

POLICY OF THE LAGOS STATE

LAW REFORM COMMISSION

(LawRecom) 2012

Law Reform Commission

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• **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The Law Reform Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission" or "LawRecom" was established by statute of 18th May 2007 by the Lagos State Law Reform Commission Law (hereinafter referred to as "the Law") as amended on 30th January 2012. Its first Commission was constituted on March 12, 2012.

The Commission is an autonomous corporate body and:

- Receives proposals for reform from the State Government and the general public;
- Examines different branches of the Law for reform;
- Prepares from time to time comprehensive programmes of consolidation and statute Law Revision and undertake the preparation of draft legislation for such programme for consideration of the State Executive Council or the State House of Assembly; and
- Provides references particularly in areas of law, which the government through its policies wishes to be reviewed and reformed.

2.0 MISSION STATEMENT

To review and reform the law following consultative monitoring with a view to effecting necessary changes to make them modern, fair, just, efficient and

accessible and in consonance with the prevailing social and moral values of Society.

- **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

- Oversee the operation of all Lagos State Laws with a view to their systematic and progressive development and reform in accordance with changes in social attitudes and prevailing norms in the Nigerian Society and the international community in general;
- Advise on specific legal issues aimed at explaining and clarifying the current law
- Eliminate all anomalies and repeal obsolete, spent and unnecessary enactments and provisions;
- Undertake the consolidation and codification of such laws through the reduction in number of separate enactments including the reform of procedural laws in accordance with changes in the machinery of the administration of justice.

- **DIRECTION**

The Law Reform Commission shall establish itself as the most efficient machinery for the continuous delivery of quality law reform by its direct efforts and in its co-ordination of other stake-holders in the law reform process. LawRecom's direction and envisaged services should at all times be capable of:

- A constant appraisal of law and order in the territory of the State;
- A survey of the development of society towards a culture of adherence to the rule of law;
- Thorough consultation, research and analysis of the impact of laws;
- Constant monitoring of social and moral, values as well as economic development through qualitative social research;

- Providing modern understandable and clearly drafted law reform bills to enable government have a clear picture of the recommendations contained in its reports and reform proposals;
 - Constant revision of the laws of the State as well as codification and consolidation of the laws;
 - Maintaining efficient public access to all laws of the State;
 - Maintaining - good library service, with efficient information technology apparatus;
 - Ensuring the release and dissemination of high quality publications in both the print and electronic modes for the dissemination of the commission's publications;
 - Providing a good office environment and adequate training for its staff;
 - Promoting the implementation of the Commission's Reports and making efforts towards working together with stakeholders to ensure that the Commission's reports are considered; and
 - Maintaining a project management system capable of ensuring timely completion of projects and timely delivery of reports.
- **KEY SUCCESS INDICATORS**
 - The extent to which defects in the law can be identified and reform proposal made.
 - The quality of draft bills accompanying the Commission's Reports.
 - The effectiveness of the Commission's public consultation.
 - The efficiency of the Commission's management of its human and material resources and its reform projects.

- Efficiency of measures aimed at promoting the implementation of its reports.
- Level of maintenance of effective liaison with government and non-governmental organizations and oversees law reform agencies on law reform issues.

- **WORKING GROUPS AND FOCUS SECTORS**

Different arms of the law will receive attention on an on-going basis; it is intended that these focus groups will be dynamic reflecting the programs of the Commission at any given time:

- Private and Property Law
- Public Law
- Trade & Commercial
- Library and Research
- Secretariat

- **LAWRECOM's CLIENTELE**

- General Public
- Lagos State Government of Nigeria
- Non Governmental Organisations
- The international community

8.0 COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

- LawRecom shall work through a transparent and effective process ensuring its clients are aware of its methodology. (See Annexure 1)
- Clients are expected to contact the Secretariat when dissatisfied with the services rendered by the Commission at info@lawrecom.lg.gov.ng

- **SPECIAL INTEREST AND SECTORAL PARTICIPATION**

LawRecom expects to engage the participation of specially interested persons and specialists in the Law Reform process through:

- Serving in consultancy and advisory roles to the Commission;
- Providing expert and survey services to the law reform process;
- Drawing the Commission's attention to defects identified in the day to day operation of the laws or to areas of the law in need of reform;
- Responding to the Commission's request for memoranda on specific issues of law reform;
- Reading and reacting to the Commission's working papers;
- Participating at the Commission's workshops and conferences; and
- Joining the Commission in promoting reform issues in the public domain and in advocacy for implementation of the Commission's reports.

- **GENERAL STAKEHOLDERS' PARTICIPATION**

- The Commission adopts a participatory method of law reform and consults widely with all stakeholders in all its reform exercises. In accordance with the said approach, the Commission will always invite the general public to its workshops and will also circulate its publications widely to ensure that people are adequately informed of its activities and reform proposals.
- The Commission also acts as a rallying point for the State's law reform efforts.

- The Commission's Reports and discussions or workshop papers will be published and widely circulated and made freely available to the public on the Commission's website.
- The Commission will be in constant touch with other law reform agencies in other jurisdictions.
- **BUDGETING AND EXPENDITURE**
 - To maintain the highest standards in transparent procurement of advisory services.
 - To prepare a minimum twelve (12) month projected estimation of expenditure as and when required by the statutory authorities.

Made at Lagos this day of August 2012

For Law Reform Commission

Olasupo Shasore, SAN

Chairman

Akeem Olajide Bello

Commissioner

Tola Akinsanya (Mrs.)

Commissioner

Ade Adeyemo (Mrs.)

Executive Secretary