



EGBE AMOFIN O'ODUA

(THE YORUBA LAWYERS FORUM)

(RC: 184535)

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

Our Ref: _____ Your Ref: _____ Date: _____

AN OPEN LETTER TO YIAGA AFRICA, TRANSITION MONITORING GROUP (TMG) AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS PURPORTEDLY INVITED BY THE NBA PRESIDENT FOR OBSERVATION OF THE PROPOSED NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Dear Sirs/Madams,

We write on behalf of the leadership and members of the Egbe Amofin O'odua, being the umbrella body of all lawyers of Yoruba extraction from the South West Region of Nigeria, as well as the Yoruba speaking parts of Kwara and Kogi States respectively, to respectfully draw your attention to serious concerns surrounding the proposed observation of the forthcoming Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) national election.

We have become aware of the invitation extended to your respective organizations to observe the election. While election observation is a universally respected mechanism for promoting transparency and public confidence, we respectfully submit that the peculiar circumstances surrounding the proposed NBA election raise fundamental questions as to whether the process is capable of meaningful observation in the first place.

It is our considered position that the proposed election is being organised amidst allegations of non-compliance with the NBA Constitution and regulations relating to the electoral process. If these concerns are well founded, participation by reputable local and or international observers may inadvertently lend legitimacy to a process whose legal foundation remains disputed. We respectfully urge your organizations to independently ascertain the true legal status of the electoral process before accepting any invitation to observe it.

It is also curious and questionable that the President of the Nigerian Bar Association whose interference in the election process has been under serious scrutiny for exhibiting bias through open support for one of the Presidential candidates, unilaterally wrote to invite you to observe the purported NBA Election, whereas, he is not the Chairman of the Electoral Committee, that should ordinarily extend such invitation.

AARE ISIAKA ABIOLA OLAGUNJU SAN
Chairman
08060739223

OLUWATOYIN BASHORUN SAN
Vice Chairman
08023287054

ADETUNJI OSO, SAN
Secretary
08030422741

OLAYINKA SOKOYA
Publicity Secretary
08037270531

ROTIMI OLORUNFEMI
Treasurer
08111621116

MOSHOD ABIOLA
Auditor
08023970287

DEMOLA IKUJUNI
Assistant Secretary
08062480357

PAUL AKOMOLAFE
Welfare Secretary
08034110087

The NBA President is merely on a voyage of validity seeking. How does a President who has been relentlessly campaigning for one out of the three Presidential candidates think he can pretentiously use the invite of election monitors as a decoy to deceive the world that he is neutral? The NBA President is irredeemably compromised as far as the 2026 NBA Election is concerned and no credible election can be organized under his watch.

Furthermore, the election is designed to be conducted entirely through an electronic voting platform. Unlike conventional elections with identifiable polling units, voting centres and physical accreditation processes, the integrity of an electronic election depends almost entirely on the credibility, security, independence and auditability of the underlying technology infrastructure.

Consequently, the physical presence of observers in a conference room or monitoring centre cannot provide meaningful oversight of the actual electoral process. Such observers would have no access to the backend systems, servers, source codes, security architecture, audit logs or data transmission protocols through which votes are cast, transmitted, processed and collated. Accordingly, they would be unable to independently verify whether the electronic voting process faithfully reflects the votes cast.

There are also serious concerns regarding the competence, independence and credibility of the Information Technology service provider engaged for the conduct of the election. These concerns have been expressed through petitions by two of the three Presidential candidates, and generated widespread apprehension among members of the Bar regarding the transparency and integrity of the proposed electronic voting process. We respectfully urge your organizations to satisfy themselves that any technology deployed for such an election has undergone credible independent security audits and enjoys the confidence of all major stakeholders.

Also of importance for mention, is the intervention of the Honourable Attorney-General of the Federation, by which he issued Directions which advised amongst others; that the election be postponed to a later date in August, that a more credible service provider be retained to design the voting platform, that National Identification Number (NIN) be used for the voting exercise to ensure transparency of the election, and that having addressed some of the concerns of the litigants, the law suits against the NBA, the NBA President and the Electoral Committee be withdrawn.

However, rather than appreciate the good intention of the HAGF, the NBA President attacked and sponsored denigrating publications against the person, and the revered office of the HAGF, in both electronic and print media platforms. There is no doubt that the NBA President is only desirous of crowning his preferred successor by whatever means possible, hence his refusal to accept the HAGF directions, which is aimed at ensuring a credible election and an amicable resolution of all issues surrounding the conduct of the election.

It is our respectful view that international election observation should never become a symbolic exercise or be deployed merely to create the appearance of credibility where substantial legal and procedural concerns remain unresolved. The reputation of respected democratic institutions such as yours has been built upon unwavering commitment to the rule of law, due process, transparency and electoral integrity.

We therefore respectfully urge your organizations to refrain from participating in, observing or otherwise associating with the proposed NBA election unless and until all outstanding legal issues have been conclusively resolved, the electoral process fully complies with every subsisting court order, and the electronic voting platform is subjected to an independent, transparent and credible audit capable of inspiring the confidence of the entire legal profession.

This request is made in the interest of preserving the integrity of democratic institutions, protecting the credibility of election observation, and ensuring that no respected organization is inadvertently perceived as validating a process whose legality and integrity remain the subject of substantial controversy.

We trust that your organizations will carefully consider these concerns and act in a manner consistent with the democratic values and rule of law that your organizations have consistently championed in Nigeria and across the world. Please accept the assurances of our esteemed regards.

Dated this 11th day of July, 2026.



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



Prince Adetunji Osho, SAN
Secretary, Egbe Amofin O'odua