

# S-Court frees woman in Edo accused of complicity in husband's death

By Ozioruva Aliu

**B**ENIN CITY—THE Supreme Court had discharged and acquitted Enobong Victor-Isonguyo wife of late Victor Isogunyo, a Deputy General of the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company, NPDC, a subsidiary of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, in Benin City, Edo State who was accused in 2013 of conniving with her pastor, Prince Utoka Nkachukwu to allegedly kill her husband over allegation that she was having an affair and pregnant for the pastor.

She was also accused of donating her late husband's official car to the pastor.

Six years after the incident, an Edo State High Court presided over by Justice Geraldine Imadegbelo in May 2019 convicted Enobong and Nkachukwu and sentenced them to death by hanging.

But counsel to Enobong,

Olayiwola Afolabi argued that there was no direct link of his client to the death of Isonguyo and therefore approached the Court of Appeal where he also lost.

In its lead judgment in SC/CR/249/2020 between Enobong Victor-Isogunyo (Appellant) and The State (Respondent) which was supported by three out of the other four members of the panel, Justice Mary Peter-Odili (now retired) held that the evidences used to convict her by the trial court and upheld by the Court of Appeal were evidences given by Nkachukwu who was the 1st Prosecution Witness and that there was no direct link which is a vital ingredient for conviction in a murder case. She also ruled that Enobong was convicted on the basis of speculation.

In a copy of certified judgment made available to Vanguard, She said an Appellate Court would not disturb the findings of a trial

court which has the advantage of seeing and listening to a witness unless such findings were perverse and not supported by evidence which she said was the case. "The Supreme Court cannot allow that error to continue and it must act accordingly by setting aside that same judgment otherwise that blatant error will continue to disturb our criminal justice jurisprudence.

"I set aside the judgment of the Court of Appeal affirming the conviction and sentence of the appellant. The appellant accordingly acquitted and discharged. Appeal allowed"

Justices Olatokunbo Kekere-Ekun, Amina Adamu Augie and Abdu Aboki concurred with her.

On her part shortly after she was released, Enobong said: "I believe God for this day, for this is the day that the Lord has made and I will forever live to praise him. I went in there as nobody but I am standing here as an ambassador of Christ."