

BOB JAMES & CO

(Legal Practitioners)

November 17, 2025.

BJ/175/2025

The Hon Chief justice of Nigeria,
Supreme Court of Nigeria,
Abuja.



My Lord,

**PETITION AGAINST NYESOM WIKE ESQ FOR DISHONORABLE
PUBLIC CONDUCT AND REQUEST FOR HIS SUSPENSION FROM
THE BODY OF BENCHERS.**

1. On November 11, 2025 in Abuja, Chief Nyesom Wike, the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory and Member of the bar publicly engaged a young military officer in open verbal confrontation. Video footage of the encounter shows Mr Wike repeatedly calling the young man a fool.

2. The thing that makes this ugly scenario troubling is the fact that Mr Wike is not just a senior lawyer, but a member of the Body of Benchers.

That body, as My Lord knows very well being an ex-office life member is responsible for the formal call to bar of new lawyers and maintaining the highest standards in the profession by sanctioning lawyers who misconduct themselves.

3. The body of benchers only calls a new lawyer to the bar if "he satisfies the benchers that he is of good character". See S 4 (1) (e) of the LPA. (Legal Practitioners Act).

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The benchers who are custodians of the highest level of public decorum and decency expected of a lawyer cannot themselves in the least be found wanting.

What Mr Wike has done is unparalleled. There is no precedent in the history of the legal profession in Nigeria of a bencher publicly deploying vulgar language or the kind of aggression associated with motor park people.

4. Decency and decorum in the use of language is one of the minimum character requirements of the legal profession, whether in the court, the course of practice and even in normal day to day activities.

This is the standard all over the world. Recently, the Solicitors Regulation Authority of England issued Guidance Notes to Solicitors on communications "made inside and outside practice".

The note stated that "outside comments posted (on social media) in a personal capacity and which might be deemed offensive or inappropriate could be classified as misconduct if the poster is a solicitor".

5. In *Ayorinde Vs Kuforiji* (2007)4 NWLR, pt 1024, 341 at pg 369, the Court of Appeal, per Augie JCA, as she then was, stated that "lawyers must guard their tongue and pens in and out of Court".

The Body of Benchers must consider what will be going on in the minds of new wigs at the next call to bar if they see Mr Wike sitted among the benchers one of whom would be sermonizing about character and morals as the hallmarks of our profession. They would just dismiss everybody on that panel as a bunch of pranksters.

If the new wigs are being told that one of the principal duties of benchers is to discipline erring lawyers, they would just hiss and say, "except the erring lawyer is a Wike".

6. My Lord, it is clear that a full investigation into the circumstances that led a bencher into calling an officer a fool in public is a mandatory duty for the integrity of that body, and of the profession as a whole.

It seems to me that if an investigating body makes a determination that Mr Wike indeed used that foul language in public, then he is not a fit and proper person to sit as a member of the body of benchers.

It is respectfully submitted that pending the investigation of this petition by the benchers, Mr Wike be suspended from that body.

As I look forward to Your Lordship's kind intervention, please accept the assurances of my humble regards.

Yours faithfully,

Bob James Esq.
Solicitor.



- CC: 1. President, Nigerian Bar Association.
2. Attorney-General of the Federation.