

SECTION ON PUBLIC INTEREST AND DEVELOPMENT LAW NIGERIA BAR ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

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RESOLUTIONS OF NBA-SPIDEL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EMERGENCY MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, MARCH 01, 2024 VIA ZOOM

The Executive Committee view with deep concern the reported dissolution of the SPIDEL Executive Committee by NBA-NEC.

The Executive Committee notes that the SPIDEL's request to NBA-NEC vide a letter dated the 22nd of February, 2024 to refer the misunderstanding/dispute between the office of the President and NBA-SPIDEL for dispute resolution was not treated by NBA-NEC.

The Executive Committee notes that the memorandum by SPIDEL's Executive Committee to NBA-NEC requesting the NBA President to recuse himself from deliberations on the SPIDEL matter was also not treated by NBA-NEC.

The Executive Committee notes that as the complainant in the dispute formally brought to the notice of NBA NEC by NBA-SPIDEL, the NBA President ought not to have acted as the accuser, prosecutor and trial judge at NBA-NEC by presiding over a matter of which he was the complainant.

The Executive Committee notes that basic principles of natural justice were accordingly and predictably breached in the process of 'trial' of NBA-SPIDEL

Executive Committee at NBA-NEC meeting in Jos.

The Executive Committee expresses deep concern that such manifest disregard of basic principles of natural justice and fair hearing could be witnessed in an Association whose motto is "Promoting the rule of law," and that the reported decision did grave violence to due process and the rule of law.

The Executive Committee notes that the reported decision was taken in clear breach of a subsisting order of a Delta State High Court coram Egwu J. directing NBA to appear in court on Monday, March 04, 2024 to show cause why an injunction should not be granted against it; that the reported decision by NBA-NEC also breached the hallowed principle of lis pendens and has foisted a state of helplessness on the court and undermined its dignity.

The Executive Committee highly commends the NBA General Secretary, Mr. Adesina Adegbite for duly informing the NBA-NEC of the pending court cases and valiantly insisting that the SPIDEL matter is subjudice.

The Executive Committee deeply sympathises with Mr. Adesina Adegbite, for the humiliation he suffered in the hands of the NBA President by his courageous insistence on due process and rule of law.

The Executive Committee thank SPIDEL members and leading human rights activists, including Messrs Femi Falana SAN, Ebun-Olu Adegboruwa SAN, Prof. Chidi Odinkalu and Inibehe Effiong among others for their massive show of solidarity. This merely restates the unanimous Vote of Confidence passed on the Executive Committee during the SPIDEL Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of 4th of February, 2024.

The Executive Committee states that it has now become imperative and indeed urgent to democratise NBA-NEC through amendment of the NBA Constitution in

order to obviate the manifest irregularities and recourse to self-help noted above.

This will safeguard NBA from public odium.

The Executive Committee approved the request by ARISE Television for its

Chairman, Mr. John Aikpokpo-Martins to discuss the SPIDEL crisis.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Executive Committee vehemently disagrees with

the decisions of the NBA-NEC purportedly dissolving the NBA-SPIDEL Executive

Committee and directing withdrawal of cases aimed to secure the public interest

and checkmate impunity.

The Executive Committee will among other measures, await the outcome of

pending cases on the SPIDEL matter.

1 hm

John Aikpokpo-Martins

Chairman.



Funmi Adeogun

Secretary.