

IN THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT OF NIGERIA
IN THE ASABA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ASABA
ON FRIDAY THE 5th DAY OF JULY, 2019
BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP, HON. JUSTICE DR. NNAMDI O. DIMGBA
JUDGE

SUIT NO: FHC/ASB/CR/72C/19

BETWEEN:

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIACOMPLAINANT

AND

IKPONMWUSA RAYMOND (ALIAS EDDY PRAIZ).... DEFENDANT

JUDGMENT

On the basis of a plea bargain agreement dated and filed 03/07/2019, between the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Complainant), (represented by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and Ikponmwusa Raymond (Alias Eddy Praiz) (Defendant), the Charge against the Defendant is dated and filed 03/07/2019 and alleges as follows:

That you Ikponmwusa Raymond (Alias Eddy Praiz) sometimes between 2018 and June 2019 in Warri Delta State within the Jurisdiction of this Honourable Court did fraudulently impersonates the identity of one Eddy Praiz a white man in your facebook account by sending documents to unsuspecting ladies through the



internet which documents you claim emanated from the said Eddy Praiz with intent to obtain money from the ladies, and you thereby committed an offence contrary to section 22(2) (b) (ii) of the Cybercrime (Prohibition Prevention) Act 2015 and punishable under section 22(2) (b) (iv) of the same Act.

On the 05/07/2019 the Defendant was arraigned and a plea was taken with the Defendant pleading guilty to the one count charge. The matter progressed to hearing. The Prosecution in an effort to prove that the Defendant committed the offence alleged, despite his plea, called one witness, **Chika Uneke (PW1)** who after the administration of oath testified to the Defendant's arrest and all the effort and steps taken by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), following the Defendant's apprehension, to establish the crime. Four (4) **Exhibits** were tendered through the PW1 as follows:

1. Statement of the Defendant, dated 28/06/2019 – admitted as **Exhibit IR1**.
2. Document generated from social medial account - admitted as **Exhibit IR2**.
3. Techno phone - admitted as **Exhibit IR3**.
4. HP laptop - admitted as **Exhibit IR4**.

The learned counsel to the Prosecution urged the Court to convict the Defendant based on his plea of guilt, and to impose



the penalty agreed upon by the parties in the plea bargain agreement in line with Section 270 (4) of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015.

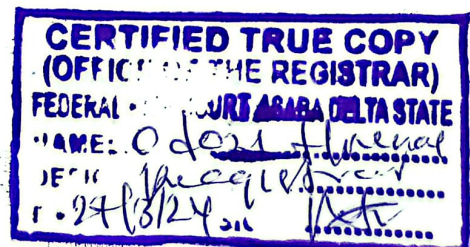
CONVICTION

Having reviewed the evidence and as well taken into account the content of the plea agreement dated and filed on 03/07/19, also considering the guilty plea of the Defendant to the one count charge, I am convinced of the guilt of the Defendant and therefore convict him accordingly.

SENTENCE

I have studied the terms of the plea agreement and note that I am not satisfied with same in view of the ravaging effects of the offence the convict has been charged with, cybercrime fraud, and the negative impact it has created about the image of Nigeria as a den of fraudsters. I am of the view that a more deterrent punishment should be imposed. I am therefore sentencing the convict to 1 year imprisonment with effect from today the 28th Day of June 2019, with a fine of N200,000.00 (Two Hundred Thousand Naira).

I further order that Exhibits IR3 be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.



DDG

NNAMDI O. DIMGBA

JUDGE

05/07/2019

Parties: Defendant in Court.

Appearances: **L.P. Aso Esq**, with **V.O. Agboje Esq**, **M.O Arumemi Esq**, **I. Ilodi Esq** for the Prosecution.

P.E. Ejiga Esq, with **C.O Erhabor Esq**,

P.I Onyibe Esq for the Defendant



RRR 2510-2116-247D

