

REPORT OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION NNEWI BRANCH

INTRODUCTION

The general meeting of the Nigerian Bar Association Nnewi Branch during the January 2021 general meeting resolved that the 2020 Branch Election Committee Report regarding the mutilation, alteration or forgery of the attendance or register of the branch be forwarded to the Disciplinary Committee of the branch..

COMPOSITION OF THE DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE:

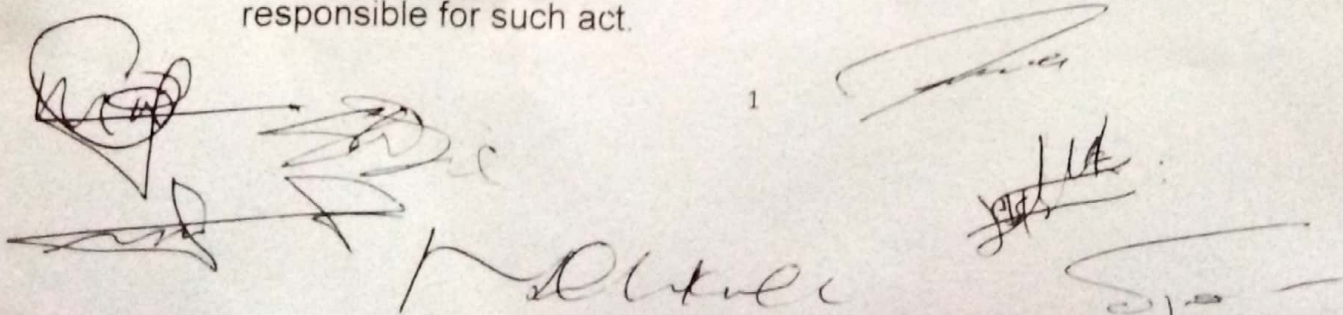
- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|--------------------|
| 1. | Sam Onyia Esq | - | Chairman |
| 2. | Ifeanyi David Esq | - | Alternate Chairman |
| 3. | T.O. Igwegbe Esq | - | Member |
| 4. | K.O. Odimegwu Esq | - | Member |
| 5. | Nnamdi Chima Esq | - | Secretary |
| 6. | M.N. Emecheta Esq | - | Member |
| 7. | Chioma Nwachukwu Esq | - | Member |
| 8. | Obinna Nnaka Esq | - | Member |
| 9. | A.C. Edu Esq | - | Member |

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The chairman and secretary of the branch pursuant to the resolution of the general meeting via a letter dated 11th February 2021 forwarded to the committee the terms of reference and some documents relating to the issues. The terms of reference of the committee are as follows:

1. Determine if the Attendance Register of the branch was mutilated, altered or forged.
2. Determine the motive of such mutilation, alteration or forgery if any.
3. Determine the person or persons complicit or responsible for such mutilation, alteration or forgery if any.
4. Make recommendations to the branch on sanctions or appropriate measures to be taken against person or persons complicit or responsible for such act.

1



5. Make any other recommendation or recommendations to the branch as your committee may deem fit to make in the circumstances.

PROCEEDINGS:

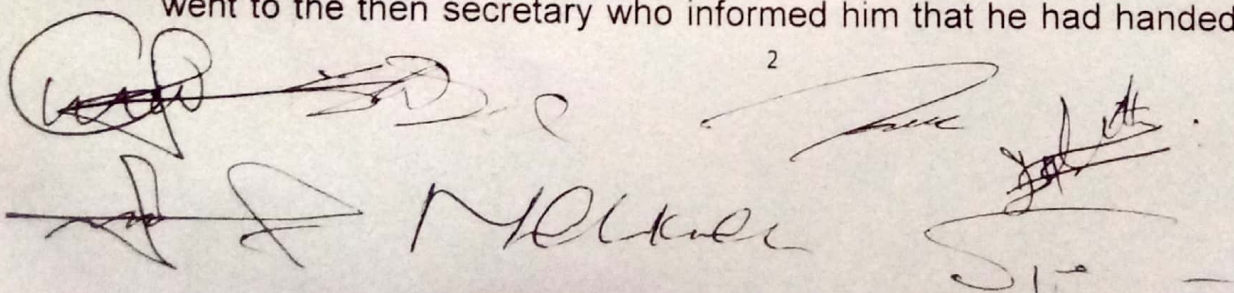
The committee commenced sitting on 19th day of March 2021 and resolved to invite the following persons to throw more light on the allegations

1. P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq
2. Egbuna Odiegwu Esq
3. A.A. Igwebuike Esq
4. Bright Okoro Esq

Notices were served on the above mentioned members except Bright Okoro Esq who has left the branch and no longer within jurisdiction. Egbuna Odiegwu Esq appeared before the committee on 23rd day of March 2021. He testified that after the meeting held at the Ministry of Justice Office Nnewi for the selection of the members of 2020 election committee of the branch, the then chairman of the branch P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq requested for the attendance register and he photocopied it and handed over the original to P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq. He informed the committee that the first two lines of the register were usually reserved for the chairman and secretary and that is why some of the first lines in the copy he made were blank because the chairman did not attend on those dates. A.A Igwebuike Esq pointed out that at the time the register was handed over to him by P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq that he A.A. Igwebuike Esq had not yet indicated interest to contest for the chairmanship of the branch.

The other invited members failed to appear on that date.

On the 30th day of March 2021, A.A. Igwebuike Esq appeared and apologized to the committee for his inability to honour the invitation during the last sitting of the committee. He informed the committee that he was attending meetings of the branch but that he was not writing his name or signing his signature in the attendance register during some of the meetings he attended. He stated that P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq initially directed him to the then secretary Egbuna Odiegwu Esq for him to write his name and sign the register on dates he did not write his name or sign. He then went to the then secretary who informed him that he had handed over the

The bottom of the page contains several handwritten signatures and initials. On the left, there is a large, stylized signature that appears to be 'P.C. Ugwuanyi'. To its right, there is another signature that looks like 'Egbuna Odiegwu'. In the center, there is a signature that appears to be 'A.A. Igwebuike'. On the right side, there are several smaller signatures and initials, including one that looks like 'Bright Okoro' and another that looks like 'S. I.'. There is also a small number '2' written above the signature 'Egbuna Odiegwu'.

register to P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq but P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq denied receiving the register. He further stated that subsequently P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq called him to inform him that he had collected the register. He then went to P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq to write his name on the columns and sign the attendance register on the dates in question.

He stated that on 27/9/2019 that he attended the meeting with Bright Okoro Esq but did not write or sign his name but later did when P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq gave him the register months after the meeting and towards the date of the branch election of 2020.

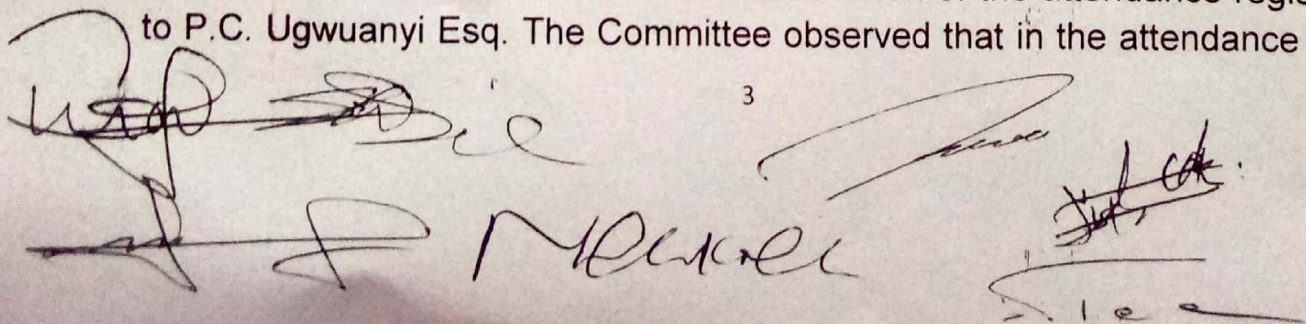
P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq did not appear before the committee, though he sent a letter dated 22/3/2021 addressed to the chairman of the branch and copied to Sam Onyia Esq, Nnamdi Chima Esq, Egbuna Odiegwu Esq and A.A. Igwebuike Esq.

The letter was captioned : (RE INVITATION TO A MEETING OF THE NBA NNEWI DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE MR. CHAIRMAN WHY I CANNOT APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE SET BY YOU OR UNDER YOUR ADMINISTRATION IN RESPECT OF ALLEGED MUTILATION OF THE NBA BRANCH ATTENDANCE REGISTER).

In review of the testimonies of Egbuna Odiegwu Esq and A.A. Igwebuike Esq the committee decided to invite C.D. Nwogugu Esq the Chairman of the Election Committee 2020 election to find out who gave him the register and when he collected the attendance register.

C.D. Nwogugu Esq appeared before the committee on 18th day of April 2021. He informed the committee that the register was not handed over to him on the day the election committee was constituted, but that P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq the then chairman of the branch gave it to him at a later date.

The committee compared the copy of the attendance register photocopied from the original by Egbuna Odiegwu Esq before handing over the said original register to P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq with the register submitted to the committee by the branch. The Committee noticed that the copy submitted by Egbuna Odiegwu Esq at page 19 ended at No 41 but the original register ended at No 42 with the name of A.A. Igwebuike Esq confirming that the name was inserted after the submission of the attendance register to P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq. The Committee observed that in the attendance list

The bottom of the page contains several handwritten signatures and initials in black ink. On the left, there is a large, stylized signature. In the center, there is a signature that appears to be 'Nwogugu'. To the right, there are several smaller signatures and initials, including one that looks like 'Igwebuike' and another that is partially obscured. A small number '3' is written above the central signature.

of 28/2/2020 at pg 25 there is an alteration. The record of 26/7/2021 the colour of the line at the foot of that page is different from any of the inks used in writing the names of members on that day and the celotape was affixed before A.A. Igweubike Esq name and signature and the line made at the foot of the page were written. While the copy submitted by Egbuna Odiegwu Esq has none of these features. The list of 27/9/2019 at page 21 the committee observed that the line under the names did not appear in the document submitted by Egbuna Odiegwu Esq.

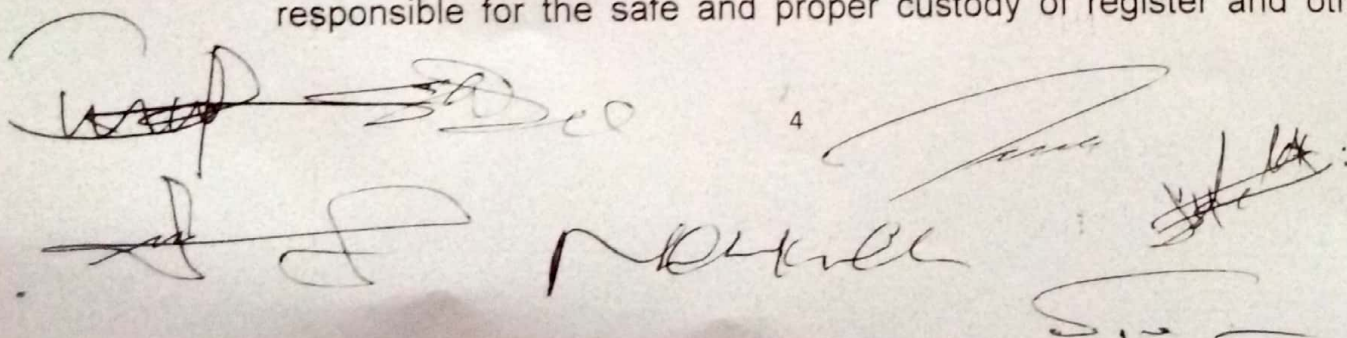
The name of Bright Okoro Esq appeared on the list of 27/9/2019 after A.A. Igwebuikie's name but his signature was not there in the attendance register but the name of Bright Okoro Esq did not appear in Egbuna Odiegwu's copy. The committee believed the testimony of A.A. Igwebuikie Esq that it was P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq that gave him the attendance register to add his name and sign months after the meetings under reference.

FINDINGS

1. The committee found that the attendance register was mutilated altered and forged.
2. That the motive is to make it appear that A.A. Igwebuikie Esq attended the branch meeting more number of times than he actually did.
3. The committee found that A.A. Igwebuikie Esq and P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq were the persons responsible for the act in view of the admission of A.A. Igwebuikie Esq that he actually signed the attendance register months after the meeting took place and from the testimonies of the other witnesses and the documents before it.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The committee recommends that the general meeting determine the appropriate disciplinary measure to be taken against the two person A.A. Igwebuikie Esq and P.C. Ugwuanyi Esq found complicit herein. However the committee takes cognisance of the candour and truthfulness of A.A. Igwebuikie Esq.g
2. That any secretary of the branch should note that they are responsible for the safe and proper custody of register and others

The bottom of the page contains several handwritten signatures and initials in black ink. There are approximately six distinct marks, some appearing to be full names and others as initials or abbreviations. A small number '4' is written in the center of the page, below the first recommendation.

documents of the branch and on no account should the documents be released without proper documentation.

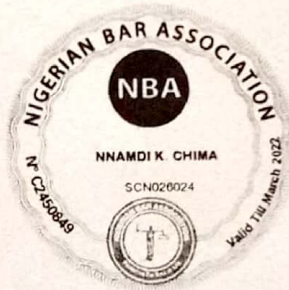
T.O. Igwegbe (Mrs) has been out of the state for sometime now. She did not participate in the meetings of the committee and thus did not sign the committee's report.

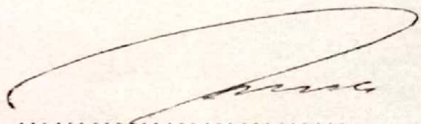
We thank the branch for giving us the opportunity to serve the family bar.

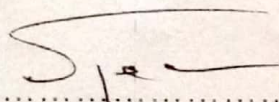
Dated this ^{26th}.....day of May 2021.

Signed


.....
Sam Onyia Esq
Chairman



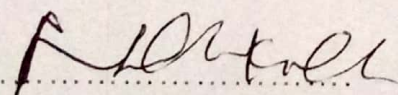

.....
Nnamdi Chima Esq
Secretary


.....
Ifeanyi David Esq
Alternate Chairman


.....
M.N. Emecheta Esq
Member

.....
K.O. Odimegwu Esq
Member


.....
Obinna Nnaka Esq
Member


.....
Chioma Nwachukwu Esq
Member


.....
A.C. Edu Esq
Member