**WHAT IS SETTLEMENT IN A MEDIATION AND ITS ENFORCEMENT**

it should be noted that the general trend in private mediation has been to have a flexible mediation process without any specific rules. For example, Mediation settlement agreements reached by parties at the Lagos Multi-Door Courthouse are enforceable under the Lagos Multi-Door Courthouse Law (LMDC Law). Under Section 19 of the LMDC Law same also which applies in Cross River State, upon any agreement duly signed by parties that shall be enforceable as a contract by the parties and when such agreement is further endorsed by an ADR Judge or any other person as directed, it shall be deemed to be enforceable as a consent judgment of a Court.

In addition to this, under Order 39 Rule 4(3) of the High Court of Lagos State (Civil Procedure) Rules 2012, a decision reached at the LMDC may by leave of a Judge be enforced in the same manner as a judgment or an order of the Court. The only challenge to this enforcement procedure is that its applicability is restricted to Lagos State alone and not the other parts of Nigeria. But in Cross River State its applicability is somewhat flexible and accommodating.

With the popularity of Mediation as a form of ADR, it is without doubt that Nigeria is equipping itself to grapple with the escalating commercial disputes resulting from the growth in business activities and increase in international trade and investment.