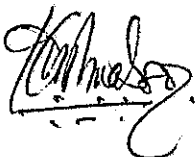


**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AFTER THE EMERGENCY
DIOCESAN BOARD MEETING OF THE DIOCESE OF
AWKA (ANGLICAN COMMUNION) HELD ON FRIDAY,
16TH OCTOBER, 2026, AT THE CHAPEL OF DIVINE
FAVOUR, ANGLICAN VILLAGE, IFITE AWKA.**

At the emergency Diocesan Board meeting of Diocese of Awka (Anglican Communion) held at the Chapel of Divine Favour Archbishop Palace Ifite Awka, on the 16th day of October, 2026, the following resolutions and decisions were reached after exhaustive deliberations on the letter dated 13th October, 2026 by His Grace, The Most Revd Henry C. Ndukuba, Archbishop, Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria:

1. The Board emphatically rejects in its entirety the said letter. More specifically, the Board rejects the directive to His Grace, The Most Revd Alexander C. Ibezim, PhD, Archbishop, Province of the Niger and Bishop, Diocese of Awka to proceed on six months compulsory leave.
2. The Board rejects the appointment of His Lordship Rt. Revd Samuel C. Ezeofor as supervising Bishop of Awka Diocese and Coordinating Bishop of Province of the Niger because of the following reasons:
 - a. The appointment was made in disregard of pending litigations in Suit No A/Misc 446/2025: The Most Revd Alexander Chibuzo Ibezim VS Economic and Financial Crimes Commission filed on 4th September, 2025; Suit No A/Misc. 494/2026: The Most Revd Alexander Chibuzo Ibezim VS Inspector General of Police and othes filed on the 2nd October, 2026 and Suit No A/371/2026 - The Most Revd Alexander Chibuzo Ibezim VS The Most Revd Henry C. Ndukuba and Anor filed on 13th October, 2026. These suits are still pending for determination by the High Court of Anambra State and the subject matters of these suits are the various allegations made against His Grace, The Most Revd Alexander Chibuzo Ibezim
 - b. His Grace, The Most Revd Henry C. Ndukuba, Archbishop Metropolitan and Primate of All Nigeria, His Lordship Rt. Revd Samuel C. Ezeofor and many members of the Church of



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(Lay Secy¹)



Nigeria are fully aware of the pendency in court of these cases and are duty bound in law to refrain from doing any thing whatsoever to interfere with the subject matters of the suits until the determination of the cases by the court. The matters are *sub judice*.

- c. To the knowledge of the Primate and His Lordship, The Rt. Revd Samuel C. Ezeofor, there are subsisting orders of injunction on the subject matter of the allegations against **His Grace, The Most Revd Alexander Chibuzo Ibezim** made by the High Court of Anambra state on the 9th day of September, 2025 which restrains the EFCC and Prince Echezona Bonti Onuigbo and which was renewed by the consent of the parties on 14th October, 2025.
- d. There are also pending motions of injunction in suit No **A/371/2026 - The Most Revd Alexander Chibuzo Ibezim VS The Most Revd Henry C. Ndukuba and Anor** seeking to restrain the Primate from writing and issuing any letter of suspension or any further letter which will have the effect of truncating the continuity in office of His Grace, the **Most Revd Alexander Chibuzo Ibezim, PhD** as the Archbishop of the Province of the Niger and Bishop of Awka Diocese Anglican Communion.
- e. The Primate and Rt Revd Ezeofor are fully aware that no one is above the law irrespective of his or her position or status, and ought to be law abiding and respect the court where the allegations against Archbishop Ibezim are pending for determination. They are also aware that it is unlawful and contemptuous to disregard the court and take the law into their hands by actions which have the effect of preempting or anticipating the decisions of the court such as the letter under reference.
- f. Furthermore, there is no provision in both the Constitution and Canons of Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) 2020 and the Constitution and Regulation of the Diocese of Awka 2023 which empowered, mandated or authorised the Primate, the Most Revd Henry C. Ndukuba to direct Archbishop Ibezim to proceed on compulsory leave for Six Months or any period at all or to appoint any Bishop as the supervising Bishop of the Diocese of Awka and coordinating Bishop of the Province of

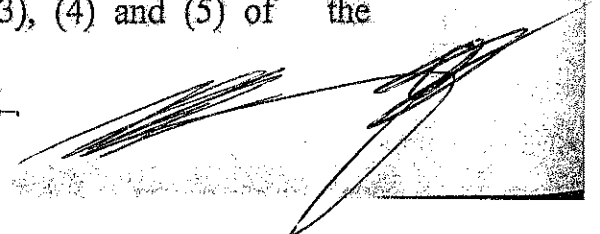
Chibuzo Ibezim
(Lay Secy)

the Niger to assume and exercise all episcopal responsibilities and oversight of the Diocese of Awka and the Province of the Niger during the period of the purported leave. Section 29(1) of the Constitution and Canons of Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) 2020 cited by the Primate in his letter of 13th October, 2026 is inapplicable as it contains nothing empowering the Primate to force a fellow Bishop and Archbishop to proceed on compulsory leave and handover his duties to another Bishop and precluding the Bishop from officiating in any activities of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), of the Niger Province and Awka Diocese.

- g. Such draconian, oppressive, vindictive and grossly unjust decisions by the Primate against Archbishop Ibezim violates section 36 (5) the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended which presumes any one accused or charged with a criminal offence as innocent until proven guilty. Also, by banning him from officiating in any activities of the Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion), of the Niger Province and Diocese of Awka, the Primate violated section 38 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended which gave Archbishop Ibezim the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and to propagate his religion in worship, teaching, practice and observance.
- h. The reason given in the letter that the compulsory leave against Archbishop Ibezim is meant to "facilitate impartial enquiry into the state of affairs of your Diocese to promote peace and reconciliation" is a ruse because the Primate failed to disclose that he had earlier constituted two distinct panels of inquiry for the same purpose of investigating allegations made against Archbishop Ibezim and the two panels submitted reports to him after their work which he has withheld and refused to release uptill date. The 1st panel was constituted by the Primate's letter dated Wednesday, 13th August, 2025 headed by Honourable Justice Babashola Ogunade and the 2nd one was constituted by his letter dated Wednesday, 17th June, 2026 headed His Grace Archbishop Blessing Enyindah.
- i. By withholding the reports of the said two panels that investigated Archbishop Ibezim, the Primate violated section 75(3), (4) and (5) and section 76(3), (4) and (5) of the



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(Lay Secretary)



Constitution and Canons of Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) 2020 which mandatorily require him to submit the findings and recommendations of the panels to the Episcopal Synod for consideration which may after the consideration of the reports review, modify, reject, or adopt the recommendations which shall be subject to the approval of the standing committee and the approval of the **Standing Committee** shall be subject to ratification by the **General Synod** whose decision on the subject shall be final and binding.

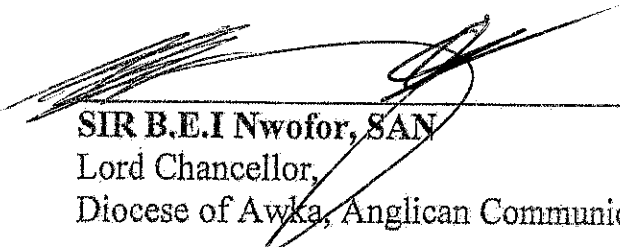
- j. **Having noted the foregoing unconstitutional, illegal, unlawful and unjust appointment made by the Primate, the Board unequivocally rejects it.**
3. The Board categorically affirms that Archbishop Ibezim remains in his position as Bishop of Awka Diocese and Archbishop, Province of the Niger Anglican Communion and should continue to discharge the duties of his office.
 4. The Board hereby expresses its total confidence and trust in the honesty, integrity, competence, ability and devotion to duty of Archbishop Alexander Chibuzor Ibezim in the discharge of his duties.
 5. The Board hereby affirms that Awka Diocese is peaceful, united and progressive.
 6. The Board unequivocally affirms that no money of Awka Diocese is missing, stolen, misused, or misappropriated by Archbishop Ibezim. Even the two panels set up by the Primate have not disclosed any indictment of financial misdeed by Archbishop Ibezim.
 7. The Board commends His Grace, The Most Revd Alexander Chibuzo Ibezim, PhD for the massive infrastructural developments completed in Awka Diocese and urges him to continue with his good work and not to be distracted.
 8. The Board emphatically warns that it will not accept any interference with the affairs of the Diocese of Awka by Rt Revd Ezeofor and urge him to concentrate on his work as Bishop of Aguata Diocese and not to be used as an instrument to destabilise or foment trouble in our peaceful Diocese of Awka.

Chibuzo Ibezim
(Lay Secretary)

9. The Board will not hesitate to invoke the law as well as law enforcement agencies if the said warning is jettisoned.
10. The Board directs all organs of the Diocese of Awka to remain loyal to His Grace, The Most Revd Alexander Chibuzo Ibezim, PhD and to go ahead with their lawful activities and reject any interference or directive from Rt Revd Ezeofor. To do otherwise will attract appropriate sanctions.
11. The Board emphatically state that if the Primate and Bishop Ezeofor continues threatening the peace of Awka Diocese and its Archbishop and Bishop and unlawfully interfere with its affairs, it shall withdraw from the Church of Nigeria and continue with Church of England which never disturbed the Diocese.

Dated at Awka This 16th Day of October, 2026

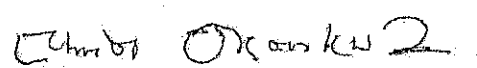
SIGNED:



SIR B.E.I Nwofor, SAN
Lord Chancellor,
Diocese of Awka, Anglican Communion.



Ven. K.E.N Chukwukamma, PhD
Synod Secretary,
Diocese of Awka, Anglican Communion.



Mr. Eugene Chukwudi Okonkwo
Lay Synod Secretary,
Diocese of Awka, Anglican Communion.