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questioning for Tuesday, January 8, Fortune learnt.

The notification police sent out include 15 CBE officials that are active with the bank, while according to our sources the list includes others that have retired, passed away, moved to other banks or organizations and those that are now outside the country. Fortune could not verify the purpose of this summons except the notice says they are called for answering police enquiry.

Meanwhile, prosecutors of the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission have now made their ultimate move in pressing charges against former bank officials and 11 businesspeople, who have been detained for the last eight months for alleged participation in corruption while taking loans from the bank.

The Federal Higher Court will start hearing the charges scheduled for Tuesday, January 8.

Court sources indicated that Hailu Legesse, Mulugeta Gebre-Medhin

Is Justice Served?

BY TAMRAT G. GEORGIS
FORTUNE STAFF WRITER

For Sophia Bekele, president and CEO of SbcCommunications Network Plc., justice has been "perfectly" done. In the same issue and circumstances Dr. Ahmed Kello, managing director of Global Computing Systems (GCS), feels justice has been unfairly and irresponsibly denied.

And these are the diametrically opposing reactions Dawit Yohannes, speaker of the House of People's Representative, decision has triggered following his letter addressed to Sophia personally informing her that she has been awarded the most controversial project his government has.

"The House has now decided to award the bid to your company," said Speaker Dawit in his letter

dated October 4, 2001. But it is not without anticipation of problems the parliament may encounter in the future. "... your enterprise will endure with the House in solving problems that have transpired in the implementation of the said project."

Indeed, the 8.24 million Br Information Technology project (otherwise officially known as Development and Upgrading of the Parliamentary Information System) has been fiercely contentious ever since it has been awarded to GCS in February 2001. Although the project should have been completed by July, 2001, the suspension of it by Speaker Dawit, in that same month following relentless complaints by SbcNet, which was then announced to be the second bidder, has brought a complete standstill to its life until

this past week. SbcNet has now provided the parliament with its project plan that would pave the way for it to restart the installation, configuration, testing and commissioning of this project that will help the federal parliament automate all its operation.

"The project plan submitted will be accepted in principle subject to changes here and there," said Sylvester Ogbolu, project manager representing the consulting firm, YMG Technology and Trading Services Plc.

Sophia has disclosed that her company will start work on the project within the coming two weeks, committing to complete it in six months. "We will complete it within the shortest time possible," she said in her exclusive interview with Fortune.



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According to Sophia, her international company CBS International Inc., a Californian based company, will conduct 80pc of equipment supply while, SbcNet's South African partner provides CISCOS servers and other professional personnel including consultancy service during testing and commissioning.

Although Sophia appears to be full of excitement to win back her first government tender, financed by the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), after months of vehement fight, there are a number of outstanding issues that may cloud her cheerfulness.

"To proceed and award it to a third party without fulfilling their contractual obligation and without notifying us anything to that effect is simply callous," lamented Dr. Ahmed.

He says to the best interest of his company and management, the project is still suspended and