



LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

of the 10th Senate
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC
OF NIGERIA
2023 - 2027





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PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE 10TH SENATE



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ACRONYMS

AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Agreements
BHCPF	Basic Healthcare Provision Funds
CON	Commander of the Order of the Niger
CRF	Consolidated Revenue Fund
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EFCC	Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
EPSRA	Electric Power Sector Reform Act
FCT	Federal Capital Territory
GCON	Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger
GEO	Gender and Equality Opportunity
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INEC	Independent National Electoral Commission
NABTEB	National Business and Technical Examinations Board
NASC	National Assembly Service Commission
NASS	National Assembly
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NCAA	Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority
NCCPRS	National Climate Change Policy and Response Strategy
NEOC	National Electoral Offences Commission
NERC	Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission
NERDC	Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council

NESREA	National Environmental Standards and Regulation Enforcement Agency
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NIWA	National Inward Waterways Authority
NPA	Nigerian Ports Authority
NREEEP	National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy
NSCDC	National Security and Civil Defence Corps
NSERP	National Social and Economic Recovery Programme
NSSEC	National Senior Secondary Education Commission
NYSC	National Youth Service Corps
OOSC	Out-of-School Children
PCC	Public Complaints Commission
PFA	Pension Funds Administration
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
REC	Resident Electoral Commission
SAA	Sergeant-At-Arms
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SIEC	State Independent Electoral Commission
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UBE	Universal Basic Education
UBEC	Universal Basic Education Commission
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

MISSION STATEMENT



As the President of the 10th Senate of Nigeria, I am honoured to lead a legislative body dedicated to the principles of democracy, justice, and national development. My mission is to champion a legislative agenda that drives national development, promotes social equity, and upholds democratic values. I am committed to creating a legislative environment that not only meets the immediate needs of our citizens but also lays a sustainable foundation for future generations.

The Legislative Agenda of the 10th Senate is guided by a commitment to transparency, accountability, and inclusivity, to foster a society where every Nigerian can thrive. We are also committed to enacting laws that foster economic prosperity and enhance public safety. Through diligent oversight, we will hold the government accountable, ensuring transparency and integrity in all public affairs.

Our legislative efforts will prioritize the well-being of all Nigerians by fostering collaboration within the National Assembly and with citizens and our constituents. We will build a responsive, inclusive, and effective legislative body that works tirelessly for the progress and unity of our great nation.”

The Legislative Agenda of the 10th Senate is ambitious, as it must be, for we face complex challenges and unprecedented opportunities. As we embark on this legislative session, let us do so with a spirit of collaboration and a commitment to integrity. The work ahead will be challenging, but I am confident that through respectful dialogue and earnest effort, we can achieve great things.



Together, the 10th Senate will strive to build a nation that is more just, more equitable, and more resilient. Nigerians deserve nothing less!

God bless the 10th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Sen. Godswill Obot Akpabio

President of the 10th Senate

SECTION

A

BACKGROUND

1.0 BACKGROUND

Nigeria's National Assembly stands out as the marked difference between democracy and dictatorship. The Senate is one of the two arms of the National Assembly with the House of Representatives as its counterpart. The powers of both legislative houses are well recognised in Part II section 4 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999. The Constitution provides for the National Assembly's powers to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Federation or any part thereof with respect to matters clearly spelt out in the Exclusive List and well identified matters in the Concurrent Legislative List. The Senate is also charged with additional higher powers of approving or confirming appointments or nominations made by the Executive arm of government with respect to certain positions. Distinctions are clearly spelt out in the Constitution regarding the extent of legislative powers at the national level and powers reserved under the concurrent Legislative List for State Houses of Assembly. This in some ways spells out the definition of Nigeria's Federal nature.

The Senate inaugurated on 13th June 2023 is referred to as the 10th Senate for Nigeria. It consists of 109 Members, with equal representation of three lawmakers from each of the 36 States of the Federation. The Federal Capital territory (FCT) is represented by one Senator. The 10th Senate is led by Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio, GCON as President and Senator Jibrin Ibrahim Barau, CON as Deputy President. There are eight other Principal Officers of the Senate, which constitute leadership of the Senate. Within two months of its inauguration, the Senate constituted its Committees and they have since set out to work.

At a two-day leadership retreat of the 10th Senate, the decision was taken to pursue the goal of delivering an agenda to guide the Senate and enable it respond to citizens' expectations. This Legislative Agenda identifies the crucial areas and direction that will enable the Senate deliver on good governance, national socio-economic growth and development, and meet citizens' expectations.

Together with the House of Representatives, the Senate's Legislative Agenda is put together to match the **Renewed Hope Agenda** of the Executive arm of government.

To this end, the following priority areas are identified in the Legislative Agenda of the Senate –

1. Good Governance

- a. Rule of Law, Due Process and Human Rights.
- b. Tackling Corruption.
- c. Enhanced Executive-Legislative Engagement.

2. Improving National Assembly Delivery Processes

- a. Internal and External Communications.
- b. Senate-House of Representatives Synergy and Collaboration and Enhancement of intra and inter Committees' Engagements
- c. Enhanced NASS Working Conditions and Welfare.
- d. Building Modern and Technologically-enhanced Legislature, including E-Parliament.

- e. Invoking constitutional powers of NASS to make laws, carry out oversight and represent citizens.
- f. Open Parliament to achieve citizens' engagement and promote inclusiveness (Inclusion of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and the media.
- g. Ensuring capacity building for Senators and Legislative Support Staff with Focus on Legislative Practice, Rules and Procedures.
- h. Reform of National Assembly's Security and enhancement of powers of the Sergeants-at-Arms (SAA).

3. National Security

- a. Legislative Support for the Security Sector .
- b. Legislative Support to Counter Terrorism and Insurgency.
- c. Enforcing co-ordination and collaboration for effective use of Intelligence by Security Forces.
- d. Police Reforms for improved Policing and Protection of Citizens' Rights.

4. Law Reform

- a. Devise comprehensive response to outstanding Constitutional Reform issues.
- b. Reform of Local Government.
- c. True Federalism.
- d. Judicial and Legal System Reform.
- e. Reform of Nigeria's Electoral System and Institutions.

- 5. Enhancement of Nigeria's National Economic Development and Growth**
 - a. Prioritising ease of doing business,
 - b. Support for increased Agricultural Investments and Development.
 - c. Diversifying Nigeria's economy.
- 6. Boosting Social, Cultural Development and Reform**
 - a. Pursuit of Education Growth and Penetration.
 - b. Deepening Access to Healthcare.
 - c. Pursuit of rapid Infrastructure Provision and Development.
 - d. Reform of Pension Laws to enable citizens' access.
- 7. Representation and Participation of Women and Youths**
- 8. Legislative Support for effective Nigerian Foreign Policy**
- 9. The Climate, Environment and Sustainability**

2.0 OUR VALUES, VISION, MISSION AND OBJECTIVES



Vision Statement:

To be a transparent, accountable, and effective legislative body representing the people, fostering democratic governance, and upholding the rule of law.

Core Values:

- **Integrity:** Upholding the highest ethical standards in all legislative processes and actions.
- **Transparency:** Ensuring openness in all activities and decisions to build public trust.
- **Accountability:** Holding ourselves and others accountable for our actions and decisions.

- **Inclusivity:** Representing the diverse interests and voices of all constituents.
- **Collaboration:** Working cooperatively with the House of Representatives, the Executive, and other stakeholders to achieve common goals.
- **Respect for the Rule of Law:** Ensuring that all laws and legislative actions comply with the Constitution and legal frameworks.
- **Innovation:** Embracing new ideas and technologies to improve legislative processes and outcomes.

Mission Statement:

To enact just and effective laws, provide rigorous oversight of government actions, and represent the diverse interests of our constituents, thereby strengthening democracy and promoting the well-being of the nation.

Objectives

Legislative Excellence:

- Develop and pass high-quality, impactful legislation that addresses national priorities and challenges.
- Ensure thorough and evidence-based debate and scrutiny of all legislative proposals.

Effective Oversight:

- Conduct comprehensive oversight of the Executive to ensure accountability and transparency.

- Monitor and evaluate the implementation and impact of legislation and government policies.

Representative Governance:

- Engage with constituents regularly to understand and represent their needs and concerns.
- Foster inclusivity and ensure that minority and marginalized voices are heard and considered in legislative processes.

Enhanced Collaboration:

- Strengthen cooperation and communication with the House of Representatives and other branches of government.
- Develop joint legislative initiatives and oversight activities to enhance policy coherence and effectiveness.

Capacity Building:

- Invest in continuous professional development for Senators and staff.
- Improve the Senate's institutional capacity through better resources, technology, and support services.

Transparency and Public Engagement:

- Ensure all legislative activities are transparent and accessible to the public.
- Utilize modern communication channels to engage and inform the public about legislative processes and decisions.

3.0 OUR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

AGENDA 1

GOOD GOVERNANCE

- Rule of Law and Human Rights
- Tracking Corruption
- Executive-Legislative Engagement



IMPROVING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DELIVERY PROCESSES

- Internal & External Communications ■
- Synergy & Collaboration ■
- Welfare & Working Conditions for NASS ■
- Technology-Driven Legislature ■
- Inclusion ■
- Capacity Building for Lawmakers ■
- Enhance Security of NASS ■

AGENDA 2

AGENDA 3

NATIONAL SECURITY

- Security Sector Support
- Counter Terrorism & Counter Insurgency
- Inter-Agency Collaboration
- Police Reforms



LAW REFORM

- Constitution Reform ■
- Local Government Reform ■
- Devolution of Powers ■
- Legal System & Electoral Reforms ■

AGENDA 4



ENHANCEMENT OF NIGERIA'S NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

- Agricultural Investment & Development
- Ease-of-Doing Business

AGENDA
5

AGENDA
6

BOOSTING SOCIAL, CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM

- Education
- Healthcare
- Infrastructure
- Pension Reforms



REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND YOUTHS

- Women
- Youths
- Persons with Disabilities

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AGENDA
8

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE NIGERIAN FOREIGN POLICY

- Domestication and Ratification of Treaties
- International Cooperation
- Foreign Policies



THE CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

- Climate Change
- Renewable Energy
- Biodiversity
- Environment Protection

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4.0

AGENDA 1:

GOOD GOVERNANCE



4.1 Rule of Law, Due Process and Human Rights

The Senate recognises that the basis of Nigeria's democracy is rule of law. The principle of rule of law emphasises a nation governed by laws and requiring that everyone, person or authority is subject to rule of law. The Senate will carry out its constitutional responsibilities in a manner that emphasises accomplishment of a nation where the rule of law prevails. The Senate's powers of law making, oversight and representation will be exercised to ensure that laws are made that are fair and applicable to everyone. The Senate recognises that Nigeria's justice system and the protection of all persons under a just system of government where human rights are applied and respected is paramount. To achieve this, the Senate will take the following steps:

- i. Institute a robust oversight system that ensures that institutions of State follow due process in their operations and can be held accountable.
- ii. Review and harmonise legislation to achieve respect for rule of law, due process and human rights.

4.2 Tackling Corruption

The Senate recognises that corruption remains a major problem in Nigeria. This poses severe problems on the country's development. The Committees of the Senate will be supported to use the legislative powers of oversight to scrutinise government actions and expenditure and hold public officials and institutions to account. Agencies responsible for tackling corruption will be strengthened to deliver on citizens' expectations.

4.3 Enhanced Executive-Legislative Engagement

The Senate undertakes to maintain a relationship with the Executive through an approach that fosters collaboration, transparency, and effective communication between the Executive and the Legislature. The Senate seeks to do this through the following ways:

- i. Develop clear communication protocols to ensure that information flows efficiently between the two arms of government.
- ii. Establish regular and structured channels for dialogue with the Executive, particularly on key policy issues.
- iii. Ensure that the Senate's Legislative Agenda aligns with the Executive's policy priorities.
- iv. Reinforce a commitment to the rule of law, ensuring that both branches operate within the confines of the constitution.



AGENDA 2:

IMPROVING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DELIVERY PROCESSES



5.1 Internal and External Communications

Effective communication is important to run the activities of the legislature and also maintain:

i Internal Communications

Internal communications play a crucial role in promoting the exchange of information among Legislators, staff and the National Assembly bureaucracy, to enable well-informed decision-making. It aids in the distribution of vital information including scheduling of activities, committee and other legislative work. Strong internal communication is essential for committee members to interact, as well as share reports and recommendations on their work. To this end, the Senate will do the following:



- a. Establish an internal digital platform or intranet system for Senators and Senate staff. This platform can serve as a centralized hub for information sharing, updates, and collaborative discussions.

- b. Develop a Communications Strategy for the Senate, which outlines the procedures for internal communications.

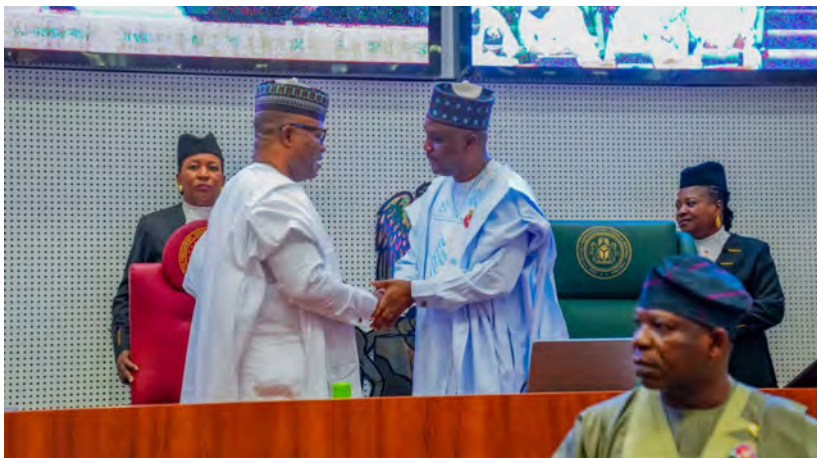
ii External Communication

It is essential for the Senate to maintain engagements with external stakeholders, such as the media, civil society organisations (CSOs) and citizens, to promote transparency, accountability and quality representation. To achieve this, the Senate will:

- a. Develop a comprehensive public relations strategy that outlines key messages, target audiences, and channels for external communication. This strategy would emphasize openness, accessibility, and accountability.
- b. Maintain an updated and user-friendly official website for the National Assembly with features such as live streaming of sessions, access to Committee reports and interactive feedback mechanism for the public.
- c. Update and actively manage its official social media accounts to share legislative updates, press releases, and generally engage with the public.
- d. Organise regular press conferences and briefings to communicate important decisions, legislative achievements, and upcoming initiatives.
- e. Actively engage in public consultations on key legislative matters, to seek public input and feedback that enhances the perception of transparency and inclusivity in the legislative process.

5.2 Senate-House of Representatives Synergy and Enhancement of intra and inter Committees' Engagements

- i. The Senate will establish regular channels for dialogue, joint committee work and shared understanding of legislative priorities, to enhance cooperation with the House of Representatives as well as facilitate intra and inter Committees' synergy between both Chambers. The purpose is to foster and achieve understanding and collaboration that produces good results for an efficient and effective National Assembly.



- ii. Develop a system of prioritization of bills with a House of Representatives that helps deliver the achievement of a legislative agenda.
- iii. Establish a common legislative agenda with the House of Representatives that enables both chambers of the National Assembly to work in collaboration and achievement of a common purpose.

- iv. Create a platform for regular meetings of the Principal Officers of the National Assembly, Leadership, Committee Chairmen and other relevant officials of the two chambers of the National Assembly to pursue the achievement of common legislative goals as outlined in the legislative agenda of both chambers.

5.3 Enhanced NASS Working Conditions and Welfare

To be efficient, the National Assembly will need to ensure that the working conditions of its members and staff are well taken care of. To this end, the Senate sets out the following:

- i. Institute capacity development programs for its members and staff.
- ii. Provide conducive working environment, infrastructure and adequate working resources to enable its effectiveness.
- iii. Provide for the construction and equipment of the National Assembly Hospital that will provide effective and comprehensive health care services.

5.4 Building Modern and Technologically-enhanced Legislature, including E-Parliament

The Senate will work to enhance its operational environment, ensuring that infrastructure is provided to support the achievement of a 21st century legislature. To this end, the Senate will take the following action:

- i. Digitise its operations with a view to achieving an e-parliament.
- ii. Embark on a systematic archiving of legislative information in

Nigeria dating from pre-colonial times to present day. Under this plan, legislative information including bills, motions, debates, committee reports, legislative proceedings etc., will be collated and organised in a systematic format that enables citizens access and holding of available information.

- iii. Support the effective take-off and operations of the National Assembly Library and ensuring access by citizens to its resources.
- iv. Establish online access to the Senate's proceedings, schedules, committee meetings and other hearings in the Senate. This will include live-streaming and webcasting of Senate sessions, committee deliberations and other proceedings in real-time to foster transparency and public participation.
- v. Establish digital tools and online platforms to enable citizens to take part in the legislative process, provide feedback, submit online petitions and participate in public interactive consultations.

5.5 Invoking constitutional powers of NASS to make laws, carry out oversight and represent citizens

The powers of the National Assembly to make laws, carry out oversight and represent its citizens is very well outlined in the constitution. To this end:

- i. The Senate will invoke its constitutionally given powers to ensure that laws are made for the good of citizens and existing laws reviewed to bring them in conformity with modern day realities. It shall be the purpose of the senate to represent the interest of citizens accordingly. The primary purpose of the Senate will be to act and make laws in the best interest of the people of Nigeria.

Existing laws will be brought in conformity with citizens' expectations and in line with democratic norms.

- ii. The Senate's power to oversight the implementation of laws and the activities of ministries, departments and agencies of government will be effectively used to ensure adequate representation of citizens' interest.
- iii. Oversight will be carried out to ensure that budgets of the National Assembly are duly implemented. Persons who violate this implementation will be brought to account.

5.6 Open Parliament to achieve Citizens' Engagement and Promote Inclusiveness (Inclusion of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and the Media



The principles of Open Parliament, which is to promote transparency, accessibility and citizens' engagement in parliamentary processes will be pursued by the Senate. The Senate will strive to be open and

transparent with decision making processes with citizens, given access to parliamentary legislative hearings, documents and information. The Senate will encourage citizens' participation in its proceedings, opening up to public hearings, civil society briefings and media engagement. The peculiar needs of persons with disability will be taken into account at all times.

The Senate will hold regular Sectoral and Thematic meetings with citizens and relevant stakeholders on various national issues over which it has legislative powers.

5.7 Ensuring Capacity Building for Senators and Legislative Support Staff on Legislative Practice, Rules and Procedures

In view of the dynamic and resilient nature of lawmaking, it is expedient that periodic capacity building programmes are organised for Senators and Legislative Support Staff with particular focus on Legislative Practice, Rules and Procedures as well as on topical issues for the Senate to be in tune and abreast with emerging national and global trends for the purpose of making laws that can stand the test of time.

Accordingly, the Senate shall be partnering with relevant stakeholders to be able to achieve this.

5.8 Reform of National Assembly's Security and Enhancement of Powers of the Sergeants-at-Arms



Security at the National Assembly is of serious national concern. The National Assembly is a symbol of the people's power and its security needs to be truly assured. At the present time, there is a multiplicity and existence of various security agencies in the National Assembly. This leaves the National Assembly open to security challenges. In collaboration with the House of Representatives, the Senate will do the following:

- i. Review and revise the current duties and responsibilities of the SAA to specifically include aspects of law enforcement, security and emergency preparedness. The National Assembly Service Commission (NASC) Act (2014) grants the SAA the powers, privileges and immunities of the police within the precinct of NASS.

- ii. Ensure the Sergeants-at-Arms personnel receive regular training on security protocols, threat assessment, and crisis management.
- iii. Invest in modern security equipment such as surveillance cameras, metal detectors, and access control systems.
- iv. Define clear emergency protocols for intruders, bomb threats, or natural disasters.
- v. Provide a sufficient budget for adequate security of the National Assembly.



6.0

AGENDA 3:

NATIONAL SECURITY



National security is a challenge, and in view of the seriousness of the situation, the 10th National Assembly will use its legislative powers of law making and oversight to achieve return of peace and restoration of security to the country.

The Senate proposes to collaborate with the House of Representatives, the Executive and other stakeholders to address Nigeria's national security challenges.

6.1 Legislative Support for the Security Sector



A key element of addressing the National Security concerns of Nigeria is to respond to the needs of the security sector. The Senate will take steps to engage with Nigeria's security institutions and agencies to understand their specific needs and use its legislative instruments to address them. Already identified needs, including funding and development of a template for the utilisation of National Budget

for the procurement of military and security equipment. Presently, procurement of military equipment and hardware is uncoordinated, leaving huge gaps in the quality and synchronisation of military equipment. The Senate will pursue the achievement of its systematic procurement process of military equipment for all of Nigeria's security agencies. The purpose will be to have a one-stop unit or agency of security that will collate all of the equipment needs of the military to achieve a common procurement system that will serve the needs of Nigeria. This will ensure the elimination of wastages and the accomplishment of a systematic process of procurement for all of Nigeria's military and defence needs.

Accordingly, the Senate will take the following actions:

- i. Enact legislations outlining a common system of procurement of military equipment for Nigeria's security sector.
- ii. Enact legislations to ensure that a common system of procurement for military equipment is managed by a specific security agency for the purpose of co-ordination, maintenance of standards, documentation and information regarding Nigeria's military and security capacity and identifying gaps and needs.
- iii. Institute a process of legislative oversight that provides independent and regular audit of the security sector, including its expenditure, procurement and operations.
- iv. Introduce legislative instruments to bring officials within the security sector to account for abuse of financial transparency and accountability policies.



6.2 Legislative Support to Counter Terrorism and Insurgency

The Senate considers the twin challenges of terrorism and insurgency as a major setback to Nigeria's national development. Accordingly, the Senate will take the following legislative actions:

- i. Review existing legislation on anti-terrorism to ensure the apprehension of suspects and prosecutions. The Senate's action will seek to support Nigeria's security agencies to respect international humanitarian laws, with every effort made to apprehend suspects and put them through a system of justice that includes prosecution in the courts. Accordingly, the military's operational systems will be required to bring suspects to justice, rather than a system that encourages extra-judicial killings. The lessons to be learnt from apprehending suspects and putting them through a system of judicial trial, offers deterrence benefits which the military will need to integrate into its operational systems.

- ii. Domesticate international conventions, particularly the ECOWAS Convention of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ammunition to regulate the possession, use and trade of small arms and light weapons, given their proliferation in Nigeria.
- iii. Create a legal framework for bringing convicts into rehabilitation and reform.
- iv. Support the establishment and/or improvement of border control and surveillance systems and promote co-operation with neighbouring countries to halt cross-border terrorism and militancy.
- v. Support the Executive to establish a system of support and compensation for victims of insecurity in Nigeria, in order to help communities recover and rebuild.
- vi. Support the Executive to create a National Social and Economic Recovery programme for communities devastated by insurgency and militancy. This will be by enactment of laws and the use of oversight powers to promote employment, local investments and skills-training.

6.3 Enforcing Co-ordination and Collaboration for Effective Use of Intelligence by Security Forces

At the present time, Nigeria's security apparatus suffers from ineffective co-ordination and collaboration on the use of intelligence by its different arms. In carrying out its legislative functions, the Senate in collaboration with the House of Representatives, will seek to enforce co-ordination and collaboration among security agencies with an emphasis on intelligence sharing.

- i. Using the powers of oversight, the Senate will regularly convene hearings with security agencies to achieve a culture and practice of intelligence sharing and collaboration amongst Nigeria's security agencies.
- ii. The Senate will expedite the passage of new laws or amendments to existing laws to achieve co-ordination and streamlining of jurisdiction and responsibility among security agencies. Amendment laws currently undergoing legislative process will be expeditiously pursued to passage particularly:
 - a. Armed Forces Act (Amendment) Bill
 - b. Police Act (Amendment) Bill
 - c. Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act (Amendment) Bill
 - d. Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act (Amendment) Bill
 - e. National Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Act (Amendment) Bill
 - f. Customs and Excise Management Act (Amendment) Bill
- iii. Encourage the development of a framework among security agencies that mandates regular inter-agency meetings, briefings and collaboration to achieve trust and understanding among the agencies.
- iv. Allocate resources through the national budgetary system for the procurement of modern intelligence tools to enhance intelligence information.
- v. Enact legislation to protect citizens' information against privacy breaches and unauthorised usage.

6.4 Police Reform

In 2020, the National Assembly passed a new Police Act for Nigeria, which was an improvement on the old 1948 Police Act inherited from British colonialists. The passage of a new Police Act in 2020 has however not sufficiently addressed the problem of policing in the country, meaning that there will be need for additional reform efforts to be made. To this end, the Senate will do the following:

- i. Review the current Police Act 2020 with a view to identifying areas of additional reforms and gaps.
- ii. The Senate will also seek to reform the Police and strengthen the framework for community policing.



- iii. The Senate will review current constitutional and legal provisions to decentralise the Police system and increase the achievement of an effective and accountable local policing system. In addition, the constitutional discussions surrounding the creation of State Police will be seriously reviewed as part of the Senate's constitution review process.

- iv. The role of the Police as the primary agency responsible for internal security will be emphasised through improved funding, training, capacity development, procurement of equipment and compliance with domestic and international human rights laws and norms.
- v. Existing laws on the funding of the Police, including the Police Trust fund Act and any other laws impacting on funding of Police will be reviewed to achieve their effectiveness and management efficiency.
- vi. The Human Rights Committee of the Senate will be mandated to create a mechanism and increase its oversight of the Police, to ensure the Police's respect for the human rights of citizens, respect for the rule of law and adherence to Nigerian and international human rights treaties, obligations and norms.

7.0

AGENDA 4:

LAW REFORM



7.1 Devise Comprehensive Response to outstanding Constitutional Reform Issues

Nigeria's present constitutional democracy has achieved nearly 25 years of uninterrupted existence. The 1999 Constitution was left behind by the military to guide the Fourth Republic. It has however continued to be controversial, given its source and identified shortcomings. Between 2010 - 2011, the first ever alteration of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution was recorded, opening the way to several other amendments that have been made. Yet, the clamour for a comprehensive, inclusive Constitution amendment remains. Some have clamoured for Federal Constitution, raising a need for certain issues to be identified, including true restructuring, resource control and fiscal federalism. The Senate commits to do the following regarding Constitution reform:

- i. Streamline and outline a clear process for Constitution reform, indicating timelines for each of the processes to complete.
- ii. Consolidate and enact into law all Constitution alterations into a single document for the purpose of ensuring proper documentation.
- iii. Identify several contentious issues and consult with stakeholders nationwide to achieve a truly progressive Constitution for Nigeria.
- iv. Address the constitutional question of the status of Local Governments under the Constitution with a view to achieving an effective Local Government system as the third tier of government.
- v. Consult and engage widely with civil society and non-governmental organisations to achieve an all-inclusive Constitution amendment effort.

- vi. Ensure that the 10th National Assembly's Constitution reform process takes off and concludes promptly within the life of the 10th National Assembly.
- vii. Review the justiciability of social and economic rights as outlined in Chapter 2 of the Constitution to determine which of the rights contained under the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy needs to be moved to Chapter 4 as a Fundamental right.
- viii. Re-open conversations around the role of Traditional Rulers and the question of whether there should be constitutionally defined roles.



- ix. Examine the suitability or otherwise of retaining the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Act, Public Complaints Commission (PCC), National Security Agencies Act and the Land Use Act.

7.2 Reform of Local Government

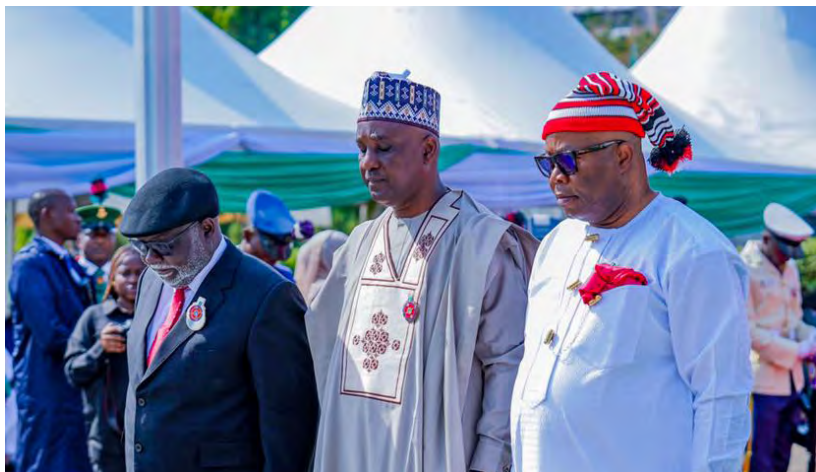
Nigeria's Local Government system has not been able to achieve the objectives as set out in the 1999 Nigerian Constitution. It has been unable to deliver development or provide for citizens at the local level. Most of its independence and functions have been subsumed by the all-powerful State Governments. To this end, the 10th Senate will, in collaboration with the House of Representatives, take steps to effect constitutional changes to achieve an effective Local Government system in the country.

- i. The Senate will pursue constitution reform to recognise Local Governments as an independent tier of government imbued with full financial and operational autonomy.
- ii. The Constitution will be altered to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of Local Government, clarifying roles for Local and State Governments and ensuring they are sufficiently independent to be effective.
- iii. The tenure of Local Government, including their elected officials will be clearly defined, unified and insulated from political interference. The system of elections at Local Government level will be reviewed with a view to establishing an independent Election Management Body, solely responsible for the conduct of Local Government elections in the country, with States involved in the creation of the body and participating in nomination of membership of the new States' Independent Electoral Commission (SIEC).

7.3 True Federalism

The 10th Senate will initiate Constitution reform that will seek to respond to the yearnings of Nigerians for a true federal system of government. The over concentration of Executive powers at the Federal level has led to concerns about a shrinking Federal system of government with large powers concentrated at the centre to the detriment of States and Local Governments. These powers as spelt out in the Exclusive Legislative List, leaving a thin Concurrent Legislative List, reflecting powers shared between the Federal and the States. The 10th Senate will review the Exclusive Legislative List dissipate, and share powers between the Federal, State and Local Governments. A proper subsidiary legislative List (of powers) will also be created. Powers will then be spread between the Federal, States and Local Governments in reformed Exclusive, Concurrent and Subsidiary Lists. Some of the items that the Senate will, in collaboration with the House of Representatives, seek to move from the Exclusive to the Concurrent List are as follows:

- i. Aviation, including airports, safety of aircraft and carriage of passengers and goods by air.
- ii. Construction, alteration and maintenance of such roads as may be declared by the National Assembly to be Federal trunk roads.
- iii. Drugs and poisons.
- iv. The formation, annulment and dissolution of marriages other than marriages under Islamic law and Customary law including matrimonial causes relating thereto.
- v. Traffic on Federal trunk roads.



7.4 Judicial and Legal System Reform

Nigeria's judicial and legal system remains a constant concern. The 10th Senate will take the following steps that seek to improve the present situation:

- i. Build confidence in Nigeria's Judiciary and judicial process and achieve quick dispensation of justice and independence of the judiciary.
- ii. Improve the process of appointment and security of tenure of judicial officers for improved quality of administration of justice.
- iii. Review Nigeria's current laws and update same to match current contemporary realities.
- iv. Work with the Executive and relevant agencies of government to review, consolidate, update and publish the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria.

- v. Ensure that budgetary provisions for the Judiciary and agencies of government responsible for legal system administration are sufficient and adequate.
- vi. Improve funding for the Judiciary in the National Budget and ensure that adequate resources are made available for the welfare of judicial officers and staff.
- vii. Support adequate funding to improve and enhance the use of technology and digitisation of court processes for the purposes of speedy and fair administration of justice.
- viii. Provide legal support to achieve increase and democratisation of courts in the country.
- ix. Ensure that all Constitution amendment processes that seek to achieve the independence of the Judiciary are fully implemented.
- x. Support the provision of budgetary allocations to adequately fund agencies of government, providing legal aid services to citizens.

7.5 Reform of Nigeria's System and Institutions

For Nigeria's Democracy to survive and thrive, its electoral system needs to be well respected. As presently operated, Nigeria's electoral system suffers from lack of citizens' trust and respect. The 10th Senate will need to respond to these shortcomings. The National Assembly already started to address the challenges of Nigeria's electoral system when it passed a new Electoral Act in 2022. Recent general elections in 2023 and some off-cycle elections that followed immediately after, have exposed gaps that the National Assembly will now need to address. The Senate will now need to do the following:

- i. Aggregate the gaps identified with the implementation of the

Electoral Act 2022, including contradictory and uncertain provisions with a view to amending relevant sections. The Senate will also need to pass law for the regulation of political parties and confer the powers to do so away from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), to an independent body.



- ii. The Senate will pass the National Electoral Offences Commission Bill that will tackle the problem of flagrant violations of the Electoral Act. The Commission will be conferred with powers to arrest electoral offenders and prosecute them using the legal process.
- iii. The method of appointment to positions in INEC, including Chairman, National Commissioners and Resident Electoral Commissioners (RECs) will need to be reviewed, to ensure elimination of partisan appointees.
- iv. The Senate will particularly review the relevance or otherwise of RECs to determine whether or not such positions should be retained.

AGENDA 5:

ENHANCEMENT OF **NIGERIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH**

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Present-day economic indices indicate a grim and uncertain economic situation for Nigeria. Data from the National Bureau of Statistics, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and several other economic agencies from around the world do not show a brilliant economic growth for the country. Several of the data point out the need for major financial reforms for Nigeria. Revenues are dwindling while public expenditure management appears to require more efficient management and direction.

8.1 Prioritising Ease of Doing Business

The efficiency of government in running business has been proven to be low. Supporting private enterprise and encouraging private initiatives as key drivers of development is the direction to go. A key element in achieving this is support for the existence of a conducive environment for the thriving of private business initiatives. Accordingly, the Senate will do the following:

- i. Review existing laws that hamper business registration and take steps to improve efficiency and eliminate bureaucratic red tape.
- ii. Reform Nigeria's tax regime in a manner that encourages innovation, start-ups and new businesses that have the potential to create employment and export growth.
- iii. Use legislative instruments of law-making and oversight to curtail the excesses and arbitrariness of government agencies, including policies and actions that impact on the ease of doing business in Nigeria.
- iv. Enact laws that support a more transparent, well-funded and robust capital market to make the market more attractive to domestic and international investors.

- v. Streamline legislation impacting on Nigeria's taxation system, with a view to eliminating multiple taxation and providing incentives for sectors critical to national development and growth.
- vi. Set up special economic zones with attractive incentives to draw in international investors.
- vii. Enact laws that protect foreign investors, ensuring that their investments are safe and guaranteeing repatriation of profits.

8.2 Support for Increased Agricultural Investments and Development

Agricultural investments in Nigeria have taken a dip. The multiple challenges of insecurity, poor funding and lack of incentives meant that investments in agricultural development in Nigeria is imperilled. Agriculture in Nigeria is a major source of employment, particularly in rural communities. This fact is however challenged by the high level of insecurity across the country and local communities and farms folding up in fear of violence and insecurity. Even industrial agriculturists interested in large scale and mechanized farming are not saved from the challenge of insecurity in the country. The Senate is fully cognisant of these challenges and intends to take legislative action to support reforms in the following manner:

- i. Engage the executive arm of government and the various national security agencies to agree on a national security framework that will protect farmers and achieve a return to the farmlands by local and industrial farmers.
- ii. Through the instrument of law making and oversight, carry out a review of the various policies impacting on farmers and their



ability to assess credit, loans, subsidies, training or mechanised equipment, with a view to eliminating encumbrances and challenges.

- iii. Embark on a more robust oversight system that ensures that banks and financial institutions responsible for providing low-interest loans to farmers deliver on their mandate and on the expectations of farmers.
- iv. Use the legislative tool of oversight to institute or where they already exist, ensure that safety nets are provided to protect farmers and their farming businesses from losses occasioned by natural disasters, disease infestations and other unexpected losses and market volatility.
- v. Implement oversight activities to ensure that agricultural institutions and agencies of government responsible for research and development of agricultural seeds deliver same to farmers at affordable costs. The Senate will also ensure that agricultural input including fertilisers and pesticides, as well as machineries

- vi. Establish standards for agricultural products to meet both local and international markets.
- vii. Collaborate with the Executive to review import policies to protect local farmers from cheap imports that can undermine local production.

- i. Take legislative action to achieve diversification of Nigeria's economy with a focus on reducing dependence on oil and increasing development in other sectors across Nigeria, such as mineral resource mining, manufacturing, agro-processing, textile, tourism and technology and general services.
- ii. Utilise the instrument of legislation to reform public-private partnerships in the areas of infrastructure development, investment projects and service delivery.
- iii. Undertake a comprehensive review of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), the opportunities for Nigeria and how the agreement can expand Nigeria's economic reach and growth within the continent.
- iv. Legislate a comprehensive, long-term national infrastructure development plan covering transport, energy, ICT, and other key sectors.
- v. Strengthen intellectual property laws to encourage innovation and protect inventors.
- vi. Develop policies that enhance Nigeria's export potential and reduce unnecessary imports.

AGENDA 6:

BOOSTING SOCIAL, **CULTURAL** **DEVELOPMENT** **REFORM**

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9.1 Pursuit of Educational Growth and Penetration

Nigeria's educational system needs serious revamping. In recent years, the prioritisation of the growth of education was reduced. The 10th Senate will utilise the legislative instrument of law making and oversight to drive an uptrend in the growth and development of education in Nigeria. The challenge of education in the country cuts across, from poor attendance in schools, to dropouts and poor quality of education. The Senate will take legislative action to expand the achievement of Universal Basic Education (UBE), promote Almajiri and Technical education in the country, reduce low girl child enrolment in schools and encourage the return of boys to school in certain parts of the country.

Efforts to make the constitutional provision on education a fundamental right will be revisited. Reforming the education sector is a crucial step towards achieving sustainable development and improving the quality of life for all Nigerians.

The Senate will implement some of the following tailored legislative measures:

i. Universal Basic Education

- a. Amend the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) Act 2004 to increase the share of the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) allocated to UBEC from 2% to 4%. The goal is to ensure that the allocation to education meets the recommended benchmark by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(UNESCO) of 15-20% share of the total national budget.

- b. Enact a law that promotes the education of children with special needs, ensuring they have access to quality education in inclusive settings.
- c. Prioritise resource allocation to basic and secondary institutions and agencies.



ii. Secondary Education

- a. Work with the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) to support the review and update of the national curricula to meet global standards and respond to the specific needs of Nigeria.
- b. Support the Executive to improve teachers' remuneration and welfare and attract the best talents.
- c. Increase budgetary allocation for school infrastructure, facilities and technology integration.

- d. Ensure that funds are provided to school safety and security through basic facilities like fencing, gates, lighting, and communication equipment to provide early and secondary warning to students and security agencies.
- e. Ensure robust oversight of the recently established National Senior Secondary Education Commission (NSSEC) to reposition our Secondary School graduates for global competitiveness and intervene in critical areas such as infrastructure deficit, human capacity development and instructional materials.

iii. Technical Education

Reforming and modernizing the technical education system is pivotal for equipping students with the skills required to thrive in the modern era and contribute effectively to Nigeria's economic growth. Existing laws will be amended or introduced if necessary to improve Nigeria's technical and vocational school system. Some legislative priorities of the Senate are:

- a. Work with the National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB) to update the technical education curriculum to align with industry needs, ensuring students learn relevant skills. The curriculum will be tailored to address local challenges and opportunities.
- b. Ensure the new curricula integrate entrepreneurship modules to enable students to start their ventures.
- c. Ensure integration of emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, robotics, and renewable energy into the curriculum.

- d. Allocate funds to improve existing infrastructure, recruit qualified instructors, and train existing ones.
- e. Provide more funding for the needed infrastructure: modern laboratories, workshops, and equipment.
- f. Strengthen and expand TVET programs to equip students with practical skills for the job market.
- g. Work with the Executive to amend the Students Loan (Access to Higher Education) Act, 2023, to include the provision of scholarships and financial aid for students pursuing technical education.
- h. Encourage private sector involvement in funding, curriculum development and providing resources for technical education.

iv. Almajiri and Out-of-School Children Education

The Almajiri education system in Nigeria has faced several challenges over the years, particularly concerning the welfare and well-being of the children involved. It has also been associated with child begging, maltreatment, and lack of access to formal education. Furthermore, the number of out-of-school children is significantly high, especially in the northern part of the country. The Senate will address both issues through a multifaceted approach that includes:

- a. Support the full take-off of the newly established National Commission for Almajiri and Out-of-School Children Education (OOSC).
- b. Ensure the integration of Qur'anic and formal education to encourage children to acquire basic literacy and numeracy

skills.

- c. Support the development of a curriculum incorporating formal education, skills acquisition and vocation training in the Almajiri system.
- d. Support establishing standardised and well-equipped Almajiri schools and ensure regular inspection and accreditation.
- e. Engage religious and community leaders in these campaigns to give our legislative measures in this regard more credibility and acceptance.
- f. Ensure that social intervention programmes of government are tailored to address underlying issues like poverty, which is a significant factor contributing to the Almajiri system and the high number of out-of-school children.
- g. Undertake oversight of the National Commission for Almajiri Education and Out-of-School Children.

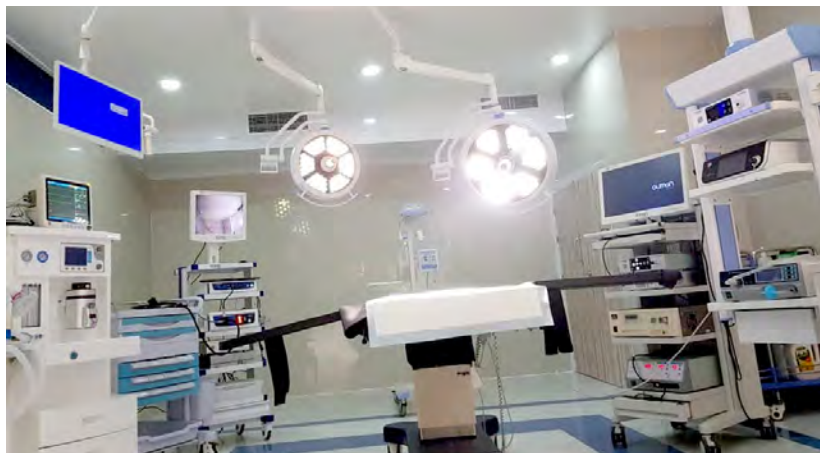
v. Return Street Children to School

Generally, across the country, there are concerns about children being out of school for one sociological reason or the other. In some parts of the country, there are lots of out-of-school girl children and in others, out-of-school boy children. The Senate will mandate its relevant Committees to study this phenomenon of out-of-school children (boys and girls). Educating our citizens must be all-inclusive.

9.2 Deepening Access to Healthcare

Nigeria's healthcare system is faced with challenges that make it difficult for easy access to healthcare by citizens generally and the poor particularly. Limited healthcare has meant that citizens suffer incredibly and very often resort to unreliable, unverified local herbal options. Previous efforts to modernize Nigeria's healthcare sector and create access to medical care by all has not yet yielded needed results. This is an issue of serious concern for the Senate. Accordingly, the Senate will take legislative action to address the challenges, as follows:

- i. Review the current budgeting system to achieve and even exceed recommended budget ratios for the health sector, which according to the Abuja Declaration, is 15 % of the national budget.
- ii. Amend the National Health Act to increase funding for the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF) from 1% to at least 2% of the Consolidated Revenue Fund to tackle prevalent deficiencies in healthcare resources and infrastructure.
- iii. Through appropriation to government institutions responsible for study and research in tropical diseases, traditional medicine, vaccine development, innovative treatment modalities, achieve increased research in the health sector.
- iv. Focus on improving access to primary healthcare services, especially in rural and underserved areas.
- v. Ensure a Universal Health Insurance System to guarantee all citizens' access to affordable healthcare and expand the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), to achieve nationwide coverage of a broader range of services and ensure efficient operation.



- vi. Promote legislation to facilitate the adoption and integration of new healthcare technology, such as electronic health records, telemedicine, and remote patient monitoring.
- vii. Legislative action will be taken to improve the recruitment, training and retention of healthcare professionals, including doctors, nurses and other allied healthcare workers.
- viii. Strengthen the regulatory bodies overseeing the health sector to ensure adherence to global best practices.
- ix. Review laws related to public health concerns such as sanitation, vaccination, and disease control.
- x. Introduce measures to ensure universal access to healthcare and nutrition services, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as medical and psychosocial care for survivors of sexual and gender- based violence and harmful practices.

9.3 Pursuit of rapid Infrastructure Provision and Development

Nigeria has lagged behind its rising population in infrastructural development. With a population approximating the quarter of a billion, Nigeria's infrastructural development is deficient. The challenges of electricity and power supply, poor road networks and undeveloped rail transportation system, poor aviation services, as well as the decaying seaport system, the country has a long way to go to meet what is required for a modern day nation. The 10th Senate will take various legislative steps to address the articulated problems.

i. The Power Sector

Power is key to any development in the country. Nigeria presently utilizes under 4,000 megawatts of power. This is grossly inadequate for a country of the size of Nigeria or for any country seeking high technological attainments. Power and energy are the engine for growth. Industries, businesses and private homes are seriously affected and impacted on by inadequate power supply in the country. The 10th Senate will take specific action to begin to address this problem.



- a. Review and strengthen existing legal frameworks, including the Electric Power Sector Reform Act (EPSRA) and the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), to reflect current realities.
- b. Prioritise investments in the transmission and distribution infrastructure to reduce technical and non-technical losses.
- c. Decentralise energy production by promoting off-grid solutions, especially in rural areas where grid connectivity is challenging.
- d. Scrutinise the current electricity tariff system in the country, to ensure fairness and equity.
- e. Adopt legislative measures to promote renewable energy through tax incentives, grants, etc., for investments in renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and hydro.
- f. Mandate regular and transparent audits of all entities in the energy sector to curb corruption.

ii. The Road Transportation

Nigeria's road transportation system will need to be well plotted and charted to deliver on mobility and creating access for businesses and citizens' movements. At the present time, the road network has not been plotted to achieve ease of movement or promote business. To this end, the Senate will take the following actions:

- a. Support the finalisation of a comprehensive National Transport Policy that outlines the vision, goals, and strategies for developing the sector in line with current realities.

- b. Increase budgetary allocations for construction of new roads connecting States, maintenance of existing ones and upgrading their status.



- c. Encourage reduction on tariffs and import duties on buses for mass transportation.
- d. Prioritise the development of transport networks in rural areas to ensure they are connected to urban centres, promoting economic activities and integration.

iii. The Rail System

Across the world, railways and trains have been developed to provide easy, speedy and effective mode of moving persons and goods. The establishment of a well-improved rail system will boost development and productivity in Nigeria. To support the actualization of this, the Senate will:

- a. Take legislative action to support the development of a modern system of rail transportation in Nigeria that achieves nationwide coverage.

- b. Utilise the power of oversight to curtail ticket racketeering and encourage the adoption of digital ticketing platforms.



iv. Inland Waterways and Ports

The potential of the National Inland Waterways Authority remains untapped. Efforts will be made to identify and fully mobilise them for national development as follows:

- a. Strengthen the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) by revising its enabling act, ensuring it has the mandate and resources to efficiently oversee and develop inland waterways.
- b. Allocate significant funds specifically for modernising, developing, maintaining, and upgrading ports and inland waterway infrastructure, including jetties, docks, berths, and terminals.



- c. Encourage Public-Private Partnerships to support port operations and for the development of waterway infrastructure and operations. Offer tax incentives or breaks to private entities investing in the inland waterways sector.
- d. Revise and strengthen the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) Act, ensuring it has a clear mandate, authority, and resources to efficiently manage and develop the ports.
- e. Conduct oversight and ensure the implementation of strict regulations to reduce bureaucracy and streamline port operations.

v. Aviation

The aviation is critical for fostering economic growth, enhancing connectivity, and promoting tourism. Reforming and strengthening the aviation sector requires a multifaceted approach to address the regulatory environment and operational challenges. To this end, the

Senate will:

- a. Appropriate sufficient funds for upgrading and expanding airport infrastructure, including runways, terminals, and air traffic control facilities.
- b. Adopt legislative measures to encourage private sector participation through Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for airport development and management.
- c. Interface with the Executive on entering “Open Skies” agreements with strategic countries to promote competition, reduce airfares, and improve connectivity.



- d. Enact stringent regulations to protect passengers’ rights concerning flight delays, cancellations, lost baggage, and other grievances. We will also strengthen the Nigeria Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) to perform its statutory responsibilities better.

- e. Collaborate with the Executive on tax reforms focusing on providing tax breaks, grants, or subsidised loans to airlines and other aviation businesses facing financial challenges.
- f. Support the provision of support mechanisms for domestic airlines to thrive, such as subsidised aviation fuel or tax breaks.
- g. Mandate regular safety audits and assessments of airlines and airports and improve funding and training for aviation security personnel and equipment.

9.4 Reform of Pension Laws to enable Citizens' Access

Over the years, our pension system has faced challenges related to inefficiency, corruption, delayed payments, underfunding, and lack of inclusivity. Pensioners complain of difficulty accessing pension payments and the inadequacy of monthly payments. The current provision for access to only 25 percent of pension funds upon fulfillment of statutory requirements is deemed insufficient. Therefore, reforming the pension system is crucial to ensure that retirees live with dignity and that workers have confidence in the system.

- i. Scrutinise the provisions and implementation of the Pension Reform Act to identify gaps and address emerging challenges in pension management and administration.
- ii. The Senate will engage with pension stakeholders to achieve a review of pension fund management, ensure employers' compliance with pension contributory schemes and oversee the enforcement of pension regulations. Upon completing the review with stakeholders, necessary amendments will be made

to achieve a robust, more efficient and effective pension scheme.

- iii. Mandate transparent and frequent audits of pension funds and administrators and impose disclosure requirements on Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs).
- iv. Legislate to expand coverage through schemes tailored to include workers in the informal sector.
- v. Explore the need for legislation to allow a percentage of pension funds to be invested in critical infrastructure projects.

10.0

AGENDA 7:

REPRESENTATION AND **PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND YOUTHS**



10.1 Women

Improving women's political representation and participation in Nigeria is essential for achieving a more inclusive, balanced, and democratic society. While the participation of women in Nigeria's political sphere has gradually increased over the years, it is still far from optimal. Legislative reform can be crucial in increasing women's representation in politics.

The 10th Senate will take legislative actions to promote women's political representation and participation as follows:

- i. Re-introduce and support the Bill on Temporary Special Seats for Women in the Constitution amendment efforts of the 10th National Assembly.
- ii. Legislate to increase women's representation in elective positions by creating special women-only seats in the Senate and House of Representatives and encouraging State Houses of Assembly to do the same.
- iii. Introduce electoral reforms to implement mandatory requirements for political parties to have a certain percentage of female candidates and in party leadership structure.
- iv. Promote funding or subsidies specifically for female candidates to reduce the financial barriers to entry.
- v. Strengthen the Electoral Act 2022 to penalise violence, intimidation and harassment against women in politics.
- vi. Prioritise financing for mainstreaming Gender Equality, including the National Gender Policy, the Violence Against Persons

Prohibition (VAPP) and the Child Rights Act, with costed plans at the state level and gender-responsive planning and budgeting at the Federal and State levels.

- vii. Pass the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill (GEOB) to ensure active and equal participation in Nigeria's political and decision-making processes.
- viii. Strengthen oversight of government institutions to ensure compliance with the National Gender Policy and court judgement on the full implementation of the 35% affirmative action on appointive and elective positions in both public and private sectors.
- ix. Strengthen the women's caucus in the Senate to better advocate for women-specific issues and mentor upcoming female politicians.
- x. Support maternity leave for up to six months.



10.2 Youths

The youths, by the demographic set up of this country, constitute the larger percentage of our population. And if they are fully engaged, it would have far-reaching effect on the socio-economic and political development of this country. As such, it is imperative that legislative measures are put in place to harness the full potentials of this segment of our society. The following thematic areas are to be given priorities:

- a. Employment: Senate to put legislative interventionist measures in place to address the issue of unemployment in the country
- b. Promotion of entrepreneurial initiatives through engagements with the private sector.

Engagement of the youths in the decision-making process, through participation in governance as demonstrated by the current administration, is commendable. This will engender patriotism and inculcate values in the youths

11.0

AGENDA 8:

LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE NIGERIAN FOREIGN POLICY



Since independence, Nigeria's foreign policy has largely revolved around our position as a regional power in West Africa and a significant player on the African continent. However, experts have noted the declining influence on the international front in the last decade. The 10th Senate recognises that foreign policy typically falls under the purview of the Executive. However, the legislature also has a significant role in influencing, creating, and directing foreign policy. This is especially the case in presidential systems like Nigeria's. Accordingly, the Senate will propose legislative measures to provide a robust framework for Nigeria's foreign policy, strengthening diplomatic relations, promoting economic interests, enhancing security cooperation, global peace, and development and positioning Nigeria as an active and influential player in the international community. Other areas of intervention include ensuring that foreign policy promotes and protects the interests of Nigeria and its citizens within and outside the country and guides diplomacy and multilateral relations with other countries and international bodies.

Specific legislative actions of the Senate are:

- i. Review all treaties to which Nigeria is a signatory to domesticate them.
- ii. Ensure compliance with constitutional processes established for entry into treaties.
- iii. Harmonise the provisions of the Constitution and the Treaty Ratification Act to ensure consistency.
- iv. Improve funding for Nigerian diplomatic missions to promote economic diplomacy.

- v. Collaborate with the Executive to establish a comprehensive economic diplomacy framework that integrates Nigeria's economic interests, trade promotion, investment facilitation and economic cooperation into the larger context of our foreign policy.
- vi. Strengthen parliamentary diplomacy through the Senate Friendship Groups, where legislators engage directly with their counterparts from other countries to complement formal diplomatic channels.
- vii. Use legislative measures such as Hearings and Resolutions to promote and protect the lives and properties of Nigerians abroad.
- viii. Introduce legislation to support and enhance security cooperation, especially within the sub-region and the African continent.
- ix. Strengthen the Foreign Affairs Committee and other related Committees to oversee Nigeria's foreign policy.
- x. Citizens' centred diplomacy



AGENDA 9:

THE CLIMATE,
**ENVIRONMENT AND
SUSTAINABILITY**



Nigeria faces many environmental and climate change-related challenges, ranging from desertification, deforestation, flooding, oil pollution, erosion, waste management, loss of biodiversity, dwindling water resources and changing weather patterns that negatively impact agriculture. Together, these factors significantly impact our economy, social structures, and the overall well-being of Nigerians. Outlined below are some of the key legislative priorities of the 10th Senate.

- i. Strengthen the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) to effectively enforce environmental laws, regulations, and standards and ensure compliance with international agreements, conventions, and environmental treaties .
- ii. Ensure compliance with the Climate Change Act 2021 provisions for achieving low GHG emissions and mainstreaming climate change actions into national plans and programmes.
- iii. Ensure strong oversight of NESREA and review and update the National Climate Change Policy and Response Strategy (NCCPRS), 2012.
- iv. Ensure that Nigeria meets its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions unconditionally by 20% and conditionally by 45% by 2030.
- v. Legislate measures to accelerate the transition to renewable energy sources and promote clean and sustainable energy production, access and consumption. In this regard, the Senate will consider the National Clean Cooking Strategy to determine progress made and obstacles.

- vi. Encourage collaboration with international organisations such as the World Bank in addressing climate-change-related challenges.
- vii. Provide more funding for training and equipping the frontline enforcement personnel and educating communities and the public about the effects of climate change.
- viii. Review current laws on environmental pollution to strengthen penalties and sanctions for gas flaring.
- ix. Legislate on appropriate tax breaks or subsidies for companies that invest in gas capture and utilization projects.



- x. Expedite the passage of the Gas Flaring (Prohibition and Punishment) Bill to minimise the environmental and social impact of gas flaring in oil-producing areas. It proposes strict penalties for companies that engage in gas flaring.
- xi. Give legal backing to the National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy (NREEEP) adopted in 2015 to increase the use

of renewable energy sources, improve energy efficiency, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- xii. Review and engage stakeholders on the National Oceans Policy that focuses on the sustainable management and conservation of Nigeria's marine and coastal resources .
- xiii. Support initiatives by the Executive targeted at promoting sanitation.
- xiv. Support the implementation of the National Policy on Solid Waste Management in Nigeria, which promotes using the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) approach, encourages public-private partnerships in waste management, and aims to establish waste-to-wealth initiatives.
- xv. Promote e-government to achieve a paperless system.
- xvi. Utilise legislative frameworks to support efforts to repair and restore terrain damaged by fossil fuel exploration and transport, urban expansion, erosion, commercial logging and environmental degradation.
- xvii. Undertake a broad range of legislative activism and public education.

CONCLUSION



In articulating its Legislative Agenda, the 10th Senate has consulted widely with stakeholders, including civil society, the media, private sector, the executive and several other key interests to achieve an all-encapsulating document responsive to the need of the country at this time. The Senate has also collaborated and interfaced with the House of Representatives to mirror a common Legislative Agenda that underscores the essence of a bicameral Legislature. Nigeria is at the cross-roads of development. It is at the stage where it is moving on towards a more accountable system of government, where the voices of citizens provide impetus for government action. In this Agenda, the Senate has articulated a wide range of issues over which it intends to use its constitutionally assured powers of law making, oversight and representation to achieve good governance. Our Legislative Agenda has ranged from how we intend to improve on our internal legislative processes and to be able to deliver on our constitutional duties of making laws for the country, overseeing the implementation of our laws and utilisation of our resources, on to effectively representing citizens. In developing our Legislative Agenda, we have asked citizens questions; we have asked various interests to tell us how we can best deliver on our mandate and represent them in the interest of good governance. The 10th Senate will be guided by the contents of its Legislative Agenda. We will set up mechanisms and create frameworks to monitor and evaluate our delivery on the Legislative Agenda.

The Senate intends to continue to engage with all the stakeholders that it consulted to develop this Agenda. The Senate calls on all stakeholders and citizens to continually remind it of its obligations under this Legislative Agenda, so that together we can deliver on the demands of good governance and greater democracy in Nigeria.

SECTION

B

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA OF THE 10TH SENATE (2023 – 2027)

Strategic Objective: To enact and strengthen legislation that upholds the fundamental principles of justice, accountability and respect for the rights and dignity of all citizens.

AGENDA 1: GOOD GOVERNANCE

Overall Goal 1: To build a just, equitable, and democratic society where the rule of law prevails, human rights are protected, and governance is conducted with integrity and accountability.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
Rule of Law, Due Process and Human Rights	Strengthen the constitutional responsibilities of law making, oversight and representation.	First – Fourth Legislative Year	Committees on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters; and Legislative Compliance 	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bills introduced, debated, and passed per legislative session. Laws repealed or amended per legislative session Frequency of: Government responses to the summons of the Senate per legislative session.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
Tackling Corruption	Strengthen the oversight powers of the Senate to scrutinise government actions and expenditure and hold public officials and institutions to account.	First - Fourth Legislative Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Standing Committees, and the • Committee on Public Accounts 	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight and investigative hearings conducted per legislative session. • Follow-up actions taken based on initial oversight findings per legislative session. • MDAs summoned for questioning and briefings per legislative session. • Audits and review conducted on government expenditures per legislative session. • Passage of the Audit Bill.
Enhanced Executive-Legislative Engagement	Sustain collaboration, transparency, and effective communication between the Executive and the Legislature.	First - Fourth Legislative Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership of the Senate • Committee on Rules and Business • Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly 	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bills presented by the Executive per legislative session. • Formal meetings between the Executive and Leadership of the Senate per legislative session. • Mechanisms put in place by the Senate that holds the Executive accountable for its actions and inactions in the first legislative session. • Actions¹ taken by the leadership of the Senate to ensure that its Legislative Agenda aligns with the Executive's policy priorities per legislative session.

¹ Actions in this document may include dialogue sessions, convenings, public hearings, investigative hearing, ad-hoc committee hearings, Bills with citizens and stakeholders engagement among others.

AGENDA 2: IMPROVING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DELIVERY PROCESSES

Overall Goal 2: To create a more efficient, transparent, and effective legislative body that can better serve the interests of the nation and its citizens.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
Internal Communications	To enhance the communication mechanisms of the Senate and promote well-informed decision-making legislative processes.	First – Fourth Legislative Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership of the Senate • Committee on Rules and Business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of Senators² and Senate staff using the established internal digital platform or intranet systems. • Number and frequency of : • Internal meetings and briefings among Senators. • Internal meetings and briefings among Senators and the National Assembly Bureaucracy. • A developed communication strategy.
External Communication	Improve engagement with external stakeholders and citizens to promote transparency, accountability, and effective representation.	First - Fourth Legislative Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Directorate of ICT • Committee on Media and Publicity • Committee on Public Petitions • Leadership of the Senate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up-to-date user-friendly official website with accessibility to legislative documents and feedback channels. <p>Number of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press Releases, Public Statements, and Social Media Updates Issued by the Senate per legislative session. • Public consultations and townhall meetings organized by the Senate per legislative session.

² Currently there are 109 Senators in the 10th National Assembly

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public submissions received by the Senate on legislative matters per legislative session. <p>Frequency of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public access to Senate proceedings, including live streaming and hearings per legislative session. External stakeholder consultations including civil society, industry experts and the public per legislative session.
Senate-House of Representatives Synergy and Enhancement of intra and inter Committees' Engagements	Develop established channels for co-operation and synergy with the House of Representation to strengthen the effectiveness of the National Assembly.	First - Fourth Legislative Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership of the Senate Committee on Rules and Business Office of the Clerk of the Senate 	<p>Number of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports from the Joint Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives per legislative session. Coordinated legislative initiatives and Bills introduced and passed by both chambers per legislative session. Joint initiatives conducted per legislative session that aligns with the legislative agenda of the Senate and House of Representatives. Joint Statements issued by both chambers per legislative session Bills introduced, debated, and passed by the National Assembly per legislative session. Joint oversight activities and investigations conducted by the Senate and House of Representatives per legislative session.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bills received for concurrence from the House of Representatives and considered.
Enhanced NASS Working Conditions and Welfare	Improved working conditions for members and staff of the National Assembly.	First- Fourth Legislative Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership of the Senate • Committee on Special Duties • Management of the National Assembly 	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building sessions held for members and staff of the Senate per legislative session. • Measures³ taken per legislative session that improves the welfare and work environment for lawmakers and staff.
Building Modern and Technologically enhanced Legislature, including E-Parliament	Adopt modern technological systems to enhance legislative practices and procedures of the Senate.	First -Fourth Legislative Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate Directorate on ICT • National Assembly Bureaucracy • Leadership of the National Assembly 	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New technology systems deployed that improves effectiveness and efficiency of the Senate Committees. • Committees equipped with modern digital infrastructure that enhances the work of the Committee. • Electronic management systems and tools deployed that streamlines access to legislative documents

³ Amendment to the conditions of service

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
Invoking constitutional powers of NASS to make laws, carry out oversight and represent citizens	Enforce the constitutional powers of the Senate to deliver on good governance.	First- Fourth Legislative Year	Standing Committees of the Senate Committee on Legislative Compliance.	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bills initiated by the Senate and enacted into law per legislative session. • Oversight activities undertaken that checkmates the implementation of National budget per legislative session. • Inquiries and investigations conducted per legislative session by the Senate Committees into the actions of the executive.
Open Parliament to achieve Citizens' Engagement and Promote Inclusiveness (Inclusion of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs))	Inclusion of citizens and marginalised group in legislative affairs of the Senate.	First – Fourth Legislative Year	Committees on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women Affairs, • Youth and Social Development, • Poverty Alleviation • CSOs and Development Partners • Leadership of the Senate • Judiciary, Human Rights, and Legal Matters 	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bills introduced and passed by the Senate per legislative session that specifically mainstreams the needs and rights of marginalized groups. • Consultations with marginalized group and the legislature conducted per legislative session to gather feedback on their inclusion in legislative affairs. • Legislative actions taken that mainstream inclusion of persons with disability.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
Ensuring Capacity Building for Senators and Legislative Support Staff on Legislative Practice, Rules and Procedures	Enhanced knowledge of lawmakers to deliver effectively on its constitutional role of law making and legislative practices.	First - Fourth Legislative Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) • National Assembly Management • Donor Agencies, Development Partners, NGOs, CSOs 	<p>Number of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training sessions conducted, that increase the knowledge of Senators and Legislative Support Staff on Legislative Practice, Rules and Procedures, emerging national and global trends. • Engagements and collaborations per legislative session with CSOs, NGOs and Donor Agencies that enhances the knowledge and effectiveness of lawmakers in fulfilling their constitutional role
Reform of National Assembly 's Security and enhancement of powers of the Sergeants-at-Arms	To protect the safety of lawmakers and staff of the National Assembly.	First- Second Legislative Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership of the Senate, • Committee on Senate Services • National Assembly Management. 	<p>Number of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installed, upgraded and operational status of security infrastructure and equipment per legislative session. • Trained security personnel and staff per legislative session. • Regulations adopted by the Senate per legislative session that enhances security measures within the National Assembly premises. • Security and law enforcement agencies coordinating and collaborating with the Senate to guarantee security and safety of lawmakers and Staff.

AGENDA 3: NATIONAL SECURITY

Overall Goal 3: To safeguard citizens, infrastructures, and resources from domestic or international threats while preserving democratic values and human rights.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
Legislative Support for the Security Sector	To enact legislations that safeguards Nigeria's interest, protect its citizens and upholds democratic values.	First -Fourth Legislative Year	Committees on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-corruption, • Women Affairs, • Human Rights, Judiciary and Legal Matters, • National Security, • National Planning and Economic Development 	Number of legislations passed by the Senate per legislative session and enacted that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases penalties for corrupt practices. • Protect the rights of all citizens; enhance the integrity of the electoral process. • Improves efficiency of the judicial system. • Enhances national security. • Promotes women's participation in politics • Protects privacy, data security and freedom of digital expression. • Supports economic development and ensure equitable distribution and resources • Protects press freedom and prevent censorship • Strengthens institutions responsible for enforcement.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
Legislative Support to Counter Terrorism and Insurgency	To develop a comprehensive approach that combines security measures to address the root causes of terrorism.	First - Fourth Legislative Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership of the Senate • Committee on National Security and Intelligence 	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative approaches (i.e., briefing sessions, hearings) conducted that combats terrorism per legislative session
Enforcing Co-ordination and Collaboration for Effective use of Intelligence by Security Forces	To create a more integrated and responsive intelligence system that can effectively detect and mitigate security threats.	First -Fourth Legislative Year	Committees on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Army, • Navy, • Defense, • Airforce, • National Security and Intelligence, • ICT and Cybercrimes, • Human Rights and Legal Matters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New laws introduced and passed that supports integrated intelligence operations among security agencies per legislative session. • Ratified and domesticated international treaties that relates to intelligence and security.
Police Reforms	To enact reforms that promotes accountability and transparency in Nigeria's policing system and foster positive relationships between law enforcement agencies and citizens.	First – Fourth Legislative Year	Committee on Police Affairs	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments passed per legislative session. • Oversight actions taken that ensures implementation of reforms and effectiveness of law enforcement agencies.

AGENDA 4: LAW REFORM

Overall Goal 4: To create a legal system that is fair, efficient, transparent, and capable of addressing both current and future challenges, thereby enhancing the overall governance and well-being of the nation.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
Devise Comprehensive Response to outstanding Constitutional Reform Issues	To strengthen laws that supports the effective systems of governance and protects the rights and freedom of all citizens.	First – Second Legislative Year	Committee on Constitution Review	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitutional amendments Bills passed and assented to at the end of the second legislative session that support and strengthen Nigeria’s democratic system • Engagement and collaborations with CSOs per legislative session that improves participation in decision-making processes to protect citizens rights.
Reform of Local Government	To create a more effective, accountable and participatory system of local governance that can better meet the needs of communities enhance public trust and promote sustainable development.	Second – Third Legislative Year	Committee on Constitution Review,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of engagements with key stakeholders at the State and Local Government level by the end of the Second Legislative session that ensures financial and administrative independence of local government. • Bill on local government autonomy Bill passed and assented to.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
True Federalism	To create a more balanced and effective Federal system that enhances the ability of State and Local government to respond to the specific needs of its citizens while maintaining National unity and protecting fundamental rights.	First – Fourth Legislative Year	Committee on Constitution Review,	Number of items moved from the Exclusive Legislative List to Concurrent Legislative List at the end of the fourth legislative year.
Judicial and Legal System Reform	To create a Judicial and Legal system that is efficient, fair and accessible towards the administration of Justice for all citizens.	First - Fourth Legislative Year	Committees on: • Constitution Review, • Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters	Number of: • Bills introduced, passed, or enacted per legislative session that improves the process of appointment of judicial officers. • Bills introduced, passed, or enacted per legislative session that protect the rights of citizens.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
Reform of Nigeria's Electoral System and Institutions	To create an Electoral System and Institution that is robust, transparent, inclusive, and capable of delivering election outcomes that reflect the people's will.	First - Fourth Legislative Year	Committees on: • INEC • Constitution Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passage and enactment of an amended electoral law by the end of the third legislative session. • Passage and enactment of the National Electoral Offences Commission Bill at the end of the third legislative session. • Number of amendments to the Electoral Act 2022, passed at the end of the fourth legislative year

AGENDA 5: ENHANCEMENT OF NIGERIA'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH

Overall Goal 5: To create a robust, diversified, and resilient economy that can sustain long-term growth, reduce poverty, and improve the overall quality of life for Nigerians.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
Prioritising Ease of doing Business	To create a more conducive business environment that reduces the cost of doing business, stimulates economic growth, attracts investment, foster entrepreneurship and innovation.	First – Fourth Legislative Year	Committee on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning and Economic Affairs, • Trade and Investment, 	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to existing laws per legislative session that improves ease of doing businesses in Nigeria. • Amendments to tax laws introduced or passed per legislative session that increases tax flexibility. • Bills introduced and passed per legislative session aimed at promoting key economic sectors. • Legislative measures (motions,) per legislative session put in place that encourages sustainable business practices.
Support for Increased Agricultural Investments and Development	To create a robust and dynamic agricultural sector that contributes significantly to economic growth, food security and rural development.	First – Fourth Legislative Year	Committees on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Agricultural Production Services and Rural Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passage of a Bill that enhances accessibility of credit and financial services for farmers. • Number of: • Bills introduced and passed per legislative session aimed at facilitating the adoption of modern agricultural technology and practices. • Bills introduced and passed per legislative session that secures land tenure and property rights of farmers. • Oversight visits to ensure effective implementation of food security laws. • Oversight actions taken per legislative session that reviews various policies impacting the operations of farmers.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
Diversifying Nigeria's Economy	To build a more diversified and resilient economy that can provide sustainable growth, create jobs and improve the quality of life for Nigerians.	Second -Fourth Legislative Year	Committees on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning and Economic Affairs, • Labour and Employment • Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institution 	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing sessions held with the executive per legislative year that enhances measures to supports the growth of key sectors beyond oil and gas. • Reform Bills passed per legislative session that support the implementation of the monetary policies by Central of Bank of Nigeria (CBN) • Legislative actions taken that enhances labour market reforms to promote women and youth empowerment. • Legislative action taken that strengthens anti-corruption institutions to enhance transparency and enforce accountability across public and private sectors. • Amendments to existing regulatory frameworks that creates bureaucratic red tapes in the relevant sectors of the economy.

AGENDA 6: BOOSTING SOCIAL, CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM

Overall Goal 6: To enhance the overall well-being and quality of life for Nigerians while preserving and celebrating the nation's rich cultural heritage.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/Committee	Indicators
Pursuit of Educational Growth and Penetration	To create a robust, inclusive and high-quality education system that equips citizens with the required knowledge and skill.	First -Fourth Legislative Year	Committees on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic and Secondary Education • Tertiary Institutions and TETFund 	Number of Bills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced and passed per legislative session to amend laws that guarantees access to education irrespective of gender, socio-economic status, ethnicity or disability.
Universal Basic Education	To promote educational equity, reduce poverty and foster long-term socio-economic development.	Second -Fourth Legislative Year	Committee on Basic and Secondary Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments to the Universal Basic Education (UBEC) Act that mandates free and compulsory education to Senior Secondary School. • Increased budget allocation to Education.
Secondary Education	To create a more robust high-quality secondary education system.	Second – Fourth Legislative Year	Committee on Basic and Secondary Education	Number of oversight actions taken per legislative session to enforce effective implementation of the National Senior Secondary Education Commission (NSSEC) Act.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/Committee	Indicators
Technical Education	To enhance the quality, accessibility and relevance of Technical and Vocational Educational Training (TVET) to promote workforce and economic development.	First -Fourth Legislative Year	Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative measures taken to support adult education programs and promote the use of technology. Legislative actions taken to assess and evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of provisions of the Students Loan Act, 2024.
Almajiri and Out-of-School Children Education	To address the educational needs of marginalised groups, reduce the number of Out-of-School children and improve academic outcomes.	First – Fourth Legislative Year	Committee on Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oversight visits, briefing sessions, investigative hearings and summons held that assesses and evaluates the effectiveness of Educational policies of the Executive that facilitates re-integration of Almajiri and out-of-school children into formal schools.
Return Street Children to School	To create a supportive and protective environment that improves the quality of life of street children.	First -Fourth Legislative Year	Committee on Information and National Orientation	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laws reviewed and enacted at the end of the fourth legislative session that priorities the welfare and rights of children, including street children.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/Committee	Indicators
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative actions taken per legislative session aimed at providing support for alternative educative programs tailored to the needs of street children. • Legislative actions taken per legislative session to ensure that social welfare programs and services of the executive meets the basic needs of street children. • Oversight actions implemented that monitors the implementation of social welfare programs (School Feeding Program) and services.
Deepening Access to Healthcare	To ensure that healthcare services are accessible, affordable, and equitable for all citizens.	First – Fourth Legislative Year	Committees on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health (Primary and Secondary) • Disease Control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of legislative reviews per budget session to increase the budgetary allocations to the Ministry of Health. • Amendment of the BHCPF Act to increase funding for the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF)

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/Committee	Indicators
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of oversight visits conducted per legislative session that ensures evaluation of primary healthcare services, especially in rural and underserved areas. • Amendment for the increase in budgetary allocations that ensures Universal Health Insurance system for all citizens and expand the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) for efficient operation.
Pursuit of rapid Infrastructure Provisions and Development	To provide a solid foundation for Nigeria's socio-economic advancement and ensure that infrastructural development meets the needs of current and future generations.	First – Fourth Legislative Year	Committee on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Planning and Economic Affairs. • Establishment and Public Service Matters; • Works 	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight visits conducted per legislative session that ensures effective management of national infrastructure in line with socio-economic goals of the government. • Legislative measures taken per legislative session that ensures the implementation of national standards for the quality, safety and sustainability of infrastructure project including construction materials.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/Committee	Indicators
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative measures taken per legislative session that enforces accessibility standards for all citizens including persons with disabilities. Oversight actions taken that addresses continued abandonment projects.
Power Sector	To improve power and energy supply in Nigeria.	Second -Fourth Legislative Year	Committee on Power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of amendments to strengthen the existing legal framework of the Electric Power Sector Reform Act (EPSRA) and the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), per legislative session that reflect current realities. Passage of the Renewable Energy Bill that promotes the use of renewable energy. Number of oversight actions that drives improvement in the power sector

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/Committee	Indicators
Road Transportation	To improve the road network and transport system that creates access for businesses and citizens movement.	Second – Fourth Legislative Year	Committee on Land Transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-introduction and passage of the National Transport Bill • Number of legislative actions taken that ensures enforcement of road safety laws. • Increased budgetary allocation to the Ministry of Works • Number of engagement and collaborations with the Executive to support the development and adoption of a comprehensive National Transport Policy
Rail System	To create a well-improved rail system that will boost development and productivity in Nigeria.	First – Third Legislative Year	Committee on Land Transport	<p>Number of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight actions taken that strengthens reforms in the railway sector and promotes the use of digital platforms that enhances movement of persons and goods. • Legislative measures adopted and implemented per legislative session that supports the implementation of the Twenty-Five Year Rail Strategic Plan developed in

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/Committee	Indicators
				2002 which ensures effective management and maintenance of rail infrastructure.
Inland Waterways and Ports	To strengthen the operations of the Inland Waterways and Ports for national development.	First – Fourth Legislative Year	Committee on Marine Transport	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative actions taken per legislative session that revises and strengthens the provisions of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA) Act. Oversight visits conducted per legislative session that ensures transparency and accountability in the operations of the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) Engagements with the Executive that encourages Public-Private Partnerships for effective ports operations.
Aviation	To strengthen the aviation system to foster economic growth, enhance connectivity and promote tourism.	First – Fourth Legislative Year	Committee on Aviation	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Legislative measures adopted per legislative session that improves airline operations and management.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/Committee	Indicators
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative actions taken that supports the operations of domestic airlines. • Oversight visits conducted per legislative session that enforces the implementation of aviation safety standards in compliance with existing laws.
Reform of Pension Laws to enable Citizens' Access	To enact pension laws that promotes and protects pension rights and improve the well-being of retirees and their families.	First – Fourth Legislative Year	Committee on Pensions	<p>Number of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative actions taken per legislative session that enforces the implementation of provisions of the Pension Reform Act • Bills introduced, and laws amended or repealed per legislative session that enhances pension administration laws or reforms facilitated by the Senate Committee • Oversight actions undertaken to ensure transparency in the audits of Pension Fund Administrators (PFAs).

AGENDA 7: REPRESENTATION AND PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN AND YOUTHS

Overall Goal 7: To create a more inclusive, equitable, and dynamic society where women and youths have equal opportunities to participate, lead, and contribute to national development.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
Women	To create an enabling environment that advances women's rights, promotes gender equality, reduces gender disparities across various sectors of the economy.	First – Fourth Legislative Year	Committees on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution Review, • INEC • Women Affairs • Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters • Donor Agencies, CSOs, NGOs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-introduction, passage, and enactment of the Special Seats Bill • Number of amendments to the Electoral Act, 2022 to that protect the rights and participation of women in politics. • Number of bills introduced and passed per legislative session that enhances women inclusion in governance systems. • Number of engagements and collaborations with stakeholders to strengthen women's participation in politics and promote inclusion.
Youth	To address the diverse needs and challenges facing young people and promote their active participation in socio-economic and political development	First – Fourth Legislative Year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee on Youth • Donors, NGOs, CSOs 	<p>Number of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborations and engagement with the executive to review the National Youth Policy that protect the rights of young people. • Bills introduced and passed per legislative session that guarantees adequate representation of young people in decision making process. • Collaborations and support received from external stakeholders to promote civic engagement amongst citizens and law makers.

AGENDA 8: LEGISLATIVE SUPPORT FOR EFFECTIVE NIGERIAN FOREIGN POLICY

Overall Goal 8: To create a robust framework that supports a proactive, strategic, and effective Nigerian foreign policy.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
Legislative Support for Effective Nigerian Foreign Policy	To enhance Nigeria's global standing, foster international cooperation, and ensure that the country's foreign policy aligns with its national development objectives	Second – Fourth Legislative Year	Committees on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treaties, Protocols and Agreement • Foreign Affairs • National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS) 	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bills that support the domestication and ratification of treaties. • Legislative measures implemented by the end of the fourth legislative session to ensure Nigeria's compliance with international conventions and protocols. • Capacity Building for Members of the Committees on Treaties and Foreign Affairs to strengthen inter-parliamentary ties. • Collaborations and engagement with the Executive to development a comprehensive Foreign Policy Framework that strengthens Nigeria's diplomatic and foreign ties.

AGENDA 9: THE CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

Overall Goal 9: To create a sustainable, resilient, and environmentally conscious Nigeria.

Legislative Objectives	Goals	Timeline	Responsible Body/ Committee	Indicators
The Climate, Environment and Sustainability	To balance economic growth with environmental protection, ensuring the well-being of current and future generations.	Second – Fourth Legislative Year	Committee on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecology and Climate Change • Donor Agencies, Development Partners, NGOs, CSOs 	Number of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight actions taken per legislative session to strengthen the law establishing National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA). • Legislative measures taken per legislative session to accelerate the transition to renewable energy sources and promote clean and sustainable energy production, access and consumption. • Amendments to existing laws introduced per legislative session on environmental pollution to strengthen penalties and sanctions • Collaborations and engagement with external stakeholders conducted per legislative session to address challenges related to climate change.

Acceptance Speech of **Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio, CON** President of the Senate



Distinguished Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, other Principal Officers, let me in a special way recognize the immediate past Senate President, our dear brother, distinguished Senator Ahmad Lawan, GCON.

To God be the glory, the Creator of the universe, He alone is the supreme; we give all the glory and honour, majesty, dominion and power and we bow before God Almighty. We acknowledge his inestimable control of the affairs of man, including the transfer of power.

Today marks a historic moment for all of us as we embark on a new chapter in the 10th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. My speech is on my behalf and also on behalf of the Deputy Senate

President, Distinguished Senator Jibrin Barau, CON, a very humble personage, we have been humbled by the events of today. We are both very happy to have been given this opportunity and we show gratitude to Almighty God.

We also thank God on your behalf and especially congratulate all of you, who have just been sworn in as Senators of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for being able to wade through the very difficult elections that we passed through. I described that last election as the first cashless election in Nigeria. In some States, we had some tsunamis and in others, we had some of our colleagues returning. I congratulate the thirty (30) returning Senators and seventy-nine (79) new Senators.

Let me also thank the Clerk of the National Assembly, Clerk of the Senate and all the staff of the Senate and the National Assembly for their very valuable time and hard work, dedication to duties and commitments and contributions to the Nigerian Federation.

I do not recall how Senator Mohammed Ali Ndume put it, whether he said ‘first among equals or one among equals’, I do not know which one, but I just want to say that I will continue to be one amongst you. And I will work with you, for you and beside you. I will be a Senate President that will stand for all, including distinguished Senator Yari; whether he was qualified to contest or not, that does not matter. What matters is that democracy took roots right here in this Chamber today. So, let me congratulate you for a hard fight.

I extend my hand of fellowship to you, we have already discussed here and agreed to work very closely together. I take it that every single

Senator here voted for me. What has happened today is historic. This is the first time in the Nigerian Senate that you have seven political parties seated in one Chamber. What that means is that as soon as you pass through the door to enter this red Chamber you have become a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and no longer of your political party and I will treat you so.

So, my dear wife, Ekaete Unoma Akpabio, congratulations for being a great woman with great virtue, an exemplary woman and one that loves Nigeria and humanity. May God continue to prosper and bless you and grant you peace.

The country is at a crossroads; we are grappling with a lot of difficulties. We have just inherited an economy that requires renewal and revitalization. I thank our dear President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, and the Vice President, Kashim Shettima, GCON for the steps they have taken so far, which have given a lot of hope to the entire Nigerian Federation and even the West African sub-region as a whole.

This Senate is about Nigeria and Nigerians so long as the policies that come to this Chamber concern the empowerment and upliftment of Nigerians, we will have robust debate on them through Public Hearings. We will work closely with the Executive Arm of Government whilst maintaining the normal independence of the legislature.

I therefore thank the President for the choices of Senator Godswill Akpabio and Senator Jibrin Barau; and also thank the party, the All Progressive Congress (APC) for the zoning system that brought all of us and especially, my colleagues, brothers and sisters in the 10th Senate for voting for us across party lines. This is the way we shall continue

to be together. Whatever will happen here we will think Nigeria, I will dwell on Nigeria, and I will make a very big difference. I assure you that my reputation precedes me, my track record is there for all to see, and we will bring about uncommon changes in the 10th Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I must say that today should not really be a speech making day, it should just be a day for all of us to thank God that none of us was consumed by the COVID 19 Pandemic. Mine is to pray for you as you have honored me and my brother, Senator Jibrin Barau, that God will also continue to honor you and God will be there for you and your families. Something that I always feel in my heart; may none of us ever be a next victim in the 10th Senate.



I also assure you that we shall tackle the enormous responsibilities facing the nation headlong; we will look into the existing laws and work closely with the House of Representatives to realign them, to ensure that they are fit for purpose and suit the current realities of the artificial intelligence that the world is facing today. We will try our best to also make laws that will encourage foreign direct investment into the country. The current Administration has brought the acronym of **RENEWED HOPE**, and I think this Senate will join in ensuring a total renewed hope for Nigerians where there seems to be no hope.

I had the opportunity of serving as a Governor and I want my people who worked with me then to testify that I do not still believe in politically motivated infrastructure. Therefore the 10th Senate will ensure very serious oversight functions to make sure we do not waste the resources of the country.

I must commend the 9th Senate because we had a difficult time in the 8th Senate, when we used to have delays in budget presentations for almost seven months. But this time around, the 9th Senate did so well, we were able to get Nigeria back to the era of January to December budget system. And I think the 10th Senate will maintain that tradition.

That will enable us plan well and start well for the country, so the Executive Arm must also assist us by presenting the budget on time and the ministers and the MDAs that ought to defend the budget will have come down to do so to enable us act timeously and make sure that we maintain that tradition.

I wish to pay gratitude to my predecessor, distinguished Senator Ahmed Lawan, GCON for the achievements, the number of bills passed were unprecedented, and particularly the SDGs and numerous projects strewn around the country that were completed.

Unlike in the 8th Senate, when we had what they called budgetary approval, and then they syndrome of “no cash backings” and so we had a lot of abandoned projects. I do hope that this current Administration will also work closely with us to give us 98 to 100 per cent releases and not just approval without cash backing. So, we will work closely with the Executive in that direction for the benefit of Nigeria.

So I assure my colleagues that yes, indeed, God has given us this opportunity. Every generation according to Frank Fannon, must, out of absolute obscurity, discover its mission and when they do so, they either fulfil the mission or they betray the mission. This 10th Senate, we have discovered our mission, which is to renew hope in Nigeria, the mission to ensure we revitalize the Nigerian Economy, working closely with the executive; we will not betray the people of Nigeria and we will not betray that mission.

To my dear brothers, Government is a continuum and the Senate is no less. We shall therefor further strengthen the legislative space in continuation of the laudable efforts made by the 9th Senate that I just referred to. Some of the issues that will concern us will be gender matters; we do not have a lot of women in the Senate, only three women here in this Senate. I congratulate them, and pray that next time, we shall have more women in the Senate.

So, we shall pay particular attention to issues relating to persons with disabilities and the vulnerable in our dear society. We will engage in any legislative action that will bring about empowerment and stop our youth from being recruited by bandits and unknown gunmen, Boko Haram and all that. We will pay attention to insecurity. We will work closely with the executive to ensure that we can sleep with our two eyes closed and we can also travel by rail or road to any part of the country without fear or hindrance.

We will expand legislation to improve the revenue stream in the country. Our current President has a track record in that respect. When he became a Governor in Lagos State in 1999 I think Lagos State was

not getting more than N600,000.000 or thereabout in a month, but today with the program he put in place, Lagos State is getting N50 to N61 billion every month as internally generated revenues.

Nigeria can do so; we can improve the revenue of this country so as to tackle most of the debts we have strewn allover the place. The President has already said that Nigeria must produce what it consumes and consume what it produces, and therefore we will do everything possible to assist him to make sure that, that dream becomes a reality for the prosperity of this great nation. We shall have a seriously forward looking Senate that will emphasize on economic viability, social acceptability, tackle environmental issues and bring about sustainable growth.

Distinguished Senators, our roles as representatives of our individual political parties notwithstanding, there is every reason for us to support good policies and programs of the Federal Government and also look at what the States are doing; because if the States are not doing well, there is no amount of work at the Federal level that will have meaning.

To the Nigerian people, I say this, your dreams, your aspirations and your well-being will be at the heart of everything that we do in this Chamber. I therefore urge you to continue to pray for us and remain faithful, because we are steadfast and we will remain united as Nigerians to ensure that your welfare is not taken for granted, particularly that the mandate that you have given to us is not abused in any way.

Finally, I plead with you distinguished Senators to permit me to offer special Commendations to the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, for the bold step he has so far taken, particularly in the issue of removal of fuel subsidy. If it requires legislative backing, we shall provide it. We must begin to produce our own fuel in Nigeria, we must begin to encourage production of diesel and others in this country. If the stories so far are true that we used to consume sixty-nine million barrels a month, and we are now having about thirteen or fifteen million barrels, that will show that we were subsidizing all the consumption going on in our neighboring countries, which we can no longer continue with our very lean resources.

So we applaud the Federal Government for such steps.



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