



SACHA JOURNAL OF POLICY AND STRATEGIC STUDIES

Volume 5 Number 1 (2016) 1 - 14

ISSN 2045-8495 (Print) ISSN 2045-8509 (Online)

Publishers: Sacha & Diamond, England, United Kingdom

www.sachajournals.com

Cumulative Impact Factor: 11.4



AN EXPOSITION ON THE CONCEPT AND LEGALITY OF COMPULSORY ACQUISITION WITHOUT COMPENSATION UNDER NIGERIAN LAW

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ABSTRACT

Property right in land is the authority of the land owner to determine the use of the land or otherwise. However, this can be cut short by compulsory acquisition whereby government is vested with the power to acquire private rights in land for a public purpose without the willing consent of the land owner or occupant in order to benefit society in exchange for compensation. However, there are situations where compensation for compulsory acquisition is not paid. The purpose of government to compulsorily acquire private properties is mainly to ensure that land is available when needed for essential infrastructure. However, despite being a necessary governmental power, this act of the government has always attracted controversy, both in theory and practice. This paper aims at discussing the concept of compulsory acquisition without compensation and the reason thereof.

Keywords: Land Law, Land Use, Land Acquisition, Nigeria.