

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA (2015 – 2019)

OUTLINE

Background

- a. Introduction
- b. General Principles

The Legislative Agenda

1. Legislative Needs Assessment
2. Internal Operations/Processes
 - a. Committees of the House
 - b. Oversight and Investigative Hearings
 - c. Review of the Standing Orders of the House
 - d. Introducing a robust Code of Conduct for Members
 - e. Tracking Delegated Legislation
3. E-Parliament, E-Voting, Digitization, Archiving
4. National Assembly Communication
 - a. Internal House Communication
 - b. Communication with the Senate
 - c. Communication with the Executive
 - d. Communication with the Public
 - e. Establishment of dedicated Radio and TV Station
5. Review of the National Budgetary Process
6. National Economy and Development
 - a. Non-remittance of internally generated revenue and leakages

- b. Infrastructure development
 - c. Legislative Initiative on New Cities and Regional Hubs of Development
 - d. Legislative initiative on North-East and Niger-Delta
 - e. Legislative initiative on Unemployment
 - f. Legislative Initiative on Housing, Urban Development, Mortgages
 - g. Legislative initiative on Power
 - h. Legislative initiative on Security
 - i. Legislative initiative on Economic Diversification
7. Priority Legislation
- i. Legislative Priorities of the House
 - ii. Sectoral Debates
8. Review of the Laws of the Federation
9. Anti - Corruption
10. Constitution Reform Process
11. Harmonization of National Identity Data Management System
12. Reduction of Cost of Governance
13. Executive - Legislature Relations
14. Implementation
15. Conclusion

Introduction

The 8th House of Representatives (2015 – 2019) takes off against a background of huge expectations from Nigerians about the way government business is conducted. To address these expectations, the House of Representatives will implement a Legislative Agenda that will position the House to deliver legislation in aid of development and reforms aimed at improving conditions of living in Nigeria. This Agenda outlines steps and prioritises legislative actions required to achieve set goals and objectives.

This Legislative Agenda takes lessons from the experiences of the 7th House of Representatives and seeks to consolidate the gains and achievements thereof. The House recognises that there remains widespread citizens distrust of public institutions and government generally. It is also recognized that there is a lot of public misconception and misperception about the functions and contributions of the legislature to Nigeria's overall socioeconomic and political development. Yet, the legislature's contributions to Nigeria's democracy remain critical and important. The 8th House of Representatives will assert its role in providing leadership in the areas of accountable and transparent government, citizens engagement, as well as constituency representation.

The House of Representatives will collaborate with its counterpart in the Senate and other arms of government to legislate for the common good of the Nigerian people. Our

legislative activities will cover critical spheres of life in Nigeria. The House will legislate to achieve reforms in Nigeria's national economy and development, tackle poverty, unemployment, confront the scourge of corruption, terrorism and security challenges in the country. The House will also give priority to green legislations to address environmental challenges such as desertification, erosion and pollution. The 8th House of Representatives will also work assiduously to improve the governance process in Nigeria by legislating to cut the cost of running government, reduce wastage and tackle National Revenue leakages.

The House commits to playing its part in rescuing Nigeria from the clutches of hunger, poverty, disease, social, economic, political and infrastructural quagmire.

The 8th House of Representatives, as a Peoples' Parliament, will be sensitive to public demands for transparency and accountability not just by the House of Representatives but also by government at all levels. Our legislative actions would therefore seek to build public confidence and trust and be responsive to citizens' questions regarding the conduct of legislative business.

The House will work for public good and serve as the institution that defends the rights of the people to an accountable and transparent government.

The House's relationship with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) will be that of partnership and collaboration to deliver on citizens' expectations of the legislature.

General Principles

- i. Build a House of Representatives with integrity and capacity to effectively and efficiently deliver on its constitutional and legislative mandate.
- ii. Operate a House of Representatives that responds to citizens' demands for greater transparency and accountability in the way the legislative activities of government are conducted.
- iii. Develop and implement an effective communication system for the House of Representatives in both its internal and external communications.
- iv. Establish an e-parliament that emphasizes use of ICT and digitization in legislative activities.
- v. Identify priority legislation for the country and ensure passage within a defined time frame.
- vi. Introduce necessary legislative interventions to promote equality and inclusiveness, and entrench the rights of Women, Youths and vulnerable groups in the society.
- vii. Establish necessary legislative interventions that respond to national economic challenges, address poverty and rebuild infrastructure.
- viii. Respond to Nigeria's demand for Constitutional and Electoral reform including the passage of already

agreed alterations to the Constitution and the Electoral Act.

- ix. Promote regular and collaborative engagement with all arms of government especially the Executive in order to enhance effective legislation for Nigerians.
- x. Give priority to legislative relationship and collaboration with constituents, civic groups, professional bodies, international development partners and various stakeholders.

THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

1. Legislative Needs Assessment

The House shall determine and document the resources the National Assembly needs to run its legislative activities. The House will commission an audit of existing resources including equipment, manpower and existing processes and mechanisms for legislative business. This will help the legislature better deliver on its role of representation, lawmaking and oversight.

A Needs Assessment will determine the equipment required, institutional and capacity building requirements, supporting Staff component required, physical and other infrastructure necessary for lawmaking. It should also ascertain the cost of taking the lawmaking process down to the grassroots. In general, it should judiciously find out the proper cost of running the

legislative arm of government to enable it play its constitutionally assigned responsibilities.

Undoubtedly, a thorough study and review of the needs of the legislature in a democracy such as ours, that should serve Nigerians should be well equipped and appropriately funded to meet the goals set out for it in the Constitution.

The Needs Assessment shall be carried out by an independent Committee comprising - Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), independent groups, and professional bodies with the support of international development partners. The purpose of the Committee will be to identify the appropriate needs and costs of running the Legislature, as well provide information to the public on the statutory responsibilities, finances, expenditure and activities of the National Assembly.

A proper Needs Assessment should conduct a comparative study of the cost of running legislatures in other jurisdictions. **It should find out for instance,**

- What it costs the House of Representatives and the National Assembly to air, live, its public hearings?
- What it costs to communicate all its proceedings and activities to its different constituencies and the general public?
- What it costs the National Assembly to conduct proper oversight on the Executive?

- What it costs the National Assembly to maintain Constituency Relations?
- What it costs to maintain and equip the offices of Members both in their Constituencies and at Abuja?
- What it costs to maintain the four Agencies of the National Assembly such as *National Institute for Legislative Studies, National Assembly Service Commission, the National Assembly Bureaucracy and Public Complaints Commission*
- What it costs to pay the Legislative Aides of members?
- What it costs to engage other technocrats and Consultants to assist members, the House and the Bureaucracy carry out its legislative activities?
- What it costs to transport members from one point to the other for official activities, locally and internationally?
- What it costs to continue to build the capacity of members, locally and internationally?
- What it costs to service the Standing Committees, Special Committees and Ad-Hoc Committees of the National Assembly?

2. **Internal Operations/Processes**

The 8th House of Representatives will work to improve its internal operations and processes with the aim of enhancing legislative business.

a. **Committees of the House:**

Improvements to the internal operations and processes of the House will position House Committees to be efficient, effective, and result oriented. The House will re-engineer and put Committees of the House in a position of strength and make them truly the engine rooms of legislative business and activity.

The 8th House commits to proper funding, improved staffing and more efficient running of Committees. The appointment of the leadership and membership of the Committees will as much as possible reflect the experiences and capacity of members in different fields. We shall place round pegs in round holes.

Time limits for delivery of Reports referred to Committees shall be strictly enforced. Where necessary, a Committee that fails to deliver its Report on time would be divested of jurisdiction on the matter.

The House is committed to implementing the use of templates, manuals, and standardised formats for Committee activities in the area of Reporting, Oversight activities, Minutes of meetings, Public Hearings and Quarterly/Annual Reports. The House shall ensure regular supervision of

Committee activities with a goal to ensuring optimum performance and delivery of its decisions.

The House leadership will conduct regular meetings with Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of all Special, Standing or Ad-Hoc Committees to set Legislative Targets, Review performance in the attainment of Targets and ensure that the priority legislative activities of the Committees are consistent with the Legislative Agenda of the House.

To strengthen Committees, the House will ensure regular training and retraining of staff and increased capacity building of Members of the House to enhance their skills and ability to better carry out their responsibilities. Relationship and communication between Committee Staff and Members would be properly structured to enhance efficiency. *Yearly Retreats and Seminars for Honourable Members would also be encouraged.* To this end, the House shall support and strengthen the National Institute for Legislative Studies, (NILS) to continue to fulfill its role as the capacity building Agency of the National Assembly.

b. Oversight and Investigative Hearings:

Legislative and Executive programmes, policies and laws made by the National Assembly are often

notefficiently or effectively implemented by the executive branch.

Further legislative intervention therefore becomes necessary in order to implement laws passed by the National Assembly and detect and correct problems when they arise.

Consequently, oversight of executive programmes and activities has become very critical to effective performance of the Executive and good governance in Nigeria.

The House Oversight activities shall leverage on the constitutionally mandated power of investigation under Sections 88 and 89 of the Constitution to expose corruption, inefficiency and waste in the conduct of government business. Further powers as contained in the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act will be effectively utilized.

The 8th House has the necessary political will and capacity to continue with vigorous oversight of the executive branch as this promotes accountability and reduces incompetence, misuse of government funds and abuse of power. Where necessary, the House shall institute an appropriate system to involve CSOs, citizen monitoring groups, and the Media in Oversight and monitoring and evaluation of projects.

In carrying out its Oversight and Investigative Hearing activities, the House shall ensure that its

powers are not misused or abused by either Members or Committees.

To this end, the 8th House shall strengthen its processes, Rules and internal structures to support its Oversight and Investigating Hearing activities and ensure full access to all government financial information. It shall also develop mechanisms to sanction those who do not cooperate with its oversight or investigative activities or who refuse to implement legislative wishes or Resolutions.

Indeed, the House would ensure that a full amplitude of its constitutional powers, financial, human and political resources are deployed to carry out its investigative or oversight activities.

Improved oversight and Investigative Hearing coordination and processes:

One of the identified problems of Investigative Hearings and Oversight of the Executive Arm is the multiplicity of Committees with overlapping jurisdiction on the same subject matter. This has led to a situation where more than one Committee is handling the same subject matter. Invitations are sent to the same officials of government by different Committees on the same subject. The official may sometimes be required to appear on the same day in both Committees. In some instances, the relevant House Committee may be investigating a matter simultaneously as the Senate.

The House commits to developing necessary legislative tools and mechanism to coordinate and streamline both investigative and oversight activities. Specifically, the House in consultation with the Senate will implement joint oversight and investigative hearings where necessary, institute regular consultation mechanism and information sharing between Committees of the House and between House and Senate counterparts and generally streamline activities of Committees to avoid duplication and conflict.

c. **Review of the Standing Orders of the House**

We shall commit to a further review of the Standing Orders of the House in order to achieve better efficiency in Lawmaking, Representation and Oversight activities.

d. **Introducing a robust Code of Conduct for Members:**

The House shall put in place a robust Code of Conduct for members and ensure zero-tolerance for corruption or misuse and abuse of legislative powers.

Furthermore, utmost care would be exercised in choosing the leadership and membership of the Ethics and Privileges Committee to reflect members adjudged to have the highest ethical standards. The House shall commit to maintaining the highest

ethical standards in the discharge of its constitutional responsibilities.

The 8th House would review comprehensively *the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act* to bring it into conformity with the 1999 Constitution and meet other challenges arising from performance of Legislative duties by Members of the House.

e. **Tracking Delegated Legislation:**

There is currently no properly defined mechanism and process of Rulemaking, Regulations and general subsidiary legislation by Executive Departments of government. Very important aspects of Nigerian economy are often subjected to delegated legislation that has no input of elected representatives. Fiscal and taxation matters are regularly fixed through Regulations often without adequate notice and not properly thought through or subjected to the rigour of compulsory consultation process of lawmaking. In many instances, the National Assembly itself has given up, delegated or even abdicated its lawmaking powers reserved to it by the Constitution by authorizing Executive Departments to make Rules and Regulations on particular subjects as contained in many existing Laws without any form of control.

The 8th House shall develop an appropriate legislative mechanism to track delegated or subsidiary legislation.

3. **E-Parliament:E-Voting, Digitization and Archiving**

The 8th House commits to the use of ICT in the daily conduct of legislative activities of the House. E-parliament and e-voting platforms will be made a regular feature of the House. E-voting will be used regularly during voting to properly reflect voting records of Members and parliamentary accountability. The House shall collaborate with relevant stakeholders to achieve the goal of an e-parliament.

The e-parliament initiative will operate on the platform of modern, up to date digital technology. Internet and intranet access supported by computerized legislative information management system will be put in place.

Further, we commit to establishing and equipping a **Parliamentary Information Centre** where information and documents of the National Assembly will be made available. This will further increase citizens access to the legislature and solve the problem of public access to authentic documents of parliament.

4. **National Assembly Communication**

The House of Representatives commits to improving its internal and external communications. Identified communication targets include internal house communications, communication with the Senate, communication with the Executive arm of government and communications with the public. Improved

communication will change the negative perception of the House by the public a lot of which arises from a poor understanding of the workings of the National Assembly.

- a. **Internal House Communication**: Effort will be made to improve communication among members and between Committees to ensure that information is well shared and that actions are coordinated.
- b. **Communication with the Senate**: The House will liaise with the Senate to create a special mechanism for sharing information and ensuring speedy passage and concurrence of Bills. Improved Communication would lead to carrying out joint legislative activities such as oversight, public hearings and where necessary, investigative hearings. It will also promote coordinated action and synergy.
- c. **Communication with the Executive**: An effective system of communication will also be put in place to ensure regular communication with the Executive that aims to reduce friction but also ensures effective legislative service delivery.
- d. **Communication with the Public**: House communication with the public will aim to address lingering perception challenges and open up processes and information to public scrutiny. Questions related to House expenses and emoluments of members of the National Assembly

will be addressed and information put out in the public domain.

We shall ensure that the *Hansard* is regularly produced so that members and the public would be better exposed to the work of the legislature.

- e. **Establishment of Radio and Television Stations:** The House will facilitate the establishment of a dedicated radio and television station and other electronic and Media platforms to cover the activities of the National Assembly.

5. **Review of the National Budgetary Process**

The Budgetary process has remained one of the major challenges of Nigeria's democracy since 1999. Legislative measures will be introduced to support and implement a proper budgetary process that supports a strong and robust National Economy.

The review of the budgetary process will emphasize the following:

- Promotion of an inclusive budgetary process that seeks the cooperation of the Executive in institutionalising pre-budget interface and consultations.
- Adoption of an effective Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

- Strict compliance with the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) 2007.
- Insistence on prioritisation of budget expenditure that reflects approved budget lines
- Zero tolerance for nonimplementation of capital projects as approved in annual Budgets
- Effective monitoring and evaluation of expenditure and of outcomes achieved – value for money.

The Appropriation Bill is often submitted very late in the fiscal year, thereby leaving very little time for the National Assembly to do thorough work. The House would revisit the Constitution Amendment passed by the 7th House mandating the President to submit his Budget proposals at least 3 months before the end of a fiscal year, instead of “at any time” before the end of a fiscal year currently in the Constitution. This is critical in passing annual appropriation bill on time.

In addition, the House shall examine the efficacy of conducting public hearings on the Budget before legislative approval as this exposes the National Budget to increased citizen and stake holder participation.

The House will ensure proper functioning and operation of the *Fiscal Responsibility Act*, including a possible review of the Act, to streamline budgetary processes and achieve strict adherence to timelines for budget presentation and passage. *The Finance (Control and*

Management) Act would be further examined to expunge all provisions that are inconsistent with the Constitution and Presidential system of government.

The House commits to giving the National Assembly powers to limit the time a programme would run except it is re-approved by the National Assembly. This will enable the MDAs to be careful and accountable, as they may have to come before the National Assembly periodically for renewal of implementation mandate. We shall further commit to amending Section 82 of the Constitution to reduce the period of 6 months that the President is allowed to spend without appropriation as this provision severely distorts the Appropriation process.

The Report of Committees Oversight would now be a *sine qua non* for the passage of budgets of MDAs as Committees are significant focal points of legislative oversight and must assert the "Power of the Purse".

The 8th House of Representatives will take legislative measures to ensure that the Executive does not choose which aspects of the Appropriation Act it implements. Indeed the House shall seek the cooperation of the Executive to develop and enforce a Needs Based Budgeting System rather than an 'envelop' Based Budgeting System.

The 8th House will also ensure the coming into being of an independent effective, nonpartisan Budget Office (NABRO) by law to aid in economic and budgetary information and planning

The House shall enforce strict compliance with the Reporting requirements by various officials and MDAs contained in the annual Appropriation Acts which are currently observed more in breach by the Executive without consequences.

The release of appropriated funds and general implementation of the Budget shall henceforth define the relationship between the Executive and the Legislature in the 8th Assembly as the Nigerian people are entitled to feel the impact of governance through the appropriation mechanism and process.

Integrity of project selection process

Our commitment to reform of the Budget Process should consider the integrity of the project selection process in the Annual Budget estimates submitted to the National Assembly by the President. A mechanism that makes the process of Project selection more transparent, equitable, professional, accountable and needs based shall be put in place with the cooperation of the Executive. The budget process should include basis and justification for project selection.

6. **National Economy and Development**

The 8th House of Representatives will put in place legislative measures to promote rapid economic growth and development.

a. **Non-Remittance of Internally Generated Revenue and Leakages**

Several Departments and Agencies of Government generating revenues from their activities and functions fail to remit these to the Federation Account and often spend without appropriation.

The House shall take legislative measures to enforce the Constitutional provision on revenue generation and remittance by carrying out a holistic review of enabling laws of various revenue generating MDAs and come up with relevant amendments that plugs loopholes that lead to revenue leakages.

To this end, funds generated by departments and agencies shall be remitted to the Federation Account or the appropriate constitutionally mandated Public Funds of the Federation and the expenditure out of these Funds shall follow due appropriation process.

b. **Management of External Reserves**

The House shall take legislative measures to better oversight the management of Nigeria's external reserves to achieve better accountability and

transparency and full capture of all resources. In this connection, the House shall conduct a review of the CBN Act, the Sovereign Wealth Fund Act and all other Acts pertaining to the management of the nation's external reserves.

c. **Donor Funding**

The House shall track the use of donor funds, grants and loans for development projects. The current practice of duplication of funding from government and donor sources implementing the same projects creates room for malfeasance and abuse. The House will strengthen the established mechanism to track the application of funds and moneys given by donors to MDAs to ensure accountability and transparent use of resources. The House shall further develop a mechanism to include these funds in the Appropriation process.

d. **Infrastructure Development**

The House will legislate to support rapid infrastructure development in the country. Legislative action will be taken to support infrastructure development and rebuilding in Nigeria covering areas such as public transportation, electricity, fast rail system, federal highways, modern airports, housing and general infrastructure.

e. **Legislative Initiative on New Cities and Regional Hubs of Development**

The House shall through legislative action and working in concert with the Executive institute a process of establishing regional hubs of development in each of the six geo-political zones of the country. Under this concept, legislative action and support will be given to identify and create at least one large and expansive area provided with 21st century infrastructure that creates a modern city equipped with basic infrastructure, fast rail, mono-rail, communications, ICT, etc. In this direction, a legal framework that actively involves private sector participation will be put in place and necessary amendments to relevant existing laws introduced.

f. **Legislative Initiative on North-East and Niger-Delta**

In the case of the NorthEast Zone of Nigeria, the House will take legislative action that supports the delivery of special economic development measures that address the root causes of problems specific to the North East geo-political zone of the country. Specifically, the challenges of insecurity and terrorism in the North-East leading to massive displacement of Nigerians with the resultant huge Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) situation must be specially addressed.

Furthermore, the physical and infrastructural devastation of states of the North East is a national security emergency that should be confronted.

In the case of the Niger Delta, various initiatives such as *Derivation Funds* in the Revenue Allocation Formular, *Ecological Funds*, *Amnesty Programme*, creation of *NDDC*, creation of *Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs* has still not solved the problem of environmental pollution, poverty, and infrastructural decay of the Niger-Delta. Further legislative measures including vigorous oversight would be adopted to address this lingering challenge.

g. Legislative Initiative on Employment and Job Creation

The House will seek to tackle current high unemployment rate in the country by legislative action and through appropriate budgetary interventions that seeks to create employment. In addition, the House will hold regular dialogue sessions with critical stakeholders to articulate appropriate legislative intervention that will address this problem.

h. Legislative Initiative on Housing, Urban Development, Mortgages

The House will seek to tackle housing challenges in the country by legislative action and through appropriate budgetary interventions that seeks to create mass housing and provide access to mortgage finance. In addition, the House will hold regular dialogue sessions with critical stakeholders to articulate appropriate legislative intervention that will address this problem.

i. Legislative Initiative on Power

The House shall take legislative action to tackle Nigeria's energy crisis that has led to a general collapse of industries and businesses and inflicted hardship on citizens. Legislative measures to support improved generation and distribution of electricity to homes and businesses will be encouraged.

j. Legislative Initiative on Security

The House will provide legislative backing to measures aimed at addressing National Security challenges including terrorism and insurgency in the North-East of the country, kidnapping, and crime generally. The legal framework to support the security services in tackling crime, terrorism and other National Security concerns would be given full support.

k. **Legislative Initiative on Economic Diversification**

The House will take legislative initiatives that support diversification of Nigeria's economy to foster its development from a mono-product economy to a multi-product economy. Obstacles to businesses in identified sectors of the economy will be removed. Special legislative measures to promote private sector involvement and collaboration with government on projects and policies would be encouraged.

7. **Priority Legislation**

i. **Legislative Priorities of the House**

The 8th House of Representatives will give legislative priority to promote better living conditions for citizens. Legislation focused on reducing poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education and strengthening regulatory agencies in charge of education standards, promoting gender equality and empowerment of women and Youths and access to good health care services will be promoted.

Legislative measures will be taken to tackle the issues of endemic unemployment; insecurity of lives and property; poverty alleviation; health and education; water access; Agriculture, Culture and Tourism; protection of intellectual property; endemic

corruption; electricity and energy crises; and general infrastructure decay.

There are many critical Bills that the 7th House could not conclude or were not assented to, some of which include: the Petroleum Industry Bill, which was passed by the House but not by the Senate; the Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill; the Disability Bill, NABRO Bill, Transport Bills, Bills to domesticate treaties, protocols and international conventions ratified by Nigeria. These Bills will be given priority in the 8th House of Representatives.

(ii.) **Sectoral Debates**

The 8th House will introduce sectoral debates on various aspects of Nigerian economy as part of its legislative initiative to address national problems. These sectoral debates will lead to the crafting of new laws or amendment to existing ones or generate recommendations on how to address the specific problem in question.

The House will designate specific legislative sitting days or weeks in its calendar specifically for discussion on various problems facing the nation. Such identified themes, sectors, areas or problems include employment and job creation, Health, Education and Social Services; Women, Youths and Children concerns; Power/Energy Sector, Oil and

Gas, Science and Technology; Commerce and Industry; Transportation; Telecommunications; Agriculture; Mining; Manufacturing; Diversification of the Economy, Finance, Corruption, Security Matters, Infrastructure and other initiatives of urgent national importance.

Modalities for carrying out the sectoral debates will be as approved by the House.

8. **Review of the Laws of the Federation**

The Laws of the Federation were published into volumes in 2004 but there has been no effort to update the laws and bring them into conformity with current day realities. The House will pursue efforts to bring Nigeria's laws into contemporary times, repealing obnoxious and outdated portions of it and reenacting contemporary laws for the country which will be published and made accessible to the Nigerian public.

9. **Anti-Corruption**

The nation's anti-corruption laws will be reviewed by the 8th House of Representatives and harmonised to achieve greater effectiveness in tackling corruption.

The merger of existing anti-corruption bodies will be encouraged towards consolidation into a single and effective agency equipped and empowered to deliver on its mandate.

10. **Constitution Reform Process**

The laudable efforts of the 7th National Assembly that led to far reaching alterations to the 1999 Constitution was not assented to by the former President, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR. The House of Representatives will revisit the Constitution Reform achievements of the 7th Assembly with a view to achieving its passage. Since Constitution Alteration is a continuous process, any further proposals to amend the Constitution would receive support of the House. On the whole, the Constitution amendment process will be expedited and concluded within a given and early time frame.

11. **Harmonisation of National Identity Data Management System**

The House of Representatives is concerned that there are multiple identity management bodies and systems in the country, which includes the National Population Commission (NPC), the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), FRSCs Driving License and Data base, INECs National Voters Card, NCCs communication and telephone data bases, Nigerian Police Force data base, and others. The House will review legislation creating these multiple bodies and systems with a view to consolidating and harmonizing them to achieve a single National Data Management System. The House's intervention will save costs and revenue for the country

and create a much more effective and efficient National Identity Management System for Nigeria.

12. **Reduction of Cost of Governance**

There is national concern about cost of governance in Nigeria. Recurrent expenditure in the National Budget is about 75% while Capital Expenditure is less than 25%. This is clearly unacceptable. Committees set up by the Executive have recommended merging and consolidation of government Ministries, Departments and Agencies to significantly reduce the cost of governance. The House of Representatives will take legislative measures to carry out prudent reduction of the cost of governance in various areas of our national life.

13. **Executive-Legislative Relationship**

The House while protecting its independence and autonomy will maintain a robust and cooperative relationship with the Executive. As a consequence the House shall consider naming a Liaison Officer to the Executive Branch, to foster synergy and improve relations. The House shall also develop a system to coordinate Executive officials and other witnesses appearance before Committees of the House.

It shall also encourage more effective engagement with the Executive on policy formulation and Budget initiation in order to minimize friction and ensure better service delivery.

14. **Implementation**

The 8th House will establish modalities for the implementation of this Legislative Agenda. Partnership, collaboration and cooperation with CSOs, development partners and professional bodies to realize the effective implementation and monitoring of this Agenda will be adopted.

15. **Conclusion**

The House adopts this Legislative Agenda as a framework to guide the operations of the House from 2015 – 2019. The implementation of this Legislative Agenda will require the cooperation of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Executive Arm of the Government of the Federation. A copy of the Agenda as adopted will be transmitted to both the Senate and the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for their information and necessary collaboration.