

I was upcoming artist and still is. In 2013 while I was 16 years my manager secured a “contract” with equity bank to produce a song to be used in their Wings to Fly programme. It was during the June midterm holidays. I travelled from Kisumu and I remember having to go to homeboyz studio the next morning to record the song. I produced the song and we later presented it to equity centre. On the first day John Kennedy who was my manager took me to Equity centre, I remember we had to sign and state where we were going, to see whom and for what reason at the reception before we proceeded to an office where I later learnt was the communications department and specifically Mr. Edward Muchai’s office. When we got there Mr. Muchai was notified by a security officer who sat outside the department that we had arrived. The security officer let us in.

Mr. Edward Muchai who introduced himself as a communication manager, took the compact disk put it in his computer and listened for a while. He then immediately walked into an Adjacent office which he later informed us was his senior’s office in the department. He came back without the cd and said that we were to write an official proposal which would be taken to the ceo. Later that week we returned with the prepared proposal and took it to Mr. Edward Muchai. On that day I remember Mr. John Kennedy who was then my Manager was asked to wait at the waiting room as I submitted the proposal.

When I got to Mr. Edward Muchai’s desk he went through the proposal, made a call and sent me to the ceo’s office. On arriving there with John Kennedy, again we had to sign a visitor’s book, the secretary took the proposal and took it to the ceo’s office. We were later called in where we had a chance to meet the ceo Dr. Mwangi. He said that he loved the proposal and wanted to put into action, we had a chat for a few minutes, he stamped the proposal and he later instructed his secretary to send us to Mr. Kibiru. At that specific time, I remember the secretary telling me that the equity Group foundation office had been moved to a floor before the ceo’s office due to renovations and that’s why they were sharing an office Mr. Kibiru also confirmed the same.

On getting to Mr. kibiru’s office he went through the stamped proposal and insisted he had to remain with it, we had a chat for a while, he then asked where the music was and I told him Mr. Muchai had remained with it. He made a call to Mr. Muchai, he then sent me down to his office where he gave me a document titled “BUYING OF COPYRIGHTS” which said that they were buying the rights to the song for 10 million shillings, Mr. Edward Muchai explained the contents to me. He told me to sign the document, which he later took. He then made a call and sent me to Mr. kibiru’s office with the cd containing the wings to fly song. Mr. Kibiru listened to the song, after which he asked if I was interested in performing at their annual wings to fly seminar. He also took my parents contacts and said that they would get InTouch.

Later that evening at around 6:30 pm Mr. Kibiru calls my mum and asks her whether I had an interest in being awarded a wings to fly scholarship but my mum said she was okay and comfortable paying fees. I later returned to school for the second half of the term. On returning for the AUGUST holidays in 2013, I asked my manager what the progress was, he gave feedback after a few days saying the officials at equity told him the song was going through scrutiny and modification. They however gave no feedback until the holidays ended and I went back to school.

During the 3rd term in 2013, I wrote a letter to my manager from school asking him what the progress was, a few days later he responded through my mum, she called through a teacher and said that John Kennedy said he was looking into it. I received no feedback until the term ended, on reaching home my

manager said that he was told the money would be paid in the next financial year as that's when the payment was scheduled to be made and that we should check with the bank at the beginning of July 2014. During the August Holidays 2014, by this time my manager had resigned and was in Australia to further his studies. I decided to go to EQUITY CENTRE to ask why they had not communicated as promised. On that day I was taken to a boardroom meeting where Mr. Kibiru, Mr. Muchai, and Madam Gichoki were present.

They claimed that since my image was not that of a musician and my fan base and work unknown the amount had been reduced to 2.5million, they advised that I work on my fan base and even suggested that I shoot a music video for one of my songs which I did, and that my parent was to accompany me to countersign my contract since being a minor I could not legally sign a contract, so I was asked to return the next day with my parent to countersign the contact. That same evening after my meeting with the managers, I received a call from a representative of equity bank by the name Mary Njoki from finance who asked me to check my email for a document that she had sent and I was asked not to come for the meeting as agreed. She also told me that a contract would be sent to me in two weeks. I went to a nearby cyber café and printed the attachments which I took to my mum.(the documents we were accused of forging)

Later my mum called Mr. Kibiru, Kibiru told mum to send him the details of the account where the money was to be paid, he later sent his email address via text for my mum to send the details (text still available). After the two weeks, there was still no communication my mum called Kibiru who hang up on her and immediately called me he said and I quote "hautujui wewe. Leave this matter alone!" shortly I went back to school for the last term 2014.The scanned document that was attached to the email had a number of discrepancies and made no sense.

When all this started my brother decided to follow up the matter. He took up the matter with customer care via twitter inbox and he was invited to a boardroom meeting on 30th September 2014. where all the four communication managers were present, the environment was very hostile. All the managers claimed that although they knew me, they were only mentoring me. One manager claims, in his statement, that I approached him in his office, forced him to listen to a CD with songs that I wanted equity bank to produce and market. During the meeting my brother was asked if he believed that the managers were only mentors, when he openly said he did not believe them, the senior communications manager instructed the head of security to escort him to the basement and hold him there until he produced the source of the document, yet he was only inquiring why the document had discrepancies. He was released later that day at 7;00 pm thereabout. The email had since been hacked and deleted.

In 2015, there was still no feedback from the investigations they were to carry out, my brother wrote letters to both the CEO and company secretary Mrs. Wamae on 19th January 2015 and 18th February 2015 respectively but they were intercepted by the managers and a reply to both letters was sent in a brown envelope with no official stamps delivered to our door step by g4s. The day after we received the letters my brother and I went to Equity Bank to record a statement as the letter had demanded. When we arrived the investigations officer openly refused to take my statement and instead called a friend from the BFIU. The BFIU officer took the case file and after some discussion with the equity officer and the managers he escorted us to his office. I was 17yrs old and was legally bound to have an adult present when giving my statement, when the BFIU officer asked my brother to keep a distance and he did not, he decided not to record any statement, we were casually escorted out of equity centre into a

van which took us to BFIU headquarters, we were held at his office till late evening as he looked at the case files. Later that evening charges were brought against us, we spent the night at kileleshwa police station and were arraigned in court on the next day.