



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE KOGI STATE SMALL CLAIMS COURT;

Due to the stagnation in the growth of Small and Medium Enterprises in Nigeria as a whole, and as a result of delays and cost of resolution of cases involving small commercial transactions, the presidency established the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) which is within the office of the Vice President to collaborate with the United Nations and some Non-Governmental Organization to work out modules for ease of doing business in Nigeria, hence the establishment of Small Claims Court.

The purpose of the Small Claims Court is to provide an accessible and efficient forum for individual to resolve their liquidated debt dispute of N5,000,000.00 (Five Million Naira) and a counter claim of N7,000,000.00 (Seven Million Naira) but not exceeding N10,000,000.00 (Ten Million Naira) without the need for complex legal processes by way of recourse to legal representation by a lawyer in Court.

Therefore, individuals or business in a Small Claims Court can file a lawsuit to seek compensation or resolution of issues relating to simple debt recovery.

The Court decisions are generally binding and the decisions made can result in the payment of monetary damages or the enforcement of specific actions. However, a party who is dissatisfied with the decision of the Court is at liberty to file an appeal at the High Court.

It is pertinent to note that Small Claims Court is a division of the Magistrate Court and its proceedings are regulated by the Practice Directions issued by the Hon. Chief Judge of Kogi State.

WHEREAS: Upon the receipt of the report of the Judicial Steering Committee for the Drafting of the Kogi State Practice Direction on Small Claims Court and Handbook on Small Claim Court of Kogi State Judiciary, pursuant to the provision of Section 274 of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), Section 116(1) of the High Court Law, Cap 49 Vol.2, Laws of Northern Nigerian (as applicable in Kogi State), Section 87 of the Magistrate Courts law of Kogi State 2020, Kogi State Magistrates' Courts Rules, 2021, and other provisions of extant Laws enabling me in that behalf, I, **Hon. Justice Josiah Joe Majebi**, the Chief of Kogi State, hereby designate and appoint the underlisted two (2) Magistrates as Small Claims Court Judges;

- i. Medinat O. Umar
- ii. Unekwu Odiba

Dated at Lokoja, this 5th day of September, 2024

**HON. JUSTICE JOSIAH JOE MAJEBI
CHIEF JUDGE OF KOGI STATE**