

Election Address – Abdul Buhari

Dear England Athletics,

I would very much like to be considered for the Non-Executive Director role. I have proven experience of the main duties and responsibilities for the Non-Executive Director role via my experience as a professional athlete, my role with the British Athletics Athletes commission and my job as a private banker.

Being part of UKA Athletes Commission, where the majority of people have been involved in the sport their whole lives with deep relationships, my role and value consists of openly challenging, identifying blind spots, marketing, strategy and planning as well as leveraging the governance and change experience from my professional career and ensuring effective governance and control processes are in place.

As a UKA Athlete Commission committee member I focused my efforts in embedding a transitional process from sport to industry. I co- founded an Athletes Alumni which we hope to launch in the not too distant future. I also volunteered to chair one of the “Let’s talk about race” initiative earlier in the summer which was hugely successful.

It is my ambition to continue to develop and improve the relationships between the clubs, England Athletics and UKA. I feel my experience on the board of UKA Athlete Commission has given me the insight as to how large NGBs are managed and the challenges they face. I have good strong relationships with UKA senior management which I believe will help the success of England Athletics.

I believe my experience as a retired athlete who has historically benefited from the public funding will be able to provide a ‘fresh’ independent approach to the decision process’.

I’m driven by my own experiences and my support network that has assisted in my journey. I recognise the importance of grass roots athletics having started my athletics career there and worked tirelessly to towards the elite level. As a full-time athlete, I completed my coaching badges so that I could give back to the sport and coach. I volunteered to coach many of the grass roots and elite athletes at Loughborough which I thoroughly enjoyed. I also coached at Cambridge University and at Victoria Park Tower Hamlets club in Mile End.

On the personal specification, good judgement, teamwork and stakeholder management are core strengths that have underscored my successful as a Private Banker and now complimented by my board experience within British Athletics and the British Athletes Commission where I have been an ambassador for the sport at national, regional and local level.

Most important to me is my connection with a cause; the purpose of what I am part of. It is this advocacy that brings out my unwavering passion, and I would love to bring my commitment and energy to further the mission for England Athletics.

I’m passionate about ultimately changing the face of the board room to become a more diverse and inclusive representation of the sport I competed in.

Thank you in advance for considering my application, and I look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely