



Issue 001, October 2024

# GREEN CHAMBER WEEKLY

...front row insights on legislative governance

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Monday 14th October - Friday 19th October, 2024

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# “Reverse hike in petrol pump price” - House calls on Executive

By Temidayo Taiwo-Sidiq



**Rep. Kingsley Chinda**  
House Minority Leader

**R**eps urges immediate steps to stabilise price of petrol and cooking gas

The House of Representatives has called on the Executive Arm of Government to reverse the recent hike in petrol pump prices.

In addition, the House urged immediate action to stabilise the prices of petrol and cooking gas through targeted interventions, including temporary price relief measures, tax reductions, and subsidies on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for low-income households.

These resolutions followed the adoption of a Motion of Urgent National Importance, moved during plenary on

Wednesday, October 16, 2024, by House Minority Leader, Rep. Kingsley Chinda (PDP, Rivers) and supported by ninety (90) other members.

In his motion, Rep. Chinda expressed grave concerns over the skyrocketing prices of petrol and cooking gas in recent months, which have imposed an unsustainable financial burden on ordinary Nigerians and exacerbated the cost of living.

The House emphasised that escalating fuel and gas prices are impacting transportation, food, essential goods, and healthcare, further driving inflation and pushing many families into deep financial hardship. The House also highlighted that the rising costs pose a significant threat to the livelihoods of millions of Nigerians, warning that unchecked inflationary pressure could lead to social unrest, increased poverty rates, and long-term economic repercussions.

Adopting the motion's resolutions, the House urged the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited, the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, and other relevant agencies to expedite the repair and maintenance of domestic refineries, thereby increasing local refining capacity as a stop-gap measure to reduce dependence on imported refined petroleum products.

Furthermore, the House called on the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to

implement policies that mitigate the adverse effects of fuel price hikes on inflation, particularly regarding essential goods and services. The House also resolved to encourage the Federal Government to explore alternative energy sources and diversify the country's energy mix to provide sustainable and affordable renewable energy solutions in the long term.

Additionally, the House urged State Governments to adopt policies that alleviate the financial burden on their citizens, such as waiving taxes or levies on transportation and goods affected by high fuel costs. The Committees on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) and Legislative Compliance were mandated to ensure compliance with these resolutions within two weeks.

## House to Investigate Compliance with Accessibility Regulations for Persons with Disabilities in Public Buildings

By McDonald Ntui



House plenary on Tuesday, October 15, 2024. Rep. Dawodu expressed concern that the lack of accessibility in public buildings hinders the inclusion and full integration of persons with disabilities into Nigerian society.

The lawmaker highlighted that Sections 3 and 4 of the Disability Act 2018, affirm the right of persons with disabilities to access physical environments and public buildings on an equal basis with others. This includes essential facilities such as sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, elevators, and accessible restrooms.

The House also noted that, despite the expiration of the transitory period for modifications, many persons living with disabilities still face significant barriers when attempting to access public buildings. Consequently, the House mandated its Committee on Disability, along with the Committee on Safety, Standards, and Regulations, to investigate these issues and provide a report within four weeks.

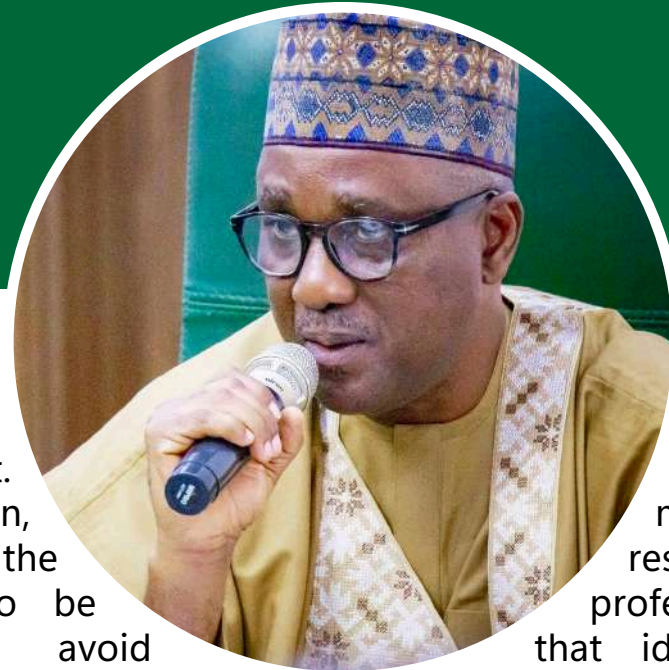
It is important to highlight that Section 57 of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act of 2018 defines a public building as any structure made available for use by the public, regardless of whether it is owned by government or private entities. This definition underscores the need for all public buildings to comply with accessibility regulations to ensure that persons with disabilities can fully participate in society.

The House of Representatives has resolved to investigate the level of compliance of public buildings with accessibility regulations, as well as the approval of building plans by regulatory authorities that lack necessary accessibility provisions.

This resolution followed a motion moved by Rep. Bashiru Ayinla Dawodu (APC, Lagos) during the

# “Avoid sensationalism in your contribution to nation-building” - Speaker Abbas tasks the media

By Musa Abdullahi Krishi



**S**peaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, PhD, has called on the Nigerian media to be objective and avoid sensationalism in its efforts toward nation-building.

Emphasising the crucial role of the media in shaping national discourse and holding the government accountable, Speaker Abbas urged media professionals to remain focused and uphold journalistic ethics in their work.

This statement was made on Thursday during a courtesy visit from the management of the Media Trust Group, publishers of the Daily Trust titles, led by Group Chief Executive Officer (GCEO) Mallam Ahmed Shekarau, at his office in the National Assembly.

Noting that the House welcomes constructive criticism, Speaker Abbas highlighted its importance in fostering

a healthy democracy and governance. He encouraged the media to engage in responsible and professional reporting that identifies challenges, proposes solutions, and ensures balanced narratives.

"Try to invest more in objectivity; try to invest more in professionalism; short-term gains don't make an organisation last. It is truth and transparency that will make you last forever," the Speaker remarked.

He further stated, "The 10th Assembly is an open Assembly. We want to showcase our openness to the public to show what we do, generate opinions, and seek advice on what we're doing. We don't do anything in secrecy. We would like to emphasise our intention to make the National Assembly truly the people's parliament."

Speaker Abbas also highlighted key legislative priorities for the 10th House,

including poverty alleviation, law reform, security, youth and women empowerment, healthcare, and education. He noted that the House recently unveiled its one-year scorecard, showcasing the modest achievements recorded over the past 12 months.

Earlier, Mallam Shekarau described the visit as an opportunity to propose a media partnership with the House, particularly through Trust TV. He also extended an invitation for Speaker

Abbas to serve as the Special Guest of Honour at the upcoming annual Daily Trust Dialogue.

The Media Trust delegation included the GCEO; the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Trust TV, Ibrahim Shehu Adamu; the AGM of Special Projects, Abdullahi Mainasara; the Head of Business Development, Haroun Saeed Malami; General Editor, Stella Iyaji; and Politics Editor, Clement Oloyede, among others.

## House mourns demise of Press Corps Member, Elijah Olaluyi



Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, PhD, in reaction to the tragic news, described Mr. Olaluyi as a media professional whose contributions will be greatly missed.

“He was a veteran media professional who covered the National Assembly for many years and possessed invaluable institutional memories of people and events within the federal parliament. He will be greatly missed. My heart goes out to his family and the Press Corps during this difficult time,” Speaker Abbas stated.

The House of Representatives has expressed profound sadness over the passing of Mr. Elijah Olaluyi, a valued member of the House Press Corps, who died at the age of 62 after a brief illness.

Similarly, Deputy Speaker Rt. Hon. Benjamin Kalu, in a statement, described the late Olaluyi as a professional who practised his craft with utmost decency, showcasing exceptional photographic skills guided by the highest ethics of the journalism profession.

“Until his death Thursday evening, Olaluyi covered the activities of the House of Representatives with zeal and professional integrity,” Rt. Hon. Kalu added.

The House in a statement by its Spokesman, Rep. Akin Rotimi, Jr. on Friday, October 20, 2024, noted that Mr. Olaluyi, was a veteran photojournalist with New Telegraph, who passionately covered the activities of the Green Chamber until his demise late Thursday.

The House prayed for the repose of his soul and for strength and comfort for his family, colleagues at New Telegraph, the House of Representatives Press Corps (HoRPC), the Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), and all who knew him.



## Reps want submission of 2025 Budget Proposal without further delays

By Temidayo Taiwo-Sidiq

The House of Representatives has urged the Executive arm of government to promptly submit the 2025 Budget proposal to the National Assembly. This call comes in accordance with the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2007, following the adoption of a Matter of Urgent Public Importance raised by Rep. Clement Jimbo (APC, Akwa Ibom) during the plenary session on Wednesday, October 16, 2024.

Rep. Jimbo in his motion, emphasised that Section 11 (1) (b) of the Fiscal Responsibility Act requires the federal government to prepare and present the Medium Term Expenditure Framework and budget proposal at least four months before the new financial year begins.

He expressed concern that the Executive's failure to comply with this timeline is encroaching on the time the National Assembly needs to fulfill its legislative responsibilities, as outlined in Section 88 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (As amended).

In light of these concerns, the House has directed its Committees on National Planning and Economic Development, Appropriations, and Finance to ensure adherence to this timeline within the next two weeks. The urgency of this motion is underscored by the need to maintain the January-December budget cycle.

Prior to the passage of the 2024 Budget, the House Committee on Appropriations noted that the 2024 proposal was submitted late, creating significant pressure on the National Assembly to process the bill. As a result, the Committee has recommended that the Executive henceforth comply with the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act.

The Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007 was enacted to promote prudent management of the nation's resources, ensure long-term macroeconomic stability, and enhance accountability and transparency in fiscal operations, while also establishing the Fiscal Responsibility Commission to uphold the nation's economic objectives.

# AFCON 2025 Qualifiers: House condemns inhumane treatment of Super Eagles at Libyan Airport



...calls on Federal Government to summon Libyan Ambassador to Nigeria

The House of Representatives has condemned the inhumane treatment recently experienced by the Super Eagles and their coaching staff, along with members of the Nigerian delegation, by the Libyan Football Federation and the Libyan Government.

This condemnation followed the adoption of a Matter of Urgent National Importance, moved by Rep. Kabiru Amadu Mai-Palace (PDP, Zamfara), Chairman of the House Committee on Sports, during Tuesday's plenary session.

Rep. Mai-Palace noted that the Super Eagles were scheduled to play a return match against Libya's Mediterranean Knights on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at the Martyrs of February Stadium in Benghazi, as part of the ongoing African Cup of Nations Qualifiers.

He highlighted that the team, along with

a delegation of House members led by the Deputy Chairman of the House Committee on Sports, the Edo State Deputy Governor-Elect, and officials from the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF), arrived in Libya on Sunday, October 13, 2024. Unfortunately, they were stranded at Al-Abrag International Airport.

The House expressed grave concern that the team's aircraft was unexpectedly diverted mid-flight to Al-Abrag, a small airport typically reserved for Hajj operations. It was alarming that the Libyan authorities denied the delegation access to leave the airport, refused them food, and cut off internet access, effectively cordoning them off and holding them hostage for 18 hours. This distressing situation left the fatigued and frustrated players feeling compelled to withdraw from the match.

In adopting the motion's resolutions, the House expressed sympathy for the Super Eagles and commended their patriotism. The House further urged the NFF to file an official complaint with the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and the Federation of International Football (FIFA) regarding the dehumanising treatment inflicted by Libyan authorities.

Additionally, the House called on the Federal Government to immediately summon the Libyan Ambassador to Nigeria to address the matter and mandated its Committees on Sports and Foreign Affairs to investigate the incident thoroughly.

# Legacy Bills on Independent Candidacy, Sexual Harassment Scale Second Reading

By 'Tosin Adaraniwon



The House of Representatives has made significant strides in expanding Nigeria's democratic space with the second reading of a bill aimed at altering the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (As Amended), to allow for independent candidacy.

In addition, the House also advanced a bill seeking to prevent, prohibit, and address sexual harassment in tertiary institutions across the country. Both bills successfully passed their second readings this legislative week following their recommittal to the House Committee on Constitution Review and the Committee of the Whole, respectively.

These legacy bills, reintroduced in the 10th Assembly, have been recurring topics in previous Assemblies and are sponsored by Rep. Akin Rotimi Jr., who

represents Ekiti North 1 (Ikole/Oye) Federal Constituency and serves as the Spokesman for the 10th House of Representatives.

The Independent Candidacy bill, formally titled "Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB1630) (Independent Candidates)," was reintroduced for consideration after its first reading on Thursday, September 26, 2024. It has now been referred to the House Committee on Constitution Review for comprehensive consideration and legislative action. This recommittal process which effectively served as the second reading, followed a motion moved on Thursday, by Rep. Isah Bello Ambarura (APC, Sokoto), Deputy Chairman of the House Committee on Rules and Business, and seconded by Rep. Akin Rotimi Jr.



The Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal of Sexual Harassment in Tertiary Institutions Bill, 2024 (HB 1598), which was passed by the 9th Senate and House of Representatives but failed to receive presidential assent, was reintroduced on the floor of the House on Thursday, July 18, 2024. It has now been referred to the Committee of the Whole following its recommitment on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, in a motion moved by Rep. Francis Waive, Chairman of the House Committee on Rules and Business (APC, Delta).

The progress of both bills adheres to the provisions of Order Twelve, Rule 17, of the House of Representatives Standing Orders, allowing legislative action on a bill upon its re-gazetting or circulation without the need for a fresh start. The progression of the Independent Candidacy Bill is further guided by the combined provisions of Order Twelve, Rule 17, and Order One, Rule 1(2) of the House of Representatives Standing Orders, highlighting the House's commitment to a thorough legislative process.

Legislative action on the Independent Candidacy Bill is pivotal for the ongoing evolution of the country's democracy, recognising the constitutional importance of providing citizens the option to run for public office independently, thereby ensuring greater inclusivity.

As both bills move forward for further legislative scrutiny, there is optimism that their passage by the 10th National Assembly and subsequent presidential assent would present a unique opportunity to shape history and

establish a lasting legacy for Nigeria's youth and democratic journey.

### **Objective of the Independent Candidacy Bill**

The Independent Candidacy Bill seeks to amend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) by creating a legal framework that allows individuals to contest elective offices without being affiliated with a political party.

This alteration will provide citizens with the opportunity to run for public offices at all levels, including local government, state, and federal levels, as independent candidates. The bill aims to promote inclusivity, broaden the democratic space, and encourage greater political participation by Nigerians who are not part of any political party.

### **Objective of the Sexual Harassment Prohibition Bill**

The Sexual Harassment Prohibition Bill aims to establish a legal framework to protect students from sexual harassment by educators in tertiary educational institutions.

Additionally, the bill seeks to provide comprehensive measures for addressing complaints of sexual harassment, outlining specific offenses and corresponding punishments for educators who engage in sexual intercourse with a student, demand sexual favors, or influence others to commit acts of sexual harassment.

# Legislative Progress: Members Introduce 60 Bills for First Reading

By Temidayo Taiwo-Sidiq



In this legislative week, members of the House of Representatives demonstrated their commitment to action by presenting 60 bills for First Reading.

On the first day, 20 bills were introduced, featuring significant proposals such as the establishment of the University of Technology in Ilaro, Ogun State, along with various amendments to the National Agricultural Council Act. These initiatives aim to enhance educational opportunities and strengthen Nigeria's agricultural sector.

The momentum continued on Wednesday with another 20 bills addressing critical areas like electoral reform and healthcare. Among these were several amendments to the Electoral Act aimed at bolstering the democratic process, as well as the

Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshot Acts. These efforts reflect a proactive approach to tackling pressing societal issues and improving public welfare.

On the final legislative day, an additional 20 bills were introduced, emphasizing environmental protection and national security. Proposals included the Anti-Gas Flaring Bill and amendments to the Armed Forces Act, underscoring lawmakers' dedication to promoting sustainable practices and enhancing national safety.

This legislative initiative highlights the diverse and impactful nature of the current session, as representatives strive to implement meaningful change across various sectors.



# PLENARY RECAP

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

FIRST READING



Monday 14th October - Friday 19th October, 2024



- University of Technology, Ilaro, Ogun State (Establishment) (SB.345)
- Federal University of Health Sciences, Tsafe Zamfara (Establishment) (SB. 161)
- National Agricultural Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (SB.56)
- National Agricultural Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (SB.212)
- National Agricultural Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (SB.477)
- Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (SB.379)
- Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (SB.376)



Rep. Kwamoti  
Bitrus Laori  
(PDP, Adamawa)

- National Commission for Amnesty Rehabilitation and Reintegration Bill, 2024(HB.1537)
- Nigeria Human Fertilizer and Embryology Regulatory Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1538)

- Federal Universities of Agriculture Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1558)

Rep. Anayo  
Onwuegbu  
(PDP, Enugu)



Rep. Akiolu  
Kayode Moshood  
(APC, Lagos)

- Industrial Arbitration Tribunal (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1572)
- Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1574)



# PLENARY RECAP



PRESENTATION OF BILLS

FIRST READING

Monday 14th October - Friday 19th October, 2024



Rep. Kingsley Chinda  
(PDP, Rivers)

- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1446)
- Federal Colleges of Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1458)

- Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1636)
- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1637)

Rep. Ikeagwuonu Onyinye Ugochinyere  
(PDP, Imo)



Hon. Mohammed Buba Jajere  
(PDP, Yobe)

- Orthopaedic Hospital Management Board Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1644)

- Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Mangu, Plateau State Act (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1748)

Rep. Ishaya D. Lalu  
(APC, Plateau)





# PLENARY RECAP



PRESENTATION OF BILLS

FIRST READING

Monday 14th October - Friday 19th October, 2024



Rep. Ahmed Yinka Aluko  
(APC, Kwara)

- Nigerian Army College of Education, Ilorin (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1602)

- National Commission for Skill Acquisition Evaluation Assessment and Certification (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1609)

Rep. Paul Nnamchi  
(LP, Enugu)



Rep. Akiolu Kayode Moshood  
(APC, Lagos)

- Nigeria Sport Arbitration Tribunal (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1575)2.
- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1576)

- Institute of Chartered Biochemist and Molecular Biologist of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1164)

Rep. Kingsley O. Chinda  
(PDP, Rivers)  
and 48 others





# PLENARY RECAP



PRESENTATION OF BILLS

FIRST READING

Monday 14th October - Friday 19th October, 2024



Rep. Ikeagwuonu Onyinye Ugochinyere (PDP, Imo)

- Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1638)
- Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1639)
- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1641)
- Petroleum Industry Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1648)

- Federal University of Solid Minerals Resources Development Bukuru Gyel (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1688)
- Federal University of Nursing and Midwifery, Fobour (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1689)

Rep. Alfred Ajang Iliya (LP, Plateau)



Rep. Abiodun Francis Omoleye (APC, Ekiti)

- Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery Ijero Ekiti, Ekiti State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1642)

- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1696)
- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1698)
- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1699)

Rep. Mansur Manu Soro (PDP, Bauchi) and one other





# PLENARY RECAP



PRESENTATION OF BILLS

FIRST READING

Monday 14th October - Friday 19th October, 2024

- Federal Polytechnics Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1815)
- Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1818)

Rep, Mohammed Saidu Baragaja (PDP, Sokoto)



Rep. Unyime Idem (PDP, Akwa Ibom)

- National Broadcasting Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1816)

- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1817)

Rep. Igariway Iduma Enwo (PDP, Ebonyi)



Rep. Chris Nkwonta (APC, Abia)

- Digital Rights and Freedom Bill, 2024 (HB.1739)
- Sea Fisheries Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1740)



# PLENARY RECAP



PRESENTATION OF BILLS

FIRST READING

Monday 14th October - Friday 19th October, 2024

- Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Omerelu, River State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1741)

Rep. Blessing Chigeru Amadi  
(PDP, Rivers)



Rep. Usman Midala Balami  
(PDP, Borno)

- Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skills Acquisition, Hawul Local Government Area, Borno State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1797)
- Federal College of Fisheries and Apiculture (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1798)

- Anti-Gas Flaring (Prohibition and Enforcement) Bill, 2024 (HB.1819)
- Armed Forces Farms and Ranches Scheme (Establishment) Bill, 2024(HB.1820)

Rep. Babajimi Benson  
(APC, Lagos)



Rep. Rahis Abdulkadir  
(APC, Borno)

- Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skill Acquisition, Maiduguri, Borno State (Establishment) Bill, 2024(HB.1821)





# PLENARY RECAP

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

FIRST READING



Monday 14th October - Friday 19th October, 2024

- National Institute for Hepatitis Research and Treatment Kachia, Kaduna State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1822)

Rep. Gabriel Saleh Zock  
(APC, Kaduna)



Rep. Mansur Manu Soro  
(PDP, Bauchi)

- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1700)
- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1701)
- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1702)
- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (HB.1703)

- Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1640)

Rep. Ikeagwuonu Onyinye Ugochinyere  
(PDP, Imo)



Shehu Saleh Rijau  
(APC, Niger)

- Federal College of Agriculture and Technology, Oke-Ogun (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1831)



# PLENARY RECAP



PRESENTATION OF BILLS FIRST READING

Monday 14th October - Friday 19th October, 2024



Rep. Ikeagwuonu Onyinye Ugochinyere (PDP, Imo) and 4 others

- Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1647)

- Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshots Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1711)
- Acts Authentication Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1712)
- National Human Rights Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1715)

Rep. Mohammed Bello El-Rufai (APC, Kaduna)



Rep. Kafilat Ogbara (APC, Lagos)

- Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1718)
- Armed Forces Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1719)

- Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Directorate of Road Traffic and Motor Vehicle Administration Service (DRTMVAS) Bill, 2024 (HB.1832)

Rep. Zakaria Dauda Nyampa (PDP, Adamawa)





# PERISCOPE

A PUBLIC ENLIGHTENMENT SERIES BY GREEN CHAMBER, NIGERIA

## PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUSES

A “parliamentary caucus” refers to a group of members who come together to pursue common objectives or interests, often based on shared political, regional, or ideological affiliations.

The term “caucus” is believed to have originated in the United States, first used in the 1700s.

### PURPOSE

Caucuses serve as important mechanisms for representation and collaboration within parliamentary systems.

1. They are formed to coordinate actions, develop policy proposals, and strategise for upcoming votes or legislative initiatives.
2. They also play a significant role in shaping legislative agendas, party strategy, and policymaking.

3. Additionally, caucuses provide platforms for discussing issues that are important to their members.

While caucuses do not have formal legislative power, they can influence party positions, inform leadership decisions, and mobilise support for particular bills or initiatives.

### KEY CAUCUSES IN THE NIGERIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Notable Caucuses in the Nigeria House of Representatives include:**

1. **Majority Caucus:** This caucus comprises all members of the All Progressives Congress (APC), the party with the majority of members (currently occupying no fewer than 187 out of the 360 seats) in the Green Chamber.

The caucus is led by Rep. Julius Ihonvbere (APC, Edo), who serves as the House Majority Leader,

alongside Rep. Usman Bello Kumo (APC, Gombe), who is the Chief Whip, with assistance from their deputies.



**Rep. Julius Ihonvbere (APC, Edo)**

2. **Minority Caucus:**

This caucus is made up of members from the seven opposition parties in the 10th Assembly, namely: African Democratic Congress (ADC), All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), Labour Party (LP), New Nigeria Peoples' Party (NNPP), Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP), Social Democratic Party (SDP), and Young Progressives Party (YPP).

The caucus is led by Rep. Kingsley Chinda (PDP, Rivers), who serves as the House Minority Leader, assisted by Rep. Ali Isa JC (PDP, Gombe), the House Minority Whip, along with their deputies.

3. **Political Party Caucuses:**

Similar to the broader Majority and Minority groups in Parliament, members of each political party in the Green Chamber also belong to their respective party caucuses. The 10th Assembly currently has eight party caucuses, making it

the largest and most diverse in the history of Nigeria's Fourth Republic (1999 - present).

4. **Regional Caucuses:**

Members of the House of Representatives also form multi partisan regional groups based on common objectives or interests. The 10th House of Representatives has two regional caucuses: the Northern Region Caucus and the Southern Region Caucus, led by Rep. Alhassan Ado Doguwa (APC, Kano) and Rep. Nicholas Mutu (PDP, Delta), respectively



**Rep. Usman Bello Kumo (APC, Gombe)**



**Rep. Kingsley Chinda (PDP, Rivers)**

5. **Zonal Caucuses:** Similar to the Regional Caucuses, the Zonal Caucuses refer to groups of members organised according to the six geopolitical zones in the country. These groups are led by the following lawmakers:

**North West:** Rep. Sada Soli (APC, Katsina)

**South West:** Rep. James Abiodun Faleke (APC, Lagos)

**North East:** Rep. Muktar Aliyu Betara (APC, Borno)

**South East:** Rep. Igariwey Iduma Enwo (PDP, Ebonyi)

**North Central:** Rep. Ahmed Idris Wase (APC, Plateau)

**South South:** Rep. Fred Agbedi (PDP, Bayelsa)

6. **State Caucuses:** This caucus comprises members of the House of Representatives elected to represent the various federal constituencies within a particular state, typically elected on the platforms of various political parties. There are 37 State Caucuses in the 10th House of Representatives.



**Rep. Ali Isa JC (PDP, Gombe)**

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