



The Notary Public Digest

FIRST EDITION | Issue No. 1

A PUBLICATION OF THE SOCIETY FOR NOTARIES PUBLIC

February, 2025

Supreme Court endorses the launch of the Society for Notaries Public in Nigeria.

International Union Of Notaries; IUNL Africa, Notaries Association In Ireland, London, Australia congratulates The Society on induction of new members.

Nigeria appointed to the board of the Common Law Association of Notaries.

Supreme Court establishes Online Notaries Register

News Letter

The Society for
Notaries Public
Newsletter

PROFESSIONALIZING
NOTARY
PUBLIC
PRACTICE IN NIGERIA

THE EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Notaries,

Welcome to the first edition of The Notaries Newsletter, where we bring you insightful discussions, industry updates, and thought leadership on Notarial Practice in Nigeria.

In this issue, we delve into an introduction of the Society for Notaries Public, her contributions to changes in key legislations, exploring how they shape our professional landscape and drive innovation. Our contributors have provided expert perspectives, best practices, and actionable insights to keep you informed and ahead of the curve.

As always, we value your feedback and engagement. If you have thoughts to share or topics you'd love to see featured, feel free to reach out. Together, let's continue the conversation and drive meaningful impact in transforming notarial practice in Nigeria.

Editor.
Mr. Onyekachi Umah

**A Journey of Excellence:
The Society for Notaries Public**

About The Society for
NOTARY
PUBLIC

The Society for Notaries Public is a professional body committed to upholding the highest standards of notarial practice in Nigeria. Since the Nigerian Bar Association's Annual General Conference in 2022, the Society has served as a unifying platform for Notaries Public, providing a network for collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and professional development.

Our mission is to support, educate, and empower notaries by offering guidance on legal best practices, regulatory compliance, and the evolving landscape of notarial duties. Through strategic partnerships, training programs, and advocacy, we strive to enhance the credibility and efficiency of notarial services across the country.

The Society remains dedicated to providing solutions, fostering continuous learning, and advocating for the recognition of Notaries Public as crucial stakeholders in the legal system.

Council Members & Board of Trustees

The Society for Notaries Public is driven by a distinguished team of professionals who are committed to advancing the notarial profession in Nigeria. Our Council Members and Trustees bring a wealth of expertise, leadership, and dedication to ensuring that the Society fulfills its mission of promoting best practices, professional development,

and advocacy for Notaries Public. Their collective vision and guidance shape our initiatives, fostering a community where notaries can thrive, collaborate, and uphold the highest ethical and legal standards.

Below is a list of our esteemed Council Members and Trustees:

THE COUNCIL



Hon. Justice Ayotunde Phillips (Rtd)
Life Patron



Chief (Mrs) Marlies Allan
President & Master of Notaries-In-Council



Mr. Wale Adekola
Board of Trustees Chair



Mr. Muyiwa Ayojimi
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Mrs. Sola Adegbonmire
Council Member



Mr. Alex Muoka
Council Member



Mr. John Williams
Council Member



WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT AT THE LAUNCH/INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS



Our esteemed President and Master of Notaries-in-Council, Chief Mrs. Marlies Allan, has been a driving force behind our mission. Her passion for the notarial profession and dedication to professional development has inspired us all.

While addressing the guests and Notaries, she described the launch as a significant milestone in the country's legal landscape, emphasizing that the

society's formation represents "a bold step towards strengthening the integrity and credibility of notarial services."

She highlighted the role of the society in upholding professionalism, providing a platform for continuous learning, and ensuring that notaries remain equipped to meet the demands of an evolving legal environment. The society, she noted, will collaborate with the Supreme Court to establish practice standards that will transform notarial practice in Nigeria.

Welcoming newly inducted members, the President commended their dedication to justice and integrity,

stating that their induction "is not merely a formality but a testament to their readiness to uphold the responsibilities of a notary public."

Looking to the future, she stressed the importance of embracing digital transformation in legal processes, assuring that the society will guide its members through these advancements while maintaining trust and reliability in notarial services.

She concluded by expressing gratitude to all present, reaffirming her confidence that TSNP will set new standards of excellence and professionalism in Nigeria's legal sector.

A Journey of Excellence: The Society for Notaries Public

Since our grand launch, the Society for Notaries Public has made remarkable strides in fostering excellence, professionalism, and innovation in notarization. As we reflect on our journey so far, we are excited to share our progress, collaborations, and key milestones with you.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR LAUNCH

On June 24, 2024, The Society for Notaries Public proudly celebrated its launch and inducted new members during a landmark event held at the prestigious **Marriott Hotel, Lagos**. This monumental occasion, in collaboration with our technology partner, **ToNote**, marks a significant step towards revolutionizing the notarial profession in Nigeria.

The event was graced by **distinguished legal professionals**, key industry stakeholders, and enthusiastic notaries, all united by a common goal—to elevate the practice of notarization in our society. Speeches from these distinguished dignitaries and industry leaders emphasized the future of notarial practice in Nigeria, aligning with recent regulatory updates like the **Evidence Act 2023** and **Notary Public Act 2023**.

Evidence Act 2023 (Article) - <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/evidence-act-2023-step-forward-digitization-nigerians-tonote-ozomf/>

Notary Public Act 2023 (Article) - <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/notary-public-act-2023-everything-you-need-know-tonote-h95af/>

Evidence Act 2023 (PDF Report) <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/4trvqu7vb297lm8h5hdoo/Evidence-Act.pdf?rlkey=m5iqgx6xw8vjqn9t4llmoxwrj&dl=0>

Notary Public Act 2023 (PDF Report) - <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/ur0usjj3pta07d4lb1x5m/Notary-Act.pdf?rlkey=k8q5v9zhcl2i5wfnilidbpxcb&dl=0>

The launch of the Society also marked a significant milestone, with **hundreds of notaries** already part of the society. The event also saw the **induction of new members**, further strengthening the community of legal professionals dedicated to upholding notarial standards in Nigeria.

Interested in becoming a member? Find the link and details below to join this growing network of professionals.







<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7231270904503123968>

Congratulatory Notes from the Matriarch of the Nigerian Bar and the Supreme Court

Chief Mrs. Folake Solanke (SAN) (CON), the first female lawyer in Nigeria lauded the establishment of the Society for Notaries Public. She urged the Society not to indulge notaries public found to commit “acts of misconduct.” “Those who commit breaches in their notarial practice must be reported to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee for action. Consequences must follow infractions so that our dear country and institutions can prosper,” she said.



<https://worldtopnewsng.com/foremost-lawyer-folake-solanke-lauds-notaries-society-urges-discipline/>

The Supreme Court of Nigeria- The Supreme Court of Nigeria has backed the Society for Notaries Public's (SNP) effort to professionalize and transform the practice in Nigeria. Hadiza Bamaiyi, Head of Notary of the Supreme Court, stated this at the launch of the Society and the induction of new members into it. Bamaiyi stood in for the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Kayoode Ariwoola, who was the guest of honour of the event.

She said, "I hereby inaugurate the council of notaries and formally launch the Society for notaries public here in Nigeria. Let us work

together to build a society that is founded on excellence, inclusivity, and mutual support. Let us continue to learn from one another, share our expertise, and push the boundaries of what it means to be a notary in the modern era."



<https://gatekeeper.ng/supreme-court-backs-notaries-public-society-to-transform-practice/>

Congratulatory Notes from other jurisdictions



The establishment of the Society for Notaries Public in Nigeria has garnered recognition and support from esteemed notarial bodies and professionals across various jurisdictions. We are honored to receive these warm wishes and words of encouragement as we embark on this transformative journey.

Kate Roome – President, The Common Law Association of Notaries "As the new president of The Common Law Association of Notaries, I would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations on the creation of the Society for Notaries Public in Nigeria..."

Daniel-Sedar Senghor- The 1st African and former President of the International Union of Notaries in its over 70 years of Notaries also celebrated the launch of The Society for Notaries Public.

He commended the society's efforts to professionalize notarial practice, emphasizing its importance in today's world and its role in fostering continental integration.

“From a more specifically African point of view. In my capacity as the first and only world president from our continent in the 75 years of existence of our global institution, and in consideration of the continental economic and demographic importance of your country, it is up to me to tell you that we are particularly excited about the potential of your initiatives and look forward to the positive impact you will undoubtedly have in Nigeria and beyond,” he said.

Although unable to attend the event in Lagos, he conveyed his best wishes through UINL's continental president, Mr. Olanike Salaam, and expressed hope for fruitful collaborations and remarkable achievements as the society embarks on this new chapter.

“Also in the name and in my capacity as

former president of the Chamber of Notaries of Senegal and of African Continental Commission, we wish you all the success in your activities and initiatives and hope that this new chapter will be filled with remarkable achievements and fruitful collaborations.”



Me Sir Senghor, Immediate Past President, International Union of Notaries

DEAR NEWLY INDUCTED MEMBERS,



OLANIGKA SALAM
*Africa President, International
Union of Notaries.*

As you stand before us today, you represent the continuing future of our noble profession. You have demonstrated a commitment to excellence, integrity, and service. You have chosen a path that requires dedication, expertise, and a passion for upholding the trust placed in you.

As notaries public, you are the guardians of authenticity, the champions of truth, and the facilitators of commerce. You are the link between individuals, businesses, and governments, ensuring that transactions are secure, reliable, and lawful.

Remember that your role is not just a profession, but a privilege. With this privilege comes a sacred responsibility to uphold the highest standards of ethics, integrity, and professionalism.

As you begin this new chapter in your journey, we charge you to:

- Uphold the principles of integrity, trust, and service
- Embrace lifelong learning and professional growth
- Support and mentor your colleagues
- Continuously improve your skills and knowledge
- Embody the values of our society and

our profession

May your induction into our society mark the beginning of a journey that is filled with purpose, meaning, and impact. May you make a difference in the lives of those you serve, and may your work be a testament to the excellence of our profession.

Goodwill messages from international notary friends of The Society:

Mr. Edward Gardiner - Chairman Scrivener Notaries, City of London



Congratulations on the successful launch and induction of the Notary Society! May this new chapter bring excellence and integrity to notarial practice in Nigeria"

Mr. Jonathan Coutts - Notarial Deputy, Common Law Association of Notaries



"Wishing you all success as you embark on this journey with the Notary Society. May it set new standards in professionalism and service!"

Mr. Ross Mc Mahon - The Faculty of Notaries Public, Ireland

"A remarkable milestone! Congratulations on the launch of the Notary Society — may it strengthen the profession and uphold the highest ethical values."



John Pearce - The Society of Notaries of Victoria, Australia

"Your dedication has brought this vision to life—congratulations on the Notary Society's launch and induction! Wishing you all a successful journey ahead."



Michael Bula - The Society of Notaries of Victoria, Australia

"Kudos on this achievement! The Notary Society is a welcome development, and I have no doubt it will make a lasting impact on legal practice."

Adewale Oladejo - President, the Society of Notaries of Victoria, Australia

"The notarial profession takes a great step forward today—congratulations on this historic launch! Wishing the Society and its members continued growth and success. You can count on our support on collaboration"



Strategic Collaborations:

STRENGTHENING OUR REACH

Innovation has been at the heart of our society, and one of our key partnerships has been with ToNote Technologies. This partnership has reinforced our commitment to digitizing and streamlining notarial processes. Through this collaboration, we have explored cutting-edge digital notarization solutions, ensuring efficiency, security, and accessibility for all practitioners.

Key Benefits of The Collaboration:

- Seamless digital notarization processes
- Improved security measures in notarial transactions
- Greater accessibility for clients and practitioners



ToNote

Read more about our partnership with ToNote Technologies-

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/tonote_key-highlights-from-the-society-for-notaries-activity-7211419678647193601-cOrp?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_desktop&rcm=ACoAADFLbkBnezzcM1x0C5eP72HgiskU3UyAME

ToNote Technologies and the **Future** of **Notary Practice** in Nigeria- Fikayo Durosimi-Etti

The landscape of notary practice in Nigeria is set for a major transformation, thanks to ToNote Technologies. Fikayo Durosimi-Etti, the CEO of ToNote is pioneering digital solutions for notarial activities, working in collaboration with





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solutions for notarial activities, working in collaboration with the Society by creating systems “that enhance trust and reliability of documents for use both in Nigeria and overseas,” he said.

He added: “This innovation will ensure that signing and authenticating notarized documents, such as deeds, contracts, agreements, power of attorney etc. are done in a faster and more efficient way.”

Durosimi-Etti emphasizes that this innovation will reduce delays for Nigerians and Nigerian-owned businesses in international transactions by addressing rigorous verification challenges.

In alignment with the Supreme Court of Nigeria’s regulatory framework, ToNote remains committed to upholding the integrity of notarial practice by providing secure, accessible, and verifiable notarial services.

Read more about this transformative initiative here:

<https://thecornetnews.com/we-will-make-nigerian-notary-documents-globally-acceptable-fikayo-durosimi-etti/>



Engagement with Justice Kekere-Ekun by the Honorary Secretary & CEO ToNote Technologies

The Supreme Court plays a central role in regulating Notarial practice in Nigeria. In light of this, the Society and ToNote Technologies paid a courtesy visit to Justice Kekere-Ekun to explore opportunities for supporting the Supreme Court in enhancing and professionalizing notarial practice through regulation and technology. The Chief Justice had pledged her commitment to ensuring that the integrity of notaries public is not only assured, but that notarial works is respected and verifiable.

In alignment with the Supreme Court of Nigeria’s regulatory framework, ToNote remains committed to upholding the integrity of notarial practice by providing secure, accessible, and verifiable notarial services.



Engagement with the President of the International Union of Notaries Mr. Lionel Galliez at the 1st dialogue between legal systems held in London where Nigeria was given the opportunity to address other International notaries. Engagement with the Faculty Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury at Westminster, the regulator for Notarial Practice in London on sharing best practices. With the Honorary Secretary is Howard Dellar (Registrar) and Ian Blaney (Deputy Registrar) and Ola Olajide.



Engagement with The Deputy Comptroller of The Nigeria Immigrations under the interior Ministry on improving the earning potentials of notaries.

Trainings, Meetings, and Capacity-Building Initiatives

Continuous professional development has been at the forefront of our agenda. Since our inception, we have organized a couple of trainings and interactive meetings to enhance the knowledge and skills of our members.

On July 30th and August 5th, the "Boost Your Notarial Income" workshops brought together notaries from emerging professionals to established experts, to discuss innovative strategies to elevate our field.

These sessions have provided our members with invaluable insights, Regulatory Changes Shaping Our Field, Pioneering Digital Notarization (in collaboration with ToNote Technologies) and fostering a culture of excellence and compliance with global best practices.



The poster features the ToNote logo in the top left corner. The main title "Boost Your Notarial Income" is prominently displayed in white and yellow text against a dark blue background with a silhouette of a person. Below the title, a white box contains the invitation text: "The Society for Notaries Public and ToNote invites you for an immersive workshop on 'How to use a Remote Online Notary platform to boost your notarial earnings.'" An orange location pin icon is followed by the address: "The Training room, 1st floor, NBA Ikeja Bar Centre, Ikeja Lagos". A "NOTE" section states: "Please bring your laptops or tablets. High-speed internet will be provided." A table lists the dates and times: 30TH JULY 2024 (10:00 AM - 12:00 PM) and 5TH AUG. 2024 (11:30 AM - 2:30 PM). The bottom of the poster includes contact information: "For More Enquiries, Call Deborah 0816 819 8598 or Send an Email to: ask@gastonote.com". The background of the poster shows a man and a woman in professional attire.



TSNP Featured in Notary World Newsletter

We are pleased to share that the Society for Notaries Public has been featured in the Notary World Newsletter by the Common Law Association of Notaries (CLAN). The feature, found on pages 7 and 8, highlights the article Advancing Notarial Practice in Nigeria by Mr. Muiyiwa Ayojimi, Trustee and Hon. Secretary of the Society.

The piece captures key milestones, including:

- The Amended Notary Laws
- The Formal Launch of The Society
- Digitization of Notary Practice in partnership with ToNote Technologies
- The Society's continuous collaboration and global participation, including attendance at the 1st International Union of Notaries (IUNL) Dialogue between Legal Systems in London, 2023.

This recognition underscores our commitment to enhancing notarial practice in Nigeria and beyond. Stay tuned for more updates on our progress!

Providing Unwavering Support to Notaries

Recognizing the challenges some of our members face, the Society has proactively provided avenues for assistance and guidance. One of our remarkable initiatives was the Town Hall Meeting held on December 20, 2024, which focused on supporting members through the ongoing Notaries Registration Exercise.

By organizing this session, the Society for Notaries Public has not only empowered its members but also actively supported the Supreme Court of Nigeria in ensuring a smooth and transparent registration process.

Key highlights of the meeting included:

- Addressing concerns and clarifying issues related to registration.
- Offering expert guidance on resolving complaints and navigating the process smoothly.
- Engaging with key stakeholders to ensure transparency and efficiency.

Through these, we have helped to address concerns, clarify procedures, and facilitate compliance—ultimately contributing to the integrity and efficiency of the notarial system in Nigeria.

We remain committed to ensuring that every notary has access to the necessary tools and knowledge to excel in their roles.

Our Growing Network of Affiliations and Engagements

Supreme Court

This engagement began effectively about a year ago and has now gained momentum. Being the holder of the authority to appoint Notaries in Nigeria, all of the propositions to professionalize the practice rest solely with this collaboration. Further engagement plans are contained in the schedule below.

The Notary Public Community

The Secretariat has identified both local and international community of notaries requiring engagement/collaboration.

On the International front, there has been collaboration with 7 notaries public societies across 3 continents. There are 2 which requires corporate membership: The Common Law Association of Notaries

'CLAN' (formerly- World Organization of Notaries) and the International Union of Notaries 'IUN'. Given jurisdictional and common law convenience, CLAN membership is most desirable to join now and IUN membership kept in view.

Membership offers us the opportunity to position ourselves for future inclusion in IUN, participate in cross-border conferences and trainings at discounted rates, access notary materials, and secure a board seat on the CLAN.

On the local front, we will be leveraging the quarterly breakfast meetings to engage with touch point notary platforms like Government agencies/parastatals – (NAFDAC, SEC, Immigration, Customs), financial services, telecommunications, etc.



Nigeria Appointed to the Seat of CLAN!



We are proud to announce that Nigeria has been appointed to the seat of the Common Law Association of Notaries (CLAN). Our Chairman,

Board of Trustees – Mr. Wale Adekola, now represents the Society for Notaries Public (TSNP) on the Board of CLAN.

This appointment marks a significant step in advancing Nigeria's presence in the global notarial community and strengthening our engagement in shaping the future of notarial practice across common law jurisdictions.

Congratulations to Mr. Adekola and to all members of TSNP!

To join the society, click the button below to fill a membership Application form, and a member of our team will be in touch.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1cH3y5yMJmXdadSGcxer6Tr0aIDDPpdOY0dmWxdSe2jw/edit>

To fill the form,

Note that if you do not have the Notary Certificate, you can attach the letter to the Chief Justice of your state.

Electronic Notaries Register

The Society continues to urge all Notaries Public to update their details on the Electronic Notaries Register created by the Supreme Court.

As part of this modernization effort, you are required to log in to the official website at <https://notary.gov.ng> and update your details using the following information:

Before starting your registration, please have the following ready:

- Passport Photo: A passport-sized photo in jpg, jpeg, or png format.
- Supreme Court Number & Swear-in Date: Ensure your Supreme Court Number and date of swearing-in (as shown on your Oath document) are correct.
- File Number (Optional): If applicable, use the year and 6-digit number from your latest Supreme Court letter.
- Legal Email & Contact Info: Your official email address and phone number.
- Correct Data: All information must be

accurate. Incorrect or duplicate entries will prevent submission.

Once your details are successfully submitted, you'll receive a confirmation email. Please ensure that you complete this process promptly, as failure to comply may affect your ability to provide notarial services.

Helpdesk Details:

- Operating Hours: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Friday
- Email Support: notarysupport@nigerianbar.ng
- WhatsApp Chat Support: 07043655655
- Phone Support: 07043655655

The Helpdesk is designed to streamline issue resolution by:

- Logging all complaints for proper tracking.
- Forwarding unresolved cases to the appropriate technical teams at the NJC.
- Providing prompt feedback to all notaries.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, the Society for Notaries Public remains committed to expanding our reach, enhancing professional training, and strengthening partnerships. We invite you

to stay connected, participate in upcoming events, and contribute to the growth of our notarial community.

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE SOCIETY FOR NOTARIES PUBLIC X THE NOTARY COLLEGE

THE SOCIETY FOR NOTARIES PUBLIC
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NOTARY COLLEGE

Presents

THE PLACE OF NOTARIES IN THE LEGAL WORLD:

THE ETHICAL FOUNDATIONS OF A WORLDWIDE PROFESSION

HOST

CHIEF MRS. MARLIES ALLAN
President & Master of Notaries-in-Council

GUEST SPEAKER

IAN OSTROWSKI-ROGERS
Academic Consultant,
University College London

MODERATOR

Mr. MUFYWA AYOJIMI
Honorary Secretary, TSNP

TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

- Understand the Role of Notaries
- Identify Core Ethical Principles
- Compare Global Notarial Systems
- Assess the Impact of Notaries on Legal Security
- Examine Professional Responsibilities

When : **25TH APRIL 2025** Where : **ZOOM** Time : **12:00PM**

For Members Non-Members
NGN30,000 **NGN40,000**

0814 815 8998, membership@thesocietyofnotaries.org.ng thesocietyofnotaries.org.ng

Training in April

Induction of new members in June, 2025

Stay Engaged!

Follow us on our social media platforms for updates, discussions, and opportunities to connect with fellow notaries.

X: https://x.com/TSNP_Nig

LinkedIn:

https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-society-for-notaries-public-tsnp/?lipi=urn%3Ali%3Apage%3Ad_flagship3_search_srp_all%3B61QyiYcvTlqiCyg2gP7y6A%3D%3D

[Subscribe to Our Newsletter]

Thank you for being a part of our journey.

Together, we are shaping the future of notarization!

Best Regards,
Deborah Adegbite
The Society for Notaries Public.

<https://www.thesocietyfornotaries.org.ng/>



