



**IN THE COURT OF MAGISTRATES (MALTA)
AS COURT OF CRIMINAL JUDICATURE**

Magistrate Dr. Monica Vella LL.D., M. Jur.

**The Police
(Inspector Christian Abela)**

VS

Friday John Ebhuoria

Compilation Number: 5049/2025

Today the 30th May 2025

The Court;

Having seen the charges brought against the accused:

“Friday John Ebhuoria, iben Ebuhuoria u Grace, 42-il sena sena, nazzjonalità Nigerjana, resident l-Italja, detentur tal-passaport Nigerjan A12904750, mwieled Okalo nhar 01/01/1983.

Akkuzat talli fl-21 t’April 2025 u fil-jiem ta’ qabel f’ dawn il-gzejjer iffalsifika, biddel jew ghamel xi tibdil fil-Passaport jew uza jew kellu fil-pussess tieghu xi Passaport li hu kien jaf li gie iffalsifikat, imbiddel jew sar xi tibdil fih.

Kif ukoll akkuzat talli matul l-istess żmien, lok u ċirkostanzi ghamel falsifikazzjoni ohra jew xjentement ghamel uzu minn xi dokumenti ohra iffalsifikati, fid-dokumenti fuq imsemmija.

Kif ukoll akkuzat talli matul l-istess żmien, lok u ċirkostanzi iffalsifika xi dokumenti jew kopja vera ta' dokumenti jew reġistrazzjoni maghmula skont l-Att dwar l-Immigrazzjoni

Il-Qorti giet ġentilment miltuba sabiex f'kaz ta' htija tikkundanna lill-akkuzat għal hlas ta' spejjes li jkollhom x'jaqsmu mal-hatra ta' esperti jew periti fil-proceduri hekk kif ikkontemplat fl-Artikolu 533 tal-Kapitlu 9 tal-Ligijiet ta' Malta.”

Having seen that upon arraignment the accused declared that he understands the English language and requested that the proceedings be held in the English language and the Court acceded to his request¹.

Having seen the charges in English brought against the accused:

Friday John Ebhuoria, son of Ebhuoria and Grace, 42 years old, Nigerian national, resident in Italja, holder of Nigerian Passport number A12904750, born in Okalo on 01/01/1983

Accused with having on the 21st April 2025 and in the previous days in Malta, altered or tampered with, or used or had in his possession a Passport, which he knew to be forged, altered or tampered with;

Further charged with having on same period, time and circumstances, committed any other kind of forgery, or have

¹ Sitting of the 22nd April 2025 a folio 2 of the proceedings.

knowingly made use of any other forged documents, in the mentioned documents;

And charged also with having on same period, time and circumstances without lawful authority used or had in his possession any documents required for the purposes of this act which is forged.

The Court was kindly requested to, in case of being found guilty sentence the accused to pay expenses related to the appointment of experts or architects in the proceedings as indicated in Article 533 of Chapter 9 of Laws of Malta.

Having explained to the accused the charges brought against him;

Having heard the accused plead guilty to said charges in the sitting of the 14th of May 2025 and this in the presence of Defence Counsel Dr. Yanika Barbara Sant²;

Having warned the accused of the legal consequences of such guilty plea and having given the accused further time to reconsider his guilty plea³;

Having heard the accused reconfirm his guilty plea during the same sitting and thus said guilty plea was duly registered in the acts of these proceedings⁴;

Having seen all the records of the case;

² A folio 24 of the proceedings.

³ A folio 25 of the proceedings.

⁴ A folio 25 of the proceedings.

Having heard all the evidence brought forward;

Having seen and examined all evidence and all the documents forming part of the proceedings;

Having heard the submissions made by the Prosecution and by the Defence;

Having duly considered all the records of the case and all submissions made;

Having seen that the case was put off for today for judgement.

Considered:

The Facts of the Case

This case, in brief, relates to the possession and use by the accused of an allegedly counterfeit Passport to travel from Malta to Poland and making false representations to the competent authority

Considered:

That although in the first sitting upon his arraignment the accused Friday John Ebhouria declared himself not guilty, during the sitting of the 14th May 2025, he registered a guilty plea;

That said guilty plea was reaffirmed by the accused after the Court duly explained to him the consequences of such guilty plea including the relative punishment prescribed by law;

That therefore such guilty plea was duly registered in the minutes of the case;

That thus upon such guilty plea the Court can only find the accused guilty as charged.

Considered:

That in pronouncing its judgement, the Court is hereby taking into consideration the fact that the accused registered a guilty plea⁵ and the nature and gravity of the accusations with which he is charged.

Decides:

Thus, the Court, after having seen Article 5 of Chapter 61 of the Laws of Malta, Article 189 of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta, and Article 32(1) (f) of Chapter 217 of the Laws of Malta hereby finds the accused **FRIDAY JOHN EBHOURIA GUILTY** as charged and thus condemns the accused Friday John Ebhouria to a term of effective imprisonment of six (6) months from which the time he has already spent in preventive arrest is to be deducted.

The Court is also granting the request of the Prosecution under Article 533 of Chapter 9 of the Laws of Malta and condemns the accused to pay any expenses due to the appointed experts John Ellul and Keith Cutajar. In this respect the Court orders that this judgement be notified to the Registrar of the Criminal Courts and Tribunals so that the said Registrar may retrieve payment of any such dues from the accused. Should the accused not be in a position to pay any such expert fees, the

⁵ Even though said guilty plea was registered quite late in the proceedings, so much so, that the Court had already appointed experts John Ellul and Keith Cutajar.

Court orders that any amount due be converted into days of imprisonment according to law.

The Court explained to the accused in clear and simple language his obligations arising out of this judgement.

The Court orders that the parties be immediately given a copy of this judgement and that this judgement be immediately made available on the online portal of the Court Services Agency.

Pronounced today the 30th May 2025, in the Courts of Law, Valletta, Malta.

Dr. Monica Vella LL.D., M. Jur.
Magistrate

Heidi Zammit
Deputy Registrar