

AN EXPLORATORY STUDY ON THE UNIFICATION OF
HALAL CERTIFICATION IN NIGERIA: HALAL
CERTIFICATION BODIES' PERSPECTIVES

BY

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ABSTRACT

Unifying Halal certification is essential for regulatory standardizing in Nigeria. However, in Nigeria, the halal industry is still evolving. The certification of halal attracts companies with or without Islam alliance due to growing demand in halal products. This certification is issued by religious certification bodies and standard certification bodies in case of Nigeria. When too many halal certification providers are available without any intervention in supervision of their practices, it may create confusion as to which company certification to rely on. Due to this confusion, this paper is an attempt to explore the possibility of having a unified and standardize halal certification in Nigeria. This paper explores the importance of having unified halal certification frameworks and proposes strategies for achieving unified standards. The study adopts qualitative methodology with the use of interviews and library research to collect data. The data is thematically analysed to answer the research question. The benefits of unification include enhanced consumer trust, simplified market access for businesses, and improved regulatory oversight. The present study proposes a streamlined methodology for Halal certification that fosters global market integrity, transparency, and credibility by means of cooperation between certifying organizations, regulating organizations, and stakeholders. This paper concludes that the unification of halal certification is possible to achieve but it needs the active involvement of government.



ملخص البحث

الخطوة الأولى نحو تنسيق ومعيارية وتنظيم ممارسات الحلال في الدولة هي التوحيد ووضع معيار موحد. لكن سوق الحلال في نيجيريا لا يزال في طور النشأة. والحاجة المتزايدة إلى المنتجات الحلال تدفع الشركات التي لديها علاقة إسلامية أو بدونها إلى الحصول على شهادة الحلال. في حالة نيجيريا، يتم منح هذه الشهادة من قبل كل من وكالات التصديق التقليدية والدينية. وإن وجود عدد كبير من وكالات التصديق لشهادات الحلال دون الإشراف على عملياتهم يمكن أن يجعل من الصعب تحديد شهادة الشركة التي يمكن الوثوق بها. يهدف هذا البحث إلى دراسة جدوى إنشاء شهادة حلال موحدة ومتسقة في نيجيريا، في ضوء المفاهيم المتعارضة الحالية. يدرس هذا البحث أهمية وجود أطر تستخدم الدراسة منهجية نوعية موحدة لإصدار شهادات الحلال ويقترح طرقاً للقيام بذلك. ، وجمع البيانات من خلال أبحاث المكتبة والمقابلات. لمعالجة موضوع الدراسة، يتم إجراء تحليل مواضيعي للبيانات. وتعدّ كلُّ من زيادة ثقة المستهلك، وسهولة وصول الشركات إلى الأسواق، وتحسين الرقابة التنظيمية، من مزايا للتوحيد. يدعم هذا البحث نهجاً مبسطاً لإصدار شهادات الحلال يعزز الشفافية والمصداقية ونزاهة السوق على مستوى العالم من خلال التعاون بين هيئات التصديق والسلطات التنظيمية وأصحاب المصلحة في الصناعة. تشير هذه الدراسة إلى أنه في حين أن تحقيق وحدة شهادات الحلال أمر ممكن، إلا أن التسييس قد يكون عقبةً في الطريق.

APPROVAL PAGE

I certify that I have supervised and read this study and that in my opinion, it conforms to acceptable standards of scholarly presentation and is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a thesis for the degree of Master of Halal Industry Management.

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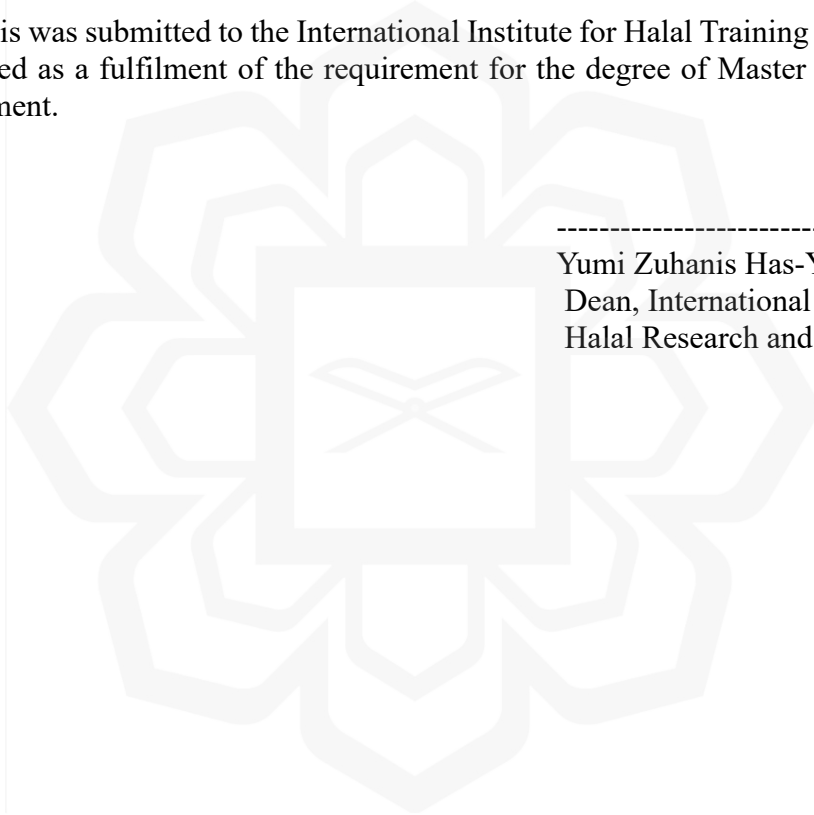
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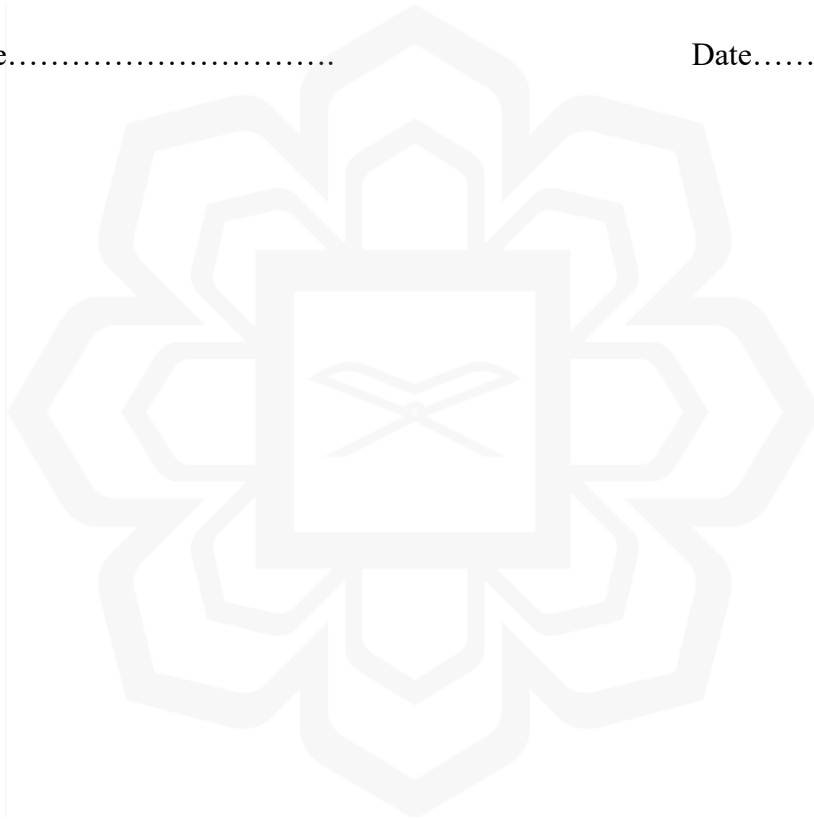
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DEDICATION

To Allah, for my soul is weak, let me not falter ever.

To my dad, Dr Ahmad Osundina, for the home, I will always long for.

To my husband, Miftaudeen Raji, my home, this chapter really feels good.

To my mom, Sauda Olaniyan, going on without you hurts so bad.

To my step mom, Dr Taofeeqah Falade, counting on you means so much.

To my siblings, Ridwan, Khadijah, Muhammad, Aisha, Ibrahim, Zaynab & Abdullah,

I am proud to be your sister.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

ABBREVIATION	DESCRIPTION
NAFDAC	National Agency for Food and Drug
SON	Standard Organisation of Nigeria
SMIIC	The Standard and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries
OIC	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
HP	Halal Professional
HCB	Halal Certification Body
UHC	Unified Halal Certification
JAKIM	Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia
HCA	Halal Certification Authority
HACFOS	Halal Compliance and Food Safety Limited
NEPC	National Export Promotion Council
FMITI	Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF STUDY

One of the sectors of the global economy that is expanding the fastest is the halal industry (Fathoni, 2020). Globally, there is a sharp rise in the demand for halal products in both Muslim-majority and non-Muslim nations (Nasrullah,2018). The "State of Global Islamic Economy Report 2022" projects that global Muslim consumer spending will hit USD 2 trillion in 2021, and that amount will rise exponentially to USD 2.8 trillion by 2025. This is primarily due to the fact that there will be 1.9 billion Muslims on the planet by 2021. By 2030, it's expected to rise even higher, to 27.5% of the global population. The demand for halal products and services will develop significantly on a global scale as a result of this population growth (Dinar Standard & Salam Gateway, 2022).

The halal sector is becoming more prevalent in halal certification organizations as a result of the demand from both Muslims and non-Muslims for halal goods and services. Worldwide, there are hundreds or perhaps thousands of halal certification and accreditation bodies that are made up of local mosques, Islamic societies, government agencies, and non-governmental organizations (Mahyeddin et al., 2012). Key participants in the Halal market include the Standards and Metrological Institute of Islamic Countries (SMIIC), Majelis Ulama Indonesia (MUI), Majelis Ulama Islam Singapura (MUIS), Gulf Standardization Organization (GSO/GCC), Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (JAKIM), and the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA). Additionally, significant contributors from outside Islamic-majority regions include the American Halal Foundation, Halal Transactions of Omaha, Halal Food Standards Alliance of America, Islamic Food & Nutrition Council of America, Halal European Certification Centre, and the Halal Italy Authority. These organisations play a crucial role in regulating and certifying Halal products globally.

Diverse standards for Halal have resulted from the proliferation of certification bodies, leading to misinterpretations, misunderstandings, and even misuse of the Halal audit and certification process within certain countries. Numerous studies have looked at the requirement for a standardised halal certification on a national and international level (Abdallah et al., 2021; Lutfika et al., 2022; Mahyeddin et al., 2012; Qasim et al., 2021). According to a study, the key condition for halal certification might be the Quran and Sunnah, as they are the primary sources of regulation. While the requirements and registration process for halal certification may differ throughout countries, there are essential requirements that are universal (Yuanitasari et al., 2023).

One may overstate the advantages of having a single halal certification. Harmonizing halal certification and standards is crucial to facilitating commerce and levelling the playing field for companies in the halal sector. It ensures that halal certification processes and requirements are consistent among certification bodies, reducing complexity and facilitating market access. It is essential to promote industry growth by reducing barriers to trade, increasing market opportunities, and attracting investments. They enhance consumer confidence by providing consistent and reliable standards of quality and authenticity. Additionally, it encourages innovation by allowing businesses to focus on research, development, and market expansion rather than navigating through diverse regulatory frameworks.

Currently, according to the 1999 Nigerian Constitution, the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON) oversee food, cosmetic, and drug laws in Nigeria. As a result, non-governmental organizations in Nigeria have authority over halal certification. Nigeria is one of the nations that does not have halal criteria and instead uses those of other nations. In the process of halal certification, halal certification bodies in Nigeria frequently employ one halal standard or a mix of several halal standards (Lutfika et al., 2022).

Before the first international halal training session in 2019 and the first-ever international halal fair, Halal Expo Nigeria 2020, were organised by the Halal Certification

Authority, Nigeria's industry players were unaware of the vast potential of the halal business. The Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) is in charge of these efforts, Dr Al-Mujtaba Abubakar, president of ACCI, expressed optimism that Nigeria will be able to draw \$150 billion in halal industry investment from the Middle East (The Gaurdian, 2021). Additionally, by accrediting food enterprises with halal certification, the Halal Certification Authority, JAIZ Halal Authority, and the Halal Compliance and Food Safety Limited (HaCFoS) have championed the nation. There are currently 20 approved companies, mostly in the food and beverage industry (Salam Gateway, 2021).

Mariam Y. Katagum, the Minister of State for Industry, Trade, and Investment noted that that Nigeria, which has 80 million Muslim consumers have not grabbed this opportunity and capitalise on the increasing demand in tins sizable market to raise foreign exchange revenues and investment (allAfrica, 2022; Oyelakin & Yusuf, 2018). The size of the Nigerian Islamic finance industry is estimated at USD2.9 billion at end-2022, with outstanding sukuk being the largest segment at 57%, followed by Islamic banks at 42% (total assets), and the remaining 1% between Islamic funds (total assets) and takaful (total contributions). The long-term potential is significant as Nigeria has the largest Muslim population in Africa with a large unbanked population (Fitchratings, 2023)which makes Nigeria a potential market to rise as one of the main players in the halal industry(Oyelakin & Yusuf, 2018).The Muslim populations in Nigeria are known to follow their religion strictly thereby it is no surprise that they are conscious about the type of products they consume (Oyelakin & Yusuf, 2018), where manufacturers or industries will undoubtedly be compelled by consumers' increasing religious awareness to reassure them by offering halal-labeled items as a branding or selling factor. Thus, one of the things that influences Muslim customers to make a buying decision is the presence of a halal label on a product.

However, as the request for Halal increase, there is desperate need of unified halal certification and standard to control Halal in its certification process in the country. With government backing, the Minister of State for Industry, Trade, and Investment established a committee with carefully selected personnel from important Departments, Agencies, and Ministries as well as the Private Sector Organizations engaged in the Value-chain for Halal industry in order to address this problem. The following government ministries are

represented on the committee: the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment (FMITI), the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), and the Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON). To address the difficulty, a few private organisations have also been incorporated. The group is expected to investigate successful halal prototypes used in other countries and develop a tailored Strategic Plan and Operational Framework for halal in Nigeria (allAfrica, 2022; The Daily Trust, 2022).

In the global halal trade, it is inevitable that the rate of competitiveness will increase. Generally, only a highly competitive country that will be able to benefit significantly to improve its welfare, that is, a country that can be accepted as a player in global and regional production and transaction chains (Yuanitasari et al., 2023). Furthermore, when it comes to the exchange of commodities with Nigeria, unification can serve as a model for ASEAN nations, particularly when it comes to the requirement of product testing before imports and exports. Nigeria needs sufficient criteria to guarantee the calibre and suitability of goods being imported into other nations. Nigeria's goal in unifying halal certification is to safeguard and ease the import and export of goods so that Nigerian goods can compete globally. For Nigeria to be able to participate in this growing industry and not only observe from the sidelines without benefiting financially from all the potentials of halal global trade, the certification of halal must also be uniform.

1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT

There is a growing interest in halal food and its certification globally. Despite this Nigeria has few studies on the halal industry. Findings from researches showed that the research on food halal certification in Nigeria is seen as insufficient (Annabi & Ahmed, 2015; Jaiyeoba et al., 2020; Oyelakin & Yusuf, 2018; Yahya & Kamalul Ariffin, 2020). This suggest that further research is necessary on halal industry to boost the economy of Nigeria. However, the country's entry into the worldwide Halal export market is hampered by a lack of a

comprehensive halal certification framework for stability and global recognition (Annabi & Ahmed, 2015; Oyelakin & Yusuf, 2018). This concern was also confirmed by The Minister of State, for Industry, Trade, and Investment; AMB. Mariam Y. Katagum at the third international halal seminar and exhibition, which was held on Monday 8TH August 2022 (allAfrica, 2022). As a result of the lack of halal certification on Nigerian export items, the country's foreign exchange revenues are limited (The Daily Trust, 2022).

There are two major halal certification bodies which were established between 2016 – 2020, The Halal Certification Authority (HCA) and the JAIZ Halal Authority. The organisations together with some other certifying body that issues halal certification have contributed to the lack of uniformity in instituting halal certification in the country. The Minister of State, for Industry, Trade, and Investment; AMB. Mariam Y. Katagum pointed out that the Halal concept is currently at its embryonic stage in Nigeria adding that it is largely been uncoordinated, with a lack of synergy between relevant institutions, leading to the absence of uniformity in instituting Halal standards in the country (The Daily Trust, 2022). Consequently, many products with the halal logo are being imported into Nigeria, which has no certification from any credible government authority in charge to check whether the products meet halal standards and requirements (Oyelakin & Yusuf, 2018). The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) is Nigeria's sole authority responsible for regulating food, cosmetics, counterfeit medicines, and overseeing the import and export of medical devices, as well as the distribution of these products. Despite its role, NAFDAC advises against the consumption or use of potentially harmful items. However, it does not provide Halal certification or require manufacturers to comply with Halal certification standards (Jaiyeoba et al., 2020).

It is evident that Nigeria holds significant potential for growth within the Halal industry, given its large target market and abundant Halal resources, including poultry, livestock, and other agricultural products. Nonetheless, due to the lack of government involvement in regulating and supporting the Halal product industry, many local manufacturers lack clear guidance, particularly in certifying their products with Halal authorisation (Oyelakin & Yusuf, 2018). Without proper Halal recognition and control, industries in Nigeria face challenges in expanding both locally and internationally. To

change the narrative, Federal Government has inaugurated committees to reap the USD 2.6 trillion industry as reported by AMB. Mariam Y. Katagum is the Minister of State for Industry, Trade, and Investment (allAfrica, 2022).

The issues above have proven to be factors affecting halal food certification in the Nigerian food industry (Annabi & Ahmed, 2015; Oyelakin & Yusuf, 2018). (Annabi & Ahmed, 2015; Oyelakin & Yusuf, 2018). Therefore, there is an urgent need for the Nigerian government to establish an institution that will provide people with sound and adequate knowledge of halal product logos, and certification in the halal industry so that it can be accepted by all Muslims in Nigeria and exported to other African countries due to Nigeria's brotherly economic role in Africa. In addition, Halal certification has been a subject of ongoing debate and concerns for many years, and there is a need to better understand the factors that affect the certification process in Nigeria. It is crucial to carry out research that clarifies the unique opportunities, challenges, and factors that exist in Nigeria in order to develop strategies that can support the expansion and sustainability of the halal industry in that country, since the halal food sector is expanding and becoming more significant in the global market.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

This study will try to answer the following questions:

1. What are the benefits of having uniform halal certification standards?
2. What are the factors needed to facilitate the uniformity of halal certification?
3. What are the operational and social challenges faced in developing uniform halal certification in Nigeria?
4. What support is needed from the Nigerian government in regulating halal certification?

1.4 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

The study will also seek to:

1. To identify the benefit of a uniform halal certification standard.

2. To explore the factors that are needed to facilitate the uniformity of halal certification.
3. To explore the operational and social challenges in developing uniform halal certification in Nigeria.
4. To find out ways the Nigerian government can give support in regulating halal certification.

1.5 RESEARCH SCOPE

The scope of this research is limited to the halal food certification bodies in Nigeria, Halal Certification Authority and JAIZ Halal Authority and Halal Compliance and Food Safety Limited (HaCFoS). The study seeks to investigate the uniformity halal food certification in the Nigerian food industry from the perspective of the Halal certification bodies in Nigeria excluding the other players (i.e., Government, consumers etc.) in the halal industry.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY.

- The research provides insights into ways to improve the quality control processes in the halal food industry and enhance the market demand for halal-certified products.
- The study provides insight on the best possible ways to achieve unified halal certification in Nigeria.
- The findings can help industry stakeholders such as food companies and halal certification agencies to better understand the factors affecting halal certification in Nigeria and the best practices to achieve halal certification and global recognition.
- The study can help the Nigerian government to know how they can help in developing a unified framework for halal certification in Nigeria.

1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS

Halal: Halal is the opposite of Haram which means impermissible. Halal denotes "lawful" or "permitted". It is whatsoever that Allah, God Almighty, permits, upon which there are no limitations, and which one is free to perform (Al Qaradawi, 1995).

Toyyib: Tayyib refers to something which is not harmful for the body or mind (Ibn Kathir, 774). Tayyib food in the halal concept is good, starting from the process of preparing a food or drink that covers the aspect of raw materials or ingredients used until the food reaches the Muslim consumer where this whole process needs to be emphasized (Mohamed Ali et al., 2024).

Halal Industry: The process of creating commodities or items in accordance with Islamic standards is known as the halal industry (Devi et al., 2023). The industry of halal is not only about slaughtering animals in accordance with Islamic law anymore; it also includes Halal food, Halal lifestyle and even Halal services.

Halal Certification: Halal certification is the process of certifying products or services as pronounced by the shariah law. To ensure the assurance to Muslim consumers on the Halal quality of a good and services, Halal certification and verification is seen to be a key element (Khan & Haleem, 2016a). The Halal Certificate, which is issued by a recognised Islamic organization guaranteeing that the food complies with Islamic laws are suitable for use by Muslims (Mustun, 2021).

Halal Certification Bodies: The organizations responsible for overseeing the halal certification process are the halal certification bodies. They make sure that products are prepared, processed, transported, and stored in a way that does not violate any legal prohibitions and that their composition does not contain any items that are illegal according to Islamic law. It also guarantees that the items have not been in direct contact with other foods that do not match these requirements (BTSA, 2023).

Unification: the act or process of bringing together or combining things or people (Cambridge Dictionary).

Standardization: Within an industry, standardization refers to the process of creating, endorsing, and potentially requiring technology and procedures that are compatible with industry standards (Kirvan, 2023).

Standards: The standard prescribes practical guidelines for the food industry on the whole process preparation and handling of halal food, starting from the selection of raw materials until the distribution and marketing activities (Samori et al., 2014a).

Credibility: Credibility can be defined as the quality of being believed or accepted as true, real, or honest (Merriam-Webster Thesaurus).

1.8 SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

The chapter discussed the background of the study, problem statement, research objectives and question, scope, the significance of the research and Definitions of terms used in this study are also provided.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a research background and discusses relevant literature. First, this chapter gives a clear overview of the current state of halal certification in Nigeria, as well as the various studies conducted on halal certification in Nigeria. This chapter then reviews international experiences and best practices in halal certification and discusses the existing literature related to challenges affecting halal food certification.

2.2 DEFINITION OF HALAL

The issue of halal and haram is regarded by Muslims as the basis of learning Islam for the application of faith. It is advisable for a Muslim to avoid matters of suspicion (*shubuat*) in order to ascertain the position according to Islamic law. Often, the halal is mostly believed to be what is allowed to eat and drink in Islam. In Islam, halal includes a broader meaning including behaviour, actions, speech, attitudes, clothing, cosmetics, medicines, and so on. The Scholars argue that halal and haram can only be defined Allah and His Messenger (s.a.w). Allah and His Messenger have the right to prove the rulings, whether it is halal or haram(Nafis, 2019). God put judgments on his servants, who has proven the verdict is beyond the limits of God (Al Qaradawi, 1995).

Furthermore, halal and thayyib are used side by side in the Holy Quran, it can be inferred from the juxtaposition that is not just enough for halal, but it should be good too. This can be seen from several expressions of halal words in several verses of the Qur'an, which are always followed by the words of the good.

“O people, eat of good things in the earth, and do not follow the footsteps of the devil, for he is a clear enemy to you ” (al-Baqarah 2: 168).

“Eat all that you have done well, and fear Allah, for Allah is Forgiving, Most Merciful’ (al- Anfal 8: 69).

“Eat all that Allah has provided you with good solace and thank the grace of God if you worship Him” (an-Nahl: 114).

“And eat what Allah has provided you with good solace and fear Allah, with whom you are believers”(al-Maidah: 88).

In these verses the word "Halal" becomes the basis for the order to eat food and drink which are halal and good because not all Halal foods are good. It explained that a good word in this verse which is delicious for humans does not harm the body and mind. The good can also be interpreted as good food and drink, containing good nutrients for health if consumed or not cause harmful side effects or harmful to the body(Ibn Kathir, 774).

In conclusion, halal are the things permitted by Sharia to be implemented, used, or attempted, because it has lost the obstacles that prevent it or the elements it poses by obtaining it well and by compromising between the party, and not through the results of prohibited methods.

2.3 HALAL CERTIFICATION

Halal certification has been considered a powerful marketing device to create a peculiar and distinct among competitors(Rajagopal et al., 2011). Also, certification is a resource deployed by food companies as a tool to achieve sustainable competitive advantage (Ab Talib, 2017). Furthermore, according to the Resource Based View (RBV) paradigm, certification can be viewed as a resource used in seeking a new chance to enter the Halal market and acquire consumer trust (Mustun, 2021). As stated by (Ab Talib et al., 2016), the potential benefits of acquiring new clients in the Halal market are enticing non-Muslim business owners as well, and indeed, reputation and image enhancement are significant motivators, particularly for bigger international corporations.

The halal certificate is a certification provided by an organization as a quality assurance that the products it covers adhere to Islamic principles (Hanzaee & Ramezani, 2011; Islam & Chandrasekaran, 2013). Muslim customers worldwide have options thanks to halal-certified items since they uphold Islamic principles and customs. Halal labels or logos can be the result of a quality assurance scheme and a reassurance information tool for Muslim consumers seeking halal integrity of an expanding number of items, who have their concerns addressed by qualified professionals and halal certification (Annabi & Ibidapo-Obe, 2017).

To guarantee total adherence to halal standard, halal certification usually consists of two stages: 1) an online application and pre-screening of products and their raw materials/ingredients; and 2) an on-site audit that verifies all documentation regarding halal raw materials and inspects the production facility, particularly if both halal and haram products are run in the same facility. An approval panel, comprising representatives of the certifying organization and external religious leaders, conducts post-audit activities and determines whether to award a halal certificate. Islamic dietary laws also mandate that halal foods be safe, hygienic, and clean (*Tayyib*). As a result, food manufacturers and producers must also implement additional food safety systems, such as Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOPs)(Al-Mahmood & Fraser, 2023) .

2.3.1 Importance of Halal Certification

There are numerous benefits of getting Halal certified, for both businesses and consumers. Halal certification gives way to businesses, tap into a growing market and it provide safety for Consumers. The core markets include food, drink, cosmetics, health supplements, modest fashion, and more.

1. **Larger market:** The demand in the Halal market refers to the needs and preferences shaped by consumer and community pressures within the Halal industry. As consumer awareness increases, there is a growing demand for Halal products. This

heightened awareness is likely linked to consumers' recognition of the quality and nutritional benefits of Halal food. The current shift in consumer demand for food production aligns with Malaysia's national objective of becoming a global Halal hub (Abdul Rahman et al., 2013). The Halal industry continues to expand daily, offering Muslim producers' opportunities to extend their reach both locally and internationally. The increasing demand for Halal products positions them favourably in the market.

Halal certification can serve as a strategy for product differentiation, enhancing a company's revenue and market appeal, particularly to Halal consumers. Many retailers are now seeking Halal-certified products to meet this growing demand. On an international scale, Halal certification boosts product marketability, especially in countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the UAE, as well as in regions like Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and North Africa.

2. **Improved safety standard:** Halal practices result in safe and high-quality products. Halal certification is an internationally recognised accreditation that Muslim consumers trust. The Halal certification process ensures the Halal compliance of raw ingredients in the processing and production process of final products. Businesses must adhere to strict safety and quality standards to get Halal certified. According to Islamic law, achieving Halal compliance requires manufacturers to undergo a rigorous set of safety and quality checks to guarantee that the final product is safe for consumption by Halal consumers (Islamic Service of America, 2022).
3. **Meeting Supply chain requirement:** By acquiring halal certification, companies align their products with the requirements of the halal supply chain. This enables them to participate in the distribution network and supply their products to retailers and consumers seeking halal-certified options (Suresh, 2023).

4. **Competitive advantage:** The competitive advantage of the halal certification, can be divided into four categories: expected gains in social legitimacy, expected gains in economic competitiveness, perceived importance of stakeholders, and top management commitment (Mustaqim & Fazriani, 2023). Also, motivational elements include stakeholder expectations, market dynamics, regulatory compliance, and senior management initiative and dedication (Mohd Nor & Ahmad Rosli, 2022).
5. **Enhance Consumer assurance and trust:** Customers can be reassured by halal certification that a product has undergone manufacture in accordance with globally accepted halal standards during the production process, this requires picking raw ingredients, applying hygienic tools and equipment, and drawing a clear distinction between halal and non-halal items (SEGATI, 2018).

Additionally, it allows final customers to make informed decisions with confidence at the time of purchase. Consumer goods that have been certified as Halal provide Muslim customers with the assurance that the food is Halal, complies with Shariah law, is healthy, and that the premises are maintained to the highest standards of hygiene and sanitation. Non-Muslim customers are also increasingly seeking Halal products, and a Halal certificate will attract both Muslims and non-Muslims who are looking for Halal-certified options.

The success of any business relies on earning customers' trust. If a product is approved by recognised authorities, particularly the government, consumers will feel more confident in their choice. As the Halal certificate is the definitive proof that products meet these standards, the added value reassures buyers that the products are of the highest quality (Ni'mah et al., 2019).

2.4 DEVELOPMENT OF HALAL CERTIFICATION BODY

The history of halal certification is evolving, reflecting the growth of Muslim communities and their need for food and products that align with Islamic principles. The concept of halal (permissible) and haram (forbidden) originates from Islamic law, or Sharia. The Quran and Hadith (sayings and actions of the Prophet Muhammad) provide detailed guidance on what is considered lawful and unlawful for Muslims. In the early days of Islam, adherence to halal dietary laws was managed within local communities. There was no formal certification process, but communities relied on trust and religious guidance (Armanios & Ergene, 2018).

As Muslim communities expanded globally, particularly with increased migration and globalization, the need for formalised halal certification grew. Initial efforts were informal and largely based on community trust and local religious leaders' endorsements. The establishment of formal halal certification bodies began in the 1960s and 1970s. Muslims residing in non-Muslim societies such as the US, Europe, and certain regions of Asia and the Pacific had to adopt it as a matter of necessity. It has been noted that the Jewish population, which is smaller than the Muslim population, enforces their religious standards on goods in order for them to be approved by them. This sensible safety precaution taken by Muslims residing in non-Muslim civilizations in order to uphold their religious duties and maintain their Muslim identity has turned into a helpful tool for ensuring that goods made in non-Muslim nations are recognised by the Muslim community (World Halal Council, n.d.).

“In 1974, the halal certification took off for slaughtered meat. It took another 19 years, until 1993, when processed goods became developed (if at all). In that period approximately 11 companies were certified, and in 1993 it became massively developed. At that time, there was an issue in the industry, where sugar-refining processes required pig bones, and even ice cream had pig emulsifiers within it, so halal certification was needed. This need was even higher, knowing that Australia is a huge export market to Muslim countries. In 1994, with the proliferation of processed goods markets, cleaning products also needed to become halal, and this also developed. In 1995 the movement expanded into halal supplements, and in 1997 the practice spread to pharmaceuticals and cosmetics. At the moment,

pharmaceuticals and personal care are booming areas. (I'm not saying other markets are less burgeoning – I could also say coffee is booming at this time as well, but that's the development.” (Nadia El-Mouelhy, 2018).

Against the argument that Halal certification started in the 1960's by the Muslims in the non-Muslim countries, it is believed to have originated in Malaysia during the 1980s, from where it expanded to other countries and extended to a wider range of products and services. Today, there are over 400 recognised Halal Certification Bodies (HCBs). As a result, various Halal standards exist, including local standards (either developed by a national standards body or by the HCB itself), regional standards (such as the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council's Halal standard), and international Halal standards (such as those by the IHI Alliance and SMIIC) (Khan & Haleem, 2016c).

Islam mandates the consumption of halal food, leading consumers to place greater trust in products that carry Halal Certification, regardless of whether they are produced in Muslim-majority or non-Muslim-majority countries. This demand has resulted in the establishment of numerous halal certification bodies across the globe. In Islamic countries, where the majority of the population adheres to Islam, specific halal standards have been developed to meet local needs. Among the key organizations involved in halal certification are the Standards and Metrological Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC), Majlis Ulama Islam Singapura (MUIS), Majlis Ulama Indonesia (MUI), Gulf Standardization Organization (GSO/GCC), Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (JAKIM), the Pakistan Standards and Quality Control Authority (PSQCA), Islamic Services of America, Halal Monitoring Committee UK, Canadian Halal Bureau, South African National Halal Authority etc. These bodies play a significant role in regulating and certifying halal products within the global halal market.

2.4.1 Singapore (MUIS) Halal Standards

With support from the Standards, Productivity, and Innovation Board of Singapore, the Majlis Ulama Islam Singapore (MUIS), the Islamic religious council of Singapore, created

halal standards. The Majlis Ulama Islam Singapore Standards Committee, which is made up of government workers, businesspeople, and religious experts, oversees halal certification in Singapore. The committee's goals are to facilitate commerce and business, guarantee consistency in adhering to certification requirements, and provide religious and technical assistance for halal certification (MUIS). In Singapore, there are two primary halal certification standards. The first standard, MUIS-HC-S001, was endorsed on 21 May 2005 and provides guidelines for the preparation and provision of halal food (Islamic Religious Council of Singapore, 2005). The second standard, MUIS-HC-S002, was approved by MUIS's Technical Committee on 13 May 2005 and includes guidelines for adhering to and establishing the halal quality management system (Akbar, J S et al., 2023).

2.4.2 Malaysian Halal Standards (JAKIM)

The Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (JAKIM), or the Malaysian Department of Islamic Development, was founded in 1997 as a result of collaborative efforts between several key institutions. These organisations include the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, the National Board of Standardization and Quality (SIRIM), University Technology Mara (UiTM), University Putra Malaysia (UPM), the Agricultural Research and Development Institute of Malaysia, the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), the Department of Standards Malaysia, the Department of Veterinary Services, the Department of Science and Technology, the Ministry of Health and Science, and the Malaysia Quality Institute. Together, they collaborated with the Malaysian Standard Development System to establish the Malaysian Standards (Samori et al., 2014a).

JAKIM was appointed by the prime minister the task of supervising Islamic issues and developing halal awareness initiatives for food manufacturers, importers, and distributors in the country. In addition to this, JAKIM was given the authority to supervised food factories and hotels in Malaysia. Henceforth, JAKIM was saddled with the responsible for enforcing halal laws (Samori et al., 2017).

The standards for halal food in Malaysia can be found in MS 1500:2009, which was released in 2018. These standards cover the production, preparation, storage, and distribution of halal food (*Department of Standards Malaysia - About Us.*). Furthermore, the three sections of MS 2400, released in 2010, consist of MS 2400-1: 2010, focusing on the principles of managing systems for transporting goods, MS 2400-2: 2010, outlining the principles of managing halal warehousing systems, and MS 2400-3: 2010, detailing the principles of managing systems for selling halal products. Additionally, an additional regulation, MS 2200-2: 2013, was established in 2013, concerning the use of animal skins, bones, and hair in Muslim consumer products. The published standard MS 2565: 2014 addresses packaging instructions for the halal production system (*Malaysia: Malaysian Standard - Google Scholar.*).

2.4.3 Halal Standards of Indonesia (MUI)

LPPOM-MUI was established in the year 1989, by Majelis Ulama Indonesia (MUI) to manage halal-related issues on food, medication, cosmetics, and other products in Indonesia (Kamil et al., 2025). The halal food, drink, cosmetic, and medication formulation has been made possible with the help of LPPOM-MUI. The certifying body ensures that all certified products adhere to halal standards by acting as both national and worldwide halal certification agency. LPPOM has established agreements with relevant organizations that can provide assistance in the halal industry. Some of these organizations include Bogor University of Agriculture, the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Cooperative and Small Scale Industry, and the National Agency for Drugs and Food Control (*LPPOM MUI, 2022*).

The LPPOM-MUI standards for halal include HAS-23000:1, which details the criteria for halal certification. HAS-23000:2 covers the criteria for halal certification in meat-processing plants. HAS-23000:3 specifies the requirements for halal certification in hotels and food services. HAS-23103 provides guidance on the methods of halal assurance systems in slaughterhouses. HAS-23201 outlines the requirements for halal food products (*Requirement Of Halal Certification | LPPOM MUI, 2022*).

2.4.4 The Gulf Standardization Organization (GSO)

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Standardization Organization (GSO) was established as a regional standardization body in the Middle East by a resolution of the GCC Supreme Council following a meeting on 30–31 December 2001 (Kamil et al., 2025). However, the standardization process officially commenced in May 2004. By January 2010, the governments of the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, and the Republic of Yemen had become members of the organization. The GSO's primary goal is to harmonise quality initiatives and encourage cooperation with the standard-setting authorities of its member nations (*GSO - GCC Standardization Organization*).

The GSO's Halal standards are outlined in GSO 2055-1:2015, which was approved on 5 November 2015. This standard specifies the fundamental requirements for Halal food, which apply at every stage of the Halal food process. This includes preparation, packaging, labelling, receipt, transportation, distribution, storage, display, handling, and Halal food services (*GSO 2055-1:2015 - Standards Store - GCC Standardization Organization*). Another relevant document, GSO 993:2015, pertains to the ritual slaughter of animals, including birds, in compliance with Islamic law (*GSO 993:2015 - Standards Store - GCC Standardization Organization*). Further Halal standards include the following:

1. GSO 2055-2:2021 outlines the general requirements for halal certification bodies (*GSO 2055-1:2015 - Standards Store - GCC Standardization Organization*).
2. On 1 July 2021, GSO 2055-3:2021 was approved, which includes general requirements for halal accreditation bodies for certification (*GSO 2055-3:2021 - Standards Store - GCC Standardization Organization*).
3. The requirement for cargo chain services' halal food management system is set at GSO 2468:2021 (*GSO 2468:2021 - Standards Store - GCC Standardization Organization*).
4. A general guideline for the preparation and handling of halal packaging is provided by GSO 2652:2021. It is a fundamental requirement for packaging of halal products (*GSO 2652:2021 - Standards Store - GCC Standardization Organization*).

5. The GSO 2470:2021 standard pertains to the data needed at the management system level to safeguard the halal identity during the retailing of halal products(*GSO 2470:2021 - Standards Store - GCC Standardization Organization*).
6. In GSO 2469:2021, the specifications for maintaining halal integrity in the management system were detailed. This encompassed the entire process, starting from receiving goods to their delivery, as well as warehousing and associated activities (*GSO 2469:2021 - Standards Store - GCC Standardization Organization*).
7. Guidelines for industries on the use of animal bones, skin, and hair, in alignment with Islamic law, are provided in GSO 2670:2021(*GSO 2670:2021 - Standards Store - GCC Standardization Organization*).

2.4.5 SMIIC (The Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries)

The Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries (SMIIC) is located in Istanbul, Turkey. The governmental organization known as SMIIC (The Standards and Metrology Institute for Islamic Countries) is responsible for establishing standards in collaboration with the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) to uphold consumer safety, ensure product quality, enhance the market of OIC member countries, and facilitate free trade among the nations. The development of SMIIC halal standards commenced in 2008, and the initial version of the standards was finalised in 2011 by SMIIC's Standardization Expert Group (SEG), which comprises the 39 member countries of OIC and the International Islamic Jurisprudence Academy (IIFA).

The halal food standards of SMIIC can be outlined as follows:

1. The second edition of OIC/SMIIC 1: 2019 was released on July 31, 2019, and it specifies the necessary steps to be taken at various stages of the food chain. This standard provides essential information to relevant parties such as consumers, food manufacturers, and testing agencies to ensure that halal food products are produced in accordance with Islamic principles. It covers a wide range of requirements related to the production of halal products, including principles of slaughter and food

processing across the supply chain, sanitation, health, and food safety. Additionally, it addresses validation and verification, as well as the identification, traceability, and compliance with legal regulations (*New Editions of OIC/SMIIC Halal Standards*)

2. The OIC/SMIIC 2: 2019 comprises a collection of guidelines and standards created to harmonise the activities of halal certification bodies and the procedures for carrying out halal certification (*SMIIC*).
3. The guidelines and procedures for evaluating and endorsing halal certification bodies at regional and international levels for halal accreditation bodies are outlined in OIC/SMIIC 3: 2019 (*SMIIC*).
4. The requirements for locations where halal food and beverages are prepared, stored, or served are specified in OIC/SMIIC 6: 2019 (*SMIIC*).
5. OIC/SMIIC 17-1: 2020 outlines the criteria for a supply chain management system that guarantees the authenticity of halal products during transportation using different methods (*SMIIC*).
6. The requirements of supply chain management systems to guarantee the halal integrity of the products in the warehouse are defined by OIC/SMIIC 17-2: 2020 (*SMIIC*).
7. The OIC/SMIIC 17-3: 2020 was created to establish the criteria for supply chain management systems in order to guarantee the halal integrity when selling goods (*SMIIC*).
8. The requirement for a halal quality management system is included in OIC/SMIIC 18:2021 (*SMIIC*).
9. The requirements and methods for verifying edible gelatin are outlined in OIC/SMIIC 22:2021, which was issued on 17 June 2021 (*SMIIC*).
10. The guidelines for using different chemicals in the preparation of halal food are provided in the standard document number OIC/SMIIC 24: 2020, which was published on 23 June 2020. This document lists the chemicals used in food and specifies if they are halal, doubtful, or haram. Additionally, the document covers the regulations for labeling products and the necessity to reference the ingredients of the products (*SMIIC*).

11. Furthermore, the OIC/SMIIC 33: 2020 (released on 7 June 2022) is part of a collection of standard documents for halal conformity assessment that explain the fundamental principles of halal certification and offer guidance for comprehending, creating, managing, and sustaining certification scheme (*SMIIC*).
12. The OIC/SMIIC 34: 2020 focuses on providing principles and general information for halal certification bodies to certify individuals involved in halal-certification activities and to manage and enhance a certification scheme for these individuals (*SMIIC*). This document marked the initial use of scheme-based certification guidelines as an official document. Additionally, this manual aims to tackle the increasing need for laboratory assurance of different halal products.
13. The general requirements for halal testing laboratories are outlined in the OIC/SMIIC 35: 2020, which was released on 7 June 2020. This standard applies to all organizations involved in laboratory operations (*SMIIC*).
14. In addition, the standard OIC/SMIIC 36: 2020 (released on 7 June 2020) outlines the standard criteria for the capability of firms involved in halal scalability assessment programs and for the creation and implementation of halal talent evaluation programs. These criteria are well-known for various types of halal proficiency assessment programs (*SMIIC*)

2.5 THE CERTIFICATION BODIES INVOLVED IN HALAL INDUSTRY IN NIGERIA

There are four Halal certification bodies in Nigeria, and one is actively involved with halal certification in Nigeria.

2.5.1 Halal Certification Authority (HCA)

The Halal Certification Authority (HCA) of Nigeria is the official body responsible for the certification of Halal products in Nigeria. The Halal Certification Authority is a non-governmental organization established in 2016 with the aim of promoting and protecting the interests of the Muslim community in Nigeria (Salam Gateway, 2021). The Halal

Certification Authority is responsible for the certification of all food products, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and other products as Halal.

The Halal Certification Authority has established a set of guidelines for the certification process of products in Nigeria. These guidelines are based on Islamic Shariah, and they are designed to ensure that all products certified as Halal follow Islamic law. The Halal Certification Authority has established a Halal Certification Mark, used to identify products certified as Halal. The Halal Certification Mark is a symbol of quality and assurance that the product follows Islamic law. So far it has been able to certify about 100 food companies in Nigeria (Halal Certification Authority, 2023).

The Halal Certification Authority also provides training and education to producers and manufacturers of Halal goods in Nigeria. The Halal Certification Authority is committed to promoting the Halal industry in Nigeria and is actively involved in the development of the Halal industry in the country (Salam Gateway, 2021; The Daily Trust, 2022). The Halal Certification Authority is also involved in a partnership with International Institute for Halal Research and Training in Malaysia and Halal Food Authority in the United Kingdom to promote Halal products in the international market (Halal Certification Authority, 2023).

2.5.2 Jaiz International halal certification limited.

Jaiz International Halal Certification Ltd (JIHCL) is a tripartite company comprising Jaiz Foundation, Bayero University Kano (BUK) and Halal Research Council of Pakistan which was established in 2020 (Business Chief, 2020). It is registered with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria with the commitment to developing Halal Standards and establishing Halal Quality Infrastructure through its global team of outstanding professionals working in a collaborative effort to deliver quality service and add value to our client's business. Jaiz International Halal Certification Ltd.'s services include halal certification and promotion, training, consultancy, advocacy, and research development (Jaiz International Halal Certification Ltd, 2023).

2.5.3 Halal Compliance and Food Safety Limited (HaCFoS),

HaCFoS is an institution which performs consultancy, training, and product content analysis on halal, known to have studied with SON and NAFDAC (Halal Accreditation Agency, 2023). The Halal Certification Authority (HCA), in collaboration with Halal Compliance and Food Safety Limited (HacFoS), organised the First International Halal Seminar in 2019 (The Nations, 2019)(The Nations, 2019).

2.6 THE AGENCY INVOLVED IN HALAL INDUSTRY IN NIGERIA

2.6.1 Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment (FMITI)

Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment was reorganised in 2011 to use a model being used by mature and growing nations such as Singapore, Malaysia, and the United Kingdom to propel economic progress in Nigeria (*About FMITI – FMITI*, n.d.). As a result of this change, the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry's portfolio now includes investments that were previously outside of its initial purview (FMITI). Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment aim to achieve the followings:

- To establish a conducive atmosphere that will encourage both international and indigenous investment across all economic sectors, ultimately positioning Nigeria as the top investment destination.
- To expedite the growth of the industrial sector and improve productivity; To enable trade in commodities and services and optimise the advantages of international commerce through effective bilateral and multilateral trade relations with other nations;
- To boost the development of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) as the engine of economic growth. The execution of the mandate of the Ministry are facilitated through its various programmes such as the Nigerian Industrial Revolution Plan (NIRP), National Enterprise Development Programme (NEDEP),

Trade Policy, enabling environment for the promotion of investment, industrialization of the country.

2.6.2 Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD)

The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development regulates agricultural research, agriculture and natural resources, forestry and veterinary research all over Nigeria. The mandate of the Ministry is to be a significant net provider of food to the global community, through the promotion of Agricultural Development and Management of National Resources in a value-chain approach to achieve sustainable food security, enhance farm income and reduce poverty (FMARD, n.d.).

2.6.3 Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON)

The Federal Republic of Nigeria's Enabling Act Number 56 of December 1971, also known as the Standards Organization of Nigeria chapter 412 of the laws, established the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON). The Organization commenced operations on January 1, 1970. Act Number 20 of 1976, Act Number 32 of 1984, and Act Number 18 of 1992 are the three changes to the Act (Businessday, 2023).

The Nigerian Standards Council is the governing body of SON. This is the policy-making body that oversees the organization's financial management and administrative operations. The Chief Executive of the Organization is the Director General, whose duties centre on managing the Organization on a daily basis within the broad parameters that the Council has agreed. The organization's mandate encompasses the creation of standards for a variety of products, measurements, materials, processes, and services, as well as their promotion at the national, regional, and worldwide levels. It also includes product certification, aiding in the production of high-quality goods and services, enhancing measurement accuracy, and disseminating information about standards (SON).

2.6.4 Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC)

The Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) is the Federal Government of Nigeria's apex organization for promoting, developing and diversifying export('About NEPC', n.d.). NEPC has achieved its mandate over the years by:

- Organizing export development and promotion activities in the country
- Directing in all national export programs
- Associating with the international trade agencies on collaboration and capacity building

2.6.5 National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC).

The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) was established by Decree No. 15 of 1993 as amended by Decree No. 19 of 1999. The legislation is currently the NAFDAC and Control Act Cap N1 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN) 2004, the decree empowers NAFDAC to regulate and control the manufacture, importation, exportation, distribution, advertisement, sale and use of Food, Drugs, Cosmetics, Medical Devices, Packaged Water, Chemicals and Detergents (collectively known as regulated products). The legislation enforced by NAFDAC is the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control Act, which is the enabling act, the Food, Drug and Related Products (Registration) Act, the Food and Drugs Act, the Counterfeit and Fake Drugs and Unwholesome Processed Foods (Miscellaneous Provision) Act and other relevant regulations (Ojonugwa & Gwom, n.d.).

NAFDAC's primary goal is to offer the best products available on the Nigerian market. As a result, it serves to conduct a suitable inquiry into the manufacturing, raw materials, and production processes. The goal of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control is to protect public health in Nigeria by making sure that only high-quality food, medications, and other regulated items are produced, imported,

distributed, marketed, sold, and utilised in the country. Generally, the functions of NAFDAC are to(NAFDAC Mandate):

1. Manage and oversee the procurement, production, distribution, marketing, sale, and consumption of food, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, medical supplies, bottled water, and other products.
2. Conduct relevant tests and make sure that the standard specifications approved by the council are followed in order to effectively control the quality of food, medications, cosmetics, medical equipment, bottled water, chemicals, and the raw materials and production processes used in these items in factories and other establishments.
3. Examine food producing facilities and raw supplies., medications, cosmetics, medical equipment, bottled water, and chemicals as needed. Set up the necessary quality control procedures and certification programs for the production facilities and regulated goods.
4. Create uniform guidelines and criteria for the manufacturing, distribution, sale, and import/export of chemicals, food, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and medical equipment as well as bottled water.
5. Take up the registration process for chemicals, bottled water, medical equipment, food, drugs, and cosmetics.
6. Declare clearly, after suitable analysis, the safety and quality of medications, food, cosmetics, medical equipment, bottled water, and chemicals.
7. Establish criteria for the approval and oversight of advertisements for chemicals, bottled water, pharmaceuticals, food, cosmetics, and medical equipment.
8. Assess whether or not chemicals, bottled water, medical equipment, food, medications, cosmetics, and medications are suitable for use on humans and animals.

2.7 HALAL CERTIFICATION IN NIGERIA

Halal certification in Nigeria stands at a critical juncture. With strategic unification, regulation, and investment, Nigeria can harness its population size, resources, and geographic location to become a key player in the global Halal market with government backing. To establish halal framework in Nigeria, the former Minister of State for Industry, Trade, and Investment established a committee with carefully selected personnel from important Departments, Agencies, and Ministries as well as the Private Sector Organizations engaged in the Value-chain for Halal industry in order to address this problem. The following government ministries are represented on the committee: the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment (FMITI), the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), and the Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON). To address the difficulty, a few private organisations have also been incorporated. The group is expected to investigate successful halal prototypes used in other countries and develop a tailored Strategic Plan and Operational Framework for halal in Nigeria (allAfrica, 2022; The Daily Trust, 2022).

2.7.1 The Current State Of Halal Certification In Nigeria

Presently, there is a surge in the activities related to halal certification in Nigeria. (Jaiyeoba et al., 2020). Food and beverage certification represents the largest halal industry sector, with over 20 companies having received certification as of 2021, according to Dr. Oreagba, the head of the Halal Certification Authority (HCA) (Salam Gateway, 2021). Jaiz International Halal Certification Limited, Halal Compliance and Food Safety Limited (HaCFoS), and the Halal Certification Authority (HCA) are prominent organisations in the field, providing Halal certification alongside training, consulting, education, and product analysis services. These bodies work along with NAFDAC (Nigeria Agency for Food and Drug Administration Control) and SON (Standard Organization of Nigeria). A

memorandum of understanding has been signed by the Nigerian Standard Organization, and the Halal Certification Authority.

The National body for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) was Nigeria's only food and drug administration organization prior to the establishment of halal certification organizations in the country. It was created expressly to keep an eye on food, cosmetics, and fake pharmaceuticals. It was also intended to regulate the import and export of medical equipment and the distribution of these goods. As national institution in a multireligious nation, NAFDAC, does not certify products as halal or mandate that producers follow halal certification guidelines; however, it has suggested that products used or consumed should not pose a risk to human life (Jaiyeoba et al., 2020).

At the third International Halal Seminar and Exhibition on Monday, August 8, 2022, AMB. Mariam Y. Katagum, Minister of State for Industry, Trade, and Investment, announced—with government backing—that a committee comprising carefully selected members from significant departments, agencies, ministries, and private sector organisations involved in the Halal industry value chain has been established. The committee includes several government ministries and departments, such as the Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON), the Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC), the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment (FMITI), the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC). To further address the relevant issues, select private sector groups have also been incorporated. The committee's responsibility is to study successful Halal models implemented in other countries and to develop a tailored operational framework and strategic plan for the Halal industry in Nigeria (allAfrica, 2022; The Daily Trust, 2022).

Additionally, the first halal training session was organised by the Halal Certification Authority in 2019 to raise awareness throughout the nation. The first-ever international halal expo in the nation was held in 2020 under the name Halal Expo Nigeria. The Abuja

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) is in charge of these efforts. In fact, Dr. Al-Mujtaba Abubakar, president of ACCI, expressed optimism that Nigeria will be able to draw \$150 billion in Halal industry investment from the Middle East (The Guardian, 2021).

Nigeria, home to the fifth-largest Muslim population in the world, has the potential to improve its governance and raise awareness while simultaneously pursuing export prospects to other OIC (Organization of Islamic Cooperation) member states in Africa (State of the Global Islamic Economy Report 2020/21, 2020). The fact that certain states in Nigeria have taken action to boost the halal industry there is heartening. According to reports, Kano state, home to nearly 9 million Muslims—90% of all Muslims in Nigeria has a larger potential market for halal meat than any other country, including South Africa, Germany, the UK, Italy, Brazil, and Canada. Due to this issue, the state government partnered with the Egyptian business Bovine Master to establish a halal meat plant in the state of Kano (Jakada, B.A., & Gambo, 2014).

Former Kano State Governor Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje asserted that the project will provide a fully authorised halal beef brand for both local and significant halal export markets in North Africa and the GCC nations. He further stated, "In addition, the project aims to establish a halal food certifying body in the state in collaboration with relevant agencies." The governor said that the plan, which would export and distribute finished commodities instead of the country's existing practice of transporting animals to end-user markets, would improve Kano's GDP (Gross Domestic Product) (Halal Focus, 2018).

2.7.2 Previous Studies on Halal Certification in Nigeria

This section will dwell on a few previous works that have been conducted on halal food certification in Nigeria. The research results showed that there is an insufficient amount of empirical studies conducted on halal food certificates in Nigeria. (Annabi & Ahmed, 2015; Annabi & Wada, 2016; Jaiyeoba et al., 2020; Oyelakin & Yusuf, 2018; Yahya & Kamalul Ariffin, 2020) noted the absence of halal certification and halal food certification in Nigeria.

More research is necessary to be carried out regarding halal food certification in order to enhance Nigeria's economy.

The exploratory study by (Annabi & Ahmed, 2015) examined the handling of Halal beef in Nigeria. The study was driven by the need to assess the awareness of Halal beef handling practices in Nigerian abattoirs, aiming to determine whether the existing guidelines in Nigeria align with those established by the Department of Islamic Development in Malaysia (JAKIM)(Annabi & Ahmed, 2015). In Nigeria, Halal beef production is largely based on trust, as it is believed that Muslims dominate the beef industry, particularly those from the Northern Hausa and Fulani tribes, who are closely associated with cattle rearing. It is assumed that these tribesmen, being Muslims, would have performed the slaughter in the name of Allah as outlined in the Holy Quran, thereby ensuring the beef is Halal and safe for consumption according to Sharia principles. There is an absence of a dedicated Halal beef regulatory body in Nigeria which poses a challenge because, in effect, there is no nationally recognised regulatory agency solely responsible for controlling the Halal beef industry. This leaves Halal beef handlers in Nigerian abattoirs with the ability to adhere to perspectives and personal interpretations of what makes their practices Halal.

The study concluded that the absence of a dedicated Halal beef regulatory organization in Nigeria and in consequence personal belief in Halal beef is the “self-governing moral compass”. in comparison, NAFDAC (Nigeria Agency for Food and Drug Administration Control) shares commonalities with JAKIM in halal beef handling but only on paper. A Halal logo should be adopted by Nigeria Agency for Food and Drug Administration Control by setting up a dedicated Halal department to certify and issue a Halal logo for Halal beef products as suggested by the study (Annabi & Ahmed, 2015).

The study beliefs that halal is in high demand in Nigeria is supported by 53 % Muslims of about 200 million people(Statista, 2023). The Minister of Agriculture has speculated that Nigeria will expand its ability in Halal products to satisfy Halal needs. However, the country does not have Halal certification processes so is it devoid of legal

policies on Halal production. The demand Halal pharmaceuticals in Nigeria is little despite the Muslim population in the country, the demanded Halal products is not prevalent in the country. The term “Halal” is believed to be synonymous with animal slaughter in Nigeria, even though the major abattoirs do not meet the minimum health and cleanliness standard. The creation of The National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) is assumed by the populace to detect counterfeit medicines made in Nigeria only, whereas, food is also included in their jurisdiction(Annabi & Wada, 2016).

The potential for Halal products to contribute to economic development in countries like Nigeria presents a significant opportunity for revenue generation. However, the conceptual study highlights several challenges in Nigeria’s Halal industry, such as the lack of government involvement, the absence of standard guidelines for Halal certification and implementation, and more(Oyelakin & Yusuf, 2018). These limitations stand in contrast to the well-structured Halal framework in Malaysia. Due to insufficient government regulation and support in verifying and managing the Halal product industry in Nigeria, many local manufacturers lack clear direction, particularly in terms of obtaining Halal certification. Without proper oversight of Halal recognition, industries in Nigeria struggle to expand, both domestically and internationally. The study provides an overview of the current state of the Halal industry in Nigeria, positioning Malaysia as a benchmark for Nigeria to aspire to, in order to become a prominent player in the Halal sector (Oyelakin & Yusuf, 2018).

The study on halal certification marks concludes that there is a favourable impact on Nigerian customers' purchasing decisions. It sought to determine whether halal certification marks, halal brand quality, and halal awareness influence Nigerian consumers when making purchase decisions. Nevertheless, it was discovered that halal awareness suggested otherwise, since empirical data suggests that Nigerian customers' purchase decisions were negatively impacted by their understanding of halal. The study suggests that producers and certifiers should pay more attention to halal awareness, halal brand quality, and halal certification markings. The halal certification symbol holds great significance,

and it ought to be harmonised to embody the intent behind its creation (Jaiyeoba et al., 2020).

2.8 HALAL CERTIFICATION UNIFORMITY AS A GLOBAL ISSUE

The unification of Halal standards refers to the process of developing a unified set of guidelines that are universally accepted and recognised by Muslims worldwide for the production, processing, and certification of Halal goods and services. The aim of this unification is to guarantee that the Halal goods and services fulfil the requirements and anticipations of Muslim customers while also conforming to Islamic laws and regulations.

In certain countries, like Malaysia, the government certifies food as halal, but in other countries the certification is backed by one or more private Islamic organizations. The Halal standards adhered to by Halal Certification Bodies (HCBs) are recognised as being in accordance with Islamic dietary regulations (Suresh, 2023). However, a number of Islamic organisations and HCBs certify using various halal standards. These standards offer a framework for handling halal operations and are based on varying interpretations of Islamic dietary laws. Many countries have developed and enacted legislation approving halal standards. (e.g., the Central Islamic Committee of Thailand (CICT), the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS), the Standards and Metrology Institute for the Islamic Countries (SMIIC), and the GCC Standardization Organization (GSO)) or by organizations with a political mandate.

Table 2. 1 List of Halal standards and the number of HCB/countries adopted the standards

S/N	Halal Standard	Amount of Countries/HCB
1	OIC/SMIIC 1: 2019 General Requirements for Halal Food (2nd Edition)	9 HCB in 11 Countries
2	UAE.S/GSO 2055-1:2015 Halal Food – Part 1: General Requirements for Halal Food	32 HCB in 22 Countries
3	MS 1500:2009 Halal Food – Production, Preparation, Handling and Storage – General Guidelines (2nd Revision)	41 HCB in 31 Countries
4	MUIS-HC-S001 General Guidelines for the Handling and Processing of Halal Food	31 HCB in 24 Countries
5	HAS23000 Criteria of Halal Assurance System	26 HCB in 17 Countries
6	BAS 1049:2010 Halal Food - Requirements and Measures	1 HCB IN 1 Country
7	CAC/GL 24-1997	3 HCB in 3 Countries
8	Halal Standards for Halal Certification 2008	1 HCB in 1 Country
9	PBD 24:2007 Halal Food	2 HCB in 2 Country
10	THS 24000: 2552 General Guidelines of Halal Products	1 HCB in 1 Country
11	SASO 2172 “General Requirements for Halal Food’	2 HCB in 2 Country
12	ES:4249/2003 Requirements and Provision for Labelling Halal Food	1 HCB in 1 Country
13	PS:3733-2016 Pakistan Standard Specification for Halal Food Management Systems Requirements for Any Organization in the Food Chain	2 HCB in 1 Country

14	Uganda Standard US 909:2011 General Standard for Halal food	1 HCB in 1 Country
15	Austria Standard ONR 142000:2009 Halal food – Requirements for the food chain	1 HCB in 1 Country

Source:(Lutfika et al., 2022)

For both consumers and businesses, the multitude of Halal certification bodies and standards across the globe can lead to ambiguity and uncertainty (Abdallah et al., 2021; Al-Mahmood & Fraser, 2023; Qasim et al., 2021). Unifying the criteria for Halal products can assist address these issues by promoting transparency and consistency in the production and delivery of Halal goods and services. Producers from Muslim nations where one standard is recognised or from non-Muslim countries where one standard is recognised must obtain extra halal certificates unique to each region in which they wish to export. This is another result of multiple halal standards. Thus, the food industry would be extremely happy to see a global halal standard (Abdallah et al., 2021).

Diverse Islamic schools of thought have resulted in disparate interpretations and applications of Islamic dietary law, owing to the absence of a single, unified halal standard(Jalil et al., 2018) . For instance, the mentioning of Allah’s name at the point of slaughtering is mandated by three Islamic schools of thought (Imam Abu Hanifah, Imam Malik, and Imam Ahmed), yet Imam Al-Shafi’s school of thought, does not consider it obligatory. Standards for halal also differ between countries and occasionally even within one country (Mahyeddin et al., 2012). The unavailability of a unified standard for halal slaughter raises a number of issues, such as the absence of a global benchmark, increased production costs due to the combination of national halal standards, and the possibility of utilizing a method of slaughter approved by one halal standard but not approved by another (e.g., mechanical slaughter and animal stunning) (Grudgings & Leong, 2014).

Since a number of years ago, there have been numerous national, regional, and worldwide initiatives aimed at bringing Halal standards closer together. The creation of the

World Halal Council is one such effort that aims to encourage member nations to recognise and harmonise Halal standard (World Halal Council n.d.).

The industry requires collaboration from all stakeholders, such as consumers, governments, certification authorities, and industry participants, to successfully unify Halal standards, which is a demanding endeavour. It also means dealing with issues such as differences in the interpretation of Islamic laws and regulations, differences in language and culture, and modifications to industrial practices. In order to facilitate and stimulate international commerce of foods without destroying or undermining the Halal food systems, all of these difficulties should be handled by consensual debate and consistent regulations, according to the agreement on technical barriers to trade (TBT). The primary issues for international trade are these inconsistencies and disparities between national and international legislation (Qasim et al., 2021).

In general, the worldwide Halal industry views the unification of Halal standards as a significant issue. Efforts should be made to continue pursuing this goal in order to encourage greater transparency, uniformity, and consumer trust in Halal products and services.

2.8.1 Benefit of Unified Halal Certification

The growing demand for halal products motivates manufacturers to comply with halal standards, in view of potential commercial benefits. Halal certifications, however, are released by a number of bodies which may differ in the requirements imposed (Abdallah et al., 2021). Therefore, a specific halal certification is not recognised worldwide.

Unification of halal standards/certification is important to streamline trade and create a level of playing field for businesses operating in the halal industry. It ensures that halal certification processes and requirements are consistent among certification bodies, reducing complexity and facilitating market access. It is essential to promote industry growth by reducing barriers to trade, increasing market opportunities, and attracting

investments. They enhance consumer confidence by providing consistent and reliable standards of quality and authenticity. Additionally, it encourages innovation by allowing businesses to focus on research, development, and market expansion rather than navigating through diverse regulatory frameworks.

1. Reducing Barriers to trade: Harmonising Halal standards is crucial to reducing trade barriers. A comparative analysis by researchers highlighted the importance of developing a unified framework that aligns the different national standards, such as those from SMIIC, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore (Jailani, 2024). Aligning these standards can promote smoother trade flows, lower compliance costs, and boost consumer confidence in the integrity of Halal products. It is important to note that addressing factors that ensure consistency and diversity among various Halal standards is vital to achieving this objective (Lutfika et al., 2022).
2. Market Expansion: The implementation of a unified monitoring system and establishment of a unified global halal standard would facilitate trade (Abdallah et al., 2021). The ability of unification to stimulate economic growth, entrepreneurship, and job creation is one of its major advantages. Businesses in the halal sector can grow their operations, penetrate new markets, and generate jobs as unified standards and rules ease international commerce and market access. Consequently, this fosters economic expansion and advances the general advancement of both national and international economies.
3. Enhance Consumer and Producer's confidence: Consolidated halal certification boosts consumer and producer confidence (Abdallah et al., 2021). Halal standards are critical for manufacturers seeking to access and compete in the global market, where demand for halal products is growing (Purnomo, 2023). These requirements serve as proof of compliance with Islamic law, ensuring that the items supplied are genuine and trustworthy. By adhering to halal standards, manufacturers not only satisfy Muslim consumers' expectations, but also demonstrate their dedication to quality and integrity (Jailani, 2024).

2.9 OTHER CHALLENGES THAT AFFECT THE HALAL FOOD CERTIFICATE.

A few studies have identified issues and challenges with halal food certification and observations have shown that the factors are the same as the issues and challenges. Among the widely discussed areas are the view, awareness, consumer perceptions, cost, market competitiveness, supply chain management, certification, and Halal governance. The similitude of these studies on issues and challenges has been done in countries like Malaysian, Indonesia, Thailand, and Japan. According to the (Razali et al., 2017; Talib & Hamid, 2015), It is essential to note that, due to the limited literature on Halal certification, the factors influencing motivation and limitations for Halal food certification are derived from other food safety and quality certification standards, particularly the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) and the Food Safety Management System (ISO 22000).

The challenges in the halal certification process faced in Indonesia and Malaysia is classified into two (Tohe et al., 2021), Internal factors were those that emerged about employers or employees within the organization, while external factors were factors that came from outside of the organization. Internal factors, in this regard, were those related to the halal certifying institutions, such as the quality of human resources and services, and legal infrastructure. Meanwhile, external factors problems were those faced or generated by applicants and competitors. The most frequently mentioned were the competence that the employees of the certifying institutions demonstrated, lack of workforce, poor communication, incapable auditors, and high certification factors (HANIM et al., 2015; Muhammad et al., 2020).

On the other hand, the halal certification mark and halal brand quality are the most influential factors that contributed to consumers' buying decisions (Aliff et al., 2015; Jaiyeoba et al., 2020). Contrarily, it was found that consumer still has sceptical attitudes towards the halal logo and certification. Thus, those that abuse the use of the halal logo and certificates have struck the sensitivity of Muslims. This has created dubiousness amongst them, and consequently affected their food and product selection, even though the industry

has found that the logo and status can be a marketing tool for business expansion((Aliff et al., 2015; HANIM et al., 2015).

Regarding operational inefficiencies and Halal governance, several issues often arise during the Halal certification process. Firstly, there is a shortage of expertise in the field of Halal certification, leading to delays due to inexperienced staff. Additionally, clerical issues, such as improper filing, further contribute to inefficiencies. Certifying larger organisations, such as multinational manufacturing companies or hotel chains, often takes more time, as premise inspections require certification officers to be away from their office duties for extended periods (HANIM et al., 2015). On the food manufacturers' side, problems include a lack of understanding of Halal procedures, incomplete documentation, delays in paying certification fees, and being unaware of the required information for submission (Aliff et al., 2015).

It is argued that many things can lead to awareness of halal products or food unfortunately, most of the previous studies only focused on the halal certification logos. Many problems are associated with the halal logo (labelling) as the only source of awareness for Muslim consumers on halal.(Ambali & Bakar, 2014) delved into belief, health relations, halal certification and exposure as sources that can bring about awareness of Muslims on halal products to fill the void. It is also often mistaken by the majority that halal is only meant for Muslims to consume that non-Muslims cannot consume halal(Yamaguchi, 2019). However, the fact that human health is related to fitness; is one thing that Muslims cannot be easily overlooked (Bonne et al., 2007) neither should a non-Muslim overlook it. This has resulted in many non-Muslim consumers to start purchasing and consuming Halal food because it is a healthy choice and the rise of a health-conscious community in Malaysia (Teng, 2013).

Ironically, utilizing a halal supply chain and the halal certificate system, over 70% of the businesses manufacturing halal-certified goods are non-Muslim suppliers. The majority of Muslim nations do not have authority over the entire halal supply chain. There is always a chance of product cross-contamination throughout distribution operations in the

majority of Muslim nations that improperly manage the halal supply chain(Lee & Kim, 2019).

Understanding the supply chain and the production process would be fundamental to Muslim producers(Nik Muhammad et al., 2009). The halal value chain includes feed and farm management, as well as ingredients, manufacturing or processing, logistics, research and development or technology, finance, and communication or branding (Noordin, Md Noor, et al., 2009). The halal industry covers the entire value chain from agriculture up to consumption. It further stated the guidelines for implementing a halal value chain strategy which includes the halal animals feed, food ingredients, monitoring and verification in manufacturing, logistics, research development, finance, communication, and branding.

Furthermore, despite the issues and challenges factoring the implementation of the Halal food system, it should be emphasised that the issues and challenges discussed earlier do not apply to every firm because the driving factors may vary depending on a firm's nature of business, geographical areas, target markets, size of operation, and the availability of resources. Therefore, it is insufficient to concentrate and understand only the issues. The motivational factors need to be examined, however, a factor limiting a firm to implement halal food management could also be a motivation for another firm to implement halal food management.

As mentioned earlier, human resource is one of the issues in implementing certification. However, the human element could also be the motivation for successfully implementing certification. Several studies have shown that food enterprises implement food management systems to motivate employees, attract and retain skilled employees, to improve employee performance motivation to implement certification is also the result of ensuring consumer satisfaction and fulfilling the demand for quality and safer food(Talib & Hamid, 2015).

It is mostly perceived that consumer demand is the main motivator, their growing concern about halal has pressurised the food industry involved in halal implementation

(Razali et al., 2017). These firms, therefore, get their product labelled with halal logos to provide assurance for the consumer and attract new customers particularly Muslim consumers (Yahya & Kamalul Ariffin, 2020). Thus, conforming to customer pressures and ensuring customer satisfaction is eminent (Talib & Hamid, 2015). These emphasise the importance of human resources in implementing certification since they can catalyse other elements encouraging food certification.

Whether certification is mandated or voluntary, food firms are driven to become certified because it is thought to aid international market expansion. Food industries are similarly motivated to implement certification since it can boost market share. Furthermore, while S.M.Es lacks the financial resources and infrastructure to expand its operations internationally, it can compete for local market share growth. Due to the highly competitive nature of the food industry, rival firms are indirectly pressuring competing firms and, as a result, inadvertently driving more competitors to get certified (Ali et al., 2018; Rasul, T et al., 2018; Talib & Hamid, 2015). In the coming decades, halal markets are anticipated to grow significantly in importance. Racial diversity is one aspect of the market expansion that can expand the target market and spur corporate success (Zannierah & Marzuki, 2012).

To summarise, studying the rationale and difficulties supplies a better knowledge of Halal food certification. The difficulties raised show that several elements could hinder food producers' efforts to obtain certification. Overall, the evaluation of the incentive and limitation factors in adopting food safety and quality certification shows that more needs to be done to stimulate motivation and solve obstacles and challenges. Table 1 depicts the limitations and motivators that influence halal food certification as discussed by the number of authors in the earlier study.

Many studies have explored the factors affecting halal food certification from several dimensions which need to be addressed. The studies have often taken place in Malaysia and Indonesia mostly and a similar study was done in Korea and Japan, but it has not sufficiently been explored in Nigeria, especially from the perspective of halal authorities. The recent study by (Jaiyeoba et al., 2020; Yahya & Kamalul Ariffin, 2020) on

halal consumerism in Nigeria shows that more effort is needed in creating halal awareness and an attempt to review the perspectives of abattoirs workers on the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration Control (NAFDAC) guidelines which govern Halal beef handling in Nigeria proved to have commonalities with those recommended by the Jurisdiction of Department of Islamic Development in Malaysia, (JAKIM) in a study by (Annabi & Ahmed, 2015) has questioned the halal integrity of halal beef supply chain. The halal industry in Nigeria requires further studies to be carried out.

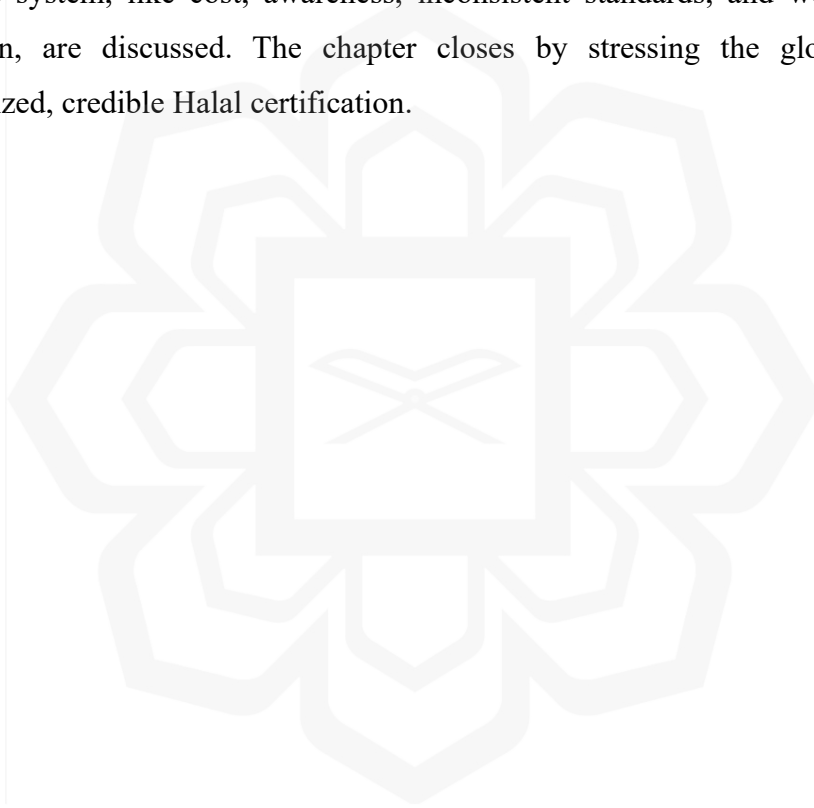


Table 2. 2 Challenges Facing Halal Certification

	Dimensions	Authors
Cost	Slow loan approval, lack of government finance support	(Aliff et al., 2015; HANIM et al., 2015)
Market Competition	Stiff competition, Market Expansion	(Aliff et al., 2015; HANIM et al., 2015; Muhammad et al., 2020)
Supply Chain Management	Traceability, Fake halal logo, production process and value chain, logistics and packaging	(Ab Talib et al., 2013; Aliff et al., 2015; Fauzi et al., 2020; HANIM et al., 2015; Lee & Kim, 2019; Mubarak & Imam, 2020; Noordin, Hashim, et al., 2009; Rahman & Abdul, 2017)
Consumer	Religious belief, Untrusted halal logo, Awareness, Demands for quality and safer food and services, exposure.	(Aliff et al., 2015; Ambali & Bakar, 2014; HANIM et al., 2015; Jaiyeoba et al., 2020)
Certification Processing	Insufficient Muslim Auditors, unified halal Standard, no international scheme, incompetent halal food producer, Prolong halal certification, lack of workforce, lack of halal procedure in the mass media, Employee motivation	(Aliff et al., 2015; Ardiani Aniqoh & Hanastiana, 2020; Elasrag, 2016; Fauzi et al., 2020; HANIM et al., 2015; Jenatabadi, 2017; Mohd Ismail, 2017; Mubarak & Imam, 2020; Muhammad et al., 2020; Noordin, Hashim, et al., 2009; Sari et al., 2021; Talib & Hamid, 2015)

2.10 SUMMARY

This chapter explores foundational and contemporary concepts surrounding Halal and Halal certification. It explains the definitions of Halal and Tayyib, showing how Halal covers food, behaviour, and lifestyle. The chapter reviews Halal certification processes and the roles of certification bodies globally, highlighting best practices from Malaysia (JAKIM), Indonesia (MUI), and the GCC. It also examines the Nigerian context, including its own Halal Certification Authorities like HCA, Jaiz, and HaCFoS. Key challenges in Nigeria's system, like cost, awareness, inconsistent standards, and weak supply chain regulation, are discussed. The chapter closes by stressing the global demand for standardized, credible Halal certification.



CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Methodology conducted is conceived of in terms of the research philosophy subscribed to, the research strategy employed so the research instruments utilised (and perhaps developed) in the pursuit of a goal. In chapter one, we have defined our research questions and research objectives. The purpose of this chapter is to:

- Elaborate on the research philosophy.
- Clarify the research strategy and the research methodologies employed in the study
- Delve into the research instruments that were created and utilised in achieving our research objectives, as well as the data analysis methods to be utilised.

3.2 RESEARCH PHILOSOPHY

Research philosophy is a framework that guides how research should be conducted based on ideas about reality and the nature of knowledge (Collis & Hussey, 2014). The two main research philosophies are positivism and interpretivism, which represent two fundamentally different ways that we as humans make sense of the world around us. In positivism, reality is independent of us and researchers can thus observe reality objectively, whereas in interpretivism, reality is seen as highly subjective because it is shaped by our perceptions (Collis & Hussey, 2014).

Positivism started in the natural sciences and focuses on scientific testing of hypotheses and obtaining logical or mathematical proof that comes from statistical analysis. (Collis & Hussey, 2014). Positivists therefore tend to use large sample sizes and to produce precise, objective and quantitative data (Collis & Hussey, 2014).

This research study is based on the interpretivist research philosophy. Interpretivism arose from the apparent inability of positivism to suit the needs of social scientists (Collis & Hussey, 2014). It is focused with investigating the intricacies of social phenomena by gaining an empathic awareness of how the research respondents perceive the world (Bryman & Bell, 2011; Saunders et al., 2012), based on findings from a small sample size (Collis & Hussey, 2014).

The philosophy of interpretive research aligns with the way this study is conducted. It assists the researcher to gain insights on context of the challenges, factors, benefit and how Nigerian government can help in the unification of halal standard in the country understand behaviour and analyse. The research aims to interpret findings in order to generate themes about the benefit and how Nigerian government can help.

3.3 RESEARCH APPROACH

This study's qualitative, inductive research approach adheres to the interpretive research philosophy, meaning that it is exploratory and seeks depth rather than breadth, depending on rich and subjective results (Collis & Hussey, 2014; Loraine et al., 2010). By using an inductive analytical approach, meaning may be inferred from data as it is being gathered, facilitating the discovery of patterns and connections. Such an investigation leads to the establishment of discussion topics.

Qualitative research allows for a flexible data collection process, unlike quantitative research, which is the common approach within the positivist research philosophy, for instance, in qualitative research, data can be collected at several stages rather than once and the researcher can adapt the process mid-way if necessary. The researcher might decide to add or leave out certain questions depending on learnings that happen during the process. Moreover, qualitative research allows the researcher to continue the collection and analysis of data until the researcher finds that no new issues are emerging. In qualitative research, data consists of words or visual images collected on the basis of observation and interaction with participants (Denscombe, 2014).

The aim of this study is to explore and discuss the business phenomenon related to halal certification unification, harmonization or standardization in order to provide themes about benefit of having a unified halal certification in Nigeria. Thus, interpretivism and the inherent approaches of qualitative research and inductive analysis methods make the most appropriate approach for achieving the objectives of the research.

3.4 RESEARCH DESIGN

"Research design is a comprehensive plan for data collection in an empirical research project" (Bhattacharjee, 2012). It is a "blueprint" for empirical research aimed at answering specific research questions or testing specific hypotheses and must specify at least three processes: (1) the data collection process, (2) the instrument development process, and (3) the sampling process (Bhattacharjee, 2012) In other words, the research design sets the procedure for the required data, the methods to be applied to collect and analyse this data, and how all of this is going to answer the research question.

As explained by (Robsin, 2002) there are three possible forms of research design: exploratory, descriptive, and explanatory. His base of classification relies on the purpose of the research area as each design serves a different end purpose. Exploratory research is conducted when enough is not known about a phenomenon and a problem that has not been clearly defined (Mark Saunders, Philip Lewis, 2007). It does not aim to provide the final and conclusive answers to the research questions but merely explores the research topic with varying levels of depth.

As stated in the preceding section, the primary goal of the study is to investigate the uniformity of halal food certification in the Nigerian business. To accomplish this, it uses non-statistical data and qualitative outcomes to provide a thorough knowledge of the phenomenon. As a result, the relevant research design is exploratory in nature, responding to what and how aspects of the core research issue. The next section provides additional justification for using an exploratory research strategy in this study (Bhattacharjee, 2012).

3.5 POPULATION

The population as all people or items (unit of analysis) with the characteristics that one wishes to study is the first stage of the sampling process (Bhattacharjee, 2012). It consists of all groups of people that are of interest to researchers and to whom the results of the study can be generalised. The personal in halal certification bodies in Nigeria was chosen as the population for this study. Below, is the list of the certification bodies that was used in this study which offer halal certification in Nigeria.

Halal Certification Authority (HCA), Lagos.

Halal Compliance and Food Safety Limited (HaCFoS), Lagos.

3.6 SAMPLING PROCEDURE AND SAMPLE SIZE

Interpretivist research allows for a deliberate selection of research participants (Collis & Hussey, 2014). Hence, the researcher aimed to use purposive sampling to find and select 6 six research participants with well professional experience in halal certification from halal certification bodies in Nigeria (Collis & Hussey, 2014; Loraine et al., 2010). However, the researcher opted for convenience sampling due to the fact that only 4 (four) potential research participants were accessible, therefore the researcher had limited eligible research participants for the study. They are as follow:

General Secretary, Halal Certification Authority, Nigeria (HCA)

Chairman, Halal Compliance and Food Safety (HACFOS)

Chief Executive Officer, Halal Compliance and Food Safety (HACFOS)

Operational Manager, Halal Certification Authority (HCA)

3.7 DATA COLLECTION

Documents, archived records, interviews, and other sources are used to gather data.(Yin, 2003). To gather qualitative data for this study, a thorough interview is done. The instrument and data collection procedures are described.

3.7.1 Instrument Development

In order to be in line with the study aims, the semi-structured interview question was created based on the research topic. It was then examined by experts in the halal sector to make sure it complied with the study's goals. To give a thorough grasp of the study's objectives, four interviews with representatives of halal certification authorities were undertaken. Before they take part in the interviews, each participant was emailed. Participant information and consent letter stating the background and purpose of the research, what it means to take part in the study and the associated risks and benefits was stated.

Before their participation, voluntary consent was obtained from all the research participants to include their contributions to this study. Each interview lasted approximately 1hr 30minutes and was conducted virtually via google meet or WhatsApp and was recorded. In order for the researcher to pay full attention in the conversations with the participants, the researcher did not take notes during the interviews.

To adhere to the guiding principles for good research ethics, the researcher took several steps and precautions before, during and after the interviews. All the interviews were audio or video recorded, then transcribed verbatim by the researchers before analysing data obtained from the interviews.

The following four industry professionals participated in this study:

General Secretary, Halal Certification Authority, Nigeria (HCA)

Chairman, Halal Compliance and Food Safety (HACFOS)

Chief Executive Officer, Halal Compliance and Food Safety (HACFOS)

Operational Manager, Halal Certification Authority (HCA)

The four participants are key individuals in halal certification bodies in Nigeria. Interviewing is the most appropriate research method for exploring complex and subtle phenomena like opinions, feelings, and experiences, complex issues that call for a detailed understanding of how things work, or privileged information based on someone's

experience or position(Denscombe, 2014). This is exactly what is required for this study to meet the research objectives, so semi-structured interviews were chosen as the most appropriate method.

Semi-structured interview questions were employed because they enable the study to draw on both structured and unstructured methods. The specific structure of the questions helps to pinpoint the areas of study, allowing for comparability across different cases(Bryman, 2004). On the flip side, the unstructured approach allows the researcher or interviewee to effectively deviate and delve deeper into an idea(Gill, J., Johnson, P., 2010).

3.7.2 Instrument

For this study, the researcher prepared interview questions to achieve the goals and answer the research questions, an interview guide was designed according to a review of the literature on halal certification of food (Annabi & Ibidapo-Obe, 2017; Oyelakin & Yusuf, 2018).The researcher used the questions derived from the research objectives to guide the conversations with the research participants, but took advantage of the flexibility of semi-structured interviews when other relevant topics were brought up by the participants, The purpose of the interviews was to gain depth insights into the possible ways and how unification of halal certification can help Nigeria growth in the halal industry. Through detailed interview about knowledge about the current state of halal industry in Nigeria, challenges that may be faced, how to mitigate the challenges and also the benefit of having a unified halal certification in Nigeria, the researcher was able to gather insights into halal issues in Nigeria, the varying perspectives on the benefit and the many possible way for achieving it.

3.7.3 Participant Selection Criteria

In line with the qualitative and interpretivist approach adopted for this study, participants were selected using a convenience sampling technique. This non-probability sampling method was employed to ensure the selection of individuals who possessed relevant

expertise and experience in the Halal certification landscape in Nigeria. The goal was to gather in-depth and context-specific insights from key stakeholders actively involved in the certification process. Participants were drawn from two prominent Halal Certification Bodies in Nigeria; Halal Certification Authority (HCA) and Halal Compliance and Food Safety (HACFOS). These organizations are considered major actors in the Halal ecosystem and play a central role in issuing certifications, conducting audits, and setting internal Halal standards.

Preference was given to individuals directly engaged in operational roles, including auditing, standard implementation, certification issuance, and policy interpretation. This ensured that participants could offer first-hand perspectives on the challenges and enabling factors related to Halal certification in Nigeria. They were selected specifically for their capacity to address the core themes of the study, including the current state of Halal certification, barriers to unification, the role of government, and institutional collaboration. Their responses were critical in shaping the analysis and findings of the research. A total of four participants were interviewed two representatives from each of the two selected Halal Certification Bodies. This balance allowed for the comparative analysis of perspectives and ensured data saturation across organizational lines within the limits of the study. This strategic selection of participants helped ensure that the data collected was rich, credible, and aligned with the study's objective of exploring pathways toward a unified Halal certification system in Nigeria.

3.8 DATA ANALYSIS

Data analysis in qualitative research involves preparing and organising the data (such as text from transcripts or images from photographs) for analysis, followed by reducing the data into themes through coding and condensing these codes. The final step is to present the data using figures, tables, or through detailed discussion (Creswell, 2018). Thematic analysis is an appropriate approach for analysing data in qualitative research when the goal is to comprehend experiences, thoughts, or behaviours within a dataset. The goal of a thematic analysis is to identify themes, i.e. patterns in the data that are important or

interesting and use these themes to address the research or say something about an issue. This is much more than simply summarising the data; a good thematic analysis interprets and makes sense of it. A common pitfall is to use the main interview questions as the themes (Braun & Clarke, 2013). Typically, this reflects the fact that the data have been summarised and organised, rather than analysed.

In this study case, one positive aspect of our thematic analysis is that it is able to capture, in detail, the interpretations of those subjects. The research data was qualitative, and thus usually dependent on interpretation. This means that the data may not be explained by a single interpretation, and instead may require several explanations, with data analysis and coding done concurrently, and analysis proceeding with multiple reads of both the expert responses and literature to ensure that all identified themes were grounded in the data. Analysis and interpretation were merged together, creating an overlap between them. The most widely accepted framework for conducting thematic analysis involves a six-step process: familiarizing with the data, generating initial codes, searching for themes, reviewing themes, defining and naming themes, and producing the report (Braun & Clarke, 2013; Kiger & Varpio, 2020).

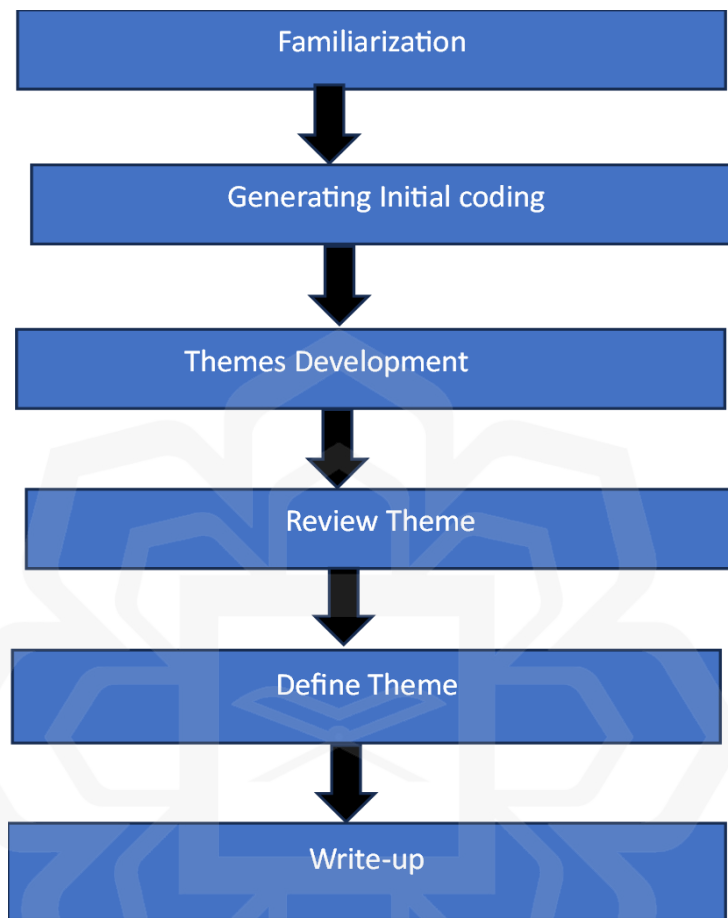


Figure 3. 1 Data Analysis Procedure

Data Familiarization: This initial phase involves transcribing data and becoming deeply familiar with it. Researchers identify key themes and select pertinent quotes that represent diverse perspectives relevant to the research objectives. For this project, researchers read and re-read written interviews to ensure that data has been correctly transcribed. It's crucial to avoid selecting quotes that provoke controversy. Instead, researchers should concentrate on quotes that truly depict the findings (Eldh et al., 2020).

Coding: Each line of the transcripts was reviewed, and labels and codes were developed to encompass the concepts indicated in participants' responses. The developed codes were gathered and categorised into key themes. In the initial round of analysis, the researchers met to discuss the developed themes, determine areas lacking exclusivity, and identify areas where more inquiry was needed. As we worked through them, we generated new codes and sometimes modified existing ones. Analytical software such as ATLAS and NVivo can be incredibly beneficial, especially when dealing with qualitative datasets. Additionally, alternative tools such as Microsoft Excel can also be utilised for coding and theme identification (Bree & Gallagher, 2016), This study made use of ATLAS.ti and manually with pen and note due to limited access to Atlas.ti.

Theme Development: Here, in order to find patterns and links, the researcher groups codes meaningfully, which results in the development of themes that represent abstract meanings beyond simple repetitions. It is now our responsibility to ensure that our themes accurately and usefully portray the facts. A theme captures something important about the data in relation to the research question and represents some level of patterned response or meaning within the data set(ATLAS.ti). The figure below illustrates a thematic diagram produced while conducting the research analysis.

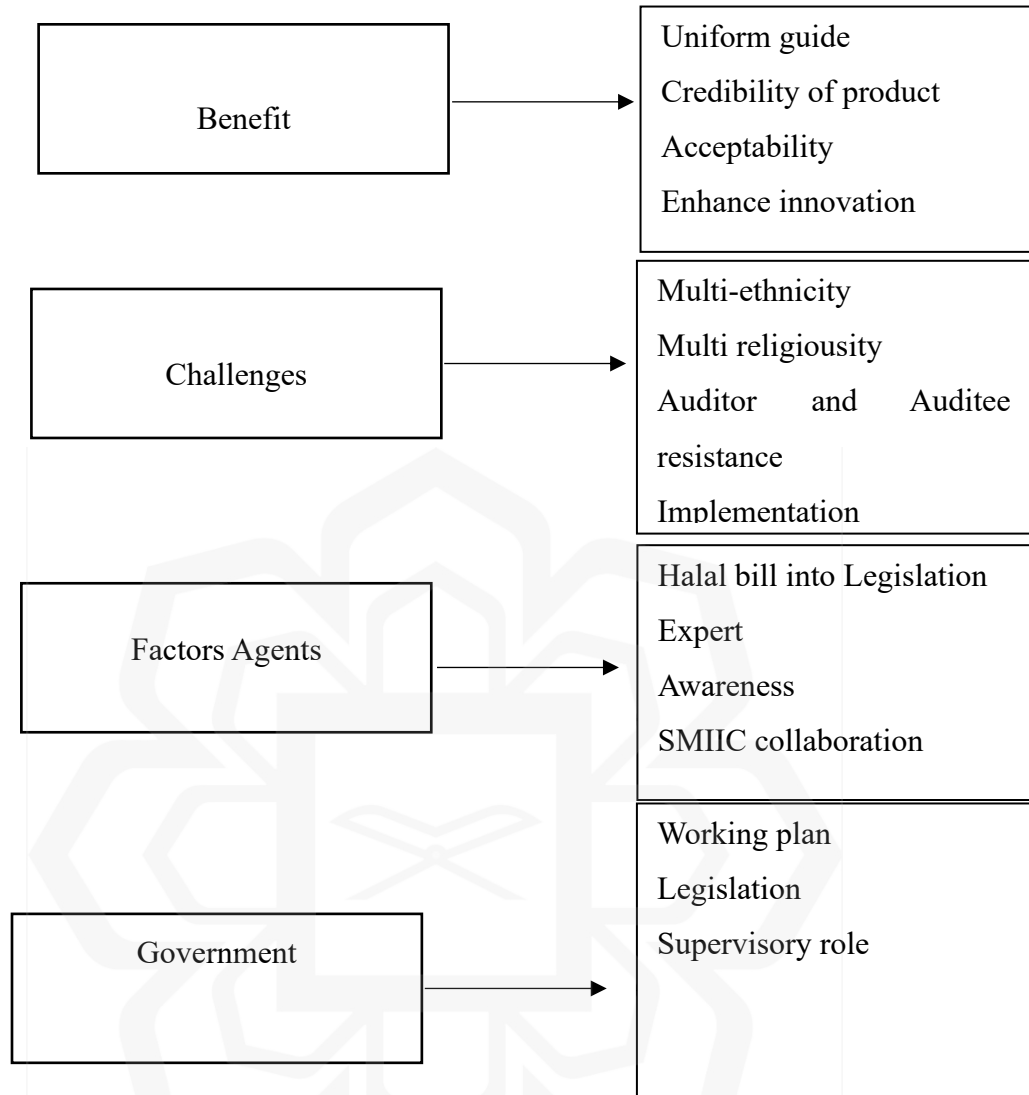


Figure 3. 2 Thematic Diagram for Unification of Halal Certification in Nigeria

Review Theme: This stage includes going back to the original data set and assess our themes in light of it and asking questions like; Are there any items we're missing? Do the data actually contain these themes? How can we improve the functionality of our themes? When we run into issues with our themes, we may divide them up and merge them. This led to refinement/revision of thematic map constructed in the previous phase of the data analysis.

Defining Themes: Now that we have a final list of themes, it's time to name and define each of them. Defining themes involves formulating exactly what we mean by each theme and figuring out how it helps us understand the data. Naming themes involves coming up with a succinct and easily understandable name for each theme. This is the final refinement of the themes and the aim is to 'identify the 'essence' of what each theme is about (Braun & Clarke, 2006).

Report Writing: Lastly, researchers worked on identifying quotes/comments from the transcribed data that represented the research findings. Usage of this analysis framework allowed researchers to link/examine participants' comments in light of existing research on the topic under consideration (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The results or findings section addresses each theme in turn. Finally, our conclusion explains the main takeaways and shows how the analysis has answered our research question.

Researchers can take note of the concepts related to the codes and utilise them at a later time when they are familiarizing themselves with the data and reading the articles. These concepts may be taken straight from the original source or derived from a paraphrase of the text (Aronson, 1995). There is a wide range of codes that can be included in a single theme. Themes that are derived from combining disparate concepts or experiences that have no significance when evaluated in isolation are crucial. Themes are reevaluated after they are created to ensure they accurately and completely capture the data. Any theme may further divide or combine with other themes if it seems ambiguous or confusing.

3.9 CREDIBILITY

Participants in the research will be fully informed about the goals, procedures, and intended use of the study, as well as the risks and benefits of participating. The research is designed and carried out in accordance with the highest standards of quality, integrity, ethical propriety, and legal compliance. Participants must voluntarily consent to participate in the study. Participants' anonymity and confidentiality of the information they provide will be respected.

The researcher followed a series of guidelines and safety measures before to, during, and following the interviews in order to uphold the fundamentals of sound research ethics. Prior to taking part in the interviews, every participant received a message via email and WhatsApp explaining the background and goals of the study, the requirements for participation, and the advantages and dangers that come with it. All research participants gave verbal agreement before to participation in order for their contributions to be included in this study. The choice to record their interview was provided to the participants, and no explanation was required. They gave their permission for their names and roles to be disclosed.

The researcher was aware of the importance of considering how the collected information is stored and took the necessary steps to ensure that only the researcher could access the raw data and personal information collected from the research (Denscombe, 2014). Interview notes, recordings (obtained with consent from each interviewee at the beginning of the interviews) and transcripts of the recorded interviews were kept secure and strictly confidential.

3.9.1 Reliability

Reliability is defined as "the accuracy and precision of the measurement and the absence of differences in the results if the research was repeated"(Collis & Hussey, 2014). Creating findings with high reliability can be difficult in interpretivist research because of the

subjectivity that comes with the researcher involvement in qualitative research methods (Collis & Hussey, 2014). To resolve the potential negative impact on the reliability of the results, the researcher stayed aware of her own position in the research, allowing potential bias in the findings to be minimised. The researcher was also aware of the innate human tendency to validate one's own beliefs, known as confirmation bias. In this study, the researcher attempted to avoid confirmation bias and achieve accurate results by consciously treating all data equally, being honest in data analysis, and resisting the desire to manipulate the data (Denscombe, 2014).

3.9.2 Validity

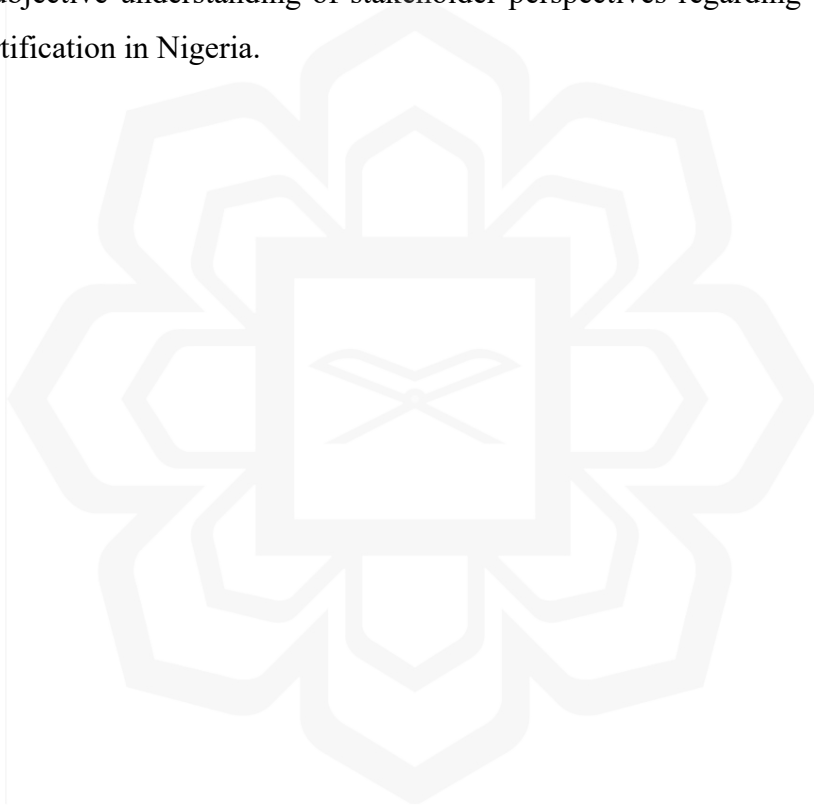
Like reliability, validity is a way of assessing the quality of the chosen research design and methods. If the research findings truly measure the phenomenon they claim to measure, the findings can be judged valid (Collis & Hussey, 2014). On the basis of the appropriateness of the chosen methods of data collection and analysis, the data collected for the purpose of this study is highly likely to be accurate and appropriate (Denscombe, 2014). The validity of this study is further underpinned by the level of attention paid to ethical issues in the research design and the researcher's conscious attempts to eliminate researcher bias throughout the entire research process.

3.9.3 Generalizability

Generalization is not the goal of this research study because it is grounded in the interpretivist research philosophy and does not statistically analyse the data (Collis & Hussey, 2014). Nonetheless, it is possible that the results can be applied to other contexts that are comparable to the ones that have been examined. Because of the depth of the data gathered, it has been possible to identify themes and patterns that should hold true and be relevant to other organizations that are associated with halal certification authorities (Denscombe, 2014).

3.10 SUMMARY

This chapter details the qualitative research approach adopted for the study. Rooted in interpretivist philosophy, the study used exploratory research design through in-depth interviews with Halal professionals. The sample comprised four respondents from two major Halal bodies in Nigeria. Data was collected via semi-structured interviews and analysed thematically. Credibility was ensured through reliability and validity checks, while acknowledging that generalizability was not a core aim. The methodology provided a rich, subjective understanding of stakeholder perspectives regarding the unification of Halal certification in Nigeria.



CHAPTER FOUR

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This study involves qualitative analysis through interview. The interviewees were asked about their knowledge of the important of having unified halal certification in Nigeria, the agents needed in having unified halal certification and standard and how Nigeria government and international organizations can be of help in achieving it. The data analysis process was then done using the thematic framework by coding the interview responses, which were further made into sub-themes and finally central themes which is used to analyse and present the results of the research in this chapter. The results demonstrate the in-depth information and knowledge of halal certification in Nigeria and lack of presence of unified halal certification and it effects.

4.2 THE RESPONDENTS' DEMOGRAPHICAL PROFILE

This study was carried out by interviewing 4 professionals, 2 of them are from Halal compliance and food safety (HaCFoS), other two from Halal certification Authority (HCA). The table below gives a summary of the participants and their respective institutions.

Figure 3. 3 List of interview Participants

Organization	Position in Organization	Research Name
Halal Compliance and Food Safety (HaCFoS)	Principal Consultant	HP 1
Halal Compliance and Food Safety (HaCFoS)	Chairman	HP 2

Halal Certification Authority (HCA)	Secretary General	HP 3
Halal Certification Authority (HCA)	Operational Manager	HP 4

4.3 ANALYSIS

The following explanation describes the findings from the thematic analysis, the major/central themes found in this research study are four (4) which are analysed below:

1. Benefit of having Unified halal certification and standard in Nigeria.
2. Agents needed to achieve Unified halal certification and standards in Nigeria.
3. Difficulties that may arise in developing Unified Halal Certification in Nigeria.
4. Government Support in achieving a Unified halal certification in Nigeria.

The interview was commenced by asking the participant if there is unified halal certification in Nigeria. The participants response revealed that there is no unified halal standard in Nigeria. Hence the need for it has led the federal Ministry of industry, trade and investment to establish a 14-member committee including governmental organisation in charge of standard in Nigeria, NAFDAC & SON and halal certification bodies like HCA in 2022 to work on the operational framework for halal certification in Nigeria.

as stated by HP 1

“Halal is still in the infant stage in Nigeria. We have done a lot, but we are still far behind other countries even within the continent. There is no uniformity of certification in Nigeria. However, recently the Standard Organization of Nigeria came up with a standard. SON want all the stakeholders to adopt. But for now, we are not dependent on that. Still, the stakeholders and certification bodies still incorporate the international one which means we are yet to have the unified one. In Nigeria now, SON has its developed standard but has not been accepted...”

HP 2 made it clear that.

“...there is no unification of halal certification in Nigeria because we don't own a single manual or standard in certification, however, the majority of the company or private sectors who are in certification rely on Malaysian standard or SMIC standard to do the certification, however, to have unified certification will be very helpful to the industry...”

4.4 BENEFITS OF UNIFIED HALAL CERTIFICATION

The interviews were conducted to explore the importance of having a unified halal certification in Nigeria. Based on the analysis of the interviews, four themes have been identified as the benefit of unified halal certification. The themes include 1) Uniform guide, 2) Credibility of the Product, 3) Acceptability, and 4) Innovation. Each of these themes derived from the respondents' responses will be further discussed in detail in the following sub-section.

4.4.1 Uniform Guide

It is crucial to have unified halal certification since it will allow for a "systematic way of enhancement" in the presence of UHC. According to HP 2, this will improve implementation ease, since everyone will have to abide by the same set of rules and avoid confusion, which also guarantees ongoing oversight of the halal processing. This can strengthen and reinforce the standard being used(Ghazali et al., 2023).

HP 4 reported that:

“For businesses, a unified system streamlines the certification process. Instead of navigating multiple certification bodies and varying standards, companies can follow a single set of guidelines, reducing complexity and administrative burdens”

HP 3 stated that:

“... it would make life easier in terms of guiding us in terms of uniformity to guide whatever we are going to do. But be that as it may, we have other international standards we always refer to, it guides us as well...”

Additionally, a traceability system might be developed with a uniform guide, preventing mediocrity in the industry (Halal Certification Service, 2023).

HP 1 supported with the following statement.

“... This is why we need to have a uniform one. If we don't have the uniform one, the market will be open to anyone, and they'll come to the industry and do what they like. Those are the implications of not having a uniform certification in Nigeria...”

4.4.2 Credibility and Integrity of Products

It is widely acknowledged that one advantage of having uniform halal certification is that it can benefit products both inside and outside of Nigeria in terms of credibility and integrity. (Halim & Salleh, 2012) report emphasis on credibility as a reason for Jordan authority to draft a system that propose a unified halal logo. Also, the credibility and integrity of the product can boost both the producer and confidence among consumers regarding halal certification. Consumers and producers are drawn to halal products because of their purity and higher quality, which is characterised by safety and cleanliness.

HP 2 said;

“It will help to develop the industry and build kind of trust and dignity to the industry and product produce in Nigeria as we have many international standards through the ISO, I think if Nigeria can also have unified halal certification where all the sectors we have to follow these guidelines from the regulators, that will give credibility to product certified in Nigeria and it will the international consumer to respect”

And HP 1 strengthened the argument by claiming that the Certification body will gain credibility and gain greater recognition.

“... The third benefit is the global Halal industry, those that will accept our material outside the country will take us very seriously. It will increase the recognition of the Halal industry. The certification bodies within Nigeria will have more integrity they will be more recognised because they are using the uniform standard”

HP 1 confirmed it,

“The first benefit is that we will boost consumer confidence. The consumers will start taking us seriously also the companies that patronise the certification will also have more confidence in the industry which will show that we mean business when the uniformed one is available. I mentioned two things, the first is the consumer and the second is the companies.”

4.4.3 Acceptability

UHC helps in encouraging trade and getting rid of all obstacles and differences in national customs and laws (Qasim et al.2021).One further advantage of having universal Halal certification that the responder stated was the improvement of bilateral relations, which will impact trade facilitation. As a result, Nigerian products will be accepted on the international market, enhancing their economy.

HP 2 stated

“Nigerian industry will be able to play in international community and mingle with others in the global arena and recognise as bona fide and potential; credibility, sustainable and prudent in terms of development of the economy of this country.”

HP 3 stated

“... In a country like Nigeria, the more products or services that are certified halal, the more they must be accepted worldwide. One good thing here is that for whatever standard we are using in here or even if we are using foreign, original or international standards, it helps a lot in the ease of trade.”

HP 1,

“The importance cannot be overemphasised just like we have number one; the acceptability of the product outside Nigeria. Once your products are accepted outside like in Australia, New Zealand, and Malaysia it will boost the economy by increasing the GDP”

HP 1 support his argument with an example of the halal certification of Malaysia in the global halal market.

"Let me give an example, In Malaysia once your products are certified in Malaysia, your products can go anywhere in the world. This is what we plan

on achieving as well. Once the producers see the uniform Halal standard and are able to adopt it for production, the government expand their bilateral by letting other countries be aware. The government has to show commitment because it is going to be government-to-government, so they have to let other countries know that Nigeria functions with the Halal standard”

4.4.4 Enhance Innovation

In order to have a competitive advantage due to the request of halal, continuous innovation and product development gives edge in the worldwide halal market. In the present global market for halal, the ASEAN countries have the huge potential in respect to halal standard reference, skills training centre, technology-based halal test system and halal based industry (Wahab et al., 2016).

HP 3 responded that Unified halal certification and standard enhance innovation.

“It brings about opening more room for business. There’s a language we always use when it comes to standards. We have for ease of doing business because if you have a common standard which guides what you use, it’s going to guide your products as well. In the world of standards, there’s something you always call innovation. Innovation always supersedes standards, however, with standards in place, one can work acidulously as an individual or as a corporate entity, your innovations too may give rise to other standards. Standards have not come to kill innovation, it has come to enhance innovation as well, such as there will be more products, that means whatever company or entity is involved is doing. In the end, all this will affect the economy”

HP 4 emphasis that UHC can promote innovation to help address emerging challenges and how can we enhance the effectiveness of the certification process. The aforementioned benefits of universal halal certification include uniformity, credibility and integrity, improvement of bilateral relationships, facilitation of commerce, recognition of Nigerian goods in halal global marketplaces, and advancement of innovation. This advantage aligns with the subsequent research (Al-Mahmood & Fraser, 2023; Ghazali et al., 2023; Halal Certification Service, 2023; Halim & Salleh, 2012). However, these findings addressed the need for international halal standards in halal industry. Furthermore, the researcher speculates that these benefits might be unique to countries that has several halal certification organizations and halal standards too. The themes address the research

question and meet the goals of the study, which are to determine the advantages of a single halal standard and certification for Nigeria.

4.5 FACTORS {AGENTS} NEEDED TO ACHIEVE UNIFIED HALAL CERTIFICATION AND STANDARDS IN NIGERIA.

Based on the interview with the respondents, they gave insights to factors that can help in developing a unified halal certification and standards in Nigeria. These instruments must be available to achieve the mission; 1) Halal Legislation, 2) Expert, 3) Halal Awareness, 4) SMIC collaboration and recognition. The listed factors were noted from their response and explained below.

4.5.1 Halal Bills into Legislation

Halal bills are need for halal certification regulations in the country to regulate and ensure that agencies and major players provide quality assurance and Halal product integrity from farm to fork. Crimes such as corruption and bribery within the halal certification system must be eradicated because these activities can damage the halal management system(Daud et al., 2023). Without halal law, this problem can hinder the country's development in all aspects, including Halal industry development. Also, there could be resistance to follow the standard strictly if halal laws are enacted and prosecution under the law are left to be determined by the certification bodies and agencies.

HP 2 noted some of the factors needed to achieve the UHC

*“The infrastructure factors need are political will, meaning we need someone who is willing to sponsor the bill at lower and upper chamber of Nigeria govt as they did for Islamic finance in Nigeria; **‘TOPDOWN STRATEGY’**”*

HP 1 also mentioned halal legislation as one the factors.

“... The first thing is to support the legislation; that’s the first thing we need from the government. Once this is done and Nigerians can see that it is legislated, you can advertise, sell, produce, and then they make it as part of

the optional. Once this is legislated today, Muslims will have more voice on Halal because they will have reason to tell the company why they must produce Halal products. But If the market is still open and everybody is just making money, nobody will care. Even those that make money including the companies and the CBs they thought they are making money but its just peanuts. But if its legislated today, they are going to make more.

4.5.2 Experts

Experts are need from all ramifications to ensure the establishment of UHC in Nigeria. The expert should be selected both from the government and non-governmental agencies. However, in the development of the operational framework for halal certification in Nigeria, a 14-member committee has been inaugurated. The committee had been formed consisting of carefully selected members from key Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) and the Organised Private Sector (OPS) involved in the Halal Value-chain. The committee includes the following government MDAs: Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment (FMITI); Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD); Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON); Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC); Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN); and National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and Halal certification bodies. Moreover, the Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs should be included in the committee, the NSCIA is need in the committee to ensure the operational framework aligned with the Islamic law.

HP 1 said

"Like any other country what we need is money to do this, we need brains, we need experts. We don't need any physical things..."

HP 2 pointed out that a physical place is needed coupled with the Expert as mentioned by HP 1.

"The commitment pool of experts (shariah issue technicality of audit drafters to work together) different type of expert in need to be together to draft a unified halal certification, physical place to meet"

To buttress, Expert factor as mentioned by HP 1,2& 3 gave an instance that the pool of expert from different agency have been put together to work towards UHC and he is part of the committee. He said;

“...In achieving uniformity of Halal standards, the infrastructure in place is just because the various infrastructural organs that are meant to be put in place. The Nigerian government is trying but we’ve not seen a result. Last year, the Federal Ministry of Trade, industry and Investments pushed up a committee called the National Technical Committee on Road Map Halal Industries in Nigeria. Coincidentally, I am a member of that committee. The committee has tried its best to put up the best policies in place and submitted to the then minister of state, when we are talking of standard in this country we’ll be talking about SON (standard organization of Nigeria), SON is under the ministry of trade, industry and investments and other stakeholders were put in place to come up with these policies...”

4.5.3 Awareness

Awareness was also noted as a tangible factor to achieve the UHC in Nigeria. In today society, people are conscious of their health which in turns help halal as a whole concept to promote better health. It is important to note that halal awareness is not only for consumer but also for Producers. The public needs to be informed that, non-halal materials include intoxicating plants or drinks, material that is harmful to one’s health, and microbes contaminated with non-halal materials(Oemar et al., 2023)

HP 1,

“The education that we need is firstly awareness, that's the first step to education. Awareness must be within and external. When I say within is to orientate the stakeholders, government, certification bodies and Islamic organizations. Because if we don't do this by the time, we create the standard people will come out and point out some issues because they will not accept it. We need awareness to educate the people, the industry players, and the government we need to educate the public. Starting from the government, they need Halal education. The industry players, there are a lot of industry players in the Halal industry but let me narrow it down to two: We have the certification bodies like the and all other organizations we have in Nigeria, we categorised them under the industry players and then there are the producers, they need education”.

4.5.4 SMIIC Collaboration

Regarding the factors that are crucial to achieve UHC in Nigeria, the respondents were asked on how international bodies can help in the process, HP 1 is of the opinion that, in achieving UHC in Nigeria, we do not need the international bodies because it is a domestic issue.

"The unification of Halal standard in Nigeria is a domestic thing in the we don't need the international body. The only thing we need from them is recognition because it is a domestic issue."

However, the statement of HP 3&1 shows that Nigeria is part of OIC and by virtue, they belong to the SMIIC which is an organ of OIC that maintains the trade and development ecosystem for economic development of the member states.

HP 3,

"The SMIIC by virtue of Nigeria being a member of that body. They've been trying to make sure that we're on board and they've been organizing different programs for us, more importantly we members of the various communities"

HP 4,

"OIC have established SMIIC, SON has joined SMIIC and have been participating and in the nearest future, it could help in the accreditation process. WHFC can't help because the org is not back by any legislation from any govt. OIC could be of great help because it is Nigeria is an OIC country. But SMIIC is still struggling to put many members on board. In case of domestic consumption, Nigeria must deliver theirs but can help in international consumption."

The factors suggested by the respondent are Halal Legislation, Expert, Awareness and SMIIC collaboration and recognition. These factors needed to achieve unified halal certification in Nigeria sync with the findings of (Kayadibi, 2014; Samori et al., 2014b; Yuanitasari et al., 2023a). The aforementioned factors have helped some ASEAN countries (The Association of Southeast Asian Countries) to achieve a unified halal certification and standard and this achievement has made them a role model in the global halal Market especially Malaysia and Indonesia. This theme answers the research question and satisfies

the research objectives of examining the factors needed in achieving Unified Halal Certification in Nigeria.

4.6 CHALLENGES IN DEVELOPING UNIFIED HALAL CERTIFICATION IN NIGERIA

From the gathering data, respondents were asked to outline the challenges that maybe encountered when developing the unified halal certification in Nigeria. The Three themes that emerge from the respondents' response includes 1) Multi religiosity and multi-ethnicity nature of Nigeria, 2) Auditor and Auditee resistance, 3) The lack of Halal Education.

4.6.1 Multireligious and Multi-Ethnicity

Nearly all the respondent accepted that religion and ethnicity can be obstacles that may arise while developing the standard. Nigeria has three major religion which are Christianity, Islam and Traditionalist with Islam taken 50% of the population(Statista, 2023). Also, Nigeria has about 300 ethnic group, the largest of which are Yoruba, Hausa and Igbo(Metz & Library of Congress, 1992). Religion and Ethnicity are important determinant of eating habit. Additionally, schools of thought within Islam may interpret halal requirements differently. The obstacles can make harmonizing these diverse interpretations into a single standard can be complex and contentious.

HP 1 responded:

“During the implementation of this standard there could be cultural barriers because the cultural is also the feeding habit, the feeding habits of the people, like let me say it is not well known that in the southwest that we can eat grasshoppers. Do you know you can eat grasshoppers? in Yoruba we call it Tata. But in the North, they eat it a lot. Now if you put it the standard, it cannot be part of the ingredients. It will create a lot of issues in the north.”

HP 2 buttresses:

“Challenges in the domestic consumption of halal products and one to export. If Maliki madhab is not adopted, there may be issues of acceptance especially from northern part of Nigeria, other people that consider other madhab aside from Maliki may not accept the product, in terms of international consumption, if the product is not in accordance with export country like Malaysia, the product may not be accepted. expect we use different standard for local consumption and international consumption. Or use specific standards for specific order.”

HP 3 gave an instance to the multi religiosity of Nigeria.

“Nigeria being multi religious, there was a time we wanted to audit a facility, and the head of that institution is trying to let us realise they are most likely going to drop us for Kosher because of religious barrier. The issue is, Christians don’t have something like this, but Jews do, because the client was a Christian, she wasn’t familiar with Muslims, she thought to herself why she has to go for halal, why doesn’t she go for kosher. But their own product. We can’t rule out some of those challenges.”

4.6.2 Auditor and Auditee Resistance

Auditors have been found to be an obstacle in halal certification according to studies concerning challenges facing Halal certification. The challenges include lack of technology, incompetency, process implementation, management issues and lack of man power (Aziz & Hussin, 2024; Muhammad et al., 2020). A similar research with this study by (Al-Mahmood & Fraser, 2023) on the need for standardise halal certification in United state finds out that auditors can be a resistance to implementation of unified halal certification. Also, both Auditors Auditees could resist to follow the standard strictly unless halal laws are enacted and prosecution under the law does not depend on the certification bodies.

HP 3 also added resistance to adherence by the Auditor and Auditee

“The drawback can be both sides, we have the auditees and the auditors. We are the auditors. The auditors ensure that those standards are adhered to strictly, they should not be comprised on the part of the auditors. We have Halal certification authority we still have other ones. We should not (jettison) those standards if we do from the part of the auditors there will likely be drawback. Another drawback on the part of the auditees is that whatever they must have done must be adhered to strictly based on the standards,

which we are operating because there is one thing in the auditors going for audits sake”

HP 4 believes that,

“Existing halal certification bodies may resist change due to established practices, vested interests, or concerns about losing autonomy. Achieving consensus among these various stakeholders can be challenging”

Also, respondent was asked about the challenges facing the Halal Certification in Nigeria presently that could Impact on the implementation and development of UHC.

4.6.3 Lack of Halal Education

HP 3 pointed out the lack of halal educational.

“Halal certification is not enforcing awareness and in awareness we have a lot to do. For people to get to know the importance of why they need to certify their products halal

HP 1,

"The challenges we face are all the same. The challenges we have now are just like the other certification bodies or companies we have in Nigeria working on Halal are all facing the same issue of awareness. There is poor awareness in Nigeria even among Muslims. This is a major challenge we have in Nigeria. Also, we have challenges with the producers because we are not following international standards. Imagine we have multinational companies without Halal executives, how do you monitor them? they can do anything. This is part of the challenges. The certification bodies probably were not aware until we informed them. They said they are going to include it and then the producers may not have the knowledge, this is one of the challenges. Secondly, the companies in Nigeria are passive about Halal, they don't want to come out boldly that they have Halal. I mean the Halal policy is not well stated in most of the companies. They only take the labelling; the logo then exports it to other countries. Many of them are not ready to come out boldly that they are Halal certified. I went to Nigeria in 2018; these are some of the things I observed while I was invited to a workshop where I spent about one week just for the workshop to develop in nature. We have many companies, I listened to them, and they laid out some of their concerns. The awareness both among the industry players and the public is still very poor. The implication of this challenge is that our products only go to where they are desperate to eat Halal, not where they want to follow the standard. If this is where they really follow the standard, like Malaysia, they can't accept our products. They just want to see the logo."

However HP 3 is of the opinion that there are no challenges facing certification body presently but the challenge that could arise while implementing UHC is Confusion.

“...The challenge which may arise is which standard to use for a specific product. It is the smiic or the Malaysia MS or the local one which is not acceptable by anybody. Unless there is regulation that states that the company you start with should be the one you continue with, unless the certification exercises will be bastardised because companies want to go for leniency. Integrity will be lost from both; if there is legal backup, there may not be problem.”

Multi-religiosity of Nigeria could be one of the obstacles that could hinder the unified halal certification in Nigeria. A previous study by (Al-Mahmood & Fraser, 2023) agrees with the findings of this study. Although, the previous study was done in U.S which has about 4.5 million Muslims in the U.S. or 1% of the total U.S. population (Zaheer, 2024). In comparison with Nigeria where 99 million are Muslims, that is roughly 50% of the whole population (Statista, 2023). However, it is evident that Multi-religiosity nature of Nigeria is a deadly obstacle that has been causing unrest in the Country even though Muslims are the majority. The researcher is of the opinion that, this finding could also be apply to multi-ethnicity. Ethnic and Religion are some of the determinants of eating habit.

Also, findings by (Annabi & Ahmed, 2015; Annabi & Wada, 2016; Jaiyeoba et al., 2020; Oyelakin & Yusuf, 2018) agrees that Halal awareness is needed in Nigeria and if it's not attended to, it could be an hindrance to unified halal certification implementation. This finding sync with the conclusion of (Nusran et al., 2019) that awareness movement is needed for the fulfilment of citizens' rights, with a focus on halal regulations for food, medicine and cosmetics.

4.7 GOVERNMENT ROLE AND STRATEGIES IN ACHIEVING A UNIFIED HALAL CERTIFICATION IN NIGERIA.

In achieving UHC in Nigeria, the government role is needed for its smooth development and implementation. The advance growth of halal-based industries and existence of halal standardization are supported by various government agencies, this has resulted in halal industry growth and increase export of halal-certified products(Yuanitasari et al., 2023). It is evident in the respondents' suggestion that it has helped in countries like Malaysia, Turkey, UAE etc. where there is government involvement in the halal certification and standards(Halim & Salleh, 2011).the proactiveness and supervision of the government is needed in creating a working plan and Halal legislation.

4.7.1. Supervisory Appointment

The Nigeria government should be proactive in determining who to supervise the affairs of halal in the country. SON and NAFDAC could spearhead as the agencies that are in charge of standard in the country. However, experts are needed from other agencies too. For instance, we could see that the standardization of halal certification in Malaysia, was established in 1982 as a result of the collaboration between The National Board of Standardization and Quality (SIRIM), the Federation of Manufacturers Malaysia, University Putra Malaysia (UPM), the International Islamic University (IIUM), University Technology Mara (UiTM), the Agricultural Research and Development Institute of Malaysia, the Malaysia Quality Institute, the Department of Veterinary Services, the Department of Standards Malaysia, the Department of Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Health and Science collaborated with the Malaysian Standard Development System to draft the Malaysian Standards(Khan & Haleem, 2016; Samori et al., 2014). HP 3 suggested that an organ of the federal government could support through supervisory role.

“we equally agreed that there should be a supervisory role being played by an organ of the federal government, which is the federal ministry of industry, trade and investments that, I think probably under commerce and trade

department also we are going to have a desk that will be overseeing what all the halal certification bodies are doing because you need to that in this country”

HP 2 advised that government needs to be proactive and needs to be assertive on which organ should oversee Halal industry in Nigeria or whether it is going to be an independent organ.

“the government needs to be proactive in it whether it needs to be champion by ministry, the government or whether it is going to be under the agency like SON, we need to know or whether it is going to be an independence body or commission like we Muslim pilgrims board NAHCON that regulating hajj regulation despite we have ministry of tourism, the same thing can go for halal, they can join different expert from different agency of standardization like Standard Organisation of Nigeria, food technology body, and sharia expert to form a body as a commission for halal certification and standardization in Nigeria, not to be under any ministry or any agency. That could make a good impact and fast track the policy and prevent it from politization if government says Standard Organization of Nigeria should be the custodian of this, and they are given rules and regulation to make or they want it under ministry where SON will be part of committee with Ministry of Trade, Industry and Development, they can do that but we need a plan directive from the government. but this won't be done until the government sees something good in the halal certification.”

4.7.2. Working Plan

When asked on what advice would they give on specific strategies that could help Nigerian government in achieving UHC,

HP 3 responded that there should be a working plan.

“The advice I can give is, we have some laid down activities, those activities need to be followed to the [later] to make sure we have a halal food standard in place. If that is done, that gives us a working document for all other certification bodies.”

HP 1 stated three essential strategies that could be a suggested working plan for the government.

“I will mention three things, number one is unified standard, number two is legislation, number three is expanding the bilateral relationship with other countries on Halal. You develop the standards. Legislatures organise it, and expand the bilateral relationship with other countries on Halal, especially the OIC countries. We already have them but at the government level.”

HP 4

“The government can spearhead the development of a comprehensive and unified halal standard that aligns with both local and international practices. This standard should cover all aspects of halal compliance, including food production, processing, and packaging.”

To elaborate on the working plan, HP 1 is of the opinion that the government can help by supporting legislation.

"How the government can support the Halal. The first thing is to support the legislation; that's the first thing we need from the government. Once this is done and Nigerians can see that it is legislated, you can advertise, sell, produce, and then they make it as part of the optional. Once this is legislated today, Muslims will have more voice on Halal because they will have reason to tell the company why they must produce Halal products. But if the market is still open and everybody is just making money, nobody will care. Even those that make money including the companies and the CBs they thought they are making money but it's just peanuts. But if its legislated today, they are going to make more. So the first thing the government can use to support is the legislation, they need to pass it into law then make it open that certification is optional, but it's already passed into law.

The response from the respondent emphasis on government support show that it a crucial factor in achieving unified halal certification in Nigeria which confirm s the conclusion of the study by(Thamrin & Virgianita, 2019), that the government role in making policies on halal market is a good strategy that could also stimulate the economic development of the country.

4.8 SUMMARY

The chapter presents the results of interviews, organized under four major themes:

1. **Benefits of Unified Certification** – These include improved consumer trust, international acceptance, product integrity, and economic growth.

2. **Key Enablers for Unification** – Identified as legislation, expert involvement, awareness creation, and international collaboration (e.g., SMIIIC).
3. **Challenges to Implementation** – Notable barriers are Nigeria’s multi-religious and multi-ethnic makeup, auditor resistance, and lack of consumer/producer education.
4. **Government’s Role** – Emphasis is placed on legislative backing, clear supervisory appointments, and a national working plan involving relevant stakeholders like SON and NAFDAC.



CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, IMPLICATION, RECOMMENDATION AND CONCLUSION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a summary of the prior chapter's findings. The conclusion of study is drawn in light of the study's four research objectives. Furthermore, the chapter discusses the limitations of the study. It also proffers several recommendations for future research for those interested in researching on Halal industry and Halal certification in Nigeria.

5.2 SUMMARY

Halal industry is a growing industry that is been explored in different countries all over the world and it has proven to boost the economic status of businesses and countries. The need for certifications has birth about hundreds of Certification bodies around the world with Four certification bodies in Nigeria inclusive. Due to the numerous bodies, it has led to the clamour for unified halal certification and standards in the global world. The success of the uniform halal certification and standard in some countries have been studied in order to serve as a base to replicate it in other countries like Nigeria. The study result is being summarised based on the four objectives of the research accordingly.

The main goal of this study was to find out if Nigeria has a unified halal certification and the benefit Nigeria can derive from having unified Halal Certification. In agreement with findings, there is currently no unified halal certification in Nigeria nor is there any unified standard that in used in halal certification processes which has led to lack of systemic structure in countries' halal industry. To find out the benefit of having unified halal

certification, the participant elaborated on the need for a uniform guide, as it would prevent mediocre individuals into the system. Furthermore, having a unified halal certification promote the credibility of product especially to the consumer. In halal supply chain, consumers are the target audience. The acceptability of the product cannot be over-emphasised as it contributes largely to the growth of the economy by encouraging bilateral relationship and ease of trade between Nigeria and other countries. It has been revealed from several research that halal industry enhance innovation in the country for it propel individuals to solve problem in the halal industry.

The second objective of this research is to explore the factors that can assist the implementation of Uniform Halal Certification in Nigeria. Halal awareness is the first factors that needs to be address before the implementation because with the absence of halal education, the operational framework that is been worked can be faced with backlash. having Halal legislation can be preceded by halal awareness because before a law can be enact, educating has to come first. Also, to implement unified halal certification in Nigeria, expert from different field of study is needed. The experts should include personnel from social sciences, sciences. Additionally, Nigeria as an OIC member is automatically authorised to SMIIC standard. SMIIC standard has been made available to it member country to use in their country. This standard is of great use to Nigeria in the implementation of unified halal certification. This would also enhance collaboration and improve Nigeria recognition in halal industry among the OIC and global world.

This third objective was to discuss the possible challenges that can hinder the implementation of UHC in Nigeria. The multi-ethnicity and multi-religiosity nature of Nigeria could be of great obstacle even though the country is populated with almost 50% Muslim, with majority of them coming the northern part of the country. The stereotype that northerners is fully in control of the country's economy and any advancement brought by them is always seen has Islamization of the country. Hence, implementing unified halal certification could cause an uproar from the public especially from the southern side and from the Christians too. The lack of Halal awareness from the consumers and producers causes unacceptability of halal product, for this reason there is need to educate that having

halal is not only a religious belief but also it is safety, goodness and sustainability. By establishing uniformed halal certification, resistance to adherence by the auditors and auditees can hinder the successful implementation; to curb this problem, halal certification needs to be backup with law.

The last objective of this research is to study how Nigerian government can assist in the successful implementation of unified halal certification in Nigeria. The developing countries including Nigeria, lack Uniform Halal certification which has hindered the growth of their economy. To promote these benefits, the Halal Certification bodies in Nigeria are playing a vital role by promoting halal certification and growing the halal market to assist the economy. For halal industry to reach its potential in the country, the Nigerian government has to be fully involved in the process and execution. Study has shown that countries that are leading in the global halal industry, their governments are involve in the success; countries like Malaysia, Brazil, Indonesia etc.

5.3 LIMITATION OF STUDY

In the course of the collecting data for the study, a number of constraints were encountered. the study particularly aimed to use purposive sampling to determine 6 (six) interviewees with experience in the halal industry. However, the researcher opted for convenience sampling due to the fact that only 4 (four) potential research participants were accessible, therefore the researcher had limited eligible research participants for the study. This major challenge faced can't produce generalizable results because it is at risk for both sampling bias and selection bias. Also, it should be noted that the sample size for this study was not based on the principle of data saturation, because of limited participant. To bridge the gap, literatures were used to elaborated on the findings.

The qualitative method employed for this study has provided the results, but they were obtained from the halal certification bodies as the scope of the study is to get the perspective of the HCBS, insight was not gotten from other bodies included in the 14-member committee involved in the operational framework of halal certification in Nigeria.

The participants' accounts of their insight in this study were limited, and this might lead to biases in reporting and potential misinterpretations.

Additionally, this research is also limited to exploring only the halal certification in Nigeria, benefit, challenges and factors of unified halal certification. Hence, this research does not cover other stakeholders in the halal industry. For instance, Producer, Consumer, marketers, and researcher. However, the results cannot be generalised for all the halal industry stakeholders. As a result, the findings were restricted in their applicability due to these limitations.

5.4 IMPLICATION

While previous studies have focused on the need for globalizing halal standards across the world, these results demonstrate that there is also need to uniform halal standard in Countries that has multiple certification bodies. These findings present a more nuanced understanding of the growth of Halal industry in Nigeria.

This research will be useful for many sectors of the economy of the country. It will be useful to the practitioners in the halal industry field in understanding the next step to take to develop halal industry in Nigeria. Added to this is the envisaged challenges that enables them to prepare ahead and limits the mistakes to be made as they will have put mechanisms in place to avoid them.

The government will also benefit from this research work which has sought to help her in identifying some of the economic challenges present in the country. If supported by the government, the halal industry will help the economy witness real economic growth.

The unification of Halal certification in Nigeria has significant implications for consumers, particularly Muslim consumers who rely on Halal assurance for their dietary and lifestyle choices. A standardized certification system would enhance consumer confidence by providing clear, consistent, and credible information about the Halal status

of products. Currently, the existence of multiple certification bodies and varying standards creates confusion and mistrust among consumers, who may be unsure of which certifications genuinely comply with Islamic principles.

By establishing a unified framework, the Nigerian Halal industry can offer greater transparency and reliability, allowing consumers to make informed purchasing decisions. Furthermore, a nationally recognized Halal logo backed by government and credible authorities would serve as a powerful tool for safeguarding consumer rights, reducing the risk of fraud, and ensuring the integrity of Halal products in the market.

This study has also contributed to the body of knowledge in that this is the first in-depth research aimed at exploring the essence of having a uniform halal standard and certification in Nigeria. This study will be useful for future researchers and will create interest in other related fields of knowledge.

5.5 RECOMMENDATION FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

The research findings of this study have revealed that while the Halal industry in Nigeria is steadily growing, it remains fragmented due to the lack of uniform standards, weak legal backing, and low public awareness. To bridge these gaps and fully harness the potential of the Halal market, a series of strategic recommendations must be implemented. In addition, there are areas that require further academic exploration to guide the development of a sustainable Halal ecosystem in Nigeria.

One of the most pressing challenges in Nigeria's Halal industry is the lack of public awareness among both consumers and producers. Despite the growing Muslim population and increasing global demand for Halal products, many Nigerians, especially outside the Northern region—have limited understanding of what Halal certification entails, why it matters, and how it benefits them. Consumers often confuse Halal with merely being "pork-free" or "meat slaughtered by Muslims," while producers frequently perceive Halal certification as a religious burden rather than a strategic market tool.

To address this, stakeholders must intensify awareness campaigns using a multi-pronged strategy. Government agencies, Halal Certification Bodies (HCBs), and Islamic scholars should collaborate to provide public education through television, radio, social media, workshops, and mosque-based outreach. Awareness campaigns should focus on educating the public on the significance of Halal principles, the process of certification, and how to identify authentic Halal products. Furthermore, educational institutions should integrate Halal literacy into vocational and agricultural training programs, particularly in food science, hospitality, and food processing courses. Awareness will empower consumers to make informed choices while encouraging producers to seek certification as a value-adding strategy.

For the Halal certification system in Nigeria to gain legitimacy and function effectively, there is an urgent need to establish a legal and regulatory framework through the passage of Halal-specific legislation. At present, certification is conducted mainly by private organizations without federal legislation to standardize their operations. This lack of legal coherence has led to overlapping roles, conflicting standards, and a credibility deficit among consumers and international trading partners.

The passage of Halal Bills into law would provide the legal basis for regulating Halal certification across sectors. These laws should clearly define what constitutes Halal in the Nigerian context, set standards for certification and auditing, and specify the roles of government agencies and private certifiers. In addition, penalties should be established for the misuse of Halal logos or fraudulent certifications, similar to regulations in countries like Malaysia and Indonesia. A legal framework will enhance consumer protection, eliminate fake certifications, and ensure that Nigerian Halal products meet global trade compliance standards.

Given Nigeria's religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity, there are often differences in the interpretation and application of Halal standards. This poses a significant challenge to unifying Halal certification, as stakeholders, including Islamic scholars, food scientists,

government agencies, and certification bodies, sometimes disagree on matters ranging from slaughtering methods to ingredient permissibility.

Therefore, fostering synergy among stakeholders is vital. This can be achieved through regular multi-stakeholder dialogues, policy forums, and joint technical committees involving religious authorities (such as JNIA and NSCIA), HCBs, government agencies (like NAFDAC, SON, FMARD), and representatives of the food and pharmaceutical industries. Through consensus-building, stakeholders can develop harmonized interpretations and dispute resolution mechanisms that reflect both Islamic jurisprudence and Nigeria's socio-cultural realities. Synergy will reduce fragmentation, boost legitimacy, and lead to a more coherent Halal system.

The development of the Halal industry in Nigeria cannot be left to private efforts alone. Government leadership is essential in creating an enabling environment for growth. This includes financial incentives, export support, capacity building, and infrastructure development for Halal producers, especially MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises).

Relevant government ministries and agencies such as the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment (FMITI), NAFDAC and SON should integrate Halal into national trade, industrial, and agricultural policies. Industrial clusters, Halal laboratories, and testing facilities should be established or upgraded to meet Halal standards. Additionally, incentives such as tax breaks or export rebates can encourage more businesses to pursue Halal certification. With proper government support, Nigeria can become a Halal production and export hub for West Africa, contributing to national income and job creation.

While this thesis explored the perspectives of Halal Certification Bodies (HCBs), it did not address the demand-side of the Halal market—the consumers. Future research should focus on the level of awareness, perception, and trust Nigerian consumers have toward Halal certification. This would provide critical insights into the motivations and

hesitations behind Halal product consumption, including how religion, culture, age, education, and socio-economic status affect purchasing decisions. Quantitative and qualitative studies could investigate:

- How many consumers recognize existing Halal logos?
- Do consumers trust privately issued Halal certificates?
- What barriers exist to adopting Halal-certified goods?

Such research can inform targeted awareness campaigns, packaging improvements, and certification reforms to align Halal offerings with consumer expectations.

The current research is limited to the views of two Halal certification bodies. However, the Nigerian government has inaugurated a 14-member national Halal committee that includes a wide range of stakeholders from ministries, regulatory bodies, and the private sector. Future studies should broaden the scope to include interviews or surveys with members of this committee and other influential players like Islamic jurists, trade experts, consumer rights groups, and exporters. By incorporating these diverse viewpoints, future research can develop a more comprehensive picture of the barriers and enablers of Halal certification unification. This multi-stakeholder approach will also help validate policy recommendations and promote inclusive solutions that enjoy wide support.

The path to a unified Halal certification system in Nigeria is both necessary and achievable, but it requires multi-dimensional interventions. Sustained awareness, legal reforms, stakeholder synergy, government support, and inclusive research are vital components for building a credible, competitive, and consumer-friendly Halal industry. As Nigeria positions itself within the global Halal economy, these strategies will ensure that the nation's Halal certification system meets both Islamic expectations and international trade standards, thereby empowering producers and protecting consumers alike.

5.6 CONCLUSION

The growing demand for halal products motivates manufacturers to comply with halal standards, in view of potential benefits. Halal certifications, however, are released by several bodies in Nigeria which may differ in the requirements imposed. Therefore, a specific halal certification and Standard is not recognised in Nigeria. The implementation of a harmonised monitoring system and establishment of a unified halal certification and standard would facilitate trade and increase the confidence of both producers and consumers. This study evidence that attempt have been made to come up with a framework to harmonise the existing halal standards. However, no unification has been achieved so far, and further efforts by Standard of Nigeria (SON) and Ministry of Trade, Investment and are still needed to overcome this challenge. Only close collaboration between authorities from these agencies coupled with Halal legislation with support from the government can lead to a homogeneous regulatory framework with unified certification and accreditation procedures.

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APPENDIX: I INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES	INTERVIEW QUESTIONS
Benefits	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are any sectors or industries within the halal market more affected by the lack of uniformity in halal certification standards? Explain, how? 2. What are the potential benefits of a uniform halal food certification system for consumers, producers, and regulators in Nigeria? 3. What are the potential impacts of uniform halal food certification on the overall economy of Nigeria ? 4. In your opinion, how can uniform halal certification improve access to global halal food markets for Nigerian producers?
Factors that are needed to facilitate the uniformity of halal food certification.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What factors are critical to achieving uniformity in halal food certification? 2. What are the best practices to ensure uniformity in halal food certification processes? 3. What role can international organizations such as the World Halal Food Council play in promoting uniform halal certification in Nigeria?

	<p>4. What role can international organizations such as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation play in supporting Nigeria's efforts to implement uniform halal food certification?</p>
<p>Challenges in developing a uniform halal certification standard.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the main institutional challenges to developing a uniform halal certification standard, and how can they be overcome? 2. What are the main cultural and economic barriers to developing a uniform halal certification standard? 3. What are the major challenges faced by halal food certification bodies in Nigeria, and how do these challenges impact the uniformity of halal food certification in the country?
<p>Nigerian government support regulating halal food certification.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What steps can the Nigerian government take to encourage more halal food producers to participate in a uniform halal certification system? 2. What are some of the existing efforts or initiatives that aim to achieve uniformity in halal food certification, and how effective do you think they are? 3. How can the Nigerian government support the adoption of a uniform halal food certification system, and what policies or incentives could be put in place for that?? 4. How can the Nigerian government work with international organizations and other countries ensure

	<p>that its halal food certification system is aligned with global halal standards and best practices?</p> <p>5. What are recommendations related to policy that you would make to the Nigerian government in order to support the development of a well-regulated halal food industry?</p>
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APPENDIX: II DATA ANALYSIS

Quotation Content	Codes
<p>Halal is still in the infant stage in Nigeria. We have done a lot, but we are still far behind other countries even within the continent. There is no uniformity of certification in Nigeria. However, recently the Standard Organization of Nigeria came up with a standard. SON want all the stakeholders to adopt. But for now, we are not dependent on that. Still, the stakeholders and certification bodies still incorporate the international one which means we are yet to have the unified one. In Nigeria now, SON has its developed standard but has not been accepted. I've wanted to ask when you mean uniformity do you mean Halal's uniformity within Nigeria or outside the country? "</p>	<p>Absence Of Uhc</p>
<p>In Nigeria the one that has just been developed is the one that is from SON, they are yet to launch it but it's already in the library People can buy it you can use it. But at the same time, the certification bodies are still using the international standard to support the one developed by the SON. If we are saying the uniform we can say that there is a uniform but within the company, we still don't see it as a uniform one because we are</p>	<p>Development Of Uhc</p>

<p>still using the adopted ones from other countries like Malaysia standard, UAE standard. They still incorporate in the certification process so that is why I cannot boldly say we have a uniform standard."</p>	
<p>The first is it affects the consumers in the sense of not taking the industry seriously. The second is the consumer will not have confidence in what we tell them and what we produce because we are going to have</p>	Lack Of Consumer Confidence
<p>Because it means if you are a company you will be exposed to different standards, and in the end, it will lead to confusion for the management and also the people in charge of production</p>	Confusion For Producer
<p>So compliance will become weak that's why uniformity is very important</p>	Lack Of Compliance
<p>The first benefit is that we will boost consumer confidence. The consumers will start taking us seriously also the companies that patronize the certification will also have more confidence in the industry which will show that we mean business when the uniformed one is available.</p>	Gain Cosumer And Producer Confidence
<p>The third benefit is the global Halal industry, those that will accept our material outside the country will take us very seriously. It will increase the recognition of the Halal industry. The certification bodies within Nigeria will have more integrity they will be</p>	Integrity

more recognized because they are using the uniform standard	
a it will boost the economy by increasing the GDP when you have a uniform Halal standard. This is both for the immediate and long term. Matter of fact it will be immediate because it can affect both the immediate and the long term if you have uniform Halal standards.	Boosting GDP
"Let me give an example, In Malaysia once your products are certified in Malaysia, your products can go anywhere in the world	Boost Production And Market
it will go a long way and then also it will help the producers to target the right market like where Halal is actually required like UAE, Saudi Arabia, Morocco all the middle golf countries our products can go there and if the products can enter those countries that I mentioned it means a lot for Nigeria it will boost the economy and for the producers too.	Bilateral Relations
. It will increase the producers' profit and revenue and also pay taxes to the government.	Boost Production And Market
It will increase the producers' profit and revenue and also pay taxes to the government.	Boosting GDP
The first strategy, once we have the unified Halal standard, the producers, the strategy for them is to adopt it. Once it is adopted the second stage is to spend part of their revenue to support the Halal certification bodies,	Strategy to improve global access

creating awareness to the consumers, targeting, especially the Muslims. The producers must be ready to participate in the awareness because the Muslims know they must take Halal. One of the strategies is for the companies to cooperate with the certification bodies. This is one of the key strategies. Under the company's Corporate social responsibilities (CSR), the CSR can be used to support the certification bodies, and this will be used to create awareness in Nigeria. We have about twenty or more certified producers in Nigeria. These companies then reach out to the market or to the grassroots. They must be ready to take part in their CSR to assist in the certification. Doing this will help many people to be aware. We have been in the market for some time and people are not still aware of the importance of taking Halal. So, this is a big issue in Nigeria. So, it's like we are still operating within and then some of the companies that have been certified, don't be surprised that they are not actually tapping the Nigerian market. Many of them are exporting their products to other countries while they are leaving the Nigerian market. The money is there, and the advantage is there. We need to cooperate with the CB, and once we have the unified standard the first thing, the second is to adopt the standard, and

<p>the third is for them to use part of their resources as part of CSR to support the Halal awareness in Nigeria. [P.T.P.] [SEP:SEP]</p>	
<p>Country what we need is money to do this, we need brains, we need experts. We don't need any physical things</p>	<p>Infrastructure</p>
<p>; the legislation is still a very big issue in Nigeria and for us to achieve the unified standard and to make the world take us seriously. The standard for us to call it a unified standard, the adopted standard by everybody, it must come under the legislation. In order to achieve the unified standard, the legislation must be taken very</p>	<p>Legislation Problems</p>
<p>The unification of Halal standard in Nigeria is a domestic thing in the [32:46] we don't need the international body. The only thing we need from them is recognition because it is a domestic issue. The unification of Halal standards is actually domestic and the reason it is a domestic issue is because it is going to really be on the school of thought that the country believes in. Like in West Africa, Nigeria specifically [33:17-22] all the design, the contents like in Malaysia, when we go for training here, some animals that we eat in Nigeria that are not accepted to be part of ingredients in Malaysia this is the issue of the school of thoughts. When you are</p>	<p>International Body Role</p>

<p>developing local standards it is a local issue, it is not an international one. The only role that they are going to play is the end role. End role means to recognise you, so they don't even need to approve you for you to have your standard because the standard is going to first focus on the local market before you go outside. Where we are going to have issues is when you want to export to other countries, they might ask you to comply with their own regulation that is where the issue of integration comes in."</p>	
<p>Just like any other country, there's no way we will not need the framework of another country we need to adapt the what is happening in other countries. we do the type of integration, we try to screen what they use in Malaysia, Indonesia, Turkey, Smik, and OIC. We need to bring them together then we need to look at what our needs, I mean based on our own school of thought. [38:15] based on our own school of thought [38:19]. These are actually the strategies to come up with a very goo</p>	<p>International Body Role</p>
<p>During the process the economic barrier we can face while developing the unified Halal standard. There are no economic implications during the development of the unified standard because it has to do with bringing experts together. The challenges we can face while implementing now, I can say</p>	<p>Barriers</p>

<p>we can have resistance from companies because it is likely to increase their cost production because you have to follow the standard. But during development, we may not really have so many economic challenges because you really need to reduce the funds to the people that will develop it. During the implementation. There could be a lot of economic challenges during the adoption. Because of what we experienced in other countries when governments come up with new regulations and new standards, The companies may likely have issues. Sometimes maybe the company's standards say they have to employ a Halal executive and this company doesn't have money to pay or to train, it going to add to their cost of production or they say they have to employ a supervisor. or they say they must have a separate van to convey their idea. These are some of the challenges if we properly implement the standard properly, Normally we should get feedback on all these issues that I've mentioned."</p>	
<p>During the implementation of this standard there could be cultural barriers because the cultural is also the feeding habit, the feeding habits of the people, like let me say it is not well known that in the southwest that we can eat grasshoppers. Do you know you can eat grasshoppers? in Yoruba we call it Tata. But</p>	<p>Barriers</p>

<p>in the North, they eat it a lot. Now if you put it the standard, it cannot be part of the ingredients. It will create a lot of issues in the north. They will not accept. For example, when I went for training in Malaysia I learned snails weren't accepted as part of the ingredients I told them if they were to bring it to Nigeria it could cause a lot of problems. So we can also have some cultural issues during the implementation. that is why feedback is very important. In the standard, they are going to mention some of the ingredients and their sources especially when you are mentioning the animals so you're going to mention some of the animals they accept in the north and the animals they accept in the south. So at least some of them. So these could be cultural barriers"</p>	
<p>"Just like we mentioned the other time, we need education awareness. The first thing is that you cannot implement something new like a standard without educating the people. Educating the people must not focus on a segment of the country. In fact, there must be a forum where you're going to bring the major tribes together for them to understand certain things so that they will be widely accepted. The first thing is to address the challenges during implementation; we need education, we need to educate the people about some of the things that we mentioned</p>	<p>Education To Tackle Barriers</p>

<p>there and also we need to let them know why some of the things are included. Flexibility must be present during implementation. When I say flexibility, for example; if it's a local product that is eaten in Nigeria and not meant for exportation, the flexibility can be that in this product, make sure it is stated there that this product includes this and that. Anyone who wants to eat it will be conscious of that product. We don't need to fight over that one, we just need to be educated and there would be a more flexible implementation. it's not all the products that we have in</p>	
<p>"The challenges we face are all the same. The challenges we have now are just like the other certification bodies or companies we have in Nigeria working on Halal are all facing the same issue of awareness. There is poor awareness in Nigeria even among Muslims. This is a major challenge we have in Nigeria. Also, we have challenges with the producers because we are not following international standards. Imagine we have multinational companies without Halal executives, how do you monitor them? they can do anything. This is part of the challenges. The certification bodies probably were not aware until we informed them. They said they are going to include it and then the producers may not have the</p>	<p>Challenges Faced By HCB</p>

<p>knowledge, this is one of the challenges. Secondly, the companies in Nigeria are passive about Halal, they don't want to come out boldly that they have Halal. I mean the Halal policy is not well stated in most of the companies. They only take the labelling; the logo then exports it to other countries. Many of them are not ready to come out boldly that they are Halal certified. I went to Nigeria in 2018, these are some of the things I observed while I was invited to a workshop where I spent about one week just for the workshop to develop in nature. We have many companies, I listened to them, and they laid out some of their concerns. The awareness both among the industry players and the general public is still very poor. The implication of this challenge is that our products only go to where they are desperate to eat Halal, not where they want to follow the standard. If this is where they really follow the standard, like Malaysia, they can't accept our products [53:29]. They just want to see the logo. ¹¹ _{SEP}</p>	
<p>it's going to help all the parties including the government, because it will boost the economy and eventually boost the production and markets both within and outside that is the support we need from the</p>	<p>Boosting GDP</p>
<p>The government as well, they also need to organise the certification bodies. They need</p>	<p>Government Regulations</p>

<p>to recognize the application bodies. Put them together. This is what is happening in other countries like in Australia I've been to forums where were invited to, i think Nigeria with one of the conferences here. I listened to the high commissioner for Australia, there Their Halal industry is being controlled by foreigners and it's also under Islamic organization, but the government only regulate them. So, government need to regulate these application bodies to regulate everyone under Halal. If they do this, the international community will take us very seriously"</p>	
<p>I will mention three things, number one is unified standard, number two is legislation, number three is expanding the bilateral relationship with other countries on Halal. You develop the standards. Legislatures organise it, and expand the bilateral relationship with other countries on Halal, especially the OIC countries. We already have them but at the government level.</p>	<p>Government Actions</p>
<p>The implication of not having uniformed Halal certification, there are lots of drawbacks. The first is it affects the consumers in the sense of not taking the industry seriously. The second is the consumer will not have confidence in what we tell them and what we produce because we are going to have [9:31] of different</p>	

<p>standards and then eventually going to have gatecrashers; those who just come up and produce anything taking the people along with them. This is why we need to have a uniform one. If we don't have the uniform one, the market will be open to anyone and they'll come to the industry and do what they like. Those are the implications of not having a uniform certification in Nigeria. The third is that we can come across issues in the production lines. Because it means if you are a company you will be exposed to different standards, and in the end, it will lead to confusion for the management and also the people in charge of production. So compliance will become weak that's why uniformity is very important.</p>	
<p>"The implication of not having uniformed Halal certification, there are lots of drawbacks. The first is it affects the consumers in the sense of not taking the industry seriously. The second is the consumer will not have confidence in what we tell them and what we produce because we are going to have [9:31] of different standards and then eventually going to have gatecrashers; those who just come up and produce anything taking the people along with them. This is why we need to have a uniform one. If we don't have the uniform one, the market will be open to anyone and</p>	<p>Weak Compliance</p>

<p>they'll come to the industry and do what they like. Those are the implications of not having a uniform certification in Nigeria. The third is that we can come across issues in the production lines. Because it means if you are a company you will be exposed to different standards, and in the end, it will lead to confusion for the management and the people in charge of production. So, compliance will become weak that's why uniformity is very important.^[P]_[SEP]</p>	
<p>The first benefit is that we will boost consumer confidence. The consumers will start taking us seriously also the companies that patronize the certification will also have more confidence in the industry which will show that we mean business when the uniformed one is available. I mentioned two things, the first is the consumer and the second is the companies</p>	<p>Gain consumer and producer confidence</p>
<p>. The importance cannot be overemphasized just like we have number one; the acceptability of the product outside Nigeria. Once your products are accepted outside like in Australia, New Zealand, and Malaysia it will boost the economy by increasing the GDP</p>	<p>Acceptability</p>
<p>"Let me give an example, In Malaysia once your products are certified in Malaysia, your products can go anywhere in the world. This is what we plan on achieving as well. Once</p>	<p>Bilateral Relations</p>

<p>the producers see the uniform Halal standard and are able to adopt it for production, the government expand their bilateral by letting other countries be aware. The government has to show commitment because it is going to be government-to-government so they have to let other countries know that Nigeria functions with the Halal standard</p>	
<p>This is why we need to have a uniform one. If we don't have the uniform one, the market will be open to anyone and they'll come to the industry and do what they like. Those are the implications of not having a uniform certification in Nigeria.</p>	<p>Uniform Guides</p>
<p>"Like any other country what we need is money to do this, we need brains, we need experts. We don't need any physical things</p>	<p>Experts</p>
<p>The education that we need is firstly awareness that's the first step to education. Awareness must be within and external. When I say within is to orientate the stakeholders, government, certification bodies and Islamic organisations. Because if we don't do this by the time we create the standard people will come out and point out some issues because they will not accept it. We need awareness to educate the people, the industry players and the government we need to educate the public. Starting from the government, they need Halal education. The industry players, There are a lot of industry</p>	<p>Awareness</p>

<p>players in the Halal industry but let me narrow it down to two: We have the certification bodies like the [31:40-42] and all other organisations we have in Nigeria, we categorized them under the industry players and then there are the producers, they need education.</p>	
<p>"The unification of Halal standard in Nigeria is a domestic thing in the [32:46] we don't need the international body. The only thing we need from them is recognition because it is a domestic issue.</p>	<p>Recognition</p>
<p>The challenges we can face while implementing now, I can say we can have resistance from companies because it is likely to increase their cost production because you have to follow the standard. But during development, we may not really have so many economic challenges because you really need to reduce the funds to the people that will develop it. During the implementation. There could be a lot of economic challenges during the adoption</p>	<p>Resistance To Accept</p>
<p>During the implementation of this standard there could be cultural barriers because the cultural is also the feeding habit, the feeding habits of the people, like let me say it is not well known that in the southwest that we can eat grasshoppers. Do you know you can eat grasshoppers? in Yoruba we call it Tata. But in the North, they eat it a lot. Now if you put</p>	<p>Cultural Resistance</p>

<p>it the standard, it cannot be part of the ingredients. It will create a lot of issues in the north</p>	
<p>"how the government can support the Halal. The first thing is to support the legislation, thats the first thing we need from the government. Once this is done and Nigerians can see that it is legislated, you can advertise, sell, produce, and then they make it as part of the optional. Once this is legislated today, Muslims will have more voice on Halal because they will have reason to tell the company why they must produce Halal products. But If the market is still open and everybody is jsut making money, nobody will care. Even those that make money including the companies and the CBs they thought they are making money but its just peanuts. But if its legislated today, they are going to make more. So the first thing the government can use to support is the legislation, they need to pass it into law then make it open that certification is optional, but its already passed into law.</p>	<p>Halal Legislation</p>
<p>If a product claimed halal is not halal,it will affect the economy of this country and loose the confidence of consumers, anything produce in the country will be dented by the consumer, that is why it is important In Nigeria we unified the process f certification</p>	<p>Credibility Of Products Lack Of Consumer Confidence</p>

<p>so that our product will be credible and sustainable in global markets.^[P]_[SEP]</p>	
<p>credibility to product certified</p>	<p>Boost Production And Market</p>
<p>ny or private sectors who are in certification rely on Malaysian standard or Smic standard to do the the certification, however, to have unified certification will be very helpful to the industry, it will help to develop the industry and build kind of trust and dignity to the industry and product produce in Nigeria</p>	<p>Boost Production And Market</p>
<p>Nigerian industry will be able to play in international community and mingle with others in the global arena, and recognize as bonifide and potencial.; credibility, sustainable and prudent in terms of development of the economy of this country.^[P]_[SEP]</p>	<p>Bilateral Relations</p>
<p>pulling heard together and put together diff standard in the world and adapt only one way with the command of the authority, son is the heard standard in Nigeria. The strategy to use is call upon stakeholders and to have technical committee on each scheme of certification which ministry of investment have been doing but there is ego between ministry and SON on pwho owns custodian of certification. In nig every sector is independent and will do things on it own without collaboration with other agency. But I suggest, anyone who claim to be the</p>	<p>Development Of UHC</p>

<p>custodian of certification in nig should callm all stakeholders and unify the process. There are grey areas where Islamic scholars need to chip in to see that during the process of certification, what are the shariah critical control point in halal certification that can be solved by adopting one madhab or doing talfiq, harmonization of madhaib, agreement may not be easy but when a madhab is adopted as Malaysian did [SEP]</p>	
<p>political will, meaning we need someone who is willing to sponsor the bill at lower and upper chamber of nigiar govt as they did for Islamic finance in nigeia; ‘topdown strategy” downtop[SEP]incentive motive: funding for them fincial continuios commitment pool of experts (shariah issue technicality ofaudit drafters to work together) diff type of expert in need to be together to draft a unifed halal certification, physical place to meet [SEP]</p>	<p>Development Of UHC</p>
<p>Oic have established smic.son has join smic and have been participating and in the nearest future, it could help in the accreditation process. Whfc can’t help becos the org is not back by any legislation from any govt. Oic could be of great help bcos it is nigeria is an oic country. But smic is still struggling to put many members on board. In case of domestic comsption, nigeria has to deliver theirs but can help in international comsption</p>	<p>International Body Role</p>

<p>I think there is no any unification of halal certification in Nigeria bcos we don't own single manual or standard in certification, however, majority of company or private sectors who are in certification relie on Malaysian standard or Smic standard to do the the certification, however to have unified certification will be very helpful to the industry,</p>	<p>Absence Of Uhc</p>
<p>, it will help to develop the industry and build kind of trust and dignity to the industry and product produce in Nigeria as we have many international standard through the ISO, I THINK if nigeria can also have unified halal certification where all the sectors we have to follow this guidelines from the regulators, that will give credibility to product certified in Nigeria and it will the international consumer to respect</p>	<p>Credibility Of Products</p>
<p>government will know who is who and to have systematic way of enhancement</p>	<p>Uniform Guides</p>
<p>What are the critical infrastructural, legislative, and educational factors that are essential to achieving uniformity in halal food certification? Prof Luqman : the infrastructure factors need are political will, meaning we need someone who is willing to sponsor the bill at lower and upper chamber of nigiar govt as they did for Islamic finance in nigeia; ‘topdown strategy’ downtop incentive motive; funding for</p>	<p>Political Will</p>

<p>them financial continuous commitment pool of experts (shariah issue technicality of audit drafters to work together) different type of expert in need to be together to draft a unified halal certification, physical place to meet</p>	
<p>n : challenges in the domestic consumption of halal products and one to export. If maliki madhab is not adopted, there may be issues of acceptance especially from northern part of Nigeria, other people that consider other madhab aside from maliki may not accept the product. In terms of International consumption, if the product is not in accordance with export country like Malaysia, the product may not be accepted. expect we use different standard for local consumption and international consumption. Or use specific standards for specific order.</p>	<p>Cultural Resistance</p>
<p>The challenge which may arise, is which particular standard to use for particular product. It is the smiic or the Malaysia ms or the local one which is not acceptable by anybody. Unless there is regulation that state that the company you start with should be the one you continue with, unless the certification exercises will be bastardize bcos companies want to go for leniency. Integrity will be lost from both; if there is legally backup, there may not be problem</p>	<p>Resistance To Accept</p>

<p>: the government needs to be proactive in it wheather it needs to be champion by ministry, the government or wheather it is going to be under the agency like SON, we need to know or wheather it is going to be an independence body or comission like we muslim pilgrims boardNAHCON that regulating hajj regulation despite we have ministry of tourism,the same ting can go for halal, they can join different expert from different agencyof standadization like SON,food technology body,and sharia expert to form a body as a comission for halal certification and standardization in nigeria, not to be under any ministry or any agency.that could make a good impact and fast track the policy and prevent it from politisation.but if government says SON should be the custordian of this,and they are given rules and regulation to make or they want it under ministry where Son will be part of committee with Mlinistrt of Trade ,Industry and Developont, they can do that but we need a plan direvtive from the government. bu this wont be done until government sees something good in the halal certification [P] [SEP]</p>	<p>proactivity of the government</p>
<p>, it would make life easier in terms of guiding us in terms of uniformity to guide whatever we are going to do</p>	<p>Uniform Guides</p>
<p>infrastructural organ</p>	<p>Infrastructure</p>

<p>The SMEAC by virtue of Nigeria being a member of that body. They've been trying to make sure that we're on board and they've been organizing different programs for us, more importantly we members of the various communities.</p>	<p>SMIIC Colaboration</p>
<p>Halal certification is not enforcing awareness and in the area of awareness we have a lot to do. For people to get to know the importance of why they need to satisfy their products halal</p>	<p>education to tackle barriers</p>
<p>multi religious,</p>	<p>Multi Religious Country</p>
<p>same umbrella o</p>	<p>Regulated Body</p>
<p>working document fo</p>	<p>Working Plan</p>
<p>it would make life easier in terms of guiding us in terms of uniformity to guide whatever we are going to do. But be that as it may, we have other international standards we always refer to, it guide us as well.</p>	<p>Uniform Guides</p>
<p>it brings about opening more room for business. There's a language we always use when it comes to standards. We have for ease of doing business because if you have a common standard which guides what you use, it's going to guide your products as well. In the world of standards, there's something you always call innovation. Innovation always supercedes standards, however, with standards in place, one can work acidulously as an individual or as a corporate entity, your innovations too may give rise to other</p>	<p>Enhance Innovations</p>

<p>standards. Standards have not come to kill innovation, it has come to enhance innovation as well, such as there will be more products, that means whatever company or entity is involved is doing. In the end, all this will affect the economy</p>	
<p>. In a country like Nigeria, the more products or services that are certified halal, the more they must be accepted worldwide. One good thing here is that for whatever standard we are using in here or even if we are using foreign, original or international standards, it helps a lot in the ease of trade</p>	<p>Acceptability</p>
<p>: In achieving uniformity of Halal standards, the infrastructure in place is just [17:25] because the various infrastructural organs that are meant to be put in place. The Nigerian government is trying but we've not seen a result. Last year, the Federal Ministry of Trade, industry and Investments pushed up a committee called the National Technical Committee on Road Map Halal Industries in Nigeria. Coincidentally, I am a member of that committee. The committee has tried its best to put up the best policies in place and submitted to the then minister of state Mrs. [18:16], when we are talking of standard in this country we'll be talking about SON (standard organization of Nigeria), SON is under the ministry of trade, industry and</p>	<p>Organs</p>

<p>investments and other stakeholders were put in place to come up with these policies</p>	
<p>we equally agreed that there should be a supervisory role being played by an organ of the federal government, which is the federal ministry of industry, trade and investments that, I think probably under commerce and trade department also we are going to have a desk their who will be overseeing what all the halal certification bodies are doing because you need to that in this country,</p>	<p>Supervisory Roles</p>
<p>the advice I can give is, we have some laid down activities, those activities need to be followed to the [later] to make sure we have a halal food standard in place. if that is done, that gives us a working document for all other certification bodie</p>	<p>Working Plan</p>
<p>The drawback can be both sides, we have the auditees and the auditors. We are the auditors. The auditors ensure that those standards are adhered to strictly, there should not be comprised on the part of the auditors. We have Halal certification authority we still have other ones. We should not (jettison) those standards, if we do from the part of the auditors there will likely be drawback. Another drawback on the part of the auditees is that whatever they must have done must be adhered to strictly based on the standards, which we are operating because there is one thing in the auditors going for audits saying</p>	<p>Not Abiding By The Standard</p>

<p>Nigeria being multi religious, there was a time we wanted to audit a facility and the head of that institution is trying to let us realize they are most likely going to drop us for Kosher because of religious barrier. The issue is, Christians don't have something like this but Jews do, because the client was a Christian she wasn't familiar with Muslims, she thought to herself why she has to go for halal, why doesn't she go for kosher. But [40:40-40:51] their own product. We can't rule out some of those challenges</p>	<p>Multi Religious Country</p>
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Code	Code Groups	Theme
○ absence of uhc		Benefit of UHC
○ acceptability	RQ 1	Benefit of UHC
○ Awareness	RQ 2	Factors that can aide UHC
○ barriers	RQ 3	Challenges to Implement UHC
○ bilateral relations	RQ 1	Benefit of UHC
○ boost production and market	RQ 1	Benefit of UHC
○ Boosting GDP	RQ 1	Benefit of UHC
○ challenges faced by HCB	RQ 3	Challenges to Implement UHC
○ confusion for producer		Benefit of UHC
○ CREDIBILITY OF PRODUCTS	RQ 1	Benefit of UHC
○ CULTURAL RESISTANCE	RQ 3	Challenges to Implement UHC
○ development of uhc	RQ 2	Factors that can aide UHC
○ education to tackle barriers	RQ 2	Factors that can aide UHC

○ educational tool	RQ 2	Factors that can aide UHC
○ ENHANCE INNOVATIONS	RQ 1	Benefit of UHC
○ EXPERTS	RQ 2	Factors that can aide UHC
○ Gain cosumer and producer confidence	RQ 1	Benefit of UHC
○ government actions	RQ 4	Government role in UHC
○ government regulations	RQ 4	Government role in UHC
○ halal legislation	RQ 4	Government role in UHC
○ infrastructure	RQ 3	Challenges to Implement UHC
○ Integrity	RQ 1	Benefit of UHC
○ international body role	RQ 4	Challenges to Implement UHC
○ lack of compliance	RQ 3	Challenges to Implement UHC
○ lack of consumer confidence		Benefit of UHC
○ legislation problems	RQ 3	Challenges to Implement UHC
○ MULTI RELIGIOUS COUNTRY	RQ 3	Challenges to Implement UHC
○ NOT ABIDING BY THE STANDARD	RQ 3	Challenges to Implement UHC
○ ORGANS	RQ 4	Government role in UHC
○ POLITICAL WILL	RQ 4	Government role in UHC
○ proactivity of the government	RQ 4	Government role in UHC
○ recognition	RQ 1	Benefit of UHC
○ REGULATED BODY	RQ 4	Government role in UHC
○ RESISTANCE TO ACCEPT	RQ 3	Challenges to Implement UHC
○ SMITC COLABORATION	RQ 4	Government role in UHC

○ Strategy to improve global access		Benefit of UHC
○ supervisory roles	RQ 4	Government role in UHC
○ Uniform guides	RQ 1	Benefit of UHC
○ WEAK COMPLIANCE	RQ 3	Challenges to Implement UHC
○ WORKING PLAN	RQ 4	Government role in UHC

