



FACTSHEET ON THE PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEES OF THE NIGERIA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

<https://www.nasspublicpetitions.org>
<https://www.senateethicsandprivileges.org.ng>



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What is a Public Petitions Committee?

It is a special committee in the National Assembly that is set up to hear petitions from the public. It is a mechanism through which members of the public can express their grievances against the conduct of any public officer, public institution, or corporate organisation in Nigeria.

Each chamber of the National Assembly has a committee established for the purpose of responding to public petitions. They include the Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions in the Senate and the Committee on Public Petitions in the House of Representatives.

They give citizens an opportunity to ventilate their complaints and obtain redress or resolution. They operate flexible procedures devoid of technicalities and the rigorous litigation processes. Their platforms are free, time efficient and their sittings are conducted in an environment that allows people the opportunity to speak freely.

The two committees function separately and concurrently.

Where Do They Derive Their Powers?

The Committees derive their powers from the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Section 62 (1) of the 1999 Constitution empowers the National Assembly to create committees of its members and delegate functions which the National Assembly has powers to exercise to such committees.

It further allows the National Assembly to appoint a committee of its members for such special or general purpose as in its opinion would be better regulated and managed by means of such a committee, and may by resolution, regulation or otherwise, as it thinks fit, delegate any functions exercisable by it to any such Committee.

Furthermore, section 88 (1) of the Constitution empowers each chamber of the National Assembly to direct any of its committees, which includes the Public Petitions committees, to investigate any matter or thing over which it has powers to make laws as well as the conduct of any authority charged with responsibility of administering laws or disbursing moneys appropriated by the National Assembly.

Note that **Section 89** of the Constitution empowers legislative committees to:

Procure all such evidence, written or oral, direct or circumstantial, as it may think necessary or desirable, and examine all persons as witnesses whose evidence may be material or relevant to the subject matter;

Require such evidence to be given on oath;

Summon any person in Nigeria to give evidence or produce a document; and,

Issue a warrant to compel the attendance of any person who fails or refuses to appear, order payment of costs incurred in compelling such attendance and also impose a fine in

To give effect to its constitutional powers and duties, the National Assembly has made rules to guide its proceedings which are contained in the Standing Orders or Rules of each chamber. Order 20 Rule (5) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives (11th Edition, 2023) provides for the establishment of the House Committee on Public Petitions while Rule 95 (4) of the Standing Orders of the Senate (2022) provides for the establishment of the Senate Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions.

What Are Their Functions?

The functions, mandate and jurisdiction of the committees are specified in the Rules which is to investigate petitions from Nigerians (private and corporate) on any issue or matter especially the conduct of affairs of government agencies. They can undertake fact finding and investigations but do not make laws nor resolutions.

Order 20 (5) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, lists the functions and jurisdiction of the House of Representatives Committee on Public Petitions

Oversight of the Public Complaints

Annual budget estimates (of the Public Complaints Commission)

Consideration of the subject matter of all petitions referred to it by the House

Order 95 (4) of the Standing Orders of the Senate lists the functions and jurisdiction of the Senate Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions and they include:

Consideration of the subject matter of all petitions referred to it by the Senate and reporting back to the Senate on same;

Recommendation to the Senate from time to time such administrative actions as it may deem appropriate to establish and enforce standards of official conduct for Senators

Investigation and proffering of recommendations on cases of misconduct and discipline of Senators as referred to it by the Senate

Oversight and monitor of activities of the Code of Conduct Bureau and Public Complaints Commission.

Composition of the committees

The committees are made up of Senators and Representatives respectively as appointed by each chamber. They are headed by a Chairman and Deputy Chairman. The Standing Orders of the House of Representatives provides in Order 18(2) that a Committee shall be composed of not less than 20 and not more than 40 members of the House of Representatives while the Standing Orders of the Senate in Rule 94 (1) provides that the membership of all committees shall not be less than seven and not more than twenty senators.

Who Manages the Activities of the Committee?

The activities of the committee are led by a Committee Chairman. He/she is responsible for deciding on dates for hearings of petitions, convening meetings of members the committee and chairing the hearing sessions. The chairman is the face of the committee and ultimately responsible for driving the work and activities of the committee to ensure its success. The committees maintain a secretariat headed by their respective Clerks. The secretariat is the engine room of the committee, and its staff are responsible for managing the day-to-day affairs of the committee which includes correspondences with petitioners, documentation of petitions received and reporting on the

meetings and proceedings of the committee. The Clerk typically works closely with the Committee Chairman and provides the necessary administrative support required to enable the Chairman to perform his/her duties.

What Kind of Matters Can the Committees Investigate?

As aforesaid, section 88(1) of the Constitution allows the Committees to investigate any matter or thing with respect to which it has –

- (a) power to make laws; and
- (b) the conduct of affairs of any person, authority, ministry or government department charged, or intended to be charged with the duty of or responsibility of -
 - (i) Executing or administering laws enacted by the National Assembly and
 - (ii) Disbursing or administering moneys appropriated by the National Assembly.

Example of matters that come before the committees include cases of non-payment of employment or retirement benefits, unfair dismissal from service, unlawful termination of employment, misappropriation of public funds, lack of due process in government procurement, workplace discrimination and harassment, breach of contract by a government agency, etc.

However, it should be noted that in cases where the committees clearly have no jurisdiction such as contractual issues between two private citizens, the committees are expected to dismiss the petition and report it to the Senate or House in plenary. Similarly, matters that are sub judice i.e., before a court of law, cannot be entertained by the committees.

Sitting Days and venue

The Committee conducts investigative hearing or sittings on petitions at designated committee rooms of the National Assembly. Hearings typically take place on weekdays. Hearing notices are usually served to both petitioner(s) and respondent(s) where they are duly informed of specific sitting dates and venue.

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES



SENATE

1	Sen. Imasuen Neda Bernards	Chairman
2	Sen. Mallam Ibrahim Deputy	Chairman
3	Sen. Adegbonmire A. Ayodele	Member
4	Sen. Fadeyi O. Olubiyi	Member
5	Sen. Umar Shehu Buba	Member
6	Sen. Samaila Dahuwa Kaila	Member
7	Sen. Yaro Anthony Siyako	Member
8	Sen. Ndubueze P. Chinwuba	Member
9	Sen. Orji Uzor Kalu	Member
10	Sen. Onyesoh A. Heacho	Member
11	Sen. Mpigi Barinada	Member
12	Sen. Banigo I. Harry	Member
13	Sen. Titus T. Zam	Member
14	Sen. Yonawo M. Ogoshi	Member
15	Sen. Isah Jibrin	Member
16	Sen. Nasir Sani Z. Daura	Member
17	Sen. Rufai Hanga	Member
18	Sen. Tony Nwoye	Member



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1	Rt. Hon. Michael Etaba Irom	Chairman
2	Hon Adamu Ibrahim Gamawa Deputy	Chairman
3	Hon. Akintunde Rotimi	Member
4	Hon. Jesse Okey-Joe Onuakalusi	Member
5	Hon. Aminu Sani Jaji	Member
6	Hon. Bukar Abba Ibrahim Khadija Waziri	Member
7	Hon Mohammed Audu	Member
8	Hon. Danbuga Abdulkadir Jelani	Member
9	Hon. Nwogu Kelechi	Member
10	Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi	Member
11	Hon. Oseni Abasi Aderemi	Member
12	Hon. Oke Busayo Oluwole	Member
13	Hon. Adewale Morufu Adebayo	Member
14	Hon. Ojogo Donald Kimikanboh	Member
15	Hon. Ogunbanwo Adeleke Olufemi	Member
16	Hon. Tanko Adamu	Member
17	Hon. Muktar Tolani Shagaya	Member
18	Hon. Aguye Suleiman Danladi	Member
19	Hon. Austin Asema Achado	Member
20	Hon. Agbedi Frederick Y	Member
21	Hon. Rabilu Bala	Member
22	Hon. Madawaki Dahiru	Member
23	Hon. Dahiru Abubakar Sarki	Member
24	Hon. Ibrahim Mohammed	Member
25	Hon. Ismail Dahha Kusada	Member
26	Hon. Hassan Mohammed Danjuma	Member
27	Hon. Aliyu Mustapha Abdullahi	Member
28	Hon. Garba Inuwa	Member
29	Hon. Nwogu Matthew	Member
30	Hon. Nnamchi Paul Sunday	Member
31	Hon. Obika Joshua Chinedu	Member
32	Hon. Ojuawo Rufus Adeniyi	Member
33	Hon. Iyawe Esosa	Member
34	Hon. Nwobasi Joseph	Member
35	Hon. Waive Francis Ejiroghene	Member
36	Hon. Peter Akpanke	Member
37	Hon. Gimba Zainab	Member
38	Hon. Ogene Victor Afamefuna	Member
39	Hon. Patrick Umoh	Member
40	Hon. Laori Kwamoti Bitrus	Member
41	Hon. Ibe Okwara Osonwa	Member

Contact Address of the Committees

Senate Committee on Ethics, Code of Conduct and Public Petitions:

📍 Room 4.8, White House (Senate Wing), National Assembly Complex, Abuja.

🌐 <https://www.senateethicsandprivileges.org.ng>

House of Representatives committee on Public Petitions

📍 Room 332, White House (House Wing), National Assembly Complex, Abuja.

🌐 <https://www.nasspublicpetitions.org>



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