

# AFRICAN BOXING CONFEDERATION DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

#### DECISION

# Issued by the AFBC Disciplinary Committee.

sitting in the following composition:

Chairman: Mr. Said Mohamed, Comoros

Members: - Mr. Wael Haddad, Tunisia

- Mrs. Mapule Margaret Mokoena, Lesotho

regarding the complaint received against:

Mr. Azania Omo Agege Siena, AFBC Vice President and BoD member. «Respondent Person / Vice President and BoD member of AFBC»

#### DECISION:

The Respondent Person / AFBC Vice President and BoD member Mr. Azania Omo Agege Siena is sanctioned with a Suspension for three (3) years from all the boxing activities and a fine of ten thousand (10.000,00) Swiss Francs in accordance with the provisions set out in article of the article 31.1 of the AFBC Disciplinary Code. This decision of the AFBC Disciplinary Commission will be made public through the website of AFBC.

## REASONING:

For this case, the AFBC Constitution and AFBC Disciplinary Code will be applied. Thereby, the AFBC Disciplinary Committee is applying the AFBC Constitution, especially Article 34. 5 (a, b) and accordingly, the AFBC Disciplinary Committee declares that they are competent to decide on the current arbitration request.

On January 01, 2024, the AFBC Disciplinary Committee received a complaint from the Office of AFBC against the Respondent Person / Azania Omo Agege Siena, Vice President and BoD member of AFBC. In this capacity, he is bound by the AFBC Constitution as well as by the AFBC Disciplinary Code. The referred complaint was requesting this Committee to confirm the previous sanction of provisional Suspension from all the boxing activities and a fine of twenty thousand (20.000,00) Swiss Francs applied by the AFBC BoD to the Respondent Person, Azania Omo Agege Siena for his implication in the forgery, falsification and tentative of corruption inside and outside of his Federation, attitude which impacted negatively the governance of AFBC.



In facts, according to Nigeria Boxing Federation, following the announcement of World Boxing on October 20, 2023 that Nigeria Boxing Federation had secured their membership in that Organization, Mr. Azania Omo Agege Siena (their Vice President) sent unauthorized letters to IBA and held a world press conference, actions which created great embarrassment to his country and the Nigeria Federation. He accused the President of the Federation, General Kenneth Minimah of «continuing exercising the powers and functions of de facto president in NBF, when he allegedly has served the maximum allowable term limit according to the NBF Constitution».

On November 13, 2023, following the above referred actions and accusations of the Vice President Azania Omo Agege Siena, Nigeria Boxing Federation suspended him and accused him of disciplinary issues including the impersonating as President of Nigeria Boxing Federation, forgery and falsification using the NBF letterhead without approval and sanctioned him with an indefinite suspension.

The Respondent Person, Vice President and AFBC BoD member, Azania Omo Agege Siena, has not officially appealed against this sanction before a competent court in Nigeria or anywhere else. If he did, he has never made it public. Instead, Mr. Azania Omo Agege preferred to use the influences he has in IBA and AFBC taking advantage on his position as the AFBC Interim President to motivate sanctions against the Federation President General Kenneth Minimah by IBA BIIU Tribunal, so that he becomes, himself, the Interim President of the Federation replacing theoretically the suspended President.

In the meantime, we verified on the ground that the claims of the Vice President Azania Omo Agege Siena saying that General Kenneth Minimah has seized to be President violating the constitution of the Federation are not true. Officially, the mandate of the NBF President General Minimah ends with this current olympic cycle.

Also, during the visit of AFBC officials in Nigeria, Mr. Azania Omo Agege who claimed to be the Interim President of the Federation failed to provide evidence of his leadership in the Federation. He wasn't able to convene a single meeting between President Eyassu Wossen Berhanu and AFBC BoD members and the NBF executive supposed to be led by himself. It was even very challenging to meet the Ministry of Sports. According to the AFBC Nigeria Task Team report, «the meeting with Nigeria Sport Development Minister seemed to be a difficult assignment at first since it was not easy to secure an official appointment. An alternative arrangement was made with an official from the Minister's office which collapsed due to demands made by him for securing the required meeting. A meeting was finally secured with the Sports Development Minister, Sen. John Owan Enoh on the 24 November 2023 in his office». It becomes obvious that if Azania was in control of the situation in his country, the AFBC delegation should not have endured such mistreatment.

Mr. Azania Omo Agege manipulated IBA and AFBC with false claims to take advantage of the situation in Nigeria Boxing Federation in order to keep his position in the Federation and secure his position in the AFBC BoD. But it is clear that, with this indefinite suspension by the Federation, Mr. Azania Omo Agege Siena is no longer Vice President in Interim President of NBF as he pretends, the NBF has lost confidence in him.



On January 11, 2024, the Respondent Person / AFBC Vice President received a correspondence from this Disciplinary Committee through his e-mail address of the Federation: agegec@yahoo.com, which granted him a deadline of 8 working days to take position. Within the deadline set, the Respondent Person / AFBC Vice President and BoD member did not file any written explanation.

This Disciplinary Committee is looking at Article 25.4 (a) of the AFBC Constitution that states that «The members of the AFBC BoD have to meet the high standards of conduct, reputation and integrity» [...]. The Articles 25.1 and 25.2 (a) of the Constitution of AFBC which clarify that: «Each candidate for election to an office on the AFBC BoD must be nominated for election to such office by the National Federation of the country of which he or she is a citizen» [...]. The article 25.6 of the AFBC Constitution which states that: «The Ethics Committee shall determine whether or not each candidate for election to the Board satisfies the eligibility criteria contained in Articles 25.1 to 25.4 and where a candidate is ineligible, the ethics committee shall forward such report to the Confederation's Head Office ......» [...]. The articles 25.7 of the AFBC Constitution which states that: «If during the term of office of a Director, a Director no longer satisfies the eligibility criteria contained in Articles 25.3, 25.4 and 25.5, the Ethics Committee (for all Board Members except the President) may, either on its own motion or upon referral by the Board of the Confederation Head Office open a procedure against the concerned Director to decide whether such Director should be declared ineligible, and be removed from office......[...]. Finally, the Article 31.1 of the AFBC Disciplinary Code which states that: «[...] If a Person, in connection with boxing related activities, in order to deceive or procure an advantage for himself or another person: (a) forges or falsifies an authentic document, ...... or (b) Misleads or bribes a third party to falsify any authentic document, such person shall be subject to a fine of up to CHF 20,000 and/or a suspension from all boxing activities for up to 4 (four) years».

### This Disciplinary Committee is of the opinion that:

- i. If the Respondent Person, Mr. Azania Omo Agege Siena avoided to challenge his suspension before the national courts preferring providing false information to manipulate IBA and AFBC, it is because he knew that he had no argumentations to defend himself before the courts. The use of the false information with the premeditated intention to take advantage in order to safeguard his influential position in the Federation and consequently keep his position as Vice President and member of BoD of AFBC collides with the principle of «the high standards of conduct, reputation and integrity required of a Director», as stated in the article 25.4 (a) of the AFBC Constitution. Thus, the Respondent Person, Vice President Azania Omo Agege is liable for the breach of above referred Article of the AFBC Constitution and may be sanctioned pursuant to article 31.1 of AFBC Disciplinary Code.
- ii. The indefinite suspension of the Respondent Person Azania Omo Agege Siena by his Federation means the loss of the confidence of the Federation on him. Thus, the Respondent Person, Vice President of AFBC Azania Omo Agege is no longer meeting the criteria highlighted in the Articles 25.1 and 25.2 (a) of the Constitution of AFBC to continue to be part of the AFBC BoD. As long as he is suspended by his Federation, he may be removed from the AFBC BoD as a member.



iii. The above referred accusations of the impersonating as President of Nigeria Boxing Federation, forgery and falsification using the NBF letterhead without approval were motivated by the will of Respondent Person Mr. Azania Omo Agege Sina to influence the decisions of IBA and AFBC in its favour, and consequently had huge influence on some AFBC decisions affecting even the governance in AFBC. Such a behaviour of the Respondent Person, Azania Omo Agege Siena has disciplinary implications, and he is liable of the breach of the AFBC Disciplinary code and may be sanctioned pursuant to Article 31.1.

In applying article 31.1 the AFBC Disciplinary Code, this Disciplinary Committee sanctions the Respondent Person / AFBC Vice President Azania Omo Agege with a Suspension for three (3) years from all the boxing activities and a fine of ten thousand (10.000,00) Swiss Francs for the breaches and their impact caused on the governance of AFBC. In case the Respondent Person / AFBC Vice President and BoD member is breaching the applicable AFBC Regulations once more during this mandate, such repeated breach shall be considered aggravating circumstances; and, therefore, the Disciplinary Committee threatens him that he could face maximum punitive measures in accordance with the provisions set out in AFBC Disciplinary Code.

In regard with the breaches of Articles 25.1, 25.2 (a) and 25.4 (a) of the AFBC Constitution, this Committee recomends the AFBC Office to make a referral to the AFBC Ethics Committee, the competent entity to decide on the removal of the Respondent Person, the Vice President and BoD member of AFBC who is no longer fulfilling the eligibility criteria, pursuant to Article 25.7 of the AFBC Constitution.

These decisions are being made public through the AFBC communication channels including the AFBC website.

Based on the Article 46.2 of the AFBC Constitution, the Respondent Person / Vice President and BoD member of AFBC has the deadline of thirty (30) days from the issuance of this decision to appeal it in the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS), Avenue des Bergières 10, 1004 Lausanne, Switzerland.

Done on January 31, 2024.

Chairman
AFBC Disciplinary Committee

Said Mohamed