

former Operations Manager at MASLOC. MASLOC is a government agency set up to assist small and medium scale business with low interest loans.

In 2017, the Economic and Organized Crime office (EOCO) conducted investigations into certain fraudulent disbursement of MASLOC funds involving the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> accused persons.

Investigations revealed that in June 2014, MASLOC invested a sum of GH¢150,000 in Obaatanpa Micro Finance Company Limited (Obaatanpa), a licensed Tier II microfinance company located at Ejura in the Ashanti Region. Thereafter, the 1<sup>st</sup> accused person offered Obaatanpa a further investment sum of GH¢500,000. As a result, a MASLOC Agricultural Development Bank (ADB) cheque dated 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 in the sum of GH¢500,000 was drawn in favour of Obaatanpa.

Soon after Obaatanpa received the MASLOC cheque, the 1<sup>st</sup> accused person informed the Board Chairman of Obaatanpa that the investment amount GH¢500,000 would attract 24% interest. Obaatanpa decided to return the amount to MASLOC since the interest rate being demanded by the accused person was too high and unprofitable for its business and issued a cheque in refund of the loan amount.

Upon presentation of the cheque, the 1<sup>st</sup> accused person declined to accept the cheque and made a demand for a cash refund. A cash amount of GH¢500,000 was delivered to the 1<sup>st</sup> accused person by the Board Chairman of Obaatanpa on the night 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 at the Baatsona Total Filling Station located on the Spintex Road in Accra. By a letter dated 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2014, the accused person acknowledged receipt of the refund sum.

In 2015, per letters some of which were under the hand of the accused person, MASLOC made demands on Obaatanpa for the payment of interest on the principal investment sum of GH¢500,000. In response to the demands, Obaatanpa wrote a reminder to MASLOC concerning the payment of the loan amount and drew the 1<sup>st</sup> accused person's attention to the unjustified demands whereupon the demands stopped.

In 2017, upon the assumption of office of new Chief Executive of MASLOC a demand notice was again sent to Obaatanpa for the payment of accrued interest on the same investment sum of GH¢500,000 whereupon Obaatanpa once again informed MASLOC that the money had already been refunded since 2014. Investigations subsequently showed that MASLOC had no record of the amount having been paid to it and that the 1<sup>st</sup> accused person had appropriated the amount of GH¢500,000.

Investigations further revealed that in April 2016, the 1<sup>st</sup> accused person obtained approval of the MASLOC Board to utilize the sum of GH¢1,706,000 of MASLOC funds for a country wide sensitization and monitoring programme for 85,300 beneficiaries of MASLOC loans. Each of the targeted 85,300 beneficiaries was to receive Twenty Ghana Cedis (GH¢20) to cover transportation and refreshment.

Between April and December 2016, upon the authority of the 1<sup>st</sup> accused person a total sum of GH¢1,816,000 withdrawn in tranches, was received by the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> accused persons even though approval had been given by the MASLOC Board for a sum of GH¢1,706,000.

Again, investigations revealed that out of the sum of GH¢1,816,000 only GH¢1,300 was spent on refreshment for some beneficiaries in the Volta,