

IN THE HIGH COURT OF FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION

HOLDEN AT ABUJA

SUIT NO:

CV/4502/25

BETWEEN:

TONYE PATRICK COLE..... CLAIMANT

AND

1. NYESOM EZENWO WIKE
2. CHANNELS INCORPORATED LIMITED
(OPERATORS OF CHANNELS TELEVISION) } **DEFENDANTS**

WRIT OF SUMMONS

You are hereby commanded that **within 21 (Twenty-one)** of the service of this writ inclusive of the day of such service, you do cause an appearance to be entered for you, in an action at the suit of **TONYE PATRICK COLE** and take notice that in default of your so doing the Claimant may proceed, and judgment will be given in your absence.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that parties shall maintain status quo.

Dated this day of **2025.**

REGISTRAR

MEMORANDUM TO BE SUBSCRIBED ON THE WRIT

N.B. - This writ is to be served within 12 (Twelve) calendar months from the date of issuance; or if renewed, within 6 (Six) calendar months from the date of last renewal, including the day of such date and not afterwards. The Defendants may enter appearance personally or by a legal practitioner either by handing in the appropriate forms, duly

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Date 7/11/25*

completed at the registry of the FCT High Court in which the action is brought or by sending them to the registrar by registered post.

**ENDORSEMENT TO BE MADE ON THE WRIT BEFORE ISSUE THEREOF
THE CLAIMANT CLAIMS AGAINST THE DEFENDANT AS FOLLOWS:**

1. **A DECLARATION** that the statements made by the 1st Defendant, during the live broadcast of the 2nd Defendant's flagship programme, Politics Today, aired on the 18th day of September 2025, and subsequently published and disseminated by the 2nd Defendant through its television, online, and social media platforms under the title "One-on-One with Nyesom Wike", are false, malicious, offensive, defamatory and were calculated and intended to disparage, and the said statements did refer to the claimant and did disparage the Claimant in his personal, professional, and public capacity and had potential to lower and did lower the Claimant in the estimation of right-thinking members of society, and was intended to expose and did expose the Claimant to hatred, ridicule, odium, and contempt.
2. **A DECLARATION** that the said broadcast and or publications by the Defendants wherein the Claimant was referred to by name and occupation as a "thief," a person who "stole State resources," and who "sold Rivers State gas for \$308 million," are libellous and or defamatory of the Claimant same statements being permanently published material imputing criminal conduct, dishonesty, and corruption and has gravely injured the Claimant's reputation, integrity, and standing both in his personal and professional life.
3. **AN ORDER** directing the Defendants to jointly and or severally retract in full, the said libellous and or defamatory publications/broadcast which the Defendants allowed and or made available to be published by several online publications and or all other media channels operated or controlled by the Defendants and or which Defendants used and or allowed to be used to published the said libellous and or defamatory publications, including the 2nd Defendant's YouTube channel, website, and social media platforms, and to permanently remove every copy, clip, or rebroadcast thereof forthwith, and to issue and circulate a Press Statement acknowledging the falsity and impropriety of the

libelous/defamatory statements and giving the retraction equal prominence, visibility, and duration as the original broadcast and online publications.

4. **AN ORDER** compelling the Defendants to tender an unreserved, public, clear, and unequivocal apology to the Claimant by way of a live broadcast on the 2nd Defendant's flagship programme, Politics Today, and by publication in not less than five (5) national daily newspapers of wide circulation.

5. **AN ORDER OF PERPETUAL INJUNCTION** restraining the Defendants, whether by themselves, their agents, servants, privies, assigns, correspondents, or through any other person or medium whatsoever, from publishing, republishing, airing, disseminating, or causing to be published, republished, aired, or disseminated any defamatory or similar defamatory material, words, or statements concerning or relating to the Claimant.

6. **AN ORDER** directing the Defendants to permanently delete, expunge, and erase from their servers, archives, and all electronic and digital platforms, the entire recording, excerpts, and transcripts of the said Politics Today broadcast of 18th September 2025, together with any related publication containing the defamatory material, whether in textual, audio, or audio-visual form.

7. The Sum of **₦40,000,000,000.00 (Forty Billion Naira)** only against the Defendants jointly and or severally as damages for the malicious, reckless, and unfounded defamatory broadcast and publications complained of, which have caused monumental injury, humiliation, mental anguish, and irreparable harm to the Claimant's reputation, goodwill, and professional standing both nationally and internationally.

8. The sum of **₦500,000,000.00 (Five Hundred Million Naira)** only, being the cost of this action and incidental litigation expenses incurred by the Claimant in prosecuting this suit. **ANY OTHER ORDERS OR FURTHER ORDERS** as this Hon. Court may deem fit to make in the circumstances.

The writ was issued by **Chief J. S. Okutepa, SAN of J. S. Okutepa & Company**, whose address for service is **Eleojo Court, Plot 2202, Zone E Extension, Apo Resettlement, Adjacent St. Paul's Anglican Church, Apo, Abuja – FCT.**

Endorsement to be made on the Writ of Summons After Service.

This writ was served by me on the Defendants by
..... on the
day of 2025

Endorsed this day of 2025.

.....
Signed

.....
Address

Dated this 7th day of November 2025.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chief J. S. Okutepa, SAN".

Chief J. S. Okutepa, SAN

✓Ojonimi S. Apeh, Esq.

Helen John Apeh, Esq.

Patience Ogwuma Omiri, Esq.

Abiola Adegboyega Kolawole, Esq.

Adanu Emmanuel Ogwiji, Esq.

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FOR SERVICE ON

1. THE 1ST DEFENDANT,

Nyesom Ezenwo Wike,

Office of the Hon Minister of the Federal Capital Territory,

No.1 Kapital Road, Area 11, Garki Abuja, FCT.

2. THE 2ND DEFENDANT,

Channels Incorporated Limited

Operators of Channels Television,

1607 Cadastral Zone A09, Off Innocent Nwoga Street

Asokoro Extension

Abuja, FCT.

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CHANNELS INCORPORATED LIMITED
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The Registrar (Litigation)

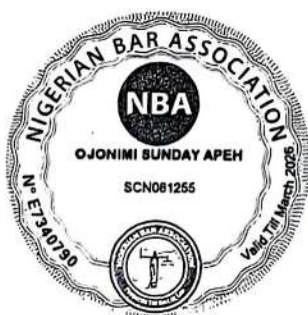
High Court of the Federal Capital Territory,
Abuja.

Sir,

APPLICATION FOR WRIT OF SUMMONS.

Kindly cause a Writ of Summons to be issued at the instance of the above-named Claimant against the above-named Defendants in the terms set out in the statement of Claim attached and filed herewith.

Dated this 7th day of November 2025.



Chief J. S. Okutepa, SAN

✓Ojonimi S. Apeh, Esq.

Helen John Apeh, Esq.

Patience Ogwuma Omiri, Esq.

Abiola Adegboyega Kolawole, Esq.

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NYESOM EZENWO WIKE

CHANNELS INCORPORATED LIMITED DEFENDANTS

(OPERATORS OF CHANNELS TELEVISION)

STATEMENT OF CLAIM

The Claimant herein avers that he is an accomplished entrepreneur, philanthropist, politician, and public figure of impeccable character and repute, residing in Rivers State, Nigeria. The Claimant further avers that he was the Gubernatorial Candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) for Rivers State in the 2023 Gubernatorial Elections, having duly won the party primaries and secured the party’s flag and was declared by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as having come second in the said election.

The Claimant avers that he was the Co-Founder and former Group Executive Director of Sahara Group, an international energy conglomerate with operations spanning Nigeria, West Africa, East Africa, and beyond. The Claimant is widely regarded for his leadership in business, good governance, and youth empowerment across the African continent and beyond.

The Claimant avers that prior to his entrepreneurial and political career, he attended the following academic institutions and obtained the under-listed qualifications:

- (a) Primary School Leaving Certificate from Corona School, Victoria Island, Lagos 1978;
- (b) School Leaving Certificate from King’s College, Lagos 1983;
- (c) Advanced Level Studies at King’s School, Ely, Cambridgeshire, England 1984;
- (d) Bachelor of Environmental Studies and Bachelor of Architecture (B.Es/B.Arch with Merit Honours) from the University of Lagos 1990;

- (e) Foundation and Advanced Course in Portuguese Language from Universidade de Brasilia, Brazil;
- (f) Advanced Management Program (AMP 186) from Harvard Business School, Boston, USA (2014);
- (g) Member, National Institute (mni), National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (SEC 43, 2021), Kuru-Jos, Nigeria; and
- (h) Transformational Leadership Fellowship, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, England (2022). **The above stated certificates and qualifications are hereby pleaded and shall be relied upon during trial.**

The Claimant avers that after graduation, he worked as an Architect and Project Manager with *Grupo Quatro S.A.* in Goiânia, Brazil (1991 – 1993), where he participated in the urban planning and city development of Palmas, the capital of Tocantins State, including the design of the Ministry of Justice Building and several residential projects.

The Claimant avers that upon his return to Nigeria, and completion of his National Youth Service, he served as Director of Operations with *Empresa Sul Americana de Montagens S.A. (EMSA)*, a Brazilian civil engineering company which executed World Bank-financed water projects for the Lagos Water Corporation between 1993 and 1996.

The Claimant avers that in 1996 he co-founded *The Sahara Group / Sahara Energy Resource Limited*, where he served as Group Executive Director until 2018. He was directly responsible for the Group's global expansion, corporate governance compliance, and strategic partnerships across Africa, Europe, and the Americas.

The Claimant avers that under his leadership Sahara Group achieved international recognition as one of Africa's foremost energy conglomerates and that he subsequently served as Chairman or Board Member of numerous corporate and policy institutions, including—

- i. *Atlas Mara Co-Nvest Limited*;
- ii. *Egbin Power Plc*
- iii. *Ikeja Electric Distribution Company Ltd*;

- iv. *Enactus Nigeria* (Chairman);
- v. *Nigerian Private Sector Advisory Group on SDGs* (Chairman);
- vi. *Greater Port Harcourt Development Authority* (Chairman);
- vii. *Nigerian Chamber of Shipping* (Governing Council Member); and
- viii. *Digital Jewels Ltd* (Board Member).

The Claimant avers that he also served as adviser and consultant to several international organizations, including—

- (i) the *World Economic Forum (Partnering Against Corruption Initiative – PACI)*;
- (ii) the *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Private Sector Advisory Group on the Sustainable Development Goals Fund (SDG-F)*;
- (iii) the *World Bank Group Expert Advisory Council on Citizen Engagement*; and
- (iv) the *African Philanthropy Forum*.

The Claimant avers that beyond his corporate career, he founded and leads several philanthropic and developmental initiatives, including—

- (i) *The R.E.A.C.H. Nigeria Foundation* (2020);
- (ii) *Behavioural Health Institute (BHI)* (2019); and
- (iii) *Nehemiah Youth Empowerment Initiative* (2012), all dedicated to youth empowerment, behavioural health, and community development in Nigeria and across Africa.

The Claimant avers that he is an Ordained Minister of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) and leader of *Team Nehemiah*, charged with driving the church's urban transformation and community-development vision for the Redemption Camp and its environs.

The Claimant avers that he has received numerous awards and commendations both locally and internationally, including the 2022 African Union / Igbere TV Leadership Excellence Award for Businessman of the Year, the 2017 Oil & Gas Council Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2013 Forbes / EbonyLife TV Best of Africa Award, and the 2009 WNE Global Champions Role Model Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Oil and Gas Sector.

The Claimant avers that he has authored several books and publications, including *Morning Reflections* (2013), *My God Thinks* (2016), *Digital Economy Policy and Strategic National*

Development in Nigeria (2023), and *Watcher of Times* (2024), and was a long-standing columnist with *ThisDay Style* and other national platforms.

3. The Claimant avers that he has also contributed to academic and policy research including, *NIPSS 2021 National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy for Development in Nigeria: Issues and Prospects* and the *Transformational Leadership Fellowship Report of the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford* (2022).
4. The Claimant avers that he is a member of the All-Progressives Congress (APC) and has served as the party's Gubernatorial Candidate in Rivers State for both the 2019 and 2023 Elections, having won over 77% of delegate votes at the 2022 primaries.
5. The Claimant avers that by reason of his sterling achievements, national service, and unblemished public record, he enjoys enormous goodwill both within and outside Nigeria and is held in high esteem by right-thinking members of the society until the false and malicious libellous/ defamatory publications by the Defendants herein which was intended to cause and which caused grievous injury to hard-earned reputation of the Claimant.
5. The 1st Defendant, at all material times to the libellous/defamatory publication, is a lawyer called to the Nigeria Bar and the current Minister of the Federal Capital Territory and who is a public servant and a politician who resides and carries on his official and political duties within the Federal Capital Territory. The 1st Defendant frequently appears on national television and other media outlets to make public statements and political commentaries.
7. The 2nd Defendant, Channels Incorporated Limited, is a private limited-liability company duly incorporated in Nigeria with RC No. 198158, having its registered office at No. 44/48 Channels TV Avenue, Isheri-North, Lagos State, and an operational broadcast studio within the Federal Capital Territory at No.1607 Cadastral Zone A09, Off Innocent Nwoga Street, Asokoro Extension, Guzape District, Abuja. The 2nd Defendant operates the popular broadcast-media platform known as Channels Television, including its online platforms, YouTube channel, and social-media handles, through which it publishes and disseminates news, interviews, and political commentary to both national and international audiences.
8. The Claimant avers that the 1st and 2nd Defendants are jointly responsible for the planning, approval, airing, and subsequent publication of the defamatory broadcast and related

content complained of in this suit, and that such broadcast was made with their full knowledge, authorization, and editorial consent. The Defendants approved, produced, and caused to be aired the television programme titled “One-on-One with Nyesom Wike.”

9. The Claimant avers that his attention was drawn to the said broadcast, aired on the 18th day of September 2025 during the 2nd Defendant’s flagship prime-time programme, Politics Today, which featured the 1st Defendant as a guest. The 2nd Defendant subsequently published, uploaded, and widely circulated the programme on its official YouTube channel, website, and other digital platforms under its editorial control, thereby ensuring its continuous accessibility to a global audience.

10. The Claimant avers that during the said live interview broadcast by the 2nd Defendant on Politics Today as seen on the YouTube channel via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/FAxzP7fpgYk?si=TEq5onqtkmEjWTyw> the 1st Defendant, while responding to questions posed by the anchor, Mr. Seun Okinbaloye, launched a series of malicious and unfounded verbal attacks directed at and concerning the Claimant. The 1st Defendant made reckless and defamatory allegations imputing criminal conduct, theft of public funds, and moral bankruptcy to the Claimant. **A copy of the complete video recording of the said interview which has been downloaded onto a flash drive from the official YouTube publication of the 2nd Defendant, is hereby pleaded and shall be relied upon at trial.**

11. The Claimant avers that, among other false and malicious statements, the 1st Defendant during the said broadcast, expressly uttered the following defamatory words of and concerning the Claimant: **“Those were the people who crippled the resources of the State with Amaechi”; “He was a conduit pipe through Sahara... they stole the State resources; they sold our gas for \$308 million U.S. dollars. That’s why when I see Amaechi every time, I say my God, does this man think that everybody is dead, nobody knows about this?” “He lost. He went to the Court of Appeal. He lost. He went to the Supreme Court. Supreme Court judgment came out three days before the APC primaries.”; and “Look at our hotel, Olympia Hotel. They took it... they stole. No, no, no, it was stealing.”** A copy of the full transcript of the said interview aired on the 18th

day of September 2025, which has been printed in hard copy from the official YouTube publication of the 2nd Defendant, is hereby pleaded and shall be relied upon at trial.

1. The Claimant avers that in the said interview, at about 37:21 minutes, the 1st Defendant falsely and maliciously asserted that the Claimant **“crippled the resources of the State”**, thereby imputing against the Claimant the criminal act of large-scale misappropriation and economic sabotage of the resources of Rivers State. In the said segment, the 1st Defendant deliberately misrepresented the findings of the 2015 Judicial Commission of Inquiry and subsequent proceedings of 2022/2023, neither of which made any finding of total depletion of State resources nor any finding of culpability against the Claimant.

2. The Claimant avers further that at about 39:58 to 41:26 minutes of the same broadcast, the 1st Defendant, with reckless disregard for the truth, alleged that the Claimant **“was the one in charge of Sahara... they stole the State resources; they sold our gas for \$308 million U.S. dollars,”** directly accusing the Claimant of theft and fraudulent disposal of State assets. The 1st Defendant, as Chief of Staff to the Rivers State Governor at the time, was privy to the fact that Rivers State Government carried out a privatisation exercise and put up 70% of its ownership in FIPL (a 100% Rivers State owned company) that owned and operated power generation plants in Omoku, Afam. Trans-Amadi and Eleme. Independent valuers, contracted by Rivers State Government, valued the assets at US\$432,000,000.00 (Four Hundred Million US Dollars) for a total installed capacity of 541MW. NG Power (a Sahara entity) exercised its’ right of first refusal and was required to pay the sum of US\$302,400,000.00 (Three Hundred and Two Million, Four Hundred Thousand US Dollars) for the acquisition of 70% of RSG’s shares in FIPL (“Shares”). NG Power paid the full acquisition price in various instalments, all acknowledged and properly receipted by the Rivers State Government. The 1st Defendant’s attempt to insinuate that the Claimant **“was the one in charge of Sahara... they stole the State resources; they sold our gas for \$308 million U.S. dollars,”** is false. The Claimant avers that this deliberate misrepresentation was intended to sensationalize and falsely portrays the Claimant with criminal conduct, thereby aggravating the defamatory sting of the broadcast.

¶. The Claimant avers that at about 40:36 to 41:04 minutes of the broadcast, the 1st Defendant further alleged that the Claimant **“lost... went to the Court of Appeal... lost... went to the Supreme Court,”** insinuating serial judicial defeats and incompetence. The said statement was false and misleading, as the judicial proceedings referred to by the 1st Defendant were in the case of **Rt. Rotimi Amaechi vs. INEC & Governor of Rivers State & 9 Ors**, in which the Claimant was never a party. The 1st Defendant’s false attribution of those judicial outcomes to the Claimant was intended to ridicule and damage the Claimant’s reputation as an incompetent public figure, businessman, and political leader.

¶. The Claimant avers that at about 41:41 to 42:16 minutes of the same broadcast, the 1st Defendant further alleged that the Claimant **“stole” the Olympia Hotel, declaring: “Look at our hotel, Olympia Hotel. They took it... they stole. No, no, no, it was stealing.”** The said statement, in its natural and ordinary meaning, accuses the Claimant of criminal theft and unlawful conversion of public property. The 1st Defendant, as a lawyer and Chief of Staff to the then Rivers State Governor, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Amaechi was privy that Olympia Hotel was concessioned to a consortium, of which Sahara Group was a part of. The 1st Defendant knew or ought to have known that ownership of concessioned asset remains with the concessioner, in this case the Rivers State Government and therefore was not “taken” or “stolen” as alleged. The 1st Defendant knew or ought to have known that the Judicial Commission of Inquiry merely questioned the process of concessioning of the hotel but made no finding of theft or criminal culpability against the Claimant. The 1st Defendant’s statements therefore amount to deliberate fabrication intended to malign and injure the Claimant’s reputation.

¶. The Claimant avers that the said utterances, when taken together, were published of and concerning the Claimant and the publication/broadcast by the Defendants maliciously, recklessly, and without lawful justification, imputing to the Claimant the commission of serious criminal offences, corruption, dishonesty, incompetence, and moral depravity. The statements were false in every material particular, made without verification, and designed to expose the Claimant to hatred, contempt, ridicule, and public opprobrium before right-thinking members of the society both within and outside Nigeria.

7. The Claimant avers that the said broadcast and televised interview contained deliberate, malicious, and false allegations of theft, corruption, and diversion of State resources against the person of the Claimant in his capacity as a public figure, entrepreneur, and political leader of national repute.
8. The Claimant avers that the 2nd Defendant has, over time, wilfully aided, abetted, and provided an unrestrained broadcast platform for the 1st Defendant to habitually launch malicious, defamatory, and politically motivated attacks against perceived opponents and public figures. The 2nd Defendant, despite repeated instances of such conduct by the 1st Defendant in prior broadcasts, failed, refused, and neglected to exercise the editorial caution, professional restraint, and regulatory responsibility expected of a licensed national broadcaster. Rather, it has continued to promote and amplify the 1st Defendant's reckless statements for viewership gain and sensational political engagement, thereby making itself an active participant in the sustained defamation and public humiliation of the Claimant and other citizens.
9. The Claimant avers that the 1st Defendant is a recurring guest on the 2nd Defendant's flagship programme *Politics Today*, where he has been repeatedly granted unrestrained airtime to make politically charged and defamatory statements against perceived opponents and other public figures. The 2nd Defendant, fully aware of the 1st Defendant's pattern of incendiary and unguarded remarks, has continued to invite and feature him, thereby aiding and amplifying his recurring pattern of reckless commentaries. The 1st Defendant has appeared as a guest on *Politics Today* on the following notable dates, as published and archived on the 2nd Defendant's verified YouTube channel:
 - 30th August, 2023 — <https://youtu.be/i-2chsJyYFo>
 - 13th September, 2024 — <https://youtu.be/8veTwM9t7V0>
 - 8th October, 2024 — <https://youtu.be/AapGYtE6GjM>
 - 4th July, 2025 — <https://youtu.be/aqXVDdIJX-g>
 - 19th August, 2025 — <https://www.youtube.com/live/y5o4x5qmf5s>
 - 18th September, 2025 — <https://www.youtube.com/live/FAxzP7fpgYk>. Copies of the complete video recordings of the said interviews, downloaded and preserved on a

flash drive from the 2nd Defendant's official YouTube publications, are hereby pleaded and shall be relied upon at trial.

3) The Claimant shall rely on the following instances, among others, as clear evidence of the 1st Defendant's habitual pattern of insulting conduct on the 2nd Defendant's platform and other media platforms:

4th July 2025: At about 59:40 minutes, the 1st Defendant declared, "Dele Momodu does not have what it takes, credibility." At 1:02:06, he further stated, "Atiku has a history of betrayal under Abiola." (Source: <https://youtu.be/aqXVDdIJX-g>)

13th September 2024: At about 42:24 minutes, the 1st Defendant described Anthony Aziegbemi as "one of the people who have no character." (Source: <https://youtu.be/8veTwM9t7V0>)

18th September 2025: In his characteristic disdain for respected public figures, the 1st Defendant described Rt. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, former Speaker of the House of Representatives and former Governor of Sokoto State, as "**an empty snail shell**" at about 59:52 minutes. In the same interview, at about 00:37:21, he further stated, "Those were the people who crippled the resources of the State with Amaechi," referring to Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, former Minister of Transportation and former Governor of Rivers State. (Source: <https://www.youtube.com/live/FAxzP7fpgYk>)

13th November 2024: The 1st Defendant, during a live interview, referred to human rights activist and lawyer, Mr. Deji Adeyanju, as being part of "**people with no job.**" (Source: <https://youtu.be/d9cUMxiVILw?si=d9cUMxiVl-W0j>) **Copies of the complete video recordings of the above episodes as downloaded from the 2nd Defendant's verified YouTube channel Channels Television and from the SYMFONI YouTube Channel are hereby pleaded and shall be relied upon at the trial.**

The Claimant avers that this recurring publication of disparaging remarks by the 1st Defendant, enabled and rebroadcast by the 2nd Defendant, demonstrates a consistent pattern of malicious, reckless, and sensational broadcasting jointly facilitated by both Defendants, calculated to attract public attention and viewership at the expense of the reputation and dignity of others, including the Claimant.

. The Claimant avers that the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) had, on or about 28th March 2023, imposed a N5,000,000 fine on the 2nd Defendant, Channels Television in respect of an offensive and inciting comment made by a guest during *Politics Today* aired on Wednesday, 22 March 2023. The NBC held that the said broadcast was capable of inciting public disorder and violated several provisions of the Nigerian Broadcasting Code. The incident was widely reported by credible news outlets, including:

Premium Times: NBC fines Channels TV N5 million over Datti's 'ending democracy' comment

Punch Newspaper: NBC fines Channels TV N5 million over Baba-Ahmed's interview.

Copies of the screenshots of the said publications are hereby pleaded and shall be relied upon at trial.

. The Claimant avers that the said sanction by the National Broadcasting Commission further evidences the 2nd Defendant's consistent disregard for professional broadcasting ethics and regulatory compliance. Despite prior warnings and sanctions, the 2nd Defendant has continued to provide its platform for unverified, inflammatory, and defamatory statements, including the reckless utterances of the 1st Defendant.

. The Claimant avers that an examination of the 2nd Defendant's verified YouTube channel, *Channels Television*, reveals a consistent surge in viewership and engagement whenever the 1st Defendant appears as a guest on its flagship programme, *Politics Today*. The 2nd Defendant has commercially exploited the 1st Defendant's notoriety and controversial commentaries to attract greater audience attention, advertising traffic, and online visibility. Episodes featuring the 1st Defendant consistently record between 260,000 and 370,000 views, compared to an average of 10,000 to 100,000 views for other episodes. **A copy of the YouTube analytics report, timestamps, and engagement data from the 2nd Defendant's verified channel is hereby pleaded and shall be relied upon at trial.**

. The Claimant avers that at all material times, the Defendants' broadcast was and remains accessible to members of the public across the world via the 2nd Defendant's YouTube channel, website, and social-media platforms.

6. It is averred that a substantial number of viewers have in fact accessed, watched, and shared the defamatory broadcast, given the prominence of the Politics Today programme and the widespread public interest in the personalities of both the 1st Defendant and the Claimant.
7. The Claimant avers that the said broadcast, as uploaded on the 2nd Defendant's official YouTube platform, has garnered over 300,149 (Three Hundred Thousand, One Hundred and Forty-Nine) views and more than 450 public comments, indicating its extensive reach and public engagement. **A copy of the screenshot and digital record of the said YouTube post is hereby pleaded and shall be relied upon at trial.**
8. The Claimant avers that the said defamatory broadcast continues to generate unwholesome, malicious, and disparaging comments about the Claimant on the internet and other public fora, which have caused numerous friends, business partners, political associates, and well-wishers from across the globe to contact the Claimant to express their shock and disappointment over the statements made against him.
9. The claimant avers that among those who watched, read, or became aware of the said broadcast and who were deeply shocked by its false and malicious contents of the publications are the following respectable members of the public: (a) Mr. Aiguokhian Raphael, a Nigerian businessman from Ovia North-East Local Government Area of Edo State, who immediately drew the Claimant's attention to the said broadcast upon viewing it. (b) Mr. Bevy Efe Kpohraror, a Nigerian businessman and human-rights activist from Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State, who likewise contacted the Claimant, expressing shock, disappointment, and disbelief at the Defendants' publication, (c) Mr. Deji Adeyanju, a lawyer and human-rights activist resident at Terrace Block D4, White Diamond Estate, Makuru Street, off Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja, who also watched the broadcast and called the Claimant and expressed concern over its damaging implications to the Claimant's reputation. The said persons and several others expressed concern and dismay at the broadcast, and their reactions caused the Claimant great embarrassment, emotional distress, and reputational injury.
10. The Claimant avers that from the viewership indicated and pleaded hereinbefore many persons whose names are too many to be pleaded herein watched the said programme. The

Claimant shall rely on the testimonies of the individuals named herein and several other persons whose names are not listed but who may be subpoenaed at the trial to establish the publication and circulation of the offending broadcast, the extent of its reach, and the injury caused to the Claimant's reputation and goodwill.

The Claimant avers that the words uttered by the 1st Defendant and broadcast and published by the 2nd Defendant, in their natural and ordinary meaning, were clearly defamatory and libellous of the Claimant. The said words expressly referred to the Claimant by name and professional identity, directly associating him with acts of theft, corruption, and diversion of public resources.

The Claimant avers that the defamatory words contained in the broadcast and quoted above were understood, and are capable of being understood, to mean that the Claimant:

Is a dishonest, fraudulent, and corrupt person who engaged in the theft of public funds belonging to Rivers State;

Is a person who uses his business and political influence to divert public resources for personal gain;

Is unfit to hold public office or any position of trust within Nigeria or elsewhere;

Is a morally bankrupt and deceitful individual who hides behind corporate or political entities to perpetrate corruption;

Is an economic saboteur and enemy of public interest who contributed to the financial ruin of Rivers State; and

Is a hypocrite and dishonest public figure, unworthy of association with honourable and right-thinking members of society.

The Claimant avers that the said broadcast, together with the allegations, insinuations, and accusations contained therein, is absolutely false, unfounded, wicked, mischievous, reckless, libellous, and malicious. The statements were deliberately made and published to disparage the Claimant, expose him to hatred, contempt, and ridicule, and cause him to be shunned and avoided by friends, associates, and members of the public both within and outside Nigeria. The publication was deliberately calculated to cause maximum damage to

the Claimant's reputation before his peers, business colleagues, and millions of right-thinking members of the society in Nigeria and abroad.

The Claimant avers further that the defamatory statements were contrived and published with the deliberate intent to disparage, discredit, and injure the Claimant's hard-earned reputation, public image, and professional standing as a respected entrepreneur, political leader, and citizen of Nigeria. The publication was meant to destroy the Claimant's social credibility and integrity in the eyes of the public and to inflict maximum reputational and emotional damage upon him.

The Claimant avers that the Defendants published the said defamatory broadcast without carrying out any verification or confirmation of facts, knowing same to be false or being reckless whether they were true or false, and with the dominant motive of damaging the Claimant's reputation and political career, injuring his feelings, and exposing him to public ridicule for their own publicity and commercial gain.

The Claimant avers that the Defendants deliberately invented and created the spurious allegations contained in the said broadcast without any due regard to the verification of facts or the ethics of professional journalism, though they had the opportunity to cross-check such facts from the Claimant, Sahara Group, and relevant government agencies, but failed, refused and/or neglected to do so.

The Claimant avers that he is a law-abiding citizen of Nigeria, upright, incorruptible, well-mannered, as an astute entrepreneur and politician of unblemished character and integrity. The Claimant avers that throughout his career in both the private and public sectors, he has never been indicted, convicted, or found guilty of any allegation of corruption or financial misconduct by any court or competent authority in Nigeria or elsewhere.

The Claimant avers that by reason of the said malicious broadcast, his character, goodwill, and reputation have been gravely maligned; he has suffered considerable embarrassment, mental anguish, and distress as a public figure, business leader, and politician, and his career and public standing have been severely injured.

The Claimant avers that the Defendants caused the said broadcast to be widely published and recirculated on their official YouTube channel, website, and social-media platforms,

and it has been further rebroadcast on diverse media platforms within and outside Nigeria. The Claimant has therefore been inundated with calls and messages from friends, colleagues, political associates, and business partners within and outside Nigeria expressing shock and disappointment over the Defendants' false allegations.

. The Claimant avers that many eminent Nigerians and international partners who had worked with him in various capacities have called to seek clarification or to express their dismay over the broadcast, including business colleagues, religious leaders, and political figures from within and outside Nigeria. The Claimant avers that some organizations and development partners with which he had long-standing relationships have threatened to review or suspend ongoing collaborations due to the false impression created by the Defendants' broadcast.

. The Claimant avers that his friends, associates, and political supporters now view him with suspicion and disdain, and some have withdrawn their association or support from him as a result of the Defendants' publication. The Claimant avers that he has lost the esteem and confidence of numerous professional and political contacts, as many have openly questioned his integrity and reputation based on the falsehoods spread by the Defendants.

. The Claimant avers that the Defendants knew or had reason to know that the words and allegations they broadcast concerning the Claimant were false, wicked, and baseless, and that they were concocted solely to injure the Claimant in the eyes of right-thinking members of society and to portray him as a morally bankrupt and dishonest public figure.

. The Claimant avers that as a result of the Defendants' malicious broadcast, his professional colleagues, political associates, friends, and family members have been distressed and have expressed concerns over his reputation and standing. The Claimant avers that he has been inundated with calls and messages from numerous individuals within and outside Nigeria expressing shock, anger, and disappointment over the Defendants' false allegations, and that he has suffered severe mental and emotional trauma therefrom. Those messages are hereby pleaded and shall be relied upon at the trial.

The Claimant avers that the Defendants' said broadcast has lowered him in the estimation of reasonable members of the public and brought him into hatred, ridicule, and contempt before the global audience to whom it was published.

The Claimant avers that following the defamatory broadcast/publication, his legal counsel, J. S. Okutepa, SAN, acting on his instructions, issued a notice and letter of demand dated 8th October 2025 to the 1st Defendant, titled "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)". The said letter demanded that the 1st Defendant retract his defamatory statements published on Politics Today of 18th September 2025, tender a public apology on the same platform and in at least three national newspapers, and pay the said sum of ₦20 billion as compensation. The letter also served as a notice of intention to institute legal proceedings in the event of non-compliance within fourteen (14) days, but the 1st Defendant failed, refused, and neglected to comply. **A copy of the letter of demand is hereby pleaded and shall be relied upon at trial.**

The Claimant avers that on the same date, his counsel, J. S. Okutepa, SAN & Co., issued a separate notice and letter of demand to the 2nd Defendant, Channels Incorporated Limited, demanding immediate removal of the defamatory broadcast from all its platforms, public apology on its network and in three national dailies, and payment of ₦20 billion as compensation for the injury caused to the Claimant's reputation. The 2nd Defendant also failed, refused, and neglected to comply, thereby necessitating this action. **A copy of the letter of demand is hereby pleaded and shall be relied upon at trial.**

The Claimant avers that despite the clear demands contained in the letters of 8th October 2025 served on both the 1st and 2nd Defendants, requiring them to retract the defamatory statements, issue public apologies on the same broadcast platforms and in at least three national newspapers, and pay the sum of ₦20,000,000,000 (Twenty Billion Naira) as compensation within fourteen (14) days, both Defendants wilfully failed, refused, and neglected to respond or comply within the stipulated period. Their continued silence and inaction constitute clear evidence of malice, reckless disregard for the Claimant's rights, and aggravation of the injury caused to his reputation, thereby necessitating the institution

of this action. The Claimant avers that due to the foregoing, the Claimant is entitled to exemplary and aggravated damages, injunctive relief as well as public apology from the Defendant.

The Claimant avers that at the trial of this suit, the Claimant shall rely on all documents relating to the facts pleaded herein, including the full video recording of the defamatory broadcast as published on the 2nd Defendant's verified YouTube channel, *Channels Television*. The Claimant shall also rely on the downloaded and preserved electronic copy of the said broadcast, the printed transcript of the publication, the corresponding screenshots of the 2nd Defendant's verified YouTube platform, and the YouTube analytics data evidencing the engagement metrics of the publication. The downloaded video file, the transcript in both hard and electronic form, together with the Certificate of Compliance, shall be tendered and relied upon at the trial of this suit.

WHEREOF the Claimant claims against the Defendants as follows:

- a. **A DECLARATION** that the statements made by the 1st Defendant, during the live broadcast of the 2nd Defendant's flagship programme, Politics Today, aired on the 18th day of September 2025, and subsequently published and disseminated by the 2nd Defendant through its television, online, and social media platforms under the title "One-on-One with Nyesom Wike", are false, malicious, offensive, defamatory and were calculated and intended to disparage, and the said statements did refer to the claimant and did disparage the Claimant in his personal, professional, and public capacity and had potential to lower and did lower the Claimant in the estimation of right-thinking members of society, and was intended to expose and did expose the Claimant to hatred, ridicule, odium, and contempt.
- b. **A DECLARATION** that the said broadcast and or publications by the Defendants wherein the Claimant was referred to by name and occupation as a "thief," a person who "stole State resources," and who "sold Rivers State gas for \$308 million," are libellous and or defamatory of the Claimant same statements being permanently published material imputing criminal conduct, dishonesty, and corruption and has gravely injured

the Claimant's reputation, integrity, and standing both in his personal and professional life.

- c. **AN ORDER** directing the Defendants to jointly and or severally retract in full, the said libellous and or defamatory publications/broadcast which the Defendants allowed and or made available to be published by several online publications and or all other media channels operated or controlled by the Defendants and or which Defendants used and or allowed to be used to published the said libellous and or defamatory publications, including the 2nd Defendant's YouTube channel, website, and social media platforms, and to permanently remove every copy, clip, or rebroadcast thereof forthwith, and to issue and circulate a Press Statement acknowledging the falsity and impropriety of the libellous/defamatory statements and giving the retraction equal prominence, visibility, and duration as the original broadcast and online publications.
- d. **AN ORDER** compelling the Defendants to tender an unreserved, public, clear, and unequivocal apology to the Claimant by way of a live broadcast on the 2nd Defendant's flagship programme, Politics Today, and by publication in not less than five (5) national daily newspapers of wide circulation.
- e. **AN ORDER OF PERPETUAL INJUNCTION** restraining the Defendants, whether by themselves, their agents, servants, privies, assigns, correspondents, or through any other person or medium whatsoever, from publishing, republishing, airing, disseminating, or causing to be published, republished, aired, or disseminated any defamatory or similar defamatory material, words, or statements concerning or relating to the Claimant.
- f. **AN ORDER** directing the Defendants to permanently delete, expunge, and erase from their servers, archives, and all electronic and digital platforms, the entire recording, excerpts, and transcripts of the said Politics Today broadcast of 18th September 2025, together with any related publication containing the defamatory material, whether in textual, audio, or audio-visual form.
- g. The Sum of **₦40,000,000,000.00 (Forty Billion Naira)** only against the Defendants jointly and or severally as damages for the malicious, reckless, and unfounded

defamatory broadcast and publications complained of, which have caused monumental injury, humiliation, mental anguish, and irreparable harm to the Claimant's reputation, goodwill, and professional standing both nationally and internationally.

- h. The sum of **₦500,000,000.00 (Five Hundred Million Naira)** only, being the cost of this action and incidental litigation expenses incurred by the Claimant in prosecuting this suit.

Dated this 7th day of November 2025.



Chief J. S. Okutepa, SAN

✓Ojonimi S. Apeh, Esq.

Helen John Apeh, Esq.

Patience Ogwuma Omiri, Esq.

Abiola Adegboyega Kolawole, Esq.

Adanu Emmanuel Ogwiji, Esq.

P.B Ikyume, Esq.

Naomi Osezele Aitomun, Esq.

Ukamaka Nnenna Ugwu, Esq.

Queen Judith-Alabi, Esq.

Victoria E. Ocholi, Esq

Iliya-Ezekiel E. Ndatse, Esq

J.S. Okutepa SAN and Co

(Counsel to the Claimant)

Elejo Court, Plot 2202,

Apo Resettlement, Adjacent St.Paul Anglican Church, Apo,

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jsokutepaesq@yahoo.com

alewo.okutepa@gmail.com

FOR SERVICE ON

THE 1ST DEFENDANT,

Nyesom Ezenwo Wike,

Office of the Hon Minister of the Federal Capital Territory,

No.1 Kapital Road, Area 11, Garki Abuja, FCT.

THE 2ND DEFENDANT,

Channels Incorporated Limited

Operators of Channels Television,

1607 Cadastral Zone A09, Off Innocent Nwoga Street

Asokoro Extension

Abuja, FCT.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA
SUIT NO:

BETWEEN:

TONYE PATRICK COLE.....CLAIMANT

AND

NYESOM EZENWO WIKE

CHANNELS INCORPORATED LIMITED

(OPERATORS OF CHANNELS TELEVISION)

..... DEFENDANTS

CERTIFICATE OF PRE – ACTION COUNSELING.

I, **Chief J.S. Okutepa SAN** of J.S. Okutepa SAN & Co. whose address for service is Plot 2202, Apo Resettlement, Zone E Extension, Road 4, Adjacent St. Paul Anglican Church Apo, Abuja Federal Capital Territory- Counsel to the Claimant do hereby certify that I have counseled the Claimant on chances of its claims, options available for its claims including alternative dispute resolution option, that this matter was filed on its instruction after the counseling, and that I could be liable if I did not counsel the Claimant properly should this action be frivolous.

.....
Claimant

Dated this 7th day of November 2025.


Chief J. S. Okutepa, SAN

✓ **Ojonimi S. Apeh, Esq.**

Helen John Apeh, Esq.

Patience Ogwuma Omiri, Esq.

Abiola Adegboyega Kolawole, Esq.

Adanu Emmanuel Ogwiji, Esq.

P.B Ikyume, Esq.



Naomi Oszcclc Aitomun, Esq.

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(OPERATORS OF CHANNELS TELEVISION)

..... DEFENDANTS

LIST OF WITNESSES AND DOCUMENTS

CLAIMANT'S LIST OF WITNESSES AND DOCUMENTS:

TAKE NOTICE THAT, the Claimant at the hearing of this suit shall call evidence in support of its case and rely on all the documents pleaded including but not limited to those listed, filed and attached to the Writ of Summons.

LIST OF WITNESSES:

1. Tonye Patrick Cole
2. Mr. Deji Adeyanju
3. Mr. Aiguokhian Raphael
4. Mr. Efe Bevy Kpohraror
5. Other witnesses that maybe subpoenaed at the trial.

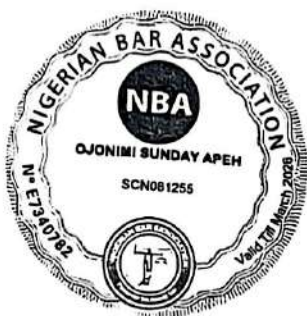
LIST OF DOCUMENTS:

1. Copy of Claimant's Primary School Leaving Certificate from Corona School, Victoria Island, Lagos 1978.
2. Copy of the Claimant's School Leaving Certificate from King's College, Lagos 1983
3. Copy of the Claimant's Advanced Level Studies Certificate at King's School, Ely, Cambridgeshire, England 1984

4. Copy of the Claimant's Bachelor of Environmental Studies and Bachelor of Architecture (B.Es/B.Arch with Merit Honours) Certificate from the University of Lagos 1990
5. Copy of the Claimant's Foundation and Advanced Course in Portuguese Language Certificate from Universidade de Brasília, Brazil
6. Copy of the Claimant's Advanced Management Program (AMP 186) Certificate from Harvard Business School, Boston, USA 2014
7. Copy of the Claimant's Member, National Institute (mni) Certificate, National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (SEC 43, 2021), Kuru-Jos, Nigeria
8. Copy of the Claimant's Transformational Leadership Fellowship Certificate, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, England (2022).
9. Copy of the downloaded and preserved electronic video recording of the defamatory broadcast aired on *Politics Today* of 18th September 2025, as published on the 2nd Defendant's verified YouTube channel, *Channels Television*, and stored on a flash drive.
10. Copy of the printed transcript of the said defamatory broadcast, downloaded and produced from the 2nd Defendant's official YouTube publication.
11. Copies of screenshots and digital records of the 2nd Defendant's YouTube post of 18th September 2025 showing total views.
12. Copy of the YouTube analytics report.
13. Copies of downloaded videos of previous *Politics Today* broadcasts featuring the 1st Defendant, downloaded from the 2nd Defendant's verified YouTube channel, including but not limited to:
 - i. 30th August, 2023 — <https://youtu.be/i-2chsJyYFo>
 - ii. 13th September, 2024 — <https://youtu.be/8veTwM9t7V0>
 - iii. 8th October, 2024 — <https://youtu.be/AapGYtE6GjM>
 - iv. 4th July, 2025 — <https://youtu.be/aqXVDdIJX-g>
 - v. 19th August, 2025 — <https://www.youtube.com/live/y5o4x5qmf5s>
 - vi. 18th September, 2025 — <https://www.youtube.com/live/FAxzP7fpgYk>

4. Copies of screenshots of newspaper publications by *Premium Times* and *The Punch* reports.
5. Copies of downloaded video recordings from the 2nd Defendant's verified YouTube channel Channels Television and the SYMFONI YouTube Channel.
6. Copy of the letter of demand dated 8th October 2025 issued by *J. S. Okutepa, SAN & Co.* to the 1st Defendant.
7. Copy of the letter of demand dated 8th October 2025 issued by *J. S. Okutepa, SAN & Co.* to the 2nd Defendant.
8. Copy of the Certificate of Compliance.
9. All other relevant documents in support of facts pleaded, including but not limited to the CV/Profile of the Claimant.

Dated this 7th day of November 2025



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "J. S. Okutepa", written over a horizontal line.

Chief J. S. Okutepa, SAN

✓Ojonimi S. Apeh, Esq.

Helen John Apeh, Esq.

Patience Ogwuma Omiri, Esq.

Abiola Adegboyega Kolawole, Esq.

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I. THE 1ST DEFENDANT,

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THE 2ND DEFENDANT,

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
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SUIT NO:

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TONYE PATRICK COLE.....CLAIMANT
AND
NYESOM EZENWO WIKE
CHANNELS INCORPORATED LIMITED
(OPERATORS OF CHANNELS TELEVISION) }DEFENDANTS

WRITTEN STATEMENT ON OATH OF TONYE PATRICK COLE.

I, **Tonye Patrick Cole**, Male, Adult, Christian, and Nigerian citizen of No. 3 Ayaminima Lane, GRA Phase 2, Port Harcourt, Rivers State, do solemnly swear that the evidence I shall give in this case shall be the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. So help me God and I state as follows:

That I am the Claimant in this suit, and I am a Nigerian citizen. I was born in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, on the 11th day of January 1967, and an indigene of Rivers State, Nigeria. **I have my CV/profile to tender.**

That I am an accomplished entrepreneur, philanthropist, politician, and public figure of impeccable character and repute, residing in Rivers State, Nigeria. I was the Gubernatorial Candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) for Rivers State in the 2023 Gubernatorial Elections, having duly won the party primaries and secured the party’s flag before the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

That I am the Co-Founder and former Group Executive Director of Sahara Group, an international energy conglomerate with operations spanning Nigeria, West Africa, East Africa, and beyond, and I am widely regarded for my leadership in business, good governance, and youth empowerment across Africa and beyond.

That before my entrepreneurial and political career, I attended the following academic institutions and obtained the under-listed qualifications:

- i) Primary School Leaving Certificate - Corona School, Victoria Island, Lagos (1978);
- j) School Leaving Certificate - King's College, Lagos (1983);
- k) Advanced Level Studies at King's School, Ely, Cambridgeshire, England (1984);
- l) Bachelor of Environmental Studies and Bachelor of Architecture (B.Es/B.Arch with Merit Honours) - University of Lagos (1990);
- m) Foundation and Advanced Course in Portuguese Language from Universidade de Brasília, Brazil;
- n) Advanced Management Program (AMP 186) - Harvard Business School, Boston, USA (2014);
- o) Member, National Institute (mni), National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (SEC 43, 2021), Kuru-Jos, Nigeria; and
- p) Transformational Leadership Fellowship, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford, England (2022). I shall rely on the above-listed certificates at trial.

That after my graduation, I worked as an Architect and Project Manager with Grupo Quatro S.A. in Goiânia, Brazil (1991 – 1993), where I participated in the urban planning and city development of Palmas, the capital of Tocantins State, including the design of the Ministry of Justice Building and several residential projects.

That upon my return to Nigeria, and completion of my National Youth Service, I served as Director of Operations with Empresa Sul Americana de Montagens S.A. (EMSA), a Brazilian civil-engineering company which executed World Bank-financed water projects for the Lagos Water Corporation between 1993 and 1996.

That in 1996 I co-founded The Sahara Group / Sahara Energy Resource Limited, where I served as Group Executive Director until 2018, directly responsible for the Group's global expansion, corporate-governance compliance, and strategic partnerships across Africa, Europe, and the Americas.

That under my leadership Sahara Group achieved international recognition as one of Africa's foremost energy conglomerates, and I subsequently served as Chairman or Board Member of numerous corporate and policy institutions, including—

Atlas Mara Co-Nvest Limited;

- i. Egbin Power Plc
- i. Ikeja Electric Distribution Company Ltd;
- J. Enactus Nigeria (Chairman);
- J. Nigerian Private Sector Advisory Group on SDGs (Chairman);
- i. Greater Port Harcourt Development Authority (Chairman);
- i. Nigerian Chamber of Shipping (Governing Council Member); and
- i. Digital Jewels Ltd (Board Member).

That I also served as adviser and consultant to several international organizations, including—

- (i) the World Economic Forum (Partnering Against Corruption Initiative – PACI);
- (ii) the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Private Sector Advisory Group on the SDG Fund (SDG-F);
- (iii) the World Bank Group Expert Advisory Council on Citizen Engagement; and
- (iv) the African Philanthropy Forum.

That beyond my corporate career, I founded and lead several philanthropic and I am an Ordained Minister of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) and leader developmental initiatives, including—

- (i) The R.E.A.C.H. Nigeria Foundation (2020);
- (ii) Behavioural Health Institute (BHI) (2019); and
- (iii) Nehemiah Youth Empowerment Initiative (2012), all dedicated to youth empowerment, behavioural health, and community development in Nigeria and across Africa.

That I am the leader of Team Nehemiah, charged with driving the church's urban-transformation and community-development vision for the Redemption Camp and its environs.

That I have received numerous awards and commendations both locally and internationally, including the 2022 African Union / Igbere TV Leadership Excellence Award for Businessman of the Year, the 2017 Oil & Gas Council Lifetime Achievement

Award, the 2013 Forbes / EbonyLife TV Best of Africa Award, and the 2009 WNE Global Champions Role Model Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Oil and Gas Sector.

3. That I have authored several books and publications, including Morning Reflections (2013), My God Thinks (2016), Digital Economy Policy and Strategic National Development in Nigeria (2023), and Watcher of Times (2024), and was a long-standing columnist with This Day Style and other national platforms.
4. That I have also contributed to academic and policy research including NIPSS 2021 National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy for Development in Nigeria: Issues and Prospects and the Transformational Leadership Fellowship Report of the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford (2022).
5. That I am a member of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and have served as the party's Gubernatorial Candidate in Rivers State for both the 2019 and 2023 Elections, having won over 77% of delegate votes at the 2022 primaries.
6. That by reason of my sterling achievements, national service, and unblemished public record, I enjoy enormous goodwill both within and outside Nigeria and was held in high esteem by right-thinking members of society until the false and defamatory publications by the Defendants which caused grievous injury to my hard-earned reputation.
7. That the 1st Defendant, Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, at the time he libelled and defamed me was and still is a lawyer and the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory and he was and still is a public servant and politician who resides and carries on his official and political duties within the Federal Capital Territory, and frequently appears on national television and other media outlets to make public statements and political commentaries.
3. That the 2nd Defendant, Channels Incorporated Limited, is a private limited-liability company duly incorporated in Nigeria with RC No. 198158, having its registered office at No. 44/48 Channels TV Avenue, Isheri-North, Lagos State, and an operational broadcast studio within the Federal Capital Territory at No. 1607 Cadastral Zone A09, Off Innocent Nwoga Street, Asokoro Extension, Guzape District, Abuja. The 2nd Defendant operates the popular broadcast-media platform known as Channels Television, including its online platforms, YouTube channel, and social-media handles, through which it publishes and

disseminates news, interviews, and political commentary to both national and international audiences.

9. That the 1st and 2nd Defendants are jointly responsible for the planning, approval, airing, and subsequent publication of the defamatory broadcast and related content complained of in this suit, and that such broadcast was made with their full knowledge, authorization, and editorial consent. They approved, produced, and caused to be aired the television programme titled “One-on-One with Nyesom Wike.”

10. That my attention was drawn to the said broadcast, aired on the 18th day of September 2025 during the 2nd Defendant’s flagship prime-time programme Politics Today, which featured the 1st Defendant as a guest. Those who called me and drew my attention to the programme as was being continuously published live on the 18th of September 2025 are Mr. Deji Adeyanju, Mr. Aiguokhian Raphael, Mr. Efe Bevy Kpohrator and many others who called or sent me messages. The 2nd Defendant subsequently published, uploaded, and widely circulated the programme on its official YouTube channel, website, and other digital platforms under its editorial control, thereby ensuring its continuous accessibility to a global audience and the said programme is being continuously published by the Defendants

11. I know that during the live publication of the interview by the 2nd Defendant at the instance of the 1st Defendant on Politics Today, which was published to many viewers both nationally and internationally, and now permanently hosted and being continuously published on the official YouTube channel of the 2nd Defendant link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/FAxzP7fpgYk?si=TEq5onqtkmEjWTyw>, and while responding to questions posed by Mr. Seun Okinbaloye, an agent of the 2nd Defendant, the 1st Defendant launched a series of malicious and unfounded verbal attacks directed at me and concerning my person. The 1st Defendant made reckless and defamatory allegations imputing criminal conduct, theft of public funds, and moral bankruptcy against me and my person. I shall rely on a copy of the complete video recording of the said interview, downloaded on a flash drive from the official YouTube publication of the 2nd Defendant at trial.

2. That I know as a fact that among other false and malicious publication made against me and my person to many viewers nationally and internationally by the 1st Defendant on the Channel Television owned by the 2nd Defendant and which the 2nd Defendant published against me and my person were the following defamatory words: “Those were the people who crippled the resources of the State with Amaechi”; “He was a conduit pipe through Sahara... they stole the State resources; they sold our gas for \$308 million U.S. dollars. That’s why when I see Amaechi every time, I say my God, does this man think that everybody is dead, nobody knows about this?”; He lost. He went to the Court of Appeal. He lost. He went to the Supreme Court. Supreme Court judgment came out three days before the APC primaries.”; and “Look at our hotel, Olympia Hotel. They took it... they stole. No, no, no, it was stealing.” I shall rely on a copy of the full transcript of the said interview aired on the 18th day of September 2025, printed from the 2nd Defendant’s YouTube publication at trial.

3. That in the said interview, at about 37:21 minutes, the 1st Defendant falsely and maliciously asserted that I “crippled the resources of the State,” thereby imputing to me the criminal act of large-scale misappropriation and economic sabotage of the resources of Rivers State. The 1st Defendant deliberately misrepresented the findings of the 2015 Judicial Commission of Inquiry and the subsequent proceedings of 2022/2023, neither of which made any finding of total depletion of State resources nor any finding of culpability against me. That further, at about 39:58 to 41:26 minutes of the same broadcast, the 1st Defendant, with reckless disregard for the truth, alleged that I “was the one in charge of Sahara... they stole the State resources; they sold our gas for \$308 million U.S. dollars,” directly accusing me of theft and fraudulent disposal of State assets. The said allegation is false and malicious.

4. The 1st Defendant, as Chief of Staff to the Rivers State Governor at the time, was privy to the fact that Rivers State Government carried out a privatisation exercise and put up 70% of its ownership in FIPL (a 100% Rivers State owned company) that owned and operated power generation plants in Omoku, Afam, Trans Amadi and Eleme. Independent valuers, contracted by Rivers State Government, valued the assets at US\$432,000,000.00 (Four

Hundred Million US Dollars) for a total installed capacity of 541MW. NG Power (a Sahara entity) exercised its' right of first refusal and was required to pay the sum of US\$302,400,000.00 (Three Hundred and Two Million, Four Hundred Thousand US Dollars) for the acquisition of 70% of RSG's shares in FIPL ("Shares"). NG Power paid the full acquisition price in various instalments, all acknowledged and properly receipted by the Rivers State Government. The 1st Defendant's attempt to insinuate that I "was the one in charge of Sahara... they stole the State resources; they sold our gas for \$308 million U.S. dollars," is a deliberate misrepresentation intended to sensationalize the interview and to falsely implicate me in criminal conduct, thereby aggravating the defamatory sting of the broadcast.

5. That at about 40:36 to 41:04 minutes of the said broadcast, the 1st Defendant further alleged that I "lost... went to the Court of Appeal... lost... went to the Supreme Court," thereby insinuating serial judicial defeats and incompetence. The said statement was false and misleading, as the judicial proceedings referred to by the 1st Defendant were in the case of **Rt. Hon. Rotimi Amaechi v. INEC & Governor of Rivers State & 9 Ors**, in which I was never a party. The false attribution of those judicial outcomes to me was intended to ridicule and damage my reputation as an incompetent public figure, businessman, and political leader.

5. That again, at about 41:41 to 42:16 minutes of the same broadcast, the 1st Defendant alleged that I "stole" the Olympia Hotel, declaring: "Look at our hotel, Olympia Hotel. They took it... they stole. No, no, no, it was stealing." The said statement, in its natural and ordinary meaning, accuses me of criminal theft and unlawful conversion of public property. The 1st Defendant, as a lawyer and Chief of Staff to the then Rivers State Governor, Rt. Hon. Chibuike Amaechi was privy that Olympia Hotel was concessioned to a consortium, of which Sahara Group was a part of. The 1st Defendant knew or ought to have known that ownership of concessioned asset remains with the concessioner, in this case the Rivers State Government and therefore was not "taken" or "stolen" as alleged. The 1st Defendant knew or ought to have known that the Judicial Commission of Inquiry merely questioned the process of concessioning of the hotel but made no finding of theft

or criminal culpability against me. The statement of the 1st Defendant published by the 2nd Defendant was therefore a deliberate fabrication intended to malign and injure my reputation.

7. That the said utterances, when taken together, were published and broadcast by the Defendants maliciously, recklessly, and without lawful justification, imputing to me the commission of serious criminal offences, corruption, dishonesty, incompetence, and moral depravity. The statements were false in every material particular, made without verification, and designed to expose me to hatred, contempt, ridicule, and public opprobrium before right-thinking members of the society both within and outside Nigeria.
8. That the said broadcast and televised interview contained deliberate, malicious, and false allegations of theft, corruption, and diversion of State resources against my person in my capacity as a public figure, entrepreneur, and political leader of national repute.
9. That the 2nd Defendant has, over time, wilfully aided, abetted, and provided an unrestrained broadcast platform for the 1st Defendant to habitually launch malicious, defamatory, and politically motivated attacks against perceived opponents and public figures. The 2nd Defendant, despite repeated instances of such conduct by the 1st Defendant in prior broadcasts, failed, refused, and neglected to exercise editorial caution, professional restraint, or regulatory responsibility as a licensed national broadcaster. Rather, it continued to promote and amplify the 1st Defendant's reckless statements for viewership gain and sensational political engagement, thereby making itself an active participant in the sustained defamation and public humiliation against me and my person.
10. That the 1st Defendant is a recurring guest on the 2nd Defendant's flagship programme Politics Today, where he has been repeatedly granted unrestrained airtime to make politically charged and defamatory statements against perceived opponents and other public figures. The 2nd Defendant, being fully aware of the 1st Defendant's pattern of incendiary and unguarded remarks, has continued to feature him on its programme, thereby aiding and amplifying his recurring pattern of reckless commentaries. The 1st Defendant has appeared as guest on Politics Today on the following notable dates as published on the 2nd Defendant's verified YouTube channel:

- (i) 30th August, 2023 — <https://youtu.be/i-2chsJyYFo>
- (ii) 13th September, 2024 — <https://youtu.be/8veTwM9t7V0>
- (iii) 8th October, 2024 — <https://youtu.be/AapGYtE6GjM>
- (iv) 4th July, 2025 — <https://youtu.be/aqXVDdIJX-g>
- (v) 19th August, 2025 — <https://www.youtube.com/live/y5o4x5qmf5s>
- (vi) 18th September, 2025 — <https://www.youtube.com/live/FAxzP7fpgYk>

I shall rely on copies of the complete video recordings of the said interviews, downloaded and preserved on a flash drive from the 2nd Defendant's official YouTube publications at trial.

.That I shall rely on the following instances, among others, as clear evidence of the 1st Defendant's habitual pattern of insulting conduct on the 2nd Defendant's platform and other media outlets:

- (a) 4th July 2025: At about 59:40 minutes, the 1st Defendant declared, "Dele Momodu does not have what it takes, credibility." At 1:02:06, he further stated, "Atiku has a history of betrayal under Abiola." (Source: youtu.be/aqXVDdIJX-g)
- (b) 13th September 2024: At about 42:24 minutes, the 1st Defendant described Anthony Aziegbemi as "one of the people who have no character." (Source: <https://youtu.be/8veTwM9t7V0>)
- (c) 18th September 2025: In his characteristic disdain for respected public figures, the 1st Defendant described Rt. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, former Speaker of the House of Representatives and former Governor of Sokoto State, as "an empty snail shell" at about 59:52 minutes. In the same interview, at about 00:37:21, he further stated, "Those were the people who crippled the resources of the State with Amaechi," referring to Rt. Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi, former Minister of Transportation and former Governor of Rivers State. (Source: <https://www.youtube.com/live/FAxzP7fpgYk>)
- (d) 13th November 2024: The 1st Defendant, during a live interview, referred to human rights activist and lawyer, Mr. Deji Adeyanju, as being part of "people with no job." (Source: <https://youtu.be/d9cUMxiVILw?si=d9cUMxiVI-W0j>)

I shall rely on copies of the complete video recordings of the above episodes as downloaded from the 2nd Defendant's verified YouTube channel, Channels Television, and from the SYMFONI YouTube Channel at trial.

2. That the recurring publication of disparaging remarks by the 1st Defendant, enabled and rebroadcast by the 2nd Defendant, demonstrates a consistent pattern of malicious, reckless, and sensational broadcasting jointly facilitated by both Defendants, calculated to attract public attention and viewership at the expense of the reputation and dignity of others, including myself.

3. That the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC), on or about the 28th of March 2023, imposed a ₦5,000,000 (Five Million Naira) fine on the 2nd Defendant, Channels Television in respect of an inciting comment made by a guest during Politics Today aired on Wednesday, 22 March 2023. The NBC held that the said broadcast was capable of inciting public disorder and violated several provisions of the Nigeria Broadcasting Code. The incident was widely reported by credible news outlets, including:

(a) Premium Times: "NBC fines Channels TV ₦5 million over Datti's 'ending democracy' comment"; and

(b) Punch Newspaper: "NBC fines Channels TV ₦5 million over Baba-Ahmed's interview."

I shall rely on copies of the screenshots of the said publications at trial.

4. That the said sanction by the National Broadcasting Commission further evidences the 2nd Defendant's consistent disregard for professional broadcasting ethics and regulatory compliance. Despite prior warnings and sanctions, the 2nd Defendant has continued to provide its platform for unverified, inflammatory, and defamatory statements, including the reckless utterances of the 1st Defendant.

5. That an examination of the 2nd Defendant's verified YouTube channel, Channels Television, reveals a consistent surge in viewership and audience engagement whenever the 1st Defendant appears as a guest on its flagship programme Politics Today. The 2nd Defendant has commercially exploited the 1st Defendant's notoriety and controversial

commentaries to attract greater audience attention, advertising traffic, and online visibility. Episodes featuring the 1st Defendant consistently record between 260,000 and 370,000 views, compared to an average of 10,000 to 100,000 views for other episodes. I shall rely on a copy of the YouTube analytics report, timestamps, and engagement data from the 2nd Defendant's verified channel at trial.

That at all material times, the Defendants' broadcast was and remains accessible to members of the public across the world via the 2nd Defendant's YouTube channel, website, and social-media platforms. I know that a substantial number of viewers have accessed, watched, and shared the defamatory broadcast, given the prominence of Politics Today and the public interest in the personalities of both the 1st Defendant and myself. That the said broadcast, as uploaded on the 2nd Defendant's official YouTube platform, has garnered over 300,149 (Three Hundred Thousand, One Hundred and Forty-Nine) views and more than 450 public comments, indicating its extensive reach and public engagement. I shall rely on a copy of the screenshot and digital record of the said YouTube post at trial.

That the said defamatory broadcast continues to generate unwholesome, malicious, and disparaging comments about me on the internet and other public fora, which have caused numerous friends, business partners, political associates, and well-wishers from across the globe to contact me expressing their shock and disappointment over the statements made against me.

That among those who watched, read, or became aware of the said broadcast and were deeply shocked by its false and malicious content are the following respectable members of the public: Mr. Aiguokhian Raphael, a Nigerian businessman from Ovia North-East Local Government Area of Edo State, who immediately drew my attention to the said broadcast upon seeing it. Mr. Bevy Efe Kpohrator, a Nigerian businessman and human-rights activist from Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo State, who likewise contacted me, expressing shock, disappointment, and disbelief at the Defendants' publication, Mr. Deji Adeyanju, a lawyer and human-rights activist resident at Terrace Block D4, White Diamond Estate, Makuru Street, off Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse II,

Abuja, who also watched the broadcast, and expressed concern over its damaging implications to my reputation.

9. That the said persons and several others expressed concern and dismay at the broadcast, and their reactions caused me great embarrassment, emotional distress, and reputational injury. That I shall rely on the testimonies of the aforesaid individuals at the trial to show the publication and circulation of the offending broadcast, the extent of its reach, and the injury caused to my reputation and goodwill.

10. That the words uttered by the 1st Defendant and broadcast and published by the 2nd Defendant, in their natural and ordinary meaning, were clearly defamatory and libellous of me. The said words expressly referred to me by name and professional identity, directly associating me with acts of theft, corruption, and diversion of public resources.

11. That the defamatory words contained in the broadcast and quoted above were understood, and are capable of being understood, to mean that I:

- (a) am a dishonest, fraudulent, and corrupt person who engaged in the theft of public funds belonging to Rivers State;
- (b) am a person who uses my business and political influence to divert public resources for personal gain;
- (c) am unfit to hold public office or any position of trust within Nigeria or elsewhere;
- (d) am a morally bankrupt and deceitful individual who hides behind corporate or political entities to perpetrate corruption;
- (e) am an economic saboteur and an enemy of public interest who contributed to the financial ruin of Rivers State; and
- (f) am a hypocrite and dishonest public figure, unworthy of association with honourable and right-thinking members of society.

12. That the said broadcast, together with the allegations, insinuations, and accusations contained therein, is absolutely false, unfounded, wicked, mischievous, reckless, libellous, and malicious. The statements were deliberately made and published to disparage me, expose me to hatred, contempt, and ridicule, and cause me to be shunned and avoided by friends, associates, and members of the public both within and outside Nigeria. The

publication was deliberately calculated to cause maximum damage to my reputation before my peers, business colleagues, and millions of right-thinking members of society in Nigeria and abroad.

13. That the defamatory statements were contrived and published with the deliberate intent to disparage, discredit, and injure my hard-earned reputation, public image, and professional standing as a respected entrepreneur, political leader, and citizen of Nigeria. The publication was meant to destroy my social credibility and integrity in the eyes of the public and to inflict maximum reputational and emotional damage upon me.
14. That the Defendants published the said defamatory broadcast without carrying out any verification or confirmation of facts, knowing same to be false, or being reckless whether they were true or false, and with the dominant motive of damaging my reputation and political career, injuring my feelings, and exposing me to public ridicule for their own publicity and commercial gain.
15. That the Defendants deliberately invented and created the spurious allegations contained in the said broadcast without any due regard to the verification of facts or the ethics of professional journalism, though they had the opportunity to cross-check such facts from me, Sahara Group, and relevant government agencies, but failed, refused, and neglected to do so.
16. That I am a law-abiding citizen of Nigeria, upright, incorruptible, well-mannered, and an astute entrepreneur and politician of unblemished character and integrity. That throughout my career in both the private and public sectors, I have never been indicted, convicted, or found guilty of any allegation of corruption or financial misconduct by any court or competent authority in Nigeria or elsewhere.
17. That by reason of the said malicious broadcast, my character, goodwill, and reputation have been gravely maligned; I have suffered considerable embarrassment, mental anguish, and distress as a public figure, business leader, and politician, and my career and public standing have been severely injured.
18. That the Defendants caused the said broadcast to be widely published and recirculated on their official YouTube channel, website, and social-media platforms, and it has been

further rebroadcast on diverse media platforms within and outside Nigeria. I have therefore been inundated with calls and messages from friends, colleagues, political associates, and business partners within and outside Nigeria expressing shock and disappointment over the Defendants' false allegations.

49. That many eminent Nigerians and international partners who have worked with me in various capacities have called to seek clarification or to express their dismay over the broadcast, including business colleagues, religious leaders, and political figures from within and outside Nigeria.
50. That some organizations and development partners with which I had long-standing relationships have threatened to review or suspend ongoing collaborations due to the false impression created by the Defendants' broadcast.
51. That my friends, associates, and political supporters now view me with suspicion and disdain, and some have withdrawn their association or support from me as a result of the Defendants' publication.
2. That I have lost the esteem and confidence of numerous professional and political contacts, as many have openly questioned my integrity and reputation based on the falsehoods spread by the Defendants.
3. That the Defendants knew or had reason to know that the words and allegations they broadcast concerning me were false, wicked, and baseless, and that they were concocted solely to injure me in the eyes of right-thinking members of society and to portray me as a morally bankrupt and dishonest public figure.
4. That as a result of the Defendants' malicious broadcast, my professional colleagues, political associates, friends, and family members have been distressed and have expressed concerns over my reputation and standing.
5. That I have been inundated with calls and messages from numerous individuals within and outside Nigeria expressing shock, anger, and disappointment over the Defendants' false allegations, and that I have suffered severe mental and emotional trauma therefrom.

6. That the Defendants' said broadcast has lowered me in the estimation of reasonable members of the public and brought me into hatred, ridicule, and contempt before the global audience to whom it was published.
7. That upon discovery of the said defamatory broadcast, my legal counsel, J. S. Okutepa, SAN, acting on my instructions, issued a notice and letter of demand dated 8th October 2025 to the 1st Defendant, titled "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)". The said letter demanded that the 1st Defendant retract his defamatory statements published on Politics Today of 18th September 2025, tender a public apology on the same platform and in at least three national newspapers, and pay the said sum of ₦20 billion as compensation. The letter also served as notice of intention to institute legal proceedings in the event of non-compliance within fourteen (14) days, but the 1st Defendant failed, refused, and neglected to comply. I shall rely on a copy of the said letter of demand at trial.
8. That on the same date, my counsel, J. S. Okutepa, SAN & Co., issued a separate notice and letter of demand to the 2nd Defendant, Channels Incorporated Limited, demanding immediate removal of the defamatory broadcast from all its platforms, public apology on its network and in three national dailies, and payment of ₦20 billion as compensation for the injury caused to my reputation. The 2nd Defendant also failed, refused, and neglected to comply, thereby necessitating this action. I shall rely on a copy of the said letter of demand at trial.
9. That despite the clear demands contained in the letters of 8th October 2025 served on both the 1st and 2nd Defendants, requiring them to retract the defamatory statements, issue public apologies on the same broadcast platforms and in at least three national newspapers, and pay the sum of ₦20,000,000,000 (Twenty Billion Naira) as compensation within fourteen (14) days, both Defendants wilfully failed, refused, and neglected to respond or comply within the stipulated period. Their continued silence and inaction constitute clear evidence of malice, reckless disregard for my rights, and aggravation of the injury caused to my reputation, thereby necessitating the institution of this action. That due to the

foregoing, I know as a fact that I am entitled to exemplary and aggravated damages, injunctive relief, and a public apology from the Defendants.

1. That at the trial of this suit, I shall rely on all documents relating to the facts of the publications, including the full video recording of the defamatory broadcast as published on the 2nd Defendant's verified YouTube channel, Channels Television. I shall also rely on the downloaded and preserved electronic copy of the said broadcast, the printed transcript of the publication, the corresponding screenshots of the 2nd Defendant's verified YouTube platform, and the YouTube analytics data evidencing the engagement metrics of the publication. The downloaded video file, the transcript in both hard and electronic form, together with the Certificate of Compliance, shall be tendered and relied upon at the trial of this suit.

. That in the circumstances of the facts of this case and the evidence I have given herein that I seek the following reliefs against the Defendants jointly and or severally as follows:

WHEREOF the Claimant claims against the Defendants as follows:

A DECLARATION that the statements made by the 1st Defendant, during the live broadcast of the 2nd Defendant's flagship programme, Politics Today, aired on the 18th day of September 2025, and subsequently published and disseminated by the 2nd Defendant through its television, online, and social media platforms under the title "One-on-One with Nyesom Wike", are false, malicious, offensive, defamatory and were calculated and intended to disparage, and the said statements did refer to the claimant and did disparage the Claimant in his personal, professional, and public capacity and had potential to lower and did lower the Claimant in the estimation of right-thinking members of society, and was intended to expose and did expose the Claimant to hatred, ridicule, odium, and contempt.

A DECLARATION that the said broadcast and or publications by the Defendants wherein the Claimant was referred to by name and occupation as a "thief," a person who "stole State resources," and who "sold Rivers State gas for \$308 million," are libellous and or defamatory of the Claimant same statements being permanently published material

imputing criminal conduct, dishonesty, and corruption and has gravely injured the Claimant's reputation, integrity, and standing both in his personal and professional life.

AN ORDER directing the Defendants to jointly and or severally retract in full, the said libellous and or defamatory publications/broadcast which the Defendants allowed and or made available to be published by several online publications and or all other media channels operated or controlled by the Defendants and or which Defendants used and or allowed to be used to published the said libellous and or defamatory publications, including the 2nd Defendant's YouTube channel, website, and social media platforms, and to permanently remove every copy, clip, or rebroadcast thereof forthwith, and to issue and circulate a Press Statement acknowledging the falsity and impropriety of the libellous/defamatory statements and giving the retraction equal prominence, visibility, and duration as the original broadcast and online publications.

AN ORDER compelling the Defendants to tender an unreserved, public, clear, and unequivocal apology to the Claimant by way of a live broadcast on the 2nd Defendant's flagship programme, Politics Today, and by publication in not less than five (5) national daily newspapers of wide circulation.

AN ORDER OF PERPETUAL INJUNCTION restraining the Defendants, whether by themselves, their agents, servants, privies, assigns, correspondents, or through any other person or medium whatsoever, from publishing, republishing, airing, disseminating, or causing to be published, republished, aired, or disseminated any defamatory or similar defamatory material, words, or statements concerning or relating to the Claimant.

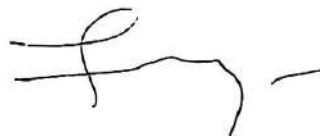
AN ORDER directing the Defendants to permanently delete, expunge, and erase from their servers, archives, and all electronic and digital platforms, the entire recording, excerpts, and transcripts of the said Politics Today broadcast of 18th September 2025, together with any related publication containing the defamatory material, whether in textual, audio, or audio-visual form.

The Sum of **₦40,000,000,000.00 (Forty Billion Naira)** only against the Defendants jointly and or severally as damages for the malicious, reckless, and unfounded defamatory broadcast and publications complained of, which have caused monumental injury.

humiliation, mental anguish, and irreparable harm to the Claimant's reputation, goodwill, and professional standing both nationally and internationally.

The sum of **₦500,000,000.00 (Five Hundred Million Naira) only**, being the cost of this action and incidental litigation expenses incurred by the Claimant in prosecuting this suit.

2. That i make this written statement believing its content to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and in accordance with the Oaths Act.



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Tonye Patrick Cole

IN THE HIGH COURT OF FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA
SUIT NO:

BETWEEN:

TONYE PATRICK COLE.....CLAIMANT

AND

NYESOM EZENWO WIKE

CHANNELS INCORPORATED LIMITED

(OPERATORS OF CHANNELS TELEVISION)

..... DEFENDANTS

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MR. DEJI ADEYANJU

I, **Mr. Deji Adeyanju**, Adult, Male, Christian, Lawyer, and Human Rights Activist, of Terrace Block D4, White Diamond Estate, Makuru Street, off Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja, do hereby make oath and state as follows:

That I am a legal practitioner, human rights activist, and social commentator, well known in Nigeria for my advocacy on issues of justice, good governance, and civil liberties.

That I know the Claimant in this case. He is a Nigerian of Rivers State origin, whom I have known and followed for several years due to his contributions to business, politics, and philanthropy. That the Claimant, **Tonye Patrick Cole**, is an accomplished entrepreneur, philanthropist, politician, and public figure of impeccable character and repute and he is resident in Rivers State, Nigeria. He was the Gubernatorial Candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) for Rivers State in the 2023 Gubernatorial Elections, having won the party primaries and secured the party’s flag.

That I also know that the Claimant was the Co-Founder and former Group Executive Director of **Sahara Group**, an international energy conglomerate with operations across Nigeria, West Africa, East Africa, and other parts of the world. He is widely recognized for his exemplary leadership in business, corporate governance, and youth empowerment across Africa, and enjoys an enviable reputation as a man of integrity, discipline, and transparent public conduct.

1. I know the 1st Defendant, **Nyesom Ezenwo Wike**. He is a Nigerian politician, a lawyer, and the current Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). He was a former Governor of Rivers State and a known public servant whose political activities and public utterances attract widespread national attention. The 1st Defendant is known for his frequent appearances on national television, radio, and other public forums where he makes political statements and personal commentaries and remarks on diverse issues, often in a manner that provokes controversy and public debate.
2. The 2nd Defendant, **Channels Incorporated Limited**, is a private company duly incorporated in Nigeria, operating the broadcast platform known as **Channels Television**, with offices in Lagos and Abuja. It publishes and transmits news, interviews, and political programmes across its television network and online platforms, including YouTube and social media.
3. On the 18th day of September 2025, I personally watched a live interview broadcast conducted on the part of the 2nd Defendant in which the 1st Defendant, Mr. Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, featured on the 2nd Defendant's flagship programme, *Politics Today*, anchored by Mr. Seun Okinbaloye, and aired on Channels Television and subsequently published on its official YouTube channel via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/FAxzP7fpgYk?si=TEq5onqtkmEjWTyw>. I shall rely on the complete video recording of the said interview which has been downloaded on a flash drive from the official YouTube publication of the 2nd Defendant.
4. That in the said interview, the 1st Defendant maliciously launched repeated verbal attacks against the Claimant, saying that the Claimant and the former Governor of Rivers State "crippled the resources of the State," that the Claimant "was a conduit pipe through Sahara," and that he "stole State resources" and "took Olympia Hotel." These statements were grave accusations of theft, corruption, and diversion of public funds. That I placed a call to the Claimant to draw his attention to the grave allegations being made against him and I was shocked and surprised at such allegations.
5. That I know I was shocked at these reckless allegations because given my knowledge of the Claimant I know that the statements published by the Defendants against the Claimant

are utterly false, baseless, and malicious. I have never at any time known or heard of the Claimant being indicted, convicted, or even accused by any lawful authority of corruption or financial misconduct. The 1st Defendant's utterances were plainly calculated to injure the Claimant's hard-earned reputation and that those allegations injured the reputation and credit of the Claimant and my thoughts and perceptions of the Claimant dwindled immediately after that programme.

That I know as a fact that the said publication contained allegations of corruption, diversion of public funds, and financial impropriety that linked the Claimant, portraying him as a dishonest and fraudulent businessman. That the said publication came to me as a rude shock, as I had always held the Claimant in great esteem prior to that time. When I confronted the Claimant about all these allegations, he told me that they were entirely baseless and calculated to destroy his hard-earned reputation and integrity before right-thinking members of the public. Indeed, the allegations injured the reputation and credit of the claimant in my perception and I started having low opinion of him the moment the interview was going on.

That I heard and understood the 1st Defendant on the said programme on the 18th of September 2025 specifically saying that the Claimant **“was the one in charge of Sahara... they stole the State resources; they sold our gas for \$308 million U.S. dollars,”** directly accusing the Claimant of theft and fraudulent disposal of State assets. Then later when I confronted the Claimant, the Claimant clarified that this allegation was false and malicious, explaining that the actual gas turbine transaction was in the sum of approximately \$54 million, while the \$308 million figure cited by the 1st Defendant is false and that the 1st Defendant's deliberate misrepresentation was intended to sensationalize and falsely implicate the Claimant in criminal conduct.

That I heard and understood the 1st Defendant referring to the Claimant as one that: **“lost... went to the Court of Appeal... lost... went to the Supreme Court,”** and I further understood the statement to mean that the Claimant suffered serial judicial defeats and he is incompetent.

That the 1st Defendant further alleged that the Claimant “stole” the **Olympia Hotel**, **declaring: “Look at our hotel, Olympia Hotel. They took it... they stole. No, no, no, it was stealing.”** My understanding of the said statement, in its natural and ordinary meaning, is that the Claimant is a thief and that the claimant was deeply involved in criminal theft and unlawful conversion of public property of River State of Nigeria.

That my impression and understanding of the statements made by the 1st Defendant and broadcast live upon watching the broadcast was that the words and expressions used were meant and I in fact understood them to mean that the Claimant is: A thief, a convicted criminal, and a dishonest and fraudulent person; an economic saboteur and parasite who exploits public resources for personal gain; a morally bankrupt and dishonourable individual unworthy of association with decent people; a corrupt businessman and political figure who thrives on deceit and manipulation; a wicked man of extraordinary bad image and character; a political and social viper with no business in decent circles; a man who has no genuine love for the Rivers people or Nigerians in general; a person who attained success through fraudulent and dishonest means; and a man who uses influence and position to foster corruption and self-aggrandizement.

Furthermore, I understood the broadcast to mean that the Claimant is a coward who hides behind other persons to demand illicit benefits; and a partaker in criminal enterprise; and a person who works against the economic and national interests of Rivers State and Nigeria as a whole. I was deeply shocked and dismayed that a serving public servant of the 1st Defendant’s stature could make defamatory accusations against a reputable citizen on national television.

That when I discussed the broadcast with the Claimant, he categorically stated that the allegations and insinuations were false, malicious, unfounded, and defamatory, calculated to expose him to ridicule, hatred, and contempt before his friends, political associates, and the general public. I know that the Defendants made and circulated the defamatory broadcast recklessly, without caring whether it was true or false, with the sole intention of destroying the reputation of the Claimant and injuring his career as a businessman and a politician.

5. That from my personal experience and public observation, the 1st Defendant has made a habit of using media appearances to malign, ridicule, and defame perceived critics and opponents, including the Claimant, under the guise of political commentary, while the 2nd Defendant continues to give him unrestrained access to its platforms. That I verily believe the 1st Defendant's conduct forms part of a consistent and dangerous pattern of malicious speech and calculated public defamation, one amplified by the 2nd Defendant's repeated invitations and unmoderated broadcasts purely designed to generate sensationalism, political propaganda, and public ridicule at the expense of truth, decency, and fairness.
7. That I have personally observed that since the said broadcast, many who previously held the Claimant in high esteem have begun to question his integrity, viewing him with suspicion and disdain due to the false impression created by the Defendants. That I verily believe that the 1st Defendant's reckless remarks and the 2nd Defendant's unfiltered dissemination, has jointly inflicted irreparable damage to the Claimant's public standing, corporate credibility, and social reputation both nationally and internationally. I know that the continued circulation of the defamatory broadcast has unjustly diminished the Claimant's image and credibility in the eyes of the public, business community, and political circles, thereby inflicting lasting injury to his professional and moral reputation.
3. That I depose to this written statement on oath believing its content to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and in accordance with the Oaths Act.



.....
Mr. Deji Adeyanju

IN THE HIGH COURT OF FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA
SUIT NO:

BETWEEN:

TONYE PATRICK COLE.....CLAIMANT

AND

NYESOM EZENWO WIKE

CHANNELS INCORPORATED LIMITED

(OPERATORS OF CHANNELS TELEVISION)

..... DEFENDANTS

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MR. AIGUOKHIAN RAPHAEL

I, **Mr. Aiguokhian Raphael**, Adult, Male, Christian, Businessman, of Ovia North East Local Government Area, Edo State, Nigeria, and resident within the jurisdiction of this Hon. Court, do hereby make oath and state as follows:

That I am a Nigerian citizen, a businessman by profession, and a person well known for my entrepreneurial engagements within and outside Nigeria.

That I know the Claimant in this suit, Tonye Patrick Cole, as a reputable public figure, businessman, and philanthropist whose name commands respect across the country and beyond. That I have followed his public, corporate, and political activities for several years and have always known him to be a man of discipline, transparency, and integrity.

That the Claimant was the Co-Founder and former Group Executive Director of Sahara Group, an international energy conglomerate with operations spanning Nigeria, West Africa, East Africa, and beyond. He is widely regarded for his leadership in business, good governance, and youth empowerment across Africa and beyond.

On the 18th day of September 2025, I personally watched a live interview broadcast conducted by an agent of the 2nd Defendant in which the 1st Defendant, Mr. Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, featured on the 2nd Defendant's flagship programme, *Politics Today*, anchored by Mr. Seun Okinbaloye, and aired on Channels Television and subsequently published on its official YouTube channel via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/FAxzP7fpgYk?si=TEq5onqtkmEjWTyw>. I shall rely on

the complete video recording of the said interview which has been downloaded on a flash drive from the official YouTube publication of the 2nd Defendant.

- . That in the said interview, the 1st Defendant maliciously launched repeated verbal attacks against the Claimant, saying that the Claimant and the former Governor of Rivers State “crippled the resources of the State,” that the Claimant “was a conduit pipe through Sahara,” and that he “stole State resources” and “took Olympia Hotel.” These statements were grave accusations of theft, corruption, and diversion of public funds. That I put a call through to the Claimant to draw his attention to the grave allegations being made against him and I was shocked and surprised about such allegations.
- . That I know I was shocked at these reckless allegations because given my knowledge of the Claimant I know that the statements published by the Defendants against the Claimant are utterly false, baseless, and malicious. I have never at any time known or heard of the Claimant being indicted, convicted, or even accused by any lawful authority of corruption or financial misconduct. The 1st Defendant’s utterances were plainly calculated to injure the Claimant’s hard-earned reputation and that the said allegations injured the reputation and credit of the Claimant and my thoughts and perceptions of the claimant dwindled immediately after that programme.
- . That I know as a fact that the said publication contained allegations of corruption, diversion of public funds, and financial impropriety falsely linked to the Claimant, portraying him as a dishonest and fraudulent businessman. That the said publication came to me as a rude shock, as I had always held the Claimant in great esteem prior to that time. These allegations when I confronted the Claimant, he told me that they were entirely baseless and calculated to destroy his hard-earned reputation and integrity before right-thinking members of the public. Indeed, the allegations injured the reputation and credit of the claimant in my perception and I started having low rating of him the moment the interview was going on.
- . That I heard and understood the 1st Defendant on the said programme on the 18th of September 2025 specifically saying that the Claimant **“was the one in charge of Sahara... they stole the State resources; they sold our gas for \$308 million U.S.**

dollars,” directly accusing the Claimant of theft and fraudulent disposal of State assets. Then later when I confronted the Claimant, the Claimant clarified that this allegation was false and malicious, explaining that the actual gas turbine transaction was in the sum of approximately \$54 million, while the \$308 million figure cited by the 1st Defendant is false and that the 1st Defendant’s deliberate misrepresentation was intended to sensationalize and falsely implicate the Claimant in criminal conduct.

That I heard and understood the 1st Defendant referring to the Claimant as one that: **“lost... went to the Court of Appeal... lost... went to the Supreme Court,”** and I further understood the statement to mean that the Claimant suffered serial judicial defeats and he is incompetent.

That the 1st Defendant further alleged that the Claimant **“stole” the Olympia Hotel, declaring: “Look at our hotel, Olympia Hotel. They took it... they stole. No, no, no, it was stealing.”** My understanding of the said statement, in its natural and ordinary meaning, is that the Claimant is a thief and that the claimant was deeply involved in criminal theft and unlawful conversion of public property of Rivers State of Nigeria.

That my impression and understanding of the statements made by the 1st Defendant and broadcast live upon watching the broadcast was that the words and expressions used were meant and I in fact understood them to mean that the Claimant is: A thief, a convicted criminal, and a dishonest and fraudulent person; an economic saboteur and parasite who exploits public resources for personal gain; a morally bankrupt and dishonourable individual unworthy of association with decent people; a corrupt businessman and political figure who thrives on deceit and manipulation; a wicked man of extraordinary bad character and image; a political and social viper with no business in decent circles; a man who has no genuine love for the people of Rivers State or Nigerians in general; a person who attained success through fraudulent and dishonest means; and a man who uses influence and position to foster corruption and self-aggrandizement.

Furthermore, I understood the broadcast to mean that the Claimant is a coward who hides behind other persons to demand illicit benefits, a partaker in criminal enterprise; and a person who works against the economic and national interests of Rivers State and Nigeria

as a whole. I was deeply shocked and dismayed that a serving public officer of the 1st Defendant's stature could make defamatory accusations against a reputable citizen on national television.

That when I discussed the broadcast with the Claimant, he categorically stated that the allegations and insinuations were false, malicious, unfounded, and defamatory, calculated to expose him to ridicule, hatred, and contempt before his friends, political associates, and the general public. I know that the Defendants made and circulated the defamatory broadcast recklessly, without caring whether it was true or false, with the sole intention of destroying the reputation of the Claimant and injuring his career as a businessman and a politician.

That from my personal experience and public observation, the 1st Defendant has made a habit of using media appearances to malign, ridicule, and defame perceived critics and opponents, including the Claimant, under the guise of political commentary, while the 2nd Defendant continues to give him unrestrained access to its platforms. That I verily believe the 1st Defendant's conduct forms part of a consistent and dangerous pattern of malicious speech and calculated public defamation, one amplified by the 2nd Defendant's repeated invitations and unmoderated broadcasts purely designed to generate sensationalism, political propaganda, and public ridicule at the expense of truth, decency, and fairness.

That I have personally observed that since the said broadcast, many who previously held the Claimant in high esteem have begun to question his integrity, viewing him with suspicion and disdain due to the false impression created by the Defendants. That I verily believe that the 1st Defendant's reckless remarks and the 2nd Defendant's unfiltered dissemination, has jointly inflicted irreparable damage to the Claimant's public standing, corporate credibility, and social reputation both nationally and internationally. I know that the continued circulation of the defamatory broadcast has unjustly diminished the Claimant's image and credibility in the eyes of the public, business community, and political circles, thereby inflicting lasting injury to his professional and moral reputation. That I state and know that the words uttered by the 1st Defendant and broadcast by the 2nd Defendant as I set out above, have seriously injured the Claimant's reputation, dignity,

and standing in the eyes of right-thinking members of the public both in Nigeria and abroad. That I verily believe that the Defendants acted jointly and deliberately to defame, ridicule, and destroy the Claimant's good name for political and commercial gain. That the publication has unjustly diminished the Claimant's social standing, professional reputation, and public credibility.

That I depose to this written statement believing its content to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and in accordance with the Oaths Act.



.....
Mr. Aiguokhian Raphael

IN THE HIGH COURT OF FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY
IN THE ABUJA JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT ABUJA
SUIT NO:

BETWEEN:

TONYE PATRICK COLE.....CLAIMANT

AND

NYESOM EZENWO WIKE

CHANNELS INCORPORATED LIMITED

(OPERATORS OF CHANNELS TELEVISION)

..... DEFENDANTS

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF MR. BEVY EFE KPOHRAROR

I, **Mr. Bevy Efe Kpohraror**, Adult, Male, Nigerian Citizen, Businessman and Human-Rights Activist of Orhionmwon Local Government Area in Edo State, and resident within the jurisdiction of this Honourable Court, do hereby make oath and state as follows:

That I am a businessman and human-rights advocate deeply committed to the promotion of justice, transparency, and accountability in public life. That for more than two decades I have been actively involved in civil-society advocacy and public-interest campaigns across Nigeria, often speaking on radio, television, and community forums about citizens' rights and ethical governance.

That through these activities I have gained a balanced understanding of how media statements can shape public perception and how false accusations against persons in leadership can inflict irreparable reputational and economic damage. I know the Claimant, **Arc. Tonye Patrick Cole**, both personally and by public reputation, as a distinguished entrepreneur, philanthropist, and political leader whose record of integrity and discipline is well known throughout Nigeria and beyond. I first encountered the Claimant in professional circles around 2005 during a private-sector leadership forum in Lagos, and I have since followed his career and public engagements with keen interest and admiration. That the Claimant was the Co-Founder and former Group Executive Director of **Sahara Group**, a multinational energy conglomerate with operations in West Africa, East Africa,

~~The Nigerian lawyer~~, which under his stewardship became one of Africa's most respected corporate brands. That the Claimant is highly educated, having attended reputable institutions including King's College Lagos, the University of Lagos, Universidade de Brasília in Brazil, Harvard Business School, and the University of Oxford, and is an alumnus of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (mni).

That he is a recipient of several national and international honours, among them the African Union Leadership Excellence Award, the Forbes Best of Africa Award, and the Oil & Gas Council Lifetime Achievement Award. That beyond business, the Claimant has devoted himself to philanthropy through initiatives such as **The R.E.A.C.H. Nigeria Foundation**, the **Behavioural Health Institute (BHI)**, and the **Nehemiah Youth Empowerment Initiative**, all focused on youth empowerment and community development. That he is also an Ordained Minister of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) and leader of **Team Nehemiah**, a faith-based urban renewal movement promoting integrity and social reform. That I therefore hold the Claimant in the highest esteem as a patriot, mentor, and symbol of discipline for young entrepreneurs and leaders across Nigeria until his reputation was severely injured and battered by the Defendants through a live national and international broadcast on the 18th day of September 2025.

On the 18th day of September 2025, I personally watched a live interview broadcast conducted by an agent of the 2nd Defendant in which the 1st Defendant, Mr. Nyesom Ezenwo Wike, featured on the 2nd Defendant's flagship programme, *Politics Today*, anchored by Mr. Seun Okinbaloye, and aired on Channels Television and subsequently published on its official YouTube channel via the link: <https://www.youtube.com/live/FAXzP7fpgYk?si=TEq5onqtkmEjWTyw>. I shall rely on the complete video recording of the said interview which has been downloaded on a flash drive from the official YouTube publication of the 2nd Defendant.

That in the said interview, the 1st Defendant maliciously launched repeated verbal attacks against the Claimant, saying that the Claimant and the former Governor of Rivers State "crippled the resources of the State," that the Claimant "was a conduit pipe through Sahara," and that he "stole State resources" and "took Olympia Hotel." These statements

Europe, and Asia, which under his stewardship became one of Africa's most respected corporate brands. That the Claimant is highly educated, having attended reputable institutions including King's College Lagos, the University of Lagos, Universidade de Brasília in Brazil, Harvard Business School, and the University of Oxford, and is an alumnus of the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (mni).

That he is a recipient of several national and international honours, among them the African Union Leadership Excellence Award, the Forbes Best of Africa Award, and the Oil & Gas Council Lifetime Achievement Award. That beyond business, the Claimant has devoted himself to philanthropy through initiatives such as **The R.E.A.C.H. Nigeria Foundation**, the **Behavioural Health Institute (BHI)**, and the **Nehemiah Youth Empowerment Initiative**, all focused on youth empowerment and community development. That he is also an Ordained Minister of the Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) and leader of **Team Nehemiah**, a faith-based urban renewal movement promoting integrity and social reform. That I therefore hold the Claimant in the highest esteem as a patriot, mentor, and symbol of discipline for young entrepreneurs and leaders across Nigeria until his reputation was severely injured and battered by the Defendants through a live national and international broadcast on the 18th day of September 2025.

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That in the said interview, the 1st Defendant maliciously launched repeated verbal attacks against the Claimant, saying that the Claimant and the former Governor of Rivers State "crippled the resources of the State," that the Claimant "was a conduit pipe through Sahara," and that he "stole State resources" and "took Olympia Hotel." These statements

were grave accusations of theft, corruption, and diversion of public funds. That I put a call through to the Claimant to draw his attention to the grave allegations being made against him and I was shocked and surprised about such allegations.

That I was shocked at these reckless allegations because given my knowledge of the Claimant I know that the statements published by the Defendants against the Claimant are utterly false, baseless, and malicious. I have never at any time known or heard of the Claimant being indicted, convicted, or even accused by any lawful authority of corruption or financial misconduct. The 1st Defendant's utterances were plainly calculated to injure the Claimant's hard-earned reputation and that the said allegations injured the reputation and credit of the Claimant and my thoughts and perceptions of the Claimant dwindled immediately after that programme.

That I know as a fact that the said publication contained allegations of corruption, diversion of public funds, and financial impropriety falsely linked to the Claimant, portraying him as a dishonest and fraudulent businessman. That the said publication came to me as a rude shock, as I had always held the Claimant in great esteem prior to that time. These allegations when I confronted the Claimant, he told me that they were entirely baseless and calculated to destroy his hard-earned reputation and integrity before right-thinking members of the public. Indeed, the allegations injured the reputation and credit of the claimant in my perception and I started having low rating of him the moment the interview was going on.

That I heard and understood the 1st Defendant on the said programme on the 18th of September 2025 specifically saying that the Claimant **"was the one in charge of Sahara... they stole the State resources; they sold our gas for \$308 million U.S. dollars,"** directly accusing the Claimant of theft and fraudulent disposal of State assets. Then later when I confronted the Claimant, the Claimant clarified that this allegation was false and malicious, explaining that the actual gas turbine transaction was in the sum of approximately \$54 million, while the \$308 million figure cited by the 1st Defendant was false and that the 1st Defendant's deliberate misrepresentation was intended to sensationalize and falsely implicate the Claimant in criminal conduct. That I heard and

understood the 1st Defendant referring to the Claimant as one that: **“lost... went to the Court of Appeal... lost... went to the Supreme Court,** “and I further understood the statement to mean that the Claimant suffered serial judicial defeats and he is incompetent. That the 1st Defendant further alleged that the Claimant “stole” the Olympia Hotel, declaring: “Look at our hotel, Olympia Hotel. They took it... they stole. No, no, no, it was stealing.” My understanding of the said statement, in its natural and ordinary meaning, is that the Claimant is a thief and that the claimant was deeply involved in criminal theft and unlawful conversion of public property of Rivers State of Nigeria.

That my impression and understanding of the statements made by the 1st Defendant and broadcast live upon watching the broadcast was that the words and expressions used were meant and I in fact understood them to mean that the Claimant is: A thief, a convicted criminal, and a dishonest and fraudulent person; an economic saboteur and parasite who exploits public resources for personal gain; a morally bankrupt and dishonourable individual unworthy of association with decent people; a corrupt businessman and political figure who thrives on deceit and manipulation; a wicked man of extraordinary bad image and character; a political and social viper with no business in decent circles; a man who has no genuine love for the people of Rivers State or Nigerians in general; a person who attained success through fraudulent and dishonest means; and a man who uses influence and position to foster corruption and self-aggrandizement.

Furthermore, I understood the broadcast to mean that the Claimant is a coward who hides behind other persons to demand illicit benefits, a partaker in criminal enterprise; and a person who works against the economic and national interests of Rivers State and Nigeria as a whole. I was deeply shocked and dismayed that a serving public officer of the 1st Defendant’s stature could make defamatory accusations against a reputable citizen on national television. That when I discussed the broadcast with the Claimant, he categorically stated that the allegations and insinuations were false, malicious, unfounded, and defamatory, calculated to expose him to ridicule, hatred, and contempt before his friends, political associates, and the general public. I know that the Defendants made and circulated the defamatory broadcast recklessly, without caring whether it was true or false,

with the sole intention of destroying the reputation of the Claimant and injuring his career as a businessman and a politician.

That from my personal experience and public observation, the 1st Defendant has made a habit of using media appearances to malign, ridicule, and defame perceived critics and opponents, including the Claimant, under the guise of political commentary, while the 2nd Defendant continues to give him unrestrained access to its platforms. That I verily believe the 1st Defendant's conduct forms part of a consistent and dangerous pattern of malicious speech and calculated public defamation, one amplified by the 2nd Defendant's repeated invitations and unmoderated broadcasts purely designed to generate sensationalism, political propaganda, and public ridicule at the expense of truth, decency, and fairness.

That I have personally observed that since the said broadcast, many who previously held the Claimant in high esteem have begun to question his integrity, viewing him with suspicion and disdain due to the false impression created by the Defendants. That I verily believe that the 1st Defendant's reckless remarks and the 2nd Defendant's unfiltered dissemination, has jointly inflicted irreparable damage to the Claimant's public standing, corporate credibility, and social reputation both nationally and internationally. I know that the continued circulation of the defamatory broadcast has unjustly diminished the Claimant's image and credibility in the eyes of the public, business community, and political circles, thereby inflicting lasting injury to his professional and moral reputation. I state and I know that the words uttered by the 1st Defendant and broadcast by the 2nd Defendant as I set out above, have seriously injured the Claimant's reputation, dignity, and standing in the eyes of right-thinking members of the public both in Nigeria and abroad. That I verily believe that the Defendants acted jointly and deliberately to defame, ridicule, and destroy the Claimant's good name for political and commercial gain. That the publication has unjustly diminished the Claimant's social standing, professional reputation, and public credibility.

.That I have personally observed a decline in public confidence in the Claimant within certain civic and political circles, since the said broadcast that shows the extent of the injury done to his reputation. That I know that some persons and interest groups hostile to

the Claimant now cite the Defendants' broadcast as "proof" of his supposed wrongdoing, thus weaponizing the falsehood for political propaganda. I know that this pattern of behaviour by the 1st Defendant fits a longstanding tendency to attack and malign critics and opponents through the media, thereby intimidating voices of accountability in the country.

I know the 2nd Defendant provided its platform to the 1st Defendant to defame the Claimant and it did so on the 18th of September 2025 without moderation or caution, and this has enabled and amplified the libellous and defamatory pattern to the detriment of the credit and reputation of the Claimant. That as a citizen and advocate for human rights, I consider the Defendants' conduct not only defamatory of the Claimant but also a dangerous precedent for public discourse in Nigeria, where unchecked falsehoods can destroy years of honourable service.

That I verily believe that the 1st Defendant acted with spite and political malice, and that the 2nd Defendant acted with gross negligence and commercial interest to attract viewership and publicity at the expense of truth and fairness. That the combined effect of the actions of the 1st and 2nd Defendants has gravely diminished the Claimant's reputation, dignity, and standing before right-thinking members of the society both within and outside Nigeria. That I know that no amount of post-fact clarification can fully erase the impression already engraved in the public mind by the Defendants' reckless broadcast.

That I depose to this written statement believing its content to be true and correct to the best of my knowledge and in accordance with the Oaths Act.



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Mr. Bevy Efe Kpohraror