

## Protocols:

I must open my remarks with a statement of gratitude and appreciation to the Honourable Attorney General of the Federation & Minister of Justice, Chief Michael Aondoakaa (SAN) for accepting to graciously commission the EFCC Headquarters' DataCentre, located here at the Costa Hall. We appreciate greatly your presence here and the strong support and unwavering commitment shown by your office towards the very important work of the Commission.

We wish to also place on record, our profound appreciation to the European Commission for the support it has shown for the fight against corruption and fraud in our country, and most importantly backing that support in concrete terms with funds to aid the Commission in establishing itself as a foremost law enforcement agency. We commend the United Nation's Office on Drugs & Crimes for managing the grant and for the transfer of knowledge to the EFCC staff.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests, the European Commission grant to the EFCC which stands at USD 32 million has greatly impacted on the rapid development of the Commission. The grant covers key areas such as:

1. The enhancement of the operational and institutional capacity of the Commission through the provision of equipment and training of staff.
2. The development of a sustainable state of the art (substantive and administrative) IT solutions for EFCC to enhance national, regional and international cooperation.
3. The support for advocacy and increased public awareness about the EFCC in its efforts to reduce economic and financial crimes (including corruption).
4. The support for the development and piloting of the implementation of a comprehensive framework to strengthen judicial integrity and capacity in Nigeria at federal and (selected) state levels.

I am happy to say that in all the four baskets of support above, remarkable achievements have been recorded. Today's Data Centre commissioning illustrates clearly and in concrete terms what the cooperation between the Commission and the development partners present here can achieve.

The Data Centres will serve as the nerve centres and repositories of data storage for the work the EFCC undertakes and is therefore a very important milestone in the sustained

development of the Commission. The European Commission funded this enterprise, while the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crimes implemented the development and deployment of the applications and infrastructure. I am certain, during the tour of the facility, the UNODC will show the operational capabilities of the deployed infrastructure and the applications developed- the goCase (the Electronic Case File), goIDM( the Infrastructure & dataCentre Model) and goAML (a standard software to counter Terrorist Financing and Money Laundering) which the Commission is proud to say were developed with our workflow as the basis. It is also interesting that following the development of these applications, the availability of its use by all United Nations Member States is an indication that through robust partnerships, very positive things could indeed emanate from our country. This is no mean achievement and should be celebrated by the country, our friends and development partners as well as the international community at large.

**In conclusion, allow me to commend the modesty exhibited by the European Commission and the UNODC. I make bold to say clearly that their support has been total, unqualified and unconditional. They have never sought or tried in any way to interfere or dictate how the Commission should operate.**

Ladies and Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests, on behalf of the Board, Management and Staff of the EFCC, I welcome you to this auspicious occasion and thank you for taking time off your very busy schedules to be here with us.

**Mrs Farida Waziri (AIG RTD**

**12<sup>th</sup> August 2008-08-12**