

YOUTH FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE (YFGG)

YFGG Headquarters, Nnewi, Anambra-South Senatorial Zone, Anambra State

July, 2025

The Honourable Chairman,
Independent National Electoral Commission,
Plot 436, Zambezi Crescent,
Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street,
Maitama, Abuja, FCT.

Dear Sir,

RE: CHUMA NZERIBE AND LABOUR PARTY.
OPEN LETTER TO INEC ON THE ANAMBRA-SOUTH SENATORIAL ZONE
BYE-ELECTION.

We are a group of concerned youth across the geo-political zones of the country with our sole interest, being, as our name suggests, the promotion of accountable leadership, good governance and transparency across Nigeria. We hold no affiliation to any political party, group or person and we only seek a better Anambra-South and Nigeria as whole.

It is our strong and undeniable belief that the first step to achieving our aims as stated above is ensuring that only credible people are elected through strict adherence to the constitution and our electoral laws.

We wish to refer you to Section 66 (1) (c) and (d) of the **1999 Constitution (As Amended)** which are reproduced hereunder and disqualifies a person from contesting the office:

(c) he is under a sentence of death imposed on him by any competent court of law or tribunal in Nigeria or a sentence of imprisonment or fine for an offence involving dishonesty or fraud (by whatever name called) or any other offence imposed on him by such a court or tribunal or substituted by a competent authority for any other sentence imposed on him by such a court;

(d) within a period of less than ten years before the date of an election to a legislative house, has been convicted and sentenced for an

offence involving dishonesty or he has been found guilty of a contravention of the Code of Conduct.

Section 84 (3) of the **Electoral Act, 2022** also provides thus:

A political party shall not impose nomination qualification or disqualification criteria, measures, or conditions on any aspirant or candidate for any election in its constitution, guidelines, or rules for nomination of candidates for elections, except as prescribed under sections 65, 66, 106, 107, 131, 137, 177 and 187 of the Constitution.

We were greeted this morning with the news of the purported nomination of Hon. Chuma Nzeribe as candidate of the Labour Party in the upcoming Anambra-South Senatorial Zone Bye-Election. Having followed the affairs of the Zone closely, this news was not a palatable one.

Mr. Chairman, as you may be aware, Hon. Chuma Nzeribe was on 23rd May, 2022 in **FCT/CR/791/2020, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA V HON. CHUMA NZERIBE**, convicted by the Hon. Justice Y. Haliliu of the FCT High Court on a four-count charge bordering on the possession of a document (Statutory Right of Occupancy) containing false pretense contrary to Section 6.8 (b) of the Advance Fee Fraud and Other Fraud Related Offences Act, 2006, fraudulent making of a document contrary to Sec. 363 of the Penal Code, use of a false document contrary to Sec. 366 of the Penal Code and impersonation contrary to Sec. 321 of the Penal Code. The court upon examining the evidence found that Hon Nzeribe ***“has not shown creditably, the origin of the title document in question now that PW2 (officer of the Land Department of FCT Administration) has given evidence which points to the fact that the said Right of Occupancy and Recertification documents were forged)”***

Hon. Nzeribe, after his conviction, was sentenced to 10 years, 10 years, 10 years and 5 years respectively for each charge, to run concurrently. A copy of the judgement is attached to this letter. Hon. Nzeribe, who was convicted *in absentia* because he, as the court said, was ***“fleeing”*** was however subsequently accosted and incarcerated in Kuje Prisons. His purported resurfacing and participation in the primary elections of the Labour Party raises suspicion that he was surreptitiously released from prison without due process.

Hon. Chuma Nzeribe’s purported nomination on the platform of the Labour Party is a slap on face of our relevant laws and a complete abuse of the electoral process. It is abhorrent that a convict may be allowed to contest for an elective position barely 3 years after his conviction for fraud and incarceration and without serving out his prison term. The situation is even worse when we take into

consideration that Hon. Nzeribe was a former member of the House of Representatives prior to his conviction. This situation begs the question “is this the Nigeria we want”. The answer is a resounding “NO”. we cannot continue this way! We cannot continue to do things the same way and expect a different outcome.

It is in light of this that we write this open letter to you, the mandated impartial umpire and we urge you to invoke your powers and disqualify the Hon. Chuma Nzeribe from contesting the Anambra-South Senatorial Zone Bye-Election.

Thank you.

For YFGG

CC:

Attorney General of The Federation

The Minister of Internal Affairs

The Inspector General of Police

The Controller-General, Nigeria Correctional Service

The Director-General, Department of State Services

Labour Party (LP)

All Progressive Congress (APC)

People’s Democratic Party (PDP)

African Democratic Congress (ADC)

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