



# NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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**MAY 15 2025**

## **EXECUTIVE REPORT BY MAZI AFAM OSIGWE, SAN, PRESIDENT OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION AT THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION HELD AT ILORIN, ON THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025.**

### **PROTOCOL**

- 1.0. It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this important National Executive Council meeting of our noble Association. May I begin by expressing our collective gratitude to Almighty God for granting each of us journey mercies from all corners of the country. It is by His grace that we are gathered here safely, united in purpose and commitment to the progress of the legal profession in Nigeria. It is also a great honour to convene this meeting in the historic and culturally-rich city of Ilorin, Kwara State, a state known for its hospitality, serenity, and deep-rooted legal tradition. I thank our hosts for their warm reception and commend the Ilorin Bar for their efforts in ensuring a conducive setting for our deliberations.
- 1.1. Since our last NEC meeting in Akure, the Nigerian Bar Association has remained fully engaged on several fronts, defending the rule of law, strengthening legal institutions, advocating for human rights, and pushing for reforms that impact the legal profession and our nation. I am pleased to present a comprehensive update on our recent activities and engagements:
- 1.2. **STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND JUDICIAL INDEPENDENCE**

#### **NATIONAL OFFICERS:**

Mazi Afam Josiah Osigwe, SAN - **President**

Dr. Mobolaji Ojibara - **General Secretary**; Sebastine Anyia - **1st Vice-President**; Mrs. Bolatumi Olasunbo Animashaun - **2nd Vice President**; Zainab Aminu Garba - **3rd Vice-President**;

Blessing Imo Udofa-Poromon - **Treasurer**; Nyada Auta - **Welfare Secretary**; Bridget Ijeoma Edokwe - **Publicity Secretary**;

Henry Barnabas Ehi - **Assistant General Secretary**; Ebiere Emmanuella Ekpese - **Assistant Publicity Secretary**

We have continued to speak out against unconstitutional acts and threats to judicial independence. In Benue State, the NBA condemned the illegal attempt by the State House of Assembly to remove the Chief Judge without recourse to the National Judicial Council. Similarly, in Rivers State, the NBA condemned the unconstitutional declaration of a state of emergency and resisted attempts by the unelected sole administrator to intimidate and malign the Association.

We were of the opinion that Section 305 of the Constitution vests the President with the power to declare a state of emergency, the Section stipulates strict conditions and procedural safeguards that must be followed to ensure that such extraordinary power does not infringe on democratic governance and fundamental human rights.

The NBA is of the opinion that for a state of emergency to be validly declared in a state, the facts and circumstances enumerated in Section 305 subsections (3(c), (d), and (e)) of the Constitution must be fulfilled. These circumstances include (c) actual breakdown of public order and public safety in the Federation or any part, of such extent as to require extraordinary measures to restore peace and security. (d) a clear and present danger of an actual breakdown of public order and public safety in the Federation or any part thereof requiring extraordinary measures to avert such danger. (e) an occurrence or imminent danger or the occurrence of any disaster or national calamity affecting the community or a section of the community of the Federation.”

The NBA questions whether the political crisis in Rivers State has reached the level of a complete breakdown of law and order, warranting the declaration of a state of emergency. We think not. Political disagreements, legislative conflicts, or executive-legislative tensions do not constitute a justification for emergency rule. Such conflicts should be resolved through legal and constitutional mechanisms, including the judiciary, rather than executive fiat.

We noted that the essence of a state of emergency as can be seen from Section 11(1) of the Constitution is to empower the National Assembly to make laws for the Federation or any part thereof with respect to the maintenance and securing of public

safety and order, and providing, maintaining and securing of such supplies and service as may be designed by the National Assembly as essential supplies and services.

The purpose or objective of the declaration of a state of emergency by a President is to among other things enable the Federal Government take extraordinary measures to restore peace and security to such a state, and forestall a clear and present danger of an actual breakdown of public order and public safety in the state requiring extraordinary measures to avert such danger, and not to suspend, take over or assume governance over the state. The declaration which the President stated was to forestall further breakdown of law and order in the State bedevilled by political crisis for almost a year now, does not meet the threshold stated in Section 305 of the Constitution. This is reinforced by Section 11(4) of the Constitution, which provides that “Provided that nothing in this Section shall be construed as conferring on the National Assembly power to remove the Governor or the Deputy Governor of the State from the office”.

The power given to the President under Section 305 of the Constitution does not empower the President to suspend a Governor, Deputy Governor, or other democratic organs of government. By the clear provision of Section 11 of the Constitution, while “the National Assembly may make laws for the Federation or any part thereof with respect to the maintenance and securing of public safety and public order and providing, maintaining and securing of such supplies and services as may be designated by the National Assembly as essential supplies and services”, there is nowhere the President is empowered or authorised to suspend any elected State officials or legislature. It is therefore unconstitutional for the President to purport to have the power to suspend the Governor and his Deputy, as well as suspend the House of Assembly for six months or any period whatsoever.

While we concede that the National Assembly may make laws for a state in which a state of emergency has been declared, we reiterate that the State House of Assembly could still make laws for the state. This is why it is expressly provided in Section 11(2) of the Constitution that “Nothing in this section shall preclude a House of

Assembly from making laws with respect to the matters referred to in this section, including the provision for maintenance and securing of such supplies and services as may be designated by the National Assembly as essential supplies and services.”

The NBA is therefore gravely concerned about the purported suspension by the President of the Governor of Rivers State, the Deputy Governor, and the Members of the Rivers State House of Assembly for six months. We have no doubt that the pronouncement in this regard is unconstitutional. The 1999 Constitution does not grant the President the power to suspend or otherwise prevent an elected governor, deputy governor, or members of a state’s legislature from exercising the functions of their offices, under the guise of a state of emergency. Rather, the Constitution provides clear procedures for the removal of a governor and deputy governor as per Section 188. Similarly, the removal of members of the House of Assembly and dissolution of parliament is governed by constitutional provisions and electoral laws, none of which appear to have been adhered to in the present circumstances. These provisions have not been followed in this instance.

We reiterate that a declaration of emergency does not automatically dissolve or suspend elected state governments. The purported suspension of Governor Fubara, his Deputy, and members of the Rivers State House of Assembly is therefore unconstitutional, unlawful, and a dangerous affront to our nation’s democracy. The same goes for the appointment of an Administrator to govern the State. The Constitution neither justifies the respective suspensions nor the appointment of an Administrator.

### **1.3. NBA NEC Emergency Meeting**

We convened and held a virtual Emergency National Executive Council (NEC) meeting on Thursday, March 27, 2025, to review the decision to hold the 2025 NBA Annual General Conference in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. NEC members during the meeting unanimously approved and ratified the position of the NBA President’s

statement regarding the declaration of a State of Emergency in Rivers State and the Suspension of elected Government Officials in Rivers State by His Excellency, President Ahmed Bola Tinubu.

One of the key issues deliberated upon during the meeting was the venue of the 2025 NBA Annual General Conference (AGC), originally scheduled to hold in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. The overwhelming majority view was that the AGC be moved to another venue outside Rivers State. After extensive discussions, NEC members considered two motions: A motion to immediately relocate the 2025 AGC from Port Harcourt, Rivers State and another motion to allow the NBA National Executive Committee and the AGC Planning Committee to conduct further investigations, consult stakeholders, and make a final decision, which would be reported back to NEC.

The voting process conducted by the General Secretary of the NBA, Dr. Mobolaji Ojibara revealed that 69 NEC members voted in favour of allowing the NBA National Executive and AGC Planning Committee to consult with various stakeholders and take a decision on whether to move the AGC out of Rivers State, while 65 members voted in favour of immediately relocating the conference from Rivers State.

Conclusively, the National Executive Council emergency meeting affirmed that the state of emergency in Rivers State was declared in violation of the provisions of section 305 of the 1999 constitution. NEC also reiterated that the suspension of elected officials and democratic institutions also violated Sections 11 and 188 of the constitution. It equally affirmed that the purported approval by the National Assembly of the declaration by voice vote was an act of grave constitutional subversion. The National Assembly used voice votes instead of the required counting of votes to meet the 2/3 majority required. Even if the National Assembly had adhered to the Constitution, the ratification of the unconstitutional proclamation would have been incapable of legitimizing the same, as the declaration itself was unconstitutional.



#### **1.4. Change of Venue for the NBA 2025, AGC**

The consultation by the National Executive Committee showed that majority of lawyers/colleagues stridently wanted the NBA to move the Conference out of Rivers State to another venue. The dominant view was that the Conference should not be held under a state ruled by a Sole Administrator. Since the NBA does not recognize the unconstitutional suspension of a democratically elected government and appointment of a Sole Administrator, the NBA cannot rightly make requests for venue and other logistical support from the Administrator.

Having listened to the unceasing protests and demands by lawyers that our Annual General Conference cannot take place under such an atmosphere, as these actions make the choice of Port Harcourt as the host city for the 2025 conference of our Association unjustifiable. It was our view that we cannot, by our presence in that city as well as any likely collaboration Demand for the Refund of the Sum of N300 Million Paid by the Rivers State Government Purportedly For ‘Conference Hosting Rights for the 2025, Annual General Conference’

With the State Government, lend credence to the unconstitutional proclamation of a state of emergency made in Rivers State, as well as the appointment of a Sole Administrator to superintend the affairs of the State. We note that the NBA has taken a principled and legally justifiable stand that the appointment of an Administrator for Rivers State is unconstitutional. In the light of this, we cannot in good conscience hold this year’s conference in Rivers State. As such, we issued a statement that the conference venue has been relocated to the Coal City of Enugu.

Following a demand by the unconstitutional sole administrator for a refund of the ₦300 million donated by the constitutionally recognized government of Rivers State for the NBA 2025 Annual General Conference, we made it abundantly clear, through a public statement by the Conference Planning Committee Chairman, Emeka Obegolu, SAN, that the donation was given as an unconditional gift and not tied to any hosting rights or contractual obligations. We reject bullying and political

interference and maintain our principled stand to uphold democratic norms and the integrity of the legal profession.

The notion that the NBA should refund the donation lacks both factual and legal justification. In February 2025, the Rivers State Government under Governor Similayi Fubara gave sponsorship support of N300 million to the NBA in response to our request for financial support. The money was therefore for support for the AGC and not for the acquisition of hosting rights. It was not for any purported “hosting rights”! We may recall that I announced the choice of Rivers State as the venue for the Conference during my inauguration as NBA President on August 29, 2024. This decision, which was ratified by NEC on November 8, 2024, was made without lobbying or bidding by Rivers State. The privilege given to host states of the NBA conference has never been a result of any bidding process, payment for hosting rights, or as a result of any promise for financial support. As a matter of fact, over time, the NBA conference has been hosted in states where the government of such states gave no financial support to the association. Rather, the Association’s choice of host state is largely influenced by the infrastructural capacity of the state to accommodate the large number of its members who will attend the conference.

We have therefore consistently reiterated that we will not return any money to the Rivers State government, as the money was a gift meant for the sponsorship and not for “hosting rights”! It must be noted that the things the money was sought were stated in the letter, and are still capable of execution, as we will still hold the 2025 AGC. We have done nothing wrong and are not insisting on holding on to money we are not entitled to. The NBA is entitled to retain the money and will retain it.

May we also note the argument that the donation was illegal, as, according to the proponents, the money was not appropriated by the Rivers State House of Assembly. Some have even argued that it is a proceed of crime. We beg to differ, as we believe that the argument is not supported by law or fact. If indeed it was a proceeds of crime that we may also suggest that all civil servants, contractors, service providers etc, paid money by Governor Fubara during the said period also received proceeds of

crime and should return the moneys paid to them, because, according to them, there was no validly passed budget. The Sole Administrator's supporters, who are relying on the argument of "unapproved budget" to demand a refund of the donation, have nothing to say about the Administrator who is spending Rivers State money that was not even passed by any lawmaking body, whether valid or not.

While the Supreme Court judgment on the political crisis in Rivers State stated that four members could not validly constitute the Rivers State House of Assembly or validly transact its legislative business, we are of the view that it does not mean that every money paid to third parties automatically becomes refundable. This cannot be the intention of that decision. While it may emphasize that the budget operated by Governor Fubara was not validly passed, it does not mean that money he paid as salary, contract sums, gifts, or spent on running the state must be refunded on grounds of illegality. That surely cannot be the law. In fact, such a suggestion may lead to absurdity and unending litigation.

May I refer you to the case of Balonwu & Ors vs. Governor of Anambra State & Ors (2008)16 NWLR Part 1113, where it was held that the nullification of the election of a person as Governor does not invalidate his actions as Governor. We can therefore extrapolate that this simply means that the decision by the Court that there was no validly passed budget would invalidate payments made by it. At the Court of Appeal, Omage JCA stated "It will be unwise and unsafe to declare null and void, the decision and actions taken and performed as Governor in the tenure of Dr. Ngige and Mr. Obi in those years of their governorship because to do so will cause a distrust of subsequent decisions of the government functionaries and create a lawless society, to do so will certainly open a floodgate of fruitless litigation"!

Permit me to note that the danger in the view that NBA MUST refund the money is that any person who has donated to the Conference, can for non-existent reason or no reason insist on the refund of such donation. This is a floodgate we cannot afford to open as an association. May we reiterate that a gift given without any condition, as in this case, cannot be demanded for or refunded. A gratuitous gift/donation is



simply that. The money was for sponsorship, not for any right in the Conference or for acquisition of a right to irrevocably hold the conference in Rivers State. We will therefore not refund any money to Rivers State. In saying this I will not bother asking or answering the question whether an unconstitutional government can ask for the refund of donation voluntarily made by a democratic government.

### **1.5. Environmental Advocacy**

On February 11, 2025, we hosted the leadership of the Association of Environmental Lawyers of Nigeria, led by Professor Samuel Chisa Dike. The engagement reaffirmed the role of lawyers in promoting environmental justice and sustainability through sound legal frameworks. We reiterated the association's dedication to promoting environmental sustainability and advocacy for a healthier ecosystem. During the visit, Mazi Afam Osigwe emphasized the critical role lawyers play in shaping environmental policies and promoting sustainable practices.

The Association of Environmental Lawyers has been a long-standing advocate for environmental issues and sought the NBA's partnership in knowledge sharing, capacity building, and promoting environmental awareness. The NBA is committed to collaborating with stakeholders to advance legal interventions that protect the environment and promote sustainability for future generations.

### **1.6. Anti-Corruption and Transparency Engagements**

In a strategic meeting with the Chairman of the Code of Conduct Bureau, Dr. Abdullahi Usman Bello, the NBA committed to advancing ethical governance and supporting reforms such as the whistleblower policy and accountability mechanisms.

Speaking during the visit, Dr. Bello emphasized the need for a strong partnership between the CCB and NBA, particularly in the areas of case assistance, joint training, capacity building, and enlightenment of courts. He highlighted the importance of NBA's support in cases before the Code of Conduct Tribunal (CCT) and sought cooperation on key areas of reform, including the whistleblower policy

and a bill currently under consideration in the National Assembly. The Chairman reiterated the Bureau's commitment to ensuring accountability and transparency in public office and expressed confidence that working with the NBA would significantly enhance the CCB's effectiveness in enforcing ethical standards.

In our response, we acknowledged the vital role the CCB plays in combating corruption. We reaffirmed that Nigerians strongly believe in eradicating corruption and emphasized the importance of tracking assets and ensuring accurate asset declarations. We, however, raised concerns over the structure and effectiveness of the current asset declaration forms, stating that while they should be a potent tool in fighting corruption, they have not lived up to expectations. We questioned whether the CCB was adequately equipped to handle the crucial responsibility of monitoring asset declarations and ensuring compliance.

We stressed that asset declaration should be taken more seriously and that public office holders must truthfully declare whatever they own. The NBA welcomed proposed reforms in the CCB and expressed optimism that a well-structured and enforced asset declaration process could significantly curb corruption in public service. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with the NBA pledging its support for the CCB in achieving its objectives and assured the Bureau of the NBA's willingness to collaborate on legal and structural reforms that would strengthen asset declaration mechanisms and improve public trust in the system.

### **1.7. Local Government Autonomy and National Dialogue**

The NBA held the "State of the Nation Dialogue on **Local Government Autonomy**" on February 20, 2025. The discourse, with theme: Strengthening Local Government Autonomy In Nigeria: A Dialogue On The Impact And Implementation Of The Supreme Court Judgment, focused on local government autonomy and the implications of the Supreme Court's judgment on the financial independence of local councils. The critical conversation aimed at ensuring full compliance with the

Supreme Court's judgment in Attorney General of the Federation v. Attorney General of Abia State & 35 Others.

This high-level engagement brought together State Governors, the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON), the Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), and the general public to interrogate the challenges hindering the full implementation of this landmark decision.

The discourse reaffirmed that the Supreme Court has consistently struck down the provisions of the Local Government Law enacted in any State empowering the State Governor to suspend, dismiss, and/ or dissolve a democratically elected Local Government Council; and in its stead appoint a transitional or caretaker committee to run the affairs of the Local Government. For instance, the Supreme Court, in *Ajuwon & ors v. Governor of Oyo State* (2021) LPELR-55339-SC, struck down sections 11 & 21 of the Local Government Law, 2001, that empowered the State Governor, on the recommendation of the State House of Assembly, to dissolve and dismiss elected Local Government Councils, including the Chairmen, Vice-Chairmen and Councillors, and replace them with his handpicked men to run the affairs of the affected Local Governments. The Courts took a similar stance in *A.G. Benue State v. Umar* (2008) 1 NWLR (pt.1068) 311-CA; *AG, Plateau State v. Goyol* (2007) 16 NWLR (pt.1059) 94 SC; *Eze v. Governor, Abia State* (2014) 14 NWLR (pt.1462) 192 SC; *Governor, Ekiti State v. Olubunmo* (2019) 3 NWLR (pt.1551) 1 SC.

In all the above cases, the courts took the position, in effect, that the existence of the provisions, like sections 11 & 21 of the Local Government Law, 2001 of Oyo State, posed real and existential threat to the system of democratically elected local government, guaranteed by the Constitution, in section 7(1) thereof; the intendment of which is to vouchsafe the inviolability of the sacred mandate which the electorate, at the local grass root level, democratically donated to the Local Government Chairmen and the Councillors. In *Ajuwon v. Governor, Oyo State* (supra) at pp.36F-

37, it was stated, poignantly, that local governments are neither mere appendages nor parastatals of the State, as State functionaries think they are in their erroneous misconception of section 7(1) of the Constitution.

The elected Local Government Chairman and the Councillors are elected democratically, like the State Governor and the State Legislators. Neither of these personae are employees of anybody, except the electorate that voted and elected them. The question: Why are these our democratically elected Governors constituting themselves into a body of anti-democracy specie most dangerous to the Constitution and democracy in the country?

In his address, the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice, Lateef Fagbemi (SAN), said the Federal Government will move against states enacting laws that are directed at circumventing the July 11 judgment of the Supreme Court on financial autonomy for the Local Governments. Fagbemi said the Federal Government will not hesitate to initiate contempt proceedings against such states, while their Attorneys General would be referred to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee (LPDC) for misconduct.

### **1.8. International Engagements**

I led a delegation to the Commonwealth Lawyers Association Conference in Malta in April 2025, where I shared insights on the regulation of the legal profession, arbitration, and sovereign immunity. I also advocated for clearer enforcement mechanisms for arbitral awards globally.

Similarly, on the 8th of May 2025, I represented the Nigerian Bar Association at the Justice Matters Conference held at the historic Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands. The conference, organised by The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HiiL), convened national leaders, policymakers, and investors to reinforce the importance of building people-centred justice systems and to identify actionable strategies for global implementation. As eloquently stated by Udo Jude Ilo, CEO of

HiiL, “Justice is not charity – it is a smart pragmatic investment in global security, stability and economic growth.”

The gathering provided an opportunity to demonstrate how justice can promote well-being, economic prosperity, and societal stability. It also highlighted the urgency of addressing the most pressing legal needs of individuals and SMEs. I joined other speakers in showcasing solutions that work, exploring ways to scale such initiatives, and advocating for increased investment in justice programming.

### **1.9. Technological and Regulatory Reforms**

We introduced the Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (MCPD) Rules 2025, which now require all legal practitioners to earn a minimum of five CPD credit hours annually, a step to entrench professionalism and excellence in the legal sector.

The ongoing education and training that lawyers must undertake after they are called to the Bar to maintain, improve, and broaden their legal knowledge, skills, and professional standards throughout their careers. To further entrench this into our practice as lawyers, we have digitalised the annual practice license and for the first time in a while, we have published the annual practicing list accessible on the NBA Portal <https://www.nigerianbar.org.ng>

#### **Key points about CPD for lawyers:**

It usually involves attending approved NBA- NBA-ICLE courses, seminars, workshops, webinars, and publishing articles. The goal is to ensure that lawyers stay current with legal developments, enhance their competencies, and uphold professional ethics.

In many jurisdictions (including Nigeria, under the NBA-ICLE), CPD is mandatory and lawyers are required to earn a minimum of 5 CPD or CLE points/credit within a set period (often annually). Please visit <https://www.nbaicle.org/trainings> for more information on our upcoming trainings.



It should be noted that from next year, only persons who earn the minimum of 5 CPD points and pay their practicing fee as at when do will be issued the digitalised annual practice license and have their name published on the annual practicing list.

#### **1.10. Advancing Gender Parity**

Speaking at the opening of the Nigerian Bar Association Women's Forum (NBAWF) Annual Conference in Abuja, themed "From Promise to Action: Achieving Gender Parity for Lasting Change," I emphasized the need for deliberate steps to close the gender gap. "A woman with a voice is a strong woman," encouraging women not just to find their voices but to use them confidently to contribute to national progress. I also warned that settling for symbolic representation weakens the fight for gender equality. "We can talk about the lack of gender parity, but only intentional action will bridge the gap between men and women in the legal field," I said. Expressing optimism about the impact of the conference, I noted, "I am confident that the discussions here will go beyond words, driving meaningful change to ensure women assume their rightful positions within the legal system and society."

I reiterated that women must not settle for tokenism. The NBA remains committed to achieving meaningful representation of women in leadership, not just in numbers, but through deliberate and lasting change. I urged female lawyers across the country to reject token gestures and boldly assert their rightful place in the legal profession and broader society.

#### **1.11. Stronger Bar-Bench Relations**

On March 21, 2025, I led members of the National Executive Committee on a courtesy visit to the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Hon. Justice John Tsoho. We addressed crucial issues such as improving e-filing systems, access to judgments, and case congestion. This visit aimed to enhance access to justice, address mutual concerns, ensure a smoother administration of justice, and bolster the collaborative bond between the bar and the bench.

During the visit, we expressed gratitude to the Chief Judge and other judges present for their warm reception. We emphasized the need for Periodic Engagements between the bar and the bench to address pressing issues, including:

- a. E-Filing and Efficient Online Payment Methods: I highlighted the challenges lawyers face when filing cases at the Federal High Court, advocating for broader adoption of e-filing systems and efficient online payment methods.
- b. Better Case Management Strategies: We recommended exploring strategies to ease court congestion, such as designating alternative courtrooms for high-profile cases to reduce disruptions caused by heightened security measures.

Hon. Justice Tsoho acknowledged the interconnectedness of the bar and bench, assuring the delegation that the judiciary values its relationship with the legal profession. His Lordship noted that e-filing systems already exist at the Federal High Court in Abuja and Lagos but urged the NBA to sensitize its members on the availability of virtual hearings and other technological tools. The Chief Judge also expressed concerns about public criticism of judicial decisions without proper understanding, cautioning lawyers against discussing ongoing cases or granting press interviews on sub judice matters. In response, I acknowledged concerns about lawyers' conduct and assured the judges that instances of professional misconduct would be referred to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee (LPDC) for appropriate action.

The visit underscores the importance of collaboration between legal practitioners and the judiciary, ensuring a balanced justice system that serves the public interest effectively.

### **1.12. Security, Rule of Law, and Human Rights Advocacy**

We have issued strong statements against the gruesome murder of traveling hunters in the Uromi community of the Esan North Local Government Area, Edo State. The victims were reportedly travelling from Port Harcourt to Kano when they were stopped at Uromi by vigilante groups. They were accused of criminal activities and

gruesomely murdered upon finding the travellers in possession of guns. Their vehicle was also set on fire.

In a press statement, the NBA lamented the alarming rise in mob action and vigilante justice in various parts of Nigeria. We decried the brutality meted out to the suspects, emphasising that no individual, regardless of the nature of the fellow's alleged crime, should be subjected to such brutality. We stated that "It is deeply troubling that mobs continue to take the laws into their hands, attacking and lynching suspected criminals, often without the intervention of law enforcement agencies. No individual, regardless of the crime they are alleged to have committed, should be subjected to mob violence. Every accused person has the right to be investigated and, where necessary, prosecuted in a court of law.

"Allowing mob actions to persist undermines the very foundation of our criminal justice system and portrays Nigeria as a society where lawlessness prevails. "This tragic incident must serve as a wake-up call for our law enforcement agencies to ensure that no such crime goes unpunished. Justice must be served, and perpetrators of mob violence must be held accountable to deter future occurrences," we said.

We urged the Edo State Government and relevant security agencies to conduct a thorough investigation into the heinous act and ensure that the culprits face the full wrath of the law. Finally, we stressed the need for justice, adding that vigilante justice has no place in a society governed by the rule of law. We extended our heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased, expressing deep sorrow for their loss.

## **2.0. STATE OF THE NATION**

The brutal killings in Plateau and Benue States, demanding that the government fulfill its constitutional duty under Section 14(2)(b) to protect life and property.

The Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) condemned rising attacks on communities by suspected herdsmen, particularly in Plateau State. In a statement on Tuesday, the NBA said the recent killings exposed the failure of the nation's internal security. "The Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) is deeply alarmed by the renewed wave of senseless killings in Plateau, Benue and other States, including the horrific massacre of a family of eight and the confirmed death of no fewer than 52 persons in the attack on Zike hamlet in Kimakpa community, Kwall district of Irigwe Chiefdom, Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State.

"These tragic events once again expose the glaring deficiencies in Nigeria's internal security architecture and underscore the urgent need for immediate, decisive action by the government and security agencies responsible for protecting the lives and property of citizens. The NBA unequivocally condemns these heinous attacks and calls on all relevant security and law enforcement agencies to rise to the occasion by ensuring that the perpetrators are swiftly apprehended and brought to justice. No society can thrive under the persistent threat of violence. The continued killings not only violate the sanctity of human life but also erode public trust in our institutions and the rule of law," we said.

NBA reminded President Bola Tinubu and state governors that they have a Constitutional duty to protect the citizens. NBA called on the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, and the Chief of Army Staff, Olufemi Oluyede, to rise to the challenges and address the rising insecurity across the nation.

## **2.1. Protecting Vulnerable Groups – Partnership with the United Nations**

On Monday, May 5, 2025, we received the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children, Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, and her delegation at the NBA National Secretariat in Abuja. Welcoming the UN team, we provided an overview of the NBA's structure, comprising 130 branches nationwide and a national executive committee, and emphasized the Association's steadfast dedication to upholding human rights and the rule of law. We highlighted

the vital role of the NBA Human Rights Institute and its various committees in addressing cases of abuse, particularly involving children and other vulnerable groups.

The NBA President expressed concern over the persistent detention and prosecution of children in breach of both Nigerian law and international conventions. We called for regular visits to detention facilities by heads of courts, in line with the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA), to safeguard the rights of minors. “The NBA has long filled the void left by underfunded legal aid institutions, ensuring access to justice for the most marginalized, especially children”.

In her remarks, Dr. Maalla M’jid stated that the visit was part of a broader mission to engage with key stakeholders in Nigeria’s justice sector and strengthen mechanisms for the protection of children. She raised concerns over practices such as trying children in open courts and emphasized the urgent need for reform in line with global child protection standards.

She reaffirmed the UN’s readiness to partner with the NBA on initiatives targeting juvenile justice reform, the elimination of violence against children, and broader legal safeguards for minors. “This partnership represents a significant leap toward ensuring every Nigerian child enjoys the full protection of the law.”

### **2.3. WORKERS DAY**

We joined workers around the world to commemorate Workers’ Day on May 1, 2025. In a press statement, we noted that this is a day to particularly honour the resilience, hard work, and sacrifice of Nigerian workers who remain the unsung heroes of our national development and nation-building. We celebrate the vital role workers play in sectors of our national life. Their dedication sustains our economy, institutions, and daily lives.

Beyond celebration, the day represented an opportunity for sober reflection. Far too many Nigerian workers still face harsh economic realities, unsafe working conditions, job insecurity, and pay that falls far short of the rising cost of living. It



is therefore not enough to offer praise without concrete action. They deserve a living wage and many more benefits. We therefore called on governments at all levels to take urgent steps to fully implement the National Minimum Wage Act. It is unconscionable that workers who give their best to the country are left to grapple with poverty-level wages. A living wage is not a privilege, it is a constitutional and legal entitlement of workers. It is, in fact, a critical component of human dignity and social justice.

We also urged employers, both in the public and private sectors to imbibe good labour practices, ensure safety in workplaces, and create environments where workers can thrive without fear of exploitation, intimidation or discrimination. Members of the legal profession are committed to promoting the rights of workers and advocating for the enforcement of laws that guarantee equitable and humane labour conditions. A just society must be one in which the contributions of its workers are met with fairness, protection, and opportunity.

#### **2.4. Roadblocks By Tax and Revenue Collectors**

The use of roadblocks and touts for revenue collection, rates, and various taxes on our roads is becoming alarming and a threat to the lives and safety of road users. These roadblocks routinely cause traffic gridlocks on our roads and constitute a nuisance. The branches of the NBA should challenge the same and take steps to eradicate them from our roads. All branches are encouraged to take action to challenge the mounting of roadblocks on our roads. We may have to borrow a leaf from Warri and Suit No: W/261/2023: Chief Oghenero Okoro & Anor vs. Delta State Internal Revenue Service & Anor.

The Branch through her representatives have in an originating summons, claimed against Defendants for the following reliefs:

1. A declaration that the Defendants do not have the Constitutional or statutory powers to set up Revenue Task Forces for the purpose of mounting roadblocks/checkpoints on public roads/highways in order to enforce payment

and/or collection of revenue due from motor vehicle particulars within Delta State.

2. A declaration that CFRN 1999, the Taxes and Levies (Approved list for collection) and the DSIRS Law 2020 or any other law whatsoever does not confer on the Defendants the statutory powers to set up a Revenue Task Force for the purpose of mounting roadblocks/checkpoints on public roads/highways in order to enforce and/or collect revenue due from motor vehicle particulars on public roads and highways within Delta State
3. An Order directing the Defendants to disband forthwith the Revenue Task Forces set up by the Board for the purpose of enforcing and/or collecting revenue duty from motor vehicle particulars on public roads and highways within the State
4. An order of perpetual injunction restraining the Chairman of the DSBIRS or any other officer acting through him whatsoever from the further use of the Revenue Task Forces in enforcing and/or collecting revenue due from motor vehicle particulars on public roads and highways.

## **2.5. Flight Delays & Cancellations And Air Transport Safety: Danger Looms As Wildlife Encounter Raises Red Flags**

Airlines cancel flights these days without any regard to Consumer Protection Regulations made by the Regulation the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) for the protection of the rights of air travellers. The rights which prescribe minimum rights and duties of passengers and the obligations of airlines apply in the event of any of the following:

No-show and Overbooking of flights, denied boarding against the will of a passenger (Involuntary), Delayed scheduled flights, Cancelled scheduled flights, etc.

The airline fails to fulfil their obligation to provide food and drink appropriate to the time of day (this is often in the form of a voucher) and a means of communicating delay or a refund of the cost of essential calls. They also fail to provide hotel

accommodation and transport to reach their destination or to return home for overnight delays, the airline. Passengers must know that when there is a major disruption, airline staff may not be able to assist in booking hotels, but in such cases, they can make their arrangements and claim the cost back.

An Air Peace aircraft recently collided with an antelope on the Abuja runway of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport. It is the duty of the various aviation organisations to ensure that the highest safety levels are maintained and that adequate wildlife management on and around airport premises, are maintained. All steps should be taken to eliminate birds strikes, animals grazing or straying into runways or even colliding with aircraft. The aviation safety and the effectiveness of measures in place to prevent must be such as to prevent such occurrences.

## **2.6. Errors In 2025 UTME**

The Registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Prof. Ishaq Oloyede, has admitted to errors in the recently released 2025 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME). On Wednesday, JAMB acknowledged responsibility for the mass failure that characterized the just-concluded examination.

To this end, the Registrar announced that a total of 379,997 candidates across six states of the federation would retake the examination from Friday, May 16, to Sunday, May 18. According to Prof. Oloyede, the affected states include five in the Southeast and Lagos in the Southwest. Specifically, they are Lagos, Imo, Anambra, Oyo, Abia, and Ebonyi.

While we commend the Board for its frankness in admitting that errors occurred, we note that this admission not only calls into question the integrity of the examination results released by JAMB but also inevitably fosters the perception that the results may not be entirely credible. As the saying goes, perception is stronger than reality. An anonymous writer once remarked, *"With reality, there is not much room to maneuver; with perception, we can exaggerate or modify according to the need."*

It appears that part of the error involved the cancellation of entire results from some examination centres due to perceived cheating. While we do not oppose the punishment of candidates found guilty of examination malpractice, JAMB must not penalize all candidates in a centre due to the actions of a few. The Board must ensure that the kind of uproar and doubt that followed this year's examination does not recur in future editions.

## **2.7. Call For Police Reform**

The unlawful detention and framing of Quadri Yusuf Alabi, a 17-year-old boy who gained public attention during the 2023 elections, brings to the fore the urgent need to reform the modus operandi of the Nigeria Police Force with regard to the investigation and prosecution of cases. This case calls into question our policing model, which oftentimes enables the police to act without determining whether the facts of a case disclose any probable cause or establish any element of the purported or alleged offence to justify making an arrest, obtaining a remand order, or filing a charge against a person.

These urgent police reforms should particularly address the abuse and wrongful detention of minors, as well as the manipulation of the justice system by unscrupulous law enforcement officers in collaboration with individuals who seek to pervert the course of justice.

## **3.0. STATE OF THE BAR**

### **3.1. Resolution of the Crisis in the Section on Public Interest And Development Law (SPIDEL)**

You may recall that we informed NEC at the Enugu NEC meeting that reconciliation talks were ongoing with various parties in SPIDEL to resolve the crisis and the pending lawsuits within the Section. I am pleased to announce that we have reached a decision to resolve the crisis by dissolving the caretaker committee and, in its place, appointing an Electoral Committee to conduct elections for SPIDEL during its Annual General Meeting in August. We have received assurances that this measure

will lead to the withdrawal of all pending lawsuits, thereby restoring peace to SPIDEL.

Accordingly, the SPIDEL caretaker committee is hereby dissolved, and in its place, an Electoral Committee is constituted to conduct elections for the Section. This Committee, set up after consultations with some past leaders of SPIDEL and several stakeholders, comprises the following persons:

1. Prof. Paul C. Ananaba, SAN – Chairman (Ikeja Branch)
2. Kunle Edun, SAN – Member (Warri Branch)
3. Ibrahim Aliyu – Member (Nasarawa/Kano)
4. Okey Ohagba – Secretary
5. Mojirayo Ogunlana – Member (Abuja Branch)
6. Saadatu Abdullahi Mohammed – Member (Kano)
7. Enome Amatey – Member (Calabar Branch)

### **3.2. NJC transparency Policy**

As part of ongoing efforts toward comprehensive reforms in the judicial appointment process, the **National Judicial Council (NJC)**, at its **108th Meeting held on 29th and 30th April 2025**, approved a **groundbreaking policy** aimed at enhancing **transparency and accountability** in the appointment of Judicial Officers to **Superior Courts of Record in Nigeria**.

Under the newly adopted policy, **all memoranda** on judicial appointments—previously received from various **Judicial Service Commissions** and **pending before the Council**—shall now be **published at the initial stage**. In a statement released by Ahmed Saleh (Mallam), FCI Arb, Secretary of the National Judicial Council, the NJC announced that all judicial appointment memoranda—previously received from various Judicial Service Commissions and pending before the Council—will now be published at the initial stage as part of comprehensive reforms in the judicial appointment process.



In line with the new transparency initiative, the NJC has invited public participation in the vetting process, requesting written comments on the candidates' integrity, reputation, and suitability for judicial appointment within fourteen days. "Each complaint or comment must be specific and supported with sufficient particulars," the statement noted, adding that submissions must be accompanied by a verifying affidavit deposed to before a Superior Court of Nigeria or any Notary Public. The Council warned against false and unsubstantiated complaints, emphasizing that "there will be consequences" for such actions. Written submissions can be sent to the Office of the Secretary of the NJC at the Supreme Court Complex, Three Arms Zone, Abuja, or via email to [info@njc.gov.ng](mailto:info@njc.gov.ng).

As commendable as this innovation is, we are of the view that the process that leads to the shortlist of candidates needs to be further reformed and made more transparent. The general perception is that the appointment of judicial officers in Nigeria is influenced by politics, personal connections, or status. It is believed that merit plays a minor role. The mode of appointment of judicial officers is generally described as lacking in objectivity, transparency, prone to political interference, and not open. In the communiqué issued at the end of its Annual General Conference held in Port Harcourt in 2011, the Nigerian Bar Association observed there are a lot of Legal Practitioners in Nigeria who are not only honourable, patriotic, transparent, hardworking and incorruptible but also fit and proper for appointment to the Bench and elevation to the Higher Bench but are bypassed on account of mundane and mediocre considerations especially the fact that they should allow those who have "laboured and suffered" on the bench to benefit from such appointments. After all, it is said that these private practitioners have been enjoying themselves!

If indeed it is based on connection, as many believe it is, it can only lead to the involvement and or interference by non-judicial or legal actors in the process. The involvement of politicians in the appointment will no doubt ultimately lead to interference by these individuals in the judicial process. Such interference will be

wrongly justified as repayment of favour. Persons selected for judicial office shall be individuals of integrity and ability with appropriate training or qualifications in law. Any method of judicial selection shall safeguard against judicial appointments for improper motives.

We therefore propose as follows:

1. Those who apply for appointment as judicial officers, especially to the High Courts, Federal High Court, and National Industrial Court, should be subjected to written tests conducted by an independent body. The results of such an examination should be published within 6 (six) hours of the completion of the same. Such an examination should not only test their knowledge of the law but equally test their verbal and quantitative aptitude. Thus, the tests should be structured in a manner that enables the prospective judicial officers to show their legal writing, comprehension, and legal reasoning skills.
2. Judicial appointment processes should be reformed to focus on skill, professional and technical ability, in addition to integrity and personality.
3. Appointments into the Bench at whatever level, the Higher Bench especially, must henceforth be predicated upon merit and the concurrent recommendation of the Bar. The recommendation must be based on discernible and objective criteria that consider factors like high professional integrity, reputation, sound knowledge of law, etc. This is to ensure that only quality people are appointed as Judicial Officers, and that corruption and lack of competence are reduced to the barest minimum.
4. The Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) shall no longer appoint some other members of the NJC.
5. The provisions of Paragraph (i) 20 (i) of the Third Schedule, Part 1 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) which preclude all NBA nominees on the NJC from dealing with judicial matters other than appointments into the superior courts of record (i.e. only one item out of

thirteen) is certainly discriminatory and unwarranted and should be out-rightly amended. (After all, Judges play a prominent role in the discipline of lawyers);

6. Any suitable Nigerian with requisite experience, impeccable records of service and competence (like a retired Justice of the Supreme Court, former President of the NBA, Professor of Law, or any legal practitioner etc) could be appointed as Chairman of FJSC and NJC for only one term of five years.

### **3.3. Query Issued To Chairperson, NBA Port Harcourt by Rivers State Government**

Recently, a query was issued to Mrs. Cordelia U. Eke, Chairman of the Port Harcourt Branch of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), by the Unconstitutional Sole Administrator of Rivers State through the Rivers State Ministry of Justice, for “Serious misconduct”. Even though we understand that the issue has been resolved, we are of the view that the query is not only an abuse of power but an attempt to emasculate the Bar and interfere with its independence.

Pursuant to Section 7(1(d) of the Uniform Byelaws (3rd Schedule) of the NBA Constitution 2015, a chairman of a branch serves as the spokesperson of the Branch. Thus, opinions expressed in a statement by a chairperson, as in this case, the Chairperson, NBA Port Harcourt, co-signed with other Chairmen of NBA branches in Rivers State, are therefore not her personal views as an individual or a civil servant. It reflects the collective position of the members of the branch, as expressed by its members through a unanimous resolution of the General House.

A lawyer who is a civil servant and official of a branch cannot be queried by the government for a statement issued in his/her capacity as an elected official of the Bar. The Public Service Rules permit civil servants to participate in publications by a voluntary organization, such as the Nigerian Bar Association. The actions by the Chairperson are therefore in tandem with the Public Service Rules, and she has not breached the Rules nor engaged in any act of misconduct that would justify

disciplinary action against her. The query is simply a political overreach and witch hunt by the unconstitutional Administrator.

The Administrator, or any government official acting on his behalf, lacks the power to threaten or discipline an elected official of the NBA for actions carried out in such capacity. The query is further evidence of the Administrator's militarized mindset and intolerance of dissent. It is a clear attempt to instill fear within the Bar, but it will fall flat on its face.

Any attempt to intimidate or muzzle the Bar will fail. We must continue to speak up for due process and the rule of law. No form of authoritarian or dictatorial governance will be allowed to interfere with the independence of the Bar. Even in times of political tension or administrative overreach, the rule of law must remain steadfast. The government cannot act arbitrarily or silence dissenting voices under the guise of authority. Just as Lord Atkin affirmed, the courts stand as a shield between citizens—and by extension, institutions like the NBA—and any unlawful interference by the executive.

The threat to sanction an elected official of the Bar for actions taken in her capacity as an official of the Bar, without legal justification, is precisely the kind of overreach the law is meant to guard against. The Bar cannot be intimidated into silence. We will invoke the laws of the land to ensure that elected officials of the Bar are not unjustly treated for speaking truth to power in their capacity as Chairmen of NBA Branches. Should any disciplinary action be commenced against Mrs. Cordelia Eke or any official of the Bar, the NBA will take all lawful steps to challenge the same and will also take other lawful steps to resist it.

#### **3.4. Declaration By Policemen in Jos That Even The IGP Cannot Stop Them From Detaining A Lawyer for Representing a Client**

We received report that a member of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), Jos Branch Hero Tawal Habila, was unlawfully arrested by officers of the Eagle Eye Unit, Abattoir Division, Jos, for representing his client. It was also reported that the

Policemen who detained our colleague recklessly declared that not even “the Inspector General of Police cannot stop them from detaining the lawyer.” It was equally reported that the policemen bragged about routinely jailing legal practitioners without repercussions.

The arrest of a lawyer for representing his/her client is an attempt to intimidate and harass lawyers and therefore a direct affront to the rule of law. The actions of the involved officers not only inflicted physical harm but also undermined the foundations of the legal system, which is built on fairness, integrity, and respect for the law. This action must be condemned and the NBA Jos must not only petition the Inspector-General of Police, but also institute an action against the unlawful detention of our colleague.

We demand an immediate, transparent, and thorough investigation into the incident. The officers must be held accountable through appropriate disciplinary and legal measures. This incident underscores the urgent need for comprehensive police reform to prevent such incidents and restore public confidence in law enforcement agencies. The Human Rights Committee and the NBA National Litigation Committee must take decisive action to protect all legal practitioners who face threats and violence in their line of duty. We urge relevant authorities to take decisive action to ensure the safety and security of citizens, especially legal professionals who play a critical role in the administration of justice.

### **3.5. Arrest Of Surety In Place of Absconding Suspect or Defendant**

We read a report that a 29-year-old lawyer, Ms. Peace Chidinmma Igbo, has been arraigned in the Ebute-Metta Magistrate’s Court in Lagos for allegedly obstructing justice by failing to produce a suspect she stood surety. According to the charge, Ms. Igbo was supposed to ensure that one Sodiq Kazeem, a suspect in an ongoing investigation involving conspiracy, burglary, unlawful entry, stealing, and giving false information, was presented to the authorities. The charge states that Ms. Igbo did not fulfill this duty, thereby allegedly interfering with the course of justice. The



requisite branches in Lagos should please investigate and get involved in this matter. While we advise all lawyers against standing as surety for suspects and or clients, we insist that the failure of a surety to produce a suspect or defendant does not amount to a crime.

**In Ekwuazi V. D.P.P. (1999) 3 NWLR (Pt. 593)31 at 22, it was held that failure or deliberate refusal of a surety to produce the accused/ suspect, is not a crime known to any law in accordance with section 36(12) of the 1999 Constitution. In that case,** Appellant had stood surety for Polycarp Ilo, who was suspected of the offence of stealing at the Ajao Estate Police Station, Isolo, Lagos State. Appellant failed to produce the suspect when required by the police and was then arrested and arraigned before the Chief Magistrate Court 1, Mushin on a one-count charge, the Chief Magistrate overruled the objection and held that the charge was valid. Appellant then brought an application in the High Court by way of judicial review seeking a declaration that the charge is invalid. The High Court dismissed the application and held that the charge was valid. The appellant was dissatisfied with the ruling of the High Court and appealed to the Court of Appeal which held that failure or **refusal of a surety to produce the accused/ suspect, is not a crime known to any law in accordance with section 36(12) of the 1999 Constitution.** At best, where the surety enters into a monetary bond to produce the suspect, the Court will require the surety to come and explain why he should not forfeit the money.

### **3.6. NJC Disciplinary Action Against Some Judicial Officers**

The National Judicial Council has slammed a one-year suspension without pay on three serving judicial officers, including a Justice of the Court of Appeal, for various acts of judicial misconduct. The disciplinary actions were among several key resolutions reached at the Council's 108th meeting held on April 29 and 30, 2025,

The sanctions imposed on these three judges by the NJC for breaching judicial procedures has been various described as being too lenient to deter judges who breach their judicial oath and thereby contribute to the rot in the judiciary as well as negative perception of the judiciary. Some of these judges granted frivolous orders or delivered controversial and incongruous judgments that made a mockery of their work. Merely suspending them without pay appears like a slap on the wrist. We are of the view that if their actions are considered worthy for suspension without pay for stated period of time then they may not deserve to consider to serve as judges.

We are also of the view that any judge who is not fit for elevation to an appellate court is clearly not fit to remain on the bench. We urge the NJC to revisit the matter and consider permanent removal of the judges from office so that the judiciary would not become a haven for impunity.

### **3.7. Constitution of Branch Elections Appeal Committees**

By virtue of Section 14(3)(i) of the Constitution of the Nigerian Bar Association, 2015 (as amended in 2021), we have also constituted the Branch Elections Appeal Committees pursuant to Section 14(1), subject to the ratification of the National Executive Council (NEC). These Committees, in accordance with Section 14(2)(m), are empowered to entertain and resolve complaints and petitions arising from branch elections, as well as to issue necessary directions and provide authoritative interpretations to guide the conduct of such elections. This includes determining the qualification or disqualification of candidates.

The Committees are constituted as follows:

#### **NBA BRANCH ELECTIONS APPEAL COMMITTEE (EAST)**

1. STANLEY IMO, SAN – CHAIR
2. MARC ENAMHE – ALTERNATE CHAIR
3. AMAKA EZENO –SECRETARY
4. DANIEL KIP –ALTERNATE SECRETARY

5. MRS NKOYO AMAH
6. MADUKA UMEH
7. EMEKA ANOSIKE
8. NANAMDI ANAGOR
9. ONYEDIKACHI OKORO
10. UZO IBEKWE
11. NGOZI NGELE
12. CAROLINE ALFRED

#### **NBA BRANCH ELECTIONS APPEAL COMMITTEE (NORTH)**

1. ABDUL ATADOGA IBRAHIM, SAN – CHAIR
2. MURITALA ALIYU KANKIA – ALTERNATE CHAIR
3. GLORIA OKODUWA – SECRETARY
4. YAKUBU MOSES EDE – ALTERNATE SECRETARY
5. HARUNA YELMA
6. ADAMU LAWAL DAMBATT
7. BAFFA ALASAN
8. MEMBER ADIGUVE
9. DR. RABIAT ABDULLAHI MUSA
10. LAWAL GARBA HUDU
11. RAHAMA MUHAMMAD

#### **NBA BRANCH ELECTIONS APPEAL COMMITTEE (WEST)**

1. RASAQ ISENALUMHE – CHAIR
2. SEUN AJOBA – ALTERNATE CHAIR
3. FOLASHADE ABIODUN – SECRETARY

4. NIYI OSHINUBI – ALTERNATE SECRETARY
5. ROTIMI OLORUNFEMI
6. CHUKWUMA EZEALA
7. YEMI ABIJO
8. LUCKY EKARUME
9. JUBRIL ALI

In line with the Constitution, we now present these Committees for the NEC's consideration and formal approval.

Dear colleagues, these past few months have been intense but rewarding. Our profession is called to be the last line of defense for justice, and I am proud to say the NBA continues to rise to that call. As we deliberate during this NEC meeting, I urge us to maintain the spirit of unity, patriotism, and professionalism. Let us continue to work together to protect the rule of law, elevate the standards of legal practice, and defend the dignity of our noble profession.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Together, we will continue to move the Nigerian Bar Association forward and make it proactive.

God bless you all.



**Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN**

President