

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE
FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY**

IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION

HOLDEN AT NYANYA- ABUJA

THIS MONDAY THE 20TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2024

BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP: HON. JUSTICE ALIYU YUNUSA SHAFI

SUIT NO: FCT/HC/CR/838/2024

BETWEEN:

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA.....COMPLAINANT

AND

PRINCE OKOKUJE (AKA Thompson Edger)..... DEFENDANT

Offence: cheating by personation. Section 321 and punishable under section 324 of the penal code.

Defendant present in court.

Appearance: Elizabeth Alabi for the prosecution.

Defence: M.I. Balogun for the defendant

Prosecution: the matter is slated for arraignment and the defendant is served with one count charge and is ready to proceed.

Court: defence are you ready?

Defence yes we are ready

Prosecution proceed

Applying that the one count charge be read to the defendant.

Court the one count charge of cheating by personation was read and explained to the defendant. The defendant is called upon to reply to the said one count charge.

Court defendant do you understand the charge read and explained to you?

Defendant yes I do

Court: defendant are you guilty or not guilty.

Defendant I am guilty.

Prosecution: the defendant having pleaded guilty to the one count charge, apply that the court convict the defendant accordingly.

Conviction: I am satisfied that the defendant having understood the one count charge read and explained to him and pleaded guilty to the offence, knowing fully well the implication of pleading guilty. This court will accept the plea of guilty made by the defendant and convict the defendant for the offence of cheating by personation. The offence punishable under section 324 of the penal code law triable by this court.

Prosecution before this court is a plea bargain agreement signed by parties urge the court to adopt the plea bargain agreement in sentencing the defendant.

Defendant that is the position.

Allocutus: I shall be pleading for mercy. I have already stopped doing the fraudulent business before re-locating to Abuja. This is not the life I choose for myself and right now, I am with my uncle learning a real Estate Business

In view of the foregoing I shall be pleading for mercy.

Defence: praying the court to temper justice with mercy that from my interaction with the defendant and his family members, he is now a changed man. At the moment his uncle that he is working with has absolved him in his house in order to monitor his movement.

That the convict spent 16 days in detention of EFCC and believed that the time he spent in detention might have taught him lessons. We appeal to the court to temper justice with mercy.

Sentence: the defendant was convicted for the offence of cheating by impersonation. The fact that in the year 2023 in Abuja the defendant did

fraudulently impersonate a U.S. citizen named Thompson Edger on his instagram account”

Thompson Edger obtained the sum of \$80 from one Sharon Peterson.

Upon the plea of guilty, he cannot plead for mercy and promise that he is a changed person and that the court should temper justice with mercy.

The prosecution upon conviction informed the court that there was a plea bargain agreement entered between the defendant. The prosecution then prayed the court to use the plea bargain agreement in sentencing the convict.

I have carefully gone through the plea bargain agreement signed dated the 18-11-2024, I will adopt the said agreement as the sentence of this court.

In view of the foregoing the claimant is hereby sentenced to six months imprisonment or a fine of N100, 000,00. The defendant is to undertake to be of good behavior and the 1 phone 13 pro max mobile phone which is the instrument used to perpetrate the fraud recovered from the defendant during investigation is hereby forfeited to the FG of Nigeria and the sum of \$ 80 RECOVERED IS HEREBY forfeited to the FGN through the office of the EFCC. The forfeited iPhone 13 pro max be sold and money recovered be paid to the FGN recovery of proceeds of crime account together with the \$ 80 Dollar and the receipt of the payment be forwarded to this court for it's record purpose.

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Hon Justice A. Y. Shafa