

J-K GADZAMA LLP

NEWSLETTER VOL. 33, NUMBER 27 (OCT - DEC 2021) ISSN NO: 1598.8289.



Chief Godwin Kanu Agabi, SAN, CON, (4th right); Hon. Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf, Acting Chief Judge of the FCT High Court (3rd right); Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN (4th left); Prof. Tahir Mamman, OON, SAN (2nd left); Oyetola Atoyebi, SAN (right); Mrs. Diane Okoko (2nd right); Mrs. Toyin Bashir (3rd left); and Darlington Onyekwere (left) during the J-K Gadzama LLP 6th Hon. Justice Chukwudifu Oputa, JSC (Rtd) Professional Training and Mentoring Programme for Young Lawyers at the Hon. Justice S. M. A. Belgore Hall, J-K Gadzama Court, Abuja.



Editorial

Welcome to the twilight edition of our newsletter for the year 2021.

It has been a year for gradual recovery of life and businesses from the tragic Covid-19 Pandemic.

To round off the year, this edition has at its centrepiece a lecture on the all-important topic of “Nigeria and the Challenge of Insecurity: The Law and Lawyers as Panacea” presented by Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN at the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Owo Branch 2021 Law Week.

This edition equally presents sights and scenes from the Firm’s 6th Hon. Justice Chukwudifu Oputa JSC (Rtd) Professional Training and Mentoring for Young Lawyers.

You will also be entertained with sights and scenes from different events the firm was involved in, including the send-forth reception held in honour of Mrs. Geraldine Mbah, the out going Managing Partner of the firm.

We trust you will as always find this edition informative and entertaining.

Table of Contents

Page

NIGERIA AND THE CHALLENGE OF INSECURITY: THE LAW AND LAWYERS AS PANACEA KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY CHIEF JOE-KYARI GADZAMA, SAN	03
SIGHTS AND SCENES	16
WORD SUDOKU	20
SIGHTS AND SCENES	21
LEGAL HUMOUR	22
PHOTO SPEAK	23
NEWS FROM THE FIRM	24
PHOTO SPEAK	25
UPCOMING EVENTS	26

NIGERIA AND THE CHALLENGE OF INSECURITY: THE LAW AND LAWYERS AS PANACEA

Keynote Address by



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, OFR, MFR, SAN

At the 65th Birthday Anniversary of His Excellency, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi
Odunayo Akeredolu, SAN, the Governor of Ondo State

Courtesy of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Owo Branch 2021
Law Week on Wednesday, July 21, 2021

1.0 INTRODUCTION

It is my pleasure to be a part of this auspicious four-in-one event which marks the official commissioning of NBA Owo Bar Complex, the grand finale of the 2021 Law Week Celebration of the branch, the launch of essays in honour of, and the 65th birthday anniversary of our indefatigable, amiable and performing Governor, His Excellency, Arakunrin Oluwarotimi Odunayo Akeredolu, SAN, and a past President of the NBA who is also the grand patron of the branch. I say our Governor because I am also a son of the soil being the Bobajiro of Akure Kingdom. I am privileged to be here as the guest lecturer of this ceremony themed: "Nigeria and the Challenge of Insecurity: the Law and Lawyers as Panacea". I acknowledge and commend the efforts of the executives of the branch and the organizers of this great event for their innovation as well as their choice of theme which I consider apt. The insecurity challenge that Nigeria faces today has been a nightmare and an unending challenge. I hope that this paper further deepens our understanding of the existing discussions on the security challenge in Nigeria as well as provide an opportunity for cross-fertilization of ideas in a bid to make Nigeria a better and safer place for us all.

"It is not in doubt that the issue of insecurity is generally a global phenomenon and a major impediment to the realization of a nation's growth and development."

This is to say that, insecurity is not limited or peculiar to Nigeria but is a global challenge that is rapidly stunting the development and progress of nations' core productive and sensitive sectors - particularly developing nations like Nigeria. Security entails stability and continuity of livelihood, predictability of relationships, feeling safe, and belonging to a social group. It is the state of safety in which citizens are free from any threats to their life and means of livelihood, free from bodily harm, diseases, unemployment, and human rights violations wherever they may find themselves within a sovereign nation. This is done generally by upholding the national law and defending against

internal security threats. Those responsible for internal security range from police to paramilitary forces, and in exceptional circumstances, the military.

It is pertinent to recognize that where there is insecurity, there is no peace, freedom, or orderliness. The present situation in the Country paints a sorry picture for the nation and its citizens. Furthermore, the image of the nation has suffered serious stigma in the international community because of a variety of factors which include Nigeria being rated as one of the most unsafe countries to live in or do business. As I attempt to establish the nexus between the law and lawyers as an efficient tool to mitigating insecurity and sustaining peace, it is important to mention that the legal profession has the primary responsibility to ensure that justice is readily available to all and sundry.

2.0 CONCEPTUALIZATION OF KEYWORDS

2.1 Insecurity

The word "insecurity" has a myriad of connotations. It signifies danger, hazard, uncertainty, a lack of protection, and a lack of safety. According to Beland (2005), it is the state of fear or anxiety stemming from concrete or alleged lack of protection. It refers to a lack of or inadequate freedom from danger. In essence, insecurity is an absence of peace, order, and security. Achumba, Ighomeroho, Akpor (2013) define insecurity from two perspectives. Firstly, that insecurity is the state of being open or subject to danger or threat of danger, where danger is the condition of being susceptible to harm or injury. Secondly, that insecurity is the state of being exposed to risk or anxiety, where anxiety is a vague unpleasant emotion that is experienced in anticipation of some misfortune. These definitions of insecurity underscore a major point that those affected by insecurity are not only uncertain or unaware of what would happen but they are also vulnerable to the threats and dangers when they occur.

Insecurity can be in different forms. They include:

- i. Job insecurity
- ii. Food insecurity
- iii. Political insecurity
- iv. Economic insecurity
- v. Financial insecurity
- vi. Social insecurity

- vii. Health insecurity
- viii. Environmental insecurity
- ix. Religious insecurity
- x. Moral insecurity
- xi. Emotional insecurity

My understanding of the theme as composed by the organizers of this event is that it is their intention for me to discuss the above in light of the prevailing insecurity of lives and property and hence the dimension I have adopted for this paper.

2.2 Security

The concept of security has been given many interpretations and expositions by scholars and security experts. It has been defined to mean the protection of a person, building, organization, or country against threats. It has also been defined as the quality or state of being secure and free from danger, anxiety, and the prospect of being laid off. Security can be referred to as freedom from, or resilience against potential harm (or other unwanted coercive change) caused by others. The modern view of security has been reshaped and redefined to encompass not just freedom from physical violence, but to include the material wellbeing of individuals, including environmental health.

2.3 Panacea

Panacea has been defined by Merriam-Webster dictionary as a remedy for all ills or difficulties. It has also been defined as something that will solve all the problems of a particular situation. It is not synonymous with palliative. It is evident that to view something as a panacea entails that that particular thing completely takes care of the problem. Whether the law and lawyers can be a panacea to the insecurity challenge in Nigeria is debatable.

3.0 HELICOPTER VIEW OF THE PREVAILING INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

Nigeria in recent times has been trailing through periods of insecurity of lives and property as well as disregard for the rule of law, natural justice, and human dignity. Nigeria has witnessed a high level of insecurity in recent times and the nature of insecurity has since been regionalized: militia groups in the south; insurgency and banditry in the north; kidnapping in the east and south; ritual killings in the east and west. As of today, road travel

in most parts of Nigeria is an attempt at suicide. Insecurity in Nigeria is a matter of great concern. The 2020 Global Terrorism Index (GTI) ranks Nigeria as the 3rd most terrorized country in the world, only after Afghanistan and Iraq. Killings and abductions are gradually becoming the norm.

Very recently and specifically on Tuesday, June 13, 2021, the leadership of the House of Representatives, Federal Republic of Nigeria submitted the report of its Special Committee on National Security to President Muhammadu Buhari. The report - as published in a statement signed by Lanre Lasisi, Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to the Speaker, House of Representatives, Federal Republic of Nigeria - contained far-reaching recommendations by the committee on how to tackle the growing insecurity in Nigeria. The report, broken into two major categories, has seven (7) recommendations for legislative actions and nineteen (19) others for executive actions. The seven (7) Legislative Actions adopted by the House are listed below:

1. Set a declassification period and process (backed by law) for security votes.
2. Establish development commissions across all six (6) of Nigeria's geopolitical zones.
3. Strengthen the Federal Character law, to ensure better and more vigorous enforcement and implementation.
4. Establish an interventionist agency (or add to the role of an existing Agency) to identify and provide little investment and sustenance opportunities to ex-convicts, jobless youths, discharged but indigent military and paramilitary personnel, among others.
5. Establish a national transitional justice framework. The absence of a unifying Transitional justice framework remains a challenge in addressing Nigeria's intractable conflicts.
6. Invite representatives from Google, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Twitter to a special dialogue to discuss a voluntary Platform Regulations framework that centers the need for platforms to have



The Executive Governor of Ondo State, Oluwarotimi O. Akeredolu, SAN honouring Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN At the 65th Birthday Anniversary of His Excellency, Courtesy of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Owo Branch 2021 Law Week on Wednesday, July 21, 2021

content regulation policies themselves that are well designed and consistently enforced in Nigeria.

7. Resolve legislatively, the crisis of overlapping mandates amongst the various security-related agencies.

Similarly, for the executive actions, 19 recommendations were passed by the House for immediate action. While the initiative is a very laudable one, it is pertinent to note that Nigeria at this point is in a dire need of implementation of its laws on security. What are the efforts that are being made to ensure that the existing laws on security are in good shape and truly in force? What are the efforts being made to ensure that the necessary amendments are made to our existing laws to ensure that they are up to date and standard to cater to the dynamic society?

Section 14(2)(b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) provides that “the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government...” but the insecurity in many parts of the country is quite alarming.

You can agree with me that the intent of the Constitution as captured above has not been realized. I have a self-imposed duty to preach the gospel at every gathering of Learned Minds as yourselves that as the process for alteration of the CFRN is ongoing, we must continue to speak to our elected representatives at the National Assembly to critically consider, for the sake of national cohesion, integration, and prosperity of the country, various workable proposals already submitted in the course of public hearing recently conducted. The era of standing aloof watching our legislators do as it pleased them is over, now it is time to get involved.

Charity begins at home. Speaking for myself, I have paid my dues by submitting memoranda to both red and green chambers of the National Assembly, which contains my recommendations concerning areas of the Constitution that I consider in need of amendment.

4.0 CAUSES OF INSECURITY

A plethora of factors has been attributed to have contributed to the magnitude of insecurity in Nigeria. Many erudite scholars have identified

several causes of insecurity in Nigeria that are inimical to socio-economic growth and development. They have identified the following as some of the major causes of insecurity in Nigeria:

- a. Bad leadership/Abuse of power
- b. Unemployment/Joblessness
- c. Poverty
- d. Jobs Racketeering
- e. Corruption/Impunity
- f. Weak Judicial System
- g. Illiteracy
- h. High Influx of Arms and Ammunitions
- i. Illicit Drugs
- j. Cultism

5.0 IMPLICATIONS OF INSECURITY

The following have been identified and set out by Professor F. O. Okpata and T. B. Nwali in their paper “Security and the Rule of Law in Nigeria” as the far-reaching implications of insecurity and non-respect for rule of law on the development of Nigeria:

1. Unprepared Development Diversion: Every government has a number of strategized programmes and projects to implement at a given point in time for the good of the people. However, when there is serious security threat, the government will have to face the reality on ground. To achieve this effectively, the attention of government would be diverted unprepared. Therefore, the negative effects of this diversion would take more than necessary time depending on the degree and nature of the threat and insecurity of the threat in place.
2. Reduction/Stagnation of Development Programmes: A serious implication of insecurity on development is the reduction and/or stagnation of development programmes and projects. This happens when the state of insecurity becomes a threat on leadership, leading to leadership failures. When there is threat on security, leadership in attempt to get rid of the problem would abandon some other projects notwithstanding their importance to the people.
3. Loss of Government Revenue:

Production and services are mostly affected by any threat of insecurity. This is because production in major industries is stopped until normalcy returns. This of course could lead to loss of huge amount of money accruable to government. This however affects effective implementation of projects financially. Thus, Akpuru-Aja (2007) notes that Nigeria lost 7.9 billion naira daily to Niger Delta crisis in oil revenue as a result of restiveness in the region.

4. Stagnation of Development Indicators: Most times, threats to security leads to destruction of lives and property such as buildings, government installations, cares, factories etc. It should be accepted that replacement of the affected property take much time than necessary and in most cases the vacuum created remains unclosed thereby creating scenario of development stagnation on the affected areas.

5. Social Vices Multiplying Effects: This occurs as a result of frustrations, hunger, hardship etc. which the inhabitants of conflicting communities are subjected to. For example, a person or group of people may as a result of frustration indulge in such acts as prostitution, stealing armed banditry, human trafficking, kidnapping and physical violence as evident in the activities of the Boko Haram and Niger Delta militias.

6.0 THE LAW AS PANACEA TO INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

In order to do justice to the above, I will examine same under three sub-topics: The Law; The Role of the Judiciary; and the Role of the Bar as a body.

6.1 The Law

According to Black's Law Dictionary, the law may mean the regime that orders human activities and relations through the systematic application of the force of politically organized society, or through pressure, backed by force, in such a society. Simply put, it is the aggregate of legislation, judicial precedents, and accepted legal principles. To a layman's understanding, however, the law

represents that societal entrenched rules or set of rules having binding effects.

The rule of law aims to limit and check the arbitrary, oppressive, and despotic tendencies of power, and to ensure the equal treatment and protection of all citizens irrespective of race, tongue, class, status, religion, place of origin, or political affiliation. It implies a legal framework that is fair, impartial (particularly concerning human rights, public security, and safety). Authority is legitimate if there is an established legal and institutional framework, and if decisions are taken per the accepted institutional criteria, processes, and procedures, there will be a smooth running of the system.

In every country, a national constitution articulates the vision of the society, defines the fundamental principles by which the country is organized, and distributes power within it. A government operating under a written constitution has no more power than is granted to it by the constitution, either expressly or by necessary implication. The idea of a constitutional democratic government or constitutionalism and the rule of law connotes a government-defined, regulated, and limited by supreme law. The doctrine of the Rule of Law is to the effect that no one is above the law. In Nigeria, the Constitution is the supreme law of the land and the grundnum of all laws. Section 1(3) of the Constitution provides that:

The constitution is supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on the authorities and persons throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

This Section displays a system whereby the police are under the management and control of the Federal Government at the expense of the federating units – the State Government. However, this arrangement has so far not favoured the country. The Police have been faced with an avalanche of problems; these issues include the accountability of the Police Force and the high surge of crimes in different states of the country. The inability of the Police under exclusive Federal control to curb them poses a huge flaw to the federal arrangement. I believe that when policing is closer to the society of its jurisdiction, it enables the police to easily detect and uproot crimes. Where there is a common language known and understood by the police, there would be a free flow of communication and understanding between the police and the people. I

believe that the creation of State Police will provide appreciable solutions to the current security challenge and enhance the effectiveness of the police in ending criminality in the country. In a bid to cater to their security, states and communities have created outfits that will aid in the protection of lives and properties. These outfits - Amotekun in the South West, Ebubeagu in the South East, Hisbah corps in Kano State as well as various other vigilante groups in the North - have proven stem down the level of insecurity in the country to some extent.

The Law can be a panacea to the challenge of insecurity because it encompasses the functions, duties, and obligations that all, especially those in power should follow to ensure good governance to ensure peace, justice, and rapid development of society.

Chapter 2 of the Constitution has made provision for fundamental objectives and directive principles of state policy. These objectives although non-justiciable, provide a guide to any government in power in Nigeria and contain essential needs of the people in Nigeria on political, economic, social, educational, foreign policy, environmental, cultural, media, national ethics matters, and duties of citizens. The non-justiciable nature of Chapter 2 of the Constitution hinders its smooth implementation and enforcement because it deprives citizens of the locus to approach the court to enforce these objectives. This incites the Government to disregard the objectives. Constitutional democracy is founded upon the notion of checks and balances where the legislature, the judiciary, and the executive while operating independently of one another, act to check each other's operations and balance each other's power. In essence, all three institutions are duty-bound to uphold the rule of law. The assumptions of the rule of law are not fully realized in Nigeria because of several factors which include: Ignorance of the Law; Existence of Class Society and Class Interests; Bureaucratic Redtapism; Cult Societies; High Cost of Litigation; and Manipulation of the Judiciary by Government in Power.

Law is also a tool for social engineering as its basic goal is to protect individual rights and liberties. The great scholar, Roscoe Pound, then Dean Emeritus of

the Harvard Law School in a treatise wrote:

“Throughout the history of civilization, there have been abortive attempts to set up or to maintain a polity without law. Every utopia that has been pictured has been designed to dispense with lawyers. This has been manifest particularly in the ideal schemes imagined after Revolutions. The organized legal profession was abolished following the French Revolution. In each case, the attempt proved vain.”

Chief Afe Babalola, SAN opined that many abortive attempts have been made throughout the history of civilization to erect and or mention a law-free polity. Under the arrangements, lawyers were to be dispensed with. Further, he noted that this became more profound, especially after the French and Russian Revolutions, where Karl Marx particularly believed that the real function of law was to hold one class in subjection to another. Thus, as social classes disappeared with the abolition of private property, the law according to Karl Marx would “wither away”, a thought which has remained a mirage to date.

If the postulation above is anything to go by, it means that even law and by extension the legal profession has survived several attempts to undermine its usefulness in society. The modern criminal justice system as one would imagine is that which keeps society safe from the hazardous and deleterious effects of criminals and other lawbreakers. A crime-prone society guarantees among the populace, low productivity, strife, discord, lawlessness, and indiscipline. It is an invitation to the status of a failed state due to the plague of insecurity.

Other security-related laws in Nigeria include:

- i. The Penal Code and Criminal Codes of the Northern and Southern States, respectively.
- ii. The Police Act
- iii. Terrorism (Prevention)(Amendment) Act
- iv. Robbery and Firearms (Special Provisions) Act
- v. The Armed Forces Act
- vi. Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act
- vii. Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Act

6.2 The Role of the Judiciary

The rule of law is enforced by the judiciary through the interpretation of the law and decisions on disputes and questions brought before it. This is a very sensitive role and it is pertinent that the judiciary is independent at all times; a judiciary completely independent of the direction in which the political winds are blowing. The rule of law is effective when it is impartially and effectively applied. Court decisions have to be obeyed without question. This is the problem in most developing countries. For example, it was reported that Late Dr. Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana dismissed a judge for giving bad judgment against the government. It will not be out of place to use this occasion to reemphasize and remind other arms of Government of the need to respect and promote the independence of the judiciary in line with the doctrines of rule of law and separation of power as constitutionally enshrined in the 1999 Constitution (as amended). Attempts, whether direct or indirect, to intimidate, cow, and/or suppress the judiciary must be condemned and discouraged in all ramifications at all times.

I must commend the efforts of the South West Governors acting through their various Attorneys-General for taking definite steps at ensuring judicial independence in their various States. Just on Monday, July 19, 2021, I read a communiqué issued by Mr. Olawale Fapohunda, the Honourable Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Ekiti State after the meeting held at Ado Ekiti in Ekiti State on Friday, July 16, 2021 with his counterparts from Osun, Ondo, Ogun, Oyo and Lagos States wherein they reaffirmed their commitment and resolve to implement financial autonomy for their various state judiciaries and legislatures and in this bid, agreed to exchange State Judicial (Funds Management) Bills and State Legislative (Funds Management) Bills to ensure uniformity across the States within the region. In addition, they also reiterated the need for the creation of State Police in line with their earlier submissions at the public hearing held in respect of the ongoing constitutional amendment.

The doctrine of rule of law presupposes equality before the law and this is important as the concept of rule of law is the bedrock upon which any modern democratic society rests. No arm of Government, or its Ministry, Department, Agency, Functionary or Appointee must be seen to be above the law. The

need for the obedience of Court orders by all and sundry, no matter how highly placed, cannot be overemphasized. The reality as of today - that some persons pick and choose at will, court orders which are to be obeyed and those not to be obeyed - is worrisome, disheartening, and unacceptable. We must all be reminded that our judiciary plays a similar role to that of a mother in our democracy, and should be respected at all times. This respect must also be reflected in the funding of the judiciary. Not only is it imperative that adequate funds be made available, but also crucial that access to such funds be unhindered by any other branch of government.

For our Judges, courage should be an indispensable attribute. It is in the interest of the society at large, that our laws are interpreted and decisions given in line with current realities and developments. Law, they say by its nature, is not static but dynamic. If I may borrow the words of the Master of the Rolls, Lord Alfred Denning:

If we never do anything because it has not been done before, we shall never get anywhere. The law will stand still while the rest of the world goes on, and that will be bad for both.

Another area that merits close attention is the perception of judicial corruption. In its "Nigeria Corruption Index: Report of a Pilot Survey", the Independent and Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) lists the judiciary at the top of the Nigerian corruption index, stating that about N9 billion was requested or offered in bribes to judicial officers between 2018 and 2020. There is no question that our judicial officers are upright people of strong moral convictions. But the administration of justice is so sensitive that even the slightest blemish can critically affect the reputation of the entire edifice. It is therefore important that the judiciary guards its reputation jealously, doing all it can to eliminate even the slightest hint of vice. The responsibility does not lie with judicial officers alone. Legal practitioners also must shun corrupt practices and thereby help strengthen the perception of the judiciary, because it takes two to tango.

The great volume of cases that come to the Courts has always strained its resources, and one effect of this strain is that it takes a longer period of time to conclude cases. Still, there is one aspect to this

matter that merits consideration. Political cases tend to receive priority to the detriment of general civil cases. It is understandable, even desirable, that these cases should be accorded priority because they are often time-bound, but it is worthwhile to ensure that the situation does not harm regular civil causes.

6.3 The Role of the Bar as a body

The Nigerian Bar Association has a delicate role in fighting insecurity in Nigeria. Section 3 of the Nigerian Bar Association Constitution (as amended) provides that “the aims and objects of the Association shall be the:

1. Maintenance and defence of the integrity and independence of the Bar and the Judiciary in Nigeria.
2. Improvement of the system of administration of justice, its procedures, and the arrangement of court business and regular law reporting.
3. Establishment, maintenance, and operation of a system of prompt and efficient legal aid and assistance for those in need but who are unable to pay for same.
4. Promotion and support of law reform.
5. Maintenance of the highest standard of professional conduct, etiquette and discipline.
6. Promotion of good relation among the members of the Association and lawyers of other countries.
7. Promotion of co-operation between the Association and other National or International Law Organisations and such other bodies as may be approved by the National Executive Committee.
8. Encouragement and protection of the right of access to courts at reasonably affordable fees and of

representation by counsel before courts and tribunals.

9. Encouragement of the establishment of a National Law Library.
10. Promotion and protection of the principles of the rule of law and respect for the enforcement of fundamental rights, human rights, and people's rights.
11. Creation of schemes for the encouragement of newly qualified members and assistance to aged or incapacitated members of the Association.
12. Establishment of schemes for the promotion of the welfare, security, and economic advancement of members of the legal profession.
13. Creation and maintenance of an Endowment Fund for the proper observance and discharge of any of these aims and objects.”

In other to advance the above aims and objectives, the NBA has formed the Section on Public Interest Litigation (SPIDEL), Section on Legal Practice (SLP), and Section on Business Law (SBL), and other fora. I commend the Nigerian Bar Association, particularly the Section on Public Interest Litigation (SPIDEL) for the public interest litigations (PILs) that they have instituted and pursued overtime. I must emphasize that there is a great need for PILs in Nigeria. Professor Baxi, a foremost Indian scholar defines PIL as a “social action litigation” designed to be used as an instrument of social change deployed on behalf of the victimized and oppressed classes. According to Mamah, PIL refers to the practice of precipitating social change through court decisions that reform legal rules; enforce existing laws, and articulate public norms. This takes the form of litigating issues that border on public interest and general human rights protection. PIL has also been defined as the use of the law to advance human rights and equality, or raise issues of broad public concern. It helps advance the cause of minority or disadvantaged groups or individuals. It is clear from the definition above that the essence of public

interest litigation is to engender social change in society. This allows the court to make declarations that re-emphasize social values. One of such is that society believes in the sacredness and sanctity of human lives. As such, it is important to consider how public interest litigation could help to stem the tide of the wastage of human lives through the evil called extra-judicial killings, either perpetrated by state (security) agents or private citizens. However, I urge us all to be more fervent in the cause to ensure that our society is better and more habitable.

7.0 LAWYERS AS PANACEA TO INSECURITY IN NIGERIA

It has been said that security is everybody's business. This is even truer for lawyers who are important stakeholders in the business. Lawyers are ministers in the temple of justice is an age-long aphorism symbolizing great power and even greater responsibility in the scheme of social order, peace, and stability. Verily, there can be no social order or peace without social justice. It is the lawyer's ultimate interest that at all times, social justice is attained. The concept of justice is not so trivial a conjecture for it entails certain fundamental tenets such as equity, fairness, access to Court, freedom, the defense of truth amongst others. This ultimate interest of a lawyer has borne credence that beyond his responsibilities to a client(s), colleagues and the court is his duty to his society. He is therefore an important stakeholder in the security architecture of any state. In addition to their duties as watchdogs in society, lawyers may act as informants, prosecutors, advisers to the government amongst others.

Law is a noble profession and lawyers are believed to be naturally entrusted with nobility. In most instances, they are referred to as custodians of the law; and hence, are influential agents of change having prominent roles as organizers and spokesmen of the society. Before delving into the critical role that lawyers play in the fight against insecurity in Nigeria, it is pertinent to note that the obligations and responsibilities of lawyers when dealing with crime are huge. At first sight, it would seem that legal practitioners may not be directly involved in policy conception, formulation, and policymaking as they are seen not to be the traditional roles of the lawyers. However, in all facets of life, lawyers are either directly involved with or form part of a team in government policy formulation. Lawyers are very essential in every part of our system, and it is pertinent to note that the

obligations and responsibilities of lawyers when dealing with security challenges are weighty. In light of these, the enormous task placed on the shoulder of lawyers by society requires more than the rhetoric reference as "influential agents of change". It involves determination, diligence, and consistency, and above all, observing the rule of law as well as promoting and fostering the cause of justice. Society is the lawyer's jurisdiction.

Although it is not within the mandate of the judiciary or the legal profession to address this issue, one can ask; how can we be of help? Where are our children who are being abducted from schools? From available statistics, Nigeria is the third most terrorized nation in the world, out of over 195 countries, and with the recent developments, we are gravitating towards the top spot. Why us? Since time immemorial, preservation of life is one of the fundamental essence of law and a major factor that has remained a clear distinction in modern society. The need to have and achieve comfort, orderliness, and harmony is a thematic concern for any society, therefore, makes the issue of security every man's business and it is only through the collaboration that encompasses several disciplines particularly the lawyers, that Nigeria can successfully combat the plague of crisis and insecurity. In the words of Lord Bacon:

I hold that every man is a debtor to his profession, from the which, as men do of course seek to receive countenance and profit, so ought they to endeavour themselves by way of amends, to be a help and ornament.

It suffices therefore to say that sound legislation and the legal profession are critical to the well-being of the nation. Lawyers owe a duty to the nation and the society to ensure that crime and all forms of impunity are fought conscientiously and resolutely. Thus, any society where people do not obtain justice from the institutions that are created to ensure justice will wallow in strife and insecurity. Upon deep reflection, one wonders why a country bestowed with so much manpower and enormous resources has been unable to harness and deploy this huge material resources and human endowment into rapid development and prosperity to mitigate agitations leading to insecurity. The prevailing situation is posing a big risk to the unity of this country. The stability of any nation is premised upon the existence of certain core features such as

the policy of the rule of law without compromise, transparency, accountability, and due process in governance. These elements are the cornerstone of any civilized democratic state.

Lawyers are supremely and morally responsible to advise for better legislation and as draftsmen, come up with watertight legislation that fosters security. A recent portrayal of this role is the bill sponsored by Sen. Francis Onyewuchi: The Terrorism Prevention (Amendment) Bill 2021, which seeks to prohibit the payment and receipt of ransom for the release of a kidnapped, wrongfully imprisoned, or confined person. Lawyers should be at the forefront of this endeavour. They can scrutinize this piece of legislation vis-a-vis the current happenings and propose modifications in tandem with current realities. Law is an instrument of social control and the lawyers obviously should know the letters and spirit of the law better. It is his tool of trade and he can advise better on the use of law to fertilize and cultivate a peaceful atmosphere for all.

To buttress this point further, Lawyers should also seek to identify and recommend amendments to loophole in our existing laws that criminals have and are taking advantage of. A lawyer must know when to draw the line between his client's interest and the course of justice. Justice is not linear. It is a three-way traffic: for the accused, the victim, and the society. When the perpetrators of insecurity are granted justice, when the society is granted justice and the victims are granted justice, only then would justice have been truly attained and deterrence to further societal ills ensured. As ministers in the temple of justice, the lawyer must contribute to ensuring speedy disposal of cases in the most efficient way possible while ensuring that parties are brought to book where need be. This is especially important in security-related cases. The tradition of delay tactics and suppression of evidence must be nipped in the bud. Lawyers must say no to criminal elements who have devised rather ingenious ways of laundering stolen monies through lawyers.

The lawyer should sensitize the general public on the ills of crime and punishment for same. They must rise to their responsibility as consultants in the temple of Justice, educating the public of their freedom, rights, legal processes and encouraging them to be law-abiding. The lawyer is the custodian of the rule of law and a key player that ensures the wheels of justice keep turning. Society is the lawyer's jurisdiction; he is an ambassador of the bar

and must champion the corrections of social ills at all times. He is an enforcement officer and a public citizen with special responsibility for the defense of truth, social justice, and peace.

Also, on May 4, 2021, His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari approved the establishment of a National Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (NCCSALW) to be domiciled in the Office of the National Security Adviser to check the proliferation of small arms and light weapon into Nigeria. Lawyers are better seised of the guiding gun control legislation around the world and in Nigeria. They can appraise the Firearms Act and Firearms Regulations, and make policy recommendations in tandem with our laws for proper check of the influx of small arms and light weapons in the West African countries. They should recommend amendments to our laws for proper monitoring and implementation of policies on small arms and light weapons.

The lawyer should sensitize the general public on the ills of crime and punishment for the same. In précis, lawyers must rise to their responsibility and fight for our dear nation Nigeria.

In a nutshell, I have said time without number in the past that:

“The lawyer is the five senses of the visible body of the common man: the lawyer is the eye, the mouth, the eardrum, the nose and the receptor of the common man.”

The above represents the five senses of sight, taste, hearing, smell and touch ascribed to every human being and it is apt to attribute the same to lawyers as the function of the five senses is synonymous with their roles in society. In addition, I have equally said that:

“the lawyer is the mouthpiece, the defender, the ambassador of and the giver of hope to the common man”.

8.0 CONCLUDING REMARKS

In conclusion, we all must recognize that in ensuring a crime-free nation, both the law and the lawyers

must act as a genuine watchdog for society. Lawyers, as mouthpiece and watchdogs of the society, ought to imbibe the culture of patriotism and refrain from undue pressure, temptations; from colluding or conniving with economic saboteurs who in their desperate bid to escape from the grips of the law and who dangle hard currencies on their faces.

I must emphasize that both the law and lawyers play a vital role in the preservation of society and hence, permit me to share my poetic dream for Nigeria which I also shared very recently in a paper I delivered at the NBA, Ikeja branch on "The Nigerian State and the Call for Restructuring":

"I dream of a country that rewards hard work and excellence, irrespective of a person's social status, cultural belief, faith, tongue, gender chauvinism, and circumstances of birth;

I dream of a Nigeria with purposeful, visionary, and exemplary leadership which extols national interests above the individual and sectional interests. I dream of a day Nigerians will have leaders that are unifying figures and who command moral authority;

I dream of a Nigeria with free, fair, transparent, and credible national elections;

I dream of a Nigeria where humanity is our race, our language is one and indigenship is true to all citizens regardless of residency in any State. I dream of a Nigeria where unity binds all peoples both at home and in the diaspora.

I dream of a Nigeria where a nobody can become somebody and somebody is treated as equal with someone regarded as a nobody in the eyes of the law – where the rule of law is worshipped and the sacredness of justice is not corrupted. I dream of a Nigeria where equity, fairness, transparency, and justice thrive above all intents and aspirations of persons.

I dream of a Nigeria inspiring the African continent and the black race to her pride of place in the world;

I dream of a Nigeria where the Legal Profession and the Bar play a pivotal role in nation-building since we are the *primus inter pares*.

I dream, I dream and I dream of a better Nigeria where everyone mutually co-exists and lives peacefully with a wide range of opportunities to thrive and succeed in any lawful profession, trade or vocation anywhere he or she resides. I dream of a brighter future for our children and children's children. I pray that all Nigerians work to make these dreams come to pass in the not too distant future."

Insecurity is a strong force militating against the Nigeria of our dreams. One cannot put something on nothing and expect it to stand as it will collapse like a pack of cards. With good security in place, nothingness shall be chased away and Nigeria will become a land of abundant milk and honey in the not too distant future. We cannot have the Nigeria of our dreams until we can, first of all, achieve and boast of the security of our lives and properties. Therefore, we must fight hard and strive to eliminate it so that our future and that of our children will be secured.

Thank you.

9.0 REFERENCES

1. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic (As amended)
2. Legal Practitioners Act, 2004
3. Rules of Professional Conduct for Legal Practitioners, 2007
4. Nigerian Bar Association Constitution, 2015 (as amended).
5. Black's Law Dictionary, 7th Edition
6. The Penal Code Act, 2004
7. Criminal Code Act, 2004
8. The Police Act, 2020
9. Terrorism (Prevention) (Amendment) Act, 2013
10. Robbery and Firearms (Special Provisions) Act, 2004
11. The Armed Forces Act, 2004
12. Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act, 2004
13. Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Act, 2000
14. El obarisiagbon and EO Akintoye, ' Insecurity Crisis in Nigeria: The Law Enforcement Agents a Panacea?' [2019] 7(1) Journal of Sociology and Social Work 44-51
15. Prof. Fidelis Okpata and Tiben Benz Nwali 'Security and rule of law in Nigeria' [2013] 2(3)Review of Public Administration and Management <https://www.longdom.org/open-access/tiben-benz-nwali-department-of-public-administration-ebonyi-state-university-abakaliki-2315-7844-1-130.pdf><accessed 13th Jul. 2021>.
16. G. N. Okeke 'Fundamental Objectives and Directives Principles of State Policy: A Viable Anti-Corruption Tool in Nigeria' [2011] 2 AJOL
17. Obi, Callistar, Challenges of Insecurity and Terrorism in Nigeria: Implication for National Development (February 28, 2015). OIDA International Journal of Sustainable Development, Vol. 08, No. 02, pp. 11-18, 2015, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=2586395>
18. Roscoe Pound, 'The lawyer from Antiquity to modern Times' Harvard: American Bar Association's survey of the legal profession, 1953
19. Chief AfeBabalola, SAN 'Lawyers and Nation Building' (a keynote address presented at the Annual NBA conference held in Enugu, 2003)
20. Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN "The Nigerian State and the Call for Restructuring" (Full text delivered at the 2021 Law Week of the Nigerian Bar Association, Ikeja branch on Monday, July 12, 2021)
21. "Panacea." Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/panacea><Accessed 13 Jul. 2021>.
<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/panacea>
22. <Accessed 13 Jul. 2021>.
[https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Page:The_Works_of_Francis_Bacon_\(1884\)_Volume_1.djvu/63](https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/Page:The_Works_of_Francis_Bacon_(1884)_Volume_1.djvu/63)
23. <Accessed 15th Jul. 2021>
24. Global Terrorism Index 2020: Measuring the impact of terrorism,
<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-terrorism-index-2020-measuring-impact-terrorism><Accessed 15th Jul. 2021>
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/security>
25. <Accessed 15th Jul. 2021>
26. "Security." Merriam-Webster.com Dictionary, Merriam-Webster, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/security><Accessed 15 Jul. 2021.>

SIGHTS AND SCENES

From the J-K Gadzama LLP 6th Hon. Justice Chukwudifu Oputa JSC (Rtd) Professional Training and Mentoring Programme for Young Lawyers



Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama anchoring



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN giving the host welcoming remarks



L-R: Prof. Tahir Mamman, OON, SAN; Darlington Onyekwere; Mrs. Toyin Bashir; Chief Kanu Agabi, SAN, CON; Hon. Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf; Mrs. Diane Okoko; Oyetola Atoyebi, SAN and Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN



Hon. Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf giving the Chairman's opening remarks



Chief Kanu Agabi, SAN, CON delivering his lecture

SIGHTS AND SCENES

From the J-K Gadzama LLP 6th Hon. Justice Chukwudifu Oputa JSC (Rtd) Professional Training and Mentoring Programme for Young Lawyers



Oyetola Atoyebi, SAN addressing the participants



Mrs. Diane Okoko addressing the participants



A cross section of the participants



Mrs. Toyin Bashir addressing the participants



Darlington Onyekwere addressing the participants

SIGHTS AND SCENES

From the J-K Gadzama LLP 6th Hon. Justice Chukwudifu Oputa JSC (Rtd) Professional Training and Mentoring Programme for Young Lawyers



Diebo Gillis-Harry asking a question during the session



Chief Kanu Agabi, SAN, CON; receiving a plaque from Hon. Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN (2nd right); Mrs. Toyin Bashir (right) with some Counsel in Chambers and participants at the event



Oyetola Atoyebi, SAN receiving a plaque from Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN



Mrs. Toyin Bashir receiving a plaque from Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN

SIGHTS AND SCENES

From the J-K Gadzama LLP 6th Hon. Justice Chukwudifu Oputa JSC (Rtd) Professional Training and Mentoring Programme for Young Lawyers



Mrs. Diane Okoko receiving a plaque from Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN



Darlington Onyekwere receiving a plaque from Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN



A cross section of some of the guests



Glory Uhumwangho receiving her certificate of participation



Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama giving the vote of thanks

WORD SUDOKU

P	R	O
B	A	T
I	V	E

		R		B		O		
			V	O	A			
O		E		T		B		V
	V						A	
E		A	T	P	V	R		I
	T						O	
P		O		A		I		E
			O		R			
		B		V		T		

The completed board will be provided in our next publication



SIGHTS AND SCENES

From the Send-Forth in Honour of Mrs. Geraldine Mbah, Managing Partner, J-K Gadzama LLP on Thursday, July 22, 2021



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN giving his remarks



Cross section of the guests



Pastor Emmanuel Oluwabiyi giving his goodwill remarks



L-R: Jerry Musa Ombugadu; Darlington Onyekwere; Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Mrs. Geraldine Mbah; Francis Oronsaye and Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama



Mrs. Geraldine Mbah with families and well wishers



Darlington Onyekwere giving his remarks



Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama giving his remarks



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN and Francis Oronsaye presenting a gift to Mrs. Geraldine Mbah and her husband



Mrs. Geraldine Mbah and her husband presenting a gift to the firm, received by Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN



Mrs. Geraldine Mbah giving her remarks

LEGAL HUMOUR



"Guilty or not guilty. Not 'so what if I did?'"



"I'm just saying that maybe instead of objecting all the time counsel try some constructive criticism."



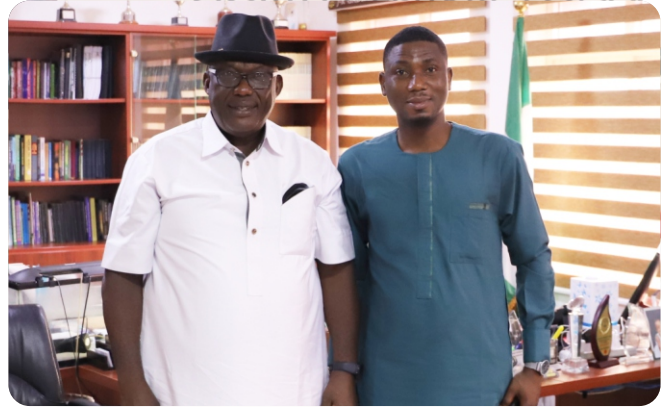
"SORRY, THE LAWYER-CLIENT PRIVILEGE ON CONFIDENTIALITY DOESN'T APPLY TO FREE ADVICE."



PHOTO SPEAK



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN with Patrick Ikwueto, SAN (middle) during the swearing-in of Hon. Justice Hussein Baba-Yusuf (left) as the Acting Chief Judge of the High Court of the FCT



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN with Marwin Ibem, Esq., Publicity Secretary, NBA Branch, Ikeja during the Publicity Secretary's courtesy visit to the firm



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN commissioning the office of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Abuja Branch (Unity Bar) in Abuja on Tuesday, August 31, 2021



L-R: Prince A. Adetosoye; Senator Abubakar D. Sodangi; Dr. Hauwa Shekarau; Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Kunle Ogunba, SAN and Desmond Yammah



Front Row L-R: Prince A. Adetosoye; Dr. Hauwa Shekarau; Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Senator Abubakar D. Sodangi and Princess F. Frank-Chukwuani
Back Row L-R: Jerry M. Ombugadu; Adedeji E. Adewale; Ikemefuna Onyeka; Ngozi G. Agbalu; Jude Okey Uguanyi and Emeka S. Agbara



L-R: Onyekachi Eluwa, Darlington Onyekwere, Mr. Sule Shuaibu, former NBA Chairman Kaduna Branch, Hassan Sherrif, Sarah Atunga and Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama at the Annual Training of AMCON External Solicitors and Receivers in Abuja



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN with the executives of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Suleja Branch during a courtesy visit to the firm



L-R: Muda Vaneesa; Emmanuel Oluwatosin; Juliet Isi-Ikhayere; Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Rahila Dauda; Oladoyin Bamiji; David Stephen and Clement C. Igata EXCOs Young Lawyers Forum NBA Abuja Branch during a courtesy visit to the firm

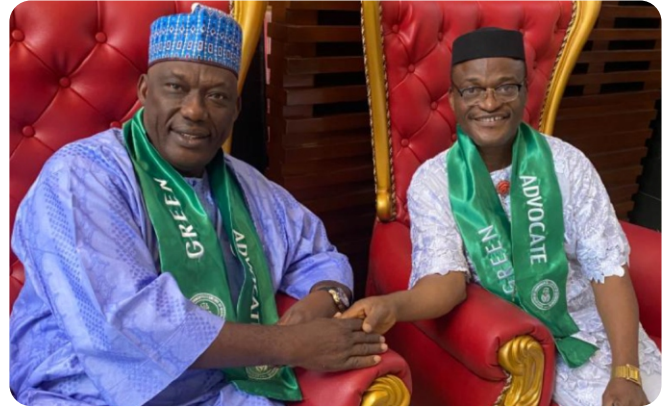
NEWS FROM THE FIRM

- The entire management and staff of J-K Gadzama LLP congratulate our Founding Principal Partner, Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN, on his investiture as a Chartered Environmental Advocate by the Association of Environmental Lawyers of Nigeria.
- Hassan Sherif, Mukhtar Mustapha Kaigama and Onyekachi Agbonma Eluwa joined the firm as Associates. The firm wishes them a fruitful stay.
- Godwin Promise Enyinnaya, Ojeke Ayebaifie Hillary, Ibrahim Nafisat Abisola, Magaji Magai Aji, Hajara Mohammed Sani Sorondinki, Chukwumerije Chinweotuto Love, Igwedibia Cynthia Kosisochukwu, Etim-Ikang Grace Basse, Hafsat Garba Maidugu, Mmasichukwu Precious Ulasi, Hajara Garba, Ahmad Musa Garba, Husseina Jafiya, Mbah Uchenna Zita, Okpogu Ebube Charity and Tengya Jochebed Habila joined the firm as Junior Associates for their NYSC Programme. The firm wishes them a fruitful stay.
- Vic-sandra George Edum, Dafenone Emeke Akpomudiare and Shamsiya Mohammed Ibaku joined the firm as Trainee Interns. The firm wishes them a fruitful stay.
- Opeyemi Originloye, Maryam Suleiman Gambo, Unwana Okon Udoma, Chidimma Gloria Okafor, Chidera Ene Madumere and Deborah Bo Ayuba completed their internship with the firm. The firm wishes them success in their future endeavours.
- Mrs. Geraldine Mbah and Pelumi Adewumi proceeded on a study leave. The firm wishes them success in their academic pursuit.
- Dr. Cyril Obika, Chris Okougha and Gatida Tsammani exited the firm. The firm wishes them success in their future endeavours.

PHOTO SPEAK



L-R: Dr. Ajayi, Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN, Mr Godwin Obaseki, the Executive Governor of Edo State and Dr. Bola Charles at the Benin Golf Club



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN being invested as a Chartered of Environmental Advocates of Nigeria by the National President of the Association Dr. Sammuel C. Dike



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN in attendance at the 2021 CLASFON National Conference in Onitsha, Anambra State



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN commiserating with HRH Abubakar Ibn Umar Garba, El-Kanemi of Borno State over the death of the Emir's younger brother



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN signing the book of condolence for the late Hon. Rev. Mrs. Christina Omatsola Williams at Ibori Golf & Country Club, Asaba, Delta State



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN paid a condolence visit at the residence of late Buba Wathanafa Gadzama who was a retired Chief Accountant of the High Court of Borno State



Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama and Dr. (Chief) B. E. Ogunbiyi during Dr. Ogunbiyi's 75th Birthday and Book Presentation at NAF Conference Centre, Jahi, Abuja



Sarah Atumga and Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama during Dr. Ogunbiyi's 75th Birthday and Book Presentation at NAF Conference Centre, Jahi, Abuja

UPCOMING EVENTS & CONFERENCES

International Bar Association Annual Conference at Paris
17th – 22nd October, 2021.



Nigerian Bar Association Annual General Conference at Port Harcourt,
Rivers State. 22nd - 29th October, 2021.



Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb), Nigeria Branch Annual Conference
at Ibadan, Oyo State. 3rd - 5th November, 2021.



Celebrating a Legal Everest @ 60, 14th Public Lecture/Presentations of Essays, Golf
Tournament Celebration marking the 60th Birthday of Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN,
Friday, November 26, 2021.



Golf Tournament in honour of Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN @ 60
at IBB International Golf & Country Club, Abuja, Saturday,
November 27, 2021, Shotgun 8:00 a.m.



Thanksgiving Service in honour of Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN @ 60
at Church of the Brethren (EYN), Abuja, Sunday, November 28, 2021, 8:00 a.m.



J-K Gadzama LLP Staff End of the Year Party and 7th Christmas Carol
Monday, December 20, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

60

CELEBRATING

JOE-KYARI GADZAMA, OFR, MFR, SAN

BIRTHDAY PROGRAMME

Monday,
November 22,
2021

Health Walk

6:00 a.m.

Visit to an Orphanage Home

2:00 p.m.

Tuesday,
November 23,
2021

Indoor Games

11:00 a.m.

Business Law Debate Finals

6:00 p.m.

Wednesday,
November 24,
2021

Moot Court Trial

11:00 a.m.

Welcome Cocktail for FIDA

6:00 p.m.

Thursday,
November 25,
2021

Round Table Conversation

11:00 a.m.

Football Match (Novelty)

(FIDA vs J-K Gadzama LLP)
4:00 p.m.

Friday,
November 26,
2021

**14th Public Lecture/
Presentation of Essays**

11:00 a.m.

**Party for Young Lawyers
Forum (YLF)**

8:00 p.m.

Saturday,
November 27,
2021

Golf Tournament

Tee-Off 8:00 a.m.

Lunch & Prize Presentation

2:00 p.m.

Sunday,
November 28,
2021

Thanksgiving Service

8:00 a.m.

Barbeque Lunch

2:00 p.m.



OUR PEOPLE

PARTNERS

1. Joe-kyari Gadzama, OFR, MFR, SAN, FNIALS, FICMC, DipICArb, FNICArb, FCIArb, C.Arb.
Founding Principal Partner
2. Prof. Tahir Mamman, OON, SAN
Senior Consulting Partner
3. Dr. Cyril Obika, ACTI, ACIArb
Consulting Partner
4. Francis O. Oronsaye
Managing Partner
5. Geraldine Mbah
Partner
6. Darlington Onyekwere, ACIArb
Partner
7. Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama, LL.M (Warwick), MCIArb.
Partner
8. Musa Jerry Ombugadu
Junior Partner
9. Oluniyi Adediji
Junior Partner

SENIOR ASSOCIATES

1. John Echezona Unachukwu
2. Rashidat Banke Obamojore

VISITING ASSOCIATE

Ignatius Ozoilo, Pg. Dip., LL.M

ASSOCIATES

1. Chimdindu Onyedim-Etuwewe, ACIArb
2. Agbo Mark Chidi, MCIArb.
3. Adegbemisoeye A. Olasubomi, ACIArb
4. Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama, ACIArb, AICMC
5. Christopher Okougha
6. Georginia Daniel Enoch
7. Sarah Jeta Atumga
8. Hassan Sherif
9. Mustapha Mukhtar Kaigama
10. Onyekachi Agbonma Eluwa

JUNIOR ASSOCIATES

1. Mary Owe
2. Victor Ehiosun
3. Glory Uhunmwangho
4. Amazing-Grace Adinze
5. Godwin P. Enyinnaya
6. Ulasi M. Precious
7. Ibrahim A. Nafisat
8. Ojeke A. Hillary
9. Magaji Magai Aji
10. Igwedibia Cynthia
11. Etim-Ikang Grace Bassey
12. Chukwumerije L. Chinweotuto
13. Hafsat Garba Maidugu
14. Hajara M. S. Sorondinki
15. Mbah Uchenna Zita
16. Okpogu Ebube Charity
17. Tengya Jochebed Habila
18. Hussiena Jafiya
19. Hajara Garba
20. Ahmad Musa Garba

PRACTICE MANAGER

Gatida Haruna Tsammani, LL.M (Lancaster)

ACCOUNTANT

Ifeoma J. Nwankwo, BS.C (Hons.), ACA

SPECIAL ASSISTANT

Olasunkanmi Oluwabiya

OFFICE MANAGER

Sunday Ali Dzarma

ICT PERSONNEL

Olalekan R. Olasehinde, CNSS (UK), CCNA

INTERNS

Raphael A. Udoh
Vic-Sandra Edum
Shamsiya Mohammed Ibaku
Dafenone Emeke Akpomudiare

JURIS CONSULT

1. Hon. Justice Alfa Modibbo Belgore, CJN (RTD), GCON
(FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE OF NIGERIA)
2. Hon. Justice George A. Oguntade, J.S.C (RTD), CON.

SENIOR CONSULTANT

Prof. Paul Idornigie, SAN, PhD, FCIS, FCIArb, C.Arb

JICAM

JANADA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ARBITRATION & MEDIATION



Janada International Centre for Arbitration and Mediation (JICAM) was established in 2015. It is a dispute resolution centre in Abuja designed to promote a suitable forum for the resolution of domestic and international disputes. It is fully equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. The rules and guidelines for JICAM accommodate both ad hoc and institutional arbitration.

VISION

Creating an avenue for independent, confidential and efficient means of resolving disputes using Alternative Disputes Resolution (ADR).

SERVICES

1. Recording Services
(360 Systems' New Instant Replay², Networked Digital Audio, 1000 Audio Cuts at your fingertips, Instant Sound Effect, Instant Music)
2. Video Conferencing
3. Transcription
4. Case Management
5. Secretarial/Administrative Services
6. Fund Managers
7. Accommodation (Studio & En Suite)

OUR LOCATION

Plot 1805, Damaturu Crescent By Kabo Way, Off Ahmadu Bello Way, P.O. Box 20304, Garki II, Abuja, FCT, Nigeria.

Tel: 09 6233 626

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a neutral venue for the resolution of both Domestic and International disputes; and encourage the settlement of disputes from Corporate, Domestic, International Trade, Investment and other Transactions.


FACILITIES

1. Hearing Rooms
2. Conference/Seminar Hall
3. Arbitrators' Retiring Room
4. Claimants'/Respondents' Meeting Rooms
5. Waiting Room/Lounge
6. Food Court (The Dome)
7. Library/Resource Room
8. Individual HP pro display desktop for Tribunal Secretary/Registrar
9. Wireless tabletop microphones
10. High Definition Conference/Presentation Interactive Screen
11. Projector screen
12. Transcriber
13. Shelving Units
14. Wi-Fi
15. 18-Seater bus
16. 24-Hour CCTV
17. Spacious car park with security

For enquiries and/or Reservation Contact:


Samuel Kayode Fagade, MCI Arb. (UK)
(General Manager)

 @JicamCentre

 @JICAM

 @JICAM

 info@jicam.org

 www.jicam.org





Who are we?

The Vox Populi Foundation for Leadership was founded in the year 2010 and was incorporated in the year 2012 by its founder Chief J-K Gadzama OFR, MFR, SAN, FNIALS, FCI Arb. (UK) (of Lincolns Inn, Barrister/Life Bencher/CEDR Accredited Mediator). The Foundation is a Non-Profit making institution formed to deepen the understanding of democracy by carrying out structured programmes that promote positive leadership qualities and ideals in the society. This is because we believe that a society can only evolve when the people have the opportunity to contribute to the process of governance and have a voice in the creation of policies and laws that affect them as a people.

How do we do this?

We sincerely believe the best way to achieve this goal is to pursue initiatives that look at proffering solutions to the issues that interfere with governance. We look at utilizing the immense manpower of youths and able bodied people who are hungry to bring about a change in their society through direct engagement with society in a volunteer signup process, which is one of the mechanisms we intend to employ to secure citizens participation. This process of inclusion we believe will foster and build a common front that will enable people to improve on their understanding of what leadership connotes in their everyday lives and reinforce their commitment towards creating a better society.

Governance

Created with gifts by its founder Chief J-K Gadzama, the foundation is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization, with its own Board. The trustees of the foundation set policies and delegate authority to the Director General and senior staff for the foundation's operations. Zonal volunteer Heads in the 6 geo-political zones explore opportunities to pursue the foundation's goals and formulate strategies for action.

Location

The Foundation is headquartered in Abuja. It conducts its activities through an increasing pool of volunteers from across the country.



ADDRESS: 1st Floor, Plot 1805, Damaturu Crescent
by Kobo Way, Off Ahmadu Bello Way, Adjacent to Garki International
Market/Mall, P.O Box 20304, Garki II, Abuja, Nigeria.
Telephone: +234 (0) 815 656 5619

Our Vision

*to promote, protect and safeguard the tenets and ideals of democracy
leadership & good governance in our society.*

What is Our Goal?!

*to encourage citizens to participate in governance &
support a platform that will inspire proactive leadership
that will drive the
free flow of democratic ideals and social justice.*

Sign-up to Join and receive our e-mail Newsletter
and Special Notifications
Your information will be kept confidential and used
solely for our communications

Required Information

First Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Email Address: _____ @

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Phone: _____

Upon completing the information sheet, you can detach and send to our address above or you can email us on

info@voxpopulifoundation.org

for further enquiries, call us on

+234 (0) 8156565619 and +234 (0) 8091320558

follow us on <http://facebook.com/voxpopulifoundation>

&

tweet us @vpfoundcast

J-K GADZAMA LLP

OFFICES/ASSOCIATE OFFICES OF THE FIRM

LONDON

107-111 Fleet Street,
London, Greater London,
EC4A 2AB, United Kingdom.

ABUJA

J-K Gadzama Court
Plot 1805, Damaturu Crescent by Kabo Way,
Off Ahmadu Bello Way, P. O. Box 20304,
Garki 2, Abuja, Nigeria.

PORT-HARCOURT

No. 66, Mbonu Street,
D/Line, P. O. Box 12395,
Port-Harcourt, Rivers, Nigeria.

SOUTH FLORIDA

4501, San Mellina Dr,
Nw 39 Ave, Coconut Creek City,
FL 33073, U.S.A.

MAIDUGURI

15B, Circular Road,
Old G. R. A, P. O. Box 112,
Maiduguri, Borno, Nigeria.

DUBAI

Sheikh Zayed Road - Dubai,
Dubai World Trade Center District,
C1 Building, 2nd Floor, Dubai,
United Arab Emirates.

LAGOS

136, Awolowo Road,
Falomo, South-West, Ikoyi,
P. O. Box 53155,
Lagos, Nigeria.

LASSA

No. 22, Wamdeo Road,
Askira/Uba LGA, P. O. Box 33,
Lassa, Borno, Nigeria.

This publication among many other
articles and news from the firm are accessible online on the office website.

Tel: +234 (0) 9 6233 600



info@j-kgadzamallp.com



www.j-kgadzamallp.com



J-K Gadzama LLP



J-K Gadzama LLP



@JKGadzamallp

**DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this Newsletter is not
legal advice. Please consult a lawyer for legal assistance.**