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VISION STATEMENT
To be 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.

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

MOTTO
Knowledge that Makes the Difference

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The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies held its 2nd Convocation Ceremony for the conferment of Higher Degrees and Post-Graduate Diploma in Legislative Drafting at the Ayo Ajono Auditorium, of its Lagos Office on December 7, 2011. Presiding at the ceremony was the Honourable Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman of NIALS Governing Council, Hon. Justice Dahira Musdapher GCON, FNIALS. Presenting his address at the Convocation Ceremony, the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Dahira Musdapher, GCON, FNIALS, commended the Director-General of the Institute for his exemplary leadership in implementing various innovations which have enhanced the status of the Institute to an internationally recognized educational establishment of repute. He noted that the Institute by its mandate of providing postgraduate studies in Legislative Drafting occupied an enviable position as the only institution in Nigeria with such mandate and that he was proud to be associated with them for the excellent work they have been doing especially with the quality of its programmes. He further noted that the PhD programme in Legislative Drafting embarked upon by the Institute in 2009 places it as the only institution in Africa to offer such training.

The CJN appreciated the Institute not only as a 'think tank' to the Federal Government in the area of law, but the fact that it has continued to undertake research in various areas of law while at the same time providing fora for provoking academic work by its roundtables, seminars and workshops on topical issues like the Islamic Banking, The Cost of Democracy, Revisiting the Death Penalty amongst several others.

According to the CJN, the Institute with an ally of distinguished professors and Senior Research Fellows has been consulted on a number of projects including preparation of Bills at the National Assembly and the Ongoing Judicial Reform exercise of his administration. He considered the Institute's contributions in all of these assignments to be of invaluable excellence.

To the grantees, Justice Musdapher, GCON, FNIALS enjoined them to reflect on their journey to the Institute and prepare themselves to fit into the society with their specialized kind of training. The skills acquired, he reminded them, required a critical, enquiring, imaginative and systematic mind as well as orderliness in the formulation of thoughts and detail.

Drafting as a skill, he noted, required analytical and original mind set and urged them to be proud ambassadors of the Institute wherever they find themselves. The CJN made case to the Honourable Attorney General and Minister of Justice to engage graduates of the Institute as Drafters so as to improve on the quality of laws formulated by the state.

Earlier, the Director-General welcomed guests and the grantees to the Institute's 2nd Convocation ceremony. The Institute, he said was graduating at this instance, fifty-four students (54) who have fulfilled the requirements of the Statutes and regulations of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies and having been found worthy both in learning and in character by the Academic Board of the Institute are eligible for the award of Masters Degree and the Postgraduate Diploma in Legislative Studies. A total of thirty-eight students graduated at the Master Degree level while sixteen (16) graduated with a Postgraduate Diploma.

The programme directed by the Institute Secretary, Mr. James Bathana saw the Head of the Postgraduate School, Professor Laure Fagbohun presenting the grantees for award of certificates by the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice Dahira Musdapher, GCON, FNIALS.
NIALS ROUNDS OFF ACTIVITIES FOR 2011: Appreciates Its Stakeholders

The journey for 2011 in Nigerian Institute of Advanced legal Studies calendar started off events started with a Round Table on the Tax Payers Money on January 19th. The success of the Round Table was a great relief as it gave the indication that programmes for the year would enjoy similar success. Today, all the events and programmes slated for the year have been successfully held with the launching of the Alumni Association of the Institute as well as its 2nd consecutive convocation ceremony.

The Director-General, Professor Epiphany Azinge, SAN while speaking at the end of programmes for the year appreciated everybody for his or her support to the success story of the Institute for the year ended December 2011. Particularly, he noted the support from the Chairman of Council, Honourable Justice Dahiru Musdapher, GCON, FNIALS, Chief Justice of Nigeria, for his personal interest in the activities of the Institute and for accepting to present the Institute's 2011 Fellows Lecture, the first ever by any serving Chief Justice of Nigeria or Chairman of the Institute's Council.

The various resource persons and faculty of the Institute deserve commendation. If not for them, the interest and zeal for the Institute's programmes would not have been possible. To them also is the appreciation for the incisive conclusions and communiqué of our various Round Tables.

We thank the various Agencies, Federal and State Ministries and other establishments including the Navy, Army, Police who at various times released their staff to attend and participate in our training programmes. The BAR and the Bench is also appreciated but most especially the support from the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) for not only supporting our programmes but also for the partnership we had with them.

In realization that no one organization will stand alone, several collaborative activities were initiated. We acknowledge support and understanding in this regards from the Nigerian Industrial Court *NIC), Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC), The Nigerian Law School, The Nigerian Law Commission, Nasarawa State University amongst several others within and outside the country.

Sincere and deep appreciation goes to our parent Ministry, the Federal Ministry of Justice for their support in terms of funding and patronage at our various courses and programmes. For the direction the Honourable Attorney-General and his team has rendered the Institute, our sincere appreciation and gratitude.

The business of reaching out could have been difficult if not for the confidence shared with the Nation Newspapers, The Guardian Newspapers, the Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), African Independent Television (AIT), Channels Television and the News Agency of Nigeria. To them our great debt and a commitment for better relations in the coming year.

To our Management and Staff, words can hardly say the deep appreciation. You, it was, that ensured the successful coordination and handling of these various courses and programmes. Without your dedication and commitment to the mandate of the Institute, little could have been achieved.

To all and sundry, who in one way or the other, had something to do with the Institute in the year under reference, our sincere gratitude. We could only ask like Oliver Twist that you do more in the year ahead.
PROFESSOR IKECHI MGBEOJI, JSD PRESENTS 2ND NIALS CONVOCATION LECTURE

The Honorable Justice Kasib - Whyte Convocation Lecture of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies held December 7th, 2011 at the Professor Ajuma Auditorium of the Institute’s office in Lagos. The lecture was to precede the 2nd Convocation Ceremony of the Institute which held the next day.

The Lecture presented by an Osgoode Hall Law School, Toronto, Canada Scholar and an expert of Intellectual Property Rights Regime, Professor Ikechi Mgbueji, JSD, was titled “BIO-CULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AND THE CHALLENGES OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS REGIMES FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT”.

According to Director-General of the Institute, Professor Epiphany Azinge, SAN, the lecture though on an existing and seemingly complex area of law, the Lecturer was able to navigate his audience into the bias with which the developed world perceives Africa especially on the question of whether or not the Intellectual Property Rights Regimes in Africa as is presently constituted has any role to play in the protection and development of bio-cultural knowledge in Africa. He alluded that the Lecturer in carrying his audience into the understanding of Bio-Cultural knowledge, makes every not only appreciate land as a vital factor in the development of bio-cultural knowledge but also the negative impact which colonial trademarks and patent regimes has over time placed on land. He noted that despite the misconceptions about bio-cultural knowledge, traditional societies throughout history had proven their intellectual capabilities in the creation of bio-cultural knowledge thereby escalating the belief of bio-piracy against western states.

In his presentation, Professor Mgbueji, JSD informed that the lecture was coming at the heels of a recent funded survey involving 36 African countries in which he participated. Based on discoveries from the survey, the lecture was approached from three angles.

In the first phase of the lecture, issues relating to bio-cultural knowledge in Africa and definitions. Most importantly, the question as to whether African societies have contributed to bio-cultural knowledge especially with plants and if they do whether contemporary Intellectual Property Regimes (IPRs) are attuned to the protection of such knowledge from abuse and exploitation by unauthorized entities.

The second phase of the lecture considered the relationship between bio-cultural knowledge and dominant IPRs such as patents, trademarks, copyrights and industrial designs. Consequently, the issue of colonial subjugation of African bio-cultural knowledge to western episteme and IPRs regimes is discussed. Thus the non-recognition of the intellectual contributions of African societies to biological resources was attributed to the capture and detention of episteme regimes in Africa by the colonial episteme. The lecture argued that the reason for this situation lies from the fact that despite the withdrawal of the colonial administration, most of its structures, norms, habits, assumptions, institutions and laws originally designed to give advantage to the western episteme and sabotage bio-cultural knowledge still persist in contemporary forms. Consequently, presently, most of the trademarks and patent laws in practice in Nigeria and in several other African countries reflect what has been prepared by the western countries.
In the third phase of the lecture, the author tries to chart alternatives from the colonial capture of Africa’s IPRs law and administration and posits the need for indigenous IPRs laws and regimes which of necessity require urgent reforms. He made case in respect of the business of provisions in the Traditional Medicine Practice Act which provides supremacy oversight to all forms of traditional medicine to "persons trained in science".

Similarly, the NAFDAC Act compels Traditional Medicine Practitioners to disclose the ingredients of herbal medicines. This, he said was a disservice as no such requirement was demanded of medicines produced through scientific processes. He argued further that Africa needed to be urgently responsibly engaged with relevant developments in the international for a on Access and benefit Sharing (ABS) of our bio-cultural knowledge in line with such global instruments such as the Nagoya Protocol to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

For a way forward, Professor Mgbusu was of the opinion that Nigerian and indeed Africa should trace back and critically engage with the structure and process of global IPRs. Time gone should the IPRs administration in Nigeria be no more than merely filing and registering all manner of IPR applications. He called for more commitment and dedication from our Lawyers and administrators in handling of IPRs more so as what presently exist could was far from best global practices on IPRs.

Our Laws as presently existing could best be classified as being devoid of any serious intellectual exceptions and so do not protect our bio-cultural knowledge. Consequently, what passes for IPRs legal practice in Nigeria is an exercise in clerical deadity as even the best of legal firms in Nigeria appear to be performing clerical assignments for the major law firms of Europe and North America, he concluded. To buttress his point, Professor Mgbusu JSD argued that the Nigerian Patent Office for instance, is merely engaged in the mechanical stamping and sealing of foreign applications without regards to the issue of whether the application for patent is meritorious, the substance of which they hardly understand or comprehend. He queried the situation where by once the WIPO office of the PCT in Geneva gives the approval, the Nigerian patent office obeys in a slavish fashion.

Professor Mgbusu, JSD called on the Nigerian universities to give better attention to the training of lawyers in the area of Intellectual Property Rights Regime understanding why a country which has thousands of science graduates not find ten or fifteen university graduates to examine the patentability of inventions in Nigeria. He called for a clear national industrial policy which should give pride of place to our wealth of bio-cultural knowledge. In achieving this, he advocated that the country should be represented at important international levels on emerging regimes on protection of bio-cultural knowledge to afford our administrators adequate knowledge on current trends in the area.

Considering Nigeria’s wealth in biological diversity and bio-cultural knowledge, efforts, he said, should be geared towards adapting some of the enabling IPRs regimes including certification marks, geographical indications and indications of Origin to promote and protect such bio-cultural knowledge including various species of yam, Shea butter tree, palm oil trees, bitter kola, alligator pepper etc as these are known to have played key roles in biotechnology as regards drugs and industrial needs.

On a final note, Professor Mgbusu, JSD advocated the involvement of civil society groups in Nigeria in matters of IPRs governance considering their insights, pressures and aspirations, expertise and global connections and resources. Inputs from them will surely add to improve the on regime on protection of bio-cultural knowledge.

In his closing remarks after the well received lecture, the Director-General, Professor Epigharri noted that the artistic and literary expressions by the author in articulating his propositions makes it effortless for the audience to visualize the points he conveyed. The lecturer he concluded was able to demonstrate his mastery of Intellectual Property Law in general and this topic leaves no one in doubt of his expertise.
NIALS TO PARTNER NIGERIA PRISON SERVICE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM REFORM

In continuation of its mandate as Think Tank of Government in legal and related matters, the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies January 30, 2012 offered to assist through partnership, the Nigerian Prison Service to actualize its reform of the Prisons, especially in their re-organization, training and enactment of laws that will ensure decarceration of the prisoners in line with the Federal Government’s transformation agenda.

The occasion was the courtesy call by the Director-General and some management Team of the Institute to the newly appointed Comptroller General of Prisons, Mr Zakari Isahak, MFR, MSc.

In his address, the Director-General, Professor Epiphany Azinge, SAN appreciated the rare leadership qualities inherent in the new Comptroller General especially as he is accepting to head the Institute despite being in office for barely a month old. Professor Azinge, SAN informed the Comptroller General of Prisons that his appointment would require him taking difficult decisions and so urged him to put the fear of God first in every decision he considers to be successful.

The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies established some 17 years ago according to the Director-General, has continued to undertake legal research on all aspects of law and to bring findings of such research efforts to the use and advantage of governments and other persons. In carrying out its assignment, the Institute partners with other relevant government agencies to assist in their agenda setting as to conform with the thinking and expectations of the government of the day.

Anchoring on the Transformation Agenda of the present administration, the Institute’s visit to the Prisons Service was to discuss ways and means of collaborating with it in the areas of general reforms and innovations, training of officers on human rights, legislative studies, as well as introduce a networking arrangement of the various stakeholders in criminal justice system such that information could be shared between the Courts, Office of the Attorney-General, the Prisons, the Bar and the Bench to fast-track quick dispensation of justice. The Director-General advocated for the introduction of Prisoner public dialogue forum where a convict could have access to speak to the public on his experiences, motive for the crime committed, possible atonement and advice on way-out.

According to the Director-General, the Institute had capacity and faculty to address these and many other areas that could transform the Prisons service through its regular seminars and workshops and by special arrangements jointly organized by the two organizations. Some could be achieved through an annual Justice Forum where the Prison Service will bring all stakeholders together to propose how to achieve quick dispensation of cases as well as issues with prison congestion and management.

Professor concluded by offering to work together with the Comptroller General and his Management team to empower the service to greater heights and thanked him for the time given to him and his Management Team to visit them.

Responding, the Comptroller-General, Mr Zakari Isahak, MFR, SAN noted that knowledge was power and appreciated the high profile of the Institute’s Management comprising of highly noted Professors noting that any serious organization desiring to succeed would appreciate the opportunity to partner with it. He expressed interest in the area of training on human rights so as to place the personnel in a position to improve their understanding and handling of inmates as well as appreciate their fundamental rights. This knowledge, he observed, would reduce sense of conflict and improve service delivery so that the Nigerian Prison Service would operate in line with world’s best practices.

On Legislative Studies, the Comptroller General noted that the Service was involved in series of legislations formulation and drafting of comments and bills. At the moment a Bill for the transformation of the Prison Service was at the National Assembly. It would benefit the Service therefore if the Institute continuous rendered assistance in the drafting.

In his desire to leave the Prison Service better than he met it, Mr Zakari, MFR, SAN promised to study carefully the inputs from the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. Particularly, he said, was the suggestion for an annual Justice System Forum which he said could be an improvement on the annual Comptroller General’s Conference and the Service would be happy to partner the Institute on this. "Behind the Wall" programmes whereby inmates recount their experiences and propose solutions or breakthrough to the Comptroller General agreed it was a valuable programme and already an air on NTG. Again, he said, would be improved based on the recommendations from the Institute.

Mr Zakari MFR, noted he was appreciative of the opportunity presented by the visit and promised to meet with his management team to streamline areas of collaboration with the Institute. Members on the Comptroller General’s side included Dr Hassan Lala, DCg, Mr Ezeon Nkari, DCg, Dr Peter Ibuade, DCg, Alh. Muhammad Anas, Ag, DCg, Mr Joe Emak, Ag, DCg, Alh. Umaru Suraju, Ag, ACg and Barmier Olay, Legal Adviser.

Accompanying the Director-General was Professor Paul Adenuga, Professor Adekunle Aderibigbe, Professor Dokun C.J. Okun, Professor Obanla Okekor of Law, others included Mr Anstine oladosun, Ag, Borrow, Mr Benjamin Taiwo, Deputy Institute Secretary (Afejo) and Mr Ugoch Mr, Head of Protocol and Publicity.

The Director-General, Professor Epiphany Azinge, SAN on behalf of Management and Staff of the Institute, presented some of Institute’s publications to the Comptroller General for his library.
FACES AT THE 2ND CONVOCATION CEREMONY
FACES AT THE MEETING WITH CANADIAN TEAM TO NIALS ON OPEN AIR COLLABORATION IN ABUJA
### Nials Staff Birthdays

#### December

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<tr>
<th>Full Names</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prof. Awah Aniimi A. (Mrs.)</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>December 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Okon Emmanuel Edem</td>
<td>Research Fellow I</td>
<td>December 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr. Ani Comfort Chinyere (Mrs.)</td>
<td>Research Fellow I</td>
<td>December 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ngwaba Uchechukwu</td>
<td>Assistant Research Fellow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ojo Omoniyi Matthew</td>
<td>Chief Accountant</td>
<td>December 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imbor Edward Ghamwuan</td>
<td>Chief Executive Officer</td>
<td>December 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sobanjo Adegbukola Fausat (Mrs.)</td>
<td>Senior Assistant Secretary</td>
<td>December 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uzoka Miriam Chinwe (Mrs.)</td>
<td>Assistant Secretary</td>
<td>December 14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omotosho Rukayat</td>
<td>Administrative Officer I</td>
<td>December 25</td>
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<td>Eze Stella Ijeoma</td>
<td>Administrative Officer I</td>
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<td>Ibor Matilda Afolake</td>
<td>Administrative Officer II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anisha, Jude Chukwunedum</td>
<td>Administrative Officer I</td>
<td>December 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Enuka Elizabeth Ucheanna (Mrs.)</td>
<td>Senior Estimator</td>
<td>December 26</td>
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<td>Ekpo Uduak F.</td>
<td>Administrative Officer II</td>
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<td>Aga Victoria Akas</td>
<td>Administrative Officer II</td>
<td>December 29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chika Abubukar Gidado</td>
<td>Senior Executive Officer</td>
<td>December 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isedowo Joseph Oluwadare</td>
<td>Senior Library Officer</td>
<td>December 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temetan Ifemobayo, Ibironke (Mrs.)</td>
<td>Senior Higher Executive</td>
<td>December 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bokko Bitrus Ezra (Mr.)</td>
<td>Electrical Maintenance Off.</td>
<td>December 24</td>
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<td>Tafa Fatimoh Ayoola</td>
<td>Higher Exec. Officer</td>
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<td>Wahab Maroof Akintayo</td>
<td>Higher Exec. Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Okon Arit Effiong</td>
<td>Senior Data Proc. Asst. I</td>
<td>December 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Isamila Mohammed Wali</td>
<td>Motor Driver</td>
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<tr>
<td>Okolie Kelechi Christy</td>
<td>Library Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eke Liliana Eyiunnaya</td>
<td>Clerical Assistant I</td>
<td>December 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adeneye Ope-Oluwa (Mrs.)</td>
<td>Officer Assistant II</td>
<td>December 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effime Elizabeth Nkanu (Mrs.)</td>
<td>Officer Assistant III</td>
<td>December 11</td>
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NIALS DEDICATES YEAR 2011 TO GOD:  
Holds Christmas Carol

The activities and programmes of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies came officially to a close December 18th, 2011 with a Christmas Carol organized and hosted by the Director-General for staff of the Institute in Abuja. The event held at the residence of the Director-General, Professor Epiphany Azinge, SAN.

Welcoming staff and other guests to the Christmas Carol, Professor Azinge, SAN thanked the Almighty Lord for His mercies to him and his family and the various members of staff and their families but especially for taking the Institute through the year successfully. He appreciated the cordial relationship he shared with staff of the Institute in the ending year and expressed satisfaction with the level of commitment, courage and will with which programmes of the Institute were carried out in the year. The success story of the Institute in the outgoing year, he said, was a shared credit and commitment and called on staff to redouble their efforts in the coming year as the Institute was desirous of taking advantage of its present achievements in the coming year. He extended appreciation to all stakeholders of the Institute for their support in the year under review.

Professor Azinge, SAN noted that the choice of a Christmas Carol to commemorate the end of the Institute’s year was a way of returning back to God all our adoration and gratitude for taking us through the year successfully. He enjoined guests to enjoy the evening as they celebrate and give glory to the Almighty God for a successful year.

The Christmas Carol anchored by an organized group in Abuja gave good renditions to the glory of the Almighty God and the admiration of all guests. High point of the carol was the presentation of special numbers during which Professor Azinge, SAN and his wife Dr Valerie Azinge dazzled guests with beautiful tunes. Professor Paul Idornigie and other guests added to the fun of the evening by presenting beautiful special numbers.

Staff appreciated the opportunity provided by the Director-General for them to give glory to the Almighty God for the achievements of the year and especially for the lavish entertainment and refreshment that accompanied the Christmas Carol.
INTRODUCTION

Banking institutions occupy a central position in the financial system of any economy. Banks act as intermediaries for efficient transfer of resources from surplus to deficit units. For banks to be able to perform efficiently and contribute meaningfully to the development of the economy, the industry must be safe and sound. One of the foundations of this is strong and vibrant ownership and shareholding structure of banks. Historically, shareholding in the Nigerian banking sector is relatively recent.

Although banking commenced in 1890 with the establishment of the first banking institution which was foreign (now known as First Bank Plc), indigenous banking in Nigeria commenced in the 1960s. The culture of shareholding by Nigerians became popular after the Indigenization Decrees of the 1970s; Public Sector Reforms of the 1980s and 1990s and the CBN banking reforms of 1990s.

A shareholder is a person (individual or corporation) that legally owns any part of a share of stock in a public or private corporation. Shareholders own the stock, but not the corporation itself.

Shareholders are granted special rights and privileges depending on the class of shares owned. These rights may include but are not limited to:
- The right to sell their shares.
- The right to vote on the directors nominated by the board.
- The right to nominate directors (although this is very difficult in practice because of insider protections) and propose shareholders resolutions.
- The right to dividends if they are declared.
- The right to purchase new shares issued by the company.
- The right to have assets remain after liquidation.
- The right to inspect and reproduce copies of various statutory books and records.
- The right to inspect directors' contract for the company or any of its subsidiaries.
- The right to receive notices of all general meetings.
- The right to attend general meetings and vote on any resolution, and
- The right to apply for the winding up of the company if it is unable to pay its debts.

Shareholders are traditionally expected to be in control of their banks. However, the experience of failures of banks in Nigeria in the 1980s, 1990s and more recently in 2010 revealed that the general powers of shareholders are not adequately protected in the banking sector.

In furtherance of its role as the apex legal research institution and the importance of the theme the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies held a one-day roundtable on SHAREHOLDERS POWERS IN THE BANKING INDUSTRY on 24th January 2012.

PERSPECTIVES for the roundtable included:
- Representation, compensation and independence of shareholders.
- Legal and regulatory framework of the powers of shareholders in the banking industry.
- The role of shareholders in corporate governance.
- The oversight function of the CBN over the shareholders powers.

At the end of deliberations, the following observations were made:

1. Under our law, a person can become a shareholder through three mechanisms: subscription to the memorandum and articles of association of the company at formation; purchase of shares directly from an issuing company; and purchase of shares from an existing company.

2. A company is either private or public company. Private companies are closely held with limited membership usually amongst family and friends. Public companies on the other hand are large usually with diversified membership. Banks in Nigeria are public companies.

3. Conceptually, investment in shares is driven by annual profit returns and short-term price appreciation.

4. Corporate governance is broadly understood as the rules, practices and norms by which all parties, other than shareholders, can engage in the management of a company. It is a system by which companies are directed, administered and controlled by way of (a) owners, (b) directors, (c) officers and (d) employees.

5. Corporate governance encompasses the relationship among various participants in the enterprise (members in general meeting, board of directors and managing director) to determine the direction and performance of the corporation.

6. The CBN is the key regulatory body that oversees the activities of the banking industry. It has the power to revoke the banking license of any bank that fails to comply with its directives.

7. The most significant power of shareholders is their voting power in general meetings.

8. Shareholders hold themselves back in the face of the obvious and the absence of any real force affecting the enterprise including the government, stockholders, and dissenting shareholders.

9. The CBN has appointed a panel of experts to examine the banking industry and make recommendations on the future of the banking industry in Nigeria.

10. The members of high-profile cases of corporate failure involving financial irregularities and grave breaches of corporate governance standards have related concerns globally and nationally about how companies are organized and controlled.

11. An independent board is critical for corporate governance. The board is responsible for overseeing the CEO and other executive officers.

12. Shareholders are in most cases ill-equipped to deal with the complexities of the business and cannot effectively monitor the performance of the company.

13. Shareholders may never be able to exert their rights effectively because majority-shareholders are the directors or the nominees of the directors.

14. The lack of activism of shareholders is most noticeable in their failure to engage in active shareholding in the company.
to protect the company’s capital.

15. The role of government in ensuring the observance of corporate governance through the regulatory bodies cannot be over-emphasised.

16. Banks are unique and different from other companies in the economy. Whereas company law does not impose a role of capital adequacy on companies, banking law does through the CBNA and CBN Act. This because banks play a key role in distributing financial resources to the rest of the economy, and in so doing they act in their capacity as intermediaries for the public savings. Their stability is thus a matter of considerable political concern; yet banks are particularly complex entities, instable and volatile.

17. Unlike other companies, banks in addition to shareholders have depositors. The deposits provide a bank with its general funds. The continuing confidence of depositors is thus necessary for the viability of banks.

18. In an event of a disturbance of confidence, depositors will be astir to the need to withdraw their funds ahead of a “run” on deposits and shareholders may resort to dumping their shares to avoid losses.

19. CBN [Companies and Allied Matters Act 2004 section 26(1)] makes provision for the remuneration of company’s directors (with the exception of the managing director) to be fixed by its shareholders in a general meeting. Alternatively directors’ remuneration may be fixed by the company’s Articles of Association and allowed only by special resolution. In practice, this left fact was not in the observed attention.

20. Existing reports revealed that the financial statements of many corporate entities were more cosmetic and far from showing a true and fair view of the real state of things and this was more true in the banking sector than in other sectors of the economy.

21. Before the recapitalization of banks in 2008, all the banks, with the exception, had huge non-performing assets with significant amounts lost to creditors. Most banks did not disclose their true financial condition neither in Audited Accounts nor in Returns to the regulators. Indeed, certain aspects of the limitations of the 12 pool-consolidation banks may have been reduced if the banks had been required to engage in pre-consolidation due diligence and had been dealt with expeditiously.

22. The non-implementation of the CBNA administered a “stress test” on the post-consolidation banks and declared 8 of them insolvent. In exercise of its statutory powers, the CBNA dissolved the management teams of these banks and in their place appointed new managers with the mandate to re-capitalise the banks on or before September 2011.

23. Continued absence of capacity and inability to meet the deadline prompted the CBNA on August 5, 2012 to remove the licenses of three of these 8 banks namely Afribank, Bank PHB and Spring Bank and handed them to the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), which, in exercise of its statutory powers, created these bridge banks called Mainstreet Bank, Agrobank and Continental Bank. Thereafter, the Foreign Management Company of Nigeria (FMCON) acquired the new banks via a Subscription Agreement which enabled it to inject a N 479 billion stimulus package into them. This sum aided the three banks to raise their capital adequacy ratio and also put them in a position to pay back the sums injected into them.

24. Though the process was not duly observed in the creation of the “bridge” banks by CBNA, it was necessary and a viable option given the loss of confidence and possible collapse which the banking system would have suffered with dire consequences to the entire economy.

25. Non-observance of corporate governance principles by management and contributory negligence of shareholders was responsible for the deploration of these banks’ capital.

26. There is an obvious absence of legal activism and therefore lack of judicial authority in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court on the enforcement of the rights of minority shareholders against directors of banks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations are as follows:

1. There are already codes of corporate governance in Nigeria. These are designed to ensure highest standards of transparency, accountability and good corporate governance. The provisions of the codes must be strictly observed.

2. It must be ensured that auditors are independent, since a lot depends on certification of financial statements by auditors. Therefore auditors must be obliged to inform the Nigerian Stock Exchange and regulatory authorities of any transactions that negatively affect shareholders and investors.

3. Companies should adopt a policy to guide the Board and individual directors on conflict of interest situations.

4. All directors should be required to disclose their shareholding, whether proprietary or fiduciary basis in the public company in which they are proposed to be appointed as directors, prior to their appointment.

5. Shareholders must be better equipped with the requisite information which can empower them to act.

6. Auditors must be held accountable to shareholders with full disclosure of AGM agenda accompanied by explanatory notes to guide them.

7. The shareholders of each public company should be empowered to require external auditors to investigate suspicious business activities in addition to present statutory remittances.

8. The shareholders should utilize the means of extra-ordinary general meetings in order to block/share activities of its companies.

9. The pedigree of holders of sensitive public offices, that affect monetary and capital market should be properly screened prior to appointment.

10. Lawyers and experts in the field should be encouraged to be more proactive by initiating actions in court just to test the law and possibly set precedents. This would encourage judicial activism.

11. Non-observance of corporate governance should be taken more seriously by stipulating stiff penalties.

12. Depositors should also be encouraged to take legal actions against banks where they have been aggrieved. This could be achieved through the assistance of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

13. Legislation should be brought to bear on the cases and following up by new/amending legislations.

14. Rigorous enforcement of shareholder’s rights must be pursued through Non-Governmental Organisations and civil society groups. Government agencies such as SEC and CBNA should make the left out.

15. Active use should be made of social networks to create awareness and get stakeholders committed to rules of corporate governance.

Prof. Epiphany Alaghe SNAN
Director-General
31st January 2013
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# Justice A.G. Karibe Whyte Convocation Lecture Series

1. **Dissenting Judgments and Judicial Law Making**  
   1,000

2. **Biocultural Knowledge of Intellectual Property Right for African Development**  
   Prof. Ikemchi Mgbuoji  
   1,000

## Communiques on NIALS Roundtables

1. **A Book of Communiqués 2030 Roundtables**  
   Prof. Epiphany Azinge  
   1,000

2. **A Book of Communiqués 2011 Roundtables**  
   Prof. Epiphany Azinge  
   1,000

## Law Report

1. **NIALS Appellate Courts Law Reports vol. 1**  
   N A C L R  
   Prof. Epiphany Azinge  
   1,000

2. **NIALS Appellate Court Law Reports Vol. 2**  
   N A C L R  
   Prof. Epiphany Azinge  
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3. **NIALS Appellate court Law Reports Vol. 3**  
   N A C L R  
   Prof. Epiphany Azinge  
   1,000

## NIALS New Frontier Lectures

1. **Africa On The Cusp of Biotechnology:**  
   The Legal and Ethical Aspects of Genetics  
   Dr. Remigius Nwabueze  
   1,000

2. **The Future of Administrative Law and Good Governance in Nigeria**  
   Prof. Lovemore Sossin  
   2013  
   1,000

## S.M.A Belgore Chair Lecture Series

1. **The Right to Life under the Nigerian Constitution:**  
   The Law, the Courts and the Reality  
   Prof. 1. Nnamdi Aduba  
   2011  
   1,000

## Maiden Valedictory Lecture Series

1. **LAW LIBRARIANSHIP AND LEGAL Research; in the Digital Age**  
   Chief Theophilus Okunrinke Dada (2011)  
   1,000

## Inaugural Lectures

1. **Law and Nigeria’s External Borrowing**  
   Prof. Bolaji Owasanoye (2011)  
   1,000

2. **Proceed of Crime in Nigeria: Getting Our ‘Act’ Right**  
   Prof. Adediji Adelunie (2011)  
   1,000

   Prof. Paul Obo Idomige (PhD, BL, FCIS (2011))  
   1,000
FACES AT THE KARIBI-WHYTE CONVOCATION LECTURE
FACES AT THE 2ND CONVOCATION DINNER
NIALS GRADUATES 54 AT ITS 2ND CONVOCATION CEREMONY

The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies made history again on December 6th, 2011 when it organized and convocated 54 graduates at its 2nd combined Convocation Ceremony held at its office at the University of Lagos Campus, Alaka – Lagos. The graduates were awarded Masters Degrees and Postgraduate Diplomas in Legislative Drafting.

The Convocation Ceremony was preceded by the Justice Karibi-Whyte Convocation Lecture which was presented by Professor Beechi Mgbokwe, JSD of the Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, Canada. In the lecture titled ‘Bio-cultural Knowledge and the Challenges of Intellectual Property Rights Regimes for African Development,’ a very strong case was made for the recognition of traditional intellectual rights in Africa since all bio-cultural knowledge was cultural based and indeed carried with it some form of intellectual activity. The lecture was chaired by Hon Justice Rose Ukaje OFR, former Chief Judge of Lagos State.

Conferring the Diplomas and the Degrees on the graduates, the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Honourable Justice Dahiru Musadapher, GCON, FNIALS, asserted that “by the Authority of the Governing Council, I admit you all and severally to the degree of Masters of Law in Legislative Drafting and Postgraduate Diploma in Legislative Drafting”.

The following were consequently admitted into the Masters degree in Legislative Drafting. They include:

### 2008/2009
1. Aniele Kaku Kingsley
2. Achuta Lawrence Eba
3. Banire Funke Ayabo
4. Abdulahi Muhammed Dune-Sige
5. Maimara Umar Mohammed
6. Ogurie Obia Chidinma
7. Okwe Agogo Joses
8. Ibrahim Ustifah Solomon
9. John Ohi Blessing
10. Rukiyat Omoshoike Suluf
11. Fagbohan Joseph Olu

### 2009/2010
1. Abubakar Mohammed Tahir
2. Edosa Jessica Ebiwa
3. Johnnie Uchenna Ejigba
4. Ezugwajiola Chiogu Leo Nkwand
5. Emma Nkem Akahosu
6. Giorgi Kulibol Dadoras
7. Ikumemo Margaret Oma
8. Langbaka Chinedu Dicko
9. Ily-Obegbemun Chimere Adafo
10. Akpan Matthew Hilary
11. Oguonwe Obiakpa Aloaye
12. Anyegbemun Emmanuel Obasom
13. Ozeroraisani Tituosaoluwa Bodade
14. Onara Felix

For Postgraduate Diploma in Legislative Drafting, those admitted included:

### 2008/2009
1. Okeke Ezenwara Ekhuetia
2. Didara Jacinta Veronica
3. Gernji Kalbolo Dadoras
4. James Abiola Eznkiel
5. Mohammed Mstapher

### 2009/2010
1. Olina Bassey Aluo
2. Ighinomohun Placid Ogbogho Violet
3. Okunonga Oyeban Arotinb Jony
4. Solhiu Peter Ogbobie
5. Emmanuel Akahosu
6. Nasiru Birji Mohammed
7. Akpan Matthew Hilary
8. Taiye Edah

### 2007/2008
1. Ewelfu Ewellyl Okey
2. Ikpeag C. Onah
3. Echens Erya Evororo
4. Onye Ehe Umayah
5. Olaniyi E. Joseph
6. Akinyele Joph Abuosoo
7. Odah Enkli Aliobi
8. Aghimime Oparikoko Addunwam Ademika
9. Okunogbeosa Junbi
10. Okeke Juliet Alimi
11. Agyosa Clement Isanami
12. Chisoma Moses Onimiri
13. Okeke Chukwunwuka
14. Nwachukwu Edith
Cardiovascular diseases such as Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) and Stroke are a major cause of illness and death. There are many factors that increase the risk of coronary heart disease and stroke. These risk factors can be divided into modifiable and non-modifiable risks.

In this edition of NIALS Wellness, we will take a look at high blood pressure. We will learn ways of controlling the modifiable risk factors among other things. I hope you find the contents of this edition helpful in your efforts towards a healthy lifestyle.

Dr. Olaomi Takiyade

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Get active by all means:

+ Climb the stairs, ignore the lift.
+ Sweep your compound or cut your flowers; give your gardener a break.
+ Dance to Christian, Islamic or pop music in the morning before getting ready for work.
+ Get up to change the TV channel.
+ Do your laundry yourself.
+ Clean your windows.

All we need is to take a different view on the activities we do every day.

High blood pressure is often referred to as a silent killer. The reason for this very sinister name is because often times, high blood pressure does not give any symptoms until later when complications have arisen. In this edition of NIALS Wellness News Letter, the following questions will be answered:

- What is High Blood Pressure?
- How do I know if I am hypertensive?
- What is my risk of developing High Blood Pressure?
- How do I prevent High Blood Pressure?
- My blood pressure is high already, what can be done?

CALORIE COUNTER (some common foods in Nigeria and their calorie content):

- BUTTER 1 SQUARE, 1/4 THICK = 50 CALORIES
- CASSAVA ROOTS COOKED (UNFRIED) = 124 CALORIES
- CHICKEN FRIED 1/2 BREAST = 232 CALORIES
- CHICKEN FRIED DRUMSTICK = 64 CALORIES
- COCONUT MEAT, KERNEL 100GM = 388 CALORIES
- FISH ALL KINDS AVERAGE = 100GMS = 193 CALORIES
- GARRI FERMENTED AND FRIED 100GM = 333CALORIES

October is world breast cancer awareness month. Ladies are encouraged to come to the clinic and have a chat with the Institute Doctor on issues surrounding breast cancer. Remember you have a huge part to play in ensuring your enjoyment of optimum health.
HYPERTENSION (HIGH Blood Pressure)

The human heart moves blood around the body by contracting and relaxing. This action produces some pressure. It is this pressure produced during contraction and relaxation that is measured as blood pressure. The pressure during contraction is the top value while the pressure during relaxation is the bottom value.

For adults 18 years and above, normal blood pressure is less than or equal to 120/80mmHg. Sometimes, our blood pressure can go up temporarily for example when we are angry, excited or stressed. This temporary rise is usually short lived. It is when the blood pressure remains persistently high that one is said to be hypertensive. Usually, before a doctor makes a diagnosis of high blood pressure, two measurements at least a few days apart would have shown elevated blood pressure. However, there may be exceptions.

Most of the time, the cause of the elevated blood pressure is unknown. However, the following circumstances may result in an increased likelihood to develop high blood pressure.

- Family history of high blood pressure
- Inactive lifestyle
- Overweight or obesity
- High salt intake
- High alcohol consumption
- Smoking

The following measures will help prevent high blood pressure, or reduce it if it is already high:

- Increased physical activity. Skipping, swimming, brisk walking are all aerobic activities that are good and can help. However have a chat with your doctor to decide which exercise best suits you.
- Reduced salt intake. The target should be less than 5g of salt per day. Foods preserved with salt should be avoided also.
- Increased intake of fruits and vegetables.
- Alcohol consumption should be reduced.
- Smoking should be stopped.

These modifications are of benefit to the prevention and control of high blood pressure. However, the effects of implementing these modifications are dose and time dependent. Efforts should be made to make these lifelong lifestyle plans.

For people with raised blood pressure, the doctor may prescribe some medications. The medication the doctor will prescribe will depend on your individual circumstance. There are many blood pressure reducing medications that the doctor can prescribe. It is important that these medicines are taken as the doctor has prescribed them. It is also important that you go to your doctor if you feel unwell after taking the medicines. It is important that you do not stop the medications without consulting your doctor.
TIPS FOR REDUCING SALT INTAKE

1. Switch to low salt snacks
2. Check food labels to find out which foods are high in salt. Always choose those that have less salt.
3. Do not add salt automatically to your food. Always taste it first. Often times, it is not necessary to add that extra salt.
4. Avoid fast foods.
5. It takes getting used to. Persevere. It takes the taste buds a couple of weeks to adjust to eating less salt.

Body mass index.

This is a measurement that looks at your body weight in relation to your height. It gives an estimate of your risk of developing weight related disease.

How to calculate BMI.
1. Measure your height in metres (without shoes)
2. Measure your weight in kilograms also without shoes.
3. Multiply your height by your height (i.e. square it)
4. Divide your weight by the square of your height. This gives you your BMI.

This fun quiz is designed to test your knowledge about some wellness issues. Please take some time and go through the questions.

1. Which of these is known as "unhealthy" fat?
   A) Polyunsaturated fat
   B) Monounsaturated fat
   C) Saturated fat

2. On average, how much salt should be consumed per day?
   A) 1g
   B) 5g
   C) 15g

3. How is BMI calculated?

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3. THE REGAN-HALL COOKBOOK.
4. WARD AND HERIN SYNDROME. HUFFPOLL SYNDROME.
5. TERENCE MILLIGAN SYNDROME TO REDUCE A WORKPLACE SYNDROME SYNDROME. HUFFPOLL SYNDROME SYNDROME.
NIALS Christmas Carol
Faces at Roundtable on Revisiting the Thrust of Nigeria’s Foreign Policy
NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES
Ph.D Programme in Legislative Drafting

The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies hereby inform the General Public that with effect from January 2010, the AKINOLA AGUDA SCHOOL OF POST GRADUATE STUDIES of the Institute will admit candidates for Ph.D Programme in Legislative Drafting.

Prospective Candidates are advised to purchase their application form from the Post Graduate Office, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of Lagos Campus, Akoka, Lagos.

or

The Director General’s Office, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, Supreme Court Complex, Three Arms Zone, Abuja.
Tel: 07031054211

For further enquiries, please contact: The Information Officer, Godwin Adalikwu, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of Lagos Campus, Akoka - Lagos. Tel: 08035877732
The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) Press was established in 2002. The Press is at the cutting edge of Legal Publishing in Nigeria. It is a unit of the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies. It drives the Institute’s objective of excellence in research, scholarship, legal education and information dissemination in Nigeria.

NIALS Press with its state-of-the-art facilities, has a diverse publishing programme ranging from books, journals, monographs, conference proceedings and legal forms to precedents.

The Press offers quality production, excellent editing and proofreading by a faculty of distinguished Professors, Research Fellows and seasoned in-house editors and an unrivalled indexing of publications by technically trained Librarians. NIALS Press is a one-stop destination for all publishing services from typing and formatting of the manuscripts to the finished product. We can boldly say “ANY LAW TITLE NOT PUBLISHED BY NIALS PRESS IS NOT WORTH READING”.
INTRODUCTION

Section 5(9) of the 1999 Constitution as amended provides for Nigeria’s Foreign Policy. Therein, the objective includes the promotion of national interest, African integration and solidarity for African Unity, international cooperation, respect for International Law and treaty obligations, and promotion of a just world economic order. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the principal organ of government charged with the responsibility of promoting and protecting Nigeria’s national interest abroad. It is done through 97 diplomatic and consular missions around the world. Successive Administrations employed different approaches and methods in pursuit of Nigeria’s foreign policy objectives. Regrettably, Nigeria’s diplomacy and foreign policy strategies experienced more changes than continuity as a result of changes in leadership.

In order to bridge the gap in knowledge and international best practices and having resolved to bring contemporary problems in the public discourse and arrive at practical recommendations, the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies held a one day Roundtable on Revisiting the Thrust of Nigeria’s Foreign Policy. This roundtable was held on Tuesday 10th January, 2012, at the Supreme Court Complex, Old Court Room.

Perspectives of the Roundtable Include:

- Rebalancing the Role and Place of Nigeria’s Embassies
- Towards Revising and Reengaging Economic and Citizen Diplomacy in Nigeria’s Foreign Policy
- Globalization and Nigeria’s Foreign Policy: Imperatives for Paradigm Shift
- The place of Human Rights in Nigeria’s International Relations and Diplomacy
- Good Governance and Transparency as Vital Building Blocks of Nigeria’s Foreign Policy
- Climate Change and World Politics: The Nigerian Experience

OBSERVATIONS

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) since its establishment 70 years ago has undergone over 55 reforms (an average of one per every five years) in response to the demands of Nigeria’s national interest as well as the changing domestic and international environment.

2. There have been many reforms, processes and procedures within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that constantly review and replace reams in tandem with the ever-changing domestic and international environment.

3. From 1980 to 2011, about fifteen missions were closed down the financial recession and instability.

4. The most comprehensive and widely acclaimed White Paper of the MFA and its missions was done in April 2007. Regrettably, the proposed recommendations were never implemented.

5. The Nigerian vision 20:20:20 Framework which aimed at transforming Nigeria into one of the top twenty economies in the world by the year 2020 seems to address the challenges posed to the implementation of Nigeria’s foreign policy.

6. The Foreign Policy Components of the Vision recommended that our foreign policy and strategies should play a pivotal role in achieving, inter alia, the following:

   - Articulate a better image for Nigeria and impress the country’s relations within the global world by cultivating goodwill for Nigeria.
   - Build closer and better relations with the major powers.
   - Pursue acquisition and transfer of technology, the promotion of trade, investment and cultural relations as important oil refining and manufacturing sector.
   - Facilitates rapid and sustained economic growth and development;
   - Assure Nigeria to have a systematic equilibrium within the Nigerian policy and enable for peace and stability to reign and to maintain good governance.
   - Ensure that Nigeria’s leading role in Africa and the ECOWAS sub-region is maintained and unchallenged.
   - Use common territories elsewhere; and domesticate same for the national interest.

7. Academics and experts have argued that one can neither delineate nor change the functions of duties and roles of embassies in the respective and long-term importance of the Missions.

8. 65% of the Nigerian embassies are manned by non-career diplomats, such a situation compromises professionalism and enhances transparency and accountability in public expenditure particularly to the Mission.

9. Many career officials serve after 35 years of service as Directors and Deputy Directors without achieving their lifetime ambition of being appointed as Ambassadors of the Federal
Republic of Nigeria

10. The universality, invariability and interdependence of all human rights has been confirmed by the 1985 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted in 1985.

11. The doctrine of Human Rights as international practice, with its international law, global and regional institutions, in the politics of states and in the activities of non-governmental organizations, has been a cornerstone of public policy around the world.

12. The adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) over sixty years ago, has contributed greatly, not only to the development of human rights, but also to its promotion and protection. Three rights and freedoms, based on core principles like dignity, equality and non-discrimination, as well as a range of international and regional human rights treaties underpinning it, which Nigeria has ratified.

13. As a member of the United Nations, Nigeria established the National Human Rights Act, 1999 in line with the resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which requires all member states to establish Human Rights Institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights.

14. Since the end of military rule in Nigeria in 1999 and a return to a civilian government, Nigeria's human rights situation has improved and the sustainable observance of human rights has greatly enhanced Nigeria's international relations since 1999.

15. Nigeria played an active role in the recent review of the Human Rights Council and believes that the credibility of the council rests on the success of the universal peer review (UPR) mechanism.


17. In fulfillment of its pledge, Nigeria has in the last couple of years ratified a number of important human rights instruments in addition to several already ratified including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

18. The African Charter on Human and People's Rights, which provides for such general principles as universal, social, economic, cultural, environmental, development and people's right to self-determination, equality, freedom of association and other rights recognized under national and international law and overthrown in Nigeria, has, by the absence of any express guarantee or declaration by the Nigerian Constitution on the justicability of the ECOWAS rights, the African Charter as a domestic law.
hurribly suppress dissent, or the fact that his own party-centric notion of social justice, which is all about human rights violations, not international human rights discourse, is the main source of conflict in the Nigerian economy.

28. The plot against the nature of Nigerian Foreign Policy through ongoing peacekeeping missions does not promote our national interest.

29. There is no record of bilateral investment treaty in Nigeria.

30. Globalization has seemingly created an ideal world without borders in which communication is a means of cooperation and reciprocal relationship between public and private international actors.

31. Globalization means economic liberalization as a preferred policy for the economic transformation of the group of very poor developing nations of third world induced by free trade, the enhanced flow of capital and investments across international boundaries.

32. Nigeria's level of competitiveness is rather low in a so-called globalized world due to the following inherent weaknesses: overdependence on a single source of income, that is, oil which is non-renewable and accounts for 85 per cent of total federally generated revenue; skills insufficiency and potholing in the exploration of oil resources, lack of intellectual input in government, lack of science and technology between the oil sector and other sectors of the economy.

33. Nigeria's opportunities abroad in the Africa region, the West African region and within the world economy. It is undeniably the largest economy in the West Africa sub-region which constitutes an important single market ranging to be taken by Nigeria. It is the sixth largest producer of oil in the world and gas resource.

The round table after an extensive discussion of the subject matter made the following recommendations:

1. Given the realities of the global economic recession, it is imperative to revitalize and reform economic diplomacy in Nigeria's foreign policy. This is similarly consistent with Nigeria's vision 20:20:20 agenda which, in turn, underscores the rapidly reinforcing relationship between a viable, sustainable domestic economic base and a robust foreign policy.

2. Given that the promotion and protection of the national interest is central to Nigeria's foreign policy, hence, Nigeria's economic diplomacy must be anchored on definable that justify Nigeria's huge economic and material contributions to peace and security in foreign states that are underdeveloped crises.

3. Nigeria should, through the unsustainability of its foreign relations instruments, adjust foreign investments and consequently propel its economic agenda.

4. Nigeria should build the capacity of its diplomats in mobile firms to engage the opportunities and benefits of economic diplomacy.

5. There is need to review the culture of those who have obtained the rank of Foreign Officer. Grade 3 to automatically be confirmed with the rank of Ambassador-ree.

6. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs should develop cognitive and versatile standards, with transparent influencing and evaluation mechanism, for assessing the performance of its foreign missions and staff.

7. In furtherance of its economic diplomacy, the Nigerian government should, as a deliberate policy, ensure that the proposed private sector is one of the major pillars of its diplomatic and economic engagements.

8. Commensurate with the contents of crisis diplomacy, there is need for robust engagement with the international community with a view to reining the rights and interests of Nigerians, especially those in Diaspora, who require diplomatic and consular protection. For instance, Nigeria should ensure that the host country strictly comply with the requirement of Article 36 of the Vienna Convention or Consular Relations of 1961 to address the plight of Nigerian in conflict situations.

9. In order to leverage on the expertise and expertise of career diplomats, the current model merit selection is political patronage, which favours politicians-diplomats to the detriment of foreign service professionals should be revisited as a matter of utmost importance.

10. The recruitment into Foreign Service, given its global competitiveness, shall be holders of First Class Degree or Second Class Upper degree or Second Class Lower degree with Masters Degree in relevant discipline in addition to rigorous competitive entrance examination.

11. There is need to democratise the design and development of foreign policy, nothing which it would be based on capability and authenticity.

12. To guarantee concomitance in foreign policy, adequate and unencumbered funding of the Ministry is imperative. Consequently, constant and personal cases of missions should be appropriated and received at all times and in a year. The powers to correct and rule matters to ensure citizens should be vested at the Ministry which should be vested, held accountable for any lapses or failure to manage resources.

13. As a matter of priority, Government should move in acquiring properties for its missions and staff serving abroad. In the near trait, Government should own all missions and
resmlement of Heads of Mission, and shall be placed under separate facility managers for prudent, transparent and cost-effective management. Adequate funding should be provided to rehabilitate inter-governmental properties in Missions.

19. Officers serving in non-English speaking countries, where school fees are exorbitant, face serious challenges with regard to payments of children school fees. For this reason, children's education supplement, which was last reviewed about 30 years ago, should be reviewed upwards to reinstate the ban on house fees by officers.

20. As a matter of policy, officers serving abroad and their family members should be entitled to comprehensive health and life insurance coverage at Government expense taking into account the increasing complexity and danger inherent in diplomatic engagements abroad.

21. The international community should continue to ensure human rights are respected in the spirit of meaningful and constructive dialogue and cooperation, while strengthening the capacity of Member States and individuals without politicisation or selectivity.

22. In the face of global politics, what Nigeria must continue to evidence is a cautious Christian policy that will allow it to make necessary liaison and coordinated advances in its implementation of migration and adaptation strategies.

23. Active focus must also be given to related development, particularly in the area of formulation of adaptation strategies. The emphasis must not be general in nature, but must be linked to those critical areas that will ultimately define Nigeria's national interest.

24. There is need for consistency and coordination of policies both at the domestic and foreign levels for the attainment of optimal results in pursuit of Nigeria's foreign policy objectives.

25. Foreign policy component should avoid Nigeria to have a systematic equilibrium within the Nigerian policy and enable for peace and stability in the region and for sustained good governance.

26. We should ensure that Nigeria's leading role in Africa and the ECOWAS sub-region is maintained and safeguarded.

27. We should use Diplomacy to persuade Nigeria in the Diaspora to be part of Nation building efforts currently pursued and to espouse some of their scarce resources towards national and local goals of vision 2020-20.

28. Ensure Nigeria's participation in global trade and commerce, and compliance with international multilateral and bilateral obligations and treaties.

29. Support Nigeria's position as the Eastern Black Norway in the world and advance Nigeria's bilateral relations.

30. The 2007 reforms received wide support consequent upon the extensive consultation and constitution of the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but adequate funding is needed for effective implementation of these reforms.

31. It is widely recognised that a country's foreign policy positions need to be more credible when they reflect domestic policies and practices. Consider the promotion of democracy abroad by either the US or Britain? Which country's position would be credible? Consider efforts to eliminate poverty abroad by either Nigeria or Sierra Leone? Which country's position would be credible?

32. As such, it is a very important prerequisite for our achievement of optimal success in our human rights-related foreign policy is the institution of a significant more democratic rights-respecting and accountable society base in Nigeria. This is a key point that should not be lost on either our foreign or domestic policy makers and practitioners.

33. In the context of Nigeria's foreign policy, there is an urgent need to undertake a rethink of how it stands in relation to integrated international power centres, interests, institutions, regions and sub-regions pursuant to repositioning itself for the higher global competitiveness sustainable growth, sustainable development and sustainable human development.

34. There is need for Nigeria to be more constructively involved in the treaty making process and should be able to make reservations at the point of negotiations.

35. The opinions of lawmakers should be sought before the ratification by any treaty to ensure that such treaty conforms to the law of Nigeria.

36. There is need for the treaty division being the decision body of the Ministry of Justice to be taken along in treaty negotiations.

37. That the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should ensure that every foreign Minister or Nigerian delegation present, justify its existence.

38. There is a need to expedite action on the compilation and publication of resources that Nigeria has ratified post 1999.

39. Good governance can be used to ensure that foreign policy is formulated through a well-managed process by ensuring that there is adequate human resource capable enough to drive the process by way of employing qualified personnel to work in various sectors of the economy.

40. Good governance and transparency are important indicators of the fact that development of states are for the common good of its citizens. The common goal is a reflection of the states national interest.

Signed
Prof. Ephraim Akeso S.A.
Director General
18th January 2002
NIALS INTRODUCES SERVICE MEDAL

In his effort to encourage staff dedication and commitment to the work of the Institute, the Director-General of the Institute, Professor Ephraim Azinge, SAN has announced an Excellence Service Medal for staff of the Institute. The Director-General discussed the re-introduction of the Final-Off party held on the 4th of the Institute Librarian, Mr. Theophilus O. Dada at the University of Lagos-Chinua Achebe Hall recently.

Professor Azinge, SAN noted in his address that Chief Dada having served the Institute for thirty-one (31) years of unbroken service deserves every kind treatment the Institute has been able to render him as he retired from public service. He commended the dedication, commitment and selfless service of Chief Dada especially his humility which knew no limits. Chief Dada, he noted, will be missed by all since he was a working point for most staff of the Institute. He wished him best of luck in all his future endeavors.

While advising staff to emulate the good qualities of Chief Dada, whose excellence in service manifested him to us, Professor Azinge, SAN charged staff to work always to distinguish themselves in every assignment handled by us as a matter of priority, show commitment, dedication and motivation in carrying out their assigned responsibilities. He announced that henceforth, the Institute will present an excellence medal award for deserving staff that will not only distinguish themselves but also show exemplary qualities in the discharge of their responsibilities.

Other staff members, who spoke at the occasion, noted the hard work, discipline and transparency which Chief Dada carried out in the Institute. Of particular note was Chief Dada’s desire and quest for excellence and industry which he brought to bear on his immediate community, the Library. They all agreed that Chief Dada will be missed greatly but quickly wished him good luck, good health and God’s Blessing in his retirement.

Responding after collecting a certificate from the Director-General, Chief Dada assured all present that he will forever cherish his days at the Institute and especially the wonderful working relation he had with the present Director-General and other staff of the Institute. He urged staff, especially the Library staff to give his successor an office the same cooperation and support he got from them while in office.

The occasion was witnessed by all Management and staff of the Lagos office as well as family members and friends of Chief Dada.

PROFESSOR AZINGE ASSURES ON STAFF WELFARE

The Director-General, Prof Azinge-Ephraim Azinge, SAN intimated with Abuja NIALS staff on 7th of January 2019 at the Old Court Room.

The meeting commenced on a high note with the Director-General, Professor Ephraim Azinge, SAN welcoming all members of staff to the new academic year. He urged all members of staff to be diligent and dedicated to their duties regardless of the economic hardship and crisis in the country. He promised that full work will be reconvened. He mentioned some specific members of staff who stood out in their duties in the previous year and promised to further their education as soon as the Institute’s financial situation improves.

To overcome day to day challenges, the Director-General encouraged members of staff to go back to God. Accordingly, the importance of prayers was emphasized. Since a home or family built on prayers would always succeed, Prof Azinge encouraged all members of staff to pray and pray for themselves and the Institute. Christians were to meet on Mondays while Muslims meet Fridays.

In furtherance to and ensuring the sustenance of staff wellbeing, the last Thursday of every month was declared a day for all members of staff to work out at the Old Parade Ground so as to ensure their physical fitness at all times. This belief stemmed from the understanding that a healthy group of people will naturally lead to better productivity. The Director-General also informed staff that the activities for the academic year 2012 had been prepared in a booklet form which will be readily available in order to inform the public about the activities in the year. The Director-General notified staff of the successful take-off of the Madagali and Audu Zuma office and urged for the cooperation of all staff to work together towards achieving the dream of the Institute’s founding fathers.

As means of improving staff productivity, Professor Azinge announced management’s desire to lower criteria for training in the year. Nonetheless, attention will be focused on secretaries, marketers and researchers for the few training opportunities that will come by. For academics, the Director-General announced that even those yet to be confirmed who wish to go for further studies will be allowed to do so even though the Institute will not pay their fees but their salaries will run during the period. He informed that some Research Fellows were hired for further training outside the country even though without Institute’s sponsorship. All members of staff were encouraged to improve themselves academically. The study of a foreign language was encouraged especially the researchers. That will make the reality of the world being a global village real to NIALS because the staff will be able to deal with foreigners effectively.

To harmonize operations and further narrow the communication gap between Lagos and Abuja offices, the Director-General announced the installation of Video Conferencing equipment in the Old Court Room of the Supreme Court which will make it possible for the Institute to share through viewing of programmes taking place in either Abuja or Lagos offices.

The Director-General assured staff of Management’s concern for staff welfare which he noted will be given priority attention this year. The issue of end of year bonus, he said, will be looked into seriously in order to allay the hardship usually experienced at the end of the year.

Staff appreciated the meeting especially the insights into the activities and expectations of the New Year and promised to cooperate and discharge their determination for the overall success of the Institute. They promised to support the Director-General and Management in their effort to turn around the operations of the Institute and especially the fortunes of staff.
NIALS ALUMNI FORMED: Hosts Alumni Dinner

The Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies December 5th, 2011 took another giant step as the Alumni Association of the Institute was formally formed. The occasion which brought together former students of the Institute turned out to be the official formation of the Alumni of the Institute and launching of an appeal fund for the erection of a befitting secretariat for the conduct of activities of the Alumni at the Institute’s permanent site in Abuja.

Welcoming the alumni and guests to the epoch making occasion, the Director-General, Professor Epiphany Azinge, SAN traced the history of the Institute since its establishment as an apex legal research institute in Nigeria noting that as professionals in the legal industry, there was every need for graduates of the Institute to come together as an alumni. The Institute, he said, has grown from the certificate awarding institution to a postgraduate and master's degree awarding and most recently, the doctoral degree awarding institution in legislative drafting; the sole institution so allowed in the country. Of course, these transformations followed due processes in the Institute's enabling law, he concluded.

The Chairman of occasion, Honourable Justice George Adesola Oguntade in his remarks, paid growing tributes to the Institute particularly during the regime of Professor Azinge, SAN whose tenure has brought about serious innovations like the alumni association which was long overdue. He urged the alumni to be positive stakeholders of the Institute by supporting its activities and programmes from time to time.

The Special Guests of Honour, the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr Babatunde Fashola who was represented by the Honourable Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr Ade Ipaye, lent support to the formation of the Alumni Association and promised to support its good intentions financially and morally.

Also speaking at the event, the Speaker of the Lagos State House of Assembly, represented by Hon. Bolaji Ayinko Yusuf and his predecessor in office, Hon. Fumilayo Tejuosho both commended the achievements of the Institute and pledged personal support as well the support of the Lagos State House of Assembly to the activities of the Institute and the Alumni Association.

At the Dinner Lecture presented by Honourable A.A. Hakeem, a very strong case was made for good governance as the panacea for peace, progress and social-economic development of the country. According to the guest lecturer, the state of insecurity and other social ills in the country will only be solved if governments at various levels show commitment to good governance.

The Alumni members appreciated the opportunity of coming together and promised to coordinate themselves into a credible association in the very near future. The Association made case for the Institute to allocate it space at its permanent site in Abuja to build its secretariat. To kick start the process, a fund raiser was commenced which attracted reasonable collections on the day with many people pledging donations to the account of the Association.

The formation of the Alumni Association to many is the realisation by the Professor Azinge, SAN administration that no stone will be left unturned in transforming the Institute to realize its mandate of playing first class role as a research institution in Nigeria and the sub-Saharan Africa.

We at the Nials Newsletter congratulate the alumni association for its birth and wish it a speedy growth.

Guests at the dinner included Mr Gbenga Oyebode, SAN, Managing Partner of Aluko and Oyebode Law Firm, Principal Heads of the Institute, members of the Bar and Bench.