



## **ELECTORAL COMMITTEE OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION**

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### ***NOTICE NO.9, GUIDELINE (NO. B) FOR THE 2024 ELECTIONS OF NATIONAL OFFICERS OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (NBA) AND NBA REPRESENTATIVES TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE BAR*** **ELECTION AND CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES**

#### **1.0 MANDATE OF THE ECNBA**

- 1.1. The ECNBA is mandated to conduct elections to National Offices and election for Representatives of the NBA in the General Council of the Bar by the provisions of *Section 10* and the Second Schedule of the NBA Constitution 2015 as amended in 2021 (the Constitution).
- 1.2. Further to the Guideline A contained in Notice No.3 issued on the conduct of the elections, the ECNBA issues these further guidelines towards the conduct of the forthcoming elections to NBA National Officers and as NBA Representatives to the General Council of the Bar. Consequently, in accordance with *Section 10* and the Second Schedule of the Constitution, the ECNBA hereby issues the following further Guidelines to govern the conduct of the 2024 elections to National Offices and for Representatives of the NBA in the General Council of the Bar, and to govern the conduct of campaigns by candidates and their supporters.

#### **2.0 OFFICES TO BE CONTESTED FOR IN THE ELECTIONS OF NATIONAL OFFICERS OF THE NBA AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NBA TO GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE BAR**

- 2.1 As specified in the Preliminary Notice of Elections dated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 issued by the ECNBA (ECNBA's Preliminary Notice No. 2), the underlisted National Offices, will be contested at the elections pursuant to *Section 9* of the Constitution. It is to be understood that candidates cleared to contest may campaign for the offices for which they have been cleared, subject to these guidelines. The offices include:
  - a) The President.
  - b) The First Vice-President.
  - c) The Second Vice-President.
  - d) The Third Vice-President.
  - e) The General Secretary.
  - f) The Assistant General Secretary.

- g) The Treasurer.
- h) The Welfare Secretary.
- i) The Publicity Secretary.
- j) The Assistant Publicity Secretary.

2.2 Candidates cleared to contest as representatives of the NBA on the General Council of the Bar shall be open to campaign for their representative position for which they have been cleared subject to these guidelines. **NOTE: The issuance of these guidelines is to prepare candidates and voters for compliance and does not constitute approval to commence any form of campaign yet until the ECNBA lifts the ban on campaign.**

### **3.0 CAMPAIGN DATE AND PERIOD**

3.1 As from the date of the ECNBA declaring campaign open, candidates shall be free to campaign strictly in line with the guidelines set out herein. Any departure from the guidelines may occasion a disqualification of the candidate from participating in the elections.

3.2 Campaigns shall commence from the **10<sup>th</sup> of June 2024** upon ECNBA's announcement of the lifting of the ban on campaign and shall cease by **12.00pm midnight of the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 2024**. For the avoidance of doubt there shall be no campaign of any sort, by any means nor on any platform/forum or space (terrestrial, online, digital or otherwise) on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 2024. It shall be a campaign free day for all parties to prepare for the election day.

### **4.0 ELECTION DATE**

4.1. The 2024 elections of National Officers of the NBA and NBA Representatives to the General Council of the Bar shall be by universal suffrage and electronic voting, in accordance with *Section 10(6)* of the Constitution commencing from **00:00 hours to 23:59 hours on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024**.

### **5.0. CAMPAIGN RULES AND REGULATION**

5.1 Candidates are advised to observe strictly the provisions of the Constitution regarding conduct that may lead to disqualification.

5.2. The ECNBA shall ensure strict compliance by the Candidates with the provisions of the Constitution, as well as the Rules and Regulations issued by the ECNBA under its Constitutional mandate. Candidates are therefore enjoined in their own interest and in the interest of the credibility of the Association's electoral process to in addition to the above, observe and comply with the following Rules and Regulations.

5.3 Pursuant to the Constitution, ECNBA had requested Candidates to submit by e-mail, a copy of their Curriculum Vitae of not more than four (4)

pages of A4-size paper, comprehensive manifestos and other campaign materials to the ECNBA not later than the day fixed by the ECNBA in its correspondence to all candidates, which we have received for publication on the NBA and ECNBA websites, .

- 5.4 Pursuant to *Section 9(4)* of the Constitution, a member shall not be qualified to hold any National Office in the Association **if during election campaigns:**
- a) There is evidence that he/she is sponsored by or has received any financial assistance or inducement from any government of the Federation, public or private organizations or bodies corporate.
  - b) He/she sponsors or is associated with sponsoring a Newspaper or Magazine article or any electronic broadcast vilifying other Candidates or extolling a Candidate's virtues.
  - c) *Part IV (12), (13), (14), (15) and Part V (8), (9), (10) and (11), Second Schedule of the Constitution* prohibit the following by any candidate:
    - i) The publication, printing or distribution of any campaign material, gifts, and any form of souvenir whatsoever by a candidate or his/her supporter(s) is hereby prohibited and any candidate who contravenes this provision shall be disqualified from being voted for. **To this effect any legal practitioner who distributes or in whose possession such campaign materials are found shall be cited to the appropriate authority for misconduct and acts unbecoming of a legal practitioner.**
    - ii) Wearing of any cloth, apparel, badge, face cap, or insigna indicating support for any candidate or office being vied for by a candidate, either adorned by the candidate or his/her supporters is strictly prohibited.
    - iii) **Any form of donations and philanthropic gestures by Candidates seeking election into any National Office during the election year and prior to the election, made to any member or Branch is hereby prohibited,** and any Candidate who contravenes this provision shall be disqualified from being voted for in the election.
    - iv) All Branches, Sections, and Fora are prohibited from soliciting contributions, donations or sponsorship from Candidates seeking

election into any National Office during the election year. **Officers of a Branch, Section or Fora who breach this provision shall be cited to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee for misconduct and acts unbecoming of a legal practitioner.**

- v) No candidate shall financially induce, blackmail or coerce any member with a view to influence such member's choice in the election. Any form of financial inducement including paying annual Practicing Fees or Branch dues for lawyers to curry favour from voters or for any reason whatsoever by Candidates and their supporters in the election year is hereby prohibited, and any Candidate who contravenes this provision shall be disqualified from being voted for in the election. **To this effect any legal practitioner found to have breached this provision shall be cited to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee for misconduct and acts unbecoming of a legal practitioner.** PROVIDED that any such payment of Bar Practicing Fees and Branch dues by the Candidate, for lawyers who are in his/her direct employment shall not be construed as financial inducement.
- 5.5 There shall be no use of offensive or derogatory language, text messages, or social media content or comment to disparage other candidate(s) by any of the candidates/aspirants or their supporters.
- 5.6 There shall be no impersonation of any lawyer, or voter by any other lawyer or person either during campaign or elections. This shall be treated as a professional misconduct and offenders shall be referred to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee, and/or to law enforcement agencies for prosecution.
- 5.7 Election campaigns shall not be by any form of political rally. Campaigns for the election shall be restricted to one-on-one visits, phone calls and personal messages. There shall be no form of video representations or audio jingles, by or on behalf of any candidate.
- 5.8 Campaigns shall strictly be by way of concise messages promoting a candidate, his/her programmes and manifesto as submitted to ECNBA, and centered only on issues geared towards advancing the Bar and its objectives, the legal profession and the course of justice. It shall be professional, civil, and carried out with decorum. Personal attacks, slurs, unwholesome innuendoes, ethnic or religious content are strictly prohibited.
- 5.9 By Section 9(3)F of the Constitution, National Officers, and in particular, the President and the General Secretary, must be persons with proven integrity, administrative skills and experience, and with demonstrable capacity to serve **without expecting or having consideration for**

**pecuniary rewards and/or remuneration.** Therefore all campaigns by candidates and their supporters shall be void of pecuniary or monetary inducements under any guise.

- 5.10 All candidates shall be scheduled to participate at a manifesto presentation day to be hosted by the ECNBA on a day to be publicized, in the weeks leading to election day.

## **6.0 QUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS TO VOTE AND VERIFICATION OF MEMBERS**

- 6.1 In accordance with *Part IV (6)*, Second Schedule of the Constitution, all members of the Association who met the qualification requirement shall be eligible to vote at the general election for National Offices in accordance with these guidelines, provided that such members must belong to a Branch, and must have paid their Practicing Fees as and when due (from 1<sup>st</sup> January and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024) and are duly registered to vote at that elections.

- 6.2 In accordance with *Part IV (9)*, of the Second Schedule of the Constitution, the list of members eligible to vote has been made available for verification of members data at <http://www.ecnba.org/prel.vot.list.search.php> Members have from the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2024 been able to commence the verification of their details (especially email and phone numbers) for correctness, and where there are observed amendments to be made, members can submit necessary corrections to update same with their correct information by following the prompts on the webpage. Such corrections are limited to phone number and email addresses.

## **7.0 ELECTRONIC VOTING AND VOTING PLATFORM**

- 7.1 Pursuant to *Part VI*, Second Schedule of the Constitution, the elections shall be conducted by electronic voting in accordance with the Guidelines stipulated by the ECNBA. Further to the competitive bid process for the appointment of a Technical Service Consultant Messrs Digiterhub Ltd have been selected as Technical Service Consultant to the ECNBA having demonstrated superior capacity and requisite skills during the technical review and selection process.

7.2. By a second bid process opened for the selection of the Electronic Voting Platform Service Provider, and in consultation with the ECNBA Technical Service Consultant, upon a competitive technical review process of bids, the selected electronic voting platform is the Election Buddy platform operated and run by Election Buddy Inc/Inits Limited Consortium. ECNBA has obtained relevant written attestations as to the integrity, capacity and security of the platform for the election. Upon completion of documentation, the said platform shall be subjected to further necessary vulnerability assessment and penetration testing to further assure candidates and members of the integrity of the platform and elections as required by the Constitution. The ECNBA shall ensure strict compliance with the representations and warranties issued by the Service Provider.

7.3 Voter Verification has commenced on the published list of voters on the [www.ecnba.org](http://www.ecnba.org) website, and upon configuration of the election platform, a second round of verification via trial emails and SMS to all eligible voters shall be conducted at least 21 days before the date of election in line with Part III, Paragraph 7 of the NBA Constitution.

7.4 The ECNBA shall further conduct a trial run of the electronic voting system by a random selection of eligible voters across branches in further preparation and assurance of the voting process before the election day and same shall be in collaboration with stakeholders, candidates or their representatives.

## **8.0. ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS OF ELECTION**

8.1 At the close of the poll, the ECNBA shall, in the presence of the Candidates or their representatives/agents, collate and verify the votes before the announcement of results.

8.2 Pursuant to *Part X* (1), Second Schedule of the Constitution, the results of the election shall be announced within twenty-four (24) hours of the conduct of elections upon collation and verification of the votes.

**9.0** The ECNBA reserves the right to issue additional guidelines on the 2024 elections, voting process and campaign.

**Dated this 10th Day of June, 2024.**



**OLUSEUN ABIMBOLA SAN**  
*Chairman*



**HUWAILA MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM**  
*Secretary*