

LAND SCAM: TWO IN PRISON

CUSTODY

Justice Rabi T. Umar of Bauchi State High Court (4) on 12th August 2015 remanded Yazidu Abdullahi and Auwal Tahir Aliyu to prison custody after the prosecution counsel Nnaemeka Omewa moved his application for leave to prefer charge against the accused persons which was granted by the Court, and prayed the Court to take cognizance of the charge before the Court and remand the accused persons to prison custody pending their formal arraignment.

The accused persons are to be arraigned by the EFCC on five count charge bordering on conspiracy, forgery and obtaining money by false pretense to the tune of seven hundred and eighty thousand (N780,000.00), naira from one Alhaji Inuwa Garkuwa .

The complainant, Haladu Dako Lamido had alleged that some notorious land scammers in Bauchi State namely Yazidu Abdullahi, Auwal Aliyu, and (Haruna Abdulmumin and Sadiq Shehu), still at large, sometime in 2015 conspired and converted a property with title No (BA/28150) situated at Fadaman Mada, in Bauchi State for themselves as the syndicates initiated a forged title document of Right of Occupancy that was used by the fraudsters to perfect the fraud.

On the arrest of the syndicates by the operatives of EFCC, the investigation revealed that the syndicates conspired and forged the original Right of Occupancy of plot title No BA/28150 that belong to one Alhaji Yaro, and used the forged document and sold the said plot of land with uncompleted building to the complainant's father, one Alhaji Inuwa Garkuwa. But luck ran out of the fraudsters when the complainant Haladu Lamido went to develop the land and discovered that the said land belonged to one Abubakar not the syndicates which led to their arrest.

The EFCC extended their investigation to the ministry of lands and housing Bauchi State for verification of the genuineness of the Right of Occupancy of the land but the ministry denied knowledge of such forged document from the office and revealed that the original title Right of Occupancy (R of O) of the said property is BA/28150 but that the one issued to the Complainant was a forged document of an existing title No BA/28150.

Count five (5) of the charge read that, you Auwal Tahir Aliyu (M), Yazidu Abdullahi (M), Haruna Abdulmumin (M) (now at large) and Sadiq Shehu (M) (now at large) sometime in the month of June, 2015 or thereabout in Bauchi State which is within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court with the intent to defraud, committed an illegal act to wit: Giving as genuine, a forged certificate of grant of Right of Occupancy No:BA/28150 purportedly issued to one Alhaji Idris Tela Saleh which you knew to be forged to Alhaji Inuwa Garkuwa as proof of title to land you fraudulently

sold to him located at Fadaman Mada Bauchi and thereby committed an offence contrary to section 366 and punishable under Section 364 of the Penal Code Law, Laws of Northern Nigeria.

The Court remanded the accused persons to prison custody and adjourned the matter to 20th August 2015 for formal arraignment.