



PRESIDENT OF THE NIGERIAN MARITIME LAW ASSOCIATION LECTURES AT IMLI

Mr. Louis Mbanefo (President of the Nigerian Maritime Law Association) visited IMLI and delivered a lecture on “The Preparation of Merchant Shipping Act: The Nigerian Experience”.

The aim of the lecture was to give the students an idea of the processes involved in the preparation of a Merchant Shipping Act – the choices facing a nation, the problems and pitfalls likely to be encountered by a developing country, and an analysis of the Act’s contents. To this end, the practical aspects of the Nigerian Merchant Shipping Act were then discussed, starting with its connection with the British Merchant Shipping Act 1894 and continuing with the developments leading to the Merchant Shipping Act 2007. Mr. Mbanefo highlighted the defects of the pre-existing legislation, especially the 1962 Act, and the innovations introduced by the 2007 Act.

Other topics considered were the delegation of powers by the Minister of Transport and the powers granted to the Minister to make subsidiary legislation; the modes of incorporation of conventions into the Act and the conventions incorporated. Lastly, Mr. Mbanefo provided a sound criticism of the Act’s defects.



Mr. Louis Mbanefo and the Class of 2011/2012

Mr. Mbanefo is a long standing friend and supporter of the Institute. As Professor Attard recalled, when introducing Mr. Mbanefo to the Class of 2011/2012, Mr. Mbanefo travelled to Malta in 1988 to meet with Professor Attard, Professor Berlingieri, and Dr. Mensah to fashion out the modules for the course. He was one of the first appointed visiting professors at the Institute and continues to visit the Institute ever since.

Mr. Mbanefo is a graduate of Queens' College, Cambridge and Barrister of the Middle Temple. He was appointed in 1978 as Notary Public of Nigeria and in 1988 as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria. In 1987, Mr. Mbanefo was appointed consultant to the IMO. He was Chairman of the Board of Directors of Nigerian National Shipping Line and Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Board of Governors of the Musical Society of Nigeria. Currently, Mr. Mbanefo is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of St. Saviour's Schools in Lagos. He is a member of the Executive Council of the CMI and holds the position of the President of the Nigerian Maritime Law Association.

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