

Nigeria - [419 Coalition](#) 2024 News on Nigerian Scam / 419 Operations

31 DEC 2024

REDAN Applauds EFCC's Landmark Recovery of Properties

The Real Estate Developers Association of Nigeria, REDAN, has commended the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, for its strides in combating money laundering and recovery of 753 duplexes and other apartments in the Lokogoma District of Abuja.

This commendation was given in Abuja by the President and Chairman of Council of REDAN, Prince Akintoye Adeoye in a letter addressed to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, a copy of which was made available to the EFCC. Adeoye pointed out that the Commission was playing vital roles in combating economic crimes, money laundering and terrorism financing within the real estate sector and specifically lauded the EFCC's Chairman, Mr. Ola Olukoyede for driving all the numerous achievements of the Commission in 2024.

"REDAN acknowledges the vital role of the EFCC in combating economic crimes, money laundering and terrorism financing within the real estate sector. These efforts are crucial to maintaining the integrity of our industry, ensuring it serves as a catalyst for national development rather than a haven for unscrupulous activities", he said "On the recovery and forfeiture of the Lokogoma's apartments to the government, Adeoye commended the judiciary " for its decisive action in the final forfeiture ruling. This judgment reinforces the commitment to upholding the rule of law and demonstrates a unified effort in combating corruption, aligning with the goals of your administration to ensure justice and accountability in Nigeria".

Justice Jude Onwuegbuzie of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court, Abuja, granted the final forfeiture of the 753 apartments on December 2, 2024. The forfeiture was the largest single asset recovery of the EFCC.

[redan-applauds-efccs-landmark-recovery-of-properties](#)

23 DEC 2024

\$1.4m Fraud: Appeal Court Upholds Conviction of Businessman

A three-man panel of the Court of Appeal, Lagos Division, on Thursday, December 19, 2024, upheld the conviction and sentencing of a businessman, Kolawole Adedayo Erinle, to 12 years imprisonment for \$1.4m fraud.

Erinle and his company, Rinde-Remdex Nigeria Limited, were first arraigned before Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on March 11, 2022.

Though he pleaded "not guilty", the trial could not be concluded before the retirement of Justice Taiwo, thereby prompting the re-assignment of the case to Justice Oshodi.

He was subsequently re-arraigned on October 28, 2022 before Justice Oshodi on a three-count charge bordering on conspiracy, retention of proceeds of criminal conduct, and obtaining money under false pretence to the tune of \$1,410,000 (One Million Four-Hundred and Ten Thousand United States Dollars).

One of the charges reads: "Kolawole Adedayo Erinle and Edward Dada (still at large), sometime in 2019 at Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, conspired to falsely represent yourselves as J.E. Dunn, a local construction company in America, with intent to gain monetary advantage in the sum of \$1,410,000 (One Million Four-Hundred and Ten Thousand United States Dollars) by creating a fake domain name jedunn.org and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 8 of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act No 14, 2006.

He, again, pleaded "not guilty" to the charge.

In the course of the trial, the prosecution counsel, T.J. Banjo had called four witnesses, through whom several documentary evidence were presented to prove the case against him and his company.

The prosecution also presented evidence to prove that Erinle had been convicted for fraud in the United States of America ,USA.

Justice Oshodi had, on February 10, 2023, revoked the bail earlier granted to the defendant, following an application by the prosecution showing that he never perfected the bail conditions earlier granted him by Justice Taiwo.

After the prosecution had closed its case, Erinle took to the dock to defend himself.

Led in evidence by his counsel, Lawal Pedro, SAN, he had denied the allegations brought against him by the prosecution.

However, under-cross-examination by the prosecution, he had admitted that he was indeed an ex-convict in the US, and spent 23 months in prison.

He had also expressed a change of mind to retribute his victim, saying, "I am sorry".

Delivering judgment on September 26, 2023, Justice Oshodi had declared the defendant and his company guilty as charged.

The Judge had also held that the prosecution effectively proved the case against them beyond every reasonable doubt.

Justice Oshodi had, therefore, sentenced him to five years on count two, and 12 years on count three, with the sentences to run concurrently from February 10, 2023 when he was remanded by the court.

The company, Rinde-Remdex Nigeria Limited, was fined N50 million and was ordered to be wound up by the Corporate Affairs Commission, CAC, with the proceeds forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The convicts were also ordered to make restitution to the victim.

All the property and vehicles recovered from them by the EFCC were ordered to be sold and applied as restitution to the victim, through the FBI.

However, dissatisfied with the judgment of the trial court, Erinle, through his counsel, had approached the appellate court challenging the judgment. Counsel for the EFCC, T.J. Banjo had, however, urged the appellate court to dismiss the appeal as lacking in merit and to uphold the judgement of the lower court.

In a lead judgment delivered by Justice Danlami Zama Senchi, the three-man panel of Justices unanimously upheld the submission of the EFCC, held that the appeal lacked merit and also affirmed the judgment of the trial court.

[1-4m-fraud-appeal-court-upholds-conviction-of-businessman](#)

23 DEC 2024

Alleged £1million Fraud: Court Dismisses Defence's Application For Stay of Proceedings in Trial of Seven

Justice R.A. Osodi of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on Thursday, December 19, 2024, dismissed an application by the defence counsel seeking a stay of proceedings in the ongoing trial of seven suspects over an alleged £1m fraud.

The Lagos Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, had on February 3, 2022 arraigned Morufu Adewale, (a.k.a Gbeganleri Adelana), Abayomi Alaka(a.k.a. Dauda Usman Alashe), Omitogun Ajayi and Ajisegiri Abiodun before Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja,

Lagos.

Three of the defendants, Taiwo Ahmed, Raufu Raheem and Sanlabiu Teslim, had initially been listed to be at large.

However, the trial could not be concluded before the retirement of Justice Taiwo.

This, therefore, prompted the re-assignment of the case file to Justice Oshodi, even as the EFCC intensified its efforts to secure the arrest of the other suspected fraudsters.

Subsequently, all the seven defendants were in December 2022 re-arraigned on an amended three-count charge.

The offences border on obtaining money by false pretence, contrary to Section 1(1) (a) and 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006, and conspiracy to obtain money by false pretence contrary to Section 410 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State 2011.

Count one reads: "Morufu Yahaya Adewale, Omitogun Ajayi, Ajisegiri Abiodun, Abayomi Kamaldeen Alaka, Taiwo Olamilekan Ahmed, Raufu Wale Raheem and Sanlabiu Owolabi Teslim between May and July 2018 at Lagos within the Ikeja Judicial Division obtained the total sum of £1,000,000.00 (One Million GBP) from Dr. and Dr. (Mrs) Lateef Oladimeji Bello for the purpose of conducting prayers for spiritual cleansing of the family and that the money will be refunded after the prayers within one week, which pretence you knew to be false."

Count three reads: "Morufu Yahaya Adewale, Omitogun Ajayi, Ajisegiri Abiodun, Abayomi Kamaldeen Alaka, Taiwo Olamilekan Ahmed, Raufu Wale Raheem and Sanlabiu Owolabi Teslim between August and September 2018 at Lagos within the Ikeja Judicial Division obtained the total sum of N175,000,000.00 (One Hundred and Seventy-five Million Naira only) from Dr. and Dr. (Mrs) Lateef Oladimeji Bello for the purpose of conducting spiritual prayers for spiritual cleansing of their son and the family and that the money will be refunded one week after the prayers which pretence you knew to be false."

They pleaded "not guilty" to the charges.

At a sitting on September 23, 2024, prosecution counsel, N.K. Ukoha, had sought to tender in evidence a flash drive through the sixth witness, Giwa Wasiu, an Assistant Superintendent of the Police, ASP, who had told Justice Osodi how the sixth defendant was apprehended in the Ikorodu area of Lagos.

He had testified that the sixth defendant, in the said video, confessed that he and some others duped one Dr. (Mrs.) Bello of the sum of N675 million. He had also testified that the said video contained in the flash drive was handed over to the EFCC.

However, when Ukoha sought to tender the flash drive as evidence, the defence team led by Olalekan Ojo, SAN had raised an objection, thereby prompting the court to adjourn till Friday, October 11, 2024 for ruling.

In his ruling on October 11, 2024, Justice Oshodi had overruled the objection by the fourth defendant and admitted the flash drive containing the video recording of the sixth defendant in evidence as Exhibit E.

The Judge had also adjourned till December 19, 2024 for the defence counsel to cross-examine the witness, Wasiu.

However, counsel to the fifth defendant, Tunde Ojehomon, brought an application seeking a stay of proceedings in the trial pending the determination of the substantive suit.

Other defence counsel allied with Ojehomon's argument, and also urged the court to determine their pending applications before further hearing in the matter.

Justice Oshodi, however, overruled their applications; hence the proceedings continued with the cross-examination of the witness.

Thereafter, the prosecution applied that the video clip of the confessional statement be played in the open court, which was granted by the court.

The case was adjourned till January 6, 2025 for continuation of trial.

17 DEC 2024

Courts Jail Nine Internet Fraudsters in Kaduna

Justices A.A Bello, A.Isiaka and Murtala .J. Zubairu of the Kaduna State High Court, sitting in Kaduna have convicted and sentenced nine persons to various jail terms for fraud.

The convicts are: Yaya Babatunde (a.k.a Kay Lenea), Sule Onyegefu Isaac, Alaba Peter (a.k.a Mane Julia), Obedient Charles (a.k.a Paul Cravey), Isaac Henry, Muhammad Adam Muhammed (a.k.a Hannah Alesia Boltz), Richie Olagunju Bolaji Waris (a.k.a Gina McLaurin), John Nanyak Peter Haruna (a.k.a Anna Moon) and Frank Phillip Praise (Brown Jamal).

They were prosecuted by the Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on separate one-count charges that border on impersonation, cheating and internet fraud.

The charge against Haruna reads: “That you, John Nanyak Peter Haruna, (a.k.a Anna Moon) (M), sometime in 2024 at Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, falsely presented yourself as Anna Moon; a female living in Saudi Arabia, on Snapchat (an online social media application) and in that assumed character cheated one Max of the total sum of \$200.00USD (Two Hundred United States Dollars and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 308 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law, 2017 and punishable under Section 309 of the same Law.”

Praise's charge reads: “That you Frank Philip Praise (a.k.a Brown Jamal) sometime in May, 2024 at Kaduna, within the jurisdiction of the Kaduna State High Court, falsely presented yourself as Brown Jamal; a military personnel residing in United States of America, on facebook (an online social application) and in that assumed character cheated one George Williams of the sum of \$400.00 USD and thereby committed an offence of impersonation contrary to Section 308 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law, 2017and punishable under Section 309 of the same law.”

They all pleaded guilty to the count charges, prompting the prosecuting counsel, M.E Eimonye, Y.J Matiyak, M.Lawal, Fortune A.I. Asemebo and K.Ogunlade to pray the courts to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Haruna was sentenced to three years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition, he forfeited an iPhone 14 Pro Max and the sum of \$200.00 (Two Hundred United States Dollars).

Praise was convicted and sentenced to three years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N600,000.00 (Six Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition he forfeited an iPhone 14 Pro Max and a Mercedes Benz car as well as the sum of \$400:00 (Four Hundred US Dollars).

Waris was sentenced to three years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N600,000.00 (Six Hundred Thousand Naira). He also forfeited an iPhone.

Muhammad was convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira). He also forfeited an iPhone 12 Pro and the sum of \$50 (Fifty Dollars.)

Henry was convicted and sentenced to three years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N500, 000. 00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition, he forfeited the sum of \$25.00 (Twenty-five USD) and Samsung S20 Plus.

Charles was convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition, he forfeited an iPhone 7 Plus and the sum of N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira).

Babatunde was convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition, he forfeited an iPhone 11 Pro and to retribute the sum of \$200 (Two Hundred Dollars) to his victim.

Peter was convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition, he forfeited three phones, iPhone 16, iPhone 6 Plus, Samsung Note 20 and a gold ear ring. He is also to restitute the sum of \$1,200 (One Thousand, Two Hundred Dollars) to his victim.

Isaac was convicted and sentenced to three years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition, he forfeited an Infinix Note 20 phone.

The convicts were arrested following credible intelligence at various locations in Kamazo, Karji and Gonin Gora axis of Kaduna State.

[courts-jail-nine-internet-fraudsters-in-kaduna](#)

16 DEC 2024

Bauchi, Adamawa Courts Jail 18 Internet Fraudsters

Justices Aminu Garba and Aisha A. Ibrahim of the Federal High Court 1 and 2 sitting in Bauchi, Bauchi State have convicted and sentenced 17 internet fraudsters to various jail terms, even as Justice Ahmed Isa of the Adamawa State High Court sitting in Yola equally jailed another internet fraudster.

The convicts are: Fumi Joshua, Nathan Timothy Aruku, Femi Johnson Adelowo, Chimieze Alajemba, Jeremiah Pam Samuel, Emmanuel Shadrach, Ibrahim Yusuf, Shikaan Martin's, Mishack Daniel, Jerry Moses, Joseph Yagat Baye, Emmanuel Pontiff.

Others are: Godiya Simon, Noble Max, Perfect Nuhu and Agbande A. Bature, Fred Omale and Yasar Usman Hamman.

They were separately arraigned on a one-count separate charges of fraudulent personation by the Gombe Zonal Directorate of the Commission between November and December 2024

The charge against Chimieze Alajemba reads: "That you Chimieze Alajemba sometimes in November 2024 at Bauchi, Bauchi State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court fraudulently impersonate one John Miller, an American national by creating and operating fake Facebook and Gmail account with a profile name "johnmiller366 and johnmiller264.6431,2@gmail.com and in process gained to your advantage the gross sum of \$700 thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22(2) (b) of Cybercrimes (Prohibition Prevention etc) Act 2015 and punishable under Section 22(2)(b) (vi) of same Act

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they were read to them in court, prompting the prosecution counsel, SM Aliyu, A. Aliyu and JD Tortema to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, counsels to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy stressing that they have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Garba on December 11, 2024 convicted and sentenced Pontiff to seven months imprisonment with an option of N130,000 (One Hundred and Thirty Thousand Naira) fine and Omale is to pay n170,000 (One Hundred and Seventy Thousand Naira in lieu of seven months jail term.

On December 10, 2024, the judge convicted and sentenced Joshua, Bayi and Daniel to seven months imprisonment or a fine of N170,000 each.

Yusuf, Samuel are to pay a fine of N100,000 each in lieu of seven months jail term and Moses, Shadrach and Martin's were sentenced to seven months imprisonment with an option of fine of N130,000 each.

Justice Aisha Ibrahim on December 10, 2024 convicted and sentenced Aruku, Adelewo, Alajemba and Pam to six months imprisonment or a fine n250,000(Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) each.

Also, on November 28, 2024 the judge convicted and sentenced Simon, Max Bature and Nuhu to six months imprisonment with an option of fine of N150,000 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) each.

The judges ordered the forfeiture of the convicts' mobile phones recovered during investigation and being proceeds of crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The convicts' journey to the Correctional Centre began following their arrest by operatives of the Gombe Zonal directorate of the Commission based on actionable intelligence regarding their involvement in computer-related fraud.

In a related development, the Gombe Zonal Directorate of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has secured the conviction of one internet fraudster, Yasar Usman Hamman before Justice Ahmed Isa of the High Court sitting in Yola, Adamawa State.

Hamman was arraigned on December 10, 2024 on a one-count charge of cheating by impersonation by Gombe Zonal Directorate.

The charge reads: that you Yasar Usman Hamman sometimes in 2024 at Sangere area of Modibbo Yola, Adamawa State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court whilst impersonating benricothetrader, attempted to cheat by enticing one Morgan and other unsuspecting foreign national to invest their money in your cryptocurrency platform with intent to defraud them, an attempt to cheat by impersonation contrary to Section 59 and punishable under Section 315 of the Adamawa State Penal Code Law 2018

The defendant pleaded guilty to the charge prompting prosecution counsel, Saad H.Saad to ask the court to convict and sentence the defendant accordingly. However, counsel to the defendant pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy.

Justice Isa thereafter convicted and sentenced Hamman to ten years imprisonment with an option of fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira)

The court also ordered that the iPhone X used in the commission of the offence be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria

The convicts's journey to Correctional Centre began sometimes in September 2024 when the Commission received an intelligence alleging that some syndicate of cyber-related fraudsters between the ages of 18-30 years residing in Sangere area of Madibbo, Yola, Adamawa State were defrauding innocent victims. Hamman was thereafter arrested, prosecuted and convicted.

The press release contains photos of most of the 419ers:

[bauchi-adamawa-courts-jail-18-internet-fraudsters](#)

16 DEC 2024

EFCC Bursts Syndicate of 792 Cryptocurrency Investment, Romance Fraud Suspects in Lagos ... Arrests 193 Chinese, Arabs, Filipinos, Others

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede, has disclosed that the Commission, in a landmark raid, arrested 792 suspects for their alleged involvement in cryptocurrency investment fraud and romance scam.

The suspects were apprehended on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, in a surprise operation at their hideout, an imposing seven-storey edifice known as Big Leaf Building, on No.7, Oyin Jolayemi Street, Victoria Island, Lagos, following verifiable intelligence received by the Commission.

Speaking during a media briefing on Monday, December 16, 2024, at the Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Commission, Olukoyede stated that 148 Chinese, 40 Filipinos, two Kharzartans, one Pakistani, one Indonesian were arrested during the operation.

The EFCC's boss, who spoke through the Director, Public Affairs, EFCC, Commander

of the EFCC, CEWilson Uwujaren, further stated that the foreign nationals used the facility, which could be mistaken for a corporate headquarters of a financial establishment, to train their Nigerian accomplices on how to initiate romance and investment scams and also used the identities of their Nigerian accomplices to perpetrate their criminal activities.

According to him, “All the floors are equipped with high-end desktop computers. On the 5th floor alone, investigators recovered 500 SIM cards of local telcos that were bought for criminal purposes.

“Their Nigerian accomplices were recruited by the foreign kingpins to prospect for victims online through phishing, targeting mostly Americans, Canadians, Mexicans, and several others from European countries.

“They usually arm them with desktop computers and mobile devices and create fake profiles for them.

“The Nigerian accomplices are equally provided with logs that allow them access to foreign communication lines and victims, which they chat with on WhatsApp, Instagram and Telegram.”

While giving further details about the modus operandi of the syndicate, the EFCC Chair said the Nigerian accomplices, who are assigned WhatsApp accounts linked to foreign telephone numbers, especially from Germany and Italy, engage victims in romantic conversations as well as phantom business and investment discussions to trick them to shop on the purported online investment shopping platform called www.yooto.com.

He added: “For those who show interest, activation fees for an account on the platform starts from \$35USD.

“Investigation revealed that the criterion for recruiting these young Nigerians is proficiency in the use of computers, especially typing skill. Those who passed the test are given desktop computers and mobile devices and then taken through a two-week induction on how to personate foreign females in romance scam chats and convince victims to invest in their employers' cryptocurrency investment scam.

“Once the Nigerians are able to win the confidence of would-be victims, the foreigners would take over the actual task of defrauding the victims and proceed to block their Nigerian accomplices from the network. This would then leave them in the dark about the transaction.”

He, however, said the Nigerians involved in the alleged fraudulent activities “do not know the owners of the 'company' they work for because they are not offered letters of appointments or receive payment from a corporate account.”

According to him, the suspected Nigerian accomplices are usually paid either in cash or through an individual's account.

Olukoyede said the Commission was working with its foregoing partners to establish the extent of the scam and the accomplices as well as the likelihood of any collaboration with organized international fraud cells.

The EFCC Chair also used the occasion to debunk the notion that Nigerians are behind the tonnes of frauds emanating from the country.

“Foreigners are taking advantage of our nation's unfortunate reputation as a haven of frauds to establish a foothold here to disguise their atrocious criminal enterprises. But, as this operation has shown, there will be no hiding places for criminals in Nigeria,” he said.

Also speaking during the occasion, the acting Zonal Director, Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Commission, Michael Wetkas, sought greater collaboration with the media in the fight against corruption and economic and financial crimes.

Items recovered from the suspects include desktop computers, mobile phones, laptop computers and cars at the point of arrest.

The suspects will be charged to court after investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-bursts-syndicate-of-792-cryptocurrency-investment-romance-fraud-suspects-in-lagos-arrests-193-chinese-arabs-filipinos-others](#)

419 Coalition Comment: We congratulate the EFCC on this impressive achievement, and hope to see many more press releases with similar news of mass arrests of large scale 419 syndicates. We would quibble on the EFCC's interpretation on who the Ogas and Chairman of the syndicate are however, we suspect that they may in fact turn out to be Nigerian nationals who have recruited the foreigners through affiliated expat 419er cells in various countries. Be that as it may, we offer kudos to the EFCC for this operation.

13 DEC 2024

Courts in Benin and Asaba Send Seven Internet Fraudsters to Prison

Justices A.N. Erhabor and W.I. Aziegbemhin of Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City and Justice F. A. Olubanjo of the Federal High Court sitting in Asaba between December 10 and 12 convicted and sentenced seven internet fraudsters to various jail terms

The convicts are Precious Okeleke, Austine Iwuner, Saint Felix, Ododo Mathias, Idahosa Kelvin, Bankole Adaranijo, Owie Osasenago Stephen.

They were prosecuted on one-count separate charges bordering on obtaining by false pretence, retention of proceeds of crime and possession of fraudulent documents by the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Commission.

The charge against Okeleke reads: "That you Precious Okeleke (m) on or about the 30th of October, 2024 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contained false pretence, thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their charges when they were read to them, prompting the prosecution counsel, F.A Jirbo, I.M Elodi and K Y. Bello to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, stating that they have become remorseful for their actions.

Precious Okeleke was on Tuesday December 10, convicted and sentenced by Justice W.I Aziegbemhin to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira), while Austine Iwuner was convicted and sentenced by Justice F.A Olubanjo to two years imprisonment or a fine of N500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira).

On Wednesday, December 11, Justice Erhabor convicted and sentenced Saint Felix and Ododo Mathias to Three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira).

Justice Aziegbembin on Wednesday December 12 convicted and sentenced Idahosa Kelvin and Bankole Adaranijo to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each while Owie Osasenago bagged three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.

All the convicts forfeited their phones, laptops, and balances in their respective bank accounts to the Federal Government of Nigeria as proceeds of crime and to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour henceforth.

The convicts' journey to the Correctional Centre began following their arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the EFCC through a sting operation owing to their involvement in fraudulent internet activities.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers

[courts-in-benin-and-asaba-send-seven-internet-fraudsters-to-prison](#)

13 DEC 2024

EFCC Arrests Suspected Fraudster for Allegedly Duping 139 Australians

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested a suspected online fraudster, Osang Usie Otukpa, for allegedly duping 139 Australians to the tune of \$AUD8,000,000 (Eight Million Australian Dollars).

He was picked up in a stake out at the Murtala Mohammed International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos upon arrival from the United States of America on Friday, December 6, 2024.

Otukpa, who goes by five aliases, namely: Ford Thompson, Oscar Donald Tyler, Michael Haye, Jose Vitto and Kristin Davidson scammed the victims by luring them on the social media to invest in his rogue cryptocurrency investment platform, Liquid Asset Group, LAG.

The proceeds of the alleged crimes were routed to his bank accounts through a global cryptocurrency exchange platform.

He would be charged to court upon conclusion of investigations.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-suspected-fraudster-for-allegedly-duping-139-australians](#)

11 DEC 2024

EFCC Arrests 23 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Ibadan

Operatives of Ibadan Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested twenty-three (23) suspected internet fraudsters.

The internet fraudsters were arrested at Akobo area of Ibadan in Oyo State following credible intelligence linking them with suspected involvement in fraudulent internet activities.

Items recovered from them include eight exotic cars, laptops, phones and a play station game, among others.

The suspects will be charged to court upon conclusion of investigations.

[efcc-arrests-23-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-ibadan](#)

11 DEC 2024

Abuja Court Jails Man for \$115,000 Internet Fraud

Justice H.L Abba-Aliyu of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court, Jabi, Abuja on Wednesday, December 11, 2024 convicted and sentenced one Praise Humphrey Igbo (a.k.a) Jessica Allen to one year imprisonment for fraud.

He was prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes, EFCC on a one-count charge, bordering on internet crime, criminal impersonation, obtaining money under false pretence and money laundering to the tune of \$115,000 (One Hundred and Fifteen Thousand United States Dollars).

His charge reads: "That you, Praise Humphrey Igbo sometime in 2022 in Abuja within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, with intent to defraud, did cheat by pretending to be one Jesisca Allen, a successful crypto currency

trader in the United State of America and in that assumed character, fraudulently obtained 5.26 Bitcoins worth One Hundred and Fifteen Thousand United State Dollars (\$115,000) by false pretence, property of Aaron Baker, thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 of the Penal Code Act Abuja, Cap 532 LFN 2004 and punishable under Section 324 of the same Act.”

He pled “guilty” to the charge when it was read to him upon which prosecution counsel, M.K Hussain prayed the court to convict and sentence him accordingly.

Justice Abba-Aliyu convicted and sentenced him to one year imprisonment or to pay a fine of one million naira (N1,000,000). She further ruled that the sum of \$16,110 and \$67,487.79 worth of cryptocurrency recovered from him and the money in his bank account be used to retribute his victim through the American Embassy.

Igbo’s journey to the Correctional Centre started when a petitioner, East Baton Rouge Parish (Aaron Bakker), an American, alleged that a the convict pretending to be one Jessica Allen, a purported crypto investor, stole \$115,000 worth of Bitcoin from him on Blockchain.com after presenting an investment opportunity to him, which turned out to be fake.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[abuja-court-jails-man-for-115-000-internet-fraud](#)

419 Coalition note: We trust that the US Embassy will see to it that Mr. Bakker will promptly receive the funds restituted from this 419er, and thank Justice Abba-Aliyu for her order in that regard.

10 DEC 2024

Kwara Court Jails Student, Three Others for Internet Fraud

Justice Suleiman Akanbi of the Kwara State High Court sitting in Ilorin on Monday, December 09, 2024 sentenced a student, Akanbi Akorede Afeez, to two years imprisonment for internet fraud.

He was arraigned on a lone-count charge bordering on internet fraud.

The charge reads:

“That you, Akanbi Akorede Afeez (a.k.a Erdis) between February 2023 or thereabout Kwara State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court dishonestly induced one Dinero Enviado, a white man to send you gift cards worth the sum of Five Hundred and Fifty One Dollars when you knowingly pretended and represented yourself to be one Erdis, a white lady who is in a romantic relationship with him and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under section 321 and punishable under section 324 of the Penal Code Laws of Northern Nigeria.”

Equally, on Monday, December 9, 2024 the Ilorin Zonal Directorate secured the conviction of another set of three suspected fraudsters before Justice Haleema Saleeman of the State High Court, Ilorin over offences bordering on internet fraud.

They are Oladejo Ibrahim Abiodun, Yusuf Adewale Gbadeyan and one Adeoye David Oluwatimileyin.

The convicts were prosecuted on one-count separate charges to which they pleaded guilty.

For instance, the charge against Adeoye reads:

“That you, Adeoye David Oluwatimileyin sometime in 2024, in Kwara State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did cheat by personation when you pretended to be one Sierra and, in that guise, induced one J. Miguel Montaya to send you \$300 to you under the guise of a romantic relationship and punishable under section 321 of the Penal Code Law and punishable under section 324 of the same Laws”

Upon their pleas, counsel to the EFCC, Rasheedat Alao and Victoria Igbodo, while reviewing the facts of the cases presented witnesses and tendered extra-judicial statements of the defendants. They also tendered in evidence items recovered from them at the point of arrest and monies, which they benefited from their criminal conducts.

Satisfied with the facts of the cases, the court found the defendants guilty and consequently sentenced them.

Justice Saleman sentenced Abiodun to one year imprisonment or a fine of N400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira only) and ordered that his Iphone 13 pro and the sum of \$100 (One Hundred United States Dollars) be forfeited to the Federal Government. According to the judge, Abiodun would also retribute the sum of \$400 (Four Hundred Dollars) to his victims through the EFCC.

The judge, in the same vein, sentenced Gbadeyan to six months imprisonment or a fine of N300,000 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira only). She also ordered the forfeiture of the sum of \$300 Canadian dollars, one iphone 12 and a Samsung phone used as instruments of crime by the convict to the Federal Government.

Justice Saleman also sentenced Oluwatimileyin to eight months imprisonment or a fine of N250,000 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only) and ordered the forfeiture of the sum of \$300 (Three Hundred Dollars) and one iphone 12 recovered from convict at the point of arrest were forfeited to the Federal Government.

Afeez was ordered to sweep and clear the premises of the Kwara State High Court, Ilorin for two weeks, while forfeiting his iphone 14 promax and his hp laptop which were used to perpetrate the crime to the federal government.

All the convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested by operatives of the Ilorin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC for internet-related fraud. They were charged to court and prosecuted.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[kwara-court-jails-student-three-others-for-internet-fraud](#)

9 DEC 2024

Encomiums As DCE Ibrahim Audu Bows Out of Service

The Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission on Friday, December 6, 2024 held a send-forth ceremony for Retired Deputy Commander of the EFCC and former head, Legal and Prosecution Department of the Benin Zonal Directorate, Deputy Commander of the EFCC, DCE Ibrahim Audu.

The event which was held at the Conference Room of the Benin Directorate saw officers of the Commission eulogize the Retired DCE for his contribution to the growth and development of the Commission.

The Acting Zonal Director, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE I Effa Okim commended Audu for the high numbers of conviction secured by the Directorate when he was the Head, Legal and Prosecution Department. "We want to thank you for your impact and contribution to the Directorate and to the Commission. You did very well while you were here. We say a big thank you and wish you many more fruitful years ahead. You may have retired but certainly you are not tired. We wish you the best in your next endeavour"

In his goodwill message, Francis Jirbo, the Acting Head, Legal and Prosecution Department commended the retired deputy director for leaving a good legacy behind. "We learnt a lot from you when you were here. We say thank you for all that you did".

Also, Isa K. Agwa, a staff in the Legal and Prosecution Department thanked Audu for instilling confidence in them in the prosecution of cases. "As young lawyers, he was our mentor and teacher. We learnt a lot from him. He told us

to be bold and courageous, not to be intimidated by other lawyers whenever we go to court. That has really helped us. He played a crucial role in our growth and development as counsel. We are grateful."

In his remarks, the retired Deputy Commander expressed his gratitude to the Commission for the opportunity to serve the nation.

DCE Audu, a pioneer staff of the Commission, retired in May after attaining the age of 60 years.

The press release contains photos:

[encomiums-as-dce-ibrahim-audu-bows-out-of-service](#)

9 DEC 2024

EFCC Arrests 22 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Abia State

Operatives of the Uyo Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission EFCC, have arrested twenty-two suspected (22) internet fraudsters.

They were arrested on Friday, December 6, 2024 at Umuagu and Olokoru in Abia state in a sting operation.

Items recovered from them include six exotic cars, eight laptops and 36 mobile phones.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-22-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abia-state](#)

6 DEC 2024

EFCC Arrests 24 Suspected Internet Fraudsters

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abuja Zonal Directorate have arrested 24 suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested on Friday, December 6, 2024 at Lokoja, Kogi State following credible intelligence about their suspected involvement in internet-related offences.

Items recovered from them include 30 phones, 6 laptops and 3 cars.

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-24-suspected-internet-fraudsters](#)

28 NOV 2024

Gombe Court Jails Police, Immigration Officers for N1.6m Employment Fraud

Justice T.G. Ringing of the Federal High Court sitting in Gombe, Gombe State on Tuesday, November 26, 2024 convicted and sentenced two police officers: Yusuf AbdulKarim Bature and Musa Philip and an immigration officer; Nasiru Mohammed to seven years imprisonment each for employment fraud to the tune of N1,640,000(One Million Six Hundred and Forty Thousand Naira)

Bature and Philip were arraigned on two count - charges of obtaining by false pretences and intent to defraud while Mohammed was arraigned on one- count

charge of obtaining by false pretences by the Gombe Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

Count one of the charges against Yusuf AbdulKarim Bature and Musa Philip reads: "That you Yusuf Abdul karim.Bature and Musa Philip while being public officers with the Nigerian Police Force sometime in 2022 in Gombe within the Gombe Judicial division at the Federal High Court of Justice did with intent to defraud falsely obtained from one Asabe Hamed the total sum of Nine Hundred and Seventy Thousand Naira for the purpose of securing a job, a claim you knew to be false".

The charge against Nasiru Mohammed reads: "that you Nasiru Mohammed sometime in 2022 in Gombe within the jurisdiction of this honourable court while being a staff + of the Nigerian Immigration Service did falsely obtained the sum of Six Hundred and Seventy Thousand naira (N670,000) from Abdul Rahman Abubakar and Akwalo Adamu under the false pretence of securing them a job with the Nigerian Immigration service which you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1)(a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act"

Upon arraignment the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges .

In view of their guilty pleas, prosecution counsel Tortema Joshua prayed the court to convict and sentence the defendants accordingly but counsels to the defendants, Babangida Mohammed and K.K. Jomoh pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy as the defendants were first -time offenders who are remorseful of their actions.

Justice Ringing thereafter convicted and sentenced Bature, Philip and Mohammed to seven years imprisonment each or a fine of N50,000 (Fifty Thousand Naira) each.

In addition, the judge ordered the convicts to pay restitution of N1,640,000 to the petitioners and sign an undertaking to be of good behaviour henceforth.

The convicts' journey to the Correctional Centre began sometime in February 8, 2024 when some petitioners alleged that Bature and Philip collected N970,000 while Mohammed collected N670,000 as payment for employment slots. The convicts neither offered the petitioners the jobs nor returned their money to them.

The press release contains photos:

[gombe-court-jails-police-immigration-officers-for-n1-6m-employment-fraud](#)

27 NOV 2024

EFCC Arrests Suspected Internet Fraudster in Abuja

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday, 27 November 2024, arrested one suspected internet fraudster.

The suspect was arrested at No.25 Aliyu Modibbo Street, Guzape Hills, Abuja following credible intelligence on his alleged involvement in internet fraud.

Items recovered from him include a Range Rover Velar 2019 model, \$4100 (Four Thousand One Hundred United States Dollars), N2,000,000(Two Million Naira) cash, One AP silver wrist watch, two mobile phones and one laptop.

He will be charged to court upon conclusion of investigations.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-suspected-internet-fraudster-in-abuja](#)

25 NOV 2024

EFCC Arrests 15 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Makurdi

Operatives of the Makurdi Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes

Commission, EFCC, have arrested fifteen suspected internet fraudsters.

The suspects were arrested at Abu King Shuluwe Street Akpehe, Makurdi metropolis based on actionable intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet fraud.

Items recovered from them include: two cars, five laptop computers, 17 mobile phones among others

The suspects would be charged to court as soon as their investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-15-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-makurdi](#)

25 NOV 2024

Makurdi Court Jails 10 Internet Fraudsters

A Federal High Court sitting in Makurdi presided over by Justices M.S Abubakar and R.J Egbe has convicted and sentenced ten internet fraudster to various jail terms,

They were prosecuted on a one- count separate charge bordering on obtaining by false presence and possession of fraudulent documents by the Economic and financial crimes Commission, EFCC, Makurdi Zonal Directorate.

The convicts are: Abugu Clement Kelechi, Samuel Moses Ogbonna, Samuel Sylvester Ogbu, Scott King David, Esua Ablaku Peter, Obinna Ejike, Austine Okwori, Clement David Onoja, Austine Nyagou Bur and Henry Adah Abah.

The charge against Abugu Clement Kelechi reads: That you Abugu Clement Kelechi "M" 21 yrs between April and August 2024 in Makurdi, Benue State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did fraudulently sent electronic messages by which you represented yourself to be one " Jennifer Albert" a female Spanish Doctor residing in Afghanistan on Facebook and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 14(3) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition Prevention, etc) Act, 2015 and punishable under same Section of the Act.

Charge against Scott King David reads: That you, Scott King David sometime between 2023 and 2024 in Makurdi, Benue State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did fraudulently impersonate the identity of one Professor Bartacco Valeria, a Research Professor from the University of Michigan by fraudulently using his identity through the internet to create fake social media profiles with the intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (b) (1) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, ETC) Act, 2015 and punishable under Section 22 (2) (b) (IV) of the same Act.

All the defendants pleaded guilty when the charges were read to them. Consequently, the facts of the cases were reviewed and incriminating documents tendered in evidence before the court, following which the prosecuting counsel Ramiah Ikhanade, Yusuf Musa, A.S Idris and Almustqpha Gazali urged the court to sentence them accordingly.

The judges convicted and sentenced Abugu Clement Kelechi to one year imprisonment with an option of N100,000.00(One Hundred Thousand Naira) as fine.

Samuel Moses Ogbonna was convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment with an option of N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand naira) as fine.

Samuel Sylvanus Ogbu was convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment with an option of N150,000.00 as fine.

Henry Abah Adah was convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment with an option of N100,000.00 as fine.

Scott King David was convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment with an option of N150,000.00 as fine.

Austine Bur Nyajor was convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment or an option of N200,000.00(Two Hundred Thousand Naira) as fine.

Clement David Onoja convicted and sentenced to three years imprisonment or an option of N2,500,000.00(Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Naira) as fine.

Ablaku Peter, Obinna Ajike, Austine Okwori and Scoot King David bagged one year imprisonment each with an option of fine of N100,000.00(One Hundred Thousand Naira) each.

In a related development, the Makurdi Zonal Directorate of the EFCC, on Thursday, November 21, 2024, arrested sixteen suspected internet fraudsters in a sting operation in Akphe Road, Makurdi Metropolis.

They were arrested following credible intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet fraud.

Items recovered from them include a Honda Accord car and phones.

They will be charged to court as soon investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos of most of the 419ers:

[makurdi-court-jails-10-internet-fraudsters](#)

25 NOV 2024

EFCC Arrests 10 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Lagos

Operatives of the Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested 10 suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested on Friday, November 22, 2024 at Adewale Estate and Sea Side Estate in the Badore axis of Lagos State.

Their arrest followed credible intelligence on the activities of some members of an Organised Cybercrime Syndicate Network, OCSN, suspected to be involved in computer-related fraud.

Items recovered from them include: exotic cars, mobile devices and mobile phones.

The suspects have all volunteered their statements.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-10-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-lagos](#)

23 NOV 2024

Adamawa Courts Jail Twelve Internet Fraudsters

Justices Kayanson Samuel Lawanson, Hammed Isha, Benjamin Manji Lawal and Mohammed Ibrahim Tola of the Adamawa State High Court, Adamawa State have convicted and sentenced twelve internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

The convicts are: Oladele Pius, Emmanuel Bulus, Elijah Elisha, Alamin Mohammed Bappa, Jamilu Usman, and Enoch Solomon.

Others are: Emmanuel Anthony, Enebeli Samuel Isreal, Dimas Hyellabulatin, Emmanuel Dike, Joshua Umoru and Dan Eden Sunday.

They were separately arraigned between November 6 and 7, 2024 on a one count charge of cheating and impersonation by the Gombe Zonal Directorate of the EFCC.

The charge against Alamin Muhammad Bappa reads: "Alamin Muhammad Bappa sometimes

in September, 2024 at Sangere area of Modibo Yola, Adamawa State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court with intent to defraud one Amity Shane and other unsuspecting foreign nationals, created some fake Gmail' and Facebook accounts using the name Jacob Sermon to pose as a cybersecurity professional that helps people to recover their compromised or blocked Facebook accounts for a service fee of \$20 each and thereby committed an offense of cheating by impersonation contrary to Section 314 of Penal Code Law of Adamawa State, 2018 and punishable under Section 315 of the same law”.

The charge against Oladele Pius reads: “that you Oladele Pius sometimes in September, 2024 in Yola, Adamawa State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, being a student of Modibo Adamawa University of Technology Yola, with intent to defraud, did cheat by Impersonation, Having created and operating one Mr. Legit Hassan Abbadin a foreign national with Whatsapp account No. +1 (842) 921332016, through your Your iphone 11 Model No. MWNC2CH/A for "a virtual funds transactions" with a motive of gaining a financial advantage from other unsuspecting internet users and thereby committed an offense of cheating by impersonation contrary to Section 314 of Penal Code Law of Adamawa State, 2018 and punishable under Section 315 of the same law

Upon arraignment, the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges, prompting prosecution counsel Saad H. Sa'ad and M.D Aliyu to pray the court to convict and sentence the defendants accordingly; however, counsels to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy .

Justice Lawanson thereafter convicted and sentenced Bulus, Elisha, Usman and Israel to ten years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each. However, Hyellabulati bagged five years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000

Justice Tola convicted and sentenced Dike , Umoru , Sunday and Pius to five years imprisonment with an option of fine of N2,000,000(Two Million Naira)each

Justice Lawal convicted and sentenced Bappa and Solomon to five years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 each .

Justice Isha convicted and sentenced Anthony to ten years imprisonment or a fine of N300,000 (Three hundred thousand Naira)

The Judges ruled that the mobile phones recovered during investigation be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria .

In addition, Justice Lawal ordered that the sum of \$20 recovered during investigation from Bappa and being proceeds of crime, be returned to the victim.

The convicts were arrested on September 24, 2024 around Modibo Adamawa University of Technology area of Yola, Adamawa State by operatives of the Commission following actionable intelligence linking them with cybercrimes activities. They were charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos of most of the 419ers:

[adamawa-courts-jail-twelve-internet-fraudsters](#)

23 NOV 2024

Court Jails Internet Fraudster, One other for N9.4m in Maiduguri

Justice Jude Dagat of the Federal High Court, Maiduguri, on Monday, November 18, 2024, convicted and sentenced one Mpada Ishaku Dzarma to nine years imprisonment.

Dzarma was first arraigned on May 4th, 2024 by the Maiduguri Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a two-count charge bordering on money laundering and cybercrime to the tune of N 9,000,000.00 (Nine Million Naira).

Count one of the charge reads: “That you, Mpada Ishaku Dzarma between 2023 and 2024 at Maiduguri, Borno State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did directly take possession of aggregate sum of N9,000,000.00 (nine million naira) only into your Access Bank with Account No. 1233383458, Mpada Ishaku Dzarma being the naira equivalent value of the Cash App, Pampay, and Gift Cards denominated in

United States of America Dollars which sum you knew or reasonably ought to have known is proceeds of your fraud or form part of an unlawful act to wit: falsely representing yourself to unsuspecting foreign nationals amongst who are; Nils Kaptur with social media account @nilf_kpt, Grace Wamalwa, @ejstorm53 e.t.c as a software engineer based in Holly wood, Texas and could unblock and activate blocked tiktok account 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, which set the stage for the commencement of trial.

Similarly, at the resumed hearing of the case, the defendant through his counsel H. M Dauda prayed the court to change his plea.

Thereafter, the charge was read to him and he pleaded “guilty” to all the count charges preferred against him by the EFCC.

Justice Dagat thereafter, convicted and sentenced Dzarma on count one to four years imprisonment with an option of fine of N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira only) and on count two he was sentenced to five years imprisonment with an option of fine of N200,000.00.

The Judge further ordered the forfeiture of iPhone 14 pro max, Android phone Redmi 4C model, used Toyota Corolla 2008, five pieces of Blink necklace and one blink pendant to the Federal Government of Nigeria that were recovered from him in the course of investigation.

The convict’s journey to the Correctional Centre began when he was arrested by operatives of Maiduguri’s Zonal Directorate of the EFCC for internet-related offences. He was charged to court and convicted.

In another development, one Amuda Ayuba was arraigned on Monday, November 18, 2024, before Justice Jude Dagat of the Federal High Court, on a one-count charge for the offence of Money Laundering to the tune of N 401,006.98 (Four Hundred and One Thousand, Six Naira, Ninety-eight kobo).

The lone count reads: “That you Amuda Ayuba sometime in 2021, in Maiduguri, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, whilst being a POS Operator did accept the transfer of a total sum of N 401,006.98 (Four Hundred and One Thousand, Six Naira, Ninety-eight kobo) into your first and second POS account No. 1040660023 and 1040906053, account name Amuda Ayuba domiciled with Zenith Bank Plc from a customer whose identity you fail to verify and undertake due diligence of the customer before carrying on transaction of electronic money transfer and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 4(1)&(2) and Section 19(1)(F) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 19(2)(b) of the same Act.”

The defendant pleaded “not guilty” to the charges preferred against him.

Counsel to the prosecution Faruk Muhammad prayed the court for a trial and date and to remand the defendant in prison custody.

Justice Dagat adjourned for the commencement of trial and remanded the defendant in prison custody.

The defendant’s journey to the Correctional Centre began when he was arrested by operatives of Maiduguri’s Zonal Directorate of the EFCC for failing to verify and undertake due diligence before carrying on the transaction of electronic money transfer.

The press release contains a photo of each 419er:

[court-jails-internet-fraudster-one-other-for-n9-4m-in-maiduguri](#)

23 NOV 2024

Court Jails Four Internet Fraudsters in Calabar

Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu of the Federal High Court, Calabar has convicted and

sentenced the quartet of Itoro Eno Akpan, Abasifreke Uwem, Elisha Asuquo Nnah (a.k.a Jong Seck) and Ezinwa Emmanuel Ikenna to various jail terms for internet fraud.

The convicts were prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, Uyo Zonal Directorate on two-count charges bordering on cybercrime, money laundering and impersonation.

The charge against Akpan reads: "That you Itoro Eno Akpan, sometime in 2024 in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this honorable court did take possession of the sum of \$400 (Four Hundred Dollars) which you reasonably ought to have known forms proceeds of an unlawful act to wit: cybercrime 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."

That of Nnah reads: "That you, Elisha Asuquo Nnah (a.k.a Jong Seck) sometime in 2024 in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this honourable court took possession of \$300 (Three Hundred US Dollars) knowing that the money formed part of the proceeds of an unlawful act and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2) (d) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition Act 2022".

They all pled "guilty" when the charges were read to them, prompting prosecution counsel, Kharmis Mahmud to review the facts of the cases, tendered the statements of the defendants, print out fictitious and misleading information from their communication devices, all of which were admitted in evidence and prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Ojukwu convicted and sentenced Akpan and Uwem to one year jail term on each of their two counts, which is to run concurrently. Furthermore, Akpan is to retribute the sum of \$400 USD to his victim and Uwem to retribute \$200 USD to his. Nnah and Ikenna were convicted and sentenced to two years jail term each on either of the two counts. In addition, Nnah is to retribute the sum of \$300 to his victim while Ikenna is to retribute the sum of \$800 to his. Furthermore, all their mobile devices are to be auctioned and the proceeds deposited into the federal government's Treasury Account, while all the restitutions from the convicts would be lodged in the federal government treasury if the victims were not located.

The convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested by operatives of the EFCC for internet fraud. They were charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains a photo of each of the 419ers:

[court-jails-four-internet-fraudsters-in-calabar](#)

21 NOV 2024

Court Jails 15 Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Justice A.N. Erhabor of Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City between November 18 and 20 convicted and sentenced 15 internet fraudsters to various jail terms

The convicts are Egbai Jude, Diamond Aliza, Ugochukwu Chijindu, Oboh Isaac, Olabode Bright, Ngbakor Godstime Oghechi, Agbi Paul, Amadin Samuel and Imade Nelson Ikponwomwosa.

Others are Osasenge Eguavoen Daniel, Emeka Ebube, Friday Edosa Elijah, Alfred Stanley Godbless, Ifeanyi Amadi Omote and John Ogheneyole.

They were prosecuted on one-count separate charges bordering on obtaining by false pretence, retention of proceeds of crime and possession of fraudulent documents by the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Commission.

The charge against Egbai reads: "That you Jude Egbai (m) on or about the 30th of October, 2024 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contained false pretence, thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under

Section 1(3) of the same Act.”

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their charges when they were read to them, prompting the prosecution counsel, F.A Jirbo, I.M Elodi, K Y. Bello, Isa K. Agwai, Ibrahim Faisal and Salihu Ahmed to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, stating that they have become remorseful for their actions.

On Wednesday, November 20, Osasenge Eguavoen Daniel, Emeka Ebube, Friday Edosa Elijah, Alfred Stanley Godbless, Ifeanyi Amadi Omote and John Ogheneyole were convicted and sentenced by Justice Erhabor to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira).

On Tuesday, November 19, Justice Erhabor convicted and sentenced Imade Nelson Ikponmwoosa to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.

Justice Erhabor on Monday November 18 convicted and sentenced Egbai Jude, Diamond Aliza, Ugochukwu Chijindu, Oboh Isaac, Olabode Bright, Ngbakor Godstime Oghechi, Agbi Paul, to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200, 000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each while Amadin Samuel bagged three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.

The judge ordered the forfeiture of one Red Lexus 2005 ES350 recovered from Ugochukwu Chijinda, one Lexus RX350 2010 model recovered from Emeka Ebube, one Mercedes Benz Glk 350 2010 model from Friday Edosa Elijah, one Mercedes Benz C300 2012 model from Alfred Stanley Godbless and one RX350 2010 model from Omote John Ogheneyole being proceeds of crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

All the convicts forfeited their phones, laptops, and balances in their respective bank accounts to the Federal Government of Nigeria as proceeds of crime and to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour henceforth.

The convicts’ journey to the Correctional Centre began following their arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the EFCC through a sting operation owing to their involvement in fraudulent internet activities.

The press release contains photos of some of the 419ers:

[court-jails-15-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

20 NOV 2024

EFCC Arrests 35 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Abia State

The Uyo Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, on Wednesday November 20, 2024, arrested thirty five (35) suspected internet fraudsters comprising thirty-four male suspects and one female.

They were arrested in an early morning sting operation in Aba, Abia State.

The arrested suspects are: Emmanuel James, Ukaomo Jefferson, Felix Onyema, Daniel Chimaobi, Chukwuemeka John, Prince Ogbonna, Charles Daniel, Emmanuel Igboanugo, Eric Uke, Emmanuel Ogechukwu, Chibuike Prosper, Obi Victor, Emmanuel Onwuchekwa, Price Kingsley, Uchechi Awo, Chinonso Callistus, Edward Wisdom, Ejiogu Justice, Precious Edward, Moses Meshael and Kalu Victor.

Others are: Ujoatu Goodluck, Ikeh Sochima, Obinna Prosper, Onyekachi Christian, Christopher Chris, Precious Smart, Clinton Ifeanyi, Daniel Obuzoma, Chukwuebuka Promise, Cjay Ekeamaka, Ejiogu Price, David Favour, Okechukwu Emmanuel and Nwigwe Joy.

Items recovered from them include: 48 sophisticated mobile phones, nine laptops, three exotic cars as well as a wristwatch and international passport.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-35-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abia-state](#)

19 NOV 2024

Olukoyede to Nigerian Youths: Replace Cybercrimes with Cyber values

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede, has charged youths across the country to shun cybercrimes by replacing them with values obtainable on the internet .

He gave this charge in Abuja on Tuesday, 19 November, 2024 at the Federal Capital Territory, FCT's Next Generation Engagement forum. According to him, value creation through the internet is a potent alternative to cybercrimes which youths can explore.

“I want to see a generation that will lead a new fight against corruption through value creation. If we have youths heating up the polity by their criminality, we should also have youths challenging them by their integrity. Let us eliminate cybercrimes through cyber values”, he said.

The EFCC boss, who was represented by the Head, Enlightenment and Reorientation Unit of the Commission, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE 11 Aisha Muhammed, also stressed that youth are losing their sense of values and dignity to internet fraud. “Nigeria has lost considerable financial and reputational wealth to cybercrimes. In 2022 alone, Nigeria lost about \$500m to the crime. The reputation issues we are having across the world are hideous. Besides, our youths are losing sense of values and dignity to internet fraud. No world outlook that is focused on criminality can stand the test of time. Youths should redirect their focus to wealth creation through optimal use of their talents, acquired skills, useful emulation of strides of other youths around the world and development of novel innovations that can turn the world around,” he said.

Olukoyede called on Nigerian students to have a “Can-Do-It Philosophy,” adding that having a positive belief in themselves will help them make a difference in their endeavours. “I charge you all to have a “can-do-it philosophy”. Believe that you can make a difference in a positive sense. Follow models that have impacted the world positively. Cultivate friendship with peers that have good vision. Use the internet to develop your good dreams. Don't be attracted to easy wealth and always follow the instructions of the EFCC

Continuing, Olukoyede disclosed that, “at the EFCC, we have opportunities for value-driven youths through Integrity Clubs in Primary, Secondary Schools and Zero Tolerance Clubs in Tertiary Institutions. These platforms are value-building opportunities for youth. I urge all of you to join any of these clubs,” he said. He also urged them to take the ‘Next Generation Project’ as a personal project, calling on them to embrace it.

Senior Special Assistant to the President on Citizenship and Leadership, Rinsola Abiola, in his remark on the theme of the event, said the aim of the project was to offer mentorship and leadership development opportunities to young people in the next generation.

“As we all know, our young people are the future generation of this country, and we must work hard to nurture their potential and offer them guidance. We must support them with the resources that they need to develop into model citizens, who positively impact their communities and grow academically and professionally with the right value system and personality traits,” he said.

Also commenting, representative of the Director General, National Orientation Agency, NOA, FCT Directorate, Mrs. Agbanusi Ijeoma said Nigerian youths should be given front seats in the polity, explaining that the exigency of the time demands such because they are the leaders of tomorrow.

“Youths, as the leaders of tomorrow, should always be given the driver's seats in leadership roles towards the attainment of national goals and make them understand that they are the agents of the desired change and transformation that Nigerians have been yearning for

“I strongly believe that at the end of this programme, a positive impact would have been made, and the aim of our gathering today achieved”, she said.

The press release contains photos:

19 NOV 2024

Calabar Court Jails Five Internet Fraudsters

Justice Rosemary Dugbo-Oghoghorie of the Federal High Court sitting in Calabar, Cross River State on Monday, November 18, 2024 convicted and sentenced five internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

The convicts: Michael Aregbesola (a.k.a Amin Deera), Adeleke Toba Richard (Alias Jason Avtandil), Mkpoinke Emmanuel Udoh (a.k.a Tom Jones), Gideon Mishell Effiong (a.k.a Gianluca Jinoble) and Momodu John Modupe (a.k.a George Woods), were charged to court by the Uyo Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, for criminal impersonation, fraudulent messaging and money laundering.

One of the charges read: 'That you, Adeleke Toba Richard (Alias J AVTANDIL), on or February, 2024 in Nigeria, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently took possession of the sum of Five Hundred US Dollars (\$500), being property of Ms Bella, a United State Woman, which you reasonably ought to have known that it was a proceed of unlawful act to wit; Impersonation and thereby committed an Offence contrary to Section 18 (2) (d) of the Money Laundering Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 18 (3) of the same Act'.

Another count reads: 'That you Gideonn Mishell Effiong (a.k.a Gianluca Jinoble) sometime in September, 2024 in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court did take possession of the sum of Five Hundred Euros (500 Euros) which you reasonably ought to have known forms proceed of an unlawful act to wit: Cybercrime and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2Xd) of the Money laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act'.

While Effiong and Richard each pleaded guilty to the two -count charges preferred against them, Aregbesola, Udoh and Modupe also pleaded guilty to the one- count charge levelled against them by the Commission.

In view of their guilty pleas, Prosecution Counsel Kharmis Mahmud urged the court to convict the defendants and sentence them accordingly.

While reviewing facts of the case, Mahmud tendered the following exhibits which the court admitted in evidence: The defendants' statements and fraudulent documents printed from their various gadgets. The defence team: Francis Ezeike, Samson Awuje and Emmanuel Sabe did not oppose the prosecution.

Justice Dugbo-Oghoghorie then convicted the defendants and sentenced them as follows;

Effiong bagged four years jail term on each of the two counts, with an option of fine of €2, 500 and restitution of €500 to his victim; Richard got seven years on each count with the option to pay a fine of \$2, 500 and restitution of \$500 to his victim. The jail terms are to run concurrently.

Also, the court convicted and sentenced Aregbesola and Udoh to seven years jail term each or pay the sum of N5,000,000(Five Million Naira) each as option of fine, Modupe bagged four years jail term with a fine option of N5million.

The convicts commenced their journey to the Correctional centre when investigators of the Uyo Directorate of the Commission investigated them for their suspicious online presence and lifestyle. They were eventually charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

16 NOV 2024

Court Jails 13 Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Justices W.I Aziegbemhin and A.N Erhabor of Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City between November 11 and 14 convicted and sentenced 13 internet fraudsters to various jail terms

The convicts are Evbayakha Daniel, Goodness Esiuke, Joshua Edobor, Omorodion Bright, Afisi Nurudeen, Oviabor Aisosa Wellington and Evbayekha Desmond.

Others are Nosakhare Evbuomwan, Osemwengie Miracle, Osawe Kluvert, Wisdom Adolor, Onyebuchi Goodness and Promise Omoru

They were prosecuted on one-count separate charge bordering on obtaining by false pretence, retention of proceeds of crime and possession of fraudulent documents by the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Commission.

The charge against Evbayakha Daniel reads: "That you Daniel (m) on or about the 30th of October, 2024 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contained false pretence, thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their charges when they were read to them, prompting the prosecution counsel, F.A Jirbo, K Y. Bello, Isa K. Agwai, and Salihu Ahmed to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, stating that they have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Erhabor on November 11 convicted and sentenced Evbayakha Daniel, Goodness Esiuke, Joshua Edobor, Omorodion Bright and Afisi Nurudeen, to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200, 000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each.

On Wednesday, November 13, Justice Aziegbemhin convicted and sentenced Oviabor Aisosa Wellington and Evbayakha Desmond to three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.

On Thursday, November 14, the quartet of Nosakhare Evbuomwan, Osemwengie Miracle, Osawe Kluvert and Promise Omoru were convicted and sentenced by Justice Aziegbemhin to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) while the duo of Wisdom Adolor and Onyebuchi Goodness bagged three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.

All the convicts forfeited their phones, laptops, and balances in their respective bank accounts to the Federal Government of Nigeria as proceeds of crime and to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour henceforth.

The convicts' journey to the Correctional Centre began following their arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the EFCC through a sting operation owing to their involvement in fraudulent internet activities.

The press release contains photos:

[court-jails-13-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

14 NOV 2024

EFCC Arraigns Company's MD for alleged N9m Visa Scam in Port Harcourt

The Port Harcourt Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has arraigned Echendu Ndubuisi Endy, Managing Director of Echendu GPC Limited before Justice E . A . Obile of the Federal High Court sitting in Port Harcourt, Rivers state, for allegedly defrauding his victims to the tune of N9,000,000 (Nine Million Naira only) in the guise of procuring travel visas for them.

He was arraigned on three-count charges bordering on visa scam and obtaining money under false pretence contrary to Section 1(1) a & b of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the same Act".

One of the count charge reads:

"That you, Echendu Ndubuisi Endy while being the Managing Director of Echendu GPC Limited between 23rd day of April 2024 to 2nd May 2024 in Port Harcourt, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud did obtain the total sum of (Four Million Naira) N4,000,000.00 only from Mr Darlington Abuchi under the pretense that you had the capacity to procure United Kingdom work permit visa to enable him work and stay in United Kingdom which pretense you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1) a & b of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section|1(3) of the same Act"

Another count reads: "That you, Echendu Ndubuisi Endy while being the Managing Director of Echendu GPC Limited between 16th day of August 2023 to 14th September 2023 in Port Harcourt, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud did obtain the total sum of (Three Million Naira) N3,000,000.00 only from Mrs. Ngozi Nzechukwu under the pretense that you had the capacity to procure United Kingdom work permit visa to enable her work and stay in United Kingdom which pretense you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1) a & b of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act. 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act".

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when they were read to him, following which prosecution counsel, K. A. Yunus, prayed the court to fix a date for commencement of trial and for the defendants to be remanded in the custody of Nigeria Correctional Service (NCS), while the defence counsel, P. U. Alikor informed the court that he has applied for the bail of the defendant. He therefore prayed the court to grant the defendants bail to enable him prepare for his trial.

In his ruling, Justice Obile ordered that the defendant be remanded at the Port Harcourt Correctional Centre while the matter was adjourned to November 28, 2024 for hearing of bail application.

Endy was arrested sometime in October, 2024 for alleged visa scam and obtaining money under false pretence, reported to the Commission by three separate petitioners. He allegedly collected a total sum of N9million from the three petitioners for the purpose of procuring travel visa and care giver jobs for them in the United Kingdom. He neither procured the visas nor returned their money to them.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arraigns-companys-md-for-alleged-n9m-visa-scam-in-port-harcourt](#)

13 NOV 2024

Calabar and Uyo Courts Jail Four Internet Fraudsters

Justices Ijeoma Ojukwu and M. A. Onyetenu of the Federal High Court sitting in Calabar, Cross River State and Uyo, Akwa Ibom State respectively have convicted and sentenced four internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

The convicts are: Abasiama Edet Ukana and Oko John Inya, Chidiebere Favour Onwukwu and Onyekachi Elisha Madubuike.

Ukana and Inya were arraigned on Tuesday, November 12, 2024 by the Uyo Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on two and one count charges respectively, for offences bordering on criminal impersonation with intent to defraud and obtaining by false pretence, using the internet.

When the charges were read to them, they pleaded 'guilty' to all counts.

One of the counts against Ukana reads: "That you Abasiama Edet Ukana (aka Lucas Pace), sometime in 2024 within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, did directly take possession of the sum of \$100 (One Hundred United States Dollar), which money you reasonably ought to know formed part of the proceeds of an unlawful act to wit: Cybercrime 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."

While the lone charge against Oko reads: "That you, Oko John Inya Sometime in 2024 in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court fraudulently presented yourself as Sarah Wesley on Facebook social media platform with intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22(2) (b)(i) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention) (Amendment) Act 2024 and punishable under Section 22(2) (b) (iv) of the same Act."

After listening to their pleas, Justice Onyetenu convicted the defendants and sentenced them. Ukana was sentenced to three months jail term on each of the two counts preferred against him by the Commission, with an option of fine of One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100,000) on each count. He was also ordered to forfeit the iPhone 13 mobile device used in committing the crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria, and to also restitute the sum of \$100 US Dollars into the Consolidated Account of the Federal Government.

Inya was convicted, cautioned and discharged by the court, on the grounds that he was an unemployed graduate who showed remorse and did not waste the time of the court. The court, however, ordered forfeiture of his Infinix Smart 5 mobile phone to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Justice Ojukwu on the other hand, convicted and sentenced Onwukwu and Madubuike on Friday November 8, 2024 for offences bordering on criminal impersonation and identity theft aimed at defrauding innocent citizens.

One of the charges against them reads: "That you Chidiebere Favour Onwukwe a.k.a. Chest Dutch sometime in October, 2024 in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court did take possession of the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (200 Dollars) which you reasonably ought to have known forms proceed of an unlawful act to wit: Cybercrime 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'.

Another count reads: "That you Onyekachi Elisha Madubuike a.k.a AXEL SHIV sometime in November, 2023 in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court did take possession of the sum of Three Hundred Dollars (300Dollars) which you reasonably ought to have known forms proceed of an unlawful act to wit: Cybercrime and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2Xd) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act'.

They both pleaded guilty to the charges when they were read to them.

Based on their pleas, Justice Ojukwu sentenced them to six months jail term each, with an option of fine of Five Hundred Thousand Naira only (N500,000) each.

While Onwukwu was ordered to restitute the sum of Two Hundred United States Dollars (\$200), Madubuike was ordered to restitute Three Hundred United State Dollars (\$300) to their victims.

They also forfeited all gadgets used in committing the crimes to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

All the four convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested for internet-related offences. They were subsequently charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos:

[calabar-and-uyo-courts-jail-four-internet-fraudsters](#)

13 NOV 2024

EFCC Arraigns Man for Alleged N72.6m, £31,200 Visa Scam in Lagos

The Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday, November 12, 2024, arraigned one Heart Chidozie Obum on a five-count charge bordering on obtaining money by false pretence and stealing to the tune of N72,689,000 (Seventy-Two Million, Six Hundred and Eighty Nine Naira) and £31,200 (Thirty-one Thousand, Two Hundred Pound) before Justice Rahman Oshodi of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos.

Obum allegedly promised to help the petitioner get a certificate of sponsorship to travel abroad.

He, however, allegedly reneged on his promise after collecting money from the petitioner.

One of the counts reads: “That you, Heart Chidozie Obum, sometime in 2023, and in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, by false pretence, and with intent to defraud, obtained the sum of £31,200 (Thirty-one Thousand, Two Hundred Pounds) from Peace Asonye Udochukwu as payment for certificate of sponsorship.”

Another charges reads: “ That you, Heart Chidozie Obum, sometime in 2023, and in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, dishonestly took the sum of N72,689,000 (Seventy-Two Million, Six Hundred and Eighty Nine Naira) from Peace Asonye udochukwu as payment of certificate of sponsorship.”

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charge preferred against him.

In view of this, the prosecution counsel, T.J. Banjo, prayed the court for an adjournment to enable the prosecution prove its case against the defendant.

He also urged the court to remand the defendant at a Correctional facility pending his trial date.

The defence counsel, O. Oluwashewu, however, informed the court of a pending application for bail for his client.

Consequently Justice Oshodi adjourned till December 3, 2024, for hearing of the bail application and also February 19 and 20, 2025 for trial.

The Judge ordered the custodial remand of the defendant pending his trial date.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arraigns-man-for-alleged-n72-6m-gbp31-200-visa-scam-in-lagos](#)

12 NOV 2024

EFCC Arraigns Syndicate Impersonating Olukoyede for \$700,000 Fraud

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has arraigned two members of an alleged syndicate, Ojobo Joshua and Aliyu Hashim for impersonating and attempting to blackmail the Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Ola Olukoyede.

They were arraigned on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 before Justice Jude Onwuebuze of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court, sitting in Apo, Abuja.

The suspects allegedly contacted Mohammed Bello-Koko, former Managing Director of the Nigerian Ports Authority, NPA, claiming to have access to a phony investigation involving him by the EFCC. They demanded \$1 million, promising that Olukoyede would ensure a “soft landing” for them. They also threatened him with arrest and prosecution should he fail to play along with them.

The EFCC filed a four-count charge against the duo for impersonation and attempted fraud.

Count two of the charge reads: “That you, Ojobo Joshua (aka PA to Chairman EFCC) and Aliyu Hashim, on or about September 28, 2024, in Abuja, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, attempted to obtain the sum of \$700,000 (Seven Hundred Thousand United States Dollars) by false pretence from Mohammed Bello-Koko. You falsely represented to him that there was a pending EFCC petition against him, which you could influence the Executive Chairman to halt. This act is contrary to Section 8(b) and punishable under Section 1(3) of the Advanced Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act No. 14, 2006.”

The defendants pleaded not guilty to all the charges when they were read to them.

Following their pleas, EFCC’s counsel, Elizabeth Alabi, requested the court to remand the defendants in a Correctional facility pending the commencement of the trial. She

said, "Having pleaded not guilty, my Lord, we ask for a date to begin calling our witnesses and request the defendants be remanded in custody."

Obinna S. Nwosu, counsel to the first defendant, applied for his client's release on liberal bail terms, while counsel for the second defendant, Peter Oriobe, made an oral request for bail. Justice Onwuebuzie, however, directed Oriobe to formally submit the bail application in writing.

Alabi opposed the bail applications, referencing a 22-paragraph counter-affidavit and Exhibit EFCC 1 and urging the court to deny the defendant bail and grant an accelerated hearing.

After reviewing the applications, Justice Onwuebuzie granted bail to the first defendant in the sum of N100 million with two sureties in like sum. The sureties must not be less than level 16 officers in the civil service. The sureties are also required to submit their appointment and promotion letters, valid identification, and a written undertaking to bring the defendant to every court sitting. The first defendant must also surrender his international passport to the court.

The court ordered that the first and second defendants be remanded at Kuje Correctional Centre until bail conditions are met and adjourned the matter till November 18, 2024, for the hearing of the second defendant's bail application.

Joshua and Hashim are members of an alleged four-man syndicate impersonating Olukoyede. They were arrested on Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at Gimbiya Street, Garki and Apo legislative quarters.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arraigns-syndicate-impersonating-olukoyede-for-700-000-fraud](#)

12 NOV 2024

EFCC Arrests 11 Suspected Currency Racketeers in Port Harcourt

Operatives of the Port Harcourt Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday, November 11, 2024, arrested 11 (eleven) suspected currency racketeers and internet fraudsters in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

They were arrested around Apará Street, New Government Reservation Area, GRA, Port Harcourt based on credible intelligence on their suspected involvement in naira abuse and internet fraud.

The suspects are: Rafael Obi, John Daniel, Dominion Sambo, Solomon Nwoke, Solomon Daniel, Stanley Uche, Micheal Markson, Chima Fred Onwra, Arinze Damian, Vizor Richard and Chidera Orji.

Items recovered from them include, cash totalling N1,485,000.00 (One Million Four Hundred and Eighty-five Thousand), five luxury vehicles smartphones and several incriminating documents

They will be charged to court as soon as the investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-11-suspected-currency-racketeers-in-port-harcourt](#)

8 NOV 2024

Olukoyede Charges Students on Good Role Models

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede, has called on students across the country to identify and emulate good models in the country in order to steer clear of internet fraud and other financial crimes.

The EFCC boss made the call in Abuja on Thursday, November 7, 2024, when students of Val

De Mauris Academy, Abuja, visited the Commission's headquarters on a study tour.

Olukoyede, who spoke through the Head, Enlightenment and Reorientation Unit of the EFCC, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE11 Aishat Mohammed, pointed out that, having good role models would imbue in students the right values which would insulate them from indulgence in internet fraud.

"Have good role models. This is necessary to draw you to the right contacts and influence for integrity. This way, you will be removed from any form of internet offence. Integrity is what you do when no one is watching you. Our hope is on you. Be focused. The future is bright as the sky will be your starting point," she stated.

The Head, Communication and Creative Unit, Assistant Commander, ACE I, Chris Oluka, advised the students to always engage their minds in honest endeavours so as to be able to discern the good from the bad.

He asked them to deploy their creative minds to more rewarding positive careers by using the social media and internet to more creative ventures in furtherance of their education for a brighter future.

According to Oluka, students and youths should be mindful of what they do online, stating that the internet was meant for the good of humanity, research, academics, studying, information gathering and accurate data and not for crime and fraud.

"If found guilty by the law, the EFCC will not spare anyone of the crime committed. Every crime is a crime, irrespective of who is involved, and the EFCC will fight you to the very last. Whatever you do that you are not supposed to do and is against the law is corruption.

Also in his remark, Assistant Superintendent of EFCC, ASE I Ogunjobi Olalekan, stressed the importance of being hardworking students and determined and focused, stating that these qualities are imperative for students to attain excellence in their careers.

"For our dear students, you can be whatever you want to become by hard work and sheer determination. There's a lot in the computer space. You can think and come up with creative inventions and make the best of it. You can be programmers, forensic analysts, financial analysts, investigators, developers, change makers and as nation builders," he said.

Two students, Odimba Ikenna Ugochukwu and Sunday Aneke Sophia emerged winners in the EFCC's Quiz competition and were gifted with a mobile phone each for their exemplary efforts while Khadijah Kabiru Bakan and Faheem Goodluck Hussein were crowned EFCC's Ambassadors.

The press release contains a photo:

[olukoyede-charges-students-on-good-role-models](#)

8 NOV 2024

Court Jails Seven Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

The Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, between November 6 and 7, 2024 secured the conviction and sentence of seven internet fraudsters before Justice A.N Erhabor of Edo State High Court, sitting in Benin City.

The convicts are Johnson Matthew Ebosa, Marvelous Osayenma, Imoniwe Joshua, Michael Agbowemeh San, Alvin Nosakhare Osareni, Procoius Imoniwe and Mike Ajufo.

They were prosecuted on one-count separate charges bordering on obtaining by false pretence, retention of proceeds of crime and possession of fraudulent documents.

The charge against Johnson Matthew Ebosa reads: "That you Johnson Matthew Ebosa (m) on or about the 30th of October, 2024 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contained false pretence, thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their charges when they were read to them, prompting the prosecution counsel, F.A Jirbo, K Y. Bello, Isa K. Agwai, to pray the court to convict

and sentence them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, stating that they have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Erhabor on Thursday November 7, convicted and sentenced Michael Agbowemeh San and Alvin Nosakhare Osareni to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200, 000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each while the trio of Johnson Mathew Ebosa, Marvelous Osayenma and Imoniwe Joshua bagged three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.

On Wednesday, November 6, Justice Erhabor convicted and sentenced Precious Imoniwe to three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) while Mike Ajufo bagged two years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.

All the convicts forfeited their phones, laptops, and money in their respective bank accounts to the Federal Government of Nigeria, being proceeds of crime. They are also to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour henceforth.

The convicts' journey to the Correctional Centre began following their arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the EFCC through a sting operation owing to their involvement in fraudulent internet activities.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[court-jails-seven-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

7 NOV 2024

Lagos Court Jails Man One Year for Possession of Fraudulent Documents

Justice Rahman Oshodi of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, on Thursday, November 7, 2024, convicted and sentenced one Miracle Leleji Tega to one year and two months imprisonment for possession of fraudulent documents.

Tega was arraigned by the Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on an amended one-count charge bordering on possession of documents containing false pretence, contrary to Section 320 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State 2015.

The count reads: "Miracle Leleji Tega, on or about the 19th day of April, 2024, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, had in your possession a document titled "Google Account Personal info", printed from your Email: sofianrique2001@gmail.com, containing a false pretence that you are Sofia Enriquez, a female American citizen, which from the circumstances of this case you knew or reasonably ought to have known to be false."

He pleaded "guilty" to the charge when it was read to him.

Following his guilty plea, prosecution counsel, D. I. Oluseyi, gave a review of the facts of the case to prove the guilt of the defendant.

According to him, "Sometime in April 2024, the Lagos Directorate of the EFCC conducted a raid around Victory Estate Ajah, Lekki area of Lagos State.

"The defendant was arrested with one Iphone 11 and one Tecno Spark 9.

"His device was analysed in his presence and bundles of documents were printed out in his presence.

"The documents were alleged conversations, where he fraudulently represented himself as a white woman from the United States of America to his victim, Cheri Briddle, an American man."

Continuing, he said: "The defendant has benefitted the sum of \$100USD from his criminal activities.

"However, he has restituted the sum of N100,000.00 out of all he benefited from his criminal activities."

The prosecution then tendered, in evidence, the statements made by the defendant

and the fraudulent documents obtained from his devices, with Iphone 11 and one Tecno Spark 9.

There was no objection from the defence counsel, Bukola Niniola; hence, they were all admitted by the court as evidence against the defendant.

In view of this, the prosecution urged the court to convict the defendant as charged and to order the forfeiture of the devices recovered from him to the Federal Government.

Justice Oshodi declared him guilty as charged.

The defendant who was given an opportunity to address the court pleaded for mercy.

Justice Oshodi sentenced him to one year and two months imprisonment.

[lagos-court-jails-man-one-year-for-possession-of-fraudulent-documents](#)

7 NOV 2024

EFCC Arrests 21 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 arrested 21 suspected internet fraudsters at different locations in Benin City.

The suspects were arrested based on actionable intelligence on their alleged involvement in internet related fraud.

Items recovered from them include 10 exotic cars, laptops and phones

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

[efcc-arrests-21-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

6 NOV 2024

Court Jails Internet Fraudster for N12m Fraud in Maiduguri

Justice Jude Dagat of the Federal High Court, Maiduguri has convicted and sentenced one Habila Dzarma Ishaku to nine years imprisonment.

Ishaku was re-arraigned on Tuesday, November 5, 2024, by the Maiduguri Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, on two-count charges bordering on money laundering and cybercrime to the tune of N12,000,000.00 (Twelve Million Naira).

Count one of the charge reads: “That you, Habila Dzarma Ishaku between 2023 and 2024 at Maiduguri, Borno State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court did directly take possession of aggregate sum of N12, 000,000.00 (Twelve Million Naira) into your Opay Digital Services Ltd Account No. 8146406944, Habila Dzarma Ishaku , being the naira equivalent value for the Cash App, Pampay, and Gift Cards denominated in United States of America Dollars that you fraudulently received, which sum you knew or reasonably ought to have known is proceeds of your fraud or form part of proceeds of an unlawful act to wit: your false representation of unsuspecting foreign nationals like; Ilyase; Ilyase with social media account @ilyase._red and Adrea Velasco@.net_texthz etc. that you are a software engineer based in Los Angeles, California, United State of America and that you could unblock and activate blocked tiktok account 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 “guilty” to the charges when they were read to him.

Based on his plea, counsel to the prosecution, Faruku Muhammad prayed the court to convict and sentence the defendant accordingly

Justice Dagat thereafter, convicted and sentenced Ishaku on count one to four years imprisonment with an option of fine of N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira only) and on count two he was sentenced to five years imprisonment with an option of fine of N200,000.00.

The Judge further ordered the forfeiture of iPhone 13 pro max, iPhone XR, iPhone 11, Samsung Galaxy A32, Toyota Camry 2008 model and the sum of \$1,500.00 (One Thousand Five Hundred United States Dollars) to the Federal Government of Nigeria that recovered from him during the investigation.

The convict's journey to the Correctional Centre began when he was arrested by operatives of the Maiduguri's Zonal Directorate of the EFCC for internet-related offences. He was charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains a photo:

[court-jails-internet-fraudster-for-n12m-fraud-in-maiduguri](#)

6 NOV 2024

Olukoyede to Students: “Don’t Allow Internet Crimes Abort your Education”

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede, has called on students across the country to be very careful while using the internet and not allow indulgence in internet fraud to abort their educational dreams .

Olukoyede made the call when students of Funtaj International School Limited, Abuja visited the EFCC's headquarters on an excursion.

Speaking on “How You Can Be Better Nigerian Students”, the EFCC boss, who spoke through Head, Public Interface, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE I, Tony Orilade stated that the EFCC has been consistently fighting internet crime since its inception in 2003 and students should be discreet about their activities on the internet for their educational aspirations to be achieved.

“The only way you can become what you want to become is to avoid any crime, particularly economic and financial crimes, and cybercrime. Avoid them so that you can complete your education and become what you want to become, because if you fail to study very well, and complete your education, you may be drawn into internet crimes and when the EFCC comes after you, you will be prosecuted and may be sent to prison. The implication is that once you go to prison, you become an ex-convict.

He also called on the students to always embrace and project positive values, maintaining that right values would move them forward in their careers and ambition.

Head, Enlightenment and Re-orientation, ACE II Aisha Muhammed urged the students to be ready to serve as foot soldiers of the Commission adding that they must be of good moral values.

“From today onward, you are EFCC's foot-soldiers. What you are doing right now has an effect later, if you want to be a good person, you can start now and that is why the EFCC is building you to tell you that you can be among people of integrity.

“Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching. We want you to be people of integrity. We have an Integrity Club and what we do there is to prepare you for corruption-free lives. Your voices matter, you are a very special and important stakeholder in this fight against corruption and that is why we want to catch you young”, she said.

Assistant Superintendent of EFCC, ASE I Ogunjobi Olalekan stated that hard work and determination are imperative for students to attain excellence and climb higher in their career.

“For our dear students, you can be whatever you want to become by hard work and

sheer determination. We need you as programmers, forensic analysts, financial analysts, investigators, developers, change makers and as nation builders”, he said.

Halima Zakari and Kenekwukwu Nlodiogu were crowned EFCC’s Ambassadors after winning the EFCC’s Quiz contest. They won a mobile phone each for their exemplary efforts.

The press release contains a photo:

[olukoyede-to-students-dont-allow-internet-crimes-abort-your-education](#)

31 OCT 2024

Olukoyede Gives One Year Scorecard, Restates Resolve against Corruption

This is a very long press release, only portions of which are directly related to 419 Advance Fee Fraud crimes. We have reproduced only those portions here. For the full article, go to the link below. Here are the 419 related sections:

In the area of convictions, the EFCC in Olukoyede’s one year secured 3455 convictions across all categories of financial crimes and corruption. In monetary assets, recoveries in Naira hit N 248,750,049,365.52 (Two Hundred and Forty-Eight Billion, Seven Hundred and Fifty Million, Forty-Nine Thousand, Three Hundred and Sixty-Five Naira, Fifty-Two Kobo).

In foreign currencies, recoveries of the Commission in the one year of Olukoyede’s leadership are: \$105,423,190.39 (One Hundred and Five Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Three Thousand, One Hundred and Ninety Dollars, Thirty-Nine Cents); £ 53,133.64 (Fifty-Three Thousand, One Hundred and Thirty-Three Pounds, Sixty-Four Pence); €172,547.10 (One Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty-Seven Euros, Ten Cents); T1,300.00 (One Thousand, Three Hundred Indian Rupees); CAD \$ 3,400.00 (Three Thousand, Four Hundred Canadian Dollars); ¥74,859:00 (Seventy-Four Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Nine Chinese Yuan); AUS \$ 740:00 (Seven Hundred and Forty Australian Dollars); 170:00 UAE DIRHAM (One Hundred and Seventy United Arab Emirates Dirham); 73,000:00 KOREAN WON (Seventy-Three Thousand Korean Won); CFA7,821,375:00 (Seven Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-One Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy-Five West African CFA) and R50:00 (Fifty South Africa Rands.

The Commission also successfully saw to the return of some of the recovered assets. On September 6, 2024, the EFCC boss handed over to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) the sum of \$180,300 (One Hundred and Eighty Thousand, Three Hundred Dollars) and 53 vehicles, being assets recovered for Canadian victims of Nigerian fraudsters. One Hundred and Sixty-four Thousand US Dollars (\$164,000) of the recovered cash assets was for a victim, identified as Elena Bogomas, while \$16,300 (Sixteen Thousand, Three Hundred US Dollar) belonged to a victim, known as Sandra Butler. The recovered 53 vehicles were stolen over a period of time in Canada, freighted to Nigeria and distributed to multiple locations in Nigeria by criminal elements. Representing the Canadian authorities and the RCMP in the handover ceremony were Robert Aboumitri, First Secretary, Deputy High Commission of Canada and Nasser Salihou, Liaison Officer and Programme Manager, RCMP.

On September 20, 2024, Olukoyede handed over €5,100 (Five Thousand, One Hundred Euros) proceeds of crime to the Spanish Ambassador to Nigeria, His Excellency, Juan Ignacio Sell, being the sum recovered from a Nigerian romance fraudster for Heinz Burchard Einhaus Uchtmann, a Spanish victim by the EFCC in collaboration with the Spanish Police.

The press release contains photographs:

[olukoyede-gives-one-year-scorecard-restates-resolve-against-corruption](#)

419 Coalition comment: While we are always glad to hear of recoveries and repatriations of stolen funds to 419 victims, our view is that **total recoveries of 419ed monies are minimal given the huge amounts stolen**, and that **repatriations of monies to victims of 419 are only a small amount of the minimal monies recovered**. So, to put the best possible spin on this matter, we say thanks to the EFCC for all they have done regarding recovery and repatriation of 419ed monies to date, and urge the EFCC to massively ramp up their efforts in such matters going forward.

30 OCT 2024

EFCC Arrests 25 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 arrested 25 suspected internet fraudsters at different locations in Benin City, Edo State.

The suspects were arrested based on credible intelligence on their alleged involvement in internet related fraud.

Items recovered from them include eight exotic cars, laptops and phones

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-25-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

30 OCT 2024

EFCC Arrests 55 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Ilorin

Operatives of the Ilorin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 arrested fifty-five (55) suspected internet fraudsters at different locations in Offa, Offa Local Government Area of Kwara State.

They were arrested in a sting operation in their hideouts following credible intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet-related offences.

Items recovered from the suspects include nine exotic cars, two bikes, laptops, smart phones as well as charms.

The suspects will be charged to court upon conclusion of investigations

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-55-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-ilorin](#)

30 OCT 2024

EFCC Arrests 25 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 arrested 25 suspected internet fraudsters at different locations in Benin City, Edo State.

The suspects were arrested based on credible intelligence on their alleged involvement in internet related fraud.

Items recovered from them include eight exotic cars, laptops and phones

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-25-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

30 OCT 2024

Undergraduate Bags 14 Years Jail Term in Port Harcourt

Justice A. T. Mohammed of the Federal High Court sitting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, has convicted and sentenced a final year student of the University of Port Harcourt, Henry Nathaniel Ekanem fourteen(14) years imprisonment for internet fraud.

He was jailed on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 upon arraignment by the Port Harcourt Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on seven-count charges bordering on obtaining money under false pretence and impersonation.

One of the counts reads:

"That you, Henry Nathaniel Ekanem on or about 17th September, 2024, at Choba in Port Harcourt, Rivers state, within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, with intent to defraud, did obtain the sum of Twenty Two United states of America dollars (\$22) from Diana Roskov by fraudulently representing yourself as Coran Capsha, manager of the singer, Chris Stapleton, a pretence you knew to be false and thereby committed offence contrary to Section 1(1) (a) and punishable under Section 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud- Related Offences Act 2006.

He pleaded guilty when the charges were read to him.

In view of his plea, prosecution counsel, A. Abubakar called witnesses, tendered some documents as evidence which were admitted by the court and marked as exhibits. He thereafter prayed the court to convict and sentence the defendant accordingly.

Counsel to the defendant, F. T. Fred-Boufini did not oppose the prayers by the prosecution. She rather prayed the court to temper justice with mercy stressing that the defendant was a first time offender with no previous criminal records.

Justice Mohammed convicted and sentenced the defendant to two years imprisonment on each of the seven -count or an option of fine of Two Hundred Thousand Naira (N200,000) payable into the Consolidated Revenue Account of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The judge also ordered that all the phones recovered from the convict be forfeited to the government, being proceeds of crime. The convict shall also depose an affidavit of good behaviour before the court.

Ekanem started his journey to the Correctional Centre when he was arrested by operatives of the Commission sometime in September, 2024 at Choba, Port Harcourt, for internet fraud and other fraud-related activities. The convict successfully defrauded one Diana Roskov, among others, by fraudulently representing himself as Coran Capsha, manager of the singer, Chris Stapleton through WhatsApp and Instagram chats.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[undergraduate-bags-14-years-jail-term-in-port-harcourt](#)

419 Coalition comment: So, according to this press release, the 419er got 14 years for stealing \$22 (which is massive overkill even for us), and then all 14 years went away if he pays a few thousand dollars fine? Sorry, but the whole thing seems a bit off to us.... there may be more to it than is in the report. Maybe the other 6 counts not reported on had something to do with the decisions in the case.

29 OCT 2024

EFCC Arrests Seven Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Abuja

Operatives of the Abuja Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested seven suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested on Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at the Kubwa axis of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, following credible intelligence about their suspected involvement in internet-related fraud.

Items recovered from them include 13 phones of different brands and one car.

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-seven-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abuja](#)

29 OCT 2024

Two Internet Fraudsters bag Four Years Jail Term in Port Harcourt

Justice S. Pam of the Federal High Court sitting in Port Harcourt, Rivers state has convicted and sentenced two internet Fraudsters: Emmanuel Wisdom and Donald Etege to two years imprisonment each for impersonation and obtaining money under false pretence.

They were jailed on Tuesday , October 29, 2024 upon being arraigned by the Port Harcourt Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on one -count separate charge bordering on obtaining money under false pretence and impersonation.

The lone count against Eteg's reads:

"That you Donald Etege sometime in 2024 in Port Harcourt Rivers State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court with the intent to defraud obtained the total sum of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars Only (\$1,500) from one Lisa

Ricks under the pretence that you are a Bitcoin Trader, a pretence you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1 (1) (a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the said Act.

The count against Wisdom reads;

That you, Emmanuel Wisdom [a.k.a Sam Freidrich] between the 10th day of August and the 1st day of October, 2024, in Port Harcourt, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, obtained the sum of One

Thousand, Two Hundred United States of America Dollars (\$1,200) from one Tony Grozdan, as investment in cryptocurrency trade, which you claimed to have the capacity to manage and yield profit thereon, which pretext you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1) (b) of the Advanced Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the Same Act.

They both pleaded guilty when the charges were read to them separately.

In view of their pleas, prosecution counsel: K. W. Chukwuma-Eneh and E. K. Bakam called witnesses, tendered some documents as evidences which were admitted by the court and marked as exhibits. They prayed the court to convict and sentence the defendants accordingly.

Counsel to the defendants: O. F. Nwogu and C. Christopher did not oppose the prayers by the prosecution. They rather prayed the court to temper justice with mercy stressing that the defendants are first time offenders with no previous criminal records.

Justice Pam convicted and sentenced the defendants to two years imprisonment each or an option of fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) payable into the Consolidated Revenue Account of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The judge also ordered that all the phones recovered from them should be forfeited to the government, being proceeds of crime. They should also depose an affidavit of good behaviour before the court.

Etege and Wisdom started their journey to the Correctional Service when they were both arrested by operatives of the Commission sometime in October, 2024 for internet fraud and other fraud-related activities. They were charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains a photo of each 419er:

[two-internet-fraudsters-bag-four-years-jail-term-in-port-harcourt](#)

28 OCT 2024

Awka Court Sends 34 Internet Fraudsters to Jail

Justice Evelyn Anyadike of the Federal High Court sitting in Awka, Anambra State, have convicted and sentenced 34 internet fraudsters to various jail terms

The convicts are; Kelly Maduabuchi Muonagu, Nwokwu Chibuike Valerian, Chinonso Stanley Boniface, Nnamani Makuo Paschal, Ifeanyi Aju Kingsley, Kalu Odeghe Olu, Ikenna Onyebor Maxwell, Fimber Chinedu Ifewuka, Ekeh Callistus Uche, David Chibuike, Chidera Emmanuel Eze, Eberechukwu John Amuka, Okafor Nelson Chinedu, Opara Ifeanyi Nathaniel, Joel Chukwuemeka Amechi, Nnazoba Daniel Ekene, Ikechukwu Prince Gerald, Shedrack Chibueze Ngene and Darlington Odom Oruta.

Other include; Ifeanyi Celestine Akunwafor, Chinagorom Ifeanyi Destiny, Nwaugo Ifesinachi Paul, Somtochukwu Peter Ogbuefi, Emesurum Chinedu Stanley, Innocent Ikegbunem, Chidiukor Nnamani, Emmanuel Johnson Nwafor, Amuche Solomon Christopher, feanyi Blessed Ikechineke, Eze John Ekene, Akubuogu Henry Kizito, Nwokeji Cosmas Uche, Eze Victor Chigadi and Egah Onyedikachi.

They were prosecuted on one-count separate charges bordering on fraudulent impersonation, possession of proceeds of crime and obtaining by false pretence.

The charge against Kingsley reads; “That you, Ifeanyi Aju Kingsley, sometime in October 2024, at Onitsha, Anambra State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently impersonated Erica Clark, a foreign national by means of your HP Elite book 820G3 with serial number 5CG7201TP6 via a fake Facebook account with intent to gain advantage for yourself from unsuspecting foreign nationals and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (b) (i) and (ii) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc) Act, 2024 as amended and punishable under Section 22 (2) (b) (iv) of the same Act”.

The charge against Olu reads; “That you, Kalu Odeghe Olu, sometime in October 2024, at Onitsha, Anambra State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently presented yourself as a foreign shipping agent, by means of your Infinix Smart 5 via a fake email account; orbitglobalexpresstopofficial@gmail.com with intent to gain advantage for yourself from unsuspecting foreign nationals and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (b) (i) and (ii) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) Act, 2024 as amended and punishable under Section 22 (2) (b) (IV) of the same Act”.

The convicts pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to them separately. In view of their pleas, prosecution counsel, Raymond Edozie prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

However, defence counsel; Benard Okeke, James Nwatarali and Ifeanyi Odoh pleaded for leniency in sentencing the convicts, adding that the convicts were remorseful.

After listening to both sides, Justice Anyadike sentenced the convicts to eight months Imprisonment each with an option of fine of N70,000 (Seventy Thousand Naira) except for Valerian and Boniface who were given two months community service, which will be supervised by the Deputy Court Registrar.

The judge ordered that mobile phones and laptops recovered from the convicts be auctioned and proceeds paid into the Single Treasury Account of the Federation.

The convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested on October 11, 2024 at different locations of Onitsha in Anambra State for internet-related offences. Investigations revealed that while some of the convicts specialized in impersonating foreign shipping agents using numerous fake email addresses, others employed fraudulent skills to scam vulnerable women abroad.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[awka-court-sends-34-internet-fraudsters-to-jail](#)

22 OCT 2024

Court Jails 43 Internet Fraudsters in Awka

The Enugu Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentencing of forty-three (43) internet fraudsters before Justice Evelyn Anyadike of the Federal High Court sitting in Awka, Anambra State.

The convicts are; Momoh Victor Abdulkareem, Paul Emmanuel, Adibe Henry, Okoroafor Abuchi Gospel, Ikechukwu Ezra, Oduu Emmanuel Eyinna, Obasi Chibuike, Chimaobi Ogbonna, Nwankwo Emmanuel Ikechukwu, Aluma Chetachukwu Israel, Emeka Umendu, Ebuka Uka, Chikaodili Michael, Oramulu Nwabufor Michael, Obiajulu Philip Sorpuluchukwu, Iwu Ikedichukwu Emmanuel, Akachukwu Temple Odo, Ifeanyi Samuel, Kyrian Chikodili Ugwu and Nathaniel Oforbuike Nwoba.

Others include; Chimezie Stephen Obianaso, Kingsley Chukwuebuka Mmadu, Ebuka Eric Uka, Simon Uchenna, Godswill Francis Blessed, Donatus Chinwendu Anya, Aluma Ogochukwu Michael, Nwankwo Stephen Chijioke, Emmanuel Chijioke Okogwu, Ariwodo Ezemdi Lucious, Chidiebere Uwa, Okeke Joshua Okechukwu, Chinemelu Clinton Ugwu, Tochukwu Sunday Ewa, Iburu Nelson Onyeoma, Nwoko Samuel, Nwokwu Victor Izuchukwu, Benjamin Obiajulu, Kelechi John, Moses Chukwuka Ugwueke, Obinna Christian, Ubagu Daniel Chukwuebuka and Chukwu Emmanuel Nnamdi.

They were prosecuted on one-count separate charges each, bordering on personation, retention of proceeds of crime, possession of fraudulent documents and obtaining by false pretence.

The charge against Ikechukwu Ezra read: “That you, Ikechukwu Ezra, sometime in 2024, in Enugu, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, fraudulently impersonated the identity of Shirley Fang, a male foreigner and citizen of United Kingdom, through a fake Whatsapp account, via your Redmi 12C with IMEI 861906061467102, with intent to obtain money from unsuspecting foreign nations and in order to gain advantage of yourself and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (3) (a) (b) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc) Act, 2015 and punishable under Section 22 (4) of the same Act”.

The charge against Paul Emmanuel reads: “That you, Paul Emmanuel, sometime in the year 2024 at Enugu, Enugu State within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, fraudulently impersonated one Chen Dong from China by means of your Tecno 8i phone with IMEI number 353030167612761 via fake google account with the intent to gain advantage of yourself from unsuspecting foreign nationals and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (b) (i) and (ii) of the Cybercrime (Prevention, Prevention, etc.) Act, 2015 (as amended 2024) and punishable under 22 (2) (b) (iv) of the same Act”.

They pleaded “guilty” when the charges were read to them separately. In view of their pleas, counsel to the EFCC, Michael Ikechukwu Ani prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

However, the defence counsel; Ifeanyi Michael Odoh, James Nwatarali, Bernard Okeke and O. C. Abalu prayed the court to temper justice with mercy, adding that the convicts who are first-time offenders, have become remorseful.

After listening to both sides, Justice Anyadike sentenced the convicts to eight months imprisonment each with an option of fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) each except for Nwankwo, Izuchukwu, Eyinna and Ikechukwu who were given two months Community Service, which will be supervised by the Deputy Court Registrar.

Furthermore, the court ordered that items recovered from the convicts which include mobile phones and laptops be auctioned and proceeds paid into the account of the Federal Government.

The suspects were arrested in Abakaliki and Awka following credible intelligence linking them to online criminal activities. Upon arrest, investigations revealed that the convicts impersonated foreign nationals using several social media accounts and duped unsuspecting victims.

The press release contains photos of many of the 419ers:

[court-jails-43-internet-fraudsters-in-awka](#)

EFCC Unveils Cybercrime Rapid Response Service

Determined to break the criminal networks and damage associated with internet fraud across the country, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 unveiled a 24-hour Cybercrime Rapid Response Desk.

The unveiling, which was done at the Banquet Hall, Presidential Villa, Abuja by Her Excellency, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, First Lady, Federal Republic of Nigeria, is meant to bring up digital and accelerated information transmission on internet fraud from the public and un-impeded response from the Commission. It is provided with both local and international telephone numbers through which the EFCC can be reached on a 24-hour basis on matters relating to cybercrime in Nigeria and across the globe. The unveiling was part of the highlights marking the National Cybercrime Summit organized by the EFCC with support of the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption, RoLAC, Programme, European Union and International IDEA.

The Summit was themed: “Alternatives to Cybercrime: Optimizing Cyber Skills for National Development.” Highlights of the programmed include panel discussions on alternative frameworks to insulate youths from cybercrimes, presentation of award to winners of EFCC 2024 Essay Competition organized for students in secondary and tertiary schools in the country, with cash prizes ranging from N350,000 to N800,000 and a documentary on the activities of the EFCC in the last one year of Mr. Ola Olukoyede’s resourceful leadership.

The documentary, featuring the period between October 2023 and September, 2024 showed that the EFCC secured 3455 convictions and made monetary recoveries of N 248,750,049,365.52 (Two Hundred and Forty-Eight Billion, Seven Hundred and Fifty Million, Forty-Nine Thousand, Three Hundred and Sixty-Five Naira, Fifty-Two Kobo); \$105,423,190.39 (One Hundred and Five Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-Three Thousand, One Hundred and Ninety Dollars, Thirty-Nine Cents); £ 53,133.64 (Fifty-Three Thousand, One Hundred and Thirty-Three Pound Sterling, Sixty-Four Pence); €172,547.10 (One Hundred and Seventy-Two Thousand, Five Hundred and Forty-Seven Euros, Ten Cents); T1,300.00 (One Thousand, Three Hundred Indian Rupees); CAD \$ 3,400.00 (Three Thousand, Four Hundred Canadian Dollars); ¥74,859:00 (Seventy-Four Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-Nine Chinese Yuan); AUS \$ 740:00 (Seven Hundred and Forty Australian Dollars); 170:00 UAE DIRHAM (One Hundred and Seventy United Arab Emirates Dirham); 73,000:00 KOREAN WON (Seventy-Three Thousand Korean Won); CFA 7,821,375:00 (Seven Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-One Thousand, Three Hundred and Seventy-Five West African CFA) to R 50:00 (Fifty South Africa Rands).

Speaking in a keynote address following the unveiling, Mrs Tinubu noted that the theme of the summit resonated deeply with the current challenges cybercrime posed not only in Nigeria but across the globe. According to her, “Cybercrime is not a crime against individuals and businesses. It is an assault on our collective integrity, economic stability and the future of our youth”. She praised the EFCC for devotedly seeking solution to the lingering menace.

She stated that Nigeria was confronted with the reality of the dangers and new vulnerabilities the digital age are posing to humanity. “It is therefore crucial that we address these challenges head on and explore not only the harmful consequences of cybercrimes but also the sustainable alternatives that can redirect our youths towards productive and positive endeavours. With young people accounting for more than 60 per cent of our population, the involvement of youths in cybercrime is a threat to the nation’s quest for economic stability,” she said

Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Ola Olukoyede observed that “the menace of cybercrimes, like most economic and financial crimes, is a burning challenge that we cannot deny, ignore or wish away.” The national discourse on cybercrime, the EFCC boss said, was necessitated by “the overarching need for us to articulate opinions and build greater strength against the scourge of cybercrimes. This time around, we are not only interrogating the problem, we are aggregating workable solutions to it.”

Further in his speech, he observed that “The enormity of challenges posed to us as individuals and nation by cybercrimes are grievous. As individuals, youths’ involvement in these crimes is distorting and corrupting acceptable family values. The tendency towards quick riches no longer positions our young people for enterprise, resourceful intellectual aspirations and technological innovations.”

In financial terms, Olukoyede stated that 2,328 (Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Twenty-eight) cases of cybercrime occur daily globally with a global loss projected to hit \$10.5 trillion by 2025. "Projections by multiple sources show that the global loss to cybercrimes may reach a staggering \$10.5 trillion by 2025, with approximately 2,328 (Two Thousand, Three Hundred and Twenty-eight) cases occurring daily. The implication of all these is that, if left unchecked, cybercrimes portend grave dangers to the entire world. These are the realities stoking the Commission's fight against these crimes."

Minister of State for Youth Development, Mr. Ayodele Olawande while commending the EFCC in its fight against cybercrime stated that "The Commission has done so well in planning and engaging the youths in every state that will give them the platform to do so. As youths, as a body, we are promising the EFCC that we will do everything in our power, everything we can do to make sure that Nigerian youths are with the EFCC and that we are ready to work with it. We will make sure that we will go to every nook and cranny of the 774 local government areas to spread the anti-cybercrime message", he said.

The Chairman of Nigerian Governors' Forum, and Kwara State Governor, Abdulrahman Abdulrazaq commended the EFCC for organizing the summit and pledged his support to the Commission in its efforts to redeem the youth from the path of cyber criminalities. "You have our support in this regards. We commend you on their efforts in putting this gathering together. I am sure that after this summit, we will all leave here better informed on our perception of cybercrime."

A lot more goodwill messages came from His Eminence, Alhaji Muhammad Sadd Abubakar 111, the Sultan of Sokoto, His Majesty, Igwe Nnaemeka Ugochukwu Achebe, Obi of Onitsha, His Imperial Majesty, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi (The Ojaja 11), Ooni of Ife, Danladi Plang, Head of Programme, IDEA, among others.

The press release contains several photos:

[efcc-unveils-cybercrime-rapid-response-service](#)

419 Coalition Comment: Since the press release **fails to mention the phone numbers** for this new 24/7 365 hotline "with both local and international telephone numbers through which the EFCC can be reached on a 24-hour basis on matters relating to cybercrime in Nigeria and across the globe" (which omission seems, shall we say, rather stupid to us), here is the contact information currently given on the EFCC main page: Hotline / Central Email +234 8093322644 +234 (9) 9044751 info@efcc.gov.ng

Also, in the convictions mentioned above, we'd be interested in knowing exactly how many of those mentioned above actually represented actual incarceration or at least community service time. A stat on how many 419ers got off by simply payign a fine, and to where those fine monies went, would also be of interest. And, in terms of the monies recovered we'd be interested in the actual amounts that were repatriated to the victims of 419, and what percentage that is of the total monies recovered. We'd also be interested in an official estimate of the total amount of monies stolen by 419 operations, both annually and totally.

For the record, 419 Coalition is opposed to the release of any 419er simply by paying a fine. We believe all convicted 419ers should serve at lease some time incarcerated or performing community service, in addition to any fines paid. We also believe it would be an interesting idea to require that all convicted 419ers who are incarcerated or performing community service be required to wear uniforms with a Large "419" printed on the front and back of their uniform shirts, and be required to perform work in public (roadwork jobs, janitorial jobs etc.) inthat uniform, to show the general public what happens to those who commit 419 offenses, in order to serve as a deterrent to current and future 419 criminals.

21 OCT 2024

Two Internet Fraudsters Bag Jail Terms in Kaduna

Justice R.M Aikawa of the Federal High Court, Kaduna has convicted and jailed one Olayinka Abdulraheem Saidu(a.k.a Lily Bright) and Adams Shedrack (a.k.a Kellie Hamza) for fraud.

The convicts were prosecuted by the Kaduna Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on one-count separate charges, bordering on impersonation, cybercrime and money laundering.

Saidu's charge reads: "That you Olayinka Abdulraheem Saidu (a.k.a Lily Bright) (M) sometime in 2022 at Minna, Niger State, within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, with intent to defraud, converted the total sum of \$100.00 (One Hundred US Dollars) from one Chad Beatty, living in the United States of America, which you reasonably ought to have known that such fund forms part of the proceeds of an unlawful act and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2) (B) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act."

That of Shedrack reads: "That you Adams Shedrack, (a.k.a Kellie Hamza), sometime in September, 2024 in Minna, within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, fraudulently impersonated one Hamza Topchvev (a German citizen) on Facebook, a social media platform and fraudulently gained advantage for yourself, the total sum of \$200 (Two Hundred USD only) and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22(2)(B)(ii) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention Etc) Act, 2015 and punishable under Subsection 22(2)(b)(iv) of the same Act."

They pleaded "guilty" to the charges when they were read to them, prompting the prosecution counsel, K.S Ogunlade to pray to the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Aikawa, afterwards convicted and sentenced, Saidu to five years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N700,000.00 (Seven Hundred Thousand Naira) and convicted and sentenced Shedrack got two years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition to their prison terms, they forfeited their communication gadgets, being instruments of their crimes to the federal government.

Both convicts were arrested in Minna, Niger State, following credible intelligence on their fraudulent internet activities.

The press release contains photos of the two 419ers:

[two-internet-fraudsters-bag-jail-terms-in-kaduna](#)

21 OCT 2024

Court Jails Eight Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Justice A.N. Erhabor of Edo State High Court, sitting in Benin has convicted and sentenced eight internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

The convicts are: Akhigbe Andrew Okhaifoh, Collins Osagie, Wisdom Imaduerehie, Imade Destiny, Chibueze Onyeji, Edubi Favour, David Precious, and Michael Osas Iguma.

They were prosecuted by the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on separate one-count charges, bordering on impersonation, obtaining by false pretence, retention of proceeds of crime and possession of fraudulent documents.

The charge against Osagie reads: "That you Collins Osagie (m) on or about the 30th of September, 2024 within the jurisdiction of this honourable court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contained false pretence, thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."

All the defendants pleaded "guilty" to their charges when they were read to them, prompting the prosecution counsel, I.M Elodi, K Y. Bello, Isa K. Agwai, A.A Ibrahim Faisal, A. S. Bala- Ribah and Ahmed Salihu to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly, while counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, stating that his clients have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Erhabor convicted and sentenced Okhaifoh, Imaduerehie, Osagie, Onyeji, Favour, Precious and Destiny to two years imprisonment each or to pay a fine N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira), respectively, while Iguma bagged three years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N200,000.

All the convicts forfeited their phones, laptop computers and money in their bank accounts to the federal government and undertook in writing to henceforth be of good behaviour. Osagie in addition, forfeited a Lexus 2007 RX 350 being proceeds of his crime to the federal government.

Their journey to the Corectional Centre began with their arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the EFCC following their involvement in fraudulent internet activities.

The press release contains photos of most of the 419ers:

[court-jails-eight-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

17 OCT 2024

Gombe Courts Send 10 Fraudsters to Jail

The Gombe Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentence of ten fraudsters into various jail terms for offences bordering on internet fraud, impersonation and employment fraud.

The convicts are Emmanuel Cyriacus , Nelson Yustus , Gabriel Victor Shindu, Daniel Gambo , Miracle Bukar , Mighty Awarri , Jonathan James , Mathias Adams , Sani Safiyanu , and Muazu Shira Mutari.

Shindu , Awarri , Gambo, Bukar , Adams, Yustus , Cyriacus and James were arraigned on October 16, 2024 before Justices Hammed Isha and Benjamin M.Lawal of the Gombe State High Court sitting in Yola , Adamawa State. Safiyanu was arraigned on October 14, 2024 on two count - charges of intent to defraud and possession of fraudulent document before Justice Mushkur Salisu of the Federal High Court Jalingo, Taraba State , while Muazu Shira Mutari was arraigned for intent to defraud on October 8,2024 before Justice Muazu Abubakar of the Bauchi State High Court, Bauchi.

The charge against Yustus reads: “That you Nelson Yustus sometimes in September 2024 in Yola Adamawa State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court with intent to defraud did impersonate by using your iPhone 11 mobile device to chat on Zangi private messenger application with one Art – huff, a foreign national while presenting as Jake's from Philadelphia USA and in the process gained to your advantage the total sum of \$150 (One Hundred and Fifty United States Dollars) and also chatted with Cawzia and Pierre on Signal impersonating as a white lady called Comfyprincess from USA and thereby committed an offence of cheating by impersonation contrary to Section 314 of Penal code law of Adamawa State 2018 and punishable under Section 315 of same law”.

One of the charges against Safiyanu reads: “That you Sani Safiyanu, male, adult, sometime in 2022 at Taraba within the judicial division of this honorable court did had in your possession documents containing false pretense to wit: Appointment and Congratulatory messages telling people that, they gotten employment with; National Home Grown School Feeding Programme of the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, the Independent National Electoral Commission and Nigeria Police Force via your email addresses; Safiyanusani670@gmail.com, abusafiyanusanikarofi@gmail.com, nschoolfeedingprogram@gmail.com, nigerianinec5@gmail.com, forceheadquartersabuja2020@gmail.com, which you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 of the Advance Fee Fraud and other related offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the same Act.

Upon arraignment, the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges prompting the prosecution counsel, Saad H. Saad to ask the court to convict and sentence the defendants accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy as their defendants were remorseful of their actions.

Justice Isha convicted and sentenced Shindu , Awari, Bukar and Gambo to ten (10) years imprisonment or a fine of N300,000 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira only) each.

Justice Lawal convicted and sentenced Yustus , James , Cyriacus to Ten years imprisonment with an option of N200, 000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) fine each. However, Adam bagged five years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.

Justice Salisu convicted and sentenced Safiyanu to 5 years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000

on count one and one year imprisonment or a fine of N50,000 on count two. The sentences are to run concurrently.

Justice Abubakar convicted and sentenced Mutari to two years imprisonment with an option of N200,000.

All the convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested for internet fraud, impersonation and examination fraud. They were charged to court and convicted.

In another development, EFCC has arraigned Solomon Yohanna , Shedrach Naphtali, Hassan Mohammed and Abdullahi Abubakar before Justice Hammad Isha for impersonating the EFCC by forging its documents to defraud unsuspecting Nigerians

They were arraigned on nine- count charges of forgery, aiding to commit crime and impersonation by the Gombe Zonal Directorate of the EFCC

One of the charges reads: “That you Solomon Yohana, Shedrach Naphtali, Hassan Mohammed, Abdullah Abubakar, sometimes between 2023 and 2024 in Yola, Adamawa State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court did forge the signature of the Commission (Economic and Financial Crimes Commission) on the following documents; Letter of Authority on EFCC letter head dated 5th August, 2024, Investigation Approval letter dated 1st April, 2024 on EFCC letter, letter of Team Approval dated 6th December, 2023 on EFCC letter head, letter of Team Approval dated 29th April, 2024 on EFCC letter head bearing the name of the 1st defendant on each document with intent to support the claim that the 1st defendant is a staff of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission sent to Guyuk Local Government to audit and supervise all the projects of the Local Government awarded by the Federal, State and Local Government, which you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence of forgery contrary to Section 349 and punishable under Section 351 of the Penal Code Law of Adamawa state, 2018

Upon arraignment on October 15, 2024 , the first defendant , Solomon Yahanna pleaded guilty to the crimes while others pleaded not guilty.

In view of the first defendant’s plea of guilt, prosecution counsel, Saad .H.Saad prayed the court to allow him to bring up witnesses to review the facts of the case. However, counsel to the defendant, C. Karamuel told the court he wasn't ready to take any witness.

Justice Isha, having heard both prosecution and defence counsels granted each of the defendants (2nd , 3rd and 4th defendants) bail in the sum of N5,000,000 (Five Million Naira) with one surety in like sum who must be resident in Yola and a family man. The sureties shall deposit their identity cards and sign bail bonds.

The judge thereafter remanded Yohanna at Yola Correctional Centre Adamawa State and adjourned the matter to November 15, 2024 for both trial and review of facts .

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[gombe-courts-send-10-fraudsters-to-jail>](#)

16 OCT 2024

EFCC Arrests 36 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Onitsha

Operatives of the Enugu Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC have arrested thirty-six (36) suspected internet fraudsters at different locations of Onitsha, Anambra State.

The suspects were arrested on October 11, 2024 following actionable intelligence linking them with suspected online criminal activities.

Upon arrest, preliminary investigations showed that the suspects impersonated foreign nationals using social media platforms to defraud unsuspecting victims.

Items recovered from them include eight luxury vehicles, sophisticated brands of mobile phones and laptops.

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

16 OCT 2024

Court Jails Three Internet Fraudsters in Kaduna

Justices Hawaa Buhari and R.M Aikawa of the Federal High Court, Kaduna have convicted and sentenced Owoyale Shuaib (a.k.a Mary Lisa Goklool), Oluwafemi Moses Oluwatosin (a.k.a Douglas Chiater) and Wisdom Sambo Sammy (a.k.a Prudent Jameson) to various jail terms for fraud.

The trio were prosecuted by the Kaduna Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on one-count separate charges, bordering on impersonation and cybercrimes.

The charge against Shuaib reads: “That you, Owoyale Shuaib (a.k.a Mary Lisa Goklool), Male, sometime in 2024 in Minna, Niger State, within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, fraudulently made use of Mary Lisa Goklool unique identification feature to one R.r.r (a Spanish Citizen) on Facebook chat (an online social media application) and in that assumed character gained advantage to yourself in the total sum of \$20 USD (Twenty United States Dollar) from him, which you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (a) (i) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention Etc.) Act, 2015 and punishable under Section 22(2) (b) (iv) of the same Act.”

That of Sammy reads: “That you Wisdom Sambo Sammy (a.k.a Prudent James) (M) Sometime in 2024 at Minna, Niger State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, fraudulently impersonated one Prudent James, on facebook, (an online social media application) with intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (b) (i) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, 2015 and punishable under Section 22(2) (b) (IV) of the same Act.”

They all pleaded “guilty” to their charges when they were read to them, upon which prosecution counsel M.J Argungu prayed the courts to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Buhari sentenced Shuaib and Oluwatosin to four and two years imprisonment respectively or to pay a fine of N 500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) each, while Justice Aikawa sentenced Sammy to five years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N 500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira).

In addition to their prison terms, they forfeited their phones, being the tools of their crimes to the federal government.

The convicts were arrested in their Minna hideout, following credible intelligence on their fraudulent internet activities.

The press release contains photos of the three 419ers:

16 OCT 2024

Kwara Courts Jail Six for Internet Fraud in Ilorin

The Ilorin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Monday, October 14, 2024 secured the conviction of six persons for offences bordering on internet fraud before Justices Sulaiman Akanbi and Adebayo Yusuf of the Kwara State High Court sitting in Ilorin.

The convicts are Idris Muhammed, Ismail Temitope Mustapha, Oyekola Odunayo, Anthony Sylvester Stephen, Timilehin Adeniyi and Olayiwola Ayomide Abdulmalik.

Justice Akanbi jailed Idris, Ismail, Oyekola and Anthony while the duo of Timilehin and Olayiwola were convicted by Justice Yusuf.

The charge against Idris reads:

“That you, IDRIS MUHAMMED on or about the 13th day of July 2024 to 13th of August 2024 in Ilorin within the Jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did cheat by personation, when you pretended to be one Dorothy Onanewlevel Palmer and fraudulently deceived one Lavergne Adriana Racheal to send \$600 (Six Hundred Dollars) to you via cash app and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 of the Penal Code and punishable under Section 324 of the Penal Code.

The charge against Ismail reads:

“That you, Ismail Temitope Mustapha (Alias: Myre Roddy) sometime between the year 2022 and 2023 within the Judicial division of the High Court, did cheat by personation, when you pretended to be one Myre Roddy vide Tik Tok account @rod0y0s3 and induced one Ron Woldron to part with the gross sum of \$500 (Five Hundred Dollars) vide apple gift cards; and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 of the Penal Code and punishable under Section 324 of the Penal Code.

The defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges.

Upon their pleas, Prosecution counsel, Andrew Akoja and Victoria Igodo tendered the extra-judicial statements of the defendants, items recovered from them at the point of arrest and monies that they benefited from the illegal activities, which the court admitted in evidence.

Consequently, Justice Akanbi sentenced Idris to two years imprisonment with an option of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira only) and ordered the forfeiture of his iphone 13, and the sum of \$300 (Three Hundred Dollars), which he raised as restitution to the Federal Government.

The court sentenced Ismail to one year imprisonment with an option of fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira only), while ordering the forfeiture of his iphone 11 promax and \$300USD to the Federal Government.

Oyekola also bagged one year imprisonment on count one with an option of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira only), two years imprisonment on count two with an option of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira only) and two weeks community service on count three and a fine of N50,000 (Fifty Thousand Naira only). The sum of \$300 and N34,900 recovered from him be forfeited to the Federal Government.

Similarly, the court sentenced Anthony to one year imprisonment with an option of N50,000 (Fifty Thousand Naira only) and ordered that the iphone 12 and the sum of \$25 which he benefited from the unlawful activities be forfeited to the Federal Government.

In a similar fashion, Justice Yusuf sentenced the duo of Timilehin and Olayiwola to six months imprisonment with an option of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira only) each. The convicts' phones and the monies they brought as restitution were forfeited to the Federal Government.

All the convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested for internet-related offences. They were later prosecuted and convicted.

The press release contains photos of most of the 419ers:

[kwara-courts-jail-six-for-internet-fraud-in-ilorin](#)

16 OCT 2024

Court Jails 15 Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

The Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has secured the conviction and sentence of 15 internet fraudsters before Justice A. N. Erhabor of Edo State High Court, sitting in Benin City.

The convicts are: Nosa Gift, Igbinosa Eghosa, Nosazee Nosakhare, Imumonlen Jude, Promise Ogheneghere, Osadiaye Osasenaga Perfect, Ugiagbe Miracle, David Julius, Nosakhare Godswill and Ajayi Precious.

Others are Idowu Olumayokun Omotoyo, Amina Kabiru, Martins Onos Iboyirode, Benson Amengbeivie Blessing and Alabi Etinosa.

They were prosecuted on separate one-count charges bordering on obtaining by false pretence, retention of proceeds of crime, impersonation and possession of fraudulent documents.

The charge against Gift reads: "That you Gift (m) on or about the 30th of September, 2024 within the jurisdiction of this honourable court did have in your possession, documents which you knew or ought to have known contained false pretence, thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."

They all pleaded "guilty" to their charges when they were read to them, prompting prosecution counsel, I.M Elodi, A.A Ibrahim Faisal, A.S. Bala- Ribah and Ahmed Salihu to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly, while the defence counsel prayed the court to temper justice with mercy, stating that they have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Erhabor convicted and sentenced Omotoyo, Kabiru, Iboyirode, Blessing, Etinosa, Gift, Eghosa, Nosakhare, Jude, Ogheneghere, Perfect, Julius, Godswill and Precious to two years imprisonment respectively or to pay a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each, while Miracle bagged three years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira).

All the convicts forfeited their phones, laptops, and money traced to their bank accounts to the federal government and further undertook in writing to be of good behaviour going forward.

The press release contains photos of several of the 419ers:

[court-jails-15-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

16 OCT 2024

EFCC Sets up Public Complaints Unit

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has directed the establishment of a Public the Corporate Headquarters.

The Desk, designed to be manned by specially trained officers, will Commission's activities. It is also planned to bridge the interface gap between the EFCC and the larger public to enhance quick resolution of complaints by the public.

The EFCC's boss urged members of the public with any complaint about the Commission's operational activities to take advantage of this initiative to ventilate their grievances, assuring that all issues would be addressed.

Information on the telephone number of the Public Complaints Desk can be accessed on the Commission's website and social media platforms.

[efcc-sets-up-public-complaints-unit](#)

14 OCT 2024

Alleged £1million Fraud: Court Overrules Defence Counsel's Objection in Trial of Seven Suspects>

Justice R.A. Osodi of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on Friday, October 11, 2024, overruled the objection raised by the defence counsel, Olalekan Ojo, SAN to seven suspects facing trial over an alleged £1m fraud and also admitted in evidence a flash drive containing the video recording of the sixth defendant tendered

by the prosecution.

The Lagos Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, had on February 3, 2022 arraigned Morufu Adewale, (a.k.a Gbeganleri Adelana), Abayomi Alaka(a.k.a. Dauda Usman Alashe), Omitogun Ajayi and Ajisegiri Abiodun before Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos.

Three other defendants, Taiwo Ahmed, Raufu Raheem and Sanlabiu Teslim, had initially been listed to be at large.

However, the trial could not be concluded before the retirement of Justice Taiwo.

This, therefore, prompted the re-assignment of the case file to Justice Oshodi, even as the EFCC intensified its efforts to secure the arrest of the other suspected fraudsters.

Subsequently, all the seven defendants were in December 2022 re-arraigned on an amended three-count charge.

The offences border on obtaining money by false pretence, contrary to Section 1(1)(a) and 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006, and conspiracy to obtain money by false pretence contrary to Section 410 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State 2011.

Count one reads: "Morufu Yahaya Adewale, Omitogun Ajayi, Ajisegiri Abiodun, Abayomi Kamaldeen Alaka, Taiwo Olamilekan Ahmed, Raufu Wale Raheem and Sanlabiu Owolabi Teslim between May and July 2018 at Lagos within the Ikeja Judicial Division obtained the total sum of £1,000,000.00 (One Million GBP) from Dr. and Dr. (Mrs) Lateef Oladimeji Bello for the purpose of conducting prayers for spiritual cleansing of the family and that the money will be refunded after the prayers within one week, which pretence you knew to be false."

Count three reads: "Morufu Yahaya Adewale, Omitogun Ajayi, Ajisegiri Abiodun, Abayomi Kamaldeen Alaka, Taiwo Olamilekan Ahmed, Raufu Wale Raheem and Sanlabiu Owolabi Teslim between August and September 2018 at Lagos within the Ikeja Judicial Division obtained the total sum of N175,000,000.00 (One Hundred and Seventy-five Million Naira Only) from Dr. and Dr. (Mrs) Lateef Oladimeji Bello for the purpose of conducting spiritual prayers for spiritual cleansing of their son and the family and that the money will be refunded one week after the prayers which pretence you knew to be false."

They pleaded "not guilty" to the charges.

At the last adjourned sitting on September 23, 2024, the prosecution counsel, N.K. Ukoha, had sought to tender in evidence a flash drive through the sixth witness, Giwa Wasiu, an Assistant Superintendent of the Police, ASP, who had told Justice Oshodi how the sixth defendant was apprehended in the Ikorodu area of Lagos.

He had testified that the sixth defendant, in the said video, confessed that he and some others duped one Dr. (Mrs.) Bello of the sum of N675 million.

He had also testified that the said video contained in the flash drive was handed over to the EFCC, which was investigating the alleged crime.

However, when Ukoha sought to tender the flash drive as evidence, the defence team led by Olalekan Ojo, SAN had raised an objection, thereby prompting the court to adjourn till Friday, October 11, 2024(today)for ruling.

At today's proceedings, Justice Oshodi overruled the objection by the defence and also admitted the flash drive containing the video recording of the sixth defendant in evidence as Exhibit E.

Thereafter, the prosecution applied that the video clip of the confessional statement be played in the open court, which was granted by the court.

The case was subsequently adjourned till December 18 and 19, 2024 for continuation

of trial.

[alleged-gbp1million-fraud-court-overrules-defence-counsels-objection-in-trial-of-seven-suspects](#)

14 OCT 2024

Kwara Courts Jail Bureau de-change Operator, Two Others for Fraud

Justice Abimbola Awogboro of the Federal High Court sitting in Ilorin has sentenced one Yakubu Aminu to 200 (Two Hundred) hours community service for carrying out bureau de change businesses without a valid licence.

Similarly, a Kwara State High Court presided over by Justice Hammed Gegele also jailed the duo of Abdulalahi Abdulrasaq Omotosho and Akeem Ibrahim Salaudeen for involvement in internet fraud -related crime.

The Ilorin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC had on Wednesday October 9, 2024 arraigned the trio before the courts on separate charges.

The charge against Yakubu reads:

“That you, Yakubu Aminu sometime in July 2024, at Chikanda Market, Yashikira District, Baruten Local Government Area, Kwara State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did carry on, other financial business, to wit: Bureau De Change Business without a valid licence issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria contrary to Section 15 (5) of the Banks and other Financial Institutions Act, 2020 and punishable under Section 57 (5) (B) of the same Act”

The charge against Akeem reads:

“That you, Akeem Ibrahim Salaudeen between 3rd December 2018 and 8th November 2024, in Ilorin, Kwara State within the jurisdiction of Honourable Court, did knowingly had under your control the sum of N4,069, 000.00 (Four Million, Sixty Nine Thousand Naira Only) in your bank account number 2104916025 with the name Akeem Ibrahim Salaudeen with the United Bank of Africa Plc which you knew to be proceeds of criminal conduct and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 319 (a) of the Penal Code Laws of Northern Nigeria”

The defendants pleaded guilty when the charges were read to them.

The court thereafter convicted and sentenced the defendants to various jail terms relying on the credibility of the cases presented before it and the unchallenged evidence of the prosecution.

Justice Awogboro sentenced Aminu to 200 (Two Hundred) hours community service without an option of fine. The judge also ordered that the sum of 50,000cfa and N368,500 (Three Hundred and Sixty-Eight Thousand, Five Hundred Naira Only) recovered from him at the point of arrest be forfeited to the Federal Government.

Justice Gegele on his part sentenced the duo of Akeem and Abdullahi to six months imprisonment each with an option of N150,000 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only). The sum of N4,069, 000.00 (Four Million, Sixty Nine Thousand Naira Only) recovered from Akeem alongside his iphone 11 and \$600 (Six Hundred Dollars) recovered from Abdulahi together with iphone 11 pro max, being proceeds of their crimes were forfeited to the Federal Government.

The convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested for internet-related fraud. They were investigated, charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[kwara-courts-jail-bureau-de-change-operator-two-others-for-fraud](#)

10 OCT 2024

BOLAJI HENRY AKINDURO

This appears to be a wanted poster for this person put out by the EFCC. But there appears to be some problems with the programming of it so it may not display properly.

[bolaji-henry-akinduro](#)

10 OCT 2024

Olukoyede Charges Youths to Shun Internet Crimes

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede, has called on youths across the country to shun the allure of internet crimes and resist the get-rich-quick syndrome associated with it to safeguard their future and wellbeing.

He made the call recently in Abuja at an event organized by the “Child Protection Initiative against Cybercrime”.

The EFCC boss who was represented by Assistant Superintendent of the EFCC ASE1 Ogunjobi Olalekan emphasized that there is honour in hard work and uprightness rather than in earning money through fraud and at the risk of going to prison. "You can become whatever you want to be, but don't yield to peer pressure or quick gains from cybercrime," he said.

While highlighting the challenges posed by internet fraud, Olukoyede cautioned that concerted efforts should be taken to break the negative hold of the fraud on nations.

He identified cybercrime enablers among Nigerian youths to include: high rate of unemployment, internal and external pressures to acquire material possessions and overly supportive parents and guardians. The latter according to him may be well-intentioned, but “inadvertently foster a lack of self-control and discipline in children,” adding that the toxic mix of societal and familial influences can lead vulnerable youths down a dangerous path of cybercrime, including online scams, identity theft, and other malicious activities.”

He identified research and development, dedicated support systems, promotion of positive online behaviour and parental involvement (controls and monitoring, family workshops) as effective measures against the allure of cybercrime.

Speaking earlier, the organizer of the event, Delmwa Gogwim said the mission of the “Child Protection Initiative against Cybercrimes” was to ensure the safety of children and teenagers in the digital space in their quest for education, entertainment, self-development, and 21st Century skill building and to enable young people to be able to express and promote themselves in the society.

“Cyber security is not just for your safety, but the safety of your loved ones. With over 140 million Nigerians connected to the internet, and more than half of them being young people, our focus is on tomorrow’s leaders. Their exposure to and utilization of the internet can be a transformative force, not only for themselves but for the entire nation,” she stated.

Similarly, the representative of the Speaker, Plateau State House of Assembly, Gabriel Dewan urged youths to be productive and shun cybercrimes and other forms of criminality

[olukoyede-charges-youths-to-shun-internet-crimes](#)

9 OCT 2024

EFCC Arrests 32 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Minna

The Kaduna Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has arrested 32 suspected internet fraudsters in Minna, the Niger State capital. The arrests followed an intelligence-driven raid on their hideout.

Items recovered from them include, nine high-end automobiles, 44 mobile phones, 20 laptop computers and internet modems.

They will be charged to court upon conclusion of investigations.

The pres release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-32-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-minna](#)

9 OCT 2024

Court Jails Three Internet Fraudsters in Kaduna

Justices R.M. Aikawa and Hauwa'u Buhari of the Federal High Court, Kaduna have convicted and sentenced the trio of AbdulFatai Ismail Alade (a.k.a hismaheel asiwaju), Audu Ishida and Elisha Smith for fraud.

They were prosecuted by Kaduna Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on separate one-count charges bordering on impersonation and money laundering. While Justice Aikawa sealed Alade's fate, Ishida and Smith were convicted and sentenced by Justice Buhari.

Alade's charge reads: "That you,Abdulfatahi Ismaeel Alade(a.k.a Hismaheel Asiwaju) sometime between 2023 and 2024, at Minna, Niger State within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, retained the total sum of \$95.00 (Ninety five Dollars) when you knew such fund forms part of proceeds of an unlawful act 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."

That of Smith reads: "That you Elisha Smith (m), sometime in May, 2024 in Jos South, Plateau State, within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, retained the total sum of N808,234.02(Eight Hundred and Eighty Thousand Two Hundred And Thirty Four Naira Two Kobo) only in your account no.9030090284 domiciled in Palmpay Bank Ltd with account name: Elisha Smith Anzaina which you knew that such fund forms part of proceeds of an unlawful act 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."

They all pleaded "guilty" to their charge when they were read to them, prompting prosecution counsel, M.E Eimonye and M. Lawal to urge the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Aikawa convicted and sentenced Alade to five years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition, he forfeited an iPhone 11 Pro mobile phone with IMEI No:353248109724490 to the federal government, while Justice Buhari convicted and sentenced Smith to four years imprisonment or to a pay of fine of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) and Ishida to two years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N400,000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition, Smith and Ishida forfeited one Samsung Galaxy S10e mobile phone with IMEI 35603232102690016 and one Oppo F1s with IMEI No: 862784037953334 respectively to the federal government.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[court-jails-three-internet-fraudsters-in-kaduna](#)

8 OCT 2024

EFCC Arrests 13 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Uyo

Operatives of the Uyo Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have apprehended 13 suspected internet fraudsters in Nwaniba area of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

They were arrested on Monday, October 7, 2024 in a sting operation following credible intelligence on their fraudulent internet activities.

Items recovered from them include, Lexus 350 saloon car with registration number BGK 698 SU Abia, Lexus 350 saloon car with registration number ABC 573 BC, Toyota Camry V6 car with registration number, UYY 888 HR Akwa Ibom, Toyota Corolla car with registration number, KTM 613 AA Akwa Ibom, six laptop computers and 20 smartphones.

They will be charged to court upon conclusion of investigations.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-13-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-uyo](#)

8 OCT 2024

EFCC Arrests 15 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Fifteen suspected internet fraudsters were on Monday, October 7, 2024 arrested by operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, in Benin City.

The suspects were arrested following actionable intelligence on their suspected involvement in computer-related fraud.

Items recovered from them include four exotic cars, laptops and phones.

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are completed.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-15-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

8 OCT 2024

Lagos Court Jails Man One Year for Possession of Fraudulent Documents

Justice O.O. Abike-Fadipe of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, convicted and sentenced one Nonso Joseph Ekeocha to one year imprisonment for possession of fraudulent documents.

Ekeocha was prosecuted by the Lagos Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a one-count charge bordering on possession of fraudulent documents used to perpetrate romance scam.

The count reads: "Nonso Joseph Ekeocha, on or about the 27th June, 2024 in Lagos, within the judicial division of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, had in your possession, 'Instagram Profile Account', wherein you represented yourself as Ronald Gregory, and other related documents for an online dating scam, which you knew or ought to know to be false,"

He pleaded "guilty" to the charge.

Following his guilty plea, the prosecution counsel, I. G. Akhanolu, prayed the court to call his witness, Ismail Saifullahi, an operative of the Commission, to give a review of the facts.

Saifullahi said the defendant was arrested alongside others who engaged in computer-related fraud in Lagos on June 29, 2024.

"Upon his arrest, he was brought to the EFCC office. Items recovered from him at the point of arrest were iPhone 12 pro max and Samsung S-10 phones, which were analysed through a forensic examination.

"The analysis revealed fraudulent documents about the defendant's involvement in an online dating scam, where he represented himself as a male American bearing Ronald Gregory.

"He informed the Commission that he usually carried out the fraudulent activities

by sending love messages randomly online to members of the public and that those who showed interest in having a relationship were asked for financial assistance.”

Akhanolu further applied to tender, in evidence, the defendant’s extrajudicial statement as well as the bundle of fraudulent documents printed out from his mobile phones.

Justice Fadipe admitted them as exhibits and convicted him as charged.

When he was given the opportunity to address the court, Nonso pleaded with the court to “temper justice with mercy”, promising never to engage in internet fraud again.

Consequently, Justice Fadipe sentenced him to one-year imprisonment, with an option of N500,000.00 and 50 hours community service.

The judge also ordered that both the Iphone 12 pro max and Samsung S-10 recovered from him be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[lagos-court-jails-man-one-year-for-possession-of-fraudulent-documents](#)

5 OCT 2024

EFCC Arrests 44 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Ebonyi, Anambra States

Operatives of the Enugu Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC have arrested Forty-four (44) suspected internet fraudsters at different locations of Enugu and Anambra States.

They were arrested in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday, September 28 and 29, 2024 following actionable intelligence linking them to suspected online criminal activities.

Upon arrest, preliminary investigations showed that the suspects took advantage of social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook to defraud unsuspecting victims. Specifically, while some of the suspects specialized in using fake identities to engage foreign nationals in romantic affairs with intention to defraud them, others were found with fraudulent documents in their devices.

Other items recovered from them include laptops and different brands of sophisticated mobile phones.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-44-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-ebonyi-anambra-states](#)

4 OCT 2024

Court Jails 39 Internet Fraudsters in Abakaliki

A Federal High Court sitting in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, presided over by Justices H. I. O. Oshomah and M. T. Segun-Bello has convicted and sentenced thirty-nine (39) internet fraudsters to different jail terms.

The convicts were jailed after pleading guilty to a one-count separate charges bordering on obtaining by false presence, personation and possession of fraudulent documents upon arraignment by the Enugu Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The convicts are, Udeh Chimuanya John, Nnadi Raphael Ogomegbunam, Ani Mmesoma Emmanuel, Benjamin Obinna Ezema, Onoja Chukwuemeka Miracle, Frank Egesionu, Nze Uchenna Divine,ss Ikegwu Matthew Chukwuma, Ugwu Henry Izuchukwu, Chidiobi Kelechi Sylvester, Erozon Emmanuel Omeya, Aruma Chidiebere Emmanuel, Amaechi

Shiloh Chukwuelotam, Ajibo Sunday Chiweokwu, Amadi Mbakaogu, Emeka Ogwa, Miracle Ezema Ebube, Nwobodo Joel Obinna, Eze Emmanuel, Raymond Ugochukwu Emmanuel and Amah Matthew Olumachi.

Others include; Oparaukwu Udoka Justice, Philip Nnabuike Ozoani, Chukwueze Emmanuel Onuh, David Emeka, Henry Chinenyerem Ogbodo, Ebube Testimony Omeje, Emmanuel Stanley Odoh, Terzungwe Isaac Utor, Tersoo Stanley Ukume, Ugwu Christian Tochukwu, Omeje Favour Chimdalù, Henry Abara Ekom, Ajibo Kingsley Ebube, Nuka Christian Lucky, Obioha Chidiebube Gratus, Eze Marcel Uchenna, Enwu Stephen Chimdindu and Chinedu Nelson.

The charge against Ezema reads: “That you, Benjamin Obinna Ezema, sometime in September, 2024 in Nsukka, Enugu State within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, fraudulently impersonated one Patricia Lambert, a foreign national, through a fake Telegram account via your iPhone 14 Pro mobile phone, with intent to gain advantage for yourself from your unsuspecting victims and you thereby committed an offense contrary to Section 22 (3) (a) and (b) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention Etc.) Act, 2015 and punishable under Section 22 (4) of the same Act”.

The Charge against Chidera reads: “That you, Ezech Emmanuel Chidera, sometime in 2024 in Enugu, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, fraudulently impersonated the identity of Wei Yiming, a male foreigner and citizen of United Arab Emirates who works as a Chief Medical Officer, via your Tecno Spark 7, with intent to obtain money from unsuspecting foreign nationals and in order to gain advantage for yourself and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (3) (a) (b) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention Etc.) Act, 2015 and punishable under Section 22 (4) of the same Act”.

The convicts pleaded guilty when the charges were read to them separately and in view of their pleas, Michael Ikechukwu Ani prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

However, the defence counsel; Wisdom Ogbonna, B. E. Enyiagu, C. C. Osi-Ogbonna, Remy Agu and E. C. Chinenyeze pleaded for leniency and to temper justice with mercy, adding that the convicts were remorseful, as they have learnt their lessons.

Justice H. I. O. Oshomah, on Monday, September 23, 2024, convicted and sentenced 30 of the convicts to two years imprisonment each with an option of fine of N150,000 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) except Ukume who was given an option of fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) while on Friday, September 27, 2024, Justice M. T. Segun-Bello, convicted and sentenced Tochukwu, Ebube, Lucky, Gratus, Uchenna, Chimdindu, Nelson, Ekom and Chimdalù to three years imprisonment each with an option of fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira)

Justice Oshomah further made the following orders;

Odoh was ordered to forfeit to the Federal Government, his three plots of land located at Sweetvilla Phase 3 in Tagbati, Ibeju Lekki, Lagos State;

Ukume was ordered to forfeit the sum of N2,873,295.00 (Two Million, Eight Hundred and Seventy-three Thousand, Two hundred and Ninety-five Naira) to the Federal Government and Utor was ordered to forfeit the sum of N1,000,000 (One million naira to the Federal Government).

The Justices also ordered that their mobile phones be auctioned by the Deputy Court Registrar of the court and proceeds paid into the Treasury Single Account of the Federation. Convicts were also ordered to submit their Bank Verification Numbers and their National Identification Numbers to the court which will also be verified by the Deputy Court Registrar after which they will swear to affidavits of good behavior and another affidavit, showing that they have complied with the submission of their particulars.

The convicts were remanded at the Abakaliki Correctional facility, until they comply with the conditions.

The convicts were arrested on September 9, 2024 in Nsukka and Enugu metropolis by operatives of the Commission, following actionable intelligence linking them to cybercrimes activities.

The press release contains photos of many of the 419ers:

4 OCT 2024

Court Jails Internet Fraudster in Uyo

The Uyo Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction of one Moses Emmanuel Elemi before Justice M.A. Oyetenu of the Federal High Court, Uyo.

Elemi was arraigned by the EFCC on Thursday, October 3, 2024 on a two-count charge, bordering on criminal impersonation and intent to defraud.

One of the charges against him reads: “That you Moses Emmanuel Elemi 'M' (a.k.a Marie, sissy_ sugarbiscuit), sometime in 2024 in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, with intent to obtain property and gain advantage for yourself, fraudulently presented yourself as Araina Marie on social media platform (Instagram) and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2)(b)) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention Etc.) Amendment Act 2024 and punishable under Section 22(b) (iv) of the same.”

He pleaded “guilty” to the charge, following which prosecution counsel Enobong Ubokudom presented the statement of the defendant, his iPhone 11 Pro and printouts of fraudulent documents from his iPhone as exhibits before the court, and prayed the court to convict and sentence him accordingly, while the defence counsel M. Ette Udo pleaded with the court for leniency on the ground that the defendant was a first time offender and has become remorseful.

Justice Onyetenu afterwards convicted, cautioned and discharged him.

Elemi was arrested on June 27, 2024 at Shelter Afrik area of Uyo following credible intelligence that linked him to fraudulent internet activities.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

4 OCT 2024

Court Jails Man for \$22,297.97 Fraud in Benin-City

Justice W.I. Aziembhin of Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City, has convicted and sentenced one Ofure Prince Akpolo to three years imprisonment for retention of proceeds of crime.

The convict was prosecuted by the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Commission on September 24, 2024 on one-count charge bordering on retention of proceeds of crime.

The charge against Akpolo reads: That you Ofure Prince Akpolo (m) on or about the the 3rd day of June. 2024 in Benin City, Edo State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did without lawful authority take possession of the sum of \$22, 297.97 (Twenty-Two Thousand, Two Hundred and Ninety-Seven United States of America Dollars, Seven cent) in your domiciliary account number: 5436344024 domiciled in First City Monument Bank knowing that the money represent proceeds of your criminal conduct to wit: Cybercrime and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18 (1) (a) of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act 2004 and punishable under section 18 (2) of the same Act..

The defendant pleaded guilty to the charge when it was read to him in court, prompting the prosecution counsel, F.A Jirbo, to pray the court to convict and sentence him accordingly. However, counsel to the defendant pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, claiming that his client has become remorseful for his actions.

After listening to the submission of the counsel, Justice W.I Aziegbemhin convicted and sentenced Akpolo to three years imprisonment with an option of N500,000 fine.

The court ordered the convict to forfeit his phone, balances in his various bank accounts, being instruments and proceeds of crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria. He is to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour afterwards

The convict's journey to the Correctional Centre began following his arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Commission regarding his fraudulent activities. He was thereafter prosecuted and convicted.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[court-jails-man-for-22-297-97-fraud-in-benin-city](#)

3 OCT 2024

EFCC Arrests 43 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Port Harcourt

Operatives of the Port Harcourt Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested 43(Forty three) suspected internet fraudsters in a sting operation.

They were arrested on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 at Rumuekeni and Iwofe axes of Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

They were arrested for alleged internet fraud following actionable intelligence surveillance on their suspected involvement in computer-related offences.

Items recovered from them include different brands of mobile phones, laptops, international passports and Automated Teller Machine, ATM cards of different banks, five vehicles, two motorcycles and a Point of Sale, POS, machine.

The suspects will be charged to court upon conclusion of investigation.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-43-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-port-harcourt](#)

2 OCT 2024

EFCC Arrests 33 Suspected Internet Fraudsters, Fake Dollars in Port Harcourt

Operatives of the Port Harcourt Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, have arrested 33(thirty-three) suspected internet fraudsters in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

They were arrested in their hideouts around Iwofe and Ogboro axes of Port Harcourt in a sting operation, based on credible intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet fraud.

Items recovered from the suspects include various mobile phone devices, laptops, boxes of fake United States Dollars, fake Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI stamps, Customs stamps, airport clearance stamps, DHL and FedEx stamps and two cars

The suspects would be charged to court upon conclusion of investigations.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-33-suspected-internet-fraudsters-fake-dollars-in-port-harcourt](#)

2 OCT 2024

EFCC Arrests 21 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Yola

Operatives of the Gombe Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested 21(twenty one) suspected internet fraudsters in Yola, Adamawa state.

They were arrested on Tuesday, September 24 , 2024 at different locations around Modobo Adamawa University , Yola.

Items recovered at the points of arrest include 13 iphones, 12 Android phones, one laptop and one tablet phone.

The suspects would soon be charged to court.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-21-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-yola](#)

30 SEP 2024

EFCC Arrests 24 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Monday September 30, 2024 arrested 24 suspected fraudsters at different locations within Benin City.

The suspects were arrested following actionable intelligence of their suspected involvement in computer-related fraud.

Items recovered from them include 11 exotic cars, laptops and phones. The sum of N160,000 (One Hundred and Sixty Thousand Naira) was also recovered from one of the suspects.

The suspects have made useful statements and will be charged to court as soon as investigations are completed.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-24-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

28 SEP 2024

EFCC Arrests 13 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Sokoto

Operatives of the Sokoto Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested thirteen(13) suspected internet fraudsters in Sokoto, Sokoto State.

They were arrested on Saturday, September 28, 2024 at Gidan Yaro and Dandima areas of Sokoto based on actionable intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet-related offences.

All the suspects claimed to be students of Usmanu Danfodio University Sokoto .

They will be charged to court upon conclusion of investigations.

The press release includes a photo:

[efcc-arrests-13-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-sokoto"](#)

26 SEP 2024

Court Jails Two for Internet Fraud in Kaduna

Justice Hauwa'u Bubari of the Federal High Court, sitting in Kaduna has convicted and sentenced the duo of Audu Ishida and Elisha Smith to six years imprisonment for fraud.

They were prosecuted by the Kaduna Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC on a separate-count charge, bordering on impersonation, retention of proceeds of fraud and money laundering.

Smith's charge reads: "That you Elisha Smith (m) sometime in May, 2024, in Jos South, Plateau State, within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, retained the total sum of N808,234.02(Eight Hundred and Eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Thirty-four Naira Two Kobo only), in your account no.9030090284, domiciled at Palmpay Bank Ltd with account name: Elisha Smith Anzaina which you knew that such fund forms part of proceeds of an unlawful act 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."

That of Ishida reads: "That you Audu Ishida (Baddie Kylemili) on or about the 2nd of June, 2024 in Jos, within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, retained the total sum of \$50 U.S from your victim, which you reasonably ought to have known forms parts of proceeds of an unlawful act and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 20(a) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition)Act,2022 and punishable under Section 20(b) of the same Act."

They pleaded "guilty" to the charges when they were read to them, prompting prosecution counsel, M.E Eimonye to urge the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

After listening to the plea of the defence counsel, the judge convicted and sentenced Smith to four years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira), while he convicted and sentenced Ishida to two years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira).

Beside their prison terms, they forfeited their mobile phones, a Samsung Galaxy S10e and one Oppo F1s.

Both convicts were arrested in Jos, Plateau State, following intelligence that linked them with fraudulent internet activities.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[court-jails-two-for-internet-fraud-in-kaduna](#)

24 SEP 2024

From CBS News (US):

Inside the "hustle kingdom," where overseas scammers prey on Americans online

CBS news has done an excellent piece on West African Advance Fee Fraud with embedded videos etc. It is based on investigations done in Ghana, and one should keep in mind that while locals there also participate in 419 operations, many such operations in Ghana or elsewhere are often in fact Nigerian operated, staffed, or managed. The article is too long to be reproduced here, so here is a link to the piece, for as long as it is good:

[Inside the "hustle kingdom](#)

20 SEP 2024

Lagos Court Jails Businessman Four Years for Issuance

of False Documents

Justice R. A. Osodi of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on Friday, September 20, 2024, convicted and sentenced a businessman, Bernard Okechukwu Nzenwa, to four years and 11 months imprisonment over issuance of false documents.

Nzenwa, alongside his company, Omega Maritime and Energy Ltd. was arraigned on December 7, 2022 by the Lagos Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a one-count charge bordering on issuance of false documents.

The count reads: "Bernard Okechukwu Nzenwa, Omega Maritime and Energy Limited, and Dr. Oluchi Nzenwa, (now at large), sometime on the 9th March, 2011, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, issued a false document titled, "BOND FOR THE RE-EXPORTATION OF IMPORTED GOODS DELIVERED WITHOUT PAYMENT OF IMPORT DUTIES", which you purported to have emanated from Guaranty Trust Bank Plc".

The defendant, however, pleaded "not guilty" to the charge, thereby leading to his full trial.

In the course of the trial, the prosecution counsel, G. C. Akaogu, called six witnesses, through whom several documentary evidence were presented to prove the case against him and his company.

Delivering judgment on Friday, Justice Oshodi held that the prosecution effectively proved the case against the defendants beyond reasonable doubts.

"I find the defendant guilty of false bond, false documents and fraudulent intent," he said.

Justice Oshodi sentenced him to four years and eleven months in prison, with an option of fine of N50m, while the company was fined N50 million to serve as a punishment and deterrent to others.

The journey to the Correctional Centre began for Nzenwa when he issued false documents titled: "bond for the re-exportation of imported goods delivered without payment of import duties to exporters". He was charged to court and found guilty of false bond, false document and false intent.

The press release contains a photo:

[lagos-court-jails-businessman-four-years-for-issuance-of-false-documents](#)

20 SEP 2024

EFCC Hands over Recovered Monetary Asset to Spanish Ambassador

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede on Friday, September 20, 2024 handed over €5100 (Five Thousand, One Hundred Euros) proceeds of crime to the Spanish Ambassador to Nigeria, His Excellency, Juan Ignacio Sell.

The sum was recovered from a Nigerian romance fraudster for Heinz Burchard Einhaus Uchtmann, a Spanish victim by the EFCC in collaboration with the Spanish Police.

While handing over the deed of release on behalf of the Nigerian government, the EFCC boss expressed appreciation to the Spanish counterpart for its support to Nigeria over the years, noting that the asset recovery and handover lent evidence to the cordial relationship and collaboration between both countries and their law enforcement agencies.

"I would like to thank you for all the support over the years on behalf of your country that you have been giving to Nigeria and also for finding Nigeria a conducive place to carry out your diplomatic work and encouraging investors from Spain to come to Nigeria and invest. On our part as a law enforcement agency, the event here today is a testament of the collaboration between

Nigeria and Spain and also between the law enforcement agencies in Nigeria and those in Spain,” he said.

While noting that the borderless nature of internet crimes has made collaboration and partnership among countries and law enforcement compelling, he stated the resolve of the EFCC to make the country uncondusive for the corrupt and the fraudulent.

“It has become very imperative for us to understand that financial crimes have become a borderless crime. Sometimes you will discover that they operate from a different country and get their victims in another country and the proceeds of crime go to a different country. On our path, we are resolute to ensure that Nigeria is not made a safe haven for financial criminals and corrupt people. We do it to cleanse our system in collaboration with our partners across the world. We are much more ready to continue to do that. In the interest of both countries we must do what we have to do. There must be mutual trust, mutual support for us to ensure that we cleanse the global financial ecosystem from being destroyed,” he said.

According to the EFCC boss, the resources criminals control across the world outstrip the wealth in the technology industry, adding that “That is why it has become imperative for all governments across the world to come together much more than ever before to collaborate in order to sanitize the global financial ecosystem and ensure that the activities of these criminals do not thrive. And that was what informed our determination in ensuring that anybody who perpetrates whatever is called romance scam or sextortion would not get away with it.

Speaking further, Olukoyede stated that “With the investigation in this romance scam, we were able to make some recoveries for one of your citizens, Heinz Burchard Einhaus Uchtmann who became a victim of romance scam. And we are happy to inform you that we have been able to recover €5100 (Five Thousand, One Hundred Euros) for him and we have evidence that the money has also been transferred to him. So what we are doing here today is just to formalize the transfer of the proceeds of crime and to ensure that we strengthen our collaboration and relationship and even take it to a higher level. I want to let you know that what we are doing here is on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria, which has given us the mandate to do this work.”

A happy Ambassador Sell in his response, lauded the collaboration between the EFCC and Spanish Police and pledged the commitment of the Spanish government to strengthen and take it higher.

“Many times you work on processes and you will never see the end result of your endeavours but what has made this special is the fact that we have seen the results of the efforts of the collaboration of two countries that are friends for the benefit of the citizens. Indeed this is a joyful moment for all of us: those who were involved in the investigation and those who supervised it and made it happen,” he said.

Similarly, Sell noted that “International crimes call very clearly for stronger collaboration between agencies and between countries. I am a witness that this is happening between Nigeria and Spain and specifically between the EFCC and Spanish Police. Beyond the operational collaboration you have with our police, we will also look at other avenues of collaboration in training and exchange of information. We are more than willing and more than ready to increase that cooperation between the EFCC and its sister institutions in Spain. So let us congratulate ourselves for what we are witnessing today. I am happy for the victim. Romance scams are particularly heinous in the sense that they thrive on the goodwill and good heart of the victims.”

Witnessing the event were top management staff of the EFCC and a delegation of Spanish Police Attache from the Spanish Embassy.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-hands-over-recovered-monetary-asset-to-spanish-ambassador](#)

419 Coalition comment: We love reporting on recovery and repatriation of 419ed monies and look forward to reporting on many more stories like this one in the future.

19 SEP 2024

EFCC Arrests 10 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Abuja

The operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 arrested 10 suspected internet fraudsters in Abuja.

The suspects were arrested in a pre-dawn operation at the River Park Estate in Lugbe area of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

Items recovered from them include a Range Rover, two Lexus cars, a Toyota Camry, laptop computers and iPhones.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

[efcc-arrests-10-suspected-internet-fraudster-in-abuja](#)

19 SEP 2024

EFCC Arrests 29 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Abuja

Operatives of the Abuja Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 arrested 29 suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested at several locations in the Gwagwalada area of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT following credible intelligence about their suspected involvement in internet fraud.

32 phones of different types were recovered from them.

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

[efcc-arrests-29-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abuja](#)

17 SEP 2024

Court Jails 22 Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

The Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission between September 5 and 13, 2024 secured the conviction of 22 internet fraudsters before Justice Igho Braimoh of Edo State High Court, sitting in Benin City.

The convicts are Emmanuel Osakpolor Bright, Omoigui Kelvin, Isaac Jonathan, Edem Progress, Philip Desmond, Eharevba Destiny, Emmanuel Joseph, Abdulrasheed Ayatudeen, Desmond Nosakhare, Ani Micheal Chukwuemeka, Antony Oluchukwu Okocha, Abdulhafiz Abdulmumin Yamah, Eke Silver Miracle, Godstime Obasuyi and Nzubechukwu Godswill.

Others are Aliyu Tijani Ayomide, Stephen Odafe, Anderson Tega Obodo, Abijan Mudiaga Sagin, Job Samuel, Favour Nasiru and Omogaga Precious.

They were prosecuted on a separate one-count charge bordering on obtaining by false pretence, retention of proceeds of crime and possession of fraudulent documents.

The charge against Emmanuel Osakpolor Bright reads: "That you Osakpolor (m) on or about the 5th of September, 2024 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contained false pretence, thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their charges when they were read to them, prompting the prosecution counsel, Francis Jirbo, I.M Elodi, K. Y. Bello, I.K. Agwai, Ibrahim Faisal and Ahmed Salihu to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to

temper justice with mercy, stating that they have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Braimoh afterwards convicted and sentenced Anthony Okocha, Abdulrasheed, Omoigui, Egharevba Destiny, Eke Miracle, Jonathan, Nosakhare and Godswill to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200, 000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each, while Desmond, Edem Progress, Joseph Emmanuel, Chukwuemeka, Abdulhafiz, Godstime Obasuyi and Osakpolo Bright bagged three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each.

On Friday, September 13, Justice Braimoh convicted and sentenced the trio of Ayomide, Odafe and Obodo to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each, while the quartet of Sagin, Samuel, Nasiru and Precious bagged three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two hundred thousand Naira) each.

The judge ordered the forfeiture of two Lexus cars recovered from Eke Miracles and Omogaga Precious being proceeds of crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

All the convicts are to forfeit their phones, laptops, and money in their respective bank accounts to the Federal Government of Nigeria and to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour henceforth.

The convicts' journey to the Correctional Centre began following their arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the EFCC through a sting operation owing to their involvement in fraudulent internet activities. They were subsequently charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos of many of the 419ers:

[court-jails-22-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

11 SEP 2024

Court Jails American Businessman, Marco Ramirez 68 Years for \$1.6m Visa Fraud in Lagos

Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, convicted an American businessman, Marco Antonio Ramirez, for \$1.2 million EB-5 visa scam .

The Judge also convicted him for a separate \$368,698.24 fraud.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, prosecuted Ramirez alongside his companies, USA NOW LLC, Eagle Ford Instalodge Group LP and USA Now Energy Capital Group LP, for an alleged \$1,235,000 EB-5 visa scam.

The defendant allegedly obtained the money from his victims as processing fees for their investments in his company, USA Now Energy Capital Group LP, in the Employment-Based Fifth Preference (EB-5) United States of America Investor Programme, which would qualify them to be eligible for the issuance of USA Green Card.

The defendant, however, allegedly reneged on his promise.

He was initially arraigned on a 12-count charge, to which he pleaded "not guilty".

He was also re-arraigned by the EFCC on June 24, 2022 on an amended 16-count charge.

Count 13 of the amended charge reads: "Marco Antonio Ramirez, USA NOW LLC, Eagle Ford Instalodge Group LP, and USA Now Energy Capital Group LP, between 5th February 2013 and 18th April 2013 at Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, dishonourably converted to your personal use the aggregate sum of \$545,000 property of Godson Onyemaechi Echegile."

Count 14 reads: "Marco Antonio Ramirez, USA NOW LLC, and USA Now Energy Capital Group LP, between 12th July 2012 and 7th November 2012 at Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court , dishonourably converted to your personal

use the aggregate sum of \$314,800 property of Abubakar Umar Sadiq."

Count 15 reads: "Marco Antonio Ramirez, USA NOW LLC, and USA Now Energy Capital Group LP, between 19th February 2013 and 18th April 2013 at Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, dishonourably converted to your personal use the aggregate sum of \$230,000 property of Abubakar Umar Sadiq."

The prosecuting counsel, M.S. Owede, tendered several documentary evidence and called witnesses to substantiate the allegations against him.

Ramirez had also been taken to the dock to defend himself of the alleged fraud.

In the course of the trial, he secured the services of Lawal Pedro, SAN.

The matter, however, suffered several adjournments at the stage of adoption of final written addresses.

The adoption finally took place on May 8, 2024.

Subsequently, Justice Dada adjourned till today, September 10, 2024 for judgment.

At the resumed on Tuesday, Justice Dada held that the prosecution proved its case against Ramirez beyond reasonable doubts.

He was, thereafter, found guilty as charged and sentenced to 10 years each on counts one to 12 bordering on obtaining by false pretence, and 10 years each on counts 13 to 16 bordering on stealing.

Also, on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 Justice Dada found Ramirez guilty on separate amended nine-count charge bordering on an alleged \$368,698.24 fraud filed against him by the EFCC.

One of the counts reads: "Marco Antonio Ramirez, USA NOW LLC, and USA Now Energy Capital Group LP, on or about the 26th day of July, 2013 at Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, obtained the sum of \$250,000 from Gabriel Ogie Edeogho under the false representation that the sum was his investment in your company: USA NOW Energy Capital Group LP in the Employment-Based Fifth Preference (EB-5) United States of America Investor Programme, which investment would qualify him to be eligible to a USA Green Card, and which representation you knew to be false."

Another count reads: "Marco Antonio Ramirez, on or about the 5th day of March, 2014 at Lagos, within the Jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, obtained the sum of \$50,281.33 from Oludare Talabi, under the false representation that the said sum is to procure United States of America L1 VISA programme for him, which representation you knew to be false."

He also pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when they were read to him.

The prosecuting counsel, S.O. Daji, also tendered several documentary evidence against him and called witnesses to testify against him.

The proceedings had also suffered several adjournments occasioned by the absence of the defence counsel, Lawal Pedro, SAN, and the inability of the defence to file its own final written addresses in good time, even after the prosecution counsel, M.S. Owede and S.O. Daji, had filed theirs for the separate charges, respectively.

After the adoption on May 8, 2024, Justice Dada also adjourned till Tuesday for judgment.

Delivering judgment, Justice Dada held that the prosecution proved its case against Ramirez beyond reasonable doubts.

Consequently, Justice Dada sentenced him to eight years each on counts one to six and 10 years each on counts seven to eight.

[court-jails-american-businessman-marco-ramirez-68years-for-1-6m-visa-fraud-in-lagos](#)

10 SEP 2024

Abuja Court Jails Man for Internet Fraud

The Abuja Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on September 9, 2024 secured the conviction and sentence of one Nelson Solomon before Justice I. Nwosu of the FCT High Court Maitama, Abuja.

Solomon was prosecuted on a two-count charge, bordering on impersonation, cheating and obtaining by false pretence.

Count one of his charges reads: “That you Nelson Solomon, sometime in 2024 in Abuja within the jurisdiction of this honourable court committed the offence of cheating by impersonation when you fraudulently induced one Webbi J.W. Mary to deliver the sum of \$100 (One Hundred United States Dollars) to you by pretending to be one John Scott, an American engineer and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 of the Penal Code Act Laws of the Federation 2004 and punishable under Section 324 of the same Act.”

Count two reads: “That you Nelson Solomon sometime in 2024 in Abuja within the jurisdiction of this honourable court committed the offence of cheating by impersonation when you fraudulently induced one Miguela Okayama to deliver the sum of \$100 (One Hundred United States Dollars) to you by pretending to be one William Fernando, an American and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 of the Penal Code Act Laws of the Federation 2004 and punishable under Section 324 of the same Act.”

He pleaded “guilty” to the charges, prompting prosecution counsel G.I. Ushie to pray the court to convict and sentence him accordingly.

Justice Nwosu thereafter convicted and sentenced him to a one year imprisonment or to pay N50, 000 (Fifty Thousand Naira) fine. In addition, he forfeited his Iphone to the federal government.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[abuja-court-jails-man-for-internet-fraud](#)

10 SEP 2024

Court Jails Internet Fraudster in Enugu

Justice Mohammed Garba Umar of the Federal High Court, sitting in Independence Layout, Enugu has convicted and jailed one Okwudili Joseph for fraud.

He was prosecuted on one-count-charge bordering on impersonation and cybercrime by the Enugu Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The charge reads: “That you, Okwudili Joseph, on or about the 5th day of June, 2024 at Enugu, Enugu State, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, fraudulently impersonated one Jim Warren, a gas detection specialist from United States of America with intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (3) (a) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) Act, 2015 and punishable under Section 22 (4) of the same Act.”

He pleaded “guilty” when the charge was read to him, following which prosecution counsel, Mohammed Shehu reviewed the facts of the case and prayed the court to convict and sentence him accordingly, while the defence counsel, G. C. Ugwele prayed the court to temper justice with mercy, arguing that her client has become remorseful of his action and has learned his lesson as well.

After listening to both sides, Justice Umar convicted and sentenced Joseph to two years imprisonment with hard labour or to pay a fine of N200, 000. 00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira).

The convict’s road to jail began with his arrest by EFCC operatives on June 5, 2024 in Nike, Enugu, following credible intelligence that linked him to fraudulent internet activities. He admitted to commission of the crime upon arrest and willingly tendered

his confessional statements.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[court-jails-internet-fraudster-in-enugu](#)

9 SEP 2024

EFCC Arrests 46 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Warri

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Sunday, September 8, 2024 arrested 46 suspected internet fraudsters at different locations within Warri, Delta State.

They were arrested following credible intelligence on their alleged involvement in internet- related fraud.

Items recovered from them include 13 exotic cars, laptops and phones.

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-46-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-warri](#)

9 SEP 2024

Court Jails 17 Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Justice Igbo Braimoh of Edo State High Court, sitting in Benin City has convicted and sentenced 17 internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

The convicts are: Oserei John Vianny, Osaro Moses, Desmond Okoduwa, Obi Isaac, Joshua Omoruyi, Iyabosa Omoruyi, Jeffery Omoruyi, Odion Alex Idada, Aisosa Aiyeki, Prosper Aimiomwona.

Others are: Cherish Omoruyi, Kelly Omoruyi, Victor Osaze, Obobor Moses, Timothy Ogie, Osemuahu Godspower, Bonny Stephen.

They were prosecuted by the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on separate one-count charge bordering on obtaining by false pretence and possession of fraudulent documents.

The charge against Oserei John Vianny reads: "That you Oserei John Vianny (m) on or about the 10th of June, 2024 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contained false pretence, thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."

All the defendants pleaded "guilty" to their charge when they were read to them, prompting the prosecution counsel, I.K. Agwai, Ibrahim Faisal and Ahmed Salihu to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, stating that they have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Braimoh afterwards convicted and sentenced Vianny, Idada, Cherish Omoruyi, Kelly Omoruyi, Aiyeki, Obobor Moses and Osaro Moses to two years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N200, 000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each, while Iyabosa Omoruyi, Joshua Omoruyi, Aimiomwona, Ogie, Godspower, Stephen, Jeffery Omoruyi, Osaze and Isaac bagged three years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each. Desmond was handed three years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira).

Furthermore, the judge ordered the forfeiture of a Toyota Camry, Mercedes Benz 350, Rav4 Toyota, Mercedes Benz C300 recovered from Desmond Okoduwa, Isaac, Aiyeki being proceeds of their crime to the federal government. In addition, all the convicts forfeited their phones, laptops, and money in their respective bank accounts to the federal government and undertook in writing to be of good behaviour henceforth.

The convicts' journey to the correctional centre began with their arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the EFCC following credible intelligence on their involvements in fraudulent internet activities.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[court-jails-17-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

9 SEP 2024

EFCC Arraigns Fake NNPC Director for N100m Fraud

The Kaduna Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has arraigned one Ibrahim Nuhu Shuaibu before Justice Darius Khobo of the Kaduna State High Court, sitting in Kaduna State for fraud.

Shuaibu is being prosecuted on a seven-count charge bordering on criminal breach of trust, impersonation and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of N100 million.

Count one of his charge reads: "That you, Nuhu Ibrahim Shuaibu (a.k.a Ishaku Abdulrazak) (M) and Ilya Garba (now deceased) sometime in 2017 in Kaduna within the judicial division of this honorable court did conspire between yourselves to do an illegal act, to wit: obtaining money under false pretence and 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."

Another reads: "That you, Nuhu Ibrahim Shuaibu (a.k.a Ishaku Abdulrazak)(M) sometime in 2018 at Kaduna within the judicial division of this honorable court, with intent to defraud, obtained the total sum of N47,050,000.00(Forty Seven Million and Fifty Thousand Naira) from one Faisal Safiyanu, when you claimed to supply him petroleum products, which pretence you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1) (a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offenses Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."

He pleaded "not guilty" to all the charges when they were read to him, prompting the prosecution counsel, M. Lawal to urge the court to fix a trial date. His counsel, AbdulKareem Audu failed to file a bail application.

Justice Khobo afterwards ordered the defendant to be remanded in the custody of the EFCC.

Shuaibu's journey to prosecution started sometime in 2017 when he presented himself to his victim as NNPC's Group Executive Director and promised to assist him procure over 2000 litres of petroleum products for which the victim transferred the agreed cost to his bank accounts in tranches. Shuaibu failed to fulfil his own part of the bargain after receiving payment and failed to refund his victim his money.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arraigns-fake-nnpcl-director-for-n100m-fraud](#)

9 SEP 2024

Court Jails Two Internet Fraudsters in Kaduna

Justice Darius Khobo of the Kaduna State High Court sitting in Kaduna has convicted and sentenced the duo of Nathaniel David Akogun (a.k.a T.D Jakes Official) and Samuel Oduma (a.k.a Loius Tomlinson) to prison for fraud.

They were prosecuted on separate one-count charge each, bordering on internet

fraud, impersonation and intention to defraud by the Kaduna Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The charge against Oduma reads: “That you Samuel Oduma (a.k.a Loius Tomlinson) ”M”, sometime in January 2023 in Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, impersonated one Loius Tomlinson from United Kingdom on Instagram by presenting yourself as a celebrity with intent to defraud unsuspecting persons and in such assumed character as Loius Tomlinson, committed impersonation, an offence contrary to Section 142(1) of the Penal Code Law,2017 of Kaduna State and punishable under same law.”

Akogun’s charge reads: “That you Nathaniel David Akogun (a.k.a T.D Jakes Official) on or about the 11th of August 2024 at Rabah Road, Badarawa, Kaduna State, within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, impersonated one T.D Jakes Official on Facebook (an online social media platform) and in such assumed character, posed as a foreigner interested in online dating to the unsuspecting members of the public and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 142(1) of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law 2017.”

They all pleaded “guilty” when their charges were read to them, prompting the prosecution counsel, M.U Gadaka to urge the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Khobo, afterwards convicted and sentenced, Oduma to three years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N400,000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition, he forfeited his Iphone 11 Pro to the federal government of Nigeria, while Akogun was convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment or to pay a fine of N350,000.00. (Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira). He also forfeited his Iphone 7 Plus and one Huawei P30 Lite to the government.

The two fraudsters bagged their imprisonment when they were charged to court by the EFCC for internet fraud. The court found them guilty and sentenced them accordingly.

The press release contains a photo of each 419er:

[court-jails-two-internet-fraudsters-in-kaduna](#)

7 SEP 2024

Recovery of Illicit Assets: Olukoyede Seeks Collaboration of Global Anti- Graft Agencies

Bothered by the issues of illicit financial flows and assets, the Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has called for greater collaboration among law enforcement agencies across the world, not only to trace but also to recover and reintegrate illicit assets into the rightful financial systems.

He made the call on Friday, September 6, 2024 while leading discussions at Session 16 in the ongoing International Symposium on Economic Crime at the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom. He pointed out that navigating the challenges in recovering illicit assets and blocking Illicit Financial Flows is indeed a multifaceted endeavour that demands collaboration and shared responsibility.

He particularly threw a responsibility at destination countries where stolen funds and assets are being warehoused, stressing that no recovery of illicit assets can succeed without their readiness to expose and block all avenues for illicit flow of funds.

“In our pursuit of asset recovery, we advocate for a more concerted effort by destination countries to prevent the entry of illicit funds’, he said. In this context, he pointed at the need for due diligence processes, improved regulatory frameworks and closer cooperation among origin and destination countries.

Olukoyede, who spoke through the Special Assistant to the President on Prosecution of Economic Crimes, Mr. Rotimi Oyedepo, SAN, explained further that legal and moral obligations are imperative to build a financial system that is resistant to the infiltration of illicit funds.

To achieve this, he sued for effective mutual legal assistance, information sharing

and joint initiatives to address the root causes of illicit financial flows.

He intimated the audience with what Nigeria has been doing in its asset recovery efforts especially the integration of key principles of the Common African Position on Asset Recovery, CAPAR, into it.

“These principles include promotion of transparency and accountability in financial institutions, alignment of legal and taxation systems with international standards, advocacy for simplified legal procedures in destination countries, and holding facilitators of illicit financial flows accountable”, he said.

In another presentation by Oyedepo on the efforts of Nigerian government in the areas of asset forfeiture, he clearly stated that no stone is being left unturned in the country to recover illicit assets.

“Legal frameworks being used in Nigeria are yielding robust benefits”, he said. He spoke about Non Conviction- based Asset Recovery and Conviction- based Asset Recovery and submitted that considerable successes have been achieved through the two modalities. “We need the collaboration of every nation to offer us assistance and responses whenever we seek such, especially in our efforts to recover illicit assets stashed overseas”, he said.

The 41st International Symposium on Economic Crime holding in Cambridge will come to an end on Sunday, September 8, 2024.

The press release contains a photo:

[recovery-of-illicit-assets-olukoyede-seeks-collaboration-of-global-anti-graft-agencies](#)

419 Coalition comment: We of course support cooperation in recovery and repatriation of stolen monies and assets to the citizens of all nations. However, we expect the cooperating governments and agencies to expend as much effort in recovering monies and assets stolen from the citizens of other nations as they do in recovering monies and assets stolen from its own citizens. And of course recovered monies and assets must be promptly repatriated to the victims of financial crimes from all nations.

6 SEP 2024

EFCC Hands over Recovered 53 Vehicles, \$180,300 to Canadian Royal Mounted Police

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede on Friday, September 6, 2024 handed over to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) the sum of \$180,300 and 53 vehicles, being assets recovered for Canadian victims of Nigerian fraudsters.

One Hundred and Sixty-four Thousand US Dollars (\$164,000) of the recovered cash assets belong to a victim, identified as Elena Bogomas while \$16,300 (Sixteen Thousand, Three Hundred US Dollar) belong to another victim known as Sandra Butler. The recovered 53 vehicles were stolen over a period of time in Canada, freighted to Nigeria and distributed to multiple locations in Nigeria by the criminal elements.

Representing the RCMP in the hand over ceremony which was performed at the Chairman’s Conference Room, EFCC corporate headquarters, Jabi, Abuja were Robert Aboumitri, First Secretary, Deputy High Commission of Canada and Nasser Salihou, Liason Officer and Programme Manager, RCMP.

Olukoyede who was elated by the successes of EFCC’s collaborations with the RCMP noted that the efforts that led to the recoveries and the hand over ceremony spoke strongly to the fact that the Nigerian government was intolerant of fraud and corruption.

“We are here today to witness the handing over of assets recovered on behalf of the Canadian victims of cybercrime. What the EFCC is doing today is on behalf of the Federal Government of Nigeria. This is to demonstrate that the government of Nigeria will never and for whatever reason tolerate any act of financial crime. It is a demonstration of the fact that President Asiwaju Bola Ahmed has given us the mandate to extend our hands of fellowship and collaboration with you to ensure that this particular problem is resolved. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, RCMP has been collaborating with us and that commitment has resulted in a lot of recoveries.

“The operation took a couple of years and eventually it resulted in substantial recoveries. So we deem it necessary to let our colleagues and our friends from the Canadian Royal Mounted Police know that as an agency, EFCC, and as a country, we are always ready to fight financial crimes. Nigeria is not, shouldn’t necessarily be seen as a hub, it’s a transit camp, the way Canada is a transit camp and most countries across the world because they move from one jurisdiction to another,” he said.

The EFCC boss noted that the fluid and intricate nature of transnational crimes and the challenges they pose have made synergy and collaboration among law enforcement agencies more compelling. “It is common knowledge that financial crimes have taken a new turn all cross the globe and have become a global problem. What affects one country in a matter of time ends up affecting several other countries. The people who perpetrate these crimes do it in such a way that their activities are borderless and boundless and they employ all kinds of means, tactics while moving across various jurisdictions.

“That is why it has become very necessary and imperative for us to collaborate with all our friends across the world, that is, people who share the same objectives and mandate with us. Most of the countries across the world are collaborating with us in the area of fighting financial crimes. We investigate, pursue, recover, prosecute and ensure that victims of fraud are restituted,” he said.

Salihou in his remarks expressed appreciation and averred that the success of the EFCC’s endeavor testified to the Commission’s diligence and professionalism.

“I would like to on behalf of the RCMP extend our warm greeting and thank you for all the work that has been done and I am pretty sure the victims will hear and they will say the same. This is a testimony of your professionalism and your commitment to combat crime. I would not conclude my statement without thanking the government of Nigeria as well. With your permission Mr. Chairman, all other countries will be jealous of you. This shows that you are our key partner in West Africa in combating crimes. So thank you very much. We value this partnership and we will like to take it to the highest level possible,” he said.

Aboumitri who shared similar joy revealed that the need to confront borderless crimes was the primary motivation of the Canadian government to establish the RCMP in Nigeria. “The RCMP decided to open an office in Nigeria in September 2021 because there was a recognition that while we are bound by jurisdictions, criminals are not and in order for us to fight crimes we need to actually go beyond jurisdiction and this is why we are here. And we have found out that in Nigeria one of our best partners is, has been and hoping it will continue to be is the EFCC. We never knocked EFCC’s door without them answering. It has been a great partnership and the culmination of the partnership is the result that we are seeing. We would like to thank you. We would like to thank the government of Nigeria and I will be amiss if I don’t thank the people we work with everyday in your team in Lagos”, he said.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-hands-over-recovered-53-vehicles-180-300-to-canadian-royal-mounted-police](#)

419 Coalition Comment: Now, this is kind of EFCC press release we love to see. And we also commend the RCMP for maintaining an office and presence in Nigeria.

5 SEP 2024

From the Associated Press (US) by way of Yahoo (US) News:

2 Nigerian brothers sentenced for sextortion that led to teen's death

MARQUETTE, Mich. (AP) — Two brothers from Nigeria were sentenced to 17 1/2 years in federal prison Thursday after pleading guilty to sexually extorting teenage boys and young men across the U.S., including a 17-year-old from Michigan who took his own life.

A federal judge sentenced Samuel Ogoshi, 24, and Samson Ogoshi, 21, after hearing emotional testimony from the parents and stepmother of Jordan DeMay, who was 17 when he killed himself at his family's home in Marquette, in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

The Ogoshis, both from Lagos, Nigeria, had previously been extradited from Nigeria

to stand trial. The brothers each pleaded guilty in April to conspiring to sexually exploit teenage boys.

They were accused of running an international sextortion ring in which they posed as a woman, a scheme which resulted in DeMay's March 2022 suicide. The siblings were accused of inducing DeMay to send a naked picture of himself and then extorting him. Federal prosecutors said their sextortion schemes targeted more than 100 victims, including DeMay.

"Today's sentencing of Samuel and Samson Ogoshi sends a thundering message," U.S. Attorney Mark Totten said in a statement. "To criminals who commit these schemes: you are not immune from justice. We will track you down and hold you accountable, even if we have to go half-way around the world to do so."

Sexual extortion, or sextortion, involves persuading a person to send explicit photos online and then threatening to make the images public unless the victim pays money or engages in sexual favors. The offense has a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison and a maximum penalty of 30 years.

U.S. District Judge Robert J. Jonker, who also sentenced the Ogoshis to five years of supervision following their release, said he would decide what restitution the brothers must make once he receives additional information.

Before sentencing the brothers, Jonker said the case called for long sentences. He said both of the defendants had shown a "callous disregard for life," while noting that the siblings had continued their sextortion scams even after learning that DeMay had killed himself.

"The continuation of the overall scheme even after there was certain knowledge that one individual, the individual in this case, took his own life points to the need for a high sentence," the judge said during Samson Ogoshi's sentencing hearing.

DeMay's mother, Jennifer Buta, told the court during Samuel Ogoshi's sentencing that her son's death had left her "shattered to the core, infuriated and trapped in grief." She said the last text her son sent her was "Mother I love you" — a text she awoke to and thought was endearing until she learned that Jordan had killed himself in his bedroom.

"What I thought was an endearing message from Jordan was his goodbye and his reassurance of his love for me," Buta said. "I would never have imagined that while I was asleep both of the defendants hid behind their screens and tortured Jordan for hours while he was alone."

DeMay's stepmother, Jessica DeMay, said during her tearful testimony that she and Jordan's other relatives will "never again experience pure joy" because every happy moment would be tainted by "a small cloud of sadness around it" that comes from Jordan's death.

The teen's father, John DeMay, told the court he is haunted by the image of "my son laying on his bed dead with a gunshot wound to his head."

"Jordan was an amazing young man. He was resilient, he was smart, he was educated, he was an athlete. He was my only son. And you got to talk to him for the last time in his life. That's horrifying to me," he said.

Samuel Ogoshi's attorney, Sean Tilton, said his client has cooperated with authorities and has written a letter of apology. He said Samuel Ogoshi is remorseful "and feels a tremendous sense of guilt of the loss of life in this case."

Samson Ogoshi's attorney, Julia Kelly, said during his sentencing that her client is "very remorseful" and that he was 18 when he began taking part in extortion and scam attempts. She said such scams are common in Lagos, Nigeria, and he saw those as a quick way to make money.

Kelly wrote in a court filing that "hundreds of people just like him were involved in similar scamming."

"He was told who could get him a hacked account, how to make a fake profile, how to boost accounts and, because English is not his first language, was given a script of

what to say," she wrote.

The article contains a photo of the deceased teen:

[53-000-scam-court-jails-graduate-two-years-for-impersonating-singer-flavour](#)

4 SEP 2024

39 Internet Fraudsters Bag Jail Terms in Ibadan

The Ibadan Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Commission, EFCC has secured the conviction and sentence of 39 internet fraudsters from Justices O.S. Adeyemi, Bayo Taiwo and Ladiran Akintola, all of the Oyo State High Court, sitting in Ibadan.

They were prosecuted on a separate one-count charge each, bordering on impersonation, cheating, possession of fraudulent documents and obtaining by false pretence.

The convicts are: Fasanya Abdulqudus Gbolahan, Nkiri Oluchukwu Destiny, Fakoya Tobi Samuel, Owolabi Qudus Damilare, Isiaka Olajide Adebayo, Olawoyin Wasiu Olasunkanmi, Olawale Owolabi Abideen, Olayiwola Tunde Waheed, Kehinde Pelumi Abdulrauf, Okunlola Taoreed Abidoun, Okunlola Dolapo Mujeeb, Ademeso Raphael Olamide, Lawal Olajuwon Ridwan, Femi Dogo Oluremi, Ehinmowo Jeremiah Damilola, Joseph Isaac Justice, Enitan Tolulope John, Kolawole Toluwani Josaiah, Alo Ayokunnumi Emmanuel, Adetola Opeyemi Idris and Joshua Imole Shiyانبola.

Others are: Idowu Ezekiel David, Salau Abeeб Ayomide, Adeyemi Samuel Adeleke, Philip Olabode Olatunde, Fasanya Gbenga Tunde, Seun Ayomide Babatunde, Ogoayo Alabi Sijuola, Akanji Timothy Bidoun, Quadri Salami Oyindamola, Samuel Adeyemi Oluwatobi, Ogunyemi Gbolahan Opemiposi, Olabanjo Oluwafemi Olatunbosun, Paul Nneji Uche, Ayomiposi Clement Akinyimika, Abdullahi Mustapha Adisa, Ajetunmobi Azeez Olashile, Oluwaseun Adeyeye Adeniran and Onah Austine Ayomide.

The charge against Austine Ayomide reads: "That you, Onah Austine Ayomide 'M' on or about 28th March, 2024, at Ibadan, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently impersonated by representing yourself to be a white woman by the name Linda Mary from United States of America, through your Facebook account (Linda Mary) to one Clifton Deininger, from United States of America, with intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence of personation contrary to Section 484 of the Criminal Code Law Cap 38, Laws of Oyo State, 2000."

They all pleaded "guilty" to the charges when they were read to them, following which prosecution counsel reviewed the facts of the cases, tendered incriminating documents and prayed the courts to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Adeyemi convicted and sentenced Austin Ayomide to one year community service or to pay a fine of N200, 000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira), Tunde got one month jail term or to pay a fine of N250, 000.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira), while Abeeб Ayomide, Adeleke, Babatunde, Biodun, Oyindamola, Oluwatobi, Olatunbosun, Uche, Akinyimika, Adisa, Olashile and Adeniran bagged six months community service each and to pay N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira) each in addition to their sentence, besides Abeeб Ayomide who was slammed with N500, 000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) in addition to his sentence. He slammed Sijuola with one month community service or to pay a fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira). Olatunde and Opemiposi were handed three months community service without an option of fine.

Justice Taiwo on his part convicted and sentenced Taoreed Abidoun to three months imprisonment, Mujeeb to four months jail term, while Olasunkanmi and Abideen bagged six months community service each and were further ordered to pay a fine of N150, 000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) each in addition their sentences.

He convicted and sentenced Gbolahan, Damilare, Adebayo and Abdulrauf to five months community service each and gave the latter a fine option N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira). Waheed and Samuel got four months community service, and a fine of N100, 000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira), while Destiny bagged two months community service.

Justice Akintola convicted and sentenced Olamide, Oluremi, Damilola, Justice, Josaiah, Emmanuel and Shiyانبola bagged one year jail term each or to pay a fine of N30, 000.00 (Thirty Thousand

Naira), N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira), N75, 000.00 (Seventy-five Thousand Naira), N75, 000.00 (Seventy-five Thousand Naira), N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira), N120, 000.00 (One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Naira) and N100, 000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) respectively.

Damilola forfeited a green-coloured Nissan Micra car with registration number: LSD – 464 – GU with Chassis Number: SJNFBAK11U3001751; Emmanuel forfeited a black-coloured Lexus IS 250 car with registration number: MUS – 158 – JHS and Justice forfeited a black-coloured Toyota Corolla car with registration number: FST – 607 – GN.

Justice Akintola convicted and sentenced Idris and David to six months community service each or to pay fines of N60, 000.00 (Sixty Thousand Naira) and N150, 000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) respectively. Ridwan and John bagged three months community service each or to pay fines of N25, 000.00 (Twenty-five Thousand Naira) and N30, 000.00 (Thirty Thousand Naira) respectively.

The convicts forfeited all items recovered from them to the Federal Government.

All the convicts began their journey to prison when they were arrested in a sting operation for fraudulent internet activities.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[39-internet-fraudsters-bag-jail-terms-in-ibadan](#)

3 SEP 2024

EFCC, Global Anti- Graft Experts Tackle Suspect Assets in Cambridge

Top officials of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC are among a galaxy of global anti- corruption experts attending a weeklong International Symposium on Economic Crime in Cambridge, United Kingdom.

The Symposium, 41st in the series at Jesus College, one of the oldest Colleges within the University of Cambridge, is themed: “Suspect Assets” and is designed to offer insightful and explorative discourses and interventions in dealing with assets tracing, recovery, forfeiture and associated issues.

The EFCC’s team, led by Commission’s Secretary, Mohammed Hammajoda, is immersed in deep peer review of complex frameworks needed to address threats posed to nations by fraudsters, proceeds of their crimes and legal reprisals to foreclose the enjoyment of their criminal gains.

Professor Barry Rider, Founder, Executive Director and Co- Chairman, Jesus College, Cambridge, says that the Symposium focuses “ on a raft of concerns relating to the identification, interdiction, and control of suspect wealth, whether this constitutes criminal property, unexplained wealth or wealth possessed by those we don’t like! And, perhaps for the stability and security of our economies, rather more importantly, the impact- direct and indirect of such interventions on the rest of us- and in particular our financial institutions and their advisers”.

Issues pertinent to assets acquisition by fraudsters are scheduled for analyses. They include: “The nature and character of suspect wealth; Why attack assets in the first place?; Asset removal- an aspect of interdiction or a punishment; Identifying suspect wealth; Pursuing suspect wealth in cyber space and Unexplained wealth- a concept or a tool?”

Others are, “Tracing suspect wealth through the civil law; Freezing suspect wealth; Laundering suspect wealth-how can we make it more risky for those involved; Sanctions and suspect wealth; FATF grey listing; A practical update on corruption, AML & Financial Crime and Prosecuting Prime Ministers and other “ big beasts” for corruption”, among others.

Explaining the “Problems of identifying suspect wealth in the financial system”, Dr. Umar Bello, Head, Strategic Intelligence Analysis Unit, EFCC, says “the major problems are third-party money laundering, trade- based money laundering, concealment of beneficial ownership, and excessive use of cash transactions to obscure illicit sources of funds”. To break these jinxes, Bello recommended that effective case management principles should be adopted to identify suspects' wealth in the financial system. He also stressed the over-aching need for multi- lateral collaboration among agencies involved in assets tracing to strengthen their

officials in dealing with the complexities of suspect assets

Justice John Tosho, Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Nigeria, shared with the global audience efforts being made through the Nigerian criminal justice system to trace, recover and reintegrate suspect assets into the national treasury. "We are making considerable efforts to ensure that fraudsters don't get away with the proceeds of their crime," he said. He explained the processes and procedures of forfeiture of assets and the appreciable successes attendant to them.

The Symposium parades a rainbow gathering of academics, judges, lawyers, investigators, public affairs experts, government officials, policy makers, law enforcement officers across the globe.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-global-anti-graft-experts-tackle-suspect-assets-in-cambridge](#)

419 Coalition comment: Of course, 419 Coalition expects equal diligence from the EFCC in recovering and repatriating monies and assets stolen by Nigerian criminals from citizens of other nations to that it displays in recovering and restoring monies and assets stolen by Nigerian criminals from its own citizens... In short, the rest of the world expects that as we help You, in return you help all of US. Quid pro Quo.

2 SEP 2024

Stay Away from Internet Crimes, Olukoyede Charges Youths

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Cr Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede, has charged youths across the country to stay away from internet crimes and thread the paths of integrity, transparency, and accountability for the sake of their future and progress of the nation.

He gave the charge recently while delivering a Goodwill Message at the Grand Finale of the Reality House's "Head-to-Head" debate at Universal Basic Education Commission, (UBEC) Training Facility, Abuja.

Olukoyede who spoke through the Head, Enlightenment and Reorientation Unit of the EFCC, Assistant Commander of EFCC, ACE11, Aisha Mohammed told the youths that "Corruption is not just someone else's problem, it is yours, mine, and ours. It is all about unfair advantages, the bribes the lies and the cheating. It is also the silent bystander, the ignored warning sign, and the compromised value. You have a choice: to accept the statusquo or challenge it; to be part of the problem or part of the solution. You are the future, and the future is now. Let's create a Nigerian society of integrity, transparency, and accountability that we can be proud of."

He noted that the debate's goal of instilling good morals in school children aligned with the EFCC's policy of "Catching Them Young," which is geared towards raising an ethical youth population. He urged the students to recognize their special place as future leaders and stand against corruption and financial crimes, both as a personal and collective resolve.

While inducting the students as anti-corruption foot-soldiers of the EFCC, he charged them to always embody and exhibit the values of probity and hard work, promoted by the EFCC and to speak out against corruption and incidences of financial crimes.

In her remarks, the Minister of State, Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Mariya Mahmud, who was represented by Grace Adayilo noted that the debate was a strong tool for developing critical thinking and deep understanding of complex issues involved in corruption. She commended the students for their ability to engage in insightful comparison of thoughts with their peers.

On his part, the Acting Chairman of the FCT Universal Basic Education Board, Alhassan Sule, emphasized the importance of education in the society and lauded the students for their superlative performances.

The Grand Finale of the debate featured Junior Secondary School, JSS Kubwa against JSS Dutse Alhaji 11 on the topic "Poverty: A Threat to School Population," in which the latter carried the day.

Awards were presented to the students who made outstanding performances, while all those who made meaningful contributions on EFCC's lecture on cybercrime were presented with souvenirs and decorated as the Commission's Ambassadors.

The press release contains photos:

[stay-away-from-internet-crimes-olukoyede-charges-youths](#)

2 SEP 2024

Court Convicts Man for Internet Fraud in Kaduna

The Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has secured the conviction and sentence of one Manasseh Hamza Bello (a.k.a Domingos Pereira) before Justice Darius Khobo of the Kaduna State High Court, sitting in Kaduna.

Bello was prosecuted on a one-count charge bordering on impersonation. The charge reads: "That you Manasseh Hamza Bello (a.k.a Domingos Pereira) (M), sometime in 2024 at Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, committed an offence, to wit: falsely presenting yourself as Domingos Pereira (a white man) on Facebook (an online social media application), which pretence you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 142 (1) of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law 2017."

He pleaded "guilty" to the charge upon which prosecution counsel, M.U Gadaka prayed the court to convict and sentence him accordingly.

The judge consequently convicted and sentenced him to five years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N 500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition to his jail term, he forfeited iPhone 13 Pro Max mobile phone with IMEI NO: 352569485316820, a Tecno PoP 8 mobile phone with IMEI No: 356514734081920, a golden-coloured Toyota Camry car with chassis no: 4T1BE46K770153516 and registration number: GWA-434-BQ and the sum of N2,127,000.00 (Two Million, One Hundred and Twenty Seven Thousand Naira) to the federal government.

Bello was arrested and prosecuted following intelligence on the fraudulent activities of a cybercrime syndicate operating within Barnawa, Kakuri and Television Garage axis of Kaduna metropolis.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[court-convicts-man-for-internet-fraud-in-kaduna](#)

31 AUG 2024

EFCC Arrests 48 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Umudike

Operatives of the Uyo Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, have arrested forty eight (48) suspected internet fraudsters in Umudike, Abia State.

They were arrested on Friday, August 30, 2024 at different locations within Umudike, following actionable intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet fraud.

Items recovered from them include 12 exotic cars, 15 different brands of laptops and 68 expensive smart phones.

They would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-48-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-umudike](#)

29 AUG 2024

\$1million Fraud: EFCC Arrests Syndicate Impersonating Olukoyede

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested a four-man syndicate of alleged fraudsters impersonating and blackmailing the Executive Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Ola Olukoyede in a \$1million deal.

The fraudsters: Ojobo Joshua, Aliyu Hashim, Thomas Oduh and Paul Ogiji were arrested on Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at Gimbiya Street, Garki and Apo Legislative Quarters, Abuja.

The alleged fraudsters contacted a former Managing Director of the Nigeria Port Authority, NPA, Mr. Mohammed Bello-Koko claiming his indictment in some phony investigative activities of the EFCC during his tenure as the MD of NPA.

They alleged that Olukoyede was ready to give him a soft landing for \$1million or risk being arrested and prosecuted.

On receipt of intelligence regarding the moves of the impersonators, operatives of the Commission were deployed to play along with the alleged fraudsters. They were successfully arrested and in custody of the Commission.

They would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[1million-fraud-efcc-arrests-syndicate-impersonating-olukoyede](#)

28 AUG 2024

EFCC Arrests 24 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday August 28, 2024 arrested 24 suspected internet fraudsters at different locations within Benin City.

The suspects were arrested based on actionable intelligence regarding their suspected involvement in internet- related fraud.

Items recovered from them include 11 exotic cars, laptops and phones

They would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-24-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

27 AUG 2024

EFCC Quizzes Fake Staff in Gombe

Investigators of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Gombe Zonal Directorate have commenced investigation of one Solomon Yohana for allegedly impersonating staff of the Commission.

The suspect was arrested sometime in August 19, 2024 in Guyuk Local government area of Adamawa State by the Department of State Service , DSS and handed over to the EFCC.

Items recovered at the point of arrest include : one Fake EFCC ID Card, some fake EFCC letter-heads, one fake EFCC polo shirt and a fake special Control Unit aganst Money Laundering, SCUML shirt.

He will be charged to court as soon as investigation are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-quizzes-fake-staff-in-gombe](#)

23 AUG 2024

EFCC Arrests 14 Suspected Fraudsters in Makurdi

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Makurdi Zonal Directorate on Wednesday August 21, 2024 arrested 14 suspected internet fraudsters in a sting operation along Federal Lowcost Housing Estate Makurdi, Benue State.

Their arrest followed actionable intelligence about their suspected involvement in internet fraud.

The suspect are: Austine Okwori, Osita Idoko Valentine, Skott King David, Thomas Ifebuche, Akor Kelvin Oche, Henry Adah, Scott Emmanuel Inalegwu, Ogbu Stephen Alpha and Samuel Moses, Ogbonna Ckukwuaogwu.

Others include: Mustapha Nasir Adinoye, SylvanusSamuel Ogbu, Emmanuel Adamu and Samuel Otene.

Items recovered from the suspects include, phones,laptops and charms

They will soon be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-14-suspected-fraudsters-in-makurdi](#)

22 AUG 2024

EFCC Arrests Alleged Billionaire Internet Fraudster and Money Launderer in Abuja

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, arrested one Hyginus Nkwocha for alleged internet fraud and money laundering.

Nkwocha, 35, was arrested at Ever Green Estate, behind Millennium Estate, Lugbe, Abuja, following intelligence about his suspected involvement in internet fraud and money laundering.

Items recovered from him include : a sum of \$2,200 (Two Thousand Two Hundred Dollars), an iPhone 15 Pro Max, a Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra, a Samsung Galaxy S21 Ultra, an iPhone 13 Pro Max, a MacBook, a gold chain and pendant, a gold bracelet, a gold neck chain, Mercedes Benz ML 350, a Chevrolet Camaro, and a Mustang car.

Others include: some properties at Cookies Court 2, located in Ocean Palm Estate, Ajah, Lagos, Unit C8, Lugbe Airport Road, Abuja and Cookies Court 2, 2nd Avenue, Ocean Palm Estate, Ogombo, Lagos State.

The suspect will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-alleged-billionaire-internet-fraudster-and-money-launderer-in-abuja](#)

22 AUG 2024

Abuja Court Jails Four Internet Fraudsters in Abuja

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abuja Zonal

Directorate on Wednesday, August 21, 2024 secured the conviction and sentence of four internet fraudsters.

The convicts: Abdulrashid Umar, Ekemini Godwin, Anozie Emmanuel and Freedom John were jailed by Justice M. Adamu of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT High Court Maitama on a one- count separate charges bordering on obtaining by false pretence.

Godwin's count reads, "That you Ekemini Godwin sometime in 2024 at Abuja within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court committed the offence of cheating by personation when you pretended to be one Ryan Williams, a citizen of United States of America via Facebook social media account and as a result obtained the sum of \$520 (Five Hundred and Twenty United States Dollars) from one Hae-Yun who is from Pennsylvania and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 and punishable under 324 of the Penal Code Act, Laws of the Federation 2004"

Emmanuel's count reads, "That you Anozie Emmanuel sometime in 2024 at Abuja within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court committed the offence of cheating by personation when you pretended to be one Scammerpayback claiming to be a recovery person via Facebook social media account and as a result obtained the sum of \$300 (Three Hundred United States Dollars) from one Ahabeb Ycehpeab who is from Krygystan and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 and punishable under 324 of the Penal Code Act, Laws of the Federation 2004"

They all pleaded guilty when the charges were read to them, prompting prosecution counsel S.N. Robert to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Adamu convicted and sentenced Umar to one year prison term or a N300, 000 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira) fine, Godwin, Emmanuel and John were sentenced to two years imprisonment each. While Godwin was fined N800,000 (Eight Hundred Thousand Naira), Emmanuel was fined N300, 000 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira) and John got a N400, 000 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira) fine.

Justice Adamu further ordered that all phones which were used as instruments to carry out their crimes be forfeited to the Federal Government.

The convicts' journey to the Correctional Centre began when they were arrested for internet-related offences. They were later subsequently charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[abuja-court-jails-four-internet-fraudsters-in-abuja](#)

21 AUG 2024

EFCC Arrests 22 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Tuesday August 20, 2024 arrested 22 suspected internet fraudsters at different locations within Benin City.

The suspects were arrested based on actionable intelligence regarding their suspected involvement in internet- related fraud.

Items recovered from them include 10 exotic cars, laptops and phones.

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-22-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

21 AUG 2024

EFCC Officers Don't "Share" Forfeited Funds

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, denounces as false, the report by the online news platform, Sahara Reporters, alleging that N54billion forfeited by some associates of a former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, Mr. Godwin Emefiele was "shared" among certain ministers and aides of President Tinubu, in collaboration with EFCC officials".

No official of the Commission was, or has ever been involved in the "sharing" of any proceeds of forfeited assets. The notion of "sharing of proceeds of forfeited assets" is strange to the Commission.

The sensational report which was promoted ostensibly to scandalise the agencies mentioned, betrays the author's ignorance of the existing asset recovery and management framework. Both the EFCC Act, 2004 and the Proceeds of Crime (Recovery and Management) Act, 2022, are unambiguous in terms of the accounts into which proceeds of forfeited assets are to be paid.

There is no "platform" for the "sharing of forfeited assets"; the notion itself being infantile. Otherwise, Sahara reporters would not have withheld information about when and how the sharing took place and who got what. The TRUTH is, it simply did not happen!

Dishing fiction to the public as news is the height of irresponsibility and EFCC will not tolerate any attempt to defame its hard-earned reputation.

The public is enjoined to trash the lie told by Sahara Reporters.

[efcc-officers-dont-share-forfeited-funds](#)

419 Coalition note: Notwithstanding the above, we want to mention that we have found, over the years, Sahara Reporters to be a generally reliable source.

19 AUG 2024

EFCC Arraigns Man for Alleged N600m, \$50,000.00 Investment Fraud in Lagos

The Lagos Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Monday, August 19, 2024, arraigned one Ayodele Toyosi for an alleged investment fraud before Justice A.M. Lawal of the Lagos State High Court sitting in Ikeja.

The defendant was arraigned alongside his companies, Reaprite Global Limited and Agrorite Limited, on an 11-count charge bordering on obtaining by false pretence and stealing to the tune of N600,150,000,00(Six Hundred Million, One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only) and \$50,000.00(Fifty Thousand United States Dollars).

Investigation revealed that the defendant allegedly defrauded a number of persons on the pretence that he had an interest-yielding investment in agricultural export.

One of the counts reads: "That you, Ayodele Toyosi, Reaprite Global Limited and Agrorite Limited, sometime in June 2023 in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, dishonestly converted to your own use the aggregate sum of N200,000,000.00 (Two Hundred Million Naira only) belonging to one K. C. Akoson Investment Limited and Kenneth C. Maduakor by dishonestly representing to them that you will help them transfer the said money to their importers in China whereas you expended the money for your personal use and committed an offence contrary to Sections 278(1) (b) (f) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State 2011."

Another count reads: "That you, Ayodele Toyosi, Reaprite Global Limited and Agrorite Limited, sometime in June 2023 in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, by false pretence and with intent to defraud, obtained the aggregate sum of N300,000,000.00 (Three Hundred Million Nara only), belonging to one K. C. Akoson Investment Limited and Kenneth C. Maduakor by dishonestly representing to them that

you will help them transfer the said money to their importers in China, whereas you used the money to purchase a property known as Plot 17 Pinnock Beach Estate, Anyiran Town, Eti Osa Local Government Area, Lagos and committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1)(a) and punishable under Section 1(3) of the Advance fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006.”

He pleaded “not guilty” to the offence.

In view of his plea, prosecution counsel, G. C Akaogu, prayed that the defendant be remanded in the EFCC custody for continuation of the investigations of other petitions pending against him.

Responding, the defence counsel, Olalekan Ojo, SAN, prayed the court to remand the defendant in the Ikoyi Correctional facility.

He also sought a date for the hearing of the bail application.

After listening to both counsel, Justice Lawal adjourned the matter till August 21, 2024 for the hearing of the bail application and also remanded the defendant in Ikoyi Correctional facility.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arraigns-man-for-alleged-n600m-50-000-00-investment-fraud-in-lagos](https://www.efcc.gov.ng/efcc-arraigns-man-for-alleged-n600m-50-000-00-investment-fraud-in-lagos)

13 AUG 2024

Abuja Court Jails Five Internet Fraudsters

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abuja Zonal Directorate, on August 12, 2024 secured the conviction and sentence of five internet fraudsters.

They were jailed by Justice C.O. Agashieze of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT High Court on a one -count separate charges bordering on obtaining by false pretense

The convicts are; Desmond Ikpefua, Oyeniji Efosa Temitope, Exiobor Raphael, Emmanuel Gabriel and Samuel Owoicho.

The count against Gabriel reads, ‘That you Emmanuel Gabriel sometime in 2024 at Abuja within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court cheat by personation when you represented yourself as Melsse Moore, a female celebrity and under that assumed character obtained the sum of Two Hundred United States Dollars (\$200) from Mark Williams under the pretense that you are in a romantic relationship with her, a fact that you knew to be false and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 of the Penal Code Law (Laws of the Federation, Abuja) 1990 and punishable under Section 324 of the same Law.’

Ikpefua’s count reads, “That you Desmond Ikpefua sometime in 2024 at Abuja within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court attempted to commit the offence of cheating by personation when you created a fake Skype App and Gmail profile and pretended to be one Nurhaiza Johnston an Executive Director at Volvo Group which you were not and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 95 and punishable under Section 324 of the Penal Code Act, Laws of the Federation, 2004.’

They all pleaded guilty when the charges were read to them. Prosecution Counsel M.U. Shariff prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Agashieze convicted and sentenced Ikpefua and Temitope to six and four months imprisonment respectively with no option of fine. Rapheal was given a non-custodial sentence to clean the police station in his Orozo axis for two hours every day for six months. He was also fined N50, 000 (Fifty Thousand Naira). Gabriel and Owoicho were fined N50, 000 (Fifty Thousand Naira) while the latter will additionally sweep Maitama Police station for 30 days.

Justice Agashieze further ruled that all instruments used to perpetrate the crimes should be forfeited to the Federal Government.

All the convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested for internet fraud by operatives of the EFCC. They were subsequently charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[abuja-court-jails-five-internet-fraudsters](#)

9 AUG 2024

Court Jails Five Internet Fraudsters in Benin City

Justices Igho Braimoh and G. O. Imadegbelo of Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City have convicted and sentenced five internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

The convicts are Terry Ekhaton, Sydney Momoh, Paul Obi, Celab Ndubuisi and Idahosa Eghosa.

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges bordering on obtaining by false pretence, possession of fraudulent documents upon arraignment by the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The charge against Ekhaton reads: That you Terry Ekhaton (m) on or about the 22nd of July, 2024 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contain a false pretence and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 and 8 of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the same Act.

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they were read to them in court, prompting the prosecution counsel, K.Y. Bello and A. A. Al-Amin to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, maintaining that they have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Braimoh on Thursday August 8, 2024 convicted and sentenced Ekhaton and Momoh to two years imprisonment or a fine of N200, 000(Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each while Obi bagged three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.

On Friday August 9, Justice Braimoh convicted and sentenced Ndubuisi to three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000

On Wednesday July 31, Justice Imadegbelo convicted and sentenced Eghosa to three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.

All the convicts forfeited their phones, laptops, balances in their various bank accounts, being instruments and proceeds of crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria. They are to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour afterwards.

The convicts' journey to the Correctional Centre began following their arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Commission regarding their involvement in computer -related fraud. They were charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[court-jails-five-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

8 AUG 2024

Courts Jail 59 Internet Fraudsters in Oyo, Ogun, Osogbo

The Ibadan Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentence of fifty nine (59) internet fraudsters to various jail terms before five State High Court Judges and a Federal High Court Judge.

The convicts are, Adekola Mohammed Bidemi, Raheem Toheeb Olalekan, Nduneri Kelvin Precious, Adekola Akinsola Iyanuoluwa, Adegoke Tomiwa Olalekan, Akintade

Isaac Temitayo, Olaolu Abdulsomad Olamide, Akanni Oluwapelumi Anuoluwapo, Omogbolahan Arikuyeri Joseph, Adedimeji Olaitan Ojo, Jamal Olawale Hamzat, Ajana Abidemi Oluwapelumi, Jamiu Quadri Abayomi, Isaac Adejare Moses, Bamidele Williams, Olafisoye Oluwatobi Opeyemi, Alex Mayowa Precious, Olajide Deji Emmanuel, Folayan Temitayo Oluwajuwon, Kolade Paul Olaseinde, Eniola Lazeez, Ayeni Bisola Charles, Owoyemi James Abidemi and Hammed Akolawole Yakubu.

Others are: Sunmonu Sheriff Olabanji, Michael Blessing Seyi, Adebayo Babatunde Benedict, Afeez Oluwaseun Abdulwahab, Azeez Folorunso Akinremi, Ariku Victor Olawande, Fapetu Daniel Temitope, Owoyemi Kayode Ayobami, Adekunle Toluwanimi Micheal, Idowu Mayowa Victor, Olaoluwa Posi Ejisun Kehinde, Olawale Ibrahim Boluwatife, Oreoluwa Oyeyemi Oladipo, Ayomide Sunday Owoshakin, Aare Sodiq Olanrewaju, Waheed Abeebe Olamilekan, Oluwatunbosun Stephen Fafore, Alamu David Dolapo and Ridwan Olabisi Onifade.

The rest include: Osifeso Tijesunimi David, Ogunrinde Taiwo Oluwaseun, Ogunrinde Idowu Ebenezer, Ayoola Olayinka Gaffar, Sodiq Alamu Olumide, Adegoke Idowu Oluwaseun, Adebayo Daniel Sunday, Olabode Samson Opeyemi, Alade Kehinde Matthew, Folaranmi Olukorede Martins, Akinola Bolarinwa, Abimbola Ayodele Olajide, Adekunle Iyanuoluwa Ayomide, Akinyemi Olalekan Opeyemi, Job Innocent and Okoro Justine Uzoma.

They were prosecuted on one-count separate charges bordering on impersonation, cheating, possession of fraudulent documents and obtaining by false pretence.

The charge against Uzoma reads: “That you, Okoro Justine Uzoma sometimes in February, 2023, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently impersonated by representing yourself to be a female as Cory Spencer Smith from the United States of America to one Collette, by creating a fake Facebook account with intent to gain an advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (b) (i) and punishable under Section 22 (2) (b) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc.) (Amended) Act, 2024.”

The charge preferred against Bidemi reads: “That you, Adekola Mohammed Bidemi on or about April 2024, at Ede, Osun State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to gain advantage for yourself did impersonate one Mary Kate, the pretext you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (b) (i) and punishable under Section 22 (2) (b) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc.) (Amended) Act, 2024.”

They all pleaded “guilty” to their charges when they were read to them, upon which prosecution counsel: Oluwatoyin Owodunni, Modupe Akinkoye, Oyelakin Oyediran, Sanusi Galadanchi, Lanre Suleiman, Mabas Mabur, Shamsuddeen, Umar Abiso, Abiddeen Muhammad, Adamu Sahabi, Fatima Baba, David Olubode and Favour Adewunmi prayed the courts to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice M. Salisu of the Osun State High Court, sitting in Osogbo convicted and sentenced Temitayo and Olamide to one year imprisonment each or to pay a fine of N1, 000, 000.00 (One Million Naira) each. Temitayo forfeited one grey Toyota Camry 2007 Model car while Olamide forfeited N1, 450, 000.00 (One Million, Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) and a grey colour Toyota Camry 2011 Model car.

Also, he convicted and sentenced Akinsola Iyanuoluwa, Tomiwa Olalekan and Toheeb Olalekan to one year imprisonment each or a fine of N500, 000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) each, Williams and Mayowa Precious to one year jail term each or to pay a fine of N400, 000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira) each, while Joseph, Ojo, Bidemi, Abayomi and Moses bagged eight months jail term each or to pay a fine of N400, 000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira), N500, 000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira), N400, 000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira), N500, 000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) and N700, 000.00 (Seven Hundred Thousand Naira) respectively. Moses forfeited one black- coloured unregistered Lexus GS 350 to the government.

Justice Salisu also convicted and sentenced Opeyemi to seven months imprisonment or to a fine of N400, 000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira) while Kelvin Precious, Anuoluwapo, Hamzat and Uzoma bagged six months jail term each or to pay a fine of N300, 000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira) each. Oluwapelumi was sentenced to three months imprisonment or a fine of N300, 000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira).

Justice Nathaniel Ayo-Emmanuel of the Osun State High Court, sitting in Osogbo

convicted and sentenced Oluwajuwon, Olaseinde, Lazeez, Charles, Abidemi, Yakubu, Olabanji, Seyi, Benedict, Abdulwahab, Olawande, Daniel Temitope, Ayobami and Toluwanimi Micheal to six months imprisonment each.

They were however, given option of N200, 000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand), N250, 000.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira), N500, 000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira), N300, 000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira), N500, 000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira), N300, 000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira), N200, 000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira), N250, 000.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira), N500, 000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira), N250, 000.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira), N500, 000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira), N500, 000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira), N300, 000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira) and N300, 000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira) respectively.

Daniel Temitope forfeited a grey- coloured Toyota Camry car , Benedict; one blue -coloured Lexus ES 350 car and Lazeez; one grey- coloured Toyota Camry 2006 Model vehicle.

Also, he convicted and sentenced Deji Emmanuel, Akinremi and Innocent to three months imprisonment or to pay a fine of N100, 000. 00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira), N250, 000.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) and N200, 000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) respectively.

Justice Ladiran Akintola of the Oyo State High Court, sitting in Ibadan convicted and sentenced Onifade to one year imprisonment or to pay a fine of N100, 000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) and forfeited a grey- coloured Toyota Rav4 Sports Utility Vehicle while Owoshakin bagged six months jail term or a fine N100, 000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira).

Also, he convicted and sentenced Ayomide to six months community service or a fine of N100, 000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira), Fafore and Dolapo to six months community service each or to pay a fine of N40, 000.00 (Forty Thousand Naira) each and David to six months community service or to a fine of N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira).

Justice Akintola also convicted and sentenced Boluwatife, Sodiq Olanrewaju, Bolarinwa, Olajide and Oluwaseun to three months community service each or to pay a fine of N30, 000.00 (Thirty Thousand Naira) each, and Olalekan Opeyemi to three months community service or a fine of N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira), while Oladipo and Ebenezer bagged three months jail term each or N25, 000.00 (Twenty-five Thousand Naira) each.

Also, he convicted Abeebe Olamilekan and Martins and sentenced them to pay a fine of N20, 000.00 (Twenty Thousand Naira) each.

Justice Bayo Taiwo of the Oyo State High Court, Ibadan convicted and sentenced Idowu Oluwaseun to five months community service, Olumide, Sunday and Kehinde Matthew to four months community service each without an option of fine. Also, Samson Opeyemi bagged two months community service.

Justice U.E. Akpan of the Federal High Court, sitting in Ibadan, Oyo State convicted and sentenced Mayowa Victor to one year imprisonment or a fine of N500, 000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) and Ejisun Kehinde to six months imprisonment or to pay a fine of N300, 000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira).

Justice A.A. Okeke of the Ogun State High Court, Abeokuta convicted and sentenced Gaffar to one month imprisonment without an option of fine.

The convicts forfeited all items recovered from them to the Federal Government.

All the convicts began their ways to the Correctional Centres when they were arrested for internet-related offences. They were charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos of most of the 419ers:

[courts-jail-59-internet-fraudsters-in-oyo-ogun-osogbo](#)

2 AUG 2024

Two Fraudsters Bag Jail Terms in Gombe

Justice A.Y Yakubu of Gombe State High Court sitting in Gombe, Gombe State on July 31, 2024 convicted and sentenced the duo of Vanna Henry Nguna and Morgak Peter to two years imprisonment for fraud.

Nguna (a.k.a.Emily Enoch) and Peter were prosecuted on one-count separate charges of personation by the Gombe Zonal Directorate of the EFCC.

The charges against Vanna Henry Nguna reads: "That you Vanna Henry Nguna sometimes between January and February, 2024 at Gombe, Gombe State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court dishonestly impersonate a female American national by operating a fake account (Emily Enoch) and a fake Gmail account (emily00795@gmail.com) and by using same to defraud unsuspecting individuals mostly men, foreign nationals and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 and punishable under Section 324 of the Penal Code Law."

The charge against Morgak Peter reads: "That you Morgak Peter sometimes between January and February 2024 at Gombe , Gombe State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court dishonestly impersonate some foreign nationals by pretending to be an online gamer and vendor operating fake Facebook account (help zone criss Ty and TJ field) and Instagram account (nunji- 000) and in the process gained to your advantage the sum of N40,000 and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 and punishable under Section 324 of the penal code Law."

Upon arraignment , the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges prompting the prosecution counsel , AB Kware to urge the court to convict and sentence the defendants as charged. However, counsel to the defendants, Jimoh.K and Yusuf. Ali pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy as the defendants were first -time offenders who are remorseful of their actions.

Justice Yakubu convicted and sentenced Nguna and Peter to two years imprisonment or a fine of N40,000(Forty Thousand Naira) each.

In addition, Peter restituted the sum of N40,000 to the victim of crime and the Samsung phones recovered from the two convicts in the course of investigation, being instruments of crime, forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The convicts were arrested in May , 202 for internet fraud, charged to court and convicted.

In another development, the EFCC on July 31, 2023 arraigned one Mohammed Abubakar before Justice AY Yakubu of the State High Court sitting in Gombe, Gombe State.

He was arraigned on two- count charges of obtaining by false pretences by the Gombe Zonal Directorate of the EFCC.

One of the charges reads: "That you Muhammed Abubakar sometimes between May, 2023 to July 2023 at Gombe , Gombe State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court fraudulently induced one Hassan Shuaibu Kada to deliver to you the cumulative sum of N2,070,000 (Two Million Seventy Thousand Naira) under the pretence that the money was for investment in grains which you never did and thereby Committed an offence contrary to Section 320(a) of the Penal Code and punishable under Section 322 of the same law."

He pleaded not guilty to the charges preferred against him by the EFCC, prompting prosecution counsel A.B. Kware to ask the court for a date for trial. However, counsel to the defendant, Ishaku David moved an oral motion for bail stating that the defendant shall offer himself for trial when needed.

Justice Yakubu granted Abubakar bail in the sum of N2,000,000 (Two Million Naira) with two sureties in like sum who shall be men of good standing in the society and shall own landed properties in the state.

The judge thereafter adjourned the case to October 21,2024 for hearing.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[two-fraudsters-bag-jail-terms-in-gombe](#)

2 AUG 2024

Court Sends 24 Internet Fraudsters to Jail in Benin City

The Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentence of 24 internet fraudsters to various jail terms by Justice G. O. Imadegbelo of Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City.

The convicts are : Azubuike Godwin, Ejike Prince, Ebeli Onyeishi Precious, Uboh Nelson, Henry Frank Aizeyosagbov, Jeremiah Osazuwa Bright, Aigbovibosa Osarumwense, Destiny Osagie Monday, Kindrick Ugochukwu, Daniel Kenedy Evun, Orobosa Elvis Nosakhare, Eleadi Nice Chibueze, Edidiong Ndifreke, Stephen Holiness, Iyamu Edosa David, Nosakhare Aigbovibosa.

Others are Raymond Clinton Osariemen, Uhumona Destiny Osayomwenbor, Amos Godwin, Odion Victor, Ayomide Michael, Elijah Akpan Effiong, Tive David Enaike and Ofuma Uche Bright.

They were prosecuted by the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Commission at different days in the month of July on separate one-count charges bordering on impersonation, obtaining by false pretence and possession of fraudulent documents.

The charge against Osarumwense reads: "That you Aigbovibosa Osarumwense (M) on or about the 25th of Day of June, 2024 in Benin City, Edo State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contain false pretence thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act.

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they were read to them in court, prompting the prosecution counsel, F. A. Jirbo, I. M Elodi, I.K Agwai, K. Y. Bello and Ahmed Salihu and Bala Ribah to pray the court to convict and entence them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy as they have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Imadegbelo on Tuesday July 2, 2024 convicted and sentenced Godwin, Prince, Precious and Nelson to three years imprisonment or a fine of N100, 000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) each. On July 10, 2024, he convicted and sentenced Aizeyosabor, Bright, Osarumwense, Monday, Nosakhare, Chibueze, Holiness to three years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 while the trio of Ugochukwu, Evun and Ndifreke bagged two years imprisonment or a fine of N100,00 each.

Justice Imadegbelo on Thursday July 11 convicted and sentenced David to two years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 while Aigbovibosa bagged five years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000.

On Wednesday July 17, Justice Imadegbelo convicted and sentenced the duo of Osariemen and Destiny to two years imprisonment or a fine of N100,00 each. On Wednesday July 24, 2024, he convicted and sentenced Godwin, Victor, Michael, Effiong and Bright to community service while Enaike bagged three years imprisonment or a fine of N200, 000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira)each.

The judge ordered the forfeiture of two Mercedes Benz GLK350 recovered from Osarumwense and Ugochukwu being proceeds of crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

All the convicts forfeited their phones, laptops, balances in their various bank accounts being instruments and proceeds of crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria. They are also to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour afterwards

The convicts' road to the Correctional Centre began following their arrest by operatives

of the Benin Zonal Command of the Commission based on actionable intelligence regarding their involvement in computer related fraud.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[court-sends-24-internet-fraudsters-to-jail-in-benin-city](#)

31 JUL 2024

Internet Fraud: We Are Working Hard to Secure Your Future- Olukoyede Tells Youths

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede has assured youths across the country that the Commission is working hard and tirelessly to secure their future from the grip of fraudsters who are bent on tarnishing the image of the country and ruin the future of the next generation.

He gave the assurance in Abuja, on Thursday, July 25, 2024 while receiving the Engineering and Computer Science Students of Citi Polytechnic, Abuja at the corporate headquarters of the Commission.

Speaking through the Head, Creative Communications Unit, CCU, of the Commission, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACEI Chris Oluka, Olukoyede stressed that the anti-corruption disposition of today's youths was the only thing that would open up the future for the whole nation.

“One thing we want to assure you is that EFCC is for you, the Commission is working very hard to secure your future because you see how things are today, it did not start today, the rot in the system started a long time ago, and so, if we can be so sure about this generation, we will be so sure that many years to come, Nigeria will be safer”

“The reason why you are here I believe is because of the relevance that the EFCC attaches to the youths. We believe so strongly that it shouldn't be a mantra that is being said over the years that the future belongs to the youths but in reality, the future needs to belong to the youths”, he said.

According to him, the two major issues the EFCC is tackling are economic and financial crimes, explaining that, “an economic crime is any crime that is against the economy of the country while a financial crime is any crime that you can use any financial instrument to commit and probably through financial institutions and designated non-financial institutions”.

The Head, Public Interface Unit of the Commission, ACEI Tony Orilade, in his paper titled: “How Youths Can Avoid the Temptation of Internet Fraud”, charged the youths to stand for the right thing and avoid temptations of cybercrimes and be good citizens of the country.

“Students of Citi Polytechnic, Abuja, you are the youths of Nigeria. I charge you to stand for the right thing always, I charge you to say no to cybercrime (yahoo-yahoo), say no to examination malpractices, and let us live a life of integrity for a better Nigeria.” he said.

Continuing, he said, “youths particularly have a major role to play in promoting transparent and accountable governance, including advocacy in tracking budget performance. Take advantage of the whistle-blowing policy in Nigeria, which was launched on December 21, 2016, by the Federal Government through the Federal Ministry of Finance.”

He further stated that “policy is an anti-corruption programme that encourages people to voluntarily disclose information about fraud, bribery, looting of government funds, financial misconduct, abuse / embezzlement of government assets, and any other forms of corruption or theft against the Nigeria's government.”

Speaking on the menace of cybercrime, Assistant Superintendent of EFCC,

ASE Ogunjobi Olaleke said youths are into cybercrimes because of high rate of internal and external pressure for possessions, get-rich- quick attitude, greed and pressure to support parents and guardians, including low self-control

Also, cyber security analyst, Deputy Director, Robert C. Okwor, says cyber analysis plays a crucial role in preventing data breaches and cyber threats. “You have to stay updated on the latest cyber security trends by adapting strategies to protect yourselves against potential security vulnerabilities,” he said.

Head, Enlightenment and Reorientation Unit, Aisha Muhammed, urged the students to join the EFCC in its fight against internet fraud, economic and financial crimes and join hands with the Commission to rid the nation of all corrupt elements. “All of us have to put our hands together to fight corruption, so that we can make it and be happy. If we cannot do it for ourselves, let’s do it for our children and our children’s children”

Responding, the representative of the students, Veronica Christopher thanked the EFCC for the opportunity to see things by themselves, adding that “we will look forward to having you in our school for more enlightenment and whatever we learnt here today, we are going to enlighten others and spread the message about corruption.”

The press release contains a photo:

[internet-fraud-we-are-working-hard-to-secure-your-future-olukoyede-tells-youths](#)

29 JUL 2024

EFCC Arrests Nine Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Abuja

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abuja Zonal Directorate, have arrested nine suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested on Monday, July 29, 2024 at Wuye axis of Abuja following credible intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet-related fraud.

Items recovered from them include 19 phones, four laptops and one iPad.

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-nine-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abuja](#)

29 JUL 2024

EFCC Arrests 11 Suspected Internet Fraudsters in Uyo

Operatives of the Uyo Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, have arrested eleven suspected internet fraudsters in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

The suspects, made up of nine males and two females were intercepted and arrested along Ikpa Road in a fleet of cars following credible intelligence on their suspected fraudulent internet activities, lavish lifestyles and naira spraying at events in Uyo metropolis.

Cars recovered from them include: A Toyota Land Crusader Prado with Registration number: ABC 553 LD Abuja; a Toyota Camry LE with registration number: KKN 48 AE Akwa Ibom; two Honda Accord cars with registration number: LSR 754 AQ Lagos and LSR 475 FN Lagos respectively; a Toyota saloon registration number: RBC 1898J Abuja and a Lexus 300 saloon car with registration number: JJJ423 JK Lagos.

Other items recovered from them include fifteen smart phones and ten bundles of N200 notes.

They would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-11-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-uyo](#)

23 JUL 2024

Kaduna Courts Jail Four Internet Fraudsters

Justices R.M Aikawa and Darius Khobo of the Federal High Court and State High Court respectively, sitting in Kaduna have convicted and sentenced the quartet of Anthony Chukwu (a.k.a Carmelita Luna), Madaki Shamun Ismail (a.k.a Will Beal), Samson Aliyu (a.k.a John Dunwell) and Christopher Israel (a.k.a Bernie Dallas) to various jail terms for internet fraud.

They were prosecuted by the Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on one-count separate charges, bordering on impersonation, obtaining by false pretence and money laundering.

Chukwu’s charge reads: “That you, Anthony Chukwu (a.k.a Carmelita Luna)”M”, sometimes in December, 2023, in Kaduna, within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, did directly acquire the sum of N520,000.00 (Five Hundred and Twenty Thousand Naira), from Nelro Balmoria and other unsuspecting persons through false identity, which you knew that the said funds formed part of the proceeds of an unlawful act, and you thereby committed money laundering, an offence contrary to Section 18(2)(d) of the Money Laundering (Prevention And Prohibition) 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act.”

That of Aliyu reads: “That you Samson Aliyu (a.k.a John Dunwell), between January and May, 2024 at Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, committed an offence, to wit: falsely presented yourself as John Dunwell, a white man and an investment broker with AZ Finance Investment Company. In that assumed character cheated several persons including one Lhes, the total sum of P2,000.00 (Two thousand Philippines Pesos) via Instagram (an online social media application) and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 308 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law 2017 and punishable under Section 309 of the same law.”

They pleaded “guilty” to the charges when they were read to them, upon which prosecution counsel Y J. Matiyak and M. J Argungu urged the courts to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Aikawa convicted and sentenced Chukwu to five years imprisonment or a fine of N300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira), while Ismail bagged five years imprisonment or a fine of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition, both convicts forfeited the sum of N520,000.00 (Five Hundred and Twenty Thousand Naira) and \$310 (Three Hundred and Ten Dollars) respectively, being proceeds of their crimes to the federal government as well as an iPhone XR and Samsung S21 mobile phones, being instruments of their crimes.

Justice Darius Khobo on his part convicted and sentenced Aliyu to three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) and sentenced Israel to three years imprisonment or a fine of N250,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand and Fifty Thousand Naira). In addition, Aliyu forfeited \$50, being the proceeds of his crime to the federal government, while both forfeited their phones, being instruments of their crimes to the federal government.

Chukwu, Aliyu and Israel were arrested in Kaduna, while Ismail was arrested in Jos following credible intelligence on their fraudulent internet activities.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[kaduna-courts-jail-four-internet-fraudsters](#)

22 JUL 2024

Ogun Court Jails Six Fraudsters for Money Laundering, Impersonation

The Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentence of six fraudsters before Justice A.A.Okeke of the Federal High Court sitting in Abeokuta, Ogun State.

The convicts are: Aladeusi Korede Seun, Akande Habeeb Kunle, Aliu Faleti Opeyemi, Oseni Suleimon, Tobiloba Ebhodaghe Wadiale and Shedrack Obioma.

They were arraigned on Friday, July 19, 2024 on separate charges bordering on money laundering, contrary to Section 18 (2) of Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 18 (3) of the same law and Impersonation, contrary to Section 22 (2) (iv) of the Cyber Crimes (Prohibition and Prevention) Act, 2022.

They all pleaded “guilty” to the charges when they were read to them.

Following their pleas, prosecution counsel, R.A. Abdulrasheed, prayed the court to convict them accordingly.

Delivering judgment, Justice Okeke sentenced Aladeusi to two months imprisonment on each of the counts. The sentences are to run consecutively. The iPhone 12 Pro Max, iPhone 11 and smart wristwatch recovered from him were also ordered forfeited to the Federal Government.

Akande was convicted and sentenced to one-month imprisonment on each of the counts. The sentences are to run consecutively. The Iphone 13 recovered from him was ordered forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Aliu was convicted and sentenced to two months imprisonment on each of the counts. The sentences are to run consecutively. Justice Okeke ordered the forfeiture of his I Phone 14 Pro Max to the Federal Government.

The judge sentenced Oseni to three months imprisonment on count one of money laundering and three months on count two of impersonation. The sentences are to run consecutively. He also ordered the forfeiture of his Galaxy S20 Ultra and HP Laptop to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Tobiloba, on his part, bagged two months imprisonment on each of the counts. The sentences are to run consecutively. His Samsung Galaxy, S20 Ultra, and iPhone 14 Pro Max were forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Also, Shedrack was convicted and sentenced to one-month imprisonment on each of the counts. The sentences are to run consecutively.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[ogun-court-jails-six-fraudsters-for-money-laundering-impersonation](#)

22 JUL 2024

Businessman Bags Seven Years Jail Term for Fraud

Justice (Professor) C. A. Obiozor of the Federal High Court sitting in Benin City has convicted and sentenced one Olabinjor Ajobor, a businessman to seven years imprisonment without an option of fine.

The defendant was first arraigned in 2018 before being re-arraigned in July 2023 on an amended three count charge of obtaining by false pretence.

One of the charges reads : "That you OLABINJOR AJOBOR and BISOFRANK INVESTMENT LIMITED on or about the 21st day of February, 2017 in Benin, Edo State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable did with intent to defraud induced one Mr. George Ezomo to deposit the sum of N6,270,000.00 (Six Million, Two Hundred and Seventy Naira) through Mr. Michael Ezomoghene

into Account No: 1771641039 domiciled in Skye Bank Plc operated by you with the pretence that the said money was an investment in 66,000 litres supply of Low Pour Fuel Oil (L.P.F.O) from Petroleum Pricing Marketing Company (PPMC) with a share of 60% of the profit to him, which pretence you knew is false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1) (c) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and Punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."

During trial, the prosecution called three witnesses who testified as to how the defendant committed the offence and tendered several documents.

Delivery judgment on the matter, Justice Obiozor held that the Prosecution counsel, I. M. Elodi proved her case beyond reasonable doubt, convicted and sentenced the defendant to seven years imprisonment without an option of fine. However, the defendant is to be released from prison if he restitutes the victim the sum of N12.5 million and pays a fine of N500,000 to the Federal government of Nigeria. The judge ordered that the second defendant, Bisofrank Investment Limited being a company, be wound up.

The convict's road to prison began when he obtained the aggregate sum of N12.5 million from one George Ezomo under the pretence that the money was for investment in petroleum products, an investment which turned out to be false.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[businessman-bags-seven-years-jail-term-for-fraud](#)

22 JUL 2024

OGUN COURT JAILS SIX FRAUDSTERS FOR MONEY LAUNDERING, IMPERSONATION

The Lagos Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentence of six fraudsters before Justice A.A.Okeke of the Federal High Court sitting in Abeokuta, Ogun State.

The convicts are: Aladeusi Korede Seun, Akande Habeeb Kunle, Aliu Faleti Opeyemi, Oseni Suleimon, Tobiloba Ebhodaghe Wadiale and Shedrack Obioma.

They were arraigned on Friday, July 19, 2024 on separate charges bordering on money laundering, contrary to Section 18 (2) of Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 18 (3) of the same law and Impersonation, contrary to Section 22 (2) (iv) of the Cyber Crimes (Prohibition and Prevention) Act, 2022.

They all pleaded "guilty" to the charges when they were read to them.

Following their pleas, prosecution counsel, R.A. Abdulrasheed, prayed the court to convict them accordingly.

Delivering judgment, Justice Okeke sentenced Aladeusi to two months imprisonment on each of the counts. The sentences are to run consecutively. The iPhone 12 Pro Max, iPhone 11 and smart wristwatch recovered from him were also ordered forfeited to the Federal Government.

Akande was convicted and sentenced to one-month imprisonment on each of the counts. The sentences are to run consecutively. The iPhone 13 recovered from him was ordered forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Aliu was convicted and sentenced to two months imprisonment on each of the counts. The sentences are to run consecutively. Justice Okeke ordered the forfeiture of his iPhone 14 Pro Max to the Federal Government.

The judge sentenced Oseni to three months imprisonment on count one of money laundering and three months on count two of impersonation. The sentences are to run consecutively. He also ordered the forfeiture of his Galaxy S20 Ultra and HP Laptop to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Tobiloba, on his part, bagged two months imprisonment on each of the counts. The sentences are to run consecutively. His Samsung Galaxy, S20 Ultra, and iPhone 14 Pro Max were forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Also, Shedrack was convicted and sentenced to one-month imprisonment on each of the counts. The sentences are to run consecutively.

[ogun-court-jails-six-fraudsters-for-money-laundering-impersonation](#)

22 JUL 2024

EFCC ARRAIGNS FAKE CONTENT CREATOR FOR INTERNET FRAUD IN JOS

The Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has arraigned one Audu Ishida (a.k.a Baddie Kylemilli) for internet crime.

Ishida is facing a one-count charge, bordering on impersonation, retention of proceeds of crime and money laundering before Justice Hauwa'u Buhari of the Federal High Court, sitting in Kaduna State.

The charge reads: "That you Audu Ishida (Baddie Kylemilli) on or about the 2nd of June, 2024 in Jos, within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, retained the total sum of \$50 USD from your victim which you reasonably ought to have known, forms parts of proceeds of an unlawful act and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 20(a) of the Money Laundering (Prevention And Prohibition) Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 20(b) of the same Act."

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charge, prompting prosecution counsel, M.E Eimonye to pray the court for a trial date and for the defendant to be remanded in the custody of Nigerian Correctional Service (NCS). Defence counsel, Umar Usman did not raise any objection.

Justice Buhari ordered that he be remanded in Nigerian Correctional Centre, Kaduna and adjourned the case till November 7, 2024 for commencement of trial.

Ishida was arrested alongside other members of an internet fraud ring in Jos, Plateau State following an intelligence-driven raid on their hideouts by operatives of Kaduna Zonal Command of the EFCC.

Investigations revealed that the defendant created fake online video contents and dating sites which he used to defraud unsuspecting victims. Investigations further showed that he obtained the proceeds of his crime through gift cards which he traded online through an FSS card app in foreign currency and converted to Naira and paid into his bank accounts.

[efcc-arraigns-fake-content-creator-for-internet-fraud-in-jos](#)

22 JUL 2024

KADUNA COURTS JAILS ONE FOR MISAPPROPRIATION, TWO OTHERS FOR INTERNET FRAUD

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has secured the conviction and sentence of Benjamin Apagu, Francis Dung Yusuf (a.k.a Richard Miller) and David Bini Semen (a.k.a Rose Kelly) before Justices Darius Khobo of the Kaduna State High Court, and R.M Aikawa and Hauwa'u Buhari of the Federal High Court, sitting in Kaduna.

They were prosecuted by the Kaduna Zonal Command of the EFCC on separate one-count charges. Apagu's charge bordered on misappropriation and obtaining by false pretences while those of Yusuf and Semen bordered on impersonation, retention of proceeds of crime and obtaining by false pretence.

Apagu's charge reads: "That you, Benjamin Apagu sometime October, 2022 in Kaduna, Kaduna State within the jurisdiction of the honorable court, dishonestly

misappropriated certain property to wit: the total sum of N1,919,000.00 (One Million, Nine Hundred and Nineteen Thousand Naira) belonging to one Benedict Yashim Bakut and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 293 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law,2017 and punishable under Section 294 of the same law.”

That of Yusuf reads: “That you, Francis Dung Yusuf (a.k.a Richard Miller),(M) sometimes in 2024 at Jos, Plateau State within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, retained the total sum of Five Hundred United States Dollars (\$500,00USD) which you acquired from one Cathy Rinaldi, when you falsely presented yourself as Richard Miller, which funds, forms part of the proceeds of an unlawful act and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2)(D) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition)Act, 2022 and punishable under section 18(3) of the same Act.”

They all pleaded “guilty” when the charges were read to them, upon which prosecution counsel M.E Eimonye urged the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Khobo convicted and sentenced Apagu to 10 years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition, he restituted the sum of N1,919,000.00 (One Million, Nine Hundred and Nineteen Thousand Naira), being the proceeds of his crime to his victim.

Justice Aikawa convicted and sentenced Yusuf to four years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira), while Justice Buhari convicted and sentenced Bini to eight years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N450,000.00 (Four Hundred and fifty Thousand Naira).

In addition to their prison terms, Yusuf and Bini forfeited iPhone 13 Pro Max and iPhone 7 mobile phones, respectively to the federal government. Both internet fraudsters were among the 34 arrested by the Commission in Jos, Plateau State in June, 2024.

[kaduna-courts-jails-one-for-misappropriation-two-others-for-internet-fraud](#)

20 JUL 2024

EFCC ARRAIGNS FOREX BROKER FOR ALLEGED N2 BILLION INVESTMENT SCAM IN UYO

The Enugu Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on Friday, July 19, 2024 arraigned one Rufus John Isip, a self-acclaimed forex broker before Justice C. S. Onah of the Federal High Court sitting in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

Isip was arraigned alongside his company, ITM-IT Resources Limited on an eight -count charge bordering on fraudulent conversion, money laundering and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of N2, 022, 081, 172 (Two Billion, Twenty-two Million, Eighty-one Thousand, One Hundred and Seventy-two Naira).

Count one of the charge reads: “That you, Rufus John Isip while being the Director of ITM-IT Resources Limited and ITM-IT Resources Limited sometime in December 2020 and May 2021 in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, with intent to defraud, obtained the sum of (431, 331, 172. 00) Four Hundred and Thirty-one Million, Three Hundred and Thirty-one Thousand, One Hundred and Seventy-two kobo from one Michael Okon, the Director of N-Rex Resources Limited under the false pretence that it is an investment in Vandera, an online investment platform, on his behalf, which pretence you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1 (1) (a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the same Act”.

Count eight of the charge reads: “That you, Rufus John Isip while being the Director of ITM-IT Resources Limited and ITM-IT Resources Limited sometime between December 2020 and May 2021 in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court of Nigeria, converted the total sum of (N730, 870, 000. 00) Seven Hundred and Thirty Million, Eight Hundred and Seventy Thousand Naira to crypto currency (Bitcoin) and transferred same into your Binance Wallet knowing that the said money

formed part of your unlawful act and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 15 (2) (d) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2011 and punishable under Section 15 (3) (4) of the same Act”.

He pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to him.

In view of his plea, Khamis Mahmud, counsel to the EFCC prayed the court to remand him in EFCC custody on the grounds that “we are still investigating him on other cases”.

The defence counsel, Samson Ewuje however, did not pose any objection.

Justice Onah adjourned the matter to October 14, 2024 for trial and the defendant was remanded at the Uyo Zonal Directorate of the EFCC.

Isip was arrested based on a petition from one Michael George, alleging that he lured him to invest in his online trading platform called Vandora.io. According to the petitioner, the defendant told him that it was more profitable to trade on his platform with a minimum trading capital of \$100, 000. 00 (One Hundred Thousand Dollars) and that he would earn more profit if he involved more investors.

The petitioner thereafter invested, reached out to other investors and companies who also invested in the defendant’s phony online trading platform and after 60 days (as agreed) for the investors to start earning their profits, the defendant disappeared into thin air.

[efcc-arraigns-forex-broker-for-alleged-n2-billion-investment-scam-in-uyo](#)

19 JUL 2024

KADUNA COURTS JAIL TWO FOR CURRENCY FRAUD, THREE OTHERS FOR INTERNET CRIMES

Justices R.M Aikawa and Hauwa'u Buhari of the Federal High Court, sitting in Kaduna have convicted and sentenced five persons to prison for fraud.

The convicts, Ibrahim Haruna, Abdullahi Yahaya, Daniel John (a.k.a Julieta), Benjamin Andrew Zagni (a.k.a Andrew Williams), Kenneth Barau (a.k.a Aisha Mohammed) were prosecuted by the Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The duo of Haruna and Yahaya faced a one-count charge of currency counterfeiting to the tune of \$81,700 (Eighty-one Thousand Dollars, Seven Hundred Cents) before Justice Justice Aikawa, while John, Zagni and Barau were prosecuted on separate one-count charges each. Their charges bordered on impersonation, obtaining by false pretence, money laundering and cyber crimes before Justice Buhari.

The one-count charge against Haruna and Yahaya reads: “That you Ibrahim Haruna and Abdullahi Yahaya on or about the 9th May, 2024 in Kaduna, within the jurisdiction of this honorable court had in your possession a total of eight hundred and seventeen (817) pieces of \$100 USD (One hundred United State dollars) counterfeit notes when you knew that same are counterfeit and thereby committed an offense contrary to Section 5(1)(b) and punishable under Section 5(1)(c) of the Counterfeit Currency (Special Provisions) Act.”

The charge against John reads: “That you Daniel John (a.k.a Julieta),(M) between January and June, 2024 at Jos, Plateau State within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, falsely presented yourself as Julieta; a white woman from Hungary on Facebook and telegram (both online social media applications) to one Keta Kelemenne, and in that assumed character gained advantage for yourself the total sum of \$80.00 (Eighty United States Dollars) from her, while claiming to assist her recover the money she had paid to previous online scammers, which you knew to be false and therefore committed an offence contrary to Section 22(3)(b) of the Cybercrimes(Prohibition, Prevention, etc) Act,2015 and punishable under Section 22(4) of the same Act.”

That of Zagni reads: “That you Benjamin Andrew Zagni (a.k.a Andrew Williams) sometimes in May, 2024 in Kaduna, within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, retained the total sum of \$150 (One Hundred and Fifty United States dollars) which you knew that such fund

forms part of proceeds of an unlawful act 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.”

All the five pleaded “guilty” to their charges, following which prosecution counsel M.U Gadaka, M.U Gadaka and K. Ogunlade urged the courts to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Aikawa convicted and sentenced Haruna and Yahaya to seven years imprisonment each or a fine of N700,000.00 (Seven Hundred Thousand Naira) respectively. John bagged five years imprisonment or a fine of N400,000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira), while he convicted and sentenced Zagni to four years imprisonment or a fine of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira).

Justice Buhari on her part convicted and sentenced Barau to two years imprisonment or a fine of N400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira).

In addition to their jail terms, John, Zagni and Barau forfeited their phones, being the instruments of their crimes to the federal government. The threesome were arrested alongside other members of an internet fraud syndicate in Kaduna and Jos, Plateau State in a stake-out by operatives of the Commission following credible intelligence on their criminal internet activities.

[kaduna-courts-jail-two-for-currency-fraud-three-others-for-internet-crimes](#)

19 JUL 2024

COURT JAILS THREE FOR INTERNET FRAUD IN CALABAR

Justice Rosemary Ojukwu of the Federal High Court Calabar, Cross River State has convicted and sentenced the trio of James Emmanuel Ime (a.k.a David Young), Kingsley Friday Ime (a.k.a Alex Wan) and Udeme Clement Edward (a.k.a Suchi Wan) to various jail terms for internet fraud.

The convicts were prosecuted by the Uyo Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on separate two-count charges, bordering on money laundering, impersonation and obtaining by false pretence.

The charge against Ime reads: “That you James Emmanuel Ime (a.k.a David Young), sometime in 2024 within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, did directly take possession of the sum of N114,904.00 (One Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Nine Hundred and Four Naira) only, which money you reasonably ought to know formed part of the proceeds of an unlawful act to wit: cybercrime 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.”

Edward’s charge reads: “That you Udeme Clement Edward (a.k.a Suchi Wan), sometime in 2023 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did directly take possession of the sum of \$200 (Two Hundred United States Dollars) only, which money you reasonably ought to know formed part of the proceeds of an unlawful act to wit: cybercrime 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.”

They all pleaded “guilty” to their charges when they were read to them, prompting prosecution counsel Adebayo Soares to present a witness for the review of the facts of the case and tendering of evidence after which he urged the court to convict and sentence the defendants accordingly. While there was no objection from defence counsel, Henry Effiong, he, however, prayed the court to temper justice with mercy.

Justice Ojukwu sentenced the three to six months imprisonment on each of the two counts or to pay a fine of N500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira, also on each of the counts.

In addition, James Ime forfeited the sum of N114, 904, 000 (One Hundred

and Fourteen Thousand, Nine Hundred and Four Naira), being the proceeds of his crime to the federal government as well as his Samsung A50 mobile phone, being the tool of his crime.

On his part, Kingsley Ime forfeited the sum of N110, 000.00 (One Hundred and Ten Thousand Naira), being the proceeds of his crime to the federal government as well as his Techno Spark G20 mobile phone, and a HP laptop, being the tools of his crime, while Edward forfeited the sum of \$200, being proceeds of his crime, an iPhone 6 mobile phone, and a Toshiba laptop, being the tools of his crime to the federal government.

[court-jails-three-for-internet-fraud-in-calabar](#)

18 JUL 2024

OLUKOYEDE TASKS STUDENTS TO TAKE OWNERSHIP OF THE FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede has charged students across the country to take ownership of the fight against corruption in the overall interest of their future and development of the nation

Olukoyede made the call in Abuja recently when students of Olumawu College FCT visited the headquarters of the Commission on an excursion tour.

The EFCC boss who spoke through the Deputy Director, Public Affairs Department, DCE Nwanyinma Okeanu urged the students to take the fight against internet fraud seriously.

According to the EFCC boss, failure to align themselves with the activities of the EFCC in the fight may not offer them the desirable future they are seeking.

“The fight against economic and financial crimes is a fight that each and everyone of us should take seriously for the country to be there for you in future”, he said.

He urged them to imbibe good virtues and morals as students instead of learning bad things like internet fraud.

Head, Public Interface of the Commission, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE I Tony Orilade charged the students to stand for what is right and stay well- informed so as not to fall to the temptation of internet fraud.

“Say no to cybercrime , say no to examination malpractices, encourage your friends to resist pressure to engage in internet fraud. Remember unity is strength; join forces with the EFCC to fight internet fraud”, he said.

He also urged them to always talk to trusted adults and mentors about online safety and integrity. “Do everything to avoid evil, beware of the consequences of internet fraud by understanding the legal and moral implications of engaging in internet fraud,” he said.

Also, Armayau Aliyu of the Cybercrime Unit urged the students to stay away from all forms of cybercrimes, including cyber-enabled and cyber-dependent crimes adding that all these crimes can lead them to trouble, if they do not stay away.

Head, Enlightenment and Re-orientation Unit of the Commission, ACE II Aisha Mohammed, charged the students to identify themselves with the fight against corruption, stressing that their voices are critically needed in order to make the country a better place.

“Your voices matter, you are the future generation of Nigeria and you have to take it in your hands. We all know good and bad things; we belong to either Christian or Islamic faith, and also you know what both the Holy books say about bad things. So, it’s now your choice either to be good or bad but don’t allow peer pressure to affect you,” she said.

According to Mohammed, the Commission operates Integrity Clubs in Primary and

Secondary Schools and students who are members of the Club represent EFCC in different events and programs around the world

The Management of the school led by Eunice Mbarga appreciated the Commission for giving their students an opportunity to visit the Commission.

The press release contains a photo:

[olukoyede-tasks-students-to-take-ownership-of-the-fight-against-corruption](#)

17 JUL 2024

COURTS JAIL FOUR INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN KADUNA

Justices A. Isiaka and Hauwa'u Buhari of the Kaduna State High Court and Federal High Court sitting in Kaduna have convicted and sentenced the quartet of Segun Emmanuel Joseph (a.k.a Alina Renatas), Aliyu Dominic Daniel (a.k.a Jojo Snow), Winner Joseph (a.k.a Williams Scot) and Kenneth Oche Oduh (a.k.a Robert Ben James) to various jail terms for internet fraud.

The convicts were prosecuted by the Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on separate one-count charges, bordering on impersonation and obtaining by false pretence.

The charge against Joseph reads: "That you Segun Emmanuel Joseph (a.k.a Alina Renatas) (M) between January and March, 2024 at Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, attempted to commit an offence and in such an attempt did a certain act towards the commission of the said offence to wit: falsely presented yourself as Alina Renatas, a woman living in Germany to one Rana Sultan Ameer and other several unsuspecting victims on Facebook (a social media application) in order to cheat them and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 57 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law of 2017 and punishable under Section 309 of the same law."

That of Oduh reads: "That you Kenneth Oche Oduh (a.k.a Robert Ben James),(m) sometimes in 2022 at Jos, Plateau State, within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, falsely presented yourself as Robert Ben James with a gmail account: robertben374@gmail.com and in that assumed character gained advantage for yourself the total sum of Eight hundred united States Dollars (\$800.00USD), which you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (b) (ii) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition,Prevention,etc) Act, 2015 and punishable under Section 22 (2) (b) (iv) of the same Act."

They all pleaded "guilty" to the charges against them, following which prosecution counsel Y.J Matiyak and M.E Eimonye urged the courts to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Isiaka convicted and sentenced Winner Joseph to two years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira), Segun Joseph got five years imprisonment or pay a fine of N300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira), while Daniel bagged three years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira).

On her part, Justice Buhari convicted and sentenced Oduh to five years imprisonment or to pay a fine of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira).

All the convicts forfeited their phones, being the tools of their crimes to the federal government.

Segun Joseph, Winner Joseph and Daniel were arrested in a raid in their hideout around Television Garage and Barnawa axes in Kaduna, following credible intelligence on their fraudulent internet activities, while Oduh was arrested in Jos metropolis alongside other members of his internet fraud syndicate.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[courts-jail-four-internet-fraudsters-in-kaduna](#)

17 JUL 2024

OLUKOYEDE CHARGES YOUTHS TO EMBRACE INNOVATION AS SAFEGUARD AGAINST INTERNET FRAUD

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has called on youths across the country to embrace innovation and strategic thinking as effective ways of building resistance against internet crimes.

He stated this in Ile-Ife, Osun State on Saturday, July 11, 2024 at the 2024 Royal African Young Leadership Forum (RAYLF) Award ceremony, held at the Obafemi Awolowo University to celebrate the remarkable achievements and outstanding leadership of One Hundred (100) young people across Africa.

According to him, there are ample opportunities for development in Nigeria and Africa in general if youths stayed away from corruption and cybercrime. "Greater prospects for Nigeria and Africa in the future will not be attainable if our youths continue to wallow in corruption and cybercrime. African youths especially Nigerian youths must demonstrate exceptional innovation and dedication in order to make positive impact in the society", he said.

The anti-graft czar who spoke through the Ag. Zonal Director, Ibadan Zonal Directorate of the EFCC, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE I Hauwa Garba Ringim applauded the Royal African Young Leadership Forum for being a blueprint for the development of African youths. He noted that the Forum was building capacity and helping youths to channel their energy towards getting quality education, acquire and develop skills that would alleviate poverty in Nigeria and Africa at large

While lauding His Imperial Majesty, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, the Ooni of Ife for envisioning RAYLF, he urged African countries to come together under the Forum to achieve better feats that would further transform and elevate the place of Africans in the comity of nations.

While congratulating the awardees for showcasing their success stories for the purpose of inspiring and motivating other youths and thereby foster cultural excellence and empowerment across Africa, the EFCC boss charged them not to betray the confidence reposed in them while assuring the Ooni of his unwavering and unequivocal support.

In his remarks, Oba Ogunwusi explained that RAYLF "is a very strong and formidable platform that brings young minds together to network and do great things in terms of how they can better their immediate community and their nation as a whole"

"Our mission is ambitious and essential. It is geared towards promoting peace, economic prosperity, and unity across Africa by harnessing the exceptional potential of our young population.

"Today, the world increasingly acknowledges Africa's importance, not just for our abundant natural resources, but for our vibrant and dynamic youths who are lighting the way towards a prosperous and unified continent", he said.

He called on leaders across the continent to unite to recognize and celebrate the outstanding achievements of young Africans who are making significant impact in their communities and beyond.

"These young leaders, innovators, and change makers embody the bright future of Africa, and I am honored to stand with them as they continue to inspire and drive positive change", he said.

The Royal Father unfolded the emergence of "Royal Africa Chamber of Commerce" which is a new initiative under RAYLF that compels a free trade agreement. The new initiative, according to the monarch, would raise N1, 000, 000, 000.00 (One Billion Naira) to encourage strong-minded and innovative young females entrepreneurs across Africa, including Nigeria, "who do not have opportunities to thrive in various sectors of human endeavours".

Among the awardees are: Minister of Youth and Sports Development, Jamilu Bio

Ibrahim, Minister of State for Youth and Sport Development, Ayodele Olawande, Director General and CEO of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) Charles Odili, and Executive Vice Chairman and CEO of National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI), Khalil Suleiman Halilu. Also, the Managing Director and CEO of NEXIM Bank, Abubakar Abba Bello was in attendance among others.

RAYLF is a platform by the Ooni of Ife for celebrating young trailblazing talents across African continent in various sectors. The 2024 RAYLF was themed “Africa of the Future - Better Together”.

The press release contains a photo:

[olukoyede-charges-youths-to-embrace-innovation-as-safeguard-against-internet-fraud](#)

16 JUL 2024

OGUN COURT JAILS FIVE FRAUDSTERS FOR MONEY LAUNDERING AND IMPERSONATION

The Lagos Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentence of five fraudsters before Justice A.A. Okeke of the Federal High Court sitting in Abeokuta, Ogun State.

The convicts are: Justine Chikeleze Onyedikachukwu, David Udoka Okafor, Godwin Favour Udoh, Ifeanyi Franklin Ogobue and Chinedu Mukolu Obed.

They were arraigned on July 12, 2024 on separate charges bordering on money laundering, contrary to Section 18 (2) of Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition Act 2022) and punishable under Section 18 (3) of the same law and Impersonation, contrary to Section 22 (2) (iv) of the Cyber Crimes (Prohibition and Prevention Act, 2022.)

They all pleaded “guilty” to the charges when they were read to them.

Following their pleas, prosecution counsel, Okongwu Ebuka and Ridwan Alabi, prayed the court to convict them accordingly.

Delivering judgment, Justice Okeke sentenced Onyedikachukwu to two months imprisonment on each of the counts. The sentences are to run concurrently and the Iphone 12 mobile phone and Samsung laptop computer recovered from him were forfeited to the Federal Government.

Favour was convicted and sentenced to three months imprisonment on count one of money laundering and three months on count two of impersonation. The sentences are to run concurrently . The Iphone 12pro max and Iphone 11 recovered from him were forfeited also to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Udoh was also convicted and sentenced to one-month imprisonment on each of the counts. The sentences are to run concurrently. The judge ordered the forfeiture of his Iphone XS Max to the Federal Government.

The judge also sentenced Ogobue to two months imprisonment on count one and two months on count two. The sentences are to run concurrently. Justice Okeke also ordered the forfeiture of his Iphone 12pro max to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

During his trial, Obed pleaded “guilty” to the amended two counts of money laundering and impersonation. Though he was discharged on count one of money laundering, he was convicted on count two bordering on impersonation and sentenced to two months imprisonment. His Iphone 12 Pro Max was forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

All the convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested for internet offences. They were charged to court and convicted.

12 JUL 2024

SIX INTERNET FRAUDSTERS BAG JAIL TERMS IN CALABAR

Justice Ijeoma Ojukwu of the Federal High Court sitting in Calabar has convicted and sentenced six internet fraudsters to six months imprisonment each for criminal impersonation, love scam and identity theft.

The convicts are: Chibo Udoka (aka Zxoya Andric, Kelly Rose, Chimata Harry), John Inimfon Okpokpo (Grace Boar), Emediong Ekerete Bassey (aka Thiwe Ploka), Otu Ginikachi Samuel (alias Chris Hemsworth), Goodluck John Bassey (aka Tom Jones) and Asogwa Ifebuche Lukas (alias Daniela Crystal).

They were charged to court by the Uyo Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, on two-count separate charges, to which they pleaded guilty.

One of the counts reads: 'That you, Otu Ginikachi Samuel (aka Chris Hemsworth) sometime in 2024 in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this Honorable court fraudulently presented yourself as Chris Hemsworth (a United State of American Citizen) to Tymoshenko Anatoly Grihorovych (Ukrainian Citizen) on Facebook with fraudulent intent, gained advantage of the sum of N1, 000, 000 (One Million Naira) for yourself from the said Tymoshenko Anatoly Grihorovych and thereby committed the offence of identity theft contrary to Section 22 (2) (b) (0) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, prevention) (amendment) Act 2024 and punishable under 22 (b) (iv) of the same Act.

Another reads: 'That you Chibo Udoka Mgborogwu (aka Zoya Andric, Kelly Rose Chimata Harry), sometime in 2024 in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this Honorable court with intent to obtain property and gain advantage for yourself, fraudulently presented yourself as ZOYA ANDRIC, KELLY ROSE CHIMATA HARRY on Social Media platform (Whatsapp, Instagram) and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (b)0) of the Cyber Crime (Prohibition, Prevention Etc) Amendment Act 2024 and punishable under Section 22(b) (iv) of the same Act".

The defendants pleaded guilty to the charges when they were read to them and based on their pleas, prosecution counsel, Khamis Mahmud prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly, but the defence counsels Udem Tom, Innocent Ekeize and Henry Effiong prayed the court for lighter sentences for the defendants, on the ground that they were first time offenders.

After listening to both the prosecution and defence counsel, Justice Ojukwu, convicted and sentenced Emediong Bassey, Otu Samuel, Asogwa Lucas and John Okpokpo to six months imprisonment on each of the two count charges. The sentences are to run concurrently, while Goodluck Bassey and Chibo Mgborogwu were sentenced to six months jail term each on one count. The convicts were all given the option to pay a fine of Five Hundred Thousand Naira only (N500,000) each.

Four of the convicts were ordered to retribute the following sums: Emediong Bassey One Thousand Five Hundred Rands (R1500); Otu Samuel One Million Naira (N1, 000, 000.00); John Okpokpo One Hundred and Fifty United States Dollars (\$150 US) and Asogwa Lucas One Hundred United States Dollars (\$100 US). The six convicts forfeited all gadgets used in committing the crimes to the Federal Government.

The convicts were arrested in Uyo between May and June 2024, following verified intelligence regarding their criminal activities on the internet.

10 JUL 2024

COURT JAILS THREE FOR INTERNET FRAUD IN KADUNA

Justice A. Bello of the Kaduna State High Court, sitting in Kaduna has convicted and sentenced the trio of Saadu Salisu, Omoruyi Osavbie (a.k.a Antonio Hendo Henderson) and Daniel Japheth (a.k.a Cain Steven) to various jail terms for internet fraud.

The convicts were prosecuted by the Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on one-count separate charges. While Osavbie and Japheth's charges bordered on impersonation and cheating, that of Salisu bordered on obtaining by false pretence and cheating.

Salisu's charge reads: "That you Sa'adu Salisu and Ihasas Ventures Nigeria Limited on or about the 1st of March, 2021 within the jurisdiction of this Honorable court, cheated and dishonestly induced one Adamu Bakori to part with the sum of N300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira only) with the promise to secure a job for him and you thereby committed an offense contrary to and punishable under Section 311 of the Kaduna State penal Code Law, 2017."

Osavbie's charge reads: "That you, Omoruyi Osavbie (a. k.a Antonio Hendo Henderson) sometime in May, 2024, in Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this honorable court, represented yourself as one Antonio ahendo Henderson (A military personnel in the United States of America) on Facebook (an online social media platform) and in such assumed identity, cheated unsuspecting victims the total sum of N87,000 (Eighty Seven Thousand Naira) , and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 308 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law, 2017 and punishable under Section 309 of the same law."

Each of the three defendants pleaded "guilty" to their charges when they were read to him, prompting prosecution counsel M. Arumemi and M. Lawal to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Bello, afterwards, convicted and sentenced Salisu to three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition, he forfeited N300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira), being the proceeds of crime to the federal government.

Japheth bagged four years imprisonment or a fine of N400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira). Additionally, he forfeited the sum of £75.00 (Seventy-five British pounds), being proceeds of the crime and his iPhone 11 mobile phone to the federal government, while Omoruyi was sentenced to seven years imprisonment or a fine of N450,000.00 (Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira). In addition, he forfeited the sum of N400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira), being proceeds of his crime and his iPhone X max to the federal government.

Salisu's journey to prison began when his victim petitioned the Commission, alleging that he convinced him in May 2021 that he could secure a job for him in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and later demanded the sum of N300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira) from him for the job placement, which he paid into the convict's bank account but neither got the job nor his money back.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[court-jails-three-for-internet-fraud-in-kaduna](#)

5 JUL 2024

WE WON'T ALLOW OUR YOUTHS TO DERAIL-OLUKOYEDE

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has called on all well-meaning Nigerians to support the Commission in its effort to redeem the youth from the path of derailment.

He made the call in Abuja on Friday, July 5, 2024 when the executives of Committee of Youth Mobilization and Sensitization, CYMS, led by their head, Chief Obinna Nwaka paid him a courtesy visit at the Commission's corporate headquarters.

According to Olukoyede, “We are going to maintain this tempo. Well-meaning and reform-minded Nigerians must support us. We must not allow our youths to derail. We have allowed it over a period of time and we have seen the destruction. Some of our youths are smart and skillful. It is just a matter of sensitizing them towards how to channel their talents to productive engagements. There is no future in cybercrime.

“Let everybody realize this, the fight is not for ourselves. It is for the youth, it is for the entire country. Just imagine what will happen if EFCC does not work for one month, so it is important for us to give this mandate serious collaboration and support.”

He stressed that Nigerians who desire a better future for the youth and the country, especially those who have suffered harm and humiliation from cybercrime must stand up and be counted for collaboration and partnership with the EFCC. “It is important for us to realise that if we continue to move in this trajectory the future would be bleak for the youth and the country. We must do something fast. Travel abroad and see the humiliating treatment they give Nigerians. Once they see your Green Passport, they take you aside from the queue and subject you to a thorough search because of the bad image that a few of our youths have created for the country. Nigerians need EFCC. If you are not working, who will even think of you? We are working, that is why you are seeing all these attacks everywhere.

He condemned public office holders who would not want to account for their stewardship, stating that such acts of impunity have nurtured corruption in the country. “What we are simply saying is that if you have occupied a position of trust, come and account. You can only run, you can’t hide. If we don’t bring people to account they will drive the country into a pariah state, where anything goes. There is nothing personal about the work we do in the EFCC. You can see the developments that are taking place in countries that do not have the kind of resources that Nigeria has. Nigeria will be great again but we must all come together to fight corruption”, he said.

He appreciated the group for its anti-corruption stance and interventions in the direction of re-orientation of the youth away from cybercrime. “I want to thank you for all the work you do, particularly in the area of sensitizing the youth on the need for them to create a good future for themselves. What is important is for us to be optimistic. We are not going to relent, we are not afraid of anything.”

Earlier in his speech, Nwaka stated that the work of the Commission endeared it to the group because they are geared towards securing the future of Nigerian youths. “We have something deeply running through our veins which is to support and work with the Commission to ensure that corruption is brought to its knees. We also want to thank you for fighting to secure the future of Nigerian youths. That was why we became annoyed a few days ago when we heard that there were some Nigerian youths who do not care about the future of their own generation and want to protest. You are not just trying to secure the future of Nigerian youths but those of unborn generations.

“We want to commend you for the good job that you have done so far. It is not easy because the challenge is enormous. We want to tell you that you have brought new and good initiatives and reforms in the anti-corruption fight. One of them being your policy not to shut down businesses and establishments on account of investigating them.”

He further applauded Olukoyede for the Commission’s crackdown on naira mutilation. “What you are doing to restore respect for the naira can only happen when we have somebody that is firm and dogged in a cause”, he said.

[we-wont-allow-our-youths-to-derail-olukoyede](#)

5 JUL 2024

\$370,000 INTERNET FRAUD: HOW AN ALLEGED FRAUDSTER & FAMILY DEFRAUDED ME- AMERICAN VICTIM

The third Prosecution Witness, PW3, in the ongoing trial of Nwachi Chidozie Kingsley, on Wednesday, July 3, 2024, told justice U.P Kekemeke of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court, Abuja, how the defendant and his entire family allegedly conspired and defrauded her of the sum of \$370,000 (Three Hundred and Seventy Thousand United States Dollars).

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, is prosecuting Kingsley on a two-count charge bordering on stealing, obtaining by false pretence and criminal possession of fake documents to the tune of \$370,000(Three Hundred and Seventy thousand United States Dollars).

One of the counts against him reads: “That you, Nwachi Chidozie Kingsley sometime in 2021 in Abuja, within the jurisdiction of the High Court of Federal Capital Territory, Abuja with intent to defraud obtained the total sum of Three Hundred and Seventy Thousand United States Dollars(\$370,000) from Nicole Kierulff Sayers under the false pretence of being a purported payment to finance a contract with Federal Ministry of Works and Housing with Contract No: RC/FGN/0275AN/20 issued to Nwachi Chidozie Kingsley, a claim which you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1)(b) of Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act”.

At the resumed trial on Wednesday, Nicole Kierulff Sayers, an American and lawyer by profession in the state of Oregon, United States, was led in evidence by the prosecution counsel, Fatsuma Muhammad and the witness identified the defendant before the court as the man who sent her messages on Facebook during her birthday.

“I know the defendant, the defendant messaged me on Facebook on my birthday and he said he was a member of the same spiritual organization with me. We engaged in romantic discussions and phrases and we engaged in conversations that escalated into a relationship of a romantic type,” she said.

Sayers further told the court that the defendant asked her for money to finance the award of a contract by the Ministry of Works and Housing, claiming that some men were threatening his life if he didn't provide money to secure the contract.

“Before we met each other, he had asked me for money about eleven days before, and his reason for asking for the money according to him was for the award of a contract by the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing and alleged that some men were threatening his life, if he did not provide the money to secure the contract.

“He asked me for help, and supplied me with the details of the contract and logo and all the information, I believed that because I was in a vulnerable state and I had developed an emotional connection with him,” she added.

According to her, the defendant told her that if she gave him \$15,000 (Fifteen Thousand Dollars), he would repay her within 45days and she believed him, and transferred the money to the defendant, with an instruction to repay her the money.

Narrating how she transferred the money and how she got to meet the family of the defendant, Sayers said; “I transferred the money using a money transfer app, he received the money and within one week, he asked me to join him in a FaceTime Video with his family. This was his parents' house and his entire family was there, which included his sister Doris Nwachi, Kenneth Nwachi, sister-in-law Loveline, his father Chizom, his mother Victoria and his alleged daughter Princess who was then two years old.”

Continuing, Sayers said. “One more uncle of his, who I don't think is a member of the family, I think is Bishop Ekeke, he and his mother's brothers were there. He engaged me in video calls and messages and because of the reputation that I can see from a distance that he had, he is very highly regarded in the Port Harcourt area and I thought that I could trust him, so at the family meeting, each adult member that I met thanked me for saving the defendant's alleged contract job and so, I didn't realize that the entire

family could conspire against one innocent woman as myself.

The witness further told the court that she had sent a total amount of \$40,000 (Forty Thousand United States Dollars), even before she came to Nigeria to meet the defendant.

“Before I came to Nigeria, I sent to him approximately \$40,000 (Forty Thousand US Dollars), and we had continued conversation about him paying back knowing that things will change. I arrived in Abuja in late March 2022, and I spent two weeks with the defendant and despite his assurances that he wouldn't leave me alone for extended periods, he left me alone on countless occasions and I stayed at his rented house in Sun City, Abuja. But because I wanted to get my money; I continued the relationship with him. Several months later, he asked for more money, a minimum of 125 transactions. The reason he gave me fall into several categories such as medical contingencies, surgeries, malaria treatment and other categories, such as supplies on the government contracts because he didn't have the money for the government. He used emotional manipulation and gas lighting.”

“The total amount, and to my best estimate, was well over \$200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Dollars), in a period of twelve months, January to December. On a few occasions, he claimed he attempted to wire me money at one specific time. He produced a document that he claimed was a bank document and that he made an attempt to wire me \$10,000 (Ten Thousand Dollars).

“He claimed the bank intercepted it, because he said the bank claimed it was an attempted misappropriation of government funds, so he found himself in jail. He asked me to bail him out and I did, and again he asked me to make provisions for bribes to pay for the criminal case, because he attempted to misappropriate government funds

“Finally in December, after pleading and begging, and showing him my desperation, he agreed to wire more money to me and asked for the bank details and he said “I will do it tomorrow”. Few days later, I asked him, did you wire the money to me and he said no. That was when I realized that I will never see a penny from him again,” she stated.

Thereafter, the matter was adjourned till November 7, 2024 for continuation of trial.

[370-000-internet-fraud-how-an-alleged-fraudster-family-defrauded-me-american-victim](#)

5 JUL 2024

EFCC ARRESTS THREE FOR IMPERSONATING CHRISTIAN CLERIC

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested three suspected fraudsters - Odion Victor, Amos Godwin and Ayomide Michael for impersonating Evangelist Chukwuebuka Obi of Zion Prayer Movement Outreach on social media platforms to defraud unsuspecting members of the public.

The suspects were arrested following credible intelligence that uncovered how they allegedly cloned the social media accounts of Obi and deceived many of his church members to give money towards treatment of some purported sick people, sow seeds for spiritual breakthrough or for special prayers, with the money paid into the bank accounts of the fraudsters.

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-three-for-impersonating-christian-cleric](#)

5 JUL 2024

OLUKOYEDE CHARGES CORPS MEMBERS TO TAKE A STAND AGAINST CORRUPTION

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Ola Olukoyede, on Thursday, July 4, 2024, charged corps members across the country to take a deliberate stand against corruption in the interest of their future and the entire nation.

He gave the charge in Abuja while addressing Batch B, Stream One corps members at the National Youth Service Corps, NYSC, Orientation Camp in Kubwa.

According to him, as young adults and youths serving the nation after graduating from their various institutions, corps members should take a deliberate stand against economic and financial crimes and refuse to be drawn into any compromise of integrity.

He pointed out that economic and financial crimes directly put the fortunes of the economy and polity of Nigeria in jeopardy while criminality of such dimension puts foreign direct investment in uncertainty, slows down genuine efforts to build formidable structures in industries and greatly throws open the nation to avoidable complications.

The EFCC boss who spoke through Deputy Superintendent of EFCC, DSE, Abbas Abubakar Umar stated that the scourge of internet fraud has become a pervasive trouble which Nigerian youths are getting embroiled in at the detriment of their future and Nigeria's image.

"Youths are getting embroiled in all sorts of cybercrime to the detriment of their future and the image of our nation. This is one undesirable situation that calls for concern. For our economy to grow and compete favourably with strides being made in other advanced economies, the scourge of corruption must be frontally tackled," he said.

The EFCC boss further charged the youths to see corruption as an enemy to be destroyed and have a new insight into the disservice which corruption represents by willingly becoming change agents, active foot soldiers against corruption, community advocates and strong resisting forces against corruption as well as whistle-blowers or intelligence-gatherers.

At the NYSC temporary Orientation Camp in Kaduna, Kaduna State, Olukoyede, represented by Chief Superintendent CSE Nana Fatima Abubakar of the Public Affairs Department, Kaduna Zonal Directorate, stressed that youths should look inward and challenge themselves by bringing up their God-given creative ideas, perspectives and drives that can help to drive the economy. He equally enjoined them to start off by enlisting into the EFCC/NYSC CD group as that will avail them the opportunity to work closely with the Commission's advocacy arm where they serve as change agents by helping to mould kids in schools across the country.

In Ibadan, Oyo State, Olukoyede spoke through DSE Olumide Egbodofu of the Public Affairs Department, Ibadan Zonal Directorate, NYSC, Permanent Orientation Camp in Iseyin and warned corps members to steer away from internet crimes and embrace a lifestyle of industry, transparency and accountability. He decried the degrading and degenerating norms and societal values among the youths by succumbing to shady and ostentatious lifestyle.

He gave the same warning at the NYSC Orientation Camp, Issele Uku, Delta State. The EFCC boss, who was represented by Williams Oseghale, Head, Public Affairs Department, Benin Zonal Directorate expressed worry that the lure for quick wealth has resulted in youths getting involved in cyber crimes and other forms of criminality. He challenged them to be whistle-blowers in their various places of primary assignment and expose shady deals around them.

At the NYSC Orientation camp in Keffi, Nasarawa State and speaking through Head, Public Affairs Directorate, Abuja Zonal Command, CSE Ngoundu Nguetar, Olukoyede reiterated the need for youths to be hardworking as, according to him, 'there is no shortcut to wealth'. He noted that there must be a paradigm shift and youths should see corruption as an enemy to be destroyed and not as a means to wealth. He encouraged them to say something when they see something and the EFCC will definitely do something.

In the same vein in Kwara State, the anti graft czar spoke through the Head, Public Affairs Department, Ilorin Zonal Directorate of the EFCC, Ayodele Babatunde that many of the problems confronting the country such as kidnapping, banditry, poor infrastructure and others are connected to corruption. He added that all hands must be on the deck to tame the cankerworm. While calling on the youths to channel their potential productively and shun crime, the EFCC Chair said that, “yahoo-yahoo is not a sustainable way of life. The fact that the rate of unemployment is high should not be an excuse to resort to crime. Act of criminality might deliver wealth in the short term but there will be misery and gnashing of teeth at the end”, he said

Olukoyede spoke in other locations in Lagos, Maiduguri, Uyo, Port Harcourt, Makurdi cautioning youths against corrupt practices. He appreciated the collaboration between the Commission and the NYSC and looked forward to more engagements as this would help in creating a better future for our future generations.

[olukoyede-charges-corps-members-to-take-a-stand-against-corruption](#)

3 JUL 2024

EFCC WARNS PROMOTERS OF PLANNED PROTEST

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, wishes to alert the general public on the plan by a shadowy group to instigate a “protest” against the Commission.

In the last couple of days, the group has been actively campaigning in the social media, recruiting impressionable young Nigerians, including students to take up “arms” against the EFCC.

This insidious campaign is being promoted as resistance to the operational activities of the Commission especially in respect of the enforcement of the laws dealing with cybercrimes.

The Commission, while not averse to protests by citizens, is alarmed by emerging evidence that suggest a grand design by corrupt elements under investigation or prosecution by the Commission to exploit the so-called protest to orchestrate a national uprising that may threaten the peace and security of our dear nation.

As a responsible law enforcement organisation, the Commission will not tolerate any breakdown of law and order anywhere in the country especially around its office locations across Nigeria.

EFCC, working in concert with sister security agencies, is therefore taking necessary measures to deal with possible threats to the peace and security of Nigeria.

The Commission, however, appeals to parents, guardians and heads of tertiary institutions to take responsibility in ensuring that their wards are not recruited to be used as cannon fodder in a proxy war against the Commission by vested corrupt interests.

The war being waged by the Commission against corruption and cybercrime is to protect the future of the youth of this country. That future is imperiled if Nigeria degenerates further in global reckoning as a den of fraudsters.

[efcc-warns-promoters-of-planned-protest](#)

2 JUL 2024

TWO BAG JAIL TERMS FOR INTERNET FRAUD IN LAGOS

The Lagos Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentence of two internet fraudsters, Rauf Rokeeb Abayomi and Odeh Godspower, before Justice Dehinde Dipeolu

of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos.

The suspects were arraigned on June 28, 2024 on separate charges bordering on internet fraud, contrary to and punishable under Section 22(3) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc) Act, 2015.

The charge against Ayobami reads: “That you, Rauf Rokeeb Ayobami (a.k.a Nasty Anabella), on or about the 10th day of May, 2024 in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, directly made a false statement, wherein you held yourself out as a white woman by name "NASTY ANNABELLA" on your Facebook Account, knowing same to be false and with intent that the representation is relied upon for the purpose of procuring the issuance of financial instrument to yourself and thereby committed an offence, contrary to and punishable under Section 22(3) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc) Act, 2015.”

The charge against Godspower reads: “That you, Oden Godspower, sometime in April 2024, at Indy Pool Hotel Olodi, Lagos State, within the Jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, directly made a false statement wherein you held yourself out as one NASTY_PUFFPHAFF, an American citizen, using your instagram Application knowing same to be false and with intent that the representation is relied upon for the purpose of procuring the issuance of financial instrument to yourself and you thereby committed an offence, contrary to and punishable under Section 22(3) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc) Act. 2015.”

They pleaded guilty to the charges preferred against them.

In view of their guilty pleas, prosecuting counsel, C.C. Okezie, through the investigating officer, Oyinda Abdullahi, reviewed the facts of the case and tendered documentary evidence against them.

Delivering judgment on July 1, 2024, Justice Dipeolu convicted them as charged and sentenced Rauf Rokeeb to six months imprisonment, with an option of fine of N50, 000. The Judge also sentenced Godspower to two weeks imprisonment.

The convicts began their journey to the Correctional Centre when they were arrested for internet crimes. They were charged to court and convicted.

[two-bag-jail-terms-for-internet-fraud-in-lagos](#)

2 JUL 2024

COURTS JAIL SIX FOR INTERNET CRIMES IN KADUNA

Justices Darius Khobo and A.A Isiaka of the Kaduna State High Court and Hawau Buhari of the Federal High Court, Kaduna have convicted and sentenced Abubakar Shettima (a.k.a Dennis Hueber), Timileyin Akinsola (a.k.a James Smith), Favour Onoja (a.k.a Dean Leon), Naphtali Bako (a.k.a Benjah), Suleiman Ibrahim (a.k.a Rico_Mod2) and Festus Gabriel (a.k.a Sandra Will) to various jail terms for internet fraud.

The six convicts were prosecuted by the Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on separate one- count charges bordering on cheating and impersonation.

Akinsola’s charge reads: “That you Timileyin Akinsola (a.k.a James Smith), male between January and May, 2024 in Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, impersonated one James Smith, a United States of American citizen on Instagram (an online Social media application) and in such assumed character cheated one Larry Fletcher of the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Five United States Dollars (\$125USD) and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 308 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law, 2017 and punishable under Section 309 of the same Law.”

The count against Bako reads: “That you Naphtali Bako (a.k.a Benjah), sometime in April, 2024 in Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, represented yourself as one Benjah (a musician from United States of America) on Facebook (a social media platform) and in such assumed Identity cheated

one Alois Whitfield the total sum of N60,000 (Sixty Thousand Naira), only and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 308 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law, 2017 and punishable under Section 309 of the same law.”

All the convicts pleaded guilty when the charges were read to them, prompting prosecution counsel, Kehinde Ogunalde, Musa Usman Gadaka and Kehinde Ogunlade to urge the courts to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Khobo convicted and sentenced Shettima to three years imprisonment or a fine of N400,000 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira), and sentenced Timileyin to five years imprisonment or a fine of N450,000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand and Fifty Thousand Naira).

Justice Isiaka convicted and sentenced Onoja to five years imprisonment or a fine of N 400,000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira), while he handed a seven years imprisonment to Bako or pay a fine of N400,000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira).

Ibrahim and Gabriel were convicted and sentenced by Justice Buhari to 14 and four years imprisonment respectively. Ibrahim is to pay a fine of N 300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira), while Gabriel was given N500,000,00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) option of fine.

The convicts in addition forfeited their communication gadgets, being the tools of their crimes to the Federal government.

They all bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested for internet-related offences. They were charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos of some of the 419ers:

[courts-jail-six-for-internet-crimes-in-kaduna](#)

1 JUL 2024

ALLEGED MONEY LAUNDERING: WITNESS REVEALS HOW N35BN WAS FOUND IN MOMPHA'S ACCOUNTS

The sixth prosecution witness, PW6, Idi Musa, in the trial of Ismaila Mustapha, (a.k.a Mompha) an investigator with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Monday, July 1, 2024, told Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos how the sum of N35bn was found in two bank accounts linked to the defendant.

The Lagos Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, had, on January 12, 2022, arraigned Mompha alongside his company, Ismalob Global Investment Limited, on an eight-count charge bordering on conspiracy to launder funds obtained through unlawful activity, retention of proceeds of criminal conduct, laundering of funds obtained through unlawful activity, failure to disclose assets and property, possession of documents containing false pretences and use of property derived from unlawful act.

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

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when they were read to him.

On September 22, 2022, Justice Dada had ordered that the trial of Mompha would continue in absentia, after he jumped bail.

At Monday's proceedings, Musa, while being led in evidence by the prosecution counsel, S. I. Suleiman, narrated how he knew the first and second defendants in the course of investigations into the alleged criminal activities.

He told the court how the Commission had received intelligence from the Federal Bureau of Investigations, FBI, informing it that the first and second defendants were into cybercrime in the United States of America, USA.

In his testimony, he said: “ Sometime in 2019, we received intelligence from the FBI, USA. The letter was addressed to the Commission, informing us that the first and second defendant were involved in cybercrime, otherwise known as Yahoo Yahoo.”

According to him, in the course of investigation, some letters were written to two major banks requesting the account statements of the second defendant linked to the first defendant.

In his further testimony, he told the court that “The account statements were received and analysed.

"During the analysis, we discovered a heavy flow of N30bn through the account of the first defendant (Mompha) in one of the banks and about N5bn in another bank account.

“Letters were written to the FBI, and the Special Fraud Unit of the Commission, regarding the defendant’s claim that he was into Bureau De change business, in view of the volume of these transactions.

“A letter was also written to the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN and other relevant agencies”.

He also told the court that investigation revealed that the first defendant did not reside in Nigeria and that efforts to reach him proved abortive.

The PW 6 said: “A letter was written to the Nigeria Immigration Services , NIS, on October 16, 2019 to arrest the defendant anytime he was seen in the country.

"On October 18, 2019, the first defendant got information that the Commission was looking for him, while he was in Nigeria. So, he quickly got to the airport, boarded a flight in order to jet out of the country to evade arrest.

“The team got the information through the NIS officers at the airport. By then, Mompha had already boarded the flight. So, they had to call him to come down and he was immediately arrested. He was subsequently handed over to the EFCC by the immigration officers”.

When asked about the findings regarding the defendant’s bank account, Musa said over N30bn was discovered, adding that “ he told us that he was into Bureau De Change business. But investigation showed that he was not.

“We have already concluded investigations in that regard. The offences border on money laundering, operating BDC without licence before a Federal High Court in Ikoyi, Lagos.”

He also told the court that a report from the FBI's forensic analysis revealed that Mompha's iPhone was used to send account details to a United Arab Emirates telephone number, which he used to search for Swift Codes of a bank.

"Upon his arrest, all the properties recovered from him were registered with the Exhibits Section in the EFCC office.

“Most of the properties were released to him on bond, except his Iphone 8 that is still with the Commission.

“The items are proceeds of crime because when he was given the Assets Declaration Form, he did not include those items”.

The prosecution then tendered both the first defendant’s statement as well as the Asset Declaration Form.

They were admitted in evidence as exhibits P5 and P6 by the court.

Consequently, Justice Dada adjourned the case till Tuesday, October 8, 2024 for continuation of trial.

28 JUN 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 27 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN BENIN CITY

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday June 26, 2024 arrested 27 suspected internet fraudsters at different locations within Benin City.

The suspects were arrested following actionable intelligence on their suspected involvement in computer-related fraud.

Items recovered from them include the sum of N590,000, nine exotic cars, laptops and phones

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-27-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

28 JUN 2024

COURT JAILS TWO FOR IMPERSONATION IN KADUNA

Justice R.M. Aikawa of the Federal High Court, sitting in Kaduna has convicted and sentenced the duo of Onah Henry Chinonso (a.k.a Sandra Morales) and Puklong Michael Longhom (a.k.a Robertech) to prison for internet fraud.

The convicts were prosecuted by the Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on separate one-count charges, bordering on criminal impersonation on social media.

Chinonso's charge reads: "That you, Onah Henry Chinonso (a.k.a Sandra Morales), male, sometimes in May, 2024 in Jos, Plateau State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently impersonated one Sandra Morales (a female American, residing in Miami, United States) on 'Facebook' (an online social media application), with intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22(2)(b)(i) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc)Act, 2015 and punishable under Section 22(2)(b)(iv) of the same Act."

The count charge for Longhom reads: "That you Puklong Michael Longhom (a.k.a Robertech) sometime in May, 2024 in Jos, Plateau State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently impersonated one Robertech (a Tech expert) on social media platform (Instagram Application) with intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22(2)(b)(i) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc)Act, 2015 and punishable under Section 22(2)(b)(iv) of the same Act."

Both pleaded "guilty" to their charges when they were read to them, prompting prosecution counsel, Musa Usman Gadaka, who appeared with Mariya Nasaude Usman and Fatima Ustaz Usman to urge the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Aikawa thereafter convicted and sentenced Chinonso to five years imprisonment or a fine of N500,000.00, (Five Hundred Thousand Naira), while he handed Longhom four years imprisonment or a fine of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) as well.

Both convicts were arrested at Bauchi Bypass in Jos, Plateau State, following credible intelligence on their fraudulent internet activities.

The press release contains a photo of each 419er:

27 JUN 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 117 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN LAGOS

Operatives of the Lagos Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested 117 suspected internet fraudsters in Lagos.

The suspects were arrested at Regional Hotel, Iyana- Ishasi, Lagos in a sting operation, following verified intelligence about their alleged involvement in computer-related fraud.

Items recovered from the suspects, at the point of arrest, include mobile phones, laptop computers and four cars.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

27 JUN 2024

OLUKOYEDE DECRIES \$88.6 BILLION LOST TO ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS ANNUALLY IN AFRICA

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Mr. Olanipekun Olukoyede, has disclosed that a whopping \$88.6billion is lost to illicit financial flows in Africa annually.

He stated this in Tunis, Tunisia on Thursday, June 27, 2024 while delivering a keynote address at the Pan-African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) and Taxation.

Speaking on the theme “Africa’s Tax Agenda in Combatting Illicit Financial Flows: From Words to Action,”, the EFCC’s boss emphasized the grave challenge posed by Illicit Financial Flows to Africa’s economic stability and development. He noted that over \$88.6 billion is illicitly siphoned from the continent annually, funds that could otherwise be channeled towards critical infrastructure, healthcare, and education.

At the conference that brought together key stakeholders to discuss pioneering approaches to asset recovery and financial reintegration in Africa, Olukoyede discussed the role of the Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR) in providing a unified stance for African nations. He also underscored the importance of international cooperation, citing the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR), a partnership between the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as pivotal in facilitating these efforts.

The EFCC’s boss shared notable success stories, including Nigeria’s repatriation of \$311 million of the Abacha loot from the United States in 2020. This recovery, he said, was achieved through collaboration with international partners and has been allocated to vital infrastructure projects such as the Second Niger Bridge and the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway. He detailed how Nigeria is utilizing these funds for developmental projects aligned with the African Union’s Agenda 2063.

Olukoyede also incorporated outcomes from the recent high-level technical stakeholders meeting which held in Addis Ababa from May 28-30, 2024. This meeting, organized by the African Union Advisory Board against Corruption (AUABC) and the African Union Commission - Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department (AUC-PAPS), in collaboration with the GIZ Global Program on Illicit Financial Flows (GP-IFF), focused on the establishment of the Pan-African Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum.

Addressing the challenges and obstacles in asset recovery, Olukoyede highlighted the technical, legal, and political hurdles that complicate the process of tracing, freezing, and repatriating illicit funds. He called for the strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks across African countries to better combat IFFs.

He also stressed the need for capacity building, robust legal frameworks, and enhanced coordination and cooperation at national, regional, and international levels. He advocated for the use of advanced technologies such as data analytics, blockchain, and artificial intelligence to improve asset tracking and recovery efforts.

While rounding up his presentation, anti-graft czar called for continuous advocacy and international pressure to ensure cooperation from tax havens and low-tax jurisdictions. He emphasized the importance of stopping resources from leaving Africa in the first place, urging collective efforts to turn words into action for the betterment of the continent.

The Pan-African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows and Taxation, is holding from June 26-28, 2024, and aims to address the significant challenge of Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) from Africa, which undermine economic development and governance. The event provides a platform for sharing success stories, identifying obstacles, and formulating strategic recommendations to enhance the continent's capacity to combat IFFs and reclaim its assets.

The press release contains a photo:

[olukoyede-decries-88-6billion-lost-to-illicit-financial-flows-annually-in-africa](#)

419 Coalition comment: In terms of "asset recovery and integration" we'd have liked it if Chairman Olukeyede would have addressed Nigeria's lack of transparency on estimated monies stolen by 419 criminals, amounts of monies and assets recovered from 419ers by the EFCC, and verifiable amounts actually repatriated to victims of 419. Since Nigeria wants cooperation in the recovery and repatriation of monies stolen from its own citizens by its own citizens, we'd suggest it ups it game regarding the recovery and repatriation of monies stolen from the citizens of other countries by Nigerian 419ers. Quid pro quo is a marvellous thing....

27 JUN 2024

COURT JAILS FIVE FOR INTERNET FRAUD IN KADUNA

Justices R.M Aikawa and A. Isiaka on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 convicted and sentenced five internet fraudsters to prison in Kaduna.

Justice Aikawa of the Federal High Court Kaduna sentenced and convicted the trio of Molwat Terah Sati, Zumshak Paul Wankof and Chidi Tochukwu Emmanuel, while Abraham Daniel (a.k.a Eric Wallace) and Amos Wisdom (a.k.a Laura Lute) were convicted by Justice Isiaka of the Kaduna State High Court.

All the convicts were prosecuted by the Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on one-count separate charges, bordering on internet crimes.

Sati's charge reads: "That you Molwat Terah Sati (a.k.a Helena Bialas) sometime in April, 2024 at Bankers Apartment, Reyfield, Jos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently impersonated one Helena Bialas on Facebook (an online social media platform) to unsuspecting members of the public with intent to gain advantage for yourself and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 22(2)(b)(i) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc)Act, 2015."

That of Wisdom reads: "That you Wisdom (a.k.a. Laura Lute) sometimes between April and May, 2023 in Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did commit an offence to wit: cheating by impersonation when you falsely represented yourself as Laura Lute (a pornstar) on Facebook (an online social media platform) and in such assumed identity induced unsuspecting victims in the public to send to you the total sum of N 3,155,340.00 (Three Million,

One Hundred and Fifty Five Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Naira) only, and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 308 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law, 2017 and punishable under Section 309 of the same Law.”

They all pleaded “guilty” to their respective charges, prompting prosecution counsel M.J Argungu and M.Lawal to urge the courts to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justices Aikawa convicted and sentenced Emmanuel to seven years imprisonment or a fine of N400,000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira). He handed Wankof three years imprisonment or a fine of N450,000.00, (Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira). He also forfeited \$200(Two Hundred United States Dollars) to the federal government, while Sati got three years imprisonment or a fine of N400,000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira).

Similarly, Justice Isiaka convicted and sentenced Daniel to three years imprisonment or a fine of N150,000.00, (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) and sentenced Wisdom to five years imprisonment or a fine of N 300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira).

Additionally, Wisdom is to restitute the sum of N2,300,000 (Two Million, Three Hundred Thousand Naira) to the victim.

All the convicts forfeited their phones, being the tools of their crimes to the federal government.

The road to jail began for Sati, Wankof and Emmanuel when they were arrested in Jos, Plateau State, while that of Daniel and Wisdom began after they were picked up in Kaduna metropolis, following credible intelligence on their fraudulent internet activities.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[court-jails-five-for-internet-fraud-in-kaduna](#)

26 JUN 2024

KWARA COURTS JAIL TEN FOR INTERNET FRAUD

The Ilorin Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentence of ten fraudsters to various jail terms. They were all jailed for internet fraud.

On Monday, June 24, 2024, Justice Evelyn Anyadike of the Federal High Court sitting in Ilorin convicted and sentenced five persons to various jail terms.

The convicts are Sodiq Shehu; Ayinla Abdulwaheed Ayomide; Abdulkareem Omotosho ; Ekundayo Stephen Samuel and Ayinla Sofiu Abayomi.

The charge against Ayomide reads:

“That you, Ayinla Abdulwaheed Ayomide whilst a PICKER between January 2022 and August 2023 at Ilorin within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did take possession of the sum of N5,373,000.00 (Five Million, Three Hundred and Seventy Three Thousand Naira Only) transferred into your Zenith Bank account number: 2400818519 and FCMB Bank Account No: 4883945011 and which sum you knew directly represented the proceeds of crime of some persons, vz; Oluwatobi Babajide John, Akeem Adedeji, Adeleke Adedeji, e.t.c and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 17(a) & (b) of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act, 2004”

The defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they were read to them, following which Prosecution counsel, Innocent Mbachie, prayed the court to convict and sentence them.

Consequently, Justice Anyadike sentenced Shehu to four months imprisonment with an option of fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira Only) on each counts

Similarly, Ayomide, Omotosho, Samuel and Abayomi were sentenced to 12 months imprisonment each with varying option of fine between N200,000 and N300,000.

The court also ordered that all the phones, laptops that were used by the convicts to perpetrate the crime and various sums of money brought by them as restitution be forfeited to the Federal Government.

In a similar fashion, Justices Adebayo Yusuf and Mahmud Abdulgafar of the Kwara State High Court, and Justice Evelyn Anyadike of the Federal High Court in Ilorin at separate sittings on Tuesday, June 26, 2024, convicted another set of five suspected internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

They are Evugbemu Emoefe Emmanuel, Osi Ayomide Shitu, Alade Abiodun, Adegoke Gbolahan and Shehu Abdugafar Bukola.

The charges against Evugbemu Emoefe Emmanuel reads:

“That you, Evugbemu Emoefe Emmanuel (Alias: Lilian Trejo) sometime between November 2023 and April 2024 at Ilorin, within the judicial division of the High Court, did cheat by personation when you pretended to be one Lilian Trejo vide your Facebook messenger account and induced one Carl Perez to part with the sum of \$1,300 (One Thousand, Three Hundred US Dollars) through Cash App and Gift cards thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 of the Penal Code Law and Punishable under Section 324 of the same law”

They pleaded guilty to their charges when they were read to them, following which EFCC Counsel, Innocent Mbachie, Andrew Akoja and Mustapha Kaigama prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

The Justices, in their separate judgment, convicted and sentenced them to various jail terms.

Justice Yusuf sentenced Emmanuel to six months imprisonment without an option of fine and ordered that the sum of \$1,3300 (One Thousand, Three Hundred and Thirty US Dollars), which was recovered from him as well as his phone and laptop be forfeited to the Federal Government.

The judge also sentenced Abiodun to six months imprisonment with an option of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira Only) fine, while Shittu bagged two years imprisonment with an option of N300,000 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira Only). The court also ordered that the phones used as an instrument of the crime be forfeited to the Federal Government.

Similarly, Justice Abdulgafar sentenced Bukola to six months imprisonment with an option of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira Only) and ordered the forfeiture of the sum of \$150 (One Hundred and Fifty US Dollars) and the phone used by the convict to perpetrate the crime.

Justice Anyadike, in the same vein, sentenced Gbolahan to 6 months imprisonment each on the two counts brought against him with an option of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira Only) on each count. The court also ordered that the convict’s iPhone 12, Samsung Galaxy S8, and MacBook laptop be forfeited to the Federal Government.

All the convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested for internet-related offences. They were charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[kwara-courts-jail-ten-for-internet-fraud](#)

21 JUN 2024

EFCC CHARGES STUDENTS TO BE CREATIVE AND

SHUN INTERNET FRAUD

The acting Zonal Director of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Lagos Zonal Office, Michael T. Wetkas has charged students across the country to embrace original and creative thinking and shun cybercrimes.

He gave the charge on Thursday, June 20, 2024, when he received members of the National Association of Nigerian Students, NANS, on a courtesy visit to his office in Lagos.

Wetkas, who described the youth as the "building blocks of the nation," warned that cybercrime poses a serious threat to the development of the country.

He said: "The strength of any nation lies in its youths and educational level. The country needs a generation of progressive individuals who will maximize their talents."

Wetkas also expressed his willingness to collaborate with the Association, while encouraging its members to be whistleblowers.

He noted that cybercrime had now evolved from the traditional "yahoo plus" to more sophisticated forms such as sextortion.

Earlier, the National Senate Clerk of NANS, Oladimeji Uthman, expressed his gratitude to the EFCC for its swift response to the request for the visit.

While acknowledging the involvement of some students in cybercrime, he stated that the Association would be more committed to the fight against internet fraud.

Also speaking, the Lagos State Chairman of NANS, Alimi Lekan Idris, sought a collaboration with the EFCC to facilitate the organization during the Association's annual students' weeks.

[efcc-charges-students-to-be-creative-and-shun-internet-fraud](#)

17 JUN 2024

FAKE EFCC STAFF DOCKED FOR ALLEGED N1.1 MILLION FRAUD IN ENUGU

The Enugu Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has arraigned one Nweke Izuchukwu Jude before Justice Mohammed Garba Umar of the Federal High Court sitting in Independence Layout, Enugu State for allegedly impersonating officers of the EFCC.

Jude was arraigned on two-count charges bordering on impersonation and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of N1, 100, 000. 00 (One Million, One Hundred Thousand Naira).

One of the Counts reads: "That you, Nweke Izuchukwu Jude, sometime in April 2024, at Enugu, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court with intent to defraud, obtained the sum of N1, 100, 000. 00 from one Justin Chidozie Chukwukere when you fraudulently presented yourself as an officer of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, a pretence you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1 of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the same Act".

The defendant pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to him. In view of his plea, EFCC Counsel, Ajobiewe Rotimi Enitan, prayed the court for a trial date and for the defendant to be remanded at Enugu State Correctional facility.

However, the defence counsel E. S. Umeojiakor informed the court about a pending bail application before it and prayed that his client

be admitted to bail on liberal terms.

Enitan opposed the application, After listening to both sides, the court granted the defendant bail on the following conditions: bail in the sum of N2 million with two sureties in like sum. The sureties must be resident within jurisdiction of the court. One of the sureties must have a landed property within the jurisdiction and they must be verified by the court Registrar.

The matter was adjourned to October 9, 2024 for trial while the defendant was remanded at Enugu State Correctional facility pending the perfection of the bail conditions.

The press release contains a photo:

[fake-efcc-staff-docked-for-alleged-n1-1million-fraud-in-enugu](#)

17 JUN 2024

ALLEGED \$5M FRAUD: COURT DISMISSES DEFENDANT'S APPLICATION CHALLENGING JURISDICTION

Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on Thursday, June 13, 2024, dismissed the application filed by Capt. Everest Nnaji , a second defendant in a \$5m fraud trial, challenging the territorial jurisdiction of the court to hear the case filed against him and one Victor Uadiale.

The defendants are being prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on an amended five-count charge bordering on conspiracy and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of \$5 million.

One of the counts reads: "That you, Victor Uadiale (aka Victor Emeka/Amaka Emeka), Captain Everest Nnaji and Ismail Lawal (now at large), between 22nd April and 12th day of October 1998, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, obtained the aggregate sum of \$1,292,000.00 (One Million, Two Hundred and Ninety-two Thousand United States Dollar) from Tawfeeq A. Al-Omar, a Kuwaiti national, by falsely representing to him that the said sum represented payment for Urea Phosphate fertilizer, which you claimed was procured from National Fertilizer Company of Nigeria (NAFCON), Port Harcourt and Bonny Light crude oil, which pretext you knew to be false and committed an offence contrary to Section 1(3) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, No. 13 of 1995 as amended by Act No. 62 of 1999."

They pleaded not guilty to the charges preferred against them when they were first arraigned on December 14, 2018, and maintained the same plea to the amended charges.

The victim, Tawfeeq A. Al-Omar, a Kuwaiti national, had testified as the first prosecution witness, narrating how he unwittingly fell into the trap of parting with his money.

The prosecution led by Rotimi Oyedepo, SAN, had, on September 28, 2022, closed its case after calling six witnesses and tendering several documentary evidence against them.

The defence, however, filed a no-case submission.

Justice Dada had, on March 23, 2023 ,dismissed the no-case submission filed by the defendants as lacking merit and also ordered them to open their defence.

Though the first defendant had begun his testimony denying the charges preferred against him, the application of the second defendant challenging

jurisdiction remained pending.

The second defendant had argued that the charge was incompetent and urged the court to strike out his name from the charge sheet.

The prosecution, through its counsel, Bilikisu Buhari, however, prayed the court to order the second defendant to open his defence.

Delivering ruling on Thursday, Justice Dada held that the application was only intended to stall the trial and “it, therefore, fails and is hereby dismissed.”

The case was adjourned till Thursday, October 3, 2024 for continuation of trial.

[alleged-5m-fraud-court-dismisses-defendants-application-challenging-jurisdiction](#)

17 JUN 2024

ANTI-GRAFT WAR: OLUKOYEDE URGES STUDENTS TO BE CHANGE AGENTS

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyode, has urged students across the country to be change agents by being the ears and eyes of the Commission wherever they observe any fraudulent activity.

He gave the charge in Lagos on Thursday, June 13, 2024 during the Second Edition of All Public Primary Schools in Lagos Debate Competition organized by the LG News Academy.

The EFCC’s boss, who spoke through Babatunde Sulaiman of the Public Affairs Department, PAD, Lagos Zonal Command, commended the initiative and praised the pupils for reaching the finals among the 1021 participating schools.

In his goodwill message at the occasion, Olukoyode lamented the growing involvement of youths, who are potential leaders of the country, in cybercrimes.

He also expressed grave concern that the Commission, almost on a daily basis, receives credible intelligence linking many youths across the country to all manner of economic and financial crimes.

Speaking about the efforts of the Commission to curtail the disturbing trend of youths’ involvement in cybercrimes, the anti-graft czar stated that the Commission, in line with its prevention mandate, would continue to collaborate with critical stakeholders and organizations, including schools to sensitize the youth.

He, therefore, encouraged the young minds to become anti-corruption ambassadors, who would always condemn fraudulent practices, while utilizing their God-given talents for the betterment of the society.

“In this hall today, I see a crop of young minds who inspire with their powerful and moving words; and whose facial expressions alone convey the readiness to be anti-corruption ambassadors. I see a crop of youths who are desirous to join the Commission to break the chain of corruption and economic and financial crimes that has stymied the country”, he said.

He also pointed out that, “you have shown us that all Nigerian youths must not be tarred with this same brush of criminality. As youths, you cannot afford to be bystanders in the fight against corruption and economic and financial crimes in the country. You must have in the back of your mind that sitting on the fence is dangerous, especially if you consider the havoc that corruption and economic and financial crimes have wreaked on the nation.

You have to be intentional about your efforts to wage war against internet fraud.”

Olukoyede tasked the students that “whenever you find yourself, you must

try to be the ears and eyes of the Commission by condemning any fraudulent practice you may observe. Also, you must not abuse the talent that God has endowed you with; you must put it to good use for the betterment of humanity”.

In his remarks, Tunde Jakande, Chief Executive Officer, CEO, LG News Academy, said the debate topic, “ This House Believes That Technological Innovations Are More Effective in Fighting Corruption”, was informed by the recent disclosure by the EFCC’s Chair that the leadership of the country by the youth might be threatened if the spate of their involvement in cybercrime was not halted now.

Jakande, who expressed gratitude to the EFCC for its support, added that the competition “aims to educate the children about the dangers of internet fraud and scams.”

The press release contains photos:

[anti-graft-war-olukoyede-urges-students-to-be-change-agents](#)

15 JUN 2024

TWO FAKE EFCC OPERATIVES BAG 46 YEARS JAIL TERM IN LAGOS

Justice O.O. Abike-Fadipe of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, has sentenced the duo of Ugwu Pascal Chijioke and Ibrahim Sadiq Adekunle to 46 years imprisonment for impersonating operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, while executing a fake court order.

They were re-arraigned by the Lagos Zonal Command of the EFCC on an amended five-count charge bordering on impersonation, attempt to obtain property, possession of documents containing false pretence and unlawfully wearing the uniform of the EFCC.

One of the counts reads: “ That you, Ugwu Pascal Chijioke and Ibrahim Sadiq Adekunle, on or about the 12th day of May, 2021 in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, by false pretence and with intent to defraud, attempted to obtain property from one Oriyomi Johnson under the pretext that the "Chief Magistrate Court, Lagos State Judiciary, Mushin, Lagos" issued an Order to the effect that the property located at New Horizon Estate, Lekki- Ikate, Lagos be seized and the said apartment sealed pending the arrival of the said Oriyomi Johnson ,which representation you knew to be false and committed an offence of attempt to obtain property by false pretense contrary to Sections 8(b) of the Advanced Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 11(3) of the same Act.”

Another count reads: “ That you, Ugwu Pascal Chijioke and Ibrahim Sadiq Adekunle, on or about the 12th day of May, 2021 in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court not being a person holding any office in or authority of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, wore a jacket bearing the official mark of the Commission ,which was calculated to convey the impression that you held such authority and committed an offence of unlawfully wearing the uniform of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission contrary to Section 79(1) (b) of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2011.”

They pleaded guilty to the charges when they were read to them.

Following their guilty pleas, the prosecution counsel, Abdulhamid Lamido Tukur, gave a review of the facts of the case to prove the guilt of the defendants.

Tukur, thereafter, urged the court to convict the defendants as charged and sentenced them accordingly.

Justice Abike-Fadipe found them guilty as charged on counts one, two,

three, four and five.

The defendants, who were given an opportunity to address the court, pleaded for mercy.

Delivering judgment, Justice Abike-Fadipe sentenced the defendants each to seven years on counts one to three each, one year on count four and eight months on count five.

The sentences are to run concurrently.

The convicts were arrested sometime in May, 2021, following credible intelligence received by the Commission, while they were in the middle of an illegal operation at the New Horizon Estate, Lekki, Lagos.

Items recovered from them at the point of arrest included fake EFCC identity cards, jackets, and a court order purported to have emanated from Mushin Magistrate Court.

They were subsequently arraigned on October 12, 2021 an amended five-count charge, to which they initially pleaded not guilty.

The press release contains a photo:

[two-fake-efcc-operatives-bag-46-years-jail-term-in-lagos](#)

14 JUN 2024

EFCC, FBI STRENGTHEN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI on Friday, June 14, 2024 brokered a renewed strategic alliance towards tackling the menace of internet crimes and other waves of emerging and old crimes that are of mutual interests to Nigeria and the United States. .

The development came when Christopher Wray, FBI's Director led a team of the Bureau's top officials on a visit to the EFCC's Executive Chairman, Mr. Ola Olukoyede at the Commission's Abuja corporate headquarters.

In his remark at the meeting, Wray expressed delight at the bond that has existed over the years between the EFCC and FBI and called for its upscaling in the face of common crime threats that confront Nigeria and the US.

“Thank you for your hospitality and in particular for the partnership that exists between the FBI and the EFCC across a wide range of threats that we face together. We have had a relationship over the years and this is a reflection of how stronger than ever we are looking forward to taking our partnership to higher and higher levels in tackling threats that affect the people of Nigeria and the people of the United States. We have had close partnerships in shared values and focus and I want to say thank you for the wonderful partnership,” he said.

Responding, Olukoyede expressed appreciation to the FBI for being the EFCC's personnel and institutional capacity building benefactor over the years and expressed optimism that the collaboration between the two agencies would be taken a notch higher.

“We value the partnership between the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI. Over the years, this partnership has existed and it is for mutual benefits. We have to acknowledge that we have benefitted from your manpower and capacity development programmes, which have added value to the capacity of our operatives and our Academy. We also want to thank you for the technical support that you have provided over the years for the EFCC and by extension, Nigeria,” he said.

While suing for the enhancement of the collaboration and strategic partnership, Olukoyede noted that doing so was in mutual interest of Nigeria and the US, especially as criminality has become borderless.

“Some of the crimes we fight are borderless crimes, so it is extremely important for law enforcement agencies across the world to come together to collaborate. Law enforcement agencies must collaborate more. Our activities must be borderless so that we will be able to challenge the activities of the bad guys”, he said.

Assuring Wray and his team of the Commission’s commitment to collaboration with the American agency, he said that “we are willing to continue and develop ideas that would be of mutual benefit to both agencies and ensure that the issue of cybercrime will take utmost priority in our scale of preference and also ensure that sextortion that has become a major challenge to us is taken very seriously”.

Olukoyede also used the meeting to spotlight the new direction of the Commission under his leadership. He pointed out that tackling public corruption was at the zenith of the policy directives.

“One of our major problems in Nigeria is public corruption. Upon my assumption of office I shared my three major policy directives with the entire nation. I promised to use the instrumentality of the anti-corruption fight to stimulate the economy, in other words to ensure that businesses that are registered in Nigeria play by the rules. And we have shown in some of our activities that we were looking into a lot of government agencies as to how they carry out their activities particularly in the area of contract and procurement”

“We also promised the nation that we are going to follow the rule of law. I believe in results but I also believe that the way you achieve the result matters. I promised the nation that we are going to do it right.

“Thirdly is to use the activities of the EFCC to improve the international image of Nigeria and that is why we are vigorously pursuing the issue of cyber criminals because some of the activities of these folks have dented Nigeria’s image in the global space”, he said.

Olukoyede noted that achieving the shift in paradigm called for new dynamism and mechanisms in the tools of the anti-corruption fight.

“The major thrust is to use the instrument of prevention to tackle corruption in the country. The EFCC has done well over the years in the areas of investigation and prosecution, but upon my assumption of office, I decided rather to look at the sources and causes of these problems. We will not just enforce but also look at prevention, since it is also within our mandate. So we decided to set up a new department, called Fraud Risk Assessment and Control”, he said.

He expressed optimism that contract and procurement fraud would soon be a thing of the past as “we are going to ensure e-procurement in the entire nation so that it would be easy for us to track the execution of projects. That is one of the key innovations we have brought into our activities and we are really going to follow it through.”

The EFCC boss also used the occasion to highlight the centrality of appropriate public communication in the overall success of the anti-graft fight. “We are also drumming up awareness to our public enlightenment programmes. We have just launched our own FM radio station where we drum up awareness for our activities because of the misconceptions out there. The radio station is for the public to know what we are doing”.

The EFCC boss commended President Bola Ahmed Tinubu for mustering strong political will to fight corrupt practices. “The President's commitment is strong against corruption and this has been of immense motivation for us”, he said.

Other officials on the FBI delegation include: Charles Smith Jnr, Sydney

Schaur, Joshua James Moldt, William Michael Miller, Vanessa M. Tibbits, William B. Stevens, Leigha Ramson, Sofie Admire Sosenzweig and Dr. Jim Oscar.

[efcc-fbi-strengthen-strategic-partnership](#)

13 JUN 2024

ENGINEER, FIVE OTHERS JAILED FOR INTERNET FRAUD IN ILORIN

Justice Evelyn Anyadike of the Federal High Court sitting in Ilorin on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 sentenced a Civil Engineer, Abee Uthman Jasola to six months imprisonment for offences bordering on cybercrime and retention of proceeds of crime.

Jasola was prosecuted alongside Oladimeji Abubakar Oseni and Victor Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on separate charges, to which they pleaded guilty.

Three other internet fraudsters: Parakoyi Raihan Tobiloba, Morenikeji Mazeed Ayomide and Solihu Abubakar Sodiq were also jailed.

While Justice Olukayode Ariwoola of the Federal High Court sitting in Ilorin jailed Tobiloba Justice Anyadike of the same court convicted the duo of Ayomide and Solihu.

Jasola was arraigned on four- count charges bordering on internet fraud while the other five convicts were arraigned on one-count separate charges each.

Count one of the charge against Jasola reads:

“That you, Abee Uthman Jasola, whilst a Picker between January 2021 and December 2022 at Ilorin within the judicial division of the Federal High Court, did take possession of the sum of N3,330,500.00 (Three Million, Three Hundred and Thirty Thousand, Five Hundred Naira Only) transferred into your account number: 0243337682 domiciled with Wema Bank Plc. and which sum you knew directly represented the proceeds of crime of some persons, vz; Azeez Faruq Dolapo, Tawakalitu Modadeola, Zolman Technology etc and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under section 17(a) & (b) of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act, 2004” .

The charge against Tobiloba reads:

“That you, Parakoyi Raihan Tobiloba between August 2021 and September 2022 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did retain the control of the sum of N574,000.00 (Five Hundred and Seventy-Four Thousand Naira Only) in your bank account number: 3084039724 with the name: Parakoyi Raihan Tobiloba domiciled with First Bank Plc which you knew to be proceeds of criminal conduct and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 17(a) & (b) of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act, 2004”

They all pleaded guilty to their charges when they were read to them. Based on their pleas, prosecution counsel, Innocent Mbachie, Aliyu Adebayo prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Anyadike sentenced Jasola to two months imprisonment on each of the four counts with an option of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira Only) on each count.

In the same vein, Oseni and Kayode were convicted and sentenced to six months imprisonment each with an option of fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira Only) each.

The court ordered that their phones including the sum of N500,000.00 and the title documents of a landed property recovered from Jasola be forfeited to the Federal Government.

Justice Anyadike also convicted and sentenced Ayomide and Solihu to twelve months imprisonment each with an option of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira Only) and N300, 000 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira Only) respectively.

The court also ordered that their phones including a car recovered from Solihu be forfeited to the Federal Government.

In another judgment, Justice Ariwoola convicted and sentenced Tobiloba to six months' probation and ordered that the convict be made to swear an affidavit of good conduct and be reporting to the Chief Registrar of the court every last Thursday of the month within the next six months. The judge added that the convict would be given maximum punishment if he commits another offence during the period of probation.

All the convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested by operatives of Ilorin Zonal Command of the EFCC for internet-related offences. They were charged to court and jailed.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[engineer-five-others-jailed-for-internet-fraud-in-ilorin](#)

12 JUN 2024

MAKURDI COURTS JAIL 32 FOR INTERNET FRAUD

Justices M.S. Abubakar and A. Onoja of the Federal High Court Makurdi and M.I. Ikpambese of the Benue State High Court, Makurdi have convicted and sentenced thirty two internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

The convicts were jailed after pleading guilty to one -count separate charges bordering on internet fraud upon their arraignment by the Makurdi Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The convicts are: Eruka Vandefan Ephraim, Chukwudi Daniel Ifeanyi, Akahar Andrew Tsumga, Ugochukwu Stephen Ikenna, Atu Sunday, Nyior Benjamin Saakula, Atsaregh Terkuma Benedict, Kaun Jeremiah, Ochigbo Cletus, Tule Bemba Joseph, Jude Terhemba, Paul MerabaTorkuma, Mathias Ebute, Terungwa Terna Rapheal, Shaahu Abraham Atuur, Justine Usar Idyeka, Solomon Adejo, John Kator Wanger, Abubakar Sadiq Adejo, Mohammed Habib Adejo, Ule Francis Terlumun, Nyior David, Cynic Isaac, Adadu Samson Ogaba, Abraham Ombugadu Luka, Onah Oboh Joseph and Joseph Ulayi Akagiaobe.

Others are: Agennah Franklyn, Ochigo Cletus, Tule Benba Joseph, Hembafan Samuel Tarhembe and Jude Terhemba.

The charge against Atu Sunday reads: "That you, Atu Sunday sometime in April 2022 in Benue State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court dishonestly induced Intelligent Lab Limited by requesting for multiple chargeback of a successful transaction done on their Point Of Sale (POS) a transaction you knew was false, causing her wrongful loss through your deceit and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 322 of the Penal Code (CAP) 124 Laws of Benue State and punishable under the same Law."

All the defendants pleaded guilty when the charges were read to them, prompting counsel to EFCC M. Yusuf, A.S. Idris and A.Gazali to pray the courts to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Eruka Vandefan Ephraim, Akaahar Andrew Tsumga, Ugochukwu Stephen Ikenna and Atu Sunday bagged one year imprisonment with an option of (N100.0000.00) One Hundred Thousand Naira fine each.

Chukwudi Daniel was convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment with an option of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) fine.

Nyior Benjamin and Astaregh Terkuma Benedict bagged two years imprisonment with an option of N500,000.00 and N200, 000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira)

respectively.

Kaun Jeremiah was convicted and sentenced to six (6) months imprisonment or an option of N20,000.00(Twenty Thousand Naira).

Other convicts are: Paul Meraba Torkuma convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment or an option of N500,000.00. He also forfeited the sum of N4,800,000.00(Four Million Eight Hundred Thousand Naira) one Red Colour Lexus 2010 Model with registration number ABUJA (KWL 413 BZ and iphone 13 Pro Max, Mathias Ebute convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment or an option of N500,000.00 fine. He forfeited his iphone 14 pro max and the sum of N4,000,000.00(Four Million Naira) to the Federal Government of Nigeria, Terungwa Terna Rapheal jailed one year or N300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand Naira) fine, Shaahu Abraham Atuur and Justine Usar Idyerkaa jailed one year each with a fine of N 200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each and an order to restitute the sum of N1,500,000.00(One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira and N300,000.00 (Three Hundred Thousand) to their victims.

Other convicts include: Solomon Adejo, Mohammed Habib Adejo and Abubakar Sadiq Adejo who were jailed two years each with an option of N500,000.00 fine for Solomon and Abubakar each while Mohammed was fined N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira).

The court ordered Abubakar to forfeit a grey colour Toyota Car with registration number ABUJA (YAB 668 DP) purchased with the proceeds of crime to form part of the restitution sum valued at N14,500,000.00 (Fourteen Million Five Hundred Thousand Naira) and t N 3, 562, 750.00 (Three Million, Five Hundred and Sixty Two Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty Naira) recovered in his possession.

Synic Isaac was convicted and sentenced to one year jail term with an option of N100,000.00 fine and restitution of N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira. Adadu Samson Ogaba was jailed two years with an option of N1,000,000.00 (One Million Naira) and restitution of the sum of N6,500,000.00 (Six Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira). Abraham Ombugadu Luka bagged one year jail term or an option of N100,000.00 fine.

He also restituted the sum of N2,000,000.00 (Two million Naira), Onah Oboh Joseph was jailed one year or an option of One Hundred Thousand Naira and forfeiture of a black Toyota Corolla car with registration number ABUJA (RBC 355 CU). He restituted the sum of N302,000.00 (Three Hundred and Two Thousand naira) to the Federal Government of Nigeria and his bank account closed.

Joseph Ulayi Okagiobe was sentenced to one year imprisonment or an option of fine of N1000,000.00 and an order to restitute the sum of N252,000.00 (Two Hundred and Fifty Two Thousand Naira and his bank account closed. Agennah Franlyn bagged one year jail term with an option of N100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira fine. Ochigo Cletus was imprisoned for one year with an option of N200, 000 fine. Tule Bemba Joseph jailed one year with an option of N200,000.00 fine.

He forfeited One Toyota Corolla 2013 Model with Registration number BENUE (VDY 54 DA) , the sum of N5,578,999.34 (Five Million, Five Hundred and Seventy Eight Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety Nine Naira, Thirty Four kobo) domiciled in his bank account.

Others are : Samson Emmanuel, Torkuma Henry, Ngbegocho Enoch Ogah, Adakole Idoko, Abah David, Umbugadu Bitrus Ahmadu, Oloche Patrick Ogboji Emmanuel, Onehi Joshua, Ikogi Idu Linus, Terhemba Micheal, convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment with an option of N1000,000.00 each.

Tule Peter Sesugh and Inalegwu James bageed two years imprisonment or the sum of N100,000.00.

The judges further ordered the convicts to forfeit all devices recovered from them being proceeds of crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

All the convicts were arrested by operatives of the EFCC for internet offences and were jailed.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[makurdi-courts-jail-32-for-internet-fraud](#)

11 JUN 2024

12 BAG JAIL TERMS FOR INTERNET FRAUD IN CALABAR

The Uyo Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has secured the conviction and sentence of twelve (12) internet fraudsters before Justices Ijeoma Ojukwu and Rosemary Oghoghorie of the Federal High Court sitting in Calabar, Cross River State.

While Justice Ojukwu convicted and sentenced 11, namely: Nwaeke Vitalis Ndubisi, Kingsley Goodnews, Inyang Victor, Ekere-Obong Adams, Usang Enang, Ogudu James, Arinze Nelly, David Dede, Ibeawuchi Okwukwechukwu, Prince Samuel Ukpai and Ekpo Peter, Justice Oghoghorie convicted and sentenced Joshua Akpabio.

All the convicts were prosecuted on two-count charges bordering on criminal impersonation on social media platforms with intent to defraud unsuspecting members of the society, barring Akpabio, Ukpai and Peter who faced one-count charge, respectively.

The charge against Ndubuisi reads: "That you, NWAKEKE VITALIS NDUBUISI "M" sometime in August 2023, in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court did fraudulently present yourself as Cytal Barton to unsuspecting victims on the social media platform; Facebook with intent to gain advantage for yourself did take possession of the sum of N150,000 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) knowing that the money forms part of the proceed of an unlawful act to wit; impersonation thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18 (2) (d) of the Money Launder (Prohibition and Prevention) Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 18 (3) of the same Act."

They all pleaded guilty to their charges when they were read to them, following which prosecution counsel Joshua Abolarin and Mahmud Khamis prayed the courts to convict and sentence them accordingly, while defence counsel, Tom Udeme, Francis Ezike, Innocent Eze and Henry Iyipiyayo prayed the courts for leniency on the ground that the defendants were first time offenders.

After listening to the arguments of both the prosecution and defence counsel, Justice Ojukwu handed Ndubisi, Goodnews, Victor, Adams, Enang, James, Nelly, Dede and Okwukwechukwu six months jail term on each of their two-count charges which is to run concurrently and six months jail term to Peter and Ukpai on their one-count charge, while Akpabio bagged a one year jail term, with the option to pay a N1 million fine from Justice Oghoghorie.

In addition to their jail terms, Adams restituted the sum of \$100, Enang \$200 and Dede \$450 to their victims.

The convicts were arrested at different locations in Cross River and Akwa Ibom States for internet offences.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[12-bag-jail-terms-for-internet-fraud-in-calabar](#)

10 JUN 2024

EFCC ARRAIGNS SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTER FOR IMPERSONATION IN LAGOS

The Lagos Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Monday, June 10, 2023, arraigned a suspected internet fraudster,

Victor Fasuba, on a one-count charge bordering on fraudulent impersonation before Justice Kehinde Ogundare of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos.

The lone-count charge reads:

“That you, FASUBA VICTOR OLUWATOSI, sometime in November 2023, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, fraudulently impersonated one "Arrow Grant" by holding yourself out as such on Facebook App, with intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 22(2)(b) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc) Act, 2015.”

He pleaded “guilty” to the offence when it was read to him.

In view of his guilty plea, prosecution counsel, Z.B. Atiku, sought to review the facts before the court.

Justice Ogundare, however, adjourned the matter to June 25, 2024 for review of facts.

The defendant was ordered to continue on the administrative bail earlier granted by the EFCC.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arraigns-suspected-internet-fraudster-for-impersonation-in-lagos](#)

8 JUN 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 127 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN AKURE

Operatives of the Ibadan Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested One Hundred and Twenty Seven (127) suspected internet fraudsters in Ondo State.

The alleged internet fraudsters were arrested in an early morning sting operation at a “Yahoo Party” held simultaneously at Signature and Abah Clubs on Saturday, June 8, 2024 in Akure, Ondo State.

Credible intelligence showed that the alleged party was initially scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, 2024 but was later moved to Saturday to beat security and intelligence networks of the EFCC.

The suspects have given useful information to Investigators of the Directorate.

Items recovered from them include ten exotic cars, phones, laptops, motor-cycle, wristwatches and many incriminating documents.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-127-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-akure](#)

7 JUN 2024

EFCC ARRESTS FOUR SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ABUJA

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Thursday, June 6, 2024, arrested four suspected internet fraudsters in Abuja.

The suspects were arrested during a sting operation at the Kubwa axis of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Abuja,

following intelligence and surveillance on their alleged fraudulent activities in the area.

Items recovered from the suspects include four brands of mobile phone

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

[efcc-arrests-four-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abuja](#)

7 JUN 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 11 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN PORT HARCOURT

Operatives of the Port Harcourt Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested 11 suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested in a sting operation carried out at Whimpey, Ada George area of Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

Their arrest followed credible intelligence on their alleged internet fraud activities and several days of the Commission's surveillance within the areas.

Arrested with them are four cars, diverse brands of phones and laptop computers containing fraudulent documents.

They will be charged to court upon conclusion of investigations.

[efcc-arrests-11-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-port-harcourt](#)

6 JUN 2024

OYO COURTS JAIL 36 INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN IBADAN

The Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentence of thirty-six (36) internet fraudsters to various jail terms before Justices Uche Agomoh and E.U. Akpan of the Federal High Court, Ibadan, Oyo State; Ladiran Akintola, K.B. Olawoyin, Bayo Taiwo and O.S. Adeyemi of the Oyo State High Court in Ibadan.

The convicts are Ayodele Victor Ayodeji, Adebayo Kazeem Akanbi, Ajayi Charles Temitayo, Rokeeb Olamide Taiwo, Olaleye Adedolapo Emmanuel, Emiade Azeez Ayotunde, Azeez Ademola, Afolabi Mayowa Akinbobola, Shittu Waheed Adeleke, Franklyn Ibeh Kelechi, Olanrewaju Olaitan Quadri, Olawale Elijah Seyi Awofolaju, Samuel Olayemi Ademeso, Akindele Timothy Olatunde, Sholeye Gideon Olamilekan, Waheed Olamide Ahmod, Lawal Paul Jelili, Asaju Muhammad Numan and Badejo Adefemi Emmanuel.

Others are: Gomina Dennis Ozaveshe, Adio Hassan Taiwo, Adio Kehinde Hozaine, Adewunmi Adeboye Gabriel, John Oluwatimilehin Moses, Odeniyi Faruk Idowu, Owodunni Monsuru Abiodun, Sanwiyu Niyi Owonifari, Adeyinka Adewale Olujobi, Ogunbiyi Segun Joseph, Ayomide Oniyitan Oluwatosin, Badmus Faruk Kayode, Jimoh Sylvester Enahoro, Azeta Sunday Osaremeh, Lukuman Olatemo, Emmanuel Ebgiri Ogah and Ayomide Ibrahim Ishola.

The charge against Ayomide Ibrahim Ishola reads: "That you, Ayomide Ibrahim Ishola on or about October, 2018, in Ibadan within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, falsely represented yourself as a female from the United States of America with the name Lawrence Janet to one Ralph Wells via your Google Chat account, which representation you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence of impersonation contrary to Section 484 of the Criminal Code Law Cap 38, Laws of Oyo State, 2000."

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges bordering on obtaining by false pretence, possession of fraudulent documents, impersonation and aiding in committing an offence upon arraignment by the Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC between April 24 and May 29, 2024.

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they were read to them in court as prosecution counsel: Oluwatoyin Owodunni, Modupe Akinkoye, Oyelakin Oyediran, Sanusi Galadanchi, Lanre Suleiman, Mabas Mabur, Shamsuddeen, Umar Abiso, Abiddeen Muhammad, Adamu Sahabi, Fatima Baba, David Olubode and Favour Adewunmi prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Consequently, Justice Agomoh convicted and sentenced Joseph, Oluwatosin and Kayode to one year imprisonment each without an option of fine, Enahoro to ten months imprisonment, while Osaremeb bagged six months imprisonment and Olatemo to four months imprisonment without an option of fine.

Also, Justice Akpan convicted and sentenced Owonifari to one and a half years imprisonment and Abiodun to one year imprisonment or a fine of N100, 000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira).

Furthermore, Justice Olawoyin convicted and sentenced Ishola to one and a half years imprisonment or a fine of N1, 500, 000.00 (One Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira) and Olujobi bagged six months imprisonment or a fine of N400, 000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira).

Justice Adeyemi convicted and sentenced Hozaine, Gabriel, Idowu and Ogah to six months community service each without an option of fine, as Idowu forfeited a silver coloured Toyota Camry car with registration number: GBE – 334 – AE to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

More so, Justice Taiwo convicted and sentenced Ozaveshe to four months community service or a fine of N150, 000.00 (One hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) and Taiwo to five months community service or a fine of N150, 000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira).

Justice Akintola convicted and sentenced Adedolapo Emmanuel, Ayotunde, Ademola, Kelechi, Quadri and Moses to one year imprisonment each or fines of N50, 000. 00 (Fifty Thousand Naira), N100, 000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira), N20, 000. 00 (Twenty Thousand Naira), N30, 000.00 (Thirty Thousand Naira), N150, 000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) and N120, 000.00 (One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Naira) respectively.

Also, Justice Akintola convicted and sentenced Olamide Taiwo, Akinbobola and Adefemi Emmanuel to six months community service each or fines of N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira), N150, 000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) and N60, 000 .00 (Sixty Thousand Naira) respectively.

Furthermore, Justice Akintola convicted and sentenced Ayodeji, Akanbi and Adeleke to three months community service each or a fine of N20, 000.00 (Twenty Thousand Naira) each, while Temitayo, Awofolaju, and Jelili bagged three months community service each or a fine of N30, 000.00 (Thirty Thousand Naira) each.

Also, Olamilekan, Ahmod and Numan were convicted and sentenced to three months community service each or a fine of N25, 000.00 (Twenty-five Thousand Naira) each, while Ademeso also bagged three months community service or a fine of N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira) and Olatunde to three months community service or a fine of N40, 000.00 (Forty Thousand Naira).

Ayotunde forfeited one black Lexus ES 350 car with registration number: GGE – 665 – GY, Quadri forfeited a brown ES 300 vehicle with registration number: MEK – 39 – LK while Moses forfeited a Toyota Camry car with registration number: BDG – 144 – GF.

Also, Adefemi Emmanuel forfeited one grey coloured Lexus RX 300 vehicle with registration number: LND – 940 – CD with Chassis number: JT6HF1042YO11941, Abiodun forfeited a brown Mercedes Benz with Chassis number: WDC0G4K9GF102450,

while Ishola forfeited a grey colour Toyota Highlander with registration number: RSH – 857 – CV.

Furthermore, Enahoro forfeited an ash coloured Toyota Camry with registration number: ABC – 658 – SE and Osaremehe forfeited one silver Honda Accord with registration number: KTU – 773 – DN among others to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

All the convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested by operatives of the Commission for internet-related offences. They were charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[oyo-courts-jail-36-internet-fraudsters-in-ibadan](#)

5 JUN 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 100 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ENUGU

Operatives of the Enugu Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC have arrested 100 (One Hundred) suspected internet fraudsters at different locations of Enugu State.

The suspects were arrested in early morning sting operations on Wednesday, May 5, 2024 following actionable intelligence about suspected activities of an organised syndicate of internet fraudsters operating along Ibagwa-Nike and other locations in the Enugu metropolis.

Items recovered from them include three exotic cars, mobile phones and laptops.

The suspects will be arraigned in court upon conclusion of investigations.

The press release includes photos:

[efcc-arrests-100-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-enugu](#)

3 JUN 2024

COURT JAILS 15 INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN BENIN CITY

The Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission has secured the conviction and sentence of 15 internet fraudsters before Justice Efe Ikponmwonba of Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City.

They were jailed between May 24 and May 30, 2024.

The convicts are Gospel Emmanuel, Osayende Endurance Enaruna, Ede Festus Awuru, Divine Iyabosa Igbinosa, Apemiye David John, Sorinmade Seun, Godspower Miracle, Iboi Joshua Abraham, Precious Igbinosa, Japhet Odigie, Solomon Bright, Idama Francis, Odusan Ayo Nancy, Achi Emmanuel, Oghenetega Famous Ogbeni and Achi Kelly.

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charge bordering on obtaining by false pretence, possession of fraudulent documents upon arraignment by the Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The lone-count charge reads: “That you EDE FESTUS AWURU on or about the 14th of Day of May, 2024 in Benin, Edo State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did have in your possession documents which you knew or reasonably ought to have known contain false pretenses and misrepresentations and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section

6 and 8 of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act.”

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they were read to them, prompting the prosecution counsel, F. A. Jirbo, I. M Elodi, I.K Agwai, K.Y. Bello and Ahmed Salihu and Bala Ribah to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy stressing that they have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Ikponmwonba on Monday May, 24, 2024 sentenced Miracle and John to three years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) each, Kelly bagged two years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 while Ogbeni was sentenced to community service.

On Monday May 27, Justice Ikponmwonba convicted and sentenced the duo of Odigie and Igbinosa to three years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) each while Solomon Bright was sentenced to community service.

On Wednesday May 29, Justice Ikponmwonba convicted and sentenced Sorinmade, Emmanuel, Nancy, Francis and Awuru to two years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000. Gospel Emmanuel was sentenced to community service. On Thursday May 30, 2024 Justice Ikponmwonba sentenced Igbinosa to two years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 while Endurance was sentenced to community service.

All the convicts forfeited their phones, laptops, balances in their various bank accounts being instruments and proceeds of crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria. They are to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour afterwards

The convicts' road to the Correctional Centre began following their arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Command of the Commission based on actionable intelligence regarding their involvement in computer related fraud.

[court-jails-15-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

31 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 40 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ABUJA

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Friday, May 31, 2024 arrested 40 suspected internet fraudsters at different axes of Abuja.

While 18 of them were arrested at Dawaki axis, the remaining 12 were arrested at other locations of Abuja.

Their arrest followed credible intelligence about their suspected involvement in internet activities.

Items seized from the suspects include 23 phones, 4 laptops and 4 vehicles.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-40-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abuja](#)

30 MAY 2024

24 INTERNET FRAUDSTERS BAG JAIL TERMS IN ABAKALIKI

The Enugu Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC have secured the conviction and sentence of 24(Twenty-four) internet fraudsters before Justice H. I. O. Oshomah of the Federal High Court sitting in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.

The convicts are; Chidiebere Franklin Anozie, Odo Nelson, Osunkwo Chibuik Stanley, Nwaibo Emmanuel Ogbaga, Obinna Ohazurume Bethel, Ugochukwu Daniel Emeziem, Timothy Chimobi Ngwuezumbe, Victor Ebuka Nwaogu, Chimaobi Valentine Ugoji, Eke Emmanuel Udochukwu, Chimere Godson Ojinnaka, David Nwachukwu and Emmanuel Chinemerem Agbaraji.

Others include; Ayoka Promise Mmesoma, Philip Ikechukwu Izuogu, Precious Chinemerem Nwogu, Stanley Chibueze Nwachukwu, Kelly Nwankwo, Anthony Chidozie Uwadiogwu, Udeagha Kenneth Chinedu, Kelechi Charles Omoha, Ibina Solomon Chisom, Victor Abonu and Ikenna Daniel.

They were convicted after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges bordering on fraudulent impersonation and obtaining by false pretence.

One of the separate charges reads: "That you, Osunkwo Chibuik Stanley, sometime in May, 2024 in Owerri, Imo State, within the Jurisdiction of this Honourable Court of Nigeria, fraudulently impersonated the identity of Dahunsi Esther, a female foreigner from the United Kingdom through a fake Facebook account, via your LG G7 with imei no 357262090591648 with intent to obtain money from unsuspecting foreign nationals and in order to gain advantage for yourself and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (3) (a) (b) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention etc) Act 2015 and punishable under Section 22 (4) of the same Act".

All the convicts pleaded guilty when the charges were read to them separately. In view of their pleas, prosecuting counsel, Chikezie Raymond Edozie prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

However, defence counsel, E. J Nwatarali prayed the court to temper justice with mercy, adding that the convicts "have learnt their lessons and are remorseful".

After listening to both sides, the Justice Oshomah convicted and sentenced them to two years imprisonment each with an option of fine of N150, 000, 00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira). The convicts also bagged six months Community Service each.

The judge further ordered that mobile phones recovered from them be auctioned through the Commission and proceeds paid into the Treasury Single Account of the Federation.

All the convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested for internet-related offences. They were prosecuted and convicted.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[internet-fraudsters-bag-jail-terms-in-abakaliki](#)

29 MAY 2024

EFCC SECURES 3,175 CONVICTIONS, RECOVERS N156 BILLION IN ONE YEAR

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede, has disclosed that the Commission secured 3175 convictions and recovered N156, 276,691,242.30 (One Hundred and Fifty-six Billion, Two Hundred and Seventy-Six Million, Six Hundred and Ninety-One Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty-Two Naira, Thirty kobo) between May 29, 2023 and May 29, 2024 when President Bola Ahmed Tinubu assumed office.

He stated this in Abuja on Wednesday, May 29, 2024 at the launch of Zero Tolerance Club in University Abuja, Gwagwalada, Abuja.

Olukoyede, who spoke through the Secretary to the Commission, Mohammed Hammajoda said the EFCC also recovered \$43,835,214.24, £25,365.00, €186,947.10, ₦1,360.00, C\$3,750.00, A\$740.00, ¥74,754.00, R35,000.00, 42,390.00 UAE Dirhams, 247.00 Riyals and 21,580, 867631 Crypto Currency.

Speaking further, the Chairman stated that, though the EFCC put up impressive performance within the year, involvement of youths in internet fraud continued to pose serious concerns to every stakeholder in the anti-graft war.

“In spite of this commendable performance, the Commission is deeply worried about the increasing involvement of young people, including students, in cybercrime, popularly called yahoo yahoo. Hundreds of suspects are arrested monthly, with many of them ending up in jail”, he said.

He called on students of the University to stay away from internet fraud, stressing that conviction for fraud “ is a burden that will leave a life-long scar on the fortunes of these youths”. He further stated that there was no justification for cybercrime anywhere.

“There is no justification that will make yahoo yahoo acceptable. Contrary to the impression in some quarters, being a fraudster is not synonymous with creativity or being smart.. As students, you are expected to channel your creative energies into useful engagements and not get entangled in cheating others of their resources,” he said.

Also speaking, Director of Public Affairs Department of the Commission, DCE Wilson Uwujaren said the Commission was at the University not only to inaugurate Zero Tolerance Club, but also to mobilise youths against the ills of corruption. “The blessings that God has given Nigeria has not really translated into wealth for all of us. And for some of us who are a little bit older, we have cause to express worry about the future of our children and the future of our youths. This is why the EFCC is here today not only to launch a Zero Tolerance Club for you, but to also sensitize you on why it is important for you to embrace the fight against corruption,” he said. The Club, he further explained, “is a platform of continuous conversation on why our nation has to fight and win the war against corruption”.

In his welcome address, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Abuja, Professor Abdulrasheed Na’Allah charged the youths to be productive and avoid doing anything that would destroy the good name or image of their families. He further tasked them to be productive like their counterparts in the developed nations where talents are used for creativity and innovation rather than indulging in internet fraud. He commended Olukoyede and management of the Commission for finding the University of Abuja worthy for a Zero Tolerance Club.

In his presentation on the ills of cybercrime, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACEII David Ife advised youths to channel their energy towards productive and beneficial purposes for themselves and the nation at large, pointing out that criminality offered no gain to anyone.

Head, Enlightenment and Reorientation Unit of the Commission, ACEI1 Aisha Mohammed said the essence of the launch of the club in Universities was to develop, nurture and empower future leaders to be proactive and be “Ambassadors of the Commission through education and by guiding them to propagate the core-values of anti-corruption in their family, neighbourhood, schools, communities, societies and the country at large”.

The launch was concluded with the presentation of the Manuals and Magazines of the Commission to the Patron of the Club. A signage was also presented to the School

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-secures-3-175-convictions-recovers-n156-billion-in-one-year](#)

419 Coalition comment: We'd be very interested in knowing the amount of monies recovered from 419 criminals, and, of that amount, how much was verifiably restored and repatriated to victims of 419 crimes. We urge that such information be included in all EFCC statements regarding convictions and recovery of monies as a matter of routine. Of course, we've been advocating for this for many years now...

28 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 11 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN KADUNA

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Kaduna Zonal Command, have arrested 11 suspected internet fraudsters in the Kaduna metropolis.

Specifically, they were arrested at Apple Gate Hotel, Karji and Barnawa in Kaduna State following credible information about their suspected involvement in internet-related offences.

Items recovered from them include 16 phones, one wristwatch and one laptop.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-11-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-kaduna](#)

28 MAY 2024

BEWARE OF RISING PHISHING ACTIVITIES

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, wishes to alert the public of an alarming rise in phishing activities targeting unsuspecting individuals across various digital platforms.

In recent months, the Commission has observed a surge in fraudulent schemes designed to deceive individuals into disclosing sensitive personal information, including financial details, through deceptive emails, text messages, social media messengers and fake websites.

These phishing perpetrators often impersonate reputable organizations, financial institutions or government agencies, exploiting the trust of their victims for illicit gains.

The EFCC emphasizes the critical importance of vigilance and caution when encountering unsolicited communications or unfamiliar links, especially those requesting sensitive information or promising financial benefits.

Individuals must verify the authenticity of any communication (message) or website before divulging personal details or engaging in financial transactions.

Furthermore, the Commission urges the public to promptly report any suspected phishing attempt or fraudulent activity to its nearest Zonal Command or the nearest law enforcement agency. Timely reporting enables swift action to be taken in order to disrupt criminal operations and protect potential victims from financial losses and identity theft. For this purpose and other enquiries, call the EFCC hotline: +2348093322644 or send a message to the official email address : info@efcc.gov.ng.

[beware-of-rising-phishing-activities](#)

28 MAY 2024

SEXTORTION: FBI'S WITNESS REVEALED HOW DEFENDANT DEMANDED \$200 FROM LATE VICTIM

Ayotunde Solademi, a Foreign Service National Investigator with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI and second prosecution witness, PW2, in the ongoing trial of Muideen Olamilekan Teslim, on Monday,

May 27, 2024, told Justice Dehinde Dipeolu of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos, how the defendant threatened to release the unclad pictures of his late victim, if he did not pay him the sum of \$200(Two Hundred Dollars only).

Teslim is standing trial on a six-count charge bordering on possession of child pornography and sextortion brought against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

One of the counts reads: “That you, Muideen Teslim Olamilekan (a.k.a joyamanda), on or about the 18th of April, 2022 in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, intentionally had in your possession child pornography of a minor in your account joyamandan645@gmail.com and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under section 23(1)(e) of the of Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) Act, 2015.”

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when they were read to him.

At the resumed sitting on Monday, Solademi, who was led in evidence by the prosecution counsel, Bilkisu Buhari, told the court that the FBI and the EFCC, sometime in July 2023, conducted a joint operation code-named Operation Artemis, which focused on financial sextortion cases.

Solademi, in his testimony, said the Child Exploitation Operational Unit of the FBI, sometime in April 2023, was called to a case involving a 15-year-old American male, who was befriended by a supposedly 16-year-old female named Joy Amanda.

He added that “They were both chatting on a social media platform called Wink. The email address used by Joy Amanda on Wink is joyamanda646@gmail.com.

“When they both met on Wink, Joy Amanda sent some nude pictures to the victim and requested the victim to also send his nude pictures. The victim, believing that the pictures he received were from the person he was chatting with, then sent nude pictures of himself to Joy Amanda. After Joy Amanda received the pictures, he made a picture collage, sent back to the victim and threatened that he would share the picture with all the victim’s contacts if the victim doesn’t send \$200.

“Joy Amanda told the victim to send the money through CashApp, PayPal or Apple Gift card and gave a username for these accounts. The user name was Muideenteslim278@gmail.com.”

In his further testimony, Solademi informed the court that while law enforcement officers were speaking to the victim in his house, a call came in through the victim’s phone, threatening the victim.

According to him, “the caller ID showed Joy Amanda. The person speaking on the other side had a male voice. He was threatening that if he didn’t send the money, the picture would be released to the contacts.

“Thirty minutes after law enforcement agents left the victim’s house, a call was pulled through to the law enforcement by the victim’s parent that the victim shot himself in the head because of the incessant threat he received from the so-called Joy Amanda and he died.”

Narrating the steps taken by the law enforcement officers during investigations, the PW2 further told the court that “Legal processes were served by the FBI to Wink, Google and WhatsApp. Wink provided the email associated with Joy Amanda as joyamanda645@gmail.com. FBI then proceeded to serve legal processes on Google with the email address of Joy Amanda and the username that was provided for payment that is muideenteslim278@gmail.com.

“The response from Gmail showed that the recovery email for Joy Amanda is a Glo phone number ending with 9664, while that of Muideen Teslim is an Airtel phone number ending with 5098.

“Google revealed that the IP address of Joy Amanda was coming from Nigeria. Likewise, WhatsApp responded that the phone number ended with 9664, a glo

number.

“All the evidence and pictures were packaged into a petition and was submitted as one of the cases under Operation Artemis. “

Buhari, thereafter, asked the PW2 if he could identify the request from the office of the Legal Attache in the US consulate to prosecute under Nigerian Law written to the EFCC, as well as other evidence against the defendant.

The prosecution counsel applied to tender the same and they were admitted as exhibits.

When PW2 was asked to confirm certain details on the exhibits, he said, “In Exhibit 7, the glo number attached to JoyAmanda645@gmail.com is 08071489664, while the Airtel number attached to muideenteslim278@gmail.com is 08127015068.

“In Exhibit 6, the wallet number on the Opay account opening package of Muideen Teslim is 8071489664 and the BVN number is 22377813795

“In Exhibit 3, on the google account personal info, the email address is joyamanda646@gmail.com and the phone number attached is 08071389664.”

He also confirmed the picture collage that Joy Amanda sent to the victim.

When asked during cross-examination by the defence counsel, A.J. Adejuwon, for the victim’s name, the witness said: “The name of the victim was withheld to protect the family's privacy. The victim stayed in Magnolia, U.S A., before his death.”

The witness also clarified that the explicit photos were not shared with the EFCC to prevent further distribution.

Upon discharge of PW2, Adejuwon applied before the court to file a no-case submission.

Justice Dipeolu adjourned the matter to July 4, 2024 for ruling on no-case submission.

[sextortion-fbis-witness-revealed-how-defendant-demanded-200-from-late-victim](#)

27 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 26 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ABUJA

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abuja Zonal Command on Wednesday, May 23, 2024 arrested 26 suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested at New Nyanya, Nasarawa State following actionable intelligence about their suspected involvement in fraudulent internet activities.

Items seized from the suspects include over 30 phones and 3 laptops.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-26-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abuja](#)

26 MAY 2024

EFCC MOURNS LAMORDE

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, received with shock the sudden death of one of its former Executive Chairman, Mr. Ibrahim

Lamorde.

Lamorde, pioneer Director of Operations and third substantive Chairman of the EFCC between February 15, 2012 and November 9, 2015, served the nation actively as a focused and gallant anti-graft fighter.

He will be sorely missed both at the EFCC and the nation at large.

The Commission prays for the repose of his soul and comfort for his family, the EFCC and the entire nation.

The press release contains photos of former EFCC Chairman Ibrahim Lamorde:

[efcc-mourns-lamorde](#)

419 Coalition comment: 419 Coalition was able to work with Mr. Lamorde on several important cases and other matters when he was Chairman of the EFCC. Mr. Lamorde recognized the value of NGO counter-419 groups, including 419 Coalition, to the EFCC and indeed, to the Nigerian nation and people as a whole. We regretted his departure from the EFCC, and thank him for his service to Nigeria and for his outreach efforts to the global NGO counter-419 network. May he rest in perfect peace.

24 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 46 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN AWKA

Operatives of the Enugu Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC have arrested Forty-six (46) suspected internet fraudsters, in Awka metropolis, Anambra State.

The suspects were arrested during a sting operation, in the early hours of Friday, May 24, 2024 following credible intelligence linking them to cybercrimes activities in the State.

Items recovered from them include mobile phones, six laptops and six exotic cars.

The suspects are currently tendering confessional statements and will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-46-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-awka](#)

22 MAY 2024

ALLEGED N1.2M US VISA SCAM: AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN, MARCO RAMIREZ KNOWS FATE SEPT. 10

Justice Mojisola Dada of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, adjourned till September 10, 2024 judgment in the alleged \$1.2million US visa scam involving an American businessman, Marco Antonio Ramirez.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, is prosecuting Ramirez alongside his companies, USA NOW LLC, Eagle Ford Instalodge Group LP and USA Now Energy Capital Group LP, for an alleged \$1.2 million EB-5 visa scam.

The defendant allegedly obtained the money from his victims as processing fees for their investments in his company, USA Now Energy Capital Group LP, in the Employment-Based Fifth Preference (EB-5) United States of America Investor Programme, which would qualify them to be eligible for the issuance of USA Green Card.

The defendant, however, allegedly reneged on his promise.

He was initially arraigned on a 12-count charge, to which he pleaded "not guilty".

He was also re-arraigned by the EFCC on June 24, 2022 on an amended 16-count charge.

Count 13 of the amended charge reads: "Marco Antonio Ramirez, USA NOW LLC, Eagle Ford Instalodge Group LP, and USA Now Energy Capital Group LP, between 5th February 2013 and 18th April 2013 at Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, dishonourably converted to your personal use the aggregate sum of \$545,000 property of Godson Onyemaechi Echegile."

Count 14 reads: "Marco Antonio Ramirez, USA NOW LLC, and USA Now Energy Capital Group LP, between 12th July 2012 and 7th November 2012 at Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, dishonourably converted to your personal use the aggregate sum of \$314,800 property of Abubakar Umar Sadiq."

Count 15 reads: "Marco Antonio Ramirez, USA NOW LLC, and USA Now Energy Capital Group LP, between 19th February 2013 and 18th April 2013 at Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, dishonourably converted to your personal use the aggregate sum of \$230,000 property of Abubakar Umar Sadiq."

Also, at Monday's sitting, the trial Judge adjourned till September 10, 2024 for judgment in separate amended nine-count charge bordering on an alleged \$368,698.24 fraud brought against the defendant.

One of the counts reads: "Marco Antonio Ramirez, USA NOW LLC, and USA Now Energy Capital Group LP, on or about the 26th day of July, 2013 at Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, obtained the sum of \$250,000 from Gabriel Ogie Edeoghon under the false representation that the sum was his investment in your company: USA NOW Energy Capital Group LP in the Employment-Based Fifth Preference (EB-5) United States of America Investor Programme, which investment would qualify him to be eligible to a USA Green Card, and which representation you knew to be false."

Another count reads: "Marco Antonio Ramirez, on or about the 5th day of March, 2014 at Lagos, within the Jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, obtained the sum of \$50,281.33 from Oludare Talabi, under the false representation that the said sum is to procure United States of America L1 VISA programme for him, which representation you knew to be false."

He also pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when they were read to him.

The proceedings had suffered several adjournments occasioned by the absence of the defence counsel, Lawal Pedro, SAN, and the inability of the defence to file its own final written addresses, even after the prosecution counsel, M.S. Owede and S.O. Daji, had filed theirs for the separate charges, respectively.

However, the adoption of the final written addresses eventually held on May 8, 2024.

Following the adoption, Justice Dada today adjourned till September 10, 2024 for judgment.

[alleged-n1-2m-us-visa-scam-american-businessman-marco-ramirez-knows-fate-sept-10](#)

419 Coaliton Comment: Not 419 by strict definition, but interesting enough to be recorded here in our News.

21 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 20 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ABUJA

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 arrested 20 suspected internet fraudsters in the Federal Capital Territory, (FCT), Abuja.

The suspects were arrested in the early hours of the day at the Lugbe axis of the FCT following credible intelligence about their suspected involvement in online criminal activities.

Items recovered from them include a car, laptops and phones.

They will be charged to court upon conclusion of investigation.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-20-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abuja](#)

21 MAY 2024

COURT JAILS VARSITY STUDENT FOR INTERNET FRAUD IN PORT HARCOURT

Justice P. M. Ayua of the Federal High Court, Port Harcourt, Rivers State has jailed one Felix Emmanuel Dornubari, a student of the University of Port Harcourt for internet fraud.

Dornubari was prosecuted by the Port Harcourt Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a one-count charge of impersonation in a cybercrime.

The charge reads: "That you, Felix Emmanuel Dornubari, on or about 21st February, 2024, at Port Harcourt, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did fraudulently impersonate Robinson Felix Michael, a white male military officer with intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (b) (i) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention) Act, 2015 and punishable under the same section of the Act."

He pleaded guilty to the charge when it was read to him, upon which prosecution counsel, I. Agwu, tendered some documents with the court and further presented a witness, IE 1, Abdulazeez Jafar, an EFCC operative who testified that the defendant was arrested in February, 2024 via intelligence at Cornerstone area of Choba axis by the operatives of the Commission for alleged internet fraud activities.

Documents tendered by the prosecution included, the statement of the defendant, an iPhone 11 Pro and Tecno Camon mobile devices, and one HP laptop computer, all containing fraudulent documents, a consent to search the devices and incriminating printouts from the devices.

In view of the exhibits tendered and the testimonies of the witness, Agu prayed the court to convict and sentence the defendant as charged, while defence counsel, Paula Abudu prayed the court to temper justice with mercy, stating that the convict was a first-time offender, who had become remorseful and with no previous criminal records. He further urged the court to grant the defendant an option of fine in lieu of imprisonment to enable him continue his education.

Justice Ayua thereafter convicted the defendant without any sentence. He ordered the forfeiture of his Tecno Camon to the Federal Republic of Nigeria, but held that the convict's iPhone 11 Pro mobile and HP laptop computer be returned to him.

Investigation revealed that the defendant is involved in a dating scam under false identities in Facebook and Gmail.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

20 MAY 2024

COURT JAILS MAN FOR INTERNET FRAUD IN PORT HARCOURT

Justice S. D. Pam of the Federal High Court, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, has convicted and sentenced one Daniel Walter Anga to prison for internet fraud.

He was prosecuted by the Port Harcourt Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on a one-count charge of impersonation.

The charge reads: "That you, Daniel Walter Anga on or about 21st February, 2024, at Port Harcourt, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did fraudulently impersonate Hudson Cole a white male Veteran military officer with intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (b) (i) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention) Act, 2015 and punishable under the same section of the Act.

He pleaded "guilty" when the charge was read to him, following which prosecution counsel, I. Agu, tendered some documents in evidence and called a witness, ASE 1, Yahaya Yusuf Abbas, an operative of EFCC who testified against him.

The documents tendered by the prosecution included: the statement of the defendant, incriminating print outs from the defendant's mobile device and his iPhone 12.

Based on the evidence tendered and the testimonies of the witness, Agu prayed the court to convict and sentence accordingly, while defence counsel J. J. Simon asked the court to temper justice with mercy, stating that the defendant was a first-time offender and did not waste the time of the court.

Justice Pam thereafter sentenced Anga to one year imprisonment or a fine of N20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Naira). He also forfeited his iPhone 12 mobile device to the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Investigation revealed that the defendant specialised in romance scam, using false identities on Facebook and Gmail.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

20 MAY 2024

KADUNA COURT JAILS TWO INTERNET FRAUDSTERS FIVE YEARS

The Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentence of two internet fraudsters before Justice A.A Bello of the Kaduna State High Court sitting in Kaduna.

The convicts: Emmanuel Isaac and Kelvin Ibrahim were jailed on charges bordering on cybercrimes activities.

While Isaac was charged on two -count amended charges bordering on cheating by impersonation, Ibrahim was charged on a one count charge bordering on impersonation.

Isaac's count one reads: " That you Emmanuel Isaac (a.k.a Bea Suzy) (M), sometimes between January and April, 2024 at Kaduna, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, committed an offence, to wit; falsely presented yourself as Bea Suzy; a South Korean actress, to several unsuspecting victims including one David Vargas, which pretence you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 142(1) of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law, 2017. Ibrahim's lone- count charge reads: "that you, Kelvin Ibrahim (a.k.a Susinna Simone) on or about the 25th of April,

2024 at Peace Chalet, Kudende, Kaduna State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, impersonated one Susinna Simone via your email address privatechat2422@gmail.com and in such assumed character, posted as a fashion model from Italy to the unsuspecting members of the public and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 142(1) of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law, 2017”.

When the charges were read to them, they both pleaded guilty respectively, prompting the prosecuting counsel M.E Eimonye and M.U Gadaka to pray the court to convict them accordingly.

Justice Bello consequently convicted and sentenced Isaac to two years imprisonment on each count or a fine of 100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) on each count. He also forfeited one Apple Iphone X phones to the Federal Government of Nigeria through the EFCC. A sum of N309, 850.00(Three Hundred and Nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty Naira) recovered from him was also forfeited to the government.

Ibrahim, on the other hand, was convicted and sentenced to three years imprisonment or a fine of N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira). He also forfeited One Techno Pop-6 phone and the sum of \$100 to the government.

The journey to the Correctional Centre started for the two convicts when they were arrested at Kudende, Kaduna State. They were subsequently investigated and found to be using stolen identities of foreigners to create fictitious social media accounts to defraud unsuspecting victims.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[kaduna-court-jails-two-internet-fraudsters-five-years](#)

20 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 23 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN KADUNA

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Kaduna Zonal Command, have arrested 23 suspected internet fraudsters in the Kaduna metropolis.

Specifically, they were arrested at Kakuri, Barnawa and Television Garage axes in Kaduna, following credible information on their suspected involvement in internet-related offences.

Items recovered from the suspects include, one car and 29 mobile phones.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-23-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-kaduna](#)

20 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 78 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ENUGU, IMO

Operatives of the Enugu Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested seventy-eight (78) suspected internet fraudsters in Enugu and Imo States respectively.

While twenty-nine suspects were arrested on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 in Enugu State metropolis, the remaining forty-nine suspects were nabbed on Friday, May 17, 2024 in Imo State metropolis.

The 78 suspects were arrested, following actionable intelligence about

their suspected involvement in online criminal activities.

Items recovered from them include mobile phones, laptops and 13 cars.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-78-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-enugu-imo](#)

19 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS THREE SIBLINGS FOR SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUD IN MAKURDI

Operatives of the Makurdi Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Friday May 17, 2024 arrested three brothers for suspected internet fraud.

They were arrested along New Garage, Wadata in Makurdi.

The suspects, Abubakar Sadiq Adejoh, Mohammed Habib Adejoh and Solomon Adejoh allegedly specialise in diverting customers' funds from their accounts to a Point of Sale, POS, terminal for withdrawal.

Items recovered from them include a car, six mobile phones, one laptop and cash totaling N3,562,750.00 (Three Million Five Hundred and Sixty Two Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty Naira) only.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-three-siblings-for-suspected-internet-fraud-in-makurdi](#)

19 MAY 2024

COURT JAILS 12 INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN MAKURDI

Justices R.J. Egbe , N.I Afolabi, M.S Abubarkar, A. Onoja, Justice Ajiya Ngajuwa and Justice Emeka Nwite of the Federal High Court sitting in Makurdi, Lafia and Abuja have convicted and sentenced 12(twelve) internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

The convicts were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges upon their arraignment by the Makurdi Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The convicts are: Bem Peter, Onminyi Joseph Ocheje, Nelson Ogbu Oche, Gabriel Sughter, Samuel Lubem, Terver Terfa James, Dominic Chiemere Bonaventure, Anaambe Michael, Okanche Samuel, Ebu Emmanuel Anoyedu, Omotunde Oluwamayowa and Pkutu Christopher.

The charge against Ocheje reads: "That you, Onminyi Joseph Ocheje "M" sometime between January and December, 2021 in Makurdi, Benue State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court with intent to defraud sent an electronic message to UBA and First City Monument Bank Plc causing the Bank to initiate a reversals from Accelerex Network Limited (a payment gateway/platform) that materially misrepresented the facts that the transaction of N3,350,000.00 (Three Million, Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) only failed which Accelerex Network Ltd relied upon and suffered loss by making a charge back and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 14(2) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition and Prevention etc) Act 2015."

They all pleaded guilty to their charges when they were read to them, prompting Prosecution counsel, A.S Idris, M. Yusuf and A. Gazali to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Egbe convicted and sentenced Peter to one year imprisonment with an option of N100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) as fine, he forfeited one Techno Spark G 2021 phone to the Federal Government of Nigeria. Justice Afolabi convicted Ocheje and Oche.

Ocheje was convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment with an option of N500,000.00(Five Hundred Thousand Naira) only as fine, while Oche bagged one year imprisonment with an option of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) only as fine.

Justice Abubakar convicted and sentenced Sughter to one year imprisonment with an option of N500,000.00(Five Hundred Thousand Naira) fine, Lubem one year imprisonment with an option of N100,000.00(One Hundred Thousand Naira) fine, James two years imprisonment with an option of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) fine. Others are Bonaventure one year imprisonment with an option of N100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) fine, Michael one year imprisonment with an option of N500,000.00(Five Hundred Thousand Naira) fine and Samuel one year imprisonment with an option of with an option of N500,000.00(Five Hundred Thousand Naira) fine.

Justice Onoja convicted and sentenced Anojedu to one year imprisonment with an option of N100,000.00(One Hundred Thousand Naira) fine and Justice Ngajuwa convicted and sentenced Oluwamayowa to three years imprisonment with an option of N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) fine.

Also, Justice Nwite convicted and sentenced Christopher to one year imprisonment without an option of fine.

All the convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested by operatives of the Benue Zonal Command of the EFCC for internet-related offences. They were charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos:

[court-jails-12-internet-fraudsters-in-makurdi](#)

18 MAY 2024

COURT JAILS GRAPHIC ARTIST SIX MONTHS FOR IMPERSONATION IN LAGOS

Justice I.O. Ijelu of the Lagos State High Court, Ikeja, has sentenced one Roland Esin Mana, a Graphic Artist, to six months imprisonment for impersonation.

He was arraigned on a one-count charge bordering on possession of documents containing false pretences.

The count reads: “ That you, Roland Esin Mana, on or about the 22nd September, 2023 at Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, had in your possession documents containing false pretences, wherein you represented yourself as Linh Nguyen, an Asian lady, to defraud Dang Xuan, whom you met on Facebook, which representation you knew to be false.”

He pleaded “guilty” to the charge when it was read to him.

Following his guilty plea, the prosecution counsel, N.C. Mutfwang, sought to review the facts of the case against him.

According to him, the convict was arrested during a sting operation by operatives of the Commission sometime in March 2024, following intelligence received about the fraudulent activities of some young persons involved in Internet fraud, otherwise known as Yahoo Yahoo, in the Ajah-Lekki area of Lagos.

Mutfwang also told the court that the convict confessed to have created fake Instagram and Facebook accounts, where he represented himself as Linh Nguyen

and Nguyen Ohuc.

The prosecution counsel further stated that Mana's mobile phone was subjected to forensic analysis and that some fraudulent documents were printed out from his email account.

According to the prosecution counsel, Mana, in the face of the overwhelming evidence against him, subsequently sought a plea bargain with the Commission.

Mutfwang, therefore, sought to tender, in evidence, the defendant's extra-judicial statements; his Infinix Smart 9 mobile phone; his HP laptop computer; the forensic investigation documents print out; his extra-judicial statement as well as the letter of plea bargain he entered into with the Commission.

They were all admitted in evidence by the court, as there was no objection from the defence counsel.

Justice Ijelu chastised the convict, who also claimed to be a 24-year-old secondary school certificate holder, for his involvement in criminal activities.

The Judge held that "The court is satisfied that the defendant understands the plea bargain agreement; and accordingly, the defendant is hereby found guilty."

He was, therefore, sentenced him to six months imprisonment, with an option of N250,000 fine.

The Judge also ordered that his Infinix Smart 9 and HP Laptop computer be forfeited to the Federal Government.

[court-jails-graphic-artist-six-months-for-impersonation-in-lagos](#)

18 MAY 2024

EFCC HANDS OVER \$22,000 RECOVERED FROM CONVICTED INTERNET FRAUDSTER TO FBI IN LAGOS

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Friday, May 17, 2024, handed over the sum of \$22,000 recovered from a convicted internet fraudster, Hakeem Ayotunde Olanrewaju, to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, in Lagos.

Justice Nicholas Oweibo of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos had, on August 15, 2023, ordered that the money recovered from Olanrewaju, who was sentenced to two years imprisonment for identity theft and impersonation, be restituted to his victim in the United States of America, U.S.A.

Speaking during the handover ceremony in Lagos, the Acting Director, Lagos Zonal Command of the EFCC, Michael T. Wetkas, reaffirmed the Commission's dedication to combating crimes and restoring sanity to the nation.

"We are delighted to be handing over this proceeds of crime today.

"The EFCC is willing and always ready to do more."

Responding, the FBI Legal Attaché, Charles Smith, said: "The EFCC and FBI work collaboratively together, and it is thanks to the EFCC that we can recover funds of this nature, especially from Business email Compromise, BEC.

"This type of crime cripples businesses in the US, and for them to recover the money within one to two years gives hope to the affected companies and brings some level of justice, even if not all subjects have been identified.

"We hope our relationship continues and fosters a more cohesive partnership between the two agencies. If there's anything the FBI can do to support this investigation, we will do so.

"We appreciate this on behalf of the FBI and thank the EFCC."

In attendance at the event were the Head, Public Affairs, Lagos, DCE Ayo Oyewole; Head, Investigation, ACE I Deborah Oni and Head Advance Fee Fraud 1, AFF, CSE Alex Ogbale.

Also present was the Assistant Legal Attaché, Michael Thomas and the Foreign Service Investigator, Ayo Solademi.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[efcc-hands-over-22-000-recovered-from-convicted-internet-fraudster-to-fbi-in-lagos"](#)

419 Coalition comment: Now, this is the kind of press release we love to see, and we hope to see Many more like it in the near future!

17 MAY 2024

COURT JAILS SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCER, ALUKO TUNMISE ONE YEAR IN LAGOS

Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos, on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, convicted and sentenced one Aluko Tunmise, a self-acclaimed social media influencer and model, to one year imprisonment for celebrity scam.

He was arraigned by the Lagos Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on a one-count charge bordering on cybercrimes.

One of the counts reads: “That you, ALUKO TUNMISE JUWONLO (A.K.A. KEANU REEVES), sometime between January and March, 2024 in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, directly made a false statement, wherein you held yourself out as a white man by name "KEANU REEVES" on your Telegram Account, knowing same to be false and with intent that the representation is relied upon for the purpose of procuring the issuance of financial instrument to yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 22(3) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc) Act, 2015.”

He pleaded “guilty” to the charge when it was read to him.

Following his guilty plea, prosecution counsel, C.C.Okezie, sought to present an operative of the EFCC, Vincent Sunday Kwambuge, to review the facts of the matter.

Kwambuge told the court that the defendant was arrested sometime in March, 2024 at Lekki County Estate, Lagos, following credible intelligence received by the Commission on the activities of some internet fraudsters operating in the area.

According to him, an iPhone 12 Pro Max was recovered from the defendant at the point of arrest.

The prosecution counsel also told the court that “upon his arrest, he was duly processed and the defendant volunteered his statements. Investigation was conducted and forensic evidence was printed out from his phone.

“In his statement, he confessed he was into celebrity scam, which is an impersonation of celebrities.”

Okezie, therefore, sought to tender, in evidence, the defendant’s extra-judicial statements, iPhone and forensic investigation documents.

Justice Aneke admitted them as exhibits.

Counsel to the defendant, A.O. Idowu, prayed the court for leniency, saying that the defendant “is a first-time offender and is sorry for his actions.”

He also prayed the court for a non-custodial sentence.

Justice Aneke convicted and sentenced the defendant to one year imprisonment, with an option of fine of N300,000(Three Hundred Thousand Naira), with 100 hours community service.

The Judge also ordered that his mobile phone be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Tunmise bagged his imprisonment for impersonating celebrities for pecuniary gains.

[court-jails-social-media-influencer-aluko-tunmise-one-year-in-lagos](#)

16 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 17 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ABUJA

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Thursday, May 16, 2024 arrested 17 suspected internet fraudsters in Abuja.

The suspects were arrested in the early hours of Thursday, May 16, 2024 at City College, Karu, Abuja.

Items recovered from them include a car, mobile phones, laptops and incriminating documents.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

[efcc-arrests-17-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abuja](#)

16 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 15 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ZARIA

Operatives of the Economic and Financial crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested fifteen suspected internet fraudsters in Zaria, Kaduna State.

The suspects were arrested outside the premises of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, following credible intelligence linking a syndicate of fraudsters to suspected involvement in internet fraud.

Items recovered from them include cell phones and laptops.

The suspects were immediately moved to the Kano Zonal Command of the EFCC for more thorough investigation. They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

[efcc-arrests-15-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-zaria](#)

15 MAY 2024

COURT JAILS 15 INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN BENIN CITY

The Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Monday and Tuesday, May 13 & May 14, 2024 secured the conviction of 15 internet fraudsters before Justices Efe Ikponmwonba and M. Itsueli of the Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City.

The convicts are Sagay Favour, Efemini Kelvin Mudiaga, Izzi Evans, Okim Ekene, Jakpa Godspower and Lucky Alao Seyi.

Others are Adams Jarret, Mathew Ese, Oritsegbogwa Joseph, Joshua

Lucky Ojabugbe, Emudiaga Akpojaro, Richard Promise, Aboh Daniel Bonfrey, Deniran Emmanuel Edafe and Orode Ovie,

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charge bordering on obtaining by false pretence, possession of fraudulent documents upon arraignment by the Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The charge against Edafe reads: That you Deniran Emmanuel Edafe (M) on or about 3rd day of May, 2024 in Benin City, Edo State, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contain a false pretence and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act.

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they were read to them in court, prompting prosecution counsel, F. A. Jirbo, I. M Elodi, I.K Agwai, K.Y. Bello and Ahmed Salihu, to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy as they have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Ikponmwonba on Monday May, 13, 2024 sentenced Evans, Favour, Godspower, Ekene and Seyi to three years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) each while Mudiaga bagged two years imprisonment or a fine of N200, 000 (Two hundred thousand Naira).

On Tuesday May 14, Justice Itsueli convicted and sentenced Joseph, Ojeugba, Akpojoro, Bright, Aboh, Ovie and Orede to three years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) each while Mathew Ese and Jarret bagged two years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000.

Justice Ikponmwonba ordered that the sum of N31,900,609.00 (Thirty One million, Nine Hundred Thousand, Six Hundred and Nine Thousand Naira) and the sum of N4,410,508.28 (Four Million, Four Hundred and Ten thousand, Five hundred and Eight Naira, Twenty Eight kobo) and the sum of 172 US dollars found in various bank accounts of Mudiaga and one Toyota Venza, being proceeds of crime, be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The judge also ordered Ozim Ekene to forfeit the three vehicles recovered from him - Mercedes Benz ML350, Mercedes Benz GLE450 and Mercedes Benz C300 being proceeds of crime to the Federal Government.

Justice Itsueli in her ruling ordered that four vehicles recovered from Mathew Ese and Ojabugbe, Mercedes Benz 350, Two Mercedes Benz GLK and Mercedes Benz ML be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

All the convicts are to forfeit their phones, laptops, balances in their various bank accounts, being instruments and proceeds of crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria. They are to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour afterwards.

They all bagged their imprisonment after being found guilty by the court upon their arrest and prosecution by the EFCC.

[court-jails-15-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

15 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 23 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ENUGU

Operatives of the Enugu Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested twenty-three (23) suspected internet fraudsters in Enugu State.

The suspects were arrested on May 10, 2024 in Igboeze, Nsukka and

nugu metropolis following actionable intelligence concerning their alleged online criminal activities.

Items recovered from them include; three cars, mobile phones, laptops, one Point Of Sale (POS) machine and several incriminating documents.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

[efcc-arrests-23-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-enugu](#)

11 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 26 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN PORT HARCOURT

Operatives of the Port Harcourt Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested 26 (twenty six) suspected internet fraudsters on May 6 & May 9, 2024 at the Nigeria Television Authority, NTA and Choba axes of Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

They were arrested following credible intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet-related activities.

Items recovered from them are different brands of phones, laptops and six exotic cars

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

[efcc-arrests-26-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-port-harcourt](#)

11 MAY 2024

ISSAN SEEKS CLOSER COLLABORATION WITH EFCC ON CYBER SECURITY

The Information Security Society of Africa – Nigeria, ISSAN), has called for stronger and closer collaboration with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC in safeguarding the cyber space for more effective fight against internet fraud and other financial crimes in Nigeria.

This call was made in Abuja on Friday, May 10, 2024 by ISSAN's Vice President, Dr. Martin Ikpehai when he led a three-man delegation on a courtesy visit to the EFCC's headquarters.

According to him, the EFCC is doing a great work in putting a stop to cybercrimes. He called for a more sustainable approach towards taking over cyberspace from internet fraudsters.

“Now, every business is conducted on digital space and as businesses are on cyber space, criminals are chasing them online. “One important thing we have come to realise is that the EFCC, being a crime fighter, has done so much in this aspect of crime, especially fighting crime in the digital space and we are happy about it. We are also happy to fight this crime and to let you know that there should be synergy between our organisation and the EFCC”, he said.

He expressed surprise at the prevalence of “yahoo schools” across the country, pointing out that such an anomaly demanded enhanced cooperation with ISSAN. “EFCC is discovering yahoo schools in Nigeria and it surprises us that there are schools created to teach people to learn cybercrimes, that is why we have come to let you know that you should collaborate with us so that we can work hand in hand”, he said.

He further explained that cyber security is so important that security officers of key institutions are working closely with ISSAN. The Society, he says, offers

a platform to teach secondary school children and University students and Nigerians in general about cyber security in schools and how to defend and afeeguard against cyber-bullying, cyber-stalking and other forms of cyber security challenges. He commended the EFCC on its Eagle Eye app, describing it as an excellent device in achieving success in the fight against internet fraud.

Responding, Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Ola Olukoyede appreciated ISSAN for its focus and mandate. He stated that the EFCC greatly valued efforts geared towards cyber security and assured of better collaboration with the Society. “We have a lot to do on cybercrime and security as it were and that is what we do. We have to engage all stakeholders and ensure that we take drastic measures to stop criminals in cyberspace. “The more we come together, the better for the country to prosecute the war on cybercrime and security”, he said.

He assured that the EFCC would always be ahead of cyber criminals, maintaining that, “if crime is technology driven, the approach to fight it should also be technology driven”.

[issan-seeks-closer-collaboration-with-efcc-on-cyber-security](#)

10 MAY 2024

DEFENDANTS LOSE BID TO FRUSTRATE \$10,000 FRAUD TRIAL IN KWARA

Justice Evelyn Anyadike of the Federal High Court, Ilorin on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, struck out the objection against the admissibility of the statements tendered by the Ilorin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, in a \$10,000 fraud trial of an Ilorin-based businessman, Chukudubem Ezenwa and one Adeleke Damilola.

Ezenwa and Damilola are being prosecuted on a five-count charge bordering on cybercrime, retention of proceeds of crime and fraud to the tune of \$10,000USD. They were first arraigned on September 23, 2021 before Justice Muhammed Sani of the same court, but the trial could not be consummated before Justice Sani’s redeployment to a different judicial division, necessitating a reassignment of the case to Justice Anyadike and a de novo of the trial.

Upon the re-arraignment of the defendants on Monday May 6, 2024, they pleaded “not guilty” to the charges preferred against them, thus setting the stage for a commencement of trial.

However, at the point of tendering in evidence the defendants’ statements by the prosecution, defence counsels, Osinachi Odom and Tochi Ekwedike, objected to their admissibility claiming that their clients wrote the statements under duress, intimidation and harassment.

Although, prosecution counsel, Innocent Mbachie urged the court to discountenance the objection on the grounds that it was an attempt to frustrate and delay trial, the judge ordered a trial-within-trial to establish the authenticity of the claims and adjourned the matter till Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

During proceedings on Tuesday, the prosecution presented to the court a video recording showing the first defendant volunteering his statement in the presence of his lawyer with neither intimidation nor harassment. The video also captured the statements of the first defendant which was counter-signed by his lawyer. The defence team, however, claimed that the video recording was manipulated and did not capture the entire process that took place.

After listening from both sides, the judge adjourned ruling on the trial-within-trial till Wednesday, May 8, 2024.

Justice Anyadike in his ruling said: “I note that the video recording was played in the open court. I observed that counsel to the first defendant was present and he also counter-signed the statement. This honourable court did not see anything to suggest that the said statements were dictated to the first defendant to write.”

Dismissing the argument of the defence much further, the judge stated that “The court believed that the statements of the first and second defendants were obtained in line with Section 28 of the Evidence Act, 2011,” noting also that the evidence of the prosecution witnesses that the defendants volunteered their statements at the EFCC’s general office, which was in a good air-conditioned atmosphere was neither challenged nor contradicted by the defence.

On the claim that the second witness in the trial-within-trial (TW2), Olamide Sadiq sneaked into the cell under the cover of darkness and assaulted the first defendant, the judge stated that: “The defence counsel had every opportunity to confront the said witness when he was in the witness box, but decided to be quiet about the allegations, thereby made the submission immaterial and mere imagination.”

He admitted the documents as exhibits and adjourned the matter till July 15, 2024 for continuation of trial.

[defendants-lose-bid-to-frustrate-10-000-fraud-trial-in-kwara](#)

10 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 44 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN CALABAR

Investigators at the Uyo Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested forty-four(44) suspected internet fraudsters.

The suspected fraudsters were arrested in an early morning sting operation on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at Satellite town, Tinapa junction and parliamentary extension areas of Calabar in Cross River State.

Items recovered from them include six exotic cars, 16 laptops and 38 mobile phones.

The suspects would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

[efcc-arrests-44-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-calabar](#)

10 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 64 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN OSUN

Investigators of the Ibadan Zonal Directorate of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 arrested sixty-four suspected internet fraudsters in Osun State.

The suspected cybercriminals were arrested in Ede, Osun State following actionable intelligence on their suspicious fraudulent activities in their environs.

Items recovered from them include, 18 exotic vehicles, 18 laptops, 112 mobile phones, three Play Station games, five motorcycles and other incriminating documents among others.

They will be charged to court upon conclusion of investigations.

[efcc-arrests-64-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-osun](#)

10 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 25 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ILORIN

Operatives of the Ilorin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial

Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested twenty-five persons for offences bordering on suspected internet fraud.

The suspects were arrested during two separate sting operations at various locations in Ilorin, Kwara State following credible intelligence about the activities of some suspected internet fraudsters operating within the State.

Items recovered from the suspects include six exotic cars, different brands of phones and laptops.

The suspects will be arraigned in court upon conclusion of ongoing investigations.

[efcc-arrests-25-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-ilorin](#)

9 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 21 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN UYO

Operatives of the Uyo Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested 21 (twenty one) suspected internet fraudsters in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

The suspected cyber criminals were arrested at different locations within Akwa Ibom State. While five of the suspects were arrested at 'Laundering Lounge', Ewet Housing Estate, Uyo, on Monday May 6, 2024, sixteen others were arrested on Tuesday May 7, 2024, at Church Road, off Calabar Itu Road, Uyo.

Items recovered from them include, two luxurious cars, nine laptops, 28 smart phones and two wrist watches.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-21-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-uyo](#)

9 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 39 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN BENIN CITY

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday May 8, 2024 arrested 39 suspected internet fraudsters at different locations within Benin City.

The suspects were arrested following actionable intelligence on their suspected involvement in computer- related fraud.

Items recovered from them include eight exotic cars - two Mercedes-Benz GLK 350, two Mercedes Benz C300, two Lexus RX350, Toyota Camry, Lexus ES350, laptops and phones

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-39-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

8 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 29 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ABUJA

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC Abuja Zonal Command on Wednesday, May 8, 2024 arrested 29 suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested at Apo, Gwarimpa and Katampe axes of Abuja following actionable intelligence about their suspected involvement in internet fraud.

Items seized from the suspects include 43 phones of different makes, six vehicles and two smart watches.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-29-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abuja](#)

8 MAY 2024

OLUKOYEDE CHARGES YOUTHS TO BUILD RESISTANCE AGAINST INTERNET FRAUD

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has charged youths across the country to build resistance against cybercrime.

He made this call in Abuja on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, when students of ARWA Basic School, Abuja, visited the corporate headquarters of the Commission on a study tour.

Speaking on how to build resistance against cybercrime, the EFCC's boss pointed out that youths should cultivate right mentality to be fortified against criminality. "It is your mentality that determines your finality", he said. Olukoyede, who spoke through the Spokesperson of the EFCC, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE1 Dele Oyewale outlined modalities, frameworks, and strategies that could serve as moral and spiritual resistance that, if followed carefully, will empower youths against internet offences.

He tasked youths to develop innovation, industry, clean wealth, statesman and honour mentality to be able to resist the lure of internet fraud. "It all boils down to the power of your mind. Decide not to go into internet fraud. Train your mind to follow a positive lane and you won't be dragged into the mire of the fraud", he said. He further called for hard work as a potent means of breaking the walls of poverty, stressing that only through hard work can youths achieve their potentials. "With hard work, you can achieve more; there is no need to go online and pretend to be someone you are not, claiming to be an Australian or American soldier. With hard work and the help of God, you can achieve whatever you want to achieve without hindrance," he stated.

Speaking earlier, representative of the Executive Chairman of the Commission, Deputy Director and Head of EFCC Radio, Nwayinma Okeanu, said the fight against economic and financial crimes was a fight to protect the future of the youths and ensure that Nigeria thrives and attains its desired height in the comity of nations.

"Corruption is one thing that has taken us so far back that every one of us should weep. It is time to come together and fight it upfront. So, it gives us joy to see young people come to the EFCC to know how the Commission works, how it fights and prevents economic and financial crimes," she said.

In his presentation on the topic "The Effect of Economic and Financial Crimes on the Individual and the Economy," Head of Public Interface Unit of the Commission, ACE 1 Tony Orilade, said the effect of economic and financial crimes on the individual and the economy cannot be overemphasized. "It is clear that economic and financial crimes have given Nigeria a bad name in international financial circles, with enormous negative consequences. Efforts to prevent and prosecute these crimes are crucial for maintaining a healthy and stable economy, not only for the individual but also for

Nigeria as a country," he said.

He further called on the youths to be patriotic by reporting any act of economic and financial crimes to the EFCC via its hotline and all social media platforms.

Speaking on the ills of cybercrime, Assistant Superintendent of the EFCC, ACE1, ArmaYa'u Aliyu, cautioned the students to desist from all forms of cybercrime, as taking part in them would jeopardize their life and future.

He identified various forms of criminal indulgence in cybercrimes such as stalking, hacking, business email compromise and several others and warned the students to stay away from them. "The consequences of involvement in cyber crimes are grievous. Resist peer pressure and any other influence that may drag you into the crimes", he said.

In her remarks, Head of Enlightenment and Reorientation Unit of the Commission, Aisha Mohammed, says "it is cheaper to prevent corruption than to fight it, and that is why the Commission is accepting students to visit it on a study tour to reorient their thinking on the ills of corruption".

Mohammed further charged the students to be patriotic and support the EFCC in its fight against economic and financial crimes by becoming ambassadors of the Commission in preaching the good work of the of the EFCC to their parents and friends.

The press release contains a photo:

[olukoyede-charges-youths-to-build-resistance-against-internet-fraud](#)

7 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS EIGHT SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN UYO

Operatives of the Uyo Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Thursday May 2, 2024 arrested eight suspected internet fraudsters in an early morning sting operation at Osong Ama Extension in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

They were arrested following credible intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet fraud.

Items recovered from them include, seven laptops; 13 smart phones; two wrist watches and one router.

The suspects would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-eight-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-uyo](#)

7 MAY 2024

COURT JAILS 41 INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ANAMBRA

A Federal High Court sitting in Onitsha, Anambra State, and presided over by Justices S. M Shuaibu and Hauwa Inuwa have convicted and sentenced Forty-one (41) internet fraudsters to one year imprisonment, each.

The convicts were jailed after they pleaded guilty to one-count separate charges bordering on obtaining by false pretence, possession of fraudulent documents, personation and aiding in committing an offence upon arraignment by the Enugu Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The convicts are; Douglas James, Raphael Chikezie Uwakwe, Paul Chidera Kalu, Chisom Linus, Chiemezie Nweke, Eze Ugochukwu Stanley, Ndubuisi Nwafor, Ifeanyi

Samuel, Nwosu Chukwuemeka, Madueke Emmanuel, Edozie Daniel Timothy, Ahmed Fredrick Lukman, Godwin Chukwuemelie Julius, Okafor Vincent Chiemerie, Ugochukwu Raphael Ena, Chukwuemeka Franklin Obiji, Chimaobi Emmanuel Gabriel, Abonyi Chibuike Jude, Chiemelie Igboekwuna Christian and Okafor Chukwuma Desmond.

Others include; Jezreel Arihiakamah Chinwendu, Paul Okereke Chiadi, Peter Chidera Iwu, Onyeji Victor Chinecherem, Tochukwu Eze Solomon, Fred Chidera Okoye, Ezema Chiemerie Stanley, Emeka Ogbonna Daniel, Obinna Stanley Okafor, Udochukwu Peter Nnaeweze, Ebuka Johnson Olu, Okochi Ebuka Stanley, Promise Ogbodo Echezona, Ebuka Chukwu Joshua, Chisom Henry Udeagwueze, Ihechi Okechukwu Bright, Chibueze Maxwell Stephen, Ebuka Lucky Nwankwo, Isah Chinonso Peter, Ifeanyi Oguoke Kingsley and Chinonso Eze Innocent.

One of the separate charges reads: “That you, Uwakwe Chikezie Raphael sometime in 2024 in Onitsha, Anambra State within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court in Nigeria, fraudulently impersonated the identity of Everly Ruby, a female foreigner through a Google account, via your iphone X with intent to obtain money from unsuspecting foreign nationals and in order to gain advantage of yourself and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (3) (a) (b) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention etc) Act, 2015 and punishable under Section 22 (4) of the same Act”.

All the 41 defendants pleaded “guilty” when their charges were read to them separately, and in view of their pleas, Michael Ikechukwu Ani, counsel to the EFCC prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

However, defence counsel, Wisdom Ogbonna, Bernard Okeke, James Nwatarali and Arinze Anyigo pleaded the court for leniency and to temper justice with mercy in sentencing their clients adding that they have shown enough remorse for their actions.

Justice Inuwa, on Thursday, May 2 2024, convicted and sentenced 27 of the convicts while the rest 14 were convicted on Friday, May 3, 2024. Those convicted on May 3 are: Chiadi, Samuel, Chinecherem, Timothy, Stanley, Bright, Iwu, Lukman, Nweke, Chukwuemeka, Okafor, Stephen, Chiemerie and Christian to one year imprisonment each with an option of fine of N100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira).

The Justices also ordered that the convicts should be involved in Community Service in line with Section 462 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act and ordered that items recovered from them, which include their mobile phones and laptops be auctioned through the EFCC and proceeds paid into the Treasury Single Account.

All the convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested for their involvement in internet fraud. They were charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[court-jails-41-internet-fraudsters-in-anambra](#)

7 MAY 2024

COURT JAILS FAKE AMERICAN, TWO OTHERS IN KADUNA

Justice A.A Isiaka of the Kaduna State High Court, sitting in Kaduna has convicted and sentenced a fake American, Stephen Thomas to five years imprisonment.

He was jailed after pleading guilty to one-count charge bordering on impersonation by the Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

His charge reads: “That you, Stephen Thomas (a.k.a Rolanda Collins), male, sometimes in February, 2024 at Narayi Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court fraudulently impersonated one Rolando Collins (an American citizen) on Facebook and in such assumed character, cheated one

Kate Stewarton (an American citizen) the sum of \$100(One Hundred USD) and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 308 and punishable under Section 309 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law 2017.”

He pleaded “guilty” to the charge when it was read to him which prompted the prosecution counsel, M. J. Arugungu urged the court to convict and sentence him accordingly.

Justice Isiaka thereafter convicted and sentenced the defendant to five years imprisonment or to pay a fine of 150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira).

The convict also forfeited his Infinix X mobile phone and the sum of \$100 (One Hundred USD) to the federal government.

In another development, the Kaduna Zonal Command arraigned Bashiru Adamu and Yushau Mohammed Ahmed before Justices A.A. Isiaka of the State High Court and Hawau Buhari of the Federal High Court sitting in Kaduna respectively. They were docked for failure to declare assets, criminal breach of trust and obtaining money by false pretence.

One of Adamu’s charges reads: "That you, Bashiru Adamu (M), sometime in 2021 at Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently obtained the total sum of N25,000,000.00 (Twenty-Five Million Naira) from one Brigadier General JA Faransa (Rtd.), when you falsely represented yourself as being capable of securing and delivering to him a Toyota Hilux vehicle, which pretence you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1) (a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act.”

The second charge reads: "That you, Bashiru Adamu (M), sometime in 2021 at Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently induced one Brigadier General JA Faransa (Rtd.) to deliver to you a Peugeot 406 vehicle, when you falsely represented yourself as being capable of securing and delivering to him a Toyota Hilux vehicle, which pretence 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 one-count charge against Ahmed reads: "That you, Yushau Mohammed Ahmed (male), on or about the 1st day of July, 2019, at Kaduna, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, knowingly failed to make full disclosure of all your assets and properties to wit: Plot No. 116 Cadastral Zone B05, measuring about 5000sqm within Cadastral Zone B05, Utako District, Abuja, when you completed the Declaration of Assets Form contrary to Section 27(3) (a) of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act, 2004 and punishable under Section 27(3) of the same Act.”

Both defendants pleaded “not guilty” to their charges when they were read to them. Consequently, prosecution counsel, M.U Gadaka and M. E. Eimonye prayed the court for a trial commencement date and for the defendants to be remanded in a Correctional centre. However, counsel to Ahmed, K. Mustapha prayed the court to allow him continue to enjoy an existing bail granted him by Justice Hadiza in 2023 before she was elevated to the Court of Appeal.

After listening to both counsels, Justice Isiaka remanded Adamu in the Kaduna Correctional Centre and adjourned the case for hearing of the bail application and commencement of trial respectively.

Justice Buhari, on the other hand, adjourned Ahmed’s case till June 5, 2024 for commencement of trial and granted that the defendant continued to enjoy his earlier bail.

While Thomas bagged his imprisonment for impersonating an American, Rolando Collins to defraud his victims, Adamu is facing trial owing to the claims of a petitioner, Jeremiah Aliyu Faransa who alleged that he engaged his services sometime in 2021 to supply him a brand new Toyota Hilux 2021 model at an agreed cost of N35,000.00. Though the suspect claimed that officers of the Nigeria Custom Service seized the car after he had made the purchase, he could not

show any proof of its purchase or evidence of its seizure.

Ahmed's trouble came from his failure to declare his assets when he completed the Declaration of Assets Form contrary to Section 27(3) (a) of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act, 2004 and punishable under Section 27(3) of the same Act."

The press release contains a photo of each 419er:

[court-jails-fake-american-two-others-in-kaduna](#)

7 MAY 2024

COURT SENDS TWO TO JAIL FOR FOREX SCAM IN BENIN CITY

Justice Efe Ikponmwonba of Edo State High Court sitting in Benin-City has convicted and sentenced two fraudsters, Raji Afeez Onii and Udo-Iwe Aniedi Raphael to two years imprisonment for fraud.

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count charge bordering on obtaining by false pretence upon arraignment by the Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The charge reads: "That you Raji Afeez Oni and Udo-Iwe Aniedi Raphael sometimes in May, 2020 within the jurisdiction of this honourable court provided your account details to one Abe Rachel Remote to (at large) for the purpose of receiving monies unlawfully obtained from members of the public and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 17(a) of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act 2004 and punishable under Section 17(b) of the same Act."

The defendants pleaded guilty to the charge when it was read to them in court, prompting the prosecution counsel, Salihu Ahmed to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy as they have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Ikponmwonba convicted and sentenced the duo to two years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000(One Hundred Thousand Naira only) each. The court ordered that a Toyota Camry car recovered from Oni be forfeited to the Federal government Of Nigeria as proceeds of crime.

The judge also ordered that the entire sum of N10,917,357.00 (Ten Million, Nine Hundred and Seventeen Thousand , Three Hundred and fifty Naira) recovered from the defendants be restituted to the victims of the crime.

The convicts' road to the Correctional Centre began following their arrest by operatives of the Commission for collecting money from the public under the guise of investing the same in forex trading which turned out to be a fraudulent scheme.

The press release contains a photo of each 419er:

[court-sends-two-to-jail-for-forex-scam-in-benin-city](#)

6 MAY 2024

OLUKOYEDE TO NIGERIAN YOUTHS: SHUN INTERNET FRAUD

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has called on youths across the country to stay away from internet fraud to safeguard their future.

This call was made on Wednesday, May 2, 2024 at a leadership training themed: Exploring the Tools of Leadership to Curb the Rising Tide of Social Vices among Nigerian Students. According to him, youths' involvement in internet fraud is a threat to their future because of the risks of conviction and associated complications. He also said that internet fraud is causing reputational damage to Nigeria in the comity of nations and charged youths to separate themselves from it.

The Chairman who spoke through the Head of Enlightenment and Reorientation Unit of the Commission, Aisha Mohammed said corruption is the reason why Nigeria is touted as a potentially great nation, despite its rich natural and human resources.

"The resources that should have delivered a good life to the majority of our people have been cornered by some corrupt individuals in our midst", she said.

Mohammed emphasized that corruption is the root cause of many challenges facing the nation, including dysfunctional infrastructure, low indices of progress, and social dislocation. She urged youths to be change agents, active foot soldiers against corruption, community advocates, and whistle-blowers.

"The scourge of internet fraud has become pervasive in the land, and our youths are getting embroiled in all sorts of cybercrime to the detriment of their future and the image of our nation, so we must tackle corruption frontally to promote economic growth and development," she said.

She also encouraged youths to embrace digital citizenship and to promote responsible online behaviour to secure Nigeria's future.

Speaking earlier, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Abuja, Abdul Rasheed Na'Allah, who was represented by Professor Philip Alfa, urged the youths to desist from indulging themselves into social immoralities.

According to him; "There's no justification for committing crimes. A crime is crime, and as simple as indecent dressings across our campuses may look, it's a crime, so desist from it", he said. He also called on lawmakers to come up with stringent laws that would make it difficult for public office holders to steal public funds.

Other speakers at the event made presentations on different key areas that would help participants in their future endeavours.

[olukoyede-to-nigerian-youths-shun-internet-fraud](#)

3 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 20 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN SAPELE

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Friday May 3, 2024 arrested 20 suspected internet fraudsters at different locations in Sapele, Delta State.

The suspects were arrested following actionable intelligence on their suspected involvement in computer-related fraud.

Items recovered from them include 12 exotic cars, laptops and phones.

The suspects would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

[efcc-arrests-20-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-sapele](#)

3 MAY 2024

INTERNET FRAUDSTER BAGS 7YEARS IN PORT HARCOURT

Justice P.M Ayua of the Federal High Court sitting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State has convicted and sentenced one Odinakachi Prince Onyeoziri to seven years imprisonment.

He was jailed after pleading guilty to three-count charges bordering on internet fraud contrary to Section 14 (1) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc) Act, 2015 and punishable under the same Section.

One of the count charges read:

“That you, Odinakachi Prince Onyeoziri, and Solmyr (at large) between June, 2021 to November, 2022 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court knowingly caused your victims loss by inputting or suppressing data in computers thereby benefitting the aggregate sum of \$3000 (Three thousand United States Dollars) and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 14(1) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc) Act, 2015 and punishable under the same Section”

He pleaded "guilty" to the charges when they were read to him.

In view of his guilty pleas, prosecuting counsel, I. Agwu sought to review the facts of the case through the investigating officer, Abalaka Stephen, an operative of the Commission. While being led in evidence, he told the court that the defendant was arrested by operatives of the Commission following a written petition by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI, against the defendant for alleged internet fraud activities. He was thereafter apprehended sometime in February, 2024 at Owerri, Imo State.

Testifying further, he told the court that the defendant in his voluntary statement to the EFCC, confessed to being into internet fraud, spreading of computer virus, spamming and also causing his victims losses by inputting data in computers. He confessed benefitting an aggregate sum of Three Thousand United States Dollars (\$3,000) by representing himself to unsuspecting victims as different individuals.

Agwu, thereafter, sought to tender in evidence, the statements, and all the items recovered from the defendant. The court thereafter admitted the evidence and were marked as exhibits.

Thereafter, the trial judge declared him guilty as charged.

Defence counsel, B. Onuoha, on the other hand prayed the court for leniency. He appealed to the court to temper justice with mercy, considering his status as a first-time offender, and remorse for his actions.

Justice Ayua sentenced him to seven years imprisonment cumulatively with Three Million Naira (3,000,000.00) as an option of fine payable into the Consolidated Revenue Account of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

In addition, the judge ordered that, items recovered from the convict, two laptops, a mobile device, Toyota Highlander with Registration: NKR 736 AA, two story buildings containing six units of two bedroom flats should be forfeited to the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Additionally, the convict shall depose an affidavit of good behaviour before the court.

[internet-fraudster-bags-7years-in-port-harcourt](#)

3 MAY 2024

NIS SEEKS STRONGER COLLABORATION WITH EFCC

The Nigerian Immigration Service, NIS, Rivers State Command, has called for stronger collaboration with the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, for more credible intelligence sharing in tackling economic and financial crimes and other acts of corruption in the country.

This call was made in Port Harcourt on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, by the Comptroller, Immigration Services, CIS, Bashir Mohammed Mohammed Saddiq, while on a courtesy visit to the Ag. Zonal Director, Port Harcourt Zonal Command of the EFCC.

Saddiq stated that a stronger and more efficient collaboration with the EFCC will boost synergy, intelligence sharing and greater strength in combating corrupt practices. "My visit here is to foster stronger and effective collaboration with your Commission. The EFCC and the Nigeria Immigration Service have been collaborating, working together in harmony. I think we need to come up with strategic plans to be able to see how we can resolve issues concerning crime because the effort of the EFCC and Immigration is all geared towards achieving one goal which is at least, to make life better for our citizens", he said.

The Comptroller added that the Immigration will always join hands with the EFCC to ensure that people who have been watch-listed by the Commission do not escape overnight from the country, either through the airports or land borders but will be pinned to stay back and face the law.

Responding, the Ag. Zonal Director, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE 1 Adebayo Adeniyi welcomed the Comptroller and members of his entourage on the visit. He appreciated the existing relationship between the two agencies adding that they have a lot more to do together in combating the menace of corruption, economic and financial crime.

He further commended the Immigration Service for its roles in the fight against economic crimes, especially in keeping a tab on individuals watch-listed by the Commission and preventing them from scampering to other countries. He also called for a more robust relationship and synergy between the two Agencies.

"Thank you very much Comptroller. This is what we have been preaching regarding collaboration, there is that need for us to be on the same page, there is that need for us to know that we are out there for the same goal" he said.

The press release contains a photo:

[nis-seeks-stronger-collaboration-with-efcc](#)

2 MAY 2024

EFCC CAUTIONS STUDENTS AGAINST INTERNET FRAUD

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has charged students of the Federal Science and Technical College, Ukana Offot, Akwa Ibom State, to abhor all forms of internet crimes, and imbibe tenets of integrity.

This charge was given on Friday April 26, 2024, by the Head, Public Affairs Department, EFCC Uyo Zonal Command, Assistant Commander of the ACE II, T. E. Nwosu during a sensitisation session with old and new members of the Anti-Corruption and Integrity Club of the Federal Science and Technical College Uyo.

She charged the students to always remember that crime does not pay, but brings pain, suffering and setbacks to offenders, as well as their family and friends. "I urge you to embrace good morals, shun crime and imbibe a culture of integrity so that the foundation you are laying now for your tomorrow, will be rooted in the right principles", she said.

Nwosu reminded the students that whatever crime that is committed today through the internet, will always come back to haunt the perpetrators because the internet does not forget. When such crimes are discovered, the EFCC will ensure that whoever committed the crime, will definitely do the time. "As club members, you are expected to live above board and partner with the EFCC by sharing information. The EFCC will not shield any offender, even a club member" she said.

The school principal, Mrs. P.O. Ogungheme, who received the team on arrival,

commended the Commission for its efforts under the current leadership at ensuring that nobody is above the law and assured that under her leadership, "the school will work with the Commission to ensure that the Federal Science and Technical College remains a crime free zone".

The highlight of the event was the presentation of the EFCC Integrity Club bannerette, T-shirts, caps, Club Constitution and note pads which were handed over to the club members.

The press release contains several photos:

[efcc-cautions-students-against-internet-fraud](#)

419 Coalition comment: We have been advocating efforts like this for nearly 30 years now, and continue to do so. More grease to the EFCC's elbow in such efforts!

2 MAY 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 23 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN EBONYI

Operatives of the Enugu Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC have arrested twenty-three (23) suspected internet fraudsters in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.

The suspects were arrested in the early hours of Thursday, May 2, 2024 following actionable intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet related activities.

Items recovered from them include one laptop and mobile phones.

The suspects would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release includes a photo:

[efcc-arrests-23-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-ebonyi](#)

30 APR 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 13 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ABUJA

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abuja Zonal Command have arrested 13(thirteen) suspected internet fraudsters in Abuja.

They were arrested at the Kubwa axis of Abuja following actionable intelligence about their suspected involvement in internet-related offences.

The suspects comprise 12 males and one female.

Items recovered from them include 12 phones and laptops.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-13-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abuja](#)

29 APR 2024

EFCC REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO FIGHT AGAINST CYBER CRIMES

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has restated its commitment to the fight against cyber crimes, stressing that the crimes

have become an organized threat and onslaught to the development of nations.

This disclosure was made in Abuja on Monday, April 29, 2024 by the Executive Chairman of the EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede while receiving a delegation from the International Criminal Police Organisation, Interpol, that paid him a courtesy visit at the corporate headquarters of the Commission.

“As a matter of fact, a consultant was saying that cybercrime has assumed the third largest GDP in the world. It is a sort of crime that we should not take lightly and comes from the readiness from these countries and law enforcement agencies to collaborate, to share information in such a way that each country will take responsibility for what they are supposed to take responsibility for, " he said.

Olukoyede pointed out that the EFCC’s operations against cyber crimes are focused, relentless and fruitful. “EFCC, apart from the Police, is one of the prominent, specialised anti-corruption agencies in Nigeria that has the mandate to investigate cybercrime and we have been doing that. In the last few months, we have secured over five hundred convictions in cybercrimes and over the years we have had cause to collaborate with FBI, NCA and other prominent law enforcement agencies in the world in the area of combating cybercrime. We are much ready to do more and also to encourage the heads of the world to give access to information."

Earlier in his presentation, leader of the delegation, Mr. Craig Jones, explained that Interpol was working as a neutral law enforcement agency with private partners across the world to detect and break criminal networks serving fraudsters. He disclosed that cybercrimes have become global security threats with massive impact. "I think many countries now recognise that cybercrime is actually a national security threat to countries and this goes hand in hand with financial crimes, because the main motivation of cybercrime normally for the criminals is that financial gain and the impact that it makes on the countries and our communities is massive", he said.

To this end, Jones explained that Interpol continued to identify countries with criminal networks in order to assist them to break such networks.

He also disclosed that a CyberCrimes Convention is being negotiated with the United Nations Organisation, UNO, to draw global attention and commitment to the fight against the menace.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-reaffirms-commitment-to-fight-against-cyber-crimes](#)

419 Coalition comment: Hear, Hear! However, we'd also like to mention we have been recommending for Many years that EFCC prioritize counter-Cybercrime and counter-419 Operations, and refer internal corruption crimes to the Internal Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) for investigation and prosecution. Seems like a sensible allocation of effort and resources to us!

27 APR 2024

RESTRUCTURING OF EFCC : OLUKOYEDE APPOINTS CHIEF OF STAFF, ZONAL DIRECTORS

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has appointed Mr. Michael Nzekwe as his Chief of Staff. He has also appointed Zonal Directors for each of the 14 Zonal Commands of the Commission.

Nzekwe, topnotch investigator, lawyer and former Commander of the Ilorin Zonal Command of the EFCC, is a course one officer of the Commission. He has served in various departments in the Commission, including Legal and Prosecution Department, Department of Operations (now Department of Investigations), Department of Internal Affairs (now Department of Ethics

and Integrity), Servicom, and Asset Forfeiture Department.

A seasoned administrator, he has attended several trainings and courses home and abroad, including the Advance Defence Intelligence Officers Course organised by Defence Intel Agency, DIA. The appointment takes immediate effect and he has assumed duties.

Olukoyede, in his restructuring and repositioning of the EFCC, equally upgraded all the Zonal Commands of the Commission to the status of Departments, with each of them headed by a Director. To this effect, 14 new Directors have been appointed to head each of the Zonal Commands. Additionally, to bolster and fortify the security architecture of the Commission, the Security Unit of the EFCC has been upgraded to a Department with a seasoned officer appointed as Director, Security and Chief Security Officer.

A new Department has also been created in the Executive Chairman's office and it is headed by former Makurdi Zonal Commander of the EFCC, Mr. Friday Ebelo who also doubles as Director and Coordinator, Special Duties at the corporate headquarters of the Commission. The former Department of Internal Affairs has been renamed Department of Ethics and Integrity and minor reshuffling effected in some Departments at the headquarters.

Olukoyede says that the ongoing restructuring is meant for the repositioning and strengthening of the EFCC to deliver on its assigned mandate optimally.

The press release contains a photo:

[restructuring-of-efcc-olukoyede-appoints-chief-of-staff-zonal-directors](#)

26 APR 2024

COURT SENDS NINE INTERNET FRAUDSTERS TO JAIL IN BENIN CITY

Nine internet fraudsters were on Tuesday and Wednesday April 23 & 24, 2024 convicted and sentenced to various jail terms by Justice Efe Ikponmwonba of the Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City.

The convicts are Andrew Ayakanmi Joshua, Obazee Marvellous, Osiobe Joshua, Osariemen Favour, Edosa Ovbokhan, Emmanuel Eramiokhare, Cyril Osagie, Stephen Okiosi Osaiwe and Muhammed Mudesiru Hussein.

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charge bordering on obtaining by false pretence, possession of fraudulent documents, retention of proceeds of crime upon arraignment by the Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The charge against Eramiokhare reads: "That you Emmanuel Eiramiokhae (m) sometime between 1st January 1 2019 and 4th April, 2024 within the jurisdiction of this honourable court did retain the aggregate sum of N97,392,707.75 (Ninety Seven Million, Three Hundred and Ninety two thousand, Seven Hundred and Seven Naira, Seventy five kobo) knowing that same represent proceeds of Godstime (your chairman) criminal conduct to wit: cybercrime and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 17 (a) Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act 2004 and punishable under Section 17(b) of the same Act.

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they were read to them in court, prompting the prosecution counsel, Ibrahim Faisal and Salihu Ahmed, to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy as they have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Ikponmwonba on Tuesday April 22, 2024 sentenced the trio of Eramiokhae, Joshua and Favour to three years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) each while the duo of Ayakanmi

Joshua and Obazee Marvellous bagged two years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 each. On Wednesday April 23, 2024, the judge convicted and sentenced Ovbokhan to three years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000, Hussein bagged two years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 while the duo of Osaibe and Osagie were sentenced to community service.

The judges ordered the convicts to forfeit their phones, laptops, balances in their various bank accounts, being instruments and proceeds of crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria. All the convicts are to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour henceforth.

The convicts' road to the Correctional Centre began for the convicts following their arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Command of the Commission based on actionable intelligence regarding their involvement in computer -related fraud. They were charged to court and convicted.

[court-sends-nine-internet-fraudsters-to-jail-in-benin-city](#)

26 APR 2024

ABUJA COURT JAILS TWO INTERNET FRAUDSTERS

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abuja Zonal Command, on Tuesday, April 23, 2024 secured the conviction and sentence of two internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

The convicts, Adeleye Olanrewaju and Ayo Olaosebimo were convicted by Justice I. Mohammed of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court Gwagwalada on a one- count charge each.

The lone- count charge against Olanrewaju reads: ‘that you Adeleye Olanrewaju sometime in 2024 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court committed the offence of cheating by personation when you pretended to be one Lolita Gonzale²⁹³ female American citizen when you created a fake Instagram account for love scam and benefitted the sum of \$460 (Four Hundred and Sixty United States Dollars) from your victim John Alonzo and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 and punishable under Section 324 of the Penal Code Act, Laws of the Federation, 2004”.

They both pleaded guilty to the charges when they were read to them.

The prosecution counsel thereafter urged the court to convict and sentence the defendants accordingly. However, defense counsel, Sunday Adebayo and Okoro Nnachi Abiam prayed the court to temper justice with mercy, stressing that the convicts were first -time offenders and already pleaded guilty so as not to waste the time of the court.

Following this, Justice Mohammed sentenced Adeleye to one year imprisonment with an option of N100, 000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) fine while Olaosebimo was sentenced to six months imprisonment with a N50, 000 (Fifty Thousand Naira) option of fine. Both convicts forfeited their phones to the Federal Government.

The convicts began their journey to the Correctional Centre when they were arrested by operatives of the Abuja Zonal Command of the EFCC for internet-related offences. They were charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains a photo of each 419er:

[abuja-court-jails-two-internet-fraudsters](#)

25 APR 2024

EFCC ARRESTS NINE SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN PORT HARCOURT

Operatives of the Port Harcourt Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested seven

suspected internet fraudsters in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

They were arrested following actionable intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet-related offences.

Items recovered from them include different brands of mobile devices, laptops, two cars and several incriminating documents in their possession.

They will soon be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-nine-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-port-harcourt](#)

21 APR 2024

EFCC ARRESTS SIX SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN KADUNA

Operatives of the Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Saturday, April 21, 2024 arrested six suspected internet fraudsters in Kaduna State.

The alleged fraudsters were arrested at Bafra Hotel, Alkali Road, Kaduna, following actionable intelligence about their suspected involvement in internet-related offences.

Items recovered from them include six mobile phones and incriminating documents.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-six-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-kaduna](#)

20 APR 2024

INTERNET FRAUD ACADEMY PROPRIETOR BAGS 10 YEARS JAIL TERM

The Uyo Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentence of the proprietor of Uyo Cybercrime Training Centre, Ikemesit Edet ((a.k.a Hustle Kingdom HK).

He was jailed on Wednesday April 17, 2024 after pleading guilty to two-count charges bordering on impersonation, love scam, hacking/editing of social media accounts and private criminal tutoring, upon his arraignment by the Uyo Zonal Command of the EFCC.

Count one reads: That you IKEMESIT EDET IK sometime in January, 2024 in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this Honorable court, being the occupier and a person concerned with the management of the premises situated and lying at No. 57 D-Line, Ewet Housing Estate, Uyo Akwa Ibom State, did knowingly permit the use of the entire aforesaid premises as a CYBERCRIME ACADEMY, also known as Hustle Kingdom (HK) where you recruited ten (10) young Nigerians between ages 16-25 and taught them cybercrime techniques for perpetrating cyber crimes to wit: hacking, impersonation, and obtaining money by false pretence (Advance Fee Fraud) and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 3 of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 3 of the same Act.

Count two reads: That you IKEMESIT EDET IK between May 2020 and December 2023 in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court did take possession total sum of Fifteen Million Naira Only (-N=15,000,000.00) which you knew forms proceed of an unlawful act to wit: Cybercrime and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2)(d) of the Money laundering

(Prohibition) Act 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act.

Edet pleaded guilty to both charges preferred against him by the Commission, prompting prosecution counsel, Joshua Abolarin to pray the court to convict and sentence him accordingly. He also prayed that the court ordered the forfeiture of all exhibits recovered from him at the point of arrest. However, defence counsel Francis Ezike prayed the court to be lenient in sentencing the defendant.

After listening to both counsels, Justice Ojukwu convicted Edet and sentenced him to five years jail term on each count, with an option of fine of N2,000,000 (Two Million Naira) on each count.

The court also ordered that all recovered exhibits from the convict be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria. The exhibits include: 13 laptops, a gold-coloured Toyota Corolla, a Lexus Jeep RX 300 and about 3,080.25 square metres of land located at Ibiaku Obio Ndobbo Village, Uruan Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

Edet's journey to the Correctional Centre commenced on January 22, 2024, when investigators from the EFCC's office in Uyo acted on intelligence and arrested 10 suspects at his Cybercrimes Training Centre at D-Line Ewet Housing Estate, Uyo. All the suspects have been charged to court and convicted.

In a related development, the same court convicted and sentenced one Michael Melvin Onyekachi (alias 'Raisa Pedroso') for being in possession of fraudulent documents. He pleaded 'guilty' to the one-count charge preferred against him, and was immediately convicted and sentenced to six months imprisonment with an option of fine of N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira).

The lone-count charge reads: That you Michael Melvin Oyedikachi sometime in Nigeria within the jurisdiction of this honourable court fraudulently presented yourself as Raisa Pedroso on Facebook social media platform with intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22(2) (b)(I) of the Cyber crimes (Prohibition, Prevention) Act 2015 and punishable under Section 22(2)(b)(iv) of the same Act.

He bagged his imprisonment when he was arrested for internet-related fraud. He was charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[internet-fraud-academy-proprietor-bags-10-years-jail-term](#)

20 APR 2024

COURT JAILS 20 INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN BENIN CITY

The Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday and Thursday April 17 & 18, 2024 secured the conviction and sentence of 20 internet fraudsters before Justices Efe Ikponmwonba and M. Itsueli of the Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City.

The convicts are: Blessing Daniel, Kingsley Okoroafor, Amos Ohwofa, Eromosele Victory, Oba Nicholas Destiny, Lucky Osaro, Edema Emmanuel John, Obazee Precious, Akinyemi Seun, Ufumwen Victor, Enoch Ehigiator, Adurotimi Olakunle Justin, Oserei Clinton and Oserei Abraham.

Others are Obazee Gabriel, Richard Godfrey Obazee, Ricard Israel, Paul O. Endurance, Destiny Ajimi and Ejiwe Blessing Julius.

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charge bordering on obtaining by false pretence, possession of fraudulent documents upon arraignment by the Benin Zonal Command of the EFCC.

The charge against Ajimi reads:

That you Destiny Ajimi (M) on or about 4th April, 2024 in Benin City, Edo State, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contain a false pretence and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 read together with 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act.”

The charge against Julius reads: “That you Ejiwe Blessing Julius(M) on or about 4th April, 2024 in Benin City, Edo State, within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contain a false pretence and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 read together with 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act”.

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they were read to them in court, prompting the prosecution counsel, F. A. Jirbo. I.K Agwai and K.Y. Bello, to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy as they have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Ikponmwonba on April 17, sentenced the trio of Ohwofa, Daniel and Julius to three years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) each while Akinyemi Seun bagged two years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000. Justice Ituseli convicted the trio of Eromosele Victory, Obi Nicholas Destiny and Lucky Osaro to two years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 each while Kingsley Okarafor, Destiny Ajimi and Edema Emmanuel John bagged three years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000.

On Thursday April 18, Justice Ikponmwonba convicted 10 of the defendants - Precious, Victor, Ehigiator, Justin, Clinton, Abraham, Gabriel, Obazee, Israel and Endurance to three years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 each.

The judges ordered the convicts to forfeit their phones, laptops, balances in their various bank accounts and three vehicles - Mercedes-Benz, Lexus and a Toyota Camry being instruments and proceeds of crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria. All the convicts are to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour henceforth.

The convicts’ road to the prison began following their arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Command of the Commission based on actionable intelligence regarding their involvement in computer-related fraud.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[court-jails-20-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

19 APR 2024

TWO INTERNET FRAUDSTERS BAG JAIL TERMS IN ABUJA

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Abuja Zonal Command on Wednesday, April 17, 2024 secured the conviction and sentence of two internet fraudsters: Okonofi Paul and Ogumbe Elvis ogor before Justice I. Mohammed of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court sitting in Gwagwalada.

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges bordering on internet fraud.

Paul’s charge reads, “that you Okonofi Paul sometimes in 2024 within

the jurisdiction of this Honourable court committed the offence of cheating by personation when you pretended to be one Keanu Reeves a citizen of the United States of America and a Hollywood actor via Instagram social media account and as a result obtained the sum of \$1500 (One Thousand Five Hundred United States Dollars) from unsuspecting victims and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 and punishable under Section 324 of the Penal Code Act, Laws of the Federation, 2004”.

Wogor’s charge reads, ‘that you Ogumbe Elvis Wogor sometimes in 2023 in Abuja within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court cheated by personation when you created a Facebook account with the profile name, Sandra Bullock and presented yourself as a United States of American based actress and under the assumed character obtained the sum of Two Hundred Dollars (\$200) from Mr. Ratus Tucker a citizen of the United States of America, under the pretence that you are in a romantic relationship with him, a fact you knew to be false and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 of Penal Code, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (Abuja)1990 and punishable under the same Law”.

They both pleaded guilty to the charges when they were read to them.

Defense counsel, G.I Eneche prayed the court to temper justice with mercy as the convicts were first time offenders and pleaded guilty and did not waste the resources of the court. He also prayed the court to release Paul’s Lexus ES 350 car which was earlier seized at the point of arrest but not included in the reported items seized, saying it was not a proceed of crime.

Following this, Justice Mohammed sentenced Paul to one and a half years imprisonment with an option of fine of N150,000(One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira). His iPhone 12 and MacBook Pro 2022 were forfeited to the Federal Government.

Wogor, on the other hand, was sentenced to six months imprisonment with an option of fine of N80,000 (Eighty Thousand Naira) while his iPhone 12 was forfeited to the Federal Government. Justice Mohammed further ruled that the Lexus car be returned back to Paul.

The two convicts started their journey to the Correctional centre when they were arrested for internet-related offences. They were charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains a photo of each 419er

[two-internet-fraudsters-bag-jail-terms-in-abuja](#)

15 APR 2024

COURT JAILS THREE INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ILORIN

Justice Mahmud Abdulgafar of the Kwara State High Court sitting in Ilorin on Monday, April 15, 2024 convicted and sentenced three internet fraudsters, Qudus Temitope Ismail, Kolade Adetola Toheeb and Abdulmalik Timileyin Khalid to various jail terms.

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges bordering on internet fraud.

The charge against Toheeb reads:

“That you, Akolade Adetola Toheeb sometime in July, 2023 in Ilorin, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did cheat by personation when you pretended to be one Throndsen Waylen, a football match forecaster with phone number +23481260084504 with which you created a telegram account, and you fraudulently deceived one Jake Cooper to send \$200.00 (Two Hundred Dollars) through paypal to you, and you thereby committed an offence contrary

to Section 321 of the Penal Code and punishable under Section 324 of the same Penal Code”.

They all pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they were read to them.

Upon their pleas, counsel to the EFCC, Mustapha Kaigama reviewed the facts of the case and tendered the statements of the defendants. He also tendered in evidence items recovered from them at the point of arrest.

Justice Abdulgafar, thereafter, passed six months’ suspended sentence on each of the defendants and ordered that phones, laptops and the sum of €100 (One Hundred Euro) and \$200USD (Two Hundred Dollars) recovered Akolade be forfeited to the Federal Government.

The convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested by operatives of the Ilorin Zonal Command of the EFCC for internet-related offences. They were charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains a photo of each of the 419ers:

[court-jails-three-internet-fraudsters-in-ilorin](#)

15 APR 2024

EFCC ARRESTS SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTER IN PORT HARCOURT

Operatives of the Port Harcourt Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested a suspected internet fraudster, Ali Desmond Chinedum in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

He was arrested following credible intelligence on his suspected involvement in internet-related offences.

Items recovered from him include, one iPhone 11 Pro Max, One Redmi 12 android mobile device, two United States Navy identity cards with number: 100040041245 and 100010041159, one Mercedes Benz GLK and one HP Laptop computer device and charms.

He will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-suspected-internet-fraudster-in-port-harcourt](#)

10 APR 2024

From the United States Attorney's Office, Western District of Michigan:

Two Nigerian Defendants Plead Guilty to Sextortion

Nigerian court orders third defendant extradited to the United States; decision pending appeal

MARQUETTE, MICHIGAN — U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Michigan Mark Totten today announced that Samuel Ogoshi, 22, and Samson Ogoshi, 20, of Lagos, Nigeria, each pleaded guilty to conspiring to sexually exploit teenage boys in the Western District of Michigan and across the United States. The offense of conspiracy to sexually exploit minors requires a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years in prison; the maximum possible penalty is 30 years.

“Today’s guilty pleas represent an extraordinary success in the prosecution of international sextortion,” said U.S. Attorney Mark Totten. “These convictions will send a message to criminals in Nigeria and every corner of the globe: working with our partners both here and overseas, we can find you and we can bring you to justice.” He continued: “I hope these guilty pleas also bring a small measure of relief to the family of Jordan DeMay, who died as a result of this crime. Of course,

the job is not done. The Ogoshi brothers await sentencing later this year, and we are still pursuing the extradition of the third defendant, Ezekiel Robert.”

The plea agreement describes the integrated roles played by Samuel and Samson Ogoshi in creating fake accounts, luring, and extorting victims. As part of their pleas, the Ogoshi brothers also agree to cooperate in the prosecution of others. The charges against Ezekiel Robert are still pending.

On August 13, 2023, Nigeria extradited the Ogoshis to the United States to face prosecution after a grand jury indicted the brothers in November 2022 for sexual extortion. On March 21, 2024, a Nigerian court ordered the third defendant, Ezekiel Robert, to be extradited to the United States. He has appealed that decision and the matter is before the Nigerian High Court.

“Financial sextortion is a rising and very serious threat targeting our minors nationwide and this case shook the very core of our Michigan community,” said Cheyvoryea Gibson, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI in Michigan. “We encourage the public to have open and honest conversations with their loved ones surrounding sextortion and to take heed of the warning signs. If you believe you or someone you know has become a victim of this crime, please contact the FBI by calling 1-800-CALL-FBI or submitting a tip at tips.fbi.gov.”

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Daniel Mekaru and Davin Reust, and investigated by the FBI, the Marquette Sheriff’s Department, and the Michigan State Police Cybercrimes Unit in Marquette with the cooperation and assistance of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission of Nigeria. The U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of International Affairs, the U.S. Department of State, and the Nigerian Attorney General’s Office – Ministry of Justice provided critical assistance securing the arrest and extradition of the defendants.

The charges in the indictment against Ezekiel Robert remain pending and are merely accusations, and he is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

For more information, below are the previous press releases, indictment, and plea agreements.

Ogoshi Brothers Plead Not Guilty at Arraignment

Two Nigerian Men Extradited to The United States After Being Indicted for International Sexual Extortion Ring

Three Nigerian Men Awaiting Extradition for Committing Sexual Extortion Indictment

Plea Agreement for Samuel Ogoshi (attached)

Plea Agreement for Samson Ogoshi (attached)

[2024_0410_Ogoshi_Plea](#)

9 APR 2024

TWO INTERNET FRAUDSTERS BAG JAIL TERMS IN KADUNA

The Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentencing of two internet fraudsters before Justice Balarabe Buhari of the Kaduna State High Court sitting in Kaduna.

They were jailed on Wednesday April 3, 2024 on one- count separate charges bordering on cybercrimes.

The convicts are Aaron Barnabas (a.k.a Helena Antonio) and Bosan Godwin Yacham(a.k.a Will Parfitt).

The one -count charge for Barnabas reads:" Aaron Barnabas (a.k.a Helena Antonio) Sometimes in October, 2023 in Kaduna, within the jurisdiction

of this Honourable Court, impersonated one Helena Antonio on Facebook, obtained the sum of \$200 (Two Hundred United States of America Dollars) from Mauro Nunes and unsuspecting persons, and you thereby committed cheating by impersonation, an offence contrary to Section 308 of the Penal Code Law, 2017 of Kaduna State and punishable under Section 309 of the same Law."

The charge for Yacham reads; "Bosan Godwin Yacham (a.k.a Linnette Pickard) Male, sometimes in November, 2023 in Kaduna, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, impersonated one Will Parfitt from Australia on Facebook, obtained the sum of \$100 (One Hundred United States of America Dollars) from Elizabeth Fier and unsuspecting persons, and you thereby committed cheating by impersonation, an offence contrary to Section 308 of the Penal Code Law, 2017 of Kaduna State and punishable under Section 309 of the same Law."

They all pleaded guilty to their one- count charges respectively when they were read to them, prompting the prosecuting counsel, Y.J Matiyak to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Buhari consequently convicted and sentenced them to two years imprisonment each or pay a fine of N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) each. They also forfeited their phones used to commit the offences to the government. While Barnabas restituted the sum of \$200 (Two Hundred United States of America Dollar), Yacham restituted \$100 (One Hundred United States America Dollars) to the government.

The convicts' journey to the Correctional Centre began when they were arrested at Keffi, Nasarawa state following a sting operation conducted by Operatives of the Kaduna Zonal Command working on intelligence. Investigations showed that they fraudulently assumed identities of foreigners to create fictitious social media accounts to defraud unsuspecting victims of their hard- earned money.

[two-internet-fraudsters-bag-jail-terms-in-kaduna](#)

8 APR 2024

OLUKOYEDE TASKS NACOED STUDENTS ON CORRUPTION, NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Executive Chairman, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has called on Nigerian students to shun computer-related fraud and other criminal tendencies and imbibe desirable attitudes necessary for national development.

He gave the charge on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 in a lecture entitled, "Impact of Cybercrime on Nigeria Economy: Tertiary Education in Perspective" delivered during the matriculation ceremony and orientation programme for Degree and NCE students for 2023/2024 academic session of the Nigerian, Army College of Education, NACOED, Sobi, Ilorin.

The EFCC boss, who spoke through the Head of Public Affairs Department of the Ilorin Zonal Command of the EFCC, Ayodele Babatunde expressed worry over the alarming rate of students' involvement in cybercrime and other social vices, pointed out that the country could only realise its full potentials when youths imbibe the culture of excellence and shun all forms of criminalities.

He acknowledged that Nigerian youths are blessed with great potential, and challenged them to deploy them into good uses. He added that cybercrime should not be seen as a way of life, noting that "ostentatious and flamboyant lifestyle without corresponding hard work is perilous."

"It is very unfortunate that young people these days have chosen to follow the fast lane, forgetting that speeding in the wrong direction leads to problems. Imagine young people, including teenagers going into cybercrimes and even rituals. I want to encourage you not to be discouraged. Always remember that evil can never win over good and that every action has a reward", Olukoyede said.

Speaking on the impact of cybercrime, the EFCC Chair said that a society where cybercrime and corruption is allowed to thrive, would among other things suffer underdevelopment, poor education, public and private dysfunctionality, poor infrastructural development and security crisis which included but not limited to banditry, kidnapping, killing for rituals, cultism and terrorism financing.

Enumerating some of the efforts of the EFCC in tackling cybercrime among the youths, Olukoyede said that the Commission recently convoked a meeting of heads of tertiary institutions and faith-based organisations in Abuja to deliberate on ways to curb the menace of cybercrime on campuses. He added that resolutions at the meeting had already started yielding results.

He urged the students to take advantage of the EFCC's Integrity Clubs and Zero Tolerance Club in our secondary and tertiary institutions to enlist as anti-corruption foot soldiers of the Commission.

The anti-graft czar, while congratulating the matriculants, enjoined them to be above board in character and learning and be good ambassadors of their home, school and country at large. He also urged members of the public to always secure their phone and devices by using strong passwords and avoid sharing personal details and sensitive information such as PIN, BVN or card details with people on social media in order not to fall victim to hackers.

In his closing remarks, the Provost of the NACOED, Major General Umar Babangida commended the EFCC for the presentation which he described as "rich and resourceful", pledging the readiness of the College to collaborate with the EFCC in its efforts to rid the country's campuses of cybercrime. He also promised to work closely with the EFCC to ensure the establishment of the Zero Tolerance Club in the college and ensure its functionality.

The press release contains photos:

[olukoyede-tasks-nacoed-students-on-corruption-national-development](#)

8 APR 2024

SHUN CYBER CRIME, EFCC CHAIRMAN WARNS YOUTHS

The Executive Chairman of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede, has called on youths to shun cybercrime and other forms of criminality.

The EFCC chairman made this call in Benin-City, Edo State while speaking on a programme 'Youth Empowerment Against Cybercrime' organised by Cybersecurity Education Initiatives ,CYSED, a non-profit organisation dedicated to cybercrime prevention.

The EFCC boss who was represented by Williams Oseghale, Head, Public Affairs Department, Benin Zonal Command warned the youths to stay away from cybercrime as the consequences were grave. He stated that the laws empower the Commission to arrest and prosecute anyone found culpable. "Don't be tempted or lured by the ostentatious lifestyle of other youths because the Commission will continue to arrest and prosecute anyone that is involved. In the last few years, the Commission has secured thousands of convictions of persons involved in cybercrime, many have been stripped of their illegally acquired properties. So they have ended in shame. There is no escape route for those involved in cybercrime," he said.

He stated that there was no shortcut to wealth and urged the youths to use the internet to innovate and create positive economic growth. "The internet does not necessarily have to be an avenue to impersonate, manipulate and fabricate lies to defraud others. Let the youths begin to use the internet for socially desirable things like offering digital solutions to the needs of industries, homes, governments and other engagement of life."

Moses Joshua, Executive Director, CYSED, said the essence of the

programme was to build mental strength in youths to resist cybercrime and other Serious Organised Crime SOC. "It is to enhance knowledge and awareness about the adverse effects of SOC and establish a sustainable impact through virtual space. We expect to see increased positive behavioural change in target beneficiaries and a reduction in SOC activities within the community," he said.

The press release contains a photo:

[shun-cyber-crime-efcc-chairman-warns-youths](#)

4 APR 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 39 FOR SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUD IN BENIN CITY

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Thursday, April 4, 2024 arrested 39 suspected internet fraudsters at different locations in Benin City.

The suspects were arrested following actionable intelligence on their suspected involvement in computer -related fraud.

Items recovered from them include eight exotic cars - three Mercedes-Benz GLK, one Mercedes Benz C300 4 Matic, two Lexus ES350, Toyota Venza and Toyota Camry cars. Others are laptops and phones

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-39-for-suspected-internet-fraud-in-benin-city](#)

30 MAR 2024

COURT SENDS INTERNET FRAUDSTER TO JAIL IN ILORIN

Justice Mahmud Abdulgafar of the Kwara State High Court sitting in Ilorin on Monday, March 25, 2024 convicted and sentenced Usman Harun to six months imprisonment for internet fraud.

He was jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charge bordering on obtaining under false pretences.

The charge reads:

“That you, Usman Harun sometime in February 2024 in Malete, Kwara State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did knowingly had under your control the sum of fifteen thousand naira (N15,000) in your account number 000380275 domiciled in Jaiz Bank Plc, which you knew to be unlawfully obtained and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable Section 319 of the Penal Code”

The defendant pleaded guilty when the charge was read to him.

Upon his plea, counsel to the EFCC, Charles Oni reviewed the facts of the case and tendered the statements of the defendant. He also tendered in evidence items recovered from him at the point of arrest.

Justice Abdulgafar thereafter convicted and sentenced the Harun to six months imprisonment with an option of fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira Only) and ordered that the phone used to perpetrate the crime and money which the convict benefited from the crime be forfeited to the Federal Government.

Harun bagged his imprisonment when he was arrested by operatives of the Ilorin Zonal Command of the EFCC for internet fraud. He was charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[court-sends-internet-fraudster-to-jail-in-ilorin](#)

30 MAR 2024

KANO, KADUNA COURTS JAIL 42 FRAUDSTERS FOR INTERNET FRAUD AND CHEATING

The Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentencing of 42 fraudsters before Justices A.M Liman, M.N Yunusa, Darius Khobo, A.A Bello and A.A Isiaka.

32 of the convicts were jailed by Justices Liman and Yunusa of the Federal High Court, sitting in Kano while the remaining 10 were jailed by Justices Khobo, Bello and Isiaka in Kaduna.

They were all jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges preferred against them by the EFCC.

The 32 convicts jailed in Kano are: Happy Mahmud, Ahmed Musa, Godwil Adams, Kigbu Agyivye Samuel, Walter Moses Afamefuna, Mustapha Aliyu, Hope Ezekiel, Ogbonna Emmanuel, Adamu Ali, Abdullahi Usman Abdullahi, Ibrahim Mohammed Neziru, Favour Pius, Timothy Danjuma, Adejare Abdulfahad, Isah Labaran, Ani Godswill, Adamu Muhammad, Muhammed Zafir Agede, Adidas Oyiwoza Junior, Victor Adaji and Matthew Etta.

Others are: Blessed Oyewole, Joshua Victor, Egbodo Mathew, Oladipupo David, Omotosho Owolabi, Shehu Salisu, Ezeugwu Kingsley, Ambrose Favour Okwose, Moses Danladi, Henry Chinnemelum Akaenyi and Elijah Philemon.

The remaining 10 fraudsters jailed in Kaduna are: Japhet Sunday (a.k.a Nicolas Galitzine), Precious Audu, Oche Emmanuel (a.k.a Allegra Liliane), Good News Ezekiel (a.k.a Jessica Allen), Gabriel Liou (a.k.a Jonny Depp), Adedigba Jamiu Adeniyi (a.k.a Jiggy Jay), Joel Moses (a.k.a Vin Diesel), Tizhe Zinas Japhet (a.k.a Richard Miller and a.k.a Arthur Van Gulik) and Fu'ad Oreoluwa Abdulsalam (a.k.a Crack Thompson) and Suleiman Dada.

The charge against Philemon reads: "That you Elajikun Philemon (a.k.a Maria) sometimes in 2024 at Keffi, Nassarawa State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, with intent to defraud, retained the total sum of \$45 (Forty-five US Dollars) from one Mrs. Anna, which you knew that such fund forms part of the proceeds of an unlawful act 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 charge against Mahmud reads: "That you Happy Mahmud (a.k.a Lucas Patrick) sometimes in February, 2024 in Keffi, Nassarwa state within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, with intent to defraud impersonated one Lucas Patrick via 'Facebook' chat(an online social media application) which pretence you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2)(b)(i) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc)Act, 2015."

Following their guilty pleas, prosecution counsel, Matiyak.Y. John and K.S Ogunlade prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justices Liman and Yunusa thereafter convicted and sentenced 10 of the convicts to two years imprisonment each or a fine of N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira) each. Fifteen were convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment with an option of fine of N100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand naira). Six of the convicts were sentenced to one year imprisonment with an option of fine of N100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand naira), while only Muhammed Zafir Agede was sentenced to three years imprisonment with an option of fine of N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira).

They all forfeited their phones to the federal government and made restitution to their respective victims.

The remaining convicts jailed in Kaduna were also prosecuted on one-count separate charges to which they all pleaded “guilty.”

The one-count charge against Dauda reads: “That you Suleiman Dauda sometime in 2020 in Kaduna within the Kaduna Judicial Division of the High Court cheated one Mohammed Hassan of his property worth N5,000,000.00 (Five Million naira) when you presented yourself as being capable of buying his vehicle, a Honda Accord 2013 model which you collected and sold without paying back the money after taking delivery of the vehicle, and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 306 of the Penal Code Law, 2017 and punishable under Section 307 of the same Law.”

Following their guilty pleas, prosecution counsel, M.E Eimonye, Y.J Matiyak and G.U Gadaka urged the courts to convict and sentence them accordingly.

The 10 bagged jail terms that ranged from two to five years respectively or an option of fine that ranged between N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) to N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira). Additionally they forfeited their phones to the federal government. Dauda bagged four years or an option of fine of N100, 000 and restitution of N5,000,000.00 (Five Million Naira) to his victim.

The road to jail began for the 42 convicts when they were arrested following credible intelligence on their involvement in internet-related offences.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[kano-kaduna-courts-jail-42-fraudsters-for-internet-fraud-and-cheating](#)

28 MAR 2024

COURT JAILS 17 INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN BAUCHI

Justices A. Muazu and M.A Sambo of the Bauch State High Court sitting in Bauch have convicted and sentenced seventeen (17) internet fraudsters to different jail terms.

The convicts were jailed after pleading guilty to one –count separate charges upon their arraignment by the Gombe Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC. They are: John Yakubu, Adams Ogbu Adai, Anthony Favour, Londima Donendung, Anthony Osai Samuel, John Jerry, Christianah Joseph, Adejumo Faruq, Emmanuel Shammah, Iliya Yakubu, Godfrey Fidelis Namzy, Danjuma Aklahel, Michael Monday Auta, Alphonsus Jeremiah, Banabas Emmanuel, Jerry Emeka and Solomon Monday.

The charge against Auta reads; "That you, Micheal Monday Auta sometimes between 2023 and 2024, at Bauchi, Bauch State , within the Jurisdiction of this honorable court, attempted to cheat by personation by pretending to be one Adriana Maria and Nora Paslaru a foreigner who deals in cryptocurrency investment in order to introduce unsuspecting foreign nationals to deliver the monies to him, thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 and punishable under Section 324 of the Penal Code".

They pleaded guilty to the charges when they were read to them.

Based on their pleas, the judges convicted and offered them different sentences which are; Donendung to six month imprisonment or an option of fine of N250,000, Shammah to eight months imprisonment without an option of fine, Yakubu to two years imprisonment with an option of fine of N200,000, Namzy to six months imprisonment without an option of fine, Ogbu to two years imprisonment with an option of N250,000 as fine, Yakubu to eight years imprisonment with an option of fine of N500,000, Samuel to three years imprisonment or an option of

N200,000 fine and he also forfeited two laptops, one iPhone X, MTN router and one headphone to the Federal government of Nigeria.

Other convicts are: Emeka sentenced to three years imprisonment or an option of N250,000 fine and he forfeited one BMW car to the government, Emmanuel to two years imprisonment or an option of N150,000naira fine, Monday to four years imprisonment or N400,000 as option of fine, Ekond to six years imprisonment or N350,000 as fine, Danjuma to three months imprisonment with an option of N250,000 fine, Joseph to two years imprisonment or option of N400,000 fine, Auta to six months imprisonment without an option of fine, Adejumo Faruq to six months imprisonment without an option of fine, Anthony Favour to two years imprisonment with an option of N150,000 fine, and he also forfeited two tecno phone used in committing the offence to the government and Jeremiah to six months imprisonment without an option of fine.

All the convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested for internet offences. They all pleaded guilty before the court and were convicted.

The press release contains photos of some of the 419ers:

[court-jails-17-internet-fraudsters-in-bauchi](#)

28 MAR 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 74 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN OGUN

Operatives of the Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Thursday, March 28, 2024 arrested seventy-four(74) suspected internet fraudsters in Ogun State.

The alleged fraudsters were arrested at Government Residential Area, G.R.A, Shagamu, in Ogun State following surveillance and intelligence exposing their suspected internet-related offences.

Items recovered from them include seven exotic cars, three laptops, 124 mobile phones, one PlayStation 3 game, two motorcycles and other incriminating documents.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-74-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-ogun](#)

26 MAR 2024

COURT JAILS 26 INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN BENIN CITY

The Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, between Friday, March 22, 2024 and Tuesday March 26, 2024 secured the conviction and sentence of 26 internet fraudsters before Justices Efe Ikponmwonba and M. Itsueli of the Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City.

The convicts are Balogun Oladipupo, Ehigiamusoe Desmond, Jeffery Enogieru, Awoke Godstime ThankGod, Gabriel Ugolo, Erhabor ThankGod Idahosa, Obaretin Osahebrunwen Samuel, Ilevba Endurance, Ilevba Isowanmwun, Osakhuwomwen Osayende, Eruangu Salvation, Destiny Osasenagu Osafanmen, Emmanuel Osafanmen, Azuka Victory Nzel, Enehizena Michael, Emmanuel Oladotun Oladotun, Abdulsalam Enakhe.

Others are Cyril Nowanmagbe Ojo, Wisdom Desmond John, Samuel Joseph, Ime Joseph Etim, Imafidon Kelvin, Sylvester Gabriel, Victor Jonathan Chika, Ejike Favour Madukaku and Abdullahi Rahman.

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charge bordering on obtaining by false pretence, possession of fraudulent documents upon arraignment by the Benin Zonal Command of the EFCC.

The charge against Ilevba reads: "that you Endurance Osahon Ilevba sometime in 2023 in Benin City, Edo State, within the jurisdiction of this honourable court did with intent to defraud represent yourself to be Jason Statham, an American actor and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 384 (1) of the criminal Law of Edo State Law 2022."

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they were read to them, prompting prosecution counsel, F. A. Jirbo. I. M. Elodi, I.K Agwai, K.Y. Bello, Bala-Ribah and Salihu Ahmed to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, stressing that they have become remorseful for their actions.

The duo of Ilevba and Endurance Osahon Ilevba bagged two years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each while the quartet of Idahosa, Oladuton Cole, Michael and Abdullahi got two years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) each. Twenty others were sentenced to three years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 (One Hundred thousand Naira) each.

The judges ordered that the convicts forfeit their phones, laptops, three Mercedes-Benz vehicles, balances in their various bank accounts including the sum of Four Million, Fifty Two Thousand, Fifty Two Naira, Fifty Three kobo (N4,052,052.53) in the account of Ilevba being instrument and proceeds of crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria while Abdullahi was ordered to refund N480,000 to his victim . All the convicts are to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour afterwards.

The convicts' road to the Correctional Centre began following their arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Command of the Commission based on actionable intelligence regarding their involvement in internet-related fraud.

[court-jails-26-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

22 MAR 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 20 ALLEGED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN IBADAN

Operatives of the Ibadan Zonal Commander of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested twenty (20) suspected internet fraudsters in Oyo State.

The alleged fraudsters were arrested on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at Akobo area of Ibadan, following actionable intelligence on their suspected fraudulent internet-related activities.

Items recovered from them include ten exotic cars, twelve laptops, forty-one(41) mobile phones, one play-station 5, one television set and other incriminating documents among others.

They would be charged to court upon conclusion of investigations.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-20-alleged-internet-fraudsters-in-ibadan](#)

21 MAR 2024

COURT SENDS INTERNET FRAUDSTER TO JAIL IN LAGOS

The Lagos Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Thursday, March 21, 2024, secured the

conviction and sentencing of one Ndifreke Okon, before Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos.

Okon was arraigned on a one-count charge bordering on Internet fraud, under Section 22 (3) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention Etc) Act, 2015.

The charge reads: "That you Ndifreke Edem Okon (aka Binh Nguyen) on the 7th day of December, 2023 in Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court directly made a false statement wherein you held yourself out as BINH NGUYEN in your Instagram account knowing same to be false and with intent that the representation is relied upon for the purpose of procuring the issuance of financial instrument to yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 22 (3) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention Etc) Act, 2015."

He pleaded "guilty" to the charge when it was read to him.

In view of his guilty plea, prosecuting counsel, A.O. Mohammed sought to review the facts of the case through the investigating officer, Mustapha Farouq Umar.

Umar told the court that the defendant was arrested on December 5, 2023, at Ajah, Lagos, following an intelligence report on the activities of an Organised Cybercrime Syndicate Network (OCSN) operating in that axis.

Testifying further, he told the court that Okon in his statement to the EFCC, confessed to being into a dating scam by representing himself to unsuspecting victims as a white man from Vietnam known as Binh Nguyen. "Upon his arrest, an iPhone X, Tecno spark 5 and HP laptop were recovered from him," he said.

Mohammed, thereafter, sought to tender in evidence, the statements, and all the items recovered from him.

Justice Aneke admitted and marked them as exhibits.

Thereafter, the trial judge declared him guilty as charged.

Defence counsel, Oludare Odetoki, prayed the court for leniency.

He appealed to the court to temper justice with mercy, considering his status as a first-time offender, and remorse for his actions.

Justice Aneke sentenced him to one year imprisonment with an option of fine of N1.5million and 100 hours community service.

The Judge also ordered the forfeiture of the items recovered from him to the Federal Government.

[court-sends-internet-fraudster-to-jail-in-lagos](#)

21 MAR 2024

WE HAVE PLANS TO REHABILITATE CONVICTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS - OLUKOYEDE

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede has hinted of plans to rehabilitate convicted internet fraudsters with lesser sentences as a potent way of reorienting their minds and redirecting their productive energies to positive endeavours.

He stated this in Abuja on Thursday, March 21, 2024 when a delegation of the National Association of University Students, NAUS, led by its President, Obadi Marshal paid him a courtesy visit at the corporate headquarters of

the Commission.

“We have a plan to rehabilitate convicted internet fraudsters with lesser sentences. The plan is to work with the Correctional Centre to make them useful and more productive in the society.

He cautioned youths against indulging in internet crimes stressing that the implication of such an act is grave. “When you think deeply, that tag ‘ex-convict’ is not a good thing. You can never tell where you would find yourself tomorrow and they would want to profile you and discover that you are an ex-convict. So it is even in the interest of the youth that the EFCC is doing what it is doing to prevent them from indulging in the heinous act of cybercrime,” he said.

The EFCC’s boss also cautioned students against forming parallel organisations to pursue similar interests. “The issue of dichotomies of associations is disturbing. Regulate yourselves and the society will take you more seriously”, he said. He charged the students to always avoid hasty judgment of the operations of the EFCC, maintaining that the Commission is working in the overall interests of the nation

Speaking earlier on the purpose of the visit, Marshal disclosed that it was to build synergy with the EFCC in its fight against cybercrimes across Nigerian university campuses. “The aim of our visit today is to see how we can synergize and partner with the EFCC in eradicating cybercrime in all the higher institutions of learning in the country. The National Association of University Students, NAUS, has never been part of it and will never support it, that is why we are at the EFCC to see how we can collaborate to end it. The onus is on us all to save our youths from taking part in it and to save our country,” he said.

As a way forward, the NAUS president requested for EFCC’s participation during orientation programmes for new students across Nigerian universities, stating that sensitization of the fresh undergraduates by the Commission at that early stage could go a long way in moving their minds away from cybercrime and other financial vices as they face their studies.

“We need the presence of the Commission in our campuses during orientation of new students”, he said. He also enjoined the Commission to create more interactive platforms for youths to relate with it.

[we-have-plans-to-rehabilitate-convicted-internet-fraudsters-olukoyede](#)

419 Coalition note: We support all means of steering people away from committing 419 crimes, including the above described effort.

21 MAR 2024

COURT JAILS 25 INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN BENIN CITY

Twenty five internet fraudsters were on Wednesday and Thursday 21, March, 2024 convicted and sentenced to various jail terms by Justices Efe Ikponmwonba and M. Ituseli of Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City.

The convicts are Joshua Osarumwense, Oziegbe Courage, Michael Osawowamen Enofe, Precious Ezomo, Favour Ezomon, Adetokunbor Oghamomwan, Amaize Victor Ohimah, Destiny Okpala, Emmanuel Benjamin, Williams Chinedu Onyeji, Michael Ugochukwu Davidson, Favour Victor, Aigbadon Nathaniel, Owas Palmer and Kelvin Aghator.

Others are Samuel Endurance, Emmanuel Ogiehor, Oseni Usman, Success Bashorun, Hassan Usman, Omoruyi Stanley, Omoruyi Osasu, Festus David Ofuomadega, Omokaro Junior Aisosa and Okolo Oghenyerhovwo.

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges bordering on possession of fraudulent documents upon arraignment by the Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The charge against Favour Ezomo reads: “that you Favour Ezomo (m) on or about 14th March, 2024 in Benin City, Edo State, within the jurisdiction of this honourable court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contain a false pretence and thereby committed an offence contrary to sections 6 and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act.2006 and punishable under section 1(3)of same Act”.

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they were read to them, prompting prosecution counsel, F. Jirbo. I.K Agwai, A. A. Ibrahim and Salihu Ahmed to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, claiming they have become remorseful for their actions.

The trio of Oziegbe, Stanley and Davidson bagged three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each while the duo of Ofuomadega and Ogheneyehovwo got two years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two hundred Thousand Naira) each. The 20 others were sentenced to three years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) each.

The judges ordered that the convicts forfeit their phones, balances in their various bank accounts being instruments and proceeds of crime and a Mercedes-Benz GLK 350 recovered from Ezomo to the Federal Government of Nigeria. All the convicts are to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour afterwards.

The convicts’ road to the Correctional Centre began following their arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Command of the Commission based on actionable intelligence regarding their involvement in computer related fraud.

The press release contains a photo of each of the 419ers:

[court-jails-25-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

20 MAR 2024

AGAIN, COURT JAILS SIX INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ILORIN

Justice Evelyn Anyadike of the Federal High Court sitting in Ilorin on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 convicted and sentenced another set of six internet fraudsters to different jail terms.

The convicts: Ismail Abdulbasit, Oladipo Victor, Ibrahim Oluwatosin, Ayantola Segun Samuel, Musbau Waris Atomo and Babalola Rasaan Oluwadamilare, were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges, following their arraignment by the Ilorin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The charge against Abdulbasit reads: “That you, Ismail Abdulbasit between in February 2024 at Maleta, Kwara State within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court, fraudulently impersonate one Jason Boone from United States of America with intent to gain advantage for yourself thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22(2)(b)(ii) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention Etc.) Act 2015 and punishable under Section 22 (2)(b) (iv) of the same Act”

Upon their pleas, counsel to the EFCC, Innocent Mbachie and Charles Oni reviewed the facts of the cases and tendered the statements of the defendants. The prosecutor also tendered in evidence items recovered from the suspects at the point of arrest, including various sums of money which they defrauded their victims.

In her judgment, Justice Anyadike ordered the trio of Oluwatosin,

Oluwadamilare and Atomo to pay a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira Only) each while ordering Victor, Abdulbasit and Samuel to pay a sum of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira Only) each as fine.

The judge also ordered that all phones recovered from the convicts be forfeited to the government.

The latest conviction brings to 30 the number of persons jailed among 48 students of the Kwara State University, KWASU, arrested in a sting operation by operatives of the EFCC for internet fraud.

The press release contains a photo of each of the 419ers:

[again-court-jails-six-internet-fraudsters-in-ilorin](#)

19 MAR 2024

KADUNA COURT JAILS FOUR INTERNET FRAUDSTERS

The Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentencing of four internet fraudsters before Justices Darius Khobo and A.A Isiaka of the Kaduna State High Court, sitting in Kaduna.

They were jailed on Tuesday, March 19, 2024.

Justice Isiaka convicted and sentenced Mohammed Ibrahim and Ibrahim Yusuf while Mubàrak Olarewaju Ibrahim and Olorunfemi Feyi Samuel were jailed by Justice Khobo.

All the convicts were prosecuted on one-count separate charges bordering on fraudulent activities and cheating by impersonation. They all pleaded “guilty” when the charges were read to them.

Following their pleas, prosecution counsel, M.E Eimonye and M. Lawal urged the courts to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Consequently, Justice Khobo convicted and sentenced Ibrahim to two years imprisonment with N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) as an option of fine. Samuel was sentenced to five years imprisonment or N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) as an option of fine. In addition, he was ordered to make \$205 (Two Hundred and Five USD) restitution to his victim.

Justice Isiaka convicted and sentenced Mohammed to two years imprisonment or N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand naira) as an option of fine while Yusuf bagged two years imprisonment or N100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) option of fine. In addition, Yusuf was ordered to retribute the sum of \$200 (Two Hundred United Dollars) being proceeds of his crime to his victim.

All the convicts forfeited the mobile phones recovered from them to the Federal Government.

Their journey to prison began after they were nabbed by operatives of Kaduna Command in sting operations carried out in and around Kaduna axis following credible intelligence on their involvement in internet-related offences. They were found to have impersonated foreigners and used the assumed identities to defraud their victims.

The press release contains photos of three of the four 419ers:

[kaduna-court-jails-four-internet-fraudsters](#)

18 MAR 2024

ILORIN COURTS JAIL SIX INTERNET FRAUDSTERS

The Ilorin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Monday, March 18, 2024 secured the conviction and sentence of six persons for internet fraud.

They were jailed by Justices Evelyn Anyadike of the Federal High Court sitting in Ilorin and Justice Adebayo Yusuf of the Kwara State High Court, Ilorin after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges following their arraignment by the Ilorin Zonal Command of the EFCC.

The convicts are: Aransiola Oluwaseun Stephen, Owoeye Adeyanju Ezekiel, Idris Yekini Kayode, Abdulrahmon Abubakar, Rafiu Ashimiu Adisa and Raheem Ayomide Monsur.

The charges against Stephen reads: “That you, Aransiola Oluwaseun Stephen in February 2024 in Ilorin, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did cheat by personation when you pretended to be one Cindy Watson, a White female, based in United States of America, and in that guise induced one Randy Driskill to send you the sum of \$350 (Three Hundred and Fifty Dollars) which you did receive via gift cards thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 321 of the Penal Code Law and Punishable under Section 324 of the same law”

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they were read to them.

Following their “guilty pleas”, EFCC’s counsel, Innocent Mbachie, Adebayo Aliyu, Charles Oni and Rasheedat Alao, reviewed the facts of the cases and tendered the statements and items recovered from the defendants at the point of arrest, which were admitted in evidence.

The judges convicted and sentenced them accordingly. They also ordered that the phones and laptops recovered from them, as well as balances in their bank accounts be forfeited to the Federal Government.

All the six convicts are among the 48 students of Kwara State University, KWASU, arrested by the EFCC recently.

The press release has a photo of each of the 419ers:

[ilorin-courts-jail-six-internet-fraudsters](#)

18 MAR 2024

EFCC ARRAIGNS ALLEGED SEXTORTIONIST IN LAGOS

The Lagos Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on March 17, 2024 arraigned one Olukeye Olalekan, before Justice Kehinde Ogundare of the Federal High court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos on an 18-count charge bordering on transmission of child pornography, fraudulent impersonation, and sextortion to the tune of N721,500.00 (Seven Hundred and Twenty One Thousand, Five Hundred Naira only).

Count one reads: “That you, Olukeye Adedayo Olalekan (a.k.a hrm87, charlotte 708 and harlilott_ 716) on or about the 13th February, 2.023 in Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court intentionally used the Instagram virtual network to create a group "Expose Janjua Robin Nudes" to distribute child pornography and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 23(1)(C)and punishable under Section 23(1)(e) of the of Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, Etc.) Act, 2015”.

Another count reads: “That you, Olukeye Adedayo Olalekan (a.k.a hrm877,

charlotte 708 and harlilott_716) on or about the 13th of May, 2022 in Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court directly retained the total sum of N721,500.00 in your account domiciled in UBA which sum you reasonably ought to have known forms part of the proceeds of your unlawful activity to wit: transmission of child pornography and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 18(2)(d) and punishable under Section 18 (3) of the of Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022”.

He pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when they were read to him.

In view of his plea, prosecuting counsel, S.I. Suleiman prayed the court for a trial date to enable the prosecution to call its witnesses and tender relevant documents to prove its case.

Defence counsel, Segun Onikoyi, however, applied that the defendant be allowed to continue on the bail earlier granted him by Justice T.G. Ringim.

The prosecution raised no objection. "We leave the decision to the discretion of the court," Suleiman said.

Justice Ogundare thereafter adjourned till June 3, 2024 for trial and ordered the defendant to continue on the bail previously granted.

The press release contains a photo of the alleged 419er:

[efcc-arraigns-alleged-sextortionist-in-lagos](#)

16 MAR 2024

EIGHT INTERNET FRAUDSTERS BAG JAIL TERMS IN ILORIN

Justices Evelyn Anyadike of the Federal High Court sitting in Ilorin and Adebayo Yusuf of the Kwara State High Court, Ilorin on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 convicted and sentenced eight internet fraudsters to different jail terms.

The convicts were part of the 48 students of the Kwara State University, KWASU, and two residents of Malete arrested on Wednesday, February 21, 2024, during a sting operation by operatives of the Ilorin Zonal Command of the EFCC for internet- related offences.

The convicts are: Afolabi Habeeb Ajao, Mohammed Nabeel Ayara, Oluyedun Khalid Bolaji, Oladele Israel Olatayo, Aransiola Joshua Adebisi, Olaleye Gbenga Philip, Bright Moses and Ogunrinde Gabriel Ayomikun.

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one- count separate charges.

The charge against Ogunrinde reads:

“That you, Ogunrinde Gabriel Ayomikun sometime between April 2023 and February 2024 in Ilorin, Kwara State within the judicial division of the Federal High Court, did retain the sum of N3,500,000.00 (Three Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira) in your bank account number 2151747289 with the name: Ogunrinde Gabriel Ayomikun domiciled with United Bank for African, which you knew to be proceeds of unlawful act and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 20 of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022”

They pleaded guilty when the charges were read to them individually.

Following their “guilty” pleas, prosecution counsel, Adebayo Aliyu, Sesan Ola, Mustapha Kiagama and Isabel Adeniran, reviewed the facts of the cases and tendered the statements of the defendants and items recovered from them at the point of arrest and were admitted in evidence.

Thereafter, Justice Anyadike convicted and sentenced Oluyedun, Olaleye, Ogunrinde, Bright, Aransiola and Oladele to a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira Only) each and ordered them to forfeit all the phones recovered from them to the government, including balances in their bank accounts.

In the same vein, Justice Yusuf convicted and sentenced the duo of Muhammed and Afolabi to six months imprisonment each with an option of fine of N50,000 (Fifty Thousand Naira Only). The judge ordered that the phones, which they used to perpetrate the crime be forfeited to the Federal Government.

All the convicts bagged their jail terms for their involvement in internet fraud.

The press release contains a photo of each 419er:

[eight-internet-fraudsters-bag-jail-terms-in-ilorin](#)

15 MAR 2024

OYO AND OGUN COURTS JAIL 16 INTERNET FRAUDSTERS

Justices A.L. Akintola, O.A. Lajide, O.A. Adetujoye of the Oyo State High Court, sitting in Ibadan; Justice B.B. Adebawale of the Ogun State High Court, Abeokuta and Justice Uche Agomoh of the Federal High Court, Ibadan have convicted and sentenced sixteen (16) internet fraudsters to different jail terms.

The convicts were jailed after pleading guilty to one- count separate charges upon their arraignment by the Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

They are: Arode Opeyemi Amos, Babatunde Emmanuel Babalola, Oyewole Ayomilekan, Ephraim Isaiah Jonah, Ayedun Ayobami Adelani, Amusa Aminat Odunmide, Raji Eniola Al-Ameen, Ogundeyi Faruk Olamilekan, Abdullahi Adeshina Rasaq, Azeez Oluwaseun Bamidele, Moruf Olamilekan Elegbede, Olabisi Ibrahim Olamilekan, Jolaosho Uthman Olamilekan, Amod Kazeem Olayemi, Idemudia Lucky Edohamhem and Isogun Olamitan Nelson.

The charge against Nelson reads: “That you, Isogun Olamitan Nelson on or about 24th July, 2023, at Ibadan within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, aided internet fraudsters; Victor Effiong, Opeyemi, Victor Pelumi and others by redeeming fraudulent gift cards and designing false documents and waybills to aid their internet fraud, thereby committed an offence of Aiding another person in committing an offence contrary to Section 7 (c) and 484 of the Criminal Code Law Cap 30, Laws of Oyo State.”

Upon their guilty pleas, the facts of the cases were reviewed and incriminating documents tendered in evidence before the courts, following which prosecuting counsel, Oyelakin Oyediran, C.A. Okoli, S.M. Galadanchi, Mabas Mabur, Umar Abiso and shamsuddeen Bashir prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

After listening to all counsels, Justice Agomoh convicted and sentenced Odunmide and Adelani to one year imprisonment each without an option of fine. The latter was ordered to pay the sum of \$800 (Eight Hundred Dollars) as restitution while Odunmide was to retribute his victim with the sum of N3.8million (Three Million, Eight Hundred Thousand Naira).

Also, Justice Lajide convicted and sentenced Ayomilekan and Nelson to six months community service each. Ayomilekan was ordered to pay the sum of N500, 000.00K (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) and Nelson to pay N10, 000.00K (Ten Thousand Naira) as fines alongside their jail terms respectively.

Furthermore, Justice Akintola convicted and sentenced Amos and Babalola to one year imprisonment each, he however gave Babalola an option of N250, 000.00K (Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) fine, ordered him to pay the sum of \$1,950 (One Hundred and Ninety-five Thousand Dollars) as restitution and forfeit one black colour Toyota Venza car with chassis number: 4T3BK3BB4AV044681 and registration number: NANS while Amos was given an option of N20, 000.00K (Twenty Thousand Naira) fine.

Also, Justice Akintola convicted and sentenced Al-Ameen, Ibrahim Olamilekan, Uthman Olamilekan and Olayemi to three months community service each and Jonah to six months community service with an option of N50, 000.00K (Fifty Thousand Naira) fine, but Al-Ameen was ordered to pay the sum of N40, 000.00K (Forty Thousand Naira), Ibrahim Olamilekan, Uthman Olamilekan and Olayemi to pay N50, 000.00K (Fifty Thousand Naira) as fine alongside their jail terms respectively.

Ibrahim Olamilekan forfeited one grey Toyota Camry with registration number: KTU 822 GU, Uthman Olamilekan forfeited one silver colour Lexus RX 350 SUV with chassis number: 2T2BK1BA9BC115389 and registration number: BWR 100 BT while Olayemi forfeited one grey colour Toyota Corolla with registration number: APP 121 HZ with chassis number: 5YFBU4EE7DP126845 respectively.

Also, Justice Adetujoye convicted, cautioned and discharged Faruk Olamilekan, Rasaan, Bamidele and Edohamhem while Elegbede was convicted and sentenced to one month community service by Justice Adebawale.

The judges further ordered the convicts to forfeit all devices recovered from them being proceeds of crime to the Federal Government.

The convicts began their journey to the Correctional Centre when they were arrested by operatives of the Ibadan Zonal Command of the EFCC at various locations in Oyo and Ogun states. They were later investigated and charged to court.

[oyo-and-ogun-courts-jail-16-internet-fraudsters](#)

15 MAR 2024

EFCC ARRESTS BARBER, 11 OTHER SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN UYO

Operatives of the Uyo Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, on Thursday March 14, 2024, arrested a barber, and eleven suspected internet fraudsters in a sting operation in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

They were arrested following credible intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet-related offences.

Items recovered from them include sophisticated mobile phones, laptops and WiFi routers.

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-barber-11-other-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-uyo](#)

15 MAR 2024

EFCC ARRAIGNS SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTER IN ENUGU

The Enugu Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes

Commission, EFCC, has arraigned Onwe Onyedika Prince before Justice Mohammed Garba Umar of the Federal High Court sitting in Enugu, for offences bordering on internet fraud.

Specifically, he was arraigned on a three-count charge bordering on possession of fraudulent documents and fraudulent impersonation.

One of the counts reads: “That you, Onwe Onyedika Prince between January and July, 2022 at Enugu, within the jurisdiction of the Federal High Court with intent to defraud, had in your possession a document, which to your knowledge, contained a false pretence in which you assumed the person of one Jamie Johnson and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 6 of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the same Act”.

The defendant pleaded “not guilty” to the charges. In view of his plea, counsel to the EFCC, Ajobiwe Rotimi Enitan, prayed the court for a trial date “to enable the prosecution to prove its case. We have just two witnesses my Lord”, he said. He also prayed the court to remand the defendant at the Enugu State Correctional facility.

However, defence counsel, O. A. U. Onyema made an application for bail and prayed the court to “passionately grant him bail”. Enitan vehemently opposed the bail application on the ground that the defendant is a flight risk.

After listening to both sides, Justice Umar adjourned the matter to April 16, 2024 for ruling on the bail application. The defendant was remanded at the Enugu State Correctional facility.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arraigns-suspected-internet-fraudster-in-enugu](#)

14 MAR 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 57 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN BENIN CITY

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested 57 suspected internet fraudsters in Benin City.

The suspects were arrested on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at different locations in Benin City following actionable intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet-related offences.

Items recovered from them include 12 exotic cars - four Mercedes-Benz GLK, two Mercedes Benz C300, one Mercedes-Benz 350, four Lexus ES350, one Lexus RX330, laptops and phones

They would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-57-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

13 MAR 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 45 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN LAGOS

Operatives of the Lagos Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested 45 suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested on Monday, March 11, 2024 at Ikorodu, Lagos,

following intelligence on the activities of an Organised Cybercrime Syndicate Network, OCSN, operating in that axis of the state.

Items recovered from them at the point of arrest include exotic vehicles, sophisticated mobile devices, and laptops.

They will soon be arraigned in court upon conclusion of investigations.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-45-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-lagos](#)

13 MAR 2024

MAKURDI COURT JAILS FIVE INTERNET FRAUDSTERS

Justices M.S.Abubakar and R.J. Egbe of the Federal High Court sitting in Makurdi, Benue State have convicted and sentenced five internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

The convicts: Ibi Shedrach Suurshter, Onazi Moses Oche, Innocent Ochola and Teseer Mnenge and Agbo Lawrence were jailed after pleading guilty to one- count separate charges upon their arraignment by the Makurdi Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The charge against Oche reads: “That you Onazi Moses Oche sometime in 2022 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court with intent to defraud used an access device issued to one Solomon Onuwa resulting from an aggregate gain of N2,345,000.00 to yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary and punishable under Section 33(2)(c) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention etc) Act, 2015”.

Upon their arrangements, the convicts pleaded guilty when the charges were read to them. Consequently the facts of the cases were reviewed and incriminating documents tendered in evidence before the court, following which prosecuting counsel, A.S Idris, prayed the court to sentence them accordingly.

After listening to all counsels, Justice Abubakar convicted and sentenced Suurshater to one year imprisonment with an option of N400,000.00 (Four Hundred Thousand Naira) as fine.

Oche was convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment with an option of N600,000.00 (Six Hundred Thousand Naira) as fine.

Also, the judge convicted and sentenced Ochola to two years imprisonment with an option of fine of N1,000,000.00 (One Million Naira). Terseer Mnenge was also convicted and sentenced to one year imprisonment with an option of N200,000 fine.

The fifth convict, Agbo was convicted and sentenced by Justice Egbe.

He bagged one year imprisonment with an option of N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) as fine.

The two judges further ordered them to forfeit all their phones, being proceeds of crime, to the government.

All the convicts started their journey to the Correctional Centre when they were arrested for internet-related offences. They were investigated individually and prosecuted.

The press release contains a photo of each of the 419ers:

[makurdi-court-jails-five-internet-fraudsters](#)

11 MAR 2024

EFCC ARRESTS FOUR SUSPECTED FRAUDSTERS IN MAIDUGURI

Operatives of the Maiduguri Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Friday, March 8, 2024 arrested four suspects for sending fake transaction credit alerts to their victims.

They were arrested within Maiduguri metropolis, Borno State, following intelligence on their fraudulent acts.

Preliminary investigations showed that the suspects were operating using a Business App of a bank to purchase food and non- food items as well as collecting money from Point of Sale agents POS cashiers and sending fake transaction credits to them.

They would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-four-suspected-fraudsters-in-maiduguri](#)

9 MAR 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 37 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ABUJA

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC Abuja Zonal Command on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 arrested 37(thirty seven) suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested at Jahi, Dawaki and Gwarimpa axes of Abuja following actionable intelligence about their activities.

Items recovered from the suspects include six vehicles, 20 laptops, 66 mobile phones, six international passports and 1 Apple wristwatch.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-37-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abuja](#)

8 MAR 2024

OYO, OGUN COURTS JAIL 14 INTERNET FRAUDSTERS

Justices Ladiran Akintola, O.A. Lajide, Bayo Taiwo, M.O. Ishola of the Oyo State High Court sitting in Ibadan and Justice E.O. Osinuga of the Ogun State High Court, Abeokuta have convicted and sentenced fourteen (14) internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges upon being arraigned by the Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, between February 23, 2024 and March 5, 2024.

The convicts are Olajide Oluwadare Samuel, Emmanuel Victor Oluwasegun, Ajibola Najeeb Ayomide, Adebayo Akinwumi Oluwadamilare, Ayodele Wonderful Samson, Olawunmi Olusola Taiwo, Akorede Habeeblahi Babatunde, Dasilva Olamide Samson, Oyeneye Jeremiah Abiodun, Kodagbese Emmanuel Aduragbemi, Oyebade Ayomide Olamide, Olarewaju Isaiah Oluwadamilare, Abdulazeez Abdulmalik Ifayemi Ayokun and Khalid Ayomide Hammed.

One of the Charges reads:

“That you, Oyeneye Jeremiah Abiodun ‘M’ on or about 5th May, 2023, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently impersonated by representing yourself to be a white woman by the name Janet Katty from United States of America, through your email address (janetkatty032@gmail.com) to one Necib Akbay, with intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence of personation contrary to Section 484 of the Criminal Code Law Cap 38 Laws of Oyo State, 2000.”

The convicts pleaded “guilty” when their charges were read to them.

Consequent upon their guilty pleas, prosecution counsels, Modupe Akinkoye, Abdulrasheed Suleiman, Shamsuddeen Bashir and Umar Abiso reviewed the facts of the cases and urged the courts to convict and sentence the defendants as charged.

After listening to the counsels, Justice Taiwo convicted and sentenced Samson, Taiwo, Babatunde, Olamide Samson, Olamide and Ayokun to six months community service each and Oluwadamilare to three months community service.

He also ordered Samson, Taiwo, Babatunde, Olamide Samson, Olamide and Ayokun pay the sum of N100, 000.00K (One Hundred Thousand Naira) fine each, alongside their jail terms and “refusal to pay the N100,000.00K fine and retribute their victims within four weeks from the judgment date or their six months community service be converted to two years imprisonment each”.

Furthermore, Justice Akintola convicted and sentenced Aduragbemi to one year imprisonment or One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100, 000.00K) fine, Oluwasegun to six months community service or N50, 000.00K (Fifty Thousand Naira) fine, while Abiodun was convicted and ordered to pay N50, 000.00K (Fifty Thousand Naira) fine.

Also, Justice Lajide convicted and sentenced Ayomide to N750, 000.00K (Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) fine and Akinwumi Oluwadamilare bagged six months community service and N700, 000.00K (Seven Hundred Thousand Naira) fine respectively.

Justice Osinuga convicted Samuel but discharged him without a sentence while Justice Ishola convicted and sentenced Hammed to six months community service.

The convicts were all ordered to retribute their various victims and forfeit all items recovered from them to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

They all bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested at various locations by operatives of the Ibadan Zonal Command of the EFCC. They were subsequently charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains a photo of each of the 14 419ers:

[oyo-ogun-courts-jail-14-internet-fraudsters](#)

7 MAR 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 48 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS, HERBALIST IN LOKOJA

The Ilorin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has arrested 48(Forty-eight) suspected internet fraudsters and herbalist for offences bordering on conspiracy and obtaining under false pretence in Lokoja, Kogi State capital.

They were arrested upon credible intelligence on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at various locations in Lokoja, The herbalist, believed to be a spiritual godfather of internet fraudsters, was arrested with various charms.

Items recovered from them include 10 exotic cars, two motorcycles, 11 laptops, 83 mobile phones and charms.

The suspects, all male, between the ages of 17 -34 will be arraigned in court upon conclusion of investigations.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-48-suspected-internet-fraudsters-herbalist-in-lokoja](#)

6 MAR 2024

COURT JAILS 27 INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN AWKA

Enugu Zonal Command of the EFCC on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, secured the conviction and sentencing of 27 internet fraudsters before Justice Nnamdi Dimgba of the Federal High Court sitting in Awka, Anambra State.

The convicts are: Ajaero Chidiebube, Kosisochukwu Wisdom Ugwu, Apeh Samuel, Hyacinth Henry, Ebuka Moses Ugwu, Abugu Emmanuel Ebuka, Ogbu George, Onoja Chekwube, Onu Ogbonna Celestine, Ugwu Innocent Ekene, Solomon Emeka Okechukwu, Kosisochukwu Mamah, Idoko Fidelis Ejiofor, David Ifebuche Moses, Jude Ikechukwu, Kosisochukwu Idoko Martins and Victor Odoh Chinecherem.

Others are; Eze Caleb Somtochukwu, Ekeleme Victor, Osuji Kingsley, Eze Sopuruchukwu Marvin, Osuji Nnaemeka, Ikechi David, Ejiogu Chizoba, Arinze John Ojobo, Eze Daniel Chinecherem and Michael Ojo.

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges bordering on fraudulent impersonation and obtaining by false pretence.

The charge against Okechukwu reads: “That you, Solomon Emeka Okechukwu sometime in 2024, at Enugu, Enugu State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently impersonated Jennifer Alberto from Reading, United Kingdom by means of your Tecno Camon 20 with IMEI number 3551344570732428 via a fake Facebook Social Media Account with the intent to gain advantage for yourself from unsuspecting foreign nationals and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (3) (a) and (b) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention, etc) Act 2015 and punishable under Section 22 (4) of the same Act”.

In view of their pleas, prosecution counsel, Michael Ikechukwu Ani reviewed the facts of the cases and prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, defence counsels, Okeke Bernard and James Nwatarali prayed for leniency for their clients.

Justice Dimgba thereafter convicted and sentenced them as follows; Marvin was sentenced to one year imprisonment with an option of fine of N120,000,00 (One Hundred and Twenty Thousand Naira) and community service, Samuel, Henry, Ugwu, Ebuka, Martins and Chinecherem bagged one year imprisonment each, with an option of fine of N50,000.00(Fifty Thousand Naira) and community service while the rest were handed 1year imprisonment each, with an option of fine of N150,000.00(One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) and community service.

Justice Dimgba also ordered that mobile phones recovered from them be forfeited to the Federal Government.

They all bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested for internet-related offences. They were prosecuted and jailed.

The press release contains a photo of each of the 27 419ers:

[court-jails-27-internet-fraudsters-in-awka](#)

5 MAR 2024

COURT JAILS FIVE INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN BENIN CITY

Justice Efe Ikponmwonba of Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City has convicted and sentenced five internet fraudsters to various

jail terms.

The convicts are Jacob Sunday, Olarenwaju Adewale, Emmanuel Tomiwa Ajayi, Adewale Elufadejin Festus and Seyi Olumeko.

Sunday and Adewale were jailed on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 while the trio of Ajayi, Festus and Olumeko were jailed on Thursday February 29, 2024.

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charge bordering on possession of fraudulent documents upon arraignment by the Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The charge against Ajayi reads: "that you Emmanuel Tomiwa Ajayi (m) on or about 12th February, 2024 in Benin City, Edo State, within the jurisdiction of this honourable court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contain a false pretence and thereby committed an offence contrary to sections 6 and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act.2006 and punishable under section 1(3)of same Act."

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they were read to them, prompting prosecution counsels, I.K Agwai, K. Y. Bello, A.A.Ibrahim to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy as they have become remorseful for their actions.

Justice Ikponmwonba convicted and sentenced Sunday, Adewale, Olumeko and Festus to three years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) each while Ajayi bagged three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira).

The judge ordered that the convicts forfeit their phones, balances in their various bank accounts being proceeds of crime to the Federal Government of Nigeria. All the convicts are to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour afterwards.

The convicts' road to the Correctional Centre began following their arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Command of the Commission based on actionable intelligence regarding their involvement in fraudulent activities.

[court-jails-five-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

4 MAR 2024

COURT JAILS SEVEN INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN OGUN, OYO

The Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentencing of seven internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

The convicts: Adio Peter Olakunle, Adebajo Oluwafemi Samuel, Ezekiel Papi Kolawole, Lukman Olakunle Alabi, Sakiru Olamilekan Usman, Godwin Moses Abaka and Amosu Oladele Gbenon were arraigned on one -count separate charge each before Justices M.O. Ishola, O.A. Lajide of the Oyo State High Court sitting in Ibadan and S.O. Adeniyi of the Ogun State High Court, Abeokuta.

One of the charges reads: "That you, Amosu Oladele Gbenonu, 'M' on or about 12th of October, 2023 in Ibadan within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court with intent to defraud one Karl Ackman, did falsely represent yourself to be Sarah Williams, a white woman from the United States of America with google account sarah.dawkwills241@gmail.com which representation you knew to be false, thereby committed the offence of Personation contrary to Section 484 of the Criminal Code

Law Cap 38, Laws of Oyo State, 2000.”

The defendants pleaded “guilty” to the charges preferred against them by the EFCC.

Consequently, facts of the cases were reviewed and several incriminating documents were tendered before the courts by the prosecution counsels, urging the courts to convict and sentence the defendants accordingly.

After listening to the prayers of counsels, Justice Lajide convicted and sentenced Gbenonu, Abaka, Usman and Kolawole to six months community service each, while Alabi was sentenced to two months community service.

Also, Justice Ishola convicted and sentenced Samuel to six months community service and Justice Adeniyi sentenced Olakunle to four months community service.

Furthermore, Justice Lajide ordered Gbenonu to pay the sum of N2million, Abaka to pay N1million, Usman to pay N800, 000.00k (Eight Hundred Thousand Naira) and Kolawole to pay the sum of N400, 000.00K (Four Hundred Thousand Naira) as fines alongside their jail terms respectively.

Also, the convicts were ordered to restitute their various victims and forfeit all items recovered from them to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

They began their journey to the Correctional Centre when they were arrested by operatives of the Ibadan Zonal Command of the EFCC for internet-related offences. They were investigated, prosecuted and convicted.

The press release contains a photo of each 419er:

[court-jails-seven-internet-fraudsters-in-ogun-oyo](#)

3 MAR 2024

EFCC TO NANS: LET'S FIGHT INTERNET CRIMES TOGETHER

The Executive Chairman of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede, has charged the National Association of Nigerian Students, NANS, to partner with the Commission in the fight against economic and financial crimes.

He made this call recently in Benin-City, Edo State when he hosted executives of NANS, Joint Campus Council, Edo State Chapter at the Benin Zonal Command of the Commission.

Olukoyede who spoke through the Benin Zonal commander, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE1 Kanu Idagu, urged the students leaders to see themselves as important stakeholders in the fight against economic and financial crimes. "As students leaders, you are expected to be role models in conduct, character, integrity and accountability", he said.

He tasked the leaders to continually discourage their fellow students from indulging in internet crimes, maintaining that there is no virtue in get-rich-quick syndrome driving many youths into the crimes. "There is no shortcut to wealth and success. Internet fraud is not a sustainable way of life. Internet fraud diminishes our image as a nation. So the Commission will continue to discharge its responsibilities within the ambit of the law, without fear or favour in this regard" he said.

Earlier in his speech, Chairman, NANS JCC Edo State, Ehis Daniel, commended the Commission for offering his group an opportunity to dialogue with its officials. He expressed willingness of his group to collaborate with the EFCC in educating and sensitizing students of tertiary institutions on the ills of corruption, economic and financial crimes. "We propose to organise joint awareness campaigns

to educate students about the dangers of financial crimes and promote ethical behaviour”, he said. He further added that "we seek to collaborate on capacity building initiatives to enhance students' understanding of financial literacy, integrity and ethics."

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-to-nans-lets-fight-internet-crimes-together](#)

2 MAR 2024

COURT JAILS TWO INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN LAGOS

Justices Deinde Dipeolu and N. Ogazi of the Federal High Court sitting in Lagos have convicted and sentenced two internet fraudsters; Oluwafemi Abdulwaheed Rasaq and Chris Onabulu to various jail terms for romance scam and impersonation

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charge bordering on cyber crimes upon being arraigned by the Lagos Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The count against Rasaq reads: “That you, Oluwafemi Abdulwaheed Rasaq Sometime between January and September 2023 in Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court fraudulently impersonated one Amanda Valery Malpica by holding yourself out as such on your Facebook and Instagram App, with intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 22(2)(b) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc) Act, 2015.”

The count against Onabulu reads: “That you,Chris Onabulu on or about he 10th day of October, 2023, in Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to gain advantage for yourself, fraudulently impersonated one 'Anthony Hodge' white male from Florida, United States of America, by holding yourself out as such to Sharon Lebec via email correspondence and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 22(2)(b) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc) Act, 2015.”

They both pleaded guilty to the charges when they were read to them. Based on their pleas, prosecution counsels C.C. Okezie and Z.B. Atiku prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, defence counsel, Cookel George prayed the court for a non-custodial sentence, "like community service, to be served within the EFCC, so as to enable him change from his ways and still be a useful citizen to the nation".

Justice Dipeolu convicted and sentenced Rasaq to four weeks community service with the EFCC, "where he is to be counselled and assisted on how to refrain from a life of crime".

Items recovered from him, including a manager's cheque, were also ordered forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Justice Ogazi also convicted and sentenced Onabulu to six months imprisonment, with an option of fine of N200,000(Two Hundred Thousand Naira only). The court also ordered that the items recovered from him be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The two convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested by operatives of the Lagos Zonal Command of the EFCC for internet-related crimes. They were investigated, charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[court-jails-two-internet-fraudsters-in-lagos](#)

1 MAR 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 13 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN KANO

Operatives of the Kano Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested thirteen (13) suspected internet fraudsters in Badawa area of Kano metropolis, Kano State.

The suspects were arrested following intelligence signalling a syndicate of suspected internet fraudsters perpetrating cyber-related crimes where they were arrested.

In the course of the arrest, several incriminating items were recovered from the suspects.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-13-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-kano](#)

29 FEB 2024

TWO FRAUDSTERS BAG JAIL TERMS IN KADUNA

The Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has secured the conviction and sentence of Mohammed Nasir Sadeeq for cheating and Daniel John for cheating by impersonation before Justice A.A Isiaka of the Kaduna State High Court.

Both were prosecuted on one-count separate charges bordering on cheating and personation.

One of the count charge reads: "That you Daniel John (a.k.a Jamie Doman) male, sometime in November, 2023, within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, impersonated one Jamie Doman when you pretended to be a Bitcoin online investor agent on Instagram, obtained the sum of \$200 (Two Hundred Dollars) from unsuspecting persons and thereby committed cheating by impersonation, an offence contrary to Section 308 of the Penal Code Law, 2017 of Kaduna State and punishable under Section 309 of the same Law."

They both pleaded guilty to the charge when it was read to them. Consequent on their pleas, EFCC counsel, Y.J Matiyak prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Isiaka thereafter convicted and sentenced John to one year imprisonment or a fine option of N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira). In addition, he forfeited his iPhone 12 and Samsung Galaxy 10 both of which were proceeds of his crime to the government, while Sadeeq was convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment with a fine option of N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira).

The convicts' journey to the Correctional Centre began when they were arrested at Fifth Chukker, Maraban Jos, Kaduna State. Investigations showed that John was using identities of different foreigners to defraud unsuspecting members of the public while Mohammed cheated his victim to the tune of N50,000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira).

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[two-fraudsters-bag-jail-terms-in-kaduna](#)

29 FEB 2024

EFCC ARRESTS SEVEN SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS

IN MAKURDI

The Makurdi Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Thursday February 29, 2024, arrested seven suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested in their hideout in Aliade in the Gwer West Local Government Area of Benue State.

Items recovered from them include eight phones, three iPad, two internet routers and one international passport.

The suspects will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-seven-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-makurdi](#)

28 FEB 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 36 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ABEOKUTA

Operatives of the Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested thirty-six (36) suspected internet fraudsters in Ogun State.

They were arrested on Monday, February 26, 2024, at Gbokoniyin and Yetedo areas of Abeokuta in Ogun State, following actionable intelligence gathered and worked upon by the Commission.

Items recovered from them include nine exotic vehicles, fourteen (14) laptops, forty-nine (49) mobile phones and other incriminating documents.

The suspects will be charged to court upon conclusion of investigations.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-36-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abeokuta](#)

27 FEB 2024

COURT JAILS SEVEN INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN BENIN CITY

Seven internet fraudsters - Osunsina Yusuf Afolabi, Timilehin Gbemi, Akinseye Mayowa, Oladapo Damilola Michael, Akinfemiwa Akintunde, David Ehirebamen Aigbadon and Osarodion Aifeshi Jonathan, were on Tuesday February 27, 2024 convicted and sentenced to various jail terms by Justices Efe Ikponmwonba and Justice M. Itsueli of Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City.

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges bordering on impersonation and possession of fraudulent documents upon arraignment by the Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The charge against Timilehin Gbemi reads: that you Timilehin Gbemi (m) on or about 14th February, 2024 in Benin City, Edo State, within the jurisdiction of this honourable court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contain a false pretence and thereby committed an offence contrary to Sections 6 and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of same Act.

All the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they

were read to them. Based on their pleas, prosecution counsels, I.K Agwai, K. Y. Bello, Ibrahim Faisal, A. S. Bala-Ribah and Salihu Ahmed prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, counsel to the defendants pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy “as they have become remorseful for their actions”.

Justice Ikponmwonba convicted and sentenced Mayowa, Afolabi, Gbemi, Aigbadon, Michael and Akintunde to three years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) each while Justice Itsueli sentenced Jonathan to three years imprisonment or a fine of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira).

The two judges ordered that all the convicts should forfeit their phones, balances in their various bank accounts and one Toyota Camry car to the Federal Government of Nigeria. They are also to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour afterwards.

The convicts’ road to the Correctional Centre began following their arrest by operatives of the Benin Zonal Command of the Commission regarding their involvement in fraudulent activities. They were charged to court and jailed.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[court-jails-seven-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

26 FEB 2024

31 INTERNET FRAUDSTERS BAG JAIL TERMS IN ENUGU, AWKA

The Enugu Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has secured the conviction and sentencing of 31 internet fraudsters by Justices Mohammed Garba Umar of the Federal High Court, sitting in Enugu and Nnamdi Dingba of the Federal High Court, sitting in Awka, Anambra State.

The convicts are: Pascal Chinedu, Chiemerie Edeh, Okeke Chiagozie Harrison, Chidera Victor Mmadu, Chizoba Onyedika Felix, Ekperechi David, Sunday John Cross, Enenta Ebube Michael, Nwankwo Tochukwu Firminus, Chukwuebuka Sebastine Ozoemena, Vincent Eduvie, Chisom Mbagu Augustine, Ifeanyi Samuel, Abunoko Kelly, Ikechukwu Joshua, Agada Daniel Olema, Eguiri Franklyn and Akpoze Julius.

Others are, Evans Odibo, Martins Chinedu Ugwueke, Eli Izuchukwu Ogbonna, Samuel Ogonnia, Amarachi Abigail Nwalie, Abraham Chimeremeze, Godbless Akpoze, Mmoyekwe Okwudili, Emmanuel Nwanga, Eduje Precious, Umoke Chinedu Reuben, Godwin Happy and Nnabuike Collins Odoh.

While Chinedu, Edeh, Harrison, Mmadu, Felix, David, Cross, Michael, Firminus and Ozoemena were arraigned on February 21, 2024 before Justice Umar, the remaining 21 convicts were arraigned on February 22, 2024 before Justice Dingba.

The 31 faced one-count separate charges bordering on fraudulent impersonation, obtaining by false pretence and possession of fraudulent documents, to which they all pleaded “guilty.”

Onyedika’s charge reads: “That you, Chizoba Onyedika Felix, sometime in February 2024, in Asaba, Delta State, within the jurisdiction of this honourable court with intent to defraud, sent a message to one Sig Serdel, a German National by means of your Redmi Note 11 through your fake telegram account +19086996877 presenting yourself as Loraine Francis, Bitcoin investor and obtained the sum of \$1,300 from Sig Serdel and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 14 (2) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition, Prevention Etc) Act, 2015 and punishable under the same Section.”

In view of their “guilty” pleas, Nuradeen Shehu Ingawa and Michael Ikechukwu Ani, counsels to the EFCC, reviewed the facts of the cases and prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly, while C. J. Nwatadi, Bernard Okeke, U. AKposi, Arinze Anyigo , C. S. Nwobodo, E. C. Chinyeze and Collins Akposi, who were defence counsels, prayed the court to temper justice with mercy,

stating that their clients were first-time offenders.

Justice Umar convicted and sentenced Michael, Ozoemena, Cross, Chiedu and Firminus to 12 months imprisonment each, with a fine option of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) respectively. He handed 24 months imprisonment with a fine option of N750,000.00(Seven Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) to Felix, sentenced Harrison and Mmadu to 18 months imprisonment each, with a fine option of N500,000.00 respectively. He also sentenced Edeh to 10 months imprisonment with a fine option of N300 (Three Hundred Naira) while David bagged six months imprisonment with a fine option of N200,000.00(Two Hundred Thousand Naira). In addition to his sentence, Justice Umar ordered Felix to make a restitution of the sum of \$1,300(One Hundred and Thirty Thousand Dollars) to his victim through the Federal Government.

Justice Dimgba convicted and sentenced Odoh and Olema to one year imprisonment each, with a fine option of N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) respectively, while the rest 19 were sentenced to two weeks community service.

All the convicts forfeited their mobile phones recovered from them to the Federal Government.

They bagged their imprisonment after they were arrested at various locations by operatives of the Enugu Zonal Command of the EFCC for their involvement in internet-related offences. They were charged to court and convicted.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[31-internet-fraudsters-bag-jail-terms-in-enugu-awka](#)

26 FEB 2024

KADUNA COURT JAILS INTERNET FRAUDSTER, COMPANY

Justice Darius Khobo of the Kaduna State High Court sitting in Kaduna has convicted and sentenced one John Yakubu to three years imprisonment for internet fraud.

He was jailed on Friday, February 23, 2024 after pleading guilty to one-count charge bordering on internet fraud upon being arraigned by the Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The one -count charge reads: “that you John Yakubu sometimes in December, 2022 in Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud falsely presented yourself as Frederick Hansen(a medical doctor from Sweden) via 'Facebook' chat (an online social media application) to one Bergstrom Berit and in such assumed character benefitted the total sum of \$750 USD and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 308 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law, 2017 and punishable under Section 309 of the same Law”

The defendant pleaded guilty to the one- count charge when it was read to him, prompting the prosecution counsel, M.J Arugungu to pray the court to convict and sentence him accordingly.

The Judge, after hearing from both counsels, convicted and sentenced the defendant to three years imprisonment or an option of fine of 150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira).

The convict also forfeited one Iphone 12 Pro Max and one Polystar Smart Television '50' inches, to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

Yakubu bagged his imprisonment when he was arrested by operatives of the Kaduna Zonal Command of EFCC, at Goni Gora, Kaduna State. He assumed the identity of a foreigner, Fredrik Hansen on Facebook to misrepresent himself to unsuspecting victims and benefitted the sum of \$750(Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars) from the crime.

In another vein, Justice Hawau Buhari of the Federal High Court sitting in Kaduna convicted and sentenced a company, Classiel Integrated Motors Limited to a fine of N250,000.00(Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) for failure to render transaction report to the Special Control Unit Against Money Laundering, SCUML.

The company was arraigned by the Kaduna Zonal Command of the EFCC on one-count charge bordering on money laundering.

The one-count charge reads: “that you Classiel Integrated Motors Ltd operating the business of General contractors and other businesses, sometime in June, 2022 at Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did an act to wit: failed to report to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission in writing within 7 days, your lodgment of N5,500,000.00(Five Million and Five Hundred Thousand Naira) which is in excess of N5,000,000.00(Five Million naira) and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 11(1) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition)Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 11(3) of the same Act”.

The company, however, pleaded guilty to the charge when it was read to it, prompting prosecution counsel, M.E Eimonye to pray the court to convict it accordingly.

Justice Buhari, thereafter convicted and sentenced the company to a fine of N250,000.00(Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira)

The company bagged its imprisonment when it failed to render its transactions report after registering with SCUML, even after the regulator carried out onsite inspection and sensitization on its statutory obligations as stipulated in the relevant laws.

Furthermore, investigations showed that the company also failed to conduct a proper, Know Your Customer, KYC, on its customers during transactions.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[kaduna-court-jails-internet-fraudster-company](#)

23 FEB 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 19 FOR SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUD, TWO FOR CURRENCY RACKETEERING IN IBADAN

Operatives of Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested nineteen suspected internet fraudsters in Ibadan, Oyo State.

Nine out of the suspects were arrested on February 22, 2024, at Olorunda area of Akobo, Ibadan.

The rest were picked up at Olude, Wire and Cable areas of Ibadan on February 21, 2024.

The suspected internet fraudsters were arrested following series of actionable intelligence gathered and worked upon by the operatives of the Ibadan Zonal Command of the EFCC on their internet related fraudulent activities.

Items recovered from the suspects include two houses, seven cars, five laptops, twenty-nine (29) mobile phones, one television set and other incriminating documents.

In another development, two suspected currency racketeers have also been at Agodi-gate area of Ibadan, Oyo State.

The suspects were arrested in a sting operation following credible intelligence about their involvement in illegal foreign exchange markets.

Items recovered from them include N274, 000.00 (Two Hundred and Seventy-four Thousand Naira) among others.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-19-for-suspected-internet-fraud-two-for-currency-racketeering-in-ibadan](#)

23 FEB 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 36 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN KADUNA

Operatives of the Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, on Friday, February 23, 2024, arrested 36 (thirty-six) suspected internet fraudsters.

The suspects, comprising 35 males and 1 female were arrested at Sabo Kaduna and Narayi Highcoast and Layin Dogon Iche Samaru in the Zaria Local Government Area of Kaduna State, following credible information on their suspected involvement in internet-related offences.

Items recovered from the suspects include 43 phones and five laptops

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-36-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-kaduna](#)

23 FEB 2024

COURT JAILS EIGHT UNDERGRADUATES, SIX OTHERS FOR INTERNET FRAUD IN BENIN CITY

Thirteen internet fraudsters were on Thursday February 22, 2024 convicted and sentenced to various jail terms by Justice Efe Ikponmwonba of Edo State High Court sitting in Benin City, Edo State.

Eight of them: Ayodeji Emmanuel, Oyebade Johnpeace Jesustofunmi, Babatunde Oluwapelumi Richard, Owoyemi Michael Boluwatife Sodiq Bayonle Qosim, Sunday Solomon Blessing, Ilori Tolulope and Anthony Akinbulijo, are undergraduates of the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State.

Others are Ifiriyele Orilola Samuel, Ajileye Wale, Elvis Oni Mohammed, Ogbeifun Prince and Stephen Kelvin and Abudu Umaru

The convicts were arraigned separately on one count charge of impersonation and possession of fraudulent documents by the Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The charge against Mohammed reads: “ that you Elvis Oni Mohammed on or about the 9th day of February, 2024 in Benin City, Edo State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court did have in your possession documents which you knew or ought to have known contain a false pretence and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section and 8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act.2006 and punishable under Section 1(3)of same Act .

Upon arraignment all the defendants pleaded guilty to their respective charges when they were read to them, prompting prosecution counsels F.A. Jirbo, I.K Agwai, A. A. Ibrahim, I.Faisal and A. S.Bala-Riba to pray the court to convict and sentence them accordingly. However, the

defence counsel pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy.

Justice Ikponmwonba convicted and sentenced Mohammed, Richard, Boluwatife, Qosim, Tolulope, Samuel, Wale and Akjnbulijo to three years imprisonment each or a fine of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) each.

The duo of Prince and Blessing bagged three years imprisonment with an option of N200,000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) each.

The trio of Emmanuel, Jesutofunmi and Kelvin were sentenced to two years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000 each.

Umaru who was convicted on February 16, 2024 by Justice Ikponmwonba for retention of proceeds of crime . He was sentenced to two years imprisonment or a fine of N100,000. The judge ordered the restitution of the victim with the sum of N354,000 by the convict.

In addition, the court ordered the forfeiture of the convicts' mobile phones, balances in their bank accounts and a Mercedes Benz GLA250 model, being proceeds of crime to the Federal government of Nigeria and to undertake in writing to be of good behaviour forthwith.

Their road to the Correctional Centre began following their arrest by operatives of the Commission based on actionable intelligence on their fraudulent activities. Upon investigations, the convicts were discovered to be involved in different modes of internet fraud. For instance, 25-year-old Mohammed was discovered to be involved in a Bitcoin scam using social media platforms.

[court-jails-eight-undergraduates-six-others-for-internet-fraud-in-benin-city](#)

23 FEB 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 27 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN BAUCHI

Operatives of the Gombe Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Thursday, February 22, 2024, arrested 27 suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested at D&D Apartment and Bubes Hotel, Yelwa, Bauchi State, following credible information on their suspected involvement in internet- related offences.

Items recovered from the suspects include a BMW car, iphones, Ipads, laptops and a desktop computer.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

[efcc-arrests-27-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-bauchi](#)

22 FEB 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 50 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN KWARA

Operatives of the Ilorin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested 48 students of the Kwara State University, KWASU, and two others for offences bordering on internet fraud.

They were arrested on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 in their various hideouts after days of surveillance and fruitful intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet-related offences.

Items recovered from the suspects include nine exotic cars, twenty-four (24) laptops and different brands of phones.

The suspects will soon be arraigned in court upon conclusion of investigations.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-50-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-kwara](#)

21 FEB 2024

EFCC, NCC PARLEY AGAINST INTERNET FRAUD

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Ola Olukoyede, has called for a broad-based collaboration and synergy between the Commission and the Nigerian Communication Commission, NCC in tackling the menace of internet fraud across the country.

He made this call in Abuja on Wednesday, when the Executive Vice Chairman, EVC, Nigerian Communications Commission, NCC, Dr. Aminu Maida, paid him a courtesy visit at the corporate headquarters of the Commission. Olukoyede pointed out that fraudsters are employing the internet as a gateway to perpetrate their criminalities and charged the NCC to be firmer in its regulatory works.

“When enforcers of the law and regulators collaborate, it will not be business as usual. There is a need for collaboration because crimes are technology-driven”, he said.

He said the collaboration of the two Commissions signaled greater readiness to confront the menace of internet fraud and assured fraudsters that criminality would not be business as usual for them.

Olukoyede stressed that the challenges facing the country are surmountable and called for more commitment towards a corruption-free nation. He enjoined the NCC and internet service providers to monitor the use of the internet more closely to checkmate the activities of fraudsters. According to him, where stakeholders support and collaborate with the EFCC, the Commission would do its job perfectly.

Speaking on the purpose of his visit, Maida said he was at the Commission to congratulate the Chairman of the EFCC on his appointment, reiterating the fact that the “NCC is a longtime partner in the fight against internet fraud. The visit is one of those official engagements meant to deepen the conversation and engagement between us”.

He recalled that the EFCC facilitated the forensic training of some of the staff of the NCC maintaining that the inter-relationship between the two Commissions was vital in combating internet fraud.

"Internet crimes are sophisticated and the NCC as a critical partner is always ready to work with the EFCC in any area it could contribute to the attainment of the Renewed Hope Agenda of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu", he said

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-ncc-parley-against-internet-fraud](#)

19 FEB 2024

COURT JAILS TWO UNDERGRADUATES, FOUR OTHERS IN OSUN, OYO

The Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentencing of two undergraduates of Obafemi Awolowo University, OAU and four others to various jail terms for their involvement in internet fraud.

The undergraduates, Gbolahan Khalid Adesina and Perekebena Olombeni Micah

were docked before Justice Nathaniel Ayo-Emmanuel of the Federal High Court, Osogbo on a lone- count separate charge while others were arraigned before Justices O.A. Adetujoye and S.O. Adeyemi of the Oyo State High Court, sitting in Ibadan also on a one- count separate charge.

The other four convicts are: Sholagbade Taofeek Olanrewaju, Qudus Olohunnoyin Baba, Akinpelu Quadri Opeyemi and John Oluwafimihan Adeyemo.

Adesinna and Micah are among the eleven (11) undergraduates of OAU arraigned on November 6, 2023 before Justice Nathaniel Ayo-Emmanuel on different count charges, ranging from one to six charges as preferred against them by the EFCC.

Upon their arraignment on November 6, 2023, they all pleaded not guilty to the charges when they were read to them and the cases were adjourned for trial.

At the resumed proceeding of the matter on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, prosecution counsel, Umar Abiso informed the court that Adesina and Micah were ready to change their pleas. Consequently, they were re-arraigned and pleaded “guilty” when the amended charges were read to them.

One of the charges read: “That you, Gbolahan Khalid Adesina ‘M’ on or about 27th October, 2023, at Ile-ife , Osun State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to gain advantage for yourself did fraudulently impersonate one Monkenya Matlock, the you pretext you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (b) (i) and punishable under Section 22 (2) (b) of the Cyber Crimes (Prohibition, Prevention Etc.) Act, 2015.”

Another charge Reads, “That you, Perekebena Olombeni Micah sometimes in 2023, at Ile-ife, Osun State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, did fraudulently impersonate the name Chad Frailey through your Facebook account by claiming that you are an American Female in love with your victims in the United States of America with intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2) (b) (i) and punishable under Section 22 (b) of the Cyber Crimes (Prohibition, Prevention Etc.) Act, 2015.”

Based on their pleas, Abiso urged the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Also, other four convicts pleaded “guilty” to the one count charge filed against them by the EFCC.

After listening to the counsels, Justice Ayo-Emmanuel convicted and sentenced Adesina and Micah to one year imprisonment each without an option of fine, while Olanrewaju, Atanda, Opeyemi and Adeyemo bagged two weeks community service each.

The convicts were ordered to reconstitute their various victims and forfeit all items recovered from them to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested by operatives of the EFCC for internet-related offences. They impersonated foreigners and defrauded their victims through their false identities. They were found guilty and sentenced to various jail terms.

The press release contains photos of the 419ers:

[court-jails-two-undergraduates-four-others-in-osun-oyo](#)

19 FEB 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 11 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ABUJA

Operatives of the Abuja Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, EFCC, have arrested 11(eleven) suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested on Monday, February 19, 2024 at a nightclub in the Wuse area of Abuja following credible intelligence about their suspicious involvement in internet-related activities.

Items recovered from them include three cars and 13 phones.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-11-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abuja](#)

18 FEB 2024

EFCC ARRESTS SEVEN SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN YENAGOA

Operatives of the Port Harcourt Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested seven suspected internet fraudsters at an apartment in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State.

They were arrested on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 following actionable intelligence received by the Command regarding their suspicious activities.

Specifically, the seven suspects were arrested at their hideout in Dowoo Road by Ox-Bow Lake, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State

Items recovered from them are laptops and phones.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-seven-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-yenagoa](#)

18 FEB 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 40 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ABUJA, KEFFI

Operatives of the Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, have arrested 40 suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested on Saturday, February 17, 2024 at Mpape in the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, Abuja and Keffi, Nasarawa State.

The suspects, comprising 38 male and two female, were arrested following credible information on their suspected involvement in internet-related offences.

Items recovered from them include two cars, 56 phones, four smart watches, eight power banks and four laptops.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-40-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abuja-keffi](#)

16 FEB 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 26 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN ABUJA

Operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission EFCC, Abuja Zonal Command, on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, arrested 26 suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested at Kurudu, Jahi, Kubwa, and Gwarimpa areas of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja following credible information on their suspected involvement in internet-related offences.

Items recovered from the suspects include a Toyota Tacoma, a CLS Mercedes 450 and three Lexus cars, in addition to 40 phones and seven laptops.

They will be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[-efcc-arrests-26-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-abuja](#)

16 FEB 2024

GOMBE COURT SENDS FRAUDSTER TO JAIL FOR EMPLOYMENT SCAM

Justice A. Abdussalam of the Gombe State High Court sitting in Gombe, on Thursday February 15, 2024 convicted and sentenced Kelvin Tikus to three years imprisonment for employment scam.

Tikus, 36, employee of the Nigerian Correctional Service was arraigned on one - count charge of fraudulent conversion by the Gombe Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The charge reads: " That you Kelvin Tikus sometimes in August 2021 at Gombe State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court did fraudulently deceive one Sa'ad Umar, a business man to deliver to you

the sum of Six Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira (N650,000) through your Bank account No: 3818815016 domiciled at First City Monument Bank (FCMB) under the deception of securing employment at the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 320 (a) of the Penal Code Law and punishable under Section 322 of the same Law

Upon arraignment, the defendant pleaded "guilty", prompting the prosecution counsel, Mustapha Aliyu to pray the court to convict and sentence the defendant accordingly. However, defence counsel, Yusuf Abdullahi pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy "as the defendant is a first- time offender who is remorseful for his actions and has restituted the money to the victim of crime".

Justice Abdulssalam thereafter convicted and sentenced Tikus to thirty six months imprisonment with a fine option.

The convict's journey to the correctional Centre began when a petitioner alleged that he made him pay the sum of N650,000.00 to secure employment with the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps. He neither delivered the job nor refunded the petitioner his money.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[gombe-court-sends-fraudster-to-jail-for-employment-scam](#)

16 FEB 2024

COURT JAILS THREE FOR INTERNET FRAUD IN KADUNA

Justice A.A Isiaka of the Kaduna State High court, Kaduna has convicted and sentenced three persons into various jail terms for internet- related fraud.

The convicts are, Ogochukwu Mitchel Emmanuel Ijeh, Mohammed Kabir Bello and Sunday Simon (a.k.a Ryan Eggold).

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges upon their arraignment by the Kaduna State Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

The charge against Ijeh reads: “that you, Ogochukwu Mitchel Emmanuel Ijeh (a.k.a Dave Brandon) Male, sometimes in July, 2023 in Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court falsely presented yourself as Dave Brandon a Medical Doctor working at the United Nations Military Base on Facebook (an online social media application) to one Andrea Kadur and in such assumed character claimed to be in a romantic relationship with her and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 142(2) of the Kaduna State Law.”

The charge against Bello reads: “that you Mohammed Kabir Bello, Male, sometimes in December, 2023 within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court fraudulently induced one Rashida Salman to deliver to you goods worth the sum of N50, 000 (Fifty Thousand Naira) only by sending her a fake bank transaction debit alert, and thereby committed an offence of cheating, an offence contrary to Section 306 (a) of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law, 2017 and punishable under Section 307 of the same Law.”

The charge against Simon reads: “that you Sunday Simon (a.k.a Ryan Eggold), Male, sometimes in April 2023 in Kaduna, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, impersonated one Ryan Eggold (an American actor) on Facebook (an online social media application) and in such assumed character cheated Garri Kalish a citizen of United States of America of the sum of \$800(Eight Hundred United States dollars) when you claimed to be in a romantic relationship with her and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 308 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law, 2017 and punishable under Section 309 of the same Law.”

All the convicts pleaded “guilty” to their charges when they were read to them.

Based on their pleas, prosecution counsel, K.S Ogunlade prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Thereafter, Justice Isiaka convicted and sentenced Ijeh, Simon and Bello to two years imprisonment each respectively. While Ijeh and Simon were given an option of fine of N150,000(One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only), Bello was given an option of fine of N200, 000(Two Hundred Thousand Naira only).

The convicts bagged their imprisonment for various internet-related offences ranging from impersonation, possession of scam documents and paying for goods with a fake credit alert .

[court-jails-three-for-internet-fraud-in-kaduna](#)

14 FEB 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 14 FUTA UNDERGRADUATES, 19 OTHERS FOR SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUD

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested fourteen undergraduates of the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Ondo State.

They were arrested alongside nineteen(19) others in the early hours of Wednesday, February 14, 2024 for suspected internet crimes.

The suspects were arrested at different residential locations within Akure metropolis following intelligence on their alleged nefarious activities. Specifically, the sting operation that yielded their arrest

was a response to strident calls to the EFCC by neighbours and parents around the locations, to save their children from being lured into internet-related activities by the suspects.

Items recovered at the point of arrest include ten exotic cars, phones, laptops and one motor bike.

The suspects would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-14-futa-undergraduates-19-others-for-suspected-internet-fraud](#)

14 FEB 2024

ALLEGED \$370,000 FAKE MARRIAGE: EFCC RECOVERS \$13,204, PROPERTY, VEHICLES FROM DEFENDANT-WITNESS

A Second Prosecution Witness, PW2, in the trial of Nwachi Chidozie Kingsley, being prosecuted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, for defrauding an American, Nicole Kierulff Sayers the sum of \$370,000(Three Hundred and Seventy Thousand United States Dollars) in a contrived marriage, Okanne Kelechi, on Tuesday, February 13, 2024 told Justice U.P Kekemeke of the Federal Capital Territory, FCT, High Court, Maitama, Abuja that the EFCC has recovered the sum of \$13,204.00 (Thirteen Thousand, Two Hundred and Four United States Dollars) from the defendant.

Also recovered from the defendant is a plot of land in Port Harcourt, Rivers state, a Lexus Ex 350 and Toyota Venza cars.

The witness who was led in evidence by the prosecution counsel, Fatsuma Muhammad disclosed that among the evidence against the defendant are “various fraudulent profiles in LinkedIn which he admitted to creating,” adding that there was also a fraudulent contract award letter printed from his phone. That same letter was sent to his American victim in chats claiming that the contract was awarded to him by the Federal government.”

Kelechi told the court that investigation into the matter involved writing a letter of investigation of the defendant’s activities to the Forensic Department of the EFCC, several local banks as well as the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, with the purported contract award letter attached.

He further told the court that a response from the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing indicated that the award was not genuine. The defendant admitted sending the fake contract award letter to Sayers and other foreign victims.

“We received our report from the Forensic Department and our findings for his gadgets. The victim, Nicole, also sent evidence of transactions received from international money transfer operators. From other analyses, we discovered that part of this money was sent into his bank account supervised by his sister, one Nwachi Doris Chinenye”, he said.

Tendered in evidence against the defendant were certificate of identification, notice of nominal complaint with copies of intent to award contract and iPhone 11Pro Max. The PW2 further informed the court that upon confronting the defendant with the evidence, his lawyers responded with a letter for a plea bargain. “We recovered \$13,204, Lexus Ex350 and Toyota Venza.

Justice Kekemeke adjourned the matter till April 30, 2024 for continuation of trial.

Nwachi was arrested on Wednesday, February 15, 2023 in Abuja for allegedly marrying an American, Nicole Kierulff Sayers falsely and defrauded her in

the process. Sayers alleged that the defendant lured her into a false marriage and defrauded her of her savings.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[alleged-370-000-fake-marriage-efcc-recovers-13-204-property-vehicles-from-defendant-witness](#)

14 FEB 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 14 SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN A “YAHOO ACADEMY” IN MAKURDI

Operatives of the Makurdi Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 arrested 14 (fourteen) suspected internet fraudsters in a training center of potential internet fraudsters in Makurdi, Benue State.

The operatives, acting on intelligence, arrested the suspects in a three-bedroom apartment allegedly serving as a training centre for internet fraud trainees along Achusa Road, Makurdi.

The suspects are: Asongu Terungwa, Aese Sonter, Nyoosu Terungwa, John Kator, Udi Micheal Aodona, Terungu Mnyam, Iorwuese Terhide, Ule Francis, Imoter Gloor Emmanuel and Samuel Lubem.

Others include: Wergba Tertamge, Erukaa Ephraim, Agenale Franklin and Abechi Toryila.

Items recovered include: laptops, ATM cards, phones, one Firman Generator and a Toyota Corolla car.

The suspects would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-14-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-a-yahoo-academy-in-makurdi](#)

14 FEB 2024

COURT JAILS 15 FOR INTERNET FRAUD IN IBADAN

Justices Olusola Adetujoye, O.A. Lajide and S.O. Adeyemi of the Oyo State High Court, sitting in Ibadan have convicted and sentenced 15 internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

They were jailed after pleading guilty to one-count separate charges upon their arraignment by the Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, between January 22 and February 5, 2024. One of the convicts, Adebola Sherrif was docked and convicted on five-count charges.

The other convicts are: Adebayo Ifeoluwa Timilehin, Philip Daniel, Ifemadi Haruna Segun, Okeola Olajide James Bolanle, Akinjisola Ayodeji Francis, Giwa Usman Dolapo, Olorunsola Sodiq Babatunde, Fatolu Moses Opeyemi, Bashiru Sodiq Omobolaji, Omowaye Oluwatosin Olamilekan, Badmus Yusuf Omobolaji, Lateef Ramon Olamilekan, Idowu Michael Oluwasegun and Okunola Samuel Olalekan.

One of the charges reads: “That you, Okunola Samuel Olalekan on or about 9th of April, 2023 at Ibadan, Oyo State, within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, with intention to defraud Older One through the Google Chat Account: joyella5774@gmail.com, did falsely represent yourself to be Joy Ella, a female from United States of America, thereby committed the offence of impersonation contrary to Section 484 of the Criminal Code Law Cap 38, Laws of Oyo State, 2000.”

Upon their arraignments, the convicts pleaded “guilty” when the charges were read to them. Consequently, the facts of the cases were reviewed and incriminating documents tendered in evidence before the courts, following which the prosecuting counsels urged the courts to convict and sentence them accordingly.

After listening to all the counsels, the judges convicted and sentenced Yusuf, Sodiq and Olamilekan to six months community service each, while Timilehin, Daniel, Segun, Bolanle, Ramon, Oluwasegun, Sherrif and Olalekan bagged one month community service each.

Opeyemi, Babatunde, Dolapo and Francis were handed two weeks community service each.

Yusuf was ordered to pay N100, 000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) fine in addition to his sentence, while Olamilekan was ordered to pay the sum of N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) and Sodiq to pay N170,000.00 (One Hundred and Seventy Thousand Naira) in addition to their sentence.

All the convicts were ordered to make restitution to their various victims and forfeited all items recovered from them to the federal government.

In a related development, the Oyo State Police Command has arrested and handed over to the Ibadan Zonal Command of the EFCC, twin brothers, Abdulrauf Taiwo and Abdulrauf Kehinde for alleged internet fraud activities alongside five others comprising Adeyemi Samuel, Alabi Ayomide, Yekini Faroug, Hassan Olamilekan and Ibrahim Olawale.

Items recovered from the suspects include seven phones, among others.

They have made useful statements to the operatives of the Commission and would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos of four of the 419ers:

[court-jails-15-for-internet-fraud-in-ibadan](#)

13 FEB 2024

From USA today, by Betty Lin-Fisher, and also covered by many others, including Yahoo News:

**A WIDOW OPENED HERSELF UP TO A NEW LOVE.
INSTEAD, SHE WAS CATFISHED FOR A MILLION DOLLARS.**

The article on Romance 419 is too long to be reproduced here in full, but here is the most salient paragraph, verbatim:

"Likins, who used up all of her savings and sold her house for “Donald” and the fake dream, said she was at times suicidal after she found out the truth. But she now wants to prevent other women from falling prey to such schemes and has enlisted a company that’s helped her track down the scammers who are based in Nigeria. She hopes to “flip the script,” and have them arrested."

Here is a link to the story in USA today, for as long as it is good:

[woman-loses-1-million-dating-scam](#)

Here is a link to the story in Yahoo News, for as long as it is good:

[widow-opened-herself-love-instead](#)

13 FEB 2024

EFCC ARRESTS FOUR SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS

IN MAIDUGURI

Operatives of the Maiduguri Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested four suspected internet fraudsters in Maiduguri, Borno State.

The suspects are Gwandi Micah, Okechukwu Emmanuel, Gabriel Commander and Dzeremo Sylvester.

They were arrested on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at former Trafalgar Hotel Bolori 1 Ward layout in Maiduguri following actionable intelligence on their suspected criminal activities.

Items recovered from them include; four smart phones, three laptops HP and power banks.

The suspects would soon be charged to court.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-four-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-maiduguri](#)

12 FEB 2024

PORT HARCOURT COURT JAILS INTERNET FRAUDSTER FOR \$5,000 FRAUD

Justice P. I. Ajoku of the Federal High Court sitting in Port Harcourt, Rivers state has convicted and sentenced an internet fraudster, Chukwuema Samuel Andrew to 30 (thirty months) imprisonment for impersonation and obtaining money under false pretence.

He was jailed on two-count charges bordering on obtaining under false pretence and impersonation upon being arraigned by the Port Harcourt Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC.

Count one reads:

"That you, Chukwuema Samuel Andrew (A.K.A Mary Parlier) sometime in April, 2021 at Port Harcourt, Rivers State within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court with intent to defraud did obtain the sum of \$5,000 (Five Thousand Three Hundred Dollars) Crystal Shepherd under the pretext of being Mary Parlier, a female military soldier serving in Yemen as a computer operator, a pretext which to your knowledge was false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1) (a) of the Advance Fee and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act".

He pleaded guilty when the charges were read to him.

In view of his plea, prosecution counsel, B. O. Agala prayed the court to convict and sentence the defendant accordingly.

Defense counsel P. U. Ogbuehi did not oppose the submission of the prosecution but prayed the court to temper justice with mercy stressing that " the defendant is a first time offender and does not have any previous criminal records".

Justice Ajoku after listening to the submissions of both counsels thereafter convicted and sentenced the defendant to thirty (30) months imprisonment on counts one and two or an option of fine of N200, 000 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira) payable into the Consolidated Revenue Account of the Federal Government of Nigeria. The sentence is to run concurrently.

The judge also ordered that phones recovered from the convict at the scene of arrest should be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria

and the convict should also depose an affidavit of good behaviour before the court.

Andrew started his journey to the Correctional Centre when he was arrested by the EFCC during an operation code named "Eagle Sweep" sometime in June, 2023, at Golf Estate, Port Harcourt for internet fraud activities. He was investigated and found to be impersonating foreigners to dupe his victims. He particularly defrauded his victims to the tune of \$5,000. He was later prosecuted and convicted.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[port-harcourt-court-jails-internet-fraudster-for-5-000-fraud](#)

12 FEB 2024

ABSENCE OF DEFENDANT STALLS TRIAL OF SEVEN FOR ALLEGED £1M "JUJU" FRAUD

The trial of one Morufu Adewale (aka Gbegulerin Adelana), Omitogun Ajayi, Ajisegiri Abiodun, Abayomi Alaka (aka Dauda Usman Alashe), Taiwo Ahmed, Raufu Raheem, and Sanlabiu Teslim, before Justice R.A. Oshodi of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos for an alleged £1million (One Million British Pounds) was on Monday, February 12, 2024 stalled due to the absence of the fifth defendant, Taiwo Ahmed.

The Lagos Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC had on February 3, 2022 arraigned Morufu, Alaka, Ajayi, and Ajisegiri before Justice Oluwatoyin Taiwo of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos with the other defendants listed as being at large. However, the trial could not be concluded before the retirement of the trial judge. This prompted the reassignment of the case file to Justice Oshodi of the Special Offences Court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos even as the EFCC intensified its efforts to secure the arrest of the other suspected fraudsters.

Subsequently, all the seven defendants were in December 2022, re-arraigned before Justice Oshodi on an amended three-count charge.

Count one reads: "Morufu Yahaya Adewale, Omitogun Ajayi, Ajisegiri Abiodun, Abayomi Kamaldeen Alaka, Taiwo Olamilekan Ahmed, Raufu Wale Raheem and Sanlabiu Owolabi Teslim between May and July 2018 at Lagos within the Ikeja Judicial Division obtained the total sum of £1,000,000.00 (One Million Pounds Sterling) from Dr. and Dr. (Mrs) Lateef Oladimeji Bello for the purpose of conducting prayers for spiritual cleansing of the family and that the money will be refunded after the prayers within one week, which pretence you knew to be false."

Count three reads: "Morufu Yahaya Adewale, Omitogun Ajayi, Ajisegiri Abiodun, Abayomi Kamaldeen Alaka, Taiwo Olamilekan Ahmed, Raufu Wale Raheem and Sanlabiu Owolabi Teslim between August and September 2018 at Lagos within the Ikeja Judicial Division obtained the total sum of N175,000,000.00 (One Hundred and Seventy-five Million Naira Only) from Dr. and Dr. (Mrs) Lateef Oladimeji Bello for the purpose of conducting spiritual prayers for spiritual cleansing of their son and the family and that the money will be refunded one week after the prayers which pretence you knew to be false."

They all pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when they were read to them, thus prompting the commencement of their trial.

At Monday's proceeding, counsel for the EFCC, N.K. Ukoha informed the court that his witness was in court and the prosecution was ready to proceed with the trial. However, the fifth defendant, Taiwo Ahmed, who was represented in court by his counsel, Babatunde Ojehomon, was absent in court as he was not produced by officers of the Ikoyi Maximum Correctional Centre, Lagos.

Ukoha, had, while addressing the court, raised an alarm that the absence

of the fifth defendant was part of a well-orchestrated plan to forestall the trial. "One of the defendants is not in court, and we got intelligence late yesterday, that there is a grand plan to forestall today's proceedings.

We were just told casually this morning that the defendant is not well," he said

He further prayed the court for a stand down, so that "the prosecution and one of the court's registrars could go to the prisons to procure the fifth defendant to come for his trial".

Counsel to the third and fourth defendants, Olalekan Ojo, SAN, however, in his response, stressed that he was not and will never be part of any "grand plan" to forestall the trial. "The proper procedure is to apply to the court, that whoever is supposed to produce the absent defendant, which in this case is the prison official, should be called to explain why the defendant was not produced," he said.

Counsel to the first defendant, Adebayo Adegbite; counsel to the second defendant, Oluseun Olugbemi-Fatomigbe; Ojemohon; counsel to the sixth defendant, A. Apanisile; and counsel to the seventh defendant, Olalekan Idowu, all aligned themselves with the submission of Ojo.

Thereafter, the trial judge called up one of the prison officials to shed light on the situation. Addressing the court, the official, ASE1 Jonathan Oche, said the defendant was sick. "From the information this morning, we were told that he was sick, and that they want to monitor his health till tomorrow when we will produce him, that there is still a date tomorrow," he said.

Ojemohon told the court that his client was yet to perfect his bail conditions, and that he was aware of the health condition of his client.

He said: "He complained to me at the last sitting of December 1, 2023 that he was not feeling well, and pleaded with me to do everything I can to expedite the perfection of his bail. Last Thursday, they told me that he fell in the toilet and smashed his head on the bowl of the toilet. "I am not even aware that he will not be brought to court today, I would have demanded that they issue a medical report. So, I am aware that my client is sick and is being observed in the Correctional Services clinic."

After listening to the submissions of all the parties involved in the case, Justice Oshodi adjourned till the earlier scheduled date of February 13, 2024. "I am satisfied by the reason given and I direct the Maximum Security Custodial Centre to produce the fifth defendant before this court on the earlier scheduled date," he said.

The press release contains a photo:

[absence-of-defendant-stalls-trial-of-seven-for-alleged-1m-juju-fraud](#)

12 FEB 2004

EFCC ARRESTS FOUR SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN BENIN CITY

Operatives of the Benin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested four suspected internet fraudsters in Benin City.

They were arrested on Saturday, February 10, 2024 at different locations in Benin-city, Edo State following actionable intelligence on their suspected nefarious activities.

The suspects are Oniovosa Destiny, Enoferodion Kingsley, Elvis Mohammed and Igneweke Endurance.

Items recovered from them include four exotic cars - Mercedes Benz GLE 43 AMG,

Two Mercedes Benz GLE 250 AMG and Mercedes Benz GLK 350 4Matic and phones.

The suspects would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release includes photos:

[efcc-arrests-four-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-benin-city](#)

12 FEB 2024

EFCC ARRESTS FOUR BROTHERS, 30 OTHERS FOR ALLEGED INTERNET FRAUD IN ENUGU

Operatives of the Enugu Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested four brothers; Egbo Chukwuebuka, Egbo Favour Chibuikwe, Egbo Ifeanyi Francis and Egbo Victor for their alleged involvement in internet fraud.

The siblings were arrested alongside thirty others which include; Great Eze, Ani Callistus, Ekpe Chigbo, Eze Eric, Nnaemeka Gabriel, George Tochukwu, Uche Divine, Chiamelie Ede, Enenta Ebube, Treasure Ugwueze Osinachi, Ejiakor John Chidiebere, Kingsley Dugwu Olisa and Ugwuanyi Bright Ekpere.

Others include; Uzor Obi Godson, Tochukwu Nwankwo Firminus, Ebuka Ike Comas, Okwudili Mmoyekwe John, Samuel Ogbonna Otti, Agada Daniel Olema, Odoh Collins Nnabuike, Okeke Harrison, Oriasotie Presley Meshack, Ekperechi David Ebube, Ugwu Ebuka Sebastian, Eli Izuchukwu Ogbonna, Martins Chinedu Ugwu, Aloysius Chibuikwe Alphonsus, Sunday John Cross, Aroh Collins Chinecherem and Miracle Ifeson Obiora.

The all-male suspects were arrested on Friday, February 9, 2024 in an intelligence-driven sting operation at various locations within Enugu state.

Items recovered from them include mobile phones and different exotic cars.

The suspects would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-four-brothers-30-others-for-alleged-internet-fraud-in-enugu](#)

9 FEB 2024

EFCC ARRESTS FIVE SUSPECTED INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN MAKURDI

Operatives of Makurdi Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested five (5) suspected internet fraudsters.

They were arrested on Friday, February 9, 2024 at kansho village in the Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue state following actionable intelligence on their suspected involvement in internet - related offences.

The suspects are, Shima Francis, Ode Jesse, Odey Linus, Kingsley Obinna, Emmanuel Inaleguwu.

Items recovered from them are one iPhone and five android phones.

The suspects would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arrests-five-suspected-internet-fraudsters-in-makurdi](#)

8 FEB 2024

COURT JAILS FAKE EFCC STAFF, TWO OTHERS IN KADUNA

The Kaduna Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has secured the conviction and sentencing of Abdulazeez Isah to three years imprisonment for parading himself as a staff of the EFCC. Abraham Adama and Uzoma Isaac Iwu were also jailed for fraud by Justices Darius Khobo and A. Isiaka of the Kaduna State High Court, sitting in Kaduna.

While Justice Isiaka jailed Isah after pleading guilty to one-count charge bordering on impersonation, Justice Khobo handed Adama two years imprisonment for cheating by impersonating American movie star Sylvester Stallone on social media and three years to Iwu for cybercrimes.

The charge against Isa reads: “That you Abdulazeez Isah sometime in November, 2023 in Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, committed an offence of impersonation to wit: falsely presenting yourself as a staff of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to the general public, which pretence you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 142(1) of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law, 2017.”

The charge against Adama reads: “That you Abraham Adama (a.k.a Sylvester Stallone) (m), sometime in 2023 at Kaduna within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, committed an offence to wit: cheating by impersonation when you falsely presented yourself as Sylvester Stallone (an American actor) on several online social media applications to several unsuspecting victims and in that assumed character cheated one Amelia James of the total sum of \$200.00 (Two Hundred USD) and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 308 of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law of 2017 and punishable under Section 309 of the same Law.”

The charge against Iwu reads: “that you ISAAC UZOMA IWU(a.k.a manpaulmarkus@gmail.com) on or about the 18th of January, 2024 at NITEL Quarters of Sabo Axis, Kaduna State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court falsely presented yourself as Man Paul Markus and in that assumed character defrauded members of the public by luring them into investing into Crypto Currency via your email address manpaulmarkus@gmail.com and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 142(1) of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law, 2017”.

The three defendants pleaded guilty to their charges when they were read to them. Based on their pleas, EFCC Counsels, M.U Gadaka and K.S Ogunlade prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Justice Isiaka convicted and sentenced Isah to three years imprisonment or a fine of N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) while Justice Khobo convicted and sentenced Adama to two years prison term with a fine option of N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) and Iwu to three years imprisonment or a fine of N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira.).

Isah bagged his imprisonment by falsely parading himself to unsuspecting members of the public as a member of staff of the EFCC. Upon arrest, he admitted financing the production of fake T-shirts, identity cards and caps of the Commission found in his possession. Adama impersonated Sylvester Stallone (an American actor) while Iwu got his imprisonment by indulging in internet crimes.

The press release contains photos of the criminals:

[court-jails-fake-efcc-staff-two-others-in-kaduna](#)

8 FEB 2024

CIFCFIN HAILS OLUKOYEDE ON TRANSFORMATION IN EFCC

The President of the Chartered Institute of Forensics and Certified Fraud Investigators of Nigeria, CIFCFIN, Dr. Iliyasu Gashinbaki has commended the Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Mr. Ola Olukoyede on his strides in turning around the works of fighting economic and financial crimes and other acts of corruption in Nigeria.

He gave the commendation in Abuja on Thursday, February 8, 2024 while on a Courtesy Visit to the Corporate Headquarters of the EFCC. According to him, the EFCC has started witnessing quiet transformation since the assumption of office of Olukoyede. He promised the collaboration of his Institute with the Commission in breaking more useful grounds in its assigned mandate.

"It is a great honour and privilege to be here on this visit. I want to commend you for the success recorded so far since you assumed office. We can see quiet transformation happening in the EFCC and I'm saying this with utmost sincerity", he said. He gave detailed accounts of the mandate and structure of CIFCFIN and called for the formalization of the domiciliation of the Institute's College at the EFCC's Academy. "We have an offer by the Commission for our College to be domiciled in the EFCC's Academy. We will be glad if this offer is formalized", he said.

He spoke of the plans of CIFCFIN to build five forensics laboratories comprising Digital, Document, Engineering, Medical and Ballistic and Crimes Scene laboratories and called for the support of the EFCC in the overall works of the Institute. On the proposed Document Laboratory, Gashinbaki expressed hope that the EFCC and the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC will find it useful in dealing with investigation of forgery of documents by politicians seeking elective offices. "We want to see how we can work with the EFCC and INEC to avoid forgery of documents by politicians' ", he said.

Responding, Olukoyede appreciated Gashinbaki for his visit and called for a more holistic scope of the works of CIFCFIN. "I think a wider scope that goes beyond fraud investigation to management would be good for CIFCFIN", he said. He also explained the new policy direction of the EFCC stressing that his focus was on preventive framework in the fight against corruption. He assured that the Commission would formalize the domiciliation of CIFCFIN College in the EFCC's Academy, maintaining that it "will add value to the Academy".

He also assured that "We are willing to share intelligence with you and look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship with your institute".

The press release contains a photo:

[cifcfin-hails-olukoyede-on-transformation-in-efcc](#)

7 FEB 2024

COURT JAILS INTERNET FRAUDSTER IN LAGOS

The Lagos Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, secured the conviction and sentencing of one Victor Adedeji Oniyiku, before Justice Chukwujekwu Aneke of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos for internet fraud.

Justice Aneke found Oniyiku guilty on the one-count charge brought against him by the EFCC for impersonating one Hartford Sarah Jane to perpetrate online fraud.

The convict was arraigned in December 2023 and he pleaded guilty to the offence. The trial judge then adjourned till Wednesday, February 7, 2024 for the review

of facts and judgment.

The charge reads: “That you, VICTOR ADEDEJI ONIYIKU, sometime in 2021 in Lagos within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court fraudulently impersonated one Hartford Sarah Jane by holding yourself out as such on an illinois Drivers' license, with intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 22(2)(b) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention etc) Act, 2015”.

The prosecution counsel, Chinenye Okezie reviewed the facts, and urged the court to convict and sentence him accordingly.

Justice Aneke thereafter convicted and sentenced him to 12 months imprisonment, with an option of fine of N500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira only) and 100 hours community service. The Judge also ordered the forfeiture of the devices recovered from him to the Federal Government.

The convict began his journey to the Correctional Centre when he was arrested by operatives of the Lagos Command of the EFCC for internet-related offences. He pleaded guilty to the lone-count charge preferred against him and was convicted and sentenced accordingly.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[court-jails-internet-fraudster-in-lagos](#)

6 FEB 2024

EFCC ARRAIGNS KWARA BUSINESSMAN FOR N170M CONTRACT SCAM

The Ilorin Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC on Monday, February 5, 2024 arraigned a businessman, Alexander Adeniran Babarinde from Oro-Ago in Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State over alleged involvement in contract scam, obtaining money under false pretence and forgery.

Babarinde was arraigned by the EFCC, alongside his company, Ajays Engineering Limited and one Suleiman Muhammed, (who is currently at large) before Justice Mahmud Abdulgafar of the Kwara State High Court in Ilorin on eight –count charges bordering on obtaining under false pretences. .

The defendants allegedly obtained several amounts of money from the complainant under the guise of funding and executing some Federal Government contracts.

The petitioner alleged that Babarinde brought some contract awards letters from Ecological Fund Management Committee Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Development, Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, Umaru Musa Yar’adua University, Katsina Universal Basic Education Commission, National Research Institute for Chemical Technology. But, findings by the EFCC revealed that the letters were forged and never emanated from the said government agencies.

It was gathered that the defendants had obtained money to the tune of N170million from the petitioner as capital to execute the non-existent contracts. All attempts to recover the money however proved abortive.

Count three of the charges against him reads:

“That you, ALEXANDER ADENIRAN BABARINDE, AJAYS ENGINEERING LIMITED and SULEIMAN MOHAMMED (STILL AT LARGE), sometime between the months of January 2021 and December 2021, in Ilorin Kwara State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud, did obtain the sum of N30,530,300.00 (Thirty Million, Five Hundred and Thirty Thousand, Three Hundred Naira) from one EZEKIEL OLA BABATUNDE as fees for the funding and execution of Federal Government contracts and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1 (1) (a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1 (3) of the same Act”

Count four of the charges read:

“That you, ALEXANDER ADENIRAN ,BABARINDE, AJAYS ENGINEERING LIMITED and SULEIMAN MOHAMMED (STILL AT LARGE), sometime between January 2022 and December 2022, in Ilorin, Kwara State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to defraud did obtain the sum of N6,655,009.00 (SIX MILLION, SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY FIVE THOUSAND NAIRA) from one EZEKIEL OLA BABATUNDE as fees for the funding and execution of Federal Government contracts and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1 (1) (a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and other Fraud Related Offence Act, 2006 and Punishable under Section 1 (3) of the same Act”

The defendant pleaded not guilty to all the charges when they were read to him.

Following his plea, counsel to the EFCC, Rasheedat Alao urged the court to remand the defendant (Babarinde) in the custody of the Nigeria Correctional Service and give a date for trial to enable the prosecution to prove its case.

Justice Abdulgafar ordered that the defendant be remanded at the Correctional Service and adjourned the case till March 13, 2024 for trial.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arraigns-kwara-businessman-for-n170m-contract-scam](#)

5 FEB 2024

UYO COURT SENDS THREE INTERNET FRAUDSTERS TO JAIL

Justice Chigozie Sergius Onah of the Federal High Court sitting in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State has convicted and sentenced three internet fraudsters to different jail terms for offences bordering on criminal impersonation, internet fraud and possession of fraudulent documents.

The convicts Abraham Itoro Sunday, Ezea Chidera Charles and Udoh Christopher Gabriel were jailed on Thursday, February 1, 2024 upon their arraignment by the Uyo Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on one-count separate charge bordering on cybercrimes.

The lone-count charge reads: “That you Abraham Itoro Sunday 'M' sometime in 2023 within the jurisdiction of this honourable court did fraudulently impersonate Brian O' Noel on Facebook with the intent to gain advantage for yourself and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 22 (2)(b)(I) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, prevention) Act 2015 and punishable under the same section”.

They pleaded guilty to all the charges when they were read to them.

Based on their pleas, Prosecution counsels, Enobong Ubokudom and Farida Bukar thereafter prayed the court to convict and sentence them accordingly.

Delivering judgment on Thursday, Justice Onah convicted and sentenced Sunday and Charles to six months imprisonment each with an option of fine of N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira only), while Gabriel bagged five months jail term with an option of fine of N150,000.00(One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only). The court also ordered that the three smartphones used by the convicts to perpetrate the crimes be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The convicts started their journey to the Correctional Centre when they were arrested by operatives of the Uyo Zonal Command of the EFCC on November 22, 2023 at different locations in Afaha Atai, in Iko Eket Akwa Ibom State. Investigation showed that all the convicts impersonated foreigners by using their identities to defraud their victims. While Charles fraudulently portrayed himself as 'Molina Urovsky' on Facebook, Sunday portrayed himself as Brian O'niel and Gabriel presented himself as Alexander Douglas on Instagram.

The press release contains photos of all three 419ers:

2 FEB 2024

COURT JAILS FAKE US SOLDIER FOR \$5,000 FRAUD IN PORT HARCOURT

The Port Harcourt Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and imprisonment of a fake United States soldier, Chukwuema Samuel Andrew.

He was arraigned on two-count charges bordering on advance fee fraud contrary to Section 1(1) (a) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act.

Count one of the charges reads: "That you, Chukwuema Samuel Andrew (a.k.a Mary Parlier) sometime in April, 2021 in Port Harcourt, Rivers State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court with intent to defraud, did obtain the sum of \$5,300 (Five Thousand Three Hundred Dollars) under the pretext of being Mary Parlier, a female soldier serving in Yemen as a computer operator, a pretext which to your knowledge was false and thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1(1) (a) of the Advance Fee and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006 and punishable under Section 1(3) of the same Act."

He pleaded guilty when the charges were read to him, prompting prosecution counsel, B. O. Agala to pray the court to convict and sentence him accordingly, while defence counsel P. U. Ogbuehi prayed the judge to temper justice with mercy stating that his client was a first -time offender with no previous criminal records.

Justice Ajoku convicted and sentenced Andrew to 30 months imprisonment. Besides his prison term, he forfeited his Redmi mobile phone and iPhone 12 Pro to the Federal government and deposed to an affidavit of good behaviour before the court.

The convict's journey to the Correctional Centre began when he was nabbed by EFCC operatives for internet fraud sometime in June, 2023, at Golf Estate, Port Harcourt in an operation code named "Eagle Sweep." His profiling revealed that he became involved in different shades of cybercrime including dating and romance scam in 2021.

The \$5,300 proceeds of crime he earned was sent to him as itunes cards, steam cards and Bitcoins through his vendor who converted them to naira values via his Access Bank and United Bank for Africa accounts.

In another development, EFCC Chairman, Ola Olukoyede has stated that, individuals who obstruct the Commission or its authorized officers in the exercise of their duties run afoul of Section 38(a)(b) of the Commission's Establishment Act. The same, he said, also applies to those who fail to comply with lawful enquiries or demands made by authorized officers of the Commission.

He disclosed this during a lecture organized by officers of Advanced and Intelligence Intermediate Course of the Nigerian Navy on the "History, Roles and Organization of Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC" at the Navy Intelligence School Ubima, Rivers State.

The EFCC Chairman, who was represented at the event by Chief Superintendent of EFCC, CSE Ito Levi Azuogu, Head CTGI 2, Port Harcourt Zonal Command, stated that the Commission had the constitutional power to seek and receive information from any person, authority or entity without inhibitions in the cause of its investigations. He, therefore, enjoined individuals and entities to be forthcoming with information required of them by the Commission as refusal to do so constitutes a criminal offence.

To further educate the public on the responsibilities of the Commission, Olukoyede listed the scope of EFCC's mandate to include the combatting of "non-violent criminal

and illicit activities, committed with the objective of earning illegitimate wealth, either by individuals or a group, organized in any manner that violates existing legislation governing the economic activities of the government, which includes any form of fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, bribery, looting, all forms of malpractices, smuggling, bunkering, tax evasion, illegal oil bunkering, currency counterfeiting, intellectual property theft amongst others.”

The Deputy Commandant, Navy Intelligence School, G.O. Babtunde, in his closing remarks, thanked CSE Azuogu for the insightful lecture.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[court-jails-fake-us-soldier-for-5-000-fraud-in-port-harcourt](#)

31 JAN 2024

TINUBU TO EFCC: SUSTAIN THE FIGHT AGAINST INTERNET CRIMES

President Bola Tinubu has called on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, to keep its flames burning against the scourge of internet crimes and other acts of corruption.

He gave the charge in Abuja on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at a one-day public engagement on youth , religion and fight against corruption and the launch of Fraud Risk Assessment Project for Ministries, Departments and Agencies, MDAs organized by the EFCC.

The President pointed out that the disturbing contagion of cybercrimes has been a challenge and slur on the image of the nation and the EFCC should spare no effort in tackling it more frontally. “Our country is not a nation of fraudsters and the pejorative reference to internet crimes as the “Nigerian scam” across the world is unfair, untenable and unacceptable. Cybercrimes, to all intents and purposes, are a global phenomenon. Today’s world is run real time on the internet. Governance, businesses, institutions and even individual domestic affairs are dependent on the internet. Cyber criminals are, therefore, a threat to the rest of the world. This is why no effort or expense should be spared in confronting the evil. I want to assure the EFCC that the government will continue to offer its support in its quest to kill the dragon that internet offences have become”, he said.

Tinubu, who spoke through Vice President Kashim Shettima, expressed government’s determination to give corruption hard tackles, stressing that “we cannot be focused on growth and development and at the same time offer any breathing space to corrupt practices. No nation grows without breaking the fangs of corruption. The EFCC has been duly instructed to do its job at all times without any extraneous considerations. The Renewed Hope agenda of our government is impervious to corruption. We should all join hands together to move Nigeria in a new direction of purpose.”

Tinubu spurred the EFCC not to be dismayed by throw backs coming from some sections of the society regarding its consistent fight against internet crimes and other corrupt practices, pointing out that government is “aware of all the foul cries and unwarranted accusations against the lawful efforts of the Commission to bring fraudsters to book. We cannot fold our hands and watch our youths descend into morbid criminalities”.

EFCC’s Chairman, Ola Olukoyede, in his Opening Remark, took a retrospective look at the efforts and profile of the Commission over the years in tackling the monster of corruption and noted that, though much ground had been covered by the EFCC in the areas of convictions and recoveries, the un-abating trend of corrupt practices across the country called for serious concerns. To address the situation, he called for greater emphasis on prevention of crimes through well-thought-out and coordinated efforts of the Commission.

“Indeed, proactive implementation of effective and coordinated policies against corruption remains the best guarantee for public security, economic development, and the effective functioning of public and private institutions. The recalibration of the Commission’s prevention strategy seeks to promote proactive deterrence and greater inclusivity in terms of participation of all stakeholders. Our motivation

is to see how corruption, whether in ministries and agencies of government, in the ivory towers, or the private sector, could be prevented before it occurs”, he said.

The EFCC boss also stated that the Commission is prioritizing two areas of concern which is the involvement of youth in cybercrimes and the susceptibility of our ministries, departments and agencies to grand corruption. He expressed concerns about the disconcerting allure of computer-related fraud for youths in tertiary institutions, stressing that “the danger of having a tribe of future leaders whose outlook in life is that fraud and corruption are the stairways to fame and fortune, is however, too dire to treat with kid gloves”. Olukoyede, therefore, called on managers of academic institutions to rise to the challenge of mentoring youths on the right path of life.

“It is our view that the Academia can contribute more in the anti-corruption fight through mentorship as youths in today’s fast-paced world need close supervision to navigate their path to success and purposeful living”, he said. The EFCC’s boss equally unfolded the Fraud Risk Assessment Project to assist government agencies to address systemic vulnerabilities at the personnel, institutional and environmental levels and take preemptive measures. He assured that the Project “will save the nation billions in stolen wealth, time and resources spent in investigating grand corruption cases”.

He commended President Tinubu for his unflinching support to the fight against corruption in Nigeria, maintaining that, “with the political will of the administration. I believe that we have a golden opportunity to rewrite the story of our nation’s quest for improved transparency and accountability in public affairs”. The EFCC’s engagement drew notable national political, religious and traditional leaders, with many of them offering sterling proposals to address the problem of corruption.

In his remarks, Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi urged the EFCC to intensify its preventive method which according to him is cheaper and easier to prevent crimes. “I believe that concerted efforts should be channeled towards the preventive aspect of the Commission’s mandate as it is cheaper and easier to prevent crimes. The Commission’s mandate is beyond investigation and prosecution of financial crimes which it had over the years pursued vigorously. The cost of investigating and prosecuting all species of financial crimes will significantly reduce with adequate preventive measures in place.”

President, Christian Association of Nigeria, Archbishop Daniel Okoh stated that corruption remains the major challenge of the country. “Corruption remains one of the major challenges that we have in our country, the albatross that hampers development and stifles the potentials of the youths. Corruption undermines the principles of justice, fairness and equality, eroding the very fabrics of the society, it is a cancer that eats away the trust and integrity of institutions, hindering progress and development. It discourages hard work, dignity of labor, honesty, respect for one another and creates a wicked generation that destroys the future of their nation.

The Sultan of Sokoto and Chairman, Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, His Eminence, Sa'ad Abubakar, promised to support the EFCC in its fight adding that the fight against corruption is a fight for all. “We want to assure you that we will support you one hundred percent in this fight, because it is a fight for our lives. If we really want Nigeria to be Nigeria we can proudly call our country, we must fight this corruption to the last level. We want to assure the EFCC chairman, as religious leaders, we will invite you for a close door interaction about what we should do as religious leaders”, he said.

OOni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi called for devolution of powers, explaining that local governments should be empowered and greatly encouraged to bring development closer to the people. “If we don’t look inward and change the structure, nothing tangible would be achieved. Go and make the local government powerful. It is the root of our heritage and customs, make them powerful”, he said.

In his seminal presentation as the Guest Speaker at the occasion, John Momoh, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, CEO, Channels Media Group advised youths about the consequences of cybercrime. According to him, the digital age has brought with it opportunities and threats in equal measures, describing cybercrimes as identity theft and financial fraud that are not just illegal, but also erode the very fabric of trust that holds society together. He argued that the immediate gratification and illusion of 'easy money' that activities of internet crimes promise are nothing but a mirage. Momoh warned that consequences of engaging in cybercrimes are severe ranging from legal repercussions to a loss of reputation, trust,

and future opportunities.

“A momentary lapse in judgment can lead to a lifetime of regret. It’s crucial to understand that the skills used in these crimes, if channeled positively, have the power to revolutionise industries, create jobs, and contribute to the economy in meaningful ways”, he said. He called for corporate reflection on the issue of internet crimes to ensure that youths are directed to more useful engagements on the internet. “As we gather here, let us reflect on the power of our collective action and the promise held by our younger generations. The fight against corruption is not just a battle for today but a foundation for a prosperous future. In an era where technology has become as essential as the air we breathe, it's no surprise that our youth are more connected and tech-savvy than any generation before them”.

Addressing the theme of the event, "Youth, Religion, and the fight against Corruption", the Channels boss pointed out that the role of youth and religion in upholding ethical standards and combating corruption cannot be overstated. “The influence of religion, in its essence, teaches us about morality, ethics, and the virtues of honesty and integrity. Across different faiths and beliefs, these principles remain constant. The moral compass provided by religious teachings can be a formidable force against corruption”, he said

Momoh emphasized that both the Bible and the Quran encourage young people to live lives of moral and ethical integrity, and called on religious leaders and institutions to assert more positive influence on their followers and communities, maintaining that they can mobilise the masses, shape ideologies, and instill values that reject corruption.

The event, which was marked with the relaunch and unveiling of EFCC’s Interfaith Manuals and Fraud Risk Assessment Project for MDAs, was well- attended by various political, religious, traditional leaders, including youth groups, academia, civil society organisations, anti-corruption agencies, among others.

The press release contains photos:

[tinubu-to-efcc-sustain-the-fight-against-internet-crimes](#)

419 Coalition comment: We of course agree with President Tinubu that the EFCC must sustain its efforts against internet crimes. However, we must disagree with his statement that "the pejorative reference to internet crimes as the “Nigerian scam” across the world is unfair, untenable and unacceptable". **West African Advance Free Fraud (419), which according to many Governments, including the US Government, emanates primarily from Nigeria**, can appropriately be described as the "Nigerian Scam" in our view.

As one of the originators of that term for West African Advance Fee Fraud (419) back in the 1990's, our opinion is that the term was appropriate then and remains, unfortunately, appropriate today. Of course, there are many forms of internet crime, emanating from everywhere, but only One West African Advance Fee Fraud (419), which emanates primarily from Nigeria or Nigerian operated cells abroad.

Think: Crime -> Internet Crime =>Fraud => Advance Fee Fraud => emanating from or operated by Nigerian cells worldwide => 419 => "Nigerian Scam". So, the "Nigerian Scam" (419) is one subset of Advance Fee Fraud crimes, among many subsets, and "Nigerian Scam" is a perfectly appropriate shorthand descriptive term to describe that subset, in our view.

30 JAN 2024

COURT JAILS 17 INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN OYO, OGUN

The Ibadan Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has secured the conviction and sentencing of seventeen (17) internet fraudsters to various jail terms.

They were jailed between January 8 and 28, 2024 after being arraigned before Justice Olusola Adetujoye of the Oyo State High Court, Ibadan and Justice A.A. Babawale of the Ogun State High Court, sitting in Abeokuta on a separate lone count charge each.

The convicts are Akinbode Abiodun, Samad Tijani Owolabi, Ademola

Olabamiji Quadri, Ewewiekpoamare Tivere Jackson, Adeagbo Stephen Adegbenro, Adesanya Olamilekan Dare, Yusuf Saka Olaoluwatobi, Akinbode Adedolapo Joshua, Musa Ayinde Olorunnisola and Lawal Mohammed Segun.

Others are: Moses Bitrus Bugama, Odude Kehinde Ayomipo, Bashiru Quadri Adeyinka, Ochoche Silas Ochola, Nurudeen Olamilekan Quam, Afeez Adewale Jimoh and Olowookere Ademola Sobbur.

One of the charges read:

“That you Adesanya Olamilekan Dare ‘M’ on or about 24th May, 2023, at Ibadan, Oyo State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, fraudulently impersonated by representing yourself to be a white man by the name Daryl Huffman from United States of America to one Angie Shepard, through your Facebook account with email address: darylhuffman1960@gmail.com, and other pretences, which pretences you knew to be false, thereby committed offence of personation contrary to Section 484 of the Criminal Code Law Cap 38, Laws of Oyo State, 2000.”

They all pleaded guilty to the charges when they were read to them.

Consequently, facts of the cases were reviewed by the prosecution counsels as indicting documents and other incriminating materials were tendered as evidences before the courts. Prosecution counsels further prayed the courts to convict and sentence the defendants accordingly.

Upon the prayers of the prosecution counsels, Justice Babawale convicted and sentenced Sobbur to one year imprisonment without an option of fine. Also, Justice Adetujoye convicted and sentenced Olorunnisola to two months imprisonment; Jimoh, Quam, Ochola, Adeyinka, Ayomipo, Bugama, Segun and Olaoluwatobi to one month jail term each.

Furthermore, Joshua, Dare, Adegbenro and Abiodun were convicted and sentenced to two weeks imprisonment each without an option of fine while Owolabi, Quadri and Jackson bagged two weeks community service each.

The courts also ordered that the convicts retribute their various victims, including Owolabi who is to pay the sum of N11, 749, 823.36 (Eleven Million, Seven Hundred and Forty-nine Thousand, Eight Hundred and Twenty-three Naira, Thirty-six Kobo) as restitution.

Items forfeited by the convicts to the Federal Government of Nigeria included one gold colour Lexus ES 330 with Registration number: FKG 184 HZ, one unregistered silver colour Toyota Corolla 2006 model, one black colour Honda Pilot 2004 model with registration number: LSR 783 HW and Chassis number: 2HKYF18464H598117 and one black Lexus ES 300 2002 model with registration number: APP 27 GT with chassis number: JTHBF30G020048119 among others.

All the convicts bagged their imprisonment when they were arrested by operatives of the Ibadan Zonal Command of the EFCC for internet-related activities. They were thereafter charged to court and convicted.

In a related development, the Oyo State Command of the Nigeria Police Force has handed over four suspected internet fraudsters to the Ibadan Zonal Command of the EFCC on January 26, 2024.

The suspects are Abiodun Ajayi, Salako Saheed, Qudus Owolabi and Abiodun Ridwan.

They were arrested at Soka area of Ibadan, Oyo State following actionable intelligence on suspected fraudulent internet-related activities.

Items recovered from them include one unregistered Toyota Camry,

one gold colour Toyota Camry with Registration number: APP 192 CB, two laptops and five mobile phones among others.

They would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos of several of the 419ers:

[court-jails-17-internet-fraudsters-in-oyo-ogun](#)

26 JAN 2024

EFCC ARRAIGNS ONE IN YOLA FOR N12.5M OIL FRAUD

The Gombe Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has arraigned one Festus Agbomodion before justice A.M. Anka of the Federal High Court, sitting in Yola, Adamawa State.

He was arraigned on Thursday, January 24, 2024 on two-count charges bordering on intent to defraud and obtaining under false pretence to the tune of N12,500,000.00 (Twelve Million Five Hundred Thousand Naira only) .

Count one reads: That you Festus Agbomodion on or about 2nd of January, 2019 at Yola, Adamawa State, within the Jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, with intent to defraud did obtain the sum of N12,500,000 (Twelve Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira only) from one Mr. Johnson Seun Femi under false pretence that the said sum was meant for the supply of two trucks of diesel to Bretrogeen Enterprises limited (A limited liability Company) which you knew to be false and hereby committed an offence contrary to Section 1 (1)(a) and punishable in Section 1(3) of Advance Fee Fraud and Other Related Offences Act, 2006.

Another reads : That you Festus Agbomodion and Okeke Magnus sometime on or about 2nd of January, 2019 at Yola, Adamawa State, within the Jurisdiction of this Honorable Court, did retain the sum of N12,500,000 (Twelve Million, Five Hundred Thousand Naira only) from one Mr. Johnson Seun Femi as money for the supply of two trucks of diesel to Bretrogeen Enterprises limited (A limited liability Company) knowing or reasonably ought to have known that such fund formed part of a proceed of unlawful activity to wit, obtaining by false pretence and there by committed an offense contrary to Section 15 (2)(d) and punishable in Section 15(3) of the Money Laundering Act, 2011.

In view of his plea of "not guilty", prosecution counsel, M.O Labaran prayed the court for a trial date while the defence counsel, S.O. Akporido informed the court of an existing bail application for the defendant.

Justice Anka thereafter granted the defendant bail in the sum of Five Million Naira and one surety in like sum.

The surety must be resident and own a landed property in the defendant's community.

The Judge remanded him in Adamawa Correctional Centre pending fulfilment of his bail conditions and adjourned the matter to February 29, 2024 for trial.

The press release contains a photo:

[efcc-arraigns-one-in-yola-for-n12-5m-oil-fraud](#)

26 JAN 2024

COURT JAILS FOUR INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN KADUNA

Justices A. Isiaka and A.A Bello of the Kaduna State High Court sitting in Kaduna have convicted and sentenced the quartet of Bilbert Sabo, Joy Righteous, Godwill Dikko and Ransom Joash Destiny to various jail terms for internet fraud.

They were arrested and arraigned by the Kaduna Zonal Command of the EFCC on one-count separate charges bordering on internet fraud.

While Sabo and Righteous were arraigned before Justice Isiaka, Dikko and Destiny were arraigned before Justice Bello

The lone-count against Sabo reads: “That you Bilbert Sabo (a.k.a Amelia Karim) sometime in December, 2023 in Kaduna within the Kaduna Judicial Division of the High Court with intent to defraud, impersonated one Amelia Karim (a United States of America citizen) using your Facebook account, a social media platform and in such assumed character attempted to cheat unsuspecting foreigners when you knew you were not, and you thereby committed an offence contrary to Section 142(1) of the Kaduna State Penal Code Law, 2017 and punishable under the same law”.

He pleaded guilty to the charge when it was read to him, prompting prosecution counsel, E.K Garba to urge the court to convict and sentence him accordingly.

Justice Isiaka convicted and sentenced him to two years imprisonment or an option of fine of N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira). Apart from his prison term, he forfeited the tool of his crime, an iPhone 11 to the Federal government.

Righteous also pleaded guilty to her one-count charge when it was read to her, prompting prosecution counsel, M.U Gadaka to urge the court to convict and sentence her accordingly.

Justice Isiaka convicted and sentenced her to two years imprisonment with an option of fine of N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only)

Beside her prison term, she forfeited the tool of her crime, an Infinix S5 Pro phone to the Federal government.

Similarly, Justice Bello convicted and sentenced Dikko and Destiny to two years imprisonment each or a fine of N150,000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only) respectively for cheating by impersonation.

All the four convicts started their journey to the Correctional Centre when they were arrested by operatives of the Kaduna Zonal Command of the EFCC for impersonating foreigners and using their identities to defraud their victims.

Sabo presented himself on Facebook as Ameila Karim, a US Citizen from Ogden, Utah to advertise a fraudulent Bitcoin business and non-existing sports equipment to defraud her victims. On her own part, Righteous assumed two false identities to misrepresent herself to unsuspecting victims and in the process defrauded them.

Dikko presented himself on Facebook as Chome Chai, a Thailand citizen and used the fake identity to advertise a fraudulent clothing business to unsuspecting members of the public while Destiny assumed the identity of an American citizen, William Justice on his Facebook and Instagram accounts, with which he successfully defrauded one Mrs. Valerie Harvey, a US citizen of \$250 in a love scam.

The press release contains photos of two of the four 419ers:

[court-jails-four-internet-fraudsters-in-kaduna](#)

25 JAN 2024

COURT JAILS GRADUATE ONE YEAR FOR DATING SCAM IN LAGOS

Justice Deinde I. Dipeolu of the Federal High Court sitting in Ikoyi, Lagos, on Monday, January 22, 2024 convicted and sentenced one Ohaguim Ifeayin Emmanuel to one year imprisonment for dating scam.

Emmanuel, a graduate of Computer Science from Chukwuemeka Odumegwu University, Uli, Anambra State, was arraigned by the Lagos Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on January 19, 2024, on two-count charges bordering on cybercrime.

One of the counts reads: "That you, Ohaguim Ifeayin Emmanuel, sometime in October, 2023, in Lagos, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, with intent to gain advantage for yourself, fraudulently impersonated one "Benjamin Valdez" by holding yourself out as such on your Google Account and you thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 22(2) (b) of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc) Act, 2015."

He pleaded "guilty" to the charges when they were read to him. Following his guilty plea, prosecution counsel, A.S. Wara, called on Usman Ahmed, an operative of the EFCC, to review the facts of the case.

Usman told the court that the defendant was arrested sometime in October, 2023, following credible intelligence received by the Commission on the activities of some internet fraudsters operating in Fine County Estate, Orchid Road, Lekki, Lagos State. According to him, an iPhone 13 Pro, iPhone XR, iPhone X and Mercedes Benz C300 were recovered from him at the point of arrest.

"Upon his arrest, he was duly processed and the defendant volunteered his statements. Investigations were conducted and forensic evidence were printed out from his phone. In his statement, he confessed he was into dating scam. Wara further told the court that the defendant confessed to have benefited 950 USD and N3.2m from his involvement in the criminal activity.

Wara, therefore, sought to tender, in evidence, the defendant's extrajudicial statements, some items recovered from him: iPhone 13 Pro, iPhone XR, iPhone X and forensic investigation documents print out.

They were all admitted as exhibits by the court.

Justice Dipeolu, consequently, convicted and sentenced him to one year imprisonment, with an option of fine of N200,000(Two Hundred Thousand Naira).

The Judge also ordered that the mobile phones and Mercedes Benz C300 recovered from him be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

[court-jails-graduate-one-year-for-dating-scam-in-lagos](#)

25 JAN 2024

EFCC ARRAIGNS TWO IN MAIDUGURI FOR N36.2M FRAUD

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, Maiduguri Zonal Command, on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, arraigned the duo of Haruna Gora Pama and Kadirri James, before Justice

Tijjani G. Ringim of the Federal High Court, Maiduguri.

They were arraigned on two-count charges of money laundering and obtaining by false pretence to the tune of N36, 247, 937.72 (Thirty Six Million, Two Hundred and Forty Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty Seven Naira, Seventy-two kobo).

Count one of the charge reads: "That you, Haruna Gora Pama, Kadiri James and Peter Katuka, Freedom, Monday Ekoja George, Abdulmajid Khamis, and David Potter (all now at large) sometimes in June 2022, at Maiduguri, Borno State, within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, did conspire amongst yourselves to do illegal act, to wit: conspiracy to commit money laundering and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 21 of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022 (as amended) respectively."

Count two reads: "That you, Haruna Gora Pama, Kadiri James and Peter Katuka, Freedom, Monday Ekoja George, Abdulmajid Khamis and David Potter (all now at large) sometimes in June 2022, at Maiduguri, Borno State within the jurisdiction of this honourable court, directly converted the aggregate sum of N 36, 247, 937. 72 (Thirty Six Million, Two Hundred and Forty Seven Thousand, Nine Hundred and Thirty Seven Naira, Seventy-two kobo) which you ought to know that it formed part of proceeds of an unlawful act to wit: obtaining money under false pretence and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 18(2) (b) of the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022 and punishable under Section 18(3) of the same Act."

The defendants pleaded "not guilty" to the charges when they were read to them. Thereafter, prosecution counsel, Faruk Muhammad prayed the court for a trial date and for them to be remanded in a Correctional Centre.

Justice Ringim remanded them in a Correctional Centre and adjourned the matter till February 1, 2024 for trial.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arraigns-two-in-maiduguri-for-n36-2m-fraud](#)

22 JAN 2024

EFCC ARRESTS 24 SUSPECTED TRAINEE INTERNET FRAUDSTERS IN UYO

Operatives of the Uyo Zonal Command of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, have arrested Twenty Four , 24, suspected internet fraudsters being trained for internet crimes in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

They were arrested on Monday, January 22, 2024 at a storey building suspected to be a criminal hideout for training internet fraudsters.

The all- male suspects were arrested in two locations in an intelligence-driven sting operation at D-Line Ewet Housing Estate and Nelson Mandela area both in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State.

They were rounded up at the upper floor of the storey building that looked like a classroom hall with chairs, tables, laptops and notepads on each table. The building is allegedly being used solely for the training of youths in various aspects of cyber criminality.

Items recovered from the premises and the suspects include: five exotic cars; 18 laptops; 17 mobile phones and one internet router.

The EFCC had, on November 28, 2019 arrested 23 trainers and trainees

at a “Yahoo Academy” at Essien Essien Street, Ikot Ibiok village in Eket Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

The suspects would be charged to court as soon as investigations are concluded.

The press release contains photos:

[efcc-arrests-24-suspected-trainee-internet-fraudsters-in-uyo](#)

19 JAN 2024

PRESIDENTIAL AIDE ON STUDENTS ENGAGEMENT HAILS OLUKAYODE ON INTERNET FRAUD

The Senior Special Assistant to the President on Student Engagement, Sunday Asefon Dayo has commended the Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Mr. Ola Olukoyede on his worry and concerns about the prevalence of internet crimes among youths across the country.

He gave the commendation in Abuja on Thursday, January 18, 2024, while on a courtesy visit to the Corporate Headquarters of the EFCC. Dayo said that internet crimes have assumed disturbing trends among youths and urgent measures should be taken to tackle them.

He expressed regret about the misrepresentation of Olukoyede’s statements regarding rising involvement of youths in internet crimes blaming it on skewed media reporting. “We need to put an end to internet crimes. It is even worrisome that some lecturers and campus workers are also getting involved in the crimes. We must do something drastic to tackle them”, he said.

Dayo lamented that internet fraudsters are getting their strength from drugs. “Cybercrimes are getting worse because youths indulging in them are propelled by drugs. I think the EFCC and National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, NDLEA, need to come together and create more awareness against the menace”, he said.

He urged the EFCC to consider giving internet fraudsters serving jail terms amnesty to ease their reformation and re-integration into the society. He also called for the establishment of EFCC Clubs on every campus in Nigeria to aid in the sensitization of students on the dangers of corruption.

Speaking further, the Presidential aide applauded the Commission’s new protocol on night operations, stressing that criminals have been hiding under nocturnal operations to perpetrate heinous crimes in the name of the EFCC. He lauded Olukoyede for his “courage, boldness and professionalism in tackling corrupt practices frontally since he assumed office. The investigation of Betta Edu and others by the EFCC is a credit to President Bola Tinubu and the EFCC. Your prompt actions and the fact that the EFCC Chairman is always on his toes are commendable”, he said.

Responding, the EFCC’s boss said the Commission was open to every interest group, especially student unions with genuine interests for collaboration to fight corruption and other related financial crimes. He explained that his concerns about the prevalence of internet crimes among youths were misconstrued, stressing that “youths can survive and succeed by doing the right things”.

He appreciated the sincerity of Dayo in espousing all the issues involved in internet crimes, maintaining that the sad trajectory of youth involvement in the crimes should not continue. “We want our youths to be properly focused. They are the future leaders we will hand over to”, he said.

He also commended members of the team for their vision and patriotism to partner with the EFCC in the fight against financial crimes and corruption,

stating that the fight against the fraud required collaborative efforts of all and sundry.

The press release contains photos:

[presidential-aide-on-students-engagement-hails-olukayode-on-internet-fraud](#)

18 JAN 2024

MAMMAN ABDULAHI IS HQ OPERATIONS MOST OUTSTANDING OFFICER OF THE YEAR

The Headquarters Operations Department of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, on Saturday, January 13, 2024, held its 2023 Annual Award with Mamman Abdulahi emerging as the Most Outstanding Officer of the Year.

At an impressive ceremony that saw investigators at the Headquarters Operations department glowing in satisfaction for an impactful year, the Advance Fee Fraud Section, AFF, stole the day by clinching two different Awards as the Section with the highest number of convictions and the Section with the highest number of cases sent to Legal & Prosecution Department.

Speaking at the occasion, Executive Chairman of the Commission, Ola Olukoyede, represented by the Secretary to the Commission, Muhammad Hammanjoda said the Commission was proud of its core values of professionalism, courage, integrity and collaboration, stressing that hard work and dedication to duty are expected from every officer.

"The Executive Chairman is willing and supportive of every department in whatever it takes to succeed with its operations. This Award ceremony is part of the cardinals we have in our policies because awards are very important in recognizing and celebrating achievements, I congratulate the Department of Operations for this initiative and we hope other departments will also follow suit", he said.

Director of Operations, Abdulkarim Chukkol appreciated the Head of Operations at the Headquarters for the wonderful initiative, urging the awardees to keep up the good work. He further stressed that in achieving the Commission's mandate everybody and all departments are relevant and eeded.

Other individual awardees are, Assistant Superintendent of the EFCC, ASE I Ogunjobi Olalekan as the Most Outstanding Investigator in Emerging Technologies, Chief Superintendent of the EFCC, CSE Olarenwaju Adeola as the Prosecutor with the highest conviction in the year under review, while the award of Most Consistent Officer in Discharge of Duties was bagged by Detective Assistant, DA III Gambo Talatu. Other awardees that shone brightly at the occasion are: Igbinomwanhia Osayomwanbo, Officer Excellent in Accountability and Professional Ethics, Fave Samuel Ismaila, Officer with Excellence in Cross Departmental Collaboration and Salisu Mohammed, Most Outstanding and Innovative Security Officer.

In the same vein, the Extractive Industry Fraud Section won the award for highest monetary recoveries, the Economic Governance II Section clinched the award of Section with the highest asset recovery (Real Estate), the Tax Fraud Section lifted the award of highest recoveries with impact on national economy while the P&ID Investigation Team comprising CSP Babangida Usein, ACE11 Iheanacho Ekele and ACE11 Abba Mohammed bagged two Awards: Excellent Investigators across borders and Excellent Prosecutors across borders.

Direction of Legal and Prosecution, Tahir Slyvanus, SAN, in his reaction, says that, giving recognition to those who deserve it is a way of encouragement. "I believe that excellence comes with hard work. Being recognized in an organization like ours given the nature of work we are doing is quite commendable", he said. He charged officers never to relent in doing the good work, saying that reward always comes, either in the short or long run.

Earlier in his opening remark, Acting Head of Operations, Assistant Commander of the EFCC, ACE I Ibrahim Idris said that the EFCC should be seen as one body because no department can function on its own. He disclosed that the 2023 HQ Operations extended its recognition to other individuals and departments outside the department in order to recognize and appreciate officers whose hard work and dedication to duty impacted the overall success of the Commission in 2023 " I wish to use this opportunity to recognize our officers that are not present, whether you are among the nominees or not, your collective efforts have contributed to our success", he said

The press release contains photos:

[mamman-abdulahi-is-hq-operations-most-outstanding-officer-of-the-year](#)

10 JAN 2024

COURT JAILS FRAUDSTER FIVE YEARS FOR \$1.6M CRYPTOCURRENCY FRAUD

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC has secured the conviction and sentencing of Benjamin Ikaa before Justice Emeka Nwite of the Federal High Court, Abuja. He was sentenced to five years imprisonment for his involvement in \$1.6million cryptocurrency fraud.

Ikaa pleaded guilty to one-count amended charge, which reads: "That you Benjamin Okenna Ikaa (Alias George; Gavrilovich; P Aleksandra; Aaron Griffin), Chidera Jonas (at large) and Ikaa Ejike Benjamin (at large) on or about 20th December, 2022 at Ugbowa Abakpa-Nike, Enugu, Enugu State, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court with intent to defraud, did send electronic messages which materially misrepresent facts in your website, www.mchaeveycapital.com about crypto currency investment to a Monica Garcia upon which she relied and suffered financial loss in the sum of \$120,000.00 (One Hundred Twenty Thousand US Dollars only) and thereby committed an offence contrary to and punishable under Section 14(2) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition Prevention etc.) Act 2015."

In view of his plea, prosecuting counsel, Aso Larrys Peter prayed the court to convict him as charged. However, defence counsel, Abel Adaji, pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy, stating that the convict has become remorseful and was a first-time offender.

Justice Nwite convicted and sentenced him to five years imprisonment with an option of fine of N5,000, 000(Five Million Naira only). Ikaa also forfeited an iPhone 13, a Toyota Avalon car, 2013 model to the Federal government. The \$11,000 recovered from him would be returned to his victims. He also wrote an undertaking to steer away from cybercrime henceforth.

Ikaa's journey to the Correctional Centre began when he was arrested by the EFCC for operating fictitious cryptocurrency investment website, www.mcharveycapital.com where he promised mouth-watering returns on investment, resulting in his unsuspecting victims incurring a loss of 26 bitcoins as at February 2023. His victims are from South Africa, Norway, United Kingdom and Barbados. When confronted with the facts of his fraudulent dealings, he owned up to them. He was thereafter prosecuted and convicted.

The press release contains a photo of the 419er:

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