

THE INCORPORATED TRUSTEES OF PARADIGM INITIATIVE FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT, E.I.E PROJECTS LTD/GTE v. GBENGA OLORUNPOMI, LAURETTA ONOCHIE

- This may be nicknamed 'the hate speech case'
- An Originating Summons was brought against two assistants to public officers who actively use social media for the expression of some opinions which may have been considered as 'hate speech' if the tables were turned.
- In bringing this Originating Summons before the court, we deposed that the first defendant who is the Senior Special Assistant (Electronic Media) to the Executive Governor of Kogi State and the second Defendant who is the Personal Assistant (Social Media) to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria have, through their online communication made statements which are capable of causing annoyance, inconvenience, danger, obstruction, insult, injury, criminal intimidation, enmity, hatred, ill-will or needless anxiety to others as prohibited by the popular Section 24 of the Cybercrimes Act 2015.
- Some of such statements include:
- *"If the military in my country doesn't shoot back at a group of people who chose to block the highway and throw rocks at them, how would I trust them if they had to go toe-to-toe with a foreign enemy? Please use bullets to cure those fanatics of their madness!!"* by Gbenga Olorunpomi @GbengaGold
- *"Suddenly its all quiet. What changed? The sponsors of the "Fulani Herdsmen killings" are preoccupied with a serious issue. They are jousting for the ticket for the candidacy of Nyesom Wike & Sons Ltd, oops, PDP. PREDICTION, COMe Oct. 6, some will be begging to return to APC"* by Laurretta Onochie @Laurelstar
- *"If as a leader in Anambra State, he divided predominantly Christian Anambra State along Christian denominational lines, he has no business in Abuja! When he says #LetsgetNigeriaWorkingAgain, he means, let's divide Nigeria along class, ethnic and religious line. #NoToBigotry"* by Laurretta Onochie @Laurelstar
- These statements are akin, if not worse, than the opinions made by other journalists and citizen bloggers who have been arrested and detained for offences such as Cyberstalking, terrorism, treason or cultism.
- We are demanding the court to determine whether or not by interpretation and construction of Section 24 of the Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention Etc) Act 2015, the Defendants' messages and communications via their Twitter handle fall into the categories of messages contemplated therein.
- The Case is currently still in court. It came up the 26th November 2019 and on that date counsel reported that the hearing notice ordered by the court has been advertised has ordered, the matter was then adjourned to the 13th Feb 2020
- This case came up on the 13th February and the Judge, without going into the merit of the case, transferred the suit to the High Court of FCT.
- PI has advised Counsel to go ahead with the case in the High Court of FCT

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