

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY,
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION,
HOLDEN AT COURT NO. 9 GARKI, ABUJA.
BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP: HON. JUSTICE S.B. BELGORE

MOTION NO: /M/1657/2025

BETWEEN:

BIZPLUS CONSULTING SERVICES LTD-----APPLICANT

AND

HONOURABLE MINISTER OF FINANCE----- RESPONDENT

AND THE COORDINATING MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY

RULING

By Motion Exparte No **M/1657/2025** dated **5/02/2025** and filed on **6/02/2025** the Applicant prayed this Court for the following orders:

1. **AN ORDER** of this Honourable Court granting leave to the Applicant to apply for an Order of Mandamus to compel the Respondent to release the payment information sought in the Applicant's letter of 27th January, 2025 [addressed to the Respondent] under the Freedom of Information Act, 2011.
2. **ANY OTHER ORDER OR ORDERS** that the Honourable Court may deem fit to make on the circumstances.

In support of the motion is an affidavit of 7 paragraphs with one exhibit annexed. A written address was also filed in support of the application. There is also a further affidavit of 7-paragraphs deposed to by A. Ewuga. This one has Exhibit 'B' attached. Exhibit B is the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act.

I have thoroughly considered the application in the light of the averments in the supporting affidavit, and particularly in the light of the Applicant's letter to the Respondent dated 27th January 2025 annexed as Exhibit 'A'. I have also considered Counsel's arguments in the written address and the authorities cited therein.

This application simply calls for the exercise of the discretion of this Court in granting leave to the Applicant to initiate an action for judicial review. This court is empowered under the Rules to grant leave to any applicant to commence an action for judicial review, where there are viable grounds for such an action.

In my view, in the light of the averments in the affidavit, this application has merit and ought to succeed. I so hold.

The prayers sought on the face of the motion are therefore granted as prayed.

For the avoidance of doubt, these are the orders of the Court:

1. **LEAVE IS HEREBY GRANTED** to the Applicant to apply for an Order of Mandamus to compel the Respondent to release the payment information sought in the Applicant's letter of 27th January, 2025 [addressed to the Respondent] under the Freedom of Information Act, 2011.
2. The Applicant is directed to file his originating process in the registry of this Court within 2 days from the date of this order and to serve same on the Respondent.

This matter stands adjourned to 4th March 2025 for hearing.

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S. B. Belgore
(Judge) 19/2/2025