PENGASSAN BRANCH CONFLICTS / CHEVRON / PART 3 OF 4

AN ELECTION NULLIFIED. WHAT NEXT?

THE RULES CHANGED. SEVEN MEMBERS WENT TO COURT.

Chevron's approved bye-laws gave chapters a role in choosing delegates. The new guidelines changed how those delegates would be selected.

Under the branch process described by members, chapters elect their officers and delegates first. Those delegates then attend the Branch Delegates' Conference to elect branch officers. The order matters because members exercise their vote at chapter level before delegates act on their behalf at branch level.

On 8 July 2025, the PENGASSAN National Secretariat purported to revoke Chevron's branch bye-laws. The Secretariat issued new election guidelines on 30 July. The defendants maintained that the branch had failed to submit its bye-laws for review. The court examined messages acknowledging that the bye-laws had been sent. It found that the bye-laws remained valid and that the new guidelines improperly substituted nomination and selection for the election of delegates.

On 26 August 2025, seven Chevron Branch members filed suit. They challenged the dissolution, the caretaker appointments and extensions, the revocation of the bye-laws and the election guidelines. The branch account says the members also wanted chapter elections to come first so that delegates would reach the branch conference with a mandate from the people they represented.

The disputed delegate and executive elections went ahead on 16 September 2025, while the case was pending. On 10 August 2026, the National Industrial Court in Lagos set them aside. It also declared invalid the dissolution, the caretaker arrangement, the revocation of the bye-laws and the centralised guidelines.

Members now had a judgment spelling out which rules should govern a fresh election. The next test was whether those rules would produce a vote.

QUESTION FOR MEMBERS · If delegates are to speak for a chapter, how can chapter members verify that those delegates carry their mandate?

NEXT · PART 4 · Fresh Elections Ordered. What Happened Next?

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