



NATIONAL ELECTIONS APPEAL COMMITTEE OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

National Secretariat: Plot 1102, Muhammed Buhari Way, cadastral Zone A00,
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30 July, 2022

Mr. Olumide Akpata,
The President,
Nigerian Bar Association,
National Secretariat,
Plot 1102, Muhammed Buhari Way,
Cadastral Zone,
Central Business District,
Abuja, FCT.

Dear Mr. President

RE: RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS OF THE NBA NATIONAL ELECTIONS APPEAL COMMITTEE

We the undersigned, wish to express our deep gratitude for the confidence you and members of your executive committee have reposed in us by giving us the opportunity to serve our revered Nigerian Bar Association as members of the 1st NBA National Elections Appeal Committee, set up pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of the Nigerian Bar Association, 2015 (as amended in 2021) (**NBA-NEAC/The Committee**).

This correspondence is predicated on the letter dated 26th July 2022 addressed to you, and circulated on social media by Chief J.K. Gadzama, SAN, one of the presidential candidates in the recently-concluded National Elections of the Nigerian Bar Association.

Notwithstanding the fact that those members of NBA-NEAC purportedly copied in on the letter have not received any copy, which informed our decision to wait to receive it before informing you of our decision, we have decided to go ahead and communicate same to you, as time is of the essence.

Regrettably, we the members of the NBA-NEAC have taken the collective decision to resign our appointment in order to pave way for you to constitute a new National Election Appeals Committee in which Chief J.K Gadzama, SAN would have enough confidence to ventilate his grievances against the conduct of the recently-concluded elections.



Mr President, it is critical for us to put it on record that the mischaracterisation ascribed to some members of the Committee is most unfortunate, and underserving. Many of the members of the Committee, including the Chairman, Mrs Funmi Roberts, took the decision not to vote at the elections, and indeed, refrained from voting. This was all in an effort to ensure that the process would not in any way be tainted by accusation of bias. Notwithstanding this, the learned silk has decided to take the innocuous act of liking a post that celebrates Children's Day globally on 27th May, 2022, by Mrs Funmi Roberts, and ascribed bias into it. In the case of Ms Huwaila Muhammed Ibrahim, if Chief J.K. Gadzama, SAN had filed an appeal before us and objected to her participating whilst same is being considered, she would have had to recuse herself. This accords with international best practice. The accusation laid against Mr Okey Ohagba could have been ignored as no evidence was attached to the letter. Our findings have revealed that he was never at any time, the co-ordinator of the opposing aspirant, but nonetheless, had Chief J.K Gadzama, SAN filed an appeal before the Committee and objected to his participation, he would also have recused himself.

The comments made by learned silk in the globally circulated letter is therefore, most uncharitable.

Sir, we hold the very strong view that the Nigerian Bar Association is greater than the sum total of all the members of the Committee, and it is the duty of all members of our Association to strive at all times, to shield her from anything that would taint, not only her image, but also that of any process put in place by the Association.

Mr President, we have no doubt that this mass resignation would cause great inconvenience to you and members of your executive committee, but this is a time when our indignation and principled opposition to the uncharitable comments and accusations of Chief J. K. Gadzama, SAN must give way to the greater good of our Association. We therefore crave your understanding, and we would ever be grateful to you for giving us the opportunity to serve our Association. It is a privilege and honour we do not take for granted.

Mr President, as you and members of your executive team are about to breast the tape of your tenure, we wish to assure you of our immense regard at all times, even as we remain,

Yours Faithfully,

OLUFUNMILAYO ROBERTS, ESQ.

AUGUSTINE AJINEH, ESQ.



GRACE S. MAMSWA, ESQ.

HERBERT NWOYE, ESQ.

HUWAILA M. IBRAHIM, ESQ.

OKEY OHAGBA, ESQ.

MATTHEW EGBADON, ESQ.

STEPHEN OBAJAJA, ESQ.

ROSEMARY CHINELO CHIKWENDU, ESQ.

