



NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

GARKI BRANCH (Liberty Bar)

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23rd, January, 2026.

PRESS STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DISCLAIMER OF THE ABDULRASHEED MAINA NEWS CONFERENCE AND AWARD PRESENTATION PURPORTEDLY ORGANISED BY NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, GARKI BRANCH

The attention of the Executive Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association Garki Branch has been drawn to a viral video making the rounds on social media and mainstream media purporting to be a news conference and award presentation ceremony organised by the Branch in honour of Mr Abdulrasheed Maina. This video came to the executive officers of the Executive Committee as a surprise and we are appalled as any other legal practitioner who saw the video.

We make bold and hasten to assert that this purported news conference and award presentation ceremony was never discussed, approved or sanctioned in any of the meetings of the Executive Committee of the Branch or at any of the General Meetings of the Branch. None of the executive officers of the Executive Committee was aware of the said news conference and award presentation ceremony. The Branch, just like its parent body, that is, the National, is committed to the promotion of the rule of law and therefore could not have sanctioned a press conference to discuss questions that are still *sub judice* or to present an award to a person whose innocence is still a subject of pending criminal proceedings and to make prejudicial comments in the process.

Accordingly, at an Emergency Meeting of the Executive Committee which held earlier today, the 23rd of January, 2026, the Chairman of the Branch has been suspended from office pending investigations into the purported news conference and the award presentation. The suspension followed a Motion to that effect moved by the Financial Secretary, Mr. Paschal Nnaji, and seconded by the Assistant Secretary, Mr. Muhammed Mba Al-Saqafi. Mr. Barnabas Oswald Kwamkur, a distinguished member of the Branch, has been appointed to head the *Ad Hoc* Investigation Committee. The report of the Committee will be submitted to the Executive Committee which will present same to the Emergency General Meeting which will be convened

for this purpose. In the meantime, the Vice Chairman of the Branch, Ms. Lydia Izan shall assume the office of the Chairman in acting capacity until the conclusion of the investigation and the outcome of the Emergency General Meeting.

We therefore call on all members of the Nigerian Bar Association, the entirety of the legal community, and, indeed, the general public to disregard and ignore the purported news conference and award presentation ceremony as the events were never sanctioned and approved by the Executive Committee and the General Meeting of the Branch.

Thank you.

Lydia Izan, Esq.
Branch Vice-Chairman

Chidi Ifeonye Alechenu, Esq.
Branch Secretary