

REPORT ON THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE, MOTION ON THE HIGH RATE OF FAILURE IN THE BAR EXAMINATIONS (HR: 66/2015)

1.0 PREAMBLE

On Thursday 13th August, 2015, the House in plenary, considered a motion on the High Rate of Failure in the Bar Examination of the Nigerian Law School (HR.66/2015) and thereafter referred the motion to this Committee to

- i. Assess the conditions of the Nigerian law school to determine the causes of the high rate of failure at Bar final examinations and report back to the House within four(4) weeks and;
- ii. Also assess the condition of the Nigerian Law Schools to determine the condition under which the law students are studying

2.0 METHODOLOGY

- i. The Committee sought and received written submissions from the Law school
- ii. The Committee embarked on a working visit to the Nigerian Law School Bwari on the 29th September, 2016. The visit is aimed among other things, at assessing the facilities and to determine the condition under which the law students study

3.0 OBSERVATIONS

- i. The success rate at the bar examination in the 53 years of the institution's existence has generally been between 55% and 75%;

- ii. It is doubtful if this experience is peculiar to the Bar examinations alone, because other professional examination bodies such as the post graduate medical college and the institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, to mention a few, are known to record even more humble success rates in their respective professional qualifying examinations;
- iii. The alleged mass failure at the Bar final examination appeared to be more of a social media feature and should be regarded with due caution;
- iv. That most students of the school proceed to top universities worldwide and excel, and the school as an institution has continuously supplied good quality and skilled professionals to both government and the private sector.
- v. The Nigerian law school remains one of the few educational institutions in the country that has not shut down for one day in 53 years of its existence on the ground of industrial or any other causes known for such in tertiary institutions.
- vi. The ever increasing number of new law faculties without due regard for the availability or otherwise of the academic faculty to teach and mentor students. This is a factor that has direct correlation to the falling standard observed in some graduates of law.

4.0 FINDINGS

- i. That the Nigerian Law School provides an adequate level of legal vocational training commensurate with its years of experience and capacity

- ii. The failure rate at the Bar Final examinations is within an acceptable range and is not at all abnormal. A careful examination of the available data reveals the following:
 - a. the pass rate at the Law school over the last 53 years has been between 55% and 75%
 - b. in the last six years (2010-2015) the pass rate has been between 57% and 72%
 - c. the pass rate in the year complained of in the motion (2015) recorded a high pass rate of 71% in that, of the 4,603 students who sat for the Bar Final exams, 3,272 passed
- iii. The school suffers from inadequate manpower in view of the lecturer: student ratio of about 1:200per campus
- iv. Inadequate infrastructural facilities resulting from low budgetary allocation on account of the prevailing economic situation in the country

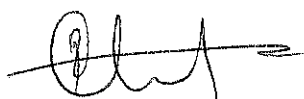
5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- i. The budgetary allocation of the Nigerian Law School should be increased in view of their peculiar problems enumerated above.
- ii. The Law school should take measures to increase the number of lecturers employed in all its campuses.
- iii. The Law School should ensure the completion of all its infrastructural projects, particularly the student hostels at

- iv. The National Universities Commission should monitor the standard of all law faculties to ensure that they produce graduates of sufficient quality to cope with the rigours of the Law school vocational training.

6.0 CONCLUSION

The Committee wishes to express its profound gratitude to the House and Mr. Speaker for the confidence reposed in it, in the discharge of this onerous duty.



Rt. Hon. Razak Atunwa

Chairman



Barr. Idris Mora Abubakar

Committee Clerk