

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ABUJA  
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION  
HOLDEN AT COURT NO. 13 WUSE ZONE 2 ABUJA  
BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP: HON JUSTICE A. S. ADEPOJU  
THIS 23<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY 2022**

**SUIT NO: FCT/HC/CR/565/2021**

**BETWEEN:**

**FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ----- COMPLAINANT  
AND**

**SULEIMAN LAWAL aka ALLISON MARA ----- DEFENDANT**

***YETUNDE ALABI** for the Prosecution.*

***IBOKI CLEMENT** for the Defendant.*

*Matter is for arraignment.*

**JUDGEMENT**

Pursuant to Sections 270 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015 the parties filed a plea bargain agreement dated 22/11/2021 and filed on 10/12/2021 with the following terms:

**WHEREAS:**

1. Following surveillance carried out on an intelligence report of internet fraud activities at Abuja, by operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Complainant, various suspects including the defendant were arrested.
2. Investigation conducted following the arrest of the defendant revealed that:
  - a. He fraudulently impersonated himself via the internet as Allison Mara who resides in the United States of America with Gmail address allisonmaron98@gmail.com to one Kamzy and obtained the sum of **E150 (One Hundred and Fifty Euros)**.
3. During the course of investigation into the case, the defendant admitted his wrong doings and showed remorse for his actions.

4. The Defendant has applied to the complainant for a plea bargain through his lawyer Gurka Ayiko Blessing.
5. That upon the application of the defendant to plead guilty to the charge, the prosecution hereby accepts and enter into this agreement upon the terms and conditions hereunder stated.

**IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. That before the conclusion of this agreement, the defendant was informed:
  - i. That he has the right to remain silent.
  - ii. Of the consequences of not remaining silent.
  - iii. That he is not obliged to make any confession or admission that could be used in evidence against him.
2. That the defendant shall plead guilty to the one count charge of cheating by personation dated 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2021, before this Honorable Court.
3. That the defendant's shall pay the sum of **E150 (One Hundred and Fifty Euros)** as restitution which will be paid to the victim.
4. That the defendant's Infinix Smart 3 which was used as instruments of his criminal exploits shall be forfeited to the complainant.
5. That the forfeited phone shall be sold by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission and proceeds realized from the sale be paid to the Federal Government.
6. That upon conviction, sentencing of the Defendant by this Honorable Court shall be either one year imprisonment or fine of **N500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira)**.

**CHARGE:** *That you Suleiman Lawal aka Allison Mara sometimes in 2020 within the jurisdiction of this Honorable Court fraudulently impersonated yourself via the internet as Allison Mara who resides in the United States of America with Gmail address allisonmaron98@gmail.com to one Kamzy and obtained the*

sum of **E150 (One Hundred and Fifty Euros)** *and thereby committed an offence under Section 324 of the Penal Code Act Cap 532, Laws of the Federation.*

**COURT:** The charge reproduced above was again read to the defendant and he understood the content and in his own words admitted to have committed the said offence. The defendant in the circumstance is hereby convicted for the offence of attempted cheating by personation an offence under Section 95 of the Penal Code Act Cap 532, Laws of the Federation.

### **SENTENCING**

I have listened to the plea for mitigation as espoused by Learned Counsel to the defendant. The defendant is a young man, a student and sending him to prison may not be beneficial to him. He appears sober. I think he has a bright future, which he should also guard jealously by being of good behavior.

Consequently, the defendant is hereby sentenced to a fine of **~~N~~150,000.00 (One hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira)** and failure to pay, the defendant is to serve a jail term of six (6) months.

**Signed**

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**Hon. Judge  
23/2/2022**