



NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT: NBA House, Plot 1101 Muhammed Buhari Way, Cadastral Zone A00, Central Business District, Abuja - Nigeria. Tel:+234810 402 5812
www.nigerianbar.org.ng

25 January 2019

COUP AGAINST THE NIGERIAN JUDICIARY AND SUSPENSION OF THE NIGERIAN CONSTITUTION

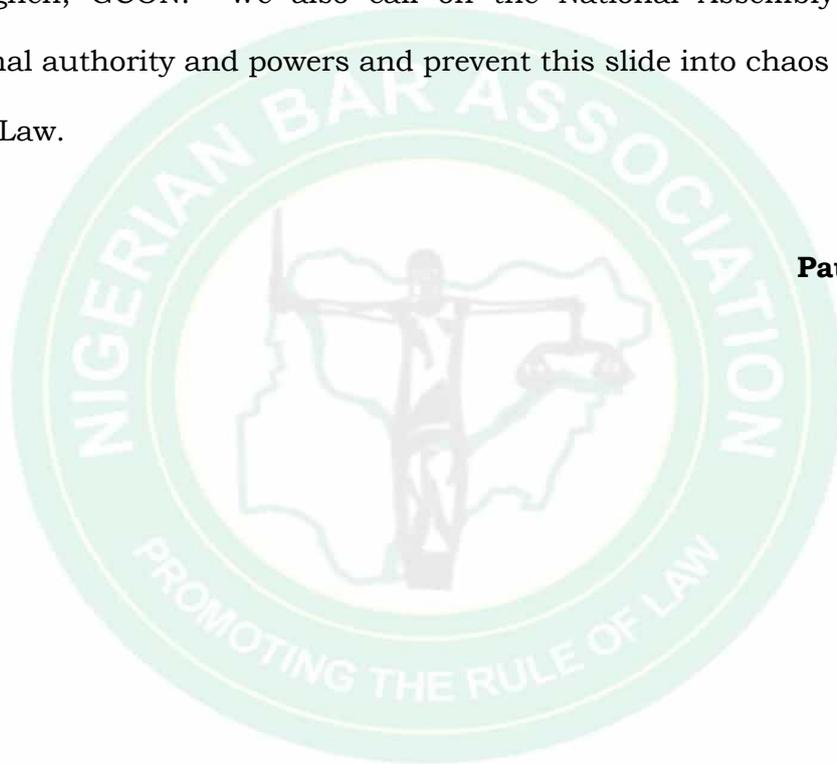
1. The news media has been awash this evening with the news of the purported suspension of the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Honorable Mr. Justice Walter S C Onnoghen, GCON by President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR and the swearing in of Hon Justice Ibrahim Tanko Mohammed as the acting Chief Justice of Nigeria. We are told that this was pursuant to an Ex-Parte Order that was issued by the Code of Conduct Tribunal on Wednesday, 23 January 2019.
2. The Nigerian Bar Association unequivocally rejects and condemns this attempted coup against the Nigerian Judiciary and evident suspension of the Nigerian Constitution by the Executive arm of the Federal Government. The action of the Executive portends a slide into anarchy and complete deconstruction of the Rule of Law and due process. It amounts to an absolute breach of the Constitution and the usurpation of the powers of the Senate and the Nigerian Judicial Council.
3. It is unfortunate that the Executive Branch of Government purports to suspend the CJN on the basis of an alleged *ex-parte* order of the Code of Conduct Tribunal – the same Tribunal that, to the knowledge of the Executive, had, only the previous day, Tuesday, 22 January 2019 adjourned its proceedings to Monday, 28 January 2019 and has before it a Motion on Notice that is yet to be argued, seeking the same reliefs as were contained in the purported *ex-parte* application, *to wit*, the suspension of the CJN, amongst others.

NATIONAL OFFICERS:

Paul Usoro, SAN President;

Jonathan Gunu Taidi, General Secretary; Imo Stanley Chidozie, 1st Vice President; Dr. Dada Foluke Olayemi, 2nd Vice President; Igba Theophilus, 3rd Vice President; Banke Victoria Olagbegi-Oloba, Treasurer; Anosike Elias Emeka, Financial Secretary; Eze Nnamdi Innocent, Legal Adviser; Edun Olukunle, Publicity Secretary; Usman Joshua Enemali, Welfare Secretary; Ewenode William Onoriode, 1st Assistant Secretary; Obasi Chinyere Gladys, 2nd Assistant Secretary; Pepple Iniobong Irene, Assistant Financial Secretary; Lawal Akorede Habeeb, Assistant Publicity Secretary

4. We call on the Federal Government to avert the looming constitutional crisis precipitated by its ill-advised action. In particular, the Nigerian Bar Association demands the reversal of the purported suspension of Honorable Mr. Justice Walter S C Onnoghen, GCON. We also call on the National Assembly to assert its constitutional authority and powers and prevent this slide into chaos and erosion of the Rule of Law.



Paul Usoro, SAN
President