

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

IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION

HOLDEN AT ZUBA, ABUJA

ON WEDNESDAY THE 9TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2022

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

SUIT NO.: FCT/HC/PET/32/2021

BETWEEN:

SAMUEL THADDEUS NTEKOP ----- PETITIONER

AND

EMA ETOKIDEM EKWERE ----- RESPONDENT

BENCH JUDGMENT

On the 8th day of March, 2022 the Petitioner, Samuel Thaddeus Ntekop filed a Petition for Dissolution of the Marriage contracted between the Petitioner and the Respondent, Ema Etokidem Ekwere. The marriage was contracted on the 30th of November, 2013 at Sanctified Mount Zion Church, Calabar, Cross River State. The Petition is based on the fact that the marriage has broken down irretrievably and the Petitioner is not expected to continue to live with the Respondent. The marriage is blessed with three (3) Children which include:

Ntekop Zamora Samuel, born on the 22nd August, 2014.

Ntekop Zara Samuel, born on the 22nd August, 2014.

Ntekop Zuriel Odot-Ekom, born on the 28th July, 2016.

The Children are as at today domiciled with the Respondent in Apo, Abuja FCT.

To the Petitioner, there is no more love. That the Respondent is Temperamental, Stubborn, Manipulative, Unsupportive and Disrespectful to him and to his mother and can keep malice with the Respondent for as long as Seven (7) months without break. That she had indoctrinated the Children of the marriage to see the Petitioner as a bad person. That she insults him and will never want to resolve issue after any misunderstanding. That all efforts to reconcile their differences had proved abortive.

Most importantly, that the parties have lived apart for over 2 years before the Petition was filed. That the Respondent is currently living at Plot 1193, Zone C, Apo Resettlement Estate (Before Shoprite), Apo, Abuja while the Petitioner resides at House 9, 1B Road, Federal Housing Authority, Lugbe, Abuja.

The Petitioner has also stated that he will share the welfare of the Children, medical bills at ration of 60:40. That house rent will be shared at 50% : 50%.

That he will pay Fifty Thousand Naira (₦50, 000.00) monthly support for the Children of the marriage based on

his financial means. That he never collided or connived. That he wants the marriage to be dissolved.

The Respondent was served with both the Original Petition and the Amended Petition personally but she did not file any Answer or Cross-Petition. She was served Hearing Notices too. But she never came to Court. The Court had on one occasion put a call across to the Respondent to confirm if actually she is aware of the Petition. In the call she stated that she is aware and that she has no objection to it.

Obviously, the bottom had dropped off the marriage and all its content gushed out. The only thing remaining is the empty shell which will be cracked and destroyed if this marriage which had died is dissolved today.

There is desertion and continued desertion. There is severance of conjugal rights too. There is cruelty. This Court has no reason not to dissolve this marriage which has obviously broken down irretrievably. Moreover, the petition has not been challenged too by the Respondent as she did not file any Answer or Cross-Petition.

The said marriage contracted between the Petitioner, Samuel Thaddeus Ntekop and the Respondent, Ema Etokidem Ekwere on the 30th of November, 2013 at Sanctified Mount Zion Church, Calabar, Cross River State is today the 9th day of November, 2022 hereby DISSOLVED, the said marriage having broken down irretrievably.

If after Ninety (90) days the parties failed to come back together as husband and wife and the conjugal right not restored, the Order Nisi made today the 9th day of November, 2022 shall automatically be made ABSOLUTE.

This Court grants the ancillary Reliefs as prayed.

This is the Bench Judgment of this Court.

Delivered today the ___ day of _____ 2022 by me.

K.N. OGBONNAYA
HON. JUDGE