

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY

IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION

HOLDEN AT MAITAMA

BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP: HON. JUSTICE Y. HALILU
COURT CLERKS : JANET O. ODAH & ORS
COURT NUMBER : HIGH COURT NO. 14
CASE NUMBER : CHARGE NO: CR/239/2023
DATE: : MONDAY 24TH JUNE, 2024

BETWEEN:

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA COMPLAINANT

AND

AWULU FRIDAY AYEGBA DEFENDANT

JUDGMENT

The offence Defendant is charged with is not of Capital Nature to warrant a not guilty plea to be entered despite admission of guilt.

In consequence of his guilty plea, Defendant is hereby convicted as charged under Section 319(A) of the Penal Code Act Cap 532 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (Abuja) 1999.

***Justice Y. Halilu
Hon. Judge
24th June, 2024***

ALLOCUTUS

Thony:- The Convict has spent about 54 days in Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) custody and a Month in detention. We plead with the Court to sentence him accordingly and give him option of fine.

Anemeze:- The Convict has returned the sum of N15,000,000.00 (Fifteen Million Naria) which is the charge before the Court.

We have entered into a plea bargain with the Defendant now Convict, we therefore urge the Court to sentence him as per the plea bargain agreement.

SENTENCING

Section 270 of ACJA, 2015 makes provision for plea bargain which is geared towards ensuring speedy disputing of criminal matters.

I have seen the plea bargain agreement filed by the Prosecution which was duly signed by Convict, Prosecution and witnesses to the respective signatures of the Convict and Prosecution.

My duty, only, at this point is to give legal effect to the conviction by sentencing the Convict based on the Terms of the Plea Bargain which is allowed under Section 270 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, 2015. This I shall do by affixing the necessary judicial limbs to the agreement and infusing judicial blood to make same legally efficacious.

Accordingly, I hereby sentence the Convict to a prison term of six (6) months or to pay a fine of N500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira).

Convict shall serve the said prison term at the Kuje Correctional Facility.

I am hopeful that Convict upon regaining his freedom, shall desist from such easy money making ways and embrace the path of sincerity and hard work. So help me God.

***Justice Y. Halilu
Hon. Judge
24th June, 2024***

APPEARANCES

T.M. Anemeze, Esq. – for the Prosecution.

Tony Eseighbe, Esq. – for the Defendant.