



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NIGERIA
RUGBY LEAGUE ASSOCIATION**

DATE: 16TH JANUARY 2023 TIME: 7:30PM VENUE: JAVAT 365 PLATFORM

PRESENT

BOARD MEMBERS

1. Abiodun Olawale-Cole - Chairman, NRLA
2. Ade Adebisi - Vice Chairman, NRLA
3. Yemisi Bakre - Member, NRLA
4. Chukwudum Ejikeme – General Secretary, NRLA
5. Okeore Ibru – Chief Financial Officer, NRLA
6. Adam Sada - Operational Director, NRLA
7. Martin Crawford – Member, NRLA Board of Trustees

MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES

1. Eko Trinity represented by Abiodun Olawale-Cole
2. Lagos Haven represented by Ade Adebisi
3. R2 Finesse represented by Layi Ogunlewe
4. Kano Gazelles represented by Martin Crawford
5. Lagos Rhinos represented by Ike Eneli
6. Lagos Broncos represented by Michael Ejifor
7. R2 Finesse represented by Layi Ogunlewe

ERL ATTENDEE:

1. Remond Safi - MEA Regional Director, RLEF

ABSENT

1. Bolu Fagborun - Head of Performance.

AGENDA

- Roll Call/Apologies for Absence.
- Approval of membership application
- Review of the minutes of the last meeting
- Review of 2022 activities and learnings.
- Approval of the activity plan for 2023.
- Sponsorship plans.
- Accounts 22 & Budget 2023
- Conclusion
- Closing

The Chairman declared that a plenum was formed and declared the meeting open at 7:30pm. The Chairman subsequently welcomed everyone to the meeting.



The Chairman stated the first item of the agenda will be to review the application of R2 Finesse to the Federation, all members present unanimously approved the application of the R2 Finesse and should allow the representative to join the meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting of the NRLA was taken as read and in the absence of any amendment(s) the Chairman moved a motion for the adoption of the minutes and the motion was seconded by the Vice-Chairman.

The Chairman opened that The NRLA members have been a bit backward and for the NRLA to move forward, everyone must put in their best. In addition, the last meeting of the NRLA executives was not well co-ordinated and as the number one association in Africa, The NRLA should be setting an example. The lingering registration issue which a colleague/lawyer wants to help with must be resolved. At this juncture, Mr. Layi Ogunlewe said he is still working with the old registration while working on the new registration.

The chairman also added that in the last meeting, a different league was discussed, and a mandate must be created for it. He noted that in the last meeting there was an inconclusive discussion where everyone in NRLA should have a job description and if any person doesn't have one, such a person should contact him.

Mr. Abiodun Olawale-Cole informed was of the opinion that the NRLA board needs to meet more regularly and have a time-table for two years for the world cup match coming by 2025, by adding more people to the club.

1. We need to document it
2. Plan with the right hands
3. Put a date on each activity and meetings coming up
4. Put an action mandate.

This way, sponsors will see a more organised and supportable association.

The chairman said he noticed the new change in the Ghana team and asked if Remond can give his advice to the NRLA for something similar. Remond said one of the major setbacks faced by the NRLA is the way they replace people instead of extending tenures. Also, Remond said that the NRLA team lack unity and for a team as big as the NRLA that is a great big default. If the NRLA team claims to be the biggest in Africa, the NRLA need to start acting as such. The chairman thanked Remond and concurred.

Mr. Chukwudum Ejikeme also advised for more regular communication.

Remond added that the website must be up and running as soon as possible and all policies and records must be uploaded. He said that videos and pictures of NRLA games and events should be sent to him so that he can show to his boss the hard work the NRLA have been doing. This will also help with publicity.

Mr. Okeore Ibru presented the 2022 accounts for review and comments, Remond stated to see that NRLA is not in a negative position and carrying debts moving forward towards your Full membership application. All present approved the accounts.



Mr. Layi Ogunlewe stated that the NRLA should start the year 2023 with the junior league, then the female league before commencing the men's league to ensure that all categories are covered. Last year, some categories were forgotten after the close of the men's league.

Mr. Ade Adebisi suggested a system be put in place to work with the teams in all regions to know how many teams are in the north, south and east to know the amount needed to be raised for the budget. Ade included that as part of the NRLA calendar criteria, the NRLA needs to play an international friendly as soon as possible which should be scheduled to be played in the next three to four months in Nigeria. He also included that he has been talking to Lebanon, South Africa, Ireland, and Ghana for a coming international youth tournament which is to be held in Nigeria.

Ade stated that decisions and preparations are to be made on what country decides to come and play with NRL in Nigeria, making an emphasis on the decisions that need immediate action which includes the international youth tournament and MEA's in October.

Remond also stated that the outstanding funds left should be paid to the players as promised, to have a good record with new players intending to play for NRLA.

Ade also stated that getting a good coach from The United Kingdom or Australia is needed; well profiled players that tick all the boxes.

Yemisi stated that they should be able to get a tool that tracks their commitment and document details and people should also contribute by adding ideas and being active. Remond advised that graduates with experience should fill the roles of the NRLA social media management which job description includes taking pictures, videos, documentaries, live streaming, capturing content to post and collecting of data.

Ade stated that he has been able to speak to a company that does live streaming for professional leagues in Nigeria and he has negotiated for the company to take N150,000 (one hundred and fifty thousand naira only) per game and it should be included in the budget of the year at least three times per annum and sponsors can be included to sponsor the movement so they can go live on television and also publicize it to create good content.

Remond also included talking to his friend in Afro sport to help publicize the NRLA games. Ade also reminded Remond to draft a letter of participant for the nation. He also stated that Yemisi should have a conversation with Martin, the website developer, to keep the website and email running without any fault. Yemisi promised to have a technical conversation with him to get the NRLA emails and website issues sorted out.

Mr. Layi Ogunlewe will create a calendar that carries the activities of the year's events and activities.

In the area of funding, the chairman told the meeting that himself, the vice chairman and a few others sent out sponsorship proposals to 1xbet and are hopeful the proposals will yield positive results. Mr. Chukwudum suggested that some of the NRLA board based in Lagos should meet with the marketing manager involved with the companies to raise funds to get more traction. Ade added that additional ideas are needed to make the proposals more



presentable to prospective sponsors. The chairman stated that the board need to try as much as possible to reach out to influential individuals and organisations for sponsorship.

Ade will send the proposals to everyone on the platform for suggestions and input to create proper proposals.

According to the Chairman, the 2022 financial status of the NRLA is better than the previous years and nothing was spent above budget and the NRLA is debt free.

Papa Ibru added that he already has a budget of the things mentioned to be done this year. The major things to work on for the 2023 budget are:

1.) The management of the leagues 2.)

MEA budget for the year

3.) MEA for south Africa.

Mr. Papa Ibru proposed that once the projects are put in place then an estimation can be made to ascertain the amount of money needed to be raised from sponsors. He informed the meeting that he has made provisions for the South Africa under 19 and the Ireland under 19 and he is trying to put a budget on the projects. Papa Ibru also noted that once the financial report has been put together and an estimation for the projects, the financial report will be ready by February.

Papa Ibru noted that the 2023 budget should also carry the feeding, transportation, and accommodation of players for the northern and southern leagues. Papa Ibru also added that there is a need to know how many teams will be participating in the league this year and what the budget will be, so as the NRLA management will know how to cover the cost as the league so that all the player medicals, refreshments and transportation can be taken care of.

A Request was made by the chairman for Samson to reach out to the various clubs to know what expenditures need to be covered and what funds need to be raised for both the north and south. All teams must be carried along this year.

Adam stated that a date should be concluded by Papa Ibru in February to fully discuss the financial budget of the leagues for the year. Papa Ibru also stated that both financial budgets for previous year, this year and next year will be discussed by February. Adam stated that a meeting should be held with the head of every club, to know what's really going on, situations and what the club managers are doing, so that the NRLA management can also add their inputs on their progress and short comings. In addition, Adam said the club should be made to send their report annually to the NRLA management which can also be included to the overall report sent to the IRL, so that the situation of things can be monitored appropriately.

In the absence of any other business, the chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:30pm.



Chukwudum Ejikeme GENERAL SECRETARY