



About us

News

Politics

Columnists



Business



Editorial



Sports

Health

Entertainment



Magazine



Education



Online Special

MENU



NBA urges police to unravel branch chair's killers

Posted By: [Joseph Jibueze](#) On: September 11, 2018 In: [Law](#)



The Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) has urged the police to find the killers of Mr. Emeka Agundu, Obollo-Afor Branch chairman in Enugu State. Agundu was killed on September 2.

He was recovering from an earlier gunshot wounds when he was killed.

In a statement by its President Mr Paul Usoro (SAN), NBA noted that Agundu had reported the assassination attempt to the Police prior to his murder and wondered why he was not protected.

“The NBA mourns the heinous murder of Mr. Agundu and calls on the law enforcement agencies to unmask and bring to justice, the men behind this horrendous crime.

“Emeka’s death must not be recorded simply as one more statistic in the list of unresolved murders.

“Indeed, Emeka’s murder underscores the need for the various strata of governments of the land to wake up and live up to their responsibilities in the area of security of lives and property.

“It bears emphasising that the primary role of governments, the world over, is and remains the protection of lives and properties. That indeed is the *raison d’etre* of the NPF,” NBA said.

NBA said it could not but wonder what the police did to protect Agundu’s life after the first unsuccessful assassination attempt was reported.

The association demanded to know what the police are doing to fish out those who made the earlier unsuccessful attempt on Agundu’s life and who, possibly, are the same persons who finally cut short his life.

On the way out such killings, NBA said: “In point of fact, the horrific assassination of Mr. Agunu is but the latest in the incidents of banditry and murder that Nigerians have been living with in different parts of the country including but not limited to Zamfara, Plateau and Benue states.

“Does the Police Force face challenges in containing these incidents of insecurity to lives and property in the land? Possibly so.

“In that event, the Federal Government of Nigeria, working with NPF, needs to properly diagnose these challenges and work at resolving them.

“Immediate areas that we believe NPF may need support and assistance may be in the areas of training and retraining in crime detection and investigation, review of compensation packages for the men and women of the Police Force, supply of modern equipment for detecting and combating crime.

“In the long term, we see no reason Nigeria should not aspire to status of ensuring the installation and maintenance of pervasive CCTV monitors in the nooks and crannies of the country for purposes of crime detection and prevention, amongst others.”

NBA said it was willing to work with the Federal Government and the police in crime-detection and prevention.

“In the meantime, our hearts and sincere condolences go out to the immediate and extended family, friends and associates of our late beloved colleague, Agundu, even as we pray for his repose.”

Meanwhile, Usoro has revealed plans to reorganise the association’s disciplinary committee, adding that the existing team will continue to function.

In a September 8 circular, he said: “In my inaugural address, I had dissolved ‘forthwith the membership of all the existing Committees of the NBA excluding the Sections and such other committees as I may expressly indicate’.

“Considering the foundational importance of discipline in our profession, I had earlier in the week discussed with some members of the NBA Prosecution Team, notably, the

Chief Prosecutor, Charles Ajuyah (SAN) and informed them of the exemption of their Team from the general dissolution of NBA Committees, in the terms of my inaugural address, pending the imminent review and reconstitution of the Team.

“The planned review and reconstitution of the team will focus, amongst others, on the *modus operandi* and efficiency of the team, in an all-encompassing manner, covering, amongst others, cost-efficiency, efficiency in terms of the number and quality of Team members taking into account, amongst others, the number of petitions that are pending before the LPDC and the number of petitions that are received averagely each month and may need to be processed by the various NBA Disciplinary Panel prior to being forwarded to the LPDC for hearing and determination.

“Necessarily, the planned review would extend to the NBA Disciplinary Panels as well.

“In point of fact, I had promised, in my inaugural address, a complete overhaul of the legal practitioners’ disciplinary process in a manner that would ‘make our disciplinary procedures far more responsive and time-sensitive’.

“This we intend to effect, right from the processes at the NBA Secretariat and up to the prosecution of the matters.

“We would also, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders and agencies, review the disciplinary provisions that are contained in our various legislation and bye-laws in order to upgrade and update them in step with present-day realities and requirements. Our members would be periodically updated on these further steps, as they come to fruition.”



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