

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT HIGH COURT MAITAMA – ABUJA**

BEFORE: HIS LORDSHIP HON. JUSTICE S. U. BATURE

COURT CLERKS: JAMILA OMEKE & ORS
COURT NUMBER: HIGH COURT NO. 24
CASE NUMBER: SUIT NO. FCT/HC/CR/564/21
DATE: 15TH MARCH, 2022

BETWEEN:

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA.....COMPLAINANT

AND

HARUNA SHERIFF aka BURNETT JONES.....DEFENDANT

JUDGMENT

APPEARANCES:

Yetunde Alabi Esq for the Prosecution.

E.O. Clement Esq for the Defendant.

Defendant present in Court.

PROSECUTION COUNSEL:

The matter is slated for arraignment. We have a Charge dated 10th November, 2021 and filed on 11th November 2021. I humbly apply that the Charge be read to the Defendant for the purpose of taking his plea.

COURT:

Granted. One Count Charge read to the hearing of the Defendant.

Defendant do you understand the Charge?

DEFENDANT:

Yes, I understand the Charge.

COURT:

How do you plead to the one Count Charge?

DEFENDANT:

I plead guilty.

PROSECUTION COUNSEL:

In view of the plea of guilty made by the Defendant, I urge my Lord to convict the Defendant. Parties had entered into a plea bargain agreement filed on 10th December, 2021. I adopt same and urge your Lordship to convict the Defendant based on the terms therein.

DEFENCE COUNSEL:

The said plea bargain agreement was duly signed by the Prosecution, the Defendant and respective Counsel.

COURT:

Defendant have you seen the plea bargain agreement?

DEFENDANT:

Yes, I have gone through it and I entered into it voluntarily without any cajolement, intimidation or otherwise.

COURT:

Since the Court is satisfied that the Defendant had entered into the plea bargain agreement, he is hereby convicted for the offence of cheating by impersonation as charged punishable under Section 324 of the Penal Code Laws of the Federation Abuja Cap 532.

Signed:

***Hon. Justice S. U. Bature
15/3/2022.***

ALLOCUTUS

DEFENCE COUNSEL:

The Defendant is remorseful, he has acknowledged same and has restituted the said amount. The Defendant is a young person and found himself in a group of friends who lured him. Since 2020 the Defendant has

been on good behaviour. He is a student of University of Abuja, a 300 level student. We urge the Court to impose an option of fine.

DEFENDANT:

I would like the Court to grant me an option of fine so I can continue with my studies.

SENTENCING

In passing this sentence, I've considered the Allocutus made by learned defence Counsel on behalf of the Convict as well as that of the Convict himself.

I have also taken into consideration the terms of the plea bargain agreement. Accordingly, I hereby sentence the Convict to serve 1 year Imprisonment or to pay a fine of **N500, 000.00** based on the plea bargain agreement.

Signed:

***Hon. Justice S. U. Bature
15/3/2022.***