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Ref. No:

5th August, 2016

Date:

The Chairman,
National Judicial Council (NJC),
Supreme Court Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.

Office of the Chief Justice of Nigeria
RECEIVED
Date 12/8/2016

CORRUPT PRACTICES AND PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT BY JUSTICE NNAMDI DIMGBA OF ABUJA DIVISION OF THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT.

The Service has recently observed with dismay some unprofessional acts demonstrated by Justice Nnamdi DIMGBA of the Federal High Court, Abuja who is presently one of the vacation judges.

2. The Judge who has been handling the case between the Service and Umar MOHAMMED has continued to demonstrate conducts capable of marring not only his own image but also the entire disposition of the Justice system in Nigeria.

3. On 20th July, 2016 Justice DAFAI (sic) led YAHAYA, SHAMSU and MAISARAUTA, who are all associates of Umar MOHAMMED, to the house of Justice Nnamdi DIMGBA of the Federal High Court 11 (eleven) where they arranged how MOHAMMED will be granted bail at the Federal High Court, Abuja on 21st July, 2016. At the meeting, DIMGBA who later presided over the case assured the team that he will grant bail to MOHAMMED upon arraignment, and order that he be remanded at the Kuje prison as a prelude to his eventual release.

He emphasized that MOHAMMED's release would be easier from the Kuje Prison.

4. It was, therefore, not surprising later when the Judge without any hesitation granted bail to Mohammed, and stated the very obvious conditions that he stated in his house.

5. On 23rd July, 2016, Justice DIMGBA expressed his anger over the failure of the Service to bring MOHAMMED to Court on 2nd July, 2016, in spite of the fact that the hearing of that day was on an interlocutory application. He therefore threatened to abdicate his seat as a protest against the continued detention of MOHAMMED. This was even reported by some print and electronic news media. Relatedly, a Registrar in DIMGBA's Court collected the sum of Four Hundred Thousand Naira (N400, 000) from SHAMSU, MOHAMMED's lawyer for verification and perfection of the documents in respect of bail of his client. This deal was earlier negotiated downwards with the Registrar by one SADIQ, a member of MOHAMMED's team, from the sum of One Million Naira (N1,000,000) initially charged by the Registrar to Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N500,000).

6. On 25th July, 2016, it was established that one YAHAYA, a judicial worker who is also an associate of MOHAMMED delivered funds to Justice DIMGBA from the allies of MOHAMMED.

7. On 28th July, 2016 some associates of MOHAMMED who had been in contact with DIMGBA then abroad on vacation, resolved to wait for him to return. This was because the alternate vacation Judge challenged them on the genuineness of some of the documents they furnished for the bail of the accused person.

8. It should be noted that MOHAMMED's team had planned to present one Ismaila Kaila GWARZO (Dr) and a Director in the Ministry of Water Resources as the two (2) sureties for the bail of their Boss, but the tone changed when the Director confided in the team that the document of the property he was willing to tender for the bail was never declared by him to the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB).

9. For that reason, the name of GUMI was imposed on the title document which originally belongs to the Director in the Ministry Of Water Resources. The plot was on the basis that GUMI who is a Deputy Managing Director of Turkish Hospital, Abuja could own such property. Meanwhile, due to the seeming uprightness of the judge who succeeded DIMGBA, documents bearing the name of Ismaila Kaila Gwarzo were accepted, while the suspicious document was rejected.

10. Furthermore, the team then substituted the suspicious document with another title bearing the name of MAIYAFE (Air Cmdr rtd). Unfortunately Maiyafe was in Kano at the time other associates of MOHAMMED were pressing for his release. Consequently, one Alhaji BASHIR was presented at the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) office as MAIYAFE since the judge had earlier observed non availability of Maiyafe's three years tax clearance certificate.

11. Intelligence further points to the fact that the tax clearance documents were all forged. Indeed, the forgery was perpetrated at the instance of YAHAYA as MAIYAFE's (surety) signature on the tax clearance issued by the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) was not genuine. The personnel of the FIRS were bribed with the sum of two hundred thousand Naira (₦200,000.00).

12. Also, BLESSING a Deputy Court Registrar working with DIMGBA collected the sum of fifty thousand naira (N50,000) bribe to perfect the bail process and to reach out to the judge who took over from DIMGBA while he was away on vacation. Intelligence further showed that DIMGBA assured MOHAMMED's associates of his endorsement of all the bail documents regardless of their shortcomings immediately he resumes. It was not surprising that when DIMGBA eventually returned on 31st July, 2016, the bail papers were all signed by him and were presented to the Service on 1st August, 2016. This was however followed by a threat from DIMGBA that he will no longer entertain any case from the Service (DSS) if his order for the release of MOHAMMED UMAR was not honored.

13. On 2nd August, 2016, in furtherance of his compromise on the case on the issue of bail, Justice DIMGBA personally prepared and gave a petition to associates of MOHAMMED to deliver to the Attorney General of the Federation. He also issued another remand warrant to be served on the Department of State Services for the transfer of MOHAMMED to Kuje prison. The Judge further advised the cronies of the suspect to file Contempt proceedings against the Service (DSS).

ASSESSMENT

14. From the very beginning, it was obvious that the Judge has desecrated the temple of Justice and to worsen matters, he has been threatening and lampooning the Service for disobeying Court orders, even though he is fully aware that the orders he issued were the outcome of a fabrication, manipulation, and compromise.

15. Against the spirit and high esteem this Service holds your Lordship, and the judiciary; and given the mandate of the Service, it would be a total disservice to the nation, and the Judiciary for these corrupt practices, and pervasion of Justice to be allowed to thrive or be pushed under the carpet.

16. Accordingly, It is strongly recommended that the National Judicial Council (NJC) should urgently investigate the compromise and gross misconduct by the judicial officer as his conduct falls short of the expectations of the profession, and defeats the culture of probity, transparency and equity, which this current administration stands to entrench.

17. Please accept the esteemed regards of the DGSS, while expecting expeditious action.

Ahamed AHMAD
FOR: DIRECTOR GENERAL, SS