

**NBA NEC NEWS**  
*Splash*



**Nigerian Bar Association**



**MAIDUGURI 2026:  
DEFYING DOUBT.  
DEFINING LEADERSHIP.  
NEC RETURNS TO  
BORNO AFTER  
19 YEARS**

**THE BORNO STATE GOVERNMENT & NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION MAIDUGURI BRANCH**

*Warmly welcome*  
THE NBA PRESIDENT - MAZI AFAM OSIGWE, SAN,  
NATIONAL OFFICERS & ESTEEMED DELEGATES

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) MEETING**

**Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN.**  
PRESIDENT  
NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

**ZULU**  
BORNO STATE GOVERNOR

**DR. UMARU UMARU**  
BORNO STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL

4TH - 6TH FEBRUARY, 2026 | MUHAMMADU INDIMI HALL, UNIMAID

# THE ADVOCATE

## EDITOR'S NOTE: A NARRATIVE RECLAIMED

**N**ineteen years is more than a lapse in time; it is an era. For nearly two decades, the silhouetted horizon of Maiduguri remained a "frontier too far" for the National Executive Council of the Nigerian Bar Association. But in 2026, the narrative of shadows has been permanently replaced by a dawn of unprecedented brilliance. This commemorative edition of The Advocate serves as a vibrant tapestry, weaving together the courage of leadership, the resilience of a people, and the unbreakable unity of the "One Bar."



### THE ARCHITECT OF UNITY: MAZI AFAM OSIGWE, SAN

At the heart of this historic homecoming is the 32nd President of the NBA, **Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN**. Leading with a proactive philosophy that refuses to acknowledge "no-go zones," President Osigwe has bridged the North and South with a gavel and a handshake. Under his stewardship, the NBA has evolved into a digital-first powerhouse that remains deeply rooted in the soul of the nation.

*"By bringing the NEC to Maiduguri, we are reaffirming our commitment to inclusiveness... underscoring the principle that the Bar is one indivisible body."*

### A SYNERGY OF EXCELLENCE: THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE & THE FINANCIER

The success of this summit is a testament to the seamless machinery of the National Executive Committee (2024–2026). We spotlight the visionary coordination of the National Officers and the strategic brilliance of **Senator Kaka Shehu Lawan, SAN**. As the NBA Finance Committee Chairman and an elder statesman of the Bar, Senator Lawan did not merely oversee the budget; he infused the event with a legendary hospitality that delegates will recount for years to come.



### MAIDUGURI: THE HOME OF PEACE REBORN

The "Old Maiduguri" of conflict is gone. In its place stands a shimmering metropolis of wide boulevards, world-class infrastructure, and a nightlife that breathes in safety. We acknowledge the transformative leadership of **Governor Babagana Umara Zulum** and his Deputy, whose commitment to the Rule of Law has seen the judiciary equipped with state-of-the-art vehicles and a first-of-its-kind Judiciary Gym and Crèche.

*Inside This Edition:*



**The Pillar of Justice:  
 Hon. Justice Kashim  
 Zannah**

We celebrate the Chief Judge of Borno State, whose vision for a 21st-century judiciary is turning the North East into a hub for legal technology. His call for national e-filing and his immense warmth toward the visiting Bar have set a new gold standard for Bar-Bench relations.



**The Digital Revolution:** Details on the relaunch of the **Digital Stamp & Seal**, now free for our Young Lawyers.

**The Gift of the Earth:** A spotlight on the extraordinary gesture of Senator Kaka Shehu Lawan, SAN, gifting land to the Lagos Branch Chairperson, Ms Uchenna Ogunedo Akingbade, for the next planting season, a symbol of Borno's fertile future.



**The Host Branch:  
 A tribute to NBA  
 Maiduguri  
 (Yerwa) and its  
 resilient  
 leadership for  
 staying the  
 course.**



Senate Building Unimoid



**The State Banquet:**  
 A pictorial spread of the President and delegates embracing the "Yerwa" culture in a dance of harmony.



**Borno is not just recovering; it has arrived. The Bar is not just meeting; it is leading. As you flip through these pages, we invite you to witness the rebirth of a city and the strengthening of an institution. Welcome to the new era.**

**Maiduguri 2026: The Narrative has been Reclaimed.**

**STELLA CHARLES-AKUPUE**  
*NBA Communications Officer*





## **NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION**

**T**he National Executive Council (NEC) of the Nigerian Bar Association convened on Thursday, 5th February 2026, in Maiduguri, Borno State, bringing together NEC members from across the country for deliberations of strategic significance to the legal profession and the nation at large. The meeting provided a vital platform for robust engagement, peer networking, and policy-focused discussions on matters affecting the administration of justice and the welfare of lawyers.

The resolutions reached at the Maiduguri session reflect the Association's continuing commitment to strengthening professional standards, institutional reform, and the collective interests of members of the Bar.



February 2026, in Maiduguri, Borno State.

The meeting was attended by National Officers of the Association, Past National Officers, Senior Advocates of Nigeria, Branch Chairmen and Secretaries, Chairmen and Secretaries of Sections and Fora, Co-opted NEC Members, and Observers from across the country.

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (NBA) HELD AT MUHAMMED INDIMI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, MAIDUGURI, BORNO STATE, ON THURSDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2026**

NEC deliberated extensively on issues affecting the legal profession, the administration of justice, the rule of law, national security, governance, and the welfare of legal practitioners in

**INTRODUCTION**

The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) held its statutory quarterly meeting on Thursday, 5

Nigeria, with particular emphasis on young lawyers.

Since the last NEC meeting held in Benin City, Edo State, the NBA has remained actively engaged in national discourse on governance, security, the protection of fundamental rights, judicial independence, and professional regulation.



# Opening Address by the Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association Maiduguri Branch NBA-NEC Meeting, Maiduguri, Borno State {February 4 - 6, 2026 }

Your Excellency, Sir,  
My Lords,  
Distinguished National  
Officers of the NBA,  
Learned Silks,  
E s t e e m e d N E C  
Delegates,  
Accredited Observers,

It is with immense joy and a profound sense of responsibility that I stand before you today at the Opening Ceremony of the NBA-NEC Meeting here in Maiduguri, the heart of Borno State. We gather under a canopy of hope, resilience, and renewed commitment—a far cry from the shadows that had long enveloped our beloved region.



It is important that this meeting marks the return of the NBA-NEC to Maiduguri after an arduous interval of 19 years, during which our community

bore the brunt of the Boko Haram insurgency. This dark chapter not only visited unimaginable horror upon our citizens but also left an indelible scar on our justice system, affecting the judiciary, legal practitioners, and the very foundation of the rule of law. We remember those who fell victim to brutality, and we honor their

memory as we rekindle the flame of justice and advocacy in this resilient city.

Today, we stand here as testimony to the extraordinary

efforts of the Almighty, the government, and the resolve of our collective stakeholders. I extend my deepest gratitude to His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Borno State, Prof. Babagana Umara Zulum, CON, GCON, mni. Your exemplary leadership and philanthropic spirit have paved the way for this transformative gathering.

However, as we celebrate our progress, we must also face the challenges ahead. It is concerning that the North East Development Commission (NEDC) has yet to include the justice sector in its core stabilization agenda. I call upon His Excellency, our esteemed National Assembly members, and the NBA National to advocate for the integration of justice system interventions into the NEDC's plans. Justice is not merely an afterthought—it is foundational to peace and stability.

In the spirit of progress, we commend the completion of the erstwhile Maiduguri Division of the Court of Appeal and the Justices quarters. We appreciate

the allocation of vehicles for the State High Court Judges and express our earnest hope for the expeditious execution of the proposed judicial estate and soft loans for lower court officers. These initiatives will undoubtedly bolster the judiciary's ability to serve our people.

A special mention is deserved for our esteemed State Chief Judge, Hon. Justice Kashim Zannah, OFR, whose dedication to digitizing our justice system is a beacon of hope for legal practitioners nationwide.

Let us also extend our gratitude to Distinguished Senator Kaka Shehu Lawan, SAN, whose unwavering support for the Bar and individual members of the NBA has not gone unnoticed. This spirit of collaboration persists, especially with the Borno State Ministry of Justice—our commendable partners in ensuring that the principles of justice remain tenable and accessible.

As we approach this pivotal moment, allow me to pause and acknowledge the unyielding spirit of the Maiduguri Branch of

the NBA. For the past 12 years, despite the challenges of insurgency, we have not missed a single NEC meeting. How remarkable it is that our delegates have traversed across the nation, resolute in their commitment to the legal profession!

We express our profound appreciation to our NBA President, Mr. Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN, for recognizing our sacrifices and selecting Maiduguri as the host for this prestigious gathering.

To all attendees, your presence here today, especially in light of the exaggerated narratives suggesting Maiduguri is a no-go zone, is a courageous statement. Together, we can dispel misinformation and illuminate the truth of our prevailing security situation.

May our deliberations yield not only insightful resolutions but also forge a path toward sustainable development in the legal profession, the justice system, and the advancement of good governance for the betterment of our beloved Nigeria.

***Thank you, and may God bless us all.!***

Executive Report By

# NBA PRESIDENT AT THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION HELD IN MAIDUGURI, BORNO STATE, ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2026.

I am pleased to welcome you all to this historic meeting of the Nigerian Bar Association National Executive Council, holding in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State, a city of profound historical, cultural, and symbolic significance. Maiduguri stands as the political and commercial heart of the North East and represents resilience, endurance, and national solidarity in the face of prolonged security and humanitarian challenges.

The decision to convene the NEC Meeting in Maiduguri was deliberate and purposeful. It was informed by the Association's desire to honour and appreciate members of the Bar from the North East who, in the last five



years, have consistently travelled long distances to attend NEC meetings across the country, often under difficult circumstances. By bringing the NEC to Maiduguri, we are reaffirming our commitment to inclusiveness, unity, and shared responsibility, underscoring the principle that the Bar is one indivisible body in which every region and every member matters.

Since our last NEC meeting held in the city of Benin, Edo State, the NBA has remained actively engaged in matters of national importance touching on the rule of law, public safety,

constitutional governance, the protection of fundamental rights, and the welfare and professional sustainability of members,

particularly young lawyers. The Association issued several public statements, undertook strategic interventions, and sustained advocacy on issues that directly affect the legal profession and the wider Nigerian society, while also prioritising initiatives aimed at addressing structural challenges confronting young members of the Bar. A comprehensive account of our activities during the period under review is presented below:

## **NBA's Contribution at The National Assembly Public Hearing on the Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill**

The NBA actively participated in the public hearing convened by the National Assembly on the proposed Legal Practitioners Act Amendment Bill. At the hearing, we placed on record our institutional position and clarified misconceptions that had emerged in public discourse regarding the intent, scope, and effect of the proposed amendments. We explained that contrary to claims circulating in

some quarters, the proposed amendments do not seek to hijack the legal profession through the office of the Attorney General of the Federation, nor do they divest the Nigerian Bar Association of its regulatory autonomy or transfer such powers to the Body of Benchers.

We emphasised that the drafting process of the Bill was collaborative and inclusive. The NBA worked alongside the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation and the Body of Benchers, drawing guidance from prior reform efforts, including the recommendations of the Tony Idigbe, SAN Committee, resolutions of the National Executive Council, positions adopted by the NBA at previous Annual General Conferences, and inputs generated from town hall meetings held across different parts of the country. It was further recalled that earlier attempts by the NBA to amend the Legal Practitioners Act, despite being widely acknowledged as overdue, had failed due to resistance from some institutional stakeholders within the profession. The platform provided by the Attorney General of the Federation, therefore, made it possible for all critical interest groups to engage constructively and jointly produce a harmonised draft that

ultimately emerged as an Executive Bill.

The NBA stressed that the process was driven by a shared recognition of the urgent need to reform and modernise the legal profession, strengthen ethical regulation, and enhance accountability and public confidence. In our various public presentations, we underscored that the Bill significantly strengthens, rather than weakens, the regulatory role of the



Association. Of particular importance is the proposed increase in the number of NBA representatives on the Body of Benchers, which enhances the voice of the Bar within the profession's apex regulatory structure. The Bill also expressly clarifies and reinforces the NBA's role in the investigation, prosecution, and enforcement of professional misconduct through the proposed establishment of an Ethics, Adherence, and Enforcement Committee of the Association.

We explained that this Committee is empowered to investigate the conduct of legal practitioners, receive and investigate complaints, inspect offices and records for statutory compliance, present and prosecute cases of professional misconduct before the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee, enforce disciplinary decisions, encourage alternative dispute resolution for minor complaints, and advise and educate lawyers on proper professional conduct. The Bill further sets out the statutory objectives of this Committee, including providing an independent and fair complaints mechanism for users of legal services, promoting high standards of professional conduct, protecting public confidence in the legal system, advancing adherence to professional principles, and increasing public understanding of client rights and obligations.

We also highlighted other key provisions that reflect long-standing NBA positions, including the inclusion of the President of the NBA as a statutory member of the Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee, the decentralisation of disciplinary proceedings through the creation of multiple panels of the Legal

Practitioners Disciplinary Committee across geopolitical zones or states, and the mandatory participation of legal practitioners in Continuous Professional Development programmes approved by the NBA as a condition for remaining in practice. Other reforms supported by the NBA and incorporated in the Bill include the introduction of a compulsory two-year post-call training period before newly qualified lawyers may establish independent practice, the strengthening of the NBA's statutory role in issuing annual practising licences to lawyers who have paid practising fees and met CPD requirements, and the retention of mandatory seals and stamps for the authentication of legal documents.

We made it clear that a careful reading of the Bill shows that regulatory controls largely flow from regulations made by the Association, thereby reinforcing professional self-governance. Compliance monitoring, character assessment, CPD accreditation, fee administration, and enforcement mechanisms are clearly assigned to the NBA. At no point does the Bill confer practising licence powers on the Body of Benchers or the Attorney General of the Federation, nor does it remove, dilute, or transfer any existing statutory powers of the Association.

We reiterated that the fears expressed by some members of the profession

regarding the erosion of Bar autonomy are unfounded. Rather than undermining the NBA, the proposed amendments codify and strengthen its central role in regulating legal practice, align the Nigerian legal profession with global best practices, and provide a modern framework for ethical accountability, access to justice, and public confidence. We also informed the National Assembly that we have taken note of concerns raised by some practitioners and are continuing engagements with the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation to ensure that the final version of the Bill reflects broad consensus and advances the best interests of the profession, the public, and the rule of law.

We have agreed with the office of the Attorney General of the Federal that mandatory pupillage will be reduced to one year while to reduce the proposed increase in the current ten years eligibility for the conferment of the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria from fifteen years to twelve years. We are continuing engagement to ensure that the President of the NBA should be a member if the Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee (LPPC), irrespective of whether or not he is a

Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN). We

***“We are continuing engagement to ensure that the President of the NBA should be a member if the Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee (LPPC), irrespective of whether or not he is a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN).”***

are also engaging with the stakeholders to ensure that Section 32(1)(h) of the Bill be redrafted to allow the Association to nominate the six Senior Advocates of Nigeria who will be members of the LPPC, viz; “six Senior Advocates of Nigeria, one of whom shall be a professor of law of not less than six years all of whom shall be appointed by the Association in rotation from among states which constitute each of the six geographical zones upon consultation, in writing, with the Attorney- General of the Federation”.

In fact, the regulatory powers and involvement of the NBA have been better defined. Of particular interest are the following facts.

- a. The number of NBA's representatives in the Body of Benchers is proposed to be increased,
- b. The bill has cleared any doubt about

the role and power of the NBA in the investigation of complaints and presentation petitions for of professional misconduct against legal practitioners by proposing the establishment of a Committee of the Association known as Ethics, Adherence and Enforcement Committee to: *(a) investigate the conduct of legal practitioners; (b) receive and investigate complaints against legal practitioners; (c) inspect documents, facilities, files, materials, offices, premises and records of legal practitioners to ascertain their statutory compliance status and profile; (d) report, present, and prosecute instances of professional misconduct to or before the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee; (e) enforce decisions, directions and orders of the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee; (f) deploy or encouraging ADR for minor complaints against legal practitioners; and (g) advising and educating legal practitioners on proper professional conduct and statutory compliance.*

- c.** Statutory stipulate the objects of the Ethics, Adherence and Enforcement Committee to (a) give consumers and users of legal services an independent, timely, fair and reasonable means

of redress for complaints; (b) promote, monitor and enforce high



standards of conduct in the provision of legal services and

advance integrity in the legal profession; (c) protect and promote public confidence in the legal system, the legal profession, the administration of justice and the rule of law; (d) increase public understanding of the client's rights and duties; and (e) promote and maintain adherence to the professional principles.

- d.** The President of NBA has now been made a statutory member of Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee (LPPC);
- e.** The bill adopted the NBA position that the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee (LPDC) should sit in panels in the geo political regions or even states as the LPDC which is a committee Body of Benchers may determine by empowering the Body of Benchers to create multiple disciplinary committees to tackle case backlogs and improve sanctions.
- f.** It has made it mandatory for lawyers to participate in the Continuous Professional Development (CPD) programme approved by the NBA so as to remain in practice.

- g.** A compulsory two-year training period for newly qualified lawyers

before they can set up practice either alone or in partnership with other lawyers.

- h. Strengthening the NBA's role in issuing annual practicing licenses to lawyers who have paid their practicing fee and met the CPD requirements as approved by the NBA.
- I. Mandatory Seals/Stamps for authenticating legal documents.

A careful reading of the bill will show that many regulatory controls flow from regulations made by the NBA, reinforcing professional self governance. Also compliance monitoring, enforcement, character assessment, CPD accreditation, and fee administration are all responsibilities clearly assigned to the NBA under the bill. Indeed, there is no provision that confers licensing authority on the Body of Benchers or AGF, nor does any section remove, dilute, or transfer any existing regulatory powers of the NBA. As noted earlier, the Bill does not assign practising licence functions to the Body of Benchers or AGF nor does it undermine the NBA's statutory role. Any interpretation suggesting otherwise is not supported by the text of the proposed legislation.

Rather than eroding the autonomy of the NBA, the proposed amendment codifies and strengthens NBA's central

role in regulating legal practice, aligns Nigeria's legal profession with global best practices, and promotes accountability through structured licensing, disc and continuing professional development. Robust debate and stakeholder engagement are vital components of any law reform process. However, such engagement must be grounded in accurate reading and faithful interpretation of legislative provisions, particularly where the independence of the Bar and the confidence of legal practitioners are concerned.

Members of the profession are therefore encouraged to carefully examine the Bill as proposed, participate constructively in public hearings, and contribute to the reform process with clarity, precision, and fidelity to the law. The initial fears that the bill might dilute the Nigerian Bar Association's (NBA) regulatory power are unfounded. The bill reinforces the NBA's authority. We have also noted some concerns raised by some lawyers and are working with the office of Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) to address such concerns so that the version of the bill that may be ultimately passed is one that will not only reform the legal profession in Nigeria, create a modern framework to promote public interest, rule of law, and access to justice through better-regulated, more ethical legal professionals.



## DEFENCE OF THE RULE OF LAW AND PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY: MOTOR VEHICLE TINTED GLASS PERMIT POLICY

### DEFENCE OF THE RULE OF LAW: MOTOR VEHICLE TINTED GLASS POLICY

**N**EC considered the enforcement of the motor vehicle tinted glass permit policy by the Nigeria Police Force and noted the constitutional and procedural concerns arising therefrom.

The NBA challenged the legality of the policy before the Federal High Court, Abuja, on the grounds that it lacked statutory authority, constituted unlawful revenue generation, and imposed undue hardship on citizens.

NEC noted that engagement with the Inspector-General of Police resulted in the suspension of enforcement pending the determination of the suit.

NEC called on all NBA Branches and the Human Rights Committee to provide legal support to affected citizens and resolved to initiate committal proceedings against any officer who disobeys court orders.

NEC reaffirmed that judicial orders are binding and that any executive action in defiance thereof undermines the rule of law, as consistently affirmed by the Supreme Court.

**I**n furtherance of its constitutional mandate to uphold the rule of law and protect citizens from unlawful executive action, the NBA intervened decisively following attempts by the Nigeria Police Force to resume enforcement of the motor vehicle tinted glass permit policy. A press release dated 15 December 2025, issued by the Force Public Relations Officer, CSP Benjamin Hundeyin, announced the reactivation of the enforcement of the previously suspended tinted glass permit policy with effect from January 2, 2026. We considered this announcement deeply troubling, as it reinforced a pattern of conduct by the Nigeria Police Force which, despite being the foremost law enforcement agency in the country, suggested a persistent disregard for the rule of law and the due process it is constitutionally mandated to uphold. The press release was viewed as amounting to executive recklessness and as portraying the leadership of

the Nigeria Police Force as lacking due regard for the authority of the courts, constitutional governance, and due process of law.

For proper context, the NBA recalls that in April 2025, the Inspector General of Police introduced a policy requiring citizens to annually obtain motor vehicle tinted glass permits through an online platform, [possap.gov.ng](http://possap.gov.ng). Enforcement was initially scheduled to commence on 1 June 2025 and was later postponed to 2 October 2025. Following the announcement of the policy, widespread reports of harassment, extortion, and violations of civil rights, particularly against young people, emerged across the country.



Consequently, on 2 September 2025, the Nigerian Bar Association, acting through its Section on Public Interest and Development Law (NBA-SPIDEL), instituted an action before the Federal High Court, Abuja, in Suit No: FHC/ABJ/CS/1821/2025 between Incorporated Trustees of the Nigerian Bar Association v. Inspector General of Police and another. The suit challenged the legality of the tinted glass permit policy on several grounds, including the absence of constitutional or statutory authority empowering the Nigeria Police Force to levy fees or impose financial obligations on citizens under the guise of enforcing the policy. In the

suit, the Association contended that the policy was unconstitutional, obnoxious, illegal, extortionate, and a threat to citizens' rights and economic well-being, on the following grounds:

**I.** The Motor Tinted Glass (Prohibition) Act of 1991, upon which the policy was premised, is a military-era decree that no longer meets democratic thresholds of justification under Section 45 and other relevant provisions of the 1999 Constitution.

**ii.** The National Assembly lacks the legislative competence to enact the law, rendering it incapable of being regarded as a law properly made by the National Assembly.

**iii.** The enforcement of the policy would engender disorder and extortion, given the Nigeria Police Force's long-standing history of extortion, bribery, harassment, intimidation, and extrajudicial killings.

**iv.** The policy constituted a brazen revenue-generating scheme by the Nigeria Police Force,

which is not, by law, a revenue generating organisation, particularly as the fees were paid into the account of a private company.

**v.** The levy imposed for the issuance and renewal of permits added to Nigeria's ever-increasing layers of taxation, portrayed Nigeria as an unfriendly business environment, and imposed further financial hardship on citizens already grappling with economic difficulties.

**vi.** The policy undermined Nigeria's tax reform initiatives scheduled to take effect in January 2026 by adding to the multiplicity of taxes and taxing agencies, as well as increasing the corporate tax burden on businesses.

**vii.** The Nigeria imports vehicles with factory-fitted tinted glasses, a reality which the Police ignored in pursuing what the Association viewed as a revenue-driven policy.

**viii.** The payment into a private account, namely Parkway Projects Account No. 4001017918, instead

of the Treasury Single Account, raised serious concerns relating to transparency and corruption.

**ix.** The policy unlawfully nullified already issued permits and imposed a renewal requirement without any legal basis.

The court processes were duly served on the Defendants, including the Inspector General of Police, who briefed Chief Ayotunde Ogunleye, SAN, to represent them in the suit. In the interim, on 3 October 2025, the Federal High Court, Warri Division, issued an order directing parties to maintain the status quo in **S u i t N o : FHC/WR/CS/103/2025** between John Aikpokpo-Martins v. Inspector General of Police, thereby restraining the Police from enforcing the policy pending the determination of a Motion for Interlocutory Injunction. Following the Warri court order and the public outrage that trailed attempts by the Police to continue enforcement in apparent disobedience to the court, the Inspector General of Police convened a meeting

involving members of the Police Management Team, including the IGP, Deputy Inspectors General of Police, the Assistant Inspector General of Police (Legal), their counsel Chief Ayotunde Ogunleye, SAN, and representatives of the Nigerian Bar Association, including myself, Abdul Mohammed, SAN, Olukunle Edun, SAN, Paul Daudu, SAN, and Mr. John Aikpokpo-Martins, among others.

At the said meeting, a high-level engagement took place between the NBA and the Inspector General of Police, during which it was agreed that enforcement of the tinted glass permit policy would be immediately suspended to await the outcome of the matters pending before the courts. It was further agreed that the Police would direct its officers nationwide to cease and desist from further enforcement of the policy. The Inspector General of Police subsequently announced the suspension of enforcement pending court pronouncement and directed that all enforcement activities relating to the policy be halted.

Suit No: FHC/ABJ/CS/1821/2025 later came up for hearing on Friday, 12 December 2025, before Hon. Justice M. S. Liman of the Federal High Court, Abuja. During proceedings, Chief Ayotunde Ogunleye, SAN, informed the Court of the agreement reached between the NBA and the Inspector General of Police suspending enforcement of the policy. On the strength of this representation, which the Court accepted as a solemn assurance, the Motion for Interlocutory Injunction filed by the Plaintiff was struck out. It was therefore deeply disturbing to the Association that barely one working day after the Court relied on the undertaking of counsel to the Defendants, a contradictory statement emerged from the Nigeria Police Force announcing a reactivation of enforcement. The Association viewed this volte-face as a reckless overreach, a contemptuous disregard for the authority of the Court, and a serious assault on institutional integrity. It also portrayed

the Nigeria Police Force as having scant regard for the rule of law and as persisting in a course of action that would impose financial hardship on Nigerians for the benefit of private interests.

We noted that Suit No: FHC/ABJ/CS/1821/2025 had been fully heard and judgment reserved, and that the Inspector General of Police bore a constitutional obligation to respect the judicial process and refrain from any action capable of pre-empting or undermining the Court's decision. Accordingly, the NBA publicly called on the Inspector General of Police to withdraw the statement issued by CSP Benjamin Hundeyin and to halt all attempts to reactivate

enforcement of the tinted glass permit policy pending the final determination of all related court actions.

In defence of the rights of Nigerians, the Association further directed all NBA Branches and the NBA Human Rights Committee to immediately intervene and provide legal representation to any Nigerian who is harassed, arrested, whose movement is impeded, whose vehicle is impounded, or who is prosecuted by the Police on account of the alleged violation of the tinted glass permit policy, which remains the subject of pending court proceedings. We further resolved that should the Inspector General of Police fail or refuse to heed this lawful admonition, the Nigerian Bar Association would

commence committal proceedings against the Inspector General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, and the Force Public Relations Officer, CSP Benjamin Hundeyin, until they purge themselves of contempt. We also resolved that appropriate professional proceedings would be initiated against any counsel found to have misled the Court.

The NBA reaffirmed that the statement made in open court by Chief Ayotunde Ogunleye, SAN, constituted a judicial undertaking binding on the Defendants, and that any contrary executive action amounted to overreaching the Court and undermining the rule of law, as firmly settled by the Supreme Court in *Governor of Lagos State v. Ojukwu* (1986) 1NWLR (Pt. 18) 621



# AMENDMENT OF THE LEGAL PRACTITIONERS ACT

**N**EC noted the active participation of the NBA at the public hearing conducted by the National Assembly on the proposed Legal Practitioners Act (Amendment) Bill.

The Association clarified widespread misconceptions concerning the Bill and emphasized that the drafting process was collaborative, involving the Office of the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation, the Body of Benchers, and other critical stakeholders.

NEC reaffirmed that the Bill strengthens the NBA's central regulatory role, including increased representation on the Body of



Benchers and the establishment of an Ethics, Adherence, and Enforcement Committee. The proposed Committee is empowered to:

- a. Investigate complaints against legal practitioners;
- b. Inspect law offices and professional records;
- c. Prosecute cases of professional misconduct;
- d. Advise on ethical standards; and
- e. Encourage alternative dispute resolution for minor complaints.

*NEC reiterated its support for key provisions of the Bill, including:*

- a. Representation of the NBA President on the Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee (LPPC);
- b. Decentralisation of disciplinary proceedings;
- c. Mandatory Continuing Professional Development (CPD);
- d. A two-year post-call training (pupillage) period;
- e. Retention of the mandatory Stamp and Seal regime.

NEC emphasized that regulatory authority flows from NBA regulations and that the Bill does not transfer the power to issue practising licences to the Body of Benchers or the Attorney-

General of the Federation.



Concerns regarding erosion of Bar autonomy were addressed, with NEC affirming that the Bill codifies and strengthens professional self regulation, aligns Nigerian legal practice with global best practices, and enhances public confidence.

NEC further noted ongoing engagements with the Attorney General of the Federation aimed at refining aspects of the Bill, including:

Adjustment of mandatory pupillage from two (2) years to one (1) year; Review of eligibility for the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria from fifteen (15) years to ten (10) years post-call; and Clarification of NBA nomination rights to the LPPC.

NEC reaffirmed that increased representation, ethics enforcement, CPD requirements, and other measures consolidate professional self-regulation while modernizing the profession has indeed become necessary.

## SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF LIFE:

# “ONE-CHANCE” ROBBERIES AND KILLINGS IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY

### SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF LIFE

NEC strongly condemned the resurgence of violent criminal activities in the Federal Capital Territory, which led to the tragic deaths of Ms. Chinemerem Pascalina Chuwumeziem, a nurse, and Princess Chigbo Mediatix, a legal practitioner and former Treasurer of the NBA Abuja Branch.

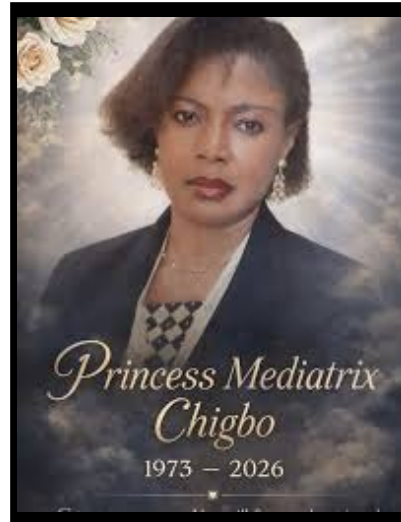


NEC described the incidents as symptomatic of a deteriorating security situation and called on the Honourable Minister of the FCT and the Nigeria Police Force to take immediate and coordinated action to dismantle criminal networks.

NEC demanded transparent investigations, arrest, and prosecution of perpetrators to restore public confidence in security institutions.

A minute of silence was observed in honour of Princess Chigbo Mediatix.

The NBA issued a strong and compassionate intervention following the tragic killing of Ms. Chinemerem Pascalina Chuwumeziem, a nurse, and Princess Chigbo Mediatix, a legal practitioner and former Treasurer of the Nigerian Bar Association Abuja Branch, lost their lives after falling victim to this deadly



criminal enterprise. Their bodies were later discovered in different locations across the city. These were not faceless victims. They were professionals, contributors to society, and ordinary citizens whose only intention was to return safely from their daily engagements. Their deaths underscore a frightening reality that insecurity is once again tightening its grip on the nation's capital.

Abuja woke up to fear and sorrow as news of these killings spread.

One victim spent her days saving lives. The other was a committed member of the Bar who served her branch with



Nurse Chinemerem Pascalina  
Chuwumeziem

dedication and integrity. Their journeys home ended in brutal violence at the hands of criminals who now operate with alarming confidence on our roads. These deaths are not isolated tragedies. They are a stark indictment of a growing security breakdown in the seat of government. The NBA condemned in the strongest terms these senseless and horrifying killings. The pattern is no longer deniable. Criminal gangs, masquerading as commercial transport operators, have turned daily commuting into a deadly gamble. This situation is intolerable in any society that claims to be governed by law. For us in the legal profession, the murder of Princess

Chigbo Mediatrix is deeply personal. She was one of us. She served the NBA Abuja Branch with commitment, and I knew her personally. Her dedication to the profession and her sense of service were remarkable. Her death is therefore not only a professional loss but a painful personal blow, and a stark reminder that lawyers, like all Nigerians, remain dangerously exposed in an environment where criminals act with impunity and citizens move in fear.

The loss of these lives represents more than personal grief. It signals a dangerous erosion of public safety. When citizens cannot safely commute, when professionals are hunted in plain sight, and when criminals operate unchecked in the nation's capital, the foundations of social order are gravely threatened. The NBA, therefore, calls on the Honourable Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, the Nigeria Police Force, and all other relevant security agencies to treat this situation as a security emergency. Immediate, visible, and coordinated action is required to dismantle these criminal networks. Intelligence gathering, surveillance, policing of transport corridors, and targeted operations against known

“one chance” syndicates must be intensified without delay.

We further demanded thorough, transparent, and time-bound investigations into these killings. Those responsible, whether as direct perpetrators, collaborators, or enablers, must be identified, arrested, and prosecuted. Justice must be promised. It must be delivered. Anything short of this will deepen public fear and embolden criminal elements. The protection of life is the first duty of the state. Citizens should not have to choose between earning a living and staying alive. The Federal Capital Territory must not become a hunting ground where criminals prey on the vulnerable while the law appears distant or reactive.

We once more extend our deepest condolences to the families of Ms. Chinemerem Pascalina Chuwumeziem and Princess Chigbo Mediatrix, to the healthcare community, to the NBA Abuja Branch, to the wider legal profession, and to all Nigerians who now move through Abuja with growing anxiety. Their deaths must not fade into statistics or headlines that disappear with the news cycle. They must mark a turning point. May I respectfully call on members of NEC to rise as we observe a minute's silence for our late colleague, Princess Chigbo Mediatrix



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**20 Annual**  
**26 Conference**  
LAGOS

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**LET US TAKE A MOMENT TO  
ACKNOWLEDGE THE HEADS OF THE  
NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION  
SECRETARIAT FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND COMMITMENT.**



**Salamatu Sidi**  
AED, Nigerian Bar Association



**Grace Igbo, Esq.**  
Head, Legal, Regulatory & Compliance Department



**Sarah Omega Ajijola Esq.**  
Director NBA- ICLE



**Ayodeji Oni, Esq**  
Head, Membership & Barservices Nigerian Bar Association



**Otimayin Edah**  
Head, Programs Dept Nigerian Bar Association



**Oluwole Efuwape**  
Senior IT Officer



**Halimat Yetunde Yusuph**  
Pro-Bono Coordinator



**Kazeem Nasir**  
Director, Protocol & Special Duties



**Ursula Agbamuche**  
Head, Account Dept Nigerian Bar Association

## SUPPORT FOR YOUNG LAWYERS AND MEMBERS' WELFARE

NEC ratified the launch of the Kanu Agabi, CON, SAN, Young Lawyers Co-Working Space at the NBA National Secretariat, Abuja.

The facility, funded by Chief James Onoja, SAN, Chairman of the NBA Welfare Committee, provides young lawyers with access to professional workspaces, mentoring, and collaborative opportunities.

NEC acknowledged the honour accorded to Chief Kanu Agabi, CON, SAN, in recognition of his distinguished career, mentorship, and commitment to ethical advocacy.

NBA Branches were encouraged to replicate similar initiatives nationwide in collaboration with Young Lawyers' Fora.

## COUNTER-TERRORISM AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS

NEC expressed concern over a proposed Bill redefining terrorism by removing ideological, political, or religious elements and expanding mandatory death penalties to kidnapping-related offences.

NEC noted that kidnapping is already criminalised under federal and state laws and that mandatory death sentences for ancillary offences offend principles of proportionality and criminal jurisprudence.

### NEC Recommended:

Restricting terrorism classification to organised criminal networks with coercive intent; Replacing mandatory death sentences with discretionary sentencing; Providing clear statutory defences; and Harmonising federal and state criminal laws.

NEC reaffirmed its commitment to legislative reforms that enhance security while safeguarding fundamental rights and offered technical assistance to the National Assembly.



# Unveiling of the 2026 NBA Annual General Conference Theme and Logo



The conference is scheduled to hold from August 21st - 28th 2026 in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

The Chairman of the Conference Planning Committee, Mr. Mohammed Abdul, SAN, assured members of the Committee's commitment to delivering a world-class conference.

The Conference logo, depicting a slanted mountain peak, symbolises determination, resilience, and the pursuit of excellence beyond perceived limits.

On January 16, 2026, we formally commenced preparations for its 2026 Annual General Conference with the unveiling of the Conference theme and logo at the NBA National Secretariat, Abuja. We announced that the theme of the 2026 NBA Annual General Conference is "Beyond Limits." The theme represents a bold and aspirational call on the legal profession to transcend conventional boundaries, challenge complacency, embrace innovation, and respond decisively to the evolving demands of justice delivery, governance, professional excellence, and national development.

We further informed members that the 2026 Annual General Conference is

scheduled to hold in August 2026 in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. At the unveiling, the Chairman of the Conference Planning Committee, Mr. Abdul Mohammed, SAN, addressed members and assured us of the Committee's full commitment to delivering a world-class conference in Port Harcourt. he Chairman of the planning committee of the 2026 NBA AGC, Mr Mohammed Abdul, SAN, said the theme of this year's annual conference of the association is a call to action for every lawyer in Nigeria to rise above challenges and push boundaries. He said, beyond limits was chosen as the theme of the conference because the Bar wants to go beyond the outdated system, beyond complacency, division, fear and societal expectations. "It is about innovations, transcending boundaries and achieving excellence in justice, integrity and nation building", the chairman of the planning committee of the NBAAGC said and added that the AGC logo for 2026 was carefully chosen and carefully designed to meet the theme of the year.



Mr Mohammed said, "To meet this criterion, we chose the

**N**EC noted that preparations for the 2026 Annual General Conference (AGC) commenced on 16 January 2026 with the unveiling of the Conference theme and logo.

The theme, "Beyond Limits," calls on the legal profession to transcend conventional boundaries, embrace innovation, and respond decisively to evolving demands of justice and governance.

mountain. Recall the trials humanity had before we conquered Mount Everest. The peak of the mountain depicts the zenith, the highest point a person can physically reach or attain. However, this mountain in our logo is slanted sideways. This is to show that you could go beyond that limit, as we have no limitations. This theme is bold because our times demand boldness. We are living in an era of rapid change, and the Nigerian lawyer must lead beyond limits. Invites us to re-imagine legal education, champion reform, mentor the next generation and promote ethical leadership.



“We are launching a movement within the Bar, a commitment to push boundaries and redefine possibilities. Let beyond limits echo in our branches, court, chambers and conversation, guiding us towards a stronger, more dynamic Nigerian Bar Association.” He informed members that the Planning Committee has already commenced work in earnest and is focused on curating a conference that will meet global standards in content, organisation, logistics, and delegate experience, consistent with the stature and expectations of our association.

In my speech at the event, I said that legal practitioners, Nigerians and Nigeria as a

country must stand out and learn to do things differently in tackling the economic challenges, the security challenges and taking bold steps to make for a stronger nation at a time when school children were abducted in numbers towards the end of last year, when there was a threat by America to invade Nigeria and when America has labelled Nigeria a country of particular concern, it is a time to go beyond limits, to go beyond comfort zone as

lawyers and as a country. I further said the theme of the 2026AGC of the NBA is a call to action from lawyers and other members of society to be part of finding solutions to Nigerian problems.

Continuing I said, time has come for all Nigerians to find ways of contributing to nation building, instead of complaining, and urged policy makers, decision makers, persons in authority and government, to go beyond mere platitudes, to go

beyond insecurity situations, recovering or rescuing those who have been kidnapped, to taking pre-emptive actions to ensure that kidnapping, terrorism, banditry are put to an end in the country. I said, “The NBA believes that as partners in building a nation and finding things that work and ensuring that we include the rule of law, it is a time for us to go beyond our limits. Whatever limitations we feel placed against us, this is the time to dismantle those obstacles, whether they be physical or mental obstacles, political or socioeconomic, to find solutions to our problems.”

Members were also informed that registration for the 2026 Annual General Conference has formally opened, and lawyers, judges, academics, policymakers, and justice-sector stakeholders are encouraged to begin early registration and participation. The NBA Annual General Conference remains the largest gathering of lawyers in Africa and a premier platform for professional development, intellectual exchange, policy dialogue, and networking. Further details regarding the conference programme, speakers, and activities will be communicated as preparations continue.

“  
**The peak of the mountain depicts the zenith, the highest point a person can physically reach or attain. However, this mountain in our logo is slanted sideways. This is to show that you could go beyond that limit, as we have no limitations. This theme is bold because our times demand boldness. We are living in an era of rapid change, and the Nigerian lawyer must lead beyond limits.**  
”

01



## Mandatory Minimum Remuneration for Young Lawyers

One of the most progressive reforms in the Bill is the formal recognition of minimum remuneration for young lawyers. The Bill establishes a Legal Practitioners Remuneration Committee with powers to:

- Determine and recommend minimum remuneration for young lawyers.
- Regulate fees, charges, and employment conditions.
- Advise on pension and insurance matters for legal practitioners.

This provision directly addresses long-standing concerns about poor pay, exploitation, and lack of financial security for young lawyers and represents a deliberate NBA-driven intervention to institutionalise fair pay standards.

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 66TH ANNUAL GENERAL  
 CONFERENCE 2026.

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FINAL CALL:

  
 Beyond <sup>'26</sup>  
 Limits

**EARLY BIRD**  
**EXTENDED TO**  
**MARCH 31ST, 2026**

# INAUGURATION OF THE ELECTORAL COMMITTEE OF THE NBA (ECNBA)



**N**EC noted the inauguration of the Electoral Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association (ECNBA) to conduct the 2026 National Officers' elections.

The Committee is chaired by Mr. Aham Eke-Ejelam, SAN, with Ibrahim Aliyu Nasarawa as Secretary, and Muhammad M. Nuhu, Uju Okafor, and Ume Maduka as Members.

NEC approved the appointment of Hadiza Nura Alfa (Minna Branch) and Umimke Helen Akpana (Ogoja Branch) as additional members to complete the Committee.

Members of the ECNBA were reminded of their obligation to uphold transparency, neutrality, integrity, and professionalism.

Following the approval of the National Executive Council at its meeting held on 20th November 2025 in Benin City, Edo State, I formally inaugurated the Electoral Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association (ECNBA) to oversee the 342026 elections of the Association. The Committee, chaired by Mr. Aham Eke-Ejelam,

SAN. The other members of the ECNBA are Ibrahim Aliyu Nasarawa (Secretary), Muhammad M. Nuhu, Uju Okafor, and Ume Maduka as Members. The ECNBA is responsible for overseeing the election of National Officers of the Association and NBA Representatives to the General Council of the Bar, in strict accordance with the NBA Constitution (2015 as amended 2025).

The Committee was formally inaugurated with a clear mandate to ensure transparency, accountability, neutrality, technological reliability, and strict adherence to constitutional provisions throughout the electoral process. Members of the Committee were reminded of their duty to uphold the highest standards of integrity, confidentiality, and professionalism, and to conduct the 2026 NBA elections in a manner that reinforces confidence in the Association's democratic processes and institutional credibility.



Consequent upon the registration of the NBA Constituted as amended and adopted at our last AGM in Enugu on August 28, 2028, which stipulates that the ECNBA shall comprise of seven members, we hereby propose that Hadiza Nura Alfa of Minna Branch and Umimke Helen Akpana of Ogoja branch be appointed as additional members of the ECNBA to complete the membership.

# DISCLAIMER ON IMPROPER PATRONAGE AND INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY.

**N**EC reaffirmed the Association's unwavering commitment to integrity and the rule of law following reports of the purported appointment of Abdurashheed Maina, who was convicted for stealing over N2 billion in pension funds, as 'Grand Patron of NBA Garki Branch' by the Chairman of NBA Garki Branch, Anthony Bamidele Ojo, as well as public commentary by a Branch Chairman on a matter pending before the Supreme Court. The NBA categorically disclaimed the appointment, condemned the conduct as a grave breach of professional ethics, and commenced disciplinary proceedings against the Chairman involved.

NEC reiterated that the Association will not lend its platform to condone corruption, influence judicial proceedings, or launder the image of convicted persons, and urged all Branches, Sections, Fora, and organs of the NBA to desist from appointing non-lawyers or convicted persons as patrons, or conferring awards outside properly constituted Association events. NEC directed the Suspended Chairman of the NBA Garki Branch, Mr. Bamidele Ojo, was hereby directed to immediately withdraw any purported appointment of Mr. Abdurashheed Maina as a Patron of the Branch and



to forthwith cease and desist from issuing statements, comments, or representations on behalf of, or in support of, Mr. Maina or any other litigant in respect of cases pending in court. Although disciplinary proceedings was commenced against Mr. Anthony Bamidele Ojo, the suspended Chair of NBA Garki Branch, for actions inconsistent with the Constitution of the NBA, the Rules of Professional Conduct, and the core values of the legal profession. NEC resolved that the National Executive revisit the matter and use discretion to withdraw disciplinary proceedings if the chairman is indeed remorseful.

NEC approves the constitution of a Committee to develop and recommend comprehensive procedures and guidelines for the appointment of patrons and the conferment of awards by all Branches, Sections, Fora, and organs of the Association, with a view to safeguarding the institutional integrity of the Nigerian Bar Association.

***The Committee shall be constituted as follows:***

- i. Ibrahim Lawal – Chairman
- ii. Rashidat Muhammed – Secretary
- iii. Dr N. A Duson – Member.





**ANNUAL GENERAL  
 CONFERENCE  
 KANO 2026**  
 27th March-1st April, 2026

THEME:  
**TIME TO GAIN:**  
 BUILDING A CULTURE OF  
 LEADERSHIP, LEGACY  
 AND SUPPORT

**REGISTRATION PAYMENT SCHEDULE**

**TIME LINES**

Categories	Early Bird Jan. 19-Feb. 20	Regular Feb. 21-Mar. 20
<b>0-3 Years Practice</b>	Free	Free
<b>4-7 Years Practice</b>	N20,000	N25,000
<b>8 - 9 Years Practice</b>	N25,000	N40,000
<b>10-19 Years Practice</b>	N40,000	N75,000
<b>20+ Years Practice</b>	N70,000	N100,000
<b>SANs, AGs, Benchers</b>	N100,000	N150,000
<b>Magistrates</b>	N50,000	N50,000
<b>Judges &amp; Khadis</b>	N75,000	N75,000
<b>Non-Lawyers</b>	N100,000	N100,000
<b>International Delegates</b>	\$300	\$300

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**2025**  
**Nigeria Tax**  
**Reform Acts**

# LEGISLATIVE INTEGRITY AND TAX REFORM ACTS

NEC ratified the NBA's intervention following discrepancies between tax laws passed by the National Assembly and the versions gazetted.

NEC welcomed the directive for re-gazetting the Nigeria Tax Act 2025, Nigeria Tax Administration Act 2025, Joint Revenue Board Act 2025, and Nigeria Revenue Service Act 2025 to reflect accurate legislative texts.

## JUDICIAL ENGAGEMENTS AND PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

**N**EC noted NBA's engagement at the opening of the 2025/2026 Federal High Court Legal Year and highlighted concerns relating to court sittings, judicial independence, case backlog, and infrastructure deficits.

NEC reaffirmed the importance of ethical conduct, judicial inspections of detention facilities, and enhanced Bench-Bar collaboration.



## INTRODUCTION OF THE NBA DIGITAL SEAL SYSTEM



NEC approved the introduction of an end-to-end NBA Digital Seal System to complement the physical Stamp and Seal.

The system will enable lawyers to affix secure digital signatures to electronic documents.

NEC approved complimentary digital seal packs for lawyers between zero and seven (0–7) years post-call, while general pricing shall be subject to NEC approval.



NBA SECTION ON LEGAL PRACTICE

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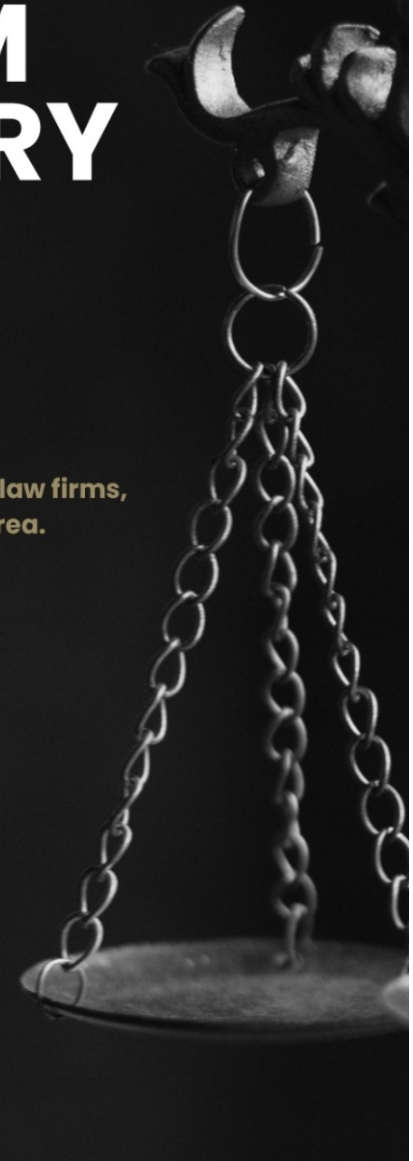
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# IRREGULAR PROMOTIONS IN THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE

**N**EC expressed concern over allegations of irregular and biased promotion practices within the Nigeria Police Force.

NEC resolved that promotions must be strictly merit-based and in accordance with established procedures.

# **NBA NEC RESOLVES TO PETITION POLICE, SECURITY AGENCIES OVER CLAIMS OF JUDICIAL INTERFERENCE**

**BY KWANKWASO AND OTHERS**

The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) has resolved that the Association formally petition the Nigeria Police Force and other relevant security agencies over public statements and claims suggesting interference with, or undue influence over, the judicial process, particularly those attributed to a former Governor of Kano State, Engr. Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso.

The resolution followed NEC deliberations arising from widespread public attention to comments reportedly made by Engr. Kwankwaso in which he claimed involvement in engagements with Justices of the Supreme Court during the 2019 Kano State governorship election proceedings. NEC noted that such claims, whether made directly or by implication, are capable of

undermining public confidence in the independence of the judiciary and the integrity of Nigeria's electoral justice system.

NEC further resolved that the scope of the petition should not be limited to the claims attributed to Engr. Kwankwaso alone, but should extend to any other individual who has made statements, admissions, or public comments suggesting that they influenced, attempted to influence, or had improper access to judicial officers or judicial decision-making processes.

In adopting the resolution, NEC emphasised that the petition is directed at the claims and assertions



themselves, and not a presumption of guilt. The objective is to ensure that

allegations of this gravity are subjected to thorough, impartial, and professional investigation. NEC noted that where such claims are false, they are dangerous and corrosive to constitutional democracy and must be firmly repudiated. Where they are true, accountability must follow in accordance with the law.

NEC therefore mandated the National Executive Committee of the NBA to prepare and submit a formal petition to the Nigeria Police Force and other appropriate security agencies, requesting a comprehensive investigation into all such claims of judicial interference or influence, with a view to safeguarding judicial independence and restoring public confidence in the administration of justice.

The Nigerian Bar Association reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the rule of law, the independence of the judiciary, and the principle that no person, regardless of status or political history, is entitled to make or propagate claims that cast doubt on the integrity of the courts without lawful scrutiny.

# SUPPORT FOR YOUNG LAWYERS AND MEMBERS' WELFARE:

## THE KANU AGABI, SAN, CO-WORKING SPACE INITIATIVE



**D**uring the period under review, we have deliberately prioritised initiatives aimed at strengthening members' welfare, enhancing professional sustainability, and responding to structural challenges confronting the legal profession. Particular attention was paid to the growing concerns around unemployment and underemployment among young lawyers, with the Association focusing on practical, impact-driven interventions beyond advocacy and policy engagement.

In furtherance of this commitment, we took concrete steps to support young lawyers, especially those within the Federal Capital Territory. In this regard, I am pleased to report to the National Executive Council the launch of the Kanu Agabi, SAN, Young Lawyers Co-Working Space at the National Secretariat, Abuja. The facility is designed to provide young lawyers, particularly those who are unemployed or underemployed, with access to a dignified and professional environment where they can temporarily meet clients, prepare legal work, collaborate with colleagues, and remain actively connected to legal practice while seeking stable professional engagement.

The co-working space project was executed through the NBA Welfare Committee, under the able leadership of its Chairman, Chief James Onoja, SAN, as part of a broader welfare-centred strategy to support members of the Bar. Beyond providing leadership for the initiative, Chief Onoja personally funded and donated the facility to the Nigerian Bar Association. This gesture represents a profound

commitment to the future of the profession and a clear understanding of the realities confronting young lawyers. We also acknowledge the pivotal role played by the Welfare Secretary, Mr. Auta Nyada, whose coordination and diligence ensured that the facility was fully completed and ready for use at the time of its unveiling.

In recognition of outstanding service to the legal profession, the co-working space has been named after Chief Kanu Agabi, CON, SAN, former Attorney-General of the Federation. This naming is both symbolic and deliberate. Chief Agabi's career exemplifies intellectual excellence, ethical advocacy, mentorship, humility, and an enduring commitment to the nurturing of younger members of the Bar. It is therefore fitting that a facility established to empower, inspire, and support young lawyers bears the name of a man whose life and legacy reflect the highest ideals of the profession.

We intend to roll out detailed operational guidelines governing access to and use of the co-

working space, including a structured sign-up process and time-limited usage to ensure fairness and broad access. NBA branches, particularly those with functional Bar Centres, are encouraged to collaborate with their respective Young Lawyers Forums to dedicate portions of such centres as co-working spaces. This decentralised and collective approach will help address economic vulnerability within the profession, promote collaboration and mentorship, and provide practical support for young lawyers across the country.





NIGERIAN  
BAR  
ASSOCIATION

# From **Loss** to **Support**



## YOUR SIMPLE 5-STEP NBA DEATH BENEFIT GUIDE

**Step 1:** Fill in the NBA Death Claim Form and Voucher enter the deceased's details in Section A.

**Step 2:** Provide beneficiary information in Section B.

**Step 3:** Secure a letter of introduction from the Branch Chairman of the deceased's branch, accompanied by:

- Proof of BPF payment in the year of passing.
- Proof of branch dues payment in the same year .
- Death certificate or medical report .
- Valid ID of the claimant .

**Step 4:** Obtain the signature of the Branch Chairman or Welfare Secretary, plus

**Step 5:** Scan all documents in PDF format and email to [david.ezekiel@nigerianbar.org.ng](mailto:david.ezekiel@nigerianbar.org.ng) ,copying [welfare@nigerianbar.org.ng](mailto:welfare@nigerianbar.org.ng).

A structured process in five simple steps, turning commitment into care, and loss into lasting support.

# NBA NATIONAL WELFARE SECRETARY NEC REPORT FOR 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026

**REPORT ON THE NBA- NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE AUTHORITY (NHIA) GIFSHIP PROGRAMME  
FROM NOVEMBER 2025-FEBRUARY 2026**



## INTRODUCTION

Health Insurance Scheme is another welfare service for the Nigerian Bar Association; by ensuring additional value to members, we have partnered with the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA) since 2021 for legal practitioners' ease of access to affordable healthcare services. The partnership created the NBA-NHIA GIFSHIP Program and this initiative, known as the Group, Individual, and Family Social Insurance Program (GIFSHIP), offers comprehensive healthcare benefits to members; who are in good standing—i.e., those who have paid their Bar Practicing Fees and Branch dues as and when due. Through this program, members will have the opportunity to enjoy and access the primary and secondary healthcare services at NHIA-accredited facilities, with only 10% cost-sharing on medications, and 50% coverage for tertiary healthcare services. The annual subscription fee for each member is the sum of Thirty-Eight Thousand, Seven Hundred and Eighteen Naira Only (N38,718.00). In addition to the benefits and opportunity for ease of access to discounted healthcare services, the NBA- NHIA GIFSHIP Program recommended that members should register their families, dependents, staff, and even friends, by ensuring broader access to healthcare. The initiative is a symbol of commitment to the welfare support services to its members. We hereby highlight the relevant information that will guide members to easily access the scheme and provide such opportunities for extended families and friends through the subscription process.

**I. PAID SUBSCRIPTION:** During the period under review, we processed 25 new applications for members whose payments were processed with the necessary relevant documentation. We highlight that we processed a batch of members' applications comprising for Batch 23, with all necessary



documentation from the month of December 2025, through the month of January 2026, respectively. We hereby state that the Enrollees Register for Batches 22 is still in process; therefore, members under those batches will be unable to access the healthcare benefits until the final publication. This highlights the 90-day waiting period, which starts to count after our submission to the NHIA headquarters. Members will only be eligible to access healthcare services once the registration process is fully completed. The processes include the onboarding phase,

the release of the Enrollees' Register, with the provision of their NHIA details, which will be emailed to individual members after completion.

**II. RENEWAL FOR PAID SUBSCRIBERS:** The standard procedure for renewal is that payments are to be made three months before the expiration date, which is usually highlighted on the individual emails to members for access to the affordable services. It is identified as a value-added advantage to ensure that enrollees enjoy uninterrupted access to healthcare services. Within the period under review, a batch was forwarded for the renewal of subscriptions, and we recorded a total of fifty-nine (59) member applications processed for the months of December 2025 and January 2026, respectively. It is worth noting that the subscription is annually.

**III. HOW TO MAKE NBA- NHIA GIFSHIP RENEWAL PAYMENT:** The NBA will provide premium services for each subscriber through an uninterrupted access to healthcare services by ensuring renewal of your healthcare subscription three months before the date of expiration at the sum of Thirty-Eight Thousand Seven Hundred and Eighty (N38,718.00) Naira

Only (subject to be reviewed). Kindly note that failure to renew within the three-month window before expiration, will result in another mandatory 90-day waiting period before re-enrolment. We therefore advise that the description below should be included on payment receipt;

**All payment(s) should be made into the NBA-designated account:**

**Account Number: 0737212802**

**Account Name: Nigerian Bar Association**

**Bank Name: Access Bank**

**REF:-Renewal/ Enrollee's Name** (for proper narration during processing application) Kindly Send your proof of payment and NHIA details to: [welfare@nigerianbar.org.ng](mailto:welfare@nigerianbar.org.ng) and [nbanhis@nigerianbar.org.ng](mailto:nbanhis@nigerianbar.org.ng).

#### RIGHTS OF THE ENROLLEE



**IV. APPLICATION FOR CHANGE OF HOSPITAL:** It is important to highlight one of the rights of the enrollee under the NBA-NHIA GIFSHIP Scheme; is the right to request a change of HealthCare Provider, i.e., the enrollees can change from one healthcare provider to another preferred hospital. Upon request, the application is made to the NHIA with a mandatory cost of the sum of *One Thousand (N1,000.00) Naira Only (subject to be reviewed)* and the duration for the change will be within a

*three-month window.* During this period, the enrollee may continue to enjoy healthcare services at the initial healthcare facility until the change is completed. We processed a total of number of ten (10) enrollees' application for a change of hospital within the quarter.

**V. NBA-NHIA SUPPORT GROUP:** The NBA support team has provided additional value to its services through various social media platforms for access to real-time reports/feedback and resolutions on the NHIA scheme; for complaints/inquiries the NBA-NHIA Support Group on WhatsApp and NBA website. We hereby advise that members should join our support group with the link below: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/JpoEn7IV63kDDrjzvykgws>

## NBA DEATH BENEFIT PACKAGE FOR MEMEBERS

**CLAIMS THAT HAVE BEEN REDEEMED UNDER THE NBA DEATH BENEFIT  
FROM NOVEMBER 2025 TO JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2026.**

S/N	NAMES (SCN)	BRANCH	BENEFICIARIES (relationship)	NBA DEATH CLAIMS (₦ 1,000,000.00)
1.	SEDOO TORYEM (SCN114286)	ABUJA	SAATER KUMAGA (HUSBAND)	₦1,000,000.00
2	EMMANUELA EZINWANNE AGHAIZU(SCN058143)	LAGOS	CHINELO FRANCES AGHAIZU (DAUGHTER)	₦1,000,000.00
3	GABRIEL OLUSAYO AJEWOLE (SCN055918)	ILESA	AJEWOLE FUNMILAYO TAIWO (WIFE)	₦1,000,000.00
4	HYCINTH OJIE UDU (SCN063629)	LAGOS	ODU FELICIA ADEH (WIFE)	₦1,000,000.00

5	BAMITALE MOSES OWOLABI (SCN033998)	IKEJA	AYOTUNDE EMMANUEL OWOLABI (SON)	₦1,000,000.00
6	NDIDI OSAEMEDIKE OKEKE (SCN081253)	LAGOS	COLLINS UZOCHUKWU OKEKE (HUSBAND)	₦1,000,000.00
7	AKINTUNDE AKINFEMI AKINDURO (SCN077823)	IKEJA	JOSEPHINE KUNE AKINDURO (WIFE)	₦1,000,000.00
8	FELIX LEMEA KAMBE (SCN057480)	BORI	KAMBE BARINEKA FELIX (WIFE)	₦1,000,000.00
9	JOSEPH IORSHAHEREHER AKAAGERGER (SCN011784)	ABUJA	JOSEPH AKAAGERGER ESTATE ACCOUNT (WIFE)	₦1,000,000.00
10	JENNIFER OBY AMAEFULE (SCN106510)	OKEHI	IROEGBU EZEBUNWA (HUSBAND)	₦1,000,000.00
11	ATHANASIOUS CHIMEZIE OKAFOR(SCN082561)	ILORIN	MARY OKAFOR (WIFE)	₦1,000,000.00
12	ISSAH SULYMAN ABAYA(SCN032097)	ILORIN	ABAYA ABDULBASIT OLAYINKA (SON)	₦1,000,000.00
13	HENRY OLUMUYIWA ABRAHAM (SCN078867)	ILORIN	TEMITOPE MERCY ABRAHAM (WIFE)	₦1,000,000.00
14	DANIEL NWAEZE(SCN094952)	ABA	AGOMUO GOLD EZINWANYI (HUSBAND)	₦1,000,000.00
15	JOHN OKONMAH KAHA(SCN063901)	BENIN	OKONMAH WINIFRED ASIKA(WIFE)	₦1,000,000.00
16	STELLA CHINNEOKE KELECHI UKAUMUNNA (SCN141817)	ABA	STELLA AND KELECHI UKAUMUNNA (HUSBAND)	₦1,000,000.00
17	ERUGBA REUBEN URNIBO (SCN103778)	WARRI	OGHARE ESADJERE (WIFE)	₦1,000,000.00
18	JAIRUS B. AMOS(SCN042582)	KADUNA	HAUWA HUDU SALEH(WIFE)	₦1,000,000.00

19	YINBOLAYEFA KALAMA (SCN124923)	PORT HARCOUR T	TONYE KIO (HUSBAND)	₦1,000,000.00
20	MOSES ODIA SCN106164	SULEJA	CHIGOZIE ODIA P. (WIFE)	₦1,000,000.00
21	BRIGHT NDA OWHOR(SCN055469)	PORTHAR COURT	BLESSING OWHOR (WIFE)	₦1,000,000.00
22	MOROHUNDIYA OLAKUNLE(SCN008417)	IKEJA	TEMITAYO MOROHUNDIYA (WIFE)	₦1,000,000.00
23	ABARAH ALOY CHIAGOROM(SCN024173)	IKEJA	ABARAH REGINALD OGUERI(BROTHER)	₦1,000,000.00
24	DANIEL, EMEM HOGAN(SCN101264)	IKEJA	DANIEL EDIDION HOGAN (BROTHER)	₦1,000,000.00
25	JOHN AMEH (061621)	OTUKPO	AMEH TONIA OLACHI (HUSBAND)	₦1,000,000.00
26	MU'AZU DANJUMA (SCN123785)	GOMBE	BADIATU BABAYO(WIFE)	₦1,000,000.00
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>₦26,000,000.00</b>

**CLAIMS THAT HAVE BEEN REDEEMED UNDER THE LEADWAY ASSURANCE  
FROM NOVEMBER 2025 TO JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

S/N	NAMES	BRANCH	AMOUNT	REMARK
1	SANNI TOYEEB OLADIPUPO	IKEJA	N2,000,000.00	PAID
2	VICTORIA OMOTAYO	LOKOJA	N2,000,000.00	PAID
3	SANNI MUFUTAU	ETI – OSA	N2,000,000.00	PAID
4	HAMISU UMAR	GWAGWALADA	N2,000,000.00	PAID
5	UBAKA AIKAY AZUBUIKE	ENUGU	N2,000,000.00	PAID
6	ONWUSIKA IKENNA VICTOR	IKEJA	N2,000,000.00	PAID
7	ODAUDU ALLISON CHARLE	MAKURDI	N2,000,000.00	PAID
8	ILORAH STELLA ANULI	OTUOCHA	N2,000,000.00	PAID
9	ASSOH MICHAEL TERHEMEN	MAKURDI	N2,000,000.00	PAID
10	EMUKA OBINNA BASIL	ABA	N2,000,000.00	PAID
11	USMAN ALHAJI SHUAIBU	SULEJA	N2,000,000.00	PAID
12	YAKUBU HUSSAINI	KADUNA	N2,000,000.00	PAID
13	SHETTIMA MOHAMMED LAWAN	MAIDUGURI	N2,000,000.00	PAID
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26,000,000</b>

## COMPLETE VOUCHERS SENT TO LEADWAY FOR PAYMENT

S/N	NAME	BRANCH	REMARK
1	EDIONWE KENNETH OSARENWINDA	PORT HARCOURT	VOUCHER SENT TO LEADWAY FOR PAYMENT
2	ETIOTOP EMMMANUEL MATHEW	IKOT EKPENE	VOUCHER SENT TO LEADWAY FOR PAYMENT
3	SUNDAY OGBONNAYA OKORO	ABAKALIKI	VOUCHER SENT TO LEADWAY FOR PAYMENT
5	MANNA JOHNFRANCA GOODLUCK	ENUGU	VOUCHER SENT TO LEADWAY FOR PAYMENT
6	CHRISTIAN UCHENNA IJEH	ENUGU	VOUCHER SENT TO LEADWAY FOR PAYMENT
7	AKPA MBANEFO EMMANUEL	ENUGU	VOUCHER SENT TO LEADWAY FOR PAYMENT
8	SURMA FRANCA MCHIVIR	GBOKO	VOUCHER SENT TO LEADWAY FOR PAYMENT
9	EZEUGWUI JUDE IFECHUKWU	ENUGU	VOUCHER SENT TO LEADWAY FOR PAYMENT
10	GOTOM DUNG-GIDA CHRYS	PANKSHIN	VOUCHER SENT TO LEADWAY FOR PAYMENT
11	DAWAN ELIA NAANLIYAK	PANKSHIN	VOUCHER SENT TO LEADWAY FOR PAYMENT
12	ABOTI ANIEDE	IKOT EKPENE	VOUCHER SENT TO LEADWAY FOR PAYMENT
13	CHILAKA OBINNA LOUIS	ABA	VOUCHER SENT TO LEADWAY FOR PAYMENT
14	ECHOBU AMEH PETER	OTUKPO	VOUCHER SENT TO LEADWAY FOR PAYMENT
15	OFIKWU MARK OWOICHO	OTUKPO	VOUCHER SENT TO LEADWAY FOR PAYMENT

## OUTSTANDING NBA DEATH CLAIMS DOCUMENTS FROM THE BENEFICIARIES

1	BLESSING C. BUZUGBE	AFIKPO	NBA Death claim form
2	NWADOZIE A.E. OKONTA	AFIKPO	NBA Death claim form
3	VINCENT N. ADAIKPO	AFIKPO	NBA Death claim form
4	PEREWARI DESTINY ONADIGHA	BENIN	NBA Death claim form
5	STEPHEN C. CHUKWUMA	AFIKPO	NBA Death claim form
6	LATE OVIE JOHN EMUDAINOHWO	WARRI	NBA Death claim form
7	CLETUS ALOKE	ABUJA	NBA Death claim form
8	ISAIAH ONYEBUCHI ANIAKOR	LAGOS	NBA Death claim form
9	ABRAHAM ALOY CHIAGOROM	IKEJA	NBA Death claim form
10	OLATUNJI KAMORUDEEN OSIKOYA	IKORODU	NBA Death claim form
11	Mr. ROTIMI GABRIEL OLAWALE	IKORODU	NBA Death claim form

## LEADWAY OUTSTANDING DOCUMENTS FROM THE BENEFICIARIES

S/N	NAME	BRANCH	OUTSTANDING DOCUMENTS FROM THE BENEFICIARIES
1	MOSUGU TIBILERI	KADUNA	police report
2	ELIAS OKEY OGWU	ENUGU	Police report, NPC death certificate, beneficiary's valid means of identification, and data collection form
3	OKOYE CAROLINE NWANNEKA	BADAGRY	Medical cause of death certificate (MCCD) and completed claim form.
4	FRIDAY OKORO	PORT HARCOURT	Medical cause of death certificate (MCCD)
5	AONDONENENGE AMOS AKA	MAKURDI	claim Form and supporting documents
6	GARBA ZEPHANIA DABO'OK	IKEJA	claim form.
7	DONATUS VILINGAZUANAH	GBOKO	claim Form and supporting documents
8	DIAMA, MOSES HONOUR	PORT HARCOURT	Medical cause of death certificate (MCCD) required to confirm the cause of death

I have had the honour and privilege to represent the President in some engagements and while I joined the President in attending others, and they are as follows

1. The NBA Lawyers with disabilities Forum conference which held on 25<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025, in the beautiful city of Asaba, Delta state.
2. SPIDEL annual conference & AGM, which was held between 1<sup>st</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> December 2025, in the warm city of Uyo.
3. The International Human Rights Day for 2025 was held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at the NBA

National Secretariate Abuja.

4. Public hearing of the Legal Practitioners Act (amendment bill 2025) (SB.965), and the Terrorism (prevention and prohibition) Act amendment bill 2025 (SB.969) at the National Assembly, on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2025

In yet another milestone towards ensuring that young lawyers are well equipped to be the leaders of tomorrow, I had the privilege of facilitating the creation of the NBA Co-working space, centre which was generously donated by the NBA National Welfare Committee Chairman Chief Dr. James

Onoja SAN, and named the Kanu Agabi SAN Co-working space. It was a rare opportunity to be part of this historic and monumental achievement, which is the brain child of the NBA president Mazi Afam Osigwe SAN.

In conclusion I would like to thank the president for the opportunity to serve and discharge my duties without any interference or obstructions. I further thank the welfare team consisting of Ezekiel David and Martha Omolade, who tirelessly continue to make my job easier.

**Auta Nyada**  
*NBA National Welfare Secretary*



# VISITS TO POLITICIANS

BY JUDICIAL OFFICERS

*NEC reiterated that judicial officers must avoid association with politically exposed persons.*

*NEC warned that conduct capable of creating a perception of bias undermines judicial integrity and public confidence.*

## ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF ELECTION RESULTS

NEC expressed concern over the Senate's rejection of mandatory electronic transmission of election results.

NEC urged legislative reforms to guarantee transparency and electoral credibility.

## CONTINUED DETENTION OF MR. BRIGHT EMEKA NGENE

NEC expressed grave concern over the prolonged detention of Mr. Bright Emeka Ngene due to repeated delays in hearing his appeal.

NEC observed that the repeated recusals have caused undue hardship and prolonged detention, and called for urgent steps to ensure that the appeal is heard promptly in the interest of justice.

NEC emphasized that the matter raises serious concerns relating to the protection of the rights of a legal practitioner and the need to uphold confidence in the administration of justice.

NEC approved the constitution of a Seven-member Committee chaired by Mr Sammie Somiari, SAN, to engage the Chief Judge of Enugu State. Members of the Committee shall be:

1. Sammie Somiari SAN - Chair
2. Emeka Obegolu, SAN
3. Abdul Mohammed, SAN
4. Musa Attah SAN
5. Chidi Aroh, Esq
6. Venatius C. Odo, Esq
7. Osato Uwagboe – Secretary

NEC resolved that failure to fix a hearing date within two weeks will result in further actions, including court boycotts and legal challenges.

## NBA FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE REPORTS PROGRESS ON DETENTION OF MR. BRIGHT NGENE, ESQ. IN ENUGU STATE



**M**embers of the Nigerian Bar Association are hereby informed of the progress made by the Fact-Finding Committee constituted to investigate the circumstances surrounding the continued detention of Bright Ngene, Esq., a member of the Enugu State Branch.

On February 18, 2026, the Committee visited Enugu State and held meetings with the Chief Judge and other judicial officers who had previously recused themselves from the matter. The Committee subsequently met with the Executive Governor, the Attorney General, and the Chief of Staff.

The Judiciary informed the Committee that the multiple recusals and reassignments in the matter were largely due to perceived threats and security concerns. While acknowledging these concerns, the Committee noted that the repeated recusals and reassignments had not only caused undue delay but had also created negative public perception regarding the administration of justice in the case.

The Chief Judge categorically denied receiving any directive from the Executive Governor or any member of the Executive Council concerning the matter. Following communication from the Supreme Court of Nigeria through the Chief Justice of Nigeria, the case was reassigned to the original trial judge and fixed for hearing on February 20, 2026.

The Committee reiterated that the repeated reassignments and delays significantly contributed to the prolonged detention and slow progress of the appeal process.

The Committee also visited Bright Ngene, Esq., at the Nigerian Correctional Service facility. He alleged procedural irregularities in his trial, confirmed that he had filed an appeal and an application for bail pending appeal, and expressed concern over delays in the hearing of his matter.

### **Engagement with the Executive**

In its meeting with the Governor, the Executive assured the Committee of its non-interference in the administration of justice and confirmed that the appeal had been assigned a hearing date.

The Committee urged all relevant authorities to ensure that no further delays occur and resolved to maintain a watching brief on the matter in the interest of justice and professional protection.

On the date fixed for hearing, all parties adopted their arguments, while a member of the Committee held a watching brief on behalf of the NBA.

The matter has now been adjourned to March 27, 2026, for judgment.

The Nigerian Bar Association remains committed to safeguarding the rights of its members and upholding the integrity of the justice system.



## EXCESSIVE SPENDING IN NBA ELECTIONS

NEC expressed deep concern over the growing trend of excessive spending by aspirants in the forthcoming NBA National Officers elections. Council observed that the monetization of the electoral process undermines the integrity of the Association and violates constitutional provisions.

NEC condemned excessive spending by aspirants and warned against inducements.

NEC reaffirmed strict enforcement of electoral provisions of the NBA Constitution



## From BPF to hospital access: A lawyers quick guide to NHIA GIFSHIP registration

- 1. Confirm Eligibility**
  - Be a financial member of the NBA.
  - Provide your Bar Practising Fee (BPF) receipt (also required for dependants/staff).
- 2. Complete Registration Form**
  - Fill out the GIFSHIP form for each registrant.
- 3. Choose NHIA-Accredited Hospital**
  - Complete all required fields.
  - NIN is compulsory, even for newborns.
- 4. Make Payment & Submit**
  - Send the completed form, proof of payment, and BPF receipts via email [nbahis@nigerianbar.org.ng](mailto:nbahis@nigerianbar.org.ng), [welfare@nigerianbar.org.ng](mailto:welfare@nigerianbar.org.ng).
- 5. Registration Verification**
  - Your submission will be processed and verified.
- 6. Start Accessing Healthcare**
  - Services begin after confirmation and receipt of your Enrollees' Register with NHIA details via email.

## **RECONSTITUTION OF COUNCIL OF LEGAL EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES**

NEC approved the reconstitution of the NBA representatives to the Council of Legal Education following the expiration of the current tenure.

## **RISING INCIDENCE OF FAKE LAWYER**

NEC expressed concern over impersonation and unlawful use of NBA stamps and seals.

NEC commended vigilance by members and urged continued collaboration with law enforcement agencies.

## **STRENGTHENING THE CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE OF THE BAR**

NEC reaffirmed its commitment to professional regulation, judicial independence, and the rule of law.

NEC noted that the Association remains deliberate in advancing professional regulation and capacity building through initiatives such as Mandatory Continuing Professional Development, aimed at ensuring competence, ethical discipline, and global relevance among practitioners.

NEC resolved to remain principled, proactive, and firm in the defence of legality and constitutional governance.

Issued this 5th day of February 2026



**Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN**  
President



**Dr. Mobolaji Ojibara**  
General Secretary

# DISCLAIMER ON IMPROPER PATRONAGE AND DEFENCE OF INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY



The NBA was compelled to take firm institutional action to safeguard the integrity of the legal profession and reaffirm its unwavering commitment to the rule of law and the fight against corruption. This followed reports of the purported appointment of a person previously convicted of stealing, money laundering, and related corrupt practices as a Patron of an NBA Branch, as well as public commentary by a Branch Chairman on a matter pending before the Supreme Court.

”

**The Association will not, under any guise, lend its platform, name, or institutional credibility to influence public opinion or judicial proceedings in respect of cases that are sub judice or take steps that may be perceived as laundering the image of any person convicted of criminal offences.**

**Any attempt to do so constitutes a grave violation of professional ethics and a direct affront to the rule of law.**

“

In our statement, we viewed with disapproval the purported

appointment of Abdulrasheed Maina, who was convicted for stealing over N2 billion in pension funds, as 'Grand Patron of NBA Garki Branch' by the Chairman of NBA Garki Branch, Anthony Bamidele Ojo. The purported appointment not only paints the legal profession and the NBA in a bad light but also makes a mockery of the Government's fight against corruption, as well as the Association's motto of promoting the rule of law. Equally reprehensible was the decision of the Chairman to make comments about Abdulrasheed Maina's appeal, currently believed to be pending at the Supreme Court. While the NBA respects Mr. Maina's right to exhaust his right to appeal against the conviction, the Bar will NOT under any guise comment on such an appeal or be seen to try to sway public opinion in his favour.

These actions portray the Chairman of NBA Garki and, indeed, any person who endorsed his putrid actions as condoning corrupt practices. The Bar fails in her duties to the society and the cause of justice when it condones, encourages, and or fails to take definite actions to eliminate corruption and corrupt practices. The Association will not, under any guise, lend its platform, name, or institutional credibility to influence public

opinion or judicial proceedings in respect of cases that are sub judice or take steps that may be perceived as laundering the image of any person convicted of criminal offences. Any attempt to do so constitutes a grave violation of professional ethics and a direct affront to the rule of law. We were later notified that he has been suspended pending by the Branch Executive Committee.

In view of the foregoing, the Chairman of the NBA Garki Branch, Mr. Bamidele Ojo, was hereby directed to immediately withdraw any purported appointment of Mr. Abdulrasheed Maina as a Patron of the Branch and to forthwith cease and desist from issuing statements, comments, or representations on behalf of, or in support of, Mr. Maina or any other litigant in respect of cases pending in court. The NBA views this conduct as a serious breach of professional responsibility and institutional discipline. Accordingly, disciplinary proceedings were commenced against Mr. Anthony Bamidele Ojo, the suspended Chair of NBA Garki Branch, for actions inconsistent with the Constitution of the NBA, the Rules of Professional Conduct, and the core values of the legal profession. Integrity, accountability, respect for the judicial process, and the preservation of public confidence in the legal profession are foundational values of the Nigerian Bar Association. Any conduct that undermines these principles will attract firm and decisive institutional response.

The NBA therefore disclaimed the purported appointment of Abdulrasheed Maina as 'Grand Patron of NBA Garki Branch' by the Chairman of the Branch, Anthony Bamidele Ojo. The NBA strongly condemns his actions and reiterates that the Bar must use its power to stop corruption. We use this opportunity to urge NEC to direct all Branches to desist from appointing non-lawyers and persons who have been convicted of criminal offences as patrons and or giving them awards. The NBA NEC is also urged to hereby prohibit any branch, Section, forum or organ of the Association from conferring awards on people in their homes or offices or places other than properly constituted branch events.



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 **NBAYLFOFFICIAL**



**APRIL 22ND-24TH 2026**



**PORT HARCOURT**

## “Empowering the Next Generation: NBA President Charges Young Lawyers in Maiduguri on Competence, Resilience, and Relevance”

The President of the Nigerian Bar Association, Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN, attended the NBA Young Lawyers Forum Maiduguri Branch Summit, where he was warmly received by members of the Bar and participants at the event. He expressed his deep appreciation for the hospitality and camaraderie extended to him, describing the summit as a timely and important gathering for young lawyers in the North East and across the country.

Delivering his goodwill message at the summit themed “Empowering the Next Generation of Lawyers: Building Competence, Resilience, and Relevance in a Changing Legal Landscape,” the NBA President noted that the theme could not be more apt in light of the rapidly evolving demands of legal practice. He observed that the summit provided a valuable platform to engage young lawyers on the critical pillars that must define their professional journey, namely competence, resilience, and relevance.

Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN, noted that it has always been the clear and consistent position of the Nigerian Bar Association that lawyers cannot effectively discharge their professional duties without building and sustaining competence. He noted that competence is not a matter of choice but a core professional obligation, firmly recognised under the Rules of Professional Conduct. According to him, it is competence that earns the confidence of clients, commands respect within the justice system, and ultimately sustains the relevance of lawyers in an increasingly competitive and specialised legal environment.

The NBA President further stressed that relevance in the legal profession is directly tied to a lawyer's willingness to continuously learn, adapt, and grow. He encouraged young lawyers to deliberately position themselves for long-term professional development, noting that resilience in the face of economic, professional, and systemic challenges is built through knowledge, skill acquisition, and ethical practice. He highlighted Continuous Professional Development as an indispensable tool for repositioning young lawyers for growth, excellence, and leadership in the profession.

In concluding his remarks, the NBA President congratulated the NBA Young Lawyers Forum Maiduguri Branch for the successful organisation of the summit and commended the leadership for creating a platform focused on capacity building and professional advancement. He wished the organisers and participants a productive and impactful summit, expressing confidence that the discussions and engagements would contribute meaningfully to shaping competent, resilient, and relevant lawyers for the future of the Nigerian Bar.



# Legislative Advocacy on Proposed Terrorism Act Amendment On Kidnapping and Mandatory Death Penalty.

The Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) expressed strong constitutional, doctrinal, and human-rights concerns over a bill seeking to amend the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act to designate kidnapping and hostage-taking as acts of terrorism and to impose a mandatory death penalty for such offences. The position was presented by the NBA, through its Legislative Advocacy Committee, chaired by Mr. Kehinde Ogunwumiju, SAN, at the public hearing on the Bill for an Act to Amend the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022, held on the December 18, at the National Assembly. The Bill, sponsored by Senator Opeyemi Michael Bamidele, also proposes to extend terrorist liability to conspirators, financiers, informants, and other ancillary actors, while prescribing capital punishment without the option of a fine or alternative sentence.

While acknowledging the severity of Nigeria's kidnapping crisis and the legislature's duty to protect public safety, the NBA cautioned that the Bill, in its current form, poses grave risks to constitutional governance and the integrity of Nigeria's criminal-justice system. In our Memorandum, the NBA noted that although the National Assembly has the constitutional authority to legislate on terrorism and security matters, such powers must be exercised in compliance with fundamental constitutional safeguards, including the right to fair hearing, proportional punishment, and the preservation of judicial discretion in sentencing. According to the NBA, legislation that mandates the death penalty without room for judicial evaluation of circumstances raises serious constitutional and jurisprudential red flags.

The NBA further criticised the Bill's attempt to redefine terrorism by removing core elements traditionally associated with

terrorist offences, such as ideological, political, or religious motivation, and the intent to intimidate a population or coerce government action. It warned that classifying all acts of kidnapping as terrorism, irrespective of motive or context, would collapse the distinction between terrorism and conventional crimes, thereby diluting the conceptual integrity of Nigeria's counter-terrorism framework. We also highlighted that kidnapping is already extensively criminalised under the Criminal Code, Penal Code, and various state anti-kidnapping laws, many of which already prescribe severe penalties, including life imprisonment or death. It argued that the Bill fails to adequately address jurisdictional overlap between federal terrorism prosecutions and state criminal jurisdiction, as well as potential conflicts in sentencing outcomes.

Of particular concern to the NBA is the Bill's proposal to impose a mandatory death sentence not only for completed kidnapping offences, but also for attempts, conspiracy, or incitement. The Association described this approach as a departure from settled principles of criminal jurisprudence, which recognise varying degrees of culpability and the importance of proportionality in punishment. It warned that equating preparatory or peripheral conduct with completed offenses could discourage desistance, cooperation with law enforcement agencies, and intelligence sharing.

The NBA also raised alarm over provisions extending capital liability to informants, transporters, harbourers, and persons providing logistical support, without clearly defining the requisite mental element or accounting for defences such as duress or coercion, particularly in vulnerable and conflict-affected communities. Beyond

constitutional concerns, the Association that the proposed amendments could have adverse policy and enforcement consequences, including overwhelming terrorism courts and security agencies with ordinary kidnapping cases. It also noted that there is no conclusive empirical evidence that mandatory death sentences deter kidnapping in jurisdictions where the crime is already endemic.

In our recommendations to the National Assembly, the NBA urged lawmakers to adopt a more measured and constitutionally compliant approach. Among other proposals, it called for limiting the classification of kidnapping as terrorism to cases involving organised criminal or terrorist networks or an intent to intimidate the public or coerce the government. It also recommended replacing the mandatory death penalty with discretionary sentencing, introducing graduated penalties based on the degree of harm and role of the offender, clearly defining ancillary liability with intent requirements and statutory defences, and harmonising the Bill with existing federal and state laws.

The NBA concluded by reaffirming its commitment to supporting legislative reforms that enhance security while safeguarding the rule of law and fundamental rights. It commended the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters, and Interior, Security and Intelligence for the opportunity to present its views and expressed readiness to provide further technical and legislative assistance as deliberations on the Bill continue.



Towards the end of 2025, there were allegations that there were alterations, modifications and unlawful provisions inserted in the tax laws passed by the National Assembly. This came to light when a member of the House of Representatives, Abdussamad Dasuki, alleged discrepancies between the tax laws passed by the National Assembly and the versions gazetted and released to the public. The tax laws are;

- (1)** The Nigeria Tax Act (NTA): (this Act explains what is taxed, who should pay, and how much they must pay;
- (2)** The Nigeria Tax Administration Act (NTAA): focuses on the tax process-filing, paying, and managing your taxes online;
- (3)** The Nigeria Revenue Service Act (NRSA): which empowers the tax office now known as the Nigerian Revenue Service (NRS) formerly known as the FIRS) to do its job better and more fairly; and
- (4)** The Joint Revenue Board Act (JRBA): helps federal and state tax bodies work together, so tax payers are less likely to be taxed twice for the same thing.

The NBA intervened in response to serious controversies surrounding the recently enacted Tax Reform Acts. Following public disclosures and the subsequent admission by the National Assembly that the gazetted version of

the laws differed from what was passed, the Association issued a formal statement expressing grave concern over the implications for Nigeria's legislative process. The NBA stated that the integrity, transparency, and credibility of lawmaking are central to constitutional democracy, and that any manipulation, alteration, or procedural impropriety affecting duly passed legislation strikes at the heart of lawful governance. The Association warned that uncertainty of this magnitude undermines public confidence, destabilises the business environment, and erodes investor trust. We called for a comprehensive, open, and transparent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the enactment and gazetting of the Tax Reform Acts. Pending the conclusion of such an investigation, the NBA maintained that the implementation of the Acts should be suspended in the overriding interest of constitutional order, economic stability, and the preservation of the rule of law.

The NBA further stressed that any persons found responsible for altering, forging, or manipulating legislative texts must be held accountable in accordance with the law. It reaffirmed that no policy objective or economic consideration can justify compromising the sanctity of the legislative process in a democratic

society governed by law. The National Assembly subsequently ordered its Clerk to re-gazette the tax law Acts and issue Certified True Copies (CTCs) of the versions duly passed by both chambers of the parliament. According to the House of Representatives, the concerns raised touch on “the harmonisation of Bills passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives, the documentation transmitted for Presidential assent, and the versions of the Acts subsequently published in the Official Gazette.”

The National Assembly explained that the review would include “a careful examination of any lapses, irregularities, or external interferences, should any be established,” stressing that the leadership of the National Assembly, under Senate President Godswill Akpabio and Speaker of the House Abbas Tajudeen, directed the re-gazetting to clear any ambiguity. The directive followed growing public commentary and controversy surrounding the passage, presidential assent and publication in the Federal Government's Official Gazette of the Nigeria Tax Act, 2025, Nigeria Tax Administration Act, 2025, Joint Revenue Board of Nigeria (Establishment) Act, 2025, and the Nigeria Revenue Service (Establishment) Act, 2025



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**A**t the Opening of the 2025/2026 Legal Year of the Federal High Court of Nigeria and the Judges' Conference, we delivered an extensive address on behalf of the Bar. I considered the occasion not merely as a ceremonial engagement, but as an important

institutional platform to engage the Bench on critical issues affecting justice delivery, judicial independence, court administration, and the shared responsibility of the Bench and the Bar in strengthening constitutional governance. In my address, we reaffirmed the pivotal role of the Federal High Court within Nigeria's judicial architecture, particularly having regard to its specialised jurisdiction over commercial, maritime, regulatory, administrative, and constitutional matters. We noted that the Court occupies a strategic position at the intersection of national development, investor confidence, and economic stability. While commending the resilience, courage, and dedication of the Court and its Judges, we drew attention to emerging patterns and systemic challenges which, if left unaddressed, could gradually erode public confidence in judicial legitimacy.

## **ENGAGEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT AT THE OPENING OF THE 2025 / 2026 LEGAL YEAR AND JUDGES' CONFERENCE .**

One of the central concerns we highlighted was the unpredictability of court sittings, which we described as one of the most distressing daily experiences faced by litigants and lawyers. We observed that citizens routinely expend scarce resources, navigate insecurity, and endure long journeys

to court, only to be confronted with abrupt adjournments or announcements that courts would not sit. I stressed that this reality undermines the constitutional guarantee of fair hearing within a reasonable time and steadily chips away at public faith in the justice system. We cautioned that justice, which is unpredictable in its administration, risks becoming inaccessible in its outcome. I emphasised that efficiency in justice delivery is not an administrative luxury but a constitutional imperative and a moral obligation. We therefore called for structured and technologically supported scheduling systems, including publicly available court calendars, digital notifications, real-time registry communication, disciplined adjournment practices, and adherence to fixed sitting hours. We reiterated that predictability is an essential component of justice itself.

On judicial independence, we raised serious concerns about the increasing tendency of political actors to weaponise the courts by bringing internal party disputes, leadership tussles, and nomination controversies before the judiciary for tactical advantage. Relying on settled authorities, including *Military Governor of Lagos State v. Ojukwu* and *PDP v. Sylva*, we reiterated the doctrine of political questions and cautioned against the judiciary being drawn into partisan conflicts that properly belong to the internal governance of political parties. We warned that the symbolic authority of the courts is too precious to be dissipated on disputes that are fundamentally political rather than justiciable.

**We cautioned that justice, which is unpredictable in its administration, risks becoming inaccessible in its outcome. I emphasised that efficiency in justice delivery is not an administrative luxury but a constitutional imperative and a moral obligation. We therefore called for structured and technologically supported scheduling systems, including publicly available court calendars, digital notifications, real-time registry communication, disciplined adjournment practices, and adherence to fixed sitting hours.**

We further identified several systemic challenges confronting the Federal High Court, including case backlog and delays, limited judicial capacity and infrastructure, inconsistent application of Practice Directions, technology gaps, the absence of electronic case assignment systems, difficulties in enforcing court orders against government agencies, and concerns around professional conduct and courtroom culture. In response, we outlined a comprehensive set of reform proposals on behalf of the Association, including

enhanced case management and judicial specialisation, expansion of judicial capacity, uniform enforcement of Practice Directions, deepening of judicial technology through e filing and electronic case management systems, firm enforcement of court orders, greater utilisation of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms, and ethical re orientation at the Bar. We reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening disciplinary mechanisms and continuous legal education to ensure that lawyers remain partners in justice rather than obstacles to it.

I also reiterated the NBA's advocacy for regular judicial inspection of detention facilities pursuant to Section 34 of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act, noting

that such oversight would significantly reduce the abuse of holding charges and the persistent overpopulation of correctional centres. In addition, we drew attention to the long delayed commissioning of the Federal High Court complex in Lagos, describing it as a national asset whose continued non-utilisation imposes unnecessary burdens on judges, lawyers, and litigants in Nigeria's commercial capital.

In conclusion, the Bar is to collaborate with the Court in policy dialogue, capacity building, and reform implementation throughout the legal year. We reiterated our commitment to judicial independence, timely justice delivery, professional excellence, and the preservation of public confidence in the courts, emphasising that history and posterity will judge the collective fidelity of the Bench and the Bar to these ideals

# INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENTS AND PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP NBA-SPIDEL CONFERENCE, UYO ON THE 3RD OF DECEMBER, 2025.

I participated in the opening ceremony of the NBA Section on Public Interest and Development Law (SPIDEL) Conference held in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, themed “A Banner Without Stain: Justice, Accountability and Development.” In my address, I reflected on the ethical responsibilities of lawyers, the imperative of principled leadership, and the need for the legal profession to consistently leave behind a legacy of integrity, courage, and service in advancing public interest and national development.

I also used the occasion to reaffirm the Association's commitment to institutional stability and internal democracy within its Sections. Following emerging concerns capable of precipitating an avoidable crisis within SPIDEL, the leadership of the Nigerian Bar Association intervened responsibly and in good faith by facilitating a harmonised caretaker leadership arrangement to ensure continuity, preserve peace, and bring the transitional phase of the Section to an orderly conclusion. This intervention was undertaken solely in the interest of averting institutional disruption, safeguarding the objectives of SPIDEL, and allowing the Section to refocus on its core mandate of public interest advocacy. The Uyo Conference, therefore, provided an important platform for restoring confidence, unity, and forward

momentum within SPIDEL, while reaffirming the NBA's unwavering support for public interest lawyering and accountable leadership.

Advocacy For Alternative Dispute Resolution at the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Arbitrators Conference

I also delivered a goodwill message at the Annual Conference of the Nigerian Institute of Chartered Arbitrators. In my remarks, I highlighted the urgent need to embrace Alternative Dispute Resolution as a practical response to court congestion and delays in justice delivery. One of the key points I emphasized today is the urgent need to embrace Alternative Dispute Resolution, ADR, more deliberately. Our courts, especially the Supreme Court, remain overburdened. Thousands of matters continue to pile up every year, and this slows down delivery for everyone. Strengthening the use of arbitration, mediation, and other ADR mechanisms is a practical way to reduce this burden while helping parties save time and cost. More importantly, we must stop approaching arbitration with the same adversarial

mind set we take to court. ADR is not war. It is not an arena for winners and losers. It is a collaborative process built on compromise, problem-solving, and preserving relationships. When parties go into arbitration determined to win at all costs, they undermine the very essence of ADR. I stressed that ADR must not be treated as an extension of adversarial litigation, but as a collaborative process grounded in problem-solving, compromise, and relationship preservation. The engagement underscored the NBA's support for reforms that improve access to justice, reduce costs, and strengthen confidence in dispute resolution mechanisms. c. International Bar Association Bar Issues Commission Committee On International Trade in



**The Uyo Conference, therefore, provided an important platform for restoring confidence, unity, and forward momentum within SPIDEL, while reaffirming the NBA's unwavering support for public interest lawyering and accountable Leadership.**

Legal Services (BIC-ITILS) Cross-Border Conference

We delivered the welcome address at the International Bar Association (IBA) Bar Issues Commission Committee on International Trade in Legal Services (BIC-ITILS) Cross-Border

Conference. In the remarks, we reiterated Nigeria's longstanding commitment to a fair and balanced global legal services ecosystem. I emphasized the need for fairness in cross-border legal practice, especially as international commercial activity continues to expand. We noted that while globalisation offers immense opportunities for collaboration, it must never diminish the role or relevance of domestic legal practitioners. Instead, it should encourage cooperation that respects national legal systems and promotes equitable professional relationships.

We also highlighted the importance of sharing knowledge, working as equals, and strengthening engagements across jurisdictions. Effective cross-border practice requires mutual respect, peer learning, and genuine collaboration that upholds professional standards and

**We also highlighted the importance of sharing knowledge, working as equals, and strengthening engagements across jurisdictions.**

advances our collective capacity. On developments within our domestic regulatory space, we drew attention to the proposed provisions in the Legal Practitioners Bill (LPA) which contemplate limited participation of foreign lawyers under strict conditions in Nigeria. We expressed the hope that, if enacted, these provisions will be implemented responsibly and not abused by foreign practitioners in ways that sideline or undermine Nigerian lawyers.

Nigerian lawyers must never be treated as junior partners in their own jurisdiction. We must be seen as equal partners and engaged as major stakeholders, not minority participants, in any foreign collaboration conducted within our legal space. Finally, we expressed the hope that Nigeria will one day host the IBA Annual Conference. Our outstanding representation at the most recent conference in Canada, where Nigeria recorded the largest national delegation, demonstrates our readiness and enthusiasm to welcome the global legal community to our country. State of the Nation and the Legal Profession

No Predictability, No Consistency in Some Judgments: we once more call for a radical expansion of judicial reforms to cover commercial, criminal and

fundamental rights cases, arguing that the current “time-bound” success seen in election petitions could be replicated across all sectors of the legal system. While the country has mastered speedy resolutions for political disputes, the “simple transactions that drive the economy” remain bogged down by delays. Restoring public confidence is inextricably linked to the predictability and speed of court judgments. He noted that the judicial system's credibility is currently at risk because citizens feel they are “getting judgment without getting justice. We seem to have got it right in having a constitutional amendment that ensures that pre-election matters and electoral matters are delivered within a certain time, but not about commercial transactions, not about criminal trials, not about fundamental rights, not about simple transactions that will drive the economy.

NBA Digital Seal: During our inauguration we promised to provide lawyers with the NBA Digital Signature whi



ch will be linked to an application for the personalised adhesive NBA Stamp and Seal, for use on electronic documents. Due to logistic difficulties, we could not introduce this. We now propose to introduce end-to-end Digital Seal System for use by members of the Nigerian Bar Association. The Digital Seal System is intended to enable NBA members to purchase digital seals in packs through designated channels, including but not limited to the NBA portal and other approved NBA platforms. Young lawyers (0-7 years post call) will be eligible to 1 complimentary pack of the digital seal, while the general pricing will be subject to NBANEC approval.

statement released to newsmen that the commission would no longer be a rubber stamp for irregular means of promotion in the Nigeria Police Force. He said, “The Police Service Commission has announced that special promotions are henceforth abolished in the Nigeria Police Force.”

NEC is invited to insist that promotions in the Police should no be based on friendship, favouritism or tribal sentiment. The Police should no longer promote officers who cannot pass prescribed written examinations or simply on grounds of their closeness to or relationship with persons in positions

trial can invalidate the proceedings or unwittingly give rise to the perception that justice was not done or could not be expected to be done.

**Senate Rejection of Mandatory Electronic Transmission of Election Results:** Yesterday the Senate rejected a proposed change to Clause 60, Subsection 3, of the Electoral Amendment Bill aimed at compelling the electronic transmission of election results. The rejected proposed amendment would have mandated presiding officers of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to upload polling unit results electronically to the IREV portal in real time, once Form EC8A had been duly signed and stamped by the presiding officer and countersigned by party agents. The Senate rejected the proposal and instead opted to retain the current provision in the Electoral Act, which provides that “the presiding officer shall transfer the results, including the total number of accredited voters and the results of the ballot, in a manner as prescribed by the Commission.” The NBA NEC should approve that the National Assembly should vote in favour of this proposed change to Clause 60, Subsection 3, of the Electoral Amendment Bill aimed at compelling the electronic transmission of election results.

**Worsening Plight of Bright Ngene:** We view with serious concerns the seeming actions of the Chief Judge of Enugu State in frustrating the appeal by legal practitioner, Mr. Bright Emeka Ngene,

Irregular Promotion in Nigeria a Police Force; we

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**Senate Rejection of Mandatory Electronic Transmission of Election Results: Yesterday the Senate rejected a proposed change to Clause 60, Subsection 3, of the Electoral Amendment Bill aimed at compelling the electronic transmission of election results.**

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of authority.

**Visits To Politicians by Judicial Officers:** The NBA once more reiterates that judges should not visit or be seen to publicly associate with politically exposed persons as this tarnishes the image of the judiciary and the justice system. A judge's conduct is constantly under scrutiny by the legal profession and the public. Judicial integrity, impartiality, and proper courtroom demeanor are essential, as misconduct before, during or immediately after a

note the continuing allegations of bias and irregularities in the Nigeria Police Force's recent promotion exercises. Despite the denial by the Inspector-General of Police, Kayode Egbetokun, insisting that every elevation under his administration has been guided strictly by merit, transparency, and established procedures, there appear to be substance to the allegations. The allegations was actually confirmed by the Chairman of the Police Service Commission (PSC), DIG Hashimu Argungu (retd.), in a

who remains in custody at the Enugu Correctional Centre amid prolonged delays in the hearing of his appeal. The appeal could not go forward again on February 3, 2026 because the trial judge, Honourable Justice CVC Ezeugwu, was directed to return the case file to the Chief Judge for reassignment to another judge on a date the judge had fixed for the hearing of the motion for bail pending appeal. Justice Ezeugwu is the fourth judge who could not go on with the hearing the appeal. As

rightly noted by the 1st Vice President of the NBA and Chairman of the NBA Human Rights Institute, Mr. Sabastine Anyia, the repeated recusals have taken a heavy toll on the detained lawyer, who continues to endure “agony” while awaiting justice. 78. Worrysome Spending by Prospective Aspirants in the Forthcoming NBA National Officers Election: I am worried about the huge spending by aspirants for the NBA National Officers election. The huge expenditure by aspirants seeks to suggest that the offices are to be bought by the highest bidder. The monetization of our electoral process is not only embarrassing but also violates our Constitution. Sadly, voters frequently focus on the short-term benefits that they are likely to receive, which causes aspirants to spend a lot of



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money trying to look good and benevolent just before the elections. Aspirants are hereby advised to cease all further distribution of gifts and materials that violate the NBA Constitution, as they may risk disqualification for so doing. The prospective voters, branches, sections, and fora must also make life easy for these aspirants by not making any financial or other forms of demands on them. In fact, we should reject gifts from them and refuse gifts and money if offered or given.

respectfully remind us of some salient provisions of Schedule Two, Part III of the NBA Constitution as amended at the NBA AGM on August 28, 2025, breach of which will lead to disqualification of an aspirant or candidate:

- a. All Branches, Sections, and Fora are prohibited from soliciting contributions, donations or sponsorship from candidates

seeking election into any national office during the election year. Branches, Section, or Forum officer officers are prohibited from soliciting funds from prospective aspirants in any election.

- b. Any Aspirant or Candidate who makes or publishes derogatory material against an opponent or who causes or permits derogatory material to be made against an opponent in any election of the Association shall be disqualified from participating in the election.

- c. Any aspirant or candidate who supplies false information about his qualification for any election shall be disqualified from participating in the election and shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for sanctions.

- d. Any form of donations and philanthropic gestures by candidates seeking election into any national office during the election year is hereby prohibited, and any candidate who contravenes this provision shall be disqualified from being voted for in the election.
- e. Any form of financial inducement including paying annual practising

fees or branch dues for lawyers to curry favour from voters or for any reason whatsoever by candidates and their supporters in the election year is hereby prohibited, and any candidate who contravenes this provision shall be disqualified from being voted for in the election, PROVIDED that any such payment of Bar Practising Fees and branch dues by the candidate for lawyers who are in his/her direct employment shall not be construed as financial inducement.

- f. No Branch, Section, or Forum of the Association shall invite prospective aspirants or candidates to sponsor their event or programmes in any election year. Any Branch, Section, or Forum officer or member who invites prospective aspirants or candidates to sponsor their event or programmes in any election year in the Association shall be deemed to be guilty of professional misconduct and shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for appropriate sanctions. The ECNBA shall provide a standardised virtual platform for candidates to engage members across the country.
- g. No Branch, Section, or Forum of the Association shall endorse any prospective aspirant or candidate for any elective position in the Association. Any Branch, Section, or Forum officer or member who

endorses or caused to be endorsed any prospective aspirants or candidates for any elective position in the Association shall be deemed to be guilty of professional misconduct and shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee for appropriate sanctions.

Reconstitution of the Council of Legal Education: we propose a reconstitution

**“Rising Incidence of Fake Lawyers and the Need for Collective Action to Protect the Legal Profession: I wish to bring to the attention of the NEC the growing concern of the Association regarding the increasing incidence of non-lawyers parading themselves as legal practitioners, including the unlawful use of NBA stamps and seals.”**

of the NBA representatives in the Council of legal Education in line with NEC resolutions that representatives of NBA should be nominated for a period of three years. The current representatives will complete three years this month so there is need to reconstitute the NBA Representatives.

Rising Incidence of Fake Lawyers and the Need for Collective Action to Protect the Legal Profession: I wish to bring to the attention of the NEC the growing concern

of the Association regarding the increasing incidence of non-lawyers parading themselves as legal practitioners, including the unlawful use of NBA stamps and seals. This trend poses a serious threat to the integrity of the profession, erodes public confidence in the administration of justice, and exposes members of the public to avoidable harm.

In this regard, we have monitored with concern a recent case in Bauchi State involving one Hassan Mijinyawa, who was arraigned before the Chief Magistrate Court on charges bordering on impersonation, forgery, and the unlawful use of an NBA stamp and seal. The circumstances of the case, which are now before a court of competent jurisdiction, underscore the brazenness with which some non-lawyers attempt to undermine the safeguards put in place to protect the profession. We view such conduct as a direct assault on the sanctity of legal practice and the rule of law.

I reiterate for emphasis that the NBA stamp and seal remain central tools for safeguarding professional authenticity, and any unauthorised use thereof constitutes a serious criminal offence. We will continue to engage with law enforcement agencies and relevant prosecutorial authorities to ensure that cases of impersonation and related offences are pursued diligently and brought to their logical conclusion, as

part of our broader commitment to deterrence and accountability.

I also wish to place on record our commendation of Mr. Adam Tanko Jibril, Esq., a member of NEC, for his vigilance and principled intervention in exposing and pursuing actions against fake lawyers within his jurisdiction. His conduct exemplifies the sense of responsibility expected of members of the Bar in defending the integrity of the profession and resisting conduct capable of bringing the Association into disrepute.

In light of the foregoing, Branch Chairmen are urged to remain proactive and vigilant within their jurisdictions by strengthening verification mechanisms, promptly acting on reports of impersonation, and working closely with law enforcement agencies and courts to identify and prosecute fake lawyers. Members of the Bar are equally encouraged to report any suspected cases of impersonation or misuse of stamps and seals to their Branch leadership and the National Secretariat without delay.

Dear Colleagues, the NEC Meeting is being held at a defining moment for our dear association and the nation at large. The issues placed before Council reflect a legal profession that is being called upon not merely to practice law, but to actively defend legality, constitutionalism, and the dignity of the Nigerian citizen in increasingly complex and challenging circumstances. We have

remained deliberate and consistent in advancing professional regulation and capacity building as foundational pillars of a strong and independent Bar. The emphasis on Mandatory Continuing Professional Development is intended to reinforce competence, ethical discipline,



and global relevance, while ensuring that the issuance of practising licences reflects both professional readiness and regulatory integrity. This approach underscores the Association's belief that a credible Bar is built not on numbers alone, but on knowledge, skill, and continuous self-renewal.

Beyond professional regulation, the matters presented to Council demonstrate an Association that has remained alert to threats against the rule of law, judicial authority, personal liberty, and public safety. Through public statements, strategic engagements, litigation, and advocacy, the NBA has sought to ensure that executive action remains subject to constitutional restraint, that court orders are respected, that citizens are protected from unlawful conduct, and that democratic accountability is preserved. These interventions have been undertaken not in opposition to governance, but in faithful discharge of the Bar's historic responsibility as a stabilising institution within Nigeria's constitutional order.

As we deliberate on the reports and issues presented, it is expected that this meeting will reaffirm our commitment to constructive engagement with all arms of government, while remaining firm and principled in the defence of legality, judicial independence, and fundamental rights. The Bar must continue to speak with clarity, act with courage, and engage with restraint, conscious that its authority derives from moral consistency, professional discipline, and fidelity to the Constitution.

Thank you all.

**Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN**  
 President, Nigerian Bar Association  
 February 5th, 2026

# Maiduguri Rising Strong: NBA President Hails World-Class Court of Appeal Complex

The President of the Nigerian Bar Association, Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN, paid an assessment visit to the newly renovated Court of Appeal Maiduguri Division complex as part of activities lined up for the Association's National Executive Council meeting holding in Borno State.

During the visit, the NBA President described the facility as a world-class judicial edifice that is fully ready for use, noting that its design, functionality, and overall ambience meet modern standards expected of an appellate court. He expressed particular satisfaction with the quality of the infrastructure and the attention to detail evident across the courtrooms and support facilities.

The President also highlighted the broader significance of the complex's location in the heart of Maiduguri, observing that it

He further noted that the complex will serve an important judicial purpose for the people of Borno State and the North-East region,

enhancing access to justice, strengthening appellate adjudication, and reinforcing public confidence in the justice system.

The visit forms part of the NBA's engagements in Maiduguri and aligns with the Association's commitment to showcasing the city beyond

dated narratives of insecurity. The NBA President remarked that Maiduguri continues to demonstrate growth, stability, and readiness to host major national events, institutions, and professional gatherings.

powerfully reflects resilience, renewal, and institutional strength. According to him, the presence of such a landmark judicial facility underscores the city's capacity to host critical national institutions and to support the effective administration of justice at the highest levels.



# NBA DIGITAL SEAL PORTAL: QUICK GUIDE

Visit: <https://digitalseal.nigerianbar.online>

- 1. First-Time Users (Set Your Password)**
  1. Open the portal and click “Set Password” at the bottom of the login page.
  2. Enter your SCN + registered NBA email.
  3. Check your email for the OTP (also check Spam/Junk/Promotions).
  4. Enter the OTP, create your password, then return to login.
  5. Sign in with SCN + Password to access your dashboard.
  
- 2. Returning Users**  
Simply login with your SCN + Password.
  
- 3. Buy Seal Packs (Wallet Top-Up)**
  - \* Click Buy Seals on your dashboard
  - \* Choose a pack (25pcs = N1000/ 50pcs = N2000 / 100pcs = N4000 / 250pcs = N10,000 / 500pcs = N20,000)
  - \* Complete payment
  - \* You will be automatically redirected and your wallet will be credited
  
- 4. Seal a Document**
  - \* Go to Seal a New Document
  - \* Upload your PDF
  - \* Place the seal where you want
  - \* Click Apply Seals & Download
  - \* Your sealed document downloads automatically to your device.



Your document is not stored on the server — it is processed only to apply the seal and returned to you.

- 5. Verification**  
Every sealed document carries a QR verification and can be confirmed online.
  
- 6. Young Lawyers**  
Eligible members can click “Claim Complimentary Seal” to receive 25 free seals in their wallet.

### Need Help?

[support@digitalseal.zohodesk.com](mailto:support@digitalseal.zohodesk.com)  
 (For SCN or email record issues,  
 contact support for verification/update.)

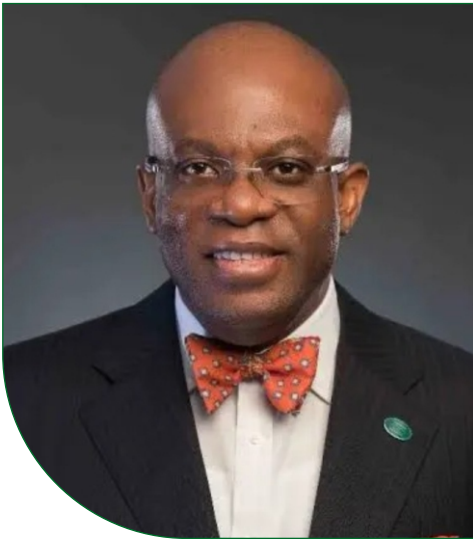
**MEET THE FIVE (5) IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (NBA) LEADING UP TO THE CURRENT 2024–2026 ADMINISTRATION OF MAZI AFAM OSIGWE, SAN**



**Y**akubu Chonoko Maikyau (born 6 February 1965) is a Nigerian lawyer, Senior Advocate of Nigeria, and founder of Y. C. Maikyau & Co. He served as president of the Nigerian Bar Association from 22 August 2022 to 29 August 2024.

**O**lumide Akpata (2020–2022) Olumide Osaigbovo Akpata is a Nigerian legal practitioner and politician. He was a senior partner and head of the Corporate and Commercial Practice Group at Templars law firm in Nigeria until his resignation on 31 August 2023 to pursue partisan politics. Born: 7 October 1972 (age 53 years), Edo Education: University of Benin (1992), KING'S COLLEGE LAGOS Nationality: Nigerian.





**P**aul Usoro, SAN (2018–2020) Chief Paul Usoro, SAN (born September 7, 1958) is a Nigerian litigator, communication law expert, and president of the Nigerian Bar Association. Usoro was born on September 7, 1958, at Ukana Ikot Ntuen town in Essien Udim local government area of Akwa Ibom State, south-south Nigeria. He obtained a bachelor's degree in law from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Osun state in 1981 and was called to the bar in 1982. He attained the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria in 2003

**A**bubakar Balarabe Mahmoud, SAN (2016–2018) Abubakar Balarabe "A.B." Mahmoud SAN (born 15 January 1955) is a Nigerian lawyer who served as president of the Nigerian Bar Association from 2016 to 2018. He also served as pro-chancellor of Kano University of Science and Technology Wudil. AB Mahmoud was born in Kano State and started his primary education in Kano, he attended Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, where he obtained a Bachelor of Laws in 1979 and a Master of Laws in 1984. He attended the Nigerian Law School and was called to the bar in May 1979.



**A**ugustine Alegeh, SAN (2014–2016) Augustine Alegeh, SAN is the Founding and Principal Partner of The Firm. He is a 1985 Law graduate (LLB) of The University of Benin. He attended The Nigerian Law School, Lagos in 1986 and was admitted to The Nigerian Bar in October 1986. He won The Bola Ajibola Prize for Civil Procedure at The Bar qualifying Examination in 1986. He was appointed a Notary Public in 1995. He was elevated to the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria in 2007 and in 2008; he obtained a Diploma in International Commercial Arbitration from Keble College, Oxford University, United Kingdom. Mr. Alegeh is a Fellow of The Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, U.K and he served as the 27th President of the Nigerian Bar Association elected in July, 2014.

# 4TH QUARTERLY REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

## INTRODUCTION

This report outlines the progress made by the Administration of Criminal Justice Committee (ACJC) of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) towards the implementation of its Strategic Action Plan (SAP), adopted at the National Executive Council (NEC) Meeting held on May 15, 2025, in Ilorin, Kwara State.

## OBJECTIVES

In line with the Strategic Action Plan, the Committee identified the following key objectives: To assess the implementation status of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act (ACJA) 2015 and the various State Administration of Criminal Justice Laws (ACJLs) across the 36 states.

To create public awareness and enhance stakeholder education on the ACJA/ACJLs.

To foster collaboration with law enforcement agencies and other key stakeholders.

To advocate for legal and institutional reforms where necessary.

To develop a monitoring and reporting framework for continuous review and evaluation.



## PROGRESS ON OBJECTIVES IMPLEMENTED

In a virtual meeting held on October 23rd, 2025 the committee discussed and adopted the following objectives:

### Objective 1: Assessment of

**ACJA/ACJL Implementation Across the 36 States:** As mentioned in the last report which was submitted to the National Executive Council meeting which was held in Benin City, the Committee developed and submitted a comprehensive questionnaire to evaluate the challenges and level of

implementation of the ACJA 2015 and the various State ACJLs. The questionnaire was converted into google forms and circulated by the Communications Department of the NBA Secretariat on November 5th, 2025. As at December 31st, 2025, the committee received a total of 609 responses. The form was closed for responses on the same date. Out of the 609 responses that were received, the most common responses were:

1. Inadequate support and protection for witnesses in criminal proceedings.
2. Prolonged detention of suspects arising from excessive reliance on remand orders.
3. Capacity building for lawyers, prosecutors, and law enforcement agencies on:
  - a. The provisions and innovations of the ACJA 2015;
  - b. The rights of suspects, including during detention;
  - c. Proper procedures for taking statements from accused persons.
4. Improved access to legal aid and pro bono representation for accused persons.
5. Timely issuance of advice by the Ministry of Justice, particularly

from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP).

6. Strengthening collaboration and mutual respect between the Bar and the Bench.
7. Expedited trial and determination of criminal cases
8. Effective implementation of restorative justice mechanisms.
9. Continuous monitoring and enforcement of compliance with the ACJA and the various Administration of Criminal Justice Laws (ACJL) across the States and the FCT.

The graphical presentation of the responses received are attached to this report.

**Objective 2: Public Awareness and Stakeholder Education on the ACJA/ACJLs** On November 25th, 2025, the chairperson of the committee, Nella Andem-Ewa, SAN was invited to present a paper at the National Symposium on Criminal Justice Initiative. The symposium was organised by the Administration of Criminal Justice Committee (ACJMC) in collaboration with the Nigerian Bar Association-Institution of Continuing

Legal Education (NBA-ICLE). Nella Andem-Ewa, SAN delivered the paper which was titled, Ensuring Access To Justice Across The Criminal Justice Chain: Future-Proofing the ACJA (2015-2025). The paper celebrated ten years of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act 2015, recognising it as Nigeria's most significant criminal justice reform, with notable gains including nationwide domestication of ACJL, strengthened police accountability, improved pretrial detention oversight, reduced case delays, expanded non-custodial sentencing, enhanced victim and witness protection, and the introduction of technology and plea bargaining into criminal justice administration.

The paper also highlighted persistent gaps such as uneven implementation across states, excessive pretrial detention, underfunded institutions, weak public awareness, limited capacity, and fragmented data systems, while calling for future-proofing through the National Minimum Standards, digital

transformation, stronger accountability, sustainable funding, and a citizen centred, rights-driven justice system. The attendance and presentation by the chairperson at the event also highlighted point 3 of the committee's Strategic Action Plan which is to foster collaboration with law enforcement agencies and other key stakeholders.

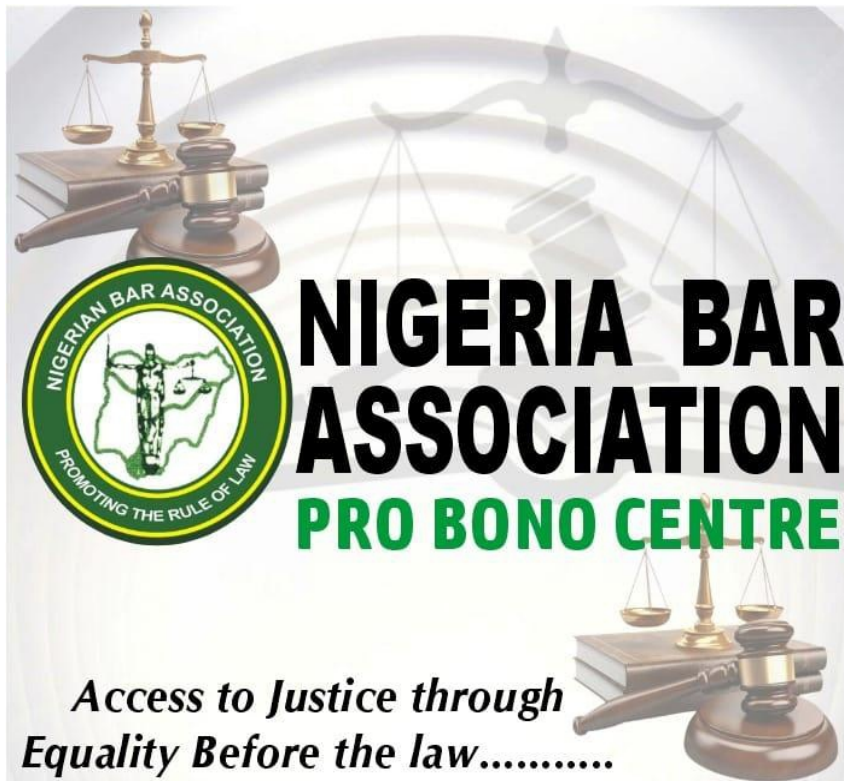
### **CONCLUSION**

The NBA Administration of Criminal Justice Committee will continue to work on the implementation of its Strategic Action Plan as well as to engage and collaborate with all relevant stakeholders to achieve its mandate and Terms of Reference.

The Committee expresses its sincere appreciation to the President of the Nigerian Bar Association, Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN, for the opportunity to serve the Association and contribute to the advancement of criminal justice reform in Nigeria.

**Nella Andem-Ewa, SAN, FCI Arb, FNIPR**  
 Chairperson

**Osato Uwagboe**  
 Secretary



**MISSION STATEMENT OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION PRO BONO PROGRAMME.**

**T**o promote equal access to justice by providing free legal services to indigent, vulnerable, and underserved individuals and communities across Nigeria. The Nigerian Bar Association Pro Bono Programme is committed to upholding the rule of law, defending human rights, and advancing social justice by mobilizing legal professionals to volunteer their time, expertise, and resources in service of the public good.

Through strategic partnerships, capacity building, and a strong culture of volunteerism, the NBA seeks to ensure that no one is denied legal representation due to lack of means, thereby strengthening public confidence in the legal system and promoting a more equitable society.

**Pro bono work prepares lawyers in several meaningful and impactful ways, both professionally and personally.**

Here's how:

1. **Practical Experience and Skill Development**
  - \*\* Litigation and courtroom practice
  - \*\* Client counselling and interviewing
  - \*\* Drafting legal documents and submissions
  - \*\* Legal research and strategy development

It especially helps younger or less experienced lawyers build real-world skills they might not yet have gained in private practice
2. **Exposure to Diverse Legal Issues:** Pro bono cases often involve human rights, criminal justice, family law, housing, immigration, or civil rights areas lawyers might not encounter in their day-to-day corporate or commercial work.
3. **Strengthening Professional Responsibility:** It instils a sense of social responsibility and ethical duty to use legal knowledge to serve the greater good, particularly for those who cannot afford legal services.
4. **Leadership and Advocacy Development:** Pro bono work trains lawyers to be advocates beyond the courtroom, often involving community outreach, systemic reform, and policy work.
5. **Enhancing Empathy and Communication:** Dealing with vulnerable or marginalized clients fosters compassion, patience, and strong interpersonal communication, which are essential to holistic lawyering
6. **Professional Recognition and Networking:** Lawyers involved in impactful pro bono work often gain **recognition within legal circles, build networks, and open doors to public interest roles, judicial appointments, or NGO collaborations.**
7. **Personal Fulfillment:** Above all, pro bono work reminds lawyers why they chose the profession to pursue justice, defend the voiceless, and make a difference.



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