



I. G NWAOZICHI & CO.
LEGAL PRACTITIONERS AND CONSULTANTS

17th October, 2025.

Hon. Chief Justice of the Federation/
Chairman National Judicial Council,
Supreme Court Complex,
Abuja – Nigeria.

My Lord,

PETITION FOR ABUSE OF OFFICE AND MISCONDUCT AGAINST HON. JUSTICE EVELYN OTUSHA INARIGU OF THE UPPER CUSTOMARY COURT GRADE I, KARU, NASARAWA STATE, AND TWO COURT STAFF, ISAAC AND ANDREW, FOR UNLAWFUL DETENTION, HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT ON MR. IKECHUKWU GODSWILL NWAOZICHI, ESQ.

My name is Ikechukwu Godswill Nwaozichi, Esq., a legal practitioner based in Abuja. I write this petition to your good office to formally bring to your attention the unfortunate incident that took place at the Upper Customary Court Grade I, Karu, Nasarawa State, where I was unlawfully detained, harassed and assaulted by the staff of the court identified as Isaac and Andrew, acting on the instruction of Hon. Justice Evelyn Otusha Inarigu.

This is a formal petition written in my personal capacity as a victim of an abuse of office against Hon. Justice Evelyn Otusha Inarigu of the Upper Customary Court Grade I, Karu, Nasarawa State, for acts of misconduct, abuse of office, and gross violation of professional ethics.

The material facts leading to this petition are as follows:

1. On 14th October, 2025, I appeared before the Upper Customary Court, Grade 1, Karu, Nasarawa State, as counsel for the Defendant in Suit No: UCCCK/CR/225/2025, a Direct Criminal Complaint. Upon arrival at the court at about 9:03 a.m., I confirmed from the court registry that the matter was listed as No. 5 on the cause list.
2. Shortly thereafter, the Complainant's counsel arrived with his client, and at about 9:48 a.m., four police officers drove into the court premises in a white Hilux vehicle. Three of the officers engaged the Complainant and his counsel, after which one of them proceeded into the Registrar's office accompanied by the Complainant's lawyer.
3. Moments later, Isaac, a court staff, entered the courtroom and announced that the court would not be sitting as the Judge was bereaved, directing parties to take new dates. Both counsel agreed on 6th November, 2025 for the adjournment.
4. I was about to leave the premises when Isaac requested to speak with me privately. I obliged him and he questioned me about the whereabouts of the Defendant. Upon being informed that the Defendant was unreachable, Isaac suddenly prevented me from leaving the court premises, alleging that it was on the "court's instruction." Isaac, with the assistance of another staff member, Andrew, physically obstructed and repeatedly pushed me, forcing me back to the Registrar's office.
5. In the Registrar's office, a police officer already waiting for the court staffs to bring me in informed me that I had been "invited" by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), New Nyanya Police Division, Nasarawa State. Isaac again stated that the invitation was on the instruction of the court. Without resistance, I accompanied the officers to the station, where I was detained for some hours.
6. At the police station, the DPO, in the presence of the two court staff, the Complainant's counsel, and the Investigating Police Officer, questioned me about the Defendant's whereabouts and demanded that I produce the Defendant or the lawyer who represented the Defendant in court at the last adjourned date as a condition for my release.

7. I put a phone call across to the said lawyer, K.G. Latwul, Esq., explaining to her the situation. She arrived later in the company of I.L. Ekwere, Esq. The Registrar, Isaac, then presented an alleged arrest warrant purportedly issued against K.G. Latwul, Esq. for contempt of court. The DPO directed that all parties return to the court for clarification.
8. Upon return to the court, there was no sitting of the Judge. While awaiting clarification, I was insulted by Isaac. When I attempted to record the altercation on my phone, Andrew forcibly seized the phone and held me by the neck. The phone was later recovered at the police station.
9. Later that day, at about 4:30pm Isaac and the other staff began to lock their office and he informed me and my colleagues that they are closing for the day and that the Judge had directed that K. G. Latwul be taken to the Area Command, New Karu, police station, Nasarawa State. We demanded to see the order, but he refused to present one and made a derogatory remark towards us. In his words. During the ensuing confrontation, Isaac physically assaulted me, inflicting injuries on my head.
10. The police subsequently arrived with the alleged court order that was earlier shown to us at the police station and conveyed my colleagues and I to the station in a police van. My colleagues and I were only released following the intervention of representatives from the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Unity Bar, Abuja Branch, NBA Keffi Branch, the NBA Human Rights Committee and members of University of Jos LLB class of 2014.
11. I further state that throughout these events which lasted for over 10 hours, Justice Evelyn Otusha Inarigu was in constant telephone communication with the Registrar, Isaac, issuing directives on the steps to be taken. At the police station, I heard Isaac taking instructions from her over the phone, following which the Investigating Police Officer demanded that our phones be searched and the videos of the incident deleted.
12. I also recall that on 8th October, 2025, a Notice of Preliminary Objection challenging the court's jurisdiction in the same matter was filed. On that occasion, another counsel from the firm, Hannah Shaba David, Esq., who

went to file the process, was invited by the Judge into chambers and questioned about her presence in court before being dismissed.

The totality of the foregoing suggests that the incident of 14th October, 2025, was not spontaneous but a deliberate act carried out with the knowledge and direction of Justice Evelyn Otusha Inarigu, using her staff and law enforcement officers to intimidate, harass, and unlawfully detain a legal practitioner discharging his professional duties.

I neither stood as surety for the Defendant nor had custody of him. There was, therefore, no legal basis for my detention or the purported “invitation” by the police on the instructions of the court.

Let me conclude by re-affirming my respect for the judiciary. I was called to the Nigeria Bar in 2015 and I have consistently maintain good conduct both inside and outside the courtroom. The assault on me and my colleagues is an experience I wished never happened and the horrible memory of it will be difficult to erase.

In the circumstances, I respectfully urge My Lord to cause a thorough and impartial investigation into the conduct of Hon. Justice Evelyn Otusha Inarigu and her staff, Isaac and Andrew, with a view to ensuring accountability and maintaining the integrity of the judiciary.

We trust that this petition will receive your urgent and just consideration.

My Lord, kindly find attached:

1. Copy of the Direct Criminal Complaint
2. Copy of the Notice of Preliminary Objection filed on the 8th of October, 2025.
3. Pictures of the injury inflicted.

Yours faithfully,



Ikechukwu G. Nwaozichi, Esq.



Cc:

1. Hon. Chief Judge of Nasarawa State
High Court Complex,
Lafia, Nasarawa State.
2. The President,
Customary Court of Appeal, Nasarawa
Nasarawa- State.
3. Nigerian Bar Association,
NBA National Secretariat,
Abuja.
4. The NBA,
Unity Branch, Abuja.
5. The NBA,
Keffi- Branch.
6. Chairman, Citizen's Liberties Committee,
Nigeria Bar Association.



HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF NASARAWA STATE

IN THE Upper Customary Court of NEW KARU NASARAWA STATE

SUIT NO: Week 12: 225/2025

BETWEEN

① ORGANIC DISIS FARMING LTD ② MR. ALEX JIM COMPLAINANT(S)

AND

MR. ZWALANU GOD'S HELP ACCUSED(S)

SUMMONS TO AN ACCUSED PERSON(S)

To MR. ZWALANU GOD'S HELP
of NEW KARU

WHEREAS YOUR ATTENDANCE IS REQUIRED TO ANSWER A CHARGE(S)
OF CHEATING, THEFT, AND INTIMIDATION

You are hereby summons to appear in person before the Upper

CUSTOMARY COURT OF NEW KARU Court on the 23rd

day of SEPT. 2025

at the hour of 8:30 AM O'clock.

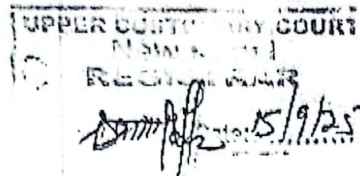
Dated at NEW KARU This

Dated this 15th day of SEPT. 20 25

APPROPRIATE COURT
NEW KARU
JUDGE
JUDGE 18/9/25

For SERVICE

IN THE UPPER CUSTOMARY COURT (UPPER) OF NASARAWA
STATE HOLDEN AT NEW NYANYA



CASE NO: UCC/CR: 225/25

BETWEEN

1. ORGANIC OISIS FARM NIG LTD

2. MR. ALEX JIN

COMPLAINANTS

AND

MR ZWALNAN GOD'S HELP DEFENDANT

The Registrar,

Upper Customary Court

New Nyanya,

DIRECT CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AND WARRANT OF ARREST
BROUGHT PURSUANT TO SECTION 88 (1) AND SECTION 89 OF
LAW FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE LAW
OF NASARAWA STATE 2018

Kindly cause to be issued a criminal summons and warrant of arrest
at the instance of the complainants against the defendant in the
following particulars:

PARTICULARS OF COMPLAINT

1. The 1ST complainant is a Legal entity carrying on her business at
karu local government Area, Nasarawa State within the
jurisdiction of this court.

2. The 2nd Complainant is a MD of the 1st complainant carrying on business in Karu Local Government Area of Nasrawa State, within the Jurisdiction of this court.
3. The defendant was a staff of the 2nd complainant as a personal driver.
4. The defendant and one Mrs. Victoria Sale worked for the complainant before the defendant was employed to work for the 1st defendant as sales Manager.
5. Prior to incorporation of the 1st complainant, the 2nd complainant gave the defendant money to open a company with Mrs. Sale in a bid to assist them start business.
6. Thereafter the registration of the company named **CONOCA ESTRELLAC NIG CO. LTD** the defendant though did not contribute any kobo in incorporation of the company started exhibiting negative behavior towards the 2nd complainant.
7. The 2nd complainant noticing the antics of the defendant shortly after the incorporation of **CONOCA ESTRELLAC NIG CO. LTD** decided to give him (the defendant) and Mrs. Victoria Sale the sum of 500,000.00 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) only each to use and run the **CONOCA ESTRELLAC NIG CO. LTD** any how they want it, should they intend to make the company a going concern.
8. The defendant knowing that the 2nd complainant is a kind gentleman who likes to make his workers live good used mischievous and pretentious means to collect 2.165,000.00 (Two Million One Hundred and Sixty Five Thousand Naira) only from the 2nd complainant in pretense that he will pay back but has refused to do so.
9. The defendant's appointment was terminated by a letter dated 4th day of September, 2025. And directed him in the letter to return all company's belongings in his possession.

10. That all efforts to make him return the company's HP Laptop in his possession proved abortive.
11. The defendant boasted that he will not return the said Laptop worth the sum of N150, 000.00 (One Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira) only and that nothing will happen to him and that the 1st complainant cannot do anything.

Hence, the complainant has no other choice than to approach this Court for justice.

WHEREOF, the act of the defendants constitutes:

- a. Offence^{of} Cheating contrary to section 320 of Penal Code Law of Northern Nigeria.
- b. Criminal theft contrary to section 320 of Penal Code Law of Northern Nigeria. and
- c. Offence of Criminal intimidation, contrary to the provision of section 396 of Penal Code Law of Northern Nigeria.

Dated this 11th day of September 2025



1st COMPLAINANT



2nd COMPLAINANT

FOR SERVICE ON:

DEFENDANT.

~~FILED~~
IN THE UPPER CUSTOMARY COURT OF NASARAWA STATE
HOLDEN AT NEW NYANYA

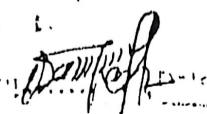
CASE NO: UCCK/CR.225/25

BETWEEN:

1. ORGANIC OASIS FARM NIG LTD - COMPLAINANTS
2. MR. ALEX JIN

AND:

MR. ZWALNAN GODSHELP


8/10/2025
DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF PRELIMINARY OBJECTION

**BROUGHT PURSUANT TO SECTION 89 (4), SECTION 137 OF THE
ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE LAW OF NASARAWA
STATE AND UNDER THE INHERENT JURISDICTION OF THIS COURT.**

TAKE NOTICE that this Honourable Court shall be moved on the day of 2025 at the hour of 9 o'clock in the forenoon or so soon thereafter as Counsel to the Defendant/Applicant may be heard praying this Honourable Court for the following:

1. AN ORDER of this Honourable Court striking out the instant case for lack of jurisdiction.
2. AN ORDER of this Honourable Court setting aside the proceedings conducted on 23rd September.
3. AND FOR SUCH ORDER OR OTHER ORDERS as this Honourable court may deem fit to make in the circumstances.

GROUND FOR THIS APPLICATION

1. The Direct complaint brought against the Defendant is incompetent.
2. That the allegation and facts leading to this case are not custom related.
3. The Court cannot assume jurisdiction to entertain this case.
4. The pre-condition for the court to assume jurisdiction as laid down in the locus classicus case of *Madukolu V. Nkemdilim*, has not been complied with.
5. Jurisdiction remains the bedrock of litigation hence the court cannot proceed with this case.
6. That it is in the interest of justice that this application is granted.

