week, but never did. They are also accused of taking ₦175 million between August and September 2018 on the same false pretence. All defendants pleaded not guilty.

During trial, a key prosecution witness, ASP Giwa Wasiu, testified that one of the defendants had confessed in a video to duping the complainants of ₦675 million. Despite objections from the defence, the court admitted the flash drive containing the confession as evidence (Exhibit E) in October 2024.

At the December sitting, defence counsel again sought a stay of proceedings until pending applications were determined, but Justice Oshodi dismissed the request and allowed the trial to continue. The court also permitted the prosecution to play the video recording of the confession in open court.

**The matter is ongoing as the prosecution is still giving evidence.**

**OLAJIMI SHAKIRU ADEBISI LAWAL  
(FORMER SENIOR SPECIAL ADVISER TO  
FORMER GOVERNOR NASIR EL-RUFAI),  
MR. UMAR WAZIRI FORMER  
ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL, KADUNA STATE),  
MR. YUSUF INUWA, (FORMER FINANCE  
COMMISSIONER, KADUNA STATE) &  
SOLAR LIFE NIGERIA LTD. -  
N64.8 MILLION (MISMANAGEMENT  
OF PUBLIC FUNDS)**

**CASE  
69**



The trial of Olajimi Shakiru Adebisi Lawal, a former aide to ex-Kaduna State Governor Nasir El-Rufai, alongside three others, opened on July 21, 2025, before Justice R.M. Aikawa of the Federal High Court in Kaduna. The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) is prosecuting the defendants for allegedly diverting a total of ₦64.8 million in three tranches into the account of Solar Life Nigeria Limited, a company where Lawal is said to be the sole signatory. The allegations revolve around fraudulent estacode payments and abuse of public office during their service in government.

At the hearing, the prosecution called three former senior officials of the Kaduna State Government as witnesses. Mrs. Aisha Dikko Kalil, who served as Attorney-General between 2019 and 2023, testified that the state government

directly paid her tuition fees for foreign trainings, while estacode allowances were paid into her personal account. She confirmed receiving over ₦5 million but stressed that she never received any money from Lawal. Supporting documents, including her account statement and certificates, were admitted in evidence.

Mrs. Bariyatu Yusuf, a former Head of Service, corroborated the testimony by explaining that the Ministry of Finance covered tuition fees and flight tickets for her foreign trainings, while estacode payments, amounting to just under ₦15 million, were paid into her personal account. She admitted knowing Lawal but denied ever receiving money from him. Her account records and certificates were also tendered in court.

The third witness, Mr. Samuel Aruwan, who served as government spokesperson and later as Commissioner for Security and Home Affairs, testified that his trainings were sponsored by the United States government and the Office of the National Security Adviser, not by Kaduna State. He confirmed that although he knew Lawal professionally, he never received estacodes from him or the state government.

During proceedings, the prosecution sought to tender Mr. Aruwan's written statement to the ICPC, but the defence objected, citing procedural irregularities in the manner it was obtained during the pendency of the trial. After hearing arguments on the admissibility of the statement, the court adjourned the matter to September 24, 2025, for ruling and continuation of the hearing. The ICPC maintained that the case is part of its broader effort to ensure transparency and accountability in the management of public funds.

**N64.8 MILLION  
(MISMANAGEMENT  
OF PUBLIC FUNDS)**

CASE  
70

**PROFESSOR SANI LAWAN MALUMFASHI;  
CHAIRMAN, KANO STATE INDEPENDENT  
ELECTORAL COMMISSION (KANSIEC)  
& 2 ORS. - N1 BILLION (MONEY  
LAUNDERING)**



The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) is set to arraign the Chairman of the Kano

State Independent Electoral Commission (KANSIEC), Professor Sani Lawan Malumfashi, alongside the Commission's Secretary, Anas Muhammed Mustapha, and Deputy Director of Accounts, Ado Garba, before the Federal High Court in Abuja over an alleged one billion naira money laundering case.

According to the ICPC, the defendants conspired between November and December 2024 to carry out illegal cash transactions in breach of financial regulations. Investigations revealed that in November 2024 alone, KANSIEC transferred over ₦1.02 billion from its Unity Bank account to SLM Agro Global Farm, a company with no contractual dealings with the Commission. While the defendants claimed the funds were moved to enable cash payments for ad hoc staff engaged during the local government elections, the ICPC dismissed this as a cover for fraud. The Commission pointed to evidence showing that payments to electoral officers were in fact processed smoothly through the banking system.

Further investigations uncovered additional irregularities in KANSIEC's election budget. Although ₦20 million was allocated for a verification team to screen candidates across all 44 local government areas of the state, the exercise was instead conducted at the Commission's Kano office, with candidates traveling at their own expense. Despite this, the 3rd defendant claimed that the entire budget was disbursed in cash to KANSIEC members.

**The three defendants are scheduled to take their pleas on July 21, 2025. Trial is ongoing.**

CASE  
71

**MR. POPOONA SAMUEL AND  
MR. ARAMA DAVIES GYANDI -  
DIVERSION OF WORLD  
BANK FUNDS.**



The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned Mr. Popoona Samuel and Mr. Arama Davies Gyandi before the Federal High Court in Yola, Adamawa State over allegations of diverting World Bank funds meant for the rehabilitation of schools affected by insurgency.

The two men, who served as officers under the State Education Investment Project in the Office of the Accountant General of Adamawa State in 2020, were charged before Honourable Justice Tijjani G. Ringin on four counts of money laundering and unlawful conversion of funds. According to the ICPC,

Samuel and Gyandi conspired to misappropriate monies refunded by School-Based Management Committees of Kwaja Primary School, Mubi South, and Mutuku Primary School, Hong. Part of the alleged diversion involved transferring ₦2.4 million into Samuel's Zenith Bank account, out of which ₦1 million was sent to Gyandi's UBA account. Samuel was also accused of separately taking possession of ₦2.5 million from Mutuku Primary School and ₦2.4 million from Kwaja Primary School, both part of the World Bank's education intervention funds.

The defendants pleaded not guilty to all the charges. Following this, ICPC's counsel, Mr. T.S. Iorngee, sought a date for trial, while defence counsel, Mr. S.J. Wugira, applied for bail on their behalf. The court granted bail to each defendant in the sum of ₦5 million with strict conditions, including one surety who must be a senior public servant, a traditional ruler of district head rank or higher, or a company director with a share capital of at least ₦10 million. The surety and defendants are also required to provide passport photographs, valid identification, utility bills, affidavits of means, and undergo residential verification.

The matter was adjourned to October 22, 2025, for the commencement of trial. Trial is ongoing.

CASE  
**72**

**MR. EMMANUEL OGUNYEMI  
(LAGOS STATE CIVIL SERVANT) -  
RECEIVING DOUBLE SALARY.**



The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has secured the conviction of Mr. Emmanuel Ogunyemi, a Lagos State civil servant, for receiving double salaries from two government entities — the Lagos State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) and the Agbado Oke-Odo Local Council Development Area (LCDA) — amounting to ₦3,491,874.90 in unearned payments.

Following investigations, the ICPC charged Ogunyemi before the Lagos State High Court, Ikeja (Charge No. ID/25541C/2024) with eight counts under Section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000. He later entered a plea bargain, which reduced the charges to three counts.

The court, presided over by Justice Ijelu, convicted him based on his guilty plea.

In line with the plea agreement, Ogunyemi was fined ₦1.5 million, sentenced to three days of community service, and ordered to sign a ₦5 million good behaviour bond. He had already refunded the full amount of the illicit earnings, which was forfeited to the Federal Government.

The prosecution team led by Mrs. Yvonne William-Mbata, emphasized that the conviction demonstrates ICPC's continued commitment to promoting integrity, accountability and ethical conduct within Nigeria's.

CASE  
**73**

**MRS. MOSES OLUWAFUNMILAYO  
ESTHER – FORGERY AND  
MANIPULATION OF IPPIS  
PLATFORM**



The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned Mrs. Moses Oluwafunmilayo Esther before Justice Yusuf Halilu of the Federal Capital Territory High Court, Maitama, on allegations of forgery and unlawful manipulation of the Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System (IPPIS).

Mrs. Esther, who was a Principal Administrative Officer in the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, is facing a three-count charge for allegedly forging her posting letter and other official records to secure her position in the civil service. The ICPC alleged that the documents she submitted including her posting instruction, gazette, appointment, and confirmation letters were all falsified, a claim confirmed by the Federal Civil Service Commission, which found no such records in its database.

Investigations further revealed that after her salary was suspended in November 2021 due to the allegations, Mrs. Esther, who had access to the IPPIS platform as a role player, unlawfully restored her salary in January 2022 without authorization from the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation.

When arraigned, she pleaded not guilty to all charges. Her counsel, Mr. Chima Okason, sought bail on liberal terms, which was not opposed by ICPC's counsel, Mrs. Olubunmi Ayo. Justice Halilu granted bail on the condition that she produced two sureties, both of whom must be federal civil service directors serving within the FCT.

The sureties were required to submit evidence of their first and most recent promotions and undertake in writing to be remanded if the defendant absconds.

The matter was adjourned to July 8, 2025, for the commencement of trial. Trail is ongoing.

**PROF. GODWIN OJO  
IGBINoba - DEGREE  
PEDDLING AND FORGERY.**

**CASE  
74**



The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has re-arraigned Professor Godwin Ojo Igbinoba before Honourable Justice A.N. Erhabor of Criminal Court 1, Benin

City, Edo State, on a three-count charge bordering on illegal degree peddling, forgery, and obtaining money under false pretences

According to the charge, Professor Igbinoba, operating through the Association of Professional Examination Boards and the Association of Corporation of Chartered Secretaries in Benin City, allegedly awarded Bachelor of Science Degrees and National Diplomas to unsuspecting members of the public without the necessary approvals from the Federal Ministry of Education, the National Board for Technical Education, or the National Universities Commission. He is also accused of forging a National Youth Service Corps exemption certificate dated March 12, 2018, which he presented to one Mr. Osian Jude Tony.

The prosecution further alleges that Professor Igbinoba fraudulently misled Nigerians into believing that the said institutions were accredited to offer recognized educational programmes, collecting tuition fees from students who were deceived into thinking they were pursuing legitimate qualifications.

The matter, which had earlier been before Honourable Justice Efe Ikponmwonba, was reassigned to Justice Erhabor, necessitating a fresh arraignment. Professor Igbinoba appeared in court with his counsel, Mrs. P.E. Chukwu, and pleaded not guilty to all the charges. Counsel for the defence successfully prayed the court to allow the bail conditions earlier granted to the defendant to remain in force.

**The case which was adjourned to May 19, 2025, for trial is ongoing.**

**ABUBAKAR BAWA MAKUKU &  
AHMED FAKAI. -N54 MILLION  
(CONTRACT FRAUD)**



The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned the former Sole Administrator of Sakaba Local Government Area in Kebbi State, Abubakar Bawa Makuku, and his Director of Finance and Supply, Ahmed Abdullahi Fakai, over an alleged N54 million contract fraud.

The duo appeared before Justice E. Gakko of the Federal High Court in Birnin-Kebbi on a three-count charge of abuse of office, fraudulent contract awards, and financial misconduct. Fakai was accused of unlawfully withdrawing N54 million in six tranches of N9 million each from the local government's account, allegedly to evade financial reporting obligations. Makuku, on the other hand, was accused of diverting N10 million meant for official engagements for personal benefit and of awarding contracts without due process.

Both defendants pleaded not guilty to the charges. Prosecution counsel, Hamza Sani, told the court that the ICPC was ready to proceed with the trial and requested a fixed date for commencement. Defence counsel J.D. Adeyemi applied for bail on behalf of the defendants, a motion which the prosecution did not oppose.

**EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AGENCY (REA) CORRUPTION SCANDAL - N2 BILLION CORRUPTION SCHEME AND INTERIM FORFEITURE OF PROPERTIES**

**CASE  
76**



On March 13, 2025, the ICPC arraigned Mr. Netufo Olaniyi Alaba, suspended Executive Director of the Rural Electrification Agency (REA), and Mr. Hassan Arivi Saddiq, Managing Director of Hassino Group Ltd, before Justice Celestine Obinna of the FCT High Court, Maitama, over a ₦15 million contract fraud. Alaba faced four counts, while Saddiq faced three counts of corruption-related offences. Both pleaded not guilty.

Defence counsel sought bail on liberal terms, arguing that the defendants posed no flight risk. The ICPC, represented by Abdulkareem Sulaiman, did not oppose bail but urged for strict conditions. The court granted ₦50 million bail each, requiring a surety who is a civil servant of Grade Level 10 or higher, with a verifiable FCT address. The matter was adjourned to April 4, 2025, later shifted to November 25, 2025, for further hearing.

Meanwhile, in a separate case, the Federal High Court, Abuja, on May 22, 2025, ordered the interim forfeiture of properties linked to former REA Directors of Finance and Accounts, Suleiman Bulkwang and Abdullahi Sambo, over an alleged ₦1.4 billion fraud. Sambo reportedly benefited ₦742 million. Justice Obiora Egwatu granted the EFCC's ex- parte application, leading to the forfeiture of seven properties, including 1-hectare of land in Nasarawa State and four two-bedroom flats in Kubwa, Abuja.

**MR. ABUBAKAR MOHAMMED ASEKU - N17,600,000 (RECEIVING SALARIES FROM THREE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES)**

**CASE  
77**



The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has arraigned Mr. Abubakar Mohammed Aseku, an Assistant Superintendent of Immigration with the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), for alleged abuse of office and multiple salary fraud.

Mr. Aseku was brought before Justice Binta Dogonyaro of the Federal Capital Territory High Court, Apo, Abuja, on Tuesday, to answer a nine-count charge bordering on corruption and abuse of office. According to the ICPC, he fraudulently received ₦4.2 million in salaries from the Nasarawa State Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology in 2015, while employed as a teacher, despite being on active service with the NIS.

He was further accused of collecting ₦13.4 million in salaries from the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) between 2018 and 2019, while still working with the Immigration Service. In addition, the anti-graft agency alleged that Aseku, in his capacity as Pay Officer at the NIS, facilitated the unlawful payment of ₦4.7 million in salaries to seven individuals who were neither employees of the Service nor on its payroll.

One of the charges specifically alleged that between October 2018 and October 2019, the defendant conferred corrupt advantage on himself by drawing ₦13.4 million in salaries from the DPR while concurrently employed by the Immigration Service, contrary to Section 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000.

Mr. Aseku pleaded not guilty to all charges. His counsel, Mr. Basil Hemb, reminded the court that his client had earlier been granted bail by another FCT High Court in Maitama, and urged the judge to maintain those bail terms.

Justice Dogonyaro upheld the existing bail conditions, while ICPC's counsel, Mr. Michael Adesola, requested an adjournment to enable the prosecution present its witnesses.

**The case is currently on trial.**



The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has reaffirmed that former Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Usman Jibrin (Retd), Brigadier-General Ishaya Bauka (Retd.), and Adam Imam Yusuf, a retired Deputy Commandant of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), remain wanted persons over their alleged involvement in a ₦3 billion money laundering and fraud case.

Justice Inyang Ekwo of the Federal High Court, Abuja, had on May 4, 2024, issued a bench warrant for their arrest after they failed to appear in court to answer charges filed by the ICPC. The trio were accused of using front companies - Lahab Integrated & Multi-Services Ltd, Gate Coast Properties International Ltd, Ummay's Hummayd Energy Ltd, and others to launder public funds and acquire properties within Nigeria and abroad.

Despite the warrant, the accused persons have evaded arrest for over five months, reportedly relying on their security details to resist law enforcement. ICPC investigations, triggered by a whistleblower petition, uncovered multiple suspicious bank transactions, impersonation, and fraudulent property acquisitions linked to the defendants.

Clarifying reports that the charges had been withdrawn, the ICPC stated that the charges were only amended, not dismissed, and emphasized that the bench warrant remains valid. The Commission urged the public to assist in locating the fugitives and assured that once apprehended, Vice Admiral Jibrin, Brigadier-General Bauka, and Deputy Commandant Yusuf would be arraigned and reinstated into the ongoing prosecution.



CASE  
79

**MR. MOHAMMED IDRIS –  
N11 MILLION  
(DIVERSION OF FUND)**

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has secured the conviction of Mr. Mohammed Idris, a supervisor at the Hajj and cargo terminal gate of the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Lagos, for making false returns and corrupt self-advantage.

In a case brought before Justice O.A. Fadipe of the Ikeja Special Offenses Court, ICPC revealed how the accused collected missing monies in the course of his work but could not account for them.

In a two-count charge, ICPC counsel, Yvonne Williams-Mbata, led evidence before the court on how the investigation uncovered a total loss of Eleven Million, Two Hundred and Thirty-Four Thousand Naira (₦11,234,000) under the defendant's supervision and watch between February 2001 and April 2021. His offence is contrary to Sections 26(1)(b) and Section 25(1) of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000.

Justice O.A. Fadipe in her ruling sentenced the accused to one-year imprisonment on each count in lieu of a fine of ₦1,000,000 for both counts. The sentences are to run concurrently. Additionally, the defendant is required to be of good behavior and enter a bond with the registry of the High Court in the sum of Two Million Naira (₦2,000,000). Failure to comply with these terms will result in a further imprisonment of ten (10) years.

**CASE  
80****MRS JOY NDUBUISI CHINEME &  
MR. GODWIN TABO SAKAT –  
N12 MILLION (JOB RACKETEERING).**

The trial of Mrs. Joy Ndubuisi Chineme, a staff member of the Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment and Mr. Godwin Tabo Sakat of the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, continued on Monday before Justice C. O. Oba of the Federal Capital Territory High Court, Apo, Abuja, over an alleged ₦12 million job racketeering scheme.

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) had arraigned the two defendants in July 2024 on a nine-count charge bordering on job racketeering, fraud, and conspiracy. At the resumed hearing, the prosecution, represented by Mr. Suleiman Abdulkareem, called its first witness, Mrs. Adah Ojoma, an Assistant Director at ICPC. She testified that a petition against Mrs. Chineme was received by the Commission on March 4, 2022, which prompted an investigation.

During the probe, investigators uncovered multiple suspicious transactions in Mrs. Chineme's accounts. Ojoma told the court that in 2018, ₦3.9 million was transferred into the defendant's Zenith Bank account, followed by ₦5 million in 2019, and ₦2.5 million in 2021. She further disclosed that a total of ₦4.3 million was traced to transfers made by the first defendant to Mr. Sakat, the second defendant. A fake letter of employment was also discovered during the investigation.

Ojoma explained that upon invitation, Mrs. Chineme appeared at the Commission and voluntarily made statements. However, counsel to the first defendant, Mr. E. E. Oga, objected, claiming the statement was obtained under duress, and requested a trial within trial to determine its admissibility. Although ICPC counsel Abdulkareem maintained that the statement was a confessional one, he did not oppose the application.

During the trial within trial, Ojoma stated that the defendant was properly informed of her rights and even called her husband and sister to assist in writing her statement due to her inability to write properly. Defence counsel thereafter applied for an adjournment to enable him to bring a defence witness.

**The matter which was adjourned by Justice Oba to March 25, 2025 for continuation of trial is still on.**

**CASE  
81****MR. SOLOMON OGODO  
(SUPERINTENDED OF NSCDC) –  
N12.2 MILLION EMPLOYMENT  
SCAM**

The Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) has secured the conviction of Mr. Solomon Ogodo, a Superintendent of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), over charges of forgery, employment racketeering, and fraud.

Mr. Ogodo was arraigned in December 2022 before Honourable Justice M. S. Idris of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, Jabi, Abuja, in charge no. CR/503/2022. The Commission accused him of defrauding unsuspecting job seekers of ₦12.2 million under the pretence of securing employment for their relatives in the Nigeria Correctional Service (NCoS).

The five-count charge detailed how the convict forged provisional appointment letters for applicants, promising them placement in NCoS. ICPC prosecutor, Mr. Hamza Sani, presented evidence showing how Ogodo repeatedly deceived members of the public into parting with large sums of money.

His actions were found to be in violation of Section 13 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000, punishable under Section 68 of the same Act. He was also convicted under Sections 363 and 364 of the Penal Code Act, as well as Section 1 of the Advanced Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act, 2006.

Before sentencing, defence counsel, Mr. A. A. Nwoye, who held brief for Mr. Osita O. Eze, pleaded with the court to convert the jail term to community service. However, the prosecution urged the court to enforce Section 319(1)(a) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), 2015, to compel the convict to pay compensation to his victims.

In his judgment, Justice Idris sentenced Ogodo to seven years' imprisonment on counts 1 to 3, without the option of fine. On count 4, he was handed two months' imprisonment with an option of ₦5,000 fine, while on count 5, he received two months' imprisonment without the option of fine.

The court further ordered the convict to restitution the entire ₦12.2 million fraudulently obtained from his victims in line with the prosecution's application under Section 319(1) of ACJA.

**MR.TARRY RUFUS (CEO GOOD EARTH POWER NIGERIA LTD), MR. GIMBA KUMO YA'U (FORMER MD/CEO, FEDERAL MORTGAGE BANK OF NIGERIA & MR. BOLA OGUNSQLA (FORMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FMBN) - \$65,000,000 (MONEY LAUNDERING)**



A Federal High Court sitting in Abuja has dismissed an application filed by Mr. Tarry Rufus, Chief Executive of Good Earth Power Nigeria Limited, seeking to stop the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) and the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) from prosecuting him and his company over an alleged \$65 million money laundering case.

Mr. Rufus is standing trial alongside the former Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN),

Mr. Gimba Kumo Ya'u, and the Bank's former Executive Director, Mr. Bola Ogunsqla, on allegations of diverting \$65,000,000 intended for the development of 962 housing units in Kubwa District, Abuja.

In her ruling, Honourable Justice Yilwa H. Joseph of the Federal High Court, Maitama, Abuja, held that the evidence before the court clearly established a *prima facie* case of misappropriation through lawful investigation. She stressed that the court would not restrain the ICPC from performing its statutory duties, adding that the claim of unlawful detention made by the applicant was baseless since no evidence was provided to substantiate it.

Justice Joseph further held that Mr. Rufus' inability to meet his bail conditions could not be equated to a breach of his fundamental rights by the ICPC or EFCC.

ICPC had earlier alleged that Mr. Rufus and his company unlawfully received and disbursed \$3,550,000 of the contract sum in cash, in violation of the Money Laundering Act. The Commission also accused the defendants of converting ₦991,399,255 into \$3,550,000 and delivering the cash to one Mr. Jason Rosamond, contrary to Section 18(2)(b) and punishable under Section 18(a) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022.

In December 2023, Mr. Rufus filed the application, insisting that he committed no wrongdoing in executing the contract and requesting the court to compel ICPC and EFCC to release land title documents collected from him as part of his administrative bail conditions. He also demanded ₦500 million in damages against the ICPC, EFCC, and FMBN for what he described as "frivolous criminal persecution."

Opposing the application, ICPC's counsel, O. B. Odugun, argued that the Commission's enabling law empowered it to investigate petitions of alleged fraud and misappropriation. The Commission added that Mr. Rufus voluntarily honoured its invitation and was not unlawfully detained, stressing that his continued custody was solely due to his failure to meet the bail conditions imposed.

The court dismissed the application in its entirety, clearing the way for the continuation of the criminal trial.

**CASE  
83****MAJOR-GENERAL U.M.  
MOHAMMED (RETD) (FORMER  
MANAGING DIRECTOR, NIGERIAN  
ARMY PROPERTIES LIMITED NAPL)  
– N246 MILLION EMBEZZLEMENT**

Justice Dehinde Dipeolu of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos, on Tuesday, August 26, 2025, ordered the final forfeiture of shares valued at ₦246,305,544 (Two Hundred and Forty-Six

Million, Three Hundred and Five Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty-Four Naira) linked to a former Managing Director of the Nigerian Army Properties Limited, NAPL, Major-General U. M. Mohammed (Retd.), to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The order followed a motion on notice filed by the Lagos Zonal Directorate 1 of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, through its counsel, H. U. Kofarnaissa. Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke had earlier granted an interim forfeiture of the assets and directed that the order be published in a national newspaper for any interested party to show cause why the properties should not be permanently forfeited to the government.

In moving the application for final forfeiture, Kofarnaissa relied on an affidavit deposed to by EFCC investigator Nwike Fortune, who explained that the Commission had investigated a petition from NAPL alleging monumental fraud perpetrated by General Mohammed, Mr. Yusuf Abdullahi Abubakar, and Mr. Kayode Oladipupo Filani. Investigations revealed that between 2015 and 2020, while serving as Managing Director of NAPL, Mohammed fraudulently sold company properties and diverted the proceeds for personal use. To conceal the illicit funds, he allegedly acquired significant shares in Awhua Resources Limited, including stakes in the National Aviation Handling Company worth ₦115,567,906, Oando Plc valued at ₦2,000,000, Dangote Sugar Refinery worth ₦1,000,000, Vitafoam Nigeria Plc valued at ₦81,901,651 and University Press worth ₦40,155,291.

Counsel to the EFCC argued that the equities were reasonably suspected to have been purchased with proceeds of unlawful activities and ought therefore to be forfeited to the Federal Government in the interest of justice. In his ruling, Justice Dipeolu agreed with the submission of the prosecution, holding that the EFCC had established the illicit origins of the assets. He consequently ordered the final forfeiture of the shares contained in Schedules A, B, and C of the application to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

**CASE  
84****PRINCE LASEBERRY OKAFOR  
ANYANWU (FORMER COMMISSIONER  
OF TRANSPORTATION, IMO STATE)  
– N180 MILLION FRAUD**

The Imo State Division of the Court of Appeal has affirmed the conviction and three-year prison sentence of Prince Laseberry Anyanwu, former Commissioner of Transportation under the administration of Rochas Okorocha, for fraud involving the sum of ₦180,000,000 (One Hundred and Eighty Million Naira). Anyanwu was prosecuted by the Enugu Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a four-count charge of abuse of office and diversion of public funds.

He was first arraigned on November 26, 2020, before Justice E. F. Njemanze of the Imo State High Court. Investigations revealed that while serving as Commissioner of Transportation, Anyanwu diverted ₦180,000,000 belonging to the Imo State Transport Company into the account of Oma Oil and Industries Limited, a company in which he had personal interest, by disguising the transactions as contract payments. One of the counts alleged that between November 6 and 10, 2017, he transferred ₦100,000,000 from the Transport Company's account with Imo State Microfinance Bank to the Polaris Bank account of Oma Oil & Industries Limited, where he was a shareholder, director, chairman, chief executive and signatory to the accounts.

Another count accused him of causing a further transfer of ₦80,000,000 on January 31, 2018, from the Ministry of Transport's account to the same company's account.

The offences contravened Sections 12 and 19 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, 2000. He pleaded not guilty, but at trial, EFCC counsel, ACE II Michael Ikechukwu Ani, presented three witnesses and several documentary exhibits. On March 14, 2023, Justice K. A. Lewanya convicted him, sentencing him to one year imprisonment each on counts 2, 3, and 4, to run concurrently, without an option of fine, while acquitting him on count 1. The court also ordered the forfeiture of the ₦180,000,000 earlier traced to his accounts to the Imo State Government.

Unhappy with the verdict, Anyanwu appealed, urging the Court of Appeal to overturn the judgment. However, EFCC counsel Ani opposed the appeal and maintained that the prosecution had proved its case beyond reasonable doubt. Delivering a unanimous decision on July 30, 2025, Justice Mohammed Lawal Abubakar, on behalf of a three-member panel, held that Anyanwu unlawfully acquired a private interest in the lease management of the Imo State Transport Company through Oma Oil & Industries Limited. The court dismissed the appeal for lacking merit and upheld the judgment of the High Court in its entirety.



At the resumed trial of Bishop Katung Jonas and Okewole Dayo, Chairman and Secretary of Covenant Fadama Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society, Jos, Plateau State, before Justice Sharon T. Ishaya of the Federal High Court, Jos, the prosecution continued to present witnesses detailing how the defendants allegedly defrauded unsuspecting investors of over ₦178,885,000 (One Hundred and Seventy-Eight Million, Eight Hundred and Eighty-Five Thousand Naira) under the guise of a faith-based investment scheme.

During the proceedings of Tuesday, July 22, 2025, the first prosecution witness, Sulaiman Kwalla, narrated how he and his wife were lured into investing in the cooperative through Bishop Katung's televised sermons on Plateau Radio Television Corporation (PRTV), which advertised the cooperative and promised a 10 percent monthly return. He testified that he invested ₦200,000 and another ₦100,000 on behalf of his wife, but neither received any returns. When he visited the cooperative's office, he met a crowd of angry investors demanding refunds. The situation almost turned violent, leading to the arrest of the cooperative's secretary, Okewole Dayo, by the police. Kwalla further told the court that Bishop Katung admitted chairing the cooperative and promised to refund investors but failed to do so, instead introducing new fraudulent ventures such as Lanre Global Concept and Global View.

**N180 MILLION FRAUD**

Following several failed repayment attempts, investors, through their lawyer, petitioned the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), alleging a fraud of over ₦8 billion involving more than 44,000 victims.

At the continuation of the trial on Thursday, October 16, 2025, the second prosecution witness, Fasaki Olutayo Jacob, a 68-year-old retired civil servant, also recounted how he was deceived into investing ₦1.2 million in the cooperative. Led in evidence by prosecution counsel, Ibrahim Buba, Jacob told the court that he first came across Bishop Katung through a televised sermon on PRTV and was later convinced to invest after meeting him in person at Maranata Church, No. 10 Miyangu Street, Jos. He testified that investors were issued receipts and record cards, but interest payments stopped abruptly in 2012. Dayo later convened a meeting, pleading for patience, while Bishop Katung appeared on television again, promising repayments that never came. Jacob further narrated how aggrieved investors gathered at the cooperative's office, forcing police intervention to prevent mob action. A subsequent police meeting failed to resolve the matter, leading to EFCC's intervention. According to him, despite the defendants' assurances and the presentation of a purported landed property document as repayment collateral, no investor received any refund after the property was sold.

Justice Ishaya admitted relevant documents tendered by the prosecution, including receipts and petitions, and adjourned the matter to December 10 and 11, 2025, for the continuation of the trial.

**N178 MILLION  
FRAUD**

CASE  
**86**

**PHILIP IFEJIMALU EZE  
& ORIMIRI OIL AND GAS.  
– N63 MILLION FRAUD**



The Abuja Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Monday, July 21, 2025, arraigned Philip Ifejimalu Eze, Managing Director of Orimiri Oil and Gas, his company, before Justice A.H. Musa of the Federal Capital Territory High Court, Apo, Abuja, on a one-count charge bordering on fraud.

The charge alleged that sometime in 2024, in Abuja, the defendant, with intent to defraud, induced Chief Amech Nduka of Amatex Oil and Gas to deliver 45,000 litres of Automotive Gas Oil valued at ₦63,000,000 (Sixty-Three Million Naira). Payment was made through a Mainstreet Bank cheque, which the defendant knew had already been liquidated and was rejected when presented at Zenith Bank. The EFCC maintained that the fraudulent act contravened Section 1(a) of the Advanced Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act, 2006, and is punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act.

Eze pleaded not guilty to the charge. Following his plea, prosecution counsel, Mariya Ujudud Shariff, requested a date for the commencement of trial.

Justice Musa admitted the defendant to bail with stringent conditions, including two sureties. One must be a civil servant not below Grade Level 12 and present a letter of introduction from his place of work, which is to be verified by the Court Registrar. The second surety must own a house within the court's jurisdiction, depose to an affidavit, and sign a bail bond of ₦2,000,000 (Two Million Naira).

**The matter is adjourned to November 11, 2025, for commencement of trial.**

**CASE  
87****ENGR. ABBA BABAGANA DALORI  
– N333 MILLION (FINAL FORFEITURE  
OF GALAXY HOSPITAL, FIVE PETROL  
STATIONS AND SEVERAL LANDED  
PROPERTIES)**

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has secured a final forfeiture order on Galaxy Hospital, five petroleum filling stations, several landed properties across the Federal Capital Territory, Borno, Nasarawa and Niger states, as well as bank accounts and funds totaling ₦333 million. The order was granted on Monday, July 14, 2025, by Justice Emeka Nwite of the Federal High Court, Maitama, Abuja, following a motion on notice filed by the EFCC under Section 17 of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act, 2006, marked "FHC/ABJ/1058/2024."

The application, supported by a 36-paragraph affidavit deposed to by EFCC operative Tahiru Ahmed, sought the final forfeiture of the assets on the grounds that they were proceeds of unlawful activities. On August 13, 2024, the Commission had first secured an interim forfeiture order over the assets, with a directive to publish the order in a national newspaper and on the EFCC website for any interested party to show cause why the properties should not be permanently forfeited to the federal government. In compliance, the interim order was published in The Punch Newspaper of September 4, 2024.

Ahmed told the court that since the publication, no individual or entity had come forward to lay claim to the affected assets, stressing that granting the final forfeiture would serve the interest of justice as no lawful owner had been dispossessed. Counsel to the EFCC, Fadila Yusuf, urged the court to grant the final order, having satisfied all statutory requirements.

In his ruling, Justice Nwite held that the application was meritorious, noting that the Commission had met the burden of proof. Consequently, he ordered the final forfeiture of the assets to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The forfeited assets include Galaxy Hospital, Plot No. BO/12340, Bolori Layout, Maiduguri, Borno State; a duplex on the same plot; residential apartments at Plot 12, Equilibrium Estate, and at No. 7, Cadastral Zone DO2, Karsana District, Abuja; as well as various plots of land in Maiduguri, Abuja, Nasarawa and Niger states. They also include filling stations located in Chabbal Village, Borno State; along the Kaduna-Zaria Expressway, Kaduna State; at Mogaramti, along Maiduguri-Kano Road, Borno State; at Konduga LGA, Borno State; and at 99 Sir Kashim Ibrahim Road, Maiduguri, Borno State.

Other forfeited assets are a four-bedroom terrace duplex at Guzape District, Abuja; a 10-hectare plot in Maiduguri proposed for a filling station; and farmlands in Nasarawa and Niger states. In addition, several bank accounts were forfeited, including those belonging to Galaxy Transportation and Communication Service Ltd, containing ₦281,455,454; Galaxy Computing and Electronics Service Ltd, ₦6,977,195; Galaxy Energy International Concept Ltd, ₦1,240,588; and Galaxy Transportation and Construction Service, ₦43,705,469.55. Other accounts, including those of Galaxy Intercontinental Miners Concept Ltd, Galaxy Superstores & Pharmacy, Galaxy Transportation & Construction, and Abba Babagana Dalori, were found with zero balances.

**Justice Nwite's ruling thus vested permanent ownership of the hospital, filling stations, landed properties, and funds in the federal government.**

**N333 MILLION  
(FINAL FORFEITURE  
OF GALAXY HOSPITAL,  
FIVE PETROL  
STATIONS AND SEVERAL  
LANDED PROPERTIES)**

**CASE  
88****USMAN ZAKARI (CHIEF BAILIFF  
OF GOMBE STATE HIGH COURT)  
– N10 MILLION FRAUD**

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has arraigned the Chief Bailiff of the High Court of Justice, Gombe State, Usman Zakari, before Justice Haruna H. Kereng of the Gombe State High Court 3. Zakari was arraigned on July 2, 2025, on a one-count charge of fraudulent conversion brought by the Gombe Zonal Directorate of the EFCC.

According to the charge, Zakari, in October 2023, while serving as Chief Bailiff, was entrusted with the auction of a property subject to judgment enforcement in Suit No. GM/329M/2023, which was sold for ₦14,000,000. Out of this sum, he settled the judgment creditor, Ahmed Umaru, with ₦4,180,000, but allegedly dishonestly converted ₦9,820,000, the balance meant for the judgment creditor. His actions were said to contravene Sections 308 and 309 of the Penal Code Law of Northern Nigeria.

The defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge. Prosecution counsel, M. O. Tijani, prayed the court for a trial date and for the defendant to be remanded in the Gombe Correctional Centre. However, defence counsel, Yusuf A. Aliyu, moved a bail application in favour of his client.

Justice Kereng granted the defendant bail on self-recognition, noting his status as a staff of the court, and adjourned the case to July 30, 2025, for trial. Trial is ongoing.

**CASE  
89****AISHA ALKALI WAKIL  
(A.K.A. MAMA BOKO HARAM),  
TAHIRU SAIDU DAURA &  
PRINCE LAWAL SHOYODE –  
N11 MILLION CONTRACT FRAUD**

Justice Aisha Kumaliya of the Borno State High Court sitting in Maiduguri on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, convicted and sentenced Aisha Alkali Wakil, popularly known as *Mama Boko Haram*, alongside Tahiru Saidu Daura and Prince Lawal Shoyode, to fourteen years' imprisonment each.

The trio, who were arraigned on September 14, 2020, by the Maiduguri Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, faced a two-count charge of conspiracy and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of ₦11,000,000. They were accused of fraudulently obtaining the money from one Muhammed Ambare of Muhammed Ambare Ventures under the guise of executing a contract for the supply, installation and servicing of two units of X-Ray Machine Model 1800.

One of the counts reads: *“That you, Aisha Alkali Wakil, Tahiru Saidu Daura, Prince Lawal Shoyode whilst being Chief Executive Officer, Programme Manager and Country Director respectively of Complete Care and Aids Foundation (Non-Governmental Organisation) and Saidu Mukhtar (now at large) sometime in July, 2018 at Maiduguri within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud obtained the sum of N11,000,000.00 (Eleven Million Naira) only from one Muhammed Ambare of Muhammed Ambare Ventures under the false pretence of executing a purported contract of supply, installation and servicing of 2 units of X-Ray Machine Model 1800, which you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1)(b) of the*

*Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act.”*

The defendants pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to them, necessitating a full trial. Prosecution counsel, Mukhtar Ali Ahmed and S.O. Saka, presented one witness and tendered several documents in evidence to establish the case. After protracted proceedings, often delayed at the instance of the defendants, Justice Kumaliya delivered judgment convicting them on both counts. She sentenced each of the convicts to seven years imprisonment on each count, with the terms to run concurrently.

In addition, the court ordered them to jointly and severally restitution the sum of ₦8,000,000 to the petitioner or serve an additional seven years in prison.

Their conviction stemmed from the fraudulent contract awarded through their NGO, Complete Care and Aids Foundation, which deceived the petitioner into transferring ₦11,000,000 into an account operated by Saidu Mukhtar who remains at large. The contract was never executed, nor was the money refunded, leading to their eventual prosecution and conviction.

**N11 MILLION  
CONTRACT  
FRAUD**

CASE  
90

**CHUKWUDI OKONKWO  
GOODNESS – N360 MILLION  
(ISSUANCE OF DUD CHEQUES)**



Justice Josephine Oyefeso of the Lagos State High Court sitting in Ajah, Lagos, on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, convicted and sentenced Chukwudi Okonkwo Goodness to seventy-four years' imprisonment for stealing and issuance of dud cheques.

Goodness was first arraigned on June 6, 2016, by the Lagos Zonal Directorate 1 of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a thirty-three count charge bordering on stealing and issuance of dud cheques to the tune of ₦360,000,000.00 (Three Hundred and Sixty Million Naira). One of the counts reads: *“That you, Chukwudi Okonkwo Goodness, sometime between the months of June and July, 2015 at Ikeja, within the jurisdiction of the Honourable Court, fraudulently converted and stole the sum of N360,000,000.00 (Three Hundred and Sixty Million Naira), property of one Henry Nnadike and committed an offence of stealing by conversion contrary to Sections 278 and 285 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2011.”*

He pleaded not guilty to the charges, which necessitated a full trial. Prosecution counsel, T.J. Banjo, called four witnesses and tendered documentary evidence to establish the allegations against him.

In her judgment, Justice Oyefeso found him guilty on thirty-two of the thirty-three counts. He was sentenced to seven years imprisonment on count one for stealing, two years imprisonment each on counts three to thirty-two for issuance of dud cheques, and seven years' imprisonment on count thirty-three, all without an option of fine.

However, he was discharged and acquitted on count two, which bordered on possession of documents containing false pretence.

The sentences are to run concurrently, amounting to a total prison term of seventy-four years. The court further ordered him to restitute the sum of ₦215,000,000 within thirty days of the judgment, with a possibility of consideration for a fine thereafter.

The conviction arose from his fraudulent conversion and theft of ₦360,000,000 belonging to one Henry Nnadike, acts which the court found proven beyond reasonable doubt.

## CASE 91

### BULAMA ABDULRAHMAN – ₦30 MILLION (FAKE EFCC AUCTIONEER)



Justice Nasiru Saminu of the Kano State High Court has convicted and sentenced Bulama Abdulrahman to seven years' imprisonment without an option of fine for posing as an auctioneer purportedly assigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, to sell properties forfeited to the Federal Government.

Bulama was arraigned on a two-count charge bordering on obtaining under false pretence to the tune of ₦35,000,000 (Thirty-Five Million Naira). One of the charges reads: *"That you, Abdulrahman Bulama, on or about June 2023 in Kano within the jurisdiction of the Kano State High Court, with intent to defraud, obtained the sum of ₦20,000,000 (Twenty Million Naira) from one Safiyanu Abdullahi of Tauraro and Property Limited under the false pretence that you were an auctioneer with the consent and authority of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission to auction a fenced uncompleted building at Rijiyar Zaki, Kano, which pretence you knew to be false, and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1)(a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006."*

He pleaded not guilty to both counts, prompting full trial. Prosecution counsel, Musa Isah, called three witnesses, while the defendant testified as the sole witness in his defence. At the conclusion of trial, Justice Saminu, relying on the weight of evidence presented, found the defendant guilty on count two but discharged and acquitted him on count one.

Following allocutus, defence counsel pleaded for leniency on the ground that Bulama is a PhD student at Nasarawa State University. The judge, however, convicted him and sentenced him to seven years' imprisonment without an option of fine.

He further ordered Abdulrahman to pay ₦35,000,000 in restitution to the victim, failing which he would serve an additional seven years in prison.

Bulama's conviction stemmed from a petition alleging that he posed as an EFCC auctioneer and defrauded victims of ₦35,000,000 under the guise of selling them a truck and an uncompleted building in Kano. Investigations revealed that he is a repeat offender, having been convicted by the Kano State High Court on June 28, 2021, for a similar offence of obtaining by false pretence.

## CASE 92

### BABA SULE SODIQ & HAFSAT LAWAL – ₦197 MILLION MONEY LAUNDERING.



The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Monday, March 9, 2025, arraigned a couple, Baba Sule Abubakar Sadiq and his wife, Hafsat Kabir Lawal, alongside two others, Abdullahi Bala and Ladani Akindele, before Justice Amina Bello of the Kaduna State High Court on a six-count charge bordering on obtaining money by false pretence, money laundering and stealing to the tune of ₦197,750,000 (One Hundred and Ninety-Seven Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira).

The defendants were accused of colluding among themselves to defraud unsuspecting victims through various fraudulent schemes, including impersonation of the wife of the Katsina State Governor, Fatima Dikko Radda. They were initially arrested by operatives of the Department of State Services, DSS, before being handed over to the EFCC when it was established that their offences were financial crimes.

One of the charges reads: “*That you, Hafsat Kabir Lawal, Babasule Abubakar Sadiq, Abdullahi Bala and Ladani Akindele Ayodele, sometimes in December 2024 at Kaduna, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, obtained the sum of ₦89,000,000 (Eighty-Nine Million Naira) from one Aminu Usman, which money you caused to be paid into the Taj Bank Plc account number 0009914725 belonging to Abdullahi Bala, under the false pretence that you had the sum of \$53,300 (Fifty-Three Thousand, Three Hundred United States Dollars) to exchange for the Naira equivalent, which pretence you knew to be false, and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act.”*

The four defendants pleaded not guilty to all charges. Following their pleas, prosecution counsel, Bright C. Ogbonna, applied for a trial date and prayed the court to remand the defendants in a correctional facility. Defence counsel, M.S. Katu, SAN (for the 1st and 2nd defendants), Jazuli Mustapha (for the 3rd defendant), and Paul A. Okachi (for the 4th defendant), informed the court that they had filed bail applications on behalf of their clients and were ready to proceed. Ogbonna, however, opposed the applications, arguing that they were not ripe for hearing. While defence counsel prayed the court to entertain oral bail applications, Justice Bello upheld the prosecution’s objection, ordered the remand of the defendants in a correctional facility, and adjourned the case to March 17, 2025, for hearing of the bail applications.

Investigations revealed that Hafsat, posing as one of the wives of Katsina State Governor, Malam Dikko Radda, contacted her victims and fraudulently obtained ₦89,000,000 from one petitioner and another ₦108,000,000 from another, claiming to have \$118,300 to exchange. Further inquiries showed that her husband, Sadiq, facilitated the scheme by providing her with two SIM cards, which he registered on True Caller as “Fatima Dikko Radda.” He also contacted the fourth defendant, Akindele, his former colleague at a new generation bank, to obtain the contact of Unity Bank Chairman, Hafiz Bashir, through whom he secured the phone number of the petitioner, a bureau de change operator.

Hafsat subsequently contacted the petitioner, Aminu Usman, and obtained a total sum of ₦197,750,000 under the guise of selling dollar equivalents. The funds were deposited into the account of the third defendant, Abdullahi Bala, from where they were allegedly shared among the four defendants and laundered through multiple channels.

CASE  
93

BARRISTER IFEANYICHUKWU  
OKONKWO – N41 MILLION  
FRAUD.

The Enugu Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has arraigned one Barrister Ifeanyichukwu Okonkwo before Justice E. N. Oluedo of the Enugu State High Court, sitting in Independence Layout, Enugu for fraud.



He is facing prosecution on a one-count charge bordering on stealing by conversion to the tune of N41million. The offence is contrary to Section 342 of CAP 30, Criminal Code Law of Enugu State and punishable under Section 353 (L) of the same Law.

The charge reads: "That you, Ifeanyichukwu Okonkwo, on or about the 23rd day of November, 2015 in Enugu within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently converted to your own use, the sum of Forty-One Million Naira (N41, 000,000.00) being money received by you from one Onyishi Maduka Samuel for the family of late Ifemelunma Okoye, in your capacity as the liquidator of Ifemelunma and Company Enterprises Limited and thereby committed an offence".

He pleaded "not guilty" when the charge was read to him, following which prosecution counsel, Ajobiewe Rotimi Enitan asked the court for a trial date and for the defendant to be remanded in a correctional facility, while the defendant, who appeared for himself, applied that he be allowed to continue enjoying an earlier bail granted to him by Justice H. O. Eya of the same court on the same matter.

After listening to both sides, Justice Oluedo granted the defendant's application and adjourned the matter to May 13, 14 and 15, 2025 for trial.

The defendant was initially arraigned before Justice Eya of the same court on June 23, 2022. He pleaded "not guilty" and was granted bail.

**Trial is ongoing.**

**CASE  
94**

**BARRISTER CHUKWUEMEKA  
NWOBODO – N12 MILLION  
FRAUD.**



The Enugu Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has arraigned Barrister Benjamin Chukwuemeke Nwobodo before

Justice F.O. Giwa-Ogunbanjo of the Federal High Court, sitting in Independence Layout, Enugu State, on a five-count charge bordering on forgery and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of ₦12,000,000 (Twelve Million Naira only).

Count three of the charge reads: "That you, Benjamin Chukwuemeka Nwobodo, on the 15th day of January, 2014, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, obtained the sum of Nine Million Naira (₦9,000,000.00) from one Wilson Ikeani Igwe under the false pretence of the sale of three plots of land situated at Emene, Enugu State, a pretence you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1 of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the same Act."

Count four reads: "That you, Benjamin Chukwuemeka Nwobodo, on the 15th day of December, 2014, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, obtained the sum of Three Million Naira (₦3,000,000.00) from one Wilson Ikeani Igwe under the false pretence of the sale of one plot of land situated at Emene, Enugu State,

State, a pretence you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1 of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the same Act."

The defendant pleaded not guilty to the charges. Following his plea, prosecution counsel, Chief Superintendent of the EFCC, CSE Chikezie Raymond Edozie, applied for a trial date and requested that the defendant be remanded at the Enugu State Correctional Facility.

The defendant, who represented himself, made an oral application for bail. The court granted bail on the following terms: two sureties in the like sum of ₦25,000,000 each; one surety must own landed property within Enugu metropolis; the second surety must be a blood relation of the defendant and present three years' tax clearance. Both sureties are required to depose and submit affidavits of means. The EFCC is to verify the sureties and their addresses within seven working days of receiving their details. The defendant is also mandated to deposit his international passport with the Deputy Court Registrar.

Pending the perfection of his bail terms, Justice Giwa-Ogunbanjo permitted the defendant to return home on self-recognition but ordered that he must perfect the bail conditions within ten days, failing which the EFCC shall arrest and remand him in a Correctional Facility.

**The matter which was adjourned to May 13 and 14, 2025, for trial is ongoing.**

CASE  
**95**

**BARRISTER ALEXANDER  
OZOUGWU – N1.3 BILLION  
FRAUD & MONEY LAUNDERING.**

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Uyo Zonal Directorate, on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, arraigned a legal practitioner, Barrister

Alexander Uchenna Ozougwu, before Justice Sergius Onah of the Federal High Court sitting in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, for allegedly defrauding his victims of the sum of ₦1,323,850,000 (One Billion, Three Hundred and Twenty-Three Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) through a bogus foreign exchange investment scheme.

He was docked on a six-count charge bordering on obtaining money by false pretence, contrary to Section 18(2)(d) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022.

Count one of the charges reads: *“That you, Alexander Uchenna Ozougwu, sometime in September 2024 in Nigeria, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did take possession of the total sum of Two Hundred and Sixty-Eight Million, Eight Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (₦268,850,000.00) through a bank account with the account name STARLIGHT ATTORNEYS, which you knew formed proceeds of an unlawful act to wit: obtaining money by false pretence, and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2)(d) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act.”*



Count two reads: *“That you, Alexander Uchenna Ozougwu, sometime in July 2024 in Nigeria, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did take possession of the total sum of Two Hundred and Thirteen Million Naira (₦213,000,000.00) through a bank account with the account name STARLIGHT ATTORNEYS, which you knew formed proceeds of an unlawful act to wit: obtaining money by false pretence, and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2)(d) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act.”*

The defendant pleaded not guilty to all charges. Following his plea, prosecution counsel, Joshua O. Abolarin, urged the court to remand him in a Correctional Centre and fix a trial date. Defence counsel, C.M. Onuchukwu, however, informed the court of a bail application filed on self-recognition for the defendant and assured that his client would be available for trial.

After considering the submissions, Justice Onah granted bail in the sum of ₦500,000,000 (Five Hundred Million Naira) with two sureties in like sum. The sureties must be civil servants not below Grade Level 12 and must own landed property within the jurisdiction of the court. The defendant was further directed to deposit his international passport and two recent passport photographs with the court.

Investigations revealed that Ozougwu allegedly lured his victims by presenting himself as a registered bureau de change operator with the Central Bank of Nigeria. Through this guise, he allegedly gained their trust, collected access to their betting accounts, and promised to help fund them but instead diverted their funds. The EFCC discovered that the defendant was running a ponzi scheme under the cover of foreign exchange trading, diverting most of the proceeds to various betting platforms. A total of ₦1,323,850,000 was traced to the fraud.

**The case was adjourned to March 31, 2025, for trial which is still ongoing**



Justice Rosemary Dugbo Oghoghorie of the Federal High Court sitting in Calabar has convicted and sentenced the Chief Executive Officer of Micheno Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society, Uno Michael Eke, to one year imprisonment for conspiracy, obtaining property by false pretence, and money laundering to the tune of ₦2,000,000,000 (Two Billion Naira).

He was jailed after pleading guilty to a four-count amended charge brought against him by the Uyo Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

Count one reads: *"That you, Uno Michael Eke (being the President/Chief Executive Officer of Micheno Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society); Registered Trustees of Micheno Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society, MMCS; and Aya Kanu Aya (alias Mbakara), being the Vice President of Micheno Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society (now at large), sometime between June and August 2018 in Calabar within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, conspired among yourselves to commit an offence to wit: obtaining property by false pretence and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 8(a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."*

Count two reads: *"That you, Uno Michael Eke (being the President/Chief Executive Officer of Micheno Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society); Registered Trustees of Micheno Multi Purpose Cooperative Society, MMCS; and Aya Kanu Aya (alias Mbakara), being the Vice President of Micheno Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society (now at large), on or about the 12th day of July, 2018 in Calabar within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, did obtain the sum of*

*Two Million Naira (₦2,000,000.00) from one Kubnse Ogar Ebute by inducing her to invest the money into your Swiss Golden packages through your Micheno Multi-Purpose Cooperative Society Ltd under the false pretence of paying her 80% as return on investment on the 40th day of her investment, which you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1)(b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."*

Eke pleaded guilty to the charges. Following his plea, prosecution counsel, Joshua Abolarin, prayed the court to convict him accordingly, while defence counsel, Ime Umanah, informed the court of a plea bargain agreement and pleaded for a lighter sentence.

Justice Oghoghorie, after considering the plea and evidence before the court, convicted and sentenced Eke to one year imprisonment with an option of a ₦2,000,000 (Two Million Naira) fine.

Additionally, the court ordered the forfeiture of the following properties to the Federal Government of Nigeria: twelve (12) flats of two bedrooms each located by Goodluck Jonathan Bypass, Calabar, Cross River State; two (2) plots of land measuring 4.162 hectares and 3.391 hectares at Adiabo Ikot Mboout Community Land, Odukpani Local Government Area, Cross River State; two (2) plots of land located at Akai Effa, Calabar Municipality, Cross River State; eighteen (18) self-contained flats (a storey building) located beside the University of Calabar, Ita-Agbor, Calabar, Cross River State; and ₦10,000,000 (Ten Million Naira) recovered during investigation. The judge further ordered that all monies recovered be restituted to the victims listed in the charges.

Eke's road to conviction began when he was arrested for collecting huge sums of money from unsuspecting victims under the guise of offering 80% returns on investments within 40 days. Investigations revealed that he operated multiple bank accounts in his name and that of his company through which he collected over ₦2 billion which he used to acquire landed properties and houses in Calabar, Cross River State.

CASE  
97

## OLAYIWOLA OGUNTADE (EX JAMB STAFF) – N10 MILLION FRAUD

Olayiwola Oguntade, a former staff member of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), worked in the Finance and Accounts Department of the agency. In 2010, he allegedly forged key documents - including a Local Purchase Order (LPO) and a Letter of Domiciliation - purportedly issued by JAMB, and used them to fraudulently obtain a loan of **₦10 million** from Polybadan Microfinance Bank.

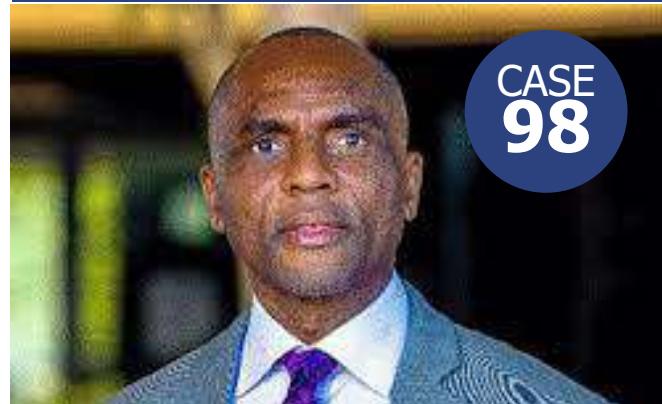


To perfect the fraud, Oguntade engaged a friend, Kola Al-Amin, a customer of the bank, to present the forged documents in Al-Amin's own name. The bank, believing the documents were genuine, granted the loan. The funds were later moved into three companies' accounts - Reeden Investment Limited, Danmarg Multiventures Company and Enrich System Nigeria Limited under the guise of payments for internet services supposedly contracted by JAMB. Investigations, however, revealed that these claims were false and that Oguntade had a history of issuing forged LPOs to the companies in question.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) arraigned him in 2020 on a three-count amended charge of forgery, obtaining by false pretence, and advance fee fraud. The trial lasted more than four years, during which the prosecution presented 10 witnesses and several incriminating documents.

In delivering judgment on January 28, 2025, Justice Bayo Taiwo held that the EFCC had proved its case beyond reasonable doubt. The court found Oguntade guilty on all counts and sentenced him to five years' imprisonment without an option of fine. His conviction underscores how financial crimes can be perpetrated even within sensitive institutions like JAMB, and how forged government documents are often deployed to deceive financial institutions.

## PAULINUS IHEANACHO OKORONKWO (FORMER GM, NNPC) - \$2.1 MILLION BRIBERY.



A United States District Court in California has convicted Paulinus Iheanacho Okoronkwo, a former General Manager of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC), over a \$2.1 million bribery scheme linked to oil drilling rights in Nigeria. Okoronkwo, 58, a dual citizen of Nigeria and the US and a practising lawyer in Los Angeles, was found guilty on multiple charges, including three counts of unlawful monetary transactions, one count of tax evasion, and one count of obstruction of justice. The verdict came after a four-day trial in August, during which prosecutors presented evidence that he received \$2,105,263 in October 2015 from Addax Petroleum, a Swiss subsidiary of Chinese oil giant Sinopec, under the guise of consultancy fees.

Prosecutors told the court the payment was a bribe to secure favourable financial terms for Addax's drilling operations in Nigeria. Investigators said Addax executives misled auditors and fired staff who raised concerns about the transaction, with the company's Nigerian interests valued in the billions. Court records revealed that in November 2017, Okoronkwo used \$983,200 from the illicit funds as a down payment for a home in Valencia, California, and failed to declare the bribe money in his 2015 tax returns.

When questioned by federal agents in 2022, he allegedly obstructed justice by claiming the funds belonged to a client. The jury rejected his defence and found him guilty on all counts. z

Judge John F. Walter, who presided over the case, scheduled sentencing for December 1, 2025. Okoronkwo faces up to 25 years in prison, 10 years each for unlawful transactions and obstruction of justice, and five years for tax evasion. The FBI and IRS Criminal Investigation led the probe, supported by the Department of Justice's Office of International Affairs. Assistant US Attorneys, Alexander Schwab, Nisha Chandran, and Alexander Su prosecuted the case.

Okoronkwo, who was released on a \$50,000 bond, was removed from the NNPCL in 2024 following his indictment, according to former presidential aide Bashir Ahmad. The conviction is the latest in a series of corruption scandals rocking Nigeria's oil sector and its global partners.

### ESTHER DAWAKI & SHEHU FATANGE – N26 MILLION MONEY LAUNDERING & VOTE BUYING.



The Kaduna Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 arraigned Esther Ashivelli Dawaki and Shehu Aliyu Fatange before Justice Emeka Nwite of the Federal High Court sitting in Abuja for offences bordering on money laundering, conspiracy and unlawful cash transactions. The duo is being prosecuted on a five-count charge for accepting and making cash payments in excess of the amount authorised by law, to the tune of ₦26 million.

One of the counts alleged that Dawaki, on or about August 16, 2025, procured Fatange to accept the sum of ₦26 million in cash without passing it through a financial institution, in violation of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022.

Another count alleged that Fatange, on the same date in Kaduna, accepted ₦26 million in cash from Dawaki, an amount above the lawful threshold, thereby committing an offence punishable under the same Act. Both defendants pleaded not guilty to the charges. Prosecution counsel, M.O. Arumemi, thereafter applied for a trial date and for the defendants to be remanded in custody. Defence counsel, E.N. Ogbu and A.A. Ashat, did not oppose the application but made oral bail applications and requested that their clients be kept in EFCC's holding facility pending the determination of their bail.

Justice Nwite ordered that Dawaki be remanded in the Suleja Correctional Centre, while Fatange was to be remanded in Kuje Correctional Centre. The court adjourned the matter to Monday, September 15, 2025, for hearing of the bail applications.

The case arose from the arrest of the defendants on August 16, 2025, after credible intelligence revealed that they were in possession of ₦26,463,000 hidden inside a Toyota Corolla belonging to Fatange and parked within a hotel premises in Kaduna. Upon arrest, Fatange identified himself as the Director-General of the campaign office of the Peoples Democratic Party's candidate in the Chikun/Kajuru Federal Constituency bye-election held that same day. Investigators suspected that the funds were earmarked for vote buying during the election.

**N26 MILLION MONEY  
LAUNDERING &  
VOTE BUYING**

## SIJIBOMI OGUNDELE (CEO SUJIMOTO) – N5.7 BILLION CONTRACT SCAM.

CASE  
100



The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has obtained a court order to detain the Chief Executive Officer of Sujimoto Luxury Construction Limited, Sijibomi Ogundele, over an alleged N5.7 billion contract scam involving the construction of 22 Smart Green Schools in Enugu State. Ogundele is currently under investigation for allegedly failing to execute the projects after receiving 50 percent mobilization fee from the state government.

According to the Enugu State Government, Sujimoto was awarded the contract in February 2025

N5,762,565,475.25, representing 50 percent of the contract sum, to enable the contractor fast-track work on all sites. However, despite the substantial payment, Ogundele allegedly abandoned the projects, failed to return to site, and ignored several attempts at engagement. Government officials accused him of resorting to shoddy work, employing inexperienced hands, and failing to meet the structural requirements outlined in the contract drawings.

By May 2025, a joint inspection by officials of the Enugu State Ministry of Works and Infrastructure and operatives of the EFCC across the 22 project sites revealed minimal or no progress.

In many cases, work was stalled at the level of foundation or damp-proof course, with some sites showing fraudulent practices such as incomplete excavation.

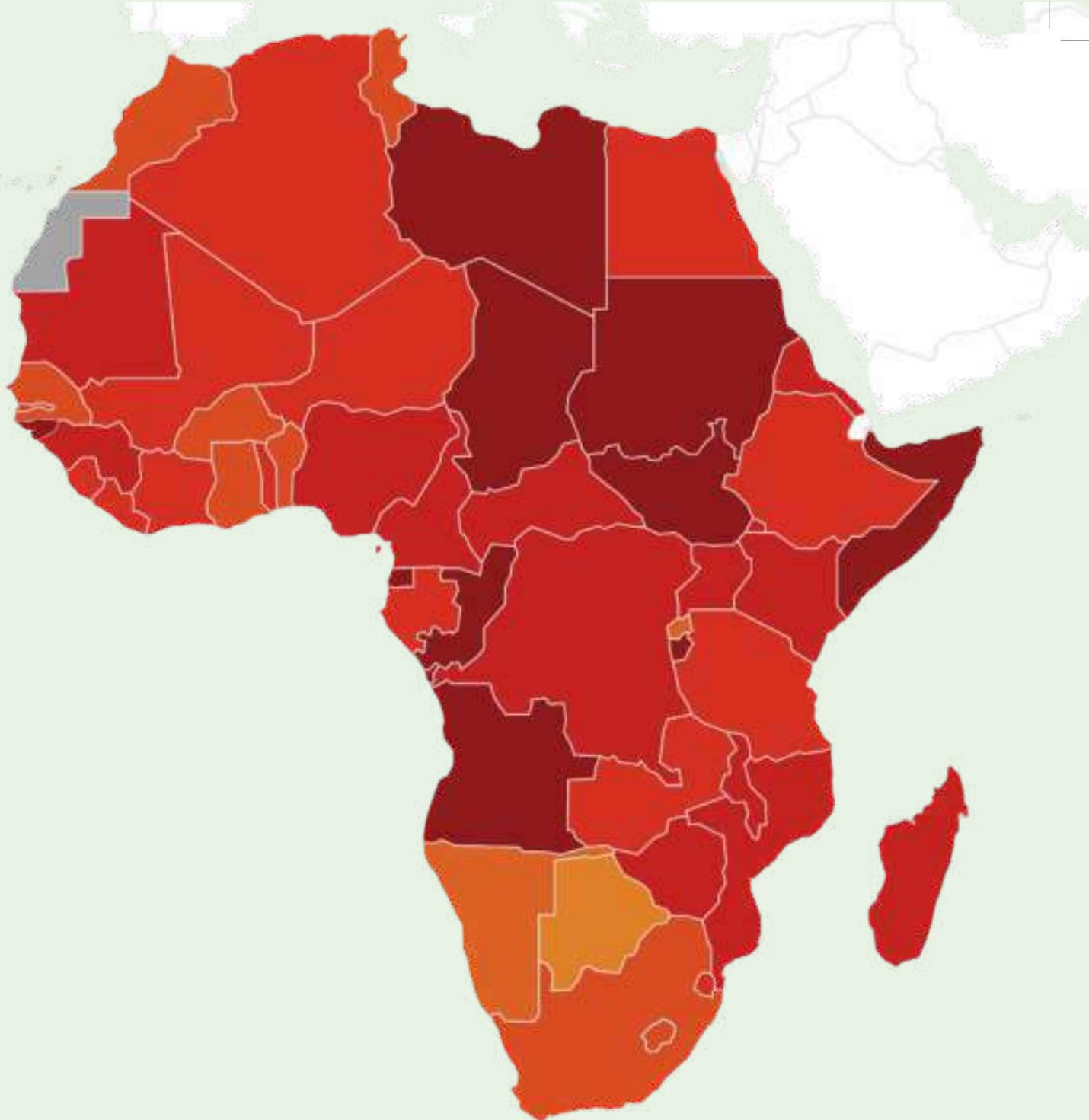
The government emphasized that while other contractors engaged to deliver multiple Smart Green School projects had either completed or were on course to complete their projects, Sujimoto abandoned his sites and absconded. Following persistent failure to respond to invitations, phone calls, project briefings, or official correspondence, the Enugu State Government petitioned the EFCC to recover the funds.

On September 5, 2025, the EFCC declared Ogundele wanted for failing to honour repeated invitations. Before submitting himself to the Commission, he released a social media statement claiming innocence, arguing that the contract was underpriced and inflationary pressures made execution impossible. The state government, however, dismissed his claims, insisting that the payments were made in line with the contract and that other firms operating under the same conditions were delivering quality projects.

EFCC investigations established a *prima facie* case of diversion of public funds and gross contract abandonment. The Commission had earlier frozen the accounts of Sujimoto Luxury Construction Limited to prevent dissipation of funds pending possible forfeiture or recovery. A Chief Magistrate Court in Abuja subsequently granted EFCC's application to detain Ogundele to allow investigators conclude their inquiry.

An EFCC source disclosed that Ogundele would, in the coming days, be confronted with top officials of the Enugu State Government to account for the N5.7 billion paid to him, and to either justify the expenditure or make a refund. "His case looks straightforward," the source said, noting that progress in the investigation was already significant.

Meanwhile, the Enugu State Government has taken possession of the abandoned sites and re-awarded the contracts to new contractors, who are expected to recommence construction from scratch, as the work allegedly done by Sujimoto was substandard and structurally defective.



# 23 NOTABLE HIGH PROFILE CORRUPTION CASES IN AFRICA

## SANI ABACHA LOOT (NIGERIA)



CASE  
1

## JACOB ZUMA AND “STATE CAPTURE” (SOUTH AFRICA)



CASE  
2

General Sani Abacha, who ruled Nigeria as a military dictator from 1993 until his sudden death in 1998, oversaw one of the most notorious cases of state looting in Africa's history. Alongside his son, Mohammed Abacha, and close associates. He orchestrated a sophisticated embezzlement scheme that siphoned an estimated \$5 billion from Nigeria's public treasury. The funds were diverted through inflated contracts, fraudulent debt repayments, and direct withdrawals from the Central Bank of Nigeria.

The scale of the theft only came to light after Abacha's death in 1998, prompting investigations by the Nigerian transitional government under General Abdulsalami Abubakar. Working with anti-corruption agencies such as the ICPC and EFCC, as well as Swiss, UK, and US authorities, Nigeria pursued one of the world's largest asset recovery campaigns. Swiss banks alone froze hundreds of accounts linked to the Abacha family.

To date, more than \$3 billion has been recovered and repatriated to Nigeria from multiple jurisdictions. However, Abacha himself never stood trial, and his family negotiated immunity deals in exchange for partial cooperation with recovery efforts. The case remains a defining example of grand corruption, international complicity, and the challenges of asset recovery in Africa.



Former South African President, Jacob Zuma, was at the centre of one of the continent's most infamous corruption scandals involving the influential Gupta family – Ajay, Atul, and Rajesh. Between 2009 and 2018, the Guptas allegedly captured key arms of the South African state, exerting undue influence over cabinet appointments and looting state-owned enterprises such as Eskom, Transnet, and Denel. Their network, enabled by politically exposed persons, is estimated to have siphoned as much as \$7 billion, according to findings by the Zondo Commission.

The scandal first came to light in 2016 through the “State of Capture” report by Public Protector Thuli Madonsela, which detailed the Guptas' extensive grip on governance. In response, a formal inquiry, the Zondo Commission of Inquiry, was established in 2018 under Justice Raymond Zondo and ran until 2022.

Despite repeated summons, Zuma defied the commission, leading to his imprisonment for 15 months in 2021 for contempt of court – a rare moment of accountability for a sitting or former African head of state. While the Guptas were later arrested in Dubai, their extradition to South Africa has stalled, leaving many cases unresolved.

The Zuma–Gupta saga remains a defining example of “state capture” in Africa, highlighting how elite corruption can hollow out public institutions, cripple service delivery, and undermine democratic governance. It also underscored the power of independent institutions like the Public Protector and Judicial Commissions in exposing entrenched corruption, even if accountability remains a long road.

## TEODORÍN OBIANG LUXURY ASSETS (EQUATORIAL GUINEA)

CASE  
**3**



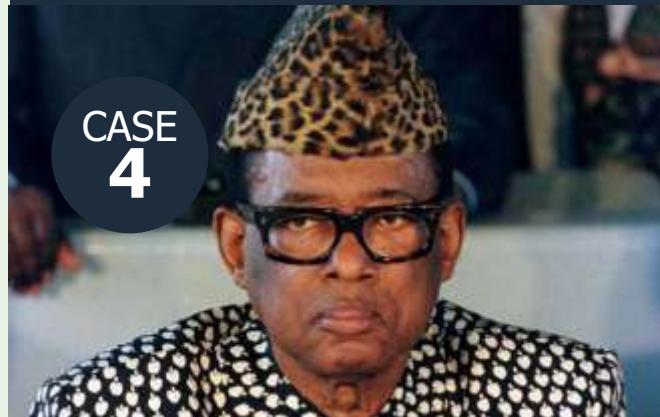
Teodorín Obiang, vice-president of Equatorial Guinea and son of long-serving President Teodoro Obiang Nguema, became notorious for using public funds to finance an extravagant lifestyle. By 2011, French and U.S. investigators uncovered that he had misappropriated hundreds of millions of dollars to acquire luxury cars, a Paris mansion, expensive art, and even Michael Jackson memorabilia. His lavish spending, valued at more than \$300 million, stood in stark contrast to the poverty faced by most citizens of Equatorial Guinea.

French prosecutors Renaud Van Ruymbeke and Roger Le Loire, alongside the U.S. Department of Justice, pursued money laundering and asset seizure cases against him. In 2017, a French court convicted Teodorín, handing him a three-year suspended sentence and a €30 million fine. In the U.S., authorities seized assets worth over \$30 million, including a Malibu mansion.

The case has since become a global symbol of elite corruption and impunity in Africa, highlighting how state resources can be diverted for personal luxury while citizens remain deprived of basic services.

## MOBUTU SESE SEKO EMBEZZLEMENT (DRC)

CASE  
**4**



Mobutu Sese Seko, who ruled Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of Congo) for 32 years, is remembered as one of Africa's most notorious kleptocrats. During his reign, he systematically plundered state resources, amassing a personal fortune estimated at over \$5 billion, even as his country descended into economic ruin. Reports from the IMF, World Bank, and international NGOs in the 1980s consistently flagged the scale of corruption and mismanagement under his regime. Despite this, Mobutu faced no formal prosecution while in power. Following his ouster in 1997, he fled into exile in Morocco, where he died the same year. Investigations revealed his vast assets scattered across Europe, including properties in France, but efforts to recover the stolen wealth have largely failed due to legal complexities and the secrecy of financial havens. His case remains a striking example of entrenched kleptocracy and the enduring difficulty of repatriating looted assets from entrenched dictatorships.

**CASE  
5****ALIEU KOSIAH WAR CRIMES &  
CORRUPTION (LIBERIA)**

Alieu Kosiah, a former commander of the ULIMO rebel group during Liberia's brutal civil war, was notorious for widespread looting, forced labor, and destruction of property under his command. Victims of these atrocities began filing complaints as early as 2004 after Kosiah fled to Switzerland. His case became historic when Swiss prosecutors, led by investigator Alain Werner, pursued him under universal jurisdiction laws.

In 2021, the Swiss Federal Criminal Court convicted Kosiah of war crimes and sentenced him to 20 years imprisonment, marking the first conviction of a Liberian for war crimes outside the country. Beyond holding him personally accountable, the case set a precedent by linking wartime atrocities such as looting and pillage to broader frameworks of corruption and abuse of power, delivering a strong message that impunity for war-related economic crimes would no longer be tolerated.

**CASE  
6****ALIEU KOSIAH WAR CRIMES &  
CORRUPTION (LIBERIA)**

Omar al-Bashir, Sudan's long-serving president, was ousted in 2019 after decades of authoritarian rule. Following his removal, investigators uncovered more than \$350 million in cash and gold stashed in his residence, alongside evidence of illicit payments from Saudi royals. Sudan's Anti-Corruption Committee prosecuted him, and he was sentenced to two years' imprisonment for corruption.

Beyond these financial crimes, al-Bashir remains wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Darfur. His case highlights how entrenched authoritarianism often fuels systemic corruption, where embezzlement of state resources is inseparable from political repression and mass human rights violations.

**PATRICE TALON COTTON  
SUBSIDY (BENIN)****CASE  
7**

Before rising to the presidency of Benin, Patrice Talon was one of the country's most influential businessmen. In 2012, during President Boni Yayi's administration, Talon was accused of diverting \$50 million in cotton subsidies and was also linked to an alleged assassination plot against the president. Facing prosecution, he fled to France. However, in a dramatic political turnaround, Talon returned to Benin, contested the 2016 presidential election, and won. Once in power, all charges against him were dropped. His case remains emblematic of elite impunity in West Africa, where political office can shield individuals from accountability for alleged corruption.

## CASHGATE SCANDAL (MALAWI)

CASE  
**8**



In 2013, Malawi was rocked by a massive corruption scandal widely known as “Cashgate.” An independent audit revealed that officials under President Joyce Banda's administration had orchestrated a large-scale payroll fraud scheme, siphoning an estimated \$250 million from government coffers. Civil servants created fictitious companies and used them to channel public funds for private enrichment.

The revelations, which came to light following the death of former President Bingu wa Mutharika, triggered a wave of arrests. The Malawi Anti-Corruption Bureau led the prosecutions, ultimately jailing dozens of officials involved. Among the most prominent convictions was that of Oswald Lutepo, who received an 11-year prison sentence.

The scandal had sweeping consequences beyond the courtroom. More than 70 people were arrested, donor countries suspended critical aid to Malawi, and President Banda herself was drawn into controversy. Although she consistently denied any involvement, the scandal severely damaged her administration's credibility and remains one of the most significant corruption cases in Malawi's history.

## HISSÈNE HABRÉ LOOTING (CHAD)

CASE  
**9**



Hissène Habré, who ruled Chad from 1982 to 1990, was later revealed to have looted an estimated \$100 million in state resources and diverted foreign aid for personal use. Following his ouster in 1990, evidence of his economic crimes and widespread human rights abuses began to surface.

After years of advocacy and legal battles, he was finally brought before a Senegalese court operating under the mandate of the African Union. In 2016, under the leadership of Judge Gberdao Gustave Kam, Habré was convicted of crimes against humanity, torture, and theft of state funds. He received a life sentence, making history as the first former African head of state to be tried and convicted in another African country under AU jurisdiction.

His case stands as both a landmark in international justice and a stark reminder of how authoritarian regimes can devastate national resources while inflicting lasting harm on their people.

## AHMED HAROUN & ICC (SUDAN)

CASE  
10



Ahmed Haroun, a former Sudanese minister and governor, was accused of diverting more than \$100 million in state funds to arm the Janjaweed militias during the Darfur conflict. In 2007, the International Criminal Court (ICC) under Prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo issued a warrant for his arrest, charging him with crimes linked to atrocities committed in Darfur.

Despite the warrant, Haroun evaded capture for years and even continued to hold senior government positions under Omar al-Bashir's regime. His case remains unresolved, as Sudanese authorities have so far been unwilling to surrender him to the ICC, leaving him a symbol of the persistent challenges in holding powerful figures accountable for corruption and atrocity crimes.

CASE  
11

## WILLIAM RUTO LAND GRABS (KENYA)



William Ruto, now President of Kenya, has long faced controversy over alleged illegal land acquisitions, valued between \$10–50 million. The most notable is the Weston Hotel case, where public land was said to have been unlawfully taken for his private benefit. Kenya's Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) investigated the matter, but the case has remained unresolved, reinforcing perceptions of elite impunity.

Ruto was also indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for crimes against humanity linked to the 2007–2008 post-election violence. However, the ICC case collapsed in 2016 amid allegations of witness tampering and insufficient evidence. While he has consistently denied wrongdoing, these unresolved allegations continue to cast a shadow over his political career and Kenya's broader struggle against high-level corruption.

## ESKOM & ANC KICKBACKS (SOUTH AFRICA)

CASE  
**12**



In 2017, investigations into South Africa's power utility Eskom exposed a major corruption scandal in which executives awarded overpriced contracts worth \$3–5 billion to ANC-linked firms. The Special Investigating Unit (SIU), led by Andy Mothibi, found extensive tender fraud that deepened Eskom's financial crisis and fueled the country's ongoing electricity blackouts. While several executives were removed, prosecutions have been slow, making the case a defining example of state capture under the Zuma era.

CASE  
**13**

## ESKOM & ANC KICKBACKS (SOUTH AFRICA)



Zambia's former president Frederick Chiluba was accused of embezzling \$46 million in state funds during his tenure from 1991 to 2001. The allegations surfaced in 2002 and were pursued by the Task Force on Corruption led by Mark Chona.

In 2009, Chiluba was acquitted in a Zambian criminal trial, but a UK civil court later found him liable for the theft. Despite the damning civil judgment, he never faced imprisonment and died in 2011. The case highlighted the difficulty of prosecuting grand corruption in post-authoritarian settings and the limits of domestic accountability mechanisms.

## MOHAMED OULD ABDEL AZIZ (MAURITANIA)

CASE  
**14**



Mauritania's former president Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz (2009–2019) was accused of diverting \$100–150 million in state funds for personal enrichment. Following a 2021 investigation, he was tried by the country's anti-corruption court and in 2023, sentenced to five years in prison for illicit enrichment, money laundering, and abuse of office. His conviction stands out as a rare example of an African ex-head of state being successfully prosecuted for corruption domestically and while still alive.

CASE  
**15**

## KIZZA BESIGYE CAMPAIGN FUNDS (UGANDA)



In Uganda, officials from Kizza Besigye's 2011 presidential campaign were accused of mismanaging \$1–2 million in donor funds. The Inspector General of Government (IGG) investigated claims that some of the money meant for campaign activities was diverted. However, no charges or convictions followed. The case underscored concerns about transparency and accountability, showing that even opposition movements can face corruption allegations in African politics.

## EBOLA FUNDS SCANDAL (SIERRA LEONE)

CASE  
**16**



In Sierra Leone, a 2015 audit revealed that \$14 million in Ebola aid funds had been misappropriated by health ministry officials during the 2014–2016 epidemic. The money was lost through fictitious purchases and inflated contracts. The Anti-Corruption Commission, led by Joseph Kamara, prosecuted several officials, resulting in 2–5 year jail terms. The scandal deeply undermined public trust at a time when the country was battling a deadly health crisis.

## PETROBRAS JV BRIBES (ANGOLA)

CASE  
**18**



In 2016, Brazil's Lava Jato ("Car Wash") investigation exposed that executives of Angola's state oil company Sonangol had received \$100–200 million in kickbacks through corrupt joint ventures with Petrobras. While some perpetrators were prosecuted and jailed in Brazil, Angolan officials largely evaded accountability at home. The scandal underscored deep corruption in Angola's oil sector and heightened calls for greater transparency in managing the country's most critical resource.

## CASE **17** GUINEA MINING BRIBES



In Guinea, the Simandou iron ore deposit was at the heart of a major bribery scandal involving Israeli billionaire, Beny Steinmetz, who allegedly paid \$8.5 million in bribes to secure mining rights. The case, uncovered in 2013, was investigated by the U.S. Department of Justice and Guinean authorities. In 2021, a Swiss court convicted Steinmetz of corruption and forgery, sentencing him to five years in prison. The scandal highlighted how Africa's vast mineral resources remain vulnerable to corruption and international exploitation.

million in bribes to secure mining rights. The case, uncovered in 2013, was investigated by the U.S. Department of Justice and Guinean authorities. In 2021, a Swiss court convicted Steinmetz of corruption and forgery, sentencing him to five years in prison. The scandal highlighted how Africa's vast mineral resources remain vulnerable to corruption and international exploitation.

## CASE **19** ALI BONGO FAMILY WEALTH (GABON)



In 2016, French authorities investigating "ill-gotten gains" uncovered that President Ali Bongo of Gabon and his family had amassed \$100–150 million in assets, including luxury real estate, allegedly funded through diverted oil revenues. The French judiciary continues to probe the case, while Bongo denies any wrongdoing, dismissing the investigation as politically motivated. The scandal mirrors earlier allegations against his late father, Omar Bongo, and highlights persistent concerns over corruption in Gabon's oil wealth.

## ISABEL DOS SANTOS (ANGOLA)

CASE  
**20**



In 2020, the “Luanda Leaks” exposed how Isabel dos Santos, daughter of former Angolan president José Eduardo dos Santos, allegedly siphoned off over \$2 billion from state firms Sonangol and Sodiam through offshore accounts and shell companies. Angola's Attorney General Helder Pitta Groz responded by freezing her assets. Isabel, once Africa's richest woman, denies wrongdoing and calls the case politically motivated. She remains in exile, with no conviction yet.

CASE  
**21**

## SAM KUTESA UN BRIBERY (UGANDA)



In 2018, U.S. prosecutors revealed that Sam Kutesa, Uganda's former foreign minister and ex-UN General Assembly president, had accepted a \$500,000 bribe

from a Chinese businessman seeking business favors in Uganda. While the businessman was convicted in New York under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, Kutesa was never charged, with critics arguing that diplomatic immunity shielded him from accountability.

## BEN ALI & TRABELSI FAMILY (TUNISIA)

CASE  
**22**



Tunisia's 2011 revolution exposed how former president Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali and his in-laws, the Trabelsi family, had looted an estimated \$5 billion through state capture and monopolies. After fleeing to Saudi Arabia, Ben Ali was sentenced in absentia to 35 years for embezzlement and abuse of power. While Tunisia's transitional justice commission recovered some assets, much of the stolen wealth remains unrecovered.

CASE  
**23**

## BOUTEFLIKA CRONIES (ALGERIA)



After Algeria's 2019 Hirak protests toppled President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, investigators exposed massive corruption involving his brother Said Bouteflika and close business allies. They were found guilty of taking \$1–2 billion in kickbacks from state contracts. In a landmark case, Said Bouteflika was sentenced to 15 years in prison, marking a rare instance of high-level accountability in Algeria.

# THE ANALYSIS

**TOTAL AMOUNT RECORDED:** N 1,387,164,191,874.90  
\$ 53,844,810,331.71  
£ 1,000,000.00

Male	Female
N 1,383,115,191,874.90	N 4,049,000,000.00
\$ 31,796,257,031.71	\$ 22,048,553,300
£ 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	7	7.0	7.0	7.0
Senators	1	1.0	1.0	1.0
Former Governors	16	16.0	16.0	16.0
Others	76	76.0	76.0	76.0
Total	100	100	100	100

Results in Table 1 shows that a total of 100 corruption cases were considered. Of this, 16% involve Former Governors of States in Nigeria, while 7% represent the involvement of Former Ministers and Advisers for Government office holders. The involvement of Senators are at 1%.

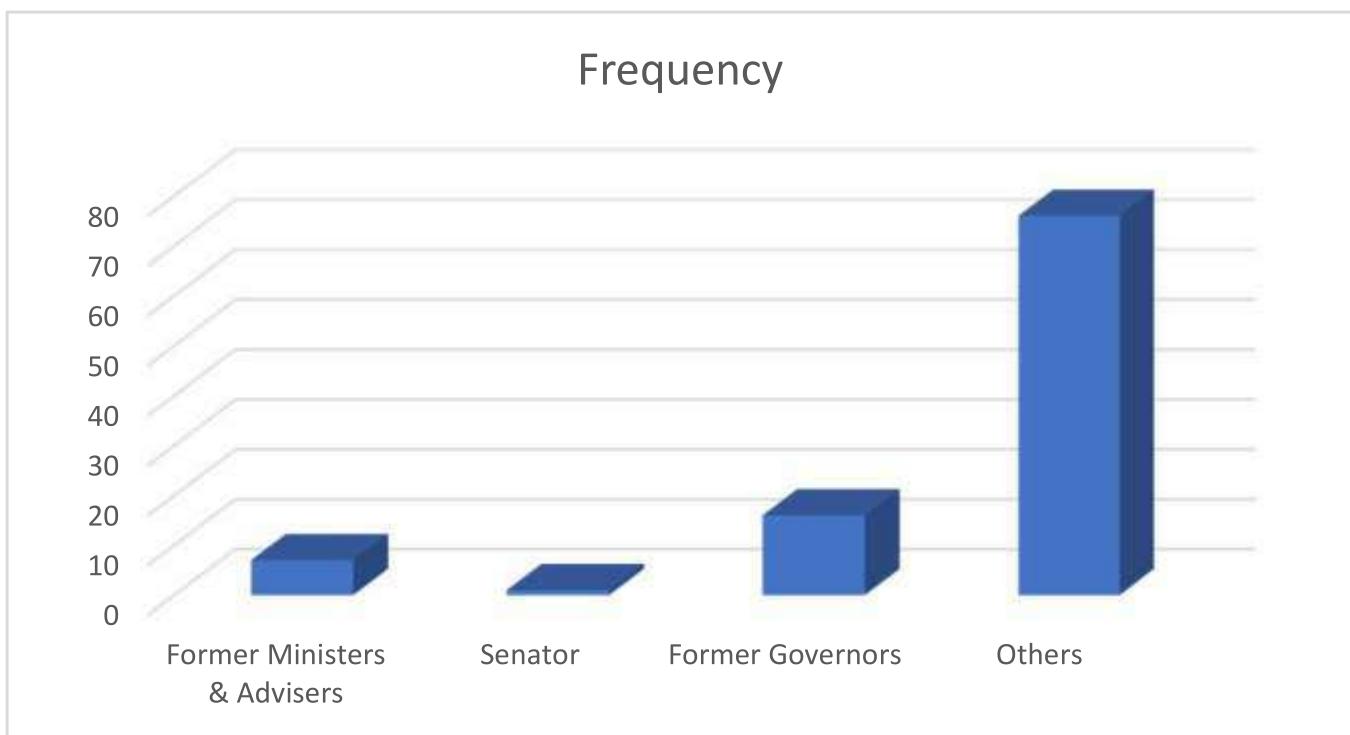
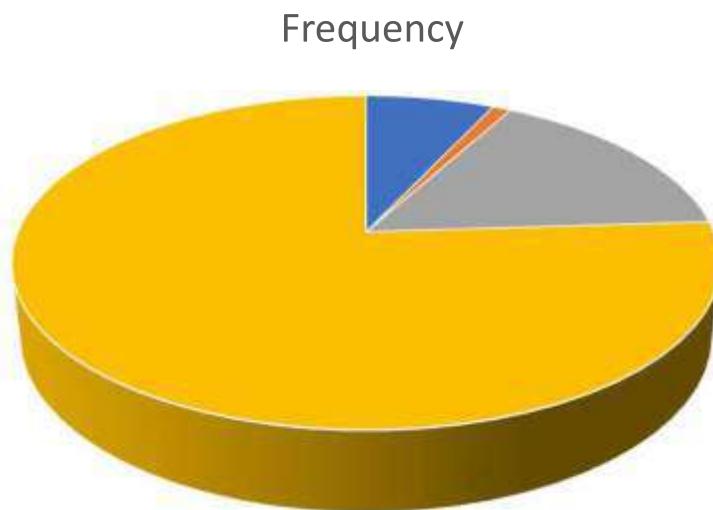


Fig 1: Chart of Personalities involved in the cases as Major Defendants.



■ Former Ministers & Advisers ■ Senator ■ Former Governors ■ Others

Table 2

*Frequency Counts and Percentages of Year of Inception of Charges*

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
2005	1	1.0	1.0	
2006	0	0.0	0.0	
2007	0	0.0	0.0	
2008	0	0.0	0.0	
2009	0	0.0	0.0	
2010	1	1.0	1.0	
2011	0	0.0	0.0	
2012	1	1.0	1.0	
2013	0	0.0	0.0	
2014	0	0.0	0.0	
2015	4	4.0	4.0	
2016	4	4.0	4.0	
2017	2	2.0	2.0	
2018	2	2.0	2.0	
2019	4	4.0	4.0	
2020	3	3.0	3.0	
2021	3	3.0	3.0	
2022	9	9.0	9.0	
2023	3	3.0	3.0	
2024	7	7.0	7.0	
2025	21	21.0	21.0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>			

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 2025 with 21 cases (21.0% of the total). Year 2022 with 9 (9% of the total) and 2024 with 7 (7.0%) 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

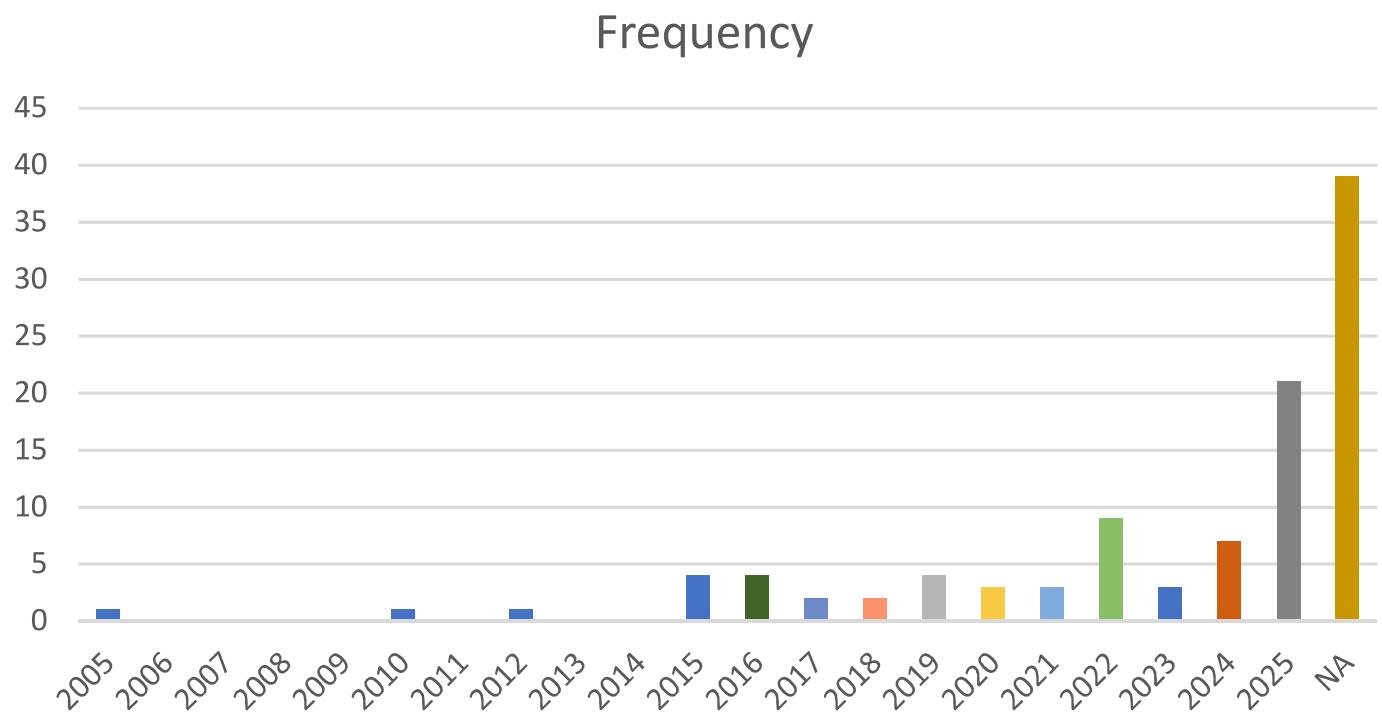
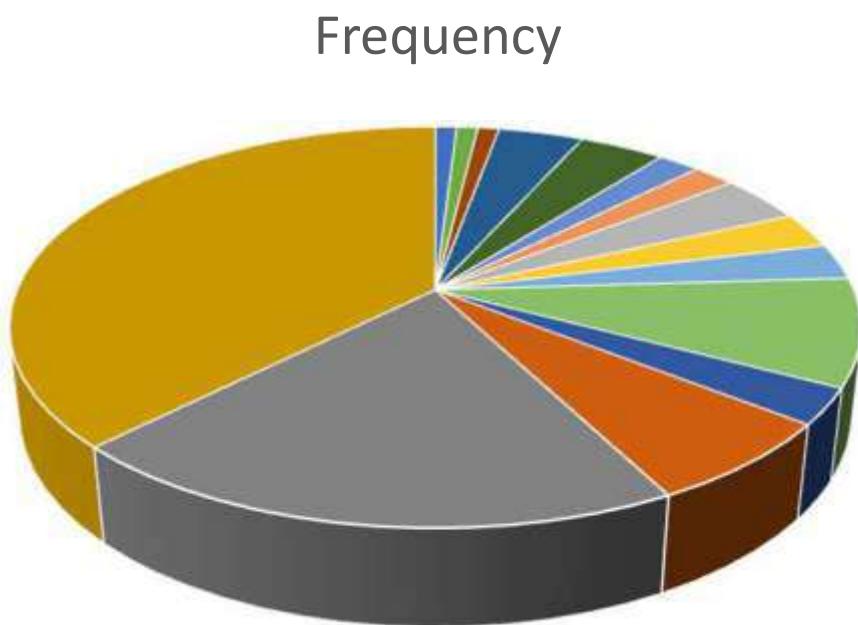


Fig 2: Chart of Year of Inception of Cases

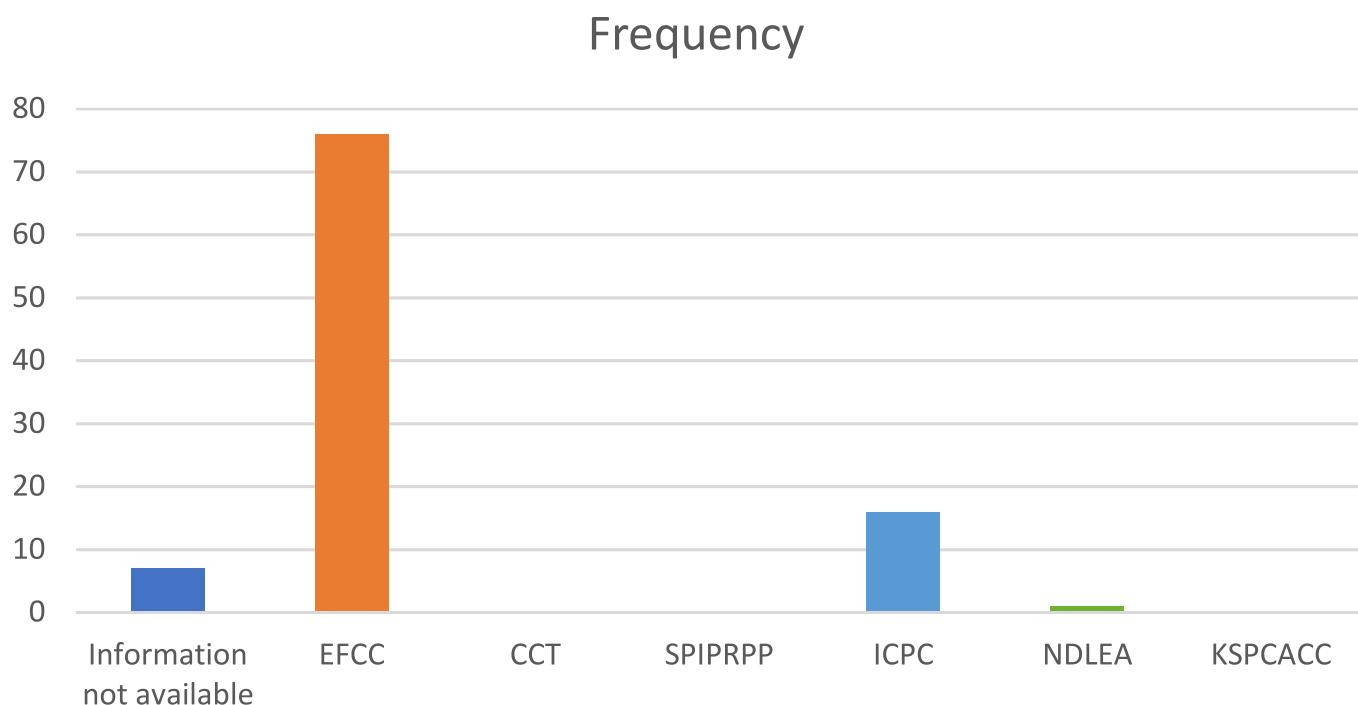


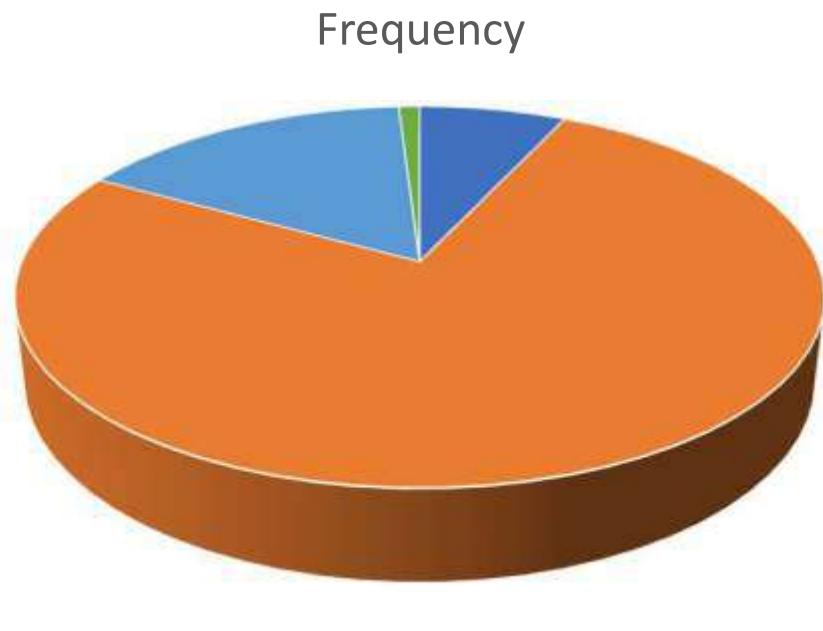
- 2005 ■ 2006 ■ 2007 ■ 2008 ■ 2009 ■ 2010 ■ 2011 ■ 2012 ■ 2013 ■ 2014 ■ 2015
- 2016 ■ 2017 ■ 2018 ■ 2019 ■ 2020 ■ 2021 ■ 2022 ■ 2023 ■ 2024 ■ 2025 ■ NA

**Table 3***Frequency Counts and Percentages of Prosecuting Agency of Charges*

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Information Not Available	7	7.0	7.0	
EFCC	76	76.0	76.0	
ICPC	16	16.0	16.0	
CCT	0	0.0	0.0	
NDLEA	1	1.0	1.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>		

Results in Table 3 indicated that a total of 100 corruption cases were considered. Sixty nine (76.0%) cases were prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes commission (EFCC) while Fourteen (16.0%) 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*



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

**Table 4**  
*Frequency Counts and Percentages of Main Charges*

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Fraud	54	54.0	54.0	
Corruption	5	5.0	5.0	
Embezzlement	2	2.0	2.0	
Money laundering	20	20.0	20.0	
Bribe	2	2.0	2.0	
Forgery	4	4.0	4.0	
Misappropriation/Mismanagement	8	8.0	8.0	
False Declaration	0	0.0	0.0	
Abuse of Office	5	5.0	5.0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>			

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.

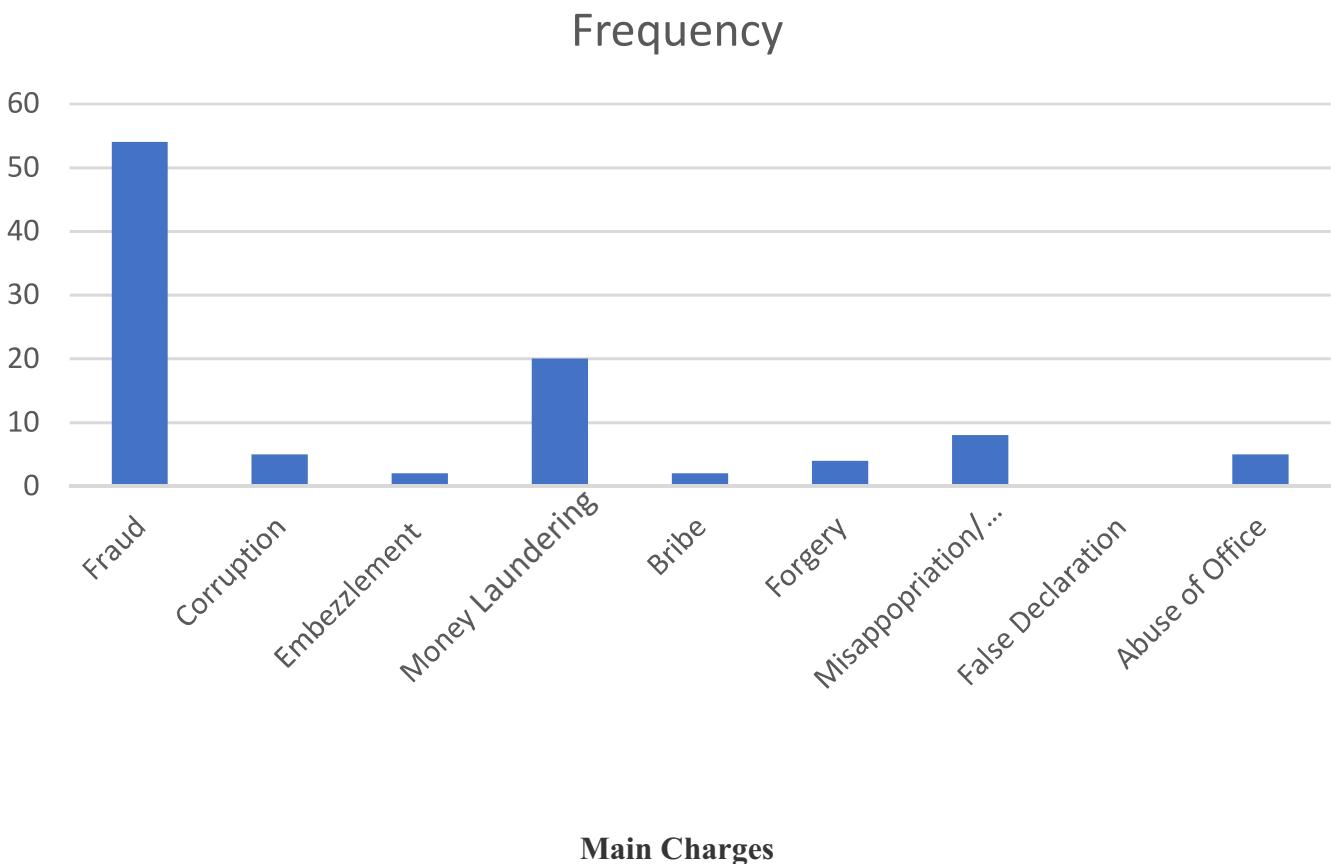


Fig 4: Chart of Charges against Defendants

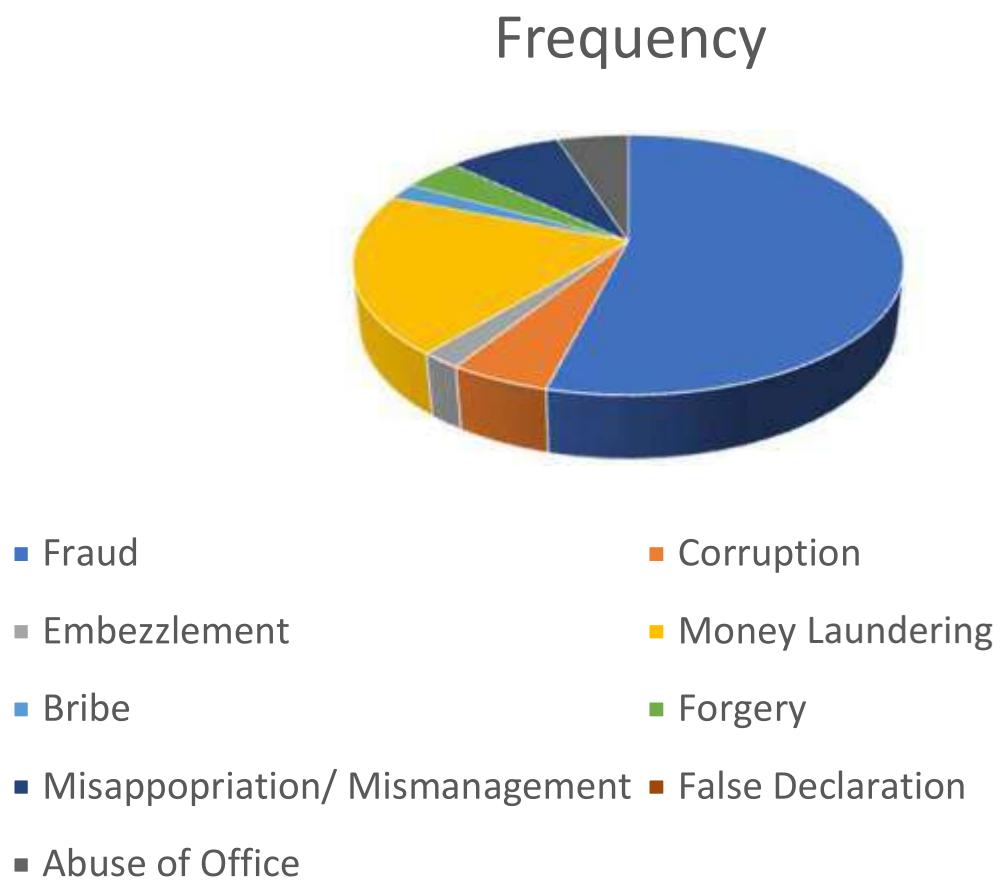


Table 5  
*Frequency Counts and Percentages of Judgments in the Charges*

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Ongoing	58	58.0		
Pending	6	6.0		
Case Dismissed	5	5.0		
Sentenced	11	11.0		
Properties Seized/Forteiture	9	9.0		
Convicted but later discharged	3	3.0		
Stalled	7	7.0		
Plea Bargaining	0	0.0		
Under Investigation	1	1.0		
Total	100	100		

Results in Table 5 indicate that a total of the 100 corruption cases considered number of cases under review. Fifty Eight (58.0%) cases are ongoing while 6 (6.0%) are pending. 5 (5.0%) cases were dismissed while in 11 (11.0%) of the cases, defendants were sentenced.

The distribution of the status of cases is graphically presented in Figure 5

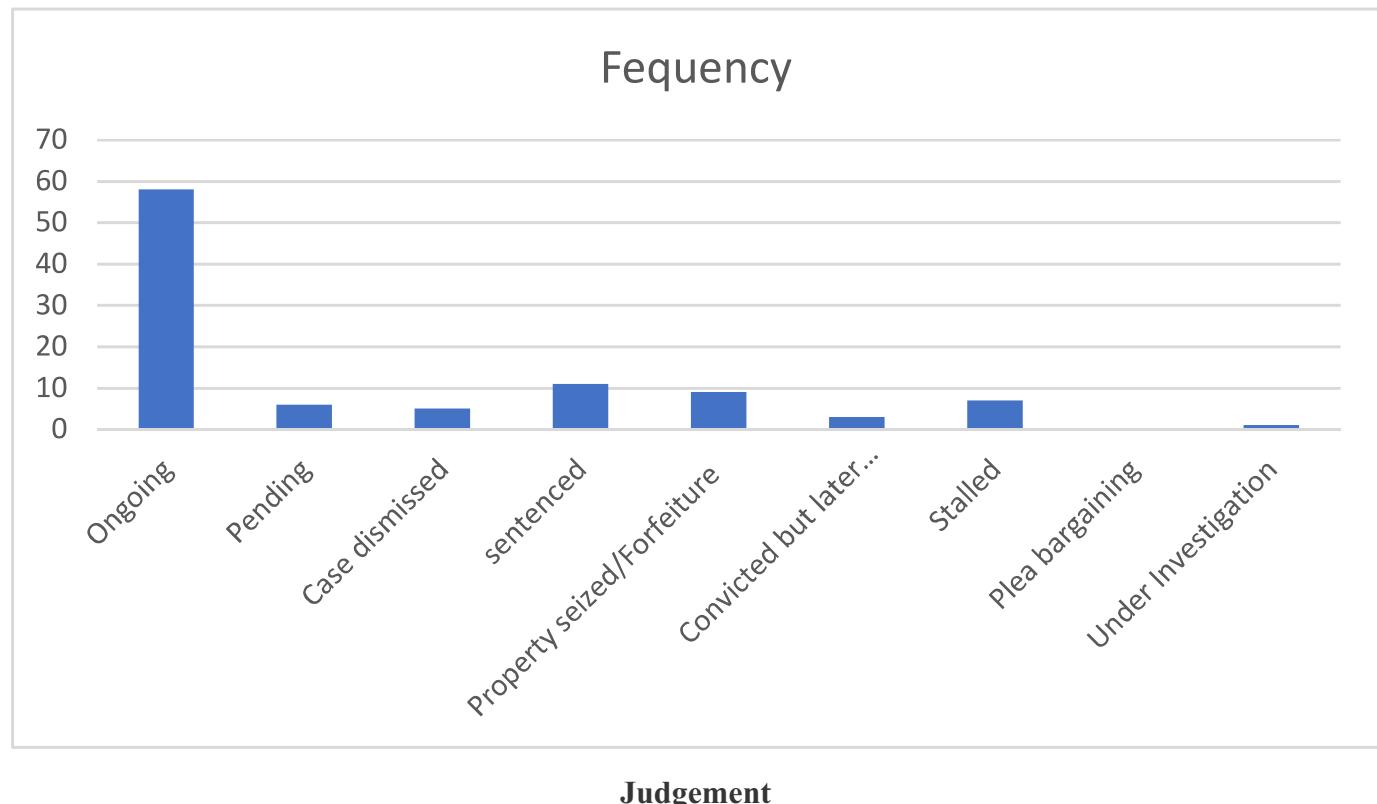
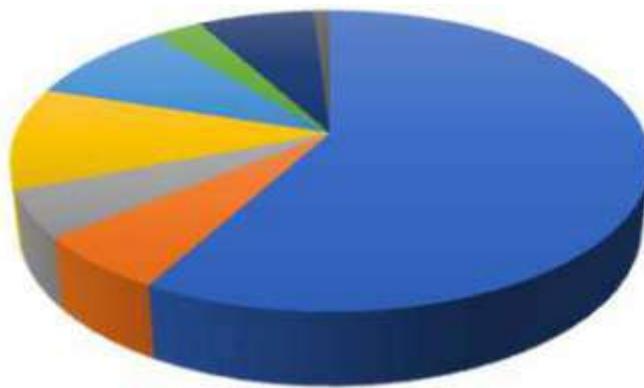


Fig 5: Chart of Status of Cases

# Frequency



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

Table 6

*Frequency Counts and Percentages of Amount in Naira (Millions) Involved in the Charges*

	Frequency	Percent
10-100	86	86.0
100-200	1	1.0
200-300	0	0.0
300-700	0	0.0
700-900	0	0.0
900 and above	3	3.0
Other offences	10	10.0
Total	100	100.0

Results in Table 6 revealed that a total of 100 corruption cases were considered. Out of these, 86(86.0%) were below 100 billion Naira while two cases were between 100 – 200 billion Naira. This result is graphically presented in Figure 6.

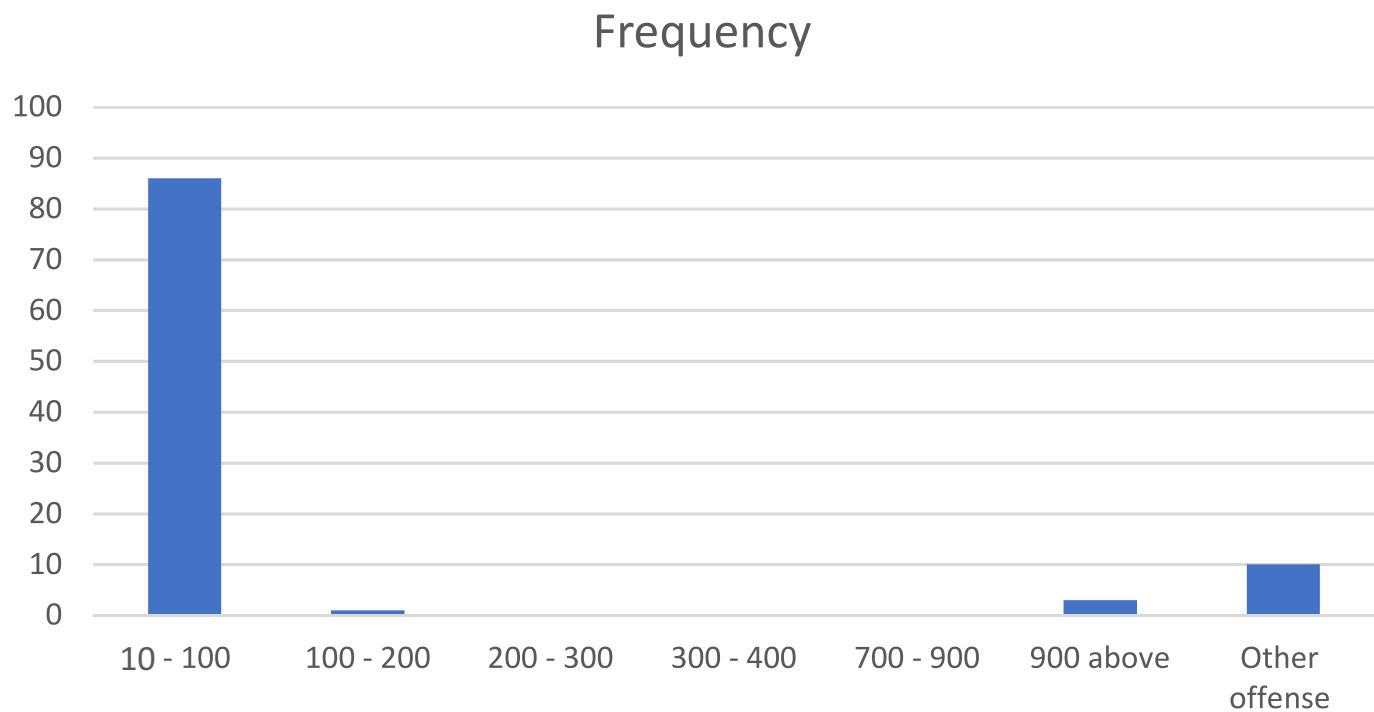


Fig 6: Chart of Amount involved in the cases (Millions Naira)

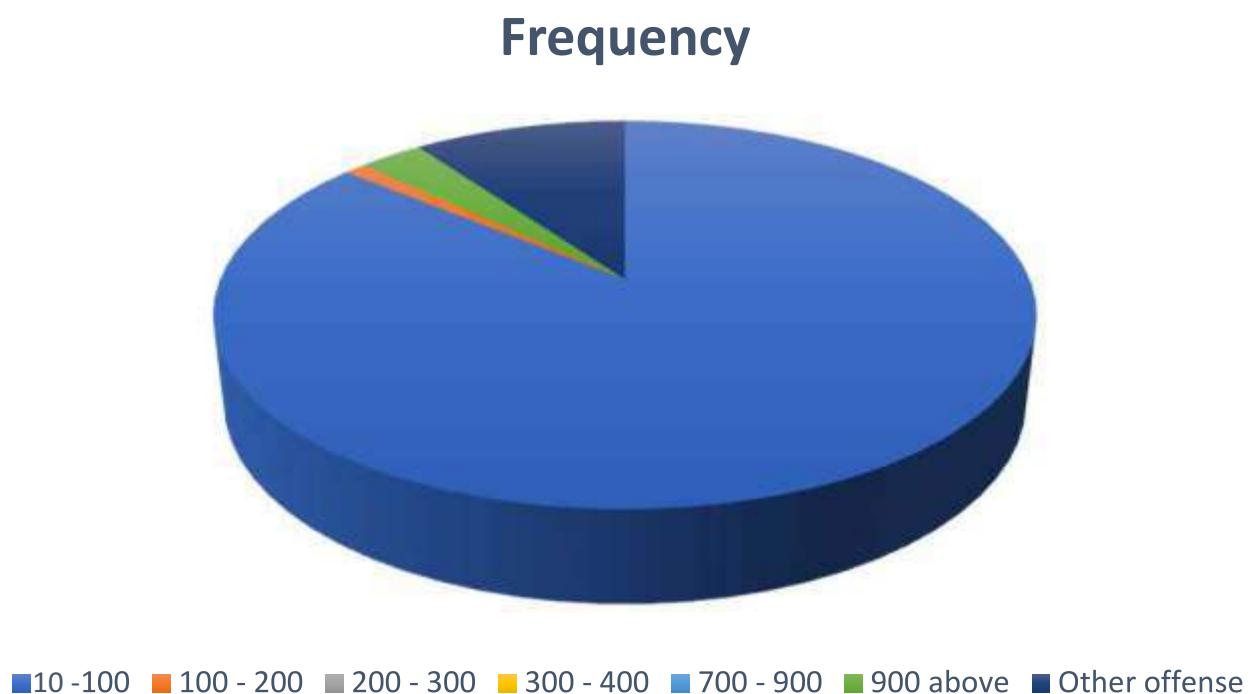


Table 7

*Cross-tabulation of Main Charges by Major Defendant in the Charges*

	Major Defendant					Total
	Former Ministers and Advisers	Senators	Former Governors	Others		
Fraud	31		6	39		76
Corruption			2			2
Embezzlement	8	1	2	6		17
Money Laundering	18	2	10	12		42
Bribe	1			1		2
Forgery	6			5		11
Misappropriation/Mismanagement						0
False Declaration	3			3		6
Abuse of Office						0
Forfeiture of properties	4		2	3		9
Conspiracy	5			5		10
Electoral	1			1		2
Cyber crime				1		
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>76</b>		<b>175</b>

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

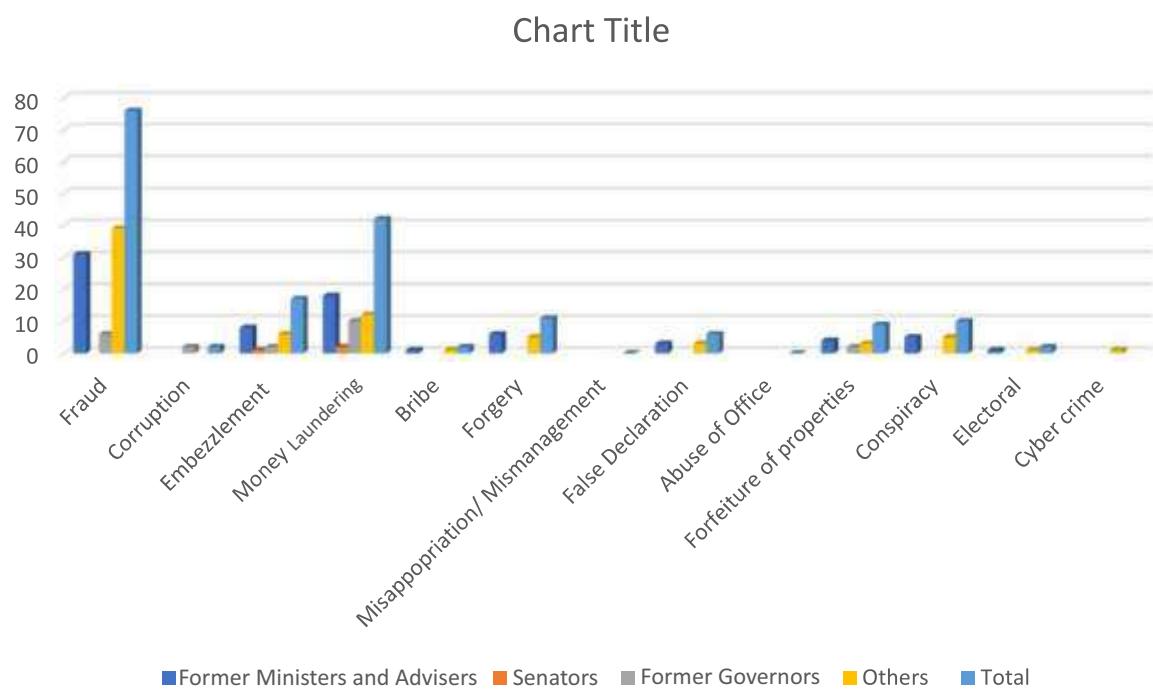


Fig 7: Chart of Charges by Major Defendant

Table 8

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

Major Defendant					
	Former Ministers and Advisers	Senators	Former Governors	Others	Total
0-100	12			8	20
100-200	1			2	3
200-300	2			1	3
300-400	2	1		2	5
400-500					0
500 and above	2	3	14	31	50
Total	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>81</b>

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

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

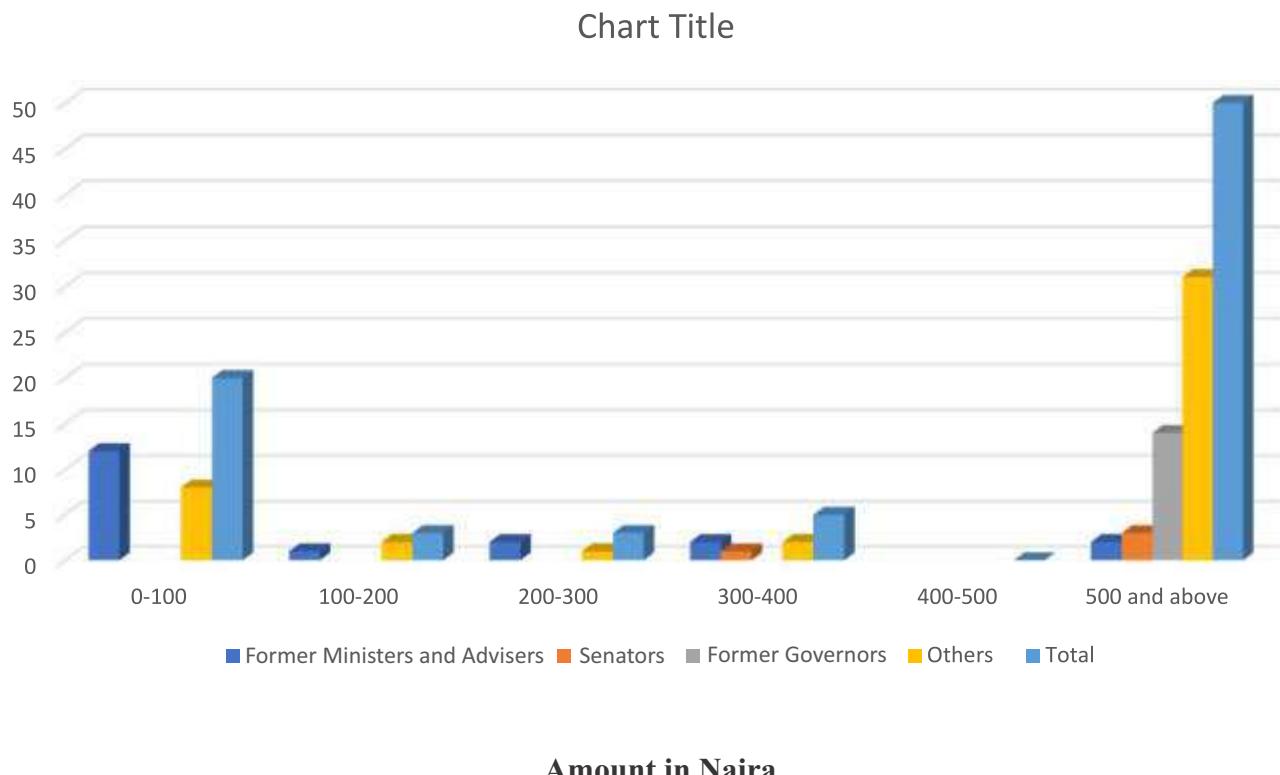


Fig 8: Chart of Amount involved in the cases (Billion Naira) by Major Defendant

Table 9

Cross-tabulation of Judgments by Major Defendant and the Judgment

	Major Defendant				Total
	Former Ministers and Advisers	Senators	Former Governors	Others	
Ongoing	19	2	9	9	39
Pending	6		2	2	10
Case Dismissed	2			1	3
Sentenced	2	1	1		4
Properties seized	13		1	1	15
Convicted but later discharged		1	1		2
Stalled	2		1	1	4
Plea Bargaining	2				2
Under Investigation	3				3
Total	49	4	15	14	82

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

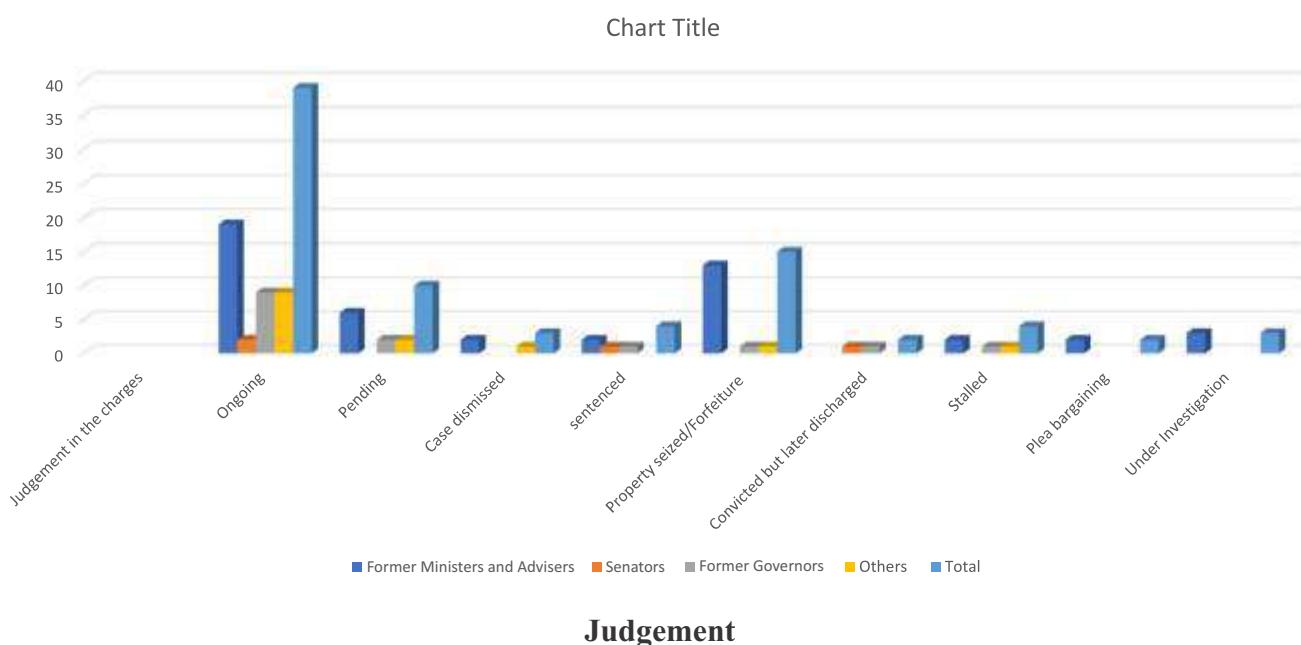


Fig 9: Chart of Status of Cases by Major Defendant

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

	Judgments								Under Investigation
	Ongoing	Pending	Case Dismissed	Sentenced	Properties seized	Convicted but later discharged	Stalled	Plea bargaining	
								Convicted but later	
0-100	11	4	2	2			2		3
100-200	1								1
200-300	2						1		
300-400	1								1
400-500									
500 and above	24	8	1	2	18	1	3	2	5
Total									

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 4 are pending. 2 have been dismissed while 2 defendants got sentenced. However, 5 of the cases are under investigation. This result is visually shown in Figure 10

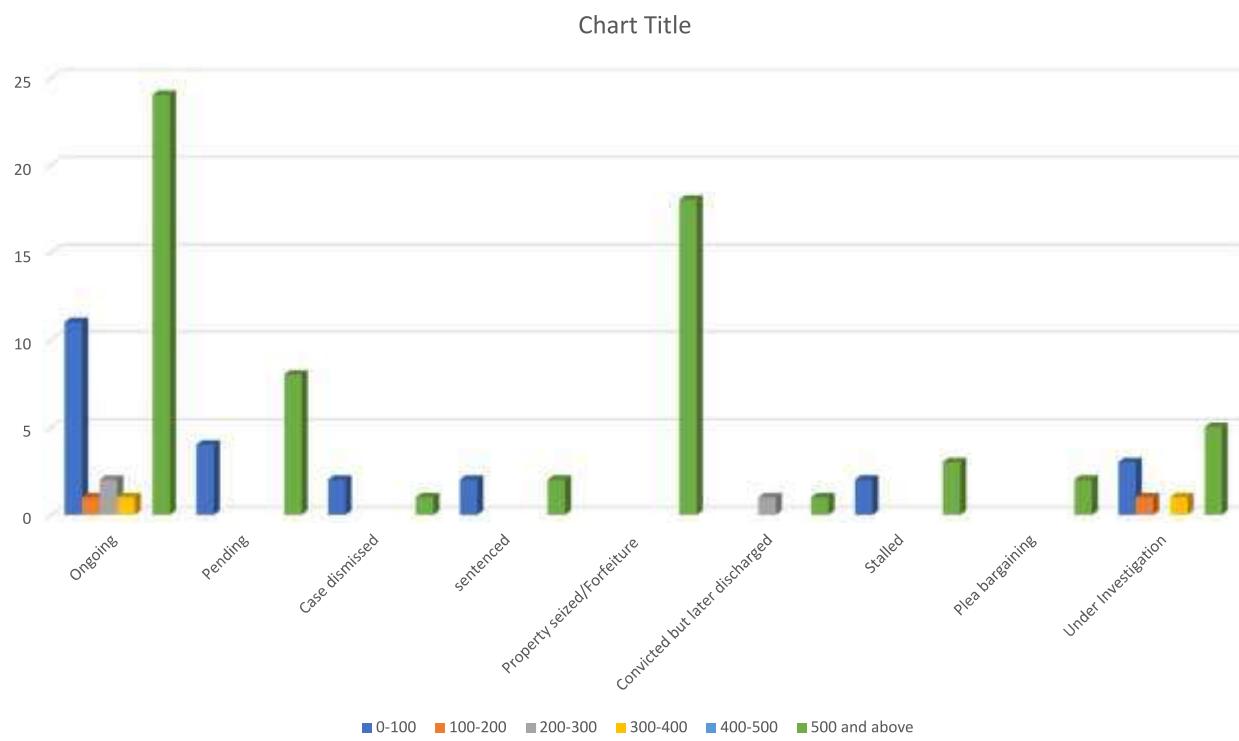


Fig 10: Chart of Amount involved in the cases (Billion Naira) by Status of cases



# ABOUT HEDA

Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA Resource Centre) was founded in November 2001 and incorporated in 2004 as a Non-Governmental Organization under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990. The core mandate of HEDA is to partner global stakeholders towards entrenching – (a) Good Governance and Human Rights (b) Environmental Justice and Sustainable Development. The Centre deploys research, policy advocacy, training, as well as citizens' awareness and mobilization on critical human development issues, including agriculture, food security, climate change, human rights, public sector accountability and electoral reform processes. In partnership with local, international and multilateral institutions HEDA promotes transparency, accountability, inclusion and responsiveness in governance, whilst striving to shape the content and context of public policies and programs. HEDA works with others to advocate for fair economic and climate deals for Africa; in particular for small scale farmers and other vulnerable sectors. HEDA has observer status with the UN ECOSOC, UNFCCC as well as the Green Climate Fund. HEDA is keen on deploying new media as an advocacy and change tool and also maintains strong partnership with the broadcast and print media for informed views on policies/programs on good governance, food security and sustainable development. HEDA is a leading anti-corruption platform working with agencies and institutions within and outside Nigeria. In recognition of efforts, HEDA was given an observer status with the National Committee on the Monitoring of Trials of Financial Crimes and Corruption Cases across the country and also a member of the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee of the country's implementation of National Anti-Corruption Strategy.

## **Vision**

To be a leading catalyst for development; ensuring that all persons; regardless of location and situation are treated with dignity with unhindered access to good governance in a sustainable environment.

## **Mission**

To serve as a platform for promoting human rights, good governance and sustainable environment through research, training, advocacy and policy engagement.

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