

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY**  
**HOLDEN AT MAITAMA ABUJA**  
**ON THE 26<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2015**  
**BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP: HON. JUSTICE MARYANN E. ANENIH**  
**(PRESIDING JUDGE)**

**SUIT NO: FCT/HC/CV/141/11**

**BETWEEN:**

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA.....**COMPLAINANT**

**AND**

1. JONATHAN ABUTU ATTAH
2. FRANCIS NWABUNDU
3. IMAM YAQUB IS'HAQ ..... **ACCUSED**
4. RAMATU IBRAHIM (MRS)

**CONVICTION AND SENTENCE**

Before this Honourable Court is a 13 (thirteen count) Amended Charge filed on the 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2011.

The Fourth Accused person is charged under Count 13 of the said charge as follows:

13. That you Ramatu Ibrahim (Mrs), a Public Officer in the Police Service Commission, Abuja; while being a public officer, in the months of August and September 2009, did receive the total sum of N156,129.42 (One Hundred and Fifty-six Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty Nine Naira, Forty-two Kobo) through your Zenith Bank Account No. 6031310903 when you knowingly imputed the name Shehu M. a pseudo name into the Commission's salary Schedule and pay-roll for the months of August and September 2009 and you thereby committed an offence contrary to section 13

and punishable under section 68 of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act 2000.

Accused person pleads guilty to count 13 of the charge.

### **CONVICTION**

The forth accused person Ramatu Ibrahim (Mrs) is arraigned before this court on a one count charge of receiving and knowingly imputing a pseudo name into Police Service Commission's Salary Schedule and Pay-roll for the months' of August and September 2009, an offence contrary to Section 13 and punishable under Section 68 of the Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Act 2000.

The charge having been read to her, she has pleaded guilty. The facts have been stated and she has maintained her guilty plea.

I am therefore satisfied that she has understood the charge framed against her in all the essential details of the charge and that she knows the consequences of her guilty plea. It is on the basis of the guilty plea and in line with Section 187 (2) of the Criminal Procedure Code that the said 4<sup>th</sup> accused person is hereby convicted as charged on the 13<sup>th</sup> count of the charge.

### **SENTENCE**

I have carefully considered the plea of the accused person's counsel for leniency and the views earlier expressed by the prosecuting counsel on her remorse and absence of any previous convictions against her.

I have also considered the relevant offence she is convicted for and the fact that the accused person is remorseful and has opted not to further waste the time of this court by pleading guilty. It has

also been said on her behalf that she is a mother with health challenges.

However even in the light of all this the law must take its course as the offence against her is one in which if allowed to grow wild would leave the entire public confers so devoid of funds that the running of the entire Government administrative system may grind to a halt.

Offenders in this regard therefore ought not to ordinarily be allowed to go scot free, as individuals should not be encouraged to enrich themselves at the expense of the citizenry at large. Future intending offenders have to be deterred.

All the above having been said, this court would tamper justice with mercy by imposing a minimal sentence on the 4<sup>th</sup> accused person in line with the provisions of the enabling law under which she has been brought before this court, in view of the plea made on her behalf and her option to plead guilty and save the precious time of this court.

Consequently, the 4<sup>th</sup> accused person Ramatu Ibrahim (Mrs) is hereby sentenced in respect of the said count 13 (thirteen) of the charge to 3 months imprisonment and a fine of ₦10,000.00.

(Signed)

Honourable Judge.

Mathias Ikyar Esq holding brief of M.M. Nurudeen Esq for prosecution.

Josiah Daniel Ebule Esq for 2<sup>nd</sup> accused also holding the brief for 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> accused persons'

B.A. Ochoja Esq for 1<sup>st</sup> accused

Obi C. Chukwuma Esq for 4<sup>th</sup> accused.