

PRESS RELEASE ON THE JUST-CONCLUDED NBA NATIONAL ELECTION

Introduction

As you may recall, the National Election of the Nigerian Bar Association ('NBA') was concluded on Saturday, July 16, 2022.

My utmost appreciation goes to the members of the Electoral Committee of the NBA ('ECNBA') who conducted our election. I respect each of them and commend their efforts. I equally salute all the contestants who vied for various positions.

Pre-Election

It is pertinent to state that before the conduct of the election, my agent – Mr Andrew Madaki tested the vulnerability of the website to conduct the election – electionbuddy.com. The report, which is attached to this release, shows that the website was susceptible to manipulation.

Thereafter, my agent and other agents present raised some of these concerns during the press briefing conducted by the ECNBA on the eve of the election.

Voting

During the conduct of the election, my agent discovered numerous irregularities and expressed same by a letter sent via email to the ECNBA at 2:00 pm. The same is attached to this release. In the email, he reported the frequent timeouts experienced by the site, lack of access to the backend of the server, lack of graphical representation of the results and ultimately requested to audit the election, which the ECNBA promised to provide immediately.

Post-Election

After the conduct of the election, my agent sent a reminder to the ECNBA on Sunday, July 17, 2022 to audit the election and discover if there were more irregularities but same has not been provided by the ECNBA.

After the conduct of the election, my agent engaged another IT specialist to test the server. The report of the specialist which was dated Monday, July 18, 2022 also shows that there is a high likelihood that the system could be hacked and manipulated. A follow-up report by my agent dated Wednesday, July 20, 2022 confirms that this occurrence was more than likely. I have been advised that this is why the percentage score among all the three Presidential candidates remained within the same range from the commencement of voting till the end. This, as I have been advised, is not human behavior but mechanical.

It is important to re-iterate that auditing the election will permit independent parties and agents to discover if there were any technical interferences to usurp the will of the electorate. This access is expected to have been provided immediately after the conclusion of the poll to prevent any party from tampering with the system.

Pre-Qualification of Technical Consultant to ECNBA

On Friday, June 24, 2022, I invited numerous IT specialists to advise me. One of them was Mr Mohammed Mustapha who I asked to provide information security and communication strategy in the just-concluded NBA Election; however, on Monday, June 27, 2022, Mr Mustapha declined my offer as a result of conflict of interest because he had earlier applied to the ECNBA to act as a consultant. After declining my request, Mr Mustapha informed me that although he had applied to be a consultant to the ECNBA before the deadline, the ECNBA did not list his company as one that had applied; rather only two companies were listed before one was selected to provide the consultancy. The two referenced letters are attached.

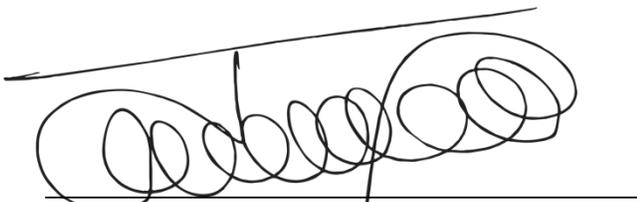
Also attached to this release are: (i) the notice released by the ECNBA asking for proposals for a technical consultant titled '*Request for Proposal for Technical Support Consultant to the ECNBA – Submission Reminder Notice*', (ii) *acknowledged* copy of the bid by Mr Mustapha titled '*Re: Request for Proposal for Technical Support Consultant to the ECNBA*'

received by the ECNBA at 3:35 pm on 22/4/22, and (iii) the notice displaying companies that applied titled '*Respondents to Request for Proposal for Technical Support Consultant*'.

Conclusion

On the whole, and in view of the above facts and attached documents, it is clear that the technology adopted was highly vulnerable and most susceptible to electronic fraud, rigging and pre-programming of votes. I hereby call upon the ECNBA to allow an immediate audit of the election and server.

Dated this Wednesday, the 20th day of July, 2022



Joe-Kyari Gadzama OFR, MFR, SAN
Presidential Candidate

ENCLS:

1. Vulnerability report dated Sunday, July 10, 2022;
2. Complaint letter dated Saturday, July 16, 2022;
3. Email reminder to the ECNBA on Sunday, July 17, 2022;
4. Vulnerability report dated Monday, July 18, 2022;
5. NBA National Elections 2022: Report dated Wednesday, July 20, 2022;
6. Provision of information security and communication strategy for the forthcoming NBA election dated Friday, June 24, 2022;
7. Re: Provision of information security and communication strategy for the forthcoming NBA National Elections dated Monday, June 27, 2022;
8. Request for proposal for technical support consultant to the ECNBA – Submission Reminder Notice dated April 21, 2022;
9. Re: Request for Proposal for Technical Support Consultant to the ECNBA dated April 22, 2022; and
10. Respondents to Request for Proposal for Technical Support Consultant dated April 25, 2022.

10th July 2022**Gadzama Joe-Kyari****Presidential Candidate, Nigerian Bar Association**

INITIAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Following the selection of technical consultants and partners for the upcoming NBA election, www.electionbuddy.com was selected as the platform to conduct the elections.

The technical team has done an initial study on the company and its platform based on publicly available information. As a result, we have come up with the following lists of observations and recommendations, in relation to the transparency and integrity of the upcoming elections.

Observations:

1. The platform has been used by reputable organizations in the past, including the NBA.
2. The platform has reasonable security in place but there are a few loopholes.
3. The election process seems credible and has left little room for manipulation.
4. The consultant has claimed that voting records will be kept for 4 to 7 years.

Recommendations:

From our findings, it is clear that the service provider has taken some steps to guarantee a seamless process on their platform. However, in order to limit the possibility of manipulation and rigging, we suggest the follow recommendations:

1. Voter authentication at vote: There must be a way verify the identity of who exactly is casting every vote. OTP confirms the device, not the person casting the vote.
2. Access Control: We must know who has administrative access to the system and the justification for granting such an individual such access and privileges. We must also know what changes such a user can make to the votes and voting process.
3. Check resilience to interference: The platform must be stress tested to ensure it is configured to withstand heavy traffic, to prevent site crashing or slowness.
4. No weighted votes: Every vote must have the same weight.
5. Real-time monitoring: All candidates should be able to see the vote count in real-time.
6. Ask about the bounce rate: To know how many eligible voters will not be able to vote.
7. Email Deliverability: In case emails end up in spam, SMS should also be sent to all voters.



8. **Audit:** All votes should carry artefacts such as time stamp and voter ID. Results should be presentable in multiple ways such as filtered by candidate, hour, or branch.
9. **Voter Eligibility:** Efforts must be made to confirm that voters are truly eligible by virtue of timely payment of their bar-practicing fees and branch dues. This verification must rely on data from the bank account, not the branches.
10. **Web Security:** Login pages should have limits on login attempts, account lockout, and 2-factor authentication, to limit the risk of brute force attacks. While a successful attack may not directly affect the election outcome, it can cast doubts on the integrity of the elections.

Conclusion:

Based on our findings, we believe that if all the issues raised in the recommendations above are adequately addressed, it will be almost impossible to rig the election. No system is impregnable and should be subject to stress test. If the concerns are not addressed, then there may be some risk of manipulation beyond manual modification of the casted votes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Madaki', is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Andrew Agbo-Madaki

Bsc, MSc,(Computer Forensics)

Mphil,(Security and Strategic Studies)

PhD in view (Security and Strategic Studies)

CEO Decy 4 Technologies



16th July 2022

Attn: Chairman ECNBA

**ELECTORAL COMMITTEE OF THE
NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION [ECNBA]
No. 9 Oro Ago Crescent,
Garki, Abuja.**

**Complaints Against Fundamental Irregularities and Non-Compliance in the NBA
National Election**

I write in respect of the ongoing Nigerian Bar Association elections slated for the 16th, July 2022 (today) to express the following concerns.

1. At the press briefing of agents and stakeholders on the 15th of July 2022, several agents complained about the last-minute briefing which did not avail ample time for the agents and IT experts of the candidates to test the voting system and portal.
2. Agents were also excluded from the demo where random people were selected to participate in.
3. At the briefing, the Representative of INITS limited stated that live results will be available for all voters to see during the elections at the domain: <http://go.nigerianbar.org.ng>, however at the start of the election and throughout the election, up to this moment, this option was not made available. Only agents in the situation room had access to the live results.
4. Agents also requested for backend access to review the voting portal as required under international best practices, this request was rejected.
5. It is also important to state that despite assurances of the ECNBA and the technology provider INITS limited on the suitability of the voting site www.electionbuddy.com, between the hours of 1am to 3am there were repeated error messages while viewing the live results (error: 502 bad gateway): The HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) 502 Bad Gateway server error response code indicates that the server, while acting as a gateway or proxy, received an invalid response from the upstream server.
6. this makes us question the credibility and efficiency of the portal which promised to handle a 100,000 voter capacity.



6. Agents and stakeholders were also requested graphical representation of the results which would show details according to branches. This was not made available during the election period.

7. We would like to request for a forensic audit of the election and the result logs.

Thank you

Kind regards

Andrew Agbo-Madaki

Cc

1. J-K Gadzama SAN
Presidential Candidate
2. Secretary
Electoral Committee of the NBA

Andy Madaki JNR 

Re: Complaint on Irregularities and Non-Compliance | NBA National Elections

To: info@ecnba.ng, Cc: NBA Ayodele Akintunde SAN, Basil Udotai, Miss Abdullahi Aisha, Chidi Anselm Odinkalu, Gadzama@j-kgadzamallp.com

Attn: Chairman, ECNBA

Dear Sir,

I write in reference to my initial email in respect to the just concluded Nigerian Bar Association Election.

This is a reminder to confirm receipt and I await response as promised, to the previous request for an audit. Can you kindly provide an update on the request?

Pleased treat as urgent.

Kind regards
Andrew Agbo-Madaki

On 16 Jul 2022, at 14:00, Andy Madaki <agboandy@gmail.com> wrote:

Attn: Chairman
Electoral Committee
Nigerian Bar Association

Dear Sir,

I write in the capacity of Agent for Gadzama Joe-Kyari SAN, a presidential candidate in the ongoing NBA Elections 2022 holding today 16th July 2022.

Please find attached letter of complaint.

Kind regards
Andrew Agbo-Madaki

Agent for Gadzama Joe-Kyari
SAN



Letter to
ECNBA.pdf

Jeswills Eleke MCMA

Theorist, Researcher, Business adviser, Developer, Inventor, Author

Memberships:

Telecommunication and Technology Sustainability Working Group (TTSWG), Nigeria.

International Alliance of Holistic Therapists (IATA), United Kingdom.

Complimentary Medical Association (CMA), United Kingdom.

July 18, 2022

Chief Executive Officer,
Decy4 Technologies Limited
Utako, Abuja.

Sir,

RE: Request to run Penetration and Vulnerability test on www.electionbuddy.com

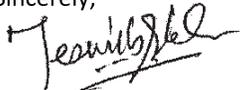
Above subject refers. This letter serves as response to both your physical and email requests to check the vulnerability of the platform, www.electionbuddy.com, and to report my conclusion – post election.

Based on my expert assessment, I state the following:

1. The platform www.electionbuddy.com has medium to high vulnerability
2. The site, www.electionbuddy.com, can be taken over by an average hacker through malicious injection of codes both remotely and locally as vital files and applications running the server are exposed
3. The security of the website is not top notch and hereby is below the best international standard

From the above points and the deep-seated information on the report, I will say that the platform is not secured enough to hold a highly contestable position and a highly sensitive position like the president of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) election. I so submit.

Sincerely,



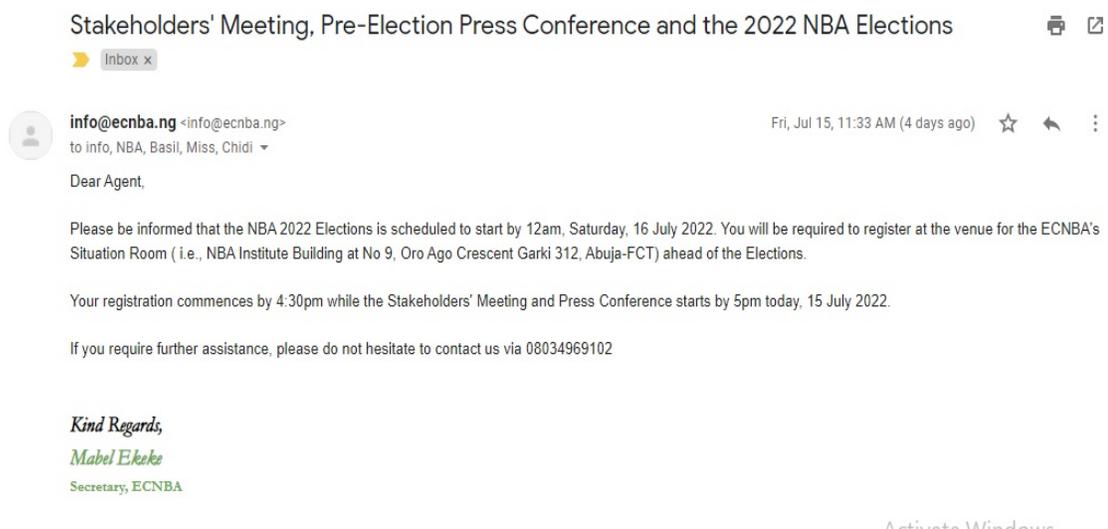
Jeswills Eleke MCMA
Chief Software Architect

20th July 2022

Attn: Gadzama Joe-Kyari
 Presidential Candidate, NBA National Elections

NBA NATIONAL ELECTIONS 2022 REPORT

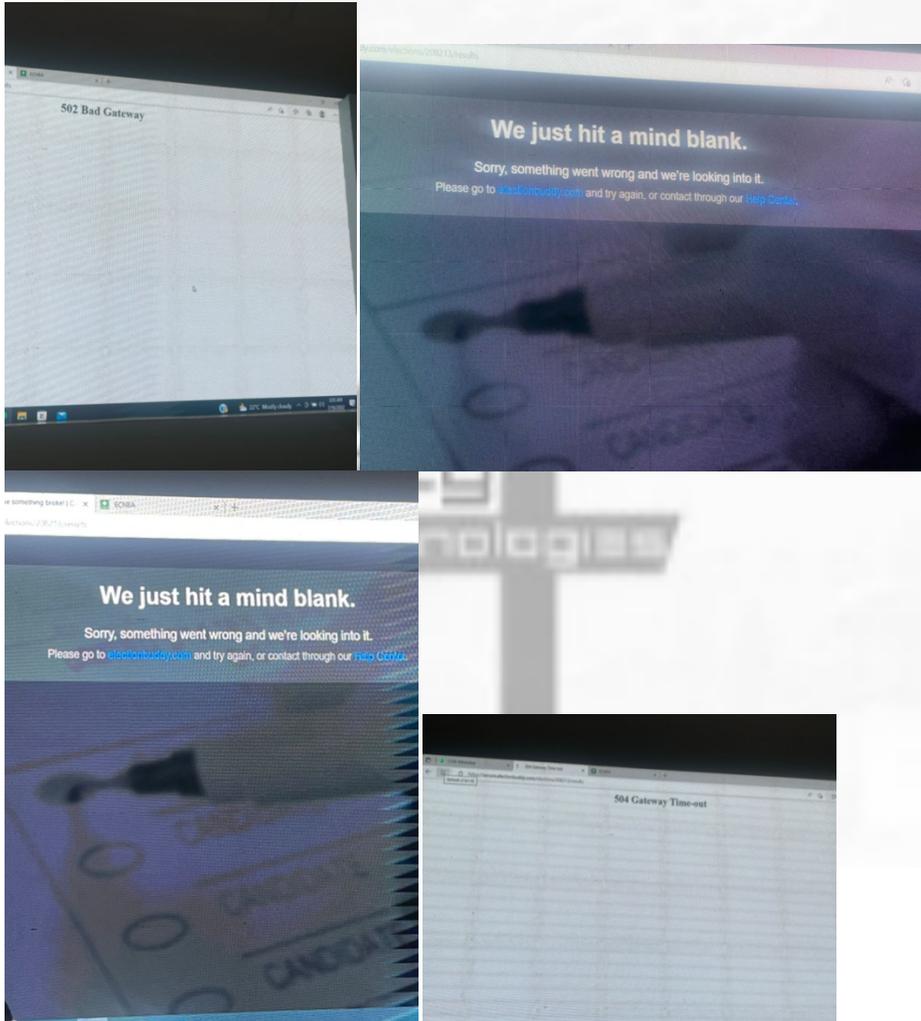
1. On the 24th of June 2022, the Electoral Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association held a stakeholders briefing and press conference to enlighten stakeholders on preparations for the elections.
2. At this meeting it was mentioned that INITS was shortlisted to provide the voting platform for the 2022 NBA elections while Finesse Integrated was selected to act as technical consultants to the committee.
3. Subsequently on the 13th of July 2022 the ECNBA released a notice for Pre-Election Testing on Thursday 14th July 2022 where certain eligible voters were randomly selected to participate in a mock election between 7am-1pm. None of the agents were invited to participate.
4. It should be noted that agents of the candidates were contacted only on Friday 15th July 2022 via email at 11:33am for a Stakeholders' meeting and pre-election press conference (email screenshot attached). This was 12 hours before commencement of voting and does not give ample time for a thorough review by the agents.

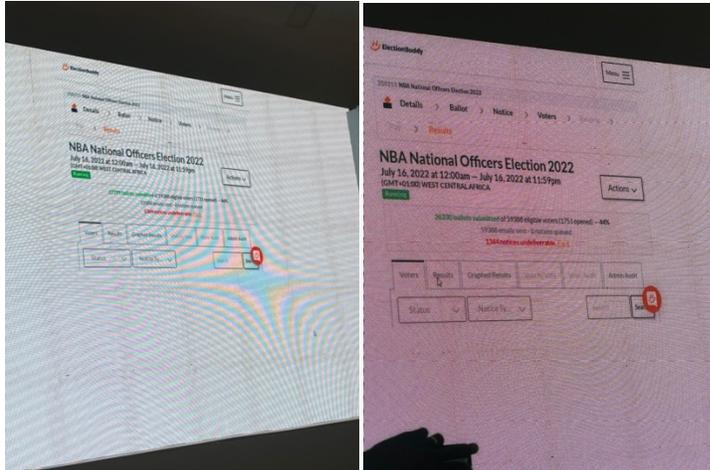


5. At the briefing, agents asked for independent test of the voting platform, the security precautions put in place, real-time monitoring, backend access and also about the lack of physical presence of the Technical Provider (INITS Limited) in the situation room to provide real-time technical support.
6. The electoral committee assured the stakeholders on its preparedness and encouraged the stakeholders to carry out open source tests on the website www.electionbuddy.com if they had any concerns.



7. Initial concerns and questions raised were submitted to the ECNBA during the course of the election on the 16th of July 2022. As agent representing a presidential candidate, I requested for an audit of the platform due to multiple timeouts of the results server during the election.
8. The result portal timed out at 1:32 am showing “**502 Bad Gateway**” and “**504 gateway timeout**” and 3 times at between 2:51 and 3:05am. This reoccurred multiple times within the voting period and around 1:58pm to 2:20pm on the day of the elections.





9. It should be further noted that at 2:18pm in the situation room, a representative of INITS Limited stated that it was a server error which were being resolved. Two members of the ECNBA also briefed the agents in the situation room to remain calm as the issue was being resolved.
10. On briefing my candidate of the situation, a formal complaint was written and submitted to the ECNBA with these concerns, requesting for an audit.
11. It should also be noted that on the 18th of July 2022, a reminder email was sent to the ECNBA.
12. As of today 20th July 2022, ninety-six (96) hours after the initial complaint to ECNBA, I am yet to receive any form of acknowledgment or response.
13. Election logs and a request for an audit are yet to be provided.

EXPERT OPINION

1. Cybersecurity principle revolves around three cardinal point; Confidentiality, Integrity and Availability. The absence of any of the aforementioned can lead to reasonable doubt in the security of a system or process.
2. Elections are based on trust. This infers that for the voters and candidate to trust the process, the platform must ensure stability and security at every point in time. The server errors encountered, the inadequate response and support provided by the technical consultant provides room for reasonable doubt.
3. To ensure transparency, independent bodies should have vetted the platform alongside the candidates prior to the election. The absence of this negates the principle of transparency as expected.



4. The time-lapse between the time of complaint, close of voting and release of results without provision of the election logs for audit gives ample room for the data to be contaminated and the chain of custody to be questioned. This also gives room to the platform providers to update any earlier identified vulnerability before an audit.
5. www.electionbuddy.com is a wordpress site which is susceptible to medium or high vulnerabilities and cannot guaranteed adequate confidence in the platform.
6. Third party independent vulnerability assessment external ICT experts also confirm potential vulnerabilities which threatens the process. Find expert assessment attached
7. In conclusion, and in consideration of international best practices, we would offer the opinion that the processes of the election were neither credible nor transparent. Accordingly, its purported outcome cannot be said to be free or fair.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Madaki'.

Andrew Agbo-Madaki

Bsc, MSc, (Computer Forensics)

Mphil, (Security and Strategic Studies)

PhD in view (Security and Strategic Studies)

CEO Decy 4 Technologies

JOE-KYARI GADZAMA, OFR, MFR, SAN, FNIALS, FICMC, DipICArb, FNICArb, FCIArb, C.Arb.

Shettima of Borno/Sardauna of Uba/Okwuluora of Ukpo/Bobajiro of Akure Kingdom

Chairman, NBA-Security Agencies Relations Committee

Chairman, Mentoring Committee of the Body of Benchers for Young Lawyers

Chairman, Advisory Board of Association Environmental Lawyers of Nigeria

Chairman, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Abuja Chapter (2010 - 2012)

Chairman, NBA Abuja (Unity) Branch (2002 - 2004)

Pioneer Chairman, NBA - Section on Public Interest and Development Law (SPIDEL) (2006 - 2010)

Pioneer Vice Chairman, NBA Section on Legal Practice (SLP)

Pioneer Council Member, Section on Business Law (SBL)

Member, National Executive Council (NEC) of the NBA (1998 - 2016); (2018 - till date)

Council Member, African Bar Association (AfBA)

Life Bencher

J-K/ABJ/MM/ENG/06/22

Friday, June 24, 2022

Mohammed Mustapha,
Founder/CEO
Aliph Technologies Ltd
14 Oke Agbe Street,
Garki II, Abuja,
Nigeria.

Original copy
collected by
me
Mohammed Mustapha
Ahmed
24/06/2022

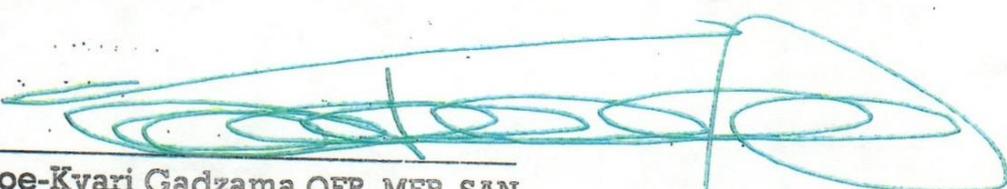
Dear Mr Mustapha,

**Provision of Information Security and Communication Strategy for the
Forthcoming NBA Election**

I am writing to formally engage you to provide information security and communication strategy to me at the forthcoming NBA national election scheduled to take place on Saturday, July 16, 2022.

Kindly take this as my instruction to you to supervise, advise and take all necessary steps to monitor the electronic election and ensure compliance with international best practices.

Yours faithfully,


Joe-Kyari Gadzama OFR, MFR, SAN



Aliph Technologies Ltd RC:860944

14 Oke Agbe Street, Garki 2, Abuja

09-2900010, 08038005079

admin@aliph.ng

www.aliph.ng



27th June 2022

Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama OFR, MFR, SAN, FNIALS, FICMC, DipiCarb, FNICArb, C.Arb.

J-K Gadzama LLP,

J-K Gadzama Court,

Plot 1805, Damaturu Crescent, By Kabo Way,

Off Ahmadu Bello Way,

Garki 2 -Abuja.

Dear Sir,

**Re: Provision of Information Security and communication strategy
for the forthcoming NBA National Elections.**

Sequel to your request on the above subject matter, we do hereby write to decline the service based on the fact that we had already applied for the bid of the Technical consultant to provide support services for the said elections thereby constituting a conflict of interest.

Moreover, we are still disappointed by the entire process due to the following observations;

1. The Electoral Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association (ECNBA) had called for proposals for consultants to offer technical support services for the election.
2. We then applied having met the requirement as an ICT company and submitted our technical & financial bid (please see attached ECNBA acknowledgment of our submission).
3. To our greatest surprise and dismay we found out through the publications from the NBA of the omission of any mention of our name from the list of the several companies that have applied even after the acknowledgement.

4. The manner in which the technical consultant was selected was not transparent to us and that in itself had left a bad impression on us as a company to believe in the electoral process as a whole.

Thank you

CC:

1. Advert Letter for call to bid
2. Bid submission acknowledgement letter from ECNBA
3. Publication of companies that applied

Yours faithfully,

For: **Aliph Technologies Ltd**

Mohammed

Mohammed Mustapha

Founder/CEO | 08038005079

Aliph



ELECTORAL COMMITTEE OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

ECNBA Secretariat, 1st Floor, Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abuja Trade & Convention Centre, KM 8
Umaru
Musa Yar'adua Express Way, (Airport Road), Abuja
info@ecnba.ng

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT CONSULTANT TO THE
ECNBA – SUBMISSION REMINDER NOTICE**

This notice serves as a reminder that all proposals from potential Technical Support Consultant must be submitted by:

- (a) Physical delivery or by a reputable courier company by **4pm Friday 22 April 2022** addressed to:

The Secretary,

Electoral Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association

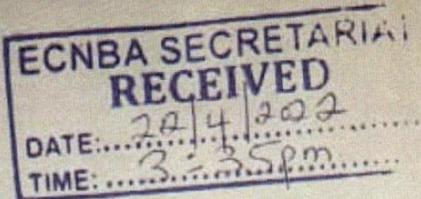
ECNBA Secretariat, 1st Floor, Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abuja Trade & Convention Centre, KM 8 Umaru Musa Yar'adua Express Way, (Airport Road), Abuja.

- (b) and electronically by **11:59pm on Friday 22 April 2022** via info@ecnba.ng.

Dated 21 April 2022

Ayodele Akintunde, SAN
Chairman

Mabel Ekeke
Secretary



22nd April 2022

The Secretary,
Electoral Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association,
ECNBA Secretariat,
1st Floor, Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
Abuja Trade & Convention Centre,
KM 8 Musa Yar'adua Express Way,
Airport Road,
Abuja, Nigeria.

Dear Sir,

**RE: REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT CONSULTANT TO THE
ECNBA.**

Executive Summary

Aliph Technologies Ltd is a value added system integrator & consultancy firm for enterprises that leverage on technology to manage their day to day operations. We offer end-to-end solutions and help organizations plan, build, support and manage their IT Infrastructure systems and endeavours.

Aliph hereby writes to propose to offer its Technical Support Consultancy Services to the ECNBA that will provide technical assistance in accordance with the constitution throughout the electoral process and carry out all post-election activities as required by the ECNBA.

Work Schedule & Milestone

Expected deliverables and timelines include:

1. Inception Report - including a detailed work plan & methodology: This will be submitted by the end of week 2 After commencement of the technical support consultancy project
2. A feasibility study report with input from ECNBA- by the end of week 4
3. Technical specifications / audit of all existing systems to be used for the election - by the end of week 6
4. A hand over report - by the end of week 7
5. Handover to ECNBA end of week 10
6. Post-Election Activities commences till end of cycle.



ELECTORAL COMMITTEE OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

ECNBA Secretariat

1st Floor, Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Abuja Trade & Convention Centre,
KM 8 Umaru Musa Yar'adua Express Way, (Airport Road), Abuja
info@ecnba.ng

INFORMATION RELEASE

RESPONDENTS TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT CONSULTANT

This information release is issued pursuant to Part III (5), Second Schedule of the Constitution of the NBA, 2015 as amended in 2021.

Please be informed that the underlisted entities have submitted both technical and financial proposals to the ECNBA in response to the Request for Proposal published by the ECNBA on Monday, 11 April 2022, offering to provide services as Technical Support Consultant to the ECNBA:

Company	Address	CEO/Director	Summary of Relevant Experience
Finesse Integrated Technologies Limited	15 Ahmadu A. Ali Crescent Utako Abuja	Akintomide Akinwolere	Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) - Implementation of ISO standards across three standards, ISO 22301, 20000 and 27001 (information security). NBA - Technical Consultant to the ECNBA for the 2018 NBA general elections. NBA - Automation of the ICLE Certificate issuance process. NBA - Development and hosting of the NBA website from 4 (four) years.

			<p>Supreme Court of Nigeria - Development and automation of the Supreme Court Lawyer Enrolment and Roll number generation System</p> <p>National Judicial Council (NJC)- Legal Mail system for all Lawyers in Nigeria</p> <p>Court of Appeal- Development and Hosting of Website and Cloud based Intranet Management information system</p> <p>National Judicial Institute- Development and Hosting of Website</p> <p>National Pension Commission - Supply and Installation of Vulnerability assessment and remediation system</p> <p>Galaxy Backbone - Managed Security Services for FGN datacenter and websites.</p> <p>Nigeria Bulk Electricity Trading Company- Vulnerability and forensic assessment of the entire network and Email system</p>
Thriveonus Limited	5 Kwaji Close, Maitama Abuja	Godwin Arigbonu	<p>National Agency for Food & Drug Administration Control- Development and deployment for web portal, mobile app & API (24 February, 2022)</p> <p>Reviewing, updating, editing, indexing, correcting, publishing, and migration of NAFDAC revised Drug Product Database [50,000+ product records]</p>

			<p>Professional training on Drug Information System for Pharmacists and Staff</p> <p>Wootlab Innovation Limited-</p> <p>Technology Infrastructure Assessment & Design of Enterprise Information System Architecture</p> <p>Technology Infrastructure Assessment and Process Audit High-Level Enterprise Information System Architecture Design</p> <p>[17 September 2021]</p> <p>Global Initiative Against Disasters [GIAD]- Appointment as Investment Web Portal Developer</p> <p>Investment Portal Design and Development</p> <p>Technical Training and Support [16 October 2019]</p>
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We wish to invite any member of the Association who has any reason why the foregoing entities should not be engaged as Technical Support Consultant by the ECNBA, to contact us by email(info@ecnba.ng) with all relevant fact in that regard by or before 11:59pm Wednesday, 27 April 2022.

Dated 25 April 2022



Ayodele Akintunde, SAN, C.Arb
Chairman, ECNBA



Mabel Ekeke
Secretary, ECNBA