

NIALS Digest

SEPTEMBER, 2025

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 NEW PRINCIPAL OFFICERS ASSUME OFFICE; HANDOVER CEREMONY HELD





On September 1st, 2025, a significant milestone was reached in the history of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) as the outgoing Principal Officers - Mr. Tiamiyu Ademola Sharafadeen, Professor Oluocha Anyaogu, and Mr. John Yawe - concluded their five-year terms, and Mrs. Regina Ugonna Macaulay, Mr. Abdul Ganiyu Olaniyan, and Professor (Mrs.) Rita John-Okeke assumed office as the new Institute Secretary, Institute Bursar, and Institute Librarian respectively.

In a formal handover ceremony in Abuja, Mr. Abdul Ganiyu Olaniyan, FCA, officially took over the role of Institute Bursar from the outgoing Mr. John Yawe, while in Lagos, Mrs. Regina Ugonna Macaulay stepped into the position of Institute Secretary, succeeding Mr. Tiamiyu Ademola Sharafadeen, and Professor (Mrs.) Rita John-Okeke assumed the role of Institute Librarian from Professor Oluocha Anyaogu.

Mr. Olaniyan expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and pledged to work diligently in his new capacity to uphold the values of the Institute. Professor John-Okeke, on the other hand, promised to add value to the Library Department and announced the availability of new publications for academic use.

Mrs. Macaulay described her return to the Lagos Office as a "homecoming" after sixteen (16) years. She emphasized teamwork, a stronger synergy between the Lagos and Abuja offices, and the need for consistency in service delivery. She also commended her predecessor's contributions and pledged to build on the achievements already laid down.

The events marked a smooth transition of leadership responsibilities within the Institute as Mrs. Macaulay, Mr. Olaniyan, and Professor John-Okeke take on their new roles.
















NIALS CONDUCTS TRAINING ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF DSPACE INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY

The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) successfully organized a one-day hybrid training session on 4th September, 2025 for both staff in Lagos and Abuja on the Deployment of DSpace Institutional Repository.

The Institute Librarian, Professor Rita John-Okeke, highlighted the benefits of DSpace in enhancing the Institute's visibility globally, facilitating research citation, and aiding in securing grants. Additionally, she emphasized the importance of archiving materials and preserving institutional repositories. Professor John-Okeke expressed gratitude to the Director-General, Professor Abdulqadir Abikan, for approving the purchase of Dspace.



Mr. Seun Adewoye, the appointed consultant for the training, reiterated the significance of DSpace in providing visibility and long-term preservation for research work. He explained the features and structure of DSpace, including login processes, access control, workflow management, and metadata editing.

Participants were guided on how to add editors to the workflow, emphasizing their role in accepting, approving, or rejecting submissions. Additionally, the session covered the process of withdrawing items that have been uploaded to the system.

In her remarks, Professor Uluocha, former Institute Librarian, noted that the Dspace tool is an institutional project acquired by the Library in 2025. She stressed the collaborative management of the tool by the Library, Information Technology Department, and other faculties. The training marked the completion of the procurement process, with participants encouraged to reach out to the consultant for further guidance.

Overall, the session provided valuable insights into the use of the Administer Workflow tool and its significance in maintaining quality standards within the institution's Digital Repository.





NIGERIA'S LAW ABODE












NIALS AND PLATEAU STATE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE EMPOWER PLATEAU STATE COUNSELS WITH SPECIALIZED CRIMINAL PROSECUTION TRAINING



The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), in collaboration with the Plateau State Ministry of Justice, held a 5-days Specialized Training Programme for Plateau State Counsels on Criminal Prosecution from the 1st to 5th of September, 2025, at the New Government House in Jos, Plateau State.

The Director General of the Institute, Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan, in his remarks, stressed the importance of the specialized training programme to address the evolving nature of criminality that is outpacing current legislation. He emphasized the need for prosecutors to stay ahead of these changes and be well-equipped to handle the dynamic nature of criminal behaviour.

On behalf of the Governor, the Honourable Attorney General/Commissioner for Justice of the Plateau State Ministry of Justice, Philemon Daffi, Esq., emphasized the importance of the training to all attendees, particularly the Ministry staff, and encouraged them to focus and not underestimate the significance of the training.

The training, which brought together legal practitioners including Police prosecutors and private lawyers, emphasized the evolving landscape of criminality, highlighting the challenges and best practices in areas such as Cybercrime Investigation, Plea Bargain, Ethics, Witness Protection, Pleadings, Appeals and Cross-Examination Techniques.

The training aimed to enhance the capabilities of prosecutors and legal practitioners in navigating today's complex legal landscape. The training also emphasized the importance of embracing digital legal research tools while acknowledging the continued significance of non-digital research methods in effective trial preparation.

Recommendations included the imperative for continuous training to keep up with emerging legal trends, ensuring prosecutors are well-equipped to tackle evolving criminal activities.


NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES (NIALS)
Welcomes you to its
Specialised Training for State Counsel on Criminal Prosecution
1ST - 5TH SEPTEMBER, 2025
The New Government House
9.00 am PROMPT






Criminal Prosecution





REVAMPING COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS:
NIALS AND CCLA RENEW MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) and The Centre for Comparative Law in Africa (CCLA) are set to revamp and reinforce their collaborative efforts with a focus on renewing the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NIALS and CCLA, which has been long overdue. This decision was reached in Abuja, the Institute's headquarters on Tuesday, 23rd September, 2025 during a courtesy visit by Professor Ada Ordor, Director of CCLA, to Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan, Director General of NIALS.

Professor Ada Ordor emphasized the importance of the MOU, acknowledging the existing funding structure and proposing new measures to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of the partnership. She highlighted the longstanding partnership between CCLA and NIALS, dating back to the establishment of CCLA in 2010. The collaboration was initiated after a suggestion by Emeritus Professor Evans Kalula, leading to an endowment by General T.Y Danjuma. An initial MOU was signed in 2014, which laid the foundation for research activities between the two institutions.

Professor Abikan raised concerns about the availability of funds for upcoming projects. With a funding model based on 20% of profit proceeds, NIALS aims to ensure that project designs align with available funds. Professor Abikan questioned whether the current funds could support a large-scale project, suggesting that some funding could be allocated to special editions of journals in specific areas of focus. This, he said, “can become part of the legacy references that can be seen as what the project has been used to fund”.

Addressing the shift towards E-research, Professor Abikan emphasized the importance of allocating funds towards subscribing and renewing online sources to enhance the Institute's research capabilities. This investment would provide researchers with access to essential tools and resources necessary for their work.

An interactive meeting between Professor Ordor and the Research Professors and Research Fellows of the Institute led to discussions centered around enhancing research skills for emerging researchers, joint research projects, and utilization of allocated funding for collaborative initiatives.

In response to these discussions, Professor Ada Ordor shared insights on previous projects at NIALS, including the publication of a book on Energy Law in 2018 and ongoing work on the integration of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement. She noted that donor endowments are managed according to university regulations and could potentially support significant projects if aligned with NIALS objectives. However, she highlighted the challenges of utilizing funds for projects outside of South Africa.

Other key issues raised and discussed during the meeting included the publication of a book project on trade law in Africa, funding challenges, and the development of research skills workshops for early career researchers.








































NIALS COURSE ON REGULATORY AND COMPLIANCE MONITORING: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES



The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies recently conducted a three-day training course on Regulatory and Compliance Monitoring: Principles and Practices. The course held at the late Professor Ayo AJOMO AUDITORIUM, Lagos from 23rd to 25th September, 2025.

The Training saw a remarkable turnout with thirty (30) participants joining from various states across the federation and diverse organizations including Rivers State Bureau on Public Procurement, Pacific Holdings, National Information Technology Development Agency, First Bank of Nigeria Ltd, and the Republic of Togo.

Participants lauded the training course, providing overwhelmingly positive feedback in the assessment forms distributed at the end. However, some attendees highlighted the need for more emphasis on topics related to the oil and gas industry and electricity issues. In response, the Director General, Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan, ably represented by the Director of Research, Professor Emmanuel Okon, assured participants that these aspects would be addressed in future courses.

The training course was a success, fostering knowledge sharing and collaboration among participants from different backgrounds and affiliations, further enhancing their understanding of Regulatory and Compliance Monitoring Practices.


TUTE OF
STUDIES










UTE OF
STUDIES

SERVICE OF SONGS AND BURIAL RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF FORMER INSTITUTE SECRETARY, LATE BARR, JOHNSON DIEKOLA RAJI



On 24th of September, 2025, a delegation from the Institute, led by the Institute Secretary, Mrs. Regina Macaulay, attended the Service of Songs to honor the late Barr.. Johnson Diekola Raji.

Barr. Raji, who served as the former Institute Secretary, passed away on August 19, 2025. The delegation also participated in the burial reception held in Ikorodu on September 28, 2025.



NIALS SENSITIZATION PROGRAMME ON SMART IDENTITY CARD SYSTEM








The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) recently organized a Sensitization Programme for Staff of the Institute on the Functions of the Smart Identity Card System. The event took place on 25th of September, 2025 at the late Professor Ayo Ajomo Auditorium, Lagos.

The Smart Identity Card System, which was recently adopted by the Institute, marked a significant milestone in the Federal Government's initiative to digitize records and files.

The Institute Secretary, Mrs. Regina Macaulay, warmly welcomed the staff and Resource Person while emphasizing the importance of the sensitization session.

The Resource Person, Mr. Sulaiman Tope, reiterated the need to shift from the outdated and insecure old identity card system to the Smart Identity Card system. He stressed the vulnerability of the old system to duplication by graphic designers among other issues. However, the Electronic or Smart Card System offers enhanced security features and efficiency, including the capability to track Attendance and several other functions. The Smart Identity card is beyond mere identification, it has ushered in a new era of streamlined operations.

DEEPENING COLLABORATION BETWEEN NIALS AND FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS

The recent meeting between Mrs. Regina Ugonna Macaulay, the Institute Secretary (IS) of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS), and Professor Abiola Sanni, the Dean of the Faculty of Law, University of Lagos at the Office of the Institute Secretary (preceding a visit by the IS to the Dean's Office the previous day) highlighted key challenges faced by NIALS and proposed solutions through enhanced collaboration.

Key challenges such as poor facilities, water supply issues, and high electricity costs were raised by Mrs. Macaulay. In response, Professor Sanni acknowledged these concerns and proposed strategic actions to bring about positive changes. Plans to explore solar power solutions for NIALS and other projects were discussed as part of the transformative initiatives.

The meeting emphasized the need to strengthen collaborations between NIALS and the Faculty of Law, University of Lagos, with potential joint ventures including an e-Library. Suggestions were made to improve the physical environment at NIALS, including painting, signage upgrades, and enhancements to the foyer area.

Overall, the meeting concluded with a commitment to address the challenges faced by NIALS and drive improvements through collaborative efforts between NIALS and the Faculty of Law, University of Lagos.









NASU NIALS HOLDS ITS MAIDEN HEALTH SYMPOSIUM



On 30th of September, 2025, the Non-Academic Staff Union of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NASU NIALS) organized a health symposium titled "Your Health at Work: How to Manage Financial and Mental Stress for Productivity" at the Professor Ayo Ajomo Auditorium in Lagos.

The event aimed to promote the welfare of its members during these harsh economic times.

The symposium showcased two esteemed guest speakers: Dr. Adetunji Adepoju, who focused on the main theme, and Pharmacist Oluseun Gbemi Togunse, who provided insights on Hepatitis. The event featured a dynamic Health Walk/Rally on campus, along with complimentary medical screenings for Hepatitis, Diabetes, and Blood Pressure.

This maiden health symposium was well attended by staff members, with 95% of participants taking part in the medical tests.

The event also featured presentation of award to the past leadership of NASU NIALS. The initiative was timely as many members are experiencing financial hardships owing to current economic conditions. Insufficient incomes to cover escalating needs have placed strain on both the physical and mental well-being of members, adversely impacting on workplace productivity. The symposium aimed to address these challenges and promote healthier lifestyles for improved productivity.




A SYMPOSIUM
(STREAM I)
YOUR HEALTH
AT WORK.
30TH


A SYMPOSIUM
(STREAM I)
YOUR HEALTH
AT WORK.













STAFF AFFAIRS

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO SEPTEMBER CELEBRANTS

Dear Valued Colleagues,

On behalf of the Director General, Professor Abdulqadir Ibrahim Abikan, the Management team, and all staff of the Institute, we wish to extend warm birthday wishes to all those who celebrated their birthdays in September 2025.

Your presence and contributions are truly valued, and we take this opportunity to celebrate your life, dedication, and the positive impact you bring to the Institute. As you embark on another year, may it be filled with renewed strength, good health, and continued success in all your endeavors.

We want you to know that your commitment does not go unnoticed and your hard work and dedication are truly appreciated.

Best regards,

Naomi Echor (Mrs)
Editor
For: Director General
Editor-in-Chief



DRISU STEPHEN
Birthday: 1st September
Designation: Principal Executive Officer II
Deployment: Bursary (Abuja)



DR. EGERUOH-ADINDU IZUOMA EUPHEMIA
Birthday: 7th September
Designation: Associate Professor
Deployment: Deputy Director CLE/ HOD Public Law (Abuja)



URAIH HENRY CHUKA
Birthday: 7th September
Designation: Senior Assistant Secretary
Deployment: Registry (Lagos)

STAFF AFFAIRS

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO SEPTEMBER CELEBRANTS



MR. AHAKON MICHAEL CLETUS
Birthday: 9th September
Designation: Senior Artisan
Deployment: Institute Secretary's Office/Admin (Lagos)



SIMEON MARY DEBORAH
Birthday: 10th September
Designation: Senior Executive Officer
Deployment: Pension (Abuja)



ADESANYA OLUSEGUN VICTOR
Birthday: 15th September
Designation: Research Fellow I
Deployment: Public Law (Lagos)



IDAHOSA SULYMAN ABDUL-QUADIR
Birthday: 16th September
Designation: Senior Assistant Secretary
Deployment: Institute's Store (Lagos)



ALIKALI UGBEDE
Birthday: 16th September
Designation: Principal Assistant Secretary
Deployment: Head of Planning, Research & Statistics (Abuja)



ODUAH DUMEBI
Birthday: 29th September
Designation: Principal Assistant Secretary
Deployment: Conference, Events & Planning (Abuja)

STAFF AFFAIRS

BIRTHDAY WISHES TO SEPTEMBER CELEBRANTS



ADALIKWU GODWIN ATSU
Birthday: 21st September
Designation: Deputy Institute Secretary
Deployment: Head of Department Information and Protocol (Lagos)



DR. ANI EKPOWAN LAURA
Birthday: 25th September
Designation: Senior Research Fellow
Deployment: International Law (Lagos)



PROF. ULUOCHA ANYAOGU
Birthday: 25th September
Designation: Professor Library
Deployment: Institute Library (Lagos)

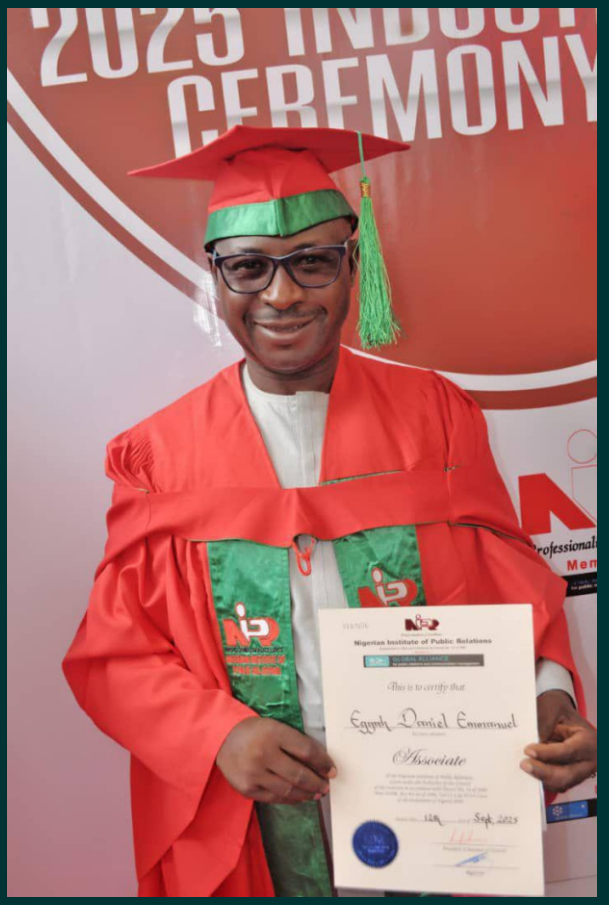


UDOH FRIDAY NATHAN
Birthday: 26th September
Designation: Principal Assistant Secretary.
Deployment: Conference and Event planning (Lagos)

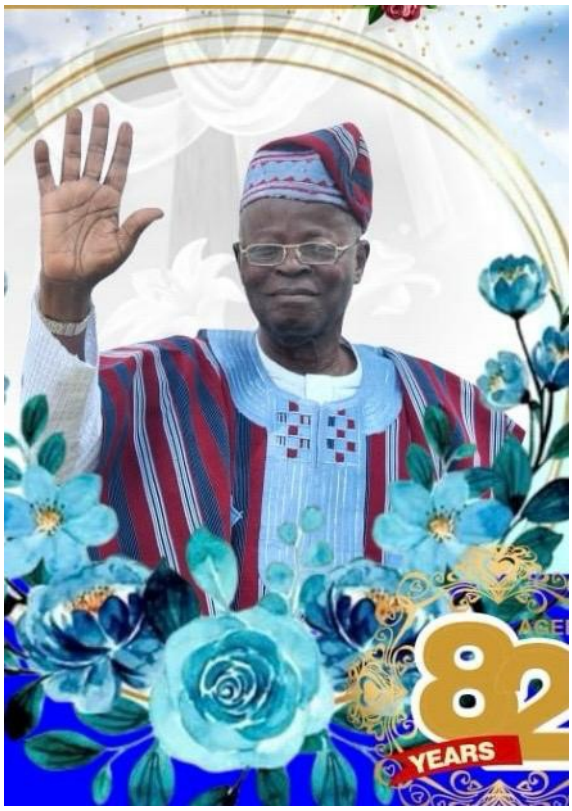
STAFF AFFAIRS

Congratulations to Mr. Eggaah Daniel Emmanuel of the Press Department, for a successful induction into the prestigious Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) as an Associate Member (AMNIPR).

Here's wishing you the very best in all your endeavours sir.



TRIBUTE TO THE FORMER INSTITUTE SECRETARY, LATE BARR. JOHNSON DIEKOLA RAJI



With a deep sense of gratitude, we remember the contributions and life of our former Institute Secretary, Barr. Johnson Diekola Raji, LLB, BL, AMNIM, who passed away 19th August, 2025. A dedicated pioneer staff of the Institute, Barr. Raji served as the second Institute Secretary, working closely with esteemed leaders such as Late Dr. Timothy Akinola Aguda, Late Professor Ayo Ajomo, and Late Professor Ignatius Ayua (SAN). His invaluable contributions played a significant role in the growth and success of the Institute.

We stand in solidarity with his family as we celebrate a life well lived to the age of 82. May the Lord grant them comfort and strength, and May the soul of Barr. Johnson Diekola Raji rest in perfect peace. Amen.

STAFF AFFAIRS

RETIREMENT/SEND FORTH CEREMONY FOR MRS. S.N. IMAHIAGBE



On Monday, 22nd September, 2025, staff of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) gathered at the Ayo Ajomo Auditorium in Lagos to celebrate and bid a fond farewell to the former Director of General Administration and Digitization of Files and Records, Mrs. S.N. Imahiagbe on her successful retirement from public service.

The ceremony was marked by joy, camaraderie, and heartfelt tributes as colleagues shared touching stories of Mrs. Imahiagbe's mentorship, professionalism, and the positive impact she has had on their careers.

Mrs. Imahiagbe expressed deep gratitude, joy, and humility, thanking everyone for their kind words and support. She also took the opportunity to apologized to anyone she might have inadvertently offended during her years in service at the Institute. Mrs. Imahiagbe commended the Institute Secretary, Mrs. Regina Macaulay, for her efforts in fostering unity among the staff.

The event concluded with presentation of gifts and warm wishes for God's continued blessings in Mrs. Imahiagbe's new chapter.



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