

which, he said, provides a gap, by providing an enabling Board.

Court to Rule on Obanikoro, Coca-Cola N96.8m Judgement Debt Suit on July 11

Akinwale Akintunde

Justice Kazeem Alogba of an Ikeja High Court has fixed July 11, 2017 to rule on an application filed by Nigerian Bottling Company Ltd (NBC) seeking to set aside a garnishee order granted against five banks, in respect of a N96.8m judgement awarded in favour of Senator Musiliu Obanikoro

Senator Obanikoro had in 2010, sued NBC before an Edo High Court over an accident along Lagos-Benin Highway, where a Coca-Cola truck crashed into his daughter's car, killing the driver, a police orderly and his daughter's friend, Ibukun Adeniyi

Obanikoro's daughter, Abidemi, who was the only surviving person in the accident, was subsequently flown to South Africa for life saving medical procedure.

Six years after the suit was filed, the Edo High Court sitting in Auchu delivered a judgement against NBC, and awarded a cumulative cost of N96,767,737.52 in favour of the plaintiffs.

While \$184,236.52 (N76,694,612) was specifically awarded as cost for medical expenses for Abidemi's treatment, R48,779.66 (N1,073,152.52) was awarded for her hotel accommodation and N10million to Mrs Agnes Akele for the death of her husband, who was the driver

of the car.

The court also awarded N1,500,000 to Obanikoro, as expenses incurred on behalf of his late driver and police, and another N10,000,000 to the daughter as general damages for her pain and suffering.

Although NBC appealed the quantum of amount awarded in favour of the plaintiffs, Obanikoro through his lawyer, Mr. Lawal Pedro, SAN, registered the judgement before the Lagos High Court, since NBC's headquarters is located in Lagos.

Obanikoro subsequently, obtained a garnishee order against five banks where NBC

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