



**OFFICE OF THE HONOURABLE THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL
OF IMO STATE AND COMMISSIONER FOR JUSTICE**

Our Ref: **MJI/S.3/T.9/XXII** Your Ref:

Date: **28th September, 2026.**

**The Nigeria Bar Association
Owerri Branch
Owerri.**

NBA OWERRI BRANCH STAND OFF

MY POSITION!

My attention has been drawn to the misinterpretation of my statement at the Governor's Dinner I hosted for the Imo Conferees at the annual general conference held in Portharcourt, Rivers State.

It's correct to state that the funds our amiable and Bar friendly Governor His Excellency, Senator Hope Odidika Uzodimma, CON, GSGI, GSSRS approved and released to the six Imo NBA Branches in support of the branches was not exclusively for the sponsorship of the Bar to the annual general conference at Portharcourt. The Bar Branches were also requested to purchase a bus for each of the branches EXCEPT Owerri branch which our Governor in his usual magnality approved a bus outside the fund approved for the branch.

For the avoidance of doubt, it is the obligation of every branch executive with proper consultations to determine, on a scale of preference, and aside the conference funding, the local projects of the Bar to which to appropriate funds.

It would not be superfluous to hold the modest view that it would be considered a huge economic waste to expend the entire Government released fund EXCLUSIVELY for the annual general conference spree.

For the avoidance of doubt, it would be inconsiderate for any Executive Committee of any Branch of the Bar to spend the entire fund on project without making appropriations of this fund to the Conferees within the membership of that Bar branch.

**HAVING PAINSTAKINGLY MADE THE FOREGOING OBSERVATIONS, I
HEREFORE ARRIVE AT THE FOLLOWING CONCLUSIONS/DECISIONS:**

1. The Executive members of the Owerri Bar should implement immediately the resolution of the general meeting held on Saturday the 26th September, 2026 to wit, set up a committee to investigate the expenditure of part of the fund released to them by the Imo State Government through my office.
2. The Executive Committee of the Owerri Bar should forthwith and without any further delay disburse the balance of the fund to the Conferees.
3. Every member of the Bar owes a duty to the Bar to refrain from conducts likely to causer damages to the image of the Bar before the public.
4. That the Executive Committee having been pardoned at the general meeting of 26th September for their mistakes, this should therefore bring an end to the stand-off in the Owerri Bar.

Please accept my highest esteem.


HON. PAUL OBINATU
HON. ATTORNEY-GENERAL/
COMMISSIONER FOR JUSTICE.