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IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF KWARA STATE
IN THE ILORIN JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ILORIN

SUIT NO: KWS/129^C/2023

ON TUESDAY 25TH DAY OF JULY, 2023

BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP: HONOURABLE JUSTICE .M. ABDULGAFAR

BETWEEN:

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA.....COMPLAINANT

AND

TAIWO RAPHEAL APIRIOLA

(ALIAS: SANDRA GRIFFITH)..... DEFENDANT

JUDGMENT

1. The defendant was arraigned before this court on a lone count charge alleging as follows:

COUNT 1

That you, Taiwo Rapheal Apiriola (Alias: Sandra Griffith) sometimes between the month of January 2021 and August 2021, in Ilorin, within the jurisdiction of this Honourable court, did cheat by personation when you pretended to be one Sandra Griffith a white Female from California, United states of America and through that identity, you applied and received a total sum of \$41,278 (Forty-One Thousand, Two Hundred Dollars) from the state of California Employment Development Department as Pandemic Support with the intent to gain advantage to yourself and thereby

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committed an offence contrary to section 321 of the penal code Law and punishable under section 324 of the penal code Law.

2. The prosecution called Loveday Godwin an operative of EFCC, Ilorin Zonal command as its only witness after the plea of the defendant was taken.

It is the evidence of Pw1 that following Intel received by the commission on the activities of suspected internet fraudsters within Ilorin, Kwara state, his team carried out a sting operation on 5/5/23 which led to the arrest of the defendant around Egbejila area with iPhone 14 plus, Nokia Tab T20, HP Laptop and a Lexus car.

3. PW1 further states that on analyzing the devices found with the defendants using the details and password supplied by him, it was discovered that he was engaging in pandemic support fraud under a name Sandra Griffith and fraudulently obtained a total sum of \$41,278 from Californian government. Pw1 also states that the defendant acquired the phones, Laptop, Lexus car and a 4 bedroom bungalow at Alashe area, in Ilorin from the proceeds of the crime. Pw1 states that the defendant confessed to committing the offence in his statement made under caution.

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4. Addressing the court, Mr. Kaigama esq. urges the court to hold that the prosecution has from the evidence of Pw1, the defendants guilty plea and exhibits 1-9 before the court, established the case against the defendant beyond reasonable doubt. The court is urged to convict the defendant as charged.

Mr. Salako Esq. for the defendant had nothing to urge in his favour.

5. I have considered the evidence of Pw1, the defendant's guilty plea as well as exhibits 1-9 before the court and find as a fact that prosecution has established the case against the defendant beyond reasonable doubt.

I convict you Taiwo Rapheal Apiriola of cheating by personation when you pretended to be one Sandra Griffith a white female from California and fraudulently obtained the sum of \$41,278 from Californian government contrary to section 321 of penal code law.

SENTENCE

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I have considered the plea of the convict for the court to be lenient as well as the fact that he is a first time offender.

I sentence you Taiwo Raphael Apiriola to a term of 2 years at Ilorin Correctional Center.

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This sentence is hereby suspended on the following condition.

1. That the convict does not commit any offence pertaining to internet fraud.
2. The convict is subject to the supervision of probation officer, Azeez Towoju of the non-custodial unit of Federal Correctional Service, Ilorin.

Exhibit 1, 2, 3, 4 and the Lexus to which exhibits 1 relates and the property to which exhibit 5 relates are all forfeited to Federal Government of Nigeria.

G. A. M. D.

HON. JUSTICE M. ABDULGAFAR

JUDGE

25/07/2023

Appearances:

M.M. Kaigama for the prosecution.

O. Salako for the defendant.



Certified by me
Salmon Marson O.
Chief Clerk Officer
12/3/2024

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