

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. 15

CASE NUMBER : SUIT NO: CV/1539/2021

DATE: :THURSDAY 15TH JULY, 2021

BETWEEN:

VALENTINE OZIGBO.....CLAIMANT/APPLICANT

AND

1.PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP)

2.INDEPENDENT NATIONAL

ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC) RESPONDENTS

DEFENDANTS/

RULING

This ruling is at the instance of Claimant/Applicant Valentine Ozigbo who approached this Court for the following reliefs vide Motion Ex-parte No. **M/4547/21** for the following reliefs:-

1. An interim Order of this Honourable Court restraining the 1st Defendant from tampering with the name of the Claimant/Applicant already submitted to the 2nd Defendant as its candidate for the Anambra State Governorship Election fixed for 6th November, 2021.
2. An Interim Order of Injunction Mandating the 2nd Defendant to publish the name of the Claimant already submitted to it as the candidate of the 1st Defendant.

3. An Order of this Honourable Court granting accelerated hearing of this Suit.
4. An Order of this Honourable Court abridging the time within which the Respondents may file and serve their counter affidavit, written addresses and Preliminary Objection to the instant Suit to five(5) days from the date of the service of the Originating Processes, including this Ex-parte Order, on them.
5. And for such Order or further Orders as this Court may deem fit to make in the circumstances.

The application which had five(5) grounds in support equally was supported by a 13 paragraph affidavit, Exhibit 'Val 1' i.e Anambra State Governorship Primary Election result 2021 and written address.

I have carefully read the affidavit in support and the written address which says it all on the need to grant the instant application, same being a pre-election matter which deserves expeditious determinations.

I have considered the affidavit and the written address in support of the application.

It is not my desire to allow any party to be overreached by this step taken by the Claimant/Applicant.. I shall not grant the said reliefs 1 and 2 as contained on the Motion Paper..same is refused and dismissed.

Reliefs 3 and 4 are hereby granted.

In consonance with the desire of the Plaintiff/Applicant to preserve the Res in this matter, I Order that all parties to this Suit be put on notice, and I also further Order that status quo shall be

maintained by INEC by not publishing the name of any candidate as Governorship Candidate of Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) pending the hearing and determination of the Motion on Notice.

Matter adjourned to the 22nd July, 2021 for hearing.

Justice. Y. Halilu
Hon. Judge
15th July, 2021

APPEARANCES

I. L Unundu Esq., with Ikenna Chris Ukpai Esq. for the Claimant/Applicant.