



Wednesday, April 9, 2025

The Chairman, National Judicial Council (NJC) & Chief Justice of Nigeria,
Honourable Justice Kudirat Kekere-Ekun,
Supreme Court Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja - FCT

My lord,

PETITION AGAINST EIGHTEEN JUDGES OF IMO STATE JUDICIARY, FOR AGE FALSIFICATION; A DISHONOURABLE ACT FOR WHICH MANY OTHER JUDGES AND JUSTICES HAVE BEEN SUMMARILY DISMISSED AND SOME ARE CURRENTLY BEING PROSECUTED BY THE INDEPENDENT CORRUPT PRACTICES COMMISSION (ICPC)

The CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT PLATFORM CSEP, heartily congratulate you on your well deserved elevation to the exalted office of the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman; National Judicial Council NJC. We are glad that our President, His Excellency Senator Bola Ahmed Tinubu GCFR kept to the guiding laws by swearing you in as the Chief Justice of Nigeria.

Congratulations Sir.

The Civil Society Engagement Platform CSEP, a powerful coalition of leading civil rights activists in Nigeria has unearthed an unprecedented age falsification scandal of an alarming proportion in the Imo State Judiciary. This is at a level never seen before in Nigeria, involving a whopping eighteen Judges of Imo State Judiciary; unbelievable!

Your lordship may recall that CSEP; through its diligent and painstaking covert operations, exposed the former Chief Judge of Imo State, Hon. Justice Chikeka for same crime of age falsification. We followed up with a petition to the NJC and she was eventually sacked after due process was followed by

the NJC to investigate our petition and found it meritorious. CSEP has continued with its civic work of fighting against corruption in public service by collaborating with the Citizens, availing them of covert means of reaching us and law

enforcement agencies through our toll-free lines. Through our collaboration with the Citizens who are our major source of information, CSEP has blown whistles on numerous issues of corruption, perjury and human rights violation involving public office holders in various arms and levels of government.

Your lordship, today; the Civil Society Engagement Platform CSEP is in possession of hard evidence showing that the following Justices of the Imo State Judiciary falsified their ages at various points so as to remain in service for longer period of time or to secure appointment as judicial officers:

1. Hon. Justice I. O. Agugua - **date of birth on Nominal roll is 10th May, 1960, date of birth on Law School Form is 10th May, 1960 while date of birth on testimonial is 10th May, 1959.** The existence of two different dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer. There are also damning reports of gross misconduct against this Judge that renders her unqualified to continue serving as a judicial officer. Please find the attached document marked as annexure 001.

2. Hon. Justice C. A. Ononeze-Madu - **date of birth on nominal roll is 7th July, 1965, date of birth on Law School Form is 7th July, 1965 while date of birth on the application Form for Call to Bar is 7th July, 1963.** The existence of two different dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

3. Hon. Justice L. C. Azuama - **date of birth on nominal roll is 11th November, 1960, date of birth on Law School Form on oath is 11th November, 1960 while date of birth on DSS Report is 11th November, 1957.** The existence of two different dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

4. Hon. Justice B. C. Iheka - **date of birth on Nominal Roll is 24th December, 1962, date of birth on Law School Form on oath and Application Form for Call to Bar respectively is 24th December, 1958 while date of birth on Statutory Declaration of age is 24th December, 1962.** The existence of two

different dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

5. Hon. Justice M. E. Nwagbaoso - **date of birth on Nominal Roll is 20th August, 1962, date of birth on DSS Report is 20th August, 1962 while date of birth on Law School Form on oath and Application Form for Call to Bar respectively is 20th August, 1952.** The existence of two different dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

Hon. Justice P. U Nnodum - **date of birth on Nominal Roll is 22nd June, 1962, date of birth on Law School Form on oath is 22nd June, 1964 while date of birth on DSS Report is 22nd June, 1962.** The existence of two different dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

6. Hon. Justice Vincent I. Onyeka - **date of birth on Nominal Roll is 15th March, 1966 while date of birth on Law School Form on oath and Application Form for Call to Bar respectively is 15th March, 1965.** The existence of two different dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

Hon. Justice Vivian O. B. Ekezie - **date of birth on Nominal role is 31st March, 1975, date of birth on Curriculum Vitae is 31st March, 1975 while date of birth from Secondary School is 31st March, 1974.** The existence of two different dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

7. Hon. Justice Kechinyere Leweanya - **date of birth on Curriculum Vitae is 26th April, 1972, date of birth on Nominal Roll is 26th April, 1974, date of birth on Law School Form is 26th April 1968 while date of birth on a Government White Paper is 26th April, 1970.** The existence of different multiple dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

8. Hon. Justice Alma Ngozi Eluwa - **date of birth on Nominal Roll is 18th October, 1961, date of birth Secondary School is 18th October, 1962, date of birth on Statutory Declaration of age is 18th October, 1961 while date of birth on White Paper is 18th October, 1959.** The existence of different multiple dates

of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

9. Hon. Justice Okereke Chinyere Ngozi - **date of birth on Nominal Roll is 9th September, 1977, date of birth on Statutory age Declaration is 9th September, 1977 while date of birth on Law School Form on oath is 9th September, 1973.** The existence of two different dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

10. Hon. Justice Innocent Chidi Ibeawuchi - **date of birth on Nominal Roll is 5th August, 1968, date of birth on Law School Form on oath and Application for Call to Bar respectively is 5th August, 1966 while date of birth on Statutory Declaration of age is 5th August, 1968.** The existence of two different dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

11. Hon. Justice Mathew Chinedu Ijezie - **date of birth on Baptismal Card is 11th August, 1966, date of birth on Law School Form on oath and Application for Call to Bar respectively is 11th August, 1967 while date of birth on DSS Report is 11th August, 1966.** The existence of two different dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

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12. Hon. Justice Ononogbo Chidi Linus - **date of birth on Statutory Declaration of age is 8th March, 1968, date of birth on Law School Form on oath and Application for Call to Bar respectively is 8th March, 1970 while date of birth on DSS Report is 8th March, 1968.** The existence of two different dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

13. Hon. Justice Tennyson Nze - **date of birth on Nominal Roll is 24th June, 1970, date of birth on Law School Form on oath and Application for Call to Bar respectively is 24th June, 1974 while date of birth on Statutory Declaration of age is 24th June, 1970.** The existence of two different dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

14. Hon. Justice Ofoha Uchenna - **date of birth on Nominal Roll is 6th April, 1966, date of birth on Law School Form on oath and Application for Call to Bar respectively is 6th April, 1963 while date of birth on DSS Report is 6th**

April, 1966. The existence of two different dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

15. Hon Justice Everyman Eleanya - date of birth on Nominal Roll is 12th January, 1980, date of birth on Law School Form on oath is 12th January, 1978 while date of birth on DSS Report is 12th January, 1980. The existence of two different dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

16. Hon. Justice Rosemond Ibe - date of birth on Baptismal Card is 12th July, 1973, date of birth on Law School Form on oath is 12th July, 1974 while date of birth on Direct Employment Application Form is 12th July, 1973. The existence of two different dates of birth on the record of this Judge constitutes a prima facie indictment on his honesty and integrity as judicial Officer.

The Evidence in Support of the age falsification by the above named judicial officers are annexed as Exhibits 001 to 018.

We are also in possession of hard evidence of acts of violation of code of conduct of judicial officers by Hon. Justice I. O. Agugua. Please see Exhibit 001. TheNigeriaLawyer

What is the Code of Conduct for Judicial Officers?

A Judicial Officer should avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety in all his activities. A Judicial Officer should respect and comply with the laws of the land and should conduct himself at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the Judiciary.

Recently, the Director General of United States Law Institute had this to say about our Judicial System "It has become a widely held global perception that Nigeria's Judicial System suffers a crisis of confidence. Many have lost faith in the Court's integrity, moral standing and intellectual credibility."

As much as we try so hard to debunk such global perceptions, events occurring within our judicial system tends to buttress it and that is the reason the Civil Society Engagement Platform CSEP along with numerous other well meaning individuals and Organizations have continued to fight to restore confidence in our Judicial System.

3. The National Judicial Council (NJC) had at its 63rd Meeting held on July 17 and 18, 2013 recommended **Mr. Nwanosike Shadrack** Acting Chief Judge of Abia State for Compulsory retirement for falsifying his age.

4. The National Judicial Council (NJC) also recommended the Compulsory retirement of **Hon. Justice Abdul-Kareem Babatunde Abdulrasaq** to Governor Oyetola of Osun State based on a Petition by Chief Yomi Aliyu SAN for Falsification of his date of birth from 3rd September, 1955 to 3rd September 1957 with effect from 3rd September, 2020. Council further requested the Osun State Government to deduct from his lordships gratuity, salaries received by him from 3rd September 2020 and remit same to the National Judicial Council.

5. The National Judicial Council under the Chairmanship of the Honourable Justice Walter Samuel Nkanu Onnoghen, GCON, at its 87th Meeting which was held on 3rd October 2018, rejected the letter of voluntary retirement by **Hon. Mr. Justice Joshua E. Ikede** of the Delta State High Court sequel to the findings of the Council on the allegation of falsification of age contained in a petition written by Zik Gbemre, National Co-ordinator of Niger delta Peace Coalition. Council found that the Hon. Judge ought to have retired since 1st October 2016. Consequently it backdated his retirement to 2016 and recommended to the Government of Delta State to deduct from the retirement benefits of the Judge, all salaries received by him from October 2016 till date and remit same to NJC which pays salaries of all Judicial officers in the Federation.

Time shall fail us to put forward a plethora of other such cases against Judges and Justices of our Courts, but suffice it to say that; even among thieves; there is honour.

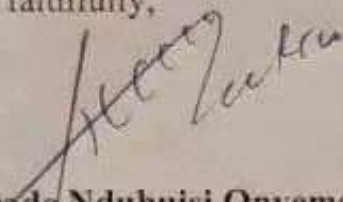
Me lord, we had written a petition on this matter to the Imo State Judicial Service Commission since the 20th of February, 2025 without any response from them till date. The Civil Society and Labour allies have decided that if the Imo State JSC fails to act on our petition, we will mobilise a massive protest that will shut down the office of Imo State JSC and label them accessories to this crime of age falsification.

We hereby demand action on this petition so as to save the Judiciary from continued ridicule as a result of the presence of certain Judges who are known to have falsified their ages and still parade themselves as Judges.

We are confident that you are one person who will not allow the Judiciary to be brought to ridicule.

My lord, accept the assurances of our esteemed regards as we anticipate your prompt and decisive action.

Yours faithfully,



Comrade Ndubuisi Onyemaechi
Director Investigation
Civil Society Engagement Platform CSEP

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