## Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2024

## **Arrangement of Sections**

### Section:

- 1. Alteration of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Altered).
- 2. Alteration of Section 48.
- 3. Alteration of Section 49.
- 4. Alteration of Section 71.
- 5. Alteration of Section 77.
- 6. Alteration of Section 91.
- 7. Alteration of Section 117.
- 8. Citation.

### A BILL FOR

# AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO PROVIDE FOR SEAT RESERVATION FOR WOMEN IN THE NATIONAL AND STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

# Sponsored by Rt. Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu

### Co-Sponsors:

Hon. M. D. Hassan

**Hon. Blessing Onuh** 

Hon. Tolani Shagaya

Hon. Oriyomi A Onanuga

	Hon. Joshua Audu Gana Hon. Kama Nkemkanma Hon. Chinwe Clara Nnabuife Hon. Amobi Godwin Ogah Hon. Khadija Bukar Ibrahim Hon. Jonathan Gaza Gbefwi Hon. Jafaru Gambo Leko Hon. Francis Waive	
	[ ]	Commencement.
1	<b>ENACTED</b> by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows –	
2	${f 1.}$ The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (in this Bill referred to	Alteration of CFRN
3	as "the Principal Act") is altered as set out in this Bill.	
4	2Section 48 of the Principal Act is altered by substituting for section 48, a new	
5	section "48" as follows –	
6	"48. Composition of the Senate	A1: .: 6
7	(1) The Senate shall consist of –	Alteration of Section 48.
8	(a) three Senators from each State and one from the Federal Capital Territory;	
9	and	
10	(b) one additional Senator for each State and for the Federal Capital Territory,	
11	who shall be a woman.	
12	(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, nothing	
13	shall prevent a woman from contesting for any of the Senatorial seats under	
14	subsection (1)(a).	
15	(3) The provisions of subsection (1)(b) shall commence after the life of the	
16	current National Assembly and shall be reviewed sixteen years after its	
17	commencement."	
18	<b>3.</b> _Section 49 of the Principal Act is altered by substituting for section 48, a new	
19	section "49" as follows –	
20	"49. Composition of the House of Representatives	Altanation of
21	(1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the House of	Alteration of Section 49.
22	Representatives shall consist of –	
23	(a) three hundred- and sixty-members representing constituencies of nearly	

1	equal population as far as possible, provided that no constituency shall fall	
2	within more than one State; and	
3	(b) one additional member for each State of the Federation and the Federal	
4	Capital Territory, who shall be women.	
5	(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, nothing	
6	shall prevent a woman from contesting for any of the seats in the Federal	
7	constituencies referred to in subsection (1)(a).	
8	(3) The provisions of subsection (1)(b) shall commence after the life of the	
9	current National Assembly and shall be reviewed sixteen years after its	
10	commencement."	
11	<b>4.</b> _Section 71 of the Principal Act is altered by –	
12	(a) inserting immediately after $71(a)$ and (b), a new subsection " $(2)$ "-	
13	"71. Senatorial districts and Federal constituencies	
14	(2) For the purpose of –	Alteration of
15	(a) section 48 (1) (b) of this Constitution, there shall be established an	Section 71.
16	additional Senatorial seat by the Independent National Electoral Commission	
17	to be occupied by a woman; an	
18	(b) section 49 (1) (b) of this Constitution, the Independent National Electoral	
19	Commission shall divide each State of the Federation into two Federal	
20	Constituencies to be occupied by women."; and	
21	(b) renumbering the section appropriately.	
22	<b>5.</b> _Section 77 of the Principal Act is altered –	
23	(a) in subsection (1) by inserting after the word, "constituency", the words, "or	
24	special constituency"; and	
25	(b) by inserting a subsection (3) as follows –	Alteration of Section 77.
26	"(3) In this Part of this Chapter, "special constituency" means constituency	
27	specifically reserved from which only women shall be elected from in accordance	
28	with the provisions of Sections 48 and 49 of this Constitution."	
29	<b>6.</b> _Section 91 of the Principal Act is altered by substituting the existing section 91	
30	with a new section "91" as follows –	
31	"91. Composition of the House of Assembly	
32	(1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, a House of Assembly of a	
33	State shall consist of –	Alteration of Section 91.
34	(a) three or four times the number of seats, which that State has in the House	
35	of Representatives divided in a way to reflect, as far as possible, nearly equal	

1	population; and		
2	(b) one additional member from each of the three senatorial districts in the		
3	State under section 48(1)(a) of this Constitution, who shall be a woman:		
4	Provided that a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of not less than		
5	twenty-four and not more than forty-three members;"		
6	(2) Notwithstanding the provision of subsection (1) of this section, nothing		
7	shall prevent a woman from contesting for any of the seats in the Federal		
8	constituencies referred to in subsection (1)(a) of this section.		
9	(3) The provisions of subsection (1)(b) shall commence after the life of the		
10	current State Houses of Assembly and be reviewed sixteen years after its		
11	commencement."		
12	7 Section 117 of the Principal Act is altered –		
13	(a) in subsection (1) by inserting after the word, "constituency", the words, "or		
14	special constituency"; and		
15	(b) by inserting a subsection (3) as follows –		
16	"(3) In this Part of this Chapter, "special constituency" means constituency	Alteration of Section 117.	
17	specifically reserved from which only women shall be elected from in accordance	Section 117.	
18	with the provisions of Section91 of this Constitution."		
19	8 This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,		
20	1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2024.	Citation.	
21			

### **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

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This Bill seeks to alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to provide for seat reservation for women in the National Assembly and State Houses of Assembly. It seeks to remedy the low representation of women in Legislative Houses by providing for special constituencies to be contested and filled by women as a temporary measure to promote women's political representation. The provision is subjected to a review after four general election cycles of sixteen years for the purpose of either retaining, increasing, or abolishing the temporary measure.