

# CAMPAIGN MANIFESTO

OF

# CORDELIA UWUMA EKE (MRS.)

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Candidate for the office of Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association Port Harcourt Branch

2024 - 2026

## A. OPENING STATEMENT

Leadership turns aspirations into reality and fosters positive change. I would be honored to lead and realize our collective goals for the Nigeria Bar Association Port Harcourt branch as your Chairman.

#### **B. ABOUT CORDELIA EKE**

My name is Cordelia Uwuma Eke (née Adikema). I earned my LL.B from Rivers State University and LL.M from the University of Kent, UK, and hold multiple professional certifications. I've practiced law since 1995, focusing on criminal litigation, dispute resolution, and advocacy for women and children. Now, as a Director at Rivers State Ministry of Justice, I continue to champion legal practice and citizen rights.

### C. MY VISION FOR NBA PORT HARCOURT BRANCH

I envision an NBA Port Harcourt Branch leading in digital innovation and fostering a cosmopolitan spirit for all members' welfare and professional growth. Our branch will proactively identify opportunities, championing equal access to advance legal practice and stand as a beacon of excellence in the legal community.

#### D. MISSION

- 1. Elevate the Branch's standing through strategic initiatives and positive engagement.
- 2. Forge a stronger sense of community, encouraging active participation from all members.
- 3. Build cohesive relationships among judiciary, legal community, and law enforcement.
  - 4. Launch a welfare program supporting members' well-being.

- 5. Promote a health and wellness culture for physical and mental well-being.
- 6. Create opportunities for professional advancement and foster career growth.
  - 7. Provide support and development programs for young lawyers.
  - 8. Integrate support for members with physical challenges.
  - 9. Support and honor elderly members, valuing their contributions.
    - 10. Empower female lawyers, promoting gender equality and inclusivity.

#### E. MY PROGRAMS

#### Secretariat

- 1. Revitalize the NBA Port Harcourt Branch Application to enhance accessibility and user engagement.
- 2. Implement hybrid participation options for members in meetings to increase inclusivity and convenience.
- 3. Develop a comprehensive directory of Branch members to improve service delivery and member engagement.
- 4. Enhance the dissemination of information to members for increased participation in branch activities through various channels such as bulk SMS, radio announcements, and social media platforms including Facebook and X.
  - 5. Improve the branch's public image to attract sponsorships and form productive partnerships.

#### Welfare

- 1. Initiate a Welfare Scheme in line with NBA's by-laws.
- 2. Identify and assist elderly and ill members.
- 3. Re-engage less active members in bar activities.
  - 4. Secure discounts with businesses for members.
- 5. Strengthen the branch's Cooperative Society for economic support.
- 6. Improve benefits for members' wedding celebrations.
  - 7. Offer reduced-cost access to NBA House facilities for financial members.

#### **Finance**

- 1. Implement digital financial systems for accurate and efficient accounting.
- 2. Train personnel on accounting tools for competency.
- 3. Follow due processes for financial transparency and accountability.

- 4. Expand CLE programs with diverse experts.
- 5. Boost webinar frequency for ongoing professional development.
- 6. Revive the Port Harcourt Branch Bar Journal for legal community insights.
- 7. Collaborate with lawyer associations to support their growth and outreach.
- 8. Launch induction programs for new lawyers to ease their entry into the profession.
- 9. Start a mentorship program for young lawyers focusing on career guidance.
- 10. Create internship opportunities with top law firms for law students.
- 11. Upgrade the Law library to be modern, efficient, and user-friendly.
- 12. Implement fair selection processes for branch committee appointments.

## **Health And Wellbeing**

- 1. Develop recreational facilities at the NBA House to promote a healthy work-life balance among members.
- 2. Encourage individuals to sponsor health-focused competitions to foster community spirit and wellness.
- 3. Empower the Sports committee to organize regular well-being activities, promoting physical health among members.
- 4. Conduct periodic health talks and offer basic health screenings monthly to maintain the overall well-being of members.
- 5. Arrange social gatherings such as sit-outs and picnics for members and their families to enhance community bonding and well-being.

# **Professional Development/Capacity Building**

- 1. Enhance Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs by including a wider range of experts.
- 2. Boost webinar frequency for continuous professional development.
- 3. Revitalize the Port Harcourt Branch Bar Journal for legal insights.
- 4. Collaborate with lawyer associations to support their growth.
- 5. Introduce induction programs for newly admitted lawyers.
- 6. Start a mentorship program for young lawyers on law practice and career guidance.
  - 7. Create internship opportunities with top law firms for practical experience.

- 8. Modernize the Law library for efficiency and user-friendliness.
- 9. Implement fair selection processes for branch committee appointments.

## **Capital Projects**

- 1. Set up a sick bay for members in partnership with well-meaning organizations
- 2. Set up an endowment fund for a cause that would be beneficial to lawyers and society

**Public Relations** 

- 1. Be a voice of the Legal Profession (Bar and Bench) in the State and the Eastern Region.
- 2. Interface with other stakeholders in the profession to advance areas of interest to members and their law practice (e.g. Judiciary, security agencies).
- 3. Ensure that members of the branch are fielded for positions and opportunities at the National and State levels in the profession, in a more equitable manner.
- 4. Provide the required leadership and direction and consolidate on the strengths of the 8 branches in Rivers State towards a common goal for all; support weaker branches in the state.
- 5. Partnership with other professional bodies for mutually beneficial purposes (e.g. PHCCIMA, NMA, NIESV, etc.)

# F. My Pledge

- 1.I commit to elevating the practice of law within the state by fostering a more supportive and conducive relationship between members of the Bar and other stakeholders;
- 2.To pursue programs that would enhance the well-being and welfare of our members towards achieving greater productivity and professional excellence;
- 3.To strategically position our members to access greater career advancement opportunities and benefits at the State and National levels, with inclusivity; and
  - 4.To deploy all legal avenues to promote justice, equity, fairness and accountability in our profession and the Society.