



Updated

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

of the

9th House of Representatives
Federal Republic of Nigeria

2020-2023



OUR CONTRACT WITH NIGERIANS



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2020-2023

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PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Of The 9th House of Representatives



Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabamila
Speaker



Hon. Ahmed Idris Wase
Deputy Speaker



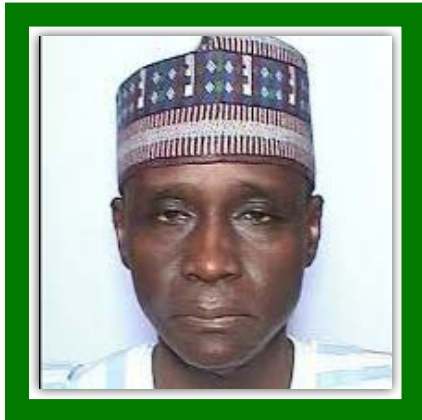
**Hon. Alhassan Ado
Doguwa**
House Leader



**Hon. Peter Obiozujeh
Akpatason**
Deputy House Leader

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

Of The 9th House of Representatives



**Hon. Mohammed Tahir
Monguno**
Chief Whip



Hon Nkeiruka Onyejeocha
Deputy Chief Whip



Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elumelu
Minority Leader



Hon. Gwani Gideon Lucas
Minority Whip



Hon. Toby Okechukwu
Deputy Minority Leader



**Hon. Abdel-majid Adesegun
Adekoya**
Deputy Minority Whip



SECTION 1

PREAMBLE



STATEMENT OF PURPOSE



The 9th House of Representatives assumed office at a time of rapid, inexorable change in our country and around the world. The speed and pace of change has not abated since we first swore the oath of office, and it is unlikely that it would. We do not have the luxury of proposing overseeing over a system of slow, incremental change. The people who have sent us to represent them do not expect and will not accept proposals that seek to maintain the status quo. We are, therefore, called to a mission of radical change, of impossible things made possible. We have a responsibility to build nation where the best dreams and highest aspirations of all our people are within reach.

Last year, the House of Representatives pledged to pursue a Legislative Agenda that was explicit in its commitment to champion social justice, promote individual aspiration, provide public services and infrastructure and finally support business, innovation and private enterprise. We were making good progress in fulfilling the promises we made in that Agenda when the world changed. The novel and deadly Coronavirus emerged and expose most cruelly, long-ignored weaknesses in our economy, our systems of public governance, education, security, social justice and social welfare, and so much else.

The last few months have made clear, that we have to move faster and farther than we had previously thought, or else we may well be the generation that answers to history for superintending over the final and systemic collapse of this our beloved nation. The kind of fundamental change we need begins with a wholesale reimagining of the structures and assumptions that have long underpinned much of our existence as a country. We have too long accepted that certain things cannot be changed, or that the process of change is too hard or too disruptive. We are now deeply mired in the consequences of this choice, in the unfulfilled promises and failures of our system that limit our ability to reach for the stars and threaten our continued existence as a nation.

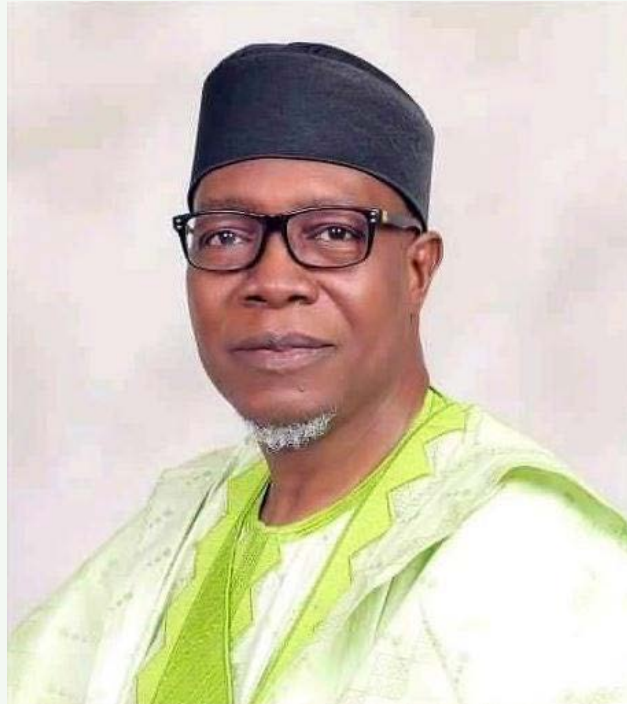
The updated Legislative Agenda of the 9th House of Representatives is our response to this new reality. We have in this new document, renewed the commitments we made in our first year, but this time with accelerated timelines for implementation, key performance indices to measure performance and clearly identified actions in the immediate to long term. What we now have, is a contract with the Nigerian people, against which all our efforts will be measured, and from which we must not fall short as our nation battles to emerge stronger in the wake of the devastating impact of the corona virus pandemic.

I thank all of the Nigerian people for the support and encouragement we have thus far received, and I ask for more of the same as we work together in the joint task of nation-building. And may God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabamila

*Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Federal Republic of Nigeria*

INTRODUCTION



On the 11th of October 2019, when the 9th House of Representatives presented its Legislative Agenda to the Nigerian public, the Speaker of the House of Representatives said, *“Poverty and inequality, insecurity and strife are the product of policy choices. They are not the result of some inherent flaws in our nature or a consequence of an absence of God’s favour on our endeavours. We have it in our power to remake our world, to make it better, to say that no child born in this generation will die of a preventable disease or fail to receive an education because his family can’t afford one”*. This statement summed up then as now, the motivating ideas behind the Legislative Agenda the recognition of the fact that it is within our power as citizens and legislators to build for ourselves and our children a future of peace and prosperity, justice and equity.

Since then, this recognition has become more profound as our country continues to contend with existing trials as well as new challenges that we did not then foresee but must rise to overcome. The unforeseen challenges, as of when the Legislative Agenda was produced in 2019, is the advent of the novel corona virus in 2020 which has fundamentally altered our world, our economies and our lives as we know it. It is in response to the new reality thrust upon us by the corona virus that we saw it expedient to review the Legislative Agenda and assure that it addresses these multi-faceted challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. In this document, we have not sought to answer every question or cover every ground. We have focused on identifying those areas of our national life where through quick, fair, intelligent

and determined action, we can achieve reforms that have sustained impacts on the lives of our citizens and from there create the circumstances for further positive change to happen. We have sought to ensure that the policy priorities identified herein reflect the expectations of the Nigerian people and serve to meet them at the point of their most vital needs.

We have identified ten (10) key policy areas, with legislative interventions separated into immediate, intermediate and long-term action. We have also included an implementation plan and protocols for measuring activity and impact. All of this is presented in simple language so that it is engaging, easy to read and understand. We do not intend for this to be an academic document, but an easily accessible and much-referenced contract with the Nigerian people. Like every other contract, it imposes obligations on all the parties, obligations which must be met, or else the purpose of the agreement is defeated. For us in this House of Representatives, we have committed to, and we will work to implement the policy objectives we have set out in the Agenda. For the Nigerian people on whose behalf and in whose name we will act, this is the time for active citizenship; for informed engagement and constructive partnership, as it is through the union of our efforts that the ambitions we have set out can be fully achieved.

Hon. (Prof) Julius Ihonvbere, OON

Chairman, AdHoc Committee on Review of the Legislative Agenda

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- i. Develop an effective and efficient House of Representatives, positioned to carry out its constitutionally recognised mandate of legislation, oversight and representation
- ii. Establish and maintain high ethical standards in the conduct of House business.
- iii. Strengthen the mechanism and processes of the Committee system of the House to deliver on legislative goals.
- iv. Adopt a strategy that will open communication within the House and between both chambers, the judiciary and other stakeholders.
- v. Identify and target passage of priority legislation within an agreed timeframe.
- vi. Foster engagement and collaboration with CSOs, civic groups and constituents.
- vii. Take necessary legislative steps to address national economic challenges, poverty infrastructure decline, waste of resources, revenue leakage, and corruption.
- viii. Take necessary legislative initiative to promote equality and inclusiveness to ensure that the rights of women, youths, vulnerable and displaced persons in the society are addressed.
- ix. Initiate comprehensive legislative action to address unsettled issues related to the constitution and electoral reform including the alterations to the Constitution.
- x. Improve the use of modern communications technology in the conduct of House business and the use of same to publish proceedings, in full compliance with the Open Government Initiative.
- xi. Work harmoniously and inter-dependently with the executive without undermining the principle of Separation of Power.
- xii. Make laws that will block leakages and devise improved means of generating revenue, especially through the amendment and review of our tax laws which will help to reduce reliance on local and foreign loans to finance budget. Ensure that the budget process is made to deliver on the objectives of development.
- xiii. Run the 9th House of Representatives transparently, through open accountability with the full participation of all Members.
- xiv. Protect and improve on the welfare, rights and privileges of National Assembly support staff - inclusive of the Legislative Aides Cadre.
- xv. Improve the efficiency of the process from policy design through to implementation, in the knowledge that we need to act quickly to achieve the objectives we have set out.
- xvi. Utilise the experiences of our former colleagues and other parliamentary experts by engaging them as, for instance, consultants to committees and members of boards exclusive to the National Assembly namely National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO), National Assembly Service Commission (NASC), Public Complaints Commission (PCC) and the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies (NILDS).

**ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
RT. HON. FEMI GBAJABIAMILA AT THE UNVEILING OF THE
LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR THE 9TH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON FRIDAY, 11TH OCTOBER 2019 AT THE SHEHU MUSA YAR'ADUA
CENTRE, MEMORIAL DRIVE, ABUJA.**

PROTOCOLS

I welcome all of you once more to the unveiling of the legislative agenda for the 9th House of Representatives. Thank you for being here today.

Upon resumption of office, I made a commitment to the Nigerian people that the 9th House of Representatives will be a reform assembly; a centre of policy innovation, and agent of transformation in the administration of the affairs of the Nigerian state. My commitment to these objectives has not wavered; it is still as certain today as it was on that day, and I assure you that it will remain so. Thankfully, the ideals to which I have so committed are shared by my colleagues in the House, and we are united in our determination to effect lasting, positive change in the lives of our fellow citizens who have sent us here.

Poverty and inequality, insecurity and strife are the product of policy choices. They are not the result of some inherent flaws in our nature, or a consequence of an absence of God's favour on our endeavours. We have it in our power to remake our world, to make it better, to say that no child born in this generation will die of a preventable disease or fail to receive an education because his family can't afford one. We are entirely capable of building a society where our daughters and our sons are protected from the perversions of those who will seek to break their spirits and take innocence from them. We are the ones who can build highways that run from the deepest creeks of the delta through the savannahs of the west, to the farthest north so that through trade we might achieve prosperity, and through prosperity, an honourable peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are the ones we have been waiting for.

The document we have gathered here to present publicly is the product of extensive deliberations and contributions from within and outside the House of Representatives. We have listened to people from all works of life and factored in the concerns of various constituencies, to identify and articulate a set of priorities that if addressed responsibly will change the face of our nation and improve the lives of millions of our people. We have codified in these pages an ambitious agenda that we absolutely intend to achieve. First among these, is to reform the way the House of Representatives manages its own affairs in every area from the administration of our finances to the operations of the committee system and the process of vote taking and recording in the House. Our goal is accountability and transparency because as we seek to drive reforms across the government, we are obliged to make sure our

own House is in the best order.

We have collaborated with the private sector to outline a set of objectives and develop a programme of activities that will facilitate increased investment, encourage innovation and drive economic growth. We will act to protect those who are most vulnerable amongst us, doing well to remember always, the words of Hubert Humphrey, that great American statesman who said, “the moral test of government is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy and the handicapped”. We will seek through legislation and oversight, engagement and collaboration, the achievement of a kinder, gentler, more prosperous nation, so that we may leave as our legacy, a bequest of love and promise greater than anything else that has come before.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my experience that nothing of substance or consequence is ever achieved by the endeavours of one individual alone. This is particularly so in government and public affairs. We succeed by the joint effort of diverse individuals and groups, representing different interests and constituencies, yet working together in pursuit of common objectives and in service of shared ideals. Therefore, nation building and the attainment of a society that is peaceful and prosperous, kind and accommodating, healthy and forward looking, is the responsibility of all citizens irrespective of status, of tribe or religion. It is a joint task. However, those of us who have chosen as our calling, to serve in the arena of politics and public service bear a greater burden because millions of people have chosen us and entrusted their fate in our hands. We cannot fail.

I thank the President, His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR for his support for our legislative reform agenda and for the actions he has thus far taken to support our objectives on critical issues such as improving the budget process. What we have today is a selfless partnership between the executive and the legislature through which we intend to achieve great things for our people. As Speaker of the House of Representatives, I will do everything within my power to sustain that partnership for the benefit of all Nigerians.

I ask for all your prayers and for your support in this joint task of nation building. Thank you all for coming here today. As you go, go in peace and in safety, with good health and Godspeed.

God bless you and God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.



SECTION 2

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES & INTERVENTIONS

Legislative Priorities & Interventions



Healthcare Delivery





CONTEXT

Despite initiating several programmes and projects such as *The National Strategic Health Development Plan (NSHDP 2010-2015)*, *the National Health Act (2014)*, *Basic Health Social Scheme (BHSS)*, *Primary Health Care Development Agency (PHCDA)*, healthcare in Nigeria continues to worsen. Nigeria has several teaching hospitals, Specialist hospitals and Federal Medical Centres across the country. There are also hundreds of primary healthcare centres spread across every Local Government Area (LGA) in the country. In addition, all states and most local government areas have at least, one General Hospital as well as Specialist Hospitals. These serve as primary, secondary and tertiary health institutions. However, the number of health personnel serving in Nigeria are grossly inadequate for the challenging task of catering to the health needs of millions of Nigerians. This personnel deficit, combined with decades of inadequate funding and gross infrastructural decay, have led to poor health outcomes and heightened the severe burden of tackling preventable diseases, including malaria, lower respiratory infections, HIV, Lassa fever, diarrheal infections, amongst several others.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), in 2015, Nigeria's estimated maternal mortality ratio was over 800 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, with approximately 58,000 maternal deaths during that year. By comparison, the total number of maternal deaths in 2015 in the 46 most developed countries was 1,700 resulting in a maternal mortality ratio of 12 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. In actuality, a Nigerian woman has a 1 in 22 lifetime risk of dying during pregnancy, childbirth or postpartum/post-abortion; whereas in the most developed countries, the lifetime risk is 1 in 4,900. The global emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and its overwhelming impact on Nigeria's health sector has placed a spotlight on the effects of decades of inadequate investment and limited policy focus on the health sector. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is evident that Nigeria's health system requires urgent investment and policy attention, if the country is to prevail against pandemics like this and successfully contend with the range of several other tropical diseases and health challenges that are prevalent in the country.



KEY CHALLENGES

- A. Low health budget: Budgetary allocation and disbursement for the health sector as a percentage of total budget is far below the recommended 15% by the Abuja Declaration
- B. Dilapidated health infrastructure, specifically at primary health care level
- C. High maternal mortality and neo-natal morbidity: The most recent report of the World Health Organisation (WHO) states that Nigeria's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is 814/100,000 live births which makes Nigeria, in Africa, the worst after Chad, Central African Republic and Sierra Leone and against the SDG global target of 70/100,000 live births by 2030
- D. High child mortality rates: The proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel is only 35% while child mortality is 108.8 per 1000 live births which is very high compared to the SDG target of 25 per 1000 live births

- E. High prevalence of Malaria: Nigeria has the 3rd highest incidence of Malaria in Africa after Burkina Faso and Mali. Nigeria scored the lowest in terms of SDG goal 3.3 which seeks to end HIV-AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases by 2030
- F. Limited health insurance coverage: Most Nigerians do not have access to health insurance, despite the existence of the NHIS Act aimed at enhancing universal health coverage through better access and affordability of primary healthcare, especially in rural and hard to reach areas
- G. Weak management and regulation: Due to poor implementation of the National Health Act (NHA) signed into law in December, 2014 to provide a framework for the effective management of the Nigerian health system
- H. Low level of skilled health personnel: Limited number of skilled health professionals to staff existing health centres and uneven distribution of skilled health personnel between urban and rural areas
- I. Poor availability of medical and health equipment: Limited local production capacity for medical and health equipment as well as consumables.



STRATEGIC GOALS

- A. Ensure the attainment of the Abuja Declaration of 15% budgetary allocation for the health sector within the next 3 years, as recommended by WHO
- B. Enhance the capacity of frontline health workers effectively respond and manage public health emergencies, pandemics, and infectious diseases
- C. Improve the use of ICT in healthcare delivery services
- D. Improve access to healthcare, especially for people at the rural and hard-to-reach areas in the hinterlands.



IMMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2020 – May 2021

- A. **Review of National Health Budget:** Ensure an increase in funding by at least 5% of the current health allocation in the 2021 budget towards addressing critical infrastructure gaps; shortage of drugs, equipment and consumables strengthening research capability in health institutions; and address human resource challenges in the health sector especially in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. There should be a budgetary provision and oversight to upgrade and equip at least two Teaching or Specialist hospitals in each of the geo-political zones to effectively provide accessible and affordable medical care for citizens in these regions

B. **Overhaul of Healthcare delivery Systems:** Ensure structured and sustained dialogue and collaboration with the Executive to carry out a comprehensive overhaul of healthcare delivery systems and infrastructure across the country

C. **Amendment of National Health Act (NHA):**

Initiate the amendment of the National Health Act (NHA) to:

- a) provide for the establishment of sustainable sources of revenue to finance the health sector within the domestic economy beyond the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF)
- b) establish a legal framework in the NHA that specifies counterpart funding from States to qualify for federal grants towards providing affordable health care in their states
- c) create a legal framework that will establish a Public Health Emergency Fund" - beyond the BHCPF - which will cater for all the vulnerable people suffering from chronic and terminal diseases
- d) develop a National Medicines Policy which should be updated periodically and facilitate legal provisions to support generic substitution of essential medicines

D. **Ensure the amendment or initiation of relevant bills and policy frameworks to improve healthcare:**

- a) Passage of a bill to enhance Nigeria's capability to effectively manage pandemics and health emergencies, while safeguarding the rights of citizens
- b) Amendment of the NCDC Act to enhance its capability to effectively prevent, detect, control, treat and manage infectious diseases
- c) Amendment of the NHIS Act to increase access and affordability of healthcare in the country, while providing a wider range of insurance options to meet the unique needs and circumstances of citizens
- d) Ensure mechanisms to guarantee the delivery of services and provision of medicines to all citizens under the NHIS, through legislative oversight and other accountability measures
- e) Propose amendments to the Constitution to clearly delineate responsibilities among the three tiers of government i.e. Federal, State and Local Government in order to reduce duplication, inefficiency, wastage, while improving coordination in healthcare interventions
- f) Advocate for the provision of policy direction by the federal government and strengthening Federal Teaching and Specialist hospitals to handle referrals and critical health services in line with their mandates.



INTERMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2021 - May 2022

A. Provide funding to establish Special Hospitals, research centers and rapid response units for the treatment, study, management and control of serious diseases such as cancer, diabetes, renal disease, HIV/AIDS, Ebola, Lassa fever and cardiovascular diseases etc.

- B. Demand that Federal Government policy initiatives are geared towards enhancing local production of medical kits, pharmaceuticals and other medical items
- C. Support safe, standardised and scientifically driven synergy between orthodox and traditional herbal medicines
- D. Provide oversight to ensure the optimal resourcing and performance of these following agencies establishing the following agencies and their operations: through legislation and oversight, as necessary:
 - a) National Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC)
 - b) Nigeria Customs Services (NCS)
 - c) National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)
 - d) Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Council (FCCPC)
- E. Work with the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) and healthcare advocacy groups as well as the health insurance industry to ensure creation of awareness and trust-building measures to facilitate the broader acceptance of the NHIS scheme
- F. Pass legislation to ensure mandatory ready availability of rape kits by all federally funded hospitals and medical centres for individuals with signs or complaints of sexual assault
- G. Support the provision of subsidy and import waivers for health equipment and services.



LONG-TERM LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2022 - May 2023



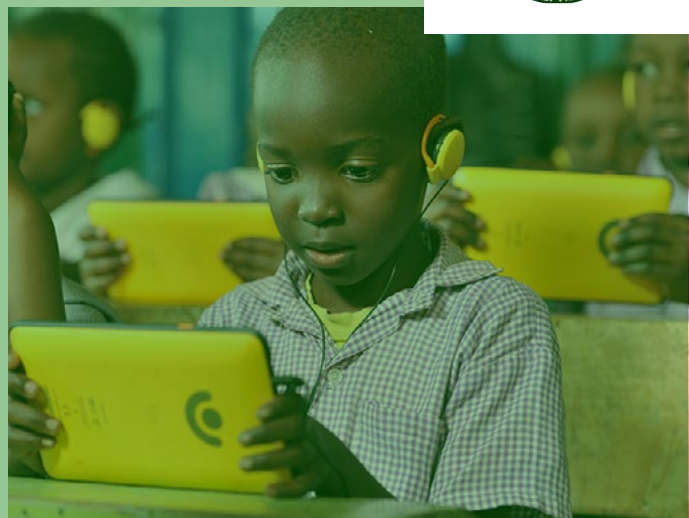
- A. Ensure support for the improvement in health information technology, data collection, storage, retrieval including contact tracing and tracking mechanisms
- B. Promote continuous dialogue, interaction and engagement with professional associations in the health care sector to address issues of labour relations, welfare and quality service delivery
- C. Initiate necessary legislative actions including oversight, to effectively monitor and evaluate private healthcare providers, ensuring that they meet international best standards of healthcare provision and medical ethics
- D. Initiate legislative interventions that facilitate the prosecution of medical malpractice cases, holding health professionals accountable in cases of misconduct.



Legislative Priorities & Interventions



Education





CONTEXT

Education remains the bedrock of human capital development in society, especially in an increasingly knowledge-based world. Today, knowledge, technology and innovation have become the currency of economic advancement. Nigeria has a total of 79 Private Universities, 43 Federal Universities and 48 State Universities, as well as other tertiary institutions. The country also has thousands of secondary schools, both federal and state government-owned. However, the standards of these educational institutions have continued to decline due to poor funding, lack of teacher training, limited educational facilities, poor access to quality educational facilities, low teacher-to-student ratio and the abandonment of technical education, amongst other challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic further exposed the decay in our educational systems and IT infrastructure, as several students face the challenge of access to online educational programmes during the lockdown. It is apparent that the government has not adequately provided the resources and infrastructure to prepare students to meet contemporary and future demands and needs of the society. There is therefore the need to initiate a holistic overhaul of the Nigerian educational system and also update standards, processes, equipment and infrastructure to respond to pandemics such as the COVID-19 virus. Urgent reforms must ensure to engender the provision of functional, quality and transformational education of the highest possible standards to prepare Nigerian students at all levels to safely and successfully face the challenges of today and claim the opportunities of tomorrow.



KEY CHALLENGES

- A. Inadequate budgetary provisions and strategic investment in the education sector
- B. Huge infrastructural decay at all levels of education in Nigeria
- C. Limited access and application of ICT in educational training
- D. Lack of educational materials in most public schools
- E. Limited number of teachers and other professionals in the education sector
- F. Policy inconsistencies at various levels of government
- G. Low teacher-to-student ratio
- H. Low enrolment and high dropout rates amongst girls
- I. Poor access to education by the poor and vulnerable in society due to increasingly high costs of education in Nigeria
- J. High illiteracy rate and disruptions in school calendar due to, for example, frequent teacher strikes
- K. Poor management of schools and weak governance of the educational system
- L. Low ranking on the Human Development Index (HDI)

- M. Disconnect between the educational curriculum and the skills required for achieving national development goals and meeting industry needs
- N. Accessing resources to provide health and sanitary infrastructure in schools in response to the impacts of COVID-19 and other public health emergencies.



STRATEGIC GOALS

- A. Ensure adequate budgetary increase of at least 5% to 10% annually, over the next 3 years with a view to reaching the UNESCO's 26% of annual budget recommendation in the near future
- B. Create an enabling environment for local educational content development and procurement of E-Learning materials
- C. Align educational curriculum with the skills required for achieving national development goals and meeting industry needs
- D. Enhance affordability and access to quality education for all Nigerians
- E. Upgrade educational systems, processes and infrastructure to respond to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic
- F. Promote more inclusive and efficient educational system that will build resilience in the face of public health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic.



IMMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2020 – May 2021

- A. **Budgetary Increase in Funding:** Ensure systematic and sustained budgetary increases in funding for the education sector beginning in 2021 Budget and targeting the 26% UNESCO recommendations. This should fund:
 - a) educational research institutions to enhance their research capability and outcomes
 - b) upgrade and equipping of at least 2 Federal Universities in each of the geo-political zones
 - c) infrastructure and mechanisms to support e-learning, open distance or virtual learning
 - d) consistent payment of teacher's salaries and provision of additional incentives
- B. **Review of Education Curriculum:** Ensure collaboration with the National Employers Consultative Assembly (NECA), Federal Ministry of Education (FMoE), Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND), Nigerian University Commission (NUC), Nigerian Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE), National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASeni), and National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB) to align education curriculum with contemporary and future industry needs

- C. **Improvement of Teaching Quality:** Initiate partnership with the Teachers Registration Council (TRC), NUC and relevant stakeholders to initiate legislative interventions aimed at improving teacher quality, productivity, welfare and learning outcomes
- D. **Promotion of Entrepreneurial and Technical Skills:** Initiate a review of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), TETFUND and NABTEB establishment Acts to build-in incentives and mechanisms to promote entrepreneurial skills, vocational and technical education, STEM and adult education
- E. Establish special funding mechanisms to promote research and innovation activities in tertiary and research institutions in the country
- F. **Increase focus on Scientific Research:** Initiate partnership with the TETFUND to strengthen the 12 Federal Universities designated as 'Centres of Excellence' with special focus on scientific research through adequate funding in the 2021 Budget.



INTERMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2021 – May 2022



- A. Provide legislative support for local development of virtual learning materials and methodologies to support virtual classes and home-schooling
- B. Provide legislative support to include sex education into the educational curriculum, starting from primary and secondary education in order to address the rampant cases of sexual assault and child abuse
- C. Promote the training and retraining of teachers to learn, adopt and apply modern teaching techniques and tools, especially at primary and secondary school levels
- D. Develop, promote and fund part-time and adult education opportunities for women, the elderly and other educationally disadvantaged groups
- E. Review the Education Reform 2030 Agenda to assess the implementation and recommend additional action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- F. Initiate mechanisms to address the perennial industrial actions by Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and other workers in tertiary institutions.



LONG-TERM LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2022 – May 2023



- A. Ensure improvement in budgetary provision for equipping public educational institutions and improving the general quality of service delivery in the education sector
- B. Provide a legislative framework to support the development of renewable energy, climate change, education and related competencies.

Legislative Priorities & Interventions



Economy





CONTEXT

Creating sustained economic growth and equitable distribution of wealth across society lies at the centre of finding holistic and effective solutions to the wide range of challenges Nigeria faces as a nation. Unfortunately, given its mono-economy, the slow pace of economic diversification continues to render the country susceptible to the volatility of the oil market. For instance, the resultant effects of the drastic plunge in global oil prices; the disruption of supply chains and the global slowdown in economic activities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have starkly unveiled the country's vulnerability. Consequently, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has predicted that Nigeria is headed for a recession, with output expected to contract by as much as 3.4% in 2020. Incidentally, the prospects of recovery after the pandemic is very difficult to predict, making it difficult for economic activities across sectors to bounce back to pre-crisis state quickly. Manufacturing is at its lowest production capacity, while SMSEs are struggling to stay afloat with millions going bankrupt. Nigeria's vulnerability is further compounded by the fact that it currently lacks adequate external and fiscal buffers. The 9th House of Representatives has a moral obligation to support the executive, the organised private sector, civil society and millions of the country's entrepreneurs in building an economy that is sufficiently robust and resilient enough to create abundant economic opportunities, jobs and wealth, while fostering inclusive and impactful sustainable growth.



KEY CHALLENGES

Some of the major challenges faced in the economy are:

- A. Poor implementation of economic management policies compounded by monetary and fiscal policy weaknesses
- B. Declining GDP growth from 2.55% in 2019Q4 to 1.87% in 2020Q1
- C. Volatile inflationary trends
- D. Very low revenue base leading to huge budget deficits and debt burden
- E. Lack of diversification of the economy and over-dependence on oil as source of income
- F. Moribund state of the hitherto vibrant industries and government-owned enterprises
- G. Poor infrastructure, especially in the power sector
- H. Huge fiscal deficits and rising debt profile
- I. High cost of doing business
- J. High unemployment rate
- K. Disparities in level of access to economic opportunities for women and young people.



STRATEGIC GOALS

- A. Creation of an inclusive, thriving and resilient economy for Nigerians
- B. Attainment of substantive reduction in the percentage of poor and unemployed Nigerians
- C. Provision of significant, sustained and meaningful investment in the development of SMSEs
- D. Creation of an enabling environment for local businesses and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- E. Development of critical infrastructure to boost economic activity, encourage investment and deliver national development plans
- F. Advocating for medium-to-long term structural policies that deliver sustainable and inclusive growth
- G. Adoption of plan-based budgeting, which will ensure the linking of sectoral policies to national development plans and national budget.



IMMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2020 – May 2021

- A. Initiation, passage and codification of special interventions/legislations in response to impacts of COVID-19 such as stimulus packages, tax rebates, loan repayment waivers etc., especially for for MSMEs
- B. Ensure passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) to improve efficiency, reduce wastage and limit corruption in the petroleum sector
- C. Initiate amendment of the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA), 2007, to require revenue generating agencies (MDAs) to deposit at least 80% percent of their revenue into the Consolidated Revenue Funds (CRF) instead of their operating surplus which they arbitrarily determine
- D. Advocate for government patronage and investment in local industries & products
- E. Ensure prioritisation of funding for critical infrastructure in the 2021 budget to stimulate or sustain economic growth in the face of dwindling resources
- F. Promote initiatives to facilitate the Ease of Doing Business and instill investor confidence by tackling corruption and fraud in financial transactions
- G. Initiate legislative instruments that will drive aggressive revamping of critical infrastructure as enablers of development, for example:
 - a) Initiate a review of the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) Act to attract more funding for large-scale public works in the face of dwindling revenue as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak

- b) Facilitate consultations with investors, financiers, representatives of the organised private sector and relevant government agencies to identify and agree a framework for improving uptake of incentives provided in the Road Infrastructure Development and Refurbishment Investment Tax Credit Scheme to improve critical road infrastructure in the country (Executive Order 7 of 2019)
- H. Ensure improved and increased oversight regarding the implementation of the 2020 Budget, as well as stimulus and relief packages to ensure 'Value for Money'
- I. Advocate for diversification of the economy through legislative frameworks and instruments to harness the potential in other sectors - such as solid minerals, tourism and entertainment, private sector etc. - to contribute more optimally to the economy
- J. Provide increased oversight to enforce implementation of the relevant provisions of the Local Content Acts such as:
 - a) improve local production
 - b) improve local consumption/uptake of made in Nigeria products
 - c) inputs of local raw materials into the production value chain
 - d) build human capacity, technology transfer, provide employment
- K. Introduce a Bill to ensure; (a) effective coordination of donors (b) efficient / judicious use of all funds from foreign Official Development Assistance (ODA) (c) alignment with target development plans, while placing priority on the engagement of Nigerian development practitioners / local experts in the implementation of donor programmes
- L. Initiate collaboration with the Executive to reform the federal budget process to make it based on, linked and synced with the long-term national development plan, as well as the passage of a comprehensive Budget Law
- M. Promote Public-Private Sector Partnerships (PPP) in policy development and implementation through the establishment of a Legislative Working Group on Enterprise and Innovation
- N. Advocate for 'Post COVID-19 Recovery Capital' for businesses by banks and relevant government agencies
- O. Promote Small and Medium Scale Enterprises in the country by:
 - a) mandating that a percentage of all federal government contracts be awarded to indigenous small and medium-sized enterprises
 - b) ensuring that all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the Federal Government of Nigeria are in full compliance with the local content laws of the federation
 - c) ensuring that Nigerian owned enterprises receive first consideration in the award of all federal government contracts and in the procurement of goods and services by the government.



INTERMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2021 – May 2022

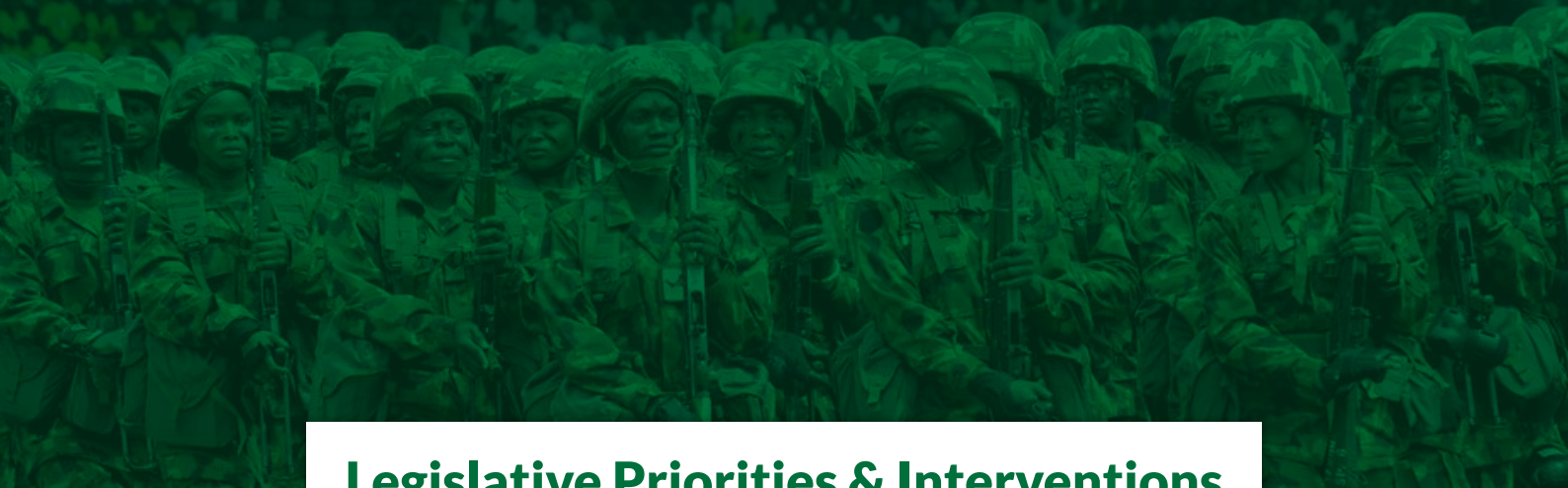
- A. Conduct a review of all federal tax laws to encourage investment; to incentivise enterprise; ensure fairness and curb tax avoidance and evasion through the use ICT in tax collection and administration
- B. Conduct an audit of relevant business and commercial regulations with a view to identifying, reviewing and eliminating all regulations that are no longer fit for purpose, or that impose an unnecessary encumbrance on private enterprise
- C. Ensure strengthening of the “Legislative Working Group on Investment, Business and Regulation,” composed of legislators and business leaders and supported by other professionals as a platform for collaboration between private sector and the legislature
- D. Advocate for the creation of an enabling business environment and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through regulatory audits, reviews and optimisation of legislations on trade, FDI & Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria
- E. Promote legislation and policies that safeguard salaries and pensions and ensures prompt payment, especially to lessen the unanticipated effects of public health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic.



LONG-TERM LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2022 – May 2023

- A. Catalyse an increase in homeownership through housing development and pro-poor Home Ownership Initiatives and through legislation, where necessary
- B. Initiate Banking and Financial Sector Reform to facilitate investment, encourage innovation and promote economic development
- C. Promote investment incentives and policies in collaboration with relevant MDAs and promote investment in States in conjunction with the Nigerian Governors’ Forum (NGF).



Legislative Priorities & Interventions



Security





CONTEXT

For over a decade, Nigeria has contended with a recalcitrant insurgency in the North-Eastern part of the country that continues to transform, adapting itself to changing circumstances, yet remaining a significant threat to lives and property, and a drain on limited national resources. Similarly, the North-West and North-Central have witnessed several incidences of banditry, cattle rustling and community clashes between farmers and herders while the South-South and South-East regions have continued to experience activities of Niger Delta militants as well as the agitation for Biafran sovereignty, respectively. Other sources of insecurity include cybercrime, drug trafficking, organised crime, human trafficking, piracy and kidnapping, amongst others. While struggling valiantly to address these challenges, sadly, the security forces are not suitably equipped to prevail in the Herculean task of protecting our lives, property and territorial integrity. Additionally, the hardship resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic has further worsened our security situation with miscreants and criminal elements taking advantage of our overstretched and poorly equipped national security personnel to commit crimes like rape, cultism, kidnapping, and armed robbery against citizens. Furthermore, with the outbreak of the pandemic, security personnel have been at the forefront of implementing the directives of the government. However, most of them do not have the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) for these dangerous assignments and this has left them exposed to the dangers of the disease. All these have continued to have a negative impact on society and government, leading to an untenable national security environment that is hostile to local and foreign investment. This discourages the people from economically productive pursuits and creates uncertainty and instability that mitigates against economic growth and national advancement. These are challenges that must be addressed for our nation to flourish economically and thrive socially.



KEY CHALLENGES

- A. Poor funding of the security sector in Nigeria
- B. Insufficient number of active-duty servicemen and women in the police and security agencies
- C. Low level of education in the security rank and file
- D. Low morale within ranks of security agencies
- E. Poor and dilapidated security infrastructure
- F. Weak intelligence gathering and counter-insurgency expertise
- G. Poor deployment of information technology and weak anti-cybercrime and bio-terrorism capabilities
- H. Absence of effective community policing strategies
- I. Lack of adequate COVID-19 military and personal protective equipment (PPE) for security personnel

- J. Lack of public trust in the security institutions as a result of often strained civil-military relations
- K. Archaic or inadequate legal framework
- L. Low application of modern technology in policing, investigation and general crime-fighting
- M. Poor coordination and collaboration between security agencies
- N. Limited experience in security matters on the part of a large number of legislators.



STRATEGIC GOALS

- A. Improved funding for the security sector for recruitment, training and procurement of equipment
- B. Increased educational levels of recruits into security agencies
- C. Better engagement with local communities for intelligence gathering and community support
- D. Improved accountability in the allocation and disbursement of national security resources
- E. Provision of adequate health facilities & supplies for the protection of security personnel during public health emergencies
- F. Innovative, proactive and technological driven security agencies capable of operating in line with global best practices and confident in its ability to protect Nigeria and Nigerians
- G. Security policies are responsive to and representative of local community needs.



IMMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2020 – May 2021

- A. Increased Funding: Provide funding in the 2021 and 2022 Budget for recruitment and training of new security operatives with higher educational levels to strengthen the security sector workforce and position it for effective performance
- B. Also, ensure the enactment of legislation and appropriations of funds in the 2021 and 2022 Budgets to fund the implementation of community policing, civil-military relations, and crime prevention
- C. Ensure legislative approval to fund the provision of modern security equipment in-line with the Defence Procurement Policy
- D. Oversight of Security Sector Budget: Ensure effective oversight of security sector budget so as to restore integrity, reduce leakages and promote accountability
- E. Provision of Structured Funding for Armed Forces: Initiate the enactment of legislation to support structured funding of the Armed Forces of Nigerian to improve military readiness and enhance our capacity to respond to present and emerging threats to national security.



INTERMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2021 - May 2022



- A. Ensure review and amendment of outdated and defective laws, including the Criminal and Penal Code, to meet current realities
- B. Support the relevant House Committees to develop their capacity in security sector matters.



LONG-TERM LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2022 - May 2023



- A. Provide funding for the purchase and deployment of technology, as well as the training of personnel in the proper and ethical use of technology for policing and crime-fighting
- B. Provide appropriations and other legislative interventions to encourage the operations of the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria (DICON) and other local manufacturers of defence equipment and materials to support local capacity building and development of indigenous defence technology.

Legislative Priorities & Interventions



Agriculture & Food Security





CONTEXT

Nigeria is blessed with 37.3 % of arable land as well as, at least, five months of rain annually which makes production of crops and plants a viable business. Consequently, a large percentage of our rural population are involved in diverse forms of agricultural production. Indeed, Nigeria was one of the most promising agricultural producers in the world before the advent of crude oil. For instance, the country was the global leader in palm oil exports, far ahead of Malaysia and Indonesia, and exported 47% of all groundnuts globally, putting it ahead of the US and Argentina. Today, the situation has reversed and continued to deteriorate. Nigeria moved from being a food self-sufficient country to being a net importer, spending over \$11bn on food imports annually. Agriculture has lost its pride of place in the economy and society.

The House has identified that certain issues continue to mitigate against optimal performance in the sector such as access to finance and financing options; access to markets; limited transportation infrastructure; lack of access to modern technology and overreliance on old rudimentary methods. Additionally, government policy to boost the agricultural sector too often focus only on the lowest end of the scale, ignoring the massive benefits that can come from adding value further up the value chain. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and measures taken to curtail its spread has led to late commencement of the planting season. Furthermore, logistical disruptions due to lockdowns and restricted movement across the country have caused severe delays in agricultural value chains. Forecasts indicate that this can quickly snowball into a national food crisis.

Despite the domination of oil in Nigeria's economy, the country's huge agricultural endowment remains the base of its economy, as it provides the key source of livelihood for most Nigerians. If properly harnessed, Nigeria has the potential of deriving much higher revenue from agricultural produce like rice, cassava, fisheries and livestock development. The 9th House of Representatives acknowledges that modernised, productive and competitive agriculture is the future of Nigeria and is determined to support the process of achieving this.



KEY CHALLENGES

- A. Poor funding for the development of the agricultural sector in Nigeria
- B. Predominance of smallholder farmers and few largescale mechanised farmers
- C. Poor and dilapidated infrastructure like roads and power
- D. Inadequate and expensive transport system
- E. Over-dependence on rain-fed agriculture and very low level of irrigation development – less than 1% of cropped land

- F. High cost of farm inputs and inability of farming households to invest in farms due to poverty and lack of access to capital
- G. Instability of agricultural produce prices and low prices during the harvest season
- H. Poor access to credit facilities
- I. Inadequate provision for preservation, processing and storage facilities to reduce on-farm and off-farm losses, which is estimated at 30-40% percent of total annual production
- J. Lack of modernisation and mechanisation
- K. Inefficient fertiliser procurement and distribution
- L. Poor research and limited adoption of findings
- M. Archaic or inadequate legal framework governing the agricultural sector
- N. Inadequate extension workers
- O. Growing shortage of arable land, due to climate change and rising population.



STRATEGIC GOALS

- A. Improve funding for the agricultural sector, especially for infrastructure, training and procurement of equipment so as to improve the supply chain of agricultural products
- B. Improve agricultural production via modernisation and mechanisation
- C. Enhance collaboration with African and foreign governments and International Financial Institutions (IFIS) for the transformation of the agricultural sector
- D. Protect the livelihood of small farmers against competition from imported goods through protectionist policies
- E. Improve access to credit and other financing opportunities
- F. Reduce negative environmental effect on agricultural production
- G. End farmers-herders' conflicts
- H. Increase private sector participation in agribusinesses and create more large-scale farmers.



IMMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2020 – May 2021

- A. **Increased funding of Agricultural Sector:** Advocate for prioritisation of the 2021 budget to support critical aspects of the agricultural sector and provide for increased funding for infrastructure, research and development in the agriculture sector in the 2021, 2022 and 2023 budgets

- B. **Moratoria on Debt Services:** House to advocate for the CBN, BOI and other FGN finance institutions to grant moratoria on debt service to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) e.g. those on the Anchor Borrowers Program, some of whom are the most badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic
- C. **Create Agriculture Emergency Fund:** Support the creation of an 'Agriculture Emergency Fund' to focus on ensuring the sustainability of the agricultural value chain especially during crises
- D. **Strengthen Agricultural Value Chain & Food Security:** Ensure the provision of legislative framework to support policies and initiatives to develop and strengthen agricultural value chains - from planting through to processing, storage, packaging, transportation, marketing and distribution - so as to produce and add value to agricultural products for domestic and export markets
 - a) Passage of the Right to Food Bill (introduced in the House in the 8th Assembly) to create a regime of food security
 - b) Initiation and passage of an Agricultural Policy Stabilisation (APS) Bill
 - c) Passage of laws that encourage private investment in the agriculture sector
- E. **Support Social Intervention Programmes:** Legislate to support government's existing special intervention programmes in the agricultural sector, to sustain the agriculture value chain and safeguard food security as well as promote research and innovation
- F. **Collaborate for LUA Reform:** Ensure collaboration between the Executive arm of government, state and local governments as well as other stakeholders to review and reform the Land Use Act (LUA) to make access to land for industrial, educational, agricultural and other purposes much easier, and reduce to the barest minimum, conflicts over land use
- G. **Empower and Equip Security Forces to:** Ensure the government is able and equipped to effectively deal with the various security challenges in the country, including the Boko Haram insurgency, farmer-herder clashes, banditry and kidnappings, that have posed serious threats to food production and security
- H. **Improve Modernisation and Mechanisation:** Provide legislative framework to improve modernisation and mechanisation of the agriculture sector.



INTERMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2021 - May 2022



- A. Advocate for banks and other financial institutions to invest more in the agricultural sector and support local farmers
- B. Ensure increased oversight of budget implementation in the agriculture sector to curb leakages and promote accountability
- C. Provide funding for the establishment of farming skills acquisition, agricultural innovation and incubation hubs as well as Agribusiness Entrepreneurship Centres in all Federal Constituencies

- D. Provide funding for government's efforts to ensure better collaboration between technology companies and industry operators across the agricultural value chain
- E. House to support effective policies for the establishment of processing and storage facilities, which will help to maximise the economic and financial benefits across the entire agricultural value chain
- F. House to support climate change policy and measures to ensure farmers are protected and insured from climate change shocks and the impact of global pandemics such as the COVID-19 virus.



LONG-TERM LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2022 - May 2023



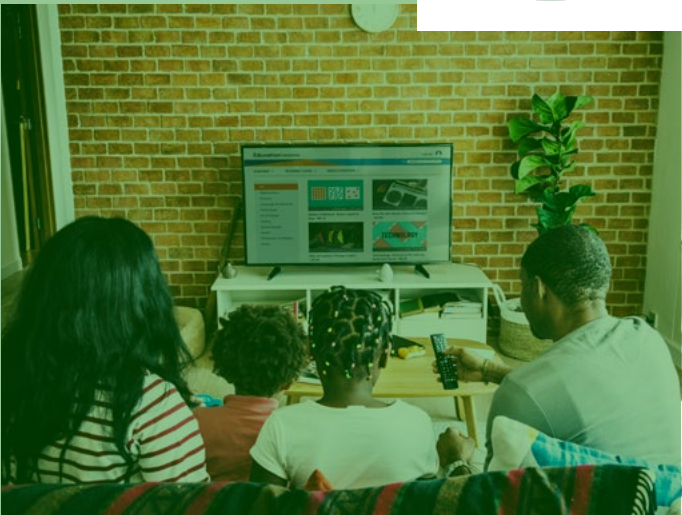
- A. Support the off-taking of farm produce from farmers by government agencies and the private sector to create a steady source of revenue for the farmers and their households and ensure guaranteed minimum price for staple food crops to stabilise prices
- B. Initiate a review of all agricultural policies for impact and effectiveness and engender processes that facilitate multi-stakeholder collaboration
- C. Support the establishment of systems that promote sustainable farming practices that will not only improve output but also reduce the negative effects of farming on the environment.



Legislative Priorities & Interventions



Sustainable Power





CONTEXT

Access to adequate and uninterrupted power supply is a fundamental prerequisite for any nation's development. Although Nigeria is one of the largest oil producers in the world and has the seventh largest gas reserves, the country has a chronic shortage of accessible and reliable power. Today, an estimated 55 percent of Nigerians live without access to electricity. Even for those with access to power, recurrent outages force more than 90 percent of industrial consumers – and many residential consumers – to install and run independent power generators at a high cost to the Nigerian economy and the environment. The COVID-19 pandemic has also exposed the numerous challenges in the power sector, one of which is the difficulty in working from home without power supply. In addition to insufficient and unreliable generation, the transmission and distribution networks required to deliver the limited power supply available suffer from severe network capacity constraints. These constraints have been exacerbated by years of poor maintenance due to inadequate funding from both inordinately low revenue collection rates and a market tariff regime that is not cost-reflective nor effective. Consequently, the Federal Government embarked on a comprehensive reform in the power sector that led to the unbundling of NEPA into 18 companies, which included 6 generation companies (GENCOs), the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN), and 11 distribution companies (DISCOs) under a new holding company called the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN). In addition to these are two other critical initiatives: The Power Sector Recovery Plan (PSRP) and Power Africa project. Despite all these, several factors have continued to inhibit the sector's growth and development including progressively dwindling funds, low private sector investment, weak and inadequate infrastructure, weak capacity leading to huge commercial and technical losses, etc. The consequence of these is a critical constraint on the economic development of the country and prolonged cycle of poverty for many Nigerians. To unleash our countries economic potential, we must address these challenges in the power sector.



KEY CHALLENGES

- A. Poor and inadequate infrastructure e.g. outdated & old transmission lines
- B. Low private sector investment
- C. Inadequate electricity power distribution network
- D. Corruption and mismanagement of resources
- E. Inadequate funding
- F. High unpaid bills by individual and corporate consumers
- G. Uncooperative and sharp practices by some consumers leading to huge loss revenue losses
- H. Shortage of gas supply to power stations
- I. Ineffective collaboration between generation and distribution companies
- J. Low uptake of renewable energy sources, especially solar power
- K. Very weak internal capacity
- L. Low research capacity.

STRATEGIC GOALS

- A. Radically improve the provision of interrupted power supply to Nigeria's
- B. Enhance capacity for electricity generation, transmission and distribution
- C. Ensure effective coordination among all segments of the power sector
- D. Initiate rehabilitation of dilapidated power infrastructure
- E. Advocate for Regulatory Environment
- F. Initiate abolition of estimated billing and extension of automated billing for all consumers
- G. Ensure creation of investor-friendly environment for the power sector
- H. Engender the uptake of renewable energy.

IMMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS June 2020 – May 2021

- A. **Comprehensive review of legislation relating to Power Sector:** Initiation of a comprehensive review of all legislation relating to the power sector in Nigeria to identify, amend or remove legislation that mitigates against the free flow of capital into the sector, free operation of the market or increases in the cost of doing business in the sector
 - a) Electricity and Power Sector Reform Act No. 6 of 2005
 - b) The Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN) Act
- B. **Oversight of the Power Sector:** Provide effective oversight and ensure accountability in the power sector
- C. **Mandatory allocation of pre-paid meters:** Mandate allocation of pre-paid meter to all consumers and halt the practice of estimated billing practices
- D. **Electricity Subsidies:** Ensure collaboration with the Executive to support the provision of electricity subsidy to Nigerians
- E. **Increase in public sector investment:** Provide the legislative framework to increase public sector investment in the power sector
- F. Engage sector experts, civil society, development partners in seeking sustainable solutions
- G. Legislate to promote energy mix and increase investment in renewable energy especially, solar, wind, biogas, geothermal, tidal, etc.



INTERMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2021 - May 2022



- A. Through legislation, provide enabling grounds for the development of local engineering capacity and encourage technological advancement of Nigerian Universities in the area of renewable energy and engineering technology for the power sector
- B. Develop and pass local content legislation for the power sector
- C. Through increased appropriation in the 2021 and 2022 Budgets, support the rehabilitation of dilapidated infrastructure in the power sector.



LONG-TERM LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2022 - May 2023



- A. Support full and efficient commercialisation of the industry to attract new capital and advanced technology
- B. Work with the Executive Arm to encourage efficient and profitable power distribution mechanism by investors
 - a) Through direct supply to consumers
 - b) Ensure guaranteed payment where the law insists that they must supply the national grid alone.

Legislative Priorities & Interventions



Environment and Climate Change





CONTEXT

Credible scientific evidence suggests that climate change is one of the gravest threats faced globally. In Nigeria, environmental challenges include oil spills, desertification, soil erosion, air pollution, flood, water pollution, poor solid waste management, deforestation, soil degradation and loss of natural habitat, amongst others. With more than 600 spills annually and a benzene level that is 900 times higher than the World Health Organisation recommendations, oil spills in the Niger Delta have led to huge loss of livelihoods and poses a major health challenge to communities. Nigeria's estimated 0.6 kilometres annual desertification in the North has not only affected source of livelihood of indigenes, but has also exacerbated the security challenges in the North East and North West. Deforestation has also led to a loss of 70-80 percent of Nigeria's original forests through logging, agriculture, urban expansion, expansion of roads and building of industries. Erosion has also become a recurring environmental challenge, all over the country, especially in the South-East where gully erosion has continued to destabilise the lives and economic sustainability of the people. Similarly, different parts of the country continue to experience various forms of environmental challenges leading to farmer-herder clashes and other security and health hazards. Human activities, including farming, construction, industrialisation etc., have led to these challenges thereby the development of mechanisms and legislative interventions for reconciling environmental imperatives with economic development goals cannot be overstated.



KEY CHALLENGES

- A. Chronic environmental pollution e.g., oil, industrial and domestic wastes
- B. Massive ecological damages e.g. gully and coastal erosion
- C. Depletion of the Ozone layer
- D. Perennial flooding
- E. Poor management of the Ecological Fund
- F. Lack or inadequate waste management infrastructure
- G. Deforestation and desert encroachment
- H. Drying up of the lake chad basin and rising sea level.



STRATEGIC GOALS

- A. Improve environmental management through enabling legislation and responsive policies
- B. Ensure drastic reduction in oil spillage and other forms environmental damage
- C. Promote prudent, accountable and transparent use of the Ecological Fund
- D. Improve management of the menace of flooding and impact on livelihoods

- E. Adopt effective measures to address coastal and gully erosion challenges
- F. Improve the capability of MDAs to control desert encroachment and deforestation
- G. Ensure effective and efficient waste management system; waste to wealth and renewable energy mechanism in place
- H. Increase private sector investment in environment and climate change issues.



IMMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2020 – May 2021

- A. **Address ecological challenges:** Initiate legislative actions to address ecological challenges such as:
 - a) Desert encroachment and implications for livelihoods
 - b) Gully and Coastal erosion
 - c) Oil pollution and impact on aquatic and marine life and livelihoods
 - d) Deforestation
- B. **Dialogue with MDAs:** Initiate dialogue with relevant MDAs, State governments and relevant stakeholders (especially farmers, riverine communities and frontline emergency responders) to strengthen emergency response mechanisms and frameworks to effectively respond to the perennial flooding challenge, i.e. preventive, control, evacuation, rehabilitation
- C. **Support Environmental protection laws:** Through effective oversight, support a more targeted and sustained effort to enforce existing environmental protection laws and regulations
- D. **Domestication of Paris Climate Agreement:** Endorse domestication of the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015 to provide a legal framework for its implementation
- E. **Adopt Renewable Energy:** Provide legislative framework to promote adoption of renewable energy to reduce dependence on fossil fuel, and waste to wealth programmes.



INTERMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2021 – May 2022

- A. Amend the Ecological Fund Act to allow for effective oversight by the House so as to ensure efficient and accountable use of the Fund
- B. Increase funding in the 2022 Budgets aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change in the country
- C. Initiate collaboration with civil society, community organisations, religious institutions and groups at the constituency level to support public education, enlightenment and involvement in environment and climate issues.



LONG-TERM LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2022 - May 2023



- A. Ensure the drastic reduction in the use of paper by MDAs i.e. paperless policy and adopt ICT platforms for communication
- B. Support efforts to repair and restore terrain damaged by fossil fuel exploration and transport, urban expansion, erosion, commercial logging and environmental degradation
 - a). Cleaning oil spills
 - b). Tree planting initiatives through Members' constituencies.
- C. Promote collaboration with the Executive arm to encourage partnership with CSOs, NGOs and development partners to incorporate their views and expertise into the policymaking process.

Legislative Priorities & Interventions



Human Capital Development and Social Investment





CONTEXT

Human capital development is a critical requirement for sustainable economic growth and development. No nation attains sustainable economic productivity, growth and nation-building without developing its human resources. The COVID-19 pandemic further threatens HCD, given the high mortality rate it leaves in its wake, the economic and logistical disruptions it has created and the closure of educational institutions relevant for HCD. Poor human development weakens societies and undermines social cohesion and people's trust in government institutions. Sadly, Nigeria has consistently ranked very low between 157th-159th out of 189 countries and territories in the Human Development Index since 2015. This has continued to undermine government initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development and growth. To ensure meaningful and sustained development in Nigeria, the country needs to move rapidly into a knowledge-based economy that masterfully deploys information, knowledge and high-level skills base to achieve its developmental goals.

Similarly, the Social Investment Programme (SIP) by the Federal Government established in 2016 to tackle poverty and hunger across the country has continued to witness a range of challenges. The programme, anchored on four cardinal programmes- (a) the N-Power, (b) the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT), (c) Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP) and (d) Home Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP) – is no doubt a laudable one, however challenges with weak database of beneficiaries, poor organisational structure, inadequate coordination with stakeholders, low advocacy and information as well as administrative bottlenecks have reduced its impact on the intended beneficiaries. The COVID-19 pandemic which underscored the need for palliatives for poor Nigerians, further exposed weaknesses in the National Social Investment Programme (NSIP) which we must remedy if we are to create a country with human capital to achieve its goals and ambitions.



KEY CHALLENGES

- A. Very poor and inadequate funding for Human Capital Development in MDAs, leading to inadequate skills development within the Public Service
- B. Low application of technology
- C. Poor information management and accountability
- D. Limited coordination and cooperation between the three tiers of government
- E. Low geographical and demographic spread of SIP interventions
- F. Weak administrative capacity and structure
- G. Poor citizen engagement and information dissemination mechanisms.



STRATEGIC GOALS

- A. Improve private sector investment in local institutions to promote excellence and professionalism
- B. Use vocational training methods to boost Human Capital Development
- C. Reform NYSC programme to addresses current realities
- D. Improved demography database and credibility of statistical data
- E. Improve social protection frameworks for vulnerable groups
- F. Advocate for equity, inclusiveness and protection for all vulnerable groups
- G. Diversify economy and broaden policy areas to tackle the multi dimensional causes of poverty.



IMMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2020 – May 2021



- A. **Effective Implementation of SIP:** Legislate to support effective implementation of the Social Investment Programme including the production of credible and faultless data of vulnerable people across the 36 states of the federation and the FCT
- B. To promote accountability and transparency, conduct a comprehensive review of the programmes and interventions undertaken or executed by all agencies involved in implementation of the Social Investment Programmes
- C. **Development and Implementation of Educational and Vocational Training System:** Ensure, through relevant legislation, the policy development and implementation of the Nigerian educational and vocational training system that addresses contemporary developmental needs of the country
- D. **Support Human Capital Development Strategy:** Assess and support implementation of the Human Capital Development Strategy launched by the National Economic Council (NEC) in December 2018
- E. **Review of effectiveness of frontline government agencies:** Initiate review and ensure improvement in the effectiveness of government agencies responsible for human capital development such as the Centre for Management Development (CMD)
- F. **Engage the Diaspora:** Provide the legislative framework to harness the potentials of the diaspora community for development e.g. skills sharing, investments and promotion of Nigeria's of national image abroad
- G. Ensure that Nigerians in the diaspora are incentivised to contribute to all areas of national development efforts, while the federal government also prioritises their safety and security at times of global emergencies such as the Covid-19 virus or in the event of criminal activities, such as trafficking and kidnapping

- H. **Reorganisation of NYSC:** Initiate legislation to re-organise the NYSC programme to reflect contemporary realities
- I. Partner with relevant stakeholders to curb the menace of rape, violence against women and child abuse through legislation, oversight and constituency advocacy.



INTERMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2021 - May 2022



- A. Provide oversight for enforcement of all laws that promote equity for all groups e.g the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act
- B. Resuscitate the Gender Technical Unit at the House of Representatives to support the activities of female parliamentarians and accommodate the views of women in policy making
- C. Work with the Executive Arm to create strategic alliances with educational institutions (foreign and local), international development partners and private sector for the development of human capital in the public sector
- D. Advocate for the creation of a Competency Management Framework in the public sector
- E. Through effective oversight, ensure that relief materials reach IDPs and other vulnerable groups.



LONG-TERM LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2022 - May 2023

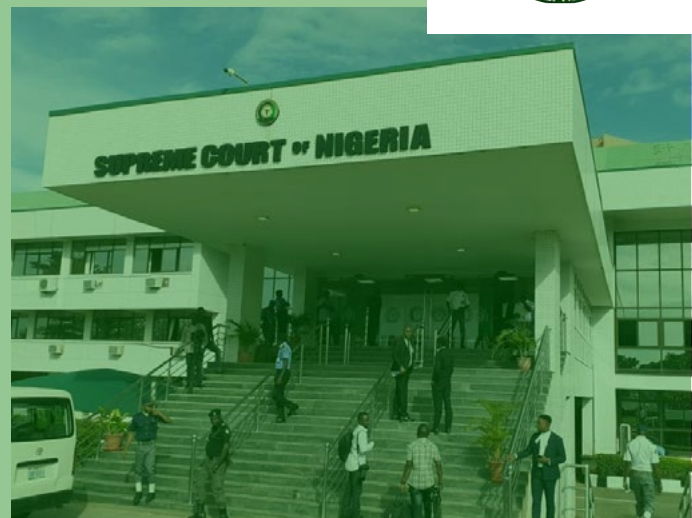


- A. Ensure the strengthening of existing legislation and introduce new ones that safeguard the welfare of IDPs in the event of crisis and emergencies
- B. Direct the Committee on Treaties and Protocols to fast-track consideration and eventual domestication of pending relevant international conventions related to HCD
- C. Through legislation and oversight, support the development of an automated database system to collate and update data on competency levels in MDAs
- D. Conduct periodic audits through oversight to ensure that tertiary institutions remain relevant to contemporary development needs of the country
- E. Conduct periodic oversight to ensure effective collaboration among all tiers and agencies of government in the implementation of all Social Investment Programme.

Legislative Priorities & Interventions



Governance





CONTEXT

Ensuring good governance in Nigeria is a cardinal objective of the 9th House of Representatives. The House envisages a situation where all arms and tiers of government, work in harmony to deliver quality services to Nigerians. However, this largely depends on the quality and efficiency of the various institutions and processes to deliver in the areas of rule of law, credible electoral processes, transparency, accountability, citizens participation, amongst others. The dawn of democracy brought hope for economic revitalisation, a restoration of political liberties, inclusion for marginalised groups and the attenuation of official misconduct. While this has largely been achieved, there is still much space for meaningful progress and improvement. Today, unemployment, poverty, crime, violence, corruption, insurgencies, diseases, loss of lives and property have continued to plague the country. The outbreak of COVID-19 has further revealed the impact of poor governance and the need to enshrine the doctrine of good governance for effective service delivery to the Nigerian people. For instance, the pandemic has exposed gaps in the areas of social justice, social protection, human rights, protection for IDPs, women and other vulnerable groups. It has also helped the government to see the weaknesses in the budget process, poor coordination between all arms and tiers of government, as well as weakness in the anti-corruption fight. Consequently, the House will support, through its constitutional powers, the strengthening of the architecture, processes and machinery of governance so as to deliver the true dividends of democracy to Nigerians. In the era of COVID-19, good and affordable governance is essential for our economic, social and political survival as a nation.



KEY CHALLENGES

- A. Poor accountability and transparency in the governance process
- B. Weak intergovernmental relations and coordination
- C. Weak fiscal federalism
- D. Defective and outdated constitutional provisions
- E. High cost of governance
- F. Lack of equity, inclusiveness and responsiveness
- G. Low skills-base, process inefficiency and lack of professionalism in some parts of the public and civil service
- H. Disregard for the rule of law and weak law enforcement
- I. Trust deficit between for the government and public institutions
- J. Non-implementation/enforcement of Legislative motions and resolutions
- K. Poor access to justice
- L. Absence of fiscal federalism and decentralisation

- M. Unclear and poor delineation of powers and roles within the three tiers of government
- N. Weak audit process due to the absence of a comprehensive legal framework
- O. Relatively weak electoral processes and systems.

STRATEGIC GOALS

- A. Improve coordination and intergovernmental relations between all arms and tiers of government for effective service delivery
- B. Strengthened fight against corruption by enhancing preventive mechanisms to block leakages, deterrence and enshrine probity in public fund management
- C. Promote fiscal federalism to reduce dependency of states on federal allocations
- D. Improve efficiency, effectiveness, value for money and reduce wastage in governance
- E. Reinvigorate and strengthen the public service (civil and public servants) for effective service delivery; including harmonised remuneration for the public service to create parity in pay across board
- F. Enhance the credibility of demographic data for effective planning and service delivery
- G. Strengthen electoral process through electoral reforms
- H. Review constitutional provisions to strengthen protection of human rights, enable true federalism and encourage financial independence of states.

IMMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS June 2020 – May 2021

- A. **Constitutional Amendment:** Amend the Constitution to devolve powers and provide clear delineation of roles between the 3 tiers of government to improve coordination, reduce conflict and duplication as well as administrative and financial burdens on the Federal government
- B. **Enforcing Accountability of Government Institutions:** Ensure accountability of government institutions and strengthen the fight against corruption through the following legislative interventions:
 - a) Quick passage of the Federal Audit Bill currently before the House
 - b) Enhance the Public Procurement Process through advocacy for the creation of the Public Procurement Council in compliance with the establishment Act
 - c) Promote Fiscal Discipline by adequately funding the Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) and advocacy for the constitution of the Board of the Fiscal Responsibility Commission (FRC) that has been without a Board for years

- C. **Employment of preventive measures against corruption:** Strengthen the fight against corruption through preventive mechanisms:
 - a) Examining the possibility of establishing, through legislation, and (or) constitutional amendment, Special Courts for the prosecution of public corruption cases
 - b) Strengthen the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices Commission (ICPC) by recruitment of lawyers and forensic accountants with expertise in investigation and prosecution of crimes of financial misappropriation and public corruption
 - c) Through legislation, empower the Commissions to engage foreign and local experts and partners to aid in the investigation and prosecution of crimes
- D. **Advocacy for Electoral Reforms:** Advocate for electoral Reforms through the amendment of the Electoral Act
- E. **Reduction in Cost of Governance: Reducing the cost of governance by:**
 - a) Partnering with the Executive to agree a common framework or process for streamlining the number of existing public agencies, in order to reduce the huge financial burden on the government while, protecting of workers interests
 - b) Strengthening mechanisms that enhances efficiency, productivity, accountability, value for money and responsiveness by all MDAs and government functionaries including public and civil servants
 - c) Reducing number of government-funded foreign travels on taxpayer funds
 - d) Harmonisation of workers' salaries across all MDAs to reduce bickering, wastages, corruption, and disaffection among government workers as a result of pay disparity.



INTERMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2021 - May 2022



- A. Promote a constructive relationship with the Executive to ensure the enforcement of Motions passed by the House in order to strengthen democratic institutions and values
- B. As part of the constitutional amendment process, support the separation in the office of the Minister of Justice from that of the Attorney General to allow for easy prosecution of corruption and restore public confidence in the administration of justice
- C. Amendment of the National Orientation Agency (NOA) Act to include campaigns for national consciousness and patriotism and re-work the National Orientation Bill to ensure the more effective building of team spirit above ethnic and religious groups.



LONG-TERM LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2022 – May 2023



- A. Engage in strategic partnerships with critical civil society organisations, unions, professional bodies as well as researchers and stakeholders to identify, prioritise and execute realistic projects and programmes that will respond as much as possible to the yearnings of the people
- B. Partner with relevant stakeholder to curb the menace of trafficking of women and girls, rape, violence against women and child abuse through legislation, oversight, constituency advocacy and constitutional amendment where necessary
- C. Ensure improvement in budgetary discipline and fiscal responsibility in the management of the nation's resources through effective oversight of all MDAs
- D. Develop a system of laws and regulations that establish the standards for treatment and processing of personal data provided by individuals to public and private bodies in Nigeria.

Legislative Priorities & Interventions



House Reforms

Positioning the House for Optimum Performance





CONTEXT

The parliament is the bedrock and pillar of modern democracy. Since Nigeria's return to democracy in 1999, the National Assembly has continued to evolve from one struggling with parliamentary processes and procedures to one that has grown to be a model for several emerging democracies. However, there is still a lot of room for internal reforms. We recognise that there are significant weaknesses in the internal rules of the House of Representatives, deficiencies in our internal capacity and our operating processes that if left unresolved, will continue to mitigate against our ability to meet our obligations. The COVID-19 outbreak further creates the need for parliamentary practices and procedures in the House to be revisited with a view to safeguarding Members and staff as well as ensuring the continuous optimal performance of legislative activities. These internal reforms are intended to comprehensively improve the House's ability to deliver on its constitutional mandate to serve the best interests of the Nigerian people in a manner that meets their expectations. In a nutshell, the internal reforms will strengthen the capacity of the House to perform its constitutional functions effectively as a separate and independent arm of government to the benefit of the Nigerian people. These reforms are required for us to fulfil 'our contract with Nigeria'.



KEY CHALLENGES

- A. Weak appropriation process
- B. Ineffective operational instruments for Committees
- C. Weak oversight and public hearing mechanisms
- D. Limited quality capacity to support oversight and committee engagements
- E. Relatively weak mechanism for effective coordination with the Executive especially, on budget and enforcement of resolutions passed by the House
- F. Weak mechanism for coordination with the Senate for timely passage of Member bills
- G. Weak internal capacity to effectively analyse public financial data and policies
- H. Limited provision and utilisation of ICT facilities
- I. Weak policy research, analysis and monitoring capacity
- J. Reasonably low level of public knowledge on how the legislature works.

STRATEGIC GOALS

- A. Improve framework preparation, approval, and oversight of the Budget
- B. Re-engineering of Committees for optimum performance
- C. Improve efficiency in operations of the House to reduce wastages
- D. Ensure prompt consideration of Bills, Motions and other Legislative Business
- E. Strengthen House's policy research and analysis capacity
- F. Ensure better monitoring and evaluation processes
- G. Improve synergy with the Senate
- H. Enhance citizens participation in the legislative process
- I. Improve safety and enabling working environment, especially with COVID-19 protocols in place
- J. Maintain a comprehensive and easily accessible data bank of legislative activities
- K. Application of ICT for E-Parliament, Virtual parliamentary sessions, citizen perception surveys and direct stakeholder feedback
- L. Improve internal and external communication mechanism.

IMMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS June 2020 – May 2021

- A. **Enactment of Budget Law:** Collaborate with the Executive arm to enact a Budget Law to properly define process of preparation, appropriation, implementation, oversight and audit with clear responsibilities, timelines and monitoring and evaluation framework for the annual Budget. This will give effect to the relevant provisions of the Constitution
- B. **Strengthening of NILDS:** Strengthen the NILDS to effectively build internal capacity of Members and staff
- C. **Passage of NABRO Bill:** Ensure passage and assent to the NABRO Bill to provide access to quality, timely, independent, non-biased analytical budget data for Members to make informed decision
- D. **Build Technical Capacity at the Office of the Speaker:** Strengthen the capacity of the Office of the Speaker to provide evidence-based research, analysis, monitoring and evaluation of legislative priorities and interventions to ensure data informed decision making by the leadership of the House and to ensure accountability in implementation of the Legislative Agenda
- E. **Enhancement of oversight function in the House:** Develop protocols, reporting templates and tools for Committees to enhance the oversight function in the House

- F. **Advocate for Digitalisation:** Review the House Rules to provide for virtual/e-parliament and funding for digital technology in the 2021 budget of the House
- G. **Passage of Federal Audit Bill:** Ensure passage and assent to the Federal Audit Bill to enhance the Public Accounts Committee’s work and the fight against corruption
- H. **Enforcement of all COVID-19 protocols:** Ensure the provision and application of all approved COVID-19 protocols in the National Assembly
- I. **Initiation for effective public communication strategy:** Design and implement an effective public communication strategy for the House by:
 - a) creating public enlightenment on the constitutional role of National Assembly
 - b) promoting the image and activities of the House to the public
 - c) opening the space for structured and regular civil society and citizens engagement with the House
- J. Strengthen inter-parliamentary interaction and collaboration within Nigeria, Africa and globally.



INTERMEDIATE LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2021 – May 2022



- A. Design and adopt far-reaching ethical codes for the House
- B. Initiate a Review Mechanism to gauge the effects of Laws, Policies and Programmes of Government
- C. Design modalities for the consideration of outstanding Audit Reports by the Public Accounts Committee and debate at plenary.



LONG-TERM LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

June 2022 – May 2023



- A. Establish an archives and data banking system for the House of Representatives in line with global best practice
- B. Design effective strategy to ensure the enforcement and implementation of House Resolutions.

AD HOC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

» Hon. Prof. Julius O. Ihonvbere, OON	Chairman
» Hon. Zainab Gimba, PhD	Member
» Hon. Henry Nwawuba	Member
» Hon. Engr. Chris Emeka Azubogu	Member
» Hon. Taiwo Oluga	Member
» Hon. Kasimu Bello Maigari	Member
» Hon. (Rev) Francis Ejiroghene Waive	Member
» Hon. Tolulope Akande-Sadipe	Member
» Hon. abdULLAHI Sa'ad abdulKADIR	Member
» Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata	Member
» Barr. Oscar Chukwuma Okoro	Clerk

TECHNICAL TEAM

Office of the Speaker

- » 'Dapo Oyewole – Special Adviser to the Speaker
(Development Planning & International Affairs)
- » 'Dubem Moghalu – Special Assistant to the Speaker,
(Research and Public Policy)

Consulting Team

- » John Ebikeseye Mutu – Team Leader
- » Amb. Jerry Ugokwe – Consultant
- » Benjamin Ekeyi – Consultant

ACRONYMS

- AIDS** – Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
- APS** - Agricultural Policy Stabilisation
- ASUU** - Academic Staff Union of Universities
- BHCPF** - Basic Health Care Provision Fund
- BHSS** - Basic Health Social Scheme
- BOI** – Bank of Industry
- CBN** – Central Bank of Nigeria
- CCT** - Conditional Cash Transfer
- COVID-19** – Coronavirus Disease ‘19
- CRF** - Consolidated Revenue Funds
- CSO** – Civil Society Organisation
- DISCOs** - Distribution Companies
- ECN** - Energy Commission of Nigeria
- EFCC** - Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
- FCCPC** - Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Council
- FDI** - Foreign Direct Investment
- FGN** – Federal Government of Nigeria
- FRA** - Fiscal Responsibility Act
- FRC** - Fiscal Responsibility Commission
- GDP** – Gross Domestic Product
- GEEP** - Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme
- GENCOs** - Generation Companies
- HCD** – Health Care Delivery
- HDI** - Human Development Index
- HGSFP** - Home Grown School Feeding Programme
- HIV** – Human Immunodeficiency Virus
- ICPC** - Independent Corrupt Practices Commission
- ICRC** - Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission
- ICT** – Information and Communications Technology
- IDPs** – Internally Displaced Persons

IMF - International Monetary Fund

LUA - Land Use Act

MDAs - Ministries, Departments and Agencies

MMR - Maternal Mortality Ratio

MSMEs - Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

NABRO - National Assembly Budget and Research Office

NABTEB - National Business and Technical Examinations Board

NAFDAC - National Food and Drug Administration and Control

NASENI - National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure

NCCE - Nigerian Commission for Colleges of Education

NCDC - Nigeria Centre for Disease Control

NCS - Nigerian Customs Services

NDLEA - National Drug Law Enforcement Agency

NEC - National Economic Council

NECA - National Employers Consultative Assembly

NEPA - National Electric Power Authority

NGF - Nigerian Governors' Forum

NGO - Non-Governmental Organisation

NHA - National Health Act

NHIS - National Health Insurance Scheme

NILDS - National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies

NMA - Nigerian Medical Association

NOA - National Orientation Agency

NSIP - National Social Investment Programme

NUC - Nigerian University Commission

NYSC - National NYSC -National Youth Service Corps

PHCDA - Primary Health Care Development Agency

PHCN - Power Holding Company of Nigeria

PIB - Petroleum Industry Bill

PPE - Personal Protective Equipment

PPP - Public-Private Sector Partnerships

PSRP - Power Sector Recovery Plan

RMAFC - Revenue Mobilisation, Allocation and Fiscal Commission

SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals

SIP - Social Investment Programme

SMSEs - Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

TCN - Transmission Company of Nigeria

TETFUND - Tertiary Education Trust Fund

TRC - Teachers Registration Council

UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation



2020-2023

