

LAGOS STATE
SPECIAL PEOPLE'S
LAW

A SIMPLIFIED VERSION

Abiola Ruth Adimula
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LAGOS STATE SPECIAL PEOPLE'S LAW

A Simplified Version

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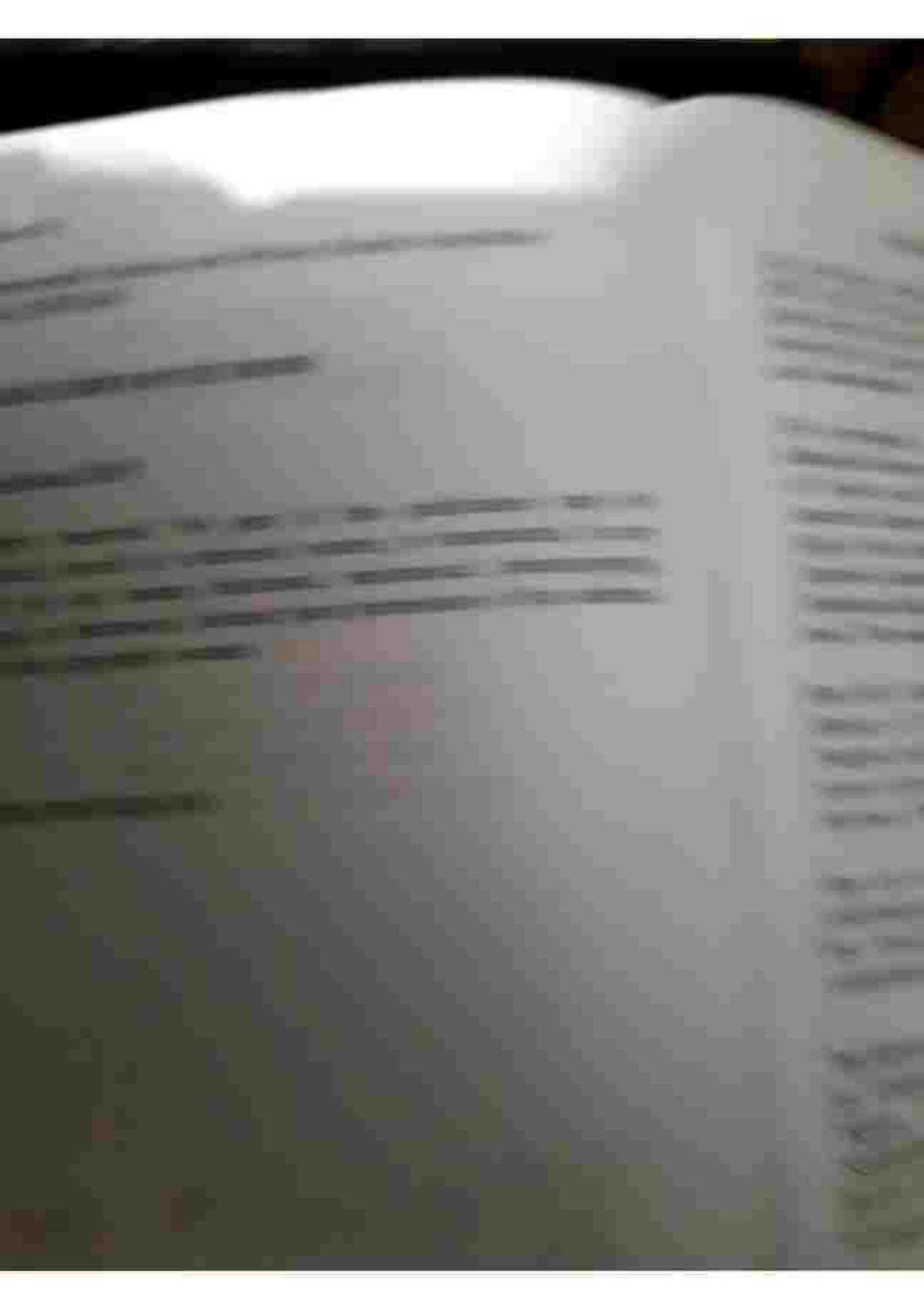


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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The successive administrations of Lagos State Government from 2010 to 2019 effected the passage and implementation of "Lagos State Special People's Law." The doggedness and commitment to ensuring the protection and rights of Special People is laudable and commendable.

We leveraged on our patrons-Lagos State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu; Hon. Commissioner Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development, Mr. Olusegun Dawodu; Imperial Majesty, Alayeluwa Oba Adeyeye Enitan Ogunwusi, Ojaja II-the Ooni of Ife; His Excellency, Amb. Prof. Ibrahim Agboola Gambari CFR; and Her Excellency, Dr. (Mrs) Aminat Abubakar-Bello (COSFAN Matron); for the production of this book. We remain very grateful for their support.

Both Mr. Olusegun Dawodu, Hon. Commissioner, Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development and Mrs Yewande Falugba, the Permanent Secretary, respectively offered unfettered access to the required information for the successful completion of this book. Their role is appreciated.

How can we not thank Mr. Lekan Olagunju for his invaluable contributions to the content, design, packaging and publication of this book? His input enhanced the quality of the book, tremendously.

The Editors appreciate the support and confidence reposed in them by Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Alumni Association, Nigeria (COSFAN) and their Benefactor-Commonwealth Scholarships Commission (CSC), United Kingdom through the British Council (BC), Nigeria for producing this simplified version of Lagos State Special People's Law.

His father, the late distinguished Governor of the Empire, General
People's Law will have a commanding position in the Empire and the
world and so it will serve as a valuable example to other leaders
of the world.

PREFACE

COSFAN's sixth thematic areas of focus include access, inclusion and opportunity and are in tandem with the target of Commonwealth Scholarships Commission (CSC), United Kingdom. This is in compliance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs, providing a powerful framework to guiding local communities, countries and the international community toward the achievement of disability-inclusive development; and recognizing disability as a cross-cutting issue.

Lagos State Special People's Law was passed in 2010, four years after the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006 and just two years after it came into force on May 3, 2008. This feat is commendable because Discrimination Against Disabilities (Prohibition) Act of Nigeria was signed into Law by the President Muhammad Buhari in January, 2019, almost a decade after the Lagos Law had come into being. To complement its efforts and ensure that the rights of Persons Living with Disabilities (PWD) in Lagos are protected, Lagos State Office of Disabilities Affairs (LASODA) was established in June, 2011. Despite these laudable initiatives, a large proportion of the Nigerian people are not aware of the Law just as majority of the beneficiaries remain ignorant of how to access the Law protecting them and protecting their rights.

Therefore, COSFAN's objective is geared in providing a platform for raising awareness of the Disability Law, connecting the instrumental parties and depicting COSFAN as a supporter of diversity and inclusion; promoting awareness through the media; and distributing the physical and electronic version of the Simplified Disability Law for easier accessibility and to a wider audience. Researchers have reported that in Nigeria broadband penetration is currently at 33% which means a potential 60million people could access the online version and consequently, result into greater measurable reach. This further entrenches COSFAN as a driver of access, inclusion and a

relations to other state governments in Nigeria to domesticate and implement Child Labour Act in their respective states.

The meeting of mind and purpose of Lagos State Ministry of Health and Social Development and COSFAN has produced this book. Knowing that some staff of LASHSOA are PWD (just as one of the editors of this Book) is a prime implementation strategy towards measures and milestones which the UN expects a country to achieve by the end of 2030.

COSFAN appreciates the open handedness of the Lagos State government for collaboration. The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, United Kingdom through the British Council in Nigeria has consistently supported COSFAN's programmes and activities. We thank you. The Editors deployed intellectual resources and moral energy just as they worked round the clock to produce this book. May God reward their labour of love.

Finally, we thank everyone that offered ideas, resources and contributions to the making and publishing of the Simplified Version of Lagos State Special People's Law.



Dr. Adimula, Abiola Ruth
COSFAN President

PERFORMANCE (1)

Lagos State Special People's Law was signed into law by Governor Abiodun Fajana, SAN in 2009. The focus of the law was to protect the rights of and offer the required accessibility to Special People. This is in addition to harnessing their unique competences for effectively and efficiently meeting the target community.

The Lagos State Special People's Law had been in existence for almost a decade and President Muhammadu Buhari gave it a boost by signing into law, in January, 2019, the Discrimination Against Disabilities (Prohibition) Act of Nigeria. However, before the President's assent, Lagos State had put operational structures in place. One of which includes the Lagos State Office of Disability Affairs (LASODA) in 2011. Other forms of domestication had also been put in place.

However, the Simplified Version of Lagos State Special People's Law by Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Alumni Association, Nigeria (COSFAN) clearly demonstrates the dynamism of synergy between COSFAN and Lagos State. No doubt, the simplified version would have a wider reach and penetration because its language is quite accessible and easily understood just as its size is handy. The wider community would surely benefit from using it because it is user friendly.

Essentially, it reduces the legal wordings of the earlier version without compromising the import of the book. Apart from offering awareness about those living differently, it would aid policy makers and those implementing in providing the required lead. This will facilitate further domestication of the law in states yet to adopt the disability law in Nigeria. Researchers are likely to be more attracted to working in this area. This has repositioned Nigeria and placed her in the league of countries showing inclusiveness.

Lagos State is proud to re-establish itself as a pace-setter in this unique and laudable project.



**Mr. Olusegun Dawodu,
Hon. Commissioner,
Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development**

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FOREWORD (ii)



The Honorable Deputy
Governor, Lagos State Government
The Chair of Life

Lagos State Special People's Law - A Simplified Version is a conscious and commendable effort at simplifying disability laws for a more robust life and living for people living differently. By its simplification, the authors engendered inclusiveness because a relatively larger number of users can access the laws to know their rights; take up their own defense and exact representations. Guided by their own law-background, formal and informal education from socialization with the beneficiaries, and colleagues, the authors transformed unclear legal expressions into small, chewable, easily understandable and communicable information. Lagos State Special People's Law came into existence in 2011. Between then and now, several laudable developments that impact on special people have taken place and necessitated not just a review but an appropriate simplification of special people's laws. Essentially, this book is a demonstration of wo(man)'s highest intelligence at work. It shows that laws are made for the improvement of man's life, living and activities. In this way, humanity is, indeed, the ultimate beneficiary.

Simplification of law books is increasing nowadays. This is a welcome development because it is a vital contribution to law literature and the process should never be closed. As a fresh phenomenon, such exercises should grow in the litora to legal literature because this is an aspect that had not, hitherto, been explored. The book is an invaluable source material to development partners, differently able persons, natural rulers, legislators, policy makers, politicians, scholars and the general public.


Oluwalanle Olofin Adenuga
Deputy Governor, Lagos State
Chair of Life

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She has served in the following capacity: Consultant to Senate Committee on Constitutional Review of Federal Republic of Nigeria (2016-2019); Council Member, International Bar Association, (2010-2012); National Executive Committee and Council Member in different Committees and Fora of the Nigerian Bar Association, between 1997 & 2015; Senior Special Assistant to the Executive Governor of Kwara State (two terms between 2013-2019); a Member and Trainee of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London, 2010. She has publications in Law, Gender and Peace Journals nationally and internationally.

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Mr. OYEGUNLE SAMUEL OLUSHOLA

Mr. Oyegunle Samuel Olushola holds a Bachelor in Linguistics and a Masters in Divinity. Between 2007 and 2013, he worked with UNICEF/NYSC-HIV/AIDS Project where he generated, analyzed and developed data for the NYSC Peer Educator Trainers. He has also worked on several Child Protections issues/projects with the C-Field Office of the UNICEF. He volunteers with the Women and Child Watch Initiatives (WOCWI). Sam is the Regional Coordinator (North Central) of the Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Alumni Associate - Nigeria.

Several times, he worked as a Broadcaster at Plateau Radio Television Corporation, The Nigerian Television Authority (NTA Ilorin- Part time). He also worked at The Tribune Newspapers and later at CATBOL MEDIA LTD where he undertook the editing and production of television programmes and jingles and managed company-client relationships. He is a 2013 Commonwealth Fellow to The Haven, Wolverhampton-UK. Presently, he works with Evangelical Church Winning All- ECWA as an Associate Pastor.

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Introduction

This simplified version of the Lagos State Special People's Law, 2010 (hereinafter referred to as "Special People's Law") is an attempt at bringing the provisions of the Special People's Law into the hands of everyone in Lagos State and beyond. The reason *d'être* for this publication is that the law is not only for Special People but to inform, enlighten and correct erroneous perceptions and wrong attitude of everyone to "special issues." It is also believed that the provisions of this law remain avant garde. It is not only a commendable initiative at the state level in view of the existence of a federal law on the matter; it accords with the international best practices on the treatment of "Special People."

Research has established that in developing and transitioning contexts such as Nigeria, neither the loss nor absence of a physical feature/ attribute renders a person as disabled rather, it is the public perception of "Special People" as incomplete human beings as well as the resulting environmental and societal barriers to self-actualization for persons living differently.¹ The Special People's Law addresses incorrect public attitude and barriers to self-actualization through direct provisions and thematic categories. For clarity and better understanding, the explanations have not been arranged in a chronological order but in specific-issue-related ways.

¹ For more in-depth discussion on this point of view, see Amosun-Adelusi, A.D. and Naenna Joy Eboh (2018) *Energy, Disability, and the Law in Africa* in Omerighe, Y. and Olor, A. eds. *Achieving Sustainable Energy for All in Africa*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Establishment of Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA)

Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs (LASODA) was established by the Lagos State Special People's Law of June 2011. The Governing Board was charged with implementing the said Law. In other words, the mandate of LASODA was "to ensure the proper implementation of the Lagos State 'Special People's Law and policies which guarantee inclusion, equal rights and opportunities and self-esteem of people living with disability (PWD)."

For LASODA to carry out this mandate, it had to create awareness of the provisions of the law for the public. It is hoped that the present awareness and sensitisation programme will go a long way in achieving that goal.

Changing Public Perception and Attitude

An important contribution is the terminology used in describing the beneficiary of the provisions of the Disability Law as *Persons Living with Disability* NOT Disabled Persons. It is believed that this terminology is empowering because it creates a sense of inclusion in the appreciation of the fact that all humans must live with one form of challenge or the other. This challenge is just a fact of existence and does not necessarily define the individual. In all the provisions of the law, this terminology was adopted. What is more, the citation provision² of the Disability Law, as earlier stated, describes the law as "Special People's Law." The law establishes the Office of Disability Affairs.³ First, it is expected that with LASODA at work, the public will be continuously orientated

²Section 37

³Sections 1-3 describe the composition of the governing board, staff and tenure of office, structure and management, etc.

on the correct attitude to persons with disability just as the office would maintain the data of persons living with disability in and government planning on targeted policies. In addition guidelines and directives to special schools will be consistent since they will proceed from a singular monitoring office⁴

Second, policies must target the challenges of special people and provide special guidelines for their education and development in an inclusive manner⁵. The office will also engage in training on public perception and reception⁶ such that companies attending to general public are obliged to employing specially trained personnel to attending to special people within a 5-year transition period, 2010-2015. At public functions, attendants must be provided to cater to the needs of "special persons." Failure to do so attracts Fifty Thousand Naira (N50,000) fine or six (6) months imprisonment or both.⁷

Removing Public and Environmental Barriers

According to the Special People's Law, public buildings, roads and other facilities such as pedestrian crossings and sidewalks must be designed in a user friendly and accessible manner for persons living differently.⁸ Persons living differently have a right, under the law, to notifying the Office of Disability Affairs of any barrier or inaccessibility to any public place.⁹ After receiving such notifications, the Office must immediately take all necessary steps to removing such barriers and making the place accessible.

Public transport facilities must guarantee safety and accessibility to special people. In addition, one set of every new bus must be marked and reserved for special people. This means only one reserved parking spot for one or every ten persons in "large assembly."⁴ Similarly, all sensitive devices and appliances for special people such as crutches, wheelchairs, must not be subjected to damage as long as they are not in commercial quantity or for commercial purposes. Apart from public transport, cars are to be designed in vehicles, schools, stores and streets by considering ease of access and exit as well as protection from movement of other passengers.⁵

Ensuring a Sense of Inclusion: Rights and Safety Act

In addition to the functions discussed above, the Office of Disability Affairs has departments which deal with social development and integration, legal services, recreation, providing medical, rehabilitation and mobility aids, appliances, information and communication technology etc.⁶ In times of crisis, disaster and emergencies, the government through the office pays due special cognizance of the "peculiar" vulnerability of special people.⁷

⁴ According to a November 1990 report, under the 1990 National Transport Commission, the government is planning to build a "Special Bus" in which the disabled people can travel. The report also mentions that the government is planning to build a "Special Bus" in which the disabled people can travel. The report also mentions that the government is planning to build a "Special Bus" in which the disabled people can travel.

In the identified situations and all other situations, special people shall be given first consideration on queues.²⁰

Furthermore, children living differently must be protected by parents or guardians from neglect, abandonment, segregation and discrimination in any form either in public or private.²¹ They must, at least, ensure their education to the secondary level. Children living differently must be registered immediately after birth and must be given a name, nationality and be entitled to free and continuous access to public medical facilities and support services.²² Government must also prevent their exploitation in any way and the Office of Disability must monitor programmes and activities designed to serve special people.²³

All special people have the following rights – right to free tuition at all levels of public educational institution with improved curriculum including learning of braille; sign language; alternative communication skills; etc; right to free health services in public health institutions; right to work and employment without discrimination: at least one percent (1%) of the workforce must be reserved for qualified persons living differently by all employers of labour; right to freedom of expression, opinion and privacy; right to drive a vehicle modified for safe driving; right to communal life and full inclusion; and right to participate in cultural life, recreation, leisure and sport.²⁴

20 Ibid

21 Section 26

22 Ibid

23 Ibid

24 Sections 27 – 33

It is important that people living differently are not discriminated in any form and manner in the areas of sex, age, work or residence. Laws that do not comply with practices, customs and responsibilities relating to the treatment of people can be or be interpreted as a violation of the court of law. In the process, they may be subject to the services by the state. Anyone who is discriminated against for living differently for some reason is subject to a crime punishable by a maximum of 10 years of imprisonment. One Hundred Thousand Years (100,000) of the population at all levels must also receive such action as other reduction measures, particularly, discrimination against schools, employers, government and other organizations that accord five percent (5%) exemption to people living differently.²

Finally, the Special Representative can provide important opportunities for persons living differently to gain access to independence and enjoy a higher standard of living, requiring that people living differently be able to live with dignity. The Special Representative also has a role to play in the area of disability affairs and a person living differently. The Special Representative also has a role to play in the area of disability affairs and a person living differently.

Highlights of Rights of Persons Living Differently under the Lagos State Special People's Law

a. *Basic Rights*

It is a crime to discriminate against any person living differently because of their condition. It is also a crime to hide or lock away any person (of any age) living differently because they have a right to mingle with other members of the community. Children with special abilities are entitled to the same treatment, training, maintenance as the other children in the family. No person living differently shall be subjected to any harmful practice based on sex, work, age or tradition. They should not be subjected to medical/scientific experiment (without their consent) or cruelty or degrading or inhuman treatment. They should not be used for alms-begging. Anyone who breaks this rule shall, if convicted, be liable to a fine of One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100, 000) or 3 months in prison or both. Persons living differently have the right to sue any individual, corporation, government and its agencies if their fundamental rights are violated.²⁸

b. *Rights of Children living Differently*

Children living differently should be registered immediately after birth and have the right to a name, to be known and cared for by their parents, to free and continual medical treatment in public health institutions and nationality. Parents/guardians of children living differently must ensure they are educated to, at least, secondary school level. The best interest of the child should be the primary consideration in all matters.²⁹

²⁸ See [Section 26(1,2,3); 27; 31(1,5,6); 37; 38]

²⁹ See [Section 31(4,7,11)]

c. Right to Education

Every person living differently is entitled to Free State Education up to tertiary level as long as they have been certified by the office. All schools must be run so that they are accessible to persons living differently and they must have specially trained personnel and facilities that can teach persons living differently. In other words, there should be no segregation, the schools should be inclusive. The teaching of Braille, Sign Language must be included in the schools' curriculum³⁰.

d. Right to Healthcare

Every person living differently is entitled to free healthcare services in the state hospitals and health care centres. Appropriate arrangements should be made for those who are unable to communicate normally. Temporary or Permanent Certificates of Disability will be issued to individuals after assessment.³¹

e. Right to Work and Employment

Persons living differently have the right to gain a living by working. It is a crime for any employer to discriminate against any person living differently with regard to the job application procedure, the terms and conditions of employment, opportunity for promotion, training or other benefits. All employers with a workforce of about 100 people must reserve, at least, one percent (1%) of the workforce for persons living differently.

An employer whose employee becomes disabled must, if possible, retrain the employee to be effective in the organisation or, if not,

30 [Section 33]

31 [section 32]

pay him or her off with at least, the aggregate value of 48 months' salary or 60 months if the disability was sustained in the discharge of his duties. No person or corporate body shall subject a person living differently to slavery, compulsory labour or undue disadvantage except by a Court Order. Any person who breaks this rule shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine of One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100,000) or 3 months imprisonment or both. In the case of a corporate body, the fine is Five Hundred Thousand Naira (N500,000) to be paid as damages to the affected person with disability.³²

f. Right to Freedom of Communication

Persons living differently have the right to express their opinion and receive information meant for the general public through any means of communication of their choice. The government and corporate organisations should always make the information available in accessible formats such as Sign Language, Braille and other methods. Properly trained personnel who can attend to their customers/clients living differently must be employed.³³

g. Right to Public Transport

Every public transport service must run in such a way that will allow persons living differently to use it. All transport service providers must reserve ten percent (10%) of their seats for people living differently and they must not charge for carrying personal wheelchairs, crutches or other mobility aids. The convenience and safety of persons living differently must be considered before seats are assigned in vehicles, trains, aircrafts or ships. This includes factors such as ease of access/exit and non-disturbance by the

³² [Section 34]

³³ [section 35]

movement

h. Right to

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movement of other passengers.³⁴

h. Right to Drive

Any person living differently has the right to drive any vehicle as long as his or her condition does not prevent him or her ability to drive or the vehicle has been adapted to allow him or her to drive safely.³⁵

i. Reservation at Parking Lots

Five percent (5%) of the spaces in a car parking lot shall be reserved for people living differently whose vehicles have been identified with the necessary insignia. Any person or organisation in control of a parking lot without such a provision will be liable to a fine of One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100, 000) per day of default. People who use the reserved parking without the proper authority or who unlawfully obstructs the usage of the space reserved will be liable to a fine of Five Thousand Naira (N5,000).³⁶

j. Provision of Facilities at Public Buildings

All new public and commercial buildings must, henceforth be constructed with lifts and ramps so that people living differently can access them easily. Within a certain number of years, even old public and commercial buildings must be modified to allow people living differently easy access.

The government must ensure that roads, side-walks, pedestrian crossings and other facilities are made accessible to people living differently even on wheelchairs within five (5) years.

³⁴ [Section 23, 24]

³⁵ [Section 36]

Approval for building plans must be based on compliance with the building code approved by the office. Persons living differently have the right to notify the office of the inaccessibility of any public place.³⁷

k. Right to Legal Aid

The government must provide free legal aid to people living differently through the Office of the Public Defender, when required.³⁸

l. Rights of Tenants with Disability

A landlord shall allow a person living differently who is a tenant to make modifications to the building that would allow the tenant access his apartment as long as the tenant returns the building to its original state at the end of his tenancy.³⁹

m. Public Functions

Organisers of public functions must provide competent attendants to attend to persons living differently at the functions. The punishment for breaking this rule is a fine of Fifty Thousand Naira (N50, 000) or six (6) months in prison or both.⁴⁰

n. Rights of Persons Living Differently in Emergency Situations

In all situations of risk including violence, emergencies, and natural disasters, the government must ensure the safety and protection of persons living differently while taking into consideration their peculiar vulnerability.⁴¹

e. Rights to First Consideration in Queues

Persons living differently shall be given first consideration as much as possible on queues especially at Automated Teller Machine (ATM) points, Bus-Stops, Banking Hall etc.⁴²

p. Rights to Social / Welfare / Economic Empowerment

Persons living differently shall enjoy special consideration from Government on issues relating to welfare, social development, poverty reduction, skill and economic empowerment and other programmes.⁴³

q. Rights to 5% Accommodation Reservation Consideration

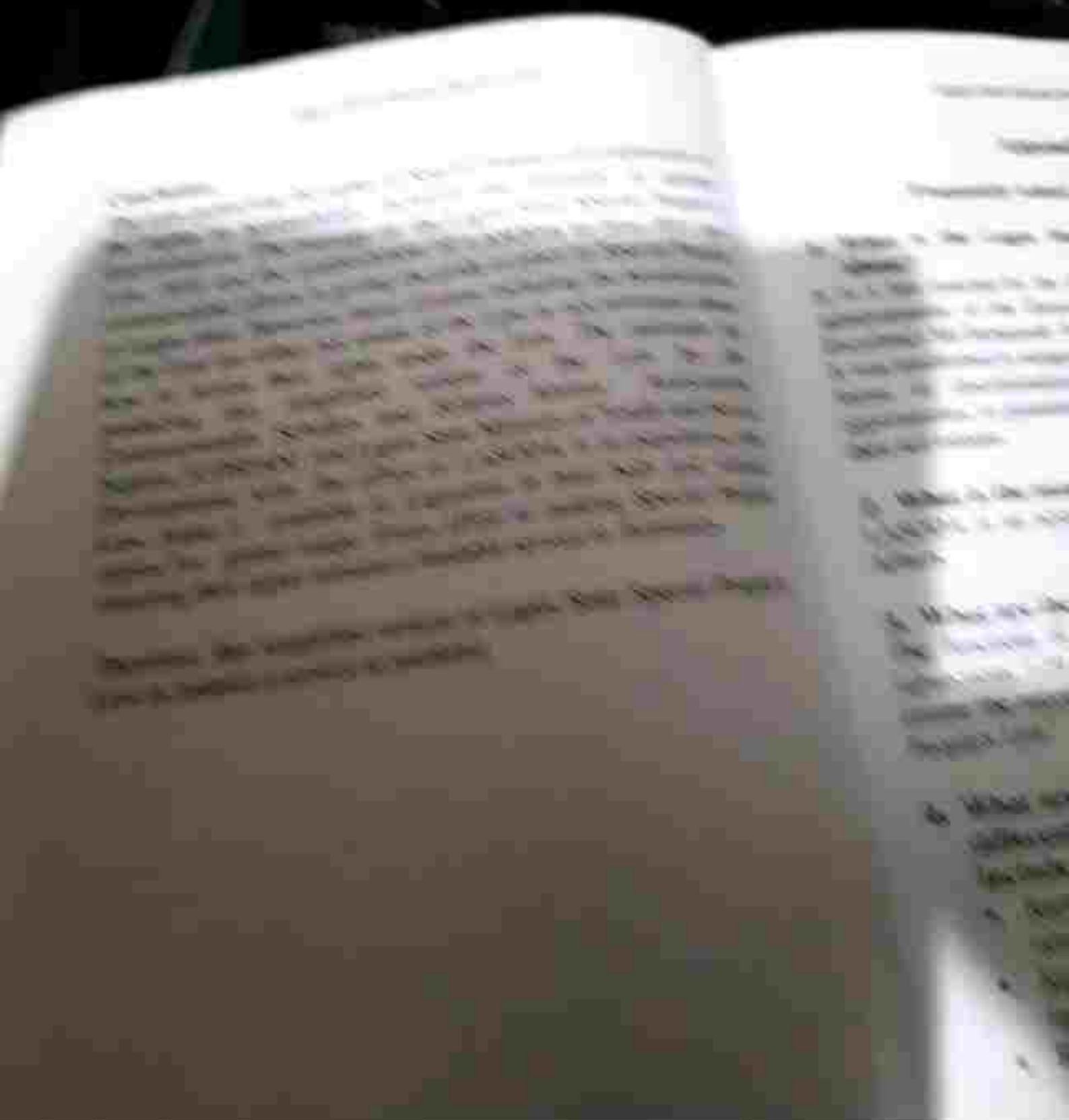
Persons living differently shall have five percent (5%) reservation consideration in any situation where accommodation is being provided by Schools, Employers, Organizations and Governments.⁴⁴

r. Rights to Social Security

Person living differently and are of 60 years and above shall enjoy social security to be provided by Government.⁴⁵

s. Rights to Enjoy Provision of Adequate Standard of Living and Social Protection

Every strata of Government shall take appropriate steps to ensure that persons living differently have good standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing and to the continuous improvement of their living conditions.⁴⁶



Appendix 1

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the Lagos State Special People's Law all about?

It is a law enacted by the Lagos State Government under the administration of the Executive Governor of Lagos State, His Excellency Mr Babatunde Raji Fashola SAN on June 24, 2011. It was established to safeguard people living differently against all forms of discrimination; to give them equal rights and opportunities; to guarantee their inclusion in the society and raise their self esteem.

2. What is the meaning of LASODA?

LASODA is an acronym for Lagos State Office for Disability Affairs.

3. What are the functions of LASODA?

The functions of LASODA are expressly stated in section 3 subsections 1-19 of the Law which may be summarised as "to ensure the successful implementation of the Lagos State Special People's Law."

4. What are the various rights available to people living differently under the special people's Law? They Include:

- Right to education and free tuition at all levels in public educational institutions.
- Right to free health and medical care in all public health institutions.
- Right to work and to employment opportunities.

- Right to non-discrimination, harmful or inhuman treatment and to drive
- Right to full inclusion and participation in the community which includes cultural, political, recreation, leisure and sport.
- Right to freedom of communication, **safety and protection** in emergency, violence and natural disasters.
- Right to social security for Special People that are over 60 years and above.
- Right to enjoying 5% accommodation reservation where it is provided by schools, employers, organisations, government at all levels.
- Right to provision of adequate standard of living and social protection at social gatherings.
- Right to reservation of parking lots.
- Right to assignment of special seats in vehicles, vessels, trains and aircrafts.
- Right to provision of friendly facilities in public transport.
- Right to unfettered access to buildings, schools and institutions.
- Right of first consideration on queues.
- Right to seeking redress for infringement of rights.

5. What are the obligations of parents and guardians of children living differently under the law?

Parents and Guardians are to ensure that such children are free from all forms of neglect, exploitation, violence, abuse, segregation, concealment because of their disability. They must ensure that such children are educated to, at least, secondary school level.

6. When is the deadline given by the law by which public buildings, schools and institutions must be made accessible and friendly to Special People?

The law provides that by the year 2016, every public building, place, road, pedestrian crossing and other structures must be modified to be accessible and usable by Special People.

7. How can a person living differently benefit from this law?

Persons living differently can benefit from this law by first participating in the data registration / screening exercise carried out in the five major divisions of the State by LASODA during which their particulars shall be taken and certificates awarded according to the level of vulnerability.

8. Who is the stake holder saddled with the responsibility of ensuring compliance with the Law?

The identified Stakeholders include Parents / Guardians; Governmental Ministerial Agencies and Parastatals; Media; Judiciary; Builders; Architects; Road Transport Workers; Employers; Law Enforcement Agents; Religious Bodies; Labour Unions; Non-Governmental Organizations; Civil Society Organisations etc.

9. How can a person whose right has been violated under the law seek redress?

This can be done either privately through the services of a private Legal Practitioner or by enlisting the Office for Public Defender for free legal services or by forwarding a letter of complaint to the Lagos State Office For Disability Affairs (LASODA) for necessary actions.

Compiled by:

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Appendix 2

COSFAN

What is COSFAN?

COSFAN is a non-for-profit organisation. It is a body consisting of eminent Nigerians that had enjoyed the sponsorship of the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC), United Kingdom (through the British Council in Nigeria), in their respective postgraduate academic pursuits and/or career enhancement from 1960 to date.

Objectives

The main objective of COSFAN is to promote and advance education, in order to deepen awareness and create an informed society of Nigerians. Other objectives include promotion of scholarships by institutions of award to deserving Nigerians and to act as a Think-Tank in different need based development issues in Nigeria and between Nigeria, UK, and other Commonwealth countries, among others. COSFAN programmes and activities are targeted at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in six thematic focus areas of Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC), United Kingdom. They include:

1. Science and Technology for development
2. Strengthening health systems and capacity
3. Promoting global prosperity
4. Strengthening global peace, security and governance
5. Strengthening resilience and response to crises
6. Access, inclusion and opportunity

What does COSFAN do?

Commonwealth Scholars and Fellows Alumni Association, Nigeria (COSFAN) provides voluntary services for improving education and other relevant sectors by sharing knowledge and professionalism in an effort to constructively impacting the Nigerian society.

- The Nigerian and British Governments have invested in the career of COSFAN members and furnished beneficiaries with professional skills for making COSFAN members experts in different fields of study. In view of this, COSFAN supports government (at all levels), Federal Ministry of Education and its agencies in planning, designing and implementation of various capacity building programmes. COSFAN also works with development bodies, academics, and corporate organisations, among others.
- From September 2019, COSFAN members have been visiting federal, state and private universities in the six geo political zones of Nigeria and sensitising students, scholars and the public, on methods to accessing and benefiting from the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plans in the United Kingdom. This voluntary service and reassurance to interested and qualified candidates in pursuing applications for scholarships and fellowship opportunity in the UK has been immensely appreciated by Vice Chancellors, University Communities and the general public.
- In addition, COSFAN members provide technical and personnel support or lead studies to strengthen evidence-based policy process.

- Some COSFAN members have played critical roles in many of the international donor projects, including DFID's Education Data Research and Evaluation in Nigeria (EDOREN); DFID/UNICEF Girls Education Project; UNICEF Child Rights Act, National Gender Policy and many others. COSFAN members are equipped to facilitating similar projects and programmes.
- COSFAN has compiled the list of some of her members in different fields of study, their professions, areas of strength as well as their contact details in a profile booklet. This document remains available as reference for possible engagement in relevant fields of study, whenever the need arises.

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Appendix 3

Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development

Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development was charged with the responsibility of planning, devising and implementing Lagos State policies on Youth, Sports and Social Development. The Ministry also offers rehabilitation services which include restoration of mental health and psycho social interventions.

Strategic objectives

Promoting and providing social welfare services for vulnerable persons in Lagos State. The services include:

- Rehabilitation and vocational training for destitute, special people and those with mental illness
- Institutional care for elderly citizens
- Adoption, fostering, guardianship and child custody
- Promoting, protecting and safe guardianship the rights of the child and special people
- Care of children in conflict with the law
- Providing an enabling and empowerment environment for youth development
- Facilitating medical social work services to indigent citizens i.e. destitute, accident victims etc.
- Supervising and monitoring of non-government organisations and orphanages, day care centres and homes
- Supervising and monitoring youth centres and play grounds used for recreating and
- Providing family and juvenile welfare services, school social work services, adult probation services and child development services

Lagos State Special People's Law

For further information and usage on the Simplified Version of the Lagos State Special People's Law, please contact any of the Editors:

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Appendix 4

COSEAN National Officers

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 1. Dr. Abiola Ruth Adimula | - President |
| 2. Dr. Cyril Akagwu | - Vice President |
| 3. Chidi Ezegwu | - General Secretary |
| 4. Aminu Ado | - Treasurer/Financial Secretary |
| 5. Taiwo Obe | - Publicity Secretary |
| 6. Samuel Oyegunle | - Regional Coordinator
(North Central) |
| 7. Dr. Victor Okereke | - Regional Coordinator
(South South) |
| 8. Helen Akinwande Fidelis | - Regional Coordinator
(South West) |

End of Year Planning Committee (COSFAN)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Mrs. Helen Akinwande Fidelis | - Chairperson |
| 2. Prof. Tunde Opeibi | - Member |
| 3. Dr. Abolaji Mustapha | - Member |
| 4. Aminu Ado | - Member |
| 5. Mrs. Deborah Afolabi | - Member |
| 6. Taiwo Obe | - Member |
| 7. Dr. Ekundayo Samuel | - Member |
| 8. Dr. Azizat Amoloye-Adebayo | - Member |
| 9. Pastor Samuel Oyegunle | - Member |
| 10. Dr. Nazmat Surajudeen Bakinde | - Member |

Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Olusegun Dawodu | - Hon. Commissioner |
| 2. Mrs. Yewande Falugba | - Permanent Secretary |
| 3. Babatunde Kazeem Safiu, Esq | - LASODA Legal Officer |
| 4. Mr. Ogundairo Oluwadamilare Jamiu | - Public Affairs Officer |
| 5. Mrs. Oluwatoyin Odusanya | - Director Legal Services |

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Lagos State Special People's Law: A Simplified Version is a book written in understandable language, the law of people living differently. This publication is unique because it communicates with precision in a simple manner without being pedestrian. The authors distilled the core of the provisions of the law in a way that consciously maintained the dignity and sensitivity of the subject. This, however, did not reduce the tenor of the message therein because it goes beyond being both user and reader friendly to engage deeply with an important aspect of the reality of human existence.

Aware that constructive aspects of globalization and ancillary developments ought to be harnessed for a win-win outcome for "special people," the authors drew on their extensive legal exposure and humanism to argue that the Lagos State pace-setting legal initiative of 2011 continues to accord with the national position and international best practices.

Structurally, the book is divided into various sections that attempt to address specific areas of concern for people living differently on the one hand, and their relationship with the larger community, on the other. However, the divisions could not be absolute because of cross cutting issues. Perhaps, an irresistible attraction of the book is not just its accessibility but its seminal nature which, no doubt, can compel every reader to complete its