



NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT: Plot 1102, Muhammed Buhari Way, Cadastral Zone A00, Central Business District, Abuja Nigerian Tel: +234 800 333 1111
www.nigerianbar.org.ng

27 October 2022

STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, Y. C. MAIKYAU, OON, SAN, ON THE ACTIVATION OF LAWPAVILION PRIMSOL LICENCE FOR YOUNG LAWYERS

I am delighted to announce that, following weeks of intense negotiation between the leadership of the NBA and the Management of LawPavilion, an agreement has been reached today **27 October 2022**, to reactivate the LawPavilion Primsol Licence for young lawyers, which contract expired on **24 August 2022**.

Members will recall, that as Chairman of the NBA Welfare Committee under the immediate past administration, I had the privilege of negotiating the deal that culminated in the 'free Primsol subscription'. The negotiated and agreed deal was as follows:

1. All Members of the Association between 1 – 7 years post call – **N3,000 (Three Thousand Naira Only)** to be paid by the NBA, amounting to **N60,378,000.00 (Sixty Million, Three Hundred and Seventy-Eight Thousand Naira Only)** for **20, 126 (Twenty Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty-Six)** young lawyers,
2. 8 – 15 Years Post call – **N3,000 (Three Thousand Naira Only)**,
3. 16 – 30 Years Post Call – **N10,000 (Ten Thousand Naira Only)**,
4. 31 – 40 Years Post Call – **N15,000 (Fifteen Thousand Naira Only)**,
5. 41 Years and above + SAN – **N25,000 (Twenty-Five Thousand Naira Only)**.

Upon assuming office on **26 August 2022**, I was poised to instruct LawPavilion to immediately reactivate the licence but that did not happen, as the management of LawPavilion indicated their decision to review the price of the package for the young lawyers from **N3,000 (Three Thousand Naira Only)** to the sum of **N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira Only)** representing over **200%** increment on the expired deal.

Now, I must state, that although the increment is significant when compared to the expired deal, it remains a huge bargain when compared to the actual cost of the Primsol package, which is **N90,000 (Ninety Thousand Naira)**. It is also important to bear in mind the current high inflation rate and the general economic situation of Nigeria. Even more worrisome to the management of LawPavilion is

NATIONAL OFFICERS:

Yakubu Chonoko Maikyan, SAN *President*

Adesina Adegbite, FICMC, *General Secretary*; Linda R. Bala (Mrs), *1st Vice President*; Chukwuemeka Clement Ugo, *2nd Vice President*; Amanda Ego Demechi-Asagba, *3rd Vice President*;
Caroline Ladidi Anze-Bishop, *Treasurer*; Chinyere Gladys Obasi, *Welfare Secretary*; Akorede Habeeb Lawal, *Publicity Secretary*;
Daniel K. Kip, *Assistant Secretary*; Charles Ajiboye, FICMC, FCAI, ACIS *Assistant Publicity Secretary*

that they observed, regarding the negotiated subsidies for other groups of lawyers as stated above, that some of our colleagues and regular subscribers simply refused to renew their regular subscriptions and instead, resorted to the use of the free subscription provided for young lawyers by the NBA. This, according to the management of LawPavilion completely eroded their overall profit and threatened the sustainability of their business, thus the need for the upward review.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, it was clear to us that over 200% increment in the cost of a single welfare package (laudable as it is), will directly impact on our ability to meet other financial commitments of the administration. We therefore engaged very intensely with LawPavilion to negotiate a more favourable deal for the NBA without putting their company out of business, as repeatedly advocated by them. In the end, we agreed for the unit price of **N5,000 (Five Thousand Naira Only)**, with a minimum of Ten Thousand young lawyers, starting from today, **27 October 2022**, subject to ratification by the National Executive Committee (NEC).

I am not unaware of the agitations by our young members across the Country on the need to have reactivated the licence so soon upon its expiry, but I decided to stay the course of the negotiation till positive conclusion, before giving a comprehensive update to members. This, therefore, explains the seeming delay in the reactivation of the LawPavilion Primsol licence.

May I use this medium to thank the management of LawPavilion, particularly the Managing Director, Mr. Ope Olugasa. I have found him a shrewd and reasonable businessman from our first engagement, and this has not changed. I thank the members of the National Executive Committee of the NBA for their steadfastness. More importantly, I thank you the members of our Association, particularly the young lawyers, for your patience and understanding in the waiting period, even as I undertake to continue to do my utmost to serve the Bar, honestly and transparently, to the best of my ability.

Warm regards,



Yakubu Chonoko Maikyau, OON, SAN
PRESIDENT