

**By e-mail**

Nigeria Football Federation  
Mr Aminu Maigari  
President

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SG/tre/pco

**Suspension of the Nigeria Football Federation**

Dear President,

As announced in our correspondence dated 4 July 2014, the situation of the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) was presented to the FIFA Emergency Committee.

The Emergency Committee was informed that the NFF had been served with court proceedings initiated by a president of a first division team and that consequently an order preventing the president of the NFF, the NFF Executive Committee members and the NFF Congress from running the affairs of Nigerian football had been granted by a High Court of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It took note of the fact that the Nigerian Minister of Sport was compelled to appoint a senior member of the civil service to run the NFF affairs until the matter was heard in court, without giving any date for such a hearing.

Furthermore, the Emergency Committee also took note of the subsequent decision of the Minister of Sports to appoint a member of the civil service. It was informed that the NFF president – upon his return from the FIFA World Cup in Brazil – was picked up by state security services, detained for interrogation and held in custody for the whole day before being called in twice more for further inquiries together with the NFF general secretary on 5 and 7 July 2014.

In this regard, the Emergency Committee recalled that all member associations have to manage their affairs independently and without influence from any third parties, as clearly stipulated in article 13, par. 1 and article 17, par. 1 of the FIFA Statutes. Therefore, the above-mentioned actions are preventing the NFF from managing its affairs independently and are considered by the FIFA Emergency Committee as undue interference in the NFF's affairs.

Under these circumstances, the FIFA Emergency Committee decided that the NFF be suspended with immediate effect until:

- the court actions have been withdrawn and;
- the properly elected NFF Executive Committee, the NFF general assembly and the NFF administration are able to work without any interference in their affairs.

As a result of this decision, please note that no team from Nigeria of any sort (including clubs) can have any international sporting contact (art. 14, par. 3 of the FIFA Statutes). During the period of suspension, the NFF may therefore not be represented in any regional, continental or international competitions or in friendly matches. The most immediate effect is that Nigeria will not be entitled to participate in the upcoming FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup competition should the suspension not be lifted before a replacement participating team is nominated. The suspension also means that neither the NFF nor any of its members or officials can benefit from any development programmes, courses or training from FIFA or CAF during the period of suspension.

In this context and given the NFF's obligation to ensure its own members comply with the FIFA statutes (art. 13, par. 1 d) of the FIFA Statutes), we strongly recommend that you take appropriate measures to ensure the action brought by Mrs Ebiakpo Rumson Baribote before the court of law is withdrawn and if not, that you impose the appropriate sanctions.

We thank you for forwarding this information to all involved parties and for informing us of any progress in the situation.

Yours sincerely,

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



Jérôme Valcke  
Secretary General

Cc: CAF