



OTU OKA- IWU ABUJA

Motto: Onye Aghana Nwanneya!

Tel: 08036256242, 08037383899, 08060266163

Address: Suite 302 Anbeez Plaza 15, Ndola Crescent, Zone 5 Wuse Abuja

17th April, 2024.

The Chairman,
Electoral Committee of the NBA Abuja Branch (Unity Bar)
Bar and Bench House
Plot 598 Ogwu Onoja Crescent
By Family Worship Centre
Wuye.
Abuja.

Dear Sir,

NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION AND CALL FOR REVERSAL OF EXCLUSIONARY POLICY IN RE: NBA ABUJA (UNITY BAR) 2024 BRANCH ELECTION.

Your Committee's Notice No.3 in respect of the forthcoming Unity Bar Election with reference number: EC/NBA/ABJ/UB/03 dated 8/4/2024 (copy herein attached) refers.

The attention of the Leadership of Otu Okaiwu Abuja (the umbrella body representing all Igbo lawyers in FCT, Abuja) has been drawn to a portion of your above referenced Notice wherein you had specifically stated (on the column containing the list of offices and positions to be contested for) that the Eastern Zone SHALL not be eligible to contest for the office of the Assistant Secretary at the Unity Bar election.

Sequel to the foregoing, we hereby write to express our deep concern and condemnation regarding the recent decision to exclude candidates from the Eastern Zone from vying for the position of Assistant Secretary in the upcoming election.

While we understand the need for zoning certain positions within the Nigerian Bar Association Abuja Branch, it is unacceptable to impose arbitrary restrictions on candidates from certain regions for positions that are not legally nor conventionally zoned. The exclusion of candidates from the Eastern Zone from the Assistant Secretary position goes against the principles of fairness, inclusivity, and professionalism that should guide our electoral processes. Historically, conventions of this Bar (both at the National and branch levels) notably zone only the offices of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. It has never been the practice that other offices be zoned.

Furthermore, the Electoral Committee of the branch is not empowered to redesign the zoning order of the branch. To this end, it is our firm position that the Committee acted ultra vires the powers ascribed to them when they published a second electoral guidelines of the Branch excluding the Eastern Zone from contesting for the office of Assistant Secretary. This new guideline is alien to the practice customary to the branch and will create an unnecessary tensed atmosphere in this election. More inciting is the fact that the first election guidelines (see Notice NO.2 dated 20th day of March, 2024 reference No: **EC/NBA/ABJ/UB/02**) published by the same Electoral Committee under your leadership expressly stated that the post of Assistant Secretary was free for all zones to contest thereby raising suspicious dust as to why the goal post is now being adjusted in the middle of the match.

Executive Members:

President: Ejiofor Onwuaso Esq. Vice President: Adaeze A. Anah, General Secretary: Dr. Nicholas Udeh, Assistant Gen. Secretary: Eudora Ezeonye, Financial Secretary: Shirley Kamtochukwu Monyei. Treasurer: Onyeka Obiajulu (Minister), Director Social & Welfare Officer Chimezie Obi ACI Arb, Publicity Secretary: Emeka Silas Agbara, Provost: Lawrence Umudu.