



J. S.Okutepa SAN and Co.



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8th October 2025

Mr Nyesom Ezenwo Wike

Minister of the Federal Capital Territory,
No.1 Kapital Road,
Area 11, Garki,
Abuja, FCT.

Sir,

DEFAMATORY PUBLICATIONS AGAINST ARC.TONYE PATRICK COLE, DEMAND FOR RETRACTION, PUBLIC APOLOGY, AND PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION IN THE SUM OF ₦20,000,000,000 (TWENTY BILLION NAIRA)

We have been briefed and our professional services retained by **Arc. Tonye Patrick Cole**, hereinafter referred to as "**our client**", on whose firm and unequivocal instructions we write to you this letter of demand.

2. It is the instruction of our client that on the 18th day of September 2025, during a live broadcast of Channels Television's flagship prime-time programme, Politics Today, in an edition titled "**One-on-One with Nyesom Wike**", anchored by *Mr. Seun Okinbaloye*, you made very damaging, malicious and unfounded defamatory statements concerning and against the person and office of our client.
3. It is our instruction that in the said programme which was published/televised at your instance and permission and or which you allowed to be published and or which you caused to be published/televised nationally and internationally, you made defamatory statements against the person and office and or occupation of our client without any factual or any justifiable legal basis whatsoever. It is our instruction that in the said publications you went to town as a



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lawyer, using as it were, very unprofessional gutter languages unbecoming of a lawyer and which you knew or you have the reasons to know were false and completely devoid of any factual or legal basis.

4. We have the instruction of our client that you falsely described him as a **"thief"**, accusing him of **"Stealing State Resources"**, **"was a conduit pipe with Sahara"**, and you specifically charged our client with **"Selling Rivers State Gas for \$308 Million"**. We were briefed that you went further in the programme to claim that our client was directly responsible for crippling the resources of Rivers State. Politics Today, we have the instruction, is one of the most widely watched political programmes in Nigeria, enjoying both national and international viewership. It is our instruction that your words, which you uttered and published recklessly and without any factual or truth whatsoever, were broadcast live to millions of viewers and have since been amplified by rebroadcasts, online publications, and extensive social media circulation as intended and authorised by you.
5. It is our instruction that the defamatory broadcast has therefore reached an exceptionally wide audience, making its injurious effect permanent and incalculably damaging to our client's hard-earned reputation. The words you used, and which you published and or caused Channels Television to publish to millions of viewers both nationally and internationally, portrayed our client in their ordinary and natural meaning as a thief, a dishonest and fraudulent person, an economic saboteur, and a morally bankrupt man. The publication further portrayed our client as an economic parasite with no integrity or love for the people of Rivers State and Nigerians in general. These imputations are plainly calculated to expose our client to public obloquy, hatred, ridicule, contempt, and to injure him in his profession and standing as a respected entrepreneur and statesman and religious man of impeccable character and repute.
6. We have been briefed by our client that by allowing these false allegations to be published, repeated, and left permanently accessible on public platforms, you have demonstrated reckless disregard for truth, fairness, and the devastating consequences of your words have lowered the integrity and reputation of our client in the estimation of

his friends, associates, the general public and family members who now looked down on our client as a thief, common criminal, and an unworthy man of doubtful character.

7. It is our instruction that each continued rebroadcast, repost, and replay compounds the defamation, further injuring our client's hard-earned reputation before right-thinking members of society both within and outside Nigeria. For the avoidance of doubt, the said interview is archived and remains accessible on Channels Television's official YouTube channel through the following link:

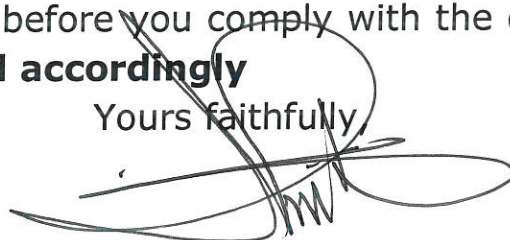
<https://www.youtube.com/live/FAxzP7fpgYk?si=ahSipdWqYWdRIBQ9>

8. It is our instruction that this continued availability of the defamatory publication at your instance aggravates the defamatory injury and ensures the harm to our client persists daily. We have instruction of our client that by the words, video and news as permanently stored as shown above which words, video and news were published of and concerning our client and which directly referred to our client by name and his office as politician, a pastor and an architect you meant and was understood to mean in the natural and ordinary meanings that our client is ***a thief, a convicted criminal, dishonest and fraudulent person, an economic saboteur, a morally bankrupt man, an economic parasite and political and social viper who have no business in ecclesiastical cycle, a wicked man of extraordinary bad image and character who should not be seen associating with decent people, a man who has no love for the people of Rivers state and Nigerians in general.***
9. It is our instruction that the words which you published of or caused to be published of and concerning the person and office and occupation of our client were not only false but were recklessly uttered in bad faith with malice, calculated to destroy our client's hard-earned reputation as an accomplished entrepreneur, public figure, and statesman. The imputations are criminal in nature, portraying our client as dishonest, corrupt, and unfit to hold any position of trust. Our client categorically denies these allegations and states unequivocally that he has never been indicted, convicted, or

found guilty of any crime in relation to the matters you raised or any matter at all.

10. Accordingly, it is our instruction that, in order to mitigate the colossal damage already caused, we demand and we hereby demand that you immediately retract the defamatory statements in full, in writing, and cause such retraction to be broadcast with equal prominence on Channels Television and published in at least **3 national newspapers** within **14** days from the date of this letter. You are further required to tender an unreserved public apology to our client, both in writing and through the same media platforms, and specifically by way of a live broadcast on Channels Television in addition to the **3 national newspapers**.
11. In addition, to the demands in paragraph 10 hereof, we have the instruction of our client to demand and we so demand now that you pay the sum of **₦20,000,000,000.00 (Twenty Billion Naira)** as compensation for the malicious and unfounded defamatory publication complained of which have caused severe reputational damage, mental distress, and loss of goodwill to our client since the unwarranted and false publication. We have instruction that a bank draft in the above sum be issued to our client and sent to us within the days given hereof. In addition, we have instruction to demand and we do so now that you provide a written undertaking to desist forthwith from any further defamatory publications against our client.
12. Take notice that, we have the unequivocal instruction of our client to take out a writ of summons against you in the event of your refusal, failure and or neglect to comply fully with the demands of our client in paragraphs 10 and 11 hereof within **14 days** from the date of this letter. We hope you will not allow our client to resort to the use of weapons in legal armouries before you comply with the demands of our client hereof. **Be guided accordingly**

Yours faithfully,



Chief J. S. Okutepa, SAN
(Principal partner/Managing Advocate)

