

Thursday 28th August 2026

The President
Nigerian Bar Association
National Secretariat
Abuja, Nigeria

The General Secretary
Nigerian Bar Association
National Secretariat
Abuja, Nigeria

**FORMAL COMPLAINT AND REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION INTO THE
HARASSMENT AND UNSAFE TREATMENT OF A LEGAL PRACTITIONER
ATTENDING AN NBA PROGRAMME IN PORT HARCOURT**

I write to formally bring to the attention of the Nigerian Bar Association an incident of harassment and unsafe treatment which I experienced on the night of Wednesday 27th August 2026, at about 10:00pm while on my way to attend the Legal Rave held at CASONI PREMIUM CLUB, 6 Presbyterian Close, off Stadium Road, opposite RCCG, Rumuomasi, Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

I consider the circumstances sufficiently serious to warrant the immediate attention of the Association, particularly because the incident occurred in the course of my attendance at an NBA conference and left me in a vulnerable situation late at night, resulting in significant fear, anxiety and psychological distress. The incident went beyond an ordinary disagreement over transportation; it created a genuine concern for my personal safety and wellbeing.

FACTS OF THE INCIDENT

At approximately 10:00 p.m., I boarded a commercial bus operated by a driver whose details are presently unknown. At the time of boarding, the agreed destination was Winpee. However, rather than taking me to the agreed bus stop, the driver stopped and dropped me along the road at a junction (Pepperoni), under the bridge near a police station at approximately 10:00 p.m., without reasonable regard for the circumstances or the safety implications of leaving passengers at that location at that hour & security situation in the country presently.

I objected to this conduct and requested that the driver take me to the agreed destination. A disagreement subsequently arose concerning the transportation fare. Given that the driver had failed to take me to the agreed destination, I declined to pay the full fare and offered to pay a proportionate amount instead in the spirit of fairness.

Another female passenger who was travelling in the same vehicle also objected to the driver's conduct and likewise refused to pay the full fare. The driver, however, became increasingly aggressive and refused to resolve the matter reasonably even after informing him that I was a legal



practitioner. He proceeded to harass me physically by dragging my shirt and pulling at my bag, while also threatening to physically harm me. His conduct continued despite the intervention of traders and other persons present at the junction, who attempted to intervene and prevent the situation from escalating.

It is further pertinent to state that, during the disagreement, a patrol vehicle occupied by personnel from security agencies passed by the location. Both the other female passenger and I drew their attention to the situation and appealed to them for assistance, particularly as the confrontation was becoming increasingly distressing. Despite our clear appeals and the circumstances unfolding before them, the patrol vehicle proceeded past the scene without making any enquiry, or offering any form of assistance as though the situation required no intervention whatsoever.

I found this particularly disturbing. The concern is not that I expected preferential treatment because I am a lawyer, but that a person who was visibly involved in a confrontation, expressly appealing for assistance and reporting a threat to his personal safety, ought reasonably to have received some form of security intervention or at least an enquiry into the circumstances. Their failure to intervene was particularly concerning given the late hour and the fact that the situation subsequently involved physical harassment and threats of harm raising further concerns regarding the availability and effectiveness of security assistance for lawyers and other conference participants, particularly at night.

Following the incident, and rather than allowing the matter to escalate, I decided to pay him the full fare & extra after he claimed I had further delayed him and to ensure my safety and then immediately proceeded to a nearby Police Station to report what had occurred. Importantly, the driver was still believed to be proceeding towards the nearest bus park, and I specifically requested that the Police accompany me immediately to the bus park so that the driver could be identified and the circumstances investigated. Regrettably, my complaint was not attended to, and no immediate assistance was provided.

This aspect of the incident is particularly concerning to me. Having been left along the road at approximately 10:00 p.m. contrary to the agreed destination, A patrol van passed I took the responsible step of approaching the Police for assistance. The failure to attend to the complaint meant that an opportunity to promptly identify the driver and investigate the incident was lost.

WHY I AM BRINGING THIS MATTER TO THE NBA

I am not bringing this complaint merely because of a disagreement over a transportation fare.

My concern is the broader issue of the safety, welfare and dignity of lawyers attending NBA programmes, and in this present case particularly when they are required to move around the host city at night and be protected by the security & law enforcement agencies.

The Nigerian Bar Association is the principal professional body representing legal practitioners in Nigeria. Where lawyers travel from different parts of the country to attend the Association's

programmes, conferences and professional engagements, reasonable measures ought to exist to ensure that participants are not exposed to avoidable security risks or left without meaningful assistance when incidents occur.

Despite the driver's physical aggression and threats, I deliberately refrained from engaging him in a physical confrontation. As a legal practitioner, I considered it important to maintain my composure and dignity and to resist the temptation to respond in kind. I instead chose to pursue the matter through lawful and appropriate channels, which ultimately led to this formal complaint to the Association.

My decision to refrain from fisticuffs should not, however, be construed as an indication that the conduct was harmless or should be trivialised. The fact that I exercised restraint and that the situation did not degenerate into a more serious physical confrontation was fortunate, because the worst possible outcome was avoided.

Had matters escalated, the consequences could have been considerably more serious. I therefore believe that the appropriate institutional response is to investigate what occurred, provide appropriate redress where warranted, and take preventive measures to ensure that other lawyers attending NBA programmes do not find themselves in a similar situation.

REQUESTS

In view of the foregoing, I respectfully request that the Nigerian Bar Association: Investigate the circumstances surrounding this incident, including the conduct of the commercial bus driver;

1. Where practicable, assist in identifying the driver and/or the transport operator concerned, including through any available information relating to transportation by engaging with the relevant Police authorities regarding the circumstances of my report and the failure to provide immediate assistance when the incident was reported;
2. Consider whether any security or transportation arrangements associated with the NBA conference require review or improvement; because the ride hailing services (Bolt, In-Drive) drivers charge at least double the price provided for on the platform.& not every person can afford the exploitative fares.
3. Put in place appropriate measures to ensure that lawyers attending future NBA conferences and programmes are able to move safely, particularly during late-night periods;
4. Consider establishing a clear emergency/security reporting mechanism for conference participants, through which lawyers can obtain prompt assistance when confronted with harassment, transportation-related incidents or other security concerns; and

Take any other steps the Association considers appropriate to ensure that similar incidents are prevented from recurring.

I respectfully emphasise that this complaint is made in the interest not only of my own safety and welfare, but also of the wider membership of the Nigerian Bar Association. That I a newly called

lawyer who travelled all the way from Lagos to another city Port Harcourt to participate in the first NBA conference should not have to face avoidable harassment or find himself/herself in a vulnerable situation late at night without an effective avenue for assistance.

I therefore urge the leadership of the Association to treat this complaint with the seriousness it deserves, investigate the circumstances, and take appropriate preventive measures. It should not be treated lightly or trivialised merely because it involved a commercial bus driver or arose from a transportation dispute. The safety, dignity and wellbeing of a legal practitioner attending an NBA conference should not be diminished by the status of the person involved or the nature of the immediate dispute.

I remain available to provide further details, identify the location of the incident, provide the details of the Police Station where the complaint was made, and assist with any investigation that the Association may undertake. Ubi jus ibi remedium — where there is a right, there is a remedy. Thank you for your attention.



Yours faithfully,


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