



## COMMUNIQUE

### COMMUNIQUE OF THE EGBE AMOFIN O'ODUA WOMEN'S INAUGURAL SUMMIT HELD AT WORLD LILES HOTEL, IBADAN, OYO STATE ON SATURDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025.

#### A. PREAMBLE:

The Egbe Amofin Oodua Women's Inaugural Summit was convened on Saturday, 6th December 2025, bringing together distinguished female legal practitioners, Elders of the Bar, Senior Advocates of Nigeria, jurists, leaders of the profession, and 122 registered delegates from Ekiti, Lagos, Kwara, Ogun, Ondo, Osun and Oyo States, with participation of guests also recorded from other geopolitical zones of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA). This summit was preceded by a welcome cocktail for all delegates on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2025 at 7pm in the same venue.

The Summit was themed **“Evolving Role of Women in the Legal Profession: Striking a Balance between Professionalism and Gender Bias”**

The Summit reflected deeply on the evolving realities confronting women in legal practice, the persisting challenges posed by female gender bias, the demands of professionalism, and the need to reposition the female lawyer as a central participant and beneficiary of the transformational future of the legal profession in Nigeria.

The program featured keynote presentations, panel sessions, goodwill messages, and deliberations by the faculty; which comprised of:

1. **Hon. Justice Toyin B. Adegoke** – Judge, Federal High Court, of Nigeria, Akure Division.
2. **Mrs. Titi Akinlawon, SAN** – Astute litigator of over 40 years' experience.
3. **Mrs. Adedoyin Rhodes-Vivour, SAN** – Leading Maritime Law Expert.
4. **Mrs. Bukola Ajao** – Family Law Expert & Chairman, NBA Barnawa Branch

Goodwill messages were delivered by:

- **Her Excellency, Engr. Noimot Salako-Oyedele** – Deputy Governor of Ogun State
- **Chief Wole Olanipekun, CFR, SAN** – Former President, Nigerian bar Association and Member of Egbe Amofin O’Odua Board of Trustees.
- **Honorable Justice Taofiqat Oluwatoyin Oyekan – Abdullai - Oyekan** – Admin Judge Emeritus, High Court of Lagos State.
- **Mrs. Hairat A. Balogun** – Former Chairman, Body of Benchers & Life Bencher.
- **Mrs. Cecilia Bolaji Dada** - Hon. Commissioner for Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation, Lagos State.
- There were also in attendance dignitaries, such as **Hon. Justice Shola Amu-Shobayo of the Ogun State Judiciary**, **Professor Foluke Dada, Oyinkan Badejo-Okusanya SAN**, **Alhaji Muritala Abdul Rasheed SAN**, **Mr. Fabunmi SAN**, **Abiodun Olatunji SAN**, **Abiola Olagunju SAN**, **Chair Egbe-Amofin O’Odua** and a host of others.

## B. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUMMIT:

Arising from the keynote presentations, goodwill messages, and the collective engagement of delegates and dignitaries present; the Summit made the following recommendations:

1. Professionalism must remain the foundation upon which legal practitioners, regardless of gender, secure recognition, leadership, and influence.
2. Female Gender bias, whilst acknowledged, must not be allowed to define or limit the progress of women in law; competence remains the strongest tool of this ‘trade’.
3. Structured mentorship should be developed to build capacity, guide younger lawyers, and institutionalize leadership succession among women.
4. Law firms, institutions, and the NBA must strengthen policy frameworks that ensure fairness, equal opportunity, and gender-balanced representation.
5. Female legal practitioners must be encouraged to embrace both their gender identity and professional excellence without compromise. They need to recognize the strength in both.
6. The NBA and legal institutions must work toward creating a future where women no longer break ceilings, but thrive in a profession where such ceilings cease to exist.
7. The NBA zoning and micro-zoning provisions must be respected as constitutionally guided safeguards that protect equity, unity, and inclusion within the Association.

8. Once decisions are reached collectively by any zone through transparent processes, such decisions should be respected by stakeholders in the spirit of professional honour and reciprocity.
9. The legal profession must avoid actions capable of creating cracks within the Bar and instead promote confidence, cohesion, and unity of purpose.
10. The Summit reaffirms support for the Egbe Amofin Oodua adopted consensus candidate, **Aare Olumuyiwa Akinboro, SAN**, for the office of NBA President in 2026, in line with the principle of fairness, historical consistency, and the 2019 zoning of the Egbe Amofin Oodua and constitutional zoning structure of the NBA.

#### **C. IMPORTANT HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SUMMIT:**

The delegates received with thunderous standing ovation the goodwill message from the leader of the Egbe, Chief Wole Olanipekun CFR, SAN, who chronicled the history of the Egbe, the zoning arrangement agreed upon in 2019 and the *raison detre* for the zoning which gave Osun the right of first refusal in the 2026 NBA election.

The summit resolved to publish in widely read national dailies, the goodwill message of Chief Wole Olanipekun CFR, SAN for the knowledge and education of lawyers across the country as it pertains to the leadership rotation within the NBA.

The Summit noted with delight and commended the formal declaration by **Professor Foluke Dada**, of her withdrawal from the contest for the Office of President of the Nigerian Bar Association in the 2026 Elections, in deference to the decision of the Egbe, at the August 2025 Annual General Conference. She reiterated her intension to align with the Egbe's preferred candidate – **Aare Olumuyiwa Akinboro SAN**.

The Summit received this announcement with admiration and described same as historic, selfless, statesmanlike, and reflective of the highest ideals of Omoluabi.

#### **D. CONCLUSION:**

The Egbe Amofin Oodua Women's Inaugural Summit stands as a milestone in the continuing journey of empowerment, visibility, and leadership for women within the legal profession.

The Summit calls upon all stakeholders to align with the spirit of unity, professionalism, gender inclusiveness, and constitutional fidelity, as we collectively build a Bar where leadership is defined by merit, service, integrity, and respect for established principles.

#### **E. APPRECIATION:**

The summit appreciated the Executive Committee of the Egbe Amofin, Leaders of the Bar across the country, the management and staffs of World Lilies Hotel, Ibadan, the conference sponsors and organizing committee for their financial support and sacrifice in ensuring the success of the summit.

The summit also appreciated the trustees and leaders of the Egbe for their sacrifice and unwavering support for the growth of the Egbe over the years.

The Summit ended at 3: 30 pm. Thereafter all parties to the summit were hosted to a dinner and night of entertainment. Parties departed on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025 after breakfast.

*Dated at Ibadan this 7th day of December, 2026.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Oluwatoyin Ajobe Bashorun', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Oluwatoyin Ajobe Bashorun, SAN

Vice-Chairman (Iya Egbe/Chairman Summit Organizing Committee).