

LAGOS STATE LAW AND THE COMMITTEE ON BOUNDARY MATTERS: A LEGAL ANALYSIS***Abstract**

Boundaries constitutes one of the main attributes of a State as a subject of international Law or as a constituent part of an Independent State. Without a determined and a particularly specified and delineated boundary a States cannot effectively claim a territory or determine the location of itself amongst other States. With development extending to territorial areas that were not earlier taken as useful or important, issues of territories determined by boundaries continue to rear their heads especially in a cosmopolitan city as Lagos. This paper has set out to investigate and do an analysis of the law establishing the Lagos State boundary Committee and the attendant issues touching and concerning boundary matters and record its conclusions.

Keywords: Boundary, Territory, Disputes, Local Council Development Areas.

1. Introduction

Lagos state is the smallest state amongst the 36 states in land mass in Nigeria but represents the most vibrant in almost all areas of human endeavour. Lagos State and the activities of people and government of Lagos State, as it is presently constituted, is the heartbeat of the Nigerian nation-leading in capital market operations, banking, education, tourism, aviation, economy and other indices of development which may not be possible in numbering serration. Lagos State covers just 0.4 percent of Nigeria landmass, a mere 3,577 square kilometres, out of which about one-quarter is liquid surface: lagoons, creeks and coastal river estuaries...¹ It contains within its tiny territory and boundaries about 50 percent of industrial and commercial activities of the country-Nigeria². More than 90 percent of banking and financial institutions have their headquarters in Lagos and the dominance of the financial transactions is illustrated by Central Bank Statistics³. With the 1991 provisional census figures of 5.68 million, the inhabitants of Lagos State are more in population than any other state in Nigeria⁴. But the recent population census estimated the population of Lagos State at about 14 million coming second after Kano State. Commentators have severally disagreed with the last census figures anchoring their claims on the fact that about 70 percent of the consumption of electricity and petroleum products occur in Lagos State alone, leaving about 30 percent for the remaining states of the federation.

2. Location

Lagos State is sandwiched by latitude 6° 22 and 6° 42N and it straddles longitudes 2° 42 to 4° 20 It is bounded in the North by Ogun State and in the East by Ondo State. It shares international boundary of about 45 kilometres with the Republic of Benin while the vast, deep blue Atlantic Ocean constitutes the approximately 180 kilometres long southern limit⁵. Although the total land area is just about 3,577 square kilometres, yet creeks, lagoons and estuaries constitute nearly 800 (22%) square kilometres. However, reclamation is reducing the size of water surface in a significant way. For example, Apapa Area, Lagos-Epe Strip, Maroko and the controversial Osborne parcel of land that is the object of disagreement between the federal and the Lagos State government over whose jurisdiction the land belongs⁶. Nevertheless, it is not only man that is reclaiming the land surface but the sea is also trying to reclaim more space for itself in the process of coastal erosion as being witnessed in the gradual etching away of part of the Bar Beach⁷.

3. Creation of Lagos State

At independence in 1960, Nigeria had four regions (Northern, Western, Mid-Western and Eastern) and the Lagos colony - a federal territory. Before the Nigerian civil war in 1967, Nigeria was broken up by the federal military government under the leadership of General Yakubu Gowon (rtd) into twelve states. Lagos State was thus created as one of the first twelve states being an amalgamation of the then Lagos colony, and some parts of the Western Region. It was then basically composed of five main divisions, namely: Lagos colony, Badagry, Epe, Ikeja and Ikorodu. The city of Ikeja became the capital of Lagos State till the present time. During the

* By **R. O. OLAOLUWA, LL.M, Ph.D**, Associate Professor, Department of Jurisprudence and International Law, Faculty of Law, Lagos State University, Lagos, Nigeria; Solicitor and Advocate of the Supreme Court of Nigeria; Former Secretary-General, Nigerian Society of International Law. E-mail: rufus.olaoluwa@lasu.edu.ng

¹Arowolo, O.O (1990) (Ed), Some Aspects of the Living Conditions of the People of Lagos State, Faculty of Social Sciences, Lagos State University, Ojo, p. 2.

² Arowolo, O.O. (1990), op. cit., p. 207.

³ Banking and Finance Institutions in Nigeria, <http://www.nigeriagallery.com> at 26 February, 2011.

⁴ Nigeria (1982) Nigeria Provisional Census Result, New Nigeria Daily Newspaper, March 20, 1992, Kaduna.

⁵Odewunmi, S.G: Lagos State: Location, Extent and Constituent/// Fundamentals of General Studies edited by A.O.K Noah, 1995, p. 117.

⁶ Odewunmi, S.G., op. cit., p. 117.

⁷ Odewunmi, S.G., supra, p. 117.

Local Government Reform of 1976, the state was further divided into eight Local Government Areas. These are Lagos Island, Lagos Mainland, Mushin West, Mushin East (later called Somolu), Ikeja, Ikorodu, Badagry and Epe⁸. In 1979, the Lagos State administration of Alhaji Lateef Kayode Jakande further sub-divided the state into twenty two Local Government Areas. These are - Agege, Ajeromi/Ifelodun, Alimosho, Apapa, Badagry, Ebute-Metta/Yaba, Epe, Ibeju Lekki, Eti-Osa, Ikeja, Ikorodu, Ikoyi, Irepodun, Itire/Ikate, Kosofe, Lagos Island, Mushin, Odi-Olowo, Ojo, Oshodi/Isolo, Somolu and Surulere⁹. The subsequent military governments both at federal and state have increased and reduced the number of Local Government Areas in Lagos State for one reason or the other until 1998¹⁰ when the present Nigerian 1999 Constitution was approved and signed into law. The 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria provides for twenty Local Government Areas for Lagos State as follows: Agege, Ajeromi-Ifelodun, Alimosho, Amuwo Odofin, Apapa, Badagry, Epe, Eti-Osa, Ibeju/Lekki, Ifako-Ijaye, Ikeja, Ikorodu, Kosofe, Lagos Island, Lagos Mainland, Mushin, Ojo, Oshodi/Isolo, Somolu and Surulere¹¹.

The growth of Lagos is going a bit faster than the rate of its requisite development. Before the capital city of Nigeria was relocated to Abuja, Lagos was the capital of Nigeria. The fact of its history as the former capital of Nigeria coupled with the fact of its geographical location as a major port of entry from outside the country and exit from the country by sea and air greatly contributed to its unprecedented constant growth¹². Lagos State being the custodian of the former capital city of Nigeria is a socio-cultural centre accommodating all and sundry from all parts of the country and including foreign nationals. Despite the small size of Lagos as the smallest in land mass, nonetheless about 81% of the people are living in urban areas. The cultural composition of Lagos population is: Yoruba as that represent the majority of about 72%, the Igbos represent about 10%, the Edos represent about 3%, the Hausas 2% while almost all the other ethnic groups exist in various proportions below 2%. Non-Nigerians constitute about 2% of the population¹³. The above factors make Lagos a unique place in the life of Nigerians. The activities of people in socio-cultural, economic and political relations vis-à-vis the land mass of Lagos put a lot of pressure on the government of Lagos State in terms of provision of amenities which seem to be inadequate in the face of massive input from the government. One of the ways open to the government in coping with its task of governance is to restructure the state by creating more local government development areas in other to meet the demands for effective administration for the benefit of Lagosians.

4. Creation of 57 Local Government Areas

In order that government should be brought nearer to the people and relying on Section 8(3) of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Lagos State government passed a law known as the creation of Local Government Area Law 2002 wherein 57 Local Government Areas were created in place of the former 20 Local Government Areas. The local government areas¹⁴ are:

S/N	Local Government Area	Headquarters
1.	Agbado/Oke-Odo	Abule-Egba
2.	Agboyi/Ketu	Alapere
3.	Agege	Sango
4.	Ajeromi	Ajeganle
5.	Alimosho	Akwonjo
6.	Amowu-Odofin	Amuwo
7.	Apapa	Apapa
8.	Apapa Iganmu	Badiya
9.	Ayobo/Ipaja	Igbogila
10.	Badagry West	Kankon
11.	Badagry	Badagry Town
12.	Bariga	Pedro
13.	Coker Aguda	Aguda

⁸ Odewunmi, S.G., op. cit., p. 117.

⁹ Odewunmi, S.G., op. cit., p. 117.

¹⁰ See the Forwarding Notes to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Promulgation.

¹¹ See first Schedule, Part 1, Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999. This Constitution came into force on 29th May, 1999.

¹² Odumosu, T. & Adedokun, L. (1990), 'Some Aspects of the Urban and Rural Areas of Lagos State// Arowolo, O.O. (ed.) (1990), Some Aspects of the Living Conditions of the people of Lagos State, Faculty of Social Sciences, Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos, p. 2.

¹³ Odewunmi, S.G., op. cit., p. 130.

¹⁴ A Law to Provide for the Creation of New Local Government Areas in Lagos State adopted 24 June, 2002.

14.	Egbe-Idirnu	Isheri-Olofin
15.	Ejigbo	Ejigbo
16.	Epe	Itamarun
17.	Eredo	Eredo
18.	Eti-Osa East	Ajah
19.	Eti-Osa West	Igbo Efon
20.	Iba	Oyonka
21.	Ibeju	Igando Oloja
22.	Ifako-Ijaye	Ifako
23.	Ifelodun	Amukoko
24.	Igando/Ikotun	Ikotun
25.	Igbogbo-Bayeku	Igbogbo
26.	Ijede	Maidan
27.	Ikeja	Ikeja
28.	Ikorodu	Ikorodu Town
29.	Ikorodu North	Odogiyan
30.	Ikorodu West	Owutu
31.	Ikosi-Ejinrin	Agbowo
32.	Ikosi Isheri	Ikosi
33.	Ikoyi	Obalende
34.	Imota	Ebute-Ajebo
35.	Iru-Victoria Island	Victoria Island
36.	Isolo	Isolo
37.	Itire-Ikate	Itire
38.	Kosofe	Ojota
39.	Lagos Island East	Kakawa
40.	Lagos Island West	Isale-Eko
41.	Lagos Mainland	Oyingbo
42.	Lekki	Lekki
43.	Mosan-Okunola	Akin-Ogun
44.	Mushin	Mushin
45.	Odi-Olowo/Ojuwoye	Ilupeju
46.	Ojo	Alaworo
47.	Ojodu	Oke Ira
48.	Ojokoro	Ijaiye
49.	Olorunda	Iworo
50.	Onigbongbo	Opebi
51.	Oriade	Ijegun Ibaso
52.	Orile Agege	Abekoro
53.	Oshodi	Oshodi
54.	Oto Awori	Ijanikin
55.	Somolu	Bajulaye
56.	Surulere	Surulere
57.	Yaba	Adekunle

The adoption of the law to provide for the creation of New Local Government Areas in Lagos sparked off a lot of questions, comments, arguments and disagreements between the Lagos State Government and the Federal Government on one hand and a lot of discussions in the academia, judiciary and especially amongst the populace in the press on the other hand. The Federal Government under the presidency of Chief Olusegun Obasanjo was vehement in its disagreement with the Lagos law and especially in creating thirty seven (37) additional Local Council Development Government Areas without first agreeing with the federal authorities. On Saturday, 27th March 2004, the Lagos State Government conducted elections into the new 57 Local Government Councils established by the creation of the New Local Government Area Law¹⁵ and chairmen of 57 New Local Governments were sworn-in on Monday, 29th March, 2004 by the Governor of Lagos State. On the 8th of April, 2004, the President wrote to the Minister of Finance instructing the Minister not to release

¹⁵ The Creation of New Local Government Law, No. 5, 2002, S. 4.

allocations from the Federation Account to the states where New Local Governments were created and elections held into them including Lagos.

It is pertinent to note that some state governments in the country have before then created new Local Government Areas and conducted elections into them without open disagreement from the Federal Government. Available information indicates that some states namely Ebonyi, Katsina, Nasarawa and Niger States conducted the local government election in new Local Government Areas by their respective States' Assemblies without much noise from the federal government until Lagos State did the same¹⁶. While the State House of Assembly are empowered by the 1999 Constitution to create new Local Government Areas, the National Assembly is, however, required to make consequential provisions by an Act with respect to the names and headquarters of the new local government areas for any of such new local governments to have constitutional recognition¹⁷.

The above constitutional questions arose because Lagos State and some other states have acted to tamper with the existing boundaries between Local Government Areas which has jurisdictional and financial implications for both the State and the Federal Government of Nigeria. The Federal Government in swift reaction ordered the Lagos State Government to revert to the 20 Local Government Areas as provided for in Part 1, first schedule of the constitution and that until it reverts back to the 20 Local Government Areas, Federal Allocations from the Federal Government will be withheld. The Lagos State disagreed with the Federal Government and consequently sued the federal government¹⁸. In the case between *A.G Lagos State v. A.G Federation*, seven issues were raised four of which touch and concern boundaries which is the subject of this paper. These issues are presented hereunder:

Issues No. 3: Whether or not the plaintiff has power under the 1999 constitution to abolish Local Government Areas created under the 1999 constitution by altering their names, adjusting their boundaries and dividing them into smaller units;

Issues No. 4: Whether or not the plaintiff has power under the 1999 constitution to create new Local Governments without recourse to the National Assembly as provided for under the constitution;

Issues No. 5: Whether the creation of Local Government Areas law, No. 5 of 2002 of Lagos State is invalid without or before the enactment of an Act of the National Assembly enacted pursuant to Section 8(5) of the 1999 Constitution; and

Issues No. 6: Whether or not the creation of Local Government Areas law, No. 5 of 2002 of Lagos State has become part of the laws of Lagos State or whether the said instrument never became law or if it purported to have become law it is void for inconsistency with the constitution.¹⁹

Responding to some of the issues raised, the Supreme Court considered inter alia the power of state government to create new local government council, the Court said that:

A state of the federation has the power under Sections 7(1) and 8(3) of the 1999 constitution to create new local government areas as was done in Law No. 5 of 2002 and of 2004 by Lagos State. However, the New Local Government so created will not take effect or come into operation until the National Assembly accordingly amends Section 3(6) and Part 1 of the first schedule to the constitution²⁰.

Continuing, the court stated that:

Under Section 8(3) of the 1999 Constitution the House of Assembly of a State is empowered to pass a bill for the creation of new local government areas. It may also under Section 8(4) pass a bill to adjust the boundary of any existing local government area. It follows that in the process of creating new or additional local government areas which will of necessity lead to the adjustment of boundaries of some or all the existing ones, a State House of Assembly is adequately enabled by subsection (3) and (4) of Section 8 to alter the boundaries of the existing local government areas that consequently come into being²¹.

¹⁶ Gbenga Salau, 20 years on, LCDAs for good governance, development, *The Guardian Newspaper*, 20th February 2022

¹⁷ See S; 8(5) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999.

¹⁸ *Attorney-General of Lagos State v. Attorney-General of the Federation* (2004) 18 NWLR (pt. 904), p. 1-148.

¹⁹ *Ibid.* p. 7.

²⁰ *Ibid.* p. 37.

²¹ *Ibid.* pp. 38 at p. 101, paras E-G.

Despite the ‘war’ between the federal government and the Lagos State government on the creation or adjustment of local government areas, the people continue to show their discontentment to the Lagos government either for not giving or creating new Local Government Areas for them or for adjustment in the boundaries of their existing Local Government Areas. The above moved the Fashola government to pass another law to establish the Lagos State Boundary Committee and for other connected matters. This is the focus of this paper.

5. Lagos State Boundary Committee Law

The Lagos State Boundary Committee law is a law promulgated by the Babatunde Raji Fashola’s government on the 13th of July, 2009. The law is short having only 16 sections in all.

Powers of the Committee

The committee shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal. The committee may sue and be sued in its corporate name and may acquire, hold and dispose of movable and immovable properties for the purpose of carrying out its functions under this law²².

Composition of the Committee

The committee shall not exceed ten (10) members. The members of the committee shall be appointed by the Governor and are to be responsible for administering the affairs of the body. It shall consist of the Deputy-Governor of Lagos State who shall be the chairman. Other members of the Committee include the Commissioners for Lands, Information and Strategy, Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Physical Planning and Urban Development, the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice and the Surveyor-General of Lagos State and including not more than three (3) other persons with relevant skills and experience in boundary and border matters who shall be appointed by the Governor²³.

Tenure of Office

The members of the committee shall hold office on part-time basis²⁴. This is a positive dimension in governance as members have their primary assignments and it will be cost effective for the government to manage. It will be nice if government is left in the hand of professionals who will deliver on their assignments. This will also make such members to be alive to their responsibilities while sitting as members of such government committees. The members of the committee appointed pursuant to Section 2(1) (e) shall hold office for a period of four years and may be eligible for re appointment for a further term as may be determined by the governor. These are appointed members from outside the official of government who have relevant skills and experience in boundary and border matters²⁵. A member may be removed from office if he has:

- a) Become incapable by reason of mental or bodily infirmity of discharging his duties
- b) Been convicted of an offence which involves moral turpitude; or
- c) Been involved in any act that may be considered inimical to the interest of the committee or the state.

Members of the committee shall be paid allowances as may be approved by the Governor²⁶.

Functions of the Committee

The committee is saddled with many functions. These functions were the main reasons that made the government of Lagos State to enact the law by which the committee is created. The functions of the committee are as follows²⁷:

- 1) The committee shall deal with inter and intra-local government and Local Council Development Area boundary disputes within the state.
- 2) It shall define and delimit inter and Intra-local Government Development Areas.
- 3) It shall liaise with the chairmen of local governments and Local Council Development Areas.
- 4) It shall identify and intervene in areas of potential disputes in the state.
- 5) Promote good inter-community relationship among border dwellers.
- 6) Promote peace and harmony between communities involved in boundary disputes.
- 7) Monitor the activities of local government and Local Council Development Areas boundary sub-committees and deal with disputes that cannot be resolved by them.
- 8) Evolve measures for joint utilization of amenities along local government and Local Council Development Area Boundaries.
- 9) Encourage negotiated settlement of boundary disputes.

²² The Lagos State Boundary Committee Law, Law No. 13, 2009 Section 1.

²³ Ibid, Section 2(1)

²⁴ Ibid, Section 2(2)

²⁵ Ibid Section 3(1)

²⁶ Section 3(3)

²⁷ Section 4

- 10) Carry out awareness and enlightenment campaigns on the importance of boundaries in order to foster peace and harmony among the people living along the boundary, and
- 11) Prepare Border Area Community Development Plan.

The functions of this committee are expensive, delicate; arduous and touch and concerns national and international borders. Elias once observed that the problems that confronted states of Africa after the attainment of independence and urgent fall into two categories: The first are those that may be inherited based on the application of the principle of succession, the second are those that are the results of post independent alignments -(post creation -of states and local government alignments-emphasis mine) mainly in economic and technical aspects²⁸. These include boundary disputes or frontier incidents resulting from the partitioning of Africa among the great powers during the nineteenth century. For example, the boundary created between Apapa and Ajeromi by the colonialist remained today as the boundary between Apapa and Ajeromi Local Government Areas in Lagos State. However, Elias contended that it would be wrong to infer from the examples of border conflicts in Africa such as between Ethiopia and Somalia; Somalia and Kenya; Algeria and Morocco that boundary disputes between African states have always and everywhere led to skirmishes²⁹. In order to quickly nib disputes in the bud or to bring peace and resolve dispute whenever they arise, the Lagos State government has learnt from history and has put forward a formidable mechanism for peaceful resolution of whatever dispute either real or imaginary amongst the Local Government Areas and Local Council Development Areas in Lagos State by adopting a law for the creation of Lagos State Boundary Committee.

Meeting of the Committee

The committee shall hold meetings from time to time. The chairman shall preside at its meetings and in his absence, a member shall be appointed to Chair the meeting. The quorum for meetings shall be two- thirds of its total members³⁰. All decisions made at the meetings shall be by majority of votes of members present. This means that a simple majority of two-thirds of members of the committee is sufficient for decisions to be taken by the committee. Since the total members of the committee are ten, seven are needed for quorum, four members will be able to take decision for the committee as the case may be. This is law and democracy at work.

Secretariat

The committee's secretariat is housed by a secretary appointed from the State Civil Service. There shall be professional and non-professional staff appointed to work under the supervision of the secretary for carrying out the job the committee³¹.

Sub-Committee

The committee may establish sub-committees in every Local Government and Local Council Development Area of the state. This sub-committee shall consist of;

- 1) The Vice Chairman of the Local Government and Local Council Development Area;
- 2) Traditional Ruler(s) from the affected area(s);
- 3) Head of Department of Agriculture;
- 4) Legal Adviser;
- 5) Information Officer;
- 6) A Representative of Community Development Committee; and
- 7) A knowledgeable boundary expert appointed by the Chairman of the Local Government and Local Council Development Area.

The sub-committee³² shall be responsible for:

- 1) The resolution of inter-community boundary disputes;
- 2) Liaising with the committee on boundary problems affecting Local Government or Local Council Development Areas;
- 3) Identifying areas of potential boundary disputes and alert the committee of such disputes;
- 4) Liaising with neighboring Local Government or Local Council Development Areas towards evolving joint programmes that may promote harmony among border dwellers;
- 5) Encouraging settlement of disputes in their areas and where disputes cannot be resolved refer such to the committee; and

²⁸ Elias, T.O (Edited and Revised by Richard Akinjide) *Africa and the Development of International Law*, 1988, p. 162.

²⁹ Elias, T.O, *op. cit.*, pg. 162.

³⁰ Lagos State Boundary Committee Law No. 13 of 2009, Sections 5

³¹ *Ibid.*, Section 6.

³² *Ibid.*, Sections 7 and 8

6) Carrying out awareness campaign programmes with a view to encourage peaceful relationship in their community.

The members of the committee and sub-committee shall work within the ethics of operation. This should not work for personal gain, and should not release confidential information to unauthorized persons.

Funding of the Committee

There shall be established a fund for the committee for all its operations as may be approved by the Governor³³.

To this fund shall be paid all revenue legitimately accruing to the committee.

Such revenue includes:

- 1) All subventions and budgetary allocations from the state government;
- 2) Such money as may from time to time be granted or lent to the committee by the state or Local Government or Local Council Development Areas;
- 3) Gifts, loans, grants in aid from National, bilateral and multilateral agencies; and
- 4) Such other money or may be received by the committee in the course of its duties or in relation to the exercise of its functions under this law

Annual Report

The committee is an important organ of the Lagos State government to the extent that it receives subventions and allocations from the state government. An adage says 'He who pays the piper dictates the tune'. The committee is to fully account for its activities and make an annual report to the state government not later than the 30th of September every year. This report shall include an estimate of its expenditure and income to be submitted to the Governor.

The committee shall also cause its accounts to be audited six months after the end of each year by auditors appointed from the list of approved Auditors provided by the Auditor of the state³⁴.

Miscellaneous Provisions

The Governor may give such directives of a general nature or on matters of public regarding the exercise of its functions. The Committee may, subject to the approval of the House of Assembly, make such regulations as are necessary or expedient to give full effect to the provisions of this law³⁵. This is a form of delegated legislation. It is practically impossible for the parliament to make laws concerning everything within its jurisdiction. The functions, rights, interests, obligations and liabilities of the committee existing before the commencement of this law, under any contract or instrument, shall be deemed to have been assigned to and vested in the committee established under this law³⁶. This provision allows retroactivity of law in its application. In general, laws cannot be retroactive, especially when it works injustice against the parties to a dispute. But retroactivity in the application of this law will not necessarily work injustice against any party in dispute. This is so because the provisions of Section 14(5) provides that 'Any proceedings or cause of action by or against the committee in respect of its rights, interests, obligations or liabilities which are pending before the commencement of this law may commence or be continued and any determination of the court, tribunal or other authority may be enforced by or against the committee'.

The word 'Border' under this law means the strip of land or maritime area straddling or lying along the corridor of a boundary within a stipulated distance.

The word 'Boundary' means the line of demarcation which delimits the extent of administrative jurisdiction of a state and its separate constituent units. Borders are generally defined as geographical boundaries of political entities or legal jurisdiction such as governments, sovereign states, federated states and subnational entities³⁷. It is also defined as a part that forms the outer edge of something..., a strip of ground in which as at the edge of a garden or walk³⁸ or a strip of ground in which ornamental plants are grown³⁹. Paradoxically, a boundary is an entity demarcated from its surroundings. There is a boundary (a surface) demarcating the interior of a sphere from its exterior⁴⁰. The law under review defines 'community' as a body of persons living near one another and sharing the same environment and common amenities⁴¹.

³³ Ibid Section 10.

³⁴ Ibid; Section 12.

³⁵ Ibid; Section 14(1)(2)

³⁶ Ibid; Section 14(3)

³⁷ www.ukha.homeoffice.gov.uk, accessed on the 25 of February, 2023

³⁸ www.answers.com/topic/border, accessed on the 25 of February, 2023

³⁹ www.en.wiktionary.org/wiki/border, accessed on the 25 of February, 2023

⁴⁰ Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy

⁴¹ Lagos State Boundary Committee Law No. 13, 2009, Section 15.

6. Conclusion

The Lagos State Boundary Committee Law enacted by the Babatunde Raji Fashola administration in Lagos (although small in number of sections) is like a mustard seed sown which will eventually germinate and grow to be a very big tree that will bear much fruits. Today, we hear about killings in other states in Nigeria, it is because of lack of peace and harmony. Lagos being one of the fastest growing cities in Africa needs peace, progress, development of infrastructure and harmony. The existence of 20 Local governments' recognised by the Constitution has become grossly inadequate in the present situation of things. The diligent work (and observing all the rules of engagement) by this Committee will deliver the needed peace and developmental base needed for harmonious relationship between all the strata of people in Lagos State.