



PRESS RELEASE

July 23, 2024

Dear Members,

Delay in Processing and Dispatch of Practice Stamps and Seals: Appeal for Patience.

The Executive Committee has been inundated with complaints about the unfortunate delays in the processing and dispatch of stamps and seals.

We understand the frustration and inconvenience caused by these delays and we fully identify with the concerns of our esteemed members.

Sadly, this challenge is not unique to our branch as all the other branches of the NBA are experiencing similar delays. You may please note that the production and dispatch of stamps and seals are managed exclusively by the National Secretariat of the NBA. The role of the Executive Committee at the branch level is to collate and compile applications and forward them to the National Secretariat for processing and return dispatch.

Despite these constraints, your Branch Executive is doing its utmost to mitigate the situation. In a concerted effort to address this matter, the Branch Chairman, Mr. Seyi Olawumi, collaborated with his counterparts from other Lagos branches to write a letter of complaint to the NBA President, Mr. Yakubu C. Mikyau, SAN. (Please see the attached letter).

The letter highlighted the hardships faced by our members and demanded a prompt resolution of the issues causing these delays. The letter also strongly advocated, in the long term, for the prompt implementation of the electronic stamp regime in order to prevent this unfortunate situation in the future. It is our hope that steps would be taken by Mr. President to promptly resolve these issues.

Dear esteemed members of our great branch, please be assured that we are committed to collaborating with Mr. President and the National Secretariat to address this issue and we will continue to pursue all reasonable avenues to ensure that the situation improves.

We ask for your understanding and patience as we work towards a permanent solution, soonest.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Issa Adedokun, Esq. (Ph.D)
Secretary, NBA, Ikeja Branch.

FORUM OF CHAIRMEN OF NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, LAGOS STATE.

C/O The Nigerian Bar Association Lagos Branch
Bar Secretariat
Suit 1 J, Lapal House, No. 235 Igboere Road, Lagos Island, Lagos State

2nd June 2024.

Mr. YC Maikyau, OON, SAN
President of Nigerian Bar Association,
NBA National Secretariat,
NBA House,
Plot 1101, Muhammadu Buhari Way,
Central Business District, Abuja.

Dear Sir,

PROLONGED DELAY IN THE ISSUANCE OF 2024—2025 SEAL TO NBA MEMBERS IN LAGOS STATE- PROPOSAL FOR USE OF ELECTRONIC STAMP AND SEAL

The captioned subject refers.

As stakeholders of the Nigerian Bar and the Chairmen of the five (5) Branches of the Nigerian Bar Association in Lagos State, we are compelled to express our displeasure over the continued failure to issue the Nigerian Bar Association 2024-2025 stamp and seal to the membership of our respective Branches who had since effected payment as far back as January, 2024.

Without any doubt, this protracted delay has, in no small measure, occasioned untold hardship on their practice. It has also undermined their capacities as legal practitioners, and their ability to properly sign, file, and/or authenticate legal documents prepared for use by them thereby encouraging impersonation of legal practitioners as against the provisions of Rule 10 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. This rule mandatorily requires lawyers to affix their stamp on every legal document prepared and/or endorsed in accordance with law, and as approved by the Supreme Court in the case of **General Bello Sarkin Yaki (Rtd) v. Senator Abubakar Atiku Bagudu**, where the apex court (per Rhodes-Vivour, JSC) opined that

“In this appeal this court says that legal processes without stamp or seal are voidable. That is to say such documents are deemed not to have been properly signed and not that they are invalid. Such documents are redeemed and made valid by a simple directive by the judge or the relevant authority at the time of filing the voidable document for erring counsel to affix stamp and seal as provided for in Rule 10 of the Legal Practitioners Act.”

It is on the basis of the foregoing, and to mitigate the hardship occasioned by the delay in the issuance of these stamps and seals, that we humbly propose the need for the national body to consider, as a stop-gap measure, the use and issuance of electronic stamp and seal, for legal practitioners who have paid their practicing fees pending the issuance of the paper stamp and seal proper. This, we believe, will placate frayed nerves and buy time for the national body as regards the issuance of stamp and seal.

Please accept the assurances of our highest esteem and regards.

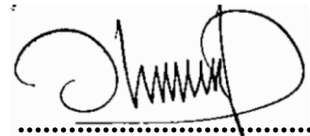
Yours faithfully,
NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION, LAGOS BRANCHES



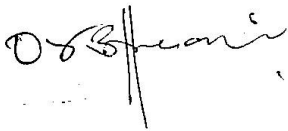
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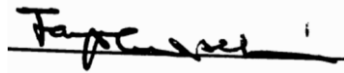
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