



NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE PRE-CONFERENCE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) MEETING OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (NBA) HELD AT THE MULTIPURPOSE HALL, INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, ENUGU, ENUGU STATE, ON SATURDAY, 23RD AUGUST 2025

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) held its Pre-Conference Meeting on Saturday, 23rd August 2025 at the Multipurpose Hall of the International Conference Centre, Enugu, Enugu State.
- 1.2 The meeting, which commenced at 3: Branch delegates, 23 p.m., was presided over by the President of the NBA, Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN, with Past Presidents, Past General Secretaries and distinguished NEC members, including eminent members of the Inner and Outer Bar, in attendance.
- 1.3 The meeting deliberated extensively on issues bordering on governance of the Association, security, the rule of law, human rights, continuing legal education, professional ethics, and preparations for the 2025 Annual General Conference (AGC).

2.0 RESOLUTIONS

- 2.1 After exhaustive deliberations, NEC arrived at the following resolutions:

1. ON THE RULE OF LAW AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

- NEC reaffirmed the NBA's unwavering commitment to the rule of law, constitutional democracy, accountability, and due process in governance.
- NEC condemned rising acts of intolerance and disregard for the law by political office holders and reiterated the duty of the NBA to speak truth to power and safeguard constitutional order.

2. ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY

1. NEC condemned in strong terms increasing cases of brutality by security agencies, including the inhumane treatment of a female passenger on an Ibom Air flight and the assault on a youth corps member in Anambra State.

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; Ebilere Emmanuella Ekpese - Assistant Publicity Secretary

2. NEC resolved that the NBA would henceforth pursue public interest litigation to secure remedies for victims of human rights abuses rather than relying solely on press statements.
3. NEC expressed concern about the rise of non-state policing structures and insisted that any security architecture, including State policing, must be subjected to strict accountability, regulation, and oversight to protect citizens' rights.

3. ON THE SCREENING OF SAN ASPIRANTS

- NEC vehemently rejected the DSS screening of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) aspirants, describing it as degrading, extraneous, and inconsistent with Rule 23 of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
- NEC resolved to advocate for a comprehensive review of the Legal Practitioners' Privileges Committee (LPPC) guidelines to safeguard the dignity, independence, and integrity of the process.
- NEC constituted a committee to be chaired by J.S. Okutekpa, SAN, with a mandate to undertake a comprehensive review of the Legal Practitioners' Privileges Committee (LPPC) Rules, particularly in relation to provisions on invitations by the Department of State Services (DSS) to SAN designates.
- NEC noted that while the propriety of the existing provisions remains debatable, the approach and methods adopted by the DSS in their enforcement are utterly condemnable.
- NEC directed the Okutekpa Committee to conduct a holistic appraisal of the LPDC Rules and submit its findings at the next NEC meeting, which shall inform the NBA's definitive position and further actions.

4. ON POLICE REGULATORY POLICIES

- NEC condemned the Nigeria Police tinted glass permit policy as unconstitutional, oppressive, and a tool for extortion.
- NEC resolved to institute legal action to challenge the policy in court.
- NEC also condemned the Electronic Central Motor Registry (ECMR) licensing policy of the Nigeria Police as unconstitutional and mandated SPIDEL to take urgent legal steps to protect citizens' rights.

5. ON CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (ICLE) & CAPACITY BUILDING

- NEC reiterated that Continuing Legal Education (ICLE) and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) are mandatory under Rule 11 of the Rules of Professional Conduct.
- NEC urged all branches to intensify ICLE/CPD programmes, particularly in emerging areas of law such as technology, environmental law, and international trade law, to ensure the NBA remains globally competitive.

6. ON 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE (AGC)

- NEC commended the AGC Planning Committee led by Chief Emeka Obegolu, SAN, for its diligence and thorough preparation, particularly in securing assurances of safety for conferees and ensuring logistics for delegate participation.
- NEC urged improved coordination on accommodation and transportation logistics for future conferences to prevent delegates from being stranded.
- NEC applauded the efforts of the Enugu branches and the Government of Enugu State for their hospitality and partnership.

7. ON NBA TRUSTEES & LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

- NEC ratified the extension of the tenure of outgoing NBA Trustees to ensure continuity and completion of ongoing initiatives.
- NEC also rectified the nomination of Prof. Peter Terkaa Akper, SAN OFR as trustee to replace the late Yunus Ustaz, SAN.
- NEC welcomed newly elected NEC members, Branch Chairmen, and Secretaries, charging them to demonstrate discipline, humility, and accountability in leadership.
- NEC reiterated that the NBA President remains the official spokesperson of the Bar and enjoined all officers to act in unison in strengthening the Association's institutional credibility.

8. ON NBA ELECTIONS ZONED TO THE WEST

- NEC noted the resolution of the Mid-West Bar Forum regarding the zoning of the office of the NBA President in the 2026 General Elections. In line with Paragraph 2 of Part IV of the Second Schedule and Article 10(5) of the NBA Constitution, 2021 (as amended), the office is zoned to the Western Zone, comprising the South-West and Mid-West. Recognizing that the Mid-West produced the President in 2020 through Mr. Olumide Akpata, the Forum has yielded the 2026 slot to the South-West Sub-Zone.
- Consequently, aspirants from the Mid-West, including Mr. John Aikpokpo-Martins and Mrs. Mandy Asagba, have been directed to step down their aspirations.
- That by virtue of this concession, the Mid-West Bar Forum shall exclusively produce candidate(s) for the NBA Presidency in 2032.
- It was also emphasized that NBA elections must be guided by integrity, inclusivity, prudence, and fairness, devoid of acrimony or undue financial inducement, in order to strengthen the Association's role as a model of democratic governance in Nigeria.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- NEC concluded by urging members of the Bar to remain steadfast in upholding professional ethics, protecting human rights, and defending constitutional democracy.
- Delegates reaffirmed their commitment to work collectively towards the success of the 2025 Annual General Conference and the continued strengthening of the Nigerian Bar Association as a beacon of justice, integrity, and the rule of law.

Issued this 23rd day of August, 2025.



Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN
President



Dr. Mobolaji Ojibara
General Secretary

