



**To: Mr. Zeogar Wilson,
Honourable Minister of Youths & Sports,
Ministry of Youths & Sports,
Liberia, Monrovia
By E mail: zeogarw@yahoo.com
zeogarw@moys.gov.lr**

Abidjan, august 29, 2023

Reference: resolution of LBA leadership crisis

Dear Sir,

You will recall that the Liberia Basketball Association (LBA) Elective General Assembly was held on 30th November 2019, at Hotel Palm Springs, Monrovia, Liberia, for the 2019 to 2023 Term of Office. However, the Elective Assembly was not recognized by FIBA because of anomalies which amounted to interference and a non-democratic process. A correspondence from the Ministry of Youths & Sports to the President of LBA, Mr Anderson Thosh, dated 17th December 2019 and the report of the FIBA delegate who observed the proceedings at the Assembly also confirmed that the process did not conform with the LBA Statutes and FIBA Internal Regulations.

Therefore, FIBA wrote to all parties concerned, directing that the LBA Board, under Mr. Rufus Anderson Thosh, be reinstated and allowed to conduct a fresh election within 3 months. However, this directive from FIBA was not heeded at the time.

Given the negative impact of this situation on the development of basketball in Liberia, the non-functioning of the LBA and the image of FIBA; FIBA Africa suspended the LBA from its activities, in accordance with Article 71 of FIBA Africa - Supplementary Regulations, until it organizes another Elective General Assembly, in accordance with the LBA Statutes and FIBA Internal Regulations, as indicated in FIBA Letter of March 12, 2020.

FIBA appreciates several attempts to resolve this matter which however has not yielded the desired result. There is no doubt that this impasse which creates a vacuum for the LBA Leadership does not augur well for the development of the game in your country, including the development of the teeming youths involved in the game of basketball. It is high time this impasse is resolved so that your country can take its rightful place in the comity of basketball nations.

While the role of Government in funding the LBA as it represents the country internationally is recognized, however, without prejudice to the support and oversight functions over an Affiliate FIBA National Member Federation (NMF), "an NMF must maintain full control and governance of basketball matters in their country" (Article 9 of FIBA General Statutes).

With a view to resolving this matter, after reviewing the facts, FIBA's position is as follows:

- a. The LBA Board that was in place before the non-recognized Elective General Assembly of November 30th, 2019, under the leadership of Mr. Rufus Thosh Anderson, should be reinstated and handed all the relevant documents to conduct a new Elective General Assembly under the ambit of the LBA Statutes.
- b. Once reinstated, the LBA is mandated to conduct a new election in accordance with its Statutes within Six (6) weeks with FIBA and the LNOC as Observers. FIBA expects that the relevant authorities will provide the necessary support to LBA to carry out this assignment.
- c. With the exception of Mr. Rufus Thosh Anderson who has given an undertaking not to seek re-election, the new election should be open to all citizens of Liberia who desire to contest in line with the LBA Statutes.

In the event that a solution which complies with the LBA Statutes and FIBA Internal Regulations as amplified above is not found, the suspension imposed by FIBA will remain in place. In such case, regardless of any sanctions, FIBA may also be open to appointing a Normalization Committee that will take appropriate measures in the interest of basketball in Liberia in particular and basketball in general.

Alphonse Bile
FIBA Executive Director Africa



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