

NIALS Digest

MARCH, 2025

NIGERIA INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES

NIALS Digest

Editor-in-Chief
Prof. Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan

EDITORIAL CREW

Naomi Echor
PAS Information & Publicity
(Editor)

Abdullahi Habiba Trisha
DIS Editorial

Nwosu Ahunna U.C
SAS Information & Publicity

Ajayi Oisasumi Samson
Principal Superintendent of Press II
(Production Design)

Ebong Ndifreke
Assistant Secretary, Information & Publicity

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 05-06

NIALS Director General Advocates for Collaboration Between NOA and the Institute

Page 07-08

Enhancing Legal Frameworks for the Technology Sector: NIALS and NCC Collaboration

Page 09-10

ICRC Delegation Emphasizes Collaboration with NIALS on IHL Integration

Page 11-12

Collaboration and Partnership Between NIALS and NILDS to Promote Legal Capacity Building

Page 13

NIALS and FRC Collaborate to Enhance Governance through Research and Training

Page 14-16

NIALS Celebrates Founders' Day– Lecture Focuses Taxation, Poverty and National Development

Page 17

NBA Gwagwalada Branch and NIALS Forge Partnership

Page 18-19

NIALS and EFCC Strengthen Collaboration in Fight Against Economic Crimes

Page 20-21

Potential Collaboration Between NIALS and Galaxy Backbone on Digital Transformation Initiatives

Page 22

The Director General Felicitates with all Muslim Faithful

CONTACT
08100363602
Abuja: Supreme Court Complex, Three Arms Zone, Abuja
P.M.B 385 Garki, Abuja
info@nials.edu.ng www.nials.edu.ng

09012443547
Lagos: University of Lagos Campus Akoka, P.M.B 12820,
Yaba, Lagos - Nigeria

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

CONTACT
08100363602
Abuja: Supreme Court Complex, Three Arms Zone, Abuja
P.M.B 385 Garki, Abuja
info@nials.edu.ng www.nials.edu.ng
09012443547
Lagos: University of Lagos Campus Akoka, P.M.B 12820,
Yaba, Lagos - Nigeria

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 DIRECTOR GENERAL ADVOCATES FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN NOA AND THE INSTITUTE

In a recent courtesy visit to the National Orientation Agency (NOA) on Monday, 3rd March 2025, the Director General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) highlighted the importance of collaboration between government agencies and the Institute. Reflecting on NIALS' long-standing history of over four decades in training legal professionals, the Director General emphasized the potential for synergy between various government bodies and the Institute.



Upon assuming office as the Director General at the Institute, Professor Abikan introduced a vision emphasizing the Institute's role in collaborating with government agencies to assess their operations and ensure they are fulfilling their mandates effectively. This vision aims to leverage NIALS' expertise in legal training and research to support government agencies in meeting their objectives.

During the visit, Professor Abikan shared a notable instance in which the Nigerian Army faced some difficulties in its interactions with the international community. Subsequently, the Institute promptly organized training sessions aimed at equipping the Nigerian Army officers with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively manage the situation at hand. Professor Abikan therefore advised all government agencies including National Orientation Agency not to wait until they encounter difficulties, but rather to collaborate with NIALS to train the members of their legal teams so that they can effectively fulfill their mandates.

The Director General of the National Orientation Agency (NOA), Mallam Lanre Issa-Onilu, in his response, said that the Agency can also be helpful to NIALS since they deal with everything that has to do with human beings and all living things. However, he noted that NOA can do better, especially in conflict resolution, given the right skills and methods which he believes NIALS can provide. He highlighted that NOA has dual mandates: communicating government programs, policies, and activities and promoting patriotism between the citizens and the government.



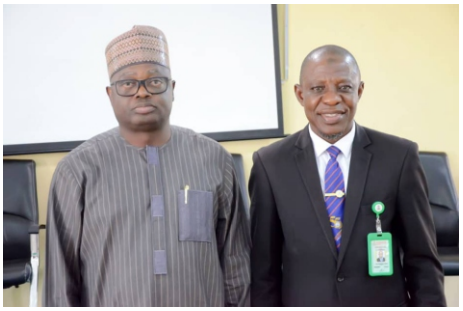










ENHANCING LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR THE TECHNOLOGY SECTOR: NIALS AND NCC COLLABORATION



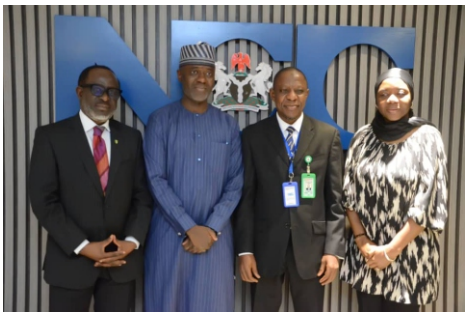
Professor Abdulqadri Ibrahim Abikan, the Director General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), emphasized the importance of adapting laws to the rapidly evolving communications and technology sector. During his courtesy visit to the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, he stressed the need for collaboration between NIALS and NCC.

Professor Abikan highlighted key areas for joint research and evaluation, including data protection and consumer rights. His counterpart, Dr. Aminu Maina, Executive Vice Chairman of the NCC, expressed enthusiasm for future collaborative engagements with the Institute.





















ICRC DELEGATION EMPHASIZES COLLABORATION WITH NIALS ON IHL INTEGRATION

On Wednesday, 12th March 2025, a delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) led by the Legal Coordinator Iris Muller paid a courtesy visit to Professor Abdulqadri Ibrahim Abikan, Director-General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS). The ICRC coordinator expressed gratitude for the existing collaboration and emphasized the importance of integrating International Humanitarian Law (IHL) into academic programs. The team also expressed interest in publishing IHL materials for legal research in Nigeria.

Professor Abikan assured the ICRC of NIALS' full support in achieving mutual objectives, highlighting the Institute's capacity to mobilize law teachers and experts in IHL in the country. Additionally, he affirmed NIALS' readiness to engage in ICRC workshops and conferences.















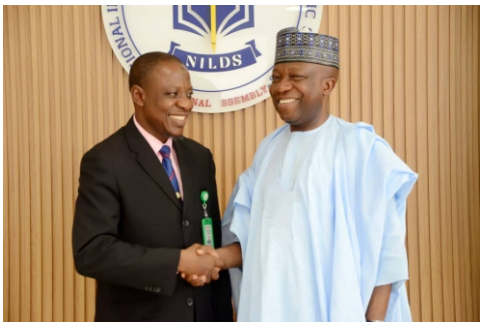







COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN NIALS AND NILDS TO PROMOTE LEGAL CAPACITY BUILDING







The Director General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Professor Abdulqadri Ibrahim Abikan on Thursday, 13th March 2025 led a delegation on a courtesy visit to the Director General of the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, Professor Abubakar O. Sulaiman.

Professor Abikan expressed gratitude for the warm reception, emphasizing the shared history and purpose of their agencies. He highlighted the importance of collaboration in achieving the government's goals and acknowledged the positive impact of NIALS' work.

Professor Abikan also mentioned his personal connection to NILDS and expressed admiration for its accomplishments. He cited an example of specialized training provided to the Nigerian Army, showcasing the practical outcomes of collaboration between institutions.

His counterpart, Professor Sulaiman recognized the similarities between NIALS and NILDS, emphasizing the need for joint efforts in capacity building and research. He proposed areas of partnership, such as organizing conferences and workshops, nurturing young legal professionals, and expanding internship programs.



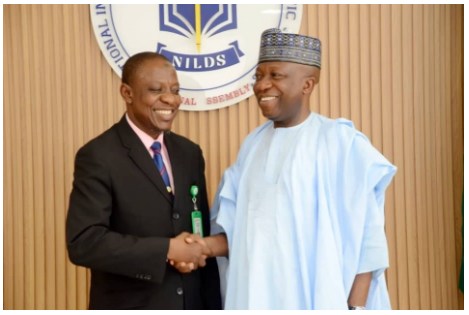














NIALS AND FRC COLLABORATE TO ENHANCE GOVERNANCE THROUGH RESEARCH AND TRAINING

Professor Abdulqadri Ibrahim Abikan, Director-General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), on Thursday 13th March 2025, led a delegation in a visit to the Fiscal Responsibility Commission (FRC) to champion the importance of research and continuous training for government agencies. This collaborative effort aims to foster a culture of transparency, accountability, and effective governance.

Barrister Victor Muruako, Executive Chairman of the FRC, welcomed Professor Abikan's initiative, emphasizing the critical role of legal research and training in promoting good governance and prudent management of government resources. He reiterated the Commission's commitment to ensuring financial transparency and accountability in government operations.

This strategic partnership between NIALS and the FRC underscores the importance of research-informed policy-making and capacity-building for government agencies. By working together, they aim to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of governance in Nigeria.













NIALS CELEBRATES FOUNDERS' DAY-LECTURE FOCUSES TAXATION, POVERTY AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On March 17th, 2025, the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies celebrated a significant day in its history—the official opening of the Institute. This date is commemorated annually with a Founders' Day public lecture to honor the vision and mandate of the Institute. The event brought together legal luminaries, policy makers, and academics to reflect on Nigeria's taxation system and its broader implications for National Development.

During the occasion, the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) and Chairperson of the NIALS Governing Council, Hon. Justice Kudirat M. O. Kekere-Ekun, emphasized the pivotal role of the Institute in legal research, policy formulation and education. Lending her voice on the topic of the day, "Dynamics of Poverty, Tax Reform Bill, and National Development in Nigeria," she highlighted the significance of an efficient, progressive, and equitable tax system for economic growth, wealth distribution, and National Development.

The Director General of the Institute, Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan Ph.D, FIAIB, warmly welcomed guests and highlighted that the Founders' Day Lecture is an opportunity for the Institute to fulfill its mandate of conducting research and ensuring the dissemination of outcomes. He further stated that Founders' Day, beyond being a mere tradition, serves as a time for reflection and self-examination, addressing critical issues that affect National and International Development.

The Guest Lecturer, Professor Abiola Sanni, Ph.D, SAN, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Lagos, focused attention on the importance of an efficient and equitable tax system in fostering economic growth and sustainable development in Nigeria. He stressed that, without a strong tax system, the impoverished are inevitably consigned to poverty because taxation is the means of redistributing wealth from the affluent to provide essential services that the poor may otherwise never access.

Notable personalities in attendance were; Asiwaju Solomon Awomolo, SAN,- Chairman Body of Benchers, Honorable Justice Benedict Kanyip, President National Industrial Court, Honorable Justice Abdullahi Umar, PCA (Rtd), Chairman NIALS Fellows and other prominent personalities.






















NATIONAL
JUDICIAL






NBA GWAGWALADA BRANCH AND NIALS FORGE PARTNERSHIP

The Gwagwalada Branch of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) recently paid a courtesy visit to the Director-General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), Professor Abdulqadri Ibrahim Abikan Ph.D on the 18th of March, 2025. The delegation was led by the Chairman, Owhor Clever Esq who expressed gratitude for the opportunity to meet with the Director-General and their intention to support and partner with the Institute.

During the visit, the former Chairman of the branch, D.A. Suleiman, commended the Director-General's leadership and vision for the Institute, highlighting the successful event (NIALS Founders' Day Lecture 2025) organized by the Institute on March 17th, 2025.
He emphasized the branch's commitment to collaborating with the Institute and working towards mutual success.

In response, the Director-General acknowledged the longstanding relationship between NIALS and the Gwagwalada Branch of NBA, promising to strengthen and enhance the partnership further. He outlined plans for special programs and collaborations, including a unique Intellectual Property training program in collaboration with Harvard University, aimed at deepening participants' knowledge and skills in this important area of law. The Director-General said the program is open to all interested individuals, including non-lawyers.

The former Chairman of the branch, D.A. Suleiman, expressed enthusiasm about the Intellectual Property training program and promised to mobilize their members to key in.





NIALS AND EFCC STRENGTHEN COLLABORATION IN FIGHT AGAINST ECONOMIC CRIMES

The Director General of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan, reiterated his vision of collaborating with other government agencies established by law to enhance their respective mandates. He said this during a visit to the Executive Chairman of the Economic Financial Crimes Commission, Mr. Olanipiekun Olukoyode, on March 18th, 2025.



During the visit, Professor Abikan commended the Executive Chairman and the entire Commission for its efforts in the fight against crimes and corruption. He stressed his vision upon assumption of office as Director General to conduct research to assess agencies' compliance with their legal mandates and pinpoint areas for possible improvement. Additionally, he discussed potential collaborations with the Commission to provide capacity building trainings for staff members.

The Executive Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission expressed openness to collaborating with NIALS to strengthen the existing relationship between the two institutions. He highlighted an ongoing process to review the EFCC laws and emphasized the importance of input from stakeholders such as NIALS. In particular, he mentioned the need for expertise in drafting a memorandum that could significantly contribute to this legislative review.

Given NIALS' expertise in legal research and policy analysis, he believes that the Institute can play a valuable role in supporting the EFCC in this endeavor thereby contributing to the fight against economic and financial crimes in Nigeria.












Potential Collaboration Between NIALS and Galaxy Backbone on Digital Transformation Initiatives

In a recent courtesy visit to Galaxy Backbone on March 19th, 2025 by the Director General of Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan, discussions were held regarding potential collaboration between the two organizations on digital transformation initiatives.

The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Galaxy Backbone, Professor Ibrahim Adeyanju, highlighted the organization's key role in managing Information Communications Technology (ICT) infrastructure for the Federal Government. He expressed interest in partnering with the NIALS, a prominent legal research institute, to enhance its digitalization efforts.

The Director General of NIALS emphasized the importance of leveraging technology to improve operational efficiency and transparency, especially in the legal sector.

During the visit, various key points were highlighted by members of both teams, including NIALS' role in legal research, training programs for law enforcement agencies, and initiatives to streamline court proceedings through automation. Galaxy Backbone, on the other hand, showcased its expertise in providing ICT services, network monitoring and cybersecurity solutions.

Both parties acknowledged the potential benefits of collaboration and agreed to establish a small committee to explore specific areas of cooperation.




















The Director General Felicitates with all Muslim faithful

The Director General, Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan Ph.D, FIAIB Felicitates with all Muslim faithful on the occasion of the 2025 Eid -dul-Fitir celebration.

In a statement issued through the Media and Publicity Unit, the Director General said "Eid Mubarak to all Muslim faithful, May the choicest blessings of Allah fill your hearts with peace and prosperity (Amin)."




Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies