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PATRON OF THE NIGERIA MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER OF THE IMLI GOVERNING BOARD LECTURES AT IMLI

Mr. Louis Mbanefo (Former President and Patron of the Nigeria Maritime Law Association and Member of the IMLI Governing Board) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute on 12 February 2018 and delivered a lecture on “the Essence of a Merchant Shipping Act: the Nigerian Experience” to the IMLI Class of 2017-2018



Mr. Louis Mbanefo (Patron of the Nigerian Maritime Law Association and Member of the IMLI Governing Board) meeting the IMLI Class of 2017-2018

Mr. Mbanefo's lecture dealt with, amongst others, the international legal process in adopting an international instrument, problems faced by developing countries in keeping abreast with international conventions, and most importantly, the essence of a Merchant Shipping Act.

Mr. Mbanefo discussed at length on how to set up and prepare a merchant shipping legislation and articulated some of the salient areas to be included in such a process, such as those which promote rules of safety in all areas of shipping, including construction, navigation, surveys and certification of ships and qualifications of personnel. He noted that a Merchant Shipping Act generally provides guidance to visiting ships and caters for penalties for infringements, measures to protect and preserve the marine environment from pollution, and health and safety, among other considerations.



Mr. Louis Mbanefo (Patron of the Nigerian Maritime Law Association) delivering his lecture to the IMLI Class of 2017-2018

Furthermore, Mr. Mbanefo explained the progressive development of the Nigerian Merchant Shipping Act, including how the relevant international conventions were incorporated into the Act

The Students, who are currently working on their legislation drafting project are required to incorporate an international convention into the national legislation of the respective countries. They, therefore referred to Mr. Mbanefo's lecture as timely and very enlightening. It was an opportunity that provided the necessary guidance needed for their project.

Mr Louis Mbanefo was Chairman of the Nigerian National Shipping Line. He was also Chairman of Ministerial Committee to review and update the Nigerian Shipping Law. He is the author of the Nigerian Shipping Law Series and was responsible for the preparation of the Admiralty Jurisdiction Act 1991 and the Nigerian Merchant Shipping Act of 2007.

Mr Mbanefo is currently principal in the firm of Louis Mbanefo & Co. in Lagos. In his practice, he has appeared as Counsel in many high profile shipping cases and was appointed a Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) in May 1988. In 2008, Mr Louis Mbanefo was elected a member of the Executive Council of the Comité Maritime International (CMI). He is a founder of the Nigerian Maritime Association and is its current Patron.

Mr Mbanefo has, since its inception in 1988, been a visiting Fellow of the Institute and an indispensable member its governing board. He was very instrumental in the preparation of the syllabus of the courses being studied at the institute.

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