

NATIONAL NBA BRANCH ELECTIONS APPEALS COMMITTEE (NORTH)
DECISION ON THE NBA GWAGWALADA BRANCH ELECTIONS

Decided on Saturday, 16 MAY 2026

The Appeal Committee sat on the 16th day of May 2026 and the meeting started at 10:00am.

ATTENDANCE:

i.	Abdul Atadoga Ibrahim, SAN	Chairman
ii.	Murtala A. Kankia - (Life Bencher)	Alt. Chairman
iii.	Gloria Okuduwa	Secretary
iv.	Yakubu Moses Ede, PhD	Alt. Secretary
v.	Dr. Adamu Lawal Danbatta	Member
vi.	Haruna Yelma	Member
vii.	Garba L. Hudu, SAN	Member
viii.	Sunusi Musa, SAN	Member
ix.	Member Adiguve, Esq	Member

APPOLOGIES:

The Nigerian Bar Association Branch Elections Appeal Committee (North) received the following appeals in respect of the decisions by the ELCOM of NBA Gwagwalada Branch thus:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF NBA BRANCH ELECTION APPEALS (2026)

This executive summary outlines the principal appeals, petitions, findings, and directions arising from the NBA Branch Elections Appeal Committee proceedings relating primarily to the NBA Garki, Gwagwalada, **Yola** and Kano Branch elections for 2026. The decisions focused heavily on electoral qualification, meeting attendance requirements, procedural competence of petitions, and the limits of the powers of ELCOM.

A dominant issue throughout the appeals was whether virtual or online attendance at branch meetings could satisfy the constitutional attendance threshold required under the Uniform Bye-Laws. The Committee held

consistently that only the physical attendance register maintained by the Branch Secretary constitutes the valid and recognised record of attendance for electoral qualification purposes. Consequently, appeals by Rosemary Ogechi Ogazi, Chekwube Osita Ebubealor, Babatunde Moses Tijani, and Oluwaseyi Adedeji Arowosebe failed because their attendance arguments relied substantially on online participation.

The Committee further reaffirmed that qualification requirements under Sections 14 and 15 of the Uniform Bye-Laws are mandatory and incapable of waiver by ELCOM, the Branch, or any committee established by the Branch. Online attendance lists tendered before the Committee were rejected as unsigned, unauthenticated, and lacking verifiable membership details.

In the appeal filed by Kalu Chibuikem Imo, however, the Committee distinguished between electoral qualification issues and allegations of financial impropriety or impersonation. It held that the Bye-Laws did not empower ELCOM to disqualify candidates on grounds outside the express provisions governing electoral eligibility. Accordingly, the appeal succeeded and the disqualification was set aside.

The Committee also addressed Sani Ammani's challenge against campaign restrictions imposed by the NBA Kano Branch ELCOM. Ammani argued that the restrictions unlawfully prohibited ordinary political communication, including phone calls, messages, courtesy visits, WhatsApp participation, and campaign materials under threat of disqualification. He further contended that the restrictions violated principles of constitutional fairness, proportionality, and natural justice. The matter raised significant questions concerning locus standi, the scope of ELCOM's regulatory authority, and whether campaign restrictions not expressly grounded in the Bye-Laws could lawfully attract sanctions.

A number of cross-petitions and responses were also struck out or disregarded for procedural incompetence, including failure to comply with statutory timelines or reliance on procedures unknown to the Bye-Laws. Overall, the decisions reaffirmed strict compliance with the Uniform Bye-

Laws, the supremacy of the physical attendance register for election qualification purposes, and the limited jurisdiction of ELCOM in disciplinary or quasi-criminal allegations unrelated to the express constitutional requirements for contesting elections.

TABULAR EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Matter/ PARTIES	CORE ISSUE	KEY FINDING	RELEVANT BYE LAW ARTICLES	DECISION	AFFECTED BRANCH
Rosemary Ogechi Ogazi Appeal	Financial misappropriation and nominator's attendance.	Financial allegations outside ELCOM jurisdiction; attendance requirement not met	Art. 14(3), 14(4) & 15	Appeal dismissed; financial disqualification nullified. Nominator's attendance failure sustained attendance disqualification .	Garki
Chekwube Osita Ebubealor Appeal	Recognition of online attendance records	Only physical attendance register recognised under Bye-Laws.	Art. 14(3), 14(4) & 15	Appeal dismissed. Disqualification Upheld. Only physical Register in Branch Secretary's custody are valid.	Garki
Babatunde Moses Tijani Appeal	Whether virtual attendance could supplement physical attendance	Adopted branch minutes cannot override mandatory Bye-Law requirements	Art. 14(3), 14(4) & 15	Appeal dismissed. Disqualification upheld. Only physical Register in Branch Secretary's custody are valid.	Garki
Emmanuel Umahi Ekwe, Esq.	Early payment and form collection	No locus standi	Art. 13, 15 & 16	Struck out. Lacked locus standi as a	Garki

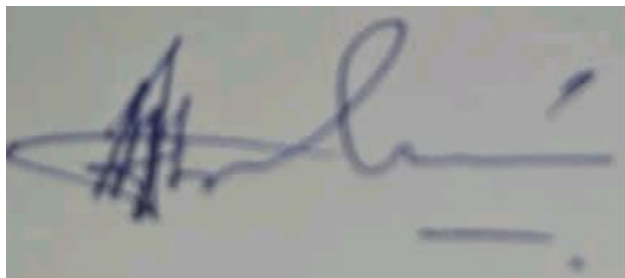
				non-candidate and failure to abide by Section 16(8) of the Bye-Laws.	
Oluwaseyi Adedeji Arowosebe Appeal	Challenge to early nomination form payments	Payment before collection date did not amount to breach	Art. 13 & 15	Petition dismissed. Early payment is not a ground for disqualification.	Garki
Oluwaseyi Adedeji Arowosebe Appeal	Disqualification based on nominator not meeting the attendance of meeting requirement	Virtual meeting not recognized by Bye-Laws.	Art. 14(3), 14(4) & 15	Appeal dismissed. Disqualification upheld. Only physical meetings count towards electoral eligibility.	
Kalu Chibuikem Imo Appeal	Disqualification based on impersonation and financial allegations	ELCOM lacked authority to disqualify on non-constitutional grounds	Art. 14 & 15	Appeal allowed; candidate restored. ELCOM exceeded Jurisdiction.	Garki
Olagundoye Gbenga Paul Appeal	Cross-appeal to the appeal of Oluwaseyi Arowosebe(no minators failed to meet required meeting attendance)	Cross-appeal unknown to Uniform Bye- law	Art. 16	Struck out, disqualification of Arowosebe reaffirmed	

Chris Ifeanyichukwu Ugwoke Cross-Petition	Opposition to Ogazi and Imo appeals	Response filed outside statutory timeline, process unknown to the Bye-Laws	Art. 16	Struck out	Garki
Consolidated Attendance Appeals	Validity of virtual attendance for electoral qualification	Virtual attendance not recognised under Uniform Bye-Laws	Art. 14(3), 14(4) & 15	All attendance-based appeals dismissed.	Garki
Sani Ammani v. Kano ELCOM	Challenge to campaign restrictions imposed by ELCOM	Rebutted ELCOM'S issues of locus standi, and legality of campaign restrictions	Art. 13 & 14	Succeeds in part. Campaign allowed but must be within the confines of the provisions of the Constitution.	Kano
Yuguda vs ELCOM Yola	Disqualified from contesting the position of Secretary by the ELCOM Yola Branch	That the candidate that emerged victorious at the screening had not attained 7 years post call	Art. 14(3);	Failed.	Yola
John Obika vs ELCOM, NBA Gwagwalada	Disqualification due to his absence during screening. Notice for screening was unreasonable.	Absence due to burial of family member out of jurisdiction			Gwagwalada
John Okechukwu vs ELCOM, NBA Gwagwalada					Gwagwalada
Maria Okon Edet vs	Disqualified on the ground that his 2024	2024 BPF receipt reflecting Calabar due glitch	Art. 14(2)(c) of	Appeal succeeds	Gwagwalada

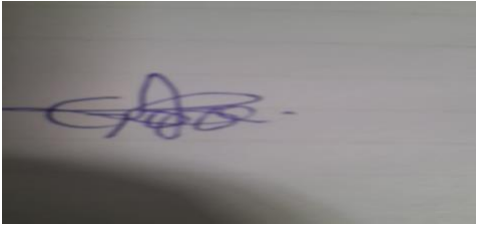
ELCOM, NBA Gwagwalada	BPF was paid under Calabar Branch		the Bye Law		
Blessing Chinyere Isaac vs ELCOM, NBA Gwagwalada	Disqualified for failure to attach the Branch Due receipts for 2025 and 2026 of nominator	Aspirant did not attach the nominator's BPF and Branch Due Receipt.	Art. 14(2)(a)	Appeal dismissed	Gwagwalad a
Nuraddin Daud Abdulsalam vs ELCOM, NBA Gwagwalada	Disqualified for payment of 2025 BPF under Abuja Branch	Portal printout indicates Gwagwalada Branch	Art. 14(2)(c)	Appeal allowed	Gwagwalad a
Sekpe Mark Joseph & Ors v. Nuraddin Abdulsalam	BPF registration, financial standing, and pending LPDC matters.	Failure to first approach ELCOM rendered petition incompetent	Art. 15 & 16(8)	Petition Struck Out. Failed to file with Branch ELCOM first.	Gwagwalad a

Relevant information required for other petitions and appeals.

Dated this day of May, 2026.



Abdul Atadoga Ibrahim SAN
Chairman

A close-up photograph of a handwritten signature in blue ink on a white surface. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'G. Okuduwa'.

Gloria Okuduwa

Secretary