

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE
FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ABUJA
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT JABI - ABUJA**

BEFORE: HON. JUSTICE O. C. AGBAZA

COURT CLERKS: UKONU KALU & GODSPower EBAHOR

COURT NO: 10

SUIT NO: FCT/HC/CV/0285/2017

BETWEEN:

**MRS AJOKE SHOKERA.....CLAIMANT
VS**

**1. MRS OMOWUNMI MODUPE BANJO
2. PASTOR MRS GRACE SULE.....DEFENDANTS**

CONSENT JUDGMENT

This Suit was commenced on 29/11/2017 by the Claimant against the Defendants and prays for the reliefs set out in Paragraph 21 of the Statement of Claim and after several adjournments the parties agreed to resolve this Suit out of court. Consequently, they filed Terms of Settlement dated 18/5/2020 and filed 25/6/2020, endorsed by the parties and counsel in court adopts the said Terms of Settlement on behalf of the parties, asked the court to enter it as Consent Judgment of the parties in this Suit.

Having carefully considered this submission of both counsel and noting that the parties have endorsed the said Terms, the court shall enter it as Consent Judgment of the parties. Accordingly, the Terms of Settlement

dated 18/5/2020 and filed 25/6/2020 is hereby entered as Consent Judgment of the parties in this Suit.

TERMS OF SETTLEMENT

WHEREAS the claimant instituted this action in the High Court of the Federal Territory seeking for the following reliefs against the Defendants as follows:-

- (a) A declaration that the Statement made by the Defendant against the Plaintiff as follows: "I have known her for about four years now she has been living with a man who is not her husband, her concubine, who left his wife and children in Lagos, and Mrs Shokera had divorce her husband for many years. When I heard that Mrs. Shokera was announced as the HOD of Sanitation Department of the Church, I felt in my mind that doesn't the church conduct search before they make somebody an HOD in the Church" is false, untrue and malicious thereby amounts to defamation of Plaintiff's character.
- (b) A declaration that the 2nd Defendant by rebroadcasting the alleged Statement to other members of the meeting that were invited to listen to the allegations made by the 1st Defendant defamed the Plaintiff's character.
- (c) An Order directing the Defendants to tender and publish and unreserved apology in two National Dailies, one of which must be Daily Trust Newspaper, for defaming the Plaintiff's character.

- (d) An Order of Perpetual Injunction restraining the Defendants from further broadcasting and rebroadcasting or publishing of the defamatory Statement.
- (e) The sum of ₦10,000,000.00 (Ten Million Naira) only, against the Defendants as damages for defaming the Plaintiff's character and tarnishing her image by the Statement.

AND WHEREAS based on family and church interventions and without filing a defence by the Defendants, the parties hereto have agreed to an out of court settlement upon the terms hereby below contained.

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AND RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS that:

- (1) The Defendants denied making the Statement as quoted in the Claimant's Claim.
- (2) That what the 1st Defendant said about the Claimant when asked how long she had known the Claimant and where the Claimant was residing at the time in question, when it was announced in the Church that the Claimant lost her husband were that:

She had known the Claimant for upward of 4 (Four) years and that she was residing in the House of her Husband's (Mr. Banjo's) Uncle at Gaduwa Estate, Abuja, where she met her for the first time.

And that the issue of her husband uncle's family or the Claimant divorcing her husband never arose in the interrogation of the 1st Defendant by the Pastor.

- (3) That the Claimant is a respected person within the Church and the Society and will not be discredited and/or embarrassed by the Defendants particularly the 1st Defendant in any manner whatsoever.
- (4) That the Defendants apologize if the Claimant felt embarrassed by reason of the 1st Defendant's Statement to the church as stated in Paragraph 2 above.
- (5) That the Defendants shall in the interest and pursuit of peace, pay to the Claimant the sum of ₦350,000.00 to mitigate the cost of the Claimant incurring in filing the Suit in Court.
- (6) That the above Terms shall be adopted as the Judgment of the Court in this Suit.

HON. JUSTICE O. C. AGBAZA

Presiding Judge

10/2/2021

APPEARANCE:

TOLA OLORUNFUNMI - FOR THE CLAIMANT

O.S. OWEAZIM - FOR THE DEFENDANTS.

