

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE F.C.T.

IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION

HOLDEN AT KUBWA, ABUJA

ON TUESDAY, THE 14TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2021

BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP: HON. JUSTICE K. N. OGBONNAYA
JUDGE

SUIT NO.: FCT/HC/CR/5039/20

BETWEEN:

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ----- } **APPLICANT**

AND

UZOAMAKA RACHAEL OKORIE ----- } **DEFENDANT**

BENCH JUDGMENT

This Court had on the 13th July, 2020 granted an Interim Order of Forfeiture of the sum of Four Million, Eighty Five Thousand, Four Hundred and Thirty Seven Naira, Ninety Five Kobo (~~₦~~4,085,437.95) which the Applicant claimed is the proceed of crime stashed in the Account of the Respondent Uzoamaka Rachael Okorie at First Bank.

The Court had in its Ruling on the said Interim Order of Forfeiture ordered that the Applicant ICPC should publish the Order of Court in two (2)

daily Newspapers for anyone to show cause why the Court should not make the Interim Order and should not be made absolute and the said money be forfeited to the Federal Government.

The Applicant had complied with the said Order in that they published in two (2) National daily Newspapers – the Daily Sun Newspaper of Monday 9th November, 2020 and second publication in the Guardian Newspaper of the same 9th November, 2020.

The Court also ordered that the Applicant should swear to an Affidavit deposing to that fact. That, the Applicant had done too in an Affidavit deposed to by Yahaya Ibrahim an Officer of the ICPC which is the Applicant in this case. That Affidavit was deposed to on the 13th January, 2021.

Going by the facts in the Affidavit, there is no evidence to show that anyone including the Respondent Uzoamaka Rachael Okorie had shown cause why this money stashed in her Account Number 3030450346 should not be forfeited. The Applicant had attached the pages of the two (2) Newspapers where the publication was made as evidence.

This Court has no reason not grant the application since no one has owned up to the ownership of the money. Put differently, no one had shown cause why the said money should not be forfeited.

Based on that fact, this Court therefore grant the Order to wit:

That the Four Million, Eighty Five Thousand, Four Hundred and Thirty Seven Naira, Ninety Five Kobo (~~₦~~₦4, 085,437.95) being proceeds of the unlawful activities as the Claimant stated which is stashed in the Bank Account No.: 3030450346 in the name of Okorie Rachael Uzoamaka be forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria, the said money having not been claimed by anyone including the said Uzoamaka Rachael Okorie in whose name and Account Number the money is stashed.

This is the Consent Judgment of this Court.

Delivered today the ___ day of _____ 2021 by me.

K.N. OGBONNAYA
HON. JUDGE