

J-K GADZAMA LLP

NEWSLETTER

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Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN being presented with an award at the one year anniversary of Legislative Assembly News after delivering his lecture themed “Commemorating Milestones for Effective Legislation in Nation Building” at the Senate Building Conference Hall 231, National Assembly Complex, Abuja

Editorial

In this edition of our Quarterly Newsletter is an abridged version of the lecture delivered by Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN at the first anniversary of Legislative Assembly News, with the theme: “Commemorating Milestones for Effective Legislation for Nation Building.”

We have a range of exciting and informative features that are sure to captivate our readers. Our Sights and Scenes section brings you the latest happenings from within and outside our firm. Our Photo Speak section brings you a visual narrative of some of our recent events, while our Legal Humor section is guaranteed to put a smile on your face. We also have exciting news from the firm, including updates on our upcoming events and a profile of our staff members who work tirelessly to provide our clients with the highest quality of legal services. As always, we are committed to providing quality and informative content that educates and entertains our readers. We hope you enjoy reading this edition of our Quarterly Newsletter.

We welcome your feedback and suggestions for future content. As usual, previous editions of our newsletter can be accessed at: <https://j-kgadzamallp.com/publications/newsletters>.

Chidera Mgbe - Editor

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Commemorating Milestones for Effective Legislation for Nation Building

A paper presented at the first anniversary
of Legislative Assembly News

By



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN
Founding Principal Partner, J-K Gadzama LLP

At the Senate Building Conference Hall 231, National Assembly
Complex, Abuja, FCT On Wednesday, 26th June, 2024

"A good compromise, a good piece of legislation, is like a good sentence; or a good piece of music. Everybody can recognize it. They say, 'Huh. It works. It makes sense.'"

- Former USA President Barrack Obama

1. PROTOCOL

2. INTRODUCTION

I thank the Organizing Committee of this auspicious event for inviting me as the Guest Speaker which I cheerfully accepted because of its critical importance despite the shortness of notice.

It is my delight to be a part of this event which happens to be a four- fold one, i.e., the **(a)** 1st anniversary of Legislative Assembly News; **(b)** 1st public lecture; **(c)** 1st award ceremony; and **(d)** book launch by Legislative Assembly News. In the same vein, this celebration also coincides with the **(x)** 1st anniversary of the 10th National Assembly of Nigeria; **(y)** 1st anniversary of His Excellency President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration; and **(z)** 25th anniversary of Democracy in Nigeria; feats which are worth celebrating.

My lecture comprises in the main; understanding of terms and terminologies, a brief historical background of legislation in Nigeria, the essence of effective legislation, milestones achieved so far by the National Assembly, guaranteeing and sustaining effective legislation, and the link between effective legislation and nation building.

Without much ado, it is well known that our country, Nigeria, a nation rich in diversity and potentials, faces the ongoing challenge of translating its resources into a prosperous and just society. Effective legislation plays a crucial role in this endeavor, providing the legal framework for good governance, economic development, and social progress. So, what is the concept of legislation?

Legislation has always been a means of establishing law and order in the society; it is the foundation to which government and governance are built upon. The Judiciary, the Executive and the Legislature under the doctrine of separation of powers are all traceable to laws; first through social contract theories and then through the act of contemporary legislation whether it be a Decree/Edict of a military government or Acts/Laws of legislative bodies. This is reflected through our constitution which is the grundnorm upon which every other piece of legislation derives its legitimacy. Legislation forms the fulcrum upon which rights, duties and obligations derive their validity. Thus, it is a truism to say 'no society can survive without laws'.ⁱ Indeed, a society without laws will be chaotic, nasty, solitary and short, just as asserted by Thomas Hobbes.ⁱⁱ Given Thomas Hobbes postulation, the notion or concept of

society connotes many people living together in a structured setting. Therefore, for people to live together and for the living together to amount to a society, there must be laws and norms

binding them. The society cannot exist in vacuum. Law itself provides reasonable expectations, on the basis of which all citizens can trust and respect each other, do business and interact with each other. To this end, Justice T. Akinola Agudaⁱⁱⁱ sounded a warning, thus:

“All the wrecks on either side of the stream of time, and all the nations that have passed away... all are warning that no nation founded upon injustice can stand.”

In ancient times, laws used to be either derived from customs, traditions and religious scriptures, or were issued by the kings as their commands by whatever whims and caprices that guide their hand. However, in the contemporary era of modern democracy, the legislature is the chief source of law and law-making is regarded as one of the most significant tasks of the legislature. It is the legislature which formulates the will of the state into laws and gives it a legal character. The legislature transforms the demands of the people into authoritative laws. Law-making is seen as the most challenging role of the legislature, as it affects the day-to-day lives of all.

3. UNDERSTANDING OF TERMS AND TERMINOLOGIES

Before delving even further, it is important to provide some clarification concerning some

key terms and terminologies within the context of this paper and same can be defined, described and/or explained.

Firstly, the term 'Commemorating' according to the 11th edition of Black's Law Dictionary^{iv} simply means, *“to honor or recognize (an event, person, etc.) by a public celebration or memorial”*. It also means *“to mark or celebrate (an event, occasion, etc.) in a special way”*.^v

The term 'Milestone' is defined as *“a significant event or stage in a process, project, or person's life”*.^{vi} It can alternatively be defined as *“a notable achievement or turning point”*.^{vii}

The phraseology of 'Effective Legislation' refers to *“legislation that achieves its intended purpose or has a significant impact”*. It also connotes laws that *“are effectively enforced and implemented, producing the desired outcome”*.^{viii} It is worth noting that strong institutions are fundamentally rooted in a robust legal framework, often referred to as legislation. Effective legislation serves as the very foundation upon which these institutions are built.

The phrase 'Nation Building' can be explained as *“the process of creating, strengthening, and stabilizing a nation, particularly after conflict, colonization, or political upheaval”*.^{ix} It is the process of rebuilding or establishing a nation's institutions, infrastructure, and social cohesion.

4. BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF LEGISLATION IN NIGERIA

The development of the legislature in Nigeria can be traced to 1861 when the colonial

government officially occupied Lagos. As a means of governing the Colony of Lagos, the Colonial Governor established a Legislative Council to oversee the affairs of the Colony of Lagos in 1862 with only two Nigerians as members.^x The Legislative Council did not have any legislative power and performed no legislative functions, but served as an advisory body to the colonial government.

Legislative activities in Nigeria predated Nigeria's independence, as they existed in one form or the other before independence. Legislative activities became pronounced from the year 1914. Upon amalgamation of the Northern and Southern Protectorates in 1914, the number of members of the Legislative Council increased to thirty-six (36). Only six (6) members were Nigerians while the others were Europeans. This new legislative body was called the Nigerian Council and it comprised of thirty-six members who were randomly selected and handpicked by the colonial government to represent business and other interests. A major constitutional development of the legislature occurred in 1922 when the Clifford Constitution introduced an elective principle and there was an election of the four Nigerian members into a forty-six member council. This elective principle was carried on to the subsequent Richard's and Macpherson's Constitutions and each tried to increase the number of Nigerians in the Legislative Council.^{xi}

In 1960, Nigeria became independent and adopted the Westminster Parliamentary system of government. During the First Republic, Nigeria had a bicameral legislature or legislative system consisting of the House of Representatives and the Senate. The 312

members of the House of Representatives were elected while the 44 members of Senate were selected from various components of the Federal system. The Federation retained her bicameral model, which was renamed as the National Assembly. It is evident from the above that the Nigerian legislature started off as an appendage of the Executive arm of government.

Nigeria's post-independence era has been marked by various legislative achievements. The 1979 Constitution established a Federal Republic, while the 1999 Constitution solidified democratic principles.

Since Nigeria founded Democracy in 1999, there had not been a better way to provide for a system that reflects the popular opinion of Nigerians than by electing representatives who will make laws that reflect the popular opinion of the people whom they represent.^{xii} The Legislature therefore is an arm of government comprised of elected representatives who will enact laws for the regulation of the human conducts and government's actions. The legislative arm of government's role has been enshrined in Section 4 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) in order to show its significance and importance to the continuous and unending work of nation building.

5. THE ESSENCE OF EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION

Effective legislation is more than just laws on paper. Lyndon B. Johnson, a former legislator and the 36th President of the United States of America, made a profound statement on effective legislation, thus:

"You do not examine legislation in the

light of the benefits it will convey if properly administered, but in the light of the wrongs it would do and the harms it would cause if improperly administered.”^{xiii}

Thus, effective legislation necessitates a collaborative effort from a diverse range of stakeholders. This includes legislators, legal experts (ideally, seasoned lawyers), professionals with relevant field-specific knowledge, and the very communities the legislation aims to govern. Effective legislation possesses several key characteristics which include but not limited to the following:^{xiv}

- i. Clarity and Comprehensiveness.
- ii. Public Participation.
- iii. Workability and Enforcement.
- iv. Adaptability.
- v. Fairness and Equity.

6. MILESTONES ACHIEVED SO FAR BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

It is important that we do not just simply acknowledge legislative milestones but celebrate them with a spirit of collective pride. This recognition serves a dual purpose. Firstly, it fuels our collective motivation. Lawmakers, citizens, and the international community alike are invigorated by seeing progress, reminding us why we remain committed to this path of advancement. Secondly, celebrating these achievements serves as a powerful beacon, illuminating the positive impact of effective legislation. It sparks public discourse on the importance of a strong legal framework, inspiring an even deeper engagement with the legislative process.

Nigeria's legislative history is a rich tapestry woven with milestones that have significantly shaped the nation's trajectory. For the purpose of this lecture, these milestones are treated under these various sub-headings:

A. Constitutional Development: A Foundation for Democracy

i. 1960 Independence Constitution:

This document marked a turning point, establishing a framework for a Federal Republic after colonial rule. It laid the foundation for a democratic system with separation of powers and checks and balances. However, some argue it also concentrated power in the central government, creating tensions with federalism.

ii. 1979 Second Republic Constitution:

This constitution introduced a more robust democratic system with an emphasis on fundamental human rights. It established a presidential system with a bicameral legislature and aimed to address some of the issues raised by the 1960 constitution. However, it was ultimately cut short by a military coup.

iii. 1999 Constitution (Current):

This constitution, still in effect today, incorporates the democratic principles of the 1979 constitution while acknowledging the federal structure of Nigeria. It addresses some of the concerns over power concentration and has been amended several times to reflect evolving needs (with continual

devolution of power with items such as electricity being moved from Exclusive list to Concurrent list).

B. Security and Criminal Justice: Tackling Challenges

- i. Administration of Criminal Justice Laws and Acts (2011- 2020):** These laws represent a significant shift in the criminal justice system, aiming for speedier trials, reduced pre-trial detention times, and improved protection of suspects' rights. While challenges remain, these laws are a step towards a more efficient and just system.

- ii. Specialized Law Enforcement Agencies:** The creation of bodies like the EFCC (Economic and Financial Crimes Commission)^{xv} ICPC (Independent Corrupt Practices Commission)^{xvi} and NDLEA (National Drug Law Enforcement Agency)^{xvii} demonstrates Nigeria's commitment to tackling specific criminal areas like corruption, money laundering and drug trafficking. These bodies require continued support and effective oversight to maximize their impact. We also have Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act of 2011 as amended in 2022 which provides wider powers to law enforcement agencies in a bid to reduce acts of terrorism in Nigeria. The Act also makes provision for extra-territorial application, strengthens terrorist financing offences and provides for the National Counter-Terrorism Center.

C. Social and Civic Development: Empowering Citizens

- i. Electoral Act (2022):** This Act aims to improve the transparency and credibility of elections, with provisions like electronic transmission of results. While not without flaws, it represents a positive step towards strengthening democracy. Continuous improvement through amendments based on experience is crucial.

- ii. Freedom of Information Act (2011):** This landmark legislation empowers citizens by guaranteeing access to government information. It fosters transparency and accountability, allowing citizens to hold government institutions to a higher standard. However, ensuring effective implementation and addressing bureaucratic hurdles are ongoing concerns.

- iii. The Electricity Act (Amendment Act of 2024):** The Electricity Act (Amendment) of 2024 (the "Amendment Act") was enacted on February 9, 2024, to address the development and environmental concerns of host communities. It amends the Electricity Act of 2023 (the "Act") by legislating Corporate Social Responsibility obligations on the part of generation companies. The Electricity Act of 2023 provides a legal framework for state governments to generate and transmit electricity within the state following amendment of the

constitution removing electricity from exclusive list to concurrent list. This, if effectively implemented, will help to further fast-track the nation's development and industrialization.

D. Economic Development: Fostering Growth

i. Investment-Friendly Legislation: The Companies and Allied Matters Act (1990 as amended in 2020), the Investment and Securities Act (2007) and Bank and other Financial Institution Act (1991 as amended in 2020) aim to create a more attractive legal environment for foreign investors. The enactment of these Acts over the years has boosted investors' confidence with increased Foreign Direct Investments and Foreign Portfolio Investments since 1999. These laws effectively put in place regulations and regulatory bodies to ensure compliance such as the Corporate Affairs Commission, Security and Exchange Commission and Central Bank of Nigeria. Coupled with Nigeria's position as Africa's leading stock market (as at June 2024),^{xviii} positions the country for significant economic growth.

ii. Nigeria Startup Act (2022): This forward-thinking Act demonstrates the government's commitment to nurturing innovation. By simplifying registrations, offering incentives, and providing support structures, it aims to empower young entrepreneurs and propel Nigeria's tech sector. The Act's success will depend on effective implementation

and ensuring resources reach the intended beneficiaries.

iii. Nigerian Data Protection Act (2023): Promulgated in 2023, the Nigerian Data Protection Act (NDPA) establishes a comprehensive framework for safeguarding personal data. This landmark legislation goes beyond data security. It fosters accountability among organizations regarding data collection and usage. Additionally, the NDPA stimulates job creation within the data protection field and potentially alters the way major industry players perceive the importance of data privacy.

iv. Students Loans (Access to Higher Education) Act (2024): Enacted in April 2024, the Student Loans Act (SLA) builds upon the previous legislation to address identified limitations and expand access to higher education and technical/vocational skills development for Nigerian students. This proactive approach, similar to the recent amendments to the Electricity Act, demonstrates the current administration's commitment to comprehensive and enforceable legislation. The SLA offers renewed hope to financially disadvantaged young Nigerians yearning to pursue their educational aspirations.

E. Additional Milestones for a More Equitable Society

Beyond the areas mentioned above, several other key pieces of legislation have had a profound impact on Nigerian society:

- i. Boosted economic growth:** The **Land Use Act** has helped to streamline land ownership and transactions, creating a safe haven for both local and foreign investors.
- ii. Promoted national unity:** The **National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Act**^{xix} has fostered cross-cultural understanding and integration among young Nigerians by requiring them to serve in a state outside their own.
- iii. Enhanced representation:** The **Federal Character Commission Act (1996)** ensures that government appointments reflect the diverse makeup of Nigeria, promoting a sense of inclusion and representation.
- iv. Empowered youth:** The **Not Too Young To Run Act (2016)** lowered the age requirement for certain political offices, increasing youth participation in politics and decision-making.
- v. Employment Generation and Youth Opportunities:** The establishment of various regulatory bodies and commissions has fostered job creation and empowered young Nigerians.

7. GUARANTEEING AND SUSTAINING EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION

Despite these achievements, Nigeria faces ongoing challenges in its legislative landscape. Corruption, weak enforcement mechanisms, and a lack of public participation continue to hinder the effectiveness of legislation. Moving forward, it is crucial to focus on the following areas:

- i. Strengthening Anti-Corruption Measures:** Ensuring transparency and

accountability in the legislative process is vital for building public trust. Implementing robust anti-corruption frameworks and promoting ethical conduct among lawmakers are key steps.

- ii. Enhancing Public Participation:** Citizen engagement fosters a sense of ownership and strengthens the legitimacy of legislation. Investing in civic education and creating accessible channels for public input are crucial.
- iii. Streamlining Law Enforcement:** Efficient implementation and enforcement of legislation are essential for its success. Building a strong and independent judiciary and improving law enforcement capacity are critical.
- iv. Strong Legislative Institutions:** A well-functioning legislature with qualified and experienced members is vital for crafting and scrutinizing laws.
- v. Transparency and Accountability:** Openness throughout the legislative process and holding lawmakers accountable for their decisions fosters public trust and adherence to laws.
- vi. Independent Judiciary:** A strong and independent judiciary interprets and enforces laws impartially, upholding the rule of law and ensuring justice.
- vii. Continuous Review and Evaluation:** Regularly assessing the effectiveness of legislation and making necessary amendments to ensure laws remain relevant and impactful.

8. THE LINK BETWEEN EFFECTIVE LEGISLATION AND NATION BUILDING

Effective legislation serves as a powerful tool

for nation building. Rhetorically, one can ask several questions: What makes it so powerful? Can legislation on its own without good governance build a nation? What is the link between effective legislation and nation building? Well, as you ponder over these questions, let us consider just a few out of the range of issues that legislation covers:

- i. Economic Development:** Clear and stable legal frameworks attract investment, promote entrepreneurship, and foster economic growth.
- ii. Social Justice and Stability:** Laws that uphold equality, human rights, and address social issues create a more just and stable society. As such, it is a tool for social engineering and re-engineering.
- iii. Citizens' Empowerment:** Legislation empowers citizens by guaranteeing their rights, offering avenues for redress, and promoting an environment for participation in governance.
- iv. Sustainable Growth:** Effective legal frameworks ensure the responsible use of resources and promote sustainable development strategies.
- v. International Cooperation:** Adherence to internationally recognized legal principles fosters positive relations with other nations.

By commemorating milestones in effective legislation, we recognize the progress made towards building a stronger nation. But the journey is continuous. By working to ensure strong institutions, fostering public engagement, and upholding the rule of law, we can leverage the power of legislation to build a more just, equitable, and prosperous future for all. In considering the questions raised earlier,

legislation is powerful because it is made by the people and for the people. It can be changed by the same people that made it. The whole gamut of legislation is governance and governance that is dictated by the people cannot be faulted. In essence, the whole process of legislation involves you and I. Through this powerful tool, we can together continue to build a nation that we desire; a nation of our dreams.

9. CONCLUDING REMARKS

As we celebrate these milestones in Nigerian legislation, let us remember that this is a journey, not a destination. By dedicating ourselves to strengthening our institutions, fostering public participation, and upholding the rule of law often referred to as the oxygen for our democracy, we can leverage the power of legislation to build a more just, equitable, and prosperous Nigeria for all. Let us continue to work together, legislators, citizens, and stakeholders alike, to ensure that our laws remain a powerful tool for nation building, forever etching a legacy for generations to come.

And remember, a strong legal framework (legislation), built through public engagement and continuous improvement, is essential for Nigeria's future. Permit me to share my poetic dream for Nigeria which I have shared at several fora, thus:

"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.”^{xx}

Thank you for your attention.

END NOTES

ⁱ R. M. McCarthy (1982), “Living in a Society Without Rules”, in Public Relations Review, Volume: 8 Issue: 1 Dated: special issue (Spring 1982) Pages: 25-30 available at <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/living-society-without-rules> last accessed on 6/20/2024.

ⁱⁱ Thomas Hobbes, “Leviathan” (1651), C.B Macpherson (Ed.), London: Penguin Books (1985).

ⁱⁱⁱ K. K. Oyeyemi, “Natural Law And The Attainment of Justice in Nigeria; An Overview”, in International Journal of Law and Legal Jurisprudence Studies : ISSN:2348-8212:Volume 3 Issue 1.

^{iv} Black's Law Dictionary, 11th ed. (2021). Commemorating. pg 301. ISBN 978-1-63425-794-4.

^v Oxford Online Dictionary, available at <https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/> last accessed on 06/24/2024.

^{vi} Merriam Webster Dictionary, available at <https://www.merriam-webster.com/> last

[accessed on 06/24/2024.](#)

^{vii} Cambridge Dictionary, available at <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/> last accessed on 06/24/2024.

^{viii} F. Bealey, "The Blackwell Dictionary of Political Science", available at <http://ndl.ethernet.edu.et/bitstream/123456789/55826/1/17.pdf> last accessed on 06/24/2024.

^{ix} Oxford University Press, available at <https://languages.oup.com/dictionaries/dictionary-apps/> last accessed on 06/24/2024.

^x O. A. Lawal, (2010), "From Colonial Reforms to decolonization; Britain and the Transfer of Power in Nigeria", 1947 -1960, *Journal of Hist Soc Nigeria*, 19:39-62.

^{xi} Ibraheem O. Muheeb,(2019. "[The Trajectory of the Legislature, Lawmaking and Legislation in Nigeria,](#)" *Advances in African Economic, Social and Political Development*, in: Joseph Yinka Fashagba & Ola-Rotimi Matthew Ajayi & Chiedo Nwankwor (ed.), *The Nigerian National Assembly*, pages 33-56, Springer.

^{xii} Lucky A. Tongs & Omololu Fagbadebo & Mojeed Olujinmi A. Alabi, 2023. "The Historical Overview of the [Evolution of the Legislature in Nigeria,](#)" in *Advances in African Economic, Social and Political Development.*

^{xiii} Paul Torres, "Winning Now: A Playbook for Government", available at <https://books.google.com.ng/books?id=XmMHAAQBAJ&pg=PA12&lpg=PA12&dq=citation+for+Lyndon+B.+Johnson;+%E2%80%9CYou+do+not+examine+legislation+in+the+light+of+the+benefits+it+will+convey+if+properly+administered,+but+in+the+light+of+the+wrong+it+would+do+and+the+harm+it+would+ca>

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^{xiv} Maria Mousmouti, "Chapter 1: The mechanics of effective legislation", available at <https://www.elgaronline.com/monochap/9781788118224.00006.xml> last accessed on 06/24/2024.

^{xv} Established under the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act, 2004.

^{xvi} Established under the Corrupt Practices and other Related Offences Act, 2000.

^{xvii} Established under the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Act, 2004.

^{xviii} David Olujinmi, "Top 10 largest stock markets in Africa based on market capitalization", online publication by Nairametrics available at https://nairametrics.com/2023/12/09/top-10-largest-stock-markets-in-africa-based-on-market-capitalization/#google_vignette last accessed on 06/14/2024.

^{xix} Decree No. 51 of 16 June 1993.

^{xx} Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN, "Nigeria and the Challenge of Insecurity: The Law and Lawyers As Panacea", being a paper delivered at the Nigerian Bar Association, Owo Branch 2021 Law Week.

SIGHTS AND SCENES

First Anniversary/book Launch of the Legislative Assembly News Publications, held at the National Assembly Complex, Abuja on Wednesday, 26th June, 2024.



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN with representatives of HRH Alhaji Adamu Baba Yunusa, the Ona of Abaji and Chairman FCT Traditional Council



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN delivering the Keynote Address themed: Commemorating Milestones for Effective Legislation for Nation Building



L-R: Chief Dr Amb Ebosetale David Aigbefoh; Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Hon. Suleiman Abubakar Gummi and Hon. Dr. Joshua Gana



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN and Dr. Akin Oluwale Oluwadayisi



Chief Dr Amb Ebosetale David Aigbefoh and Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN and Hon. Suleiman Abubakar Gummi



A cross section of the guests



Dr. Akin Oluwale Oluwadayisi reviewing the book



Words on Marble

Each man has to find out why he was created, has to find out how do I achieve my purpose. At the end of creation, how do I make a positive impact on my age, on my nation, on my family. If you do that, you are living a footprint for those coming behind to follow.

- Justice Chukwudifu Oputa

The end of law is not to abolish or restrain, but to preserve and enlarge freedom. For in all the states of created beings, capable of laws where there is no law, there is no freedom.

- John Lock

No man is above the law and no man is below it; nor do we ask any man's permission when we ask him to obey it. Obedience to the law is demanded as a right; not asked as a favor.

- Theodore Roosevelt

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than the ones you did. So throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.

- Mark Twain

Extend to each person, no matter how trivial the contact, all the care and kindness and understanding and love that you can muster, and do it with no thought of any reward. Your life will never be the same.

- OG Mandino

SIGHTS AND SCENES

8th Annual Moot and Mock Trial Session for Nigerian Law School externs posted to the firm for the Mandatory Law Office Attachment at the Hon. Justice Niki Tobi Moot Court



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN welcoming Hon. Justice Peter Lifu of the Federal High Court



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Hon. Justice Peter Lifu and Chief Mela Audu Nunghe, SAN



Presided by Hon. Justice Peter Lifu of the Federal High Court (representing the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court - Hon. Justice John Tsoho, OFR)



L-R: Mrs. M. E. Udowoim and Mr. Khalid Idris Nuhu lecturers from the Nigerian Law School



L-R: Deborah Ayuba, Akintunde Oyindamola and Joanna Panya acting as prosecution Counsel



L-R: Princess Mmesoma Nwankwo, Christine Izunna Chima, Paul Onwuadimu and Benard Dickson acting as defense Counsel



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN giving remarks



L-R: Benard Dickson, Deborah Ayuba, Christine Izunna Chima, Hon. Justice Peter Lifu, Paul Onwuadimu, Princess Mmesoma Nwankwo, Akintunde Oyindamola and Joanna Panya

NEWS

FROM THE FIRM

Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN delivered a Guest Lecture at the first anniversary/book launch of the Legislative Assembly News Publications, also Bags Legislative Legal Pacesetter of the Year Award, held at the National Assembly Complex, Abuja.

Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, University of Maiduguri Alumni Association and Ambassador-at-Large, University of Maiduguri, commiserates with the Governor, Shehu and residents of Borno over the Flood disaster caused by an overflow from Alau Dam. He appealed for support especially to people who have lost their homes, properties and businesses as a result of the flood.

The distinguished legal luminary, Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN was inducted as a Business Recovery and Insolvency Practitioner by the National Executives of the Business Recovery and Insolvency Practitioners' Association of Nigeria, (BRIPAN).

Mr. Iyie Bright Kememe and Victor Daniel joined the firm as Associates. The firm welcomes and wishes them a pleasant and productive stay.

The firm conducted its 8th Annual Moot and Mock Trial Session for Nigerian Law School externs posted to the firm for the Mandatory Law Office Attachment, held at the Hon. Justice Niki Tobi Moot Court located at the pent floor of J-K Gadzama LLP, Abuja which was presided over by Hon. Justice Peter Lifu (representing the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court - Hon. Justice John Tsoho, OFR).

PHOTO SPEAK



Shettima Ilmuye of Borno, Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN with His Royal Highness, Shehu of Borno Alhaji (Dr.) Abubakar Ibn Umar Garbai Al-Amin Elkenemi, CFR FNSE, during the wedding fatiha of Nana Hadiza Shehu Abubakar and Nana Bintu Shehu Abubakar



Shettima Ilmuye of Borno, Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN with the Kaura of Saminaka, Alh. Adam Kolo, during the wedding fatiha of Nana Hadiza Shehu Abubakar and Nana Bintu Shehu Abubakar



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN being invested as a Fellow of the Association of Legislative Drafting and Advocacy Practitioners (ALDRAP), Prof. Peter T. Akper, SAN presenting the award on behalf of the Association



Front row L-R: Dalington Onyekwere; Prof. Peter T. Akper, SAN; Olaitan Abiodun; Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Clinton Jaja and Chief Mela Audu Nunghe, SAN
Back row L-R: Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama; Jerry Musa; Mark Chidi Agbo and Chidera Mgbe



L-R: Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama; Maryam Joe-Kyari Gadzama; Prof. Peter T. Akper, SAN; Faith Williams and Hajara Mohammed Sani Sorondinki At the 6th Inaugural Lecture organized by NIALS in honour of Prof. Peter T. Akper, SAN, at the Musa Yar'adua Centre, Wuse, Abuja



Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama with Dr Ismail G. Bello at the Wedding Fatiha of Maryam Ismail G. Bello and Mohammed Sa'ad Tahir at An-Nur Mosque, Wuse, Abuja



A cross section of golfers at the 2024 Bar and Bench Golf Tournament at the IBB International Golf and Country Club, Abuja



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN and Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama at Le Golf National, Paris

UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

5th African Arbitration Association Annual International Arbitration Conference, 10 - 12 October, 2024, Douala, Cameroun

Pan African Lawyers Union 2024 Annual Conference Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 16-19 October, 2024

17th J-K Gadzama LLP Public Annual Lecture, J-K Gadzama Court, Abuja, 23 October, 2024

Annual Conference of the African Bar Association, Livingstone, Republic of Zambia, 27 - 31 October, 2024

Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (C.Arb.) Nigeria Branch Annual Conference and Gala Nite, 6 - 8 November, 2024, Abuja, Nigeria

9th Hon. Justice Chukwudifu Oputa JSC (Rtd) Professional Training and Mentoring Programme for Young Lawyers, 23 November, 2024

J-K Gadzama LLP Staff End of the Year Party and 10th Christmas Carol, December, 2023, Abuja, Nigeria

OUR PEOPLE

Partners

1. Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, OFR, MFR, SAN, FNIALS, FICMC, DiplCarb, FNICarb, FCI Arb, C.Arb.
Founding Principal Partner
2. Mohammed Monguno, ACI Arb
Senior Partner/Fmr. Attorney General of Borno State
3. Darlington Onyekwere, ACI Arb
Partner
4. Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama, LL.M (Warwick), MCI Arb., MICMC
Partner
5. Jerry Ombugadu Musa, LL.M, CDRS
Junior Partner
6. Oluniyi Adediji, ACTI, ABR
Junior Partner
7. Agbo Mark Chidi, MCI Arb.
Junior Partner
8. Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama, ACI Arb., AICMC
Junior Partner
9. Chidera Mgbe, ABR
Junior Partner

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2. Sarah Jeta Atumga

Visiting Associate

Ignatius Ozoilo, Pg. Dip., LL.M

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Hon. Justice Alfa Modibbo Belgore, CJN (RTD), GCON
(Former Chief Justice of Nigeria)

Hon. Justice George A. Oguntade, J.S.C (RTD), CON

Senior Consultant

Prof. Paul Idornigie, SAN, PhD, FCIS, FCI Arb, 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.

OUR SERVICES

1. Appointing Authority
2. Fund Managers
3. Hearings
4. Secretarial/Administrative Services
5. Case Management
6. Video Conferencing (Cisco Webex/Zoom, etc.)
7. Transcription
8. Recording Services
(360 Systems' New Instant Replay2, Networked Digital Audio, 1000 Audio Cuts at your fingertips, Instant Sound Effect, Instant Music)

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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.

VISION

To become the world's leading client-centric independent and efficient Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Centre.

OUR 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. Interactive Digital Display Screen
11. Projector Screen
12. Shelving units
13. High Speed Internet Connection/WiFi
14. 18-Seater Bus
15. 24-Hours CCTV
16. Spacious car park with security



VOX POPULI FOUNDATION

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.



VOX POPULI FOUNDATION

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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

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for further enquiries, call us on

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

    J-K GADZAMA LLP

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this Newsletter is not
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