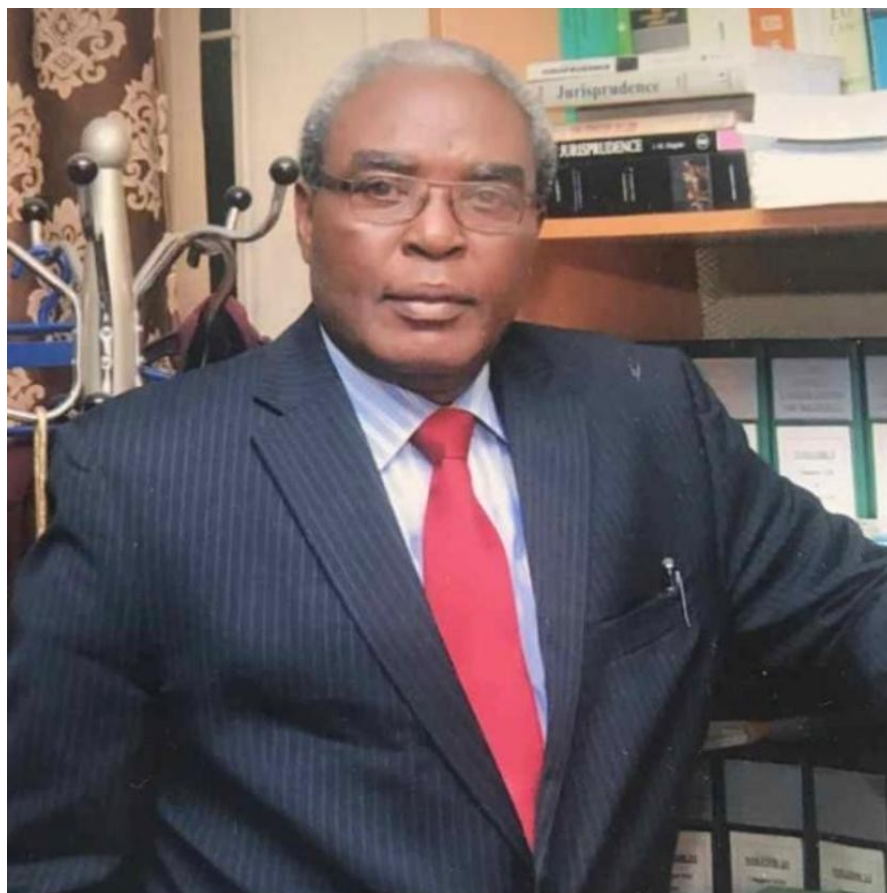


AN UNEQUALLED LEGAL ICON TAKES A BOW

**BIOGRAPHY OF
LATE PROFESSOR M. O. U GASIOKWU**



The late Prof. Martin Ogbogwu Uzochukwu Gasiokwu was born at *DELSU Law Review Vol. 7 2021* 395
Ubulu-Uku, a town in Aniocha South Local Government Area of Delta State on the 8th day of August 1951. He was the first son of his parents, Late Diokpa Dennis Gasiokwu and late Mrs. Regina Adaoyibo Gasiokwu.

Prof. M. O. U. Gasiokwu started his education in 1957 at St. Andrew's Anglican Primary School, Okpanam, Delta State. From there he proceeded to Anglican Grammar School, Ubuku-Uku between 1965 and 1969.

After his secondary education he worked in the Federal Ministry of Work for several years before he proceeded to the famous and prestigious Patrice Lumumba Peoples' Friendship University, Moscow between 1977 and 1983. He came back in flying colours with LL.B and Masters of Law and Diplomacy.

On return from his sojourn in Moscow where he distinguished himself, Prof. Gasiokwu in the spirit of patriotism and service to motherland, did his NYSC with University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus under Prof. (Justice) Achike. While serving, the learned Professor discovered Gasiokwu's teaching ability and had no choice but draft him into the teaching of Public International Law. After his youth service, there was a rivalry between UNN and University of Jos over which to engage M. O. U Gasiokwu into full time teaching. Prof Gasiokwu chose the University of Jos as a result of the cool weather of Jos as well as the academic excellence for which the University of Jos is known.

He started at UNIJOS as an assistant lecturer in 1985 and steadily rose in the field of teaching of law. Prof Gasiokwu continued to

thirst for knowledge and enrolled for his PhD programme in 1987 in the Faculty of Law, University of Jos which he completed in 1993. His research work in the PhD programme is in the area of ECOWAS. This was a masterpiece which gave rise to a number of further published works in that area. He obtained his Call-to-Bar Certificate and was called to the Nigerian Bar Association in 1996. Like a goldfish, there was no hiding place for Prof Gasiokwu. He rose to the position of Professor in 2001. Within a short period of time, Professor Gasiokwu had already made a name for himself in the legal education, especially in the area of Legal Research and Methodology. Today, his works in area of Legal Research have become reference points in the field of Legal research throughout Nigeria.

As a teacher, Prof Gasiokwu was unique. He did not only teach law with a passion, he loved his students and gave them full attention and encouragement as a father. Even after achieving the professorial position, Prof Gasiokwu's quest for research and writing did not subside. He was an accomplished author, humble and always willing to learn. He is the author of the first indigenous book on research Methodology in Nigeria. This book is titled: *Legal Research and Methodology: the A-Z of Writing Thesis and Dissertation in a Nutshell* published in 1993. Other of his works include *ECOWAS Problem of Citizenship and Free Movement*, 1998. His book on ECOWAS has remained as an irresistible authority and a matter of significant interest to the ECOWAS Secretariat in Abuja and within the West Africa sub region. He co-authored *Law and Society*. He is the Chief Editor of *Contemporary Issues and Basic Documents on Diplomatic and Consular Law*. Other books are *Human Rights: History, Ideology and Law*; *International Law and Diplomacy: Selected Essays*; Editor –

“DELSU Law Review” (first published journal of the Faculty of Law, Delta State University). He published numerous articles locally and internationally mainly in the area of jurisprudence, sociology of law, law and diplomacy and legal research and methodology. His more recent edited works are: *Contemporary Issues in International Law: Essays in Honour of Hon Justice F. F. Tabai*; *Ecology: Concept, Politics and Legislation*; *Law in Motion: Nurturing Democracy and Development: Essays in Honour of Chief George Uwechue, SAN*. He has also presented numerous papers in conferences, seminars and workshops. He was a member of the Nigerian Society of International Law, Nigerian Association of Law Teachers, Nigerian Bar Association and International Bar Association.

While at the University of Jos, he coordinated the part –time Law Programme, the post graduate programme and served as the Time Table and Examination Officer for several years. He was a member of the University Senate and one time Head of Department of Public Law. He was the Dean of Law for years and a member of several communities of the University. Prof. Gasiokwu was a very objective, principled, dedicated, thorough, jovial and God fearing person. He spoke at all times without fear or favour and held no grudge or malice against anyone.

In 2002, Prof Gasiokwu transferred his services to the Delta State University upon several appeals for him to come home and contribute his quota in the development of his State. As an accomplished scholar, Prof. Gasiokwu established the Postgraduate programme in the Faculty of Law, Delta State University and graduated the first PhD student and several others post graduate students. Prof. Gasiokwu’s interest in the postgraduate programme was strategic as he intended to strengthen the academic staff of the

Faculty to enable staff growth and development especially as PhD was becoming a bench mark for promotion to senior positions in the academia. It is to Prof. Gasiokwu's credit that several academic staff of the Faculty benefited and are still benefiting from this programme. The Post graduate programme is now very firmly rooted and established meeting the needs of interested candidates from all over the country. The Masters of Law and Diplomacy (MLD) was uniquely his idea. Today the University has now approved PhD in Law and Diplomacy.

Apart from his academic life, Prof. Gasiokwu was a devout christian. He was a senior Elder in the Community of Hashem where he worshipped. He was very dedicated and extremely active in the service and worship of God. While in Jos, he was Youth Chairman for East Middle-Belt, Chairman, Deacons and Deaconesses, Synagogue Chairman and Chairman, Elders Union.

When he came to Delta State, he worshipped in Warri and was an ex-officio member of the Executive. He was also the former Chairman of the Edo/Delta Zone before it was dissolved and became a region. He was a member of the Governing Council of the Community of Hashem for three tenures, Pioneer National President of CHMA (Community of Hashem Male Association) for six years and pioneer Grand Patron of CHFA (Community of Hashem Female Association) a position he held till his demise. He was an outstanding elder, always eager and willing to do the work of God at all times inspite of his busy academic schedule.

Prof. MOU Gasiokwu was married to Mrs. Vivan Gasiokwu whom he fondly called "Mother Gas." He was survived by his wife, brothers and two children, Ekene Emmanuel Gasiokwu and Chisom Martin Gasiokwu