PENGASSAN BRANCH CONFLICTS / CHEVRON / PART 2 OF 4

AN ELECTION NULLIFIED. WHAT NEXT?

ELECTED OFFICERS OUT. EIGHT CARETAKERS IN.

The grievance concerned one office. The national intervention dissolved elected leadership at branch and chapter level.

After the vote of no confidence, a three-person fact-finding committee looked into the dispute. The branch account says the committee met the executive once, virtually, and that officers first saw its report when it surfaced in court. The judgment records that the national body acted on the committee's recommendation. It also found that the three-person body could not substitute for the five-member disciplinary committee prescribed by the union constitution.

On 8 October 2024, PENGASSAN's Central Working Committee dissolved the elected Chevron branch and chapter executives. The national leadership argued in court that conditions in the branch called for urgent intervention. The court found that the constitutional procedure had been bypassed and that the required approval of the National Executive Council had to precede the dissolution. The meeting at which the decision was put forward for ratification took place on 3 December 2024.

An eight-person caretaker committee took over. The constitution set a maximum of five members and three months. The defendants said three of the eight served in an advisory capacity. The court counted all eight and found that repeated extensions kept the committee in office for more than nine months.

The branch account also alleges that some members were barred from contesting elections for three years over their involvement in WhatsApp and Telegram groups. That raises a separate question about who could discipline members during the caretaker period and how the affected members could challenge the decision.

By the time an election timetable emerged, the dispute had moved from who should run the branch in the interim to who would be allowed to choose its next leaders.

QUESTION FOR MEMBERS · What should trigger the return to elected leadership when a caretaker committee reaches the end of its mandate?

NEXT · PART 3 · The Rules Changed. Seven Members Went to Court.

Court record: NICN/LA/214/2025, judgment of 10 August 2026