



AARE
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SAN, FCI Arb (UK), FIMC, Life Bencher



MY ASSESSMENT OF THE CHARADE; I SAW IT COMING

Let me begin by thanking my teeming supporters who stood by me and demonstrated unwavering faith, remarkable commitment, and an abiding belief in my vision for a Bar that is stronger, more inclusive, and better positioned to serve every member. The popularity and acceptance that I enjoyed throughout the country was quite remarkable and inspirational. From the North to the South, lawyers of every standing, from the high and mighty down to our younger colleagues demonstrated great zeal and support for my candidature.

The campaign period afforded me a cherished opportunity to connect with lawyers throughout the country and directly feel their pulse and desire for a Bar that genuinely carter for the interest of its members and reclaims its rightful position in the Society. The experience was invaluable and I couldn't have traded it for anything.

My engagements during this period further revealed to me how entrapped and captured the Association has been. I witnessed firsthand how the freewill of members has been subjugated as members were being coerced and cajoled to follow a course or suffer detriments. Hence, I knew clearly that I was running uphill and swimming against the tide but I volunteered to sacrifice and make a statement for the liberation of the Bar. This I have done loudly and clearly to the hearing of everybody about the need to restructure the Association and its electoral process.

It is no news that from the outset, the entire electoral process for the 2026 National Officers election was built on a faulty foundation. From the unconstitutional appointment of the members of the Electoral Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association (ECNBA), to the compensation of the Chairman and Secretary of the Committee with appointment into the Body of Benchers, to the open

partisanship of the NBA President and the deployment of the structures & instrumentality of the Association in favour of a preferred candidate, to the appointment of the Service Providers whose incompetence and deficiencies are clear for all to see. All these gave rise to the sham we have now witnessed as an election.

By the Revised Electronic Voting Guideline issued by the ECNBA, voting which was scheduled to commence at 12:00 a.m. W.A.T on Saturday, 18th July 2026 could not kick off on time as the system collapsed. This clear demonstration of the incompetence of the Service Providers was alleged by the ECNBA to be a cyberattack on the E-voting Platform. However, the said allegation of cyberattack flies in the face of the following facts:

1. I **Aare Olumuyiwa Akinboro, SAN** was inexplicably excluded from the ballot for the office of President, as the names on the ballot for the said office were **Aare Oluwatoyin Muyiwa Akinboro, SAN, Lateef Omoyemi Akangbe, SAN and Oyinkansola Badejo Okunsanya SAN (Mrs B).**
2. Voter authentication One Time Password (OTP) was by email rather than to Phone numbers as stipulated in the guidelines
3. The presidential ballot interface displayed only the photograph of Oyinkansola Badejo Okunsanya SAN (Mrs B) while the photographs of the remaining candidates, including mine were omitted.

It therefore begs the question whether all the above anomalies were also a part of the cyberattack rather than a clear demonstration of incompetence and unpreparedness by both the Service Providers and the ECNBA.

Furthermore, I have participated in all the online National Officers election of the NBA but I must say that this election stands out as the most controversial and has visibly exposed the weaknesses in our electoral system which my candidature was centered around correcting. The anomalous and defective nature of this election need not be rehashed as the disillusionment with the system are clear for everyone to see. It is so bad that I, as a candidate in this



election, was unable to vote as I was not sent OTP just like tens of thousands of other lawyers.

It is no news that timely interventions were made by well-meaning leaders to save the Association from the monumental embarrassment that this election has become and to ensure a free and fair process. However, those who sought to continue to benefit from the flawed system stoutly resisted.

When I was invited to the 3-Man Committee of the Body of the Past Presidents of the NBA, my presentation to them was based squarely on how to reform our electoral process so that we can reclaim our position in the society as model of true democratic process as we cannot have a log of wood in our eyes while seeking to remove a speck in the eyes of others. Surprisingly, the Recommendations and Outcome of the 3-Man Committee was twisted to malign my candidature.

Nevertheless, this election has justified my stance as it further exposes a flawed system which has always been rigged and currently rigged. I believe that my candidature, having been able to further expose the flaws in our process, it will be clear to everyone who, perhaps, has been living in denial to see that there is need to reform our electoral process and rid it of the flaws that has continued to expose us to public ridicule.

I entered into this Presidential race knowing that I was up against an entrenched cabal who will not be willing to give up power easily. I am happy and proud that I stood tall against all odds in the quest to wrestle our Association from their claws and I did not falter. I confronted all the issues firmly, carried myself with dignity and presented our members with carefully thought-out programmes in my manifesto to reposition the Bar. I did not compromise my intentions for the NBA in any way.

Regarding the on-going election, while I do not consider it a do or die affair, I am consulting with my team on our next line of action.

I am fulfilled that I have been able to expose the flaws in the system and it is my sincere hope that our members will take advantage of this moment to demand immediate reform of our electoral process.



Finally, I extend my sincere appreciation to all well-meaning members of NBA who sacrificed their time, energy and resources towards ensuring that we made this loud statement which I believe has set the foundation towards correcting all the issues in our elections.

Thank you all and God bless you.

Signed:



Aare Olumuyiwa, Akinboro, SAN, FCI Arb (UK), Life Bencher.
Past General-Secretary, Nigerian Bar Association.

