NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

ELECTORAL COMMITTEE OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (ECNBA)

NBA HOUSE, NO. 9 ORO-AGO STREET, GARKI, ABUJA, FCT

ELECTORAL COMMITTEE OF THE NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (ECNBA) 2026

NOTICE NO. 10 — ELECTORAL EXPENSES: PRESCRIBED LIMITS, ENTOURAGE RESTRICTIONS, FINANCIAL RETURNS AND ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS FOR THE 2026 NBA NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Distinguished Colleagues,

Further to ECNBA Notices Nos. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 regarding the 2026 NBA National Elections, and pursuant to the mandatory provisions of Paragraph 21 of Part III of the Second Schedule of the NBA Constitution 2015 (as amended in 2025), the Electoral Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association (ECNBA) hereby prescribes the limits for electoral expenses for all candidates in the 2026 NBA National Elections, regulates campaign entourages, and establishes the mechanisms for financial declaration, monitoring and enforcement.

Candidates are reminded that all campaigns must at the same time comply with the prohibitions set out in ECNBA Notice No. 4. The spending limits prescribed in this Notice apply exclusively to permissible campaign expenditure. Expenditure on prohibited items remains independently unlawful and attracts disqualification under Notice No. 4 regardless of the spending limit.

1. WHAT CONSTITUTES ELECTORAL EXPENSES

For the purposes of this Notice, electoral expenses mean any expenditure incurred by a candidate, or by any person on behalf of a candidate with the candidate's knowledge or consent, in connection with the candidate's campaign for election. Electoral expenses include but are not limited to:

a) **Electronic communication costs, including bulk SMS, WhatsApp broadcasts, email campaigns and internet data used for campaign purposes.**

b) **Social media advertising, sponsored posts, digital campaign content production and online platform subscriptions used for campaigning.**

c) **Travel and transportation costs incurred by the candidate and the permitted entourage for the purpose of campaign visits to branches and members.**

d) **Accommodation and subsistence costs for the candidate and the permitted entourage during campaign visits outside the candidate's home branch.**

e) **Logistics and operational costs of the candidate's campaign team, including phone bills, data subscriptions, printing of permitted digital materials, and administrative costs.**

f) Any payment made to any person for services rendered in furtherance of the candidate's campaign.

g) Any other expenditure of whatever nature incurred in furtherance of the candidate's campaign for election.

For the avoidance of doubt, the following are not electoral expenses; as they are prohibited expenditures that attract immediate disqualification under ECNBA Notice No. 4, regardless of the spending limit:

i) **Distribution of physical gifts, branded or unbranded materials, food, drinks, or items of any value to members or voters.**

ii) Payment or sponsorship of Bar Practicing Fees or Branch Dues for any member.

iii) **Sponsorship of any Branch, Section, or Forum event or programme.**

iv) Any form of financial inducement to any member to vote for or support the candidate.

v) Any donation or philanthropic gesture made during the election year.

2. PRESCRIBED ELECTORAL EXPENSES SPENDING LIMITS

Pursuant to Paragraph 21 of Part III of the Second Schedule of the NBA Constitution 2015 (as amended in 2025), the ECNBA hereby prescribes the following maximum electoral expenses spending limits for candidates contesting the 2026 NBA National Elections:

POSITION	MAXIMUM LIMIT (N)	ENTOURAGE LIMIT	NOTES
President	N30,000,000	5 persons max (outside own Branch)	Nationwide campaign
First Vice President	N15,000,000	3 persons max (outside own Branch)	Nationwide campaign
Second Vice President	N10,000,000	2 persons max (outside own Branch)	Nationwide campaign
Third Vice President	N7,000,000	2 persons max (outside own Branch)	Nationwide campaign
General Secretary	N6,000,000	2 persons max (outside own Branch)	Nationwide campaign

POSITION	MAXIMUM LIMIT (N)	ENTOURAGE LIMIT	NOTES
Assistant General Secretary	N4,000,000	Candidate only	Nationwide campaign
Treasurer	N3,000,000	1 person max (outside own Branch)	Nationwide campaign
Welfare Secretary	N3,000,000	Candidate only	Nationwide campaign
Publicity Secretary	N4,000,000	Candidate only	Nationwide campaign
Assistant Publicity Secretary	N2,500,000	Candidate only	Nationwide campaign
GCB Representative — Eastern Zone	N2,500,000	Candidate only	Zonal campaign only
GCB Representative — Western Zone	N2,500,000	Candidate only	Zonal campaign only
GCB Representative — Northern Zone	N2,500,000	Candidate only	Zonal campaign only

IMPORTANT: The spending limits set out above are aggregate maximum limits for the entire campaign period from 10th June 2026 to 18th July 2026. A candidate may not carry forward any unspent portion of the limit for use after the campaign period ends. The limit applies to the total of all electoral expenses incurred throughout the campaign, whether paid in cash, by transfer or by any other means.

3. ENTOURAGE RESTRICTIONS DURING CAMPAIGN VISITS

In order to minimize the potential for undue influence, intimidation, and financial pressure on host branches, and to ensure that campaign visits remain within the spirit of professional engagement, the ECNBA hereby prescribes the following entourage restrictions:

3.1. **Within Candidate's Own Branch:** A candidate may receive the support of as many persons as he or she wishes within his or her own branch. There is no restriction on the number of supporters present at a candidate's home branch for campaign purposes.

3.2. **Outside Candidate's Own Branch — Two-Person Limit: When traveling outside his or her own branch for campaign visits, a candidate shall be accompanied by no more than the number of persons prescribed in the table in paragraph 2 hereinabove.** The accompanying persons may include the

candidate's spouse, colleague, personal aide, or any supporter. The candidate counts as a separate person; the limit applies to accompanying persons only.

3.3. **Branch Reception: Nothing in this provision prevents members of a visited branch from receiving, welcoming, or meeting with a candidate at the branch level.** The restriction applies to the candidate's traveling entourage, not to members at the destination.

3.4. **Convoy and Motorcades:** Candidates shall not travel by convoy or motorcade during campaign visits. The use of multiple vehicles, hired buses, or any form of organized group transportation that projects an appearance of a large entourage is prohibited. A candidate may travel in a single vehicle with the permitted accompanying persons.

3.5. **Virtual Engagements:** The entourage restriction applies only to physical travel and visits. There is no restriction on the number of persons who may participate in or assist with virtual or electronic campaign engagements, including video calls, Zoom sessions, WhatsApp group interactions, and social media activities.

3.6. **Enforcement and Reports: Any member of the NBA who witnesses a candidate traveling outside their branch with more than the prescribed accompanying persons may report the same to the ECNBA at the dedicated complaints channel.** Such reports will be investigated and may result in disqualification under Paragraph 21 of Part III of the Second Schedule read together with this Notice.

4. DEDICATED CAMPAIGN ACCOUNT

4.1. Every candidate shall, within 10(ten) days from the commencement of campaigns on the 10th June, 2026, open and operate a dedicated campaign bank account with a licensed Nigerian bank for the purposes of receiving and disbursing all electoral expenses.

4.2. The candidate shall furnish the ECNBA with the following details of the dedicated campaign account not later than 22nd of June, 2026, by email to info@ecnba.org.ng with the subject line "2026 Electoral Expenses Account — [Candidate Name] — [Position]":

a) Full name of the account holder as it appears on the account.

b) Name of the bank.

c) Account number.

d) Date of opening of the account.

4.3. All campaign expenses above the sum of Fifty Thousand Naira (N50,000.00) per transaction shall pass through the dedicated campaign account. Aggregated cash payments that individually fall below N50,000 but, in the aggregate, exceed N100,000 in any 24-hour period shall also be disclosed in the financial returns.

4.4. A candidate who does not open a dedicated campaign account shall be deemed not to have complied with this Notice, and any failure to account for campaign expenditure shall be treated as a violation of the prescribed spending limit.

5. FINANCIAL RETURNS

All candidates are required to submit the following financial returns to the ECNBA:

(A) OPENING DECLARATION

Each candidate shall on or before the 22nd of June,2026, submit to the ECNBA a signed Opening Declaration in writing stating:

i) The total amount of funds available to the candidate for campaign purposes.

ii) **The source(s) of campaign funds, including whether self-funded, funded by supporters, or a combination.**

iii) The name and account details of the dedicated campaign account.

iv) **A declaration that no campaign funds have been received from any government, government agency, corporate body, or any person in exchange for any undertaking, commitment, or promise relating to the candidate's conduct in office.**

(B) CLOSING FINANCIAL RETURNS (within 14 days of Election Day)

Every candidate, whether successful or unsuccessful, shall submit a full Closing Financial Returns statement to the ECNBA by not later than 5th August, 2026. The Closing Financial Returns shall contain:

i) A full statement of all campaign income received, including amounts and sources.

ii) **A full statement of all campaign expenditure incurred, itemised by category, amount, and date.**

iii) **Copies of receipts, invoices, or payment records for all transactions above N20,000.**

iv) Bank statements of the dedicated campaign account covering the full campaign period.

v) **A declaration signed by the candidate confirming that the returns are true, accurate, and complete to the best of the candidate's knowledge.**

The ECNBA shall publish all Closing Financial Returns on the NBA/ECNBA website within 14 days of the deadline for submission, for the information of all members of the Association.

6. COMPLAINTS AND MONITORING

6.1. **Dedicated Complaints Channel:** The ECNBA hereby establishes a dedicated electoral expenses complaints channel. Any member of the Association who has reasonable grounds to believe that a candidate has violated the spending limit, entourage restriction, or any provision of this Notice may submit a formal complaint to:

Email: expenses@ecnba.org.ng
Subject line: "Electoral Expenses Complaint — [Candidate Name] — [Position]"

6.2. All complaints shall be acknowledged within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt. The ECNBA shall investigate all complaints received within the campaign period and determine them before Election Day wherever practicable.

6.3. **ECNBA Active Monitoring: The ECNBA shall actively monitor social media platforms, WhatsApp groups, electronic communications, and public platforms for evidence of campaign expenditure that may breach this Notice.** Sponsored advertising, mass SMS blasts, coordinated social media campaigns, and any other campaign activity that suggests expenditure in excess of the prescribed limits shall be subject to inquiry.

6.4. **Post-Election Audit:** After the election, the ECNBA shall conduct a post-election audit of all Closing Financial Returns submitted. Where the ECNBA has reason to believe that the returns are inaccurate or incomplete, it may request the candidate to provide bank statements, additional receipts, or such other documents as it considers necessary. A candidate who fails to cooperate with a post-election audit shall be referred to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee.

7. THIRD PARTY CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE

7.1. Where any person incurs expenditure in support of a candidate's campaign with the candidate's knowledge or consent, such expenditure shall be treated as the candidate's electoral expenses and shall count toward the prescribed limit.

7.2. Candidates are responsible for ensuring that their supporters do not incur campaign expenditure on their behalf that would cause the aggregate limit to be exceeded. Ignorance of expenditure incurred by a supporter is not a defence where the ECNBA is satisfied that the candidate ought reasonably to have known of the expenditure.

7.3. Candidates shall, in their Closing Financial Returns, disclose all campaign expenditure incurred by third parties on their behalf, whether or not such expenditure passed through the dedicated campaign account.

8. SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATION

Any candidate who violates any provision of this Notice shall be liable to the following sanctions:

8.1. **Expenses limits violation:** A candidate who exceeds the prescribed electoral expenses spending limit shall be disqualified from participating in the election pursuant to Paragraph 21 of Part III of the Second Schedule of the NBA Constitution 2015 (as amended in 2025). Where the violation is discovered after the election, the result in respect of that candidate shall be set aside.

8.2. **Entourage violations: A candidate found to have travelled outside their home branch with more than the prescribed accompanying persons on more than one occasion, after having been warned, shall be liable to disqualification.**

8.3. **Referral to LPDC:** A candidate who submits false or misleading financial returns, refuses to cooperate with an audit, or deliberately conceals campaign expenditure shall be referred to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee for prosecution for professional misconduct.

8.4. **Failure to submit returns: A candidate who fails to submit the Opening Declaration or Closing Financial Returns by the prescribed deadlines shall be treated as having violated the spending limit and shall be liable to the sanctions specified in paragraphs 8.1 and 8.2 above.**

Dated this 14th day of June, 2026.

AHAM EJELAM, SAN
Chairman (ECNBA 2026)

IBRAHIM ALIYU NASSARAWA, ESQ
Secretary (ECNBA 2026)