



NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

PORT HARCOURT BRANCH

OFFICE OF THE SOCIAL SECRETARY:

NBA-PH BRANCH HOUSE, NO. 1 BANK ROAD PORT HARCOURT RIVERS STATE.
08160704005

Dear Learned SANs, Seniors and Colleagues,

PRAISE DAY 2025

ABUSE OF POWER BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NBA PH BRANCH.

Kindly note that the flyers making the rounds with the pictures of the branch Chairman and the CLASFON chairman of Port Harcourt is neither a creation of the Social Committee nor the Executive Committee members. The chairman has unilaterally constituted a new committee without ratification from the general house, approved for herself payment for the band/artist and published those flyers with total disregard to the views of other members of the Executive Committee.

Please note that the general house approved "Praise Day" following the report from the office of the Social Secretary. Yesterday, being the 16th of December 2025, the Chairman unilaterally created another committee without ratification and sought to use them to carry out an event the social committee has already expended time and resources in planning.

Kindly note that this event was organized last year by the office of the Social Secretary in conjunction with the Social Committee and the house graciously approved same to be a yearly event under the office of the Social Secretary.

While I do not have an issue with CLASFON, it is divisive to make CLASFON the anchor of the event in view of the fact that it is a branch event and CLASFON is not an arm of the NBA Port Harcourt Branch. More so, there are other Christian bodies such as Catholic Lawyers, Anglican Lawyers, Pentecostals etc. in the branch. The approach the Social Committee would rather take is to have all the Christian bodies participate in the

event. Some of these other Christian bodies may feel left out if CLASFON is given the sole charge to anchor this event.

While the above stated issues were still being debated at the EXCO level, the chairman in her command style of leadership, blocked the EXCO WhatsApp platform and also proceeded to block the other general members' WhatsApp groups. These groups have remained blocked thereby stifling free speech of members. To buttress the Chairman's highhandedness, the Chairman, sometime in July 2025 removed Chinwe Omodu Esq. the immediate past secretary from the EXCO WhatsApp platform because he expressed a dissenting view from hers. Since the 15th of July 2025, the Chairman has refused to add him back to the group till date.

To this end, learned SANs, seniors and colleagues, kindly discountenance any flyers making the rounds until the issue is resolved at the EXCO level. In view of the dissent and disagreement amongst the EXCO as stated earlier, it is unlikely that the Praise Day would hold any time soon.

Thank you for your understanding.

A small, square, grayscale image showing a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light background. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'Mary S. Dikibo'.

Mary S. Dikibo

Social Secretary NBA PH.