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FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY PUBLIC NOTICE

DISTRICT COURTS ACT (CAP. 495)

LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA

1990

FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ACT (CAP.503)

LAWS OF THE FEDERATION 2006 (ABUJA)

THE DISTRICT COURTS (INCREASE OF JURISDICTION OF  
DISTRICT JUDGES) ORDER, 2014

DATE OF COMMENCEMENT:

WHEREAS pursuant to the provisions of section 17 of the District Courts Act (Cap. 495) Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990 and section 18 paragraph (b) of the Federal Capital Territory Act (Cap. 503) Laws of the Federation 2006 (Abuja); the draft of this order was duly recommended by the **Chief Judge, Hon. Justice I. M. Bukar.**

NOW THEREFORE, in accepting the Chief Judge's recommendation herein before cited and in exercise of the powers conferred upon the Minister by section 17 of the District Courts Act, and section 18 paragraph (b) of the Federal Capital Territory Act, the following ORDER is hereby made by the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory.

- (1) This ORDER may be cited as the District Courts (Increase in jurisdiction of District Judges) ORDER, 2014 and shall be deemed to come into force on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014.
- (2) Subject to the provisions of the District courts Act (Cap. 495) 1990 and of any other written law, a Chief District Judge 1 and II, and Senior District Judge 1 and II as well as District Judge 1 shall have and exercise jurisdiction in civil causes or matters:

- (a) In all personal suits, whether arising from contract, or from tort, or from both, where the debt/or damage claimed, whether as balance claimed or otherwise, is not more than **Five Million (₦5,000,000.00) Naira** in the case of Chief District Judge 1, **Four Million Naira (₦4,000,000.00)** in the case of a Chief District Judge II, **Three Million Naira (₦3,000,000.00)** in the case of Senior District Judge 1; **Two Million Naira (₦2,000,000.00)** in the case of a Senior District Judge II; and **One Million Naira (₦1,000,000.00)** in the case of a District Judge 1;
  
- (b) In all suits between landlord and Tenant for possession of any land or house claimed under agreement or refused to be delivered up, where the annual value of rent does not exceed **Five Million Naira (₦5, 000,000.00)** in the case of Chief District Judge 1; **Four Million Naira (₦4,000,000.00)** in the case of Chief District Judge II; **Three Million Naira (₦3,000,000.00)** in the case of Senior District Judge 1; **Two Million Naira (₦2,000,000.00)** in the case of Senior District Judge II; and **One Million Naira (₦1,000,000.00)** in the case of District Judge 1.
  
- (c) In all actions for the recovery of any penalty, rates, expenses, contribution or other like demand which is recoverable by virtue of any written law for the time being in force, if :-
  - (i) it is not expressly provided by that or any other written law that the demand shall be recoverable only in some other court; and
  - (ii) The amount claimed in the action does not exceed **Five Million Naira (₦5,000,000.00)** for Chief District Judge 1, **Four Million Naira (₦4,000,000.00)** for Chief District Judge II; **Three Million Naira (₦3, 000,000.00)** for Senior District Judge 1; **Two Million Naira (₦2,000,000.00)** for Senior

District Judge II and **One Million Naira (₦1,000,000.00)** for District Judge 1.

Provided that for the purpose of this paragraph the expression "Penalty" shall not include a fine to which any person is liable on conviction for a criminal offence.

(d) In all civil proceedings in respect of which jurisdiction has been conferred on a District Court by the Land Use Act where the amount claimed or the capital value of the land, the subject matter of the proceedings; as the case may be, does not exceed **Five Million Naira (₦5,000,000.00)** in the case of Chief District Judge 1; **Four Million Naira (₦4,000,000.00)** in the case of Chief District Judge II; **Three Million Naira (₦3,000,000.00)** in the case of Senior District Judge 1; **Two Million Naira (₦2,000,000.00)** in the case of Senior District Judge II and **One Million Naira (₦1,000,000.00)** in the case of District Judge 1;

(e) In all civil proceedings in respect of which jurisdiction has been conferred on a District court by any other written law or which by virtue of any other written law may be instituted in a District court where the amount claimed or the value of the subject matter of the proceedings as the case may be, does not exceed **Five Million Naira (₦5,000,000.00)** in the case of Chief District Judge 1, **Four Million Naira (₦4,000,000.00)** in the case of Chief District Judge II; **Three Million Naira (₦3,000,000.00)** in the case of Senior District Judge 1; **Two Million Naira (₦2,000,000.00)** in the case of Senior District Judge II and **One Million Naira (₦1,000,000.00)** in the case of District Judge 1;

- (f) To appoint guardians ad litem and to make such orders and to issue and give directions relating thereto;
- (g) To grant in any suit instituted in the courts, injunctions or orders to stay waste or alienation or for the detention and preservation of any property, the subject of such suit or to restrain breaches of contracts or torts;

3(a) Subject to the provisions of Sub-paragraph (d) of (2) above and of any other written law, a Chief District Judge 1 or II, Senior District Judge 1 or II and District Judge 1, shall not exercise original jurisdiction in any suit or matter which:-

- (i) Raises any issue as to the title to land or to any interest in land,
- (ii) Raises any issue as to the validity of any devise, bequest or devolution under any will or settlement.

(b) The provisions of Sub-paragraph (a) shall have effect except in so far as the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory may by order otherwise direct.

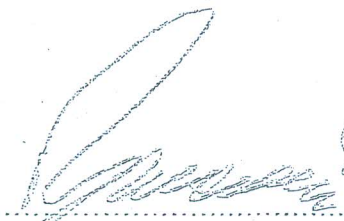
4. Where in any action the debt or demand consists of a balance not exceeding **Five million Naira (₦5,000,000.00), Four million Naira (₦4,000,000.00), Three million Naira (₦3,000,000.00), Two Million Naira (₦2,000,000.00), One million Naira (₦1,000,000.00)**, as the case may be, after an admitted counter-claim or set-off of the debt or demand claimed or recoverable by the defendant from the Plaintiff, a District Court Judge shall have jurisdiction and power to hear and determine such action within the limits of his personal jurisdiction and power:

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5. The District Courts (Increase of Jurisdiction of District Judges) Order, 1997 is hereby revoked.

MADE THIS 16th DAY OF February 2014.

AT ABUJA, THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY.

  
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SENATOR BALA ABDULKADIR MOHAMMED, CON  
Honourable Minister  
Federal Capital Territory, Abuja