



Maritime Arbitrators Association of Nigeria



INTERIM REPORT

Dear Members,

This is an interim report covering the Association's activities from 9th December 2021 to 30th June 2022. You would recall that I was elected President of our Association at our last annual general meeting which took place on 9th December 2021 and a new executive council was also elected into office on that date.

The list of members of the executive council and advisory board are as stated on the Association's letter head. Our website is currently undergoing reconstruction and the list of members will be available on our website as soon as the website is up and running.

Since our inauguration, we have intensified efforts to collaborate with the major stakeholders in the maritime sector – namely the Nigerian Ports Authority, Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) and the Nigerian Shippers Council, to promote the resolution of maritime disputes through arbitration, mediation and all other ADR mechanisms instead of resorting to litigation in our courts as a first port of call. Our Association has also intensified efforts to ensure the realisation of the drive for the creation and establishment of an International Maritime and Dispute Resolution Centre in Nigeria.

Below is an interim report of our activities since we took office on 9th December 2021.

Executive Council Meetings

The Association held Executive Council Meetings on 9th February 2022, 9th March 2022 and 18th May 2022. At the meetings, several important issues were discussed including concrete plans for the forthcoming 11th practical maritime dispute resolution seminar.

MAAN Sub-Committees

At the executive council meeting held on 9th February 2022, Chairmen of the sub-committees were elected as follows:

Chairman, Training & Ethics Committee	Professor Ike Ehiribe
Chairman, Sponsorship & Strategy Committee	Mrs Jean Chiazor Anishere SAN
Chairman, Membership Committee	Sir Osuala Nwagbara
Chairman, Communications Committee	Mrs Igbeaku Evulukwu

Joint Advisory Board and Executive Council Meeting

A joint Advisory Board and Executive Council Meeting took place on 20th April 2022. At the meeting, Hon Justice Emmanuel Sanyaolu (Rtd) was appointed as the new Chairman of the Advisory Board and he accepted to serve in that capacity.

General and Annual General Meetings for 2022

The general and annual general meeting of members for the current year will take place in September and December 2022 respectively. Statutory notices bearing the respective meeting dates will be prepared and sent to all members in due course.

11th Practical Maritime Dispute Resolution Seminar

The Association's flagship event took place on 25th May 2022. The Theme for the event was – "ADR to the Rescue! Effective and Efficient Business Modes in the Maritime Eco Space." The seminar was well attended and resource persons from our collaborating stakeholders made presentations which were well received by the participants at the event.

Courtesy Visits

During the period under review, courtesy visits were made to the Nigerian Shippers Council, Nigerian Ports Authority and NIMASA where we were well received by the CEOs of the respective organisations. At the meetings, areas of collaboration were discussed including the finalisation of plans for the establishment of an international maritime and dispute resolution centre in Nigeria which has been pending for several years.

Review and Update of MAAN Arbitration Rules

A sub-committee has been set up to review the MAAN Arbitration Rules in line with the latest developments in maritime arbitration and international best practices. It is expected that upon completion of the task, a date will be set for the launch of the rules before the end of the current year.

Membership of the sub-committee for reviewing and updating the MAAN Arbitration Rules are as follows:

Professor Ike Ehiribe (Chairman)

Mr Bodunrin Adewole

DR Ogbai Omo-Eboh SAN

Mrs Igbeaku Evulukwu

Commission of New MAAN Website

A website developer has already been commissioned for the reconstruction of the website which has reached an advanced stage. It is expected that the website will be up and running in a short while from now.

Annual Workshop

This year's annual workshop will be taking place on 17th November 2022. Preparations for the one-day physical event have already commenced. Members are encouraged to register for the event which will focus on a case study on the latest concepts and developments in maritime arbitration, mediation and ADR.

Mentorship Programmes

Mentorship lectures were delivered at the Maritime Career Mentorship Programme (M-Camp) and the Maritime Law Club of the Lagos State University on 18th February 2022 and 11th April 2022 respectively. The mentorship programmes are designed to encourage university students and young members to get involved in arbitration, mediation and other forms of ADR. The Association also plans to arrange moot arbitrations in furtherance of this initiative.

Public Hearing of House of Representatives Committee

A public hearing of the House of Representatives Committee on Maritime Safety, Education and Administration to consider critical maritime Bills was held in Abuja on 15th and 16th March 2022. At the invitation of the Committee, our Association presented a comprehensive memorandum which was formally adopted at the hearing. We are closely monitoring feedback on our memorandum and will keep members updated in due course.

Financial Members

Members who have not paid their subscription for the current year are encouraged to renew their subscriptions. The timely payment of subscriptions will go a long way in ensuring that the Association can continue to meet its day to day expenses and outstanding financial obligations. The current subscription has been maintained for individual and corporate members.

Conclusion

The above is a summary of the activities of our Association since our last annual general meeting on 9th December 2021. We look forward to increased participation and hereby urge our members to contribute in any way they can to the regeneration of our esteemed Association.

Thank you & kind regards,



Bodunrin Adewole FCI Arb
President