

3. Further enquiry on the entity led me to the World Wide Web to search for the firm's website and it was surprising to find out that the entity has no functional website that shows that it is an active organisation. There is no information as to its experience, personnel, competencies, track record and jobs executed in the past. This raises serious question regarding its capacity to host the online voting platform and ensure its stability and security in the course of the elections.
4. There is also the question of capacity as a background check shows no evidence that the entity has previously handled a task similar to the management of the NBA election. The scale and very important nature of the NBA election does not allow for learning on the job.
5. The entity which ought to commence payment of its Annual Returns with the Corporate Affairs Commission since 2020 in compliance with CAMA, failed to do so from its inception until after its appointment as a service provider in the forthcoming election. Due diligence revealed that it hurriedly paid the Annual Returns of 6 years (2020 - 2025) in arrears between the hours of 22:02 of 31st May, 2026 and 12:30 of June 1, 2026. This raises the issue of corporate responsibility and discipline on the part of the entity as well as whether the ECNBA did the requisite due diligence or chose to overlook same due to vested interests.
6. Furthermore, I have it on good authority that Mr. Shamsudeen Haruna in the course of questioning by the consultant to Mr Yemi Akangbe, SAN during the bid defence confirmed to have been part of the 2024 election of the NBA and in possession of the data of over 70,000 (Seventy Thousand) lawyers. When questioned further as to why he retains such data, he stated that he has not been disengaged.

It is quite telling that this revelation was not disclosed by Mikrodigital Connect in its bid documents but was only extracted upon questioning. Furthermore, it is on record that the 2024 election of the NBA was conducted by INNITS and ELECTION BUDDY which are neither Microdigital Connect nor Shamsuddeen Haruna thereby raising the question as to what role Shamsuddeen Usman and his Microdigital Connect actually played in the last election. Could it be that Shamsuddeen Usman and his Microdigital Connect were the unseen hands behind the shadows that determined the outcome of the 2024 national elections? This, no doubt calls for a detailed investigation to avoid leaving the elections in the hands of an entity that is not only incompetent but also conflicted.



Secondly, with respect to Thanelinc Nigeria Limited, while it is a limited liability company registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission and up to date with regards to its mandatory statutory compliance requirement with the Commission, there is nothing in its objects broadly described as “**Business Support/development Services**” that shows that it is a data management and data protection company.

There is also no evidence of its experience, track record or previous involvement in tasks or assignments involving large scale data management and data protection. There is no gainsaying the fact that the magnitude of data management activities involved in the NBA national election requires proven track record and experience in managing data at such scale which is visibly lacking in the case of Thanelinc Nigeria Limited.

Finally, you will recall that at the meeting with the Candidates held on 25th May, 2026 it was mutually agreed by the Candidates and the ECNBA that National Identity Number (NIN) will be used for voter authentication for the election in order to eliminate concerns regarding identity compromise and impersonation that were raised in respect of previous NBA elections. The rationale behind this is that voter authentication process based solely on Supreme Court Number (SCN) and One Time Password (OTP) as previously obtained has proven to be porous and incapable of providing adequate security against identity fraud.

The reason is not far-fetched as the Supreme Court Number of lawyers can be accessed easily since same is readily available at the Supreme Court, the NBA National Secretariat as same is used for the production of stamp and seal, Bar Practicing fee payment and other verifications by the secretariat, it is on lawyers’ stamp and seal affixed on documents which are everywhere in the public domain, it is also available on different platforms accessible to the public, as such, same can be easily harvested by dubious characters to manipulate the election.

It is in view of the above that the introduction of NIN into the voter authentication process was made considering that the NIN is of a more secure nature and not easily accessible to third parties. Given the indispensable place of the NIN in everyday life and transactions in Nigeria such as maintaining a bank account and a mobile phone number, there is no doubt that every lawyer in Nigeria has NIN, hence it can be easily used in the voter authentication process.



It is therefore shocking that despite the mutual agreement on the use of NIN, the Step-by-Step Electronic Voting Guideline subsequently released by the ECNBA makes no mention of NIN. The authentication procedure it released relies on the Supreme Court Enrolment Number (SCN) and One-Time Password (OTP) sent to a registered contact. This is a clear reversal to the flawed authentication process that characterized our previous elections and created a lot of trust deficit in the process, which is now being sought to be corrected by the use of NIN.

It is in view of the above that I demand that the ECNBA should as a matter of urgency and not later than 3 days henceforth do the following:

1. The immediate disengagement of the service providers, that is, Mikrodigital Connect and Thanelinc Nigeria Limited who have shown no demonstrable competence and capacity to manage the conduct of the election.
2. Commence the process of engaging competent and experienced service providers to manage the conduct of the election.
3. The integration of NIN in the voter authentication process for the election in line with the mutual agreement reached at the Candidates' meeting of 25th May, 2026.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,



**Aare Olumuyiwa Akinboro SAN, FCI Arb (UK), Life Bencher
Past General Secretary, Nigerian Bar Association.**

cc:

1. The President, Nigerian Bar Association
2. The Chairman, Board of Trustees of the Nigerian Bar Association
3. The Chairman, Body of Benchers
4. The Attorney General of the Federation

