



NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

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COMMUNIQUE OF THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (NEC) OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (NBA) ISSUED AT THE END OF ITS MEETING HELD AT HORATIO MARQUEE 2, OKADA AVENUE, GRA, BENIN CITY, EDO STATE, ON THURSDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER 2025

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

- I. The National Executive Council (NEC) of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) held its quarterly meeting on Thursday, 20th November 2025, in Benin City, Edo State.
- II. Present at the meeting were all National Officers, Past Presidents of the NBA, General Secretaries, Branch Chairmen and Secretaries, Chairmen and Secretaries of Sections and Fora, Co-opted NEC Members, Observers, and members of the press.
- III. The meeting reviewed issues affecting the legal profession, the justice sector, national security, governance, and the general state of the nation. NEC received the President's comprehensive report, considered presentations from National Officers, and deliberated extensively on matters of professional, national, and institutional importance.

2.0 Following exhaustive deliberations, NEC issued the following communiqué:

I. *Review of the State of the Bar and National Developments*

1. *NEC considered* the President's report on recent activities of the Association, engagements with government institutions, internal reforms, and developments within the justice sector.
2. *NEC noted* the President's commitment to institutional integrity, the welfare of legal practitioners, and the preservation of the rule of law.
3. *NEC expressed* deep concern over increasing incidents of arbitrary arrests, disregard for court orders, and the growing interference of security agencies in civil disputes. NEC reaffirmed that such abuses undermine the integrity of the justice system and violate constitutional guarantees.

II. *Constitution of the Electoral Committee of the NBA (ECNBA)*

1. NEC considered and approved the constitution of the Electoral Committee for the conduct of the 2026 National Elections Pursuant to Section 10 of the NBA Constitution.
2. NEC emphasised transparency, technological reliability, and fairness in the electoral process and ratified the appointment of the following members:
 - i. Aham Ejelam, SAN – Chairman
 - ii. Ibrahim Aliyu Nasarawa – Secretary
 - iii. Muhammad M. Nuhu – Member
 - iv. Uju Okafor – Member
 - v. Ume Maduka – Member

NATIONAL OFFICERS:

Mazi Afam Josiah Osigwe, SAN - President

Dr. Mobolaji Ojibara - General Secretary; Sebastine Anyia - 1st Vice-President; Mrs. Bolatumi Olasunbo Animashaun - 2nd Vice President; Zainab Aminu Garba - 3rd Vice-President; Blessing Imo Udofa-Poromon - Treasurer; Nyada Auta - Welfare Secretary; Bridget Ijeoma Edokwe - Publicity Secretary; Henry Barnabas Ehi - Assistant General Secretary; Ebieri Emmanuella Ekpese - Assistant Publicity Secretary

3. NEC charged the Committee to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and integrity.

III. Constitution of the Adjudicature Review Committee (ARC) Editorial Committee

1. In consideration of the concerns regarding contradictory and inconsistent judgments of the appellate court and to strengthen judicial scholarship and jurisprudential coherence, NEC approved the constitution of the Editorial Committee of the Adjudicature Review Committee.
2. The Committee consists of the following members:
 - i. Prof. R.A.C.E. Achara – Chairman
 - ii. J.S. Okutepa, SAN – Alternate Chair
 - iii. Prof. Amuda Kannike, SAN – Member
 - iv. Prof. Josephine Agbonika, SAN – Member
 - v. Carrington Omokaro
 - vi. Prof. Victor Odoeme – Member
3. The Committee is mandated to publish the Nigeria Adjudicature Review quarterly and may co-opt researchers as needed.

IV. Review of the NBA Lagos House BOT Agreement and Constitution of an Ad-Hoc Committee

1. NEC reviewed the longstanding challenges associated with the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) Agreement between the NBA and Stabilini Visinoni Ltd regarding the NBA Lagos House. Despite expectations of significant revenue upon its commissioning in 2014, the project has failed to deliver projected benefits.
2. To undertake a holistic evaluation, NEC approved the constitution of an Ad-Hoc Committee comprising:
 - i. Dr. Olisa Agbakoba, SAN – Chairman
 - ii. Osaro Eghobamien, SAN – Member
 - iii. Titi Akinlawon – Member
 - iv. Bayo Akinlade – Member
 - v. Muhammad Doko Idris – Member
4. The Committee is to review the status of the BOT Agreement, identify outstanding issues, and advise on measures to safeguard the NBA's interests.

V. Review of Recent Presidential Pardons and Implications for Criminal Justice

1. NEC considered the recent presidential pardons granted to 175 individuals, including persons convicted of serious crimes.
2. NEC expressed concern that some of the pardons undermined accountability and public confidence in the justice system.
3. NEC commended the President's reversal of several controversial pardons and welcomed proposed reforms to increase transparency in the clemency process.

VI. Need for a Comprehensive Legal Framework on Clemency

1. NEC resolved that Nigeria requires a statutory framework to regulate presidential pardons, commutations, and related clemency powers.
2. Such framework should ensure transparency, equity, protection of victims' rights, and insulation from political influence. NEC expressed readiness to collaborate with relevant authorities to develop this framework.

VII. NEC Resolution on Insecurity in Nigeria

NEC considered Nigeria's deteriorating security situation and adopted the following resolutions:

- i. NEC Expresses alarm at the unprecedented levels of killings, kidnappings, and destruction of property.
- ii. NEC Condemns the failure of government and security agencies to respond effectively.
- iii. NEC Notes that Nigeria's security architecture is outdated, over-centralised, and incapable of meeting current challenges.
- iv. NEC Demands decentralisation of security command to enable State-level control.
- v. NEC Recommends establishment of State and Local Government Police with regulated authority to bear arms.
- vi. NEC Calls for substantial funding and adoption of modern security technologies including drones and cyber-tracking systems.
- vii. NEC Demands zero tolerance for criminality irrespective of status or ethnicity.
- viii. NEC Calls for an end to negotiations or amnesty for terrorists and bandits.
- ix. NEC Rejects the integration of purported repentant terrorists into the military or security agencies.
- x. NEC Urges the Federal Government to seek foreign assistance where necessary.
- xi. NEC Calls for measures to ensure safe return of displaced persons.
- xii. Seeks amendment of the Firearms Act to decentralise firearm licensing powers.
- xiii. NEC Advocates for a secure, transparent licensing framework for limited civilian self-protection.
- xiv. NEC Calls for enhanced border surveillance and monitoring systems.

VIII. Reaffirmation of NBA's Commitment to Rule of Law and Justice Sector Reform

NEC reaffirmed the NBA's unwavering commitment to defending the rule of law, promoting judicial independence, improving legal practice standards, advancing court infrastructure, and addressing systemic challenges in the administration of justice.

IX. Police Lawyers Conversion Lawsuit

1. NEC reviewed Suit No. NICN/ABJ/264/2025 filed by SPIDEL challenging the refusal of the Nigeria Police Force to convert and promote qualified legal practitioners to the legal specialist cadre as mandated under the Nigeria Police Force (Establishment) Act and Force Order 137.

2. NEC seeks judicial orders compelling the proper upgrading of affected officers.

X. *Neglect of Private Practitioners in Judicial Appointments*

1. NEC expressed concern over the underrepresentation of private practitioners in recent shortlists for the Federal High Court, National Industrial Court, and other superior courts.
2. NEC noted that an overwhelming majority of shortlisted candidates were drawn from the judiciary and Ministries of Justice, contrary to the principle of meritocracy.

XI. *Call for Reform of Judicial Appointment Rules*

1. NEC reiterated its call for amendment of Rule 3(4) of the NJC Guidelines, which grants excessive discretionary powers to Chief Judges.
2. NEC advocated adoption of a transparent, merit-driven process including written examinations to assess competency.

XII. *Conditions of Service in Lower Courts*

1. NEC expressed concern about unsafe working conditions and inadequate remuneration of magistrates and lower court judges, citing distressing reports from Ondo State.
2. NEC called on State Governments to improve infrastructure, provide official transport, and ensure dignified working environments.

XIII. *Partisan Use of Police and Conflicting Court Judgments*

1. NEC condemned the partisan conduct of the Nigeria Police during the PDP leadership dispute and the issuance of conflicting court orders by courts of coordinate jurisdiction.
2. NEC urged the IGP to discipline erring officers and called on the judiciary to refrain from political interference.

XIV. *Partisan Music at the Judges' Conference*

1. NEC expressed strong concern over the playing of partisan political music during the All-Nigerian Judges Conference.
2. NEC demanded a public apology and stressed that judicial conferences must remain non-political, solemn, and professional.

XV. *International Remarks and Nigeria's Sovereignty*

1. NEC expressed concern over recent comments by U.S. President Donald Trump suggesting the deployment of American troops to Nigeria.
2. NEC emphasised that such statements risk inflaming tensions and undermining Nigeria's sovereignty.
3. NEC urged the Federal Government to respond diplomatically while strengthening domestic security measures.

XVI. FCT Minister–Military Clash in Abuja

1. NEC condemned the confrontation in Gudu, Abuja involving the FCT Minister and military personnel.
2. NEC stressed that both public officials and security agencies must adhere strictly to the law and that enforcement of land-related actions must follow due process, not unilateral force.

XVII. NBA Representation on the Council of Legal Education: Need for Tenure Framework

1. NEC noted the absence of a defined tenure for NBA representatives on the Council of Legal Education.
2. NEC resolved that henceforth, NBA representatives shall serve a fixed three-year tenure, subject to formal adoption, to promote orderliness, institutional memory, and equitable participation.

XVIII. Proposed 15% Import Duty on Petrol and Diesel

1. NEC expressed strong concern that the proposed 15% import duty on petrol and diesel would worsen economic hardship and contradict the deregulation principles of the Petroleum Industry Act.
2. NEC welcomed the temporary suspension of the proposal but called for its permanent cancellation.

XIX. Abuse of Police Power in Declaring Citizens “Wanted”

1. NEC condemned the unlawful declaration of Mr. Omoyele Sowore as “wanted” by the Lagos State Commissioner of Police.
2. NEC emphasised that only a court may issue such declarations following due process, in accordance with the ACJA and established case law.

XX. Rising Violence, Abductions, and Targeted Killings

1. NEC mourned the abduction of schoolgirls in Maga, Kebbi State, and the killing of Brigadier-General M. Uba in Borno State.
2. NEC called for coordinated and transparent efforts to rescue victims, address intelligence failures, and prosecute perpetrators.

XXI. Litigation on the Police Tinted Glass Permit Policy

1. NEC noted the filing of Suit No. FHC/ABJ/CS/182/2025 challenging the Police Tinted Glass Permit Policy as unconstitutional and prone to abuse.
2. Enforcement of the policy has been suspended pending outcome of ongoing engagements with the IGP.

XXII. Correctional Justice Reform

NEC acknowledged rehabilitation efforts observed during its visit to Kuje Correctional Centre and announced the establishment of a Post-Custodial Rehabilitation Fund to support reintegration of ex-inmates.

XXIII. Professional Misconduct: Illegal Rank Promotion

NEC condemned the actions of Dr. Tonye Clinton Jaja seeking to create or promote an illegal “privileged rank” or “Blue Silk” and reaffirmed that such conduct constitutes professional misconduct.

XXIV. Creation of Nine New NBA Branches

1. NEC approved the creation of the following new branches: Ankpa, Bende, Kwale, Iseyin, Oyigbo, Oru/Oguta, Potiskum, Nike, and Udi.
2. These branches were carved out to improve service delivery and professional support to members across judicial divisions.

XXV. 2026 Annual General Conference (AGC) Planning Committee

1. NEC approved the appointment of Abdul Mohammed, SAN as Chairman of the 2026 AGC Planning Committee, with Sammie Somiari, SAN as Alternate Chairman, Barbara Omosun as Secretary, and Emeka Obegolu, SAN as Consultant.
2. The full committee list will be published later.

Issued this 20th day of November, 2025



Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN
President



Dr. Mobolaji Ojibara
General Secretary