



ĘGBĘ AMÒFIN OÒDU'À

(THE YORUBA LAWYERS FORUM)

(RC: 184535)

C/o NBA House, Iyanganku GRA, Ibadan, Oyo State.

Our Ref: _____

Your Ref: _____

Date: _____

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF EGBE AMOFIN O'ODUA HELD AT OJAJA RESORT ILE-IFE, OSUN STATE FROM 17TH TO 19TH JUNE, 2026

A. PREAMBLE

The 2026 National Conference of Egbe Amofin O'odua, the foremost association of lawyers of Yoruba extraction in Nigeria, was held in the historic city of Ile-Ife, Osun State, from Wednesday, 17th June to Friday, 19th June, 2026.

The Conference which had the theme “**Advancing Constitutional Democracy, Accountability and Responsible Governance: The Role of Law**” brought together an impressive assemblage of over 700 lawyers from Ekiti, Kwara, Kogi, Lagos, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo States, Senior Advocates of Nigeria, Attorneys-General, judicial officers, legal practitioners, academics, public office holders, young lawyers, captains of industry and other distinguished stakeholders from across the country.

The Conference featured an Opening Ceremony, Keynote Address, Showcase Sessions, Technical Sessions, Young Lawyers' Forum, Bar Leadership Showcase, Annual General Meeting, networking engagements and social activities, all aimed at advancing professional excellence, strengthening the rule of law, promoting good governance and fostering regional development.

B. APPRECIATION

The Conference noted with appreciation the attendance and participation of eminent national and professional leaders, including His Imperial Majesty, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II, CFR, the Ooni of Ife and Arole Oduduwa; His Excellency, Senator Ademola Jackson Nurudeen Adeleke, Executive Governor of Osun State (Represented by the Deputy Governor for Osun state, Prince Kola Adewusi), representative of the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Prince Lateef Fagbemi, SAN, Attorneys-General of South-West

AARE ISIAKA ABIOLA OLAGUNJU SAN

Chairman

08060739223

OLUWATOYIN BASHORUN SAN

Vice Chairman

08023287054

ADETUNJI OSO, SAN

Secretary

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08023970287

DEMOLA IKUJUNI

Assistant Secretary

08062480357

PAUL AKOMOLAFE

Welfare Secretary

08034110087

States, Chief Niyi Akintola CON, SAN, past Chairmen, Secretaries and leaders of Egbe Amofin O'odua, Chairmen and Secretaries of NBA Branches of member States, distinguished Senior Advocates of Nigeria, eminent speakers, discussants, moderators and delegates.

The Conference particularly expressed profound gratitude to His Imperial Majesty, Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II, CFR, for graciously hosting the Conference in Ile-Ife and for his exceptional generosity, hospitality and support towards the successful hosting of the event. The Conference also commended the Government and people of Osun State for the warm reception accorded participants throughout the conference period.

The Conference further commended the Executive Council of Egbe Amofin O'odua under the leadership of Aare Isiaka Abiola Olagunju, SAN, for its commitment to strengthening the association and advancing its objectives.

The Conference reaffirmed the mission of Egbe Amofin O'odua to unite Yoruba lawyers in pursuit of professional excellence, ethical legal practice, good governance, justice, national development and the preservation of the rich cultural heritage of the Yoruba people.

C. RECOMMENDATIONS

Following extensive deliberations on issues of law, governance, security, electoral reform, taxation, regional integration and the future of the legal profession, the Conference resolved and recommended as follows:

1. SECURITY AND CALL FOR RELEASE OF ABDUCTED OYO STATE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

- i. The Conference expressed grave concern over the continued captivity of the teachers and pupils abducted since 15th May, 2026, by suspected bandits operating within the Old Oyo National Park corridor.
- ii. The Conference called upon the Federal Government and the Oyo State Government to intensify all lawful efforts and deploy all necessary resources to secure the immediate and unconditional release of the abducted victims.
- iii. The Conference further urged the Federal Government to significantly strengthen the nation's security architecture generally through improved intelligence

gathering, enhanced inter-agency collaboration, adequate funding of security agencies and the deployment of modern security technology to combat insecurity across the Federation.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE POLICE

- i.** The Conference commended the House of Representatives for passing the Constitution Alteration Bill seeking the establishment of State Police and welcomed the ongoing consideration of similar constitutional amendments by the Senate.
- ii.** The Conference noted that the prevailing security challenges confronting Nigeria have exposed the limitations of an exclusively centralised policing structure and underscored the need for a more responsive and decentralised policing framework.
- iii.** The Conference therefore urged the National Assembly to expedite action on the constitutional amendment process and ensure the speedy passage of legislation empowering states to establish and maintain State Police within a framework that guarantees professionalism, accountability and respect for fundamental rights.

3. DISSOLUTION OF THE PRESENT ELECTORAL COMMITTEE OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (ECNBA)

- i.** The Conference expressed serious concerns regarding the legitimacy, composition and perceived neutrality of the present Electoral Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association (ECNBA).
- ii.** The Conference observed that concerns have been raised regarding the process leading to the constitution of the Committee and the extent to which the process complied with the provisions of the NBA Constitution.
- iii.** In view of the foregoing and in order to preserve confidence in the forthcoming electoral process, the Conference recommended the immediate dissolution of the present ECNBA and the constitution of a new Electoral Committee capable of commanding the confidence of all stakeholders.

4. CONSTITUTION OF A NEUTRAL ELECTORAL COMMITTEE

- i.** The Conference stressed that the integrity and credibility of the NBA electoral process are of paramount importance to the unity and future of the Association.
- ii.** The Conference therefore recommended that any reconstituted Electoral Committee should be composed through a transparent, inclusive and impartial process that inspires confidence among members of the Bar.
- iii.** The Conference further recommended that the Committee may be constituted through an independent process involving either the General Council of the Bar under the leadership of the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation, the Body of Past Presidents of the NBA, or through broad stakeholder consultation involving candidates and relevant interest groups within the Association.

5. REFORM OF THE NBA VOTING PROCESS

- i.** The Conference noted persistent concerns regarding the integrity, transparency and reliability of the current electronic voting framework employed in NBA elections.
- ii.** The Conference therefore recommended that NBA elections should henceforth incorporate stronger voter authentication mechanisms, including the transmission of voting credentials to registered telephone numbers of eligible voters and the integration of National Identification Number (NIN) verification systems.
- iii.** The Conference further recommended the adoption of additional technological safeguards capable of ensuring transparency, accountability and the integrity of the electoral process.

6. REVALIDATION OF THE ADOPTION OF AARE OLUMUYIWA AKINBORO, SAN.

- i.** The conference revalidates the adoption of Aare Olumuyiwa, SAN as the sole Presidential candidate of the Egbe Amofin O'odua for the 2026 election of the NBA. The conference enjoins colleagues from across the country to support the election of Aare Olumuyiwa Akinboro, SAN as the next President of the

Nigerian Bar Association in order to promote inclusiveness, equity and fairness within the Bar.

- ii. The conference also adopt the following candidates of Yoruba extraction for the following offices;
 - b. Lukman Laoye (1st Vice President)
 - c. Akinwunmi Samson Laleye (Welfare Secretary)
 - d. Lukman Oladimeji Jaiyeola (Assistant Publicity Secretary)
 - e. Dhikrullah Adewale Balogun (General Council of the Bar)
 - f. Rotimi Komolafe (General Council of the Bar)

D. COMPLIANCE WITH COURT ORDERS AND THE RULE OF LAW

- i. The Conference reaffirmed that obedience to lawful court orders remains a fundamental pillar of constitutional democracy and the rule of law.
- ii. The Conference stressed that the Nigerian Bar Association, as the foremost defender of the rule of law in Nigeria, must continue to demonstrate fidelity to judicial authority and respect for decisions of courts of competent jurisdiction.
- iii. The Conference urged all institutions, public authorities, professional bodies and citizens to cultivate a culture of respect for judicial decisions as an indispensable requirement for democratic governance and constitutional order.

E. STRENGTHENING PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN THE JUDICIARY

- i. The Conference reaffirmed that public confidence in the judiciary remains one of the most valuable assets of any constitutional democracy and an indispensable foundation for the administration of justice.
- ii. The Conference therefore called upon judicial officers at all levels to continue to uphold the highest standards of integrity, independence, impartiality, professionalism and courage in the discharge of their constitutional responsibilities, noting that the legitimacy of the judicial process depends substantially on the trust and confidence reposed in it by the public.
- iii. The Conference further urged all stakeholders within the justice sector to take deliberate measures to eliminate any perception of bias, favouritism, corruption, undue influence or interference in the administration of justice in

order to strengthen the credibility of judicial institutions and enhance citizens' confidence in the rule of law.

F. ETHICS, PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

- i.** The Conference emphasised that the legal profession occupies a pivotal position in sustaining constitutional democracy, accountability and responsible governance.
- ii.** The Conference called upon legal practitioners to remain faithful to the highest traditions of the profession by upholding ethical standards, promoting respect for the rule of law and recognising their role as ministers in the temple of justice with a duty to preserve the integrity of the legal profession and advance the cause of justice.
- iii.** The Conference urged the Nigerian Bar Association, legal practitioners and other stakeholders within the justice sector to intensify efforts towards strengthening professional ethics, continuing legal education and institutional accountability as essential conditions for deepening democracy and good governance in Nigeria.

G. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

- i.** The Conference recognised the critical role of law in facilitating regional development, economic integration and sustainable growth across the South-West region.
- ii.** The Conference called for stronger collaboration among South-West states in the areas of infrastructure development, security, transportation, economic planning and legal harmonisation in order to accelerate regional prosperity and competitiveness.

H. YOUNG LAWYERS DEVELOPMENT

- i.** The Conference underscored the importance of mentorship, continuing legal education, and leadership development for young lawyers.
- ii.** The Conference encouraged young lawyers to identify their areas of strength and particular interest for career advancement and professional specialisation.

- iii. The Conference encouraged senior members of the profession to continue investing in the development of the next generation of legal practitioners.

I. ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND COMMENDATIONS


- i. The Conference expressed profound appreciation to all sponsors, partners, donors and supporters whose generous contributions made the successful hosting of the Conference possible.
- ii. The Conference further commended the Conference Planning Committee, Local Organising Committee, all sub-committees, volunteers and support personnel for their dedication, sacrifice and professionalism.
- iii. The Conference appreciated all delegates and participants for their active engagement and contributions to the success of the Conference.


J. CONCLUSION

The Conference concluded by reaffirming the commitment of Egbe Amofin O'odua to the promotion of professional excellence, ethical legal practice, justice, good governance, constitutionalism, national development and the preservation of Yoruba cultural values.

The Conference expressed confidence that the resolutions and recommendations arising from its deliberations will contribute meaningfully to the advancement of the legal profession, the strengthening of democratic institutions and the continued development of Nigeria.

Dated this 19th day of June, 2026.


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Aare Isiaka Abiola Olagunju, SAN
Chairman Egbe Amofin O'odua


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Adetunji Oso, SAN
Secretary Egbe Amofin O'odua