



SUPREME COURT DECISION ON NATIONAL LOTTERY ACT: ATTORNEY GENERAL OF LAGOS STATE V. ATTORNEY GENERAL OF FEDERATION & NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SUIT NO: SC/1/2008

According to reports, on 22 November 2024, the Supreme Court delivered a judgment in Attorney General of Lagos State v. Attorney General of Federation & National Assembly SC/1/2008. This appeal before the Supreme Court originates from a suit filed by the Attorney General of Lagos State in 2008.

In this case, the Lagos State government sought judicial interpretation of the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) concerning lotteries and related gaming activities and the appropriate tier of government to regulate and control the gaming industry.

From our research and information received from news outlets, in a unanimous judgment, the Supreme Court held that the National Assembly does not have the authority to legislate on matters related to lottery and games of chance.

It therefore held that such powers are exclusively vested in State Houses of Assembly, which have sole jurisdiction over these matters. The Supreme Court has further directed that the National Lottery Act of 2005 (NLA) should no longer be enforced in any State except the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), where the National Assembly is constitutionally empowered to make laws.

Notwithstanding, to confirm the veracity of the reports, we are currently in the process of obtaining the certified true copy of the judgment and will provide a more comprehensive interpretation.

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