



The New Breed

Cadets Swell The Rank Of Operatives

193 senior and intermediate cadets of the EFCC Course 2 pass-out amidst pomp and ceremony.

-By Dele Oyewale-

January 11 and 12, 2007 were memorable days for the young men and women who recently concluded an eight-month cadet training programme offered them by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC. They were all smiles as they swayed gently to warm, melodious music rendered by the Police Band. You could, therefore, easily sense their high spirit as they sat under a three-layered canopy decorated with white and red ribbons and balloons that fluttered like confetti. For them, the End-of-Course Dinner, for which they were gaily dressed, was a befitting climax to the months of hard training.

One of the senior cadets, Ajani Omolara



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EFCC ALERT!

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Anti Crime Tips

Don't Be Washed Out!

Chances are that you've heard of 'local wash wash.' Just in case you haven't, it is the parlance of fraudsters. It is a generic coinage that covers all scams involving the promise or use of some chemicals to wash cut-to-size papers, with a view to turning them into currencies. It could also mean the washing of lower denominations of currencies with a view to turning them into higher denominations. To make the offer look even more attractive, it could refer to a washing of local currencies with chemicals to turn them into foreign currencies, usually the United States Dollars.

It is, perhaps, the oldest and commonest of all scams, with members of various syndicates roaming the streets looking for victims to devour. To lure their prey, it is common for members of the syndicates to pose as foreigners who have imported large quantity of goods into the country and needed the assistance of willing citizens to clear them and recoup their investments by auctioning the goods. At other times, they play the card of victims themselves, just so that unsuspecting members of the public who show sympathy for their tales of woes are more readily taken, as it were, to the cleaners.

To avoid falling prey to these scammers, you need to pay heed to the following important points:

- Don't be part of any scheme to wash any paper to become currency
- Never accept any offer to buy money making chemicals
- Avoid visiting any shrine where the priest professes powers to multiply your money
- Don't be fooled when people demonstrate to you how they can wash ordinary paper and turn them into genuine currencies
- Don't respond to strangers who approach you on the street with fake foreign accents and, often, with claims that they are stranded and needed people to buy goods off them at give-away prices.
- If you have not imported any goods, don't be in a hurry to clear them.

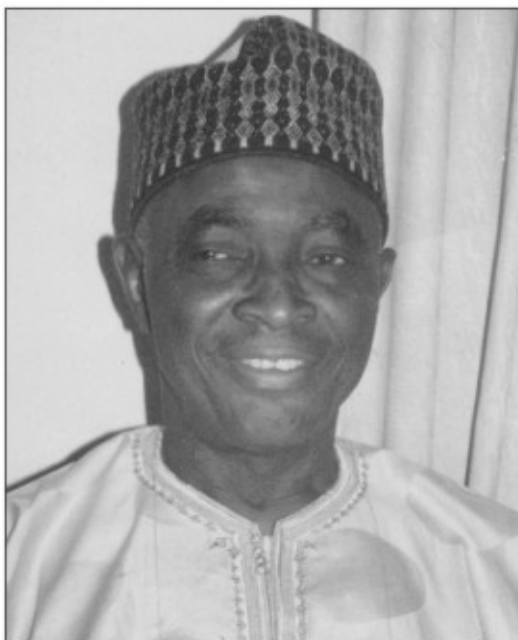
The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission takes exception to the reported comments of Dr. Olusola Saraki, to a gathering of Northern youths, to the effect that the Commission has been acting unconstitutionally.

EFCC wishes to draw attention to the real reason for the reported vitriol of the one-time Senate leader, which is that Saraki is trying to see how far the worn tactic of 'attack as the best form of defense' would carry him.

Dr. Saraki apparently has the correct information that, after its very painstaking investigation, the EFCC is tying up the sordid affairs of his collapsed concern, Societe Generale Bank of Nigeria (SGBN), and that he and his family members who have pertinent questions to answer, would be called to tell the courts exactly how and why billions of Naira of depositors' funds, disappeared into private pockets in the locust years at the SGBN.

It is very clear also, judging by one of the advertised planks of Saraki's grouse with EFCC the investigation and arrest of principal State legislators over corruption allegation that the former Senator lacks sufficient clarity regarding the statutory schedule of law enforcement institutions in our constitution when he argues that until EFCC is established in every State, Local Government council and ward, it cannot and should not investigate, arrest and prosecute anybody. Saraki's claim, therefore, which is laughable as it is ridiculous, merely attempts to reinforce the current brigandage and abuse of popular mandate by corrupt officials who have no

The Real Reason for Saraki's Anger



Dr. Olusola Saraki,

respect for accountability or even decency as a factor in governance.

Even while the Commission knows the motive for Saraki's mother-hen umbrage, EFCC will not sit by and watch the savagery of our patrimony by plunderers whose only sense of democracy is the selfish comfort of their family come back to do so again. The Commission will

also not allow them rewrite history to befuddle the very people they stole from and pauperized.

It is curious that anytime the Commission tries to get people to answer for their past misdeeds, they run under the covers of 'constitutionalism', Rule of Law, and Human Rights. Under their soiled banner of privatized rule of law and human rights, they try to fool Nigerians into the co-opted notion that EFCC which is standing up to their reckless plunder does not respect the rights of citizens. But times have changed and their tunes are out of sync with reality.

It must be emphasized that time does not run out on criminal investigation neither does the physical location of the suspected criminal prevent the EFCC from exercising its legal mandate to enforce the law in all parts of Nigeria, no matter what the Sarakis of this world think. The world has changed and so has this great nation of ours. It is not for the rhyme of it that the Commission reminds both criminals and aspiring criminals that, EFCC Will Get You... Anywhere, Anytime.

•Osita Nwajah, Head, Media & Publicity

Notice Board

Wanted Person

The person whose picture is shown below is wanted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission over a case of obtaining N350 million under false pretences.



Name: Clinton Ezebuilo (alias Socket)

Nationality: Nigerian

State of Origin: Ebonyi

Complexion: Light skinned

Tribe: Igbo

Languages Spoken: English and Igbo

Last Known Address: No. 20, West 9 Road, Trans Ekulu, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

The Commission implores the general public and other security agencies to assist in locating him. Anyone with information on his whereabouts may reach

EFCC on 09-6441102; 09-3142354; 09-6441500; 084-230529;

01-2692631 or the nearest police station.

'Angels' of Fraud



Jokotola Akinmoyade

For their brazen acts of deceit, two female staff of First Bank of Nigeria were nabbed by EFCC operatives over Money Transfer fraud.

-By Dele Oyewale-

Akinmoyade Jokotola and Onyinyechi Ehme, two female staff of First Bank of Nigeria, Oshodi/ Mile Two Branch, look quite harmless. You could even describe them as angelic. But beyond their comely exterior lie grave capacities for deceit and fraud. On 17 January, 2007 both ladies failed to charm EFCC operatives with their hard-to-ignore appearance, as they were arrested for their nefarious operations in defrauding legitimate owners of transferred money from abroad.

Jokotola was the bank's Western Union Money Transfer Officer and her job is to remit money to their legitimate owners. However,

through a combination of fraudulent networking and ingenious alliances with more than 86 dupes outside the bank, Jokotola continually reaped where she did not sow. 28 international passports, 5 national identity cards and 43 drivers' licenses were found in her possession. And what was she doing with all these? Good question. The simple answer: her accomplices pick up these documents, which they use as proof of identity to pick up money transferred to her bank.

When the operatives arrived her bank in January, they made straight for her desk. But before they got to her, word had already reached her that "she should tidy up" because EFCC men were around. Pronto, she hauled the polythene bag containing her "tools" Ehme, the bank's cashier who also made spirited efforts to hide the bag. The ladies ran out of luck when EFCC operatives planted at strategic positions in the bank intercepted the bag and arrested both of them. Jokotola was flustered. Having worked with First Bank for 21 years, she had considered herself sufficiently experienced to stave off the humiliation brought about by her arrest. Ehme was also flustered, not the least because she had just got married two weeks before the bubble burst.

International Passports recovered from Akinmoyade



Has the War on Corruption Improved the Image of Nigeria?



"IN MY CANDID OPINION, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF EFCC HAS CHECKED SO MANY THINGS, especially Internet fraud and corruption in high places. Excesses in the corporate world have also been significantly curtailed. Before

1999, Nigeria was a pariah nation; it was difficult for citizens to travel out of the country with our green passport. However, EFCC's fight against corrupt practices everywhere has now ensured that we can travel anywhere in the world without being molested. Our image as a nation has improved; and we are now being respected internationally".

Jackson Adejumo, Businessman.



Nigerians that are bad."

Raliat Ajanah, Special Adviser to Kogi State Governor on Women Empowerment.

"OUR NATIONAL IMAGE HAS IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY. Before, outsiders looked upon Nigerians with suspicion. We thank God that EFCC has been trying to get those who dent the image of the country. I hope the Federal Government will continue to encourage the Commission while it is doing what it is mandated to do. EFCC has shown that crime can be curtailed. Outsiders now know that it is not all

"THERE HAS BEEN AN IMPROVEMENT in the way we are perceived. Acts of corruption are becoming fewer; many people are now scared of being fraudulent. EFCC is making impact on the nation. Outsiders now know that cases of corruption are no more like they were before. Nigeria has a credible institution for fighting corruption. This is why they now treat us with respect nowadays."

Blessing Shonanya, Applicant



"Everybody can see clearly now that we have moved from where we were. Our national image has changed positively. EFCC is trying and the government that set it up is also trying. I hope the incoming government will take after President Obasanjo in fighting corruption. Formerly, we found it difficult to travel outside Nigeria; we were always being humiliated. But now, the problem has been minimized. Our image has been boosted".

Paul Nwankwo, Civil Servant

Who Owns The Land?

N17m land deal put a 52-year old woman and four others in trouble

-By Bamidele Adebayo-

5 2-year old Mrs. Grace Iroro and four accomplices, namely; Uzor Augustine, Ayo Disu, Bernard Thompson and Bola Bankole, are currently being investigated by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, (EFCC) over an alleged land scam. They were said to have impersonated one Engineer Shosanya, and sold a parcel of land to several unsuspecting buyers.

But the bubble burst for the scammers last year when they tried to sell the same piece of land located at Lekki Phase 2, Lagos to a

staff of one of the new generation banks in the country. Mrs. Iroro, who allegedly posed as Mrs. Shosanya, wife of the land owner, presented the victim with the 'title' to the property. The unsuspecting banker had agreed to pay the sum of N17 Million for the piece of land after being taken on a guided tour of the property.

He was so excited at the prospect of becoming a land owner in the prestigious Lekki corridor that he decided to share the news with his friend, also a banker. Out of curiosity, his friend demanded to know the exact location of the property. He was shocked when he discovered that his friend was about to buy the same piece of land over which he had earlier lost N17.5m to the syndicate.

Both of them promptly contacted EFCC. They were advised to play along. Mrs. Iroro and her co-travelers were invited to the office of the complainant to pick up the bank draft for the purchase. The suspects rushed to the complainant's office, straight into the waiting arms EFCC operatives.

They will soon appear in court.

The High Cost of Greed

A Smart Alec, who thought he could fool a bank and illegally draw N.24m, is to spend the next 10 years behind bars.

Bamidele Adebayo-

Johnson Okokon, a.k.a Ini Johnson Uba, had wanted to hit a bank. Instead, he is now wondering what hit him, following a 10-year jail term slammed on him by the Lagos High Court, Ikeja for attempting to use a cloned cheque to withdraw money that he had not deposited in the bank. He had earlier been arraigned before the court on a four-count charge of conspiracy to obtain money by false pretences, forgery and altering of document.

The convict was arrested by EFCC operatives in 2005 at the premises of a new generation bank in Lagos while trying to withdraw the sum of N244,000. But for the



Johnson Okokon

vigilance of the paying cashier who subjected the cheque to close scrutiny, Okokon would have completely fooled the bank.

The diligent cashier simply subjected the cheque that Okokon presented to computer scrutiny, and it was revealed that the instrument was a cloned copy of a cheque that had already been cashed by someone else. The fraudster was consequently arrested and the alleged drawer of the cheque was contacted. The latter denied ever issuing the cheque to the convict.

On interrogation, the convict confessed to the crime but claimed that it was one Barrister Michael Inyang (still at large) that gave him the cheque and an international passport bearing some fake names. He also claimed to have ran similar errands for the Lawyer who, he alleged, promised to pay him N36,000 from the transaction that landed him in jail.

◀ 4



Various Driving Licences seized from the ladies.

They both told EFCC Alert! that they were innocent. Jokotola stridently argued her innocence, saying that all the documents found in her possession were items forgotten by claimants of transferred money and that they would be returned to their owners whenever they come for them. Her defense, however, was punctured when, upon being interviewed, she called one of the owners of the documents who responded to her call so familiarly as if the two of them had been in business for long. "Don't worry. I will come for the document by 1.00pm today," Jokotola's respondent, identified as Emeka, assured her. Ehme, in her own defence, denied complicity in the crime, arguing that she merely assisted Jokotola to put away the documents. EFCC operatives are not impressed by all the denials; they have begun the prosecution of the two bankers.

Over time, the Commission has received several complaints from the public over undelivered money sent through Western Union Money transfer. The arrest of Jokotola and Ehme marks a turning point in the attempt by EFCC to reduce money transfer fraud to the barest minimum level.



Onyinyechi Ehme

AFF Unit Moves into New Office

- By Fatima Yakubu-

After more than three years of operating from cramped offices, staff of the Advance Fee Fraud Unit of EFCC can now heave a sigh of relief. The unit was recently relocated to a newly refurbished office complex within the expansive Awolowo Road, Ikoyi office of the Commission in Lagos.

The single wing storey building boasts of 23 spacious offices and some specialized rooms for interviewing suspects and witnesses as well as the criminal processing room where fingerprints and other documentation are recorded. There is also a special room for the safe keeping of vital files.

The Head of the unit, Mr. Olaolu Adegbite, explained that while the fact of moving into a bigger office was exciting, the reality of having specialised rooms for investigations has challenged operatives in the Unit to work diligently at quickly and professionally resolving cases.

The Unit, which currently has 11 teams, had been in dire need of more office space. According to Adegbite, space was not a constraint at the outset but the increase in manpower and the volume of the work made it imperative that bigger space be secured. "My vision is to create a 21st century work environment for the Unit," he said.



Olaolu Adegbite, Head, AFF in his old office.



Clockwise:

- L-R: Mark Sidbury, Ibrahim Lamorde (Dir. Ops., EFCC), William Rickey, Jide Ogundipe, Wayne Black and Rotimi Jacob (EFCC lawyer).
- L-R: Executive Chairman of EFCC, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu; former Chief Justice of Nigeria, Mohammed Uwais; Chief Gani Fawehinmi, SAN and Chairman of the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission, Justice Yinka Ayoola at the 3rd Annual Gani Fawehinmi Lecture organised by the Ikeja Branch of the Nigerian Bar Association.
- Mallam Nuhu Ribadu welcomes ICPC Chairman Justice Yinka Ayoola, with Prof. Jadesola Akande (centre), at the NBA Lecture.



EFCC CADETS' COURSE 2 PASSING OUT PARADE

The new operatives on parade



EFCC Executive Chairman, Nuhu Ribadu (3rd left) with dignitaries at the End-of-Course dinner



A cross section of Lagos White Cap chiefs.



EFCC Head of Integrity and SERVICOM, Col. Idris Sule (rtd) welcomes Chief of Defence Staff, General. Martin Luther Agwal to the event.



Foreign guests at the event (from left): Wayne Black, William Ricky and Mark Sidbury.



Chairman of Daar Communications, High Chief Alegbo Dokpesi celebrates with Mallam Ribadu.



Mallam Nuhu Ribadu chatting with Oba of Lagos, HRH Rilwan Akiolu

Female graduands: all set for dinner



EFCC Inaugurates SERVICOM Committee

As part of its resolve to improve on its service delivery and in line with the Federal Government's directive to all Ministries, Extra-Ministerial Departments and Parastatals, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) formally inaugurated its Service Compact With All Nigerians (SERVICOM) Committee, on 18th January 2007, at the Training and Research Institute, Karu, Abuja.

The event was attended by dignitaries including the Executive Chairman, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu; Commission Secretary, Mr. Emmanuel Akomaye; representatives of the Police Service Commission; the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and other government agencies. Also present were Mr. Charles Oputa, aka Charly Boy and members of the Performing Musicians Association of Nigeria (PMAN).

In his address, Akomaye described the launch as one of the most important events of the commission, as EFCC, even before the establishment of SERVICOM, had always emphasized service as one of its cardinal objectives.

SERVICOM, the EFCC scribe noted, was a critical aspect of the government's reform programme. "A time will come in this country when even the allocation of budgets and resources would be based on the performance of institutions. It does not lead us anywhere, when year in, year out, institutions are given resources and you see no result coming from such institution" he stated, adding that the official launch of EFCC SERVICOM was a formalisation of what the Commission had always believed in.

In his speech entitled, "Meeting the Burden of Expectation," Mallam Ribadu remarked that SEVICOM was a unique initiative designed to move Nigeria away from the odium of the past where inefficient service, red-tapism, absenteeism and other vices dominated public management practices. He recalled with disdain such common practices as one needing to know the "Oga" to receive legitimate service; the greasing of the palms of officers to get things moving and lack of respect to visitors in government offices.

"Service is seen by many public servants as a favour; people forget that they are paid for the job and that they are serving the people. Instead of being servants in the service of their fatherland, some officers saw themselves as masters and acted such," he bemoaned.

He identified corruption as one of the factors responsible for poor service delivery in every area of national life, adding that the success of SERVICOM would invariably fast track the fight against corruption.

He explained that SERVICOM, as a concept, existed in the minds and hearts of his staff at EFCC even before it became an official programme of government. "In the commission, every single petition received is treated; where there are reasons to reject a petition, the petitioner is told in writing. All offices of the Commission are accessible to Nigerians and you don't need to wade through any protocol to see anybody," he said.

Moreover, the chairman said, EFCC places premium on the integrity of its officials and appealed to Nigerians to help the Commission to offer them better services. This, he said, could be done by responding to summons by the Commission as well as refraining from tempting EFCC's operatives with bribes and other inducements.

He thanked President Obasanjo for the laudable SERVICOM initiative, "With SERVICOM now operational in EFCC, there is a greater challenge for us to constantly strive to meet the high professional standards of law enforcement and the high expectations Nigerians."

In his own contribution, the Presidential Adviser and National Coordinator of SERVICOM, Mr. Ad Obe Obe, said that the message of



L-R: EFCC Secretary, Mr. Emmanuel Akomaye, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu and National Coordinator of SERVICOM, Mr. Ad Obe Obe.



EFCC's SERVICOM Committee members after inauguration in Abuja.

SERVICOM was simple: "you have the right to be served right." He emphasized that the right to be served right comes first as citizens of Nigerian.

He enjoined civil servants to remember that when they step out of their offices, they would expect to be served too. He decried the misconception about service, its nature and beneficiaries in the country, saying that many people do not realise that those they serve in their capacity as civil or public servants are actually their customers. "SERVICOM is not an abstract concept; anyone who does good business will tell you that if a customer is not happy the business is in trouble. Unfortunately, in the business of government, the only time we have the chance to tell the government that it has not done well is during elections," he said.

The SERVICOM coordinator observed that because of successive bad governments, people seem to have concluded that government does not matter. This attitude, he said, was regrettable. "The credibility of government hangs on the quality of service. This is because service is what people can feel and touch, it is real," he declared.

High point of the ceremony was the inauguration of members of the EFCC SERVICOM Committee, headed by Col. Idris Sule (Rtd), by Mallam Ribadu.

The Acting Director of EFCF Training School, Dr. David Tukura, coordinated the lectures that were delivered during the inauguration ceremony, notably "Service Delivery Initiative in Nigeria: An Overview" by Mr. J. Oche and "Charter Formulation, Implementation and Review" by Mrs. Bola Aderele.



Chief of Defence Staff, Gen. Martin Luther Agwai, during the passing out parade.

Aminat, could not conceal her excitement. "I am really happy to be among the graduands of today," she said, stressing, "More than this, I feel privileged to have been trained to contribute my quota towards fighting economic and financial crimes." As she explained, whatever her first degree and post-graduate studies could achieve for her may not compare adequately with the challenge which her cadet training now poses to her.

Many of her colleagues feel the same way. And their reason for this is obvious. While in training, they were exposed to series of instructions on legal, operational, financial and general studies. They were also exposed to doctrinal orientation covering areas like professional competence, strategic thoughts, investigation details, personal integrity, discipline and application of forensic science to law enforcement. Besides being trained by experienced, practical and resourceful lecturers drawn from the Commission, they were also aided by sufficient instructional materials made available to them by the Commission.

Executive Chairman of EFCC, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, said that 25 percent of time spent in EFCC is expended on training and this may have been responsible for the thorough training the cadets received while on course. Dallah Yakubu Aliyu, another senior cadet reinforced Ribadu's claims, saying: "I was taken to new heights of knowledge; the training has really broadened my horizon."

For Ribadu and other distinguished guests at the dinner, the training of cadets is one of the highest points of a career with EFCC. His Royal Highness, Rilwan Akiolu, Oba of Lagos, who was guest of honour, said that the cadets should consider themselves privileged to have been considered worthy of training and enlistment in the operational works of EFCC. He admonished them on the virtues of hardwork, integrity, discipline, fearlessness and thoroughness.

Drawing from his experience as a former Police boss, Akiolu cautioned the cadets against excesses and personal aggrandizement. "Those who refused to tow the path of honour while in office cannot, again, raise their heads in public," he noted.

To underscore Akiolu's admonition, Ribadu urged the newly graduated cadets to gird their loins and embrace the Commission's frontal assault on economic and financial crimes. In doing this, he charged them to set much store on "self-investigation and self-prosecution."

He cautioned them against recklessness

Oba of Lagos, HRH, Rilwan Akiolu, listens to Commissioner of Police, Ude Orji during the reception at the Cadets' passing out parade



EFCC Board Directors: Innocent Ude, Abdullahi Attah and Abubakar Umar with Oba Rilwan Akiolu and Mallam Nuhu Ribadu at the dinner during the Cadets' passing out parade.



and moral compromise, stressing that the Commission deals more decisively with its officers found wanting in the discharge of their duties. "So, cadets should regard themselves as EFCC officers on probation," he explained.

Ribadu, however, assured the cadets that they had not made any mistake in choosing to work for EFCC because, as he said, "I can see clearly the direction we are moving; we are on the right track."

The 193 senior and intermediate cadets, who are now EFCC officers, had sumptuous dinner as an end of course booty, just as they also treated themselves and the general public to a colourful military display at the passing-out ceremony, which was presided over by the Chief of Defence Staff, General Martin Luther Agwai.

Agwai applauded Ribadu for being "a focused, tenacious and highly-motivated chief executive" and urged the cadets to be loyal to the creed of the EFCC as well as be ready to make sacrifices, avoid temptations and have a tenacious spirit.

"Tenacious people do not rely on luck, fate, godfather or destiny for their success; they know that trying times are no times to quit trying," he said, adding, "You only stop trying when the job is done, not when you are tired."

Four cadets received prizes for their outstanding performance while in training. They are: Olanubi Tolulola, Overall Best Cadet Senior; Alexander Nwalozie, Overall Best Cadet Intermediate; Okoye Iideofor, Overall Best Cadet Senior in Drill and Janet Arua, Overall Best Cadet Intermediate in Drill.

Kano Zonal Operations Take Off



Top & bottom: Renovation of Kano Zonal office.



Operations activities have commenced at the new EFCC zonal office located at the former CVU premises in Kano, Kano State.

Already, the zonal operations head, Mr. Ayoola Ajala, and a handful of operatives have reported for duty in the newly renovated and fortified zonal operations base, which is just besides the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Kano headquarters and the Kano Hajj Camp.

Because it was a disused facility, which vandalism and the elements had taken quite a toll on, the expansive Kano zonal base took some time to put in order and finishing touches are still being put to the renovation efforts. However, Ajala confirmed to EFCC Alert! that he and his men were on ground and have quietly started work.

Speaking after giving the magazine a guided tour of the Kano offices, Ajala projected that investigation and prosecution activities would pick up significant pace in the coming months, when residents of the North-western States that the office is meant to serve, take notice and avail the Commission, information about untoward happenings in their respective states.

It is expected that a significant number of cases that the Kano zonal office would be called on to handle would be in the realm of 'economic governance', dealing with issues of public service corruption and other malfeasances in the public domain that fall within the mandate of the Commission. While Advance Fee Fraud (a.k.a 419) may not be as widespread as in Lagos or Enugu, where other EFCC zonal offices have crack teams giving the confidence tricksters a hard time, Ajala and his men are not ruling out the real possibility of moving against major 419 networks in Kano.

All other operations sections, including banking fraud and general investigation are established and fully functional in the Kano zonal office. So also are other support units, like legal, administration, media, accounts, transport, facilities and others, fully represented in the pioneer staff and equipment complement that Ajala has to work with in the onerous task of making economic and financial criminals take flight from the six northwestern states.

ENUGU

Rearing to Go

-By Wilson Uwujaren-

Plot 106 in serene Independence Layout, Enugu, boasts of two main buildings, one of which directly faces the fence and the other building is adjacent to the back of the main office complex. These are solid structures that are being refurbished in readiness for full scale operation by the Enugu zonal office of EFCC.

The main building is expected to house the key offices, including that of the Head of Operations, Mr. Hycenth Edozie and his team leaders. There is also provision for a computer/conference room while two of the rooms have equally been configured as temporary holding facility for suspects pending the construction of the cell on a spot behind the main office building.

The construction of the cell is scheduled to commence in April while the gate house is also billed to be expanded to serve as quarter-guard for the Mobile Police personnel attached to the office.

The building to the back of the main office complex is meant to accommodate the Transport, Administration, Legal and Media offices as well as the staff canteen.



The new look Enugu Zonal office.



Impounded vehicles at the Enugu Zonal Office

'We've recorded 13 cases'

Anywhere in the world, the job of pathfinders is a difficult one. But Hycenth Edozie, pioneer Head of Operations, EFCC Office, Enugu is taking his assignment in his strides. He shares his experiences so far with EFCC ALERT's Wilson Uwujaren.

What have you been doing since you assumed office as Head of Operations?

I resumed here on July 21, 2006 from Port Harcourt, where I was equally Head of Operations. I could not move in because the place was over grown with weeds. The first task was to get the compound cleared. After

that, I was told that contract had been awarded for the renovation of the office. The contractor started work in August 2006 and he is yet to complete the job. This has slowed us down because it has not allowed us to set up full operation. In November when the Cadets completed their year-long internship, ten of them were posted here but they could not report immediately. And because the place is under renovation we are yet to receive items such as furniture and computers.

Does this mean that the task of crime fighting is yet to commence in the Enugu office?

The limitations have not deterred us from doing

our job. So far we have handled 13 cases involving 15 suspects, some of whom were detained for a few days before being released. Out of the 13 cases for far recorded, five involves matters of obtaining under false pretences popularly called 419. Five others are for stealing and one each for forgery, official corruption and perjury. Investigations into these cases are yet to be concluded. As soon as they are concluded, the suspects will be charged to court.

Apart from the slow pace of renovation work, what are the other challenges?

In Enugu, our major challenge will be cyber crimes. We intend to carry out raids. For the moment, however, our vehicles are not adequate

for such operations; we need two Toyota Hiace Buses to complement the existing fleet. Indeed, all Zonal Offices, not just Enugu alone, need such logistic support.

The other challenge is accommodation. Houses are expensive in Enugu, due largely to the number of institutions of higher learning that exist in the city. What we are trying to do now is to set up a transit camp for staff on posting to the office.

Water is also a problem here; we buy water on a daily basis. By the time we have a fully functional cell as well as staff canteen, this is going to be a huge challenge.



Hycenth Edozie: "In Enugu, our major challenge will be cyber crimes. We intend to carry out raids."

Port Harcourt

A Giant Leap

The Port Harcourt Zonal Office is gradually finding its rhythm as the hub of financial and economic crime investigation in the South South region. Figures made available to EFCC ALERT! indicate that the office handled a total of 151 cases in 2006. Of this number, 56 cases were forwarded to the legal unit for advice while 21 of them were charged to court. About 105 cases are under various stages of investigation.

During the same period, the office recovered N100 million in cases involving N278, 512,665 and \$12,500.

Officers of the Port Harcourt Zonal Office (L-R): Donatus Ordu; Isiyaku Adamu; Sani Mohammed (Head of Operations); Adiel Amakoromo and M.U. Modibbo.





Clinton Ezebulu

A Mega Scam

A businessman is fleeced of N350million over a phony contract to construct mega filling stations

-By Wilson Uwujaren-

Engr. Ikechukwu Ijah, a businessman, thought he was on to his greatest pay day when he was promised a contract to construct mega filling stations. In the wheeler-dealer world of business, no one has ever been known to scoff at the opportunity of making a few more millions of naira.

Rather than make the millions bucks, Ijah, today, is left nursing a mega nightmare. Reason: he had been duped of N350million by a fraud syndicate.

The syndicate, led by one Clinton Ezebulu, alias Socket, had approached Ijah with a proposal to help him (Ijah) secure a contract to build mega filling stations across the country. They began to request for money to facilitate the contract presumably from the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), which is the only organization that owns such mega stations in Nigeria.

Ijah paid so much money to the syndicate; yet the 'contract' did not materialize. He requested for a refund; the syndicate did not contest his right to a refund. To make the story 'sweeter', they agreed to pay back Ijah

in dollars.

They made good their promise. But there was a twist in the tale. The fraudsters went to Ijah's house with a sack filled with fake United States dollars. Ijah's wife, suspicious of the intention of the group, alerted a mobile policeman on guard duties in a neighboring house. The men were immediately arrested and brought to the Port Harcourt office of EFCC. This was on 11 November 2005. Those arrested include Taiwo Adeyi, Roland Okansi (who claimed to be a Ghanaian) and Tope Familoni.

On interrogation, the trio claimed that a certain Ghanaian, James Kwame, was their boss and had been lodging at Etal Hotel in Oregun, Lagos. Based on this information, operatives from the Lagos office of the Commission swooped on Etal Hotel and arrested four persons. The suspects were immediately flown to Port Harcourt. Upon interrogation, it was discovered that the men arrested were innocent lodgers who happened to have checked into rooms vacated by the fraudster. They were subsequently allowed to return to their homes.

However, the Commission was able to recover part of the money that Ijah lost to the syndicate. This has already been released to the victim on bond. Meanwhile, the leader of the syndicate, Ezebulu, is still at large but the other three accused persons are undergoing trial before the Federal High Court, Port Harcourt.

-By Ayo Oyewole-

Thursday 18 January was another day of honour for the Executive Chairman, Malam Nuhu Ribadu, as members of the Lagos State Corpers' Community Development Anti-Corruption Group rolled out the drums in celebration of his contributions to the fight against corruption.

Ribadu and one of his staff, Mr. Nasir Rabe, were honoured by the group for their resilience and commitment to the vision of EFCC. The outgoing Vice President of the group, Miss Victoria Anyanwu, said this was encouraging to Nigerian youths.

"The partnership and cooperation that we enjoy from EFCC and ICPC has remained a source of inspiration to youths in the crusade against corruption and crimes," she said.

Head, General Investigation, Mr. Umar Sanda, who represented the Executive Chairman, presented a paper in which he bemoaned the drift in social values due to sharp practices and graft in virtually all spheres of the society.

According to him, corruption is the reason institutions do not work, social infrastructure are non-existent or, at best, dilapidated and values are upside down. Government, he said, has now exhibited the will to fight the malaise and a lot more needs to be done to make the campaign irreversible.

He charged Corps members to shun the dangerous and retrogressive trends of corruption and economic crimes, so that the efforts of government will not be in vain.

NYSC CD Group Honours Ribadu



Members of the NYSC Anti-Corruption Group with EFCC & ICPC officials and secondary school pupils

Another Feather From SADD

-By Fatima Yakubu-

The Nigerian Chapter of Students Against Destructive Decision (SADD), a non-governmental organisation, has presented an Award for Excellence to the Executive Chairman of EFCC, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu.

The event which took place at the MUSON Centre, Lagos on Thursday, 11 January, 2007 was graced by several dignitaries including Chief (Mrs) Oluremi Tinubu, wife of the Lagos State Governor and Publisher of Ovation International, Chief Dele Momodu, who chaired the occasion.

Head, Media and Publicity, Mr. Osita Nwajah, who received the award on behalf of the Chairman, commended SADD (Nigeria) and urged the organisation not to deviate from its ideals and objectives of contributing to building a better Nigeria.

He said that EFCC, through its Fix Nigeria Initiative, a public-oriented programme that was launched last year, is ready to partner with credible civil organisations like SADD to enlighten and educate the public on the evils of corruption.

Speaking earlier, the initiators of SADD in Nigeria, Miss Marita Ayodele and Miss Maria Ayodele, said that the Nigeria chapter of the youth organization, which is based in the United States, was established to provide the best prevention and intervention tools possible to Nigerian students/youths to deal with issues of cultism, drugs, immature and unprotected sex, cyber-crimes and other vices.

SADD is a non-governmental youth/peer organisation established in the US 26 years ago to address drunk driving and other destructive decisions among American youths. It was registered as an NGO in Nigeria in 2004 by two young Nigerians, Marita and Maria Ayodele, who are based in America.



Head of Media & Publicity, Osita Nwajah, receives the Award from Ms. Marita Ayodele.



Osita Nwajah chatting with Mrs. Quincy Ayodele.

*Monkey don reach market,
E no fit return.*



**AVOID
FRAUD NOW!**

THIS IS A WARNING



EFCC

**WILL GET YOU
ANYWHERE,
ANYTIME !**



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