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Discuss the secondary sources of law in Nigeria.

Secondary Sources of Nigerian Law.

Secondary sources of Nigerian law are the sources of law that do not carry a dominant legal weight and binding effect. The legal authorities contain in these kind of sources are diluted and persuasive which are not binding on any court of law. According to Beredugo (2009), secondary sources of law are less significance sources of law that carry barely persuasive legal authority or effect and are therefore, not binding on any court of law. Secondary sources can be useful in court of law or resorted to where the court finds opinion or fact underlying the authority contained therein. Secondary sources can also be referred to in court if it supports the authorities of the primary sources. Examples of secondary sources of Nigerian law according to Beredugo includes:

1. Decisions of courts of foreign countries
2. International conventions, treaties, and resolutions of international bodies;
3. Statements or opinions of jurists and learned authors contained in law textbooks, journal, periodicals, dictionaries, letters, speeches, and interviews.
4. Legal opinions contained in nullified judgements.

The distinction between primary and secondary sources of law is very useful in determining authorities to follow in the law courts. If a case is brought before a court and one party uses a primary source of law as his authority while the other makes use of secondary sources, the scale of justice would tilt in favour of the person who presents primary sources of law.

Secondary sources of law are only made use of whenever there are no primary sources of law to fall back on.

Secondary sources of law also include all sources that provide helpful introduction to legal subjects, synopses of decisions, statutes, and regulations in a given field, analyses of trends and historical background of law, explanation of new or difficult concepts, descriptions and analysis of the law and its development and citations to primary sources through footnotes and annotations.