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Reward for Excellence

For the first time, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission rolls out the drums to celebrate excellence

It was a day to remember and one that would go down in the history of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, as momentous.

Monday, December 22, 2014, will remain memorable for the simple reason that it saw the Commission recognize 306 members of its staff – serving and non-serving, in an epoch-making ceremony to wrap up activities of the year, 2014, held at the main auditorium of its Academy at Karu, Abuja.

The institution was described by the anti-graft’s boss, Mr. Ibrahim Lamorde, as one that had come a long way since 2003.

He said, “The EFCC that only a few were willing to give a fleeting chance of succeeding eleven years ago, is today an institution of reckoning in law enforcement, with operations, partnerships and influence stretching across and beyond the African continent.

“It was with the realization that the human resource is the most critical input in the EFCC that I decided to do all within my power to appreciate staff for their various efforts.

“Any organization remain as good as the men and women in it, and such people should be appreciated to raise morale.”

The event, which was the first of its kind in the history of the EFCC, also served as a platform to reunite new and old staff of the Commission.

The grand award presentation ceremony had in attendance, the pioneer chairman of the EFCC, Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, a former Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Kanu Agabi (SAN), incumbent AGF and Minister of Justice, Mohammed Amodu, SAN, represented by Mr. Abdullahi Yola, Solicitor General of the Federation, representative of the UK National Crime Agency, Dave Carter, and representative of the FBI, US Embassy, Tricia Gibbs, among many other dignitaries.

Ribadu, who was also honoured at the event, used the opportunity to encourage staff of the Commission to remain unshaken in the war against corruption.

In all, 306 staff members were honoured at the ceremony for serving the Commission meritoriously in various capacities.

Eighty-seven of the awardees were pioneer staff, while 161 staff members were celebrated for meritoriously serving the Commission for the past 10 years.

Other categories of awards include: Commendable Achievements, 34; Outstanding staff, 10; Note-worthiness, five; Award for Meritorious Service Ex-staff Category, seven; Award for Outstanding Performance, Ex-staff Category, two.

The Lagos Zonal office was singled out for distinguishing itself as a role model having secured the most number of arrests and successful prosecutions in court.

Lamorde, in his opening remark titled “We are called to serve”, reiterated the conscious decision of the Commission to be different.

He said, “We have set a very high standard for our staff, not only at the point of entry, but also in the discharge of their duties and for them to continue to stay employed with the Commission. and for them to continue to stay employed with the Commission.”

He further explained that the reason for the gathering was to say “thank you” to former and present staff, friends and stakeholders who have distinguished themselves in their varied contributions to EFCC collective aspirations, and “we are also here to remind ourselves that as far as the EFCC is concerned, anything less than excellent is unacceptable”.

Head, Human Resources of EFCC, Ngozi Moses-Sarumi, a pioneer staff and one of the awardees described the event as a morale booster saying, “It shows that the Commission recognizes hard work”.

Pioneer Secretary to the Commission, Mr. Emmanuel Akomaye, was full of praise for the staff of the Commission.

He said, “EFCC is not like any other agency, you must not be discouraged inspite of the various attacks, because it has never been easy and it will never be easy.”
Ribaudu’s Homecoming

In a rare reminisce, Nuhu Ribaudu, pioneer Chairman of the EFCC, gives honour to whom it is due.

For Mallam Nuhu Ribaudu, pioneer chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, December 22, 2014 was undoubtedly homecoming.

The convivial atmosphere that pervaded the main auditorium of the EFCC Academy, in Karu, Abuja, provided a veritable platform for sharing of banter, as Ribaudu, obviously beside himself with great joy, recalled memorable experiences during his tenure as EFCC boss.

It was at the anti-graft agency’s maiden “Rewards and Recognition” ceremony, where Ribaudu along with staff of the EFCC were appreciated for their enviable achievements, particularly those who had served 10 years and above.

Describing the day as a reunion and day of thanksgiving, he said, “This is my family, the dreamers, the believers in the dream of EFCC who helped us to achieve what we did. We believed we had clean hands and, therefore, it was our duty to clean the dirty image of Nigeria.”

Taking the audience on memory lane, Ribaudu, showered encomiums on former President Olusegun Obasanjo, former Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Mr. Karu Agabi (SAN), Mr. Femi Falana (SAN), General Aliyu Gusau and late Gani Fawehinmi for believing in the vision of the EFCC as a vehicle for ridding the nation of economic and financial crimes.

“We believed in work, and maybe that was what caught up with us,” he said, smilingly. “You just had to work and of course ask God to support you.”

Ribaudu appreciated the UK government for the first donation the Commission received, about £500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Pounds), which he said really helped the EFCC at its beginning and was the seed money with which what is now known as EFCC Academy was built.
Adache Shines for EFCC

A member of the Course One Cadet Officers programme, Austine Adache receives accolade for exemplary conduct and distinguished performance at Defence Intelligence Officers Course

It was a trailblazing achievement for the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, as Austine S. M. Adache, a staff of the Commission, in December last year, shone like the stars at the Defence Intelligence Officers Course (DIOC 13/2014) held at the Defence Intelligence College, Kari, Abuja.

Adache, a member of Course 1 Cadet Officer Programme, was adjudged to have exhibited exceptional brilliance, hard work and discipline.

It was another opportunity for the EFCC to again prove itself as a pool of some of the best talents in law enforcement in Nigeria, as Adache distinguished himself in academic and general conduct among participants that included officers from the Nigerian Navy, Nigerian Air Force, Prisons, Customs, Immigration, NDLEA, Defence Intelligence Agency, Nigeria Police and the Nigerian Army.

For his effort, Adache received a plaque and certificate from the Commandant of the College, Commodore M. A Emuekpere.

The six-month course designed to foster inter-agency cooperation covered the areas of intelligence-driven investigations, espionage, and counter-terrorism, and held from June 30 – December 12, 2014.
At last, A Manual For Moral Revival

A road map for moral rebirth is here as EFCC, after many years of toil, finally rolls out the Inter-Faith Manuals, a guide for anti-corruption teaching for Churches and Mosques

The journey, which began in 2007, came to a fitting end on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, unveiled the Inter-Faith Anti-Corruption Preaching/Teaching manuals, at a grand ceremony held at the main auditorium of the National Centre for Women Development, Abuja.

The manual, which focuses on utilizing the Muslim and Christian platforms to engage the public in fighting corruption, is the outcome of a National Inter-faith Forum on Corruption inaugurated by the Commission in August 2007.

The manuals were the cynosure of all eyes, at the unveiling which was witnessed by the crème de la crème of the Christian and Muslim community.

The Emir of Suleja, Alhaji Awwal Ibrahim, a former governor of Niger State, representing the Sultan of Sokoto, jointly unveiled the manuals with Arch Bishop John Praise Daniel, who represented the president of the Christian Association of Nigeria, CAN.

Prof. Ishaq Olojede, Secretary-General, Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs and chairman of the committee tasked with the production of the manuals, described them as a major step forward in the war against corruption.

“Corruption is not specific to any religion and so is inter-faith itself. Therefore, the manual is good for preaching, teaching as well as serving as a facilitator’s guide, which can be used by students, scholars, pastors and imams.”

“The peculiarity of each faith was not sacrificed in the manuals,” he said.

In his remark, Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Ibrahim Lamorde said, “The Commission came to the unassailable conclusion that successfully combating economic and financial crimes, including corruption and money laundering, would take more than enforcement of laws.

“The Inter-faith Manuals represent just one stage in a long process that also includes the training of those who are expected to put them to use – the faith leaders, women and youths.”

The manuals contain scriptural references, illustrations and teaching aids all drawn from the Bible and the Quran.
From ANCOR to ACE-Network

In another bold move, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, re-launches its anti-corruption programme

The transformation was a most needed step in the war against corruption. And, in a bid to further strengthen its war against corruption and ensure effective coverage of the grassroots, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has reinvented the Anti-Corruption Revolution Campaign, ANCOR, transforming it to the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Support Network, ACE-Network.

The change, according to the EFCC chairman, Mr. Ibrahim Lamorde, was necessitated by the need to correct the flaws that ruined the ANCOR programme. He disclosed that some members of the defunct body were entangled in reprehensible conduct including blackmail and extortion of monies from unsuspecting members of the public.

“There were, for instance, cases of outright abuse of the programme by some members who fraudulently procured vehicles, sewed their own uniforms, opened their own offices where they received and ‘investigated’ alleged petitions, interrogated ‘suspects’ and generally had a field day blackmailing and extorting innocent members of the public, he said.”

ACE-Network is expected to take into account lessons learnt from the experiences and challenges of ANCOR, and is expected to ensure a seamless cooperation between the Commission and Civil Society Organizations, in a coordinated effort to rid the country of economic and financial crimes.

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Caught In Their Own Web

Luck fail two tricksters as they are ensnared in a deadly game of guile

Every day is for the thief, but one day for the owner, goes a popular saying.

This aptly describes the fate that has now befallen the duo of Abiodun Akorede (aka Kwesi Mensah) and Sherif Ajaga (aka Rowland Komolafe).

The two, now cooling their heels at the Kuje Prison in Abuja, attempted to dupe a former Military Administrator, Senator Tunde Ogbeha to the tune of £11,000 (Eleven thousand pounds).

They had through one Morris Williams, on December 5, 2014 contacted Ogbeha on phone, claiming to award him the sum of £10million (Ten million pounds) for his consignment that was mishandled by an unnamed courier company. A meeting was arranged for Ogbeha’s office in Abuja.

Ogbeha, who knew he had no such existing transaction, however, played along with the two conmen. His driver subsequently picked up the two men at an agreed location and drove them to Ogbeha’s office in Abuja for further discussion on the purported business deal.

Unknown to the two men, they had with their own legs walked into a trap.

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, briskly walked into the office and swiftly rounded them up.

The men were on December 31, 2014 arraigned before Justice H. U. Baba of the Federal Capital Territory High Court, Abuja, on two counts of criminal conspiracy and attempting to obtain money under false pretences.

The case has been adjourned till January 20, 2015.

Abiodun Akorede and Sherif Adaga

The Fall of a Conman

Fake Customs Comptroller bites the dust

For Ibrahim Hassan, who has for the past seven years succeeded in using fake identity as “Comptroller Kangiwa”, to dupe unsuspecting businessmen, the next 10 years would be spent in prison.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, had instituted against him, a case of conspiracy, impersonation, and obtaining money under false pretence to the tune of N11,074,500 from a Kano-based businessman, Alhaji Balarabe Sumaila.

A crafty Hassan, who went about parading himself as Comptroller Husaini Suleman Kangiwa from Zone C, Owerri Office of the Nigeria Customs Service had in 2007, deceived Sumaila that he had 12 containers of textile materials slated for auction by the Customs Service at the Tin Can Port, Apapa, Lagos.

Hassan then took Sumaila to Lagos, where as discussed, he showed him containers containing the textile materials he claimed were to be auctioned.

Convinced about the deal, Sumaila gladly parted with N11,074,500 as payment for processing, clearance and transportation of the goods from Lagos to Kano.

Sadly, Hassan never delivered the goods. Sumaila sensing he had been swindled thereafter demanded for a refund, to no avail.

Justice Aboki found Hassan guilty of the charge and consequently convicted and sentenced him to seven years imprisonment for obtaining the money by false pretense, three years imprisonment for impersonation and another six months for conspiracy.

The judge also ordered the convict to pay the sum of N11m (Eleven Million Naira) to the complainant, Alhaji Balarabe Sumaila.

Ibrahim Hassan, Fake Customs Comptroller
ON THE MARBLE

“It’s not just that people are taking our money away, they are taking it to countries that are richer than us.”

- Chidi Anselm Odinkalu, Chairman, National Human Rights Commission.

“We're not going to remember those who stole our money; those to be remembered are those like you (EFCC staff) serving endlessly, ready to sacrifice themselves in the war against corruption.”

– Kanu Agabi, SAN
Former Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice.

Crime

Lucky American

Search for love costs an American, $2,000 but EFCC comes to her rescue

Love is blind, they say, but it has also taught Margaret Sanders, an American living in Sherman, a city in the county seat of Grayson County, Texas, United States, a very hard lesson - be wary of love on the internet.

Indeed, but for the intervention of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Sanders, who in the quest for love, parted with $2,000 would have remained a wounded love-seeker.

It all began on Facebook, sometimes in 2013, when Sanders met a “friend” in Benny Brown, from Warri, Delta State. The friendship blossomed, and Brown promised to marry her.

In the course of the internet love affair, Brown requested for the sum of $2,000 to enable him join Sanders in the US.

Desperate to have her new found love beside her, she wasted no time in wiring the money to him through Western Union, into an account with the name, Gladys Ikpoba, domiciled with a new generation bank.

Alas, Sanders had been swindled by Brown, who simply pocketed the “loot” and never bothered to book a visa interview, talk less of joining her in the US.

All her efforts to get her money back turned futile, until she petitioned the EFCC.

After an endless wait for the fiancé, Sanders came to the sad realisation that she had been duped. Her fruitless efforts to recover the money prompted her to petition the EFCC.

The Commission immediately swung into action, carrying out discrete investigation, which eventually led to the recovery of the money.

All smiles, Sanders is grateful to have her money back.
EFCC will get you, anywhere, anytime.