



DELE ADESINA LP
SOLICITORS AND ADVOCATES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA

CITYGATE CHAMBERS

LAGOS OFFICE

109, Opebi Road, Ikeja, Lagos.

Mobile: 08159727059, 09064827679

E-mail: info@deleadesinalp.com

deleadesina86@yahoo.ca

ABUJA OFFICE

No. 13, Parakuo Crescent,
Off Aminu Kano Street, Wuse II
F.C.T. Abuja

Mobile: 09064827679

Website: www.deleadesinalp.com

Thursday, 30 July 2020

The Chairman

Electoral Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association (ECNBA)

National Secretariat,
Plot 110, Cadastral Zone
Off Muhammed Buhari Way,
Central Business District,
Abuja.

Attention: Mr Tawo E. Tawo SAN

My dear Learned Brother Silk,

**RE: THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION 2020 NATIONAL OFFICERS ELECTION:
PETITION AGAINST THE MANAGEMENT OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS.**

The above-mentioned subject matter refers.

I am one of the Presidential Candidates for the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) in the on-going National Officers' Elections and I forward this Petition in this regard.

Upon the receipt of the Verified Voters List published about five (5) hours to the commencement of the Election, my team and I after a painstaking perusal of the List observed that the List contained grave errors of omission and commission including but not limited to the following:

1. Names of purported Lawyers without Branches ascribed to them from Serial Number 25171 to 29635;
2. Names of Lawyers under the subheading "International Diaspora" from Serial Number 12182 to 12268. A clear violation of the provisions of the Constitution of the NBA;

PRINCIPAL PARTNER: Dele Adesina SAN, FCI. Arb
MANAGING PARTNER: Ademola Adesina Esq. LLB. (Hons) B.L, LL.M
HEAD OF CHAMBERS: F.S. Abiodun-Adesola (Mrs) LL.B (Hons) B.L

3. Inflation of the List of some Branches. For instance, Obollo-Afor Branch on the Final List for Verification had only 39 names on the List from Serial Number 30424 to 30462. Strangely, this increased to 662 on the Verified List;
4. Deletion of Names of Members removed from the Final List;
5. Many Members names found their way to Branches other than their own Branch.

I took this matter up in a telephone discussion with the other two Presidential Candidates, Dr. Babatunde Ajibade SAN and Olumide Akpata Esq. and a preferred suggestion was made that the matter be taken up informally with the Committee Members in the interest of the integrity of the Association. In furtherance of this, I raised the above issues with the President of the NBA and a member of the Electoral Committee. Some explanations were made though unsatisfactory by which time voting had actually started. The Electoral Committee admitted this error in their Statement No. 019 when they said among other things that **“the situation is regretted but arose because members in the course of Verification did not fully update information on their current Branches and/ or sex.”** Yet, nothing was done to rectify the situation.

In addition to the above, several observations and protests have been made by different members of our Association which questions the integrity of the process as well as the result of the process.

Some of the protests received from different Branches are as follows:

1. Very many members, particularly from the Branches in the West, like Ibadan and Ado-Ekiti, did not receive the link to vote and some of those who received the link could not vote. The same protest came from several Branches in the North, like Gombe, Katsina, Birnin-Kebbi, Yobe, and Kaduna.
2. The same complaint was lodged vehemently by members of NBA Enugu Branch.
3. Several cases of reported disenfranchisement by members whose names were not on the list. A Senior Advocate of Nigeria who contacted the helpline line to lodge his complaint was told that it is because he did not have his SAN's number. Query! Is SAN's number a requirement?

4. Issues were also raised on the security of the NBA Membership Portal. On the 9th of July 2020, a letter was forwarded to the Chairman of the Electoral Committee raising several issues on the need for a credible Voters List and the need to know the service provider with a view to interrogate the process. This letter was flagrantly ignored by the Committee.

As at the time of writing this statement, at 2:00 pm, the System confirmed the following figures:

Total Registered Voters:	29,635
Total Votes Cast (including those who abstained):	14,941
Total Undelivered Notices to Prospective Voters:	14,879

The Addition of Votes Recorded plus Notices yet undelivered amounted to 29,820 which is 185 votes over and above the total number of voters on the Voters Register.

It is also significant to note that the System used for this Election was said to have been registered the very day the Election was to start and MoU was signed on that same day. This was done all alone by the President of the NBA. There was no opportunity to interrogate the System before the commencement of the Election in order to determine its vulnerability, security and capacity. The inability to deliver 14,000 notices to prospective voters 13 hours after the commencement of the Election is not only evidence of lack of capacity on the part of the System but also a clear disenfranchisement of these prospective voters.

I call on you Mr. Chairman and Members of the Electoral Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association to cancel this sham Election. It is needless to say that if the process is bad, the product cannot be good.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. Julius Oladèlè Adesina, SAN

Cc:

- 1. PRESIDENT OF THE NBA**
- 2. GENERAL-SECRETARY OF THE NBA**
- 3. MEMBERS, NBA BODY OF TRUSTEES**
- 4. PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE NBA**
- 5. DR. BABATUNDE AJIBADE, SAN FCIARB**
- 6. MR. OLUMIDE AKPATA**