

# The Man Obazee, and his Knack for Exposing Corrupt Practices in High Places

Recall that before Obazee's recent appointment as CBN Special Investigator by President Tinubu, he had served as the Executive Secretary of the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (FRCN) for over six years. His career is marked by his bold pursuit of accountability and transparency. He is known for exposing corrupt practices by high-profile persons in Nigeria's corporate and financial sectors.

Obazee was the financial expert engaged by the government of ex-President Goodluck Jonathan to interview Emefiele when he was about to be appointed as CBN Governor. With his recent appointment as CBN Special Investigator by President Tinubu, Obazee has also become the only Nigerian engaged twice by the Federal Government to investigate the CBN. He first carried out the daunting task during the leadership of Sanusi Lamido Sanusi at the apex bank, where he was said to have unearthed monumental corruption.

In 2016, Obazee's recommendations led to the dismissal of the heads of some popular religious organisations in Nigeria who had violated the Corporate Governance Code which outlines a 20-year term for the heads of such organisations. Obazee-led FRC also suspended Atedo Peterside as the Chairman of IBTC in October 2015, citing infractions in the bank's financial statements. Due to these infractions, FRC asked Stanbic IBTC to restate and reissue its 2013-2014 financials, asking the bank to pay N1 billion fine and sacking its other senior officials.

Obazee's recommendations also led to the sacking of the former CBN Governor, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, in February 2014, after the ex-apex bank's boss alleged that some management staff of the NNPC under President Goodluck Jonathan's administration diverted billions of dollars. Obazee had treated Sanusi's allegation as a reflection of financial misconduct and recommended his sack, which was later approved by President Jonathan. Owing to his competence, Obazee worked with both former Presidents Jonathan and his successor,

Muhammadu Buhari. This financial technocrat has also now been found worthy by President Tinubu who has appointed him, against strong opposition by those with vested interests in and outside the government, as Special Investigator for CBN and other GBES.

A reliable Presidency source told our correspondent, "It takes a lot of political will and determination for President Tinubu to get Obazee for the job, as a lot of roadblocks were placed on the way of the President on the matter, especially by those working with him at the Presidential Villa and their collaborators outside.

The President had to go extra miles to get Obazee for the tough job. And for the Special Investigator to start his work at the CBN, his life was threatened when they found him too stubborn to be compromised. They threatened his life and those of his family. The CBN management was very hostile to him, but he has forged ahead in his work.

"Nigerians will be very shocked at what Obazee and his team have discovered and uncovered at the

CBN. Nigerians will be stunned by the various humongous recoveries and revelations that will come out from the ongoing probe of the CBN by the Special Investigator. Therefore, they have been fighting tooth and nail against Obazee.

"These same corrupt Nigerians have been the ones behind the opposition to Tinubu and ECOWAS' moves against Niger's military junta and they are planning to go further to throw the government into disarray so that the Tinubu administration will be frustrated and eventually abandon the ongoing probe of the CBN and the GBES. But I assure you, the outcome of the probe will shock Nigerians because of the humongous amount of looted funds the Special Investigator and his team will recover." With the work of the Obazee-led team of investigators, according to financial observers, the massive scale of corruption under the Emefiele-led CBN that will be unearthed will leave Nigerians spell-bound.

