

## INCORPORATED TRUSTEES OF PARADIGM INITIATIVE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT V. HON. MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- This can be nicknamed the "The Satellites" Case
- This case was brought on a power granted in the [Freedom of Information Act](#). We had earlier written a Freedom of Information request to the Respondents on the 3rd day of March 2017.
- The request was triggered by information that the National Administration of Space Research and Development Agency (NASDRA), an agency under the Ministry's supervision, intended to build and launch two new satellites. We requested that the Ministry reveal the details of the intended use of the satellites with their specifications.
- Neither the Ministry nor the Honorable Minister sent us a response.
- We, therefore, went to court to seek the review of the Respondent's refusal to give us an answer.
- We sought for a declaration that the failure and/or refusal of the Respondents to disclose or make available to the applicants the information amounts to a violation of the applicants' right of access, a Declaration that the failure and/or refusal of the Respondents to disclose information amounts to wrongful denial of access to information, an order of mandamus compelling the respondent to disclose the specifications of the two new satellites and the details of their intended use.
- Both parties argued their cases. The Respondent argued that since the information was not under their supervision, it was impracticable for them to supply it. They also argued that the Agency had no immediate plan to build and launch new satellites.
- The Court reviewed our arguments vis-a-vis applicable laws and reiterated that Section 7 of the Act which gives us the right of access to court to compel the release of the information. The court also noted that the law allows the original public institution can transfer the request for information to another agency which it believes has the information that is being requested from it.
- The court granted all our reliefs and ordered that the Respondents grant the request sought and where they are not in possession of the information requested, they should explain so in a letter and anchor their explanations under legally stipulated exemptions. We were also awarded the cost of N100,000 in our favour. The enforcement process is still underway.

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