



May 10, 2022

The NBA Branch Elections Appeal Committee
NBA House, Central Area,
Abuja, Nigeria.

Dear Sir,

APPEAL AGAINST MY DISQUALIFICATION TO RUN FOR THE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NBA ABUJA BRANCH (UNITY BAR) ON THE GROUND THAT MY NOMINATORS ARE NOT FROM THE EASTERN ZONE OF NIGERIA.

My name is Ajuluchukwu Ozor Eze, a member of the NBA Abuja (Unity Bar) with enrollment number SCN057002 and a candidate for the office of the Chairman in the forthcoming elections of the NBA Abuja Branch.

In compliance with the directives of the Electoral Committee of the Branch, I presented myself for screening before the Electoral Committee on the 9th day of May, 2022. Prior to my screening, my nominators and I were in high spirits because we, most certainly, met all the requirements as stipulated in section 14 (1a-d) of the Uniform Bye Laws of Branches of the Nigerian Bar Association, which, consequently, put my eligibility to be cleared to contest for the office of the Chairman of the Branch in no issue.

Surprisingly, and shockingly so, upon the release of the list of cleared candidates on the 10th of May 2022, my name was listed as not cleared. Further details revealed that I had been disqualified on the grounds that my nominators are not from the Eastern Region of Nigeria, being that the Branch has established a convention of zoning the Chairmanship position to the three (3) old regions of Nigeria.

The section of the Bye Laws that the Electoral Committee hinged my disqualification upon was/is section 14(1a) of the Uniform Bye Laws. The section in question is hereby reproduced thus:

“To be eligible to stand for office, a member shall: Be validly nominated in writing by two members who are eligible to vote herein, and who must

GRACE CHAMBERS

themselves be qualified for the particular office as provided for in this Bye Laws"
(Emphasis is mine).

However, I have searched the length and breadth of the Bye Laws, and nowhere in the Bye Laws does it provide for disqualification on the grounds of the region of a nominator.

Interestingly, the Electoral Committee of the Branch on 21st day of March, 2022, published a notice concerning the Branch elections, wherein all conditions for eligibility and nomination were stipulated, and nowhere in the said notice was it specified that a nominator of a candidate must hail from the same region with that candidate. Even in the table where the offices of the Branch were zoned, the Electoral Committee recognized the eligibility by zoning to be a Branch convention, meaning that it is not a legal requirement for nomination but only applicable to the candidates in order to create a semblance of unity and give every member a sense of belonging within the Abuja Branch, being populated by colleagues across all the regions of Nigeria. Find attached a copy of the said notice of the Electoral Committee dated 21st day of March for your perusal as well as documents submitted by myself and my nominators for purposes of the screening exercise.

Furthermore, I submit that at no time since the era of the zoning convention of the Unity bar has the zone of a nominator been used to disqualify a candidate and several past Chairmen of the branch have at one time or the other been nominated by persons outside their zone.

It is in the light of the above-stated facts and with every sense of humility that I submit that I cannot be disqualified on the ground of the region of Nigeria where my nominators hail from, as that is not a legal requirement; more so, my nominators met all the legal requirements to nominate me in accordance with the Bye Laws and, additionally, the Electoral Committee did not state that the region of the nominators was a prerequisite for nomination. I cannot be made to suffer the consequence of the Electoral Committees' error or lack of judgment.

My nominators not being from my region of the country should ordinarily be a plus and not a minus, except the Electoral Committee is, by implication, saying that being that the office of the Chairman has been zoned to the Eastern Region, only members of

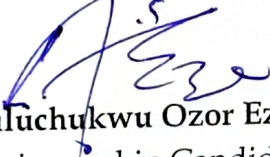
the Branch from the Eastern Region would be qualified to vote for the Chairmanship position.

My humble prayer is that the decision of the Electoral Committee to disqualify me on the grounds of the region of my nominators should be discountenanced and seen as being repugnant to natural justice, equity and good conscience. My name should, as such, be restored in the list of eligible and cleared candidates to contest for the office of the Chairman of the NBA Abuja Branch (Unity Bar). I so Pray.

Long live the Unity Bar!

Accept the assurance of my warm, professional regards.

Yours Sincerely,


Ajuluchukwu Ozor Eze, Esq.
(Chairmanship Candidate)



CC: THE NBA ABUJA BRANCH (UNITY BAR) ELECTION COMMITTEE.



NIGERIA BAR ASSOCIATION

Abuja Branch (Unity Bar)

Block 16, Flat 2, FCDA Quarters, Kashim Ibrahim Way, Wuse II Abuja
nbaabujabranchsecretariat@gmail.com Website: www.nbaunitybar.org
unitybarnbaabuja@gmail.com Info@nbaunitybar.org 08033900120

ELECTORAL COMMITTEE OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, ABUJA BRANCH (UNITY BAR)

2022 ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE ABUJA BRANCH (UNITY BAR) OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION.

REF: EC/UB/ABJ/2022/ -01

INVITATION TO NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES FOR THE BRANCH OFFICES (BRANCH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE) PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 6, 9 (2), 14 AND 16 OF THE THIRD SCHEDULE (UNIFORM BYE-LAWS) OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, 2015 (AS AMENDED IN 2021).

The Electoral Committee of the Abuja Branch (Unity Bar) of the Nigerian Bar Association appointed to conduct the Election of Officers of the Branch HEREBY invites nomination of Candidates for the various offices of the Branch Executive Committee.

1. DATE AND MODE OF THE ELECTION

The Election of Officers of the Branch shall be conducted on THURSDAY, 9TH DAY OF JUNE, 2021. The mode of the election shall be electronic voting (e-Voting).

2. OFFICES TO BE CONTESTED FOR BY ELIGIBLE MEMBERS OR CANDIDATES (SECTION 6, UNIFORM BYE-LAWS)

The offices for which eligible members or candidates may contest on the basis of qualifications for the offices listed at Section 14 (1) of the Uniform bye -Laws: as well as on the established Branch convention (customary) of rotation of certain offices by principle of Zoning among the three (3) geographical Zones as recognised under the NBA Constitution, are:

S/ N	OFFICES TO BE CONTESTED FOR	MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATION (MINIMUM)	ELIGIBLE ZONE (ESTABLISHED BY BRANCH CONVENTION)
A.	CHAIRMAN	10 YEARS POST CALL	EASTERN ZONE OF NBA
B.	VICE-CHAIRMAN	10 YEARS POST CALL	OTHER THAN EAST ZONE
C.	SECRETARY	7 YEARS POST CALL	NORTHERN ZONE OF NBA
D.	ASSISTANT SECRETARY	3 YEARS POST CALL	OTHER THAN NORTHERN ZONE
E.	TREASURER	7 YEARS POST CALL	ALL ZONES

F.	FINANCIAL SECRETARY	7 YEARS POST CALL	ALL ZONES
G.	SOCIAL SECRETARY	5 YEARS POST CALL	ALL ZONES
H.	PUBLICITY SECRETARY	5 YEARS POST CALL	ALL ZONES
I.	WELFARE SECRETARY	5 YEARS POST CALL	ALL ZONES
J.	PROVOST	5 YEARS POST CALL	ALL ZONES

Provided that no member of the Branch shall occupy the same office for more than two (2) years (one term); and any member who has held elective offices as a Branch Officer for two (2) terms shall not be eligible to contest for a Branch Office until at least five (5) years after his /her last term of office.

3. NOMINATIONS

A candidate for any elective Office of the Branch shall be nominated or proposed in writing by a member and seconded by another, both of whom shall be qualified like the candidate in accordance with the provisions of the Uniform Bye Law (Third Schedule of the NBA Constitution) for the equivalent office, and shall have paid their Bar Practising Fees and Branch Dues as and when due for three (3) consecutive years inclusive of year 2022, as stipulated in Section 9 (3) (a) of the Constitution.

4. NOMINATION FORMS

Nomination Forms for election of Officers of the Abuja Branch (Unity Bar) of the Nigerian Bar Association, shall be available for collection at the Office of the Chairman, Electoral Committee at No. 3A, CHINGOLA STREET, OFF MBABANE STREET, WUSE ZONE 6, FCT, ABUJA, from 8.00am on MONDAY, 11TH APRIL, 2022, upon payment of fees as stated in the Election and Campaign Guidelines.

Submission of completed Nomination Forms and accompanying documents shall CLOSE at 4.00pm on FRIDAY, 6TH MAY, 2022.

All duly completed Nomination Forms should be submitted physically in sealed envelopes clearly marked "UNITY BAR ELECTION 2022", and addressed to:

The Chairman
Electoral Committee of the NBA Abuja Branch (Unity Bar)
3A, Chingola Street, Off Mbabane Street,
Wuse Zone 6, FCT
Abuja.

NB: Any unsealed envelope will be rejected; and once submitted, the Forms cannot be retrieved.

2022 ELECTION AND CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

A. NOMINATION FORM FEES

Each aspiring Candidate for the Branch Offices shall pay a non- refundable Nomination Form fees prescribed for the offices as follows:

- i) Chairman - N100, 000. 00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira Only)
- ii) Vice -Chairman and Secretary - N75, 000. 00 (Seventy-Five Thousand Naira Only)
- iii) Treasurer and Financial Secretary - N50, 000.00 (Fifty Thousand Naira).
- iv) Social Secretary, Publicity Secretary, Welfare Secretary and Assistant Secretary - N25, 000.00 (Twenty-Five Thousand Naira Only).

NB: Payments to be made into the Branch Account details:

ACCOUNT NAME: NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION ABUJA BRANCH (UNITY BAR)

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 0772753960

BANK: ACCESS.

DESCRIPTION: 2022 ELECTION. NOMINATION FORM FEE

Copy of the Bank payment teller/receipt shall be submitted to Electoral Committee to collect the nomination forms

B. ELIGIBILITY TO STAND FOR ELECTION INTO AN OFFICE (SECTION 14 OF THE UNIFORM BYE-LAWS)

To be eligible to stand for election into an office, a member shall:

- a) Be validly nominated in writing by **two (2)** members who are eligible to vote and who must themselves be qualified for the particular office as provided by the Bye-Law.
- b) Have attended a minimum of **five (5)** monthly meetings of the Branch within the **twelve (12)** months prior to the close of nominations for the election.
- c) Attain the post- enrolment qualification requirement for the affected office as at the date of the election.
- d) Be a financial member of the Branch and shall have paid his/her bar practising fees and annual branch dues as and when due for **three (3)** years preceding the election, inclusive of the year of election.
- e) No member of the Branch shall occupy the same office for more than two (2) years (one term); and any member who has held elective offices as a Branch Officer for two (2) terms shall not be eligible to contest for a Branch Office until at least five (5) years after his /her last term of office.

C. CAMPAIGNS

- a) Candidates shall submit by e-mail not more than four(4) pages of A4 - size electronic copy of their curriculum vitae, comprehensive manifestoes and other campaign materials to the Electoral Committee for publication in the Branch website or electronic platform(s), not later than **FRIDAY, 13TH MAY, 2022**. [Email: electoralcommittee@nbaunitybar.org]
- b) The publication, printing or distribution of any campaign material, gifts and any form of souvenir whatsoever by a candidate or his/her supporter(s) is **HEREBY**

PROHIBITED and any candidate who contravenes this provision shall be disqualified from being voted for.

c) Every campaign activities by candidates or their supporters must ceased by 00.00 hours of the day of election, that is, 12 midnight on the eve of the election.

D. ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE (SECTION 15, UNIFORM BYE-LAWS)

1. To be eligible to vote, a member shall be a financial member of the Branch and shall have paid his/her bar practising fees and annual branch dues , as and when due, for two (2) years preceding the election or since enrolment, if less than two (2) years post-call and shall have attended a minimum of five (5) monthly general meetings of the Branch within twelve (12) months preceding the election.

2. The member's name must appear in the final list of eligible voters as compiled by the Electoral Committee and published not later than fourteen (14) days before the date of the election.

DATED AT ABUJA THIS 21ST DAY OF MARCH, 2022.



OLATUNJI SALAWU, ESQ.
CHAIRMAN, ELECTORAL COMMITTEE



ANTHONY IDOKO, ESQ.
SECRETARY, ELECTORAL COMMITTEE