

KINGS LAW REPORTS

(ALL SC/NOVEL CA)

(2007) KLR VOL 2 PART 230 pp. 853 - 1080

FEBRUARY 2007

Dedicated to the King of kings

O. O. NOEL ESQ. Chief Editor

INDEX OF CASES REPORTED

FEBRUARY CONTD.

8. Attorney-General of Abia State v. Attorney-General of Federation p. 853
9. Balogun v. Ode p. 869
10. Civil Design Construction Nigeria Limited v. SCOA Nigeria Limited p. 889
11. Kazeem v. Mosaku p. 949
12. Nigerian Air Force v. Kamaldeen p. 973
13. Ndukwe v. Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee p. 1003
14. Uwazurike v. Attorney-General of the Federation p. 1057

ii INDEX OF SUBJECT MATTER IN (2007) 2 KLR

ACTIONS - Conversion - Damages - Money had and received - Plaintiff is entitled to value of the chattel at date of conversion - Plus any consequential damages (H4) Civil Design Constr. Ltd v. SCOA Ltd p. 889

ACTIONS - Dispute - Pleadings - Controversy between States and Federation s. 232(1) 1999 Constitution - Is not disclosed in the Statement of Claim (H2) A-G Abia State v. A-G Federation p. 853

ACTIONS - Jurisdiction - Writ of summons - And statement of claim - Are the basis for determining the Court's jurisdiction - Save there be statutory preclusion (H1) Balogun v. Ode p. 869

ACTIONS - Legal personality - Proper defendant - Where suit is not against the EFCC - Who is the proper person to be sued vide s. 2(a) & (b) EFCC Act 2004 - Preliminary objection will be sustained (H3) A-G Abia State v. A-G Federation p. 853

APPEALS - Appellate court - Duty - Perverse finding of lower court - In awarding what was never claimed - Should be set aside (H8) Civil Design Constr. Ltd v. SCOA Ltd p. 889

APPEALS - Competence - Jurisdiction - Criminal appeals - Filing a joint notice of appeal - And signing of it by counsel instead of appellants - Renders the appeal incompetent (H1) Uwazurike v. A-G Federation p. 1057

APPEALS - Competence - Notice of appeal - Where held to be incompetent by Court of Appeal - It should strike out the appeal - Without considering the other issues (H5) Uwazurike v. A-G Federation p. 1057

APPEALS - Concurrent findings - Where not perverse - But borne out from the evidence - Supreme Court will not tamper with them (H5) Kazeem v. Mosaku p. 949

APPEALS - Foundation of - Defect - A notice of appeal is the substratum of every appeal - Defect therein renders the whole appeal incompetent (H4) Uwazurike v. A-G Federation p. 1057

APPEALS - Notice of Appeal - Signing of - Should not be done by counsel - But appellant himself - In criminal appeals (H2) Uwazurike v. A-G Federation p. 1057

APPEALS - Professional misconduct - Findings of fact - Evaluation of evidence - Where properly done by trial court - Appellate court will not substitute its own views (H7) Ndukwe v. Legal Pract. Disc. Comm. p. 1003

APPEALS - Reversal - Damages - Findings of trial Court - Where supported by properly evaluated evidence - Court of Appeal was wrong in reversing it (H7) Civil Design Constr. Ltd v. SCOA Ltd p. 889

APPEALS - Supreme Court - Notice of appeal - Where signed by counsel instead of appellants - Contrary to O. 9 r. 3(1) Supreme Court Rules - The appeal is incompetent (H6) Uwazurike v. A-G Federation p. 1057

CHIEFTAINCY MATTERS - Reliefs claimed - Did not contravene Ajase case principles - Nor the Chiefs Law of Lagos State (H3) Balogun v. Ode p. 869

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW - Charges - Fair hearing - S. 36 (6)(a) 1999 Constitution - Information about a criminal charge - Manner of framing charge - Varies before an Administrative Tribunal and a court of law (H3) Ndukwe v. Legal Pract. Disc. Comm. p. 1003

CONSTITUTIONAL LAW - Jurisdiction - Chieftaincy matters - High Court's unlimited jurisdiction - Under s. 236 (1) 1979 Constitution - Cannot be limited by any conflicting law (H2) Balogun v. Ode p. 869

iv INDEX OF SUBJECT MATTER IN (2007) 2 KLR

COURT MARTIAL - Competence - Convening order - Was signed on behalf of the appropriate authority - In line with s. 286 Armed Forces Decree (H1) Nigerian Air Force v. Kamaldeen p. 973

COURTS - Chieftaincy - Jurisdiction - Ouster clause in statute - In order to be effective - Must be unambiguous - And should not be inconsistent with the Constitution (H4) Balogun v. Ode p. 869

CRIMINAL LAW - Cheque - Forgery & uttering of - Where respondent know the fraud and deceit - And joined in sharing the amount cashed - Contrary to its purpose - His conviction was proper (H7) Nigerian Air Force v. Kamaldeen p. 973

CRIMINAL LAW - Forgery - Intention - Where respondent knew about the fraudulent intention - Behind the cheque in issue - Mere fact of the signatories being proper - Does not make the deal genuine (H6) Nigerian Air Force v. Kamaldeen p. 973

CRIMINAL LAW - Uttering - Documents - Where respondent knowingly processed forged exhibits - He is guilty of the offence of uttering (H8) Nigerian Air Force v. Kamaldeen p. 973

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - Acquittal - Court Martial - Where trial is declared a nullity by Court of Appeal - Based on lack of jurisdiction - Only to discharge the accused is the proper verdict (H2) Nigerian Air Force v. Kamaldeen p. 973

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - Conspiracy - Stealing - Respondent was properly convicted - As he failed to show authorization - To handle the money the way he did (H4) Nigerian Air Force v. Kamaldeen p. 973

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - Conviction - For lesser offence - Limitation - Duplicity - For such conviction to be proper - The ingredients of the offences - Must be similar (H5) Nigerian Air Force v. Kamaldeen p. 973

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - Exemption - Proof - Accused that is charged with an offence - Has the burden of proving any exception (H3) Nigerian Air Force v. Kamaldeen p. 973

CRIMINAL PROCEDURE - Restitution - Court Martial - Order of restitution against respondent - Was properly made by the Court Martial (H9) Nigerian Air Force v. Kamaldeen p. 973

ESTOPPEL - Evidence - Where defendant made a factual representation - That the rig in question is a motor vehicle - He is estopped from denying that fact (H2) Civil Design Constr. Ltd v. SCOA Ltd p. 889

HIRE PURCHASE - Contracts - Breach - Outstanding instalment - Cannot be recovered by respondent - That has violated the Hire Purchase Act (H6) Civil Design Constr. Ltd v. SCOA Ltd p. 889

HIRE PURCHASE - Seizure - Applicable law - Is the Hire Purchase Act not the common law - And no law authorizes repossession by seizure - But as provided by law (H3) Civil Design Constr. Ltd v. SCOA Ltd p. 889

LANDLAW - Family land - Partition - Effect - Where land has been validly sold - And vested vide a deed of conveyance - A later partition will not affect validity of the sale (H4) Kazeem v. Mosaku p. 949

LAND LAW - Sale - Exhibits - Averment - That is in conflict with written document - Goes to no issue - Seeing that conclusive written evidence - Invalidates oral evidence (H1) Kazeem v. Mosaku p. 949

LAND LAW - Title - Burden of proof - Submission of counsel - That is not based on facts - Should be rejected (H3) Kazeem v. Mosaku p. 949

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS - Disciplinary committee - Jurisdiction - Lies in respect of infamous conduct in a professional respect - And not in the

vi INDEX OF SUBJECT MATTER IN (2007) 2 KLR

commission of any crime (H1) Ndukwe v. Legal Pract. Disc. Comm. p. 1003

PLEADINGS - Hire purchase - Rig - Evidence of defendant - Supported plaintiff's case - That the particular rig in issue - Is a motor vehicle - Within contemplation of s. 20(1) Hire Purchase Act (H1) Civil Design Constr. Ltd v. SCOA Ltd p. 889

PLEADINGS - Issues - Variation - Facts that were not pleaded - Evidence on them - Grounds to no issue and are inadmissible (H9) Civil Design Constr. Ltd v. SCOA Ltd p. 889

PLEADINGS - Title - "Purported" - Meaning - Appellants are bound by their earlier averment - Which is supported by an exhibit (H2) Kazeem v. Mosaku p. 949

STATUTES - Interpretation of - Clear words - Should be given their ordinary and natural meaning - Unless such would produce absurdity (H3) Uwazurike v. A-G Federation p. 1057

SUPREME COURT - Original jurisdiction - Dispute - Meaning - The dispute must inter alia - Be between the Federation and a State - For Supreme Court to exercise its original jurisdiction (H1) A-G Abia State v. A-G Federation p. 853

TORTS - Damages - Detinue & Conversion - Wrongful seizure of chattel - Appellant is entitled to damages - As per Stitch case (H5) Civil Design Constr. Ltd v. SCOA Ltd p. 889

TRIBUNALS - Appeals - Clemency - Disciplinary tribunals - Addition to appellant's punishment - For professional misconduct would have been considered - Punishment of appellant being lenient - Will not be disturbed (H8) Ndukwe v. Legal Pract. Disc. Comm. p. 1003

TRIBUNALS - Charges - Before a professional tribunal - Need not be formal - No miscarriage of justice occurred in this case - Because of absence of a formal charge - For appellant understood the charge (H4) Ndukwe v. Legal Pract. Disc. Comm. p. 1003

TRIBUNALS - Judgments - Complaint against - Based on variation in the panel - Is not fundamental - More so when an administrative tribunal - Has power to decide its own procedure (H6) Ndukwe v. Legal Pract. Disc. Comm. p. 1003

TRIBUNALS - Jurisdiction - Administrative tribunal - Trial of crime - Where a complaint doubles as a crime under the Criminal Code - Admission donates jurisdiction - Without prior trial by court (H2) Ndukwe v. Legal Pract. Disc. Comm. p. 1003

TRIBUNALS - Quorum - Appeals - Briefs - Absence of reply brief - On issue of quorum of tribunal members - And the typographic error in adding a name mistakenly in the judgment - Shows acceptance of that issue (H5) Ndukwe v. Legal Pract. Disc. Comm. p. 1003

INDEX OF STATUTES & RULES

Armed Force Decree 1993 (as amended) ss. 131(2),(3), 128(1), 168, 169, 286, 103, 142(a), 112(a), 142(1), 103(1) & (2), 174 Nigerian Air Force v. Kamaldeen p. 973

Constitution of Nigeria 1999 ss. 36(1) & (5), 232(1) A-G Abia State v. A-G Federation p. 853

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 S. 36(6) Ndukwe v. Legal Pract. Disc. Comm. p. 1003

Court of Appeal Rules O. 4 rr. 3(1), (2) & 4(1), (5), (6) Uwazurike v. A-G Federation p. 1057

Criminal Code Act Cap. 77 LFN 1990, ss. 37, 64, 62(2) Uwazurike v. A-G Federation p. 1057

Criminal Code s. 7(b) Nigerian Air Force v. Kamaldeen p. 973

Criminal Code Ss. 383 & 390 Ndukwe v. Legal Pract. Disc. Comm. p. 1003

Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) (Establishment) Act 2004 ss. 7(1), 46, 40, 34(1) 2(a) & (b) A-G Abia State v. A-G Federation p. 853

Evidence Act s. 141(1) Nigerian Air Force v. Kamaldeen p. 973

Hire Purchase Act (Cap. 169 LFN) ss. 1(a), 9(1) & (5), 20(1), 2(2) (a), 9(2) (a) Civil Design Constr. Ltd v. SCOA Ltd p. 889

Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Act 2002 A-G Abia State v. A-G Federation p. 853

Legal Practitioners (Disciplinary Committee) Rules, Rule 9 Ndukwe v. Legal Pract. Disc. Comm. p. 1003

Legal Practitioners Act 1990 (as amended) ss. 10, 11, & 12(7) Ndukwe v. Legal Pract. Disc. Comm. p. 1003

Supreme Court Rules O. 2 r. 9(1), O. 9 r. 3(1) Uwazurike v. A-G Federation p. 1057