



nassnewsng.com

THE NO 1 PARLIAMENT NEWSPAPER IN NIGERIA

NASS NEWS

NIGERIA ASSEMBLY NEWSPAPER

SPECIAL EDITION

...Bridging the gap between lawmakers and constituents

07030081996

07031953092

www.nassnewsng.com

@NigAssemblynews

nigeriaassemblynews

nassnewsng@gmail.com

A Nassnews Project, Abuja.

Monday 04 - 10 Sunday November, 2024

ISSN: 2616-0528

Vol. 7. No. 15

Price N2,500

CELEBRATING 10 BEST LAWMAKERS @ FIRST YEAR OF THE 10TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE



Senator Ipalibo Harry Banigo, Rivers West Senatorial District



Senator Rufai Hanga, Kano Central Senatorial District



Senator Oyewumi K.O., Osun West Senatorial District



Senator Binos Dauda Yaroe, Adamawa Southern Senatorial Zone



Senator Simon Bako Lalong, Plateau South Senatorial District

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



Hon. Khafilat Ogbara, Koshofe Federal Constituency Lagos State



Rt. Hon. Kabiru Alhassan Rurum, Rano/Bunkure/Kibiya Federal Constituency



Hon. Barr. Jesse Okey-Joe Onuakalusi, Oshodi/Isolo II Federal Constituency, Lagos.



Hon. Dr. Anthony Adebayo Adepoju, Ibarapa Central/North Federal Constituency



Hon. Murtala Usman Banye, Batagarawa/Charanchi/Rimi Constituency

Nigeria's Path to Fiscal Discipline: Hon. Lanre Okunlola Calls for Accountability and Strategic Utilization of Loans



In an impassioned speech, Hon. Lanre Okunlola addressed the National Assembly, calling for a heightened level of fiscal discipline and transparency in Nigeria's handling of international loans. At the core of his message was a warning against the misuse of borrowed funds and a call to ensure that these resources are strategically

invested to meet the nation's most urgent needs. "As a nation, we must exhibit strong financial discipline," Hon. Okunlola asserted. He highlighted that Nigeria's borrowing should be carefully aligned with infrastructural priorities, particularly in sectors such as healthcare, education,

Continued on page 2



It has been a great opportunity to serve my fatherland in this capacity - Engr. Ahmed Kadi Amshi

Bill to Pay Judgment Debt Passes 2nd Reading in House of Reps

A bill for an act to provide guidelines for the payment of judgement owed by the Federal Government and its agencies has scaled second reading in the House of Representatives.

Hon. Princess Mariam Odinaka Onuoha, Representative of Onuimo/Okigwe/Isiala Mbano Federal Constituency of Imo State and Chairperson, House Committee on TETFund and Other Services

Sponsor of the bill, Princess Mariam Odinaka

Onuoha, Representative of Onuimo/Okigwe/Isiala Mbano Federal Constituency of Imo State while leading the debate on the general principles of the bill on the floor of the House in Abuja on Thursday, said Nigeria had faced increasing financial liabilities from judgemental debts.

Onuoha, said the payments had been managed without consistent guidelines, proper documentation, and transparency.

She stated that government agencies often paid

judgement debts on a discretionary basis, without due consideration for the order of judgements, public interest, or the need to respect court orders.

According to Onuoha who is the Chairperson, House Committee on TETFund and Other Services the current lack of a legal framework for handling these obligations has created room for negligence and misconduct.

She further said that the actions of public officers, unchecked by clear consequences, led to avoidable

litigation.

"Therefore, the Judgement Debt (Payment Guidelines) Establishment Bill, 2023, is a necessary response to these challenges.

"It introduces a structured approach to managing judgement debt payments by the Federal Government and its agencies, ensuring accountability, compliance, and financial discipline."

She said that the bill would ensure that judgement debts incurred by government agencies

were paid directly by those agencies, thereby adding financial responsibility and discouraging reckless actions.

She added that it would also foster transparency and accountability by mandating that judgement debts are included in the annual budget, subject to the oversight of the National Assembly.

The bill was however supported by lawmakers, which was subsequently passed by the House, thereby scaling second reading

Senator Manu hosts Taraba Queens and Kings in NASS

The Senator representing Taraba Central, Manu Haruna on Tuesday hosted Taraba Queens and Kings in his office at the National Assembly Complex on Tuesday.

Miss Taraba Queen Grace Sunday, the 7th titleholder, and Miss Taraba Queen Comfort Williams, the 10th titleholder, led the newly crowned state kings and queens in paying a courtesy visit to the former Deputy Governor of Taraba State.

Grace Sunday on behalf of the team expressed their appreciation for the Senator's support and dedication to youth empowerment and community development within the Taraba Central and Taraba at large.

Senator Haruna hailed their achievements and encouraged them to continue serving as positive role models for the youth of Taraba State.

...Hon. Lanre Okunlola Calls for Accountability and Strategic Utilization of Loans

Continued from cover

and transportation. These areas, he argued, are critical for sustainable national development and could provide measurable improvements in citizens' quality of life. Okunlola stressed that without a focused approach, Nigeria risks borrowing for non-essential expenditures, ultimately leaving future generations to bear the brunt of this debt burden.

Hon. Okunlola also emphasized the importance of transparency in loan processes, as mandated by the Nigerian constitution. According to the constitution, every loan taken by the government must be approved by the National Assembly. This provision, he explained, grants lawmakers a crucial oversight role, allowing them to monitor how borrowed funds are utilized. By reinforcing this process, Okunlola believes Nigeria can establish a framework of accountability, where funds are allocat-

ed judiciously, enhancing public trust in government decisions.

"We must ensure that our loans are serving their intended purposes," Okunlola remarked, expressing concern over previous instances where loans granted by international institutions like the World Bank were allegedly redirected to unintended uses. He stated that these instances reflect the need for more rigorous oversight mechanisms. According to him, the lack of accountability in past borrowing practices has hindered Nigeria's potential to make significant progress with foreign assistance, leading to an endless cycle of borrowing without tangible results on the ground.

Okunlola cited the Debt Management Office (DMO) as an essential player in ensuring Nigeria's debt portfolio is well managed. He explained that inter-agency collaboration is critical in gathering the necessary data to monitor each stage of loan utilization. "The

DMO has systems in place to track these funds, but it's up to us as public servants to ensure those systems are utilized effectively," he added. By strengthening these oversight processes, Nigeria could create a system where loans are deployed with maximum impact, driving growth and reducing the dependency on foreign assistance over time.

Reflecting on the larger African context, Okunlola noted that nearly 90 per cent of African countries

are currently servicing high levels of debt, limiting their ability to invest in development. He urged Nigerian leaders to learn from these examples, ensuring that the country does not fall into a similar trap. "Our loan portfolios must be managed prudently, so that repayments are done efficiently, allowing us to build a self-sustaining economy that doesn't rely solely on debt," he emphasized.

Okunlola also addressed the challenges his motion

could face, particularly the entrenched bureaucratic inefficiencies that can delay or obstruct reforms. He noted that changing the system requires significant effort, transparency, and political will across various levels of government. However, he expressed confidence that with collective commitment, Nigeria can transform its approach to borrowing, focusing on economic growth rather than burdening future generations with debt.

In conclusion, Hon. Lanre Okunlola's remarks underscore the need for Nigeria to adopt a more responsible and transparent approach to borrowing. His call for fiscal discipline serves as a reminder that financial decisions taken today will shape the nation's future. With stringent oversight, proper accountability, and a commitment to channel borrowed funds into essential sectors, Okunlola envisions a path to long-term growth and economic independence for Nigeria.

Senate Set to Assess All Refinery Across Nigeria to Ascertain Status Of Completions

The Nigerian Senate is prioritizing the restoration of the country's public refineries, as revealed by Senator Sumaila Kawu, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Downstream Petroleum.

The committee plans to visit all Nigerian refineries as part of its efforts to assess and address challenges in the downstream petroleum sector.

Following the visits, the Senate committee intends to engage in discussions with leaders in the sector to develop a comprehensive strategy for reviving the refineries, which are seen as crucial to alleviating the nation's petroleum sector crisis.

Senator Kawu emphasized that restoring refinery operations could lead to reduced petrol pump prices, potentially easing economic burdens for Nigerians.

He also highlighted that refining crude oil domestically would alleviate pressure on foreign exchange rates, thereby stabilizing the economy. "This effort aligns with the broader goal of achieving self-sufficiency in petroleum refining, reducing reliance on imports, and promoting local economic growth."

Kawu, who also heads an Ad-hoc Committee investigating the multi-trillion naira expenses on refinery maintenance since 2010, indicated that, beyond the inspections, a public hearing would be held to gather public opinion on the future of these refineries. This includes the possibility of privatizing them if deemed more beneficial for the country.

Police detained me after being slapped by Abia lawmaker – Bolt driver narrates his side of the story

In a developing case involving alleged abuse of power, Stephen Abuwatseya, a Bolt driver who was assaulted by House of Representatives member from Abia State, Alex Ikwechegh, has narrated how police detained him after he was assaulted by the lawmaker.

The lawmaker representing Aba North/South Fed-

eral Constituency (APGA) had allegedly threatened to make Abuwatseya "disappear" during an argument that ensued after asking the lawmaker to come outside and collect the package he had ordered.

Narrating the ordeal to social media critic, Otse Martins better known as VeryDarkMan, Abuwat-

seya disclosed that the lawmaker invited police officers who bundled him to a station after the altercation.

Abuwatseya said, "After the video, he called some police officers. I don't know the division they are assigned to; they bundled me to the station.

"They kept me behind

the counter for over two hours," he said, adding that he recorded the lawmaker for his safety.

According to Abuwatseya, he was taken away by three policemen who prevented him from taking calls and drove him to the station.

"I wanted to drive the car but they said no, I was in between 3 policemen and

they drove me to their station. I had calls but they didn't allow me to take them.

"When we got to the police station, they didn't ask me what happened but instead, they were asking people who didn't witness what happened. Then the office asked why I was fighting the honourable but I didn't respond.

Senate set to okay first entrepreneurship university

.... As stakeholders overwhelmingly support bill

Nigeria is set to establish the first Entrepreneurship University in Africa at Bama, Borno State as bill received overwhelming support Monday at a public hearing in the Senate.

The public hearing, which was organized by the Senate Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFund, was aimed at collating stakeholders' input into the law.

The sponsor of the bill, Senator Kaka Shehu Lawan (Borno Central) said the specialised university will turn Nigerian youths into entrepreneurs instead of seeking non-existent white collar jobs..

Senator Kaka, who was recently conferred with Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) said the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) survey for the first quarter of 2024, Nigeria's unemployment rate in the first quarter of 2024 rose to 5.3%, which represents a 0.3%-points increase from 5.0% in the third quarter of 2023. The NBS also reported that the unemployment rate for males stood at 4.3%, while females experienced a higher rate of



6.2%.

He said the "more disheartening is the fact that, according to The Spectator Index (a global youth unemployment index), Nigeria has an astronomical 53 percent youth unemployment rate which places it second to only South Africa, which has 61 percent youth unemployment. These worrisome statistics have negative effects on the nation generally, as they lead to geometric rise in social vices and crimes

in the society, all in the quest for survival.

However, there is hope through the proposed university that focuses on agriculture and entrepreneurship education, which prepares the youths to be responsible and enterprising.

See also Senate meets Service Chiefs Wednesday ...Shifts meeting with economic team to Friday

According to him, the sad trend of high quest for white-collar jobs with the

attendant unemployment rate "underscores the need for a specialised university with focus on agriculture and entrepreneurship".

He described entrepreneurship education as the process through which individuals acquire a broad set of competencies that can produce greater social and economic benefits to the individuals.

"It is a form of education that seeks to provide knowledge, skills, attitude and motivation

to students for entrepreneurial success in various facets of human endeavour, by equipping them with the ability to seek investment opportunities and maximize returns from those investments.

Apart from agriculture, he said entrepreneurship which is a major focus of this Bill encompasses all kinds of experiences that give students the ability and vision of how to access and transform opportunities of different kinds. In essence, the proposed university which focuses on agriculture and entrepreneurship will provide a platform for youths to transform opportunities to business ventures and, accordingly, manage those ventures to become a medium for job creation for themselves and others.

Speaking on the absence of officials of the Federal Ministry of Education at the public hearing, Chairman of Senate Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFund, Senator Muntari Mohammed Dandutse (6Katsina South) said there was no cause for

alarm as their absence could be due to other official engagements.

Dandutse said there was no single opposition to bill from any quarters, adding that if any organization was opposed to the bill, such objection would have been written as a memorandum.

The Shehu of Bama, Borno State, Dr. Ibn Umar Kyari El-Kanemi expressed gratitude to all the stakeholders for the "unprecedented support".

The Governor of Borno State, represented by the Deputy Speaker of Borno State House of Assembly, Hon. Abdullahi Askira assured that Borno State Government will give the necessary political will the university needs to succeed if passed into law.

Senator Dandutse finally assured that bill will receive speedy passage under the Senate President Godswill Akpabio, who he referred to as "uncommon Senate President" and equally receive presidential assent with the full support which the bill enjoys from Vice President, Kasim Shettima.

NASS Joint Committee restates commitment with stakeholders to tackle security, energy challenges in tertiary institutions

The Senate and House of Representatives Joint Committee on Tertiary Institutions has vowed to work in collaboration with stakeholders in the tertiary education sector to tackle security and energy challenges in tertiary institutions in the country.

Speaking at a Two-Day retreat to address the urgent and pressing challenges of security and energy that confront tertiary institutions across Nigeria, Deputy Senate President, Barau Jibrin (Kano North) said the need for a secured environment in our tertiary institutions cannot be overemphasized.

Barau who declared the Two-Day retreat open said the Senate and the National Assembly in general is determined to do all within its power to rid tertiary institutions in the country of criminals and also over-

come the energy challenges on our campuses.

The retreat was organized by the Senate and House Joint Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFund in collaboration with Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) with the support of other key stakeholders in the tertiary education sector in the country.

Chairman of the Joint Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFund, Senator Muntari Mohammed Dandutse (Katsina South), in his welcome remarks at the retreat held at the Continental Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos said "the rising tide of insecurity and the persistent energy crisis in our tertiary institutions demand our immediate and focused attention".

According to him, "the landscape of our educational institutions is fraught with challenges

that threaten not only the safety and well-being of our students and faculty, but also the very integrity of our educational mission".

He said as a committee that is saddled with the responsibility of oversight of tertiary institutions, they cannot fold their hands and watch idly by the deteriorating state of our institutions.

"Parents are understandably hesitant to send their children to universities where their safety cannot be guaranteed. Consequently, our quest for academic excellence is hindered, and the very future of our nation is at stake.

The Chairman, Governing Board of TETFund and former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari said the retreat was timely as it will seek to find lasting solution to security and energy chal-

lenges in Nigerian tertiary institution.

The former governor of Katsina state expressed delight that with the calibre of participants at the retreat, he was sure that the recommendations from the retreat will greatly assist in curbing the menace.

In her remarks, Hon. Miriam Odinaka Onuoha,

Chairman House of Representatives Committee on Tertiary Institutions and Co-chairman of the Joint Committee assured the participants of the support of the National Assembly in providing a conducive atmosphere in the country's tertiary institutions.

Senator Adams Oshiomhole, former governor of

Edo State and member, Senate Committee on Tertiary Institutions harped on the importance of our tertiary institutions in driving national development, adding that all stakeholders must brainstorm on finding a lasting solution to security and energy challenges in tertiary institutions in the country.





Subscribe for
NIGERIA ASSEMBLY NEWS
...Bridging the gap between lawmakers and constituents



THE NO 1 PARLIAMENT NEWSPAPER IN NIGERIA
NASSNEWS
 NIGERIA ASSEMBLY NEWSPAPER
...Bridging the gap between lawmakers and constituents

EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR /BUREAU CHIEF:
 Adeboye Omoboye

EDITOR:
 Abdulrahman Abdullahi

Editor at Large:
 Prince Yemi Itodo

Sub-Editor:
 Aborisade SA

National Assembly Correspondents:
 Mirian Walson
 Alabi Goodness
 Comfort Torgyue
 Queen Tute Ehorobo
 Reuben Sokorayam Gift
 Linus Loveth
 Blessing Christopher
 Bawa Onah Anita
 Okoloji Kosisochockwu

States Assembly Correspondents:
 Bozimo Ebipame-ere
 Ophelia
Delta State Assembly
 Ikedimma Nmesoma Joy
Cross River
 Hycienth Ana,
Port Harcourt
 Itatu Isaac
Benue State Assembly
 Correspondent
 Bozimo Theophilus Perezide
Bayelsa State Assembly

Editorial Board: Bola Bakari

ADVERT

Tel: 08114643865, 07030081996

Please note that all payment should be made in cheque or bank draft payable to NASSNEWS Project.

MISSION STATEMENT

We aim at bridging the gap of information between legislators and their constituents at all levels thereby engendering good governance and holding all concerned accountable.

Senate Passes Bill to Strengthen NDIC's Role in Safeguarding Bank

The Senate has given its final approval to the "Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation Act No 33 of 2023," a bill aimed at enhancing the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation's (NDIC) capacity to protect depositors, maintain financial stability, and build public trust in the banking system.

Sponsored by Senator Mukhail Adetokunbo Abiru (Lagos East) and the Senate Committee on Banking, Insurance, and Other Financial Institutions, the bill represents a significant update to existing financial regulations.

Presenting the committee's report, Senator Abiru emphasized that the legislation reinforces NDIC's independence, shifts certain powers from

the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to the President, and updates NDIC's role in examining banks.

The bill allows the President to directly appoint the NDIC's board members, a move that contrasts with previous requirements that made the CBN responsible for recommending candidates for key roles.

"The Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2024, is crucial for the health of the nation's financial system. The amendments strengthen the NDIC's ability to secure depositor funds, promote stability among financial institutions, and enhance public confidence in the banking sector," Abiru stated during the plenary session on Tues-

day.

Addressing long-standing stakeholder concerns, the bill seeks to end debates surrounding the 2023 NDIC Act by addressing gaps in the existing law. It also revises the role of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, who previously served as board chairman. Given the demanding nature of that role, the bill now includes a provision for the Minister of Finance to appoint an interim management committee within 30 days if the board's term expires without a replacement.

The NDIC, founded to protect depositors and uphold financial stability, plays a vital role in reimbursing insured funds when financial institutions face insolvency. With over 30

written memoranda and several oral presentations at a public hearing, stakeholders expressed overwhelming support for the bill. Abiru highlighted that the NDIC's regulatory powers must keep pace with the dynamic global financial environment, making these amendments both timely and essential.

Senator Abiru noted, "The changes will empower the NDIC to meet contemporary challenges in the financial sector, allowing it to uphold best practices and protect the interests of depositors more effectively."

This legislation is expected to provide the NDIC with the necessary autonomy to adapt to an evolving financial landscape and reinforce stability across Nigeria's banking sector.

Senator Orji Uzor Kalu's OUK Movement Reinforces Grassroots Political Engagement in Abia State

In a bid to reinforce grassroots politics and community-driven governance, the OUK Movement, led by Senator Orji Uzor Kalu, recently held strategic meetings in Umunneochi and Osisioma Local Government Areas.

The meetings, attended by key stakeholders and members of the political organization, reaffirmed the group's commitment to the aims and objec-

tives that have defined its mission since inception.

Addressing the gathering, the leadership of the OUK Movement emphasized the importance of sustained grassroots engagement, particularly in today's political climate, to ensure that the interests and aspirations of local communities are effectively represented.

These meetings showcased the organiza-

tion's resolve to remain a pillar of support for its members and a voice for the people.

Senator Kalu, known for his dedication to political empowerment at the grassroots level, expressed optimism about the organization's continued impact. "Keep hope alive!" he urged, reinforcing his vision of an inclusive political landscape that resonates with the needs of everyday Nige-

rians.

The OUK Movement has long been regarded as a key player in local and regional politics, fostering unity and advocating for community development in Abia State. With this latest push for grassroots engagement, the organization seeks to strengthen its role in shaping a progressive and responsive political environment across the region.





FCT Local Contractors Write National Assembly Over Colleague's Detention On Wike's Orders, Seek Payment For N5.2Billion Completed Jobs

Some contractors in the Federal Capital Territory, under the aegis of Association of Indigenous Contractors of FCT, have again petitioned the National Assembly over rights abuses meted out to their colleague by the Minister of Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Nyesom Wike.

SaharaReporters in September reported how the contractor was arrested and detained on the minister's directive for sending him a WhatsApp post detailing the suffering being faced by his family due to Wike's refusal to settle his completed contract.

The petition obtained by SaharaReporters on Tuesday threw fresh light on the arrest and detention of the contractors' colleague, Mr. Benson Ehuwa, on Wike's orders on Monday, September 23, 2024.

The correspondence also sought the Senators' intervention to get the minister to fulfil the "contractual obligation" amounting to N5.2 billion awarded for various public projects such as drainage, sewage, and many others.

In the petition titled 'Re-Nonpayment of Contractual Liabilities To The Indigenous Contractors of FCTA And Request For Your Urgent Intervention', the contractors, among others, painted a graphic picture of how Wike mistreated their colleague.

The document was signed by five representatives of the association, namely Mr. Chuka Muojindu, Mr. Andy Kor, Jamilu Gwandu, Dan Maurice Uche and Ogbonna Lewis.

The document reads in part, "We subsequently made efforts to see the Minister again through his Chief of Staff and Head of Service, all to no avail.

"We decided to escalate the matter by way of a peaceful protest on two occasions in July and August, 2024, during which the Minister invited the police to disperse us with teargas.

"On Monday, 23 September, 2024, the Intelligence Response Team of the Nigeria Police Force, acting on the instruction of FCT Minister, arrested one of us, Mr Benson Ehuwa, on the ground that he chatted the Minister on WhatsApp appealing to him to pay



him his contract money to enable him pay his bills as his children were out of school."

The group further alleged that upon Ehuwa's arrest, Wike personally took over the investigation and quizzed the member.

It said, "Upon his arrest, he was taken to the Minister's office where the Minister queried him on how he got his contact phone number and if he knows him personally and if he ever gave him any contract.

"The Minister without hearing out from Mr Benson Ehuwa, asked the police to go and detain him for two weeks without bail, pending investigation.

"The police authorities upon completing their investigation, found out that Mr Benson was being owed by the FCTA but still charged him to court on Friday, 27th September, 2024."

The contractors have been engaged in a protracted battle to get the minister to clear pay contract money. The contracts were awarded by the FCT Administration (FCTA).

They stated that they had taken their outcry for intervention in the payment matter to some prominent Nigerians, including some unidentified colleagues of Wike in the Federal Executive Council (FEC) and others outside the National Assembly, to no avail.

According to them, most of those contacted expressed fear that Wike would revoke the titles on their properties in the nation's capital as, according to them, the man had "great temerity" to do so.

Besides, the minister is said to have rebuffed entreaties by his close aides to get him to pay the contractors.

A source said: "He

warned his personal staff not to bring to him any correspondence regarding the contractors' money issue, stressing that he would never pay them. "No staff member wants to lose his/her job, so even if we take any further letter on the matter to his registry, such correspondence will be rejected outright."

Meanwhile, the contractors have reportedly resorted to begging as most of them cannot meet up with family responsibilities including children's school fees, feeding, rent, fuel for vehicles, and other basic needs.

According to them, they executed contracts under several past FCT ministers and had no problems getting paid after due diligence was done by government officials on their completed jobs.

The contractors further claimed further that though Wike refused to settle their contract bills, he has been awarding fresh contracts to cronies and others, and paying them promptly.

The document correspondence followed an earlier one dated July 8, 2024, which was addressed to the Chairman, Senate Committee on FCT, Sen. Ibrahim Mohamed Bomai, and received by him on July 9, 2024.

**Culled from today's Sahara Reporters.*

APGA Condemns Abia Lawmaker's Assault On Delivery Driver

All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) has reacted to a viral video showing a member of its party and member of the House of Representatives, Alex Ikwechegh assaulting a delivery driver.

Gatekeepers News reports that the lawmaker during the argument that ensued between them, slapped the delivery driver thrice for not bringing his snail package into the compound

Alex also threatened to lock the delivery man inside his generator house and use his power to make him disappear, adding that he would not be held accountable due to his connection.

The lawmaker further smashed his phone, tore his shirt, and said nothing would happen.

National publicity secretary of the party, Ejimofor Opara in a statement released, condemned the alleged assault meted out by the politician.

The party described the lawmaker's act as "totally unacceptable" adding that such act is against what it represents.

The statement goes, "The attention of our great party, the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) has been drawn to a viral video of alleged assault meted out to a citizen by the Honourable member

representing Aba North and South Federal Constituency, Hon Alex Ikwechegh."

"As a political party founded on respect for Human Rights, we roundly condemn the action of our said member and Federal Parliamentarian, Hon. Alex Mascot Ikwechegh, representing Aba North and South Federal Constituency, on the platform of our great Party."

"As a party, we are founded on the basic principles of upholding the dignity of all humans irrespective of class, creed and/or ethnicity; however, the recent video allegedly showing Hon. Ikwechegh assaulting a cab driver is totally unacceptable and runs counter to what our Party — APGA — represents."

"In line with APGA's constitution, the Leadership of the Party shall set up a disciplinary committee to investigate the act, and if found wanting, appropriate sanctions shall be meted on him in line with the Constitution of APGA."

Opara noted that all members and elected officials of APGA are expected to exhibit high standards of decorum, civility, and integrity.

He added that the party will not tolerate conduct contrary to its founding ideals and emphasises mutual accountability among members

Bobrisky: I won't defend your reputation – Tunji-Ojo tells Correctional Service

The Minister of Interior, Dr. Olubunmi Tunji-Ojo, has stated that he would not defend the reputation of the Nigeria Correctional Service (NCoS) regarding allegations against it in the matter of a cross-dresser, Idris Okuneye, also known as Bobrisky.

Tunji-Ojo made this statement on Monday, noting that the issue concerning the popular cross-dresser was about reputation management and the ethical conduct of the paramilitary agencies under his supervision.

The minister warned that he would not defend the agencies if they erred while carrying out their responsibilities.

Recalls that a panel es-



tablished by the Federal Government a few days ago declared that there was no evidence that Bobrisky did not serve his six-month jail term in prison, as alleged.

While the panel dismissed the allegations, it



acknowledged that Bobrisky enjoyed some privileges in NCoS facilities while serving his term. The panel described this development as unethical and unacceptable.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of a two-day

Performance Contract Signing Retreat organized for senior officials of the Ministry and the paramilitary institutions under it, the minister said the paramilitary agencies should improve their efforts in internal security to support peace and national growth.

The retreat had the theme: "United Front for a Secure Nation and Future," with all paramilitary services, such as the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), the Nigeria Correctional Service (NCoS), and the Federal Fire Service (FSS), participating.

Tunji-Ojo said the NCoS, in particular, should be

seen as transformative and reformative toward inmates, with rehabilitation prioritized to respect human rights and uphold citizens' dignity.

"The critical role that the Federal Ministry of Interior has to play in our internal security is very key.

"Every little effort from each and every one of you is important because without security you can't talk about investment, without security you can't talk about tourism and industrialization.

"Without security, you can't talk about stabilization of the capital or money market or even employment. So it means that there is no productivity without security," he said.

Senator Oyewumi Kamorudin Olalere: A Champion of the People

Senator Oyewumi Kamorudin Olalere, representing Osun West Senatorial District, is a shining example of dedicated leadership. With a background in politics spanning over three decades, he has established himself as a change agent, driven by his passion for community development.

As a geography graduate and holder of a Master's and Ph.D in Community Development from the University of Ibadan, Senator Oyewumi brings a unique scholarly perspective to his legislative role. He emphasizes effective governance, community involvement, and recognizes the complexity of leadership.

Senator Oyewumi Key Achievements includes:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Completed a 5-kilometer road and another 5 kilometers underway, set to be fully functional by December.

- **Education:** Built 18 blocks of classrooms and completed six solar-powered boreholes for the community.

- **Power Supply:** Provided 18 new transformers to various areas, addressing power supply issues.

- **Economic Empowerment:** Engages in initiatives such as fish farming, training artisans, and supporting market women and local cooperatives.

- **Social Welfare:** Invests in support for vulnerable groups, including the elderly, orphans, widows, and individuals with physical challenges.

Senator Oyewumi's dedication to community support is widely recognized. He has been known for his empowerment programs since his time as a local government chairman and continues to serve the community even when not in office.

The senator invites constituents and the press to witness his projects in action, emphasizing transparency and direct communication. His mantra remains, "The role of a representative is to be with the people, listen to their needs, and deliver".



Senator Rufai Hanga: Recognizing Leadership In Legislative Impact

Senator Rufai Hanga is a shining example of leadership and dedication to public service. As the representative of Kano Central, one of Nigeria's most populous constituencies, he has been recognized as one of the top 10 lawmakers in Nigeria through a public poll on the NASS News website.

Senator Rufai Hanga Key Legislative Priorities includes:

- **Flood Control:** Introduced a bill to establish a national framework for preventing and managing flood disasters, which has passed its first reading.

- **Drug Abuse Crisis:** Sponsored a bill to establish drug awareness and rehabilitation centers across Nigeria, which has moved through its second reading.

- **Education and Food Security:** Introduced a bill to establish a university of agriculture in Kano State, aligning with the government's policy to reduce hunger and ensure food security.

Senator Hanga's connection with his constituents drives his work. He has invested personal resources in local initiatives, including:

- Scholarships for students
- Funding for entrance exams
- Vocational training programs for youth and women
- Agricultural empowerment through fish farms
- Infrastructure development, such as road construction and educational facilities

Despite facing delays in the legislative process, Senator Hanga remains committed to his vision for social reform. He believes that his efforts are crucial to sparking conversations and encouraging future legislation.

Senator Hanga views his role as extending beyond law-making to improving the daily lives of those he represents. He strives to create opportunities, lift others, and foster development. This recognition as one of Nigeria's top lawmakers serves as an affirmation of his efforts and a motivation to continue working with integrity and dedication.

As a first-term member representing Kano Central Senatorial District in the 10th Senate under the platform of the New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP), Senator Hanga has made significant strides in legislative reform and community development. His dedication to public service is truly inspiring, and his commitment to creating meaningful change is a testament to his leadership.



It has been a great opportunity to serve my fatherland in this capacity - *Engr. Ahmed Kadi Amshi*

Engr. Ahmed Kadi Amshi has a First Class Degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's Degree in Public Administration, both from the University of Maiduguri. He further obtained a Certificate of Management Development and Good Governance from the Thames Valley University, London.

He had a successful career in Borno State and later Yobe State Civil Service, where he held responsibilities in Urban and Rural Infrastructure Development and Management, rising to the peak as a Permanent Secretary. After his retirement from the Civil Service, he served as a Local Expert on Design of Water Supply and Sanitation Facilities with EU-WSSSRP from 2008 to 2009. Thereafter, he served as the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Society of Engineers from 2009 to 2014.

He also served, from 2017 to 2019, as the Chief of Staff to the then Leader of the Senate, Sen. Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan, He is a Fellow of the Nigerian Society of Engineers (FNSE), a Fellow of the Nigerian Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Fellow of Academy of Engineers (FAEng), and Fellow of the Nigerian Labour Institute (fnli) He has numerous laurels to his name, both academic and professional.

Before his appointment as the Executive Chairman of NASC, he had a firm of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering Consultancy where he is mentoring young Engineers.

Engr. Amshi has been the Executive Chairman of the National Assembly Service Commission for about five years now.

In this interview with the NASSNEWS, Engr Amshi bares his mind on the scorecard of the 5th NASC, the challenges, prospects and future expectations of the National Assembly Service.

NASSNEWS: In a few months from now, your tenure would run full course. Looking back, would you like to share with us your experiences in the service?

AMSHI: The experiences have been worthwhile ones. There have been a number of challenges, particularly considering the environment of our operations as a service to the parliament. However, coming from a civil service background we were able to cope with those challenges adequately.

All in all, it has been a great opportunity to serve one's fatherland in this capacity and to make one's contributions to the development of the nation.

NASSNEWS: Sir, could you tell us about your scorecard on this job in the past five years?

AMSHI: Thank you very much. Without sounding immodest, the 5th National Assembly Service Commission has recorded modest achievements since inception in 2020.

The flagship of our achievements is the construction of the office complex of the Commission within National Assembly Complex.

This was necessitated by the fact that the Commission is currently occupying a rented building in the heart of the town which is not convenient for the proper co-ordination of activities between it and the National Assembly, Also having the NASC office in a residential area brings about some security concerns. The building is an edifice that everyone would be proud of. The construction has reached an advanced stage and we are hoping that it would be commissioned soon.





The proximity of the Office Complex to the National Assembly will surely make the workings of the Commission much easier and the

conducive environment will equally make the workings of the Commission more effective and productive.

Apart from this project, the 5th NASC has also recorded the following achievements: Reviewed the Conditions of Service for the National Assembly Service to ensure that staff due for retirement were retired appropriately as and when due; thus reducing stagnation in the Service, which boost staff morale and efficiency in the system. The Conditions of Service also provided for special allowances for the Staff of the Service to ensure job satisfaction and make the National Assembly a great place to work.

Schemes of Service: The Commission also produced new Schemes of Service to ensure that all Cadres that are peculiar to the Service are adequately provided for.

Code of Ethics: We also established a Code of Ethics to guide staff ethical conducts during and after office hours.

Expansion of the Establishment Structure of the National Assembly Management as well as the National Assembly Service Commission to provide opportunities for upward movement of Staff; thus reduces stagnation in the system.

The Commission resolved the pending issues of 221 Candidates employed in 2018 by the 4th Commission but were not absorbed into the system as well as 40 Medical Personnel on Locum Service for periods of over five (5) years were also absorbed into the Service.

Appointments: The Commission has ensured appropriate appointments into all existing vacancies regularly with competent and experienced personnel to ensure productivity in the Service, taking into cognizance the guidelines provided in the National Assembly Service Act, 2014 and Extant Public Service Rules.

Promotions, Conversions and Disciplinary Cases: All backlogs of promotions and conversions for deserving Staff were immediately cleared, while continuous promotions were carried out as and when due.

Payment of Salary Arrears and Allowance: All pending arrears arising from the consequential adjustment of the Minimum Wage were cleared, while certain allowances due to staff were regularly paid.

Staff Training: The Commission has developed a Training Manual for the Service and this is being implemented accordingly. Appropriate Capacity Building trainings are being undertaken.

The Legislative Aides are also being trained annually by the Commission to improve their performance as they render services to the Legislators.

Conferences & Parliamentary Study Tours: The Commission attends Conferences and undertakes annual Parliamentary Study Tour to various Parliaments across the World to share experiences on issues of common interest. So far, we have visited United Arab Emirate, Cape Verde, Zambia, Tanzania, United Kingdom

Visits to State Assembly Service Commissions: The Commission had regularly undertaken visits to the State Assembly Service Commissions to discuss challenges and share experiences with them. To this effect, an Annual Conference of NASC/SASCs was held in Kaduna in 2021 which was a huge success last year and another was hosted by the NASC in Abuja last year.

Upgrade of ICT in the Commission: The Commission has upgraded its ICT facilities, which can now provide a robust Database for the personnel of the Service.

Regular verifications were being conducted by the Commission to ensure that qualified staff with appropriate qualifications are in the Service and placed properly.

Inclusion of the National Assembly Service Commission and the State Assembly Service Commissions in the ongoing Amendment of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

NASSNEWS:

What would you say are the legacy projects or



policies you enunciated as the Executive Chairman of the 5th NASC?

AMSHI: Talking about legacy projects and policies, among the achievements mentioned earlier, I will highlight the following among them as our legacy projects:

The first and foremost one, obviously, is the construction of a befitting office complex for the Commission which remains memorable and dear to us.

Secondly, we have come up with quite a number of reforms which are aimed at improving service delivery in the National Assembly Service. A few of such reforms include: development of Training Policy, Promotion Policy, Scheme of Service and domestication of the revised Public Service Rules (PSR) to streamline the appointment of Management positions in the National Assembly Service.

Also, under reforms, we have expanded the establishment structure of both the National Assembly Service Commission and National Assembly Management to provide opportunities for upward movement of staff, thus reducing stagnation in the system.

Furthermore, we have also upgraded the information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure of the Commission which can now provide a robust data base for the personnel of the Service

We have also introduced computer-based tests (CBT) for all confirmation and promotion examination processes.

NASSNEWS: What role did the workforce play in these achievements you just enumerated?

AMSHI: We have received a reasonable level of support and co-operation from the staff of the Commission and those of the National Assembly. The reforms we introduced as mentioned earlier have significantly boosted their morale and made them more efficient and effective. The level of improvement in service delivery has been quite encouraging.

However, we have experienced a few disputes with the staff union mainly on issues bordering on payment of allowances, a few cases of disruption of services have occurred arising from such disputes but were amicably resolved.

NASSNEWS: How do you motivate the National Assembly staff to be able to give in their best as you just described?

AMSHI: There are a couple of incentives we have put in place to motivate the staff towards putting in their best in the Service. The Commission has a training

policy in place. This is aimed at building the capacity and improving the skills of the staff in order to equip them to perform optimally. The Commission also ensures promotion of officers that are due for promotion as and when due subject to availability of vacancies for them. The Service also ensures that help is given to staff that have health issues. Provisions are also made for health and recreation through which staff participate in sporting activities as a way of keeping fit.

Much more than these, welfare packages are regularly made available to the staff during festivities. These are the ways the Service is providing incentives for staff to make them happy and to put in their best in the Service.

NASSNEWS: Are there things you desired to achieve but could not: if yes, what were they and what were the hindrances to such achievements?

AMSHI: Yes. The first thing was that I wanted to see that the entire Service was fully computerized. We desired to have a near paperless operations in the Service but we could not achieve that due to budgetary inadequacies and lackadaisical approach on the part of the entire staff of the Service.

We also desired to put in place a system where succession to the management positions in the National Assembly Management should be smooth and seamless but the political nature of the environment could not permit us to achieve that.

NASSNEWS: What is your projection about the National Assembly Service in the future?

AMSHI: It is my utmost wish that the National Assembly Service would in the near future become a valuable pool of a corps of excellent, competent manpower resource base that would provide support and expertise not only to Nigeria's legislatures but also be a pool of esteemed manpower resource for legislative bureaucracies of the entire African continent.

The National Assembly Service Commission is central to achieving this feat.

NASSNEWS: What agenda would you want to set for your successors?

AMSHI: The agenda we are setting for them is to ask them to continue to drive the reforms we have initiated, to ensure their full implementation and also to look at the idea of computerizing the entire Service to move with global trends of operations.



Sen. Ipalibo Banigo is a trailblazing leader and advocate for healthcare reform in Nigeria

As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health (Secondary and Tertiary), Senator Ipalibo Banigo has been instrumental in strengthening the country's medical institutions. Her vision for Nigerian healthcare is built on improving infrastructure, standards, and access to quality care.

Senator Ipalibo Banigo Key Achievements includes:

- **Emergency Medical Treatment (EMT) building:** Nearly complete, this project will significantly enhance emergency care services.

- **Staff Welfare:** New staff quarters and a nursing complex are underway, addressing the critical need for comfortable living environments to retain and motivate healthcare professionals.

- **Telemedicine Integration:** Banigo champions the adoption of telemedicine and telecommunications to bridge healthcare gaps across Nigeria.

Senator Bongo's commitment to healthcare reform is evident in her legislative efforts. She emphasizes the importance of collaboration between government agencies, healthcare providers, and stakeholders. Her goal is to ensure every Nigerian has access to quality healthcare, regardless of location or economic background.

Senator Banigo hopes to establish Nigeria's healthcare institutions as a model of excellence in West Africa. She believes a modernized and well-funded health sector can drive national development. With her passionate advocacy and hands-on approach, Banigo is shaping the future of healthcare in Nigeria.

As a renowned physician and politician, Banigo has received recognition for her contributions. She was Rivers State's first female deputy governor from 2015 to 2023 and won the senatorial position in Rivers West District in the 10th National Assembly.



Hon. Khafilat Ogbara: Championing Development in Koshofe Federal Constituency



Hon. Khafilat Ogbara is a shining example of leadership and dedication to public service. As the representative for Koshofe Federal Constituency in Lagos State, she has been making waves in the 10th House of Representatives. Her remarkable journey is marked by a strong commitment to understanding the needs of her community and delivering initiatives that align with their requirements.

Hon. Khafilat Ogbara Key Accomplishments includes:

- **Establishment of ICT Centers:** Hon. Ogbara has set up two ICT centers to address the demand for technological advancement in her constituency.

- **Water Scarcity Solution:** She facilitated the installation of boreholes in areas with inadequate access to water.

- **Education and Empowerment:** Hon. Ogbara established a secondary school in Agboyi Kingdom, a historically underserved area, and provided quality tools to local artisans through her collaboration with Bosch.

- **Electricity Restoration:** She successfully restored electricity to the community after a year-long blackout.

Hon. Ogbara organized a large Christmas carol event, bringing together Christians from various backgrounds to celebrate and foster community spirit. She also initiated grant programs providing 200,000 naira each to vulnerable women and young entrepreneurs, distributing a total of 100 million naira.

In addition to financial support, Hon. Ogbara has launched training programs for market women and youths, teaching them essential business management and financial literacy skills. Her dedication to empowering women and youth is inspired by her belief that "when women are empowered, families thrive, and by extension, the nation flourishes".

Through her tireless efforts, Hon. Khafilat Ogbara continues to make a significant impact in the lives of her constituents, demonstrating a profound commitment to public service and community empowerment.



Hon. Adepoju Anthony Adebayo Honored for Exceptional Service in Ibarapa Central and North Federal Constituency



Hon. Adepoju Anthony Adebayo, a figure renowned for his unwavering dedication to the people of Ibarapa Central and Ibarapa North, has been awarded for his outstanding contributions to education, employment, and transparent governance. Through tangible, impactful initiatives, Hon. Adepoju has brought sustainable change and renewed hope to his constituency.

Hon. Adepoju, has a deep commitment to the youth and their future. He believe education is key to empowering next generation,” he outlined the steps he’s taken to uplift young people through scholarship program for tertiary students, now helping dozens of families reduce the financial burden of higher education. Hon. Adepoju is championing the holiday coaching classes for secondary school students, free of charge, give these young scholars a much-needed academic boost and encourage them to aim higher. He emphasized the need to create an environment where academic excellence is celebrated and accessible to all.

Hon. Adepoju achievements in job creation are equally impressive. Recognizing the urgent need to combat youth unemployment, he has worked to create job opportunities that embrace inclusivity, offering chances to graduates across all political and religious divides. For Adepoju, these employment programs go beyond numbers; they are about restoring dignity and purpose to his people. “Everyone deserves a fair chance,” he emphasized, adding that this inclusive approach has fostered both individual growth and community stability.

Hon. Adepoju has also undertaken significant infrastructure improvements. From essential amenities to community facilities, he has made it a priority to address the gaps in

infrastructure across all communities within the constituency. These projects, he notes, have enhanced the quality of life for his constituents and fostered a sense of pride in their hometowns. His efforts have not gone unnoticed, especially in the area of healthcare, where he has continually advocated for better medical resources and facilities. “Healthcare is the backbone of any thriving community,” he shared. “When our people are healthy, they can truly engage in building a better future for themselves and their families”.

But beyond all these tangible achievements, it is Adepoju’s accessible and transparent leadership that has most endeared him to his people. His open-door policy is not mere rhetoric; he actively encourages constituents to share their views and participate in decision-making. This open approach to leadership has fostered a unique level of trust between him and his community. “Public trust is essential to governance,” he explained. “Keeping lines of communication open means our people know they are valued, and that their concerns will be heard.” This commitment to transparency has helped Hon. Adepoju build a relationship with his constituents that few other leaders can claim.

In receiving this award, Hon. Adepoju reflects on the journey so far and expresses hope for even more transformative work in the future. “This recognition is a testament to what we can achieve when we prioritize the welfare of our people,” he concluded, with a sense of pride and optimism for the years ahead.

Honorable Obika: A Champion of Community-Driven Development

Honorable Obika is making waves with his community-driven projects, aimed at improving lives across his constituency. His efforts focus on essential needs, security, and empowering youth through education and economic initiatives.

Hon. Obika Key Initiatives Include

- **Restoring Water Access:** Repairing non-functional boreholes in markets, estates, and schools, bringing clean water to thousands.
- **Enhancing Security:** Building new police stations and vigilante offices, providing walkie-talkies for emergency response.
- **Youth Empowerment:** Upcoming youth summits for skill development and consumer rights workshops.
- **Education Support:** Scholarships for 100 students, additional support for younger students struggling with tuition.
- **Economic Empowerment:** Distributing block-making, welding, sewing, and grinding machines for economic independence.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Grading project for rural roads to improve travel and transport.

Honorable Obika's dedication to community-driven development is inspired by the World Bank's approach, which emphasizes community participation and empowerment. His initiatives reflect a vision for lasting progress, building a foundation for future generations.

With Honorable Obika's leadership, his constituency is poised for transformative growth. His commitment to community-driven development ensures that the needs of the people are at the forefront of every initiative. As he aptly puts it, "We're building a foundation that future generations can stand on. It's about turning this constituency into a place where everyone can thrive."



Honourable Attorney Matthew Nwogu: A Champion of the People



Honourable Attorney Matthew Nwogu, representing Mbaise/Ngopala Federal Constituency, has made a name for himself as one of the top ten lawmakers in Nigeria. This impressive feat is a testament to his dedication and commitment to serving his constituents.

Hon. Nwogu, a Visionary Leader, Born on December 30, 1961, in Imo State, Honourable Nwogu has been driven to make a positive impact in his community. His achievements are a reflection of his passion for empowering youths and protecting the rights of ordinary citizens.

Hon. Nwogu Key Achievements includes:

- **Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skill Acquisition:** Honourable Nwogu's motion to establish this institution in Ngopala aims to equip youths with practical skills, enhancing their employability and contribution to the economy.

- **Addressing Security Concerns:** His motion to tackle the dehumanization and harassment of road users by security agents in the Southeast has resonated deeply with the people, solidifying his position as a defender of their rights.

- **Commitment to Constituents:** Honourable Nwogu strives to be a legislator who truly cares about his people's interests, ensuring their voices are heard and their needs are:

As a dedicated public servant, Honourable Nwogu acknowledges the numerous challenges that come with the role. However, he remains grounded, drawing strength from his faith and trusting in God's wisdom to navigate complexities.

Through his work, Honourable Matthew Nwogu aims to foster a legacy of integrity and responsiveness, reflecting the aspirations and needs of his people on a national stage. His commitment to serving his constituents is genuine, and his impact will undoubtedly be felt for generations to come.

Honorable Architect Usman Murtala Banye: Illuminating His Community and Strengthening Security

Honorable Architect Usman Murtala Banye, a member of the House of Representatives, is transforming his constituency through innovative solar energy initiatives. Representing a remote region with pressing security and developmental needs, Banye has emerged as a proactive force, bridging gaps and empowering his community.

Solar-Powered Security Lights: A Beacon of Hope. Hon. Banye's solar project focuses on 30 ward headquarters, providing a safe space for community gatherings and self-policing measures. This initiative not only deters criminal activity but also fosters economic growth, encouraging extended business hours and social life after dark.

Collaborating for Enhanced Security beyond solar lights, Hon. Banye works closely with community leaders and local government representatives to develop a robust, unified approach to security. His position within the ruling APC party enables him to maintain strong connections with stakeholders throughout his constituency.

Hon. Banye's Empowerment Initiatives: Equipping Community Leaders. His team distributed vehicles and communication gadgets to community leaders, enabling them to coordinate and patrol effectively. This support fosters a sense of responsibility and engagement, allowing people to actively participate in making their neighborhoods safer.

Hon. Banye has ambitious plans for sustainable development projects addressing security, infrastructure, and social welfare. His dedication to his constituency is palpable, driven by a commitment to serve and empower his community.

Hon. Banye's Key Achievements:

- Solar-Powered Security Lights. Enhancing safety and economic growth
- Empowerment Initiatives: Equipping community leaders with resources
- Collaborative Security Approach: Unifying community leaders and local government representatives.
- Future Development Projects: Addressing security, infrastructure, and social welfare.

By representing the voices of his people and translating their needs into action, Honorable Architect Usman Murtala Banye is truly making a tangible difference in his community.





Honourable Jesse: A Champion of Legislative Reform and National Growth

As a rising figure in Nigeria's House of Representatives, Honourable Jesse is making waves with his vision for a more prosperous and self-sustaining Nigeria. With his impactful work in the 10th National Assembly, he has earned a reputation as a legislator focused on meaningful, long-term reform.

Hon. Jesse Oke's agenda is built on four pillars:

- **Economic Empowerment:** Expanding skill acquisition programs to reduce unemployment and promote innovation.

- **Educational Advancement:** Establishing e-libraries in all 774 local government areas to bridge the educational gap.

- **Criminal Justice Reform:**

Updating outdated laws to ensure punishments align with crimes, while prioritizing rehabilitation.

- **Data-Driven Governance** Establishing a reliable system for data collection and analysis to inform national planning.

Hon Jesse Oke's Made-in-Nigeria Bill aims to make locally produced goods a national priority. By encouraging govern-

ment agencies to buy Nigerian-made products, Hon. Jesse hopes to reduce production costs, improve quality, and enhance global competitiveness.

Hon. Jesse Oke believes education is key to Nigeria's progress. His e-library initiative will provide access to digital learning, bridging the gap between urban and rural communities.

Hon. Jesse advocates for a justice system that balances punishment with rehabilitation. He stresses the importance of facilities and programs that offer personal growth and societal reintegration.

Accurate data is crucial for effective governance, Hon. Jesse argues. He emphasizes the need for a reliable system for data collection and analysis.

Hon. Jesse praises the National Assembly's collaborative spirit, where members from eight different parties work together under a unifying leadership.

Through his tireless advocacy and legislative vision, Honourable Jesse Oke is helping Nigeria address its challenges and harness its potential for future generations.

Hon. Kabiru Alhassan Rurum: Championing commitment to Community development

Hon. Kabiru Alhassan Rurum, is a Nigerian politician and businessman from Kano State. , in Katanga quarters of Rurum, he has made significant contributions to his community through various initiatives .

ÜHon. Kabiru Alhassan Rurum achievements and Initiatives. He played a crucial role in promoting community development. Some of his notable achievements include:

_Empowering Youth: Rurum has supported various youth empowerment programs, focusing on education and skill acquisition.

- Infrastructure Development: He has initiated projects to improve infrastructure in his constituency, including roads, healthcare facilities, and education institutions.

Rurum emphasized the importance of road construction, stating that it's not just about laying asphalt, but about building pathways to prosperity. He believes that roads connect farmers to markets, communities to opportunities, and lay the foundation for a thriving local economy.

Some of the new initiatives announced by Rurum include:

- Road Construction Projects:

- Construction of a road in Madachi, Rano Local Government

- Chirin-Kode Road in Bunkure Local Government

- Completion of the Zinyau to Kasuwar Dila Road in Rano Local Government

- School Construction Project:

- Launching the first phase in the Tarai Ward of Kibiya Local Government within the next three weeks

- Infrastructure Development:

- Providing additional solar streetlight panels to Almajiri schools in different parts of his federal constituency.

Rurum's commitment to addressing the needs and demands of his constituents is evident in his words, "This development project is just the beginning; many more infrastructure developments are on the way for our constituency. Hon.Rurum promised his community that " they will never regret his representation in the Green Chamber" .

- Community Engagement :

Hon. Rurum has maintained an open-door policy, engaging with his constituents to understand their needs and concerns.

Hon. Rurum Best Practices in Constituency Development Includes but not the least, commitment to constituency development is evident in his approach to governance. Some best practices include:

- Transparency and Accountability: Ensuring that funds are allocated and utilized effectively, with clear accountability mechanisms.

- Community Participation: He encourages active participation from constituents in decision-making processes.

Hon. Rurum's dedication to his community and constituency is inspiring, and his initiatives have made a positive impact on the lives of many.



2027: Seyi Tinubu, senator, deputy gov emerge as front-runners to succeed Sanwo-Olu

The race for Lagos State's governorship in 2027 heats up with Senator Tokunbo Abiru, Deputy Governor Dr. Kadri Hamzat, and businessman Seyi Tinubu as leading candidates. Senator Abiru is recognized for his financial expertise and connections within the Lagos business community, positioning him as a strong technocrat.

Deputy Governor Hamzat is known for his grassroots engagement and loyalty, while Seyi Tinubu leverages his family legacy and community outreach initiatives.

The race for the Lagos State governorship in 2027 is heating up, with three prominent figures emerging as front-runners to succeed Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu.

According to a report by ThisDay, Senator Tokunbo Abiru, Deputy Governor Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, and businessman Seyi Tinubu are all vying for the influential position.

Senator Tokunbo Abiru has made a name for himself with his financial acumen, having transitioned seamlessly from a banking career to politics. His strategic engagement with Lagos business leaders has drawn attention, positioning him as a technocrat with a vision for Lagos's economic advancement.

Abiru's strong connections within the financial sector have made him a popular choice among the elite, who view him as a capable leader

for the complex economic landscape of Lagos.

On the other hand, Dr. Kadri Obafemi Hamzat, the current Deputy Governor, is known for his loyalty and deep connections with grassroots communities across the state.

His hands-on approach and frequent town hall meetings have earned him the trust of Lagosians, often referred to as "coronation rehearsals" by political insiders.

With extensive governance experience and a reputation for his commitment, Hamzat has cultivated substantial support from within the political establishment.

Seyi Tinubu, the son of former Lagos governor and current president Bola Tinubu, is also making waves in the political scene.

Through philanthropic efforts and initiatives like "rice diplomacy" distributing bags of rice to local communities, Seyi has begun to carve out a presence in various neighbourhoods and markets across Lagos.

While his candidacy has raised some eyebrows, his family legacy carries significant weight in Lagos politics, making him a formidable contender.

As the 2027 elections approach, the dynamics among these frontrunners will shape the future leadership of Lagos State, setting the stage for a competitive and closely watched political battle.

National Assembly Approves N530bn For Rail Line Rehabilitation

A total of N530 billion has been approved by the National Assembly for the modernisation and rehabilitation of railways across Nigeria.

Gatekeepers News reports that Adamu Aliero, chairman of the senate committee on land transport, disclosed this on Monday during the committee's oversight visit to the Nigeria Railway Corporation (NRC) in Lagos.

Also present at the visit were Sharafadeen Alli, the vice-chairman, Solomon Jokotoye, the clerk, Benson Kombowei, Tony Nwoye, Kelvin Chukwu, and Plang Dicket.

Aliero said the approved bill is only partial funding, as 85 percent of the required funds will be sourced from external investors.

Also, the former governor of Kebbi state said President Bola Tinubu's recent trip to China aimed to finalise negotiations for releasing the external funding.

"Recently, the supplementary appropriation bill was brought to the national assembly, and in that bill which the assembly passed into law, we had over N530 billion which is meant to be counterpart funding for railway modernisation and rehabilitation in Nigeria," Aliero said.

"That amount is supposed to be counterpart funding. Eighty-five per



cent of the funding is going to be sourced from outside, either from China Exim Bank or from International Finance Corporation or ADB."

Aliero also announced that the African Development Bank (AfDB) has provided \$350 million to support the construction of the Kano-Maradi rail line.

He praised the NRC's high standards, particularly regarding ticketing services at its stations, and commended the restoration of operations following previous security challenges.

On March 28, 2022, gunmen attacked an Abuja-bound train from Kaduna, killing several passengers and abducting 61 others.

Following the attack, the NRC suspended the Abuja-Kaduna service but resumed operations on November 28, 2022. All abducted passengers were eventually released at vari-

ous intervals, with the final batch freed after seven months.

Aliero also praised the China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation (CCECC) for transferring technical skills to Nigerians and helping to ensure the maintenance of trains and infrastructure after the departure of the Chinese contractors.

"They are transferring technology to Nigerians to ensure that after their departure, Nigerians will be able to maintain the coaches and locomotives," he said.

"Nigerians should also try to imbibe maintenance culture to ensure that the infrastructure are in good shape."

Ben Iloanusi, the acting managing director of the NRC, said the Railway Technical School has been relocated to Lagos, where it is being used by the national directorate of em-

ployment (NDE) for training.

"Apart from training for railway staff, external people also do undertake trainings there," Iloanusi said.

"We run a three-year course for railway people which is equivalent of a diploma. We are trying to bring in more courses into the system.

"We are also helping out Lagos Metropolitan Area Transport Authority and the Lagos State generally in terms of training."

Aliero welcomed the recent development allowing states to establish their rail lines while clarifying that the NRC will serve as the regulator to maintain standards.

In a statement on October 15, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, governor of Lagos state, announced the commencement of commercial operations on the red line rail.

Affirmative action is a fundamental right of women – Speaker Abbas

The Speaker of the House of Representatives Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, Ph.D, has reassured Nigerian women of the 10th Assembly's resolve to push through gender-related legislation aimed at granting them more participatory space in politics.

The Speaker who hosted a delegation of women in politics in his office on Tuesday stated that having more women coming to the parliament is a matter of right and not a privilege.

The visit to the Speaker, which was attended by the Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Constitution Review Committee of the House, Rt. Hon. Benjamin Kalu, and other legislators, was a follow-up to the International Legislative Dialogue on Women and the Constitution Amendment Process in Nigeria held on Monday in Abuja.

The Speaker expressed sad-

ness at a situation where women would have to resort to pleading for something that should ordinarily be a matter of right.

"I feel sad we are convening this meeting here and that we're hearing pleas from our mothers for what is rightly theirs. If I had known that this was the purpose for this meeting, I would have told you to go home and sleep and even snore, that this House will deliver on its promises to you."

Speaker Abbas reassured the women that the 10th National Assembly would invest in making history by passing all gender-related bills seeking to alter the constitution.

"This time around, history will be made and that this 10th House and the 10th Senate will make it happen. I, as the Speaker, am very confident that all of us, the 360 members, are on board with this," he said.

Speaker Abbas further expressed desire to see a time in the future where women will not only be fully represented in the legislature but also in the executive arm.

"I'm also looking forward to a time when women will not just have space in the parliament, but also in the executive, where you will have a president and the vice president will be a woman, and where you will have a governor with a woman as the deputy."

"I'm confident that this is doable, and if we can't achieve it with the ongoing efforts, then it will be a work in progress. But for what we are here for right now, it's a done deal as far as the House is concerned."

Earlier, the leader of the women delegation, who is also the National Women Leader of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Mrs. Amina Darasimi Bryhm, expressed delight at the level of commitment

and support the Speaker has shown in the cause of women in Nigeria.

"We are delighted to be here, and also pleased to see that you came with your wife out to support us yesterday at the dialogue."

"Like I said yesterday, our society is patriarchal, and, therefore, we need this support, and we're lucky and happy to have a Speaker who's a 'he-for-she'."

She assured the Speaker and other leaders of the National Assembly who are invested in the struggle that women will redouble their effort to ensure that the objective is realized," she said.

Also commending Speaker Abbas for his steadfastness in championing the course of women in Nigeria through legislative instrument, a member of the South African Parliament Dudu Zuma-Sambudla described women as the

peaceful segment of every society.

Civil society representatives also commended the Speaker for his support, saying that women are beautifiers of spaces, and if given more spaces to participate in politics, they will make it more beautiful.

A former senator, who had served as a member of the House, Sen. Binta Masi Garba expressed appreciation to the Speaker office for championing the current movement of bringing women out to voice their case and make their voices heard.

She noted that while women who represent 49.4% of the nation's population are playing favourably in professional fields and careers, they are shot out in politics.

She said women are not asking for equal representation with the men in parliament but a fraction of available seats.



UK Lawmaker Suspended After Street Fight Video Emerges

British lawmaker, Mike Amesbury has been suspended by the governing Labour Party following an incident that allegedly involved him punching a man multiple times on the street.

The event occurred on Friday night and came to public attention after footage surfaced on social media depicting a brawl.

Surveillance footage, published by the Daily Mail, seems to show Amesbury engaging with a man before striking him and attempting further blows while the man was on the ground.

The Labour Party has stated that Amesbury is cooperating with the police as they conduct their investigation, and he has been suspended from his position pending the outcome of the inquiry.

"I have seen the video footage, it's shocking," Prime Minister Keir Starmer told reporters on Monday. "We moved very swiftly to suspend him as a member and as a member of parliament."

Amesbury has been

a member of parliament (MP) since 2017 in Cheshire, northwest England, where the alleged incident took place. He remains an independent member of the House of Commons after losing the party whip.

The lawmaker said in a statement, released before the additional footage was published by the Mail, that he was "involved in an incident that took place after I felt threatened on the street following an evening out with friends."

He said he had "contacted Cheshire Police myself to report what happened during the incident."

Cheshire police said in a statement: "A 55-year-old man has been voluntarily interviewed under caution by police in relation to this incident. He has since been released pending further enquiries."

Labour swept to power in a July general election after 14 years in opposition, winning 411 seats for a commanding majority. Nine of those MPs have since had the whip

removed or resigned from the party.

The populist Reform UK party have called for Amesbury to resign

and allow a by-election in his seat to take place, which would be the first electoral test of the new government if it were to

take place.

MPs are entitled to remain in the Commons after losing the whip. A recall petition in their

constituency, which could trigger a by-election, could take place if they were to receive a prison sentence.



Senate Approves Tinubu's Request To Refund Kebbi - Nassarawa N24bn For Airport Constructions

Senate has approved President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's request to refund N24 billion to Kebbi and Nasarawa states for executing airport construction projects on behalf of federal government.

Gatekeepers News reports that the house made the approval after senator representing Taraba Central, Manu Haruna presented a report on behalf of the committee on local and foreign debts.

Without objection, the president had asked the upper house of assembly

to approve N15 billion for Kebbi and N9 billion for Nasarawa in May 2024.

He said aviation, including airports, safety of aircraft and carriage of passengers and goods by air is managed by federal government in line with second schedule of the constitution.

Senator representing Adamawa Central, Aminu Abbas said the request should be approved because the infrastructure is important to development and insecurity.

He said, "Airport is very important when it comes to development and insecurity."

Senator representing Kogi East, Isah Jibrin also said his state recently got approval from federal government to construct an airport.

He said, "As soon as the project the completed, we will come here for a refund through promissory notes."

The request was approved after it was put to a voice vote by Deputy Senate President, Barau Jibrin

Abia Rep Ikwechegh To Face Ethics Panel Over Assault On Bolt Driver

House of Representatives has initiated an investigation into Alex Ikwechegh, a member representing the Abia North/South federal constituency of Abia State, following an incident involving an assault on Stephen Abuwatseya, a Bolt driver.

Gatekeepers News reports that during a plenary session on Tuesday, the House referred Ikwechegh to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges after Julius Ihonvbere, the majority leader, raised a "point of

privilege."

Ikwechegh, a member of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA), gained media attention for slapping and verbally abusing Abuwatseya.

In a viral video, the confrontation is shown, with Ikwechegh accusing the driver of disrespect for requesting that he come closer to the vehicle to collect a package. This incident took place on October 27 in the Maitama district of Abuja.

Following the event, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)

police command summoned Ikwechegh for questioning.

The lawmaker subsequently issued an apology to Abuwatseya and the Nigerian public, expressing regret for his behaviour.

During Tuesday's session, majority leader Ihonvbere emphasised the importance of preserving the image of the parliament, noting that he had received numerous calls and messages regarding Ikwechegh's actions.



...Bridging the gap between lawmakers and constituents

Head Office: 1st Floor Mini-Suite, Melita Plaza, Opposite Gimbia Street, Area 11, Abuja.
Suite 3.59 House of Representatives, Extension, National Assembly, Abuja.
Tel: 07030081996, 08114643865. **E-mail:** nassnewsng@gmail.com
Website: www.nassnewsng.com

ADVERT RATE

Full color page = N700,000
Full Black and White = N500, 000
Half colour page = N350, 000
Half page Black and White = N250, 000
Double spray (Middle Page) = N1,500,000
Double Spray Black and White = N700, 000
Quarter page colour = N200, 000
Quarter page Black and white = N100, 000

Rate negotiable!!!



Lawmakers/Parliament is
a stone throw with Nigeria
Assembly Newspaper.

Call: 08114643865 or

Email us on:

nassnewsng@gmail.com

Lalong Sponsors Bill to Alter 1999 Constitution to address the yearnings of Nigerians

....Two others Bills in Red Chamber



By NASSNEWS CORRESPONDENT

His Excellency, Distinguished Senator Simon Bako Lalong representing Plateau South Senatorial District and former Governor of Plateau State Simon Bako Lalong has sponsored a Bill seeking to alter the 1999 Constitution to address the yearnings of Nigerians.

Senator Lalong's Bill "Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 Alteration Bill 2024 SB 532" passed first reading at the floor of the Senate.

In an exclusive interview with NASSNEWS CORRESPONDENT, Lalong further emphasized the significance of the Bill which he said will enable the nation take care of various national issues that require constitutional backing for smooth governance, unity and prosperity.

Lalong said there are many issues requiring the alteration of the Constitution for Nigerian to get it right for the citizens to have a better nation.

Meanwhile, Senator Lalong has attended several retreat of the Senate Ad-hoc Committee on Con-

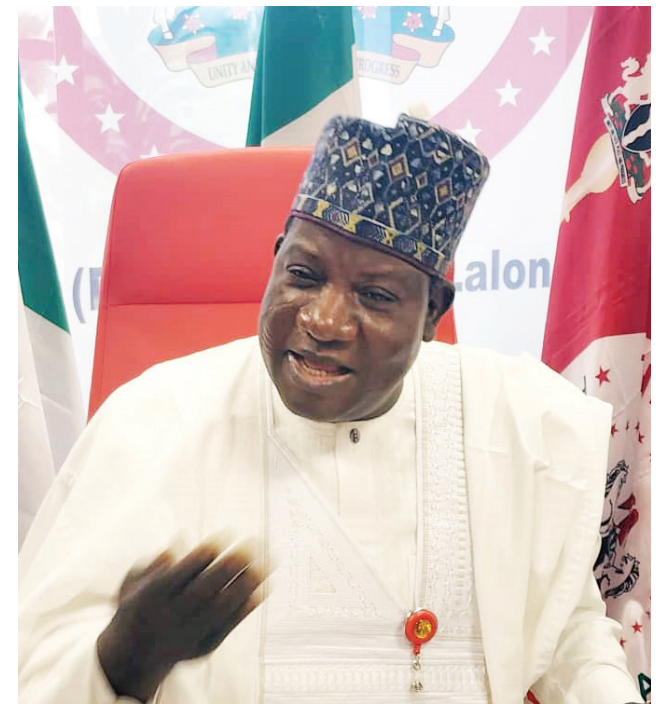
stitution Review.

During the interview with NASSNEWS, He emphasized the importance of addressing issues such as marginalisation, defined role of traditional rulers in governance, the citizenship question among others.

However, Senator Simon Bako Lalong, the current senator representing the good people of Plateau South senatorial district has also moved a bill for the involvement of traditional rulers in government policy making. The two times former governor of plateau state reaffirm the need to involve traditional institutions with the responsibilities of making the laws in their various communities without any forms of fear from any arms of government as it will help in tackling some of the issues of insecurities in the country.

In an exclusive interview session, Lalong further stated that the bill has been taken before the national assembly and they are looking forward to see the actualization of the bill and urge for support of the community leaders.

He said, the accusations that some of the rulers are being part of the people conniving with the terrorize troubling the peace of their community not to be true, prov-



ing to have work with some of the ruler and confirmed on the impacts they have contributed in fishing out the people in the act.

As the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agricultural Institutions, Senator lalong have sponsored several bills aimed at promoting agricultural development and entrepreneurship.

Some of his notable bills include:

"National Council of Traditional Rulers Bill". This bill aims to promote the role of traditional rulers in national development.

"Entrepreneurial Centres for Agricultural Science Graduates (Establishment) Bill 2024". This bill seeks to bridge the gap between agricultural research and practical entrepreneurship,"he noted.

During my tenure as Governor of Plateau State.I signed four bills into law on July 14, 2021, which focused on autonomy and land administration. These bills demonstrate my commitment to promoting economic growth and development in Nigeria,"he said.

Another notable bill by Senator Simon Bako lalong is the Entrepreneurial Centres for Agricultural Science Graduates (Establishment) Bill 2024, this Bill aims to create opportunities for graduates of agricultural institutions to turn their research into entrepreneurship.

As the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agricultural Institutions, Lalong highlights his commitment to boosting the agricultural sector. His vision is to make Nigeria's agricultural education a pathway for employment and entrepreneurship, ultimately contributing to the country's economic diversification,"he Said.

Speaking further In an exclusive interview, Lalong Highlighted the Key Objectives of this Bills.

To Enhance Agricultural Sector: Bridge the gap between agricultural research and practical entrepreneurship
Empower Graduates: Provide opportunities for agricultural graduates to create jobs and contribute to the economy
Promote Entrepreneurship: Foster entrepreneurial spirit among agricultural science graduates,"he noted.

Lalong Said; These bills demonstrates his focus on agriculture, education, and economic growth, aligning with his track record as Governor of Plateau State, where he revolutionized the agricultural sector.