

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT APO – ABUJA**

THIS FRIDAY, THE 2ND DAY OF DECEMBER, 2021.

BEFORE: HON. JUSTICE JUDE O. ONWUEGBUZIE – JUDGE

CHARGE NO: FCT/HC/CV/CR/407/2021

BETWEEN:

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA - COMPLAINANT

AND

CHIJOKE IFENDU - DEFENDANT

Defendant - Present in court.

AliyuBokani Usman - Appearing for the Prosecution

H.M Nuhu- Appearing for the Defendant.

J U D G M E N T

The Defendant ChijiokeIfendu (Alias Hanish Ryder)was arraigned before this Court on the 11th Day of November, 2021 on one count charge of cheating by personation contrary to **section 321and punishable under section 324 of the Penal Code Act, Laws of the Federation 1990.**

The one count charge reads:

That you ChijiokeIfendu (Alias Hanish Ryder)sometimes in 2021 at Abuja within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court of the Federal Capital Territory, cheat by

personation when you created a Telegram App with the profile name Hanish Ryder, a businessman from Netherlands and under that assumed character obtained the sum of Sixty Thousand Naira (60,000) only from RodriAnthoinel, a Haiti citizen, under the pretext that the said sum is for investment into Bitmex Global Investment Company, a fact you knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to **Section 321 of the Penal Code Act, Laws of the Federation (Abuja) 1990, and punishable under section 324 of the same Act.**

When the matter came up for arraignment on the 11th day of November, 2021 before this court, the Prosecution informed the court that they have a one count charge against the Defendant before this court. That the said charge is dated 8th day of September, 2021 and humbly applied to this court for the charge to be read to the hearing and understanding of the Defendant.

The charge was read out to the hearing and understanding of the Defendant, the court asked the Defendant whether he understood the charge read against him in English Language. The Defendant answered in the affirmative. The court asked the Defendant whether he is guilty of the offence or not. The Defendant pleaded guilty to the charge.

In view of the plea of guilty by the Defendant, Prosecutor adopted the Plea Bargain Agreement that was mutually signed by the Defendant, his counsel and the Prosecution. That the plea bargain was agreed on the terms in line with **section 270 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015** and urged the court to consider the terms of the Plea Bargain Agreement while sentencing the Defendant.

The Counsel to the Defendant also adopted the Plea Bargain Agreement and told the court that the Defendant has complied with the prerequisite of the plea bargain and that the Defendant has also been consistent in fully and effectively cooperating with the prosecution during the investigation. That the Defendant is a first offender and he is very remorseful and stepped up to assume responsibility for his action of

which the Defendant is very sorry. That as a sign of remorse the Defendant has refunded all he benefited as proceeds of his crime. That the Defendant is a young man who will do better if given another chance. The Counsel urged the court to implore leniency as opposed to grave punitive measures and temper justice with mercy while sentencing the Defendant.

Pursuant to **section 270 subsections (9) & (10) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015**, the court asked the Defendant to confirm the terms of the agreement. The Defendant admitted all the allegations contained in the amended charge to which he pleaded guilty and agreed entering into the plea bargain agreement voluntarily without any influence or coercion. The Defence counsel confirmed being part of the plea bargain agreement.

It is on this premise, that this Honourable Court after being satisfied that the Defendant is guilty of the charge preferred against him, convicted Chijioke Ifendu (Alias Hanish Ryder) the Defendant in this case for cheating by personation by creating a Telegram App with the profile name Hanish Ryder, a businessman from Netherlands and under that assumed character obtained the sum of Sixty Thousand Naira (60,000) only from Rodri Anthoinel, a Haiti citizen, under the pretext that the said sum is for investment into Bitmex Global Investment Company, a fact he knew to be false and thereby committed an offence contrary to **Section 321 of the Penal Code Act, Laws of the Federation (Abuja) 1990, and punishable under section 324 of the same Act.**

Section 270 ACJA provides the modalities for plea bargain agreement and permits the parties to propose the nature of the sentence to be meted on

the defendants the Judge has a direction under the law to adopt the plea bargain as proposed by the parties or reject same if not adequate having regard to his view of the case where an offence is rampant and there is need to discourage further spread of same in the society, the sentencing guidelines encourage that this be reflected in the sentence imposed as a form of deterrence it seem to me that the offence with which the defendant is charged in this instant falls into this category.

Having taken into consideration of the facts of this case, the punishment prescribed for it by law, and the terms of the plea bargain filed and adopted in court. I hereby sentence the defendant to two months imprisonment as agreed in the plea bargain document. The computation of this sentence shall take into account the period spent in custody by the defendant from 11th November, 2021 to date as required by section 416 (2) e of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015.

This is the Judgment of the Court.

Hon. Justice Jude O. Onwuegbuzie

