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FORT WORTH DIVISION
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ORIGINAL

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
FORT WORTH DIVISION

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEPUTY CLERK *DJ*

v.

No. **4-19CR-331-A**

EMMANUEL ASHEMUKE (01)

INFORMATION

The United States Attorney charges:

General Allegations

At all times material to this Information:

1. Defendant, **Emmanuel Ashemuke**, is a Nigerian citizen and resident of Stephenville, Texas, who legally entered the United States in November 2015.
2. From sometime before 2014, and continuing through to December 2018, five Nigerian bank accounts existed in **Ashemuke's** name, including accounts at First Bank of Nigeria. **Ashemuke** was connected to other Nigerian bank accounts, as well.
3. From in or about January 2016 through December 2018, while **Ashemuke** resided in Stephenville, he opened ten bank accounts at eight different banks for which he maintained sole signatory control. On May 18, 2018, **Ashemuke** filed an Assumed Name certificate in Erath County, Texas for E&F **Ashemuke** Global Enterprises, (E&F), located in Stephenville, Texas.

Count One

Conspiracy to Commit an Offense Against the United States, Engaging
in Monetary Transactions in Property Derived from Specified Unlawful Activity
(Violation 18 U.S.C. § 371)

4. Paragraphs 1 through 3 of this Information are realleged and incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

5. From at least July 2014 through December 2018, the precise dates being unknown, in the Fort Worth Division of the Northern District of Texas and elsewhere, **Emmanuel Ashemuke**, together with others, knowingly and willfully combined, conspired, confederated, and agreed with each other to commit certain offenses against the United States, in that, the defendant and others conspired to violate 18 U.S.C. § 1957. Specifically, **Ashemuke** and others conspired to knowingly engage in monetary transactions by, through, or to a financial institution, affecting interstate and foreign commerce, in criminally derived property of a value greater than \$10,000, that is, the transfer of U.S. currency, which was derived from specified unlawful activities, to wit: wire fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1343) and mail fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1341).

Object of the Conspiracy

6. The object of the conspiracy was to engage in monetary transactions for the purpose of transferring from the United States to Nigeria money and property criminally derived from a romance scheme involving specified unlawful activity, that is, mail and wire fraud, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341 and 1343.

7. As a result of the conspiracy, **Ashemuke** transferred and caused to be transferred over \$1.5 million of fraud proceeds from the United States to Nigeria.

Manner and Means of the Conspiracy and the Scheme to Defraud

8. The manner and means by which **Ashemuke** and others sought to accomplish the purpose of the conspiracy included, among other things:

9. From at least July 2014 through December 2018, the precise dates being unknown, individuals devised and operated a scheme and artifice to defraud, and to obtain money by means of false and fraudulent material pretenses, representations and promises, in that, they operated a “romance scheme,” wherein they created fake profiles on popular social media platforms, online games or apps, and dating websites to lure lonely women into romantic relationships. Once they set up the fake profiles, they contacted, or were contacted by, women in the United States and elsewhere, and cultivated bonds of affection and trust with the victims. The perpetrators then would begin requesting money from the victims under materially false pretenses.

10. Because the perpetrators typically pretended to be United States citizens working abroad or at sea, they would direct the victims to send money to a “trusted agent” in the United States, either by wire transfer, remote deposits, or mail.

11. **Ashemuke** served as one of these “trusted agents,” collecting the proceeds of the fraud and then transferring the proceeds through bank accounts in the United States to other bank accounts controlled by **Ashemuke** and other coconspirators known and unknown, typically in Nigeria.

12. Beginning in July 2014, and continuing until December 2018, **Ashemuke’s** bank accounts received deposits from women around the United States, Great Britain and Australia, who were victims of the romance scheme. Among them were: JL, age 66, a

resident of Veneta, Oregon; KG, age 48, a resident of Midland, Michigan; RK, age 78, a resident of Monroe, Michigan; LBT, age 72, a resident of Monteagle, Tennessee; CM, age 68, a resident of Brunswick, Ohio; and LN, age 58, a resident of Hagerstown, Maryland.

13. For example, in or about May 2018, RK met a man on Facebook who called himself Taylor Nordback. Nordback convinced RK that he was an oil engineer from San Diego working on an oilrig out at sea. During the ensuing six months, Nordback convinced RK to loan him approximately \$100,000 to help his purported oil business. On each occasion, Nordback directed RK to mail the loan to one of his money agents who were located in different cities in the United States.

14. In or about September 2018, Nordback told RK that he experienced a financial setback and that he needed another \$30,000 loan. Nordback directed RK to mail \$30,000 in cash to his money agent, E&F Global, in Stephenville, Texas. In response to Nordback's request, on September 18, 2018, RK withdrew a total of \$30,000 in cash from two different bank accounts and then mailed \$30,000 via U.S. Postal Service Express Mail to E&F Global in Stephenville, Texas.

15. On or about September 25, 2018, **Ashemuke** deposited \$36,000 in cash into his Farmers and Merchants bank account, FMB, ending in 2009. That same day, **Ashemuke** sent an international wire transfer of \$35,000 from his FMB-2009 account to his First Bank of Nigeria account styled, E&F Ashemuke Global Enterprise.

16. From on or about August 1, 2016, until on or about November 26, 2018, **Ashemuke** engaged in a pattern of opening bank accounts and conducting suspicious and/or fraudulent activity until the banks closed his accounts. Each time an account was closed, the bank notified **Ashemuke** in person and/or in writing that the account was closed due to fraudulent and/or suspicious activity. In response to the closures, **Ashemuke** would open a new account at a different bank.

17. From in or about July 2014 to December 2018, **Ashemuke** received over \$1.5 million in proceeds from the scheme that he moved through the banking system.

Overt Acts in Furtherance of the Conspiracy

18. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to effect its objects, the following overt acts, among others, were committed in the Fort Worth Division of the Northern District of Texas and elsewhere, by at least one co-conspirator:

19. On or about September 25, 2018, after receiving \$30,000 via U.S. Postal Service Express Mail to E&F Global in Stephenville from RK, **Ashemuke** deposited \$36,000 in cash into his FMB-2009 account.

20. That same day, **Ashemuke** sent an international wire transfer of \$35,000 from his FMB account, ending in 2009, to his First Bank of Nigeria account styled E&F Ashemuke Global Enterprise.

All in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371 (18 U.S.C. § 1957).

ERIN NEALY COX
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy E. Larson", written in a cursive style.

NANCY E. LARSON
Assistant United States Attorney
DC State Bar No. 430780
801 Cherry Street, Suite 1700
Fort Worth, Texas, 76102
Telephone: 817-252-5200
Facsimile: 817-252-5455
nancy.larson@usdoj.gov