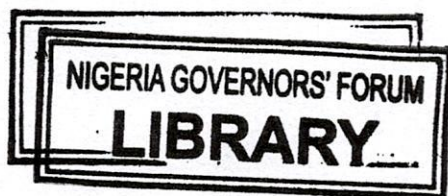


**BRIEF SUBMITTED TO THE
GOVERNORS' FORUM COMMITTEE**



BY

**THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE,
ADAMAWA STATE**

MARCH 2010

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, YOLA

Preamble

1. Functions of the Ministry

The ministry is one of the core ministries under the Executive Arm of the government.

Its primary function is to amongst other things to give legal advice to government and its extra Ministerial Departments, statutory boards, councils, corporations, state owned companies etc. on all matters in which they are concerned or involved.

The Ministry also represents the State Agencies and Officers in all cases instituted on their behalf or against them.

2. Organizational Structure

The Ministry has five departments, namely:

- i. Department of Public Prosecution
- ii. Department of Civil Litigation
- iii. Department of Corporate Affairs and Legal Drafting
- iv. Department of Citizens Rights
- v. Administration, Finance and Supply

2.1 Department of Public Prosecution

The department is charged with the responsibility of handling of all criminal cases received from the police, or reported by the government or its agencies as well as giving legal advice on such cases to the police or government and its agencies.

Some of the activities of the department between May 2007 to date are as follows:

- (a) 145 case diaries were received from the police out of which 140 were disposed off.
- (b) Out of the 96 criminal cases filed in courts 18 were disposed off
- (c) 8 appeal cases were received out of which 6 were disposed off.

2.2 Department of Civil Litigation

The Department is responsible for defending the State Government and its Agencies in civil suits instituted for or against them.

During the period under review 2007 to date

- (a) Received 62 cases and 8 disposed off
- (b) Received 5 appeal cases and none disposed off
- (c) Received 1 first instance case of the supreme court and yet to be disposed off.

2.3 Pending Cases

It has a total of 60 cases pending in various courts within and outside the state.

2.4 Cases being Handled by Private Law Firms which are Pending in Various Courts of Law

There are 7 cases being handled by private lawyers which are pending in various courts details of which are as follows:

- (i) Criminal cases: 3
State Vs Sambo Dala and 46 others
- (ii) Civil cases: 4

1. Freddy Sodity Bongo Vs. Adamawa State Government- earlier being handled by Afe Babalola but now is being handled by Babalakin & Co.
2. Ishaku Yakubu Vs. Ministry of Works and Housing Adamawa State suit No. SC217/2005 being handled by Atfe Babalola
3. Ned Nwoko Solicitors Vs. Adamawa State Government Suit No. CV/447/07 pending before Federal High Court, Abuja. Earlier being handled by Rickey Tarfa Co. but now being handled by Babalakin & Co.
4. Medan Teneke

Vs.

1. Alhamdu Anda Teneke
2. Attorney General Adamawa State
3. Government of Adamawa State

The plaintiff is challenging the selection of the first defendant as the Hama Batta, case is being handled by Babalakin & Co at the State High Court

2.4 Department of Legal Drafting

The functions of the Department includes legal/legislative drafting, Law Reforms and Review.

Other functions of the Department include drafting and vetting of contract agreements for State Government and its agencies. The department also drafts executive bills amongst others.

2.5 Department of Citizens Rights

This department is a new department created by the Adamawa Executive Council in the year 2005.

Following its creation, a director was immediately appointed to oversee the affairs of the department. It is however important to note that the department has not taken off fully due to lack of legislation to guide its operation as is being done in other states of the Federation.

The law is still at the processing stage. By the time the department becomes fully functional it will serve as alternative dispute resolution centre that will handle disputes on such matters as debts, employer/employee, family disagreements etc.

The department however will not handle criminal matters.

2.6 Administration, Finance and Supply Department

(i) It coordinates the activities of other departments and Parastatals of the Ministry. It is also responsible for all the administrative matters of the Ministry such as recruitment, training, promotions, discipline and staff welfare.

(ii) Staff Strength

The Ministry has a total staff strength of 81 personnel.

(a) State Counsel 23

(b) Supporting Staff 58

2.7 Capital Projects

The Ministry has between 2007 to date handled the underlisted projects some of which have been completed while others are at various stages of completion.

1. New High Court Complex was awarded to ABC Construction Company. Started work in 2004 at the initial cost of ₦259,016,761.88 contract was later reviewed to ₦506,538,690.65 work was abandoned in 2007 for non payment. In 2009, the contractor was remobilized back to site with the sum of ₦173,468,708.62. The project is about 90% completion.
2. Fencing of Numan Magistrate Court was awarded to ALGADA Ventures at the cost of ₦5,893,266.91 in the year 2008. The project is almost 100% completed.
3. Chief Magistrate Court Mubi. The contract was awarded to Omage Nigerian Limited at the cost of ₦12,466,106.87 in January 2007 the contractor abandoned site due to lack of payment since 2006. he was remobilized to site and paid the sum of ₦3,715,577.52. The project is 100% completed.

3. Parastatals and Extra Ministerial Departments under the Ministry

- (a) College for Legal Studies
- (b) Hon. Attorney Generals Chambers Mubi
- (c) Zonal Tribunals Located at:
 - (i) Zone I & II - Yola
 - (ii) Zones I & II - Mubi
 - (iii) Numan Zone - Numan
 - (iv) Michika Zone - Michika
 - (v) Ganye Zone - Ganye
 - (vi) Gombi Zone - Gombi

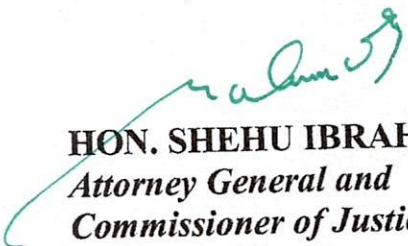
3.1 College for Legal Studies

The College was established under the defunct Gongola State (Edict No. 199 of 1984). At the moment the college offers certificate and Diploma courses in Law and it is an affiliate of the University of Maiduguri.

It offers certificate and diploma both in Sharia and Common Law.

3.2 Governing Council

The college has its governing council which is empowered to make policies relating to the administration of the institution. The college is fully financed by the State Government. There are six academic and non, academic departments which are directly answerable to the provost.



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