



**NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**ELECTORAL COMMITTEE OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (ECNBA)**  
NBA HOUSE, NO. 9 ORO-AGO STREET, GARKI, ABUJA, FCT

**GUIDELINES FOR THE CANDIDATES' DEBATE  
AND MANIFESTO DAY  
2026 NBA NATIONAL ELECTIONS**

*Venue: NBA National Headquarters, Abuja | Date: 8th July, 2026 | Time: 11:00 AM*

Pursuant to ECNBA Notice No. 9 and the timetable of election activities issued by the Electoral Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association (ECNBA), the ECNBA hereby publishes the formal Guidelines for the Candidates Debate and Manifesto Day for the 2026 NBA National Elections. These Guidelines are binding on all candidates, their supporters, members of the audience, service providers, and all persons present at or participating in the event, whether physically or virtually.

The Debate and Manifesto Day is a formal electoral proceeding under the oversight of the ECNBA. All participants are required to conduct themselves with the dignity and decorum befitting members and officers of the Nigerian Bar Association.

**PART A SCOPE OF THE DEBATE AND MANIFESTO DAY**

- A1. The Candidates' Debate and Manifesto Day is structured in two distinct parts:
- (a) **Debate Offices:** Candidates contesting for the following offices shall be required to make manifesto presentations and participate in a structured debate: **President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Third Vice President, and General Secretary. This is not in the order of presentation.**
  - (b) **Recognition (Bow-Only) Offices:** All other candidates being those contesting for the offices of Assistant General Secretary, Treasurer, Welfare Secretary, Publicity Secretary, and Assistant Publicity Secretary, as well as all contestants for positions as NBA Representatives on the General Council of the Bar (GCB) shall not be required to make any presentation. The Moderator will invite each of such group to stand and take a bow in formal recognition of their candidacy, after which they shall be seated as members of the audience for the remainder of the proceedings.
- A2. This distinction is made in the interest of time management, programme coherence, and the need to provide a focused and substantive forum for the offices in which competitive manifestoes are most directly material to the electorate at the national level. All candidates whether presenting or taking a bow are equally honoured participants in this proceeding and shall be accorded the same professional courtesy and respect throughout the event.

**PART B FORMAL GROUND RULES**

**B1. COMPLIANCE, AUTHORITY AND ENFORCEMENT**

1. These Guidelines constitute the official rules of conduct for the ECNBA organized Candidates' Debate and Manifesto Day. They are issued pursuant to the provisions of the NBA Constitution 2015 (as amended in 2025) and ECNBA Notice No. 4 (Guidelines and Rules of Campaign). All participants are bound by these Guidelines from the moment they enter the venue or join the virtual session.

2. The Moderator is vested with the authority of the ECNBA to conduct the proceedings and to enforce these Guidelines throughout the event. The Moderator's decisions on procedural and time management matters are final and shall not be subject to challenge during the proceedings.
3. The ECNBA Chair and Committee members present shall exercise supervisory authority over the event. The ECNBA reserves the right to exclude any person from the proceedings whether physically or virtually whose conduct is disruptive, disrespectful, or in breach of these Guidelines.
4. Any breach of these Guidelines by a candidate may be referred to the ECNBA for appropriate action, including formal warning, adverse notation in the record of the event, and referral for further disciplinary consideration under the applicable electoral rules.

## **B2. ATTENDANCE AND REGISTRATION**

5. All candidates are required to be physically or virtually present and ready at the venue no later than 11:00 AM. Candidates arriving or connecting after the commencement of proceedings do so at their own risk and shall not be entitled to any adjustment of schedule or additional speaking time on account of late arrival or late connection.
6. Physical attendance is strongly preferred. Any candidate who intends to participate virtually must notify the ECNBA in writing no later than 24 hours before the event, stating the reason for virtual participation and confirming the device and connection to be used.
7. No nominee, proxy, surrogate, campaign manager, or representative of any kind may participate in the event in the place of a candidate. Every presentation and every bow must be made by the candidate personally.
8. Candidates participating virtually are required to identify themselves on the platform using their full legal name as publicly known. The use of device names (e.g., "iPhone 17", "Samsung Galaxy"), initials, aliases, or any other designation that makes identification uncertain is strictly prohibited. Candidates who fail to identify themselves correctly will not be called upon.
9. Virtual candidates must test and confirm that their network connection, audio, and video are fully operational before the commencement of proceedings. If a candidate is called upon and is unavailable, unresponsive, or suffering from connection failure, the Moderator will move to the next candidate. No additional time or opportunity will be given on account of such failure. The ECNBA bears no responsibility for individual technical failures.

## **B3. TIME MANAGEMENT AND PRESENTATIONS**

10. Strict time limits apply to all manifesto presentations. A visible countdown timer will be displayed and managed by the ECNBA. The timer commences the moment a candidate begins to speak.
11. When a candidate's allotted time expires, the Moderator will intervene and the candidate will immediately cease speaking. No extensions of time will be granted under any circumstances, whether on grounds of incomplete presentation, technical interruptions on the candidate's side, or any other reason.
12. Time limits per office are set out in the Time Allocation Table at Part D of these Guidelines. Candidates are advised to prepare and rehearse their presentations to fit precisely within their allotted time.
13. The order of presentation within each office category shall be as listed in the Running Order at Part C. The order shall not be altered except by direction of the ECNBA Chair.
14. A transition time of approximately one (1) minute is built into the schedule between candidates within each office category to allow for orderly movement and connection. This transition time is not available to candidates as additional speaking time.

## **B4. CONTENT OF PRESENTATIONS**

15. All presentations shall be directed exclusively to the audience and shall focus on the candidate's manifesto, vision, and qualifications for the office being contested. Candidates shall not use their presentation time to address, challenge, criticise, or respond to any other candidate.
16. No candidate may interrupt, heckle, or make any verbal or non-verbal interjection during the presentation of any other candidate.
17. No candidate may make any claim, representation, or statement that is false, misleading, unverified, or defamatory of any person. The ECNBA reserves the right to require a candidate to retract any such statement.
18. Candidates for the Presidency will have the additional opportunity to respond to questions from the Moderator. Questions will have been submitted in advance by lawyers and curated by the Moderator. Candidates shall respond only to the specific question put to them and shall not use their response time to canvass matters outside the scope of the question.

#### **B5. CAMPAIGN MATERIALS AND PROHIBITED CONDUCT**

19. No campaign materials, banners, branded clothing/caps/hats, branded accessories, placards, posters, flyers, stickers, or other campaign memorabilia of any kind shall be displayed by any candidate, supporter, or attendee within the venue or in any virtual background during the proceedings. This prohibition applies to all materials referenced in ECNBA Notice No. 4, Guidelines, Part B.
20. No candidate or attendee may distribute, circulate, or cause to be circulated any printed or digital material within or from the venue during the proceedings without prior written approval from the ECNBA.
21. The recording of the proceedings by any person other than the official ECNBA-designated audio-visual team is subject to prior written approval from the ECNBA Chair. Unauthorised recording for the purpose of publication, broadcast, or wide circulation is prohibited without ECNBA consent.
22. No candidate or attendee may conduct any live social media broadcast of the proceedings without the prior written approval of the ECNBA. The ECNBA will make available an official recording or broadcast of the proceedings in such manner as it deems appropriate.

#### **B6. AUDIENCE CONDUCT**

23. All members of the audience whether physically present or attending virtually are required to maintain decorum throughout the proceedings. No jeering, booing, heckling, interjection, clapping of hands, hailing or disruptive noise of any kind will be tolerated.
24. Supporters of any candidate who breach Rule 23 will be immediately removed from the physical venue or disconnected from the virtual session by the ECNBA. The ECNBA's decision to remove or disconnect any person is final and not subject to appeal during the proceedings.
25. Applause is permitted at the conclusion of each candidate's presentation or bow. Applause or vocal expressions of approval during a presentation are not permitted.
26. Members attending virtually are required to keep their microphones muted at all times except when directly invited to speak. Failure to comply may result in disconnection without notice.
27. The ECNBA may, in its discretion, limit the number of attendees in the physical venue and/or on the virtual platform to ensure orderly proceedings. Priority admission will be given to candidates, ECNBA members, NBA officials, and accredited members of the press.

#### **B7. PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE SPECIFIC RULES**

28. The Presidential segment shall be conducted as a structured debate in three distinct phases: Opening Statements, Moderator Questions, and Wrap-Up Statements, in that order.

- (a) **Opening Statements:** Each presidential candidate shall deliver an opening manifesto statement of not more than seven (7) minutes. No questions or interjections from any other person are permitted during this phase.
- (b) **Moderator Questions:** The Moderator will put to each candidate one or more questions drawn from submissions made in advance by Nigerian lawyers. Each candidate shall have three (3) minutes to respond. Candidates shall respond only to the question put and shall not use their time to address other candidates' responses.
- (c) **Wrap-Up Statements:** Each candidate shall have two (2) minutes for a closing statement summarising key commitments. No new questions will be entertained during this phase.
29. The order of speaking in all three phases shall be: Aare Olumuyiwa Akinboro SAN, Lateef Omoyemi Akangbe SAN FCIArb, and Oyinkansola Badejo-Okunsanya SAN (Mrs. B.). This order is determined by the ECNBA and shall not be altered.
30. Presidential candidates shall not engage in direct exchanges or rebuttals with each other. All statements and responses must be addressed to the audience through the Moderator.

#### **B8. DECORUM AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

31. All candidates and participants are reminded that the Nigerian Bar Association is a learned profession and that this event is a formal proceeding of the ECNBA. The highest standards of professional decorum, courtesy, and mutual respect are expected of all participants at all times.
32. Any candidate or attendee who conducts themselves in a manner unbecoming of a legal practitioner or that brings the Association into disrepute shall be subject to referral to the relevant disciplinary authorities in addition to any immediate action taken by the ECNBA.

**ECNBA CANDIDATES DEBATE AND MANIFESTO DAY**  
**RUNNING ORDER WITH ESTIMATED TIMINGS**

*Date: 8th July, 2026 | Commencement: 11:00 AM | Estimated Close: 1:40 PM*

*The following table sets out the full running order of the event with estimated start and end times for each segment. All times are in West Africa Time (WAT). The ECNBA will endeavour to adhere to these timings strictly. Delays caused by late arrivals, connection failures, or overruns shall not entitle any subsequent candidate to additional time.*

**Colour Key:**

Amber Break segments    Blue Presidential debate segments    Purple Bow-only recognition segment  
 Green Ceremony segments

| S/N | TIME (WAT)          | SEGMENT / ACTIVITY                                    | DETAILS / PARTICIPANTS   | DURATION |
|-----|---------------------|---|--|----------|
| 1   | 11:00 AM – 11:10 AM | Arrivals & Registration                               | All delegates, candidates and observers arrive and sign in. ECNBA ushers on duty.  | 10 mins  |
| 2   | 11:10 AM – 11:15 AM | Welcome Address                                       | The President of NBA   | 5 mins   |
| 3   | 11:15 AM – 11:18 AM | Opening Prayer  | ECNBA  | 3 mins   |
| 4   | 11:18 AM – 11:20 AM | Introduction of the Moderator                         | ECNBA  | 2 mins   |
| 5   | 11:20 AM – 11:25 AM | Moderator's Remarks                                   | Moderator  | 5 mins   |
| 6   | 11:25 AM – 11:32 AM | Opening Remarks                                       | Chairman, ECNBA  | 7 mins   |
| 7   | 11:32 AM – 11:35 AM | Reading of Ground Rules                               | Moderator announces and confirms Ground Rules with all participants  | 3 mins   |
| 8   | 11:35 AM – 11:45 AM | Recognition Bow-Only Candidates & GCB Representatives | Moderator invites each group to stand and take a bow. No presentations.<br>Assistant Publicity Secretary (4 Candidates): Jaiyeola, Anthony Ahmad, Ukpeh<br>Publicity Secretary (2 Candidates): Lawrence, Azubuike<br>Welfare Secretary (5 Candidates): Laleye, Osagie, Ofoegbunam, Ugochukwu, Uwanaka<br>Treasurer (1 Candidate): Esther Ifeoma Jimoh Esq.<br>Assistant General Secretary (5 | 10 mins  |

| S/N | TIME (WAT)          | SEGMENT / ACTIVITY                             | DETAILS / PARTICIPANTS   | DURATION |
|-----|---------------------|--|--|----------|
|     |                     |  | Candidates): Enyiagu, Mamah, Okpomor, Magaji, Uwagboe<br>[Note that Eloka & Igiede withdrew from the contest]<br>GCB Representatives: All the 18 contestants (take a bow)  |          |
| 9   | 11:45 AM – 11:55 AM | <b>BREAK Audio-Visual Interlude</b>            | NBA promotional / informational audio-visual presentation  | 10 mins  |
| 10  | 11:55 AM – 12:15 PM | Debate: General Secretary                      | 6 Candidates × 3 mins each (+2 mins transitions)<br>Afam O. Okeke Esq.<br>Barth Okoye Aniche Esq.<br>Chidi V. Ezenwafor Esq.<br>Dr. Rapulu Ernest Nduka Esq.<br>Nnaebuka Onyebuchi Nwaeze Esq.<br>Okey Leo Ohagba Esq. | 20 mins  |
| 11  | 12:15 PM – 12:19 PM | Debate: Third Vice President                   | 1 Candidate × 3 mins<br>Iniobong Irene Pepple Esq.   | 4 mins   |
| 12  | 12:19 PM – 12:23 PM | Debate: Second Vice President                  | 1 Candidate × 3 mins<br>Nuhu John Egya Esq.  | 4 mins   |
| 13  | 12:23 PM – 12:33 PM | Debate: First Vice President                   | 3 Candidates × 3 mins each (+1 min transitions)<br>Oghenero Okoro Esq.<br>Luqman Adekunle Laoye Esq.<br>Obajaja Onimisi Stephen Esq.   | 10 mins  |
| 14  | 12:33 PM – 12:43 PM | <b>BREAK</b>                                   | Comfort break. Presidential candidates to take their positions.  | 10 mins  |
| 15  | 12:43 PM – 1:05 PM  | <b>Presidential Debate Opening Statements</b>  | 3 Candidates × 7 mins each (+1 min transitions)<br>Aare Olumuyiwa Akinboro SAN<br>Lateef Omoyemi Akangbe SAN<br>FCI Arb<br>Oyinkansola Badejo-Okunsanya SAN (Mrs. B)   | 22 mins  |
| 16  | 1:05 PM – 1:15 PM   | <b>Presidential Debate Moderator Questions</b> | Questions submitted by lawyers; 3 mins per candidate to respond<br>Aare Olumuyiwa Akinboro SAN<br>Lateef Omoyemi Akangbe SAN<br>FCI Arb<br>Oyinkansola Badejo-Okunsanya  | 10 mins  |

| S/N | TIME (WAT)        | SEGMENT / ACTIVITY                     | DETAILS / PARTICIPANTS   | DURATION |
|-----|-------------------|--|--|----------|
|     |                   |  | SAN (Mrs. B)   |          |
| 17  | 1:15 PM – 1:22 PM | Presidential Debate Wrap-Up Statements | 2 mins per candidate<br>Aare Olumuyiwa Akinboro SAN<br>Lateef Omoyemi Akangbe SAN<br>FCI Arb<br>Oyinkansola Badejo-Okunsanya<br>SAN (Mrs. B) | 7 mins   |
| 18  | 1:22 PM – 1:27 PM | Closing Remarks/ Votes of Thanks       | Secretary, ECNBA   | 5 mins   |
| 20  | 1:30 PM – 1:40 PM | Group Photographs                      | All candidates, ECNBA Committee members, and Moderator   | 10 mins  |

\* Transition time of approximately 1 minute is built into each multi-candidate block and is not available as additional speaking time.

#### PART D TIME ALLOCATION TABLES

##### D1. Time Allocation Per Office

Purple rows indicate bow-only offices. Blue row indicates the Presidential debate.

| OFFICE                        | CANDIDATES | TIME PER CANDIDATE | FORMAT                                   |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------------|--|
| Assistant Publicity Secretary | 4          | —                  | <i>Take a bow only. No presentation.</i> |
| Publicity Secretary           | 2          | —                  | <i>Take a bow only. No presentation.</i> |
| Welfare Secretary             | 5          | —                  | <i>Take a bow only. No presentation.</i> |
| Treasurer                     | 1          | —                  | <i>Take a bow only. No presentation.</i> |
| Assistant General Secretary   | 5          | —                  | <i>Take a bow only. No presentation.</i> |
| GCB Representatives           | 18         | —                  | <i>Take a bow only. No presentation.</i> |
| General Secretary             | 6          | 3 mins             | <i>Manifesto presentation</i>            |
| Third Vice President          | 1          | 3 mins             | <i>Manifesto presentation</i>            |
| Second Vice President         | 1          | 3 mins             | <i>Manifesto presentation</i>            |
| First Vice President          | 3          | 3 mins             | <i>Manifesto presentation</i>            |

| OFFICE    | CANDIDATES | TIME PER CANDIDATE | FORMAT   |
|-----------|------------|--------------------|--|
| President | 3          | 7 + 3 + 2 mins     | Opening statement (7 mins) + Moderator Q&A (3 mins) + Wrap-up (2 mins) |

## D2. Programme Summary

| SEGMENT   | TIME ALLOCATION       |
|---|-----------------------|
| Opening Ceremony (Welcome, Prayer, Introduction, Moderator's Remarks, Chairman's Opening Remarks) | 25 mins               |
| Ground Rules (Moderator)  | 3 mins                |
| Recognition of Bow-Only Candidates & GCB Representatives  | 10 mins               |
| BREAK Audio-Visual Interlude  | 10 mins               |
| Debate: General Secretary (6 candidates)  | 20 mins               |
| Debate: Third Vice President (1 candidate)  | 4 mins                |
| Debate: Second Vice President (1 candidate)   | 4 mins                |
| Debate: First Vice President (3 candidates)   | 10 mins               |
| BREAK   | 10 mins               |
| Presidential Debate Opening Statements (3 candidates × 7 mins)                                    | 22 mins               |
| Presidential Debate Moderator Questions (3 candidates × 3 mins)                                   | 10 mins               |
| Presidential Debate Wrap-Up Statements (3 candidates × 2 mins)                                    | 7 mins                |
| Closing Ceremony (Closing Remarks, Vote of Thanks, Photographs)                                   | 18 mins               |
| <b>TOTAL ESTIMATED DURATION</b>   | <b>~2 hrs 33 mins</b> |

*Note: Total programme duration of approximately 2 hours 33 minutes includes all breaks, transitions, and the recognition segment for bow-only candidates.*



**AHAM EJELAM, SAN**

Chairman (ECNBA 2026)



**IBRAHIM ALIYU NASSARAWA, ESQ**

Secretary (ECNBA 2026)