



ASSOCIATION DES BANQUES
DE L'AFRIQUE DE L'OUEST (ABAO)
WEST AFRICAN BANKERS' ASSOCIATION
(WABA)

K5 Building, Scan Drive Spur Road
Freetown, Sierra Leone
Tel : 00 232 99 51 26 92
E-mail: sbalde@yahoo.com

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**REPORT OF THE AUDIENCE GRANTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF NIGERIA,
HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. MUHAMMADU BUHARI, TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
OF WEST AFRICAN BANKERS' ASSOCIATION ON TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022**

The Executive Board of the West African Bankers' Association (WABA) had the honor of being received in audience this Tuesday, May 24, 2022 by the **President of Nigeria, His Excellency, Mr. Muhammadu BUHARI**. Also, in attendance were the Nigerian **Minister of Foreign Affairs**, the Governor of The Central Bank of Nigeria, the **Chief of Staff**, the **Presidential Special Advisor in Media and Publicity**, and the **Director of the West Africa Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. Also present in the meeting were the two **Prime Secretaries of the Embassy of Senegal in Nigeria**, respectively in charge of **Protocol and Bilateral Cooperation, Multilateral and Consular Affairs**.

The Executive Board of WABA was thus composed of:

- **President: Mr. Thierno Seydou Nourou SY**, who also serves as the Vice-Chairman of the Professional Association of Banks and Financial Establishments of Senegal,
- **First Vice-President: Mrs. Aïna MOORE**, who also serves as the, President of the Sierra Leone Association of Commercial Banks,
- **Second Vice-President: Dr. Guy-Laurent FONDJO**, who also serves as the, President of the Professional Association of Banks of Guinea-Conakry,
- **Honorary President: Mr. John DAVIES**, immediate past President of the Association of Banks of Liberia,
- **Secretary General: Mr. Séga BALDE**.

Mr. Dele ALABI, President of the Association of Commercial Banks of Nigeria was also part of the WABA delegation.

Currently, this Executive Board is very actively engaged in a vigorous mission to revitalize and expand its Association, whose role is fundamental in the Economic, Monetary, Banking and Financial functioning and integration of all countries in our Sub-Region.

Nigeria, through its demographic, economic, monetary, banking and financial strength, plays a decisive role in Africa and in ECOWAS. This is why the Executive Board sought to meet His Excellency, President Muhammadu BUHARI, whose leadership in terms of African economic, monetary, banking and financial integration is well known in order to keep him informed of WABA's programmes and projects, to get his opinions and guidance and then to seek his intervention in ensuring that the Association is engaged and involved in all monetary, banking and financial issues within the highest decision-making bodies of our Community (ECOWAS Council of Ministers and ECOWAS Commission).

WABA also sought the Nigerian Head of State's support for the realization of its project to create a Sub-Regional Academy for Training, Consultation and Research in Banking, Finance and Microfinance, whose headquarters would be located in Nigeria.

In line with his commitment on issues of African integration, and in particular its economic, monetary, banking and financial integration, His Excellency, President Muhammadu BUHARI, welcomed the approach of West African Bankers' Association (WABA) and undertook to provide his Government's support for its activities.

He called on West African banks and financial institutions to collaborate more closely to meet the economic challenges facing the sub-region because our ability to overcome our difficulties lies in our determination to work in perfect solidarity, within our Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations; where we can all come to a common understanding of our problems in order to defeat our common enemy, underdevelopment.

To this end, he declared himself delighted with the progress made on many fronts by ECOWAS and strongly encouraged WABA and its leaders to follow suit.

He took note of the programmes and projects of this Association and confirmed the strong support of Nigeria for their rapid realization.

He gave the Minister of Foreign Affairs a mandate to take the necessary steps to ensure that WABA is integrated into the highest decision-making bodies of ECOWAS.

He requested the Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria to assist in the speedy completion of the Project for the creation of the Sub-Regional Academy for Training, Consultation and Research in Banking, Finance and Microfinance initiated by WABA.

President Thierno Seydou Nourou SY and the members of WABA Executive Board expressed their appreciation to President BUHARI and the senior government officials present at this meeting for the warmth of their welcome and their very strong commitment to the success of WABA.

The President

Thierno Seydou Nourou SY