PENGASSAN BRANCH CONFLICTS / NTL & NSL / PART 2 OF 6

"THE BEC IS THE BRANCH." WHERE WERE THE MEMBERS?

An executive council represents a membership. What happens when its decision is treated as the decision of everyone?

The members' question was simple: who had selected a Delegates' Conference when members had asked for a Congress election?

At the NTL/NSL Branch congress on 20 July 2026, the Branch Chairperson, Comrade Amaoge Chukwudi, answered that the Branch Executive Council had made the decision, according to the supplied account of the minutes.

When members challenged the authority for doing so, the response attributed to the Chairperson was:

"The BEC is the Branch."

Pause over those words.

Where, in that understanding, were the members who elected the executive? Where were the workers whose dues sustained the branch? What part did Congress play in a decision affecting how its representatives would be chosen?

Members disputed the position. They argued that the branch included both its executive council and its general congress. Their objection concerned whether an executive body could substitute its decision for the wider membership's participation on an issue of this importance.

Representation carries a duty to explain authority. It does not make questions about authority disappear.

The dispute called for a clear account of the applicable rules: what could the BEC decide independently, and what required Congress approval? Members needed provisions they could read and a decision-making process they could follow.

Questions also arose about the outgoing executive's tenure. Some members challenged its continuing authority, alleging that its tenure had expired. The Chairperson responded that the National Secretariat determined tenure expiration under Rule 20.

The supplied account does not settle that disagreement. It does show why clarity mattered: an executive whose tenure was being questioned was making arrangements for the election of its successors.

The Chairperson also informed Congress that a request for a Delegates' Conference and a proposed election date had gone to the National Secretariat, which approved 21 July 2026.

But what precisely had been approved? The date? The electoral method? The arrangements for selecting delegates?

Those are distinct questions. Members needed to understand the scope of the approval and how it related to their own expressed preference.

An explanation that can be checked builds confidence. An unresolved dispute over who has authority leaves members wondering whether their role ends once they have elected an executive.

A member should never have to guess whether Congress still counts.

The conference was scheduled for the following day. Yet the meeting was moving towards another set of unresolved issues: who would vote, which offices were available, and when proceedings would begin.

Save the Union proposes leadership that is answerable to members, with defined powers, clear terms of office and decisions supported by accessible rules and records. These are practical safeguards against authority becoming detached from the people it serves.

Read the proposals. Decide what standard you expect. If you support that direction, express your interest and invite a comrade to examine it with you.

TO BE CONTINUED / PART 3: An Election Tomorrow. Questions Unanswered.

Explore the proposed alternative | Express Your Interest

SAVE THE UNION
Our Dues. Our Say. Our Vote!