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2026 | **PLAC LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME**

MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



Building Future Leaders. Creating Lasting Impact

**MODEL
LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY (MLA)
2026**

ABOUT PLAC



Founded in 2009, PLAC is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit capacity building organization that works to strengthen democratic governance and citizens participation in Nigeria. Through broad-based technical assistance and training, PLAC works to promote citizens' engagement with government institutions, advocate for legal and policy reforms and promote transparency and accountability in policy and decision making processes.

At the core of our programming is a deep commitment to increase legislative advocacy, promote transparency and good governance, support electoral reforms, enhance citizen's access to public policies and advance anti-corruption campaigns. In its over 15 years of history, PLAC has worked and evolved into a foremost leading institution with capacity to deliver cutting-edge research, policy analysis and advocacy.

Published by



Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)
Plot 451, Gambo Jimeta Crescent
Guzape District, Abuja

Website: www.placng.org

Email: info@placng.org

Phone: +2348091899999



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The Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria and to ECOWAS (the Delegation) is part of the European Union External service and is one of the 140 Delegations throughout the world.

The 2026 PLAC Legislative Internship Programme is one of the programmes supported by the delegation in its Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria.

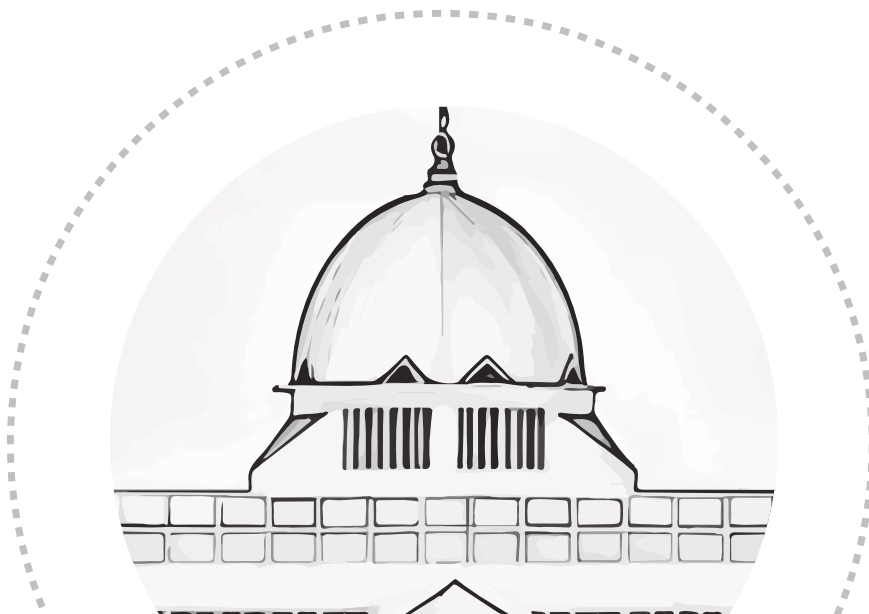


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INTRODUCTION

The 2026 Legislative Internship programme organized by the Policy and Advocacy Centre (PLAC) with support from the European Union has 39 (Thirty-nine) young Nigerians drawn from the six Geo Political Zones and Federal Capital Territory. The interns were deployed to various committees in the Senate and House of representatives to learn legislative practices and procedures to improve their understanding of the National Assembly.

As part of the Internship programme, interns are to carry out a re-enactment of a legislative plenary session through the medium of a mock Legislative Assembly which is patterned after a typical plenary session of the House of Representatives. At the one – day mock plenary session, interns will take on the role of the principal officers and Honourable members to deliberate on topical issues affecting the country.

PLAC's Legislative Internship Programme is supported by the European Union to enhance citizens understanding and participation in the processes of the National Assembly and also to provide a platform for persons from marginalized groups to realize their leadership ambitions and imagine their future leadership potential.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS IN THE MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (MLA)

Sequel to the mock legislative session, interns had practiced their roles at various times at PLAC office and the National Assembly. Intens had also conducted elections to select principal officers from among themselves for the MLA programme.

The following persons emerged as Principal Officers of the MLA

1. Speaker - **Ifebuchekwu Francisca Ede**
2. Deputy Speaker - **TrustGod Prosper Nnanna**
3. Majority Leader - **Udotong Utibe-Abasi**
4. Deputy Majority Leader - **Pamela Peace Ephraim**
5. Minority Leader - **Iyanu Ojuawo**
6. Deputy Minority Leader - **Hafsat Muhammad Abdulrahman**
7. Chief Whip - **Boluwatife Deborah Ogungbesan**
8. Deputy Chief Whip - **Abubakar Hussaini Abdulkareem**
9. Minority Whip - **Abdulrahman Ibrahim**
10. Deputy Minority Whip - **Sadiq Garba Ammani**
11. Clerk - **Hafsat Jibrin**
12. Sergeant at Arms - **Adenike Akande**

AGENDA

Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), with support from the European Union (EU)

PLAC 2026 LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME: MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (MLA)

Date: Thursday, 6th August 2026

Venue: Abuja Continental Hotel (Ballroom I)

Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm

TIME	ACTIVITY
9:30am – 10:00am	Registration of Participants Guests, Resource Persons and Interns are seated
10:00am – 11:00am	SESSION ONE: WELCOME AND OPENING CEREMONY Introduction of Special Guests, Resource Persons and Participants Welcome Remarks Clement Nwankwo <i>Executive Director, PLAC</i> Goodwill Remarks - European Union (EU) Delegation to Nigeria and the ECOWAS - Invited Senators & Honourable Members/ Special Guests Opening/ Special Remarks Barr. Kamoru Ogunlana, Clerk to the National Assembly (CNA)
11:00am - 12:00noon	SESSION TWO: MOCK LEGISLATIVE SESSION <i>Plenary Session by Interns of the PLAC 2026 Model Legislative Assembly</i> <i>Led by:</i> Francisca Ifebuche Edeh (Enugu) <i>Speaker, 2026 Model Legislative Assembly (MLA)</i> TrustGod Nnanna (Abia) <i>Deputy Speaker, 2026 Model Legislative Assembly (MLA)</i>

TIME	ACTIVITY
12:00noon - 12:30pm	SESSION THREE: Observations and Feedback From • Invited Legislators • Clerk, Senate • Clerk, House of Representatives • Reviewers/Panelists
12:30pm -1:00pm	SESSION FOUR: PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES AND PHOTO SESSION Clement Nwankwo , Executive Director, PLAC
1:00pm	Closing Remarks & Lunch

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS PRODUCED FOR THE 2026 MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FOURTH REPUBLIC
11TH MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FIRST SESSION
No. 28

3865



MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Monday, 15th December 2025

1. The House met at 11:00 a.m. Mr Speaker read the prayers.
2. The House sang the National Anthem and recited the National Pledge.
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr. Speaker announced that he has examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, December 12th, 2024.
The Votes and Proceedings adopted by unanimous consent.
4. **Oaths**
Mr. Speaker announced that any member-elect who had not been sworn in come forward to do so.
Six members-elect came forward and the clerk administered the oath of office and the newly sworn in members were congratulated by Mr. Speaker.
5. **Announcements**
Visitors in the Gallery:
Mr. Speaker announced the presence of the Staff of the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC).
6. **Petitions**
A petition from Ambassador Dr. Duru Hezekiah, of the International Human Rights Commission over unlawful demolitions of buildings across Lagos State, was presented and laid by Hon. Benjamin Emeka Orogwu (*Ezza South/Ikwo Federal Constituency*)
Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.
7. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 5)**
 - (i) *Urgent Need to Address the Abduction and Murder of Venerable Edwin Achi and to Strengthen Nationwide Security Response to Kidnappings:*
Hon. Queenette Anthony-Oni (*Khana/Gokana Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

(a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance and;

(b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 5 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

(ii) Urgent Need to Address the Abduction and Murder of Venerable Edwin Achi and to Strengthen Nationwide Security Response to Kidnappings:

The House:

Notes with deep concern the abduction on 28th October 2025 and subsequent murder of Venerable Edwin Achi, an Anglican priest in Kaduna State, who was kidnapped by armed bandits while returning from pastoral duties;

Further notes that despite efforts by his family and church to secure his release, the late cleric was killed in captivity, while his wife and daughter remain abducted, with their condition and safety unknown;

Worried that this incident reflects an alarming pattern of kidnappings, attacks on rural communities, places of worship, and vulnerable citizens across the country, heightening fear and eroding public confidence in the nation's security architecture;

Concerned that continued insecurity undermines economic stability, national cohesion, and the constitutional right to life under Section 33 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended).

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute's silence in honour of the late Venerable Edwin Achi;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian Police Force, the Department of State Services (DSS), the Nigerian Army, and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to take immediate, coordinated, intelligence-led action to secure the swift and safe release of the abducted wife and daughter of the late cleric.
- (iii) further urge the Chief of Army Staff, the Inspector-General of Police, the Director-General of the DSS, and the Commandant-General of the NSCDC to intensify rescue operations in Kaduna State and other high-risk regions, and to ensure that the perpetrators of this heinous act are apprehended and handed over for prosecution.
- (iv) mandate Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Police Affairs, Defence, and Interior to investigate the circumstances surrounding this abduction and killing, assess the adequacy of the current security response, and report back to the House within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**Hon. Queenette Anthony-Oni** — *Khana/Gokana Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment(s) Proposed:

That prayer (iii) be divided into four stand-alone prayers urging the Chief of Army Staff, the Inspector-General of Police, the Director-General of the DSS and the Commandant-General of the NSCDC separately. (Hon. Muhammad Mukhtar Umar — *Katagum Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made – Agreed to.

Question on the motion as amended – Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with deep concern the abduction on 28 October 2025 and subsequent murder of Venerable Edwin Achi, an Anglican priest in Kaduna State, who was kidnapped by armed bandits while returning from pastoral duties;

Further noted that despite efforts by his family and church to secure his release, the late cleric was killed in captivity, while his wife and daughter remain abducted, with their condition and safety unknown;

Worried that this incident reflects an alarming pattern of kidnappings, attacks on rural communities, places of worship, and vulnerable citizens across the country, heightening fear and eroding public confidence in the nation's security architecture;

Concerned that continued insecurity undermines economic stability, national cohesion, and the constitutional right to life under Section 33 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended).

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute's silence in honour of the late Venerable Edwin Achi;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian Police Force, the Department of State Services (DSS), the Nigerian Army, and the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to take immediate, coordinated, intelligence-led action to secure the swift and safe release of the abducted wife and daughter of the late cleric;
- (iii) urge the Chief of Army Staff to ensure that the perpetrators of this heinous act are apprehended and handed over for prosecution;
- (iv) also urge the Inspector-General of Police to ensure that the perpetrators of this heinous act are apprehended and handed over for prosecution;
- (v) urge the Director-General of the DSS to intensify rescue operations in Kaduna State and other high-risk regions and to ensure that the perpetrators of this heinous act are apprehended and handed over for prosecution;
- (vi) also urge the Commandant-General of the NSCDC to intensify rescue operations in Kaduna State and other high-risk regions and to ensure that the

perpetrators of this heinous act are apprehended and handed over for prosecution;

- (vii) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Police Affairs, Defence, and Interior to investigate the circumstances surrounding this abduction and killing, assess the adequacy of the current security response and report back to the House within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**Hon. Queenette Anthony-Oni** — *K'hana/Gokana Federal Constituency*).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

Matter referred to the Committee on National Security and Intelligence.

8. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the First Time:

- (1) Trademark Act (Amendment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 120).
- (2) National Social Safety Net Coordinating Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 122).
- (3) Desertification Control and Climate Resilience (Establishment) Bill, 2025 (HB. 100).

9. Presentation of Report

i. Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the report of the Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management on the request to implement new external borrowing in the 2025 Appropriation Act, refinance maturing Eurobonds, and issue a Debut Sovereign Sukuk in the international capital market" (Hon. Omolade Ademiluyi — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency)

Agreed to.

Report laid.

ii. Committee on Special Duties and Aviation

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the report of the Committee on Special Duties and Aviation on a Bill for an Act to amend the Nigerian Safety Investigation Bureau (NSIB) Act, 2022 (HB. 2108)" (Hon. Bridget Abiem, Vandeikya/Konshisha Federal Constituency)

Agreed to.

Report laid.

10. A Bill for an Act to Prohibit the Sale, Purchase, and Consumption of Alcohol by Persons Under 18 Years of Age and for Related Matters (HB. 7562) — Third Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Prohibit the Sale, Purchase, and Consumption of Alcohol by Persons Under 18 Years of Age and for

Related Matters (HB. 7562) be now read the Third Time” (Hon. Alice Eneyo — House Majority Leader).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third time and passed.

11. A Bill for an Act to Mandate the Teaching and Incorporation of the Nigerian Sign Language and Braille System into the Curriculum of all Secondary and Tertiary Educational Institutions in Nigeria (HB. 6726) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Mandate the Teaching and Incorporation of the Nigerian Sign Language and Braille System into the Curriculum of all Secondary and Tertiary Educational Institutions in Nigeria (HB. 6726) be read a Second Time” (Hon. James Oladiran — Ilaje Federal Constituency)

Debate.

Question that the Bill be now read a Second Time — Agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Basic Education and Services and Committee on TETFUND and Other Services.

12. Need for a Comprehensive Government Framework on IDP Reintegration, Security Assessment and Housing Solutions in Northern Nigeria.

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that between 2008 and 2024, statistics indicate that 15.1 million people have been internally displaced across Nigeria due to conflict, violence and natural disasters and that majority of these internally displaced persons and northerners with the highest demographic originating from North Eastern Nigeria;

Further notes that recent insecurity incidents since August have triggered new waves of displacement, adding thousands more to an already overstretched humanitarian situation;

Concerned that despite these new and ongoing displacements, many of the older IDPs remain in designated camps, having neither been properly reintegrated into their home communities nor resettled elsewhere;

Aware that IDP camps are inherently temporary structures intended only as short-term emergency relief and lack the stability and community fabric needed for displaced persons to rebuild their lives;

Concerned that prolonged displacement and unstable living conditions within camps have contributed to heightened unemployment and idleness, which in turn have been linked to an increase in crime and protection risks including sexual and gender-based violence, petty theft and vulnerability to recruitment by criminal or terrorist groups;

Urges immediate and coordinated government action to address these risks in order to prevent the recruitment of IDPs into criminal gangs, bandit networks or terrorist organisations, and to protect the safety, dignity and integrity of displaced populations;

Aware of the national policy on internally displaced persons revised in 2021 and;

Concerned that implementation across states remains inconsistent, poorly coordinated and in some states entirely absent, despite the immediate need for reintegration and resettlement planning;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation and security agencies to conduct a comprehensive Security and Viability Assessment of IDP origin communities to determine areas safe for return, suitable for phased return, or requiring relocation;
- (ii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation to develop a legally backed IDP Reintegration, Housing and Community Stabilization Framework to guide sustainable reintegration and ensure that no IDP camp is closed without a secure, dignified and sustainable alternative for its resident;
- (iii) call on the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) to commence reintegration processes in communities assessed as safe and develop a clear, time-bound roadmap outlining federal, state and local government roles in return, relocation and resettlement activities;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, Security and Social Development to assess the current status of IDP camps and reintegration efforts nationwide and report back to the house within four (4) weeks for further legislative action.
- (v) Also mandate the Committees on Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, Security and Social Development to ensure compliance.

Agreed to.

Motion referred to the Committee on Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management, Security and Social Development.

13. Order of the Day

Motion moved and Question proposed, “That the House do set down other motions on the Order Paper till another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)” (*Hon. Alice Eneyo – House Majority Leader*)

14. Consideration of Report(s)

- (i) *Committee on National Security and Intelligence:*

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on National Security and Intelligence on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022 to Criminalise Unauthorised Negotiation, Engagement or Communication with Terrorists or Bandit Groups; To Prohibit Ransom Payments to Create Offenses Relating to Interference with Counter-Terrorism Operations; and Strengthen Federal Oversight of All Engagements with Prescribed Groups, and for Related Matters (HB 69)” (Hon. Surajo Abubakar – Bakori/Danja Federal Constituency)

Agreed to.

Motion made and Question proposed that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report – Agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Madam Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE TERRORISM (PREVENTION AND PROHIBITION) ACT, 2022; TO CRIMINALISE UNAUTHORISED NEGOTIATION, ENGAGEMENT OR COMMUNICATION WITH TERRORISTS OR BANDIT GROUPS; TO PROHIBIT RANSOM PAYMENTS; TO CREATE OFFENSES RELATING TO INTERFERENCE WITH COUNTER-TERRORISM OPERATIONS; TO STRENGTHEN FEDERAL OVERSIGHT OF ALL ENGAGEMENTS WITH PRESCRIBED GROUPS AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.69)

Clause 1: Insertion of Section 10A.

The Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act 2022 (referred to as the Principal Act) is amended by inserting immediately after section 10, a new section “10A” as follows —

“10A. — (1) The Nigeria Sanctions Committee shall be responsible for developing, determining, and recommending to the President the terms, conditions, standards, and procedures applicable to any engagement, communication, or contact with any terrorist group, bandit group, or proscribed organisation.

(2) No federal ministry, department, agency, security institution, or authorised person shall initiate, conduct, or participate in any form of engagement or communication with a terrorist or bandit group except —

- (a) in accordance with the procedures and conditions prescribed by the Nigeria Sanctions Committee;
- (b) with the written approval of the National Security Adviser; and
- (c) under the authority of the President, acting on the recommendation of the Committee.

(3) The procedures and conditions prescribed under subsection (1) shall include —

- (a) risk and threat assessments;
- (b) operational guidelines for approved contact or dialogue;
- (c) mandatory intelligence documentation and reporting;
- (d) frameworks;
- (e) accountability and record-keeping standards;
- (f) human rights and humanitarian safeguards; and prevents abuse.

(4) The Nigeria Sanctions Committee may recommend to the President specific federal agencies, institutions, or persons to be designated as competent authorities for any approved engagement, subject to —

- (a) security clearance;
- (b) specialised training; and
- (c) demonstrated capability to handle sensitive counter-terrorism communication.

(5) Any engagement, communication, or negotiation undertaken in violation of subsection (2) shall be deemed unauthorised for the purposes of section 12A and shall attract the penalties prescribed under that section.

(6) For the purposes of this section —

“engagement” includes any meeting, communication, indirect contact, negotiation, dialogue, peace parley, or exchange of assurances, incentives, or terms with a terrorist group;

“Committee” means the Nigeria Sanctions Committee established under this Act.”

Question that Clause 1 stands part of the Bill – Agreed to.

Clause 2: Insertion of 12A.

Section 12 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after it a new section “(12A)” as follows —

“12A. — (1) A person who without lawful authority, directly or indirectly enters into any form of negotiation, engagement, dialogue, meeting, communication, arrangement for the purpose of peace settlement with any terrorist group, bandit group, or proscribed organisation or an individual commits an offence.

(2) For the purpose of subsection (1), a person acts without lawful authority unless the engagement is —

- (a) expressly approved in writing by the National Security Adviser; and
- (b) conducted by, or in coordination with, the National Counter-Terrorism Centre or any other body designated by the President upon the recommendation of the Nigeria Sanctions Committee,

(3) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) —

- (a) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than 20 years;
- (b) shall, in the case of an elected official or any person protected by constitutional or statutory immunity, be liable to proceedings in accordance with applicable constitutional or statutory frameworks.

(4) Any other person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than 10 years and not more than 15 years,

(5) For the purposes of this section —

“engagement” includes any meeting, parley, communication, negotiation, peace settlement, surrender arrangement, incentive offering, or any act capable of conferring benefit on, or receiving assurances from, a terrorist or bandit group;

“public official” includes any person elected, appointed, recognized, or exercising authority at the federal, state, local government or traditional level.”

Question that Clause 2 stands part of the Bill – Agreed to.

Clause 3: Insertion of Section 16A.

Section 16 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after it a new section “(12A)” as follows —

(1) Any federal ministry, department, agency, security institution, or authorised person that conducts or participates in any approved engagement, contact, communication, negotiation, or dialogue with any terrorist group, bandit group, or proscribed organisation shall, within 72 hours of such engagement, submit a written report to the President through the Office of the National Security Adviser.

(2) A report submitted under subsection (1) shall include —

- (a) the nature and purpose of the engagement;
- (b) the parties involved in the engagement;

- (c) the time, place, and method of communication;
 - (d) intelligence and operational information obtained;
 - (e) any commitments, assurances, or statements made by the parties; and
 - (f) any other information required by the National Security Adviser.
- (3) The National Counter-Terrorism Centre shall maintain a central and confidential national register of all reports, engagements, intelligence notes, assessments, and related documentation submitted under this section.
- (4) No authorised engagement or communication shall be considered valid or lawful unless —
- (a) it complies with the terms and conditions as shall be determined by the Nigeria Sanctions Committee;
 - (b) it receives written approval from the National Security Adviser; and
 - (c) it is reported in accordance with this section.
- (5) Any failure to comply with the reporting obligations under this section —
- (a) shall constitute unauthorised engagement for the purposes of section 12A; and
 - (b) shall attract the penalties prescribed under section 12A (3) or 12A (4).
- (6) For the purposes of this section —
- “engagement” has the meaning assigned under sections 12A (5);
- “authorised person” refers to any officer or individual authorised in conformity with section 12A (2)(a) and 12A (2)(b).

Question that Clause 3 stands part of the Bill – Agreed to.

Clause 4: Insertion of Section 21A.

Section 21 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after it a new section “(12A)” as follows —

“21A.— (1) A person who, directly or indirectly, provides, pays, offers, collects, transfers, delivers, conceals, arranges, facilitates, negotiates, or otherwise contributes any money, asset, property, vehicle, goods, service, or other valuable consideration as ransom to any terrorist group, bandit group, or proscribed organisation commits an offence.

(2) A person who knowingly or with reasonable grounds to suspect that the funds, property, vehicles, goods, services, or any other consideration provided

by them will be used for ransom or ransom-financing commits an offence under this section.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) shall not apply where the payment, transfer, delivery, or facilitation —

(a) This section does not apply where the act was compelled by imminent threat of death or serious harm.

(b) forms part of a security, rescue, intelligence, or strategic operation approved by the President upon the recommendation of the Nigeria Sanctions Committee; and

(c) is undertaken in coordination with the National Counter-Terrorism Centre or any other designated federal security agency.

(4) A public official who contravenes this section —

(a) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not more than 20 years; and

(b) shall be removed from office or impeached in accordance with the procedures prescribed under Section 188 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, prosecuted, and disqualified from holding any public office for a period of 10 years from the date of conviction.

(5) Any other person who contravenes this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than 10 years and not more than 15 years.

(6) For the purposes of this section —

“ransom” includes any money, asset, property, vehicle, goods, services, favour, or other consideration demanded or accepted for the release, safety, or non-harm of any person;

“ransom-financing” means providing, collecting, managing, transferring, moving, or facilitating funds or assets for purposes connected with ransom payment.

Question that Clause 4 stands part of the Bill – Agreed to.

Clause 5: Insertion of Section 32A.

Section 21 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after it a new section “(12A)” as follows —

“32A. — (1) A person who, by any act or omission, directly or indirectly interferes with, obstructs, influences, delays, frustrates, or attempts to frustrate any counter-terrorism operation, investigation, arrest, detention, prosecution,

intelligence activity, or judicial process relating to terrorism or banditry commits an offence.

(2) Without prejudice to subsection (1), a person commits an offence under this section if the person —

- (a) intimidates, threatens, coerces, misleads, induces, or exerts undue influence on any security officer, law enforcement agent, intelligence officer, or judicial officer for the purpose of securing the release, concealment, protection, non-arrest, or favourable treatment of any suspected or convicted terrorist or bandit;
- (b) offers, gives, solicits, receives, or agrees to receive any gratification, gift, vehicle, money, property, employment, promise, reward, or other benefit to influence any counter-terrorism or banditry-related action or decision;
- (c) wilfully hinders, prevents, or obstructs any authorised officer from carrying out a lawful counter-terrorism operation;
- (d) knowingly shelters, hides, protects, transports, or provides safe passage, material, logistical support, accommodation, or information to any terrorist, bandit, or proscribed organisation;
- (e) uses, abuses, or threatens to use any office, position, authority, or influence to interfere with, delay, compromise, or frustrate any counter-terrorism procedure, process, or outcome;
- (f) suppresses, alters, delays, or conceals any investigation, intelligence report, security alert, or prosecution relating to terrorism or banditry; or
- (g) engages in any act which, by its nature, undermines Nigeria's sovereignty, territorial integrity, internal security, or counter-terrorism framework.

(3) A public officer who contravenes this section —

- (a) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than 20 years;
- (b) shall be removed from office upon conviction or be impeached in accordance with the procedures prescribed under Section 188 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, prosecuted;
- (c) shall be disqualified from holding any public office, traditional leadership position, or recognised authority for a period of 10 years from the date of conviction; and
- (d) where applicable, shall be liable to deposition, withdrawal of recognition, disciplinary removal, or any other sanction prescribed by law.

(4) Any other person who contravenes this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of not less than 10 years and not more than 15 years.

(5) A person who attempts, conspires, aids, abets, counsels, procures, or facilitates the commission of any act prohibited under this section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to the same penalty as for the principal offence.

(6) In this section —

- (a) “gratification” includes money, gifts, vehicles, land, property, favours, employment, promises, offices, or any other benefit;
- (b) “public officer” includes any elected, appointed, employed, recognised, traditional, community, or religious authority, or any person exercising official, public, or governmental power or influence;
- (c) “counter-terrorism operation” includes any lawful arrest, search, interception, surveillance, intelligence activity, investigation, detention, prosecution, or judicial process undertaken by a relevant agency; and
- (d) “benefit” includes protection, information, release, safe passage, concealment, immunity, or any act that improves the operational capacity of a terrorist, bandit, or proscribed organisation.

Question that Clause 5 stands part of the Bill – Agreed to.

Clause 6: Amendment of Section 48.

Section 48 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after subsection (1) a new subsection “(1A)” as follows —

“(1A) A person or entity shall not be the subject of an application for proscription under subsection (1) unless—

- (a) the Attorney-General of the Federation has served the person or entity with a written notice of the proposed proscription and the grounds for it;
- (b) the person or entity has been afforded an opportunity to respond, appear or make representations to the Attorney-General or relevant security agencies, in accordance with fair hearing principles, and has failed, refused or neglected to do so within the period specified in the notice; or
- (c) there exists credible evidence, and judicial confirmation or conviction by a court of competent jurisdiction for an offence relating to terrorism, terrorism financing or support for terrorism under this Act or any other applicable law, establishing that the person or entity is engaged in any of the acts specified in subsection (1).”

Question that Clause 6 stands part of the Bill – Agreed to.

Clause 7: Amendment of Section 48

Section 48 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for subsection 48 (3), a new subsection “48 (3)” —

“48(3) Without prejudice to the provisions of section 57 of this Act, the Attorney-General may, on the approval of the President, apply to the Court for the revocation of the Proscription Order, except where the proscription was effected on the basis of subsection 48 (1A) (b) or 48 (1A) (c).”

Question that Clause 7 stands part of the Bill – Agreed to.

Clause 8: Insertion of Section 48A.

Section 21 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after it a new section “(12A)” as follows —

“(1) The National Counter-Terrorism Centre shall establish, maintain, and operate a National Public Register of Convicted Terrorism Supporters and Enablers, which shall contain the names and particulars of persons who —

- (a) have been convicted of any offence under this Act;
- (b) have been designated by the Nigeria Sanctions Committee, or proscribed pursuant to an application by the Attorney-General and with the approval of the President, as supporters, financiers, collaborators, or enablers of terrorist or bandit groups;
- (c) have been found, after investigation and in accordance with due process, to have engaged in acts constituting unauthorised negotiation, ransom-financing, interference, or abuse of office under sections 12A, 21A, or 32A.

(2) The Public Register shall contain —

- (a) the full name and identifying particulars of the person;
- (b) the nature of the offence or designation;
- (c) the date of conviction, designation, or determination;
- (d) the category of involvement, whether supporter, financier, negotiator, enabler, or collaborator;
- (e) any sanctions, penalties, or restrictions imposed; and
- (f) any other information the Centre may consider relevant.

(3) The Centre shall publish, in such manner as may be approved by the National Security Adviser —

- (a) periodic public reports containing the names of persons entered in the Register;
- (b) an online portal or other mechanism through which the public may access updated information, subject to national security guidelines.
- (4) A person shall not be entered into the Register under subsection (1)(b) unless —
 - (a) the Centre has served the person with a written notice of the proposed designation;
 - (b) the person has been afforded an opportunity to respond or appear before the Centre, in accordance with fair hearing principles and procedures established by the Centre, and has failed, refused or neglected to do so; or
 - (c) the person has been convicted by a court of competent jurisdiction of any offence relating to terrorism, terrorism financing, or support for terrorism under this Act or any other applicable law.
- (5) Any unauthorised removal, alteration, concealment, destruction, manipulation, or interference with the Register constitutes an offence punishable by imprisonment for a term of not less than 20 years.
- (6) For the purposes of this section —
 - “Supporter or Enabler” includes a person who finances, assists, shelters, enables, negotiates with, facilitates, or otherwise acts in a manner that materially supports terrorism or banditry;
 - “Register” means the National Register established under this section;
 - “Centre” means the National Counter-Terrorism Centre.

Question that Clause 8 stands part of the Bill – Agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022 to Criminalise Unauthorised Negotiation, Engagement or Communication with Terrorists or Bandit Groups; To Prohibit Ransom Payments to Create Offences Relating to Interference with Counter-Terrorism Operations; and Strengthen Federal Oversight of All Engagements with Prescribed Groups, and for Related Matters.

Question that Explanatory Memorandum stands part of the Bill – Agreed to

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022 to Criminalise Unauthorised Negotiation, Engagement or Communication with Terrorists or

Bandit Groups; To Prohibit Ransom Payments to Create Offenses Relating to Interference with Counter-Terrorism Operations; and Strengthen Federal Oversight of All Engagements with Prescribed Groups, and for Related Matters (HB. 69)

Question that Long Title stands part of the Bill – Agreed to

Chairman to report progress of the Bill in Plenary

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Madam Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on National Security and Intelligence on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Terrorism Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022; To Criminalise Unauthorised Negotiation, Engagement or Communication with Terrorists or Bandit Groups; To Prohibit Ransom Payments; To Create Offenses Relating to Interference with Counterterrorism Operations; To Strengthen Federal Oversight of All Engagements with Prescribed Groups and for Related Matters (HB. 69) and approved Clauses 1 - 8, the Explanatory Memorandum, and Long Title of the Bill.

Question that the House do adopt the report of the Committee of the Whole – Agreed to

15. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Monday, 14th December 2026 at 11:00am (Hon. Alice Eneyo – House Majority Leader)

The House adjourned accordingly at 1:11 pm

Hon. Francisca Edeh
Speaker

ORDER PAPER PRODUCED FOR THE 2026 MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



PLAC MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Thursday, 6th August 2026

-
1. National Anthem
 2. National Pledge
 3. Prayers
 4. Approval of the Votes and Proceedings
 5. Oaths
 6. Messages from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (If any)
 7. Messages from the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (If any)
 8. Announcement (s)
 9. Petitions
 10. Matters of Urgent Public Importance
 11. Personal Explanation
-

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. Fiscal Responsibility Act (Amendment) Bill 2026 (HB. 1111) – *First Reading*
Hon. Obed Soludo and 5 others
 2. Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (HB. 2485) – *First Reading*
Hon. Mariya Abubakar Bagudo and 5 others
-

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

Report of the Committee on North-East Development Commission

Hon. Muhammad Shuaibu

“An Act to Amend the North-East Development Commission (Establishment) Act, 2017 to Provide for the Mandatory Inclusion of Women and Persons with Disabilities in the Membership of the Governing Board; Strengthen the Review and Implementation of the North-East Development Master Plan; Provide for the Reporting of Outstanding Statutory Remittances Due to the Commission; Enhance Transparency and Public Reporting of the Activities of the Commission; and for Related Matters.” (HB. 2486) (Referred: 17/3/2026).

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

BILLS

1. A Bill for an Act to Provide for a Framework for the Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Management of Mangrove Ecosystems; Provide for the Designation and Management of Ecological Heritage Zones in Coordination with State Governments and Host Communities; Prescribe Safeguards for Development Activities Affecting Mangroves; and for Related Matters. (HB. 1997) – *Third Reading*
2. A Bill for An Act to Establish the National Office for Budgetary Oversight as an Independent Fiscal Institution to Provide Objective Fiscal and Economic Analysis, Support Legislative Oversight of Public Finance, Promote Fiscal Transparency and Sustainability, and for Related Matters. (HB402026) – *Second Reading*
Hon. Christopher Olusa

MOTIONS

3. NEED TO UPGRADE AND INTEGRATE THE EASTERN RAILWAY CORRIDOR INTO NIGERIA'S STANDARD-GAUGE RAIL NETWORK

Sponsors:

Hon. Adanna Nwaoku (Imo State); Hon. TrustGod Nnanna (Abia State); Hon. Chukwuezugbo Nwogu (Imo State); Hon. Ifebuchekukwu Edeh (Enugu State); Hon. Joy Okorafor-Odii (Ebonyi State); Hon. Obed Soludo (Anambra State).

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government has pursued the modernisation and expansion of Nigeria's railway network through a combination of standard-gauge construction and rehabilitation of existing narrow-gauge lines;

Also notes that the Eastern Railway Corridor is an existing narrow-gauge route extending from Port Harcourt to Maiduguri and that its rehabilitation has proceeded in phases, including work on the Port Harcourt–Aba section;

Aware that the corridor serves, or has the potential to serve, major commercial, industrial and agricultural centres in the South-East and neighbouring regions, and to connect inland markets with ports in Rivers State;

Concerned that the limited capacity and incomplete rehabilitation of the corridor leave businesses and commuters heavily dependent on road transport, increasing logistics costs, travel time, pressure on highways and exposure to road accidents;

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Recognises that a modern and efficient rail connection could improve freight movement, support manufacturing and agriculture, reduce pressure on highways and strengthen trade within and beyond the South-East;

Also worried that traders, manufacturers, and farmers are paying more, losing more;

Cognisant that section 16 of the Constitution enjoins the State to manage the economy in a manner that secures the maximum welfare of citizens and promotes balanced economic development;

Further cognisant that the 2023 Constitutional Amendment to the Concurrent Legislative List empowers States to legislate on intra-state railways, thereby requiring coordination and interoperability between Federal and State railway systems.

Resolves to:

- i. *Urge* the Federal Government, through the Federal Ministry of Transportation, to undertake and publish a technical, economic and financial feasibility assessment for the phased upgrading or construction of a standard-gauge Eastern Railway Corridor, including priority connections to Port Harcourt, Onne and Bonny ports and to the commercial centres of Aba, Enugu, Onitsha and Nnewi and ensure that such feasibility assessments are laid before the National Assembly and published within ninety (90) days of completion for transparency and accountability;
- ii. *Urge* the Federal Government to include viable priority phases of the project in the revised national railway plan, the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and subsequent annual budgets, with a clear implementation timetable and ensure these are reflected in the National Inter-State Railway Development Plan, to be reviewed and updated at least once every five years; and;
- iv. *Mandate* the House Committees on Land Transport, Appropriations and Finance, in collaboration with other relevant Committees, to engage the Federal Ministry of Transportation, Nigerian Railway Corporation, Debt Management Office, Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission, South-East Development Commission and relevant stakeholders on the status, scope, financing options and implementation timeline for the Eastern Railway Corridor, and report back to the House within six weeks, while ensuring expanded consultation with affected State Governments, State railway agencies, the Nigerian Ports Authority, organised private-sector freight interests, and communities likely to be impacted by proposed routes, and that subsequent progress is reflected in the Nigerian Railway Corporation's annual report to the National Assembly.

4. URGENT NEED TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATORY AGE LIMITS IN RECRUITMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT IN NIGERIA

Sponsors:

Hon. Ayeoritsesan Omolayo Obadiah PhD (Delta State); Hon. Clement Oko Adagbor (Cross River State); Hon. Utibe-Abasi Udotong (Akwa Ibom State); Hon. Esther Ogbomo (Edo State); Hon. Jeremiah Anietie (Akwa-Ibom State); Hon. Eseimokumo Albert (Bayelsa State).

The House:

Notes that section 17(3)(a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring that all citizens, without discrimination, have the opportunity for securing adequate means of livelihood;

Also notes that unemployment and underemployment remain significant challenges in Nigeria, particularly among graduates who often experience prolonged delays arising from industrial actions, insecurity, economic hardship, mandatory National Youth Service Corps participation, and professional qualification requirements.

Further notes that many public and private sector employers, particularly banks and other financial institutions and graduate trainee programmes, prescribe maximum age limits of 26 to 27 years as a condition for employment, thereby excluding otherwise qualified Nigerians solely on account of age;

Further notes that Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 commits States to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, while SDG 10 calls for reducing inequalities and promoting social inclusion;

Convinced that employment opportunities should be determined primarily by competence, qualifications, skills, experience and integrity rather than arbitrary age thresholds;

Aware that such age-based restrictions undermine the principles of equality of opportunity, merit-based recruitment, youth empowerment and national productivity;

Concerned that these recruitment practices disproportionately affect graduates who complete their studies later for reasons beyond their control, including interruptions in the academic calendar, family responsibilities, disability, or mandatory national service.

Resolves to:

- i. *Urge* the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment to develop regulations prohibiting unjustifiable age discrimination in recruitment by employers in both the public and private sectors and also review existing employment policies to ensure that graduates who complete the National Youth Service Corps or other mandatory professional requirements after prescribed recruitment age limits are not automatically disqualified from employment opportunities;

- ii. *Mandate* the Committees on Labour, Employment and Productivity, Youth Development, Human Rights, and Public Service Matters to investigate the prevalence of age-based recruitment restrictions in Nigeria and engage relevant stakeholders with a view to recommending appropriate legislative and policy reforms;
- iii. *Call on* all employers, including banks, government agencies, multinational corporations and other private organisations, to adopt merit-based recruitment policies that prioritise competence, qualifications and professional skills over arbitrary age limits; and
- iv. *Direct* the Committees to report back to the House within eight weeks with recommendations for legislative measures to eliminate discriminatory age restrictions in employment.

5. NEED TO STRENGTHEN RECOGNITION AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH NON-APPARENT DISABILITY

Sponsors:

Hon. Mariya Abubakar Bagudo (Kebbi State); Hon. Habiba Sani Madugu (Kano State); Hon. Zainab Sanusi Jibiya (Katsina State); Hon. Sadiq Garba Ammani (Zamfara State); Hon. Pamela P. Ephraim (Kaduna State); Hon. Hafsat Muhammad Abdulrahman (Sokoto State).

The House:

Notes that the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 prohibits discrimination on the ground of disability and recognises a person with disability as a person with a long-term physical, mental or sensory impairment which, in interaction with barriers, may hinder full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others;

Also notes that some disabilities and long-term impairments are not immediately apparent and may affect a person's health, communication, learning, mobility, concentration, work or participation without being readily visible to others;

Concerned that because such impairments are not always visible, affected persons may experience disbelief, stigma, delayed support or difficulty obtaining reasonable accommodation in healthcare facilities, educational institutions, workplaces and public services;

Aware that a medical diagnosis does not in every case amount to a disability, and that recognition and support should be based on the long-term functional impact of the impairment and the barriers faced by the individual;

Further aware that the Disability Act already provides protections relating to non-discrimination, education, healthcare, emergency situations and employment, but public institutions require clearer and more consistent guidance for applying those protections to persons with non-apparent disabilities; and

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Believes that a coordinated framework led by the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, with the participation of relevant ministries, professional bodies and persons with lived experience, would improve recognition, reasonable accommodation and access to appropriate services;

Accordingly, the House resolves to:

- i. *urge* the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, in consultation with the Federal Ministries responsible for health, education and labour, organisations of persons with disabilities, healthcare professionals and other relevant stakeholders, to develop national guidelines for the recognition, assessment and reasonable accommodation of persons with non-apparent disabilities;
- ii. *urge* the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the National Health Insurance Authority to review barriers to diagnosis, referral, treatment, rehabilitation and financial protection for persons whose long-term health conditions amount to disabilities, and to recommend appropriate measures within existing health-financing and clinical frameworks;
- iii. *urge* Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies, public educational institutions and public-sector employers to review their disability-inclusion policies and provide reasonable accommodation for persons with non-apparent disabilities in accordance with the Disability Act and guidelines issued by the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities;
- iv. *urge* the National Bureau of Statistics and the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities to improve disability-disaggregated data collection through appropriate functional assessment questions, while protecting the privacy and confidentiality of personal health information; and
- v. *mandate* the Committee on Disabilities, in collaboration with the Committees on Healthcare Services and Labour, Employment and Productivity, to engage relevant stakeholders, assess the implementation gaps affecting persons with non-apparent disabilities and report to the House within eight weeks for further legislative action.

6. NEED TO ASSESS THE CONDITION OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

Sponsors:

Hon. Jaafaru Sadiq Adamu (Taraba State); Hon. Abdulrahman Ibrahim (Bauchi State); Hon. Anna Yongo (Adamawa); Hon. Blessing Samaila Yakura (Adamawa State); Hon. Shalom Danlami Andemi (Taraba State); Hon. Muhammad Shuaibu (Yobe State); Hon. Muhammad Al-amin (Borno State); Hon. Mustapha Sa'eed (Gombe).

The House:

- i. *Notes that* the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 recognises the right of persons with disabilities to education in appropriate languages, modes and means of communication, and requires inclusive and accessible educational arrangements;

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- ii. *Also notes that Special Schools were established across Nigeria to provide learners with disabilities access to trained teachers, appropriate communication support, assistive learning materials and accessible facilities;*
- iii. *Aware that a number of special schools and mainstream schools implementing inclusive education in Nigeria reportedly face challenges relating to infrastructure, accessibility, staffing, teacher qualifications, teaching and learning materials and enrolment;*
- iv. *Further aware that effective education in Special Schools requires appropriately trained Special Education professionals, including teachers with competence in Nigerian Sign Language, Braille, orientation and mobility, and other disability-specific instructional methods;*
- v. *Concerned that the deployment of personnel without the required qualifications or disability-specific communication competencies may undermine learning outcomes and the effective implementation of inclusive-education policies;*
- vi. *Worried that inadequate facilities, assistive learning materials, trained personnel and weak coordination among responsible institutions may continue to deny children with disabilities equal access to quality basic education;*

Resolves to:

- i. *mandate the House Committee on Disabilities and Committee on Basic Education and Services, to conduct a joint assessment of special schools and the implementation of inclusive education across Nigeria;*
- ii. *direct that the assessment examine the condition and accessibility of school infrastructure, staffing levels, teacher qualifications and deployment, availability of Braille, sign-language and assistive learning resources, enrolment and retention, teacher training, and the utilisation and impact of relevant federal and State interventions;*
- iii. *invite the Federal Ministry of Education, the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, the Universal Basic Education Commission, relevant State Ministries of Education, State Universal Basic Education Boards and other responsible institutions to provide information on applicable standards, funding, recruitment, deployment, training and implementation challenges;*
- iv. *further mandate the Committees to recommend legislative, policy, budgetary and administrative measures for improving special education and inclusive education in the Zone; and*
- v. *require the Committees to report back to the House within eight weeks for further legislative action.*

7. NEED TO INCORPORATE LIVING WAGE INDICATORS INTO THE DETERMINATION AND PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE

Sponsors: Hon. Iyanu Ojuawo (Ekiti State); Hon. Adenike Akande (Osun State); Hon. John Akinwunmi (Oyo State); Hon. Roqeebah Yusuf (Ogun State); Hon. Boluwatife Ogungbesan (Ogun State); Hon. Christopher Olusa (Ondo State); Hon. Kaffo Emmanuel (Lagos State).

The House:

Notes that the national minimum wage is intended to provide a basic income floor and protect workers from unduly low remuneration;

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Also notes that increases in the cost of food, housing, transportation, healthcare, education, utilities and other essential needs may significantly reduce the purchasing power of workers;

Recognising that a wage that fails to meet the basic cost of living may contribute to increased poverty, social inequality and economic insecurity;

Concerned that insufficient consideration of the actual cost of meeting essential household needs may result in minimum wage that does not adequately respond to the living conditions of workers and their families;

Recognises the need for a transparent and evidence-based framework through which changes in the cost of living may be assessed during future minimum-wage negotiations and reviews;

Worried that the continued erosion of workers' purchasing power may deepen poverty, increase household vulnerability and contribute to labour dissatisfaction and economic insecurity;

Resolves to:

- i. *Urge* the Federal Government and **Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment**, in collaboration with the **National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission (NSIWC)** and relevant agencies responsible for national wage determination to develop measurable living wage indicators for consideration during future reviews of the national minimum wage;
- ii. *Further urge* that the indicators include the cost of food and nutrition, housing, utilities, transportation, healthcare, education and other essential household needs;
- iii. *Call* for the periodic collection and publication of reliable data on the cost of living across the Federation, including variations between different States and Communities;
- iv. *Urge* that future minimum-wage review processes clearly indicate how changes in the cost of living were considered alongside productivity, employment levels, prevailing economic conditions and the capacity of employers to pay; and
- v. *Mandate* the House Committees on **Labour, Employment and Productivity** to engage with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment and other relevant agencies on the development of a transparent framework for incorporating living wage indicators into future minimum wage reviews and report back to the House within four (4) weeks.

8. MOTION ON THE URGENT NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE REGULATION, STANDARDIZATION, AND SECURITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY (FCT) TO CURB THE MENACE OF "ONE CHANCE" OPERATIONS

Hon. Seember Stella Iorkyase (Benue); Hon. Jemimah Nerat Pam (Plateau); Hon. Aminu Bako (FCT); Hon. Abubakar Hussaini Abdulkareem (Nasarawa); Hon. Jamila Musa (Kogi); Hon. Hafsat Garba Jibrin (Niger State).

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The House:

Notes that Section 14(2)(b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) makes the security and welfare of the people the primary purpose of government, yet the criminal operation known as “One Chance”, in which passengers boarding disguised commercial vehicles are robbed, abducted, assaulted, or murdered, increasingly threatens commuters who depend daily on public transportation within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT);

Also notes that this menace is enabled by the absence of a framework for licensing and regulating commercial transport operators in the FCT, and that fragmented regulation among agencies has caused weak enforcement and poor coordination, while legitimate operators suffer reputational harm from being mistaken for criminal impersonators;

Concerned that women, children, students, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable commuters are disproportionately exposed to these crimes, and that existing oversight mechanisms have not kept pace with the sophistication of these networks, undermining public confidence and freedom of movement;

Cognizant that major cities worldwide use centralized transport management systems, vehicle databases, digital verification, and passenger complaint mechanisms to improve safety, and that a unified regulatory framework in the FCT would improve commuter safety, investor confidence, and economic development;

Also cognizant that the National Assembly holds constitutional oversight responsibilities over matters affecting the Federal Capital Territory, and that without comprehensive institutional reform, technological integration, and coordinated enforcement, these incidents may continue to increase;

Worried that without institutional reform and coordinated enforcement, these incidents will likely increase, further endangering lives and eroding public trust in government;

Resolves to:

- i. *urge* the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), with the Federal Ministry of Transportation and security agencies, to establish a regulatory framework and a Transportation Management and Safety Authority (“FCTTMSA”) for licensing, digital verification, and enforcement of transport safety standards in the FCT;
- ii. *call on* the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, the Department of State Services, and other relevant agencies to establish a Joint Transportation Security Task Force dedicated to intelligence gathering, surveillance, and prosecution of “One Chance” syndicates operating within the FCT;
- iii. *mandate* the National Assembly Committees on the FCT, Land Transport, and Police Affairs to investigate the current transport regulatory framework and recommend reforms within ninety (90) days; and
- iv. *direct* the Committees on the FCT and Land Transport to monitor implementation of this Motion and report back within six (6) months.

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CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

Report of the Committee on Healthcare Services

National Mental Health Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026

Hon. Seember Stella Iorkyase:

“That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Healthcare Services on a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Mental Health Act, 2021 to Provide for a Coordinated National Programme of Trauma and Psychosocial Support for Persons Affected by Kidnapping, Terrorism, Communal Violence, Other Violent Crimes and Emergencies; Strengthen Referral, Treatment and Community-Based Support Services; and for Related Matters, and approve the recommendations therein” (HB. 2483).

(Laid: 21/7/2026).

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

S/N	Committee	Date	Time	Venue
1.	Healthcare Services	Thursday, 6th August 2026	1:30 p.m.	Committee Room 231, New Building, National Assembly Complex
2.	North-East Development Commission	Thursday, 6th August 2026	2:00 p.m.	Committee Room 429, New Building, National Assembly Complex
3.	Legislative Budget and Research	Thursday, 6th August 2026	2:30 p.m.	Conference Room 301, White House, National Assembly Complex
4.	Environment	Thursday, 6th August 2026	3:00 p.m.	Committee Room 460, New Building, National Assembly Complex

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MATTER OF URGENT NATIONAL IMPORTANCE

URGENT NEED FOR IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION TO ADDRESS ONGOING AND IMMINENT FLOODING IN NIGERIA, PARTICULARLY IN THE SOUTH-SOUTH REGION

Sponsors:

Hon. Esther Ogbomo (Edo State); Hon. Ayeoritsesan Omolayo Obadiah (Delta State); Hon. Clement Oke Adagbor (Cross River State); Hon. Utibe-Abasi Udotong (Akwa Ibom State); Hon. Jeremiah Anietie (Akwa-Ibom State); Hon. Esemokumo Albert (Bayelsa State).

The House:

Notes that several communities across Nigeria are presently experiencing flooding following sustained rainfall, resulting in displacement, destruction of homes and livelihoods, and threats to lives and critical infrastructure;

Also notes that in July 2026, flooding in communities in Oyigbo Local Government Area of Rivers State submerged homes and businesses, displaced families and reportedly resulted in the death of a 17-year-old resident;

Further notes that flooding following hours of heavy rainfall recently submerged more than 100 houses in Arab and Atimbo communities in Calabar Municipality Local Government Area of Cross River State, forcing residents to evacuate their homes and causing extensive damage to household property;

Aware that the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency, in a flood advisory issued on 30 July 2026, identified 246 communities in Ekeremor, Kolokuma/Opokuma, Sagbama and Yenagoa Local Government Areas of Bayelsa State as being at high risk of flooding between 30 July and 5 August 2026;

Concerned that unless immediate preventive and emergency measures are activated in affected and high-risk communities, the continuing rainfall may result in further loss of lives, displacement, destruction of farmlands and damage to schools, health facilities, markets and other critical infrastructure;

Cognizant of the constitutional responsibility of government under section 14(2)(b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, to ensure the security and welfare of the people.

Resolves to:

1. *Urge* the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), in collaboration with the relevant State Emergency Management Agencies and Local Government authorities, the Nigeria Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA) and the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NiMet), to strengthen flood preparedness, community sensitization, evacuation planning, pre-positioning of relief materials, and the timely dissemination of localized flood and weather alerts in high-risk South-South communities;
2. *Urge* the Ecological Project Office (EPO), the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), and other relevant federal institutions to provide the House with details of ongoing and completed flood, erosion, drainage and shoreline-protection interventions in the South-South Region, including project locations, approved costs, implementation status and expected completion dates;
3. *Mandate* the House Committees on Ecological Fund, Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Environment and Water Resources to conduct a joint investigation into the utilization of federal funds for flood and erosion-control interventions in the South-South Region during the preceding ten years, inspect selected projects, invite relevant stakeholders, report their findings to the House within six (6) weeks, for further legislative action.

LIST OF BILLS PRODUCED FOR THE MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



NORTH CENTRAL

A Bill For An Act To Amend The National Mental Health Act, 2021 To Provide For A Coordinated National Programme Of Trauma And Psychosocial Support For Persons Affected By Kidnapping, Terrorism, Communal Violence, Other Violent Crimes And Emergencies; Strengthen Referral, Treatment And Community-Based Support Services; And For Related Matters

NORTH EAST

A Bill For An Act To Amend The North-East Development Commission (Establishment) Act, 2017 To Provide For The Mandatory Inclusion Of Women And Persons With Disabilities In The Membership Of The Governing Board; Strengthen The Review And Implementation Of The North-East Development Master Plan; Provide For The Reporting Of Outstanding Statutory Remittances Due To The Commission; Enhance Transparency And Public Reporting Of The Activities Of The Commission; And For Related Matters.

NORTH WEST

A Bill For An Act To Amend The Discrimination Against Persons With Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 To Strengthen The Recognition And Protection Of Persons With Disabilities That Are Not Immediately Apparent; And For Related Matters.

SOUTH EAST

A Bill For An Act To Amend The Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007 To Strengthen The Requirements For The Justification Of Expenditure Proposals Through A Modified And Rotational Application Of Zero-Based Budgeting Principles, Programme Performance Information, Monitoring And Reporting; And For Related Matters

SOUTH SOUTH

A Bill For An Act To Provide For A Framework For The Conservation, Restoration And Sustainable Management Of Mangrove Ecosystems; Provide For The Designation And Management Of Ecological Heritage Zones In Coordination With State Governments And Host Communities; Prescribe Safeguards For Development Activities Affecting Mangroves; And For Related Matters.

SOUTH WEST

A Bill For An Act To Establish The National Office For Budgetary Oversight As An Independent Fiscal Institution To Provide Objective Fiscal And Economic Analysis, Support Legislative Oversight Of Public Finance, Promote Fiscal Transparency And Sustainability, And For Related Matters.

BILLS DRAFTED BY INTERNS

**NORTH
CENTRAL**

NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026

PART I — Purpose

1. Purpose

PART II — Amendment of Objectives and Functions of the Department

2. Amendment of section 1 (Objectives)
3. Amendment of section 5 (Functions of the Department)

PART III — Insertion of New Sections Establishing the National Trauma and Psychosocial Support Programme

4. Insertion of new section 5A (Establishment and Functions of the Programme)
5. Insertion of new section 5B (Designation of Trauma-Support Units)
6. Insertion of new section 5C (Services to Survivors)
7. Insertion of new section 5D (Referral by Security Agencies and Emergency Response)
8. Insertion of new section 5E (Confidentiality of Survivor Records)

PART IV — Oversight

9. Insertion of new section 9A (Violence Survivor Trauma Sub-Committee)

PART V — Amendment of Financing Provisions

10. Amendment of section 7 (Sources of the Fund)
11. Insertion of new section 8A (Utilisation of the Fund for the Programme)

PART VI — Reporting and Phased Implementation

12. Insertion of new section 5F (Reporting on the Programme)
13. Phased implementation

PART VII — Interpretation, Citation and Commencement

14. Amendment of section 57 (Interpretation)
15. Citation and commencement

**A BILL
FOR
ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH ACT, 2021 TO PROVIDE
FOR A COORDINATED NATIONAL PROGRAMME OF TRAUMA AND
PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT FOR PERSONS AFFECTED BY KIDNAPPING,
TERRORISM, COMMUNAL VIOLENCE, OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES AND
EMERGENCIES; STRENGTHEN REFERRAL, TREATMENT AND COMMUNITY-
BASED SUPPORT SERVICES; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS**

Sponsors:

Hon. Seember Stella Iorkyase	(Benue)
Hon. Aminu Bako	(FCT)
Hon. Jamila Musa	(Kogi)
Hon. Abubakar Hussaini Abdulkareem	(Nasarawa)
Hon. Hafsat Garba Jibrin	(Niger)
Hon. Jemimah Nerat Pam	(Plateau)

[Commencement]

ENACTED BY the Model Legislative Assembly –

PART I — Purpose

1. Purpose

This Bill amends the National Mental Health Act, 2021 (in this Bill referred to as “the Principal Act”) to strengthen the existing mandate of the Mental Health Services Department by establishing, within that Department, a National Trauma and Psychosocial Support Programme for Survivors of kidnapping, banditry and terrorism. The Programme uses existing accredited health facilities, the existing Mental Health Fund, and lawful contributions from the Special Victims Trust Fund established under the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022, and other victim-support programmes.

PART II — Amendment of Objectives and Functions of the Department

2. Amendment of Section 1 (Objectives)

(1) Section 1 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after paragraph (g), a new paragraph (h) as follows —

(h) provide coordinated, needs-based trauma and psychosocial support for Survivors of kidnapping, banditry and terrorism, and for family members who have suffered demonstrable psychological harm as a result of such acts.

3. Amendment of Section 5 (Functions of the Department)

(1) Section 4(e)(iii) of the Principal Act, which currently provides that the Department's national plan shall include measures that target 'persons affected by catastrophic incidences and emergencies', is amended by the insertion, immediately after the word "emergencies", of the words " , including, specifically, persons affected by kidnapping, banditry, and terrorism".

(2) Section 5 of the Principal Act is further amended by inserting, immediately after paragraph (l), a new paragraph (m) as follows —

(m) coordinate, through the National Trauma and Psychosocial Support Programme established under section 5A, the trauma-informed care of Survivors, in collaboration with the National Human Rights Commission, the Victims Support Fund, the Special Victims Trust Fund Committee established under the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022, and relevant security agencies.

PART III — Insertion of New Sections Establishing the National Trauma and Psychosocial Support Programme

4. Insertion of New Section 5A (Establishment and Functions of the Programme)

(1) The Principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 5, a new section 5A as follows —

5A.—(1) There is established within the Department a National Trauma and Psychosocial Support Programme (in this Act referred to as 'the Programme') for the coordination of trauma and psychosocial support services for Survivors.

(2) The Programme shall —

(a) coordinate the national response to the psychosocial and mental health needs of Survivors;

(b) designate Trauma-Support Units in accordance with section 5B;

(c) develop referral protocols with the Nigeria Police Force, the Armed Forces, the National Emergency Management Agency, State Emergency Management Agencies, the Victims Support Fund and the Special Victims Trust Fund Committee;

(d) collaborate with the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria and other relevant professional regulatory bodies to develop training standards for trauma-informed care, without prejudice to the statutory licensing and accreditation functions of those bodies;

(e) maintain a confidential register of Survivors accessing services under this Part, subject to section 5E;

(f) conduct public awareness of the availability of services under this Part; and

(g) periodically assess, using available incidence and service-gap data, the geographic and population priorities for the Programme, and adjust the designation of Trauma-Support Units accordingly.

5. Insertion of New Section 5B (Designation of Trauma-Support Units)

(1) The Principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after the new section 5A, a new section 5B as follows —

5B.—(1) The Department may designate a Trauma-Support Unit within any public healthcare facility already established or accredited under Section 24, or within a qualified non-governmental or faith-based facility accredited under that section, for the delivery of services under section 5C.

(2) The designation of a Trauma-Support Unit shall be based on an assessment of the incidence of kidnapping, banditry and terrorism, existing service gaps and the vulnerability of the affected population, and shall be reviewed periodically.

(3) The Department shall enter into an agreement with the relevant State Ministry of Health before designating a Trauma-Support Unit within a facility under the control of a State Government.

(4) Nothing in this section requires the Department to construct a stand-alone facility where an existing facility can be designated under this section.

6. Insertion of New Section 5C (Services to Survivors)

(1) The Principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after the new section 5B, a new section 5C as follows —

“5C.—(1) A Trauma-Support Unit shall provide, at no cost to the Survivor —

- (a) an initial psychosocial assessment;
- (b) psychological first aid; and
- (c) referral to a Trauma Support Unit or other appropriate service.

(2) Continuing treatment beyond the entitlement in subsection (1) shall be provided on the basis of clinical need, as determined by the attending health professional, and shall be funded through the Fund, appropriations, public health insurance, and lawful contributions from victim-support arrangements, including the Special Victims Trust Fund and the VSF.

(3) For the avoidance of doubt, entitlement under this section shall not depend on the arrest, prosecution, or conviction of any perpetrator, and receipt of livelihood or resettlement support from the VSF or any other body shall not be a condition for, or bar to, receipt of services under this Part.

(4) Where a community has experienced a mass-casualty incident of Kidnapping, Banditry, or Terrorism, the Department may deploy a mobile outreach team to provide community-based psychological first aid pending referral to a Trauma Support Unit.

7. Insertion of New Section 5D (Referral by Security Agencies and Emergency Response)

(1) The Principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after the new section 5C, a new section 5D as follows —

5D.—(1) Where a victim of kidnapping, banditry or terrorism is rescued or released, the Nigeria Police Force, the Armed Forces or other responding security agency shall inform the victim of the availability of services under section 5C and, where the victim consents, facilitate referral to the nearest Trauma-Support Unit.

(2) The Department shall maintain a toll-free helpline for the initial psychological support and referral of newly affected Survivors.

(3) Where a community has experienced a mass-casualty incident of kidnapping, banditry or terrorism, the Department may deploy a mobile outreach team to provide community-based psychological first aid pending access to a Trauma-Support Unit.

(4) Services under this Part shall be provided without discrimination on the basis of sex, age, ethnicity, religion, disability or state of origin.

8. Insertion of New Section 5E (Confidentiality of Survivor Records)

(1) The Principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after the new section 5D, a new section 5E as follows —

5E. Records relating to a Survivor's identity, history or treatment under this Part are confidential and shall be treated in accordance with section 21 and the National Health Act, 2014, including the exception permitting disclosure where necessary to prevent serious harm to the Survivor or to others, or in other circumstances authorised by law.

PART IV — Oversight

9. Insertion of New Section 9A (Violence Survivor Trauma Sub-Committee)

(1) The Principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 9, a new section 9A as follows —

9A.—(1) There is established, as a Sub-Committee of the Mental Health Assessment Committee established under Section 9, a Violence Survivor Trauma Sub-Committee.

(2) In addition to members drawn from the Committee under Section 10, the Sub-Committee shall include —

(a) a representative of the Office of the National Security Adviser;

(b) a representative of the Victims Support Fund;

(c) a representative of the Special Victims Trust Fund Committee; and

(d) a representative of a survivor advocacy or civil society organisation, who need not be a member of the Committee under Section 10.

(3) The Sub-Committee shall advise the Department on the implementation of the Programme, monitor the designation and performance of Trauma-Support Units under Section 5B, and report to the Committee not less than twice yearly.

(4) Save as provided in this section, the Sub-Committee shall be subject to the provisions of Sections 10 and 11 of this Act as they apply to the Committee, with such modifications as the context requires.

PART V — Amendment of Financing Provisions

10. Amendment of Section 7 (Sources of the Fund)

(1) Section 7 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after paragraph (d), a new paragraph (e) as follows —

(e) lawful contributions or transfers from the Special Victims Trust Fund established under sections 91 and 92 of the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022, and from the Victims Support Fund, for the purpose of financing eligible services under Section 5C.

11. Insertion of New Section 8A (Utilisation of the Fund for the Programme)

(1) The Principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 8, a new section 8A as follows —

8A. In addition to its application under Section 6, the Fund may be applied towards the designation and running of Trauma-Support Units, the training standards developed under section 5A(2)(d), the helpline maintained under section 5D(2), the community outreach under section 5D(3), and the functions of the Sub-Committee established under section 9A, subject to the extant financial regulations of the Federation referred to in section 8, and shall be subject to annual audit by the Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation.

PART VI — Reporting and Phased Implementation

12. Insertion of New Section 5F (Reporting on the Programme)

(1) The Principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after the new section 5E, a new section 5F as follows —

5F. The Department shall, not later than 31st March in each year, submit to the Federal Ministry responsible for Health, and to the National Assembly, a report on the implementation of the Programme during the preceding year, including the number of Survivors served, the Trauma-Support Units designated, the amount received into and expended from the Fund under Section 8A, and the outcomes achieved, and shall publish the report after submission.

13. Phased Implementation

(1) The designation of Trauma-Support Units under section 5B shall proceed zone by zone, in the order of priority set out in the Schedule to this Act, and may not require simultaneous nationwide designation.

(2) The Department shall, within twenty-four (24) months of the coming into force of this Act, designate not fewer than one Trauma-Support Unit in each geopolitical zone, with priority given to the North-Central, North-East, and North-West geopolitical zones, in view of the documented incidence of kidnapping, banditry, and terrorism in those zones.

PART VII — Interpretation, Citation and Commencement

14. Amendment of Section 57 (Interpretation)

(1) Section 57 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting the following definitions in their appropriate alphabetical positions —

“Banditry” means armed attacks, cattle rustling, village raids, or related violent criminal activity carried out by organised armed groups, whether or not formally designated as terrorism under the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022;

“Kidnapping” means the unlawful seizure, abduction, or hostage-taking of a person, whether or not for ransom;

“Programme” means the National Trauma and Psychosocial Support Programme established under Section 5A;

“Special Victims Trust Fund” means the fund established under sections 91 and 92 of the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022;

“Survivor” means a person who has been subjected to Kidnapping, Banditry, or an act of terrorism within the meaning of the Terrorism (Prevention and Prohibition) Act, 2022, and includes a family member of a person killed, abducted, or seriously injured by such an act, where that family member has suffered demonstrable psychological harm as a result;

“Trauma Support Unit” means a unit designated or accredited under section 5B to provide psychosocial and mental health support to Survivors;

“VSF” means the Victims Support Fund established in 2014 as a public-private partnership, distinct from the Special Victims Trust Fund.

15. Citation and Commencement

(1) This Act may be cited as the National Mental Health Act (Amendment) Act, 2026, and shall be read as one with the National Mental Health Act, 2021.

(2) This Act shall come into force on the date of its assent by the President.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to strengthen the National Mental Health Act, 2021 by establishing a coordinated national programme for trauma and psychosocial support for persons affected by violent crime and emergencies, using existing mental-health institutions, health facilities and funding mechanisms

SCHEDULE

Indicative Order of Priority for Designation of Trauma-Support Units under Section 13

The following table is illustrative and non-binding; actual designation and sequencing shall be determined by the Department under section 5B and section 13.

Geopolitical Zone	Priority Basis	Indicative Phase
North-Central	High incidence of kidnapping and banditry (Benue, Kaduna-adjacent axis, Niger, Plateau, Nasarawa, FCT)	Phase One (within 24 months)
North-East	Concentrated terrorism-related trauma burden; existing VSF and Special Victims Trust Fund presence to coordinate with	Phase One (within 24 months)
North-West	High incidence of banditry and mass kidnapping	Phase One (within 24 months)
South-South	Emerging kidnapping incidence	Phase Two (Year 3+)
South-East	Emerging kidnapping incidence	Phase Two (Year 3+)
South-West	Lower documented incidence; urban referral point	Phase Two (Year 3+)

**NORTH
EAST**

**NORTH-EAST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (ESTABLISHMENT)
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026**

Arrangement of Clauses

Clause :

1. Amendment of Act No. 7, 2017.
2. Amendment of section 2.
3. Amendment of section 8.
4. Amendment of section 14.
5. Amendment of section 19.
6. Citation.

**NORTH-EAST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (ESTABLISHMENT)
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026**

A Bill

For

An Act to Amend the North-East Development Commission (Establishment) Act, 2017 to Provide for the Mandatory Inclusion of Women and Persons with Disabilities in the Membership of the Governing Board; Strengthen the Review and Implementation of the North-East Development Master Plan; Provide for the Reporting of Outstanding Statutory Remittances Due to the Commission; Enhance Transparency and Public Reporting of the Activities of the Commission; and for Related Matters.

Sponsors :

Abdulrahaman Ibrahim
Anna Yongo
Blessing Samaila Yakura
Shalom Danlami Andemi
Jaafaru Sadiq Adamu
Muhammad Shuaibu
Muhammad Al-amin
Mustapha Sa'eed

[] *Commencement*

BE IT ENACTED by the Model Legislative Assembly of the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)'s Legislative Internship Programme as follows :

Amendment of Act No. 7, 2017

1. The North-East Development Commission (Establishment) Act, 2017 (in this Bill referred to as “the Principal Act”) is amended as set out in this Bill.

Amendment of section 2

2. Section 2(2) of the Principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after paragraph (e), the following proviso :

“Provided that, in constituting the Board under this subsection, the President shall ensure that -

- (a) not less than two members of the Board are women; and
- (b) not less than one member of the Board is a person with disability.”

Amendment of section 8

3. Section 8(1) of the Principal Act is amended by substituting for paragraph (c), the following new paragraph :

“(c) develop, review and coordinate the implementation of a comprehensive North-East Development Master Plan, which shall -

- (i) contain programmes and schemes for the physical, social and economic development of the North-East Zone;
- (ii) be subjected to at least one mid-term review during the period covered by the Plan;
- (iii) be updated where significant changes in the security, humanitarian, environmental or socio-economic conditions of the Zone so require;
- (iv) be reviewed in consultation with relevant State Governments, communities and other stakeholders;
- (v) provide for the preparation of a successor Master Plan, which shall commence not later than twelve months before the expiration of the existing Plan; and
- (vi) be published and submitted to the President and the National Assembly not later than thirty days after the adoption of a revised or successor Master Plan;”

Amendment of section 14

4. Section 14 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting a new subsection (5) to read as follows :

“(5) Where any sum due to the Fund under subsection (2) (a) - (c) of this section remains unpaid for more than sixty days after the due date -

- (a) the outstanding sum shall constitute arrears due to the Commission and shall not lapse at the end of the financial year;
- (b) the Commission shall maintain a record of all outstanding sums and reflect them in its audited accounts prepared under section 18 of this Act; and
- (c) the Commission shall notify the President, the Auditor-General for the Federation and the relevant Committees of the National Assembly of the outstanding sum.”

Amendment of section 19

5. Section 19 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting after subsection (3), new subsections (4) and (5) to read as follows :

“(4) The report referred to in subsection (2) of this section shall include -

- (a) an assessment of progress in implementing the North-East Development Master Plan;
- (b) the principal projects and programmes undertaken during the year;
- (c) major implementation challenges; and

(d) the Commission's priorities for the following year.

(5) The Commission shall, not later than 14 days after the annual report has been laid before the National Assembly, publish the report on its official website and make it available to the public in such other manner as the Commission may determine.”

Citation

6. This Bill may be cited as the North-East Development Commission (Establishment) (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill amends the North-East Development Commission (Establishment) Act, No. 7, 2017 to provide for the mandatory inclusion of women and persons with disabilities in the membership of the Governing Board, strengthen the review and implementation of the North-East Development Master Plan, provide for the reporting of outstanding statutory remittances due to the Commission, and enhance transparency and public reporting of the activities of the Commission.

**NORTH
WEST**

Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Sections:

1. Amendment of the Principal Act.
2. Amendment of Section 1.
3. Amendment of Section 2.
4. Amendment of Section 21.
5. Amendment of Section 22.
6. Amendment of Section 28.
7. Amendment of Section 29.
8. Amendment of Section 38.
9. Insertion of Section 38A.
10. Amendment of Section 57.
11. Citation.
12. Commencement.

**A BILL
FOR**

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES (PROHIBITION) ACT, 2018 TO STRENGTHEN THE RECOGNITION
AND PROTECTION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES THAT ARE NOT
IMMEDIATELY APPARENT; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.**

Sponsors:

Hon. Mariya Abubakar Bagudo
Hon. Zainab Sanusi Jibiya
Hon. Habiba Sani Madugu
Hon. Sadiq Garba Ammani
Hon. Pamela P. Ephraim
Hon. Hafsat Muhammad Abdulrahman

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:

1. The Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 (in this Bill referred to as “the Principal Act”) is amended as set out in this Bill.

**Amendment of the
Principal Act**

2. Section 1 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after subsection (3) the following new subsections:

**Amendment of
Section 1: Application
to Disabilities that are
not Immediately
Apparent**

“(4) For the avoidance of doubt, the protection against discrimination under subsection (1) applies equally whether a person’s disability is visible or is not immediately apparent.

(5) A person shall not be denied a right, benefit, protection, service or reasonable accommodation under this Act solely on the ground that the person’s disability is not immediately apparent.”

3. Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended:

**Amendment of
Section 2: Public
Awareness
Programmes**

- (a) by renumbering the existing provision as subsection (1); and
(b) by inserting immediately thereafter the following new subsections:

“(2) The Federal Ministry of Information, in collaboration with the Commission, shall develop and implement continuous public awareness programmes to promote understanding of, and combat stigma and discrimination against, persons with disabilities that are not immediately apparent.

(3) The awareness programmes shall include public education on:

- (a) the diversity of disabilities, including those that are not immediately apparent;
- (b) the duty to provide reasonable accommodation; and
- (c) the elimination of harmful stereotypes and discrimination associated with disability.

(4) The Commission shall issue guidelines to support the implementation of this section.”

4. Section 21 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after subsection (2) the following new subsections:

**Amendment of
Section 21: Free
Healthcare**

“(3) A healthcare provider shall not deny, delay or unreasonably restrict a person’s access to healthcare services on the sole ground that the person’s disability is not immediately apparent.

(4) Public healthcare institutions shall, where reasonably practicable, provide reasonable accommodation necessary to enable persons with disabilities to access healthcare on an equal basis with others.

(5) The Federal Ministry of Health shall, in collaboration with the Commission, develop and periodically review clinical and service delivery guidelines for the identification, diagnosis, treatment and management of disabilities that are not immediately apparent.

(6) Healthcare personnel in public health institutions shall receive periodic training on the recognition of, and the provision of reasonable accommodation for, disabilities that are not immediately apparent.”

5. Section 22 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after subsection (4) the following new subsections:

**Amendment of
Section 22: Certificate
of Disability**

“(5) In determining eligibility for a Certificate of Disability under this section, due regard shall be had to the functional effect of the disability and not solely to whether it is visible or immediately apparent.

(6) A Certificate of Disability shall not be refused solely on the ground that the applicant’s disability is not immediately apparent, is episodic or fluctuating, or is capable of periods of remission.

(7) The Commission shall issue guidelines for the assessment of disabilities that are not immediately apparent for the purposes of this section.”

6. Section 28 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after subsection (3) the following new subsections:

**Amendment of
Section 28: Equal
Right to Work**

“(4) Every employer shall provide reasonable accommodation to a qualified employee or applicant with a disability, except where the employer demonstrates that doing so would impose an undue hardship.

(5) Reasonable accommodation under subsection (4) may include, where appropriate:

- (a) flexible working arrangements;
- (b) adjustment of work schedules;
- (c) time off for medical consultation or treatment;
- (d) modification of duties that are not essential functions of the position; and
- (e) provision of assistive technology or workplace adjustments.

(6) An employer shall not refuse to employ, dismiss, demote or otherwise subject a person to adverse treatment under subsection (1) solely because the person’s disability is not immediately apparent or requires periodic treatment or accommodation.

(7) Where reasonable accommodation would impose an undue hardship, the employer shall consult with the employee or applicant in good faith to identify alternative measures that would enable the person to participate in employment on an equal basis with others.

(8) An employee shall not be compelled to disclose confidential medical information beyond what is reasonably necessary to establish the need for reasonable accommodation under this section.”

7. Section 29 of the Principal Act is amended:

- (a) by renumbering the existing provision as subsection (1); and
- (b) by inserting immediately thereafter the following new subsection:

“(2) Every public authority employing persons with disabilities shall develop and periodically review workplace disability inclusion policies consistent with this Act, including procedures for requesting, considering and implementing reasonable accommodation for disabilities that are not immediately apparent.”

**Amendment of
Section 29:
Opportunity for
Employment**

8. Section 38 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after paragraph (r) the following new paragraphs:

“(s) advise the Federal Government on policies necessary to strengthen the recognition and protection of persons with disabilities that are not immediately apparent;

- (t) ensure that data collected under paragraph (f) of this section captures the specific needs and experiences of persons with disabilities that are not immediately apparent; and
- (u) receive and investigate complaints relating to the failure to recognise or reasonably accommodate a disability that is not immediately apparent, and take such action as may be authorised under this Act.”

**Amendment of
Section 38: Functions
of the Commission**

9. The Principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after Section 38 a new section '38A' as follows:

"38A. (1) The Commission shall, in consultation with relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies, organisations of persons with disabilities and healthcare professionals, issue guidelines to support the implementation of this Act in relation to persons with disabilities that are not immediately apparent.

(2) The guidelines may provide for:

- (a) reasonable accommodation in employment and education;
- (b) disability-inclusive healthcare practice;
- (c) procedures for recognising and supporting persons with disabilities that are not immediately apparent; and
- (d) such other matters as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Act."

10. Section 57 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting, in the appropriate alphabetical order, the following definitions-

"non-apparent disability" means a disability within the meaning of this Act whose existence or effects may not be immediately apparent to another person, including where those effects are episodic or fluctuate over time;

"reasonable accommodation" means a necessary and appropriate modification or adjustment required in a particular case to enable a person with disability to enjoy or exercise a right on an equal basis with others, without imposing undue hardship."

11. This Bill may be cited as the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

12. This Bill shall come into force on the date of its assent by the President.

**Insertion of Section
38A: Guidelines on
Disabilities that are
not Immediately
Apparent**

Amendment of Section 57:
Interpretation

Citation

Commencement

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to clarify that the protections of the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 apply to disabilities whose existence or effects may not be immediately apparent and to strengthen the duty to provide reasonable accommodation in healthcare and employment without displacing the existing rights, remedies and functions under the Act.

**SOUTH
EAST**

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT, 2007 TO STRENGTHEN THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE JUSTIFICATION OF EXPENDITURE PROPOSALS THROUGH A MODIFIED AND ROTATIONAL APPLICATION OF ZERO-BASED BUDGETING PRINCIPLES, PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE INFORMATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by:

Hon. Obed Soludo

Co-Sponsors:

Hon. Adanna Nwaoku

Hon. TrustGod Nnanna

Hon. Chukwuezugbo Nwogu

Hon. Ifebuchekwuwu Edeh

Hon. Joy Okorafor-Odii

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

Clause:

1. Amendment of section 19 of the Principal Act.
2. Insertion of new section 19A in the Principal Act.
3. Amendment of section 30 of the Principal Act.
4. Amendment of section 50 of the Principal Act.
5. Amendment of section 56 of the Principal Act.
6. Citation.

[] *Commencement.*

ENACTED by the Model Legislative Assembly—

- 1.** Section 19 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007 (in this Act referred to as “the Principal Act”) is amended by substituting for paragraph (d) the following new paragraph—

“(d) measures on cost and cost control, together with a programme justification and performance schedule setting out, in respect of each category of expenditure specified in section 19A(1) of this Act—

- (i) the purpose of, and the public need for, the programme or project;

- (ii) the estimated cost of the programme or project;
- (iii) the expected outputs and outcomes;
- (iv) measurable performance indicators;
- (v) the proposed implementation period;
- (vi) the relationship of the programme or project to the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and relevant national development priorities;
- (vii) in the case of a continuing programme, previous allocations, actual expenditure and the results achieved; and
- (viii) the justification for the commencement, continuation, expansion, modification, merger or discontinuation of the programme or project;*

2. The Principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after section 19, the following new section—

Insertion of new section 19A in the Principal Act.

‘19A.—(1) The following categories of expenditure shall be supported by a full zero-based justification set out in the programme justification and performance schedule required under section 19(d) of this Act—

‘Modified zero-based review of expenditure proposals.’

- (a) a new programme;
- (b) a new capital project;
- (c) a material expansion of an existing programme or project;
- (d) a new recurrent or overhead commitment;
- (e) discretionary expenditure above such threshold as may be prescribed by regulations made under this Act or specified in the Budget Call Circular; and
- (f) an eligible continuing programme scheduled for review under subsection (4) of this section.

(2) The following categories of expenditure shall not be required to be justified from a zero base in every budget cycle—

- (a) personnel costs arising from approved staffing;
- (b) charges for the service of public debt;
- (c) statutory transfers;
- (d) constitutional and other statutory obligations;
- (e) pensions and other legally established entitlements;
- (f) essential routine operations necessary to maintain existing public services; and
- (g) emergency expenditure authorised under applicable law.

(3) Exemption under subsection (2) of this section shall not operate to exempt any expenditure from the requirements of this Act or of any other law relating to budgeting, audit, monitoring or value for money.

(4) Every eligible continuing programme shall undergo a comprehensive zero-based review at least once within every period of five years, and the Minister shall, through the Budget Office of the Federation, publish annually, in the Budget Call Circular, a schedule of the eligible continuing programmes to be reviewed in the relevant budget cycle, which shall, as far as practicable, provide for the review of approximately one-fifth of all eligible continuing programmes in each financial year.

(5) In respect of expenditure subject to subsection (1) of this section, or of a review under subsection (4) of this section, the responsible Ministry, Department or Agency shall provide—

- (a) previous allocations and actual expenditure;
- (b) the outputs and outcomes achieved;
- (c) implementation challenges encountered;
- (d) evidence of the continuing relevance of the programme;
- (e) alternative methods of achieving the same objective;
- (f) the consequences of discontinuing or reducing the expenditure; and
- (g) the justification for the continuation, expansion, modification, merger or termination of the programme.

(6) A continuing programme shall not be included in the estimates of expenditure solely on the ground that provision was made for it in a previous budget.

(7) The Minister may, on the recommendation of the Budget Office of the Federation, defer the review of a programme scheduled under subsection (4) of this section where—

- (a) a national emergency has been declared under applicable law;
- (b) there has been a material and unexpected fiscal or economic shock; or
- (c) compliance within the relevant budget cycle would materially disrupt essential public services.

(8) A deferral under subsection (7) of this section shall—

- (a) be made for stated reasons;
- (b) be limited to the budget cycle to which it relates;
- (c) not operate as a permanent exemption from review; and
- (d) be disclosed in the relevant report under section 30 or 50 of this Act.

(9) The Budget Office of the Federation may, in respect of any submission under this section—

- (a) return an incomplete submission;
- (b) request additional information;
- (c) require revised costing or revised performance indicators;
- (d) identify duplicated or unsupported expenditure; and
- (e) recommend to the Minister that an inadequately supported proposal be not included in the draft estimates of expenditure.

(10) Nothing in this section shall—

- (a) confer on the Budget Office of the Federation the power to appropriate funds, or to prevent the President from laying estimates of revenue and expenditure before the National Assembly under section 81(1) of the Constitution; or
- (b) authorise the reallocation of appropriated funds otherwise than in accordance with the Constitution, this Act and the Appropriation Act.’

3. Section 30 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting, immediately after subsection (1), the following new subsection—

*Amendment of
section 30 of the
Principal Act.*

‘(1A) The monitoring, evaluation and reports referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall include—

- (a) implementation against the outputs and outcomes identified in the programme justification and performance schedule under section 19(d) of this Act;
- (b) performance against approved performance indicators;
- (c) financial and physical implementation of the Annual Budget;
- (d) material differences between expenditure incurred and the results achieved;
- (e) the reasons provided by the responsible Ministry, Department or Agency for significant variances;
- (f) compliance with the requirements of section 19A of this Act; and
- (g) programmes whose scheduled zero-based review was deferred under section 19A(7) of this Act, together with the reasons for the deferral.’

4. Section 50 of the Principal Act is amended—

*Amendment of
section 50 of the
Principal Act.*

- (a) by renumbering the existing provision of that section as subsection (1); and
- (b) by inserting, immediately after the subsection (1) as so renumbered, the following new subsection—

‘(2) The consolidated budget execution report referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall, without duplicating the quarterly reports under section 30 of this Act, identify—

- (a) the programmes subjected to a modified zero-based review during the financial year;
- (b) the programmes continued, modified, merged or recommended for discontinuation following review;
- (c) material failures to meet approved physical or financial performance targets;
- (d) significant differences between expenditure incurred and the results achieved, and the reasons for those differences;
- (e) programmes whose scheduled reviews were deferred under section 19A(7) of this Act;
- (f) the estimated savings or expenditure adjustments arising from the review process; and
- (g) the corrective measures proposed for subsequent budget cycles.’

5. Section 56 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting, in the appropriate alphabetical positions, the following new definitions—

*Amendment of
section 56 of the
Principal Act.*

“eligible continuing programme” means a programme, other than expenditure within a category specified in section 19A(2) of this Act, for which provision was made in a previous Appropriation Act and which is proposed to continue in a subsequent financial year;

“material expansion” means an increase in the scope, coverage or estimated cost of an existing programme or project exceeding such threshold, or satisfying such criteria, as may be prescribed by regulations made under this Act or specified in the Budget Call Circular;

“modified zero-based review” means the justification and review of expenditure proposals in accordance with section 19A of this Act;

“performance indicator” means a measurable criterion by which the outputs or outcomes of a programme or project are assessed;

“programme” means a set of related activities directed towards a defined public purpose, and includes a project;

“zero-based justification” means the justification of a proposed expenditure under section 19A of this Act by reference to its own merits for the relevant budget cycle, without reliance on the fact of its inclusion in any previous budget, and “zero-based review” shall be construed accordingly’

6. This Bill may be cited as the Fiscal Responsibility Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Citation.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill amends the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007 to strengthen the existing requirements for the justification of expenditure proposals, programme performance information, monitoring and reporting in the preparation and implementation of the Federal Budget. The Bill introduces a modified and rotational application of Zero-Based Budgeting principles by requiring a full zero-based justification for new programmes, new capital projects, material expansions of existing programmes and specified discretionary expenditure, and by requiring every eligible continuing programme to undergo a comprehensive zero-based review at least once within every period of five years in accordance with a review schedule published through the Budget Call Circular. The Bill relies on the existing institutional framework of the Principal Act, using the Budget Office of the Federation for implementation, and strengthens the quarterly monitoring and reporting under section 30 and the consolidated annual budget execution report under section 50 of the Principal Act.

**SOUTH
SOUTH**

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART I — OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION

1. Objectives of the Bill
2. Application of the Bill

PART II — NATIONAL REGISTER AND DESIGNATION OF ECOLOGICAL HERITAGE ZONES

3. Establishment of Ecological Heritage Zones
4. National Register of Mangrove Ecosystems

PART III — PROHIBITIONS

5. Prohibited Activities within Ecological Heritage Zones.

PART IV — CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

6. Mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment
7. Ecological Offset Scheme
8. National Mangrove Restoration Programme
9. Community-Based Mangrove Conservation
10. Control and Sustainable Utilisation of Invasive Nipa Palm

PART V — ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

11. Functions of the Federal Ministry of Environment
12. Functions of the Agency
13. Intergovernmental Coordination
14. Powers of Entry and Inspection
15. Specified Compliance Notice

PART VI — OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

[HB.1997]

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND SUSTAINBLE MANAGEMENT OF MANGROVE ECOSYSTEMS; PROVIDE FOR THE DESIGNATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ECOLOGICAL HERITAGE ZONES IN COORDINATION WITH STATE GOVERNMENTS AND HOST COMMUNITIES; PRESCRIBE SAFEGUARDS FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AFFECTING MANGROVES; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

SPONSORS

Hon. Ayeoritsesan Omolayo Obadiah	(Delta State)
Hon. Clement Oko Adagbor	(Cross River State)
Hon. Utibe-Abasi Udotong	(Akwa Ibom State)
Hon. Esther Ogbomo	(Edo State)
Hon. Jeremiah Anietie	(Akwa Ibom State)
Hon. Esecimokumo Albert	(Bayelsa State)

[COMMENCEMENT]

ENACTED BY the Model Legislative Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

PART I
OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION

1. Objectives of the Bill

The objectives of this Bill are to —

- (1) provide a legal framework for the protection, conservation and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems in Nigeria;
- (2) mitigate the adverse effects of climate change through the conservation of natural carbon sinks;
- (3) encourage the participation of host communities in mangrove restoration and conservation;
- (4) promote compliance with Nigeria's environmental obligations under existing laws and international environmental agreements;

2. Application of the Bill

- (1) This Act shall apply to —

- (a) mangrove ecosystems on federal land or within areas under federal jurisdiction;
- (b) projects requiring approval, licence, funding or authorisation under federal law;
- (c) Ecological Heritage Zones declared under the Act; and
- (d) mangrove areas under State control with the concurrence of the relevant State Government.

PART II

NATIONAL REGISTER AND DESIGNATION OF ECOLOGICAL HERITAGE ZONES

3. Establishment of Ecological Heritage Zones

- (1) The Minister may, on the recommendation of the Agency and after consultation with the relevant State Government, host communities and other affected stakeholders, by Order published in the Federal Government Gazette, declare any mangrove ecosystem to be an Ecological Heritage Zone.
- (2) An area may be declared an Ecological Heritage Zone where it—
 - (a) possesses significant ecological, biodiversity, scientific or cultural value;
 - (b) performs coastal protection functions; and or flood control.
- (3) An Order made under subsection (1) shall specify –
 - (a) the name, location and geographical boundaries of the Ecological Heritage Zone;
 - (b) a scientific and socio-economic assessment;
 - (c) consultation with host communities and affected rights holders;
 - (d) concurrence of the relevant State Government where the land is not under federal control;
 - (e) public notice and a period for objections;
 - (f) a management plan stating permitted, restricted, and prohibited activities.
- (4) Where the proposed Ecological Heritage Zone is situated wholly or partly on land under the control or administration of a State Government, the declaration shall be made with the concurrence of that State Government.
- (5) The Minister shall cause every declared under this section to be entered in the National Register of Mangrove Ecosystems.

4. National Register of Mangrove Ecosystems

- (1) The Federal Ministry of Environment shall, in collaboration with the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (the Agency), relevant State Government and authorities responsible for Ecological Heritage Zone, establish and maintain a National Register of Mangrove Ecosystems and Ecological Heritage Zones.
- (2) The Register shall contain, in respect of each listed mangrove ecosystem or Ecological Heritage Zones –
 - (a) its name and geographical location;
 - (b) mapped boundaries and geospatial coordinates;
 - (c) its legal designation, including the statutory instrument or enactment establishing the Ecological Heritage Zone.
- (3) The Register shall be-
 - (a) reviewed every five years, or at such shorter intervals as the Minister may determine, following consultation with the relevant State Government, host communities and other affected stakeholders.
 - (b) be maintained in electronic and other accessible formats; and
 - (c) be made available to the public without charge.
- (4) The Agency may withhold or limit public access to information contained in the Register where disclosure would –
 - (a) endanger the ecological integrity or conservation objectives of an Ecological Heritage Zone;
 - (b) otherwise be contrary to this Act or any other applicable law.
- (5) Every State Government, Ecological Heritage Zone authority and public institution possessing information required for the Register shall provide the information to the Agency in the prescribed form and shall notify the Agency of any material change affecting a listed area.

PART III

PROHIBITIONS

5. Prohibited Activities within Ecological Heritage Zones

- (1) A person shall not, except as authorised under this Act or other applicable law—
- (a) clear, cut, burn, or remove mangrove vegetation;
 - (b) reclaim, drain or fill wetlands;
 - (c) undertake dredging or land reclamation;
 - (d) deposit waste or hazardous substances;
 - (e) undertake any activity prescribed by regulations as harmful to an Ecological Heritage Zone.
- (2) Any authorisation granted under subsection (1) shall be subject to such conditions as may be necessary to prevent or minimise ecological damage.

PART IV

CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

6. Mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment

- (1) where an Environmental Impact Assessment is required under the applicable law, the assessment must specifically address mangrove baseline conditions, cumulative impacts, biodiversity, community livelihoods, restoration and post-project monitoring.
- (2) in considering an application for approval, the approving authority shall apply the mitigation hierarchy and shall require the proponent to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the approving authority, that—
- (a) adverse impacts on mangrove ecosystems have, where practicable, been avoided;
 - (b) unavoidable adverse impacts have been minimised;
 - (c) affected areas will be restored or rehabilitated in accordance with an approved restoration plan; and
 - (d) ecological offsets shall be considered only as a measure of last resort to address significant residual adverse impacts that cannot reasonably be avoided, minimised or restored.
- (3) The Environmental Impact Assessment report shall be made available to affected host communities for public comments before final approval is granted.

7. Ecological Offset Scheme

National Mangrove Conservation and Restoration Bill 2026.

(1) Where the removal of mangrove vegetation is lawfully authorised and residual ecological impacts cannot reasonably be avoided, the developer shall undertake ecological offset measures approved by the Agency.

(2) Ecological offsets may include—

(a) restoration of degraded mangrove ecosystems, establishment of new mangrove forests, rehabilitation of associated wetlands, biodiversity enhancement projects; or any other measure prescribed by regulations.

(3) The ecological offset programme shall be implemented before or concurrently with the authorised development unless otherwise approved by the Agency.

8. National Mangrove Restoration Programme

(1) The Federal Ministry of Environment shall establish a National Mangrove Restoration Programme.

(2) The Programme shall—

(a) coordinate restoration of degraded mangrove ecosystems through research in mangrove ecology and restoration techniques;

(b) facilitate collaboration with State Government(s), research institutions and development partners;

(c) Priority shall be accorded to severely degraded mangrove ecosystems identified through ecological assessment.

(3) the Agency shall monitor the effectiveness of restoration projects.

9. Community-Based Mangrove Conservation

(1) The Federal Ministry of Environment shall promote the active participation of host communities in the protection, restoration, and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems.

(2) Community participation may include—

(a) participation in restoration programmes, community environmental monitoring, public awareness and environmental education, traditional conservation practices consistent with this Bill and;

(b) sustainable livelihood initiatives linked to mangrove conservation.

(3) In implementing this section, particular attention shall be given to the participation of women, youth and indigenous community institutions.

10. Control and Sustainable Utilisation of Invasive Nipa Palm

(1) The Federal Ministry of Environment shall develop programmes for the control and management of invasive Nipa Palm in areas where it threatens indigenous mangrove ecosystems.

PART V

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

11. Functions of the Federal Ministry of Environment

(1) The Federal Ministry of Environment shall—

- (a) coordinate the enforcement and implementation of this Act through the Agency;
- (b) identify and designate Ecological Heritage Zones;
- (c) establish and maintain the National Register of Mangrove Ecosystems;
- (d) develop national policies, standards, and guidelines for mangrove conservation and restoration;
- (e) promote scientific research on mangrove ecosystems;
- (f) provide technical support to State Governments and Local Government Councils; and
- (g) perform such other functions as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this.

12. Functions of the Agency

(1) The Agency shall-

- (a) coordinate the enforcement and implementation of this Act through the Agency;
- (b) coordinate the implementation of the National Mangrove Restoration Programme;
- (c) issue compliance notice; and
- (d) perform such other duties as may be prescribed.

13. Intergovernmental Coordination

(1) The Federal Ministry of Environment shall collaborate with

- (a) State Ministries responsible for the environment;
 - (b) Local Government Councils;
 - (c) relevant environmental and natural resource management agencies;
 - (d) research institutions; and
 - (e) recognised host community organisations for the implementation of this Act.
- (2) Such collaboration shall promote information sharing, coordinated enforcement and integrated ecosystem management.

14. Powers of Entry and Inspection

- (1) An authorised officer of the Agency may, upon producing their official identification-
- (a) enter any premises, facility, or site where the officer reasonably believes that activities regulated under this Act are carried out;
 - (b) inspect documents, permits, equipment and or environmental records;
 - (c) take samples of soil, water, or vegetation where necessary for determining compliance;
 - (d) require any person to provide information reasonably necessary for the administration of this Act.
- (2) An authorised officer shall not enter a private dwelling except—
- (a) with the informed consent of the occupier; or
 - (b) pursuant to a warrant issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.
- (3) An authorised officer exercising powers under this section shall take reasonable steps to minimise disruption to lawful activities and shall not use more force than is reasonably necessary in the execution of his or her duties.
- (4) Any information obtained during an inspection that constitutes confidential commercial information, personal data or other protected information shall be kept confidential and shall not be disclosed except—
- (a) for the purposes of administering or enforcing this Act;
 - (b) where disclosure is required by a court of competent jurisdiction;

- (c) where disclosure is authorised by any other written law; or
- (d) with the written consent of the person to whom the information relates.

15. Specified Compliance Notice

(1) Where an authorised officer is satisfied that a person has contravened or is likely to contravene this Act, a Specified Compliance Notice may be issued requiring that person to—

- (a) cease the offending activity or restore the affected mangrove ecosystem; or
- (b) comply with any condition imposed under this Act.

(2) A Specified Compliance Notice issued under subsection (1) shall—

- (a) state the nature of the alleged contravention;
- (b) identify the provision of this Act or any regulation alleged to have been contravened;
- (c) corrective or remedial measures required and specify the period within which such person must comply.

PART VI

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

16. Offence of Unlawful Destruction of Mangrove Ecosystems

(1) A person who, without lawful authority—

- (a) clears, destroys, degrades, reclaims, dredges or undertakes any prohibited activity within an Ecological Heritage Zone;
- (b) carries out any development or other activity in contravention of this Act or knowingly causes significant ecological damage to an Ecological Heritage Zone; or
- (c) fails to comply with a Specified Compliance Notice issued under this Act commits an offence.

(2) A person convicted under subsection is liable—

- (a) in the case of an individual, to a fine of not less than ₦2,000,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or to both; and
- (b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine of not less than ₦20,000,000 and an order requiring restoration of the affected ecosystem at its own cost.

PART VII

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

17. Establishment of Mangrove Conservation Financing Mechanism

- (1) The Federal Government shall establish a Mangrove Conservation Financing Mechanism for the purpose of coordinating and facilitating financial resources for the protection, conservation, restoration and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems in Nigeria.
- (2) The Financing Mechanism shall draw funding from—
- (a) allocations made by the Federal Government, including relevant allocations from the Ecological Fund and other environmental intervention funds;
 - (b) appropriations made by the National Assembly;
 - (c) fees, charges and other monies payable under this Act;
 - (d) grants, donations, contributions and technical assistance from development partners, international organisations and other lawful sources;
- (3) The Federal Ministry of Environment shall, through the Agency, develop guidelines for the administration and utilisation of funds made available under the Financing Mechanism. subject to the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007 and other applicable financial regulations.
- (4) The Agency shall maintain proper records of activities funded under the Financing Mechanism and shall submit periodic reports to the Minister.

PART VIII

MISCELLANEOUS

18. Power to Make Regulations

- (1)The Minister shall, on the recommendation of the Agency and after consultation with relevant State authorities, make regulations on designation procedures, management plans, restoration standards, offsets, monitoring, reporting and any other and any other matter necessary or incidental to giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

19. Interpretation

In this Act: ____

National Mangrove Conservation and Restoration Bill 2026.

“Agency” National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) established under the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (Establishment) Act, 2007.

“Ecological Heritage Zone” means an area designated under section 4 of this Act for the protection and conservation of mangrove ecosystems.

“Mangrove” means a coastal wetland ecosystem dominated by salt-tolerant tree and shrub species occurring in tidal environments.

“Minister” means the Minister charged with responsibility for matters relating to the environment, that is, the Minister of Environment.

“Restoration” means the process of assisting the recovery of a degraded mangrove ecosystem to improve its ecological integrity and functioning.

20. Citation

This Bill may be cited as the National Mangrove Conservation and Restoration Bill 2026.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish a comprehensive legal framework for the conservation and sustainable management of mangrove ecosystems in Nigeria. It provides for the establishment of Ecological Heritage Zones, regulation of environmental safeguards for development projects, community participation in conservation, enforcement mechanisms and penalties for unlawful degradation of mangrove ecosystems. The Bill supplements and does not displace the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, NESREA Act, National Park Service Act and valid State environmental and forestry laws. It promotes coordinated action among relevant authorities, host communities and other relevant stakeholders. The Bill is enacted in furtherance of Nigeria’s environmental protection, climate change and sustainable development objectives.

**SOUTH
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ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

PART I – OBJECTIVES

1. Objectives.

PART II – ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR BUDGETARY OVERSIGHT

2. Establishment of the Office.
3. Functions of the Office.
4. Powers of the Office.
5. Independence of the Office.

PART III – ESTABLISHMENT, GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR BUDGETARY OVERSIGHT

6. Governing Board.
7. Appointment of members of the Board.
8. Qualifications for appointment.
9. Tenure of office.
10. Cessation of office.
11. Remuneration and allowances.
12. Meetings of the Board.
13. Committees of the Board.
14. Director-General.
15. Staff of the Office.

PART IV – FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE OFFICE

16. Preparation of macroeconomic and fiscal forecasts.
17. Independent costing of Executive fiscal proposals.
18. Independent costing of legislative proposals.
19. Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability Report.
20. Pre-Election Fiscal Report.
21. Annual programme of work.
22. Methodology.

PART V – ACCESS TO INFORMATION, DATA SECURITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

23. Power to obtain information.

24. Duty to provide information.

25. Confidential information.

26. Obstruction of the Office.

PART VI – RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

27. Relationship with existing institutions.

28. Cooperation with public institutions.

PART VII – REPORTING, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

29. Submission of reports.

30. Publication of reports.

31. Appearance before the National Assembly.

32. Annual Report.

PART VIII – FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

33. Funds of the Office.

34. Annual estimates.

35. Accounts.

36. Audit.

PART IX – MISCELLANEOUS

37. Disclosure of interest.

38. Protection from liability.

39. Regulations.

40. Interpretation.

41. Transitional provisions.

42. Citation.

HB402026

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR BUDGETARY OVERSIGHT AS AN INDEPENDENT FISCAL INSTITUTION TO PROVIDE OBJECTIVE FISCAL AND ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT OF PUBLIC FINANCE, PROMOTE FISCAL TRANSPARENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY, AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Sponsors:

Hon. Adenike Akande (Osun)

Hon. Iyanu Ojuawo (Ekiti)

Hon. John Akinwunmi (Oyo)

Hon. Roqeebah Yusuf (Ogun)

Hon. Boluwatife Ogungbesan (Ogun)

Hon. Christopher Olusa (Ondo)

Hon. Kaffo Emmanuel (Lagos)

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA enacts as follows:

PART I – OBJECTIVES

1. Objectives of the Bill

The objectives of this Act are to—

- (a) strengthen fiscal responsibility;
- (b) improve transparency in public finance;
- (c) promote evidence-based budgeting;
- (d) enhance public confidence in fiscal policy;
- (e) improve legislative oversight;
- (f) provide independent fiscal and economic analysis to support the National Assembly in the discharge of its constitutional responsibilities;
- (g) promote intergenerational fiscal sustainability.

PART II - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR BUDGETARY OVERSIGHT

2. Establishment of the Office

National Office for Budgetary Oversight Bill, 2026

- (1) There is established the National Office for Budgetary Oversight (in this Act, referred to as “the Office”)
- (2) The Office —
 - (a) shall be a body corporate, with perpetual succession and a common seal;
 - (b) may sue or be sued in its corporate name; and
 - (c) may acquire, hold and dispose of its property.
- (3) The Office —
 - (a) shall have its head office in the Federal Capital Territory; and
 - (b) may maintain other offices, in any part of Nigeria, for the purposes of achieving the objects of the Office.

3. Functions of the Office

The Office shall perform the functions specified in Part IV of this Act and may undertake such related research and analysis as are reasonably necessary to support those functions.

4. Powers of the Office

The Office may—

- (a) obtain information from public institutions in accordance with Part V of this Act;
- (b) enter into contracts and acquire or dispose of property required for the performance of its functions;
- (c) commission research and engage professional or technical advisers in accordance with applicable law; and
- (d) do such other lawful acts as are reasonably necessary for the performance of its functions under this Act.

5. Independence of the Office

- (1) In the performance of its analytical and professional functions, the Office shall be operationally and professionally independent and shall not seek or receive directions from any person or authority on the findings, assumptions or conclusions of a report prepared under this Act.
- (2) The Office shall be accountable to the National Assembly for the lawful, efficient and transparent use of public funds appropriated to it.
- (3) Nothing in this section exempts the Office from compliance with the Constitution, this Act or any other law applicable to public institutions.

PART III - ESTABLISHMENT, GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR BUDGETARY OVERSIGHT

6. Governing Board

(1) There shall be for the Office, a Governing Board (in this Act referred to as “the Board”) which shall be responsible for the general policy and strategic direction of the Office.

(2) The Board shall consist of—

- (a) a Chairperson;
- (b) two fiscal economists;
- (c) one macroeconomist;
- (d) one public finance expert;
- (e) one statistician;
- (f) one chartered accountant;
- (g) one legal practitioner with not less than fifteen years post-call experience and demonstrable expertise in public finance law;
- (h) the Director-General of the Office, who shall serve as an ex officio member without voting rights.

(3) In appointing members of the Board, regard shall be had to competence, integrity, gender balance and the federal character of Nigeria.

7. Appointment of members of the Board

(1) Members of the Board, other than the ex officio member, shall be appointed by the President subject to confirmation by the Senate.

(2) Prior to nomination under subsection (1), candidates shall be recommended by an Independent National Office for Budgetary Oversight Selection Committee comprising one representative each of —

- (a) the Nigerian Economic Society;
- (b) the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria;
- (c) the Nigerian Statistical Association;
- (d) the Chartered Institute of Taxation of Nigeria;
- (e) the Fiscal Responsibility Commission; and
- (f) the Nigerian Bar Association.

(3) The Selection Committee shall advertise vacancies, invite applications and nominations from the public, and submit to the President not less than two qualified candidates for each vacant position.

8. Qualifications for appointment

A person shall not be qualified for appointment as Chairperson or member of the Board unless the person—

- (a) is a citizen of Nigeria;
- (b) possesses at least a bachelor’s degree from a recognised university;

- (c) possesses not less than fifteen years professional experience in economics, public finance, accounting, statistics, taxation, law, fiscal policy, budgeting or a related discipline;
- (d) has demonstrable competence and integrity in public or professional service;
- (e) has not held elective political office or served as an executive officer of a political party within the five years immediately preceding the appointment;
- (f) is not an undischarged bankrupt;
- (g) has not been convicted of an offence involving fraud, dishonesty or financial impropriety; and
- (h) is otherwise a fit and proper person to hold office.

9. Tenure of Office

- (1) A member of the Board, other than the Director-General, shall hold office for a single non-renewable term of five years.
- (2) The first appointments to the Board shall be staggered in the manner prescribed in the Schedule to this Act to preserve continuity.
- (3) A person appointed to fill a vacancy shall hold office only for the remainder of the term of the member being replaced.

10. Cessation of Office

- (1) A member of the Board shall cease to hold office where the member—
 - (a) dies;
 - (b) resigns by notice in writing addressed to the President;
 - (c) becomes of unsound mind;
 - (d) becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement with creditors;
 - (e) is convicted of a criminal offence involving fraud, dishonesty or financial misconduct;
 - (f) is removed from membership of a recognised professional body for professional misconduct;
 - (g) is incapable of performing the functions of office by reason of physical or mental incapacity;
 - (h) is absent from three consecutive meetings of the Board without reasonable excuse; or
 - (i) is removed by the President in accordance with subsection (2).
- (2) The President may remove a member of the Board for inability to perform the functions of office, serious breach of this Act, or gross misconduct, subject to confirmation by a two-thirds majority of the Senate.
- (3) A member shall not be removed under subsection (2) unless the member—
 - (a) has been given written notice of the allegation;
 - (b) has been given a reasonable opportunity to respond; and
 - (c) has been afforded a fair hearing by an independent panel constituted for that purpose.

(4) The report of the panel and the reasons for any removal shall be transmitted to the Senate and made public, subject to any lawful restriction on disclosure.

(5) A vacancy shall be filled in accordance with section 7 of this Act for the remainder of the unexpired term.

11. Remuneration and allowances

The Chairperson and members of the Board shall be paid such remuneration, allowances and benefits as may be determined by the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission.

12. Meetings of the Board

(1) The Board shall meet for the conduct of its business at least once every quarter at such time and place as the Chairperson may determine.

(2) The Chairperson shall preside at every meeting of the Board and, in the Chairperson's absence, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside.

(3) The quorum for a meeting of the Board shall be five members.

(4) Decisions of the Board shall be by simple majority of members present and voting.

(5) Where there is an equality of votes, the person presiding shall have a casting vote.

(6) Subject to this Act, the Board may regulate its own procedure.

13. Committees of the Board

(1) The Board may establish such committees as it considers necessary for the efficient performance of its functions.

(2) A committee established under subsection (1) may include persons who are not members of the Board, where the Board considers their expertise necessary.

(3) A committee shall report its proceedings and recommendations to the Board.

14. Director-General

(1) There shall be for the Office a Director-General who shall be the chief executive and accounting officer of the Office.

(2) The Director-General shall be appointed by the President, subject to confirmation by the Senate, from a shortlist of qualified candidates produced through an open and competitive recruitment process conducted by the Board.

(3) A person is qualified for appointment as Director-General if the person -

- (a) possesses relevant professional qualifications and not less than fifteen years' experience in economics, public finance, accounting, budgeting, fiscal policy or a related field;
 - (b) has demonstrable competence, integrity and experience in leading a professional institution; and
 - (c) satisfies the political-independence and disqualification requirements applicable to members of the Board.
- (4) The Director-General shall hold office for a single non-renewable term of five years.
- (5) The Director-General shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Office, supervision of staff, preparation of the annual budget and work programme, and the professional integrity and timely publication of reports required under this Act.
- (6) The Director-General may be suspended or removed by the President on the recommendation of the Board for inability to perform the functions of office, serious breach of this Act or gross misconduct, subject to confirmation by the Senate and compliance with the fair-hearing requirements in section 10(3) of this Act.

15. Staff of the Office

- (1) The Office may appoint such directors, economists, statisticians, accountants, legal officers and other employees as may be necessary for the efficient performance of its functions.
- (2) The terms and conditions of service of the employees of the Office shall be determined by the Board, subject to the applicable laws, public-sector remuneration framework, pension legislation and any approval required by law.
- (3) In making appointments under this section, the Office shall ensure merit, competence, professionalism, gender balance and federal character in accordance with the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (4) Service in the Office shall be pensionable in accordance with the Pension Reform Act and other applicable laws.
- (5) The Office may engage consultants or technical advisers possessing specialised knowledge where the Board considers such engagement necessary for the discharge of the functions of the Office.

PART IV – FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE OFFICE

16. Preparation of Macroeconomic and Fiscal Forecasts

- (1) The Office shall prepare and publish, in each financial year—
- (a) a Pre-Budget Macroeconomic and Fiscal Forecast, not later than thirty days before the presentation of the Federal Government's Medium-Term Fiscal Framework and Medium-Term Expenditure Framework to the National Assembly;

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- (b) an Independent Assessment of the Federal Government's Medium-Term Fiscal Framework and Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, not later than fourteen days after the Framework is laid before the National Assembly;
 - (c) an Independent Fiscal and Economic Forecast to accompany every Appropriation Bill, which shall be published not later than seven days after the Bill is introduced in the National Assembly;
 - (d) an Independent Fiscal and Economic Forecast to accompany every Supplementary Appropriation Bill, which shall be published not later than seven days after the Bill is introduced in the National Assembly; and
 - (e) such revised forecasts as the Office considers necessary where significant changes in macroeconomic or fiscal conditions materially affect its published projections.
- (2) A forecast prepared under subsection (1) shall include—
- (a) gross domestic product growth projections;
 - (b) inflation forecasts;
 - (c) exchange rate assumptions;
 - (d) crude oil price and production assumptions;
 - (e) revenue projections;
 - (f) expenditure projections;
 - (g) fiscal deficit projections;
 - (h) public debt projections;
 - (i) debt servicing obligations; and
 - (j) such other macroeconomic or fiscal indicators as the Office considers necessary.
- (3) The Minister responsible for Finance and every relevant public institution shall provide the Office with the information reasonably required for a report under this section within the timeframe specified in a written request.
- (4) The information referred to in subsection (3) shall be supplied—
- (a) in the case of the Medium-Term Fiscal Framework and Medium-Term Expenditure Framework, not later than twenty-one days before the Framework is submitted to the National Assembly;
 - (b) in the case of an Appropriation Bill or Supplementary Appropriation Bill, not later than fourteen days before the Bill is introduced in the National Assembly; and
 - (c) within such further period as the Office may reasonably specify in writing where additional information is required.
- (5) Where a public institution fails to provide the information required under subsection (4), the Office may proceed to prepare and publish its forecast on the basis of the best available information and shall indicate in the report the nature of the information withheld or not provided in time.

17. Independent Costing of Executive Fiscal Proposals

(1) Before introducing into the National Assembly any proposal relating to—

- (a) an Appropriation Bill;
- (b) a Supplementary Appropriation Bill;
- (c) a Finance Bill;
- (d) any major taxation reform;
- (e) any subsidy reform;
- (f) any significant borrowing programme; or
- (g) any other fiscal measure prescribed by the Board,

the Minister responsible for Finance shall submit the proposal to the Office for independent fiscal costing.

(2) Upon receipt of a proposal under subsection (1), the Office shall prepare and publish an independent assessment of the fiscal implications of the proposal.

(3) The assessment prepared under subsection (2) shall accompany the proposal when it is transmitted to the National Assembly.

(4) Nothing in this section shall prevent the Government from proceeding with a proposal notwithstanding the opinion of the Office.

18. Independent Costing of Legislative Proposals

(1) A committee of either House of the National Assembly may request the Office to prepare an independent fiscal analysis of any Bill or legislative proposal.

(2) Upon receiving a request under subsection (1), the Office may prepare—

- (a) a fiscal impact statement;
- (b) revenue estimates;
- (c) expenditure estimates;
- (d) debt sustainability analysis;
- (e) implementation cost projections; or
- (f) any other fiscal analysis considered necessary.

(3) The Office shall endeavour to complete every costing request within such reasonable period as may be required for the effective consideration of the proposal by the National Assembly.

19. Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability Report

(1) The Office shall, once every three years, prepare and publish a Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability Report.

(2) A report prepared under subsection (1) shall project Nigeria's fiscal outlook over a period of not less than thirty years.

(3) The report shall assess—

- (a) demographic trends;
- (b) public debt sustainability;
- (c) pension liabilities;
- (d) climate-related fiscal risks;
- (e) infrastructure maintenance obligations;
- (f) energy transition risks;
- (g) dependence on natural resource revenues;
- (h) contingent liabilities; and
- (i) any other long-term fiscal risks identified by the Office.

20. Pre-Election Fiscal Report

(1) Not later than ninety days before every general election, the Office shall publish a Pre-Election Fiscal Report.

(2) The report shall contain—

- (a) the current fiscal position of the Federation;
- (b) the public debt profile;
- (c) contingent liabilities;
- (d) projected Government revenues;
- (e) existing expenditure commitments;
- (f) fiscal risks; and
- (g) such additional information as the Office considers necessary to promote transparency.

(3) No Ministry, Department or Agency shall alter, suppress or otherwise influence the contents of a report prepared under this section.

(4) No person or authority shall direct the Office to alter, suppress or delay the findings of a report under this section, but the Office may correct a factual or methodological error and shall publicly explain the correction.

21. Annual Programme of Work

(1) The Office shall prepare an annual programme of work specifying—

- (a) the reports to be published during the year;
- (b) the major fiscal assessments to be undertaken;
- (c) research priorities; and
- (d) such other activities as may be necessary for the discharge of its functions.

(2) The annual programme of work shall be published on the website of the Office.

22. Methodology

(1) In carrying out its functions under this Act, the Office shall employ transparent, objective and internationally recognised methodologies.

(2) The methodologies adopted by the Office shall—

- (a) be published;
- (b) be periodically reviewed;
- (c) state the principal assumptions underlying every forecast; and
- (d) distinguish clearly between factual analysis and professional judgment.

(3) The Office shall not alter its methodology at the request of any person or authority except where such alteration is necessary to improve analytical accuracy or reflects internationally accepted professional standards.

PART V – ACCESS TO INFORMATION, DATA SECURITY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

23. Power to Obtain Information

(1) For the purpose of carrying out its functions under this Act, the Office may require any Ministry, Department, Agency or public body to provide such information as the Office reasonably considers necessary.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Office may require information from—

- (a) the Federal Ministry of Finance;
- (b) the Budget Office of the Federation;
- (c) the Central Bank of Nigeria;
- (d) the Federal Inland Revenue Service;
- (e) the Nigeria Customs Service;
- (f) the Debt Management Office;
- (g) the Fiscal Responsibility Commission;
- (h) the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission;
- (i) the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission;
- (j) the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority;
- (k) the Bureau of Public Enterprises;
- (l) the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited; and
- (m) the National Assembly
- (n) any other public institution possessing information relevant to the discharge of the functions of the Office.

24. Duty to Provide Information

(1) Every public institution shall provide to the Office such information as is reasonably required for the performance of its functions under this Act within twenty-one days of receiving a request or within such other period as may be specified by the Office.

(2) Where the information requested contains classified, confidential or otherwise protected information, the public institution shall grant access to the Office only to the extent reasonably necessary for the performance of its functions under this Act and subject to the safeguards provided under this section.

(3) Access to information under subsection (2) shall be subject to—

- (a) the designation by the Director-General of authorised officers who possess the requisite security clearance or are otherwise authorised by law to receive such information;
- (b) the execution of appropriate confidentiality undertakings by every authorised officer;
- (c) the use of the information solely for the purposes of this Act;
- (d) the maintenance of appropriate administrative, technical and physical safeguards to protect the confidentiality and integrity of the information; and
- (e) such other security requirements as may be prescribed by regulations made under this Act.

(4) Information obtained under subsection (2) shall not be disclosed except—

- (a) with the prior written consent of the public institution from which it was obtained;
- (b) pursuant to an order of a court of competent jurisdiction;
- (c) where disclosure is expressly authorised by an Act of the National Assembly; or
- (d) in an aggregated or anonymised form that does not reveal classified or confidential information.

(5) A public institution may refuse to disclose information where—

- (a) disclosure is expressly prohibited by the Constitution or an Act of the National Assembly;
- (b) disclosure would reasonably be expected to prejudice national security, defence, intelligence operations or ongoing criminal investigations; or
- (c) the information is subject to legal professional privilege.

(6) Where a public institution refuses to disclose information under subsection (5), it shall, within seven days of the refusal, provide the Office with written reasons for the refusal.

(7) Where a dispute arises regarding a refusal under subsection (5), the Office may refer the matter to the Federal High Court for determination.

25. Confidential Information

(1) Information obtained by the Office in the course of performing its functions shall be used solely for the purposes of this Act.

(2) A member of the Board, employee or consultant of the Office shall not disclose confidential information obtained under this Act except—

- (a) where authorised by law;
- (b) for the purposes of legal proceedings;
- (c) with the consent of the person or authority from whom the information was obtained;
or
- (d) to an authorised officer of the Office who reasonably requires access for the performance of a specified function under this Act.

(3) A person who contravenes subsection (2) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of not less than ₦5,000,000 or imprisonment for a term of two years or to both.

26. Obstruction of the Office

(1) A public officer who, without lawful excuse—

- (a) refuses to provide information requested under this Act;
- (b) knowingly provides false or misleading information;
- (c) destroys, conceals or alters information requested by the Office; or
- (d) otherwise obstructs the Office in the performance of its functions,

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding ₹5,000,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both.

PART VI – RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

27. Relationship with Existing Institutions

(1) The Office shall perform its functions independently and shall not—

- (a) formulate fiscal or monetary policy;
- (b) prepare the annual budget of the Government;
- (c) negotiate domestic or external loans on behalf of the Government;
- (d) manage the public debt;
- (e) collect taxes or other public revenues;
- (f) approve Government expenditure; or
- (g) perform any executive function assigned by any other enactment to another public authority.

(2) In performing its functions, the Office shall have regard to the statutory responsibilities and official data of relevant public institutions and shall avoid unnecessary duplication of their operational functions.

(3) The Office may independently assess, test or explain information produced by another public institution and shall identify the source of that information in its report.

(4) The Office shall establish written coordination and data-sharing arrangements with relevant public institutions, without prejudice to its analytical independence.

28. Cooperation with Public Institutions

(1) The Office may collaborate with any Ministry, Department, Agency or international organisation in the discharge of its functions.

(2) A collaboration under subsection (1) shall not prejudice the independence of the Office.

(3) The Office may enter into Memoranda of Understanding with any public institution for the exchange of information, technical cooperation or capacity development.

PART VII – REPORTING, TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

29. Submission of Reports

- (1) The Office shall submit every report prepared under this Act to the National Assembly through the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- (2) The Office shall simultaneously transmit a copy of each report to the President and any Minister or public institution directly concerned with its subject matter.
- (3) A report of the Office shall not require the approval or clearance of any person or authority before publication.

30. Publication of Reports

- (1) The Office shall publish every report prepared under this Act immediately after its submission under section 29.
- (2) Every report published by the Office shall be made available—
 - (a) on the official website of the Office;
 - (b) in such other manner as the Board may determine; and
 - (c) without charge to the public.

31. Appearance before the National Assembly

- (1) The Director-General shall appear before the relevant Committees of the National Assembly—
 - (a) during the consideration of the Appropriation Bill;
 - (b) during the consideration of any Finance Bill;
 - (c) during the consideration of any supplementary appropriation; or
 - (d) whenever requested by either House of the National Assembly.
- (2) An appearance under subsection (1) shall be for the purpose of explaining or clarifying any report prepared by the Office.

32. Annual Report

- (1) Not later than six months after the end of every financial year, the Office shall prepare and publish an Annual Report.
- (2) The Annual Report shall include—
 - (a) a summary of the activities of the Office;
 - (b) the reports prepared during the year;
 - (c) an assessment of Government compliance with fiscal rules;
 - (d) the audited financial statements of the Office; and
 - (e) such other information as the Board considers appropriate.

PART VIII – FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

33. Funds of the Office

- (1) The funds of the Office shall consist of—
- (a) monies appropriated by the National Assembly and charged upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation;
 - (b) grants, gifts or donations approved by the Board, provided that such grants, gifts or donations do not compromise the independence of the Office;
 - (c) income derived from investments made by the Office; and
 - (d) such other monies as may lawfully accrue to the Office.
- (2) The Office shall enjoy financial autonomy in the management of its funds.

34. Annual Estimates

- (1) The Board shall, not later than 30 September in each financial year, prepare and submit to the National Assembly through the President estimates of the income and expenditure of the Office for the succeeding financial year.
- (2) The estimates prepared under subsection (1) shall form the basis of the annual appropriation for the Office.

35. Accounts and Records

- (1) The Office shall keep proper books of account and records relating to its finances.
- (2) The accounts of the Office shall be prepared in accordance with internationally accepted public sector accounting standards.

36. Audit

- (1) The accounts of the Office shall be audited annually by the Auditor-General for the Federation or by an auditor appointed by the Auditor-General.
- (2) The audited accounts shall be submitted to the National Assembly not later than six months after the end of each financial year.

PART IX – MISCELLANEOUS

37. Disclosure of Interest

- (1) Every member of the Board and every employee of the Office shall disclose any personal or financial interest that may conflict with the proper performance of the functions of the Office.
- (2) A person who has disclosed an interest under subsection (1) shall not participate in any deliberation or decision relating to the matter in which the interest exists.

38. Protection from Liability

(1) No suit shall lie against any member of the Board, employee or consultant of the Office for any act done in good faith in the exercise of any power or the performance of any duty under this Act.

(2) Subsection (1) does not prevent—

- (a) judicial review of an act or decision of the Office;
- (b) the enforcement of a constitutional or contractual right;
- (c) proceedings arising from bad faith, gross negligence, corruption or an act outside statutory authority; or
- (d) liability for the unlawful disclosure or misuse of protected information.

39. Regulations

(1) The Board may make regulations and issue guidelines for the effective implementation of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), regulations may provide for—

- (a) forecasting methodologies;
- (b) fiscal costing procedures;
- (c) standards for economic modelling;
- (d) publication of reports;
- (e) management of confidential information;
- (f) internal administration of the Office; and
- (g) any other matter necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

40. Interpretation

In this Act—

“Board” means the Governing Board established under section 6 of this Act;

“contingent liability” means a potential financial obligation arising from a past event whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events;

“fiscal forecast” means an independent estimate of Government revenues, expenditure, borrowing, debt and other fiscal aggregates prepared by the Office;

“general election” means an election conducted on a date fixed by the Independent National Electoral Commission for the offices of President and members of the National Assembly;

“Government” means the Federal Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

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“macroeconomic forecast” means an independent projection of economic indicators including gross domestic product, inflation, exchange rates, interest rates, employment and other relevant macroeconomic variables;

“Office” means the National Office for Budgetary Oversight established under section 2 of this Act;

“public body” includes any Ministry, Department, Agency, government-owned company or other authority established by or under any law of the Federation.

41. Transitional Provisions

(1) The President shall take such steps as may be necessary to constitute the Board within six months of the commencement of this Act.

(2) Pending the appointment of the first Board, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation may take such administrative measures as are necessary for the establishment of the Office.

42. Citation

This Act may be cited as the National Office for Budgetary Oversight Act, 2026.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish the National Office for Budgetary Oversight as an independent fiscal institution responsible for objective economic and fiscal forecasts, policy costings, long-term fiscal analysis and related support to the National Assembly. It also provides for the governance, independence, access to information, reporting, accountability and funding of the Office.

LIST OF MOTIONS PRODUCED FOR THE 2026 MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

North Central

Motion On The Urgent Need To Strengthen The Regulation, Standardization, And Security Of Public Transportation In The Federal Capital Territory (FCT) To Curb The Menace Of “One Chance” Operations

North East

Need To Assess The Condition Of Special Schools And The Implementation Of Inclusive Education In Nigeria.

North West

Motion On The Need To Strengthen Recognition And Reasonable Accommodations For Persons With Non-Apparent Disability

South East

Need To Upgrade And Integrate The Eastern Railway Corridor Into Nigeria’s Standard-Gauge Rail Network

South South

Motion On The Urgent Need To Prohibit Discriminatory Age Limits In Recruitment For Employment In Nigeria

South West

Need To Incorporate Living Wage Indicators Into The Determination And Periodic Review Of The National Minimum Wage

MOTIONS DRAFTED BY INTERNS

**NORTH
CENTRAL**

MOTION ON THE URGENT NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE REGULATION, STANDARDIZATION, AND SECURITY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY (FCT) TO CURB THE MENACE OF “ONE CHANCE” OPERATIONS

Sponsored by: *Hon. Seember Stella Iorkyase; Hon. Jemimah Nerat Pam; Hon. Aminu Bako; Hon. Abubakar Hussaini Abdulkareem; Hon. Jamila Musa; Hon. Hafsat Garba Jibrin*

The House:

Notes that Section 14(2)(b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) makes the security and welfare of the people the primary purpose of government, yet the criminal operation known as “One Chance”, in which passengers boarding disguised commercial vehicles are robbed, abducted, assaulted, or murdered, increasingly threatens commuters who depend daily on public transportation within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT);

Also notes that this menace is enabled by the absence of a framework for licensing and regulating commercial transport operators in the FCT, and that fragmented regulation among agencies has caused weak enforcement and poor coordination, while legitimate operators suffer reputational harm from being mistaken for criminal impersonators;

Concerned that women, children, students, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable commuters are disproportionately exposed to these crimes, and that existing oversight mechanisms have not kept pace with the sophistication of these networks, undermining public confidence and freedom of movement;

Cognizant that major cities worldwide use centralized transport management systems, vehicle databases, digital verification, and passenger complaint mechanisms to improve safety, and that a unified regulatory framework in the FCT would improve commuter safety, investor confidence, and economic development;

Also cognizant that the National Assembly holds constitutional oversight responsibilities over matters affecting the Federal Capital Territory, and that without comprehensive institutional reform, technological integration, and coordinated enforcement, these incidents may continue to increase;

Worried that without institutional reform and coordinated enforcement, these incidents will likely increase, further endangering lives and eroding public trust in government;

Resolves to:

- i. **urge** the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), with the Federal Ministry of Transportation and security agencies, to establish a regulatory framework and a Transportation Management and Safety Authority (“FCTTMSA”) for licensing, digital verification, and enforcement of transport safety standards in the FCT;
- ii. **call** on the Nigeria Police Force, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, the Department of State Services, and other relevant agencies to establish a Joint Transportation Security Task Force dedicated to intelligence gathering, surveillance, and prosecution of “One Chance” syndicates operating within the FCT;
- iii. **mandate** the National Assembly Committees on the FCT, Land Transport, and Police Affairs to investigate the current transport regulatory framework and recommend reforms within ninety (90) days; and
- iv. **direct** the Committees on the FCT and Land Transport to monitor implementation of this Motion and report back within six (6) months.

**NORTH
EAST**

MOTION ON THE NEED TO ASSESS THE CONDITION OF SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN NIGERIA.

Sponsor: *Hon. Jaafaru Sadiq Adamu (Taraba); Hon. Abdulrahaman Ibrahim (Bauchi); Hon. Anna Yongo (Adamawa); Hon. Blessing Samaila Yakura (Adamawa); Hon. Shalom Danlami Andemi (Taraba); Hon. Muhammad Shuaibu (Yobe); Hon. Muhammad Al-amin (Borno); Hon. Mustapha Sa'eed (Gombe)*

The House:

Notes that the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 recognises the right of persons with disabilities to education in appropriate languages, modes and means of communication, and requires inclusive and accessible educational arrangements;

Also notes that Special Schools were established across Nigeria to provide learners with disabilities access to trained teachers, appropriate communication support, assistive learning materials and accessible facilities;

Aware that a number of special schools and mainstream schools implementing inclusive education in Nigeria reportedly face challenges relating to infrastructure, accessibility, staffing, teacher qualifications, teaching and learning materials and enrolment;

Further aware that effective education in Special Schools requires appropriately trained Special Education professionals, including teachers with competence in Nigerian Sign Language, Braille, orientation and mobility, and other disability-specific instructional methods;

Concerned that the deployment of personnel without the required qualifications or disability-specific communication competencies may undermine learning outcomes and the effective implementation of inclusive-education policies;

Worried that inadequate facilities, assistive learning materials, trained personnel and weak coordination among responsible institutions may continue to deny children with disabilities equal access to quality basic education;

Accordingly, the House resolves to:

- i. Mandate** the House Committee on Disabilities and Committee on Basic Education and Services, to conduct a joint assessment of special schools and the implementation of inclusive education across Nigeria.
- ii. Direct** that the assessment examine the condition and accessibility of school infrastructure, staffing levels, teacher qualifications and deployment, availability of Braille, sign-language and assistive learning resources, enrolment and retention, teacher training, and the utilisation and impact of relevant federal and State interventions;
- iii. Invite** the Federal Ministry of Education, the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, the Universal Basic Education Commission, relevant State Ministries of Education, State Universal Basic Education Boards and other responsible institutions to provide information on applicable standards, funding, recruitment, deployment, training and implementation challenges;
- iv. Further** mandate the Committees to recommend legislative, policy, budgetary and administrative measures for improving special education and inclusive education in the Zone;
- v. Require** the Committees to report back to the House within eight weeks for further legislative action.

**NORTH
WEST**

MOTION ON THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN RECOGNITION AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH NON-APPARENT DISABILITY

Sponsored by: *Hon Mariya Abubakar Bagudo, Hon Habiba Madugu, Hon Zainab Sanusi Jibiya, Hon Sadiq Garba Ammani, Hon Pamela Ephraim, Hon Hafsat Muhammad Abdulrahman*

The House:

Notes that the Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act, 2018 prohibits discrimination on the ground of disability and recognises a person with disability as a person with a long-term physical, mental or sensory impairment which, in interaction with barriers, may hinder full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others;

Also notes that some disabilities and long-term impairments are not immediately apparent and may affect a person's health, communication, learning, mobility, concentration, work or participation without being readily visible to others;

Concerned that because such impairments are not always visible, affected persons may experience disbelief, stigma, delayed support or difficulty obtaining reasonable accommodation in healthcare facilities, educational institutions, workplaces and public services;

Aware that a medical diagnosis does not in every case amount to a disability, and that recognition and support should be based on the long-term functional impact of the impairment and the barriers faced by the individual;

Further aware that the Disability Act already provides protections relating to non-discrimination, education, healthcare, emergency situations and employment, but public institutions require clearer and more consistent guidance for applying those protections to persons with non-apparent disabilities; and

Believes that a coordinated framework led by the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, with the participation of relevant ministries, professional bodies and persons with lived experience, would improve recognition, reasonable accommodation and access to appropriate services.

Accordingly, the House resolves to:

- i. **urge**** the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, in consultation with the Federal Ministries responsible for health, education and labour, organisations of persons with disabilities, healthcare professionals and other relevant stakeholders, to develop national guidelines for the recognition, assessment and reasonable accommodation of persons with non-apparent disabilities;
- ii. **urge**** the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and the National Health Insurance Authority to review barriers to diagnosis, referral, treatment, rehabilitation and financial protection for persons whose long-term health conditions amount to disabilities, and to recommend appropriate measures within existing health-financing and clinical frameworks;
- iii. **urge**** Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies, public educational institutions and public-sector employers to review their disability-inclusion policies and provide reasonable accommodation for persons with non-apparent disabilities in accordance with the Disability Act and guidelines issued by the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities;
- iv. **urge**** the National Bureau of Statistics and the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities to improve disability-disaggregated data collection through appropriate functional assessment questions, while protecting the privacy and confidentiality of personal health information; and
- v. **mandate**** the Committee on Disabilities, in collaboration with the Committees on Healthcare Services and Labour, Employment and Productivity, to engage relevant stakeholders, assess the implementation gaps affecting persons with non-apparent disabilities and report to the House within eight weeks for further legislative action.

**SOUTH
EAST**

NEED TO UPGRADE AND INTEGRATE THE EASTERN RAILWAY CORRIDOR INTO NIGERIA'S STANDARD-GAUGE RAIL NETWORK

Sponsor: *Hon. Adanna Nwaoku (Imo State), Hon. TrustGod Nnanna (Abia State), Hon. Chukwuezugbo Nwogu (Imo State), Hon. Ifebuchechukwu Edeh (Enugu State), Hon. Joy Okorafor-Odii (Ebonyi State), Hon. Obed Soludo (Anambra State).*

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government has pursued the modernisation and expansion of Nigeria's railway network through a combination of standard-gauge construction and rehabilitation of existing narrow-gauge lines;

Also notes that the Eastern Railway Corridor is an existing narrow-gauge route extending from Port Harcourt to Maiduguri and that its rehabilitation has proceeded in phases, including work on the Port Harcourt–Aba section;

Aware that the corridor serves, or has the potential to serve, major commercial, industrial and agricultural centres in the South-East and neighbouring regions, and to connect inland markets with ports in Rivers State;

Concerned that the limited capacity and incomplete rehabilitation of the corridor leave businesses and commuters heavily dependent on road transport, increasing logistics costs, travel time, pressure on highways and exposure to road accidents;

Recognises that a modern and efficient rail connection could improve freight movement, support manufacturing and agriculture, reduce pressure on highways and strengthen trade within and beyond the South-East;

Also worried that traders, manufacturers, and farmers are paying more, losing more;

Cognisant that section 16 of the Constitution enjoins the State to manage the economy in a manner that secures the maximum welfare of citizens and promotes balanced economic development;

Further Cognisant that the 2023 Constitutional Amendment to the Concurrent Legislative List empowers States to legislate on intra-state railways, thereby requiring coordination and interoperability between Federal and State railway systems.

Resolves to:

- i. **Urge** the Federal Government, through the Federal Ministry of Transportation, to undertake and publish a technical, economic and financial feasibility assessment for the phased upgrading or construction of a standard-gauge Eastern Railway Corridor, including priority connections to Port Harcourt, Onne and Bonny ports and to the commercial centres of Aba, Enugu, Onitsha and Nnewi and ensure that such feasibility assessments are laid before the National Assembly and published within ninety (90) days of completion for transparency and accountability;
- ii. **Urge** the Federal Government to include viable priority phases of the project in the revised national railway plan, the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and subsequent annual budgets, with a clear implementation timetable and ensure these are reflected in the National Inter-State Railway Development Plan, to be reviewed and updated at least once every five years; and
- iii. **Mandate** the House Committees on Land Transport, Appropriations and Finance, in collaboration with other relevant Committees, to engage the Federal Ministry of Transportation, Nigerian Railway Corporation, Debt Management Office, Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission, South-East Development Commission and relevant stakeholders on the status, scope, financing options and implementation timeline for the Eastern Railway Corridor, and report back to the House within six weeks, while ensuring expanded consultation with affected State Governments, State railway agencies, the Nigerian Ports Authority, organised private-sector freight interests, and communities likely to be impacted by proposed routes, and that subsequent progress is reflected in the Nigerian Railway Corporation's annual report to the National Assembly.

**SOUTH
SOUTH**

MOTION ON THE URGENT NEED TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATORY AGE LIMITS IN RECRUITMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT IN NIGERIA

Sponsors: *Hon. Ayeoritsesan Omolayo Obadiah (Delta State) ; Hon. Clement Oko Adagbor (Cross River State) ; Hon. Utibe-Abasi Udotong (Akwa Ibom State) ; Hon. Esther Ogbomo (Edo State) ; Hon. Jeremiah Anietie (Akwa Ibom State) ; Hon. Eseimokumo Albert (Bayelsa State)*

The House:

Notes that section 17(3)(a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring that all citizens, without discrimination, have the opportunity for securing adequate means of livelihood;

Also notes that unemployment and underemployment remain significant challenges in Nigeria, particularly among graduates who often experience prolonged delays arising from industrial actions, insecurity, economic hardship, mandatory National Youth Service Corps participation, and professional qualification requirements.

Further notes that many public and private sector employers, particularly banks and other financial institutions and graduate trainee programmes, prescribe maximum age limits of 26 to 27 years as a condition for employment, thereby excluding otherwise qualified Nigerians solely on account of age;

Further notes that Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 commits States to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, while SDG 10 calls for reducing inequalities and promoting social inclusion;

Convinced that employment opportunities should be determined primarily by competence, qualifications, skills, experience and integrity rather than arbitrary age thresholds.

Aware that such age-based restrictions undermine the principles of equality of opportunity, merit-based recruitment, youth empowerment and national productivity.

Concerned that these recruitment practices disproportionately affect graduates who complete their studies later for reasons beyond their control, including interruptions in the academic calendar, family responsibilities,

Resolves to:

- i. **Urge** the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment to develop regulations prohibiting unjustifiable age discrimination in recruitment by employers in both the public and private sectors and also review existing employment policies to ensure that graduates who complete the National Youth Service Corps or other mandatory professional requirements after prescribed recruitment age limits are not automatically disqualified from employment opportunities.
- ii. **Mandate** the Committees on Labour, Employment and Productivity, Youth Development, Human Rights, and Public Service Matters to investigate the prevalence of age-based recruitment restrictions in Nigeria and engage relevant stakeholders with a view to recommending appropriate legislative and policy reforms.
- iii. **Call** on all employers, including banks, government agencies, multinational corporations and other private organisations, to adopt merit-based recruitment policies that prioritise competence, qualifications and professional skills over arbitrary age limits.
- iv. **Direct** the Committees to report back to the House within eight weeks with recommendations for legislative measures to eliminate discriminatory age restrictions in employment.

**SOUTH
WEST**

NEED TO INCORPORATE LIVING WAGE INDICATORS INTO THE DETERMINATION AND PERIODIC REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE

Sponsored by: *Hon. Iyanu Ojuawo (Ekiti State); Hon. Adenike Akande (Osun State); Hon. John Akinwunmi (Oyo State); Hon. Roqeebah Yusuf (Ogun State); Hon. Boluwatife Ogungbesan (Ogun State); Hon. Christopher Olusa (Ondo State); Hon. Kaffo Emmanuel (Lagos State).*

The House:

Notes that the national minimum wage is intended to provide a basic income floor and protect workers from unduly low remuneration;

Also notes that increases in the cost of food, housing, transportation, healthcare, education, utilities and other essential needs may significantly reduce the purchasing power of workers;

Recognising that a wage that fails to meet the basic cost of living may contribute to increased poverty, social inequality and economic insecurity;

Concerned that insufficient consideration of the actual cost of meeting essential household needs may result in minimum wage that does not adequately respond to the living conditions of workers and their families;

Recognises the need for a transparent and evidence-based framework through which changes in the cost of living may be assessed during future minimum-wage negotiations and reviews;

Worried that the continued erosion of workers' purchasing power may deepen poverty, increase household vulnerability and contribute to labour dissatisfaction and economic insecurity;

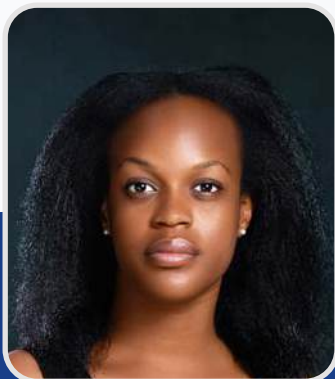
Recognises the need for a transparent and evidence-based framework through which changes in the cost of living can be assessed and considered during future minimum wage negotiations and reviews;

Resolves to:

- i. **Urge** the Federal Government and Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment, in collaboration with the National Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission (NSIWC) and relevant agencies responsible for national wage determination to develop measurable living wage indicators for consideration during future reviews of the national minimum wage;
- ii. **Further urge** that the indicators include the cost of food and nutrition, housing, utilities, transportation, healthcare, education and other essential household needs;
- iii. **Call** for the periodic collection and publication of reliable data on the cost of living across the Federation, including variations between different States and Communities;
- iv. **Urge** that future minimum-wage review processes clearly indicate how changes in the cost of living were considered alongside productivity, employment levels, prevailing economic conditions and the capacity of employers to pay; and
- v. **Mandate** the House Committees on Labour, Employment and Productivity to engage with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment and other relevant agencies on the development of a transparent framework for incorporating living wage indicators into future minimum wage reviews and report back to the House within four (4) weeks.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF PLAC 2026 LEGISLATIVE INTERNS

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS



**Ifebuchekwu
Francisca Edeh(Enugu)**
Speaker



**TrustGod Prosper
Nnanna(Abia)**
Deputy Speaker



**Udotong Utibe-Abasi
(Akwa Ibom)**
Majority Leader



**Pamela Peace Ephraim
(Kaduna)**
Deputy Majority Leader



**Iyanu Ojuawo
(Ekiti)**
Minority Leader



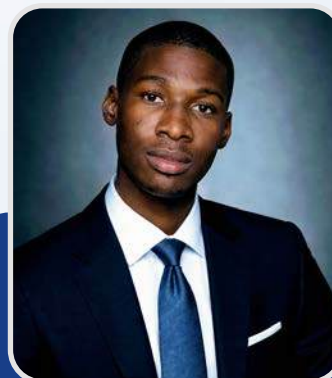
**Hafsat Muhammad
Abdulrahman (Sokoto)**
Deputy Minority Leader



**Boluwatife Deborah
Ogungbesan (Ogun)**
Chief Whip



**Abubakar Hussaini
Abdulkareem (Nasarawa)**
Deputy Chief Whip



**Abdulrahman Ibrahim
(Bauchi)**
Minority Whip

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS



Sadiq Garba Ammani
(Zamfara)
Deputy Minority Whip



Adenike Akande
(Osun State)
Sergeant-at-Arms



Hafsat Jibrin
(Niger)
Clerk

Cohort Representatives



Joy Okoroafor-Odii
(Ebonyi)
Cohort Rep



Jaafaru Sadiq Adamu
(Taraba)
Assistant Cohort Rep

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Adanna Nwaoku
(Imo)



Aminu Bako
(FCT)



Anna Yongo
(Adamawa)



**Ayeoritsesan
Obadiah, PhD** (Delta)



**Blessing Samaila
Yakura** (Adamawa)



Christopher Olusa
(Ondo)



Chukwuezugbo Nwogu
(Imo)



Clement Oko
(Cross River)



**Esemokumo Albert
Tony** (Bayelsa)

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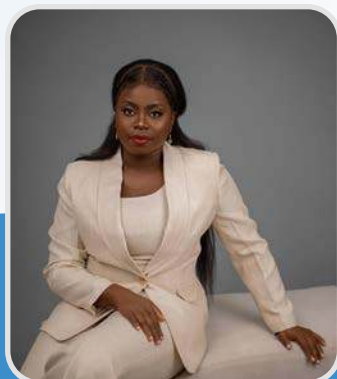
Esther Ogbomo
(Edo)



Habiba Sani Madugu
(Kano)



Jamila Musa
(Kogi)



Jemimah Pam
(Plateau)



Jeremiah Anietie
(Akwa Ibom)



John Ayobami
Akinwumi (Oyo)



Kaffo Emmanuel
Olaitan (Lagos)



Muhammad Alamin
Zanna (Borno)



Mariya Abubakar
Bagudo (Kebbi)

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**Mustapha Sa'eed
(Gombe)**



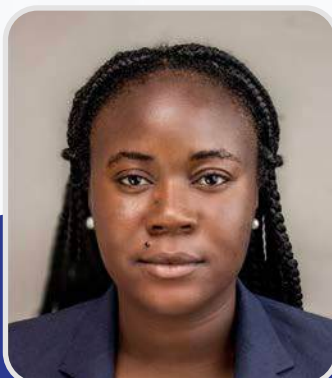
**Obed Soludo
(Anambra)**



**Rokibat Adedamola
Yusuf (Ogun)**



**Seember Stella
Iorkyase (Benue)**



**Shalom Danlami
Andemi (Taraba)**



**Shuaibu Muhammad
(Yobe)**



**Zainab Jibiya Sanusi
(Katsina)**

PLAC 2026 LEGISLATIVE INTERNS DEPLOYMENT LIST

SENATE

S/N	NAME	COMMITTEE
1.	Jamila Musa	Health (Secondary & Tertiary)
2.	Hafsat Jibrin	Finance
3.	Jemimah Pam	Banking Finance and Other Financial Institutions
4.	Pamela Peace Ephraim	Foreign Affairs
5.	Habiba Sani Madugu	Appropriations
6.	Sadiq Garba Ammani	ICT & Cybercrime
7.	Mustapha Sa'eed	National Planning and Economic Affairs
8.	Blessing Samaila Yakura	Establishment and Public Service Institutions
9.	Shuaibu Muhammad	Agricultural Colleges and Institutions
10.	Obed Chimzurum Soludo	Ethics, Privileges & Public Petitions
11.	Ifebuchekwuwu Edeh	Women Affairs
12.	Udotong Utibe-Abasi	Interior
13.	Eseimokumo Albert Tony	Local Content
14.	Clement Oko	Ecology and Climate Change
15.	John Ayobami Akinwumi	Rules and Business
16.	Rokibat Adedamola Yusuf	Public Accounts
17.	Boluwatife Deborah Ogungbesan	Education (Basic and Secondary)
18.	Christopher Olusa	Science and Technology
19.	Adenike Akande	Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters
20.	Jaafaru Sadiq Adamu (Deaf)	State and Local Government Administration

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

S/N	NAME	COMMITTEE
1.	Seember Stella Iorkyase	Health Specialty Care and Service
2.	Hussaini Abubakar	Healthcare Services
3.	Aminu Bako	FCT Area Councils and Ancillary Matters
4.	Zainab Jibiya Sanusi	House Service
5.	Mariya Abubakar Bagudo	Basic Education and Services
6.	Hafsat Abdulrahman	Renewable Energy
7.	Muhammad Alamin Hussaini Zanna	Customs & Excise
8.	Anna Yongo	Foreign Affairs
9.	Abdulrahman Ibrahim	Science and Technology
10.	Shalom Danlami Andemi	Public Petitions
11.	Trustgod Nnanna	Industry
12.	Joy Okoroafor-Odii	Human Rights
13.	Chukwuezugbo Nwogu	Finance
14.	Adanna Nwaoku	National Security and Intelligence
15.	Ayeoritsesan Obadiah, PhD	Appropriations
16.	Esther Ogbomo	Federal Character
17.	Jeremiah Anietie	Media & Public Affairs
18.	Kaffo Emmanuel Olaitan	Water Resources
19.	Iyanu Ojuawo	Public Accounts



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ABOUT PLAC

Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) is a non-governmental organization committed to strengthening democratic governance and citizens' participation in Nigeria. PLAC works to enhance citizens' engagement with state institutions, and to promote transparency and accountability in policy and decision-making process.

The main focus of PLAC's intervention in the democratic governance process is on building the capacity of the legislature and reforming the electoral process. Since its establishment, PLAC has grown into a leading institution with capacity to deliver cutting-edge research, policy analysis and advocacy. PLAC receives funding support from donors and other philanthropic sources.



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