



Issue 004, November 2024

GREEN CHAMBER **WEEKLY**

...front row insights on legislative governance

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MEDIA & PUBLIC AFFAIRS, NIGERIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, 4th November - Friday, 8th November, 2024

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Speaker Abbas leads Nigerian delegation to Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference



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Inside the Lawmaking Process: 7 Key Steps in Nigeria's National Assembly



OVERSIGHT VISIT

House Committee on Defence tours Defence Space Administration (DSA) Headquarters

Monday, November 4, 2024

The House Committee on Defence recently toured the Defence Space Administration (DSA) Headquarters at the Obasanjo Space Centre in Lugbe, Abuja.



The delegation assessed the progress of the Defence Space Act 2023 and reviewed the DSA's 2024 Capital Budget performance, with the aim of making informed recommendations to strengthen the agency's mandate.

■ **Photo Credit:** Office of Rep. Muktar Tolani Shagaya

Speaker Abbas leads Nigerian Parliamentary Delegation to 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference in Australia

■ By Temidayo Taiwo-Sidiq ■

Speaker of the Nigerian House of Representatives, **Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, PhD**, this week led a delegation of Nigerian parliamentarians to the 67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference (CPC) in Sydney, Australia.

tackle the pressing challenges of today's democracies. As a vital component of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), the event also offers a unique opportunity to foster dialogue and share best practices for advancing democratic governance.

Held from November 3 to 8, 2024, the flagship event of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) brought together over 700 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and decision-makers from across the Commonwealth. The conference, held in Sydney, New South Wales, centered around the theme **"Engage, Empower, Sustain: Charting the Course for Resilient Democracy."**

Established in 1911, the CPA now represents over 180 national and sub-national legislatures across 53 Commonwealth nations and territories, working to strengthen parliamentary development, promote democratic governance, and uphold the highest standards of parliamentary practice.

The week-long event featured a series of workshops and sessions that addressed a range of critical issues facing modern parliaments. Topics discussed included the integration of artificial intelligence and technology in parliamentary processes, ensuring the security of Members of Parliament (MPs), ending human trafficking, combating discrimination, supporting the participation of people with disabilities in legislative processes, and engaging with Indigenous peoples.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference provides an important platform for parliamentarians from around the world to come together to



L-R: Bilal Kayani MNA; Syed Awais Qadir Shah, Speaker Sindh Assembly; myself; Hon. Zainab Gimba, and Zaib Jaffar MNA

THE MHR'S Perspective

==== *Shaping Nigeria's Future, One Idea at a Time* ====

Culled from Speeches at the International Legislative Dialogue on Women and Constitution Amendment (October 28, 2024)



“
Empowering women is not only a moral and democratic imperative but also a strategic economic necessity.
”

- Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen PhD,
Speaker, House of Representatives



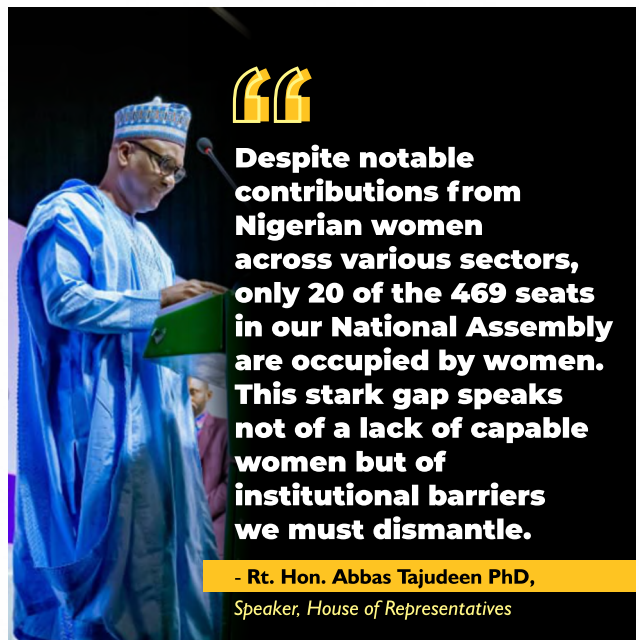
“
Women bring unique perspectives influencing vital issues, from healthcare to economic policy, creating legislation that resonates with millions.
”

- Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen PhD,
Speaker, House of Representatives



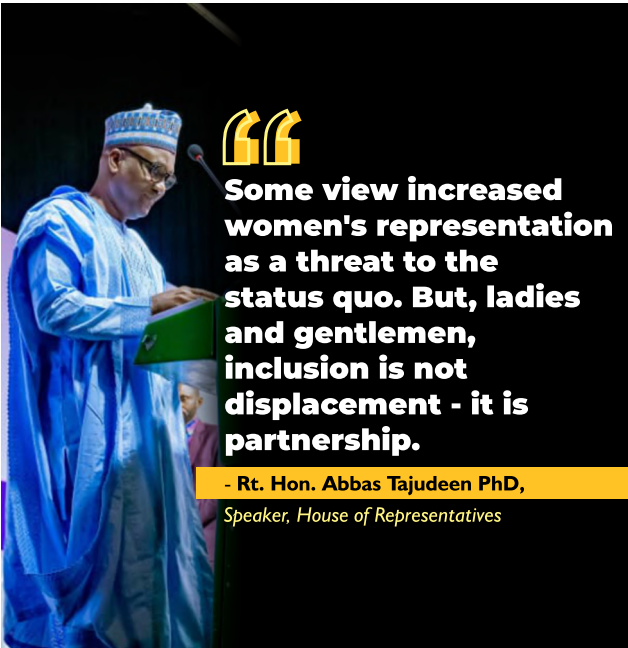
“
increased representation of women is not a luxury but a necessity for sustainable national development and stability.
”

- Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen PhD,
Speaker, House of Representatives



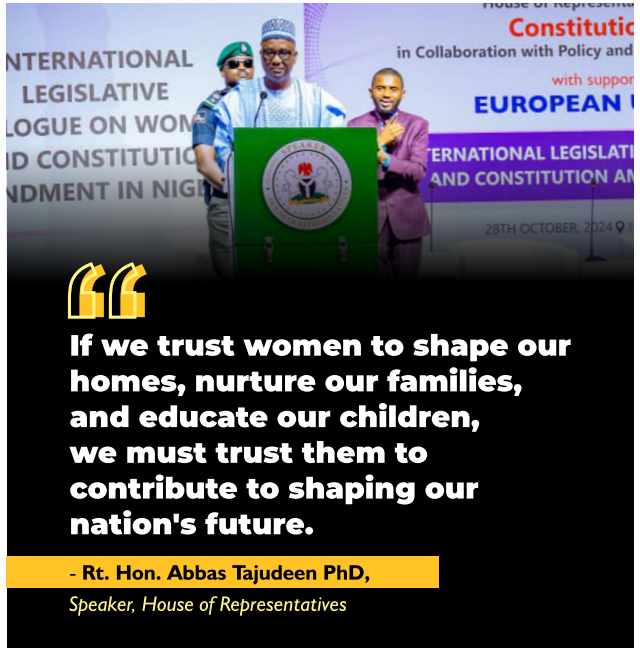
“
Despite notable contributions from Nigerian women across various sectors, only 20 of the 469 seats in our National Assembly are occupied by women. This stark gap speaks not of a lack of capable women but of institutional barriers we must dismantle.
”

- Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen PhD,
Speaker, House of Representatives



Some view increased women's representation as a threat to the status quo. But, ladies and gentlemen, inclusion is not displacement - it is partnership.

- Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen PhD,
Speaker, House of Representatives



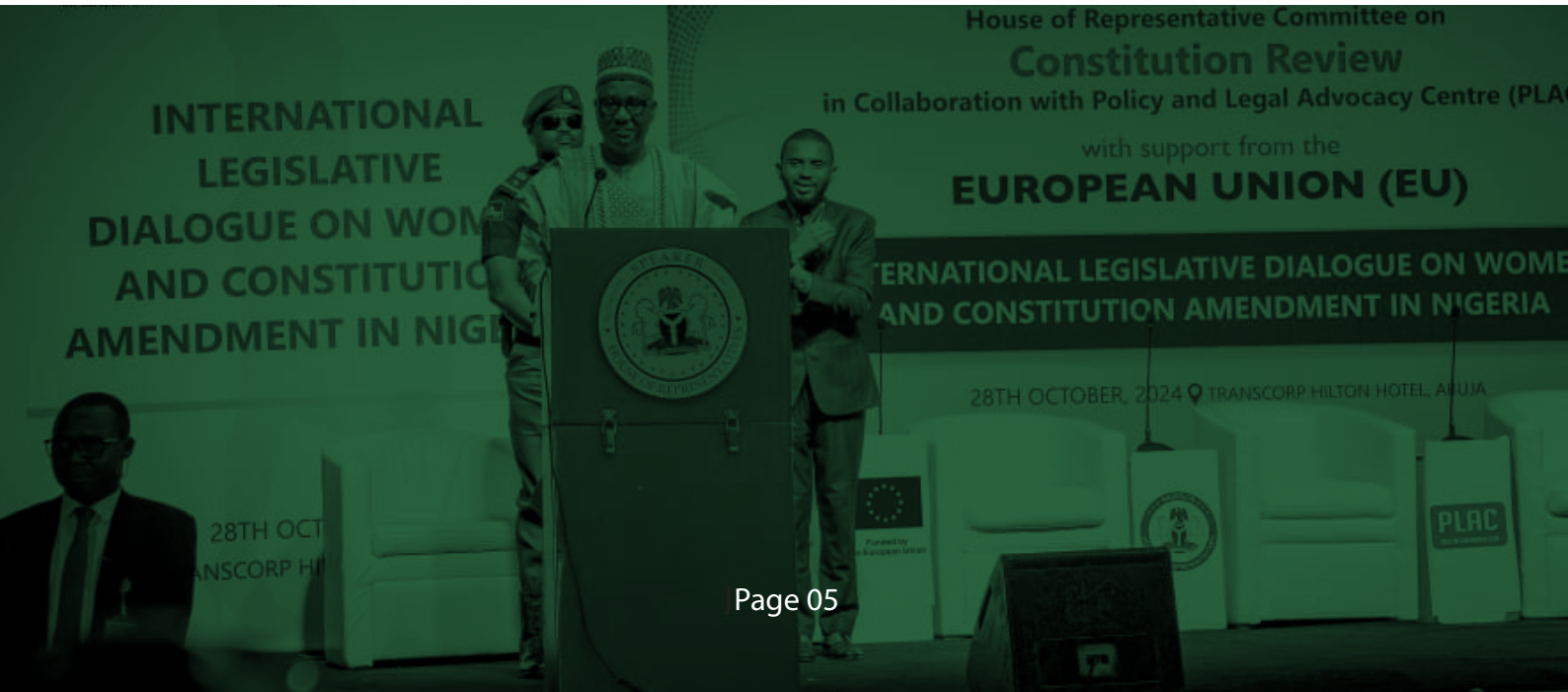
If we trust women to shape our homes, nurture our families, and educate our children, we must trust them to contribute to shaping our nation's future.

- Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen PhD,
Speaker, House of Representatives



We must work towards joint ticketing in elections, reserved seats, and conferring equal citizenship rights to foreigners married to Nigerian women.

- Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen PhD,
Speaker, House of Representatives



THE MHR'S Perspective

==== Shaping Nigeria's Future, One Idea at a Time ====

Culled from Speeches at the International Legislative Dialogue on Women and Constitution Amendment (October 28, 2024)



“

...inclusive governance is not merely an equity issue; it is a strategic imperative.

- Rt. Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu,
Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives



“

Countries that have successfully integrated women into decision-making roles experience gains in innovation, collaboration across sectors, and, notably, economic growth.

- Rt. Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu,
Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives



“

reports indicate that Nigeria could potentially achieve a 9% increase in GDP by 2025 with significant improvements in women's participation across all sectors.

- Rt. Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu,
Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives



“

...reserved seats (for women) are not a permanent fix but are structured as a "Temporary Special Measure," subject to review after four general election cycles, or 16 years.

- Rt. Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu,
Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives

House of Representative Committee on
Constitution Review
in Collaboration with Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)
with support from the EUROPEAN UNION

“
Special seats offer a feasible solution to ensuring that women not only participate as candidates but are also represented meaningfully within our legislative institutions.
”

- Rt. Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu,
Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives

INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATIVE INSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
House of Representative Committee on
Constitution Review
in Collaboration with Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)
with support from the EUROPEAN UNION

“
We must view the financial investment in women's inclusion as a direct investment in Nigeria's future.
”

- Rt. Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu,
Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives

Funded by the European Union
PLAC
POLICY AND LEGAL ADVOCACY CENTRE
House of Representative Committee on
Constitution Review
in Collaboration with Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)
with support from the EUROPEAN UNION

“
Our society, therefore, stands to gain immensely from a legislature that reflects the diverse makeup of its citizenry and values contributions from all perspectives.
”

- Rt. Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu,
Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives

House of Representative Committee on
Constitution Review
in Collaboration with Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)
with support from the EUROPEAN UNION

“
I urge each of us to look beyond the challenges and see the transformative potential of a Nigerian democracy that embraces its entire population.
”

- Rt. Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu,
Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives



PARENTS OF SLAIN TWO-YEAR-OLD AND MAIMED CHILD DRAG NDLEA BEFORE HOUSE

~ By Chooks Oko ~



It was an emotional and heart-wrenching scene penultimate week, when the parents of two siblings appeared before the House Committee on Public Petitions, accusing the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) of killing their two-year-old son and failing to take meaningful action since the incident.

The tragic event occurred in Asaba, Delta State, during a failed NDLEA operation in August 2023, with the parents claiming the agency had done little to address the matter since then.

Omhonria Okogbe Fidelis, the father of the slain child, recounted the heartbreaking incident that took the life of his son, **Ivan Onosereba**, and left his younger son, **Baruch Eromonsele**, who was only a few months old at the time, with a severely damaged left eye. The children were inside their home when

they were struck by bullets fired during the NDLEA operation.

Fidelis explained to the committee that, ever since the incident, nothing concrete had come from the agency. He stated that he and his family had been left to battle on their own to save the sight of his surviving son.

"Ever since then, nothing concrete has come from the Agency to us. We have been battling to save the sight of my surviving son on my own," Fidelis told the Committee, his voice heavy with emotion.

In response to the family's claims, the NDLEA asserted that an agreement had been reached to compensate the family with twenty-five million naira, with five million naira already paid. However, Omhonria quickly rebutted this assertion, expressing disbelief at the agency's statement. He explained that after the incident, the Chairman of the NDLEA, General Marwa, had personally called him to commiserate and promised to send him a personal gift. He further explained that, in the aftermath, he had received five million naira but had never been formally contacted by anyone from the NDLEA since the tragic event.

The NDLEA's lawyer then revealed that a draft agreement had been prepared, but

was still awaiting the family's signature. This prompted an angry outburst from committee members, who saw it as an attempt by the agency to obscure key facts.

The Chairman of the Committee, **Rep. Mike Etaba** (APC, Cross River), adjourned the sitting, instructing the NDLEA to ensure that their Chairman would be present at the next session.

At the following session, the NDLEA, now represented by their Director of Legal Services, admitted that no formal agreement had been reached with the family. However, they confirmed that the

officer responsible for the shooting had been dismissed and was facing trial.

A visibly angered Chairman Etaba expressed his disappointment, wondering why public officers could not live up to the demands of their office. He then invited the parties to his office, suggesting that alternative dispute resolution mechanisms be used to facilitate an amicable settlement.

The public hearing will resume once the parties have reached a workable agreement. Negotiations are currently ongoing.





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A PUBLIC ENLIGHTENMENT SERIES BY GREEN CHAMBER, NIGERIA

7 STEPS TO LAWMAKING IN NIGERIA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Section 4 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic, 1999 (As amended) vests the legislative powers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the National Assembly, which consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

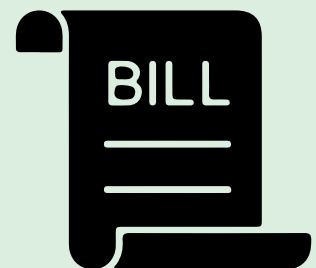
As stipulated in Sub-section (2), *"the National Assembly shall have power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Federation or any part thereof with respect to any matter included in the Exclusive Legislative List."*

In this edition of Periscope, we unveil 7 Steps to Lawmaking in Nigeria's National Assembly

● Step 1: First Reading (Introduction)

A Bill sponsored by a Member or from the Executive, is formally introduced in the House of Representatives or Senate.

The Clerk of the House of Representatives or Senate reads out the short title of the Bill, only. (No debate, just notification to members)





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7 STEPS TO LAWMAKING IN NIGERIA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

- **Step 2: Second Reading (Debate)**



A General debate on the principles of the bill.

Members discuss the bill's merits and vote is taken to move it to the Committee stage.





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7 STEPS TO LAWMAKING IN NIGERIA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

• Step 3: Committee Stage (Hearing)

The relevant Standing Committee does a detailed examination of the bill.

It does this by holding a public hearing to hear expert opinions and harness public inputs. The Committee thereafter makes amendments and recommendations





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- **Step 4: Report Stage
(Presentation and Consideration)**



The relevant Committee presents its report from the Hearing on the floor of the House or Senate.

The report is then reviewed with additional debate, and further modifications may be made to the revised version of the bill.





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7 STEPS TO LAWMAKING IN NIGERIA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

● Step 5: Third Reading

A final debate (usually a synopsis of its general principles) is done on the bill with no further amendments following a presentation by the Leader of the House or Senate.

A final vote is thereafter taken to pass the bill by the Chamber (House or Senate).





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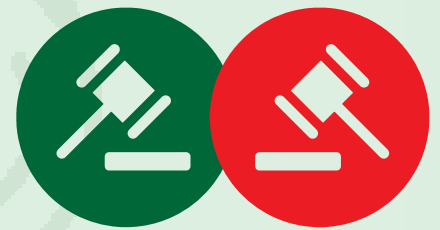
A PUBLIC ENLIGHTENMENT SERIES BY GREEN CHAMBER, NIGERIA

7 STEPS TO LAWMAKING IN NIGERIA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

● Step 6: Concurrence

The bill is sent to the other Chamber (House or Senate) for consideration in a process known as Concurrence.

If successful, the bill is considered passed by the National Assembly, and a final (clean) copy is prepared by the Clerk to the National Assembly (CNA).





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7 STEPS TO LAWMAKING IN NIGERIA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

• Step 7: Presidential Assent



A clean copy of the bill is sent to the President for it to be signed into law.

The President is expected to **give his approval to the bill within the next 30 days**. Once signed, the bill becomes an Act of Parliament and will be officially incorporated into the body of laws.

If the President declines assent (veto), the bill returns to the National Assembly



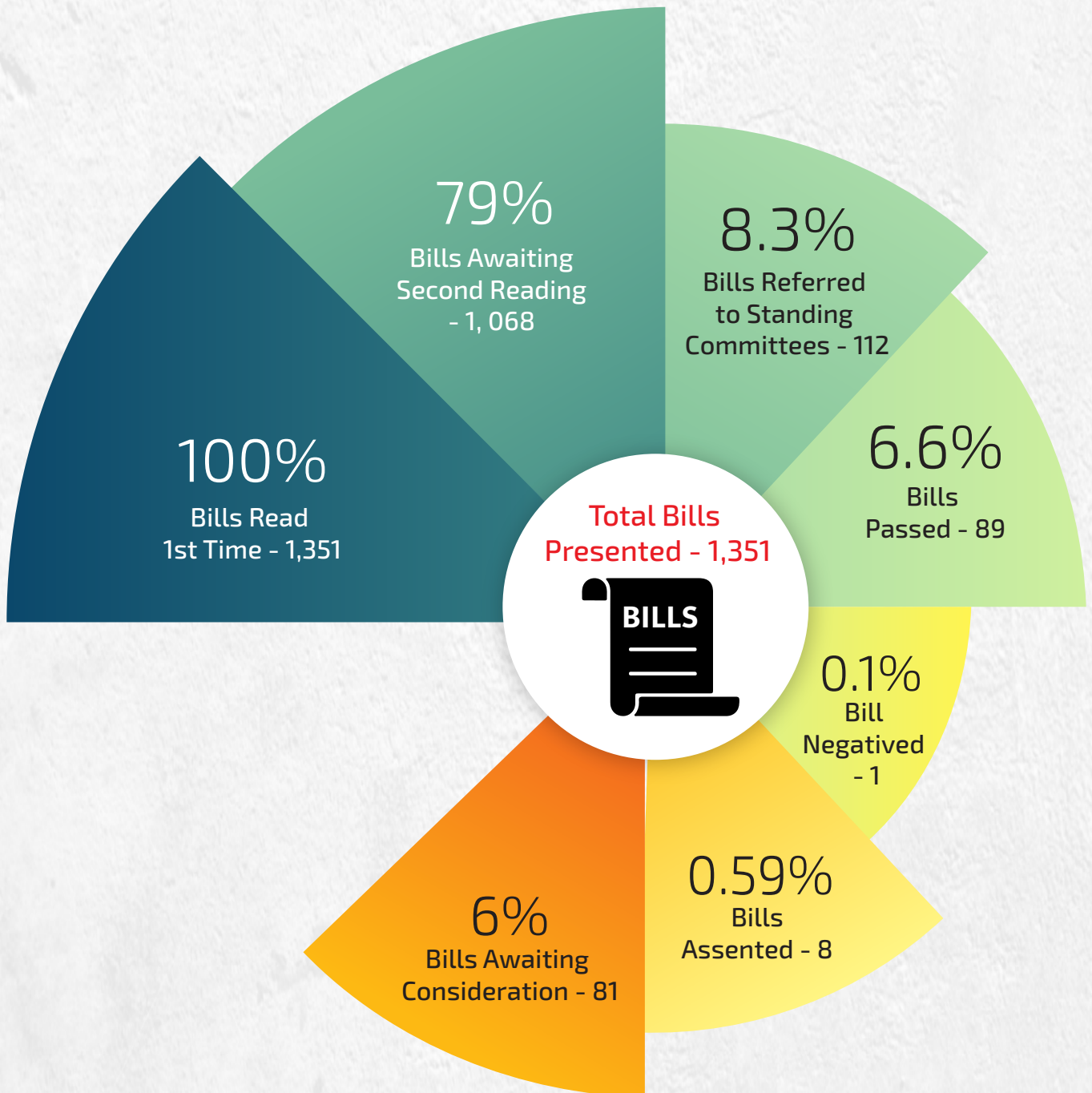
From introduction to presidential assent, these are the 7 steps a bill follows to become law in Nigeria. However, the processes are slightly different for an Appropriation Bill (Budget) or a Constitution Alteration Bill.



HOUSE DIARY

LEGISLATIVE OUTPUTS OF THE 10TH ASSEMBLY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (LAWMAKING)

JUNE 13, 2023 - JUNE 13, 2024



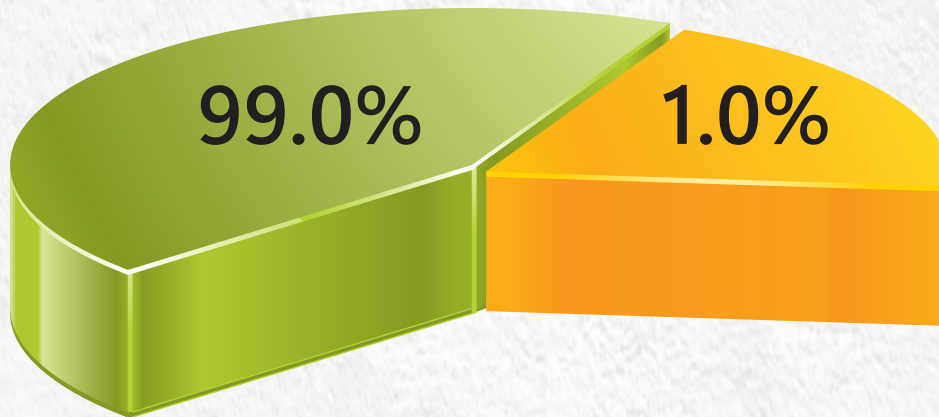
**1,351 BILLS WERE INTRODUCED
THE HIGHEST NUMBER IN ANY FIRST SESSION SINCE 1999**



HOUSE **D**ARY

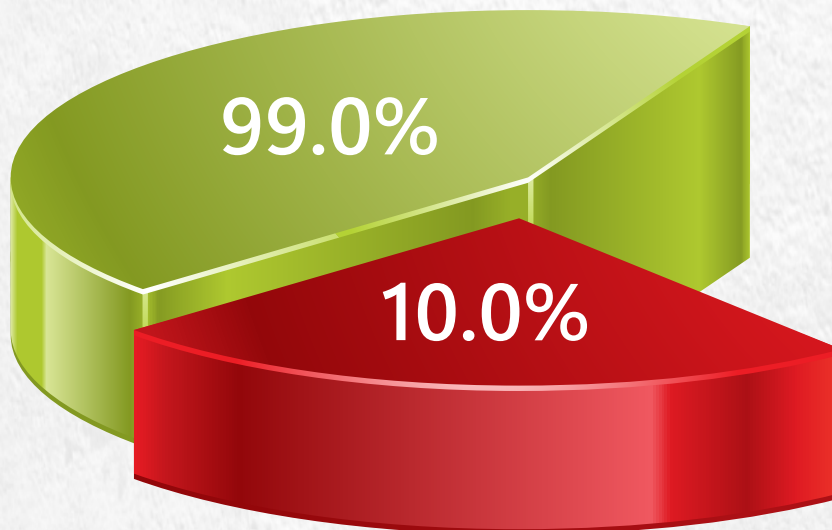
LEGISLATIVE OUTPUTS OF THE 10TH ASSEMBLY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (LAWMAKING) JUNE 13, 2023 - JUNE 13, 2024

**1,351 BILLS WERE INTRODUCED
THE HIGHEST NUMBER IN ANY FIRST SESSION SINCE 1999**



Members' Bills	1,339	99.0%
Executive Bills	12	1.0%

89 OUT OF THE 1,351 BILLS WERE PASSED



Members' Bills Passed	80	99.0%
Executive Bills Passed	9	10.0%

● **Assented Bills Processed by the 10th House of Representatives**

JUNE 13, 2023 - JUNE 13, 2024

1. Supplementary Appropriation Act, 2023
2. Appropriation Act, 2024
3. Cybercrimes (Prohibition, Prevention, etc.) (Amendment) Act, 2024
4. Student Loans (Access to Higher Education) Act, 2024
5. Electricity Act (Amendment) Act, 2024
6. Federal Capital Territory Statutory Appropriation Act, 2024
7. Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, 2024
8. National Anthem Act, 2024

● **Key Bills Passed include:**

JUNE 13, 2023 - JUNE 13, 2024

1. **Electricity Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, which aims to enhance the efficiency and sustainability of Nigeria's electricity sector by promoting investment in renewable energy sources.
2. **Federal Audit Service Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, strengthens financial oversight and transparency, ensuring better management of public funds and reducing corruption.
3. **Administration of Criminal Justice Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023**, which modernises the criminal justice system to ensure fairer trials and better protection of human rights.
4. **The Federal Fire and Rescue Service Bill, 2023**, which enhances the capabilities of fire and rescue services, improving public safety and emergency response.
5. **The Oath Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023**, revises procedures for oaths of office to promote accountability among public officials and good governance.
6. **The Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons Bill, 2023**, which addresses the proliferation of small arms, aiming to improve national security and reduce violence.

7. The Niger Delta Development Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which focuses on enhancing development initiatives in the Niger Delta and promoting environmental sustainability and economic growth.

8. The Nigerian Medical Research Council (Establishment) Bill, 2023, which supports advancements in medical research, improving healthcare delivery, and tackling public health challenges.

9. South East Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2023, which establishes a framework for regional development, addresses infrastructure deficits, and promotes socio-economic growth in the South East.

Despite the high volume of bills introduced and passed in the first session, the leadership of the 10th House remains committed to legislative effectiveness.

● **Other Notable Bills include:**

1. Nigeria Hunters and Forest Security Service (Establishment) Bill, 2023
2. Armed Forces Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023
3. National Assembly Library Trust Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024
4. Judicial Office Holders (Salaries and Allowances, etc.) Bill, 2024
5. Traditional Complementary and Alternative Medicine Council of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2023.
6. The Mandatory Inclusion of Teachings on Breast and Cervical Cancers into the Curriculum of All Senior Secondary Schools in Nigeria Bill, 2023
7. Mandatory Inclusion of Preventive Measures and Teachings on Sexual Gender-Based Violence into the Curriculum of All Levels of Secondary Schools in Nigeria Bill, 2023;
8. Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2023
9. National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO) (Establishment) Bill, 2023
10. South-East Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2023
11. National Research and Innovation Council (Establishment) Bill, 2023
12. Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

Called from: Performance Report of the First Session of the 10th House of Representatives (July 2024)



REPS CONSTITUTE TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEES TO ASCERTAIN INDEBTEDNESS OF NNPC, OTHERS TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

■ By Temidayo Taiwo-Sidiq ■

The House of Representatives' Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has constituted two sub-committees to investigate the indebtedness of the Nigerian National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Limited and other stakeholders in the oil and gas industry to the Federation Account.

This decision was made on Monday following a directive from the PAC Chairman, **Rep. Bamidele Salam (PDP, Osun)**, in response to issues raised in the 2021 Report of the Auditor-General of the Federation. The report highlighted concerns regarding the Nigeria Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), which had three major queries regarding outstanding payments and deductions. The issues raised in the Auditor-General's report include:

- Outstanding royalties due from NNPC-COMF MCA/PSC totalling \$253,952,693.07.

- Unjustified deductions from joint venture royalties by NNPC before remitting to the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), now NUPRC, totalling \$204,853,744,047.39.

- Outstanding royalties on oil, gas, concession rentals, and gas flaring payable by operators to the Federation Account, totalling \$2,260,448,992.45 and N48,216,163,192.67, among other items.

Responding to the issue of outstanding royalties, the NUPRC Chief Executive, Engr. Gbenga Komolafe, explained that by December 31, 2021, \$224.3 million of the outstanding debt from NNPC had been paid, leaving a balance of \$29.6 million. He further stated that the NUPRC had sent several demand notices to the NNPC and even escalated the matter to the Honourable Minister of Finance, but had yet to receive resolution.

Engr. Komolafe also outlined the NUPRC's revenue collection strategy, which includes the application of fines and penalties under the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021. However, he noted the agency's cautious approach, acknowledging the volatility of the oil industry and Nigeria's economic reliance on oil revenues. He emphasised that while sanctions would be enforced, the NUPRC would continue to operate within the law and uphold best corporate governance practices.

Members of the Public Accounts Committee, however, called on the NUPRC to provide proof that the alleged uncollected revenues, as noted by the Auditor-General, had been recovered since the end of the 2021 financial year.

In response, the PAC unanimously agreed to establish two technical

sub-committees to investigate the state of indebtedness of NNPC and other oil and gas operators to the Federation Account. The sub-committees, which will be chaired by **Rep. Jeremiah Umaru (APC, Nasarawa)**, Deputy Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, and **Rep. Olusola Fatoba (APC, Ekiti)**, are expected to report back in two weeks with their findings for further action.

During his remarks, Rep. Salam assured all parties involved that the Committee would handle the hearings with fairness and transparency. As a body with investigative responsibilities, the Committee will provide ample opportunities for defence through open hearings before drawing any conclusions or making final pronouncements.



COMMITTEE WATCH

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEES

Period of Announcement: October, 2024



**Rep. Abubakar
Sulaiman Gumi
(APC, Zamfara)**
Chairman, House
Committee on
North West
Development
Commission (NWDC)



**Rep. Yakubu Sani
Alhaji (APC, Sokoto)**
Deputy Chairman,
House Committee on
North West Development
Commission (NWDC)



**Rep. Chris Nkwonta
(APC, Abia)**
Chairman, House
Committee on South
East Development
Commission (SEDC)



**Rep. Paul Sunday
Nnamchi (LP, Enugu)**
Deputy Chairman, House
Committee on South
East Development
Commission (SEDC)



**Rep. Olawale
Tasir Raji
(APC, Lagos)**
Chairman, House
Committee on Livestock
Development



**Rep. Solomon Wombo
(APC, Benue)**
Deputy Chairman, House
Committee on Livestock
Development

COMMITTEE WATCH

Period of Announcement: October, 2024



Rep. Muhammed Muktar (APC, Jigawa)
Chairman, House Committee on Tourism



Rep. Daniel Asama Ago (LP, Plateau)
Deputy Chairman, House Committee on Tourism

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MINOR CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP OF HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEES



Rep. Oluwatimilehin Adelegbe (APC, Ondo)
Chairman, House Committee on Science Research Institutions



Rep. Shehu Nasiru (APC, Sokoto)
Deputy Chairman, House Committee on Science Research Institutions



Rep. Kabiru Ahmadu Mai Palace (PDP, Zamfara)
Chairman, House Committee on Sports



Rep. Osi Kama Nkemkanma (LP, Ebonyi)
Chairman, House Committee on Climate Change

COMMITTEE WATCH

Period of Announcement: October, 2024



Rep. Zacharias David Idris (APC, Kogi)
Chairman, House Committee on Safety, Standards and Regulations



Rep. Anayo Befford Onwuegbu (PDP, Enugu)
Chairman, House Committee on Lake Chad



Rep. Ibrahim Mohammed (PDP, Yobe)
Deputy Chairman, House Committee on Culture and Creative Economy

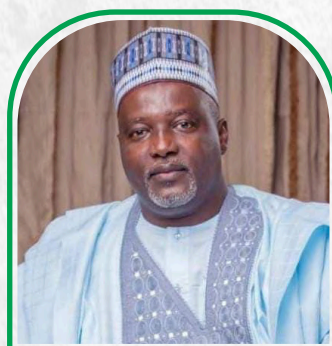


Rep. Sani Nazifi (APC, Jigawa)
Chairman, House Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Rep. Adamu Ibrahim Gamawa (APC, Bauchi)
Deputy Chairman, House Committee on FCT Judiciary

NEW CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



Rep. Ahmed Idris Wase (APC, Plateau)
Chairman, Conference Committee on the North Central Development Commission Bill, 2024

COMMITTEE ENGAGEMENTS PHOTO GALLERY

Wednesday, November 6, 2024

House Committee on Renewable Energy Hosts Two-Day Investigative Hearing



The hearing is focused on investigating the activities of Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) in relation to investment, procurement, and receipt of grants for the development of the renewable energy sector from 2015 to present.

Photo Credit: Office of Rep. Muktar Tolani Shagaya

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NAVY HOLDS MEETING TO STRENGTHEN OVERSIGHT AND IMPROVE NAVY EFFICIENCY

Thursday, November 7, 2024



The meeting underscored the Committee's dedication to strengthening the Navy's operational capabilities and its critical role in safeguarding the nation's security and contributing to national prosperity.

■ **Photo Credit:** Office of Rep. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON COMPREHENSIVE POLICE REFORMS FOR REBUILDING NIGERIA'S INTERNAL SECURITY

Thursday, November 7 - Friday, November 8, 2024



The 2-day Workshop organised by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) in collaboration with the House of Representatives focused on actionable strategies to strengthen accountability, transparency, and effectiveness in law enforcement. The shared insights and collaborative efforts are expected to serve as a vital blueprint for driving essential reforms.

■ **Photo Credit:** Office of Rep. Muktar Tolani Shagaya

RETREAT FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S JOINT SENATE COMMITTEE ON TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS, TETFUND, AND HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT LOANS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCING

Friday, November 8, 2024



The event focused on addressing critical issues surrounding educational funding and student support in Nigeria, providing a platform for robust discussions on enhancing educational policies and funding mechanisms.



Stakeholders at the retreat, held in collaboration with the Nigerian Education Loan Fund (NELFUND), explored innovative strategies to improve access to higher education and ensure sustainable financing solutions.

■ Photo Credit: Office of Rep. Muktar Tolani Shagaya

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