

LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR AIR POLLUTION CONTROL IN NIGERIA: LESSONS FROM INDIA AND AUSTRALIA

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ABSTRACT

Nigeria is one of the countries of the world suffering from the adverse effects of air pollution. There is no doubt that the Nigerian Government has, from time to time, disclosed its desires and plans to curtail this problem. However, there is no specific statute exclusively set aside to govern air pollution in Nigeria. What Nigeria has rather is reference to air pollution in a section or sections of statutes. Even the extent to which they were provided for are not adequately enforced. Against this background, this paper examines air pollution as one of the greatest environmental challenges in Nigeria. A few examples of incidents of air pollution problems in the country are examined. The paper also examines the legal framework for the control of air pollution in Nigeria and why despite all this, the problem still persists till date.

1. INTRODUCTION

For quite some time now, air pollution has become a curse to the entire human race. It has become one of the greatest environmental hazards affecting humanity. The health impacts of air pollution are alarming as one third of deaths from stroke, lung cancer and heart disease are mainly attributable to the menace.¹ The effect is universal. The World Health Organization (WHO) has raised alarm for time without number that air pollution has become the greatest environmental risk to human health. In 2012 alone, air pollution caused the deaths of about seven million people, or one in eight deaths worldwide according to the world body.² It is worse

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¹ Ghorani - Azam *et al*, "Effects of Air Pollution on Human Health and Practical Measures for Prevention in Iran" in *Journal of Research in Medical Sciences*, September 2016, 241.

² Yang, *et al*, "Exploring Environmental Health on Weibo: A Textual Analysis of Framing Haze-Related Stories on Chinese Social Media" in *International Journal of*