

IN THE HIGH COURT OF RIVERS STATE OF NIGERIA
IN THE PORT HARCOURT JUDICIAL DIVISION
HOLDEN AT PORT HARCOURT

SUIT NO: PHC/ /CS/2026

BETWEEN:

1. GODSENT O. ELENWA, ESQ.
2. DAMINABO L. DAVIES, ESQ.
3. ODINAKA G. EMENIKE, ESQ.
(For themselves and as representing concerned and aggrieved members of the Nigerian Bar Association, Port-Harcourt Branch)

APPLICANTS

AND

1. CORDELIA U. EKE ESQ.
(Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Port-Harcourt Branch for herself and the entire members and Executive Committee Members of the NBA Port-Harcourt Branch)
2. CHUKWUMA EKE ESQ.
(Chairman, Electoral Committee (ELECO) of the NBA, Port-Harcourt Branch, for himself and representing the ELECO of the NBA Port-Harcourt Branch)
3. NONYE NZEWI-AGBASI ESQ.
(Secretary, Electoral Committee (ELECO) of the NBA Port-Harcourt Branch for herself and as representing the ELECO of the NBA Port-Harcourt Branch)

RESPONDENTS

ORIGINATING SUMMONS

BROUGHT PURSUANT TO ORDER 3, RULE 2 & 3 OF THE HIGH COURT OF RIVERS STATE (CIVIL PROCEDURE) RULES 2023, SECTION 40 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA 1999 (AS AMENDED), AND THE UNIFORM BYE-LAWS CONTAINED IN THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION 2015 (AS AMENDED IN 2025) AND UNDER THE INHERENT JURISDICTION OF THE HONOURABLE COURT

LET:

1. CORDELIA U. EKE, ESQ.
(Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Port-Harcourt Branch for herself and the entire members and Executive Committee Members of the NBA Port-Harcourt Branch).
2. CHUKWUMA EKE, ESQ.
(Chairman, Electoral Committee (ELECO) of the NBA Port-Harcourt Branch for himself and representing the ELECO of the NBA Port-Harcourt Branch).
3. NONYE NZEWI-AGBASI, ESQ.
(Secretary, Electoral Committee (ELECO) of the NBA Port-Harcourt Branch for herself and as representing the ELECO of the NBA Port-Harcourt Branch).

who are sued as 1st to 3rd Defendants on behalf of the entire Executive committee, members of the NBA Port-Harcourt Branch and the members of the Electoral Committee NBA Port-Harcourt Branch respectively) within twenty-one (21) days after the service of this summons on them, inclusive of the day of such service, cause an appearance to be entered for them in this summons which is issued upon the application of GODSENT O. ELENWA, ESQ., DAMINABO L. DAVIES, ESQ. & ODINAKA G. EMENIKE, ESQ. (Suing for themselves and as representing concerned and aggrieved members of the Nigerian Bar Association, Port-Harcourt Branch), for the determination of the following questions:

1. WHETHER having regard to the clear and mandatory provisions of Article 10(3) and Article 12 of the Uniform Bye-Laws for Branches contained in the Third Schedule to the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Constitution 2015 (as amended in 2025), the 2nd and 3rd Respondents possess the administrative or statutory vires to omit, exclude, or disenfranchise bona fide, financial members of the Port Harcourt Branch who have met all prerequisites and whose names are captured in the official attendance lists?
2. WHETHER the inclusion of individuals who do not meet the mandatory geographical and meeting attendance thresholds—such as **Wisdom Umina Sumuko (Serial No. 242 under the 6-10 years post call category) in the NBA Port Harcourt Eleco’s Final List of Eligible Voters**, who is physically resident outside the jurisdiction of Nigeria (in the United Kingdom) since September 2025—does not constitute a gross violation of the NBA Constitution and a fraud on the electoral process?
3. WHETHER the failure of the 2nd and 3rd Respondents to include unique Membership Identity Numbers on the Final List of Eligible Voters released on June 14, 2026, in total disregard of modern verification protocols, does not breach the standard duty of transparency and open the door to widespread proxy voting, impersonation, and institutional fraud?

4. WHETHER the severe institutional bias, conflict of interest, and lack of neutrality demonstrated by the 2nd and 3rd Respondents, alongside the data manipulation showing an inexplicable duplication of over 75 names across multiple year-of-call categories, does not completely invalidate the integrity of the entire “Final List of Eligible Voters” and the Electoral Process?

In the light of the answers to the above questions, the Applicants hereby seek the following relief:

1. **A DECLARATION** that the Final List of Eligible Voters of the 2nd and 3rd Respondents dated June 12th, 2026, but published on 14th June 2026, for the election of officers of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Port Harcourt Branch, is profoundly compromised, structurally flawed, packed with phantom voters, plagued by systemic omission of qualified voters, and is consequently null, void, and of no legal effect whatsoever.
2. **A DECLARATION** that the current Port Harcourt Branch Electoral Committee (ELECO), as presently constituted under the leadership of the 2nd and 3rd Defendants, has compromised its institutional neutrality, violated the provisions of the NBA Constitution 2015 (as amended in 2025), exhibited gross administrative incompetence and bias, and is unfit to superintend or conduct any election for the executive offices of the Port Harcourt Branch.
3. **AN ORDER OF THIS HONORABLE COURT** dissolving and disbanding the Port Harcourt Branch Electoral Committee (ELECO) as presently constituted.
4. **AN ORDER OF THIS HONORABLE COURT** directing the President of the NBA to immediately constitute an independent, unbiased Caretaker Electoral Committee comprised of past branch Chairmen of unimpeachable professional standing and zero partisan affiliations, to step into the administrative shoes of the disbanded ELECO, purge the register/Voters List, and conduct a transparent branch election.
5. **AN INJUNCTION** restraining the Respondents, whether by themselves, their agents, secretariats, proxies, or anyone acting on their authority, from deploying, using, or relying upon the tainted Final List of Eligible Voters dated June 12th 2026, for the purpose of conducting any elections or voting exercises within the Port Harcourt Branch of the NBA.

Dated this _____ day of _____ 2026.

**ASSISTANT CHIEF REGISTRAR
(LITIGATION)**

THIS SUMMONS WAS TAKEN OUT BY GODSENT O. ELENWA, ESQ., DAMINABO L. DAVIES, ESQ. & ODINAKA G. EMENIKE, ESQ. through their counsel H.F. Bariesia, Esq., legal practitioner for the above named Applicants, whose address for service is No. 34 Ndashi Street, D/Line, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

The Respondents may appear hereunto by entering appearance personally or by a legal practitioner either by filing the appropriate processes in response at the Registry of the Court where the summons was issued or by sending them to that office by any of the methods allowed by these Rules.

Note: If the Respondents do not respond within the time at the plea above mentioned, such orders will be made and proceedings may be taken as the Judge may think just and expedient.

Dated this.....day of..... 2026.



H.F. Bariesia, Esq.
(Applicants' Counsel)
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FOR SERVICE ON:

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2. **THE 2ND RESPONDENT:**
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3. **THE 3RD RESPONDENT:**
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