



# NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

## OHAFIA BRANCH

(THE WARRIORS BAR)

Chief Umeh Kalu, (SAN) Bar Centre, High Court Complex, Ohafia, Abia State.

Email:- [nbaohafia@yahoo.com](mailto:nbaohafia@yahoo.com)

[www.nbaohafiabranh.org](http://www.nbaohafiabranh.org)

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### PRESS STATEMENT

#### **POSITION OF NBA OHAFIA BRANCH ON THE JUSUN STRIKE AND RECENT COMMUNIQUE OF THE BODY OF CHAIRMEN OF NBA BRANCHES IN ABIA STATE**

The attention of members of Ohafia Branch of the Nigerian Bar Association has been drawn to a communique issued by a body called “Body of Chairmen of NBA Branches in Abia State” dated the 29<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026. The said document was signed by branch chairmen of five (5) branches out of the six (6) lawfully created and existing branches in Abia State. No mention was made of the Ohafia Branch of the NBA in the said document, which is an anomaly.

For the records, Ohafia branch of the NBA was created in the year 2002 under Chief O. C. J. Okocha, SAN, the then president of the NBA and since the branch was created, it has been participating in every activity of the Bar in Abia State, Eastern Bar Forum (EBF) and the National body. We consider it wrong and unbecoming for the other branches of the Bar in Abia State to meet and issue a communique in the name of the Branches of the NBA in Abia State without inviting us to participate or seek our views and position on the issues raised in the communique.

To the extent that we were neither consulted nor invited before the decisions contained in the communique, we disassociate ourselves from the content of the said Communique. We want to also place on record that the Honourable Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Abia State, Mr. Ikechukwu Uwana, SAN did not refuse to meet with the Branch chairmen as alleged. As available exchanges, show that he rather courteously indicated his inability to attend a physical meeting on the proposed dates, went ahead to propose a virtual meeting and further advised that in view of the urgency of the matter and its direct connection to the Judiciary *cum* labour issues, the Chairmen could engage the Honourable Chief Judge and/or the Honourable commissioner for Labour. There is no indication that any effort was made to explore or exhaust any of the

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aforementioned options; rather, the very next development brought to our attention was the issuance of a purported communiqué.

The NBA Ohafia Branch recognizes the right of JUSUN to demand for enhanced working conditions, as well as the responsibility of Government in meeting corresponding demands of other sectors. And as such, we advocate for a sincere and honest dialogue between the Abia State Government and JUSUN, to save lawyers especially those in private practice who are now bearing the burden of not being able to earn their daily living due to the prolonged closure of the courts in the state.

Consequently, we appeal to both the government team of negotiators and officials of JUSUN to ensure that the issues in contention are speedily resolved in the overall interest of the State. We are aware that the Honourable the Attorney General of Abia State Mr. Ikechukwu Uwanna, SAN, has not done anything or taken steps to frustrate the resolution of the trade dispute. We therefore appeal to the Chief Law officer of our dear State to continue to do all within his lawful powers to ensure an immediate and lasting resolution of the issues at stake.

*Dated at Ohafia, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2026.*

*Signed:*



**K. O. K. OJIKE, ESQ.**  
*(Branch Chairman)*



**ODIBA EKE KALU, ESQ.**  
*(Branch Secretary)*