

NBA BRANCH ELECTIONS APPEAL COMMITTEE (EAST)

C/o office of the Secretary,  
THE LAW ZOOMERS,  
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No. 1 C.I.D Uyanwune Close,  
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Our Ref: NBA/BEAC(E)/PH/02/C/26    Your Ref: \_\_\_\_\_    Date: 04/07/2026

The Chairman, Caretaker Committee  
For Nigerian Bar Association, Port Harcourt Branch,

Dear Sir,

THE UNANIMOUS CONSOLIDATED DECISION OF THE NBA BRANCH ELECTIONS APPEAL  
COMMITTEE (EAST) ON THE PENDING PETITIONS FROM NBA, PORT HARCOURT  
BRANCH

There are three petitions from NBA, Port Harcourt Branch which are pending before our NBA Branch Election Appeal Committee (East) before the constitution of your Committee by the President of NBA which said petitions are as follows:

1. The petition submitted to the Chairman, NBA Port Harcourt Branch Electoral Committee by Ledua Zor-Akekue, Esq wherein he complained against the inclusion of ineligible persons on the final voters' list which said petition was copied to our Committee;
2. The petition submitted to our Committee by C. S. Enyi, Esq. wherein he complained about the omission of both his name and that of his colleague, Omiete Maureen Otelemate, Esq., from the final list of eligible voters for the NBA, Port Harcourt Branch election; and
3. The petition filed by Daminabo Davies, Esq. and Odinaka G. Emenike Esq, calling for the immediate dissolution and disbandment of the Port Harcourt Branch Electoral Committee (ELECO) and against the compromised final eligibility list released on June 12, 2026.

THE PETITION SUBMITTED TO THE CHAIRMAN, NBA PORT HARCOURT BRANCH  
ELECTORAL COMMITTEE BY LEDUA ZOR-AKEKUE, ESQ WHEREIN HE COMPLAINED  
AGAINST THE INCLUSION OF INELIGIBLE PERSONS ON THE FINAL VOTERS' LIST WHICH  
SAID PETITION WAS COPIED TO OUR COMMITTEE

In respect of the petition submitted to the Chairman, NBA Port Harcourt Branch Electoral Committee by Ledua Zor-Akekue, Esq. wherein the petitioner complained against the inclusion of ineligible persons on the final voters' list and that over 225 (Two Hundred and Twenty-five) persons who do not meet eligibility requirements as prescribed for participation in the election were included in the voters' list, it is our finding that our Committee was merely being kept in the loop so it is not within our Committee's mandate

to determine same.

We therefore hold that it is within the jurisdiction of your Committee to resolve the said petition based on your mandate.

THE PETITION SUBMITTED TO OUR COMMITTEE BY C. S. ENYI, ESQ. WHEREIN HE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE OMISSION OF BOTH HIS NAME AND THAT OF HIS COLLEAGUE, OMIETE MAUREEN OTELEMATE, ESQ., FROM THE FINAL LIST OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS FOR THE NBA, PORT HARCOURT BRANCH ELECTION

The petitioner stated in his petition dated 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2026 that his name and that of his colleague, Omiete Maureen Otelemate, Esq., were omitted from the final list of eligible members to vote in the forthcoming elections of the Nigerian Bar Association, Port Harcourt Branch.

The grounds for his petition are that:

They are committed and dedicated members of the Association;

That they have constantly paid their dues, and

That they have also met the required quota for eligibility through regular attendance to meetings and other branch engagements as stipulated by the Electoral Guidelines.

The petitioner attached the evidence of payments of their branch dues and that of practicing fee for the years 2025 and 2026 respectively. However, he did not attach the Attendance Register to show that himself and his colleague have fulfilled the requirements of Section 14(2)(b) of the Uniform Bye-Laws for the Branches which provides that a member seeking elective office must have attended a minimum of five (5) monthly meetings of the Branch within 12 months preceding the close of nominations and that the Branch attendance register shall constitute the basis for determining compliance.

OUR FINDING:

There is no attendance register annexed to the said petition to help our Committee ascertain whether what the petitioner alleged is true or not. It is a settled principle of law that he who asserts must prove.

OUR DECISION

We hereby, based on our finding above and pursuant to the powers conferred on us by SECTION 14(2)(o)(i) and (ii) OF THE NBA CONSTITUTION, 2015 (AS AMENDED IN 2025), direct your Caretaker Committee to determine the complaint of the petitioner to find out whether the petitioner and his colleague, Omiete Maureen Otelemate, Esq., are qualified to have their names listed in the final list of eligible members to vote in the forthcoming elections of the Nigerian Bar Association, Port Harcourt Branch and to do the needful in accordance with your mandate.

THE PETITION FILED BY DAMINABO DAVIES ESQ AND ODINAKA G. EMENIKE ESQ,  
CALLING FOR THE IMMEDIATE DISSOLUTION AND DISBANDMENT OF THE PORT  
HARCOURT BRANCH ELECTORAL COMMITTEE (ELECO) AND AGAINST THE  
COMPROMISED FINAL ELIGIBILITY LIST RELEASED ON JUNE 12, 2026

The petition is based on the following grounds:

1. Exclusion of qualified voters (gross electoral disfranchisement);
2. Infiltration of the list with ineligible persons (Ghost voters);
3. Duplication and misplacement of names;
4. Absence of unique membership identity numbers;
5. Drastic and inexplicable disparity between the provisional and final lists of voters;
6. Overt institutional bias and collusion by the ELECO chairman; and
7. Compromise of the ELECO secretariat.

OUR FINDINGS:

On the issue of exclusion of qualified voters (gross electoral disfranchisement), it is our finding that our Committee is not availed of the necessary documents and evidence that will help us to arrive at a just decision in respect of the said allegation. Also, there is no evidence before us to show that some ineligible members of NBA, Port Harcourt Branch were qualified and their names added on the list of eligible voters by the Electoral Committee of NBA. Port Harcourt Branch.

The allegation that the Secretary of the Electoral Committee is a member of the partisan Progressive group does not hold water as a reason to disband the Electoral Committee.

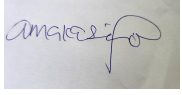
With respect to the allegations of duplication and misplacement of names, absence of unique membership identity numbers, drastic and inexplicable disparity between the provisional and final lists of voters, overt institutional bias and collusion by the ELECO Chairman and compromise of the ELECO Secretariat, we painstakingly went through the Final List of Eligible Voters and discovered that there are actual duplication of names of members and that some names actually appeared three times but we are unable to make findings on other allegations as enough materials were not placed before us.

OUR DECISION:

We hereby, based on our finding above and pursuant to the powers conferred on us by SECTION 14(2)(o)(i) and (ii) OF THE NBA CONSTITUTION, 2015 (AS AMENDED IN 2025), direct your Caretaker Committee, vested with the power of acting as the Electoral Committee for NBA, Port Harcourt Branch, to determine the above complaints of the petitioners and ensure that qualified voters are not excluded from the Final Voters' List, ineligible persons (Ghost voters) are not included in the said Final Voters' List and names of eligible voters are not duplicated or misplaced on the said Final Voters' List.

Be assured of our professional regards.

Yours Sincerely,

A small rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature appears to be 'Amaka Ezeno' written in a cursive style.

Amaka Ezeno, MCI Arb.

Secretary

CC:

The Petitioners