

2ND NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

Theme

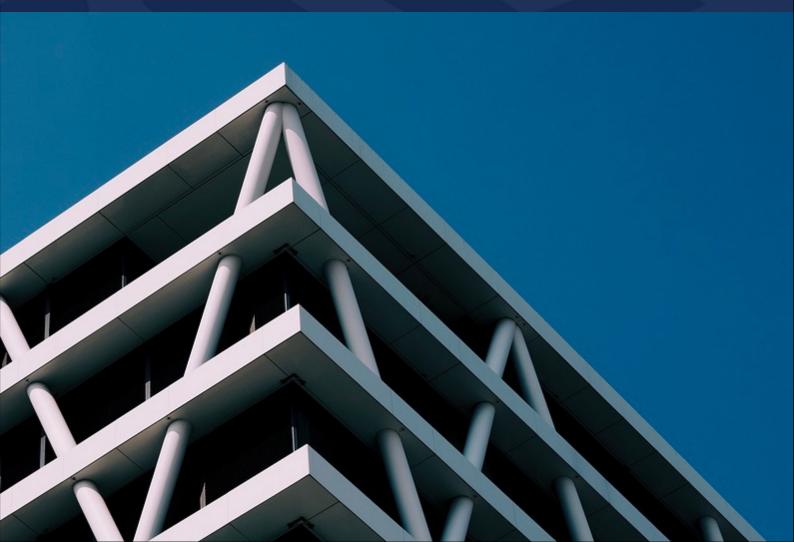
MAKING CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS WORK BETTER IN NIGERIA

Date Time Venue

MONDAY 24TH 6:00PM 5, SEAT OF WISDOM ROAD, NEAR ASABA MARCH, 2025 SPECIALIST HOSPITAL, ASABA, DELTA STATE.

TUESDAY 25TH 8:00AM THE SOUTHEND EVENT CENTRE, DBS

MARCH, 2025 ROAD, ASABA, DELTA STATE.



•	National Anthem & NBA Prayer	2
•	His Excellency Rt. Honourable (Elder) Sheriff Francis Orohwedor Oborevwori, Executive Governor, Delta State	3
•	Honourable Justice Kudirat Motonmori Olatokunbo Kekere-Ekun, GCON, Chief Justice of Nigeria	4
•	Honourable Justice Monica Bolna'an Dongban-Mensem, CFR, President Court of Appeal	5
٠	Lateef Olasukanmi Fagbemi, SAN, Hon. Attorney General of the Federation/Minister for Justice	6
•	His Excellency Sen. (Engr.) David Nweze Umahi, CON, Hon. Minister of Works (Conference Keynote Speaker)	7
•	Honourable Justice T.O. Diai, Chief Judge of Delta State	8
•	Honourable Justice Catherine N. Ojugbana- Orishedere, President, Delta State Customary Court of Appeal	9
٠	Ekeme Ohwovoriole, SAN, Hon. Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Delta State	10
•	Asagba (Prof.) Epiphany Chigbogwu Azinge, SAN, FINALS, Asagba of Asaba	11
•	Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN, President, Nigerian Bar Association (NBA)	12
•	Ozofu 'Latunde Ogiemudia, Chairman, NBA-Section on Business Law (NBA-SBL)	13
•	Andrew Osemedua Odum, SAN, Chairman, NBA-SBL Construction and Infrastructure Projects Committee	14
•	NBA-SBL Executive Committee Members	15
•	NBA-SBL Construction and Infrastructure Projects Committee Exco	16
•	Conference Planning Committee Members	17
•	Welcome Addresses	19
•	Our Sponsors	21
•	Conference at a Glance	22
٠	Plenary Session One	34
	Plenary Session Two	36
	Mentorship and Knowledge Sharing Session	38
	About the Nigerian Bar Association Section On Business Law	40

1/1

ď



NATIONAL ANTHEM

Nigeria, we hail thee,
Our own dear native land,
Though tribe and tongue may differ,
In brotherhood we stand
Nigerians all,
Are proud to serve our sovereign
Motherland.

Our flag shall be a symbol
That truth and justice reign,
In peace or battle honoured,
And this we count as gain,
To hand on to our children
A banner without stain.

O God of all creation,
Grant this our one request:
Help us to build a nation
Where no man is oppressed,
And so with peace and plenty
Nigeria may be blessed.

THE PLEDGE

I pledge to Nigeria, my country
To be faithful, loyal and honest
To serve Nigeria with all my strength
To defend her unity and uphold her honour
and glory
So help me, God.

THE NBA PRAYER

Almighty God our Creator, we pray you to be with us in all our deliberations and to direct our endeavours so that we shall continue in all humility to glorify thy name and do that which is right and just for our profession, its members, our fellow men and our country.

Amen



His Excellency Rt. Honourable (Elder)

Sheriff Francis Orohwedor Oborevwori
Executive Governor, Delta State



Honourable Justice
Kudirat Motonmori Olatokunbo
Kekere-Ekun, GCON

Chief Justice of Nigera



Monica Bolna'an Dongban-Mensem, CFR
President, Court of Appeal



Lateef Olasukanmi Fagbemi, SAN Hon. Attorney General of the Federation/ Minister for Justice



His Excellency Sen. (Engr.)

David Nweze Umahi, CON

Hon. Minister of Works

(Conference Keynote Speaker)



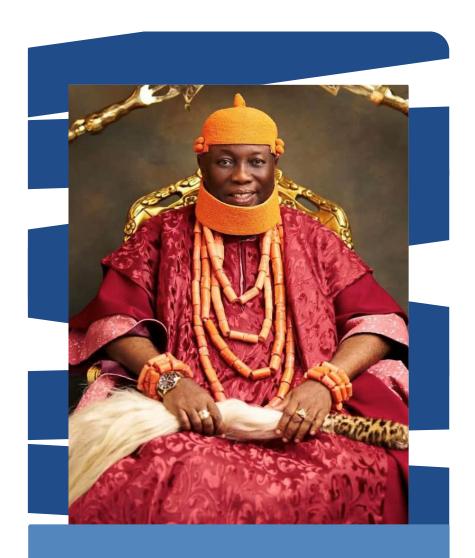


Honourable Justice

Catherine N. Ojugbana-Orishedere
President, Delta State Customary Court of Appeal

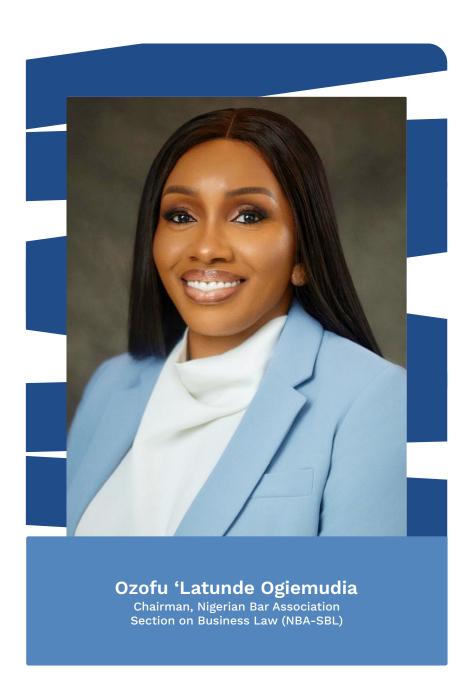


Ekeme Ohwovoriole, SANHon. Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Delta State



Asagba (Prof.) **Epiphany Chigbogwu Azinge, SAN, FNIALS**The Asagba of Asaba







Andrew Osemedua Odum, SAN Chairman, NBA-SBL Construction and Infrastructure Projects Committee

NBA-SBL Executive Committee Members



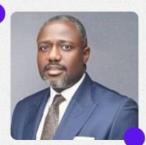
Ozofu 'Latunde Ogiemudia Chairman



Baba Alokolaro Vice Chairman



Ayoyinka Olajide-Awosedo Secretary



Adeleke Alex-Adedipe Treasurer



Rotimi Ogunyemi Asst. Secretary



Funmilayo Otsemobor Financial Secretary



Dr. Adeoye Adefulu Immediate Past Chair



Fatima Kere-Ahmed Member



Sola Dosunmu Member



Christine Sijuwade Member



Desmond Ogba Member



Seyi Bella Member



Nnaemeka Egonu Zonal Officer



Oluwatomilayo Oduyebo Zonal Officer, West



Wada Ahmed Wada Zonal Officer North



Perenami Momodu Member



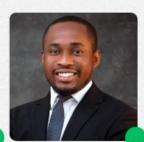
Kehinde Daodu Member



Ose Okpeku Member

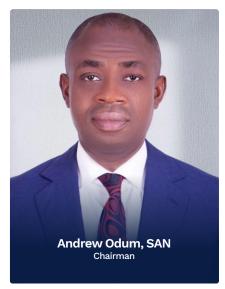


Edefe Ojomo Member



Mobolaji Oriola Member

NBA-SBL Construction Projects and Infrastructure Committee Exco









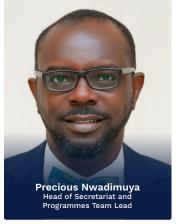








Conference Planning Committee Members (Sub-Committee Heads)











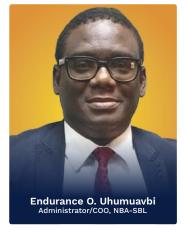








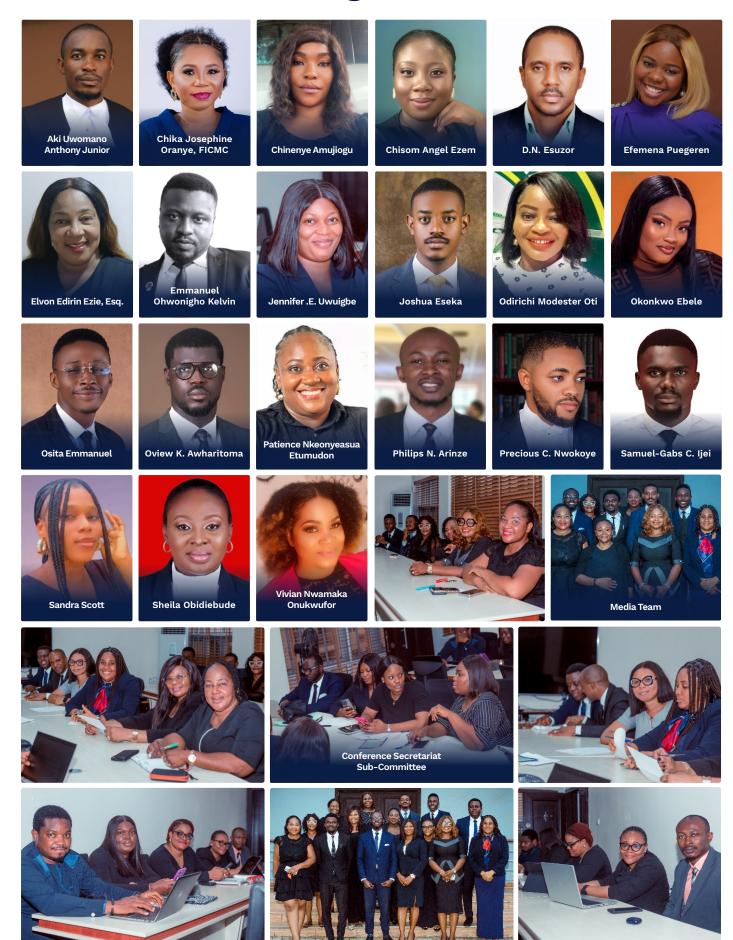








Conference Planning Committee Members





Opening Remarks by the Chairman of the Construction and Infrastructure Projects Committee Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law (NBA-SBL) at the 2nd National Conference on Construction and Infrastructure Projects

PROTOCOLS

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my honour and pleasure to warmly welcome you to the 2nd National Conference on Construction and Infrastructure Projects of the Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law (NBA-SBL), holding here in the vibrant and hospitable city of Asaba. We are indeed grateful to God for the privilege of convening once again to deliberate on matters critical to our nation's development.

The first edition of this conference was held in 2015 in the historic city of Calabar, under the chairmanship of Olumide Akpata, who later served as President of the Nigerian Bar Association. It is gratifying to see this vision sustained and expanded.

The theme of this year's conference, "Making Construction and Infrastructure Projects Work Better" is timely and relevant. The construction and infrastructure sector remains a cornerstone of national development, directly influencing industrial growth, economic stability, and societal progress. It is no coincidence that the sector is a significant contributor to Nigeria's Gross Capital Formation and Gross Domestic Product.

Notably, the sector contributed 11.79% to Nigeria's nominal GDP in the last quarter of 2024, an improvement from 10.16% in the fourth quarter of 2023. Projections suggest further growth of 2.8% in real terms, with an average annual increase of 3.1% between 2025 and 2027. Achieving this requires sustained government focus on infrastructure development, increased investment in housing, and strengthened external demand.

However, the sector continues to grapple with critical challenges from inadequate legislation and regulatory gaps, rising construction costs, shortage of skilled labour, poor quality of materials and services, recurring building collapses, funding delays, to weak supporting infrastructure. These challenges undermine the sector's potential and the nation's growth ambitions.

This conference is structured across three plenary sessions, each designed to interrogate these challenges and proffer practical solutions. We will examine the entire project lifecycle from conception to commissioning with a focus on eliminating building collapses and exploring strategies for building successful careers in the industry.

Our objective is clear: to facilitate dialogue, promote knowledge exchange, and develop actionable strategies that will make construction and infrastructure projects in Nigeria more efficient, cost-effective, and sustainable. This forum also serves as a platform to strengthen collaboration between the public and private sectors, contractors, consultants, and policymakers. Only through such partnerships can we build infrastructures that truly serve our people and stand the test of time.

I am delighted to announce that our keynote speaker today is the Honourable Minister of Works, Senator (Engr.) David Nweze Umahi, CON, FNSE, FNATE — a distinguished professional whose wealth of experience spans both the private and public sectors. We are honoured by your presence, sir, and look forward to your insights.

At this juncture, permit me to express our profound appreciation to the Government and people of Delta State for their warm hospitality and unwavering support towards the success of this conference. We are especially grateful to His Excellency, the Governor of Delta State; the Honourable Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice; the Honourable Commissioner for Works; and indeed, the entire Executive, Legislative, and Judiciary arms of the Delta State Government.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors, our esteemed speakers, the Local Organising Committee, the NBA Asaba Branch and neighbouring branches, and the Press. Your contributions, support, and collaboration have been instrumental in bringing this conference to life. We thank you all.

Permit me also to specially recognize the President of the Nigerian Bar Association, Mazi Afam Osuigwe, SAN. We commend your courage and principled stance on national issues, particularly your recent statement titled "State of Emergency in Rivers -Suspension or Removal of a Democratically Elected Governor and Other Elected Officials is Unconstitutional". Your leadership is inspiring, and we stand firmly with you and our colleagues in Rivers State during this challenging time.

As we gather in Asaba — a city symbolic of Nigeria's resilience and growth. I encourage us all to fully engage with the conference and also take time to experience the beauty and warmth that Asaba offers. Asaba Amaka.

Thank you all for your presence and participation. I look forward to a rewarding and impactful conference.

ANDREW OSEMEDUA ODUM, SAN

Chairman, NBA-SBL Construction and Infrastructure Projects Committee (2023-2025)



Opening Remarks Delivered By The Chairman Of The NBA-Section On Business Law At The Construction Projects Conference 2.0

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Learned Silks, Esteemed Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Members of the Press,

It is my honour and privilege to welcome you all to the second edition of the Construction Projects Conference organised by the Construction, Projects and Infrastructure Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association - Section on Business Law (NBA-SBL), under the distinguished chairmanship of our indefatigable Mr Andrew Odum, SAN.

This conference with the theme, "Making Construction and Infrastructure Projects Work Better," comes at a critical time for Nigeria's construction and infrastructure sectors. As a nation, Nigeria's infrastructure is pivotal to our continued economic growth and development. From roads, railways, housing, public utility, and bridges to energy and telecommunications, the quality of our infrastructure directly impacts everything from industrial growth to the quality of life for the citizens. There is, therefore, a pressing need to address our infrastructure challenges as a nation.

This conference is more than just an opportunity to learn; it is an opportunity to collaborate and work towards the common goal of improving the construction industry and our infrastructure.

Legal practitioners, project managers, architects, engineers, and other stakeholders in the construction industry must collaborate to identify solutions that will ensure the successful completion of projects and the achievement of national development goals. Over the course of one and a half days, we have the opportunity and the responsibility to confront these issues head-on. Together, we must reflect on critical questions such as:

- How can we reduce the risks inherent in construction projects in Nigeria?
- What role should the law play in ensuring greater accountability and transparency?
- How can we unlock both local and international investments to make these projects sustainable and commercially viable in the long term?

We must answer these questions because, as legal professionals, our role extends beyond interpreting the law. We must shape the legal and regulatory frameworks that will make our attractive, bankable, executable, and impactful. As stakeholders, we owe it to ourselves and to future generations to get it right.

The NBA-SBL is proud to host this event, which brings together several professionals who will share insights, practical experiences, and effective strategies for addressing the challenges in executing construction and infrastructure projects in Nigeria. I sincerely commend the NBA-SBL Construction Projects and Infrastructure Committee, ably led by Mr. Andrew Odum, SAN, along with his dedicated team and the Local Organising Committee. You have set the stage for meaningful conversations, fresh perspectives, and, most importantly, practical outcomes.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the NBA-SBL, and the executive members of the Construction Projects and Infrastructure Committee, I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to our distinguished speakers and facilitators who have graciously agreed to share their expertise with us today. Your contributions will be key to the success of this conference. I also extend my appreciation to all the participants for taking the time to join us, and I encourage you to actively engage in discussions, ask questions, contribute to the dialogue, and network with our distinguished speakers.

Once again, welcome to the second edition of the Construction Projects Conference. I look forward to an engaging and impactful conference.

Thank you.

OZOFU 'LATUNDE OGIEMUDIA CHAIRMAN, NBA-SBL

Our Sponsors







Platinum Sponsors



Legal Practitioners and Consultants
Arbitrators, Chartered Mediators and Conciliators



Silver Sponsors







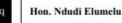












Bronze Sponsors

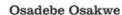




Dr. Hilary Ibegbulem



Supporters





























































Velcome Cochail

24th March, 2025

6:00pm

5, Seat of Wisdom Road, Near Asaba Specialist Hospital, Asaba, Delta State.



Activity/Topic	Responsibility	Time
OPENIN	G CEREMONY	
	MC/Compere:	
	Sammy Fejokwu Dr. Rapulu Nduka	
Arrival/Red carpet/Networking		8.00am- 8.30am
Recognition of Guests		8.45am – 9.00am
Opening Prayer/National Anthem		9.00am - 9.05am
Welcome Remarks by Chairman, NBA-SBL Construction and Infrastructure Projects Committee	Andrew O. Odum, SAN	9.05am – 9.10am
		9.10am – 9.15am
Welcome Address by the Chairman, NBA-SBL Opening Remarks by the Chairman of the Ceremony	Ozofu 'Latunde Ogiemudia Hon. Justice Adamu Jauro, JSC	9.15am – 9.20am
permit remaine by the chairman of the coremony	Hon. businee Adama badro, 650	3.13am 3.20am
GOODWI	LL MESSAGES	
Hon. Justice Kudirat M. O. Kekere-Ekun, Chief Justice of N	ligeria,	9.15am - 9.30am
Asagba (Prof.) Epiphany Chigbogwu Azing, The Asagba of A		
Mazi Afam Osigwe, SAN, President of Nigerian Bar Associat	tion	
Hon. Justice Theresa .O. Diai, Chief Judge of Delta State		
Virginie Colaiuta, Co-Chair of International Construction P Association	rojects Committee of the International Bar	
Association Shehu Mohammed, President, Association of Senior Civil S	Servants of Nigeria	
Lateef Olasukanmi Fagbemi, Hon. Attorney General of the		
KEYNO	TE ADDRESS	
Topic: MAKING CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS WORK BETTER IN NIGERIA	His Excellency Sen. Engr. David Nweze Umahi, Minister of Works	9.30am - 10.00am
Opening Address by His Excellency, the Governor of Delta State. National Anthem	Rt. Honourable (Elder) Sheriff Francis Orohwedor Oborevwori	10.00am -10.30am
Photo Session and Departure of Special Guests		10.30am – 10.50am
Housekeeping & Announcements		
NETWORKING BRUNCH		10.50am -11.45am
PLENARY	SESSION ONE	
	Coordinators:	
MAKING CONSTRUCTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	Precious Nwadimuya	11.55am- 1.55pm
PROJECTS WORK BETTER IN NIGERIA: FROM PROJECT CONCEPTION TO COMMISSIONING	Dr. Egondu Ikeatu	
<u>Outline</u>		
a. Making Construction and Infrastructure Projects Work Better: The Role of Lawyers from Project Conception to Commissioning	a. Engr. Olanrewaju Adeleke, FNSE	
o. Construction and Infrastructure Development in Nigeria: Opportunities and Challenges	b. Engr. Margaret Aina Oguntala, FNSE, FNSChE	
c. Project Procurement and Infrastructure Financing in Nigeria	c. Dr. Adebowale Adedokun	
d. The Nigerian Real Estate Sector and Affordable Housing in the Current Economy: Mission Impossible?	d. Dr. Augustine Onwumere	
e. Strengthening Construction Law and Policy to Support Infrastructure Development	e. Uche Wigwe	
Q & A Session	Moderators:	
	Olayode Delano, SAN	
	Denen Ikya	

Activity/Topic Responsibility Time **PLENARY SESSION TWO** Coordinators: MITIGATING THE MENACE OF BUILDING AND Yetunde Olasope 2.00pm- 3.30pm **INFRASTRUCTURE COLLAPSE IN NIGERIA** John Aroture a. Causes and Effects of Building Collapse in Nigeria. a. Bld. Samson Opaluwah b. Sulaiman Yusuf b. Current Efforts by Regulatory Bodies, Professional Bodies, Pressure Groups (BCPG) to Curb the Menace. c. From Prevention to Punishment: Solutions to the c. Dr. Ifeanyi Chukwunonso Okeke Problem of Building and Infrastructure Collapse in Nigeria. d. Anti-corruption Measures and Infrastructure Projects: d. Olanikpekun Olukoyede the Nigerian Experience e. Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN Q & A Session Moderator: Emmanuel Dike

MENTORING AND KNOWLEDGE SHARING SESSION: A MASTERCLASS FROM INDUSTRY EXPERTS

	Coordinators:	
	Augustine Eseagwu	3.30pm – 5:30pm
<u>Outline</u>	Elvon Ezie	
a. My Secret of Success in Commercial Law	a. George Etomi	
b. Winning in Law: My Personal Experience	b. Augustine Alegeh, SAN, CON	
c. Beyond the Courtroom: Business Strategies for Success	c. Dr. Gabriel Ogbechie	
d. Scaling the Legal Ladder: Proven Paths to Success in the Profession	d. Olumide Akpata	
e. Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Succeeding against all Odds	e. Ozofu 'Latunde Ogiemudia	
f. Charting your Career Course: Navigating Life, Priorities, and Professional Growth as a Young Lawyer	f. Tobenna Erojikwe	
Q & A Session	Moderator:	
	Chief Emeka Obegolu, SAN	

COMMUNIQUÉ					
Housekeeping and Announcements			5.30pm – 6:30pm		
CLOSING PARTY			6:30PM		



Closing Party

Tuesday 25th March, 2025

6:30pm

The Southend Event Centre, Asaba, Delta State.



Keynote Speaker's Profile

Early Life and Family

Senator (Engr.) Chief David Nweze Umahi was born on July 25, 1963, into the humble family of Late Elder and Deaconess Joseph Umahi Nweze in Umunaga Uburu, Ohaozara Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, Nigeria. He is the sixth of seven sons, all of whom have excelled in their respective fields. Despite his modest background, Umahi displayed remarkable determination and resilience, which shaped his journey to success. He is married to Chief (Mrs.) Rachel Ogonna Umahi, and together they are blessed with seven children—three sons and four daughters.

Education

David Umahi's educational journey began at Umunaga Primary School, Uburu, from 1971 to 1977, where he earned his First School Leaving Certificate. He pursued his secondary education at Ishiagu High School and later transferred to Government Secondary School, Afikpo, where he excelled, particularly in Mathematics, Additional Mathematics, and Chemistry.

Driven by a passion for engineering, Umahi gained admission to Anambra State University of Science and Technology, where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering (1982-1987). While at the university, he was elected Senator for the Engineering Faculty in the Students' Union Government, demonstrating early leadership qualities. Following his graduation, he completed his National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) at SAIPEM SPA in Benin City, Edo State, where he played a pivotal role in a 2.8 billion gas pipeline project.

Professional Career

After completing his NYSC, Engr. Umahi embarked on a career in engineering. He worked with SCC Nigeria Ltd, an Israeli-owned water engineering company, rising to the position of Project Engineer. His expertise was evident in projects such as the Umuahia Water Project and the Ndiegoro Aba Flood Control Measures.

Between 1990 and 1993, Umahi became General Manager and Shareholder in Norman Engineering and Construction Ltd, which he co-founded. Later, he established Brass Engineering Company Ltd, where he specialized in road construction and civil works. His entrepreneurial acumen led him to found Focus Investment Ltd and Osborne La Palm Royal Resort Ltd, achieving a 5 billion annual turnover before transitioning into politics in 2011.

Political Career

Although he had long supported politicians behind the scenes, Umahi officially entered politics in 2007 when he was appointed Caretaker Chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Ebonyi State. He later won the substantive position in 2008, serving until 2011. His tenure saw the consovernor Martin Elechi. His dedication and hard work earned him recognition as one of the most loyal, competent, and visionary deputies. Despite political challenges, he won the 2015 gubernatorial elections and was sworn in as Governor of Ebonyi State on May 29, 2015. He made history as the first Deputy Governor in Nigeria to successfully transition to Governor despite opposition from political establishments.

Re-elected in 2019, Umahi completed his second term as Governor in 2023. In February 2023, he was elected Senator for Ebonyi South Senatorial District and sworn into the 10th National Assembly in June 2023, where he was elected Deputy Majority Leader. His tenure in the Senate was brief, as

he was appointed Minister of Works by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in August 2023.

Major Achievements as Governor (2015-2023)

Infrastructure Development

- Constructed Nigeria's biggest four-way light tunnel (2016).
- Built over 1,500 km of state roads and 14 flyovers.
- Established Ebonyi State International Airport.
- Developed the Margaret Umahi International Market and Ebonyi State Shopping Mall.
- Introduced the concrete road pavement model, ensuring durability for 50 years.

Economic Growth and Agriculture

- Made Ebonyi one of Nigeria's top three rice-producing states.
- Established a fertilizer blending plant and a waste-to-wealth recycling plant.
- Introduced the One-Man-One-Hectare policy to boost mechanized farming.

Education and Health Reforms

- Constructed the David Umahi Federal University of Health Sciences, a top-tier medical institution.
- Improved Ebonyi's WAEC ranking, placing it among Nigeria's top 10 performing states.
- Built the largest School of Nursing and Midwifery in the South East.
- Established a 400-bed hospital complex at Dr. Alex Ekwueme University Teaching Hospital.

Job Creation and Empowerment

- Created over 7,000 direct jobs across various industries.
- Launched numerous empowerment programs for youth, widows, women, and clergymen.
- Provided over 4,000 widows with financial grants and business support.

Awards and Recognitions

Senator Umahi has received numerous accolades for his leadership, including:

- Zik Prize for Exemplary Leadership (2017)
- Best Performing Governor in Infrastructure (2018)
- The Sun Man of the Year (2021)
- Human Rights Award for Education and Infrastructure (2019)
- Business Day Governor of the Year Award (2019)
- Daily Champion Man of the Year (2020)

Membership and Public Engagements

- Fellow, Nigerian Society of Engineers (FNSE)
- Member, Council of Registered Engineers of Nigeria (COREN)
- Fellow, Nigeria Association of Technologists in Engineering (FNATE)
- Delivered impactful lectures on economic sustainability, zero-oil economy, and infrastructure development.

Senator (Engr.) Chief David Nweze Umahi is a visionary leader, infrastructure expert, and accomplished engineer. His transformation of Ebonyi State, particularly in infrastructure, economic empowerment, and governance, has earned him national and international recognition. As Minister of Works, he continues to contribute to Nigeria's development and infrastructure growth at the federal level.

"David Umahi is currently making significant contributions to Nigeria's infrastructural development as the Minister of Works, a position he assumed on August 21, 2023"

Panelists' and Moderators'



Engr. Olanrewaju Adeleke is a renowned Civil Engineer, entrepreneur, and philanthropist with a strong track record in construction, infrastructure financing, and community development. A graduate of the Federal University of Technology, Akure, he pioneered the Alternative Project Funding Approach (APFA), enabling timely project execution across multiple Nigerian states. As the founder of Peculiar Consult and Peculiar Ultimate Concerns Ltd, he has led numerous landmark engineering projects, including sports infrastructure renovations for national events. Passionate about education and youth development, he established Lanreleke Sports Academy, offering full scholarships and nurturing young talents. A COREN-registered engineer and Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, he is also deeply involved in corporate social responsibility, investing over N2 billion in community projects. Engr. Adeleke is a devout Christian, a sought-after speaker, and a dedicated family man.



Engr. Margaret Aina Oguntala is the 34th and first female President of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), marking a historic milestone in the organization's 66-year history. A Chemical Engineering graduate from the University of Benin, she is a Fellow of multiple engineering institutions, including NSE, NSChE, NIEE, and NiSafetyE. With over 29 years of active service in the NSE, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership, earning over 57 awards and presenting more than 35 technical papers. She is the MD/CEO of Bamsat Nigeria Limited, specializing in environmental consultancy, oil and gas, and safety, and also serves as the Group Executive Director of Kenol Nigeria Limited. Known for her diligence, excellence, and mentorship, Engr. Oguntala is dedicated to advancing engineering in Nigeria through growth, empowerment, and innovation.



Dr. Adebowale Abraham Adedokun, PhD, MCIPS (UK), CMILT, ACFE, is a distinguished procurement expert and public sector reformer, currently serving as the Director-General of the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP). Born in Jos, Plateau State, and hailing from Ogbomosho-North, Oyo State, he holds multiple advanced degrees, including a Ph.D. in Procurement and Supply Chain Management, alongside credentials from top institutions in Nigeria and the UK. A pioneer staff member of BPP, he has played a crucial role in shaping Nigeria's procurement landscape, facilitating over 650 billion in savings, training thousands of procurement officers, and collaborating with international bodies like the World Bank and USAID. Recognised globally for his expertise, he is Nigeria's sole representative on the International Research Study on Public Procurement. As Director-General, Dr. Adedokun is committed to driving transparency, innovation, and inclusivity in public procurement, aligning with Nigeria's Renewed Hope Agenda to enhance governance and economic growth.



Dr. Augustine Onwumere is a visionary entrepreneur and serial investor, renowned for transforming Nigeria's real estate landscape through innovative network marketing. Co-founding the Property World African Network (PWAN Group) with his wife, Dr. Jayne Onwumere, he grew the company from a modest 25,000 investment into a real estate powerhouse with over 70 subsidiaries and operations in Nigeria, the USA, and Ghana. With a background in Biochemistry from the University of Lagos and early business exposure from his father's enterprise, he has successfully expanded his interests across multiple sectors, including property development, ICT, tourism, and agriculture. His PWAN Business Owners (PBO) initiative has empowered thousands through free training and wealth creation opportunities, earning him the title "Mr. Empowerment." A strong advocate for social impact, Dr. Onwumere's contributions have been recognized by prominent leaders, solidifying his reputation as a transformational leader in entrepreneurship and economic development.



Mr. Wigwe is a seasoned legal professional with over 20 years of experience, specializing in Energy & Natural Resources, Real Estate, Capital Markets, Construction & Infrastructure, Insolvency, and Corporate Finance/Private Equity. He began his career in banking before transitioning to law, earning degrees from the University of Ibadan and the University of Dundee. After gaining expertise at ALP-Aluko & Oyebode, he co-founded Akanbi & Wigwe Legal Practitioners in 2008, later establishing Wigwe & Partners in 2018, now a leading firm in legal advocacy and advisory services. He is a member of the NBA, IBA, BRIPAN, and AIEN, and serves on the boards of Coronation Capital Limited, Trium Networks Limited, and Eko Development Company Limited.

Panelists' and Moderators'



Olayode Delano (SAN) is a distinguished legal practitioner and Partner at Akindelano Legal Practitioners (ALP), where he leads the corporate and commercial transactions practice. A top graduate of University College London in 1989, he was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1990 and gained extensive experience at Strachan Partners and George Etomi & Co. before joining ALP. With expertise in mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, and corporate finance, he is a member of the Capital Market Solicitors Association of Nigeria, IPFA, IBA, and the Institute of Directors, Nigeria. He also holds an MBA with a specialization in Finance.



Denen Ikya is a seasoned legal practitioner with over two decades of experience, specializing in corporate governance, dispute resolution, construction and infrastructure law, mergers and acquisitions, and commercial transactions. A skilled negotiator and dealmaker, he holds degrees and certifications from the University of Abuja, the College of Law of England & Wales, Nexford University, and Harvard, among others. He is a Notary Public of the Supreme Court of Nigeria and a member of several prestigious legal and industry bodies, including the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), International Bar Association (IBA), and Institute of Construction Industry Arbitrators. He has served in various leadership roles, including Chairman of the Commercial and Business Law Committee of the NBA Abuja Branch and Member of the Ethics Committee of the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA). His extensive legal advisory work includes multimillion-dollar infrastructure projects, telecommunications deals, and public-private partnerships across Nigeria and the ECOWAS region. Currently, he is a Partner at Crest-Hill Law Office.



Dr. Samson Ameh Opaluwah is a distinguished Builder, Civil Engineer, and Arbitrator with 48 years of experience in Nigeria's public and private sectors. He currently chairs the Council of Registered Builders of Nigeria (CORBON) and the Sector Skills Council for Building in Nigeria, among other leadership roles. A Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Engineering and member of the Board of Trustees of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), he has served as a Director in the Presidency and six Federal Ministries, leading key initiatives in public procurement, infrastructure development, and policy formulation. His contributions to the construction industry earned him the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2023 Africa Housing Awards. An expert in Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), he has influenced national procurement standards and facility management strategies. A prolific author of 17 books, he is also a First-Class alumnus of Ahmadu Bello University and an alumnus of the International Law Institute (ILI), Washington DC. Through CORBON, he is actively working to enhance building professionals' capacity and prevent building collapses in Nigeria.



Tpl. Sulaimon Alabi Yusuf, President of Building Collapse Prevention Guild (BCPG), is a professional town planner with over forty years' experience in urban and regional planning. Born in Lagos Island, he possesses a Professional Diploma in Town and Regional Planning from The Polytechnic, Ibadan; a Diploma in Financial Management from the University of Ibadan; and a Certificate in Risk Sensitive Land Use Planning from the World Bank Institute. He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Institute of Town Planners (FNITP) and of the Certified Institute of Management and has held various positions in the Lagos State Civil Service, culminating in the position of Director and General Manager in the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development and in the Lagos State Urban Renewal Authority. Afterward, he became a Special Adviser to Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola on Project Implementation and Monitoring. A well-respected professional, he attended numerous international seminars and trainings on urban planning and regeneration. For now, he is the Managing Partner at Unity Planning Associates. His hobbies include reading, table tennis, and long-distance running.



Dr. Ifeanyi Chukwunonso Okeke is the Director-General and Chief Executive Officer of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), implementing the Act establishing SON to develop, promote, and enforce quality standards of products, processes, and services in Nigeria. He ensures industries comply with international best practices for consumer safety, industrial growth, and competitiveness in the economy. His responsibilities entail advising the SON Council on policy matters, overseeing regulatory enforcement and representing Nigeria internationally in standardization efforts. To align with President Bola Tinubu's economic agenda, Dr Okeke's leadership aims at strengthening regulatory frameworks, boosting industrial innovation, reducing sub-standard products, and applying technology for efficiency. Under Dr. Okeke's stewardship, SON hopes to position Nigerian industries for global competitiveness and view itself as a leading standardization body in Africa.

Panelists' and Moderators'



Olanipekun Olukoyede, confirmed on 18 October 2023 as the fifth Executive Chairman of EFCC by the Nigeria Senate, is a lawyer and Certified Fraud Examiner. Formerly, he worked as Acting Chairman Mr. Ibrahim Magu's Chief of Staff as well as Secretary at the Commission. With specialization in compliance control, corporate intelligence, and fraud control, Olukoyede has a lot of experience with fraud investigation and civil litigation. Olukoyede has counseled on anti-corruption, corporate governance, as well as financial crime control. An alumnus, he has served on several national as well as international committees, including the Federal Government Technical Committee on the NFIU. Having been a voracious scholar, his published works include fraud risk control as well as financial crimes. Born on 14 October 1969, Ikere-Ekiti, Ekiti State, he is a fellow of a number of professional bodies, including the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners as well as the Nigerian Bar Association.



Dr. Musa Adamu Aliyu, SAN, is the ICPC Chairman named by President Bola Ahmed Tinubu on 13th December 2023. He is a seasoned legal practitioner who was awarded the Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) rank in October 2023. Dr. Aliyu possesses a Ph.D. in Law from Universiti Utara Malaysia, an LL.M from Ahmadu Bello University, and an LLB in Common and Islamic Laws from Bayero University. His professional experience includes Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice, Jigawa State, senior private practitioner, and NYSC legal officer. With vast experience in law and governance, he has contributed immensely to the Nigerian law system.



Emmanuel Dike, LLM, BL, FICIArb, FCIArb(UK), FCAb, Senior Partner in premier Nigerian law firm Jasmine Advocates, practices construction law and arbitration, and is the Chairman, Society of Construction Law Nigeria and Secretary-General, Institute of Construction Industry Arbitrators. He received the 2021 Who's Who Legal National Leader award for construction and arbitration for his dispute resolution capabilities. With experience in advising multinationals, governments, and construction companies on a broad array of issues, he specializes in FIDIC, NEC, and JCT contracts and has resolved many domestic and international disputes. Emmanuel is a seasoned arbitrator who has arbitrated under UNCITRAL, ICC, LCIA, and RCICAL rules and has served as General Counsel at the Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration, Lagos. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Construction Industry Arbitrators, Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK), and Nigerian Institute of Chartered Arbitrators.



George Etomi, FNIALS, NPOM, is George Etomi & Partners' Principal Partner and a leading transaction lawyer with broad experience in commercial law, arbitration, banking, energy, and project finance. He has advised multinational corporations and government ministries, and his seminal work facilitated Nigeria's privatization of the power sector. A Life Bencher and a past Chairman of the NBA Section on Business Law, he is chairman of NGX's Claims Review Panel and Ghana's largest indigenous oil and gas corporation. The recipient of the National Productivity Order of Merit Award in 2014, he is also a trustee at the NBA and has a legal research center that bears his name



Augustine Alegeh, SAN, CON, is a senior lawyer with several decades of litigation and arbitration practice. He read law at the University of Benin in 1985 and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1986, winning the Bola Ajibola Prize for Civil Procedure. He founded Alegeh & Co. in 1990, expanding to Lagos and Abuja, and was made Senior Advocate of Nigeria in 2007. He was the 27th President of the Nigerian Bar Association (2014–2016) and led partnerships, reforms, and development initiatives. A Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK), he has advised multinationals, governments, and regulators, guiding public-private partnerships and infrastructure.

Panelists' and Moderators' Profile



Dr. Gabriel Ogbechie, OON, is the Group MD of Rainoil Limited, a foremost oil and gas company in Nigeria. He holds a degree in Production Engineering from the University of Benin and an Honorary Doctorate in Technology Management from Novena University, and he is also an alumnus of the Lagos Business School and Harvard Business School. Through more than three decades of industry experience, he has grown Rainoil from a small enterprise in 1997 into a fully integrated downstream business with major depots, more than 200 retail outlets, and LPG plants, employing over 2,000 staff. Dr. Ogbechie is a leader in various fields as Chairman and Director in Globus Bank, Eterna Plc, and Norsworthy Agro-Allied Industries. His foundations are engaged in education, healthcare, and community development. He is a fitness enthusiast and an avid lawn tennis player. He is married to Godrey Ogbechie and has three children.



Olumide Akpata was the Labour Party's Edo State Governorship Candidate and former President of the Nigerian Bar Association. A seasoned corporate lawyer, he was a Senior Partner in Templars, leading it to become a preeminent full-service law firm. With more than three decades of experience, he has guided premier transactions in Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa and is recognized by IFLR 1000, Chambers and Partners, and Legal 500. As a founder and former Chairman of the NBA Section on Business Law (NBA-SBL), Olumide played key roles in leading legal and regulatory reforms that strengthened the business environment in Nigeria. As NBA President (2020–2022), he initiated programs that increased the league's impact on democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

He has also sat on important legal organs, including the National Judicial Council and the International Bar Association. A thought leader and board member of several organizations, he belongs to the Nigeria Economic Summit Group and the UN Nigerian Humanitarian Fund. He enjoys traveling, reading biographies, and spending time with his family. A Christian by faith, he has been a member of the Redeemed Christian Church of God for over 20 years.



Ozofu 'Latunde Ogiemudia is a deputy managing partner at Udo Udoma & Belo-Osagie and handles employment, corporate advisory, private equity, and mergers & acquisitions. She is well reputed for her expertise in corporate restructuring and regulatory compliance. She led pro bono projects, winning awards such as the TrustLaw Collaboration Award (2018) and the Lex Mundi Pro Bono Foundation Award for Africa (2020, 2022). Ozofu is Chairperson of NBA-SBL and was Vice Chairperson from 2023 to 2024. She helped draft the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020 and engaged in legislative and economic policy reform with NASSBER and the Nigerian Economic Summit. She is renowned for her legal expertise, ranked in IFLR1000 Women Leaders from 2018, and is endorsed by Who's Who Legal, IFLR1000, and Legal 500 EMEA.



Tobenna is head of The Law Crest LLP (TLC)'s Finance, Energy & Major Projects Practice Team and is qualified to practice in Nigeria and as a solicitor in England & Wales. He obtained an LLB from the University of Nigeria and an LLM in corporate finance law from the University of Westminster and has significant experience in project finance, infrastructure development, and public-private partnerships. He spent eight years in the UK public sector advising on major projects, including the £4 billion Brent Cross Cricklewood regeneration. In Nigeria, Tobenna advised on prominent JV and PPP transactions in real estate, energy, resources, and healthcare. He headed large oil and gas financings, mergers, and debt restructurings, such as a \$600 million transaction for OML 65. Ranked in legal directories, he was instrumental in TLC's IFLR 1000 'Restructuring Deal of the Year 2020' award.



Dr. Emeka J. P. Obegolu, SAN, is a distinguished legal practitioner, arbitrator, and mediator, serving as the Senior and Founding Partner of Greenfield Chambers. A graduate of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, he holds advanced degrees in Mineral Law and Arbitration from prestigious institutions, including the University of Dundee, Scotland. A Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (UK) and the Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators (ICMC), he has acted as an Arbitrator and Mediator in various high-profile disputes. With a strong presence in legal and ADR institutions, he has held leadership roles in the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU), Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), and the Nigerian Chambers of Commerce Dispute Resolution Centre (NCCDRC). Currently, he serves as the President of the Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) and sits on multiple governing councils. A respected speaker and trainer, he is also a Knight of the Catholic Church and holds the traditional title of Akajiugo Anaocha.

Panelists' and Moderators' Profile



Jimoh Oladapo Sulahiman is a Deputy Director and Head, Project Tracking Division, in the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC). A Certified Corruption Risk Assessor, he oversees the ICPC's Project Tracking Initiative, which promotes good governance, transparency, and accountability in government spending. His activities have ensured value for money in public projects, returned contractors to sites, and recovered billions of Naira from problematic contracts. He also prevents corruption through risk assessments in areas such as education, health, aviation, and e-government. In addition, he collaborates with civil society under the ICPC's National Anti-Corruption Coalition to improve advocacy. Jimoh holds a Master's in Public Administration and a Bachelor's in English.



Olawunmi Nwano is a seasoned legal practitioner with nearly two decades of experience in litigation and commercial law. A 2004 LL.B graduate from Lagos State University and an LL.M holder from the University of Benin in 2015, she has a special interest in International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law. Called to the Nigerian Bar in 2005, she started out at the Rivers State Ministry of Justice and progressed to become Coordinating Partner at Alegeh & Co. in 2019. A Notary Public since 2016, she specializes in commercial, international, labour, and family law, providing legal solutions for businesses and families. Olawunmi, a member of the Nigerian and International Bar Association, is a dedicated activist, writer, and networker who seeks professional excellence.



Engr. Prof. Sony Emeka Ali is a distinguished Civil Engineer, Project Manager, and Professor at Highstone Global University, Texas, USA, with extensive expertise in engineering leadership, project management, and environmental sustainability. He holds multiple leadership positions, including Deputy National Chairman of the Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineers (NICE) and Secretary General of the Association of Professional Bodies of Nigeria (APBN). As MD/CEO of multiple firms, he has successfully managed over 115 infrastructure projects and authored over 110 technical papers. A recipient of over 100 awards, he is a Fellow of 20 prestigious professional associations and an advocate for circular economy, infrastructure safety, and alternative energy. He is also a dedicated safety professional, industry advisor, and trustee of Pacesetters Christian Assembly. Engr. Prof. Ali is married to Dr. Ngozi E. Ali, with three accomplished children.



PLENARY SESSION ONE

11.55am- 1.55pm

Making Construction and Infrastructure Projects Work Better in Nigeria: From Project Conception to Commissioning



OUTLINE

- a. Making Construction and Infrastructure Projects Work Better: The Role of Lawyers from **Project Conception** to Commissioning
- b. Construction and Infrastructure Development in Nigeria: Opportunities and Challenges
- c. Project Procurement and Infrastructure Financing in Nigeria
- d. The Nigerian Real Estate Sector and Affordable Housing in the **Current Economy: Mission** Impossible?
- e. Strengthening Construction Law and Policy to Support Infrastructure Development Q & A Session

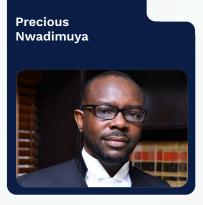
MODERATORS

Olayode Delano, SAN Partner, Akindelano Legal Practitioners (ALP)





COORDINATORS



Dr. Egondu Ikeatu

Engr. Olanrewaju Adeleke, FNSE Chairman/MD, Peculiar Consult and Peculiar Ultimate Concerns Ltd.





C







OUTLINE

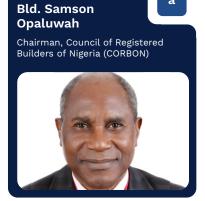
- a. Causes and effects of building collapse in Nigeria.
- b. Current efforts by regulatory bodies, professional bodies, pressure groups (BCPG) to curb the menace.
- From prevention to punishment: Solutions to the problem of building and infrastructure collapse in Nigeria.
- d. Anti-corruption measures and infrastructure projects: the Nigerian experience

Q & A Session

COORDINATORS











С









OUTLINE

- a. My secret of success in Commercial Law
- b. Winning in Law: my personal experience
- c. Beyond the courtroom: Business strategies for success
- paths to success in the profession
- Navigating Life, Priorities, and Professional Growth as a Young

d. Scaling the Legal Ladder: Proven e. Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Succeeding against all Odds f. Charting Your Career Course: Lawyer Q & A Session MODERATOR Chief Emeka Obegolu, SAN, Ph.D



COORDINATORS





George Etomi Founding Chairman, NBA-SBL & Principal Partner, George Etomi and Partners











About the Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law

The Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law (SBL) is one of the specialists sections of the NBA with over 6,000 members, set up primarily to engender the professional development of Nigerian commercial lawyers, thereby raising the level of business law practice in Nigeria.

The Section has at its apex, an Executive Committee which is currently chaired by Mrs. Ozofu 'Latunde Ogiemudia with 19 (Nineteen) other members; and 26 (twenty-six) sector-focused committees established to cover existing and new areas of commercial law, with a view to enhancing commercial law practice among Nigerian lawyers and law firms. The Construction Projects and Infrastructure Law Committee is one of these committees whose mandate is tailoured to the construction and infrastructure value chain.

In accordance with the Uniform Byelaws of the Nigerian Bar Association, any member of the Nigerian Bar Association is eligible for membership of the NBA-SBL, upon payment of the Section dues for the current year. He or she will then be enrolled as a member of the Section.

The objectives of the Section on Business Law are clearly stated in Article 1 of the Section's Bye Laws as follows:

- To promote the delivery of qualitative business services to the public
- To promote and provide Continuing Legal Education (CLE) to members of the Section
- To promote uniform study on the common interest of business law practitioners locally and internationally
- To guide, assist and organise enlightenment programmes for the Section's committees, legislative bodies and/or parastatals in deliberation, drafting and enactment of legislations pertaining to commercial and business issues in Nigeria
- To undertake such related activities as may be approved by the Section's Executive Committee from time to time.
- To promote the exchanges of views and information among the Section and other likeminded bodies as to the laws, practices and procedures affecting the Section; locally and internationally.

For more information about the NBA-SBL, please visit our website at **www.nbasbl.org** Or follow us on any of our social media handles below:

- f nbasectiononbusinesslaw
- **™** @nbasbl
- @nbasblofficial
- in @nba-sbl
- @ @nbasbl
- @nbasbl



Goodwill Message by the Chairman, Nigerian Bar Association, Asaba Branch, Azuka Paul Maduemezia Esq.

All protocols are duly observed.

It is with absolute pleasure and honour that I welcome you to the Nigerian Bar Association Section on Business Law (NBA-SBL) 2nd National Conference on Construction, Projects and Infrastructure organised by the Construction, Projects and Infrastructure Committee, NBA-SBL taking place today at Asaba, a place well-known for their hospitality (Asaba Amaka) and popularly known as "Ahaba" by the indigenes.

The theme of this year's Conference, "Making Construction and Infrastructure Projects Work Better," is very apt as it shows the need to pay attention to the construction sector as well as map out possible ways on how we can make it work better in our beloved country. It is also a great honour to have a distinguished gathering of conferees from various sectors ranging from the construction, legal profession, amongst others.

May I express my profound gratitude to the Chairman of the NBA-SBL, **Ozofu 'Latunde Ogiemudia**; Chairman of the Construction, Projects and Infrastructure Committee, **A. O. Odum, SAN** and his team who have drawn up an incredible lineup of speakers, thought provoking discussions that will enrich our knowledge on construction, projects and infrastructure in Nigeria, and I encourage you to make the most of this conference, engage in discussions, ask questions and most importantly connect and network.

It is on this note that I humbly implore you to explore this great city from the amazing cuisine, "Nsala soup and Pounded yam" to places of interest such as the Asaba Monument situated at Ogbeosowa, Mungo Park House at Nnebisi Road, Mariam Babangida Leisure Park at Anwai, the NBA Asaba Recreation Centre run by Chillis Lounge located near the Traditional Rulers Council Secretariat, amongst others.

Once again, I welcome you to Asaba and wish everyone a memorable conference.

