PENGASSAN BRANCH CONFLICTS / NTL & NSL / PART 3 OF 6

AN ELECTION TOMORROW. QUESTIONS UNANSWERED.

How can members prepare for an election when essential information is still unclear on its eve?

Who will vote? Which positions are available? When will the election begin?

These are the basic details a candidate needs to seek support and a member needs to understand the process.

At the NTL/NSL Branch congress on 20 July 2026, those questions were still being asked about a conference scheduled for the following day.

The supplied account of the minutes records a meeting beginning at 5:40 p.m., with 29 attendees out of a membership of 84. The minutes recognised that attendance as a quorum.

Three questions repeatedly arose:

Who were the delegates beyond the BEC members?

Which positions were available for election?

At what time would the election hold?

Imagine preparing to contest an office without knowing the people expected to vote. How do you present your ideas? How do voters compare candidates fairly? How can members check whether the process treats everyone equally?

The Branch Chairperson, Comrade Amaoge Chukwudi, acknowledged a communication gap and apologised. Members nevertheless needed answers before the conference began.

Then the discussion exposed a further problem.

The Chairperson explained that BEC members were delegates under the Constitution, while additional delegates would be selected in accordance with branch bye-laws. Asked whether the branch had a bye-law, the Chairperson said it did not. One would be developed after the election.

The election would come first. The branch bye-law would come later.

The account says the existing arrangement of one delegate for every ten members would continue. It does not provide a definitive delegate list or a transparent selection record.

What approved rule governed the selection of additional delegates in the absence of a branch bye-law? Who could inspect the list? How could a member challenge an omission or an ineligible selection before voting began?

Representation within the combined branch also came into question. Of the 29 attendees, 28 were from NTL and one from NSL. Recorded membership comprised 71 NTL members and 13 NSL members.

The Vice Chairman questioned what consideration NSL would receive and raised possible separation if its representation was inadequate.

This was a dispute about whether both parts of the branch could recognise themselves in the process choosing their representatives.

The meeting ended in heated disagreement, with several questions unresolved.

An apology can acknowledge a communication failure. It cannot supply the missing information or replace clear electoral rules.

The next day, four elected officers arrived expecting to participate. At the entrance, according to their petition, the dispute took a more disturbing turn.

Save the Union proposes elections with advance notice, published eligibility requirements, clear voting arrangements and a usable complaints process. Members should be able to inspect the rules before they are asked to accept the result.

If you want that standard, explore the alternative and express your interest. Ask your comrades: **what information must every member receive before an election can command confidence?**

TO BE CONTINUED / PART 4: Four Elected Officers. One Closed Gate.

Explore the proposed alternative | Express Your Interest

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