

PRESENTATION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF NIGERIA (ALGON)

VISION

Repositioning Nigeria local governments as a third tier of government.

MISSION

- Sustainable good governance at the local government level
- Better service delivery at the grassroots.

BACKGROUND

Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) was founded on November 29, 1999 after formal registration under the relevant extent laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Before then, however, there existed in Nigeria, smaller regional Associations with their activities restricted to their particular regions within the country. These all collapsed to form a truly National Association now known as ALGON.

ALGON is the umbrella Association of all the 774 Local Governments and Area Councils in Nigeria and its membership is institutional, that means that Local Governments are the members but being represented by Council Chairmen.

The Association is a veritable platform for a united Local Governments voice on socio-political issues in Nigeria and indeed globally.

OBJECTIVES OF ALGON

- i. Promote and protect the interests, rights, privileges and autonomy of Local Government at all times.
- ii. Encourage Local Governments execute the functions constitutionally assigned to them efficiently and effectively.
- iii. Promote and encourage professionalism in Local Government services and contribute towards the improvement of Local Government administration and services.
- iv. Provide a forum for discussion among members and with other relevant bodies on matters of interest to Local Governments.
- v. Express the views/opinions of Local Government on Federal/State Government policies/legislation affecting them as well as on other Local Government issues of national and global concerns.
- vi. Offer advisory services to members and disseminate information on matters of importance to Local Government.
- vii. Encourage investigation and research into matters relating to Local Government.
- viii. Promote inter-local government co-operation/networking and joint ventures.
- ix. Initiate such actions, as may be desirable and necessary to advance the interest of Local Government as a third tier of Government.

FUNCTIONS

The Functions of the Association shall include:

- i. The periodical organization of local, State, national and international training programmes, courses, congress, seminars and conference.
- ii. Collection, collation, study and distribute of information in the field of Local Government.

- iii. The provision of facilities and services, including provision of journals, magazines and other documentaries to improve Local Government administration in Nigeria.
- iv. Rendering expert advice and services on Local Government matter.
- v. Providing consultancy services intended to enhance the availability of high level manpower for the Local Government.
- vi. Providing support services to Local Governments.
- vii. Advising the State and Federal Governments on Local Government policies and other related matters.
- viii. Co-operation with other national and international bodies on matters of common interest to Local Governments.
- ix. Organising exchange programmes for Local Government within and outside the country.
- x. All other lawful functions which may further the objectives of the Association.

ORGANS

- General Assembly.
- President and Principal Officers (Exco).
- National Executive Council (NEC).
- Standing Committees.
- Board of Trustees.

The General Assembly is the highest decision making organ of the Association while the Exco and NEC carries out directive of the General Assembly.

The National President and 6 other Principal Officers (one elected from each of the six geo-political zones in the county) makes up the Exco while NEC is made up of ALGON State Chapters Chairmen drawn one from the 36 States of the Federation and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to represent the State Chapters at the national level. Exco members are also part and parcel of NEC.

The President is alter ego of the Association and its spokesperson at all times.

ALGON Secretariat which is the administrative arm of the Association is headed by the Secretary General who acts on the directives of the President and NEC.

The BOTs are the custodians of the Association with advisory and guidance roles.

CHALLENGES

1. Nigerian Local Governments function under an oppressive and over-interference from State Governments and this practice has hindered growth and independence of the system in Nigeria.

The biggest challenge ALGON is facing is the liberation of Local Governments from the shackles of State Governments as well as obtaining a level of fiscal autonomy and devolution of powers/responsibilities to that tier of Government in Nigeria.

2. Another major challenge in funding for ALGON Secretariat and activities of the Association in general, which includes: lobbying, media/publicity, capacity building, project executions etc.

The major source of funding to the Association as envisaged by its constitution is from membership contributions/dues. However, this has not been forthcoming from members. Consequently, a lot that ought to be done by the Association is neglected./.