

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE
FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY**
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT GWAGWALADA- ABUJA
THIS TUESDAY THE 2ND DAY OF JULY, 2024
BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP: HON. JUSTICE ALIYU YUNUSA SHAFI

SUIT NO: FCT/HC/CR/122/2023

BETWEEN:

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA..... COMPLAINANT

AND

ABIOLA SOKUNBI.....DEFENDANT

Appearance: I. D. IloAgashaw for Prosecution.

Defendant G.O. Salitor for the defendant

Prosecution the matter is slated for a charge dated 34/4/2023 filed on the 7/12/2023, we apply that the charge be read and the plea of the defendant taken.

Court the charge is read and explained to the defendant, the defendant is called upon to reply to the said two count charge

Court: defendant do understand the said two count charge

1st count yes I understand

Court: 1st defendant guilty or not guilty

Defendant I am guilty

2nd count do you understand the said charge 1st defendant yes

Court defendant are you guilty or not guilty

Defendant I am guilty

Prosecution in view of the defendant's plea of guilty, we apply that the defendant be convicted and sentenced accordingly.

CONVICTION

The defendant is hereby convicted for the offence punishable under section 324 of the penal code and section 6 of the penal code law.

ALLOCUTUS

I am just a victim of circumstance I just started to realize money from my trade. That he was very sorry and prayed to the court to temper justice with mercy and will never go back to the crime again.

Defence: that the court should consider the plea made by the convict urge the court to show leniency to the defendant. That the defendant had agreed to purge himself.

Defendant we urge the court to consider our allocutus and sentence the convict so that the society can term a new leave so that the defendant will be adhere on

Urge the court to temper justice with mercy by given the defendant a light sentence.

Court: prosecution is there any past record of conviction of the defendant known to you?

Prosecution we don't have any record of previous conviction to my knowledge.

Prosecution. In the course of investigation we retrieved the Infinix vivo, we apply that the mobile phone be forfeited to the FGN through the EFCC.

Court: stood down for sentence

SIGNED

JUSGE

SENTENCE

Convict was alleged sometimes in October 2023 in Abuja to have fraudulently created a fake instegram account and impersonated Lucy MacGregor and obtained the sum of \$310 USD from One Johnson Havens from USA.

The convict also sometime which he knew or ought to have known contained elements of false pretense, these documents he held unto with intent to defraud.

The convict admitted the commission of the offence and in his plea of allocutus pleaded with the court that he is a victim of circumstance and that the court should temper justice with mercy, further pleading with the court that he has learnt his lesson and will never go back to the life of crime.

The defence counsel further pleaded with the court to temper justice with mercy and prayed that the court should give the convict a lighter sentence

The convict having carefully listened to the plea of allocutus made by the convict, it obviously seems that the convict has since the commission of the said offence really moved on with life and is now a change man. The convict has shown a sign of remorse meaning he regrets his action.

However, the rate at which the offence is being perpetrated in this country by means of social media is really alarming the convict thus cannot go scot free. However going by the fact that the convict is a first time offender, this court will give the convict a noncustodial sentence reasons being that sending the convict to prison will make him more hardened.

In view of the above, the convict is hereby sentenced to a 3 days community service at the EFCC headquarters from the 3rd of July 2024 to the 5th of July, 2024 between the hours of 8:am to 12:00noon on each day, the community service is to be supervised by the legal department of the commission.

The infinix vivo phone recovered from the convict is hereby forfeited to the Federal Government through the EFCC.

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Hon. Justice A. Y. Shaf