

NIALS

NIGERIA INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES

NIALS Digest

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NIGERIA INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES

NIALS Digest

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MOTTO

Knowledge that
makes the Difference.

MISSION

To be the nucleus and hub
of legal research and advanced
studies in law in Nigeria.

OUR VISION

To be a world class institution that is the primary source of information, training and advice at the highest level of policy formulation on legal matters, effectively impacting on local and international institutions in the development of law.

NIALS ENABLING ACT

Commencement Establishment of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies

(1) There is hereby established an institute to be known as the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (in this Act referred to as "the Institute" which shall have the functions assigned to it by this Act.

(2) The Institute shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL, etc.

(1) There shall be established for the management of the affairs of the Institute a body to be known as the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Council in this Act referred to as "the Council"

(2) The Council shall consist of the following members, that is
   a. A Chairman to be appointed by the President;
   b. A representative of the Federal Ministry of Justice;
   c. A representative of the Federal Ministry charged with responsibility for higher education;
   d. Six Deans or Heads of Faculties, or other formations of Nigerian Universities offering degree courses in law at not less

than post-graduate level, to be appointed by the President; the Director-General of the Nigerian Law School; one member of the Judiciary nominated by the Chief Justice of Nigeria; the President of the Nigerian Bar Association; five persons of whom one shall be a woman to be appointed by the President; and the Director-General of the Institute.

(3) The provisions of the Schedule to this Act shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Council and the other matters therein mentioned.

FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

i. Council shall be responsible for the determination of the overall policy of the Institute and in particular for the financial and operational programmes of the Institute and for ensuring implementation of such policies and programmes.

ii. Without prejudice to the generality of subsection of this section, it shall be the duty of the Council to approve the research and training programmes of the Institute, determine the fees to be paid for research, consulting, training and any other services that may be offered by the Institute and promote or undertake any other activity that in the opinion of the Council is calculated to help achieve the purposes of the Institute.

NIALS ANTHEM

Ever questioning, Ever Probing,
Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies!
Vision foretold by founding fathers,
Ideas nurtured by patriotic fervor,
Urging us to make the difference,
And be the nucleus of legal studies,
With passion and hope our mandate deliver,
And be the best that we can be,
A truly world class institution,
Nigeria's law abode!

NIALS SETS TO COLLABORATE WITH NFIU

In a courtesy visit to the Chief Executive Officer of Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) Hafsat Abubakar Bakari, the Director General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan, highlighted the institute's pivotal role in legal research and development.

Professor Abikan emphasized that NIALS stands as the premier research institute in legal matters, offering specialized expertise tailored to the needs of government agencies. Recognizing untapped opportunities in the legal field, he underscored the importance of collaboration with NIALS for enhanced organizational effectiveness.













PROFESSOR ABIKAN EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER THE LACK OF OFFICE ACCOMMODATION FOR NIALS

The Director General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan has expressed concerns over the lack of office accommodation for NIALS. He said this during a courtesy visit to the president of the National Industrial Court of Nigeria (NICN), Honorable Justice Benedict Kanyip, on the 4th of January, 2025. Professor Abikan emphasized the need to address this issue urgently, citing the Institute's prolonged presence at the Supreme Court Complex in Abuja for over three decades as disheartening.

Professor Abikan further highlighted the Institute's desire to reestablish a strong relationship with the Court and offer specialized training programs for the Judges of the Court.

In response, Honorable Justice Kanyip advised the Director General to prioritize resolving the accommodation problem above all other objectives during his tenure and work diligently towards achieving it.

Furthermore, Justice Kanyip stressed the importance of programs designed specifically for the Court, emphasizing the need for initiatives that align with the Court



EXPERT REVIEW MEETING ON (DRAFT) FEDERAL HIGH COURT SENTENCING GUIDELINES



On Thursday, February 20th, 2025, former Directors General of NIALS, Professor M.T. Ladan and Professor Deji Adekunle, SAN, along with Honourable Justice Binta Nyako and Honourable Justice Ekwu of the Federal High Court, participated as experts in an Expert Review Meeting convened by the current Director General, Professor Abdulqadir Abikan.

The purpose of this technical meeting was to review the Draft Federal High Court (Terrorism, Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime) Sentencing Guidelines and Practice Directions 2025. These guidelines were developed in collaboration with independent researchers Dr. Joy Malala from the University of Lancaster and Dr. Nkechi Azinge-Egbiri from the University of Warwick, who are executing an Economic and Social Research Council-funded project titled "FATF Greylisting: Implications and Learnings from a Global South Perspective: Nigeria as a Case Study."

The event took place at the Supreme Court Building in Abuja.







UNODC Program Officer Solicits Continued Partnership with NIALS Against Terrorism and Trafficking in Persons

In a bid to reinforce ties and reinvigorate cooperation, officials from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) paid a courtesy visit to the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) on the 20th of February 2025. Led by Ulrich Garms, a seasoned program officer from the Terrorism Prevention branch in Vienna, the UNODC team engaged with the Director-General of NIALS, Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan and his team to discuss ongoing collaborative efforts and future prospects for joint initiatives.



During the meeting, Mr. Garms underscored the importance of the enduring relationship between UNODC and NIALS in addressing critical issues such as Counterterrorism laws and combating trafficking in persons. He said he always describe NIALS to the outside world as the flagship of Legal Scholarship in Nigeria, he commended the fruitful partnership established over the years, highlighting the positive impact made in advancing shared objectives.

Responding to remarks by the UNODC Program Officer, Professor Osato Eruaga, Head of Department of Private and Property Law at NIALS, emphasized the strong

collaboration between the two organizations, particularly in the areas of Counterterrorism and International Humanitarian Law. Professor Osato highlighted the development of a handbook by UNODC, in which she played a role as a resource person, as a successful outcome of their partnership. Expressing NIALS' keen interest in furthering collaboration with UNODC, Professor Osato mentioned the Institute's willingness to partner in the area of International Humanitarian Law Course and Counterterrorism.

The Director General of NIALS reiterated the longstanding relationship between NIALS and UNODC noting that the Institute's methodology involves a collaborative approach where the UNODC team can either suggest areas for NIALS to come up with proposals or rely on the team of experts at NIALS to formulate a proposal based on the discussion. This proposal, he said will then be subject to review by the UNODC.

Present during the visit were; Joshua Gbor, National Planning Officer Northeast Coordination/Head Office UNODC Subfield Officer Maiduguri, James Campbell, Counter terrorism Specialist, Subsaharan African Terrorism Prevention Branch, Gary Kelechi Amadi, Research Fellow NIALS, Lanre Ajetumobi, Special Assistant to the Director General NIALS, Akobella Joshua, Special Assistant to the Director General NIALS and Naomi Echor, Head of Information and Publicity Unit NIALS.















PROFESSOR ABIKAN PROMISES TO CONTINUE TO UPHOLD NIALS MANDATE

Addressing the Muslim Lawyers Association of Nigeria (MULAN) FCT chapter during a courtesy visit to his office in Abuja on Wednesday February 26th, 2025, the Director General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan, reiterated the crucial role NIALS plays as the apex research institute in the country, especially in the area of training and continuous legal education since its inception in 1979. Professor Abikan emphasized that NIALS continues to stand out as a titan for the government in dealing with legal matters on the international stage and that is the mandate he has assumed to continue to uphold and inject his own vision to bring about a better way of fulfilling that mandate.

He extended a warm welcome to the MULAN FCT Chapter, expressing delight in being associated with MULAN as it is considered part of his constituency.

The Chairman of MULAN FCT chapter, Al-Bashir L. Likko, said the purpose of his visit was mainly to congratulate Professor Abikan on his appointment as Director General of NIALS and to seek his guidance in dealing with the affairs of MULAN given





his wealth of knowledge and experience. He enumerated some of the challenges facing MULAN to include; incomplete registration status of MULAN in CAC, the need to train and retrain for continuous professional development, poor participation of lawyers from the Supreme Court, inadequate funds to carry out Ramadan welfare outreach to hospitals and prisons, and other activities to commemorate the Ramadan season.

The Director General affirmed the chairman's remarks concerning the continuous training of lawyers, stating that it is a step in the right direction. He said that training opportunities will be a motivating factor for non-committed members to become active, knowing they stand to benefit from free or subsidized training. The Director General also suggested that the MULAN executives look for ways to appeal to people's consciences by writing them personalized letters, as he believes this will improve lawyers' participation in MULAN. He also urged the executives to partner with NIALS in organizing MULAN's trainings and to come up with a proposal for specialized training, such as family inheritance, which is a vital area in Islam.

Members of the Institute present during the courtesy visit were Mr Lanre Ajetunmobi, Special Assistant to the Director General and Mrs Naomi Echor, Head of Information and Publicity Unit while members of the MULAN FCT chapter present were;

Mus'ab Awwal Mu'az - Assistant Secretary, Firdausa Amasa - Publicity Secretary, Hafsa Suleiman Usman Esq. - Assistant Publicity Secretary, Habiba J. Magudu- Welfare Secretary, Sadiq El-yakub - Ass. Financial Secretary, Hauwa Kaka - Sec, Training Committee, Rabiah Abubakar Liman - Former PRO, Hussein Hafsat - Member, Qawiyyat Ibrahim - Member and Maryam Muhammad Dankogi - Member.



A MEETING OF GRATITUDE AND COLLABORATION:

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NIALS VISITS CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND REGISTRAR OF JAMB

On Friday 28th February, 2025, the Director General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan, visited the Chief Executive and Registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Professor Ishaq Oloyede, to convey his gratitude and to indicate NIALS interest in collaborating with JAMB.

Professor Abikan expressed his gratitude and admiration for the continued support and mentorship he enjoyed from his esteemed colleague, Professor Oloyede.

He fondly recalled his formative years at the University of Ilorin where he gave credence to Professor Oloyede for guiding and nurturing his administrative skills, citing specific instances where Professor Oloyede's mentorship led to significant opportunities and advancements in his career, such as the chance to attend international conferences and his subsequent appointment as Acting Dean of the Faculty of Law.

























The Director General of the Institute highlighted NIALS' role as the apex research institute in the country on legal matters, offering specialized training in legislative drafting, continuous legal education for lawyers and legal service

providers and training programmes for judges. He emphasized the importance of collaboration between government agencies to enhance governance and legal services in the country.

In his response, Professor Oloyede expressed gratitude for the visit and underscored the importance of partnership in serving the nation. He highlighted the need for synergy between NIALS and JAMB, emphasizing their shared roles in the executive-judiciary interface and operational functions. He proposed exploring ways to address issues related to discipline and administrative challenges faced by various institutions and government agencies.

Professor Oloyede also suggested convening conferences involving key stakeholders such as judges, Vice-Chancellors, and government bodies to examine existing legal pronouncements.

He commended Professor Abikan's appointment by President Ahmed Tinubu acknowledging the esteemed lineage of academic giants and legal professionals that preceded him in NIALS. He expressed confidence in Professor Abikan's ability to leave a lasting impact, given his impressive background and capabilities.

On further collaboration, Professor Oloyede proposed a synergy between NIALS and National Institute for





COLLABORATION AND RESOURCE CHALLENGES ADDRESSED DURING VISIT TO LAW SCHOOL

The Director-General of the Nigerian Law School, Professor Isa Hayatu Chiroma on Friday 28th February, 2025 welcomed the Director-General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan and his team for a fruitful discussion on collaboration and resource challenges faced by legal institutions.

During the visit, Professor Chiroma highlighted the importance of having dedicated offices for staff and the need for proper funding to support essential activities. He emphasized the vital role of adequate resources in enhancing research and training opportunities for legal professionals.

DG Chiroma also shared insights on how the Law School manages its funds efficiently, generating revenue and remitting tuition fees to the government. He offered advice on engaging with government bodies to secure funding for essential resources like books and electronic materials for the Institute's library.
In response, the Director General of NIALS



expressed appreciation for the valuable suggestions and discussed the possibility of collaboration with the Nigerian Association of Law Teachers (NALT) to expand access to legal resources. He emphasized the need for collaboration in the areas of research and specialized training for the staff of the Nigerian Law School.

Responding to the call for collaboration by the Director-General of NIALS, Professor Chiroma mentioned that the Law School has plans to send some of its staff for training in protocol and information with NIALS being a potential beneficiary. He highlighted the institution's enduring relationship with NIALS, noting that they have sent many staff members for training sessions in the past. The Director General praised NIALS for its commitment to excellence and conveyed his intention to continue utilizing its services in the future.










Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies