

# ANLCA BOT leadership emerges amidst anxiety over industry future

THE BOARD of Trustees (BOT) of the Association of Nigerian Licensed Customs Agents (ANLCA) is set to douse anxiety that has enveloped the industry over the fate of customs brokerage industry amidst seeming frosty relationship between the national executive and the BOT.

Immediate past Chairman of the Board, Chief Henry Njoku, was re-elected chairman over the weekend, to oversee the affairs of the highest advisory body of the association. This is coming six months after the BOT election that held in Warri, Delta state. Njoku had headed the Board for six years until the last election in February this year.

Taiwo Mustapha who served as Coordinator of the BOT for six months told newsmen in Lagos that Njoku's emergence as Chairman was a unanimous agreement reached by the nine members after Ernest Elochukwu, former national president of ANLCA, willingly conceded the chairmanship position to Njoku following a tie in the votes cast.

Apart from the chairmanship position, Sani Shittu was elected vice chairman and Prince Taye Oyeniyi clinched the position of Secretary, while Peter Obi was elected as treasurer.

"After the official opening of the national permanent secretariat of ANLCA we agreed to have a meeting and during the meeting, we agreed to move forward for the progress of ANLCA. Just as we stated at our inaugural meeting that we are suspending the elections of the officials of the board for the mean time just to create further harmony between us in the interest of ANLCA.

"However yesterday (Friday) we decided to go ahead with the election having realized and agreed that our house is in order," Mustapha said.

Njoku, on his part, promised to work with other members of the board and meet up with the expectations of the association. He said the board is now stronger, saying that most of the achievements recorded ANLCA in the last four years was because of the peaceful coexistence between the board and the national executives.

"What we are doing is to move this association forward and I want to reaffirm here on behalf of the board members that this is a family. We will work to live up to the expectations of our people and our association in general. We are custodians of our constitution and we will try to live up to that expectation," Njoku said.

Meanwhile, ANLCA has commissioned its permanent secretariat building, which was named Dikko Inde House, after the comptroller General of Customs, Dikko Inde Abdullahi, for being the highest mobilizer of funds for the acquisition of the property.

The decision to name the edifice after the singular highest donor, was taken at the National Executive Council meeting in Port Harcourt, Rivers State on 7th of November 2014, according to the national executive committee.

D/Ins. 12 (9/14) P.30  
A