

IN THE HIGH COURT OF AKWA IBOM STATE OF NIGERIA
IN THE UYO JUDICIAL DIVISION
RESUMED AT UYO
BEFORE HIS LORDSHIP: HON JUSTICE EKAETE F. FABIAN-OBOT - CHIEF JUDGE
THIS WEDNESDAY, THE 27TH DAY OF JULY, 2022.

SUIT NO: HU/279/2019

BETWEEN:

DEACON UDOM EMMANUEL - - CLAIMANT

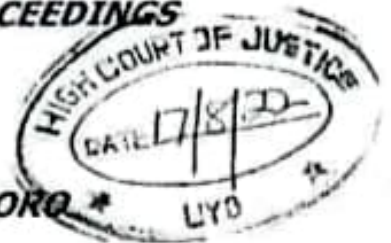
AND:

LEO EKPENYONG, ESQ. - - DEFENDANT

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**IDORENYIN NSEABASI USORO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR**



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BETWEEN:

DEACON UDOM EMMANUEL

CLAIMANT

AND:

LEO ERPENYONG, ESQ.

DEFENDANT

Case called.

The parties are absent.

Appearances:- S. J. Ikpo, Esq. with Ada Iloduba, Esq. for the Claimant.

Inibehe Effiong, Esq. with Augustine Asuquo, Esq. for the Defendant.

S. J. Ikpo, Esq.:- The matter is for further cross-examination of CW3, Richard Peter – the last witness of the Claimant.

CONTINUATION OF THE CLAIMANT'S CASE

CW3, resworn on the Holy Bible and states in English Language under further cross-examination by Inibehe Effiong, Esq. as follows:-

Yes I know the consequences of lying on oath. I cannot recall now but as a Christian, I know it is not good to lie on oath. Well, if the court finds out that I am lying under oath, the law should take its course.

I said if the court finds out that I am lying under oath, let the law take its course. I am still saying if I am lying on oath let, the law take its course.

Yes I stated in my deposition that I am a Special Adviser to the Governor of Akwa Ibom State.

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Court:- At this juncture, I observed one young man in a red T-shirt who appeared to be making a video coverage in the gallery I asked him to stand up. And the following ensued:-

Court:- Young man, who are you and where are you from?

Answer:- I am an observer.

Court:- From which organization?

Answer:- I am a Journalist from Premium Times.

Court:- Did you take leave or permission to cover these proceedings from the Chief Registrar?

Answer:- No.

Court:- Court duty policeman, please check his phone. (The Court duty policeman takes the phone from him and on examination of the phone, he informs the court, that the journalist is recording proceedings).

Court:- Please leave the court. You did not obtain proper permission to cover proceedings here.

Inibehe Effiong, Esq.:- This is an open court. It is wrong for you to send out the journalist. That journalist has every right to make a video recording of these proceedings. I cannot continue until the phone is handed over to the journalist to continue his work.

Court:- Is he not that same journalist you have been using, to run this court down. You want to ruin my good name which I have built for over 33 years

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because you want to be popular.

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Inibehe Effiong, Esq.:*- (Laughs at the court)* I am already popular.

Court:- Please continue the cross-examination. If you continue to stall the Proceedings, you will be inviting contempt proceedings on yourself.

Inibehe Effiong, Esq.:*- (now shouting, pointing at the court and banging the table.)*

I have noted the manner, this case is being conducted and I am not going to proceed. There are policemen everywhere and I cannot proceed, the journalist must be brought back to cover proceedings.

You are only entitled to one Orderly and one Court duty policeman, if you do not order these two policemen out of the court, I will not proceed.

Court:- The policemen are here on duty to protect the general public. Please proceed with the cross-examination of the witness.

Inibehe Effiong, Esq.:*-* No I will not.

Court:- I find your utterances to be very rude, saucy and very insolent. I will advise you to withdraw them now. You are obviously out of order. (Inibehe Effiong remains defiant and does not respond.) Please step out of the bar.

Inibehe Effiong, Esq.:*-* I will not step out, I am still addressing the court.

Court:- I cannot proceed any further with this attitude of yours, you are ordered again to step out of the bar.

Court:- Inibehe Effiong, Esq. still hesitates but being persuaded by the Bar, he steps out of the bar at last.

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Court:- Now, derobe yourself.

Inibehe Effiong, Esq.:- I cannot derobe myself because I am still addressing you.

Court:- You have gone beyond that, I am citing you for contempt for your unruly conduct and behavior in this court.

(The court observes that despite the order of the court; Inibehe Effiong is still defiant and would not derobe nor withdraw his insolent utterances.)

In that case, you are hereby committed to the Custodial Centre for 1 (one) month until you purge yourself of the contempt.

This is the order of this court following the unruly behavior of counsel in the face of the court.

Sgd.
Hon. Justice E. F. F. Obot
Chief Judge
27/7/22.

Court:- Now at this point, I can no longer continue with the hearing of this matter. After the completion of the committal period, the court will give the necessary directives in proceeding with the hearing of this suit.

Sgd.
Hon. Justice E. F. F. Obot
Chief Judge
27/7/22.

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MRS. IDORENYIN NSEABASI USORO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR



*Certification of copies of
the proceedings of the court.*

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