

J-K GADZAMA LLP

NEWSLETTER

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L-R: Mrs. Victoria O. Awomolo, SAN; His Excellency, M. A. Abubakar, SAN (Fmr Governor of Bauchi State); Hon. Justice S. B. Belgore, representing the Chief Judge of High Court of FCT, Hon. Justice Hussein Baba Yusuf; Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN (Founding Principal Partner, J-K Gadzama LLP); Prof. Maxwell Gidado, SAN (Chief of Staff to Adamawa State Governor) and Miss Onyekachi Eluwa during the J-K Gadzama LLP 15th Annual Public Lecture on Tuesday, November 29, 2022.

The general election is upon us, the seventh since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999. There is no doubt that we have made steady progress in both electoral reform and election administration. This is because, in the run-up to the 2023 general elections, thinkers and thought leaders in the country have canvassed and championed different propositions, all supposedly in a bid to better our electoral legal frameworks and jurisprudence. The biggest of all these efforts, undoubtedly, is the passage of the 2022 Electoral Act Amendment Bill into law which has now introduced ground-breaking reforms within our electoral jurisprudence, especially in the areas of electronic transmission of results and election administration. Sections 47 and 50(2) of the Electoral Act 2022 now specifically provide legal backing for electronic voting and the transmission of results respectively. Although much work remains to be done, it is generally accepted that our elections are improving and citizens' trust in the process is growing.

For our Firm's 15th Annual Public Lecture themed "Electronic Transmission of Poll Results: A Veritable Measure at Strengthening Nigeria's Electoral Process", there was an array of very important speakers, especially within the electoral space. Our discussants included Prof. Maxwell Gidado, SAN, the Chief of Staff to the Adamawa State Governor, Mrs. Victoria O. Awomolo, SAN, the Regional Vice President, (West and North Africa) of the International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA), Dr. Doyin Okupe, a former Senior Special Assistant to Former President, Goodluck Jonathan and Miss

Oyekachi Eluwa, an Associate in our Firm. Particularly worthy of note is the paper presented by our Keynote Speaker, His Excellency M.A Abubakar, SAN, the Former Governor of Bauchi State.

His Excellency was a two-time Attorney General of Bauchi State, INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner for Kogi, Delta, Plateau and Rivers State, INEC National Electoral Commissioner and Member National Judicial Council. His Excellency, therefore, has the benefits of various perspectives within the discourse of our electoral jurisprudence from which we could better appreciate the recent reforms in our electoral laws and the theme of our Firm's 15th Annual Public Lecture. His Excellency's paper on the theme of our Firm's 15th Annual Public Lecture, featured in this edition of our newsletter, is therefore a holistic work which comes highly recommended for our reading pleasure.

Also, our 2022 Christmas Carol and End of the Year Party was celebrated with much fun, gifts, and dignitaries in attendance. These lovely and colourful moments are also featured on the pages of this newsletter.

We have also incorporated into this edition, our usual words on marble, colourful photo speak, an update on upcoming events, news from our firm and a sprinkle of legal humour, all for your viewing and reading delight. Previous editions of our newsletter are also available at <https://www.jkgadzamallp.com/publications/newsletters>

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**ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF POLL RESULTS:
A VERITABLE MEASURE AT STRENGTHENING
NIGERIA'S ELECTORAL PROCESS**



His Excellency,

M. A. Abubakar, SAN

Former Governor of Bauchi State

At the J-K Gadzama LLP 15th Annual Public Lecture
on Tuesday, November 29, 2022

PROTOCOLS!!!

It has been universally accepted that elections represent a core component of any democratic state. They have become the most acceptable process of changing leadership in any given political system in the present day. The Black's Law dictionary has defined elections as the process of selecting a person to occupy a position or office, usually a public office.

The development of the Nigerian electoral system can be divided into two main periods: Colonial (1900-1959), and Post-colonial (1960- date). The post-colonial period can further be divided into the First Republic (1960-1966), the Second Republic (1979-1983), the Third Republic (1993-1999), and the Fourth Republic (1999-date).

COLONIAL PERIOD

Under the colonial period, elections were first held in the Lagos Town Council on 29 March 1920. Next was the first general elections which were held on 20th September 1923 under the Clifford Constitution of 1922. The Constitution introduced the first elective rights in Nigeria, and led to the formation of the first political party in Nigeria called the Nigerian National Democratic Party (NNDP).

Following the introduction of the elective principle in Nigeria, Africans were elected into the legislative council with four elected seats – three for Lagos, and one for Calabar. Legislative council elections continued to be held at regular intervals under colonial Nigeria, until the final elections were held in

1959. The 1959 general elections were a major milestone in the independence of Nigeria from colonial rule.

POST INDEPENDENCE PERIOD

Following Nigeria's independence on 1st October 1960, the country became a Republic in 1963. Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, who had been the Governor-General, became the country's first President. The 1964/1965 parliamentary elections were the first elections held in Nigeria post-independence, with the elections supervised by the mostly Northern Peoples Congress-controlled federal government. The political alliances formed by the two opposing political forces of that First Republic produced Nigerian National Alliance (NNA) and United Progressives Grand Alliance (UPGA) before the elections. The outcomes of the elections nationwide were considered massively rigged in favour of the NPC and their allies, especially in the Western Region. It was very glaring the signs of electoral confusion were imminent and visible. Election meant to take place on December 30, 1964, did not take place until March 18, 1965, in some constituencies in the Eastern Region, Lagos, and Mid-Western Region due to a boycott in December. That was the early sign that Nigeria would have it tough with elections in its political journey to nationhood.

The election was marred by violence and manipulation. The ensuing crises led to a series of riots in the Western Region and created a situation that came to be known as the "Wild-Wild West." A state of emergency was declared in the West. Chief Awolowo and his associates were accused of coup-plotting, tried and sentenced to prison.

Nigeria would never be the same again.

As history has shown, it is usually difficult to hold free and fair elections. Even the United States, which is the model for other democracies, was faulted in the year 2000, when the elections that led to the victory of President Bush was alleged to be marred by irregularities in the state of Florida. In *Chief Allen C. Nwachukwu V. Chief Emeka Eneogwe & Ors* (1999) LPELR-6563 (CA), it was held that “once an election is found, substantially, not to be free and fair, and the electorate, either by violence or intimidation, has not been allowed freely to cast their votes, the election, where such has occurred, ought to, and must be nullified and a fresh one conducted”.

Nigeria has continued to have its fair share of electoral disputes. The presidential and governorship elections of 1999, 2003 and 2007 were reported to be marred by irregularities in vote tabulation and transmission of results by both foreign and local observers. Despite the existence of electoral laws designed to regulate our electoral system which ranges from voters' registration, political parties registration to collation of results, it seemed that we were yet to get it right with elections until the Electoral Act 2022.

PRE-2022 ELECTORAL SYSTEM

Before now, elections in Nigeria gravitated around manual collation of results from polling booths. The attendant effects of such manual collation in contemporary times has borne ill for our democracy, which by now ought to have escaped the classification of “fledgling”. Consider the following attendant

ills of manual collation and transmission of election results, inter alia:

For many years, voters, candidates and observers have rued the continued manipulation of election results largely due to the fact that the results management system has essentially been manual. It consisted of officials completing forms and carrying them by hand to the next level of aggregation and onward to the next level until the overall result was declared. Concerns have been that this process is prone to manipulation or even destruction of results as we have witnessed in many cases. Many result sheets have been changed and mutilated through inducements or under duress, stolen (“resultjacking”) on their way to collation centres, or destroyed during violence.

Secondly, auditing and verification of results is an essential part of our electoral system. In a large country like Nigeria, results are handled in thousands of locations. For instance, for the 2019 General Election, results were managed in 176,996 Polling Units and Voting Points, 8,809 Registration Area Collation Centres, 774 Local Government Collation Centres, 37 State and FCT Collation Centres, 1 National Collation Centre and 1,558 Constituency collation centres, giving a total of 188,175 locations. After elections, interested parties do sometimes call for review of these results in a bid to challenge the authenticity or otherwise of such results. Our courtrooms are always flooded with mountains of documents in the form of evidence for my lords to review in a bid to ascertain the veracity or otherwise of the claims before it. As experience has shown, such reviews have

been an uphill task, even herculean, to say the very least.

Thirdly, timely and efficient results management and announcement are critical for the integrity of elections. Excessive delays in collating and announcing results fuels feelings that outcomes could be undermined. In many cases, this is conducive to violence and negative mobilization by losers of elections which has threatened the very fabrics of our collective existence.

Fourthly, health and safety of people must be paramount in all electoral activities, including elections. There is no doubt that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way things are done the world over. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the Virus which causes COVID-19 spreads in a number of ways. Current evidence suggests that the virus spreads mainly between people who are in close contact with each other, for example at a conversational distance. The virus can spread from an infected person's mouth or nose in small liquid particles when they cough, sneeze, speak, sing or breathe. Another person can then contract the virus when infectious particles that pass through the air are inhaled at short range (this is often called short-range aerosol or short-range airborne transmission) or if infectious particles come into direct contact with the eyes, nose, or mouth (droplet transmission). The virus can also spread in poorly ventilated and/or crowded indoor settings, where people tend to spend longer periods of time. This is because aerosols can remain suspended in the air or travel farther than conversational distance (this is often

called long-range aerosol or long-range airborne transmission). People may also become infected when touching their eyes, nose or mouth after touching surfaces or objects that have been contaminated by the virus. Without a doubt, the setting obtainable at election collation centres with the careless abandonment often seen in people in such tensed environments provides a breeding ground for this virus.

In an attempt to address some of the above ills, the Independent National Electoral Commission, prior to the 2015 elections, issued guidelines for the conduct of the elections. One of the major innovations of those guidelines was the introduction of the Card Reader.

In *WIKE EZENWO NYESOM V. HON. (DR.) DAKUKU ADOL PETERSIDE & ORS (2018) LPELR-40036(SC)*, the apex court per Kekere-Ekun, JSC held thus:

“I must say that I am not in agreement with learned senior counsel for the Appellant on this issue. Section 52(1)(b) of the Electoral Act prohibits the use of electronic voting machine for the time being. It is pertinent to note that the Card Reader is used in the accreditation process, and not for voting. Furthermore, it has been acknowledged throughout this judgment that the innovation of the use of the card reader was to aid in the transparent conduct of elections. As noted by the court below at pages 2999-3000 of Volume 5 of the record, reproduced in paragraph 9.24 of the 2nd respondent's brief, Section 57 of the Electoral Act provides INEC with the authority to authenticate the

identity of a voter when he presents himself to cast his vote. In the course of resolving Issues 6, 7 and 8, I held that the failure to follow the Manual and Guidelines which were made in exercise of the powers conferred by the Electoral Act cannot, in and of itself render the election void. However this should not be understood to mean that the innovation of the card reader is in conflict with relevant sections of the Electoral Act.”

Suffice to state that the use of card readers has now been fully integrated in the Electoral Act, 2022 (As Amended).

ADVENT OF TECHNOLOGY

In recognition of the afore-highlighted ills of manual collation and transmission of election results, the Independent National Electoral Commission sponsored an amended Electoral bill in 2021 which was assented by President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR on the 25th day of February 2022. By the combined reading of Sections 47, 60, 62 and 64 of the Electoral Act, 2022 (As Amended), it is clear that the law as it is now in Nigeria provides for electronic collation and transmission of election results.

Section 47(2) of the Electoral Act, 2022 provides thus:

“To vote, the Presiding Officer shall use a smart card reader or any other technological device that may be prescribed by the commission, from the accreditation of voters, to verify, confirm or authenticate the

particulars of the intending voter in the manner prescribed by the commission”.

Section 60 (5) of the Act further provides thus:

“The presiding officer shall transfer the result including total number of an accredited voters and the results of the ballot in a manner prescribed by the commission.”

Section 62 (2) of the Act also provides thus:

“The Commission shall compile, maintain and update, on a continuous basis, a register of election results to be known as the National Electronic Register of Election Results which shall be a distinct database or repository of polling unit by polling unit results, including collated election results of each election conducted by the commission in the Federation, and the Register of Election Results shall be kept in electronic format by the Commission at its national headquarters.”

Also, **Section 64 (5) of the Act** also states:

“Subject to subsection (1), a collation officer or returning officer shall use the number of accredited Voters recorded and transmitted directly from polling units under section 47 (2) of this Act and the votes or results recorded and transmitted directly from polling units under section 60 (4) of this Act

to collate and announce the result of an election if a collated result at his or a lower level of collation is not correct”.

As observed from the afore-quoted provisions, INEC is required by the 2022 Electoral Act to employ technology in the collation and transmission of electoral results. Arguably, there has been speculations from various quarters as to the security of the Servers that will be used by INEC to store such results. As Lawyers, we are well aware of the requirements for the admissibility of electronic evidence as provided for under Section 84 of the Evidence Act, 2011. Specifically, Section 84 (2) (c) of the Evidence Act provides as follows:

“The conditions referred to in subsection (1) of this section are-

(c) that throughout the material part of that period the computer was operating properly or, if not, that in any respect in which it was not operating properly or was out of operation during that part of that period was not such as to affect the production of the document or the accuracy of its contents”.

Flowing from the above, it is glaringly obvious that the queries raised by various stakeholders in the polity and well-wishers in relation to storage of electoral data during transmission of results is germane. This is all too disturbing considering the high rate of

cybercrime in the world and the dexterity with which certain members of our city navigate the dark web. Infact, according to research, Nigeria is well-known as one of the top origins of cybercrime across the world, using internet email scams like phishing and social media scams to commit crimes not only in Nigeria, but internationally as well. According to the Paper, Cybercrimes in Nigeria: Analysis, Detection and Prevention, “In Nigeria to-day, several internet assisted crimes known as cybercrimes are committed daily in various forms such as fraudulent electronic mails, pornography, identity theft, hacking, cyber harassment, spamming, Automated Teller Machine spoofing, piracy and phishing”. Therefore the tendency for enemies of the state to sponsor cybercriminals to hack into the Commission's database and alter election results is an immediate possibility.

To assuage these agitations, INEC has publicly assured Nigerians of the safety of its database. Two weeks ago, Dr. Lawrence Bayode, the Deputy Director of ICT, INEC, in response to inquiries about the BVAS's safety, on Sunrise Daily. Channels TV program, stated as that “I want to say again that we have done everything to ensure that the BVAS is not compromised. The data on the BVAS will be secured. After the poll, when the data is transmitted to our backend server, the data in transit will be secured; and by the time the data gets to our backend server, the data will also be secured there”.

Similarly, The INEC Head of Information Communication Technology (ICT), Mr Chukwuemeka Nnaji, disclosed in an interactive session organised by the management of the commission at Anambra

state headquarters of the commission that the commission will store their information on cloud with adequate security, having put into considerations, activities of Internet hackers and other technical hitches that affect online business.

Granted, the introduction of new technologies often meets with resistance, apprehension and doubts by persons and institutions who either do not fully understand the advantages of the new technology or are too timid to accept that, in the words of the Greek Philosopher Heraclitus, "Change is the only constant thing in life". We can well remember when 4G was introduced and the various conspiracy theories that was circulated. Today, given a choice between a 3.5G network and a 4G network, I am perfectly sure the later would be the preferred network. Or can we forget in a hurry the conspiracy theories that greeted the advent of the 5G network? Technophobians claimed that the Covid-19 was the after effect of the introduction of the 5G network. Today, the Corona virus is fast losing its effect on us, yet the 5G network has come to stay.

As we approach the 2023 Elections, it is time we allowed our changing times to affect the way we do things. With an unequivocal voice, Prof. Yakubu, the INEC Boss has reassured Nigerians that the Commission will deploy the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) for voter accreditation during the 2023 general election. He also affirmed that polling unit results would be transmitted to the INEC Result Viewing (IReV) portal in real time on election day. He added: "There will be no Incident Form that enables ineligible persons to vote using other

people's Permanent Voters' Cards during elections. We are committed to ensuring that the 2023 General Election is transparent and credible, reflecting the will of the people."

Gentlemen, by virtue of the innovative provisions of the Electoral Act 2022 and with the above assurances by the agency authorised by law to conduct elections, electronic accreditation of voters, collation and transmission of results has come to stay. With the deployment of this beautiful technology backed up by our laws, the call has now gone out for all lovers of democracy and our dear country Nigeria to stand up in support of this noble innovations as this will go a long way in stemming the tide of electoral malpractices, instilling confidence in the transparency of the voting process and producing winners who will be a true reflection of the will of the people. The time is now!

SIGHTS AND SCENES

From the J-K Gadzama LLP 15th Annual Public Lecture at the J-K Gadzama Court, Abuja on Tuesday, November 29, 2022



Mr. Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama (Compère), while anchoring the event



L-R: Dr. Doyin Okupe; Mrs. Victoria O. Awomolo, SAN; M. A. Abubakar, SAN; Hon. Justice S. B. Belgore; Prof. Maxwell Gidado, SAN and Onyekachi Eluwa applauding the Welcome Address of Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN



Hon. Justice S. B. Belgore while delivering the Chairman's Opening Remarks on behalf of Hon. Justice Hussein Baba Yusuf, the Chief Judge of High Court of FCT



His Excellency, M. A. Abubakar, SAN, former governor of Bauchi State while delivering his lecture as the Keynote Speaker



Prof. Maxwell Gidado, SAN (Discussant), the Chief of Staff to Adamawa State Governor making his contributions



Dr. Doyin Okupe (Discussant), Senior Special Assistant on Public Affairs to former President, Goodluck Jonathan, GCFR, GCON making his contributions



Chief (Mrs) Victoria O. Awomolo, SAN (Discussant), Regional Vice President (West & North Africa) FIDA making her contributions



Onyekachi Eluwa (Discussant), Associate, J-K Gadzama LLP making her contributions

SIGHTS AND SCENES

From the J-K Gadzama LLP 15th Annual Public Lecture at the J-K Gadzama Court, Abuja on Tuesday, November 29, 2022



Chief Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN giving the Welcome Address as the Host of the event



A cross-section of the guests and participants at the event



Mr. Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama and Mr. Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama during the event



Chief Asiwaju S. A. Awomolo, SAN giving a remarks during the event



L-R: Hon. Justice S. B. Belgore; Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN and His Excellency, M. A. Abubakar, SAN



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN (middle) cutting his birthday cake with some of the guests



A cross-section of the guests and participants at the event



Mr. Oluniyi Adediji, Junior Partner, J-K Gadzama LLP, giving the Vote of Thanks at the event

WORDS ON MARBLE

“Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly,
while bad people will find a way around the law”

Plato

“People are more afraid of the laws of man than of God,
because their punishment seems to be nearest.”

William Penn

“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 Locke

Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that
space is our power to choose our response. In our response
lie our growth and our freedom.

Viktor E. Frankl

Power is of two kinds. One is obtained by the fear of punishment and
the other by acts of love. Power based on love is a thousand times
more effective and permanent than the one derived
from fear of punishment.

Mahatma Gandhi

What we have once enjoyed we can never lose. All that
we love deeply becomes a part of us.

Helen Keller

The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely
free that your very existence is an act of rebellion.

Albert Camus

PHOTO SPEAK



L-R: Michael Nwachukwu, Ajib Hughes, Mrs. Sandra Haruna and Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN during the Nigerian Independence Day Celebration on Saturday, October 1, 2022



Rear Admiral Samuel Ilesanmi Alade, 15th Commandant of the National Defence College and Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN



L-R: Yerima Medugu, Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama and Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama during a dinner organized in honour of His Excellency, Ahmadu Umaru Fintiri, Governor of Adamawa State who bagged a Distinguished Award for Infrastructure Delivery in Nigeria



L-R: Philip Umeh, SAN; Chris Uche, SAN; Bassey Dan Abia; Dipo Okpeseyi, SAN and Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN at Osilama Ozekhome wedding reception



L-R: Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Adesina Adegbite, Muiz Banire, SAN and Paul Daudu during the Annual Conference of the International Bar Association in Miami



L-R: Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Isa Hayatu Chiroma, SAN; Emeka Ngige, SAN; Joyce Oduah and Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama during the Annual Conference of the International Bar Association in Miami



L-R: Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN and Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama during the Annual Conference of the International Bar Association in Miami



L-R: Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama and Jide Adesokan (Partner, Stephenson Harwood) during the Annual Conference of the International Bar Association in Miami

LEGAL HUMOUR

A 50-year-old lawyer who had been practicing since he was 25 passed away and arrived at the Pearly Gates for judgment. The lawyer said to St. Peter, "There must be some mistake! I'm only 50 years old, that's far too young to die." St. Peter frowned and consulted his book. "That's funny, when we add up your billing records, you should be at least 83 by now!"

A man walked into the local Chamber of Commerce of a small town, obviously desperate. Seeing a man at the counter, the stranger asks, "Is there a criminal attorney in town?" To which the man behind the counter immediately quipped, "Yeah, but we can't prove it yet!"

A doctor vacationing on the Riviera met an old lawyer friend and asked him what he was doing there. The lawyer replied, "Remember that lousy real estate I bought? Well, it caught fire, so here I am with the fire insurance proceeds. What are you doing here?" The doctor replied, "Remember that lousy real estate I had in Mississippi? Well, the river overflowed, and here I am with the flood insurance proceeds." The lawyer looked puzzled. "Gee," he asked, "how did you start the flood?"

What's the difference between a good lawyer and a bad lawyer? A bad lawyer might let a case drag on for several years. A good lawyer knows how to make it last even longer.

A personal injury lawyer was on vacation in a small rural town. While walking through the streets, he spotted a car that had just been involved in an accident. As expected, a large crowd gathered. Going by instinct, the attorney was eager to get to the injured, but he couldn't get near the car. Being very clever, he started shouting loudly, "Let me through! Let me through! I am the son of the victim." The crowd made way for him. Lying in front of the car was a donkey.

PHOTO SPEAK



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN with Sanusi Musa Sanusi, SAN during the 2022/2023 Legal Year and Swearing-In of Newly Conferred Senior Advocates of Nigeria at the Supreme Court, Abuja on Monday, November 28, 2022



Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama with Michael Jonathan Numa, SAN during the 2022/2023 Legal Year and Swearing-In of Newly Conferred Senior Advocates of Nigeria at the Supreme Court, Abuja on Monday, November 28, 2022



Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama with M. A. Abubakar, SAN (Former Governor of Bauchi State) during the 2022/2023 Legal Year and Swearing-In of Newly Conferred Senior Advocates of Nigeria at the Supreme Court, Abuja on Monday, November 28, 2022



Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama with Michael Jonathan Numa, SAN during the 2022/2023 Legal Year and Swearing-In of Newly Conferred Senior Advocates of Nigeria at the Supreme Court, Abuja on Monday, November 28, 2022



Mr. Rotimi Oyedepo, SAN (2nd left); Mr. Oluniji Adediji (2nd right) with other well-wishers during the 2022/2023 Legal Year and Swearing-In of Newly Conferred Senior Advocates of Nigeria at the Supreme Court, Abuja on Monday, November 28, 2022



Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama speaking at the CIARB Nigeria Branch 2022 Annual Young Members Group (YMG) Conference in Port Harcourt, Nigeria



Staff of J-K Gadzama LLP celebrating with Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN during his 61st Birthday on Monday, November 28, 2022



L-R: Christina Asoegwu, Anisa Sambo, Theresa Okwuefuna, Alhaji Garba Abubakar, Rashidat Obamajure and Esther Agbara during the CAC Sensitization Training on Beneficial Ownership Information Disclosure and Annual Return Electronic Filing System

NEWS FROM THE FIRM

- Our Partner, Darlington Onyekwere was recognised in the 40 under 40 category of the Esq Legal Awards, 2022
- The Trainee Interns that were absorbed by the firm through the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Unity Bar Pilot Scheme completed their six (6) months internship with the firm on Wednesday, November 30, 2022. The Firm wishes them success in their future endeavours.
- The Firm has recently promoted Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama to the position of Senior Associate. The firm wishes him the best in his new position.
- The Firm held its 15th Annual Public Lecture on Tuesday, November 29, 2022 at the J-K Gadzama Court, Abuja.
- The Firm held it's 33rd End of the Year Party/8th Christmas Carol on Friday, December 16, 2022 at the J-K Gadzama Court, Abuja..
- Our Principal Partner, Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN was appointed as a member of the Appointment Committee of the Body of benchers.

PHOTO SPEAK



L-R: Kenneth Udemba, Sani Mohammed, Theresa Okwuefuna, Esther Agbara, Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN, Roseline Ogwuche, Christina Asoegwu and Chidinma Ekeke after the completion of their Internship Programme with the Firm



Olasubomi Adegbemioye receiving an Award of Excellency and Long Standing Service to the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) on behalf of Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN from Dr. Oluwakemi Pinheiro, SAN



L-R: Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Rt. Hon. Simon bako Lalong; during the Plateau State Governor's Golf Tournament at the Lamingo Golf Club, Jos



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN during the Plateau State Governor's Golf Tournament at the Lamingo Golf Club, Jos



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN receiving an award as the Winner of the Guests Category at the 15th CBN Governor's Golf Tournament held at the IBB International Golf & Country Club, Abuja



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN with Justice Mary Abounu and Mr. Benson Abounu, Deputy Governor of Benue State, during their daughter's Call to Bar



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN (middle) with staff of J-K Gadzama LLP at the Staff End of Year Football Match between Gadzama FC and Support Staff of J-K Gadzama LLP



Players of Gadzama FC during the match between the Gadzama FC and the Support Staff of J-K Gadzama LLP at the Staff End of Year Football Match



UPCOMING EVENTS AND CONFERENCES

8th Hon. Justice Chukwudifu Oputa JSC, (Rtd) Professional Training and Mentoring Programme for Young Lawyers, 29th April, 2023

7th International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Africa Conference on International Arbitration May 31st - 2nd June, 2023

Nigerian Bar Association Annual General Conference, August, 2023

Annual Conference of the African Bar Association, 6th - 10th August, 2023, Johannesburg, South Africa

16th J-K Gadzama LLP Public Annual Lecture, 10th October, 2023

4th African Arbitration Association Annual International Arbitration Conference, 12-14 October, 2023, Cape Town, South Africa

International Bar Association (IBA) Annual Conference, 29th Oct - 3rd Nov, 2023, Paris, France

Chartered Institute of Arbitrator (Carb.) Nigeria Branch Annual Conference and Gala Nite

SIGHTS AND SCENES

From the J-K Gadzama LLP Staff End of Year Party and 8th Christmas Carol at the J-K Gadzama Court, Abuja on Friday, December 16, 2022



Mela Audu Nunghe, SAN giving the Chairman's Opening Remarks at the event



Fade Sax, a multi-talented fusion jazz artist serenading the audience with his saxophone



Dr. Anthony Tede, Reverend ECWA Gospel Church delivering the Exhortation at the event



Hon. Justice Ibrahim Auta, OFR (Rtd), the Special Guest of Honour, delivering the Goodwill Message at the event



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN presenting an award to Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama for Overall Outstanding Performance by Associate



Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN presenting an award to Florence Amos for Overall Outstanding Performance by Support Staff



L-R: Chukwuemeka C. Ugo (Democrat); Hon. Justice Ibrahim Auta, OFR (Rtd); Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Mr. & Mrs Mela Audu Nunghe, SAN and Dr. Anthony Tede cutting the Christmas cake



L-R: Jerry O. Musa; Mark Chidi Agbo; Oluniyi Adediji; Joe-Kyari Gadzama, SAN; Francis Oronsaye; Darlington Onyekwere and Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama cutting the Christmas cake

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. Mohammed Monguno, ACIArb
Senior Partner
4. Francis O. Oronsaye, MCIArb., AICMC
Managing Partner
5. Geraldine Mbah
Partner
6. Darlington Onyekwere, ACIArb
Partner
7. Madu Joe-Kyari Gadzama, LL.M (Warwick), MCIArb., MICMC
Partner
8. Jerry Ombugadu Musa, LL.M, CDRS
Junior Partner
9. Oluniyi Adediji, ACTI, ABR
Junior Partner
10. Agbo Mark Chidi, MCIArb.
Junior Partner

SENIOR ASSOCIATES

1. John Echezona Unachukwu
2. Rashidat Banke Obamojure
3. Lamar Joe-Kyari Gadzama, ACIArb., AICMC

VISITING ASSOCIATE

Ignatius Ozoilo, Pg. Dip., LL.M

ASSOCIATES

1. Sarah Jeta Atumga
2. Adegbemisoye A. Olasubomi, ACIArb, ABR
3. Hassan Sherif
4. Georginia Daniel Enoch
5. Onyekachi Agbonma Eluwa
6. Khadijah Muhammad Abubakar
7. Hajara M. S. Sorondinki

JUNIOR ASSOCIATE

Farida O. Lanre-Ipinmisho

PRACTICE MANAGER

Emmanuella Chinonso Eze

OFFICE MANAGER

Sunday Ali Dzarma

LIBRARIAN

John A. Nwafor, BLIS, MLIS, AESM, ITIL, LRCN (Certified)

ICT PERSONNEL

Olalekan R. Olasehinde, CNSS (UK), CCNA

INTERNS

1. Hauwa Abba Ruma
2. Rabiatu Abba Ruma
3. Dafenone Emeke Akpomudiare
4. Chukwumerije L. Chinweotuto

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.

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)

CONTACT US

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

+234 (0) 805 663 9921
+234 (0) 901 425 8316

info@jicam.org

@JicamCentre f i i @JICAM

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

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@voxpathulifoundation.org

for further enquiries, call us on

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

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

&

tweet us @vppfoundcast

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 II, 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

2, Bourdillon Road,
Opp. New Federal High Court Complex,
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.



J-K GADZAMA LLP

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