



Legislative Digest

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House inaugurates Committees

By Ahmed Ogwuche

Recently, the Federal House of Representatives in Nigeria inaugurated its standing committees to carry out its legislative functions. *Legislative Digest* covered some as captured below;

Committee on Appropriations

"The issue of budget everywhere in all the countries of the world including Nigeria, is that it is a government working paper, which usually, is targeted at improving the lives of the people and ensuring continuous economic development and growth. One of the statutory functions of this House Committee is to appropriate funds for the execution of government programmes and projects". This was part of the inaugural address by the Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations, Hon. (Pharm.) Festus Adewale Adegoke at the inauguration of the House Committee on Appropriations which took place at the National Assembly complex on Thursday 13th September, 2007.

The event was a colourful one as it attracted top officials of government agencies, the private sector, international communities and civil society organisations. The Leader, House of Representatives, Hon. Tunde Akogun inaugurated the committee on behalf of the

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Alleged Contract Scam hits NASS

By Adoga Ugaga

Both chambers of the Nigerian National Assembly have been enveloped with a thick cloud of alleged scam arising from spending in contracts said to have been awarded for the renovation of official residences of principal officers of the National Assembly.

First to hit the nation was the alleged N628 million scam which Madam Speaker, Patricia Etteh used for the renovation of her official residence in Apo Legislators' Quarters. In mid August, a group (The Integrity Group) rose in the House of

Representatives and raised alarm over the illegal spending of the nations money to the tune of N628 million on the renovation. But as the nation was taken by storm, the National Assembly bureaucracy rose swiftly in her defense.

Monima Daminabo, Director, Information and Publications of NASS who claimed to have represented the Clerk of the NASS on September 2, 2007 called a press conference and told Nigerians that Etteh had not acted in error nor had she broken the law in any way. Daminabo said the amount involved was N579.2

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David Mark
Senate President



Mrs Patricia Etteh
Speaker House of Representatives



With support from USAID (ADVANCE Project)
through a grant from PACT-Nigeria.



Odyssey: Etteh and Crisis of Democracy

The emergence of Mrs. Patricia Olubunmi Etteh as Speaker of the House of Representatives was greeted in Nigeria with varying eulogies. Some publicists played her up as the first female parliamentary leader in Africa, while some painted her as former President Olusegun Obasanjo's anointed.

Whatever the case, Zimbabwe and South Africa had, in the last century, produced female Speakers of their national parliaments. It was, however, a truism that Etteh epitomised the stuff the modern Nigerian woman was made of, "What a man can do, a woman can do (even better)".

Like typical media hype (don't mind the Nigerian press), reports came that N628million was being spent on the renovation of official homes of Etteh and her Deputy, Babangida Nguroje. The Speaker's house was built by the FCDA at the cost of N6.4 million.

The National Assembly emphasised that it was only N232 million that was allocated for the upgrading of Etteh's residence. They also revealed that a request for a N98million body massager for Madam Speaker was turned down.

Expectedly, though heinous, representatives whose election into the House was judged to be a criminal activity, rose, in their numbers in defence of the Speaker. Efforts by the Integrity bloc in the House to ensure sanity in the handling of the fraud has been met with thuggery and brazen hooliganism unexpected in a sane democracy.

Etteh protagonists spoke of the game of numbers in the event of a vote after the debate on the David Idoko probe panel that found Madam Speaker culpable in the contract scam. What a logic? Mussolini in Italy employed popular support to enthrone one of the worst dictatorships in Europe. Adolph

Hitler attracted mass support for the worst holocaust of mankind in Germany. We therefore reject any form of majority figures that enthrone fraud, corruption, crime and dictatorship in modern Nigeria.

Before we continue with business as usual, we should remember that the whole world is watching, even as we are yet to confirm speculation that a principal officer in the Senate expended N29 million to fix a leaking roof in his official residence.

Only recently, Minister of Information and Communications, Mr. John Odey, was faced with the bitter task of responding to a Human Rights Watch report which concluded that Nigeria's April polls were akin to a criminal activity. He challenged the group to support government's efforts toward making Nigeria one of the 20 leading economies come 2020.

Digest is worried that, in our clime, we find it difficult to embrace the truth, transparency and accountability. In sane democracies, an elected representative can get booted out of office for not declaring public a lunch for friends, talk more of contracts to family members or political supporters. Rather than play a dirge for rotten conduct, certain lawmakers at Nigeria's House of Representatives tend to glorify corruption, abuse of transparency laws passed by them and a culture of dictatorship as against openness, pluralism and freedom of expression.

We at Digest insist that Etteh, her cohorts and god-fathers must quit the stage and allow genuine leadership in the lower chamber in the interest of the country. Certainly, as Ambassador Christopher Kolade noted recently, these lawmakers do not have the mandate of Nigerians, hence the introduction of anti-people culture of hooliganism and brazen corruption.

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CDD organises retreat for House Committee on MDGs

By Aga Bature Bem

The Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) with funding from the European Union recently held a three-day retreat for the House of Representatives Committee on MDGs at the Asaa Pyramid Hotel, Kaduna. The retreat which was organized in conjunction with the MDGs office and the National Assembly had the caption "A Retreat for parliamentarians on 'Achieving the MDGs in Nigeria'". It was part of the broader CDD/EU collaboration around the monitoring of NEEDS and SEEDS.

The objective of the retreat was to deepen legislative capacity with respect to links between the budget NEED/SEEDS framework and MDGs, as well as facilitate the strengthening of local partnership among stakeholders involved in similar areas of work.

The retreat witnessed a large turnout of participants as 13 out of the 15 members of the MDGs Committee of the House of Representatives attended. A cross-section of Nigeria's international development partners alongside a broad spectrum of civil society organisations completed the roll call.

In his welcome address, the Country Director of CDD, Dr. Jibrin Ibrahim, hailed the constitution of the MDGs committee in the House of Representatives. He recalled that it was the first time a committee on MDGs was inaugurated in the National Assembly. He welcomed all participants and restated CDD's commitment to assist in the reduction of poverty in Nigeria. There were goodwill messages from SSAP-MGs, EU, DFID, CISLAC, and CIRDOCC.

The keynote address by the Governor of Kaduna State, Arc. Namadi Sambo was presented by his Deputy, Mr. Patrick Yakowa. The governor informed participants at the retreat that the Kaduna state government was already taking steps to address issues associated with the MDGs within the state. He

informed participants that Kaduna state had an MDGs committee chaired by him and explained that the government has embarked on capacity building to empower youths within the state.

In her own remarks, the Chairperson of the House Committee on MDGs, Hon. Saudatu Sani thanked CDD for helping to make the retreat a reality. She also thanked the EU and the MDGs office who were joint organisers of the retreat. She acknowledged the challenge of being the chairperson of a sensitive committee like the Committee on MDGs and solicited for the support of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs to make her work easier. She promised that the committee will work tirelessly to ensure that the MDGs were achieved.

The retreat had five sessions that were chaired by different distinguished personalities. The sessions accommodated about 8 PowerPoint presentations from a crop of experienced resource people. The first presentation at the retreat was made by Dr. Otiye Igbuzor, the Country director of Action Aid International Nigeria. The presentation titled "An overview of the Millennium Development Goals: and their impact on the trends and current status of poverty in Nigeria" pointed out the grey areas in the MDGs implementation in Nigeria as

being responsible for the high rate of poverty. Mrs. Amina Ibrahim presented the second paper titled "MDGs and Debt Relief gains: Issues and Challenges". The "Challenges and Opportunities for Realising the MDGs in Nigeria: a Case study of Kaduna State" was presented by Dr. Obadiah Mailafia, former Deputy Governor of the CBN. He rated Kaduna State very high in its drive to tackle the problems that are to be solved in the MDGs.

Also, "Planning and Implementation Strategies for Poverty reduction in Nigeria: an account of NEEDS 1, NEED 2 and SEEDS" was presented by Mr. A. A. Taiwo, an Assistant Director in the National Planning Commission. Honourable Members took Mr. Taiwo up on the credibility of the statistics in his presentation which he agreed with them that there was a data challenge in Nigeria but something was being done about it. He said planning was necessary for Goal achievement and there must be a linkage between policy and planning if Nigeria must achieve the MDGs.

Dr. Jibrin Ibrahim's presentation centred on "The roles and responsibilities of the MDGs committee (NASS) in the operation of NEEDS and the achievement of the MDGs" pointed out clearly the roles of parliament, where they have

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Participants at a session during the retreat.

Stakeholders tasked on implementation of Transparency Acts

By Ahmed Ogwuche

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) with support from USAID through a grant from PACT Nigeria organised a one-day “CSOs - Legislature and Executive Planning meeting on the implementation of transparency Acts” in Nigeria which was held at the Lagos Airport Hotel, Ikeja on September 25, 2007. Participants were drawn from the civil society, government, legislature and the media. Also in attendance were personalities such as; Hon. Uche Onyeagucha, a former Member of the House of Representatives, Ms. Liz Loughran, PACT African Regional Director and Mr. Edetaean Ojo, Executive director, Media Rights agenda who also acted as facilitator, Lillian Ekeanyanwu, Head, TURGA Unit, NEITI, Orji Ogbonanya Orji of Due Process office, Ahmed Mohammed, Acting Country Representative of Pact Nigeria and Dr. Suleiman of PARP office.

In his welcome address, the Executive Director of CISLAC, Mr. Auwal Musa Rafsanjani stated that the dialogue was aimed at ensuring a proper and consistent implementation of all the transparency Acts such as the NEITI and Public Procurement Acts.

Goodwill messages were delivered from PACT African Regional Office, National Council on Public Procurement, the Policy and Research Project (PARP) of the National Assembly and the Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI) Secretariat, among others.

The Director -General of Bureau of Public Procurement, Engr. Emeka Ezeh, represented by Orji Ogbonayapresented the first paper on “The Challenges of Implementation by the Statutory Agencies”; “The Role of NEITI and the Implementation of the Act” was presented by Lillian Ekeanyanwu on behalf of Waziri Adio, Director, Communications, NEITI; While Eze Onyekpere and Bamidele Aturu

spoke on; “Mobilising CSOs Towards Effective Participation in the Implementation Process of the Act”, while Hon. Abdullahi Shuaibu, Deputy Chairman House Committee on Rules and Business, National Assembly, Hon. Uche Onyeagucha, former Member of the Federal House of Representatives and Mr. H. O. Olutoye, Secretary, House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations discussed “Strengthening the National Assembly Members’ Oversight on the New Acts”.

From the papers presented and discussions engaged in, it was

and other stakeholders should sustain the tempo of advocacy in the promotion of transparency and accountability in governance.

- * Members of the public and government officials should be adequately educated and informed on a timely basis on the necessity and the impact of the new laws
- * National Assembly should accelerate the process of bringing other transparency bills into law, particularly the FOI, FRB and the Whistle Blowers’ Bill
- * Other tiers of government should



The Executive Director, Media Rights Agenda, Edetaean Ojo making a remark while on his right is the African Regional Director, Liz Loughram, and on the left Executive Director, CISLAC, Auwal Musa Rafsanjani during the meeting

observed that the media and the civil society groups remain the veritable instrument for advocacy on the passage of transparency bills and the implementation of the Acts. The success of the passage by the National Assembly and final assent by Mr. President of the Public Procurement and NEITI Acts were linked to the future passage into law of the Fiscal Responsibility Bill, the Freedom of Information Bill and the Whistle Blowers’ Bill. It was also observed that in spite of the fact that there were several good laws in Nigeria, those in the leadership lack the political will to enforce them for the benefit of citizens.

At the end of the dialogue, participants agreed that;

- * Civil society groups, the media

embrace the federal government initiative, by passing similar laws to ensure that the culture of transparency and accountability is entrenched at all levels of governance

- * Civil Society actors and other citizens are encouraged to challenge any violation of the provisions of the transparency laws

Participants commended CISLAC for organizing the meeting, and called on other CSOs to mobilize more stakeholders on engagement with the transparency legislation. They also praised PACT - Nigeria for its continued support to civil society engagement with the democracy project in Nigeria.

CISLAC calls for a review of Constitution

The National Assembly has been urged to speed up the process of reviewing the 1999 Constitution to address the numerous problems that have continued to engulf the country as result of the lapses in the constitution.

This was part of an address delivered by the Executive Director of CISLAC, Auwal Musa Rafsanjani at a media interactive session with National Assembly Press Corp held at the National Assembly Complex, Abuja on 18th September 2007.

Mr. Rafsanjani also expressed concern on the non passage of some critical Bills and called on the leadership of the National Assembly to speed up the process of their passage which includes; Fiscal Responsibility Bill, Freedom of Information Bill, the National Assembly Budget Office Bill and the Whistle Blowers' Bill amongst others. He also stated that CISLAC was in the driving seat during the campaigns and debates that led to the successful passage of the Public Procurement and Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI) Bills by the National Assembly and the eventual assent by the President. The recent development in the National Assembly especially the House of Representatives and the commitment of stakeholders in the democratic growth of the nation were amongst other issues raised during the interactive session.

He also pointed out that the imperfections in the constitution encourage the manipulation of the economy and the political process of the country in favour of the corrupt elite. Many sections of the Constitution are unfair, non-justiciable and lack protection of the ordinary citizens. While reacting to the recent development in the National Assembly concerning the renovation of the official residences of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Executive Director stated that the huge amount of money spent on the renovation was to say the least, unacceptable, especially in a society

where the electorates face abject poverty and neglect and therefore, called on the Speaker, Patricia Etteh and her deputy, Babangida Nguoroje to step aside pending the outcome of the panel set up to investigate the scam.

CISLAC reiterated the commitment of the civil society and other stakeholders towards a positive contribution to democratic education, especially skills development for the lawmakers, legislative aides and civil society actors on issues such as implementation of Acts and other policies that will enhance transparency, accountability and good governance.



The Executive Director, CISLAC, Auwal Musa Rafsanjani flanked by Wale Agboji, Governance Program Officer of Henrich Boll Foundation (right) and Boniface Kassam, Senior Program/Media Officer, CISLAC (left) during the media interactive session.

CDD organises retreat

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failed so far and what must be done to fast track the achievement of the MDGs. Next in line was Hon. Saudatu Sani's paper which was very sensitive. Her paper captioned "Parental poverty and child abuse: the role of parliamentarians" dwelt on the Almajiri phenomenon, child abuse and street hawking in the face of an existing law on child rights.

Dr. Kole Shettima of the McArthur Foundation did a mid-term assessment of the Health Sector in Nigeria as concerns the

achievement of the MDGs. The figure churned out by him were frightening as they showed clearly Nigeria's shortfall in the health Sector. The health deficit was more glaring in the face of the statistics.

Women die everyday in child birth. Mrs. Sarah Ochekepe of SUBEB did a mid-term assessment of the Education Sector that unearthed the decay in the sector. The last presentation was from Mallam Lawal Aboki of the MDGs office. He dwelt on institutionalising the M& E as a reform initiative: overview of public expenditure in NEEDS (OPEN).

Among many other observations, the retreat observed that corruption has been a major clog in the wheels of Nigeria's development. The meeting noted with concern what it termed "the current conspiracy by anti-democratic forces to weaken the anti-corruption programme of the federal government" and advised the federal government to take the campaign beyond "mere window dressing", if the MDGs must be achieved.

Some of the resolutions at the meeting were that:

* Nigeria can meet the eight MDGs
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million and not over N600 million as claimed by the whistle blowing federal legislators. He explained that the amount was for the upgrading of a cluster of buildings which constituted the Speaker's residence and that of the Deputy Speaker including the purchase of official vehicles for the leadership of the Reps. When asked if such an amount of public was not outrageous, the NASS information manager said the upgrading was being done to befit the status of the Speaker who is number four in the greatest black nation.

"The scope of works being carried out in these residences is provided for in the 2007 Appropriation Act. The premises under consideration are technically bona fide extensions of the official premises of the legislature, hence their maintenance, upgrade and renovation remain the responsibility of the National Assembly," Daminabo said. Though, he also told Nigerians that due process was followed as the leadership tenders board was properly constituted, it later turned out to be a total misinformation to the Nigerian people. The Integrity Group preassured and an ad-hoc investigation committee headed by Honorable David Idoko, fellow PDP Rep from Benue State was set up.

The investigation revealed that due process was not followed in the award of the contracts. Money for the renovation or upgrading was no provided for in the Appropriation Act as claimed, the investigation revealed. It was also revealed that the idea for the renovation emanated from Madam Speaker's office and that opposition members of the leadership were not in attendance when the decision was reached, so the leadership tenders board could

not have been properly constituted as claimed. The report has since been submitted to the House which hurriedly adjourned a week ahead of the Senate. The report which is already in the public domain indicted the Speaker, Patricia Olubunmi Etteh and her Deputy, Hon. Babangida Nguroje. Ahead of their reconvening, civil society organisations and well meaning Nigerians are asking them to step down so as not to preside over their own cases.

As if that was not enough trouble for the National Assembly, on October 3, 2007 the Special Adviser, Media and Communications to the Senate President, Kola Ologbondiyan reacted to a similar allegation against the Senate President. "The senate which had remained relatively calm and stable was being dragged into a scam", he said. There has been insinuations that the Senate President David Mark also have used the sum of N400 million to renovate his official residence called the Apo Mansion.

In his reaction, the SA came out blunt when he said "we challenge anyone with proof of such renovation or contract to come forward with evidence or shut up forever." He went ahead and explained, "For the avoidance of doubt, the last renovation of the Apo Mansion was carried out by the authorities of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) administration since February 10th, 2006. The records are verifiable." Kola challenged.

Kola Ologbondiyan said this dust was being raised by few senators who were dissatisfied with the selection of Senate Standing Committees and the allocation of office accommodation in the new senate complex. Investigations have revealed that no renovation work has taken

place in the Senate Presidents residence since the last one by the FCDA. Not even senator Ken Nnamani the last occupant of the mansion undertook any renovation work.

The question on the lips of many Nigerians is, what does this portend for democracy? For some analysts, the legislature being the most democratic institution should be a free market place of ideas and the existence of whistle blowers should not be discouraged, so long as such allegations are properly investigated. What is happening in the House of Representatives only goes to show that the House has a self cleansing machinery and that with time the Nigerian people can trust the legislature not only as a check on the executive arm but also on itself.

Also the Yar'Adua administration has consistently promised zero tolerance for corruption and the insistence on due process. These are the elements in the government action right now. When these are successfully carried out then democracy could be seen to be growing in Nigeria. Some concerned Nigerians have are also of the opinion that, so far these are taking place only at the federal level, what about states and local governments where so much financial recklessness and abuse of power have been witnessed since 1999 when Nigeria returned to democratic polity?

They therefore conclude that, "it can only be logical to say that these levels of governments should imbibe self cleansing mechanisms for the proper rooting of democratic tenets. Most importantly at this level of government will be the existence of vibrant whistle blowers who will not only check the excesses of incumbents but look at the activities of past regimes. This will bring true meaning to the fight against corruption".

House inaugurates Committees

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speaker. He stated that the task of the committee was a serious one and enjoined all the members of the committee to work hand in hand to overcome such a herculean task assigned to them.

The Committee consists of 37 members drawn from all the states of the federation and the F.C.T. This according to many was seen as a welcome development because of the sensitive nature of the work of the committee which deals with budget, appropriation and formulating fiscal, financial and economic policies that shall have a positive impact on the citizenry. The Chairman of the Committee ended his address by pledging the Committee's commitment to work with relevant bodies and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) where necessary to accomplish its goals.

Committee on Environment

At the inauguration of the House Committee on Environment which took place on the 19th of September 2007, the Speaker was represented by the Deputy Chief Whip of the House, Hon. Aminu Tambuwal. The Chairman of the committee, Hon. Duro Faseyi in his welcome address stated thus "environmental harmonies like that of its sister, health are critical to any meaningful and sustainable economic development. A nation can only ignore the looming treats of emerging environmental hazards at its own peril and henceforth, the minimum benchmark for a harmonious relationship between this committee and any operator will be determined by its willingness and ability to implement policies and programmes that contribute to a balanced, clean and healthy environment."

Hon. Aminu Tambuwal who represented the Speaker at the event stated that the role of the environment in sustaining humanity is glaring and it is the duty of the committee to ensure that laws concerning environment

are strictly adhered to in order to minimise environmental hazards such as erosion, oil spillage, gas flaring, deforestation e.t.c. He rounded up by inaugurating the committee on behalf of the Speaker. In attendance at the event was the Minister of Environment, Mrs. Halima Alao; Chairman, Senate committee on environment and ecology, Senator Grace Bent and top stakeholders. The minister in her address pledged to cooperate with the committee in order to attain the mutual goals of improving the Nigerian environment to the expectations of Nigerians and congratulated the committee



*Mrs Patricia Etteh
Speaker House of Representatives*

CDD organises retreat

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by 2015, if the federal, state and local governments are committed to the full implementation of NEEDS, SEEDS and LEEDS RESPECTIVELY.

- * The National Assembly must step up its oversight roles on policies and programmes that will make Nigeria meet the MDGs.
- * There is need for greater consultation and collaboration

members on their inauguration.

Committee on Inter-Parliamentary Relations

On the 20th of September, 2007, the House Committee on Inter-parliamentary Relations was inaugurated by the Deputy House Leader, Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie on behalf of the Speaker of the House of Representatives. Chairperson of the committee, Hon. Binta Masi Garba in her welcome address highlighted the functions of the committee which included making recommendations to the House on the sending of a delegation to inter-parliamentary events around the world, ensuring a good relationship between the National Assembly and State Assemblies, working in close relationship with other committees, forming a link between the National Assembly and other parliaments across the world and most of all to study, analyse and find ways in which the Nigerian Legislature can improve itself.

The Deputy House Leader who gave the inaugural address on behalf of the speaker stated that Nigeria as a developing country needs to maintain a harmonious relationship and a link with other parliaments across the world. He expressed confidence in the committee members and wished them well in undertaking their duties. The Deputy Chairman of the committee, Hon. Nnenna Ukeje gave the vote of thanks and pledged the committee's cooperation and commitment to work with stakeholders in achieving its goals.

between different arms and levels of government on one hand, and between governments and civil society on the other.

The retreat was very successful given the large turn out of participants, their willingness to learn, the quality of presentations by the resource persons and most importantly, the resolve of parliamentarians and civil society to partner more and take the resolutions at the retreat to the field as a way of expediting action on the achievement of the MDGs.



Participants at the West African Regional Parliamentary Meeting held in Cotonou, Benin Republic on the 3rd - 4th October, 2007



Professor Julius Ihovbhere (standing) cracking a joke with members of the high table during the launching of a book on a Niger Delta Development by Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) held in Abuja recently.



Participants in a group photograph during a one-day CSOs-Legislative Executive planning meeting on implementation of Transparency Acts organised by CISLAC and held in Lagos recently.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEES - 2007

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTIES

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| <p>1 RULES AND BUSINESS
HON. ITA ENANG
HON. SHAIBU ABDULLAHI</p> <p>2 HOUSE SERVICES
HON. TITILAYO AKINDAHUNSI
HON. ALIYU DIKKO</p> <p>3 PUBLIC PETITION
HON. C.I.D MADUABUM
HON. YUSUF TUGGAR</p> <p>4 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
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HON. UCHE EKWU'JIFE</p> <p>5 ETHICS AND PRIVILEGES.
HON. (MRS.) FLORENCE AKINWALE
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HON. ABDULAZIZ A. YARI
HON. FRIDAY ITULAH</p> <p>9 AIRFORCE
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HON. DIMEJI BANKOLE
HON. IBRAHIM MOHAMMED
- 43 LEGISLATIVE BUDGET**
HON. AHMED AHAMAN PATEGI
HON. GEORGE FORD
- 44 MARINE TRANSPORT**
HON. IFEANYI UGWUANYI
HON. ADAMU KALBA
- 45 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS**
HON. SAUDATU SANI
HON. WALE ARIBISALA
- 46 NATIONAL PLANNING AND POPULATION**
HON. SAMUEL EGYA
HON. LINUS UMOH
- 47 NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE**
HON. ENGR. FAROUK
HON. OLUSEGUN AKNLOYE
- 48 NAVY**
HON. BASHIR ADAMU
HON. TAYO FAWEHINMI
- 49 DELTA DEVELOPMENT**
HON. AGBOOLA AJAYI
HON. ALHASSAN ADO
- 50 PENSIONS**
HON. AYO ADESEUN
HON. JOSEPH GUMBARI
- 51 PETROLEUM RESOURCES (DOWNSTREAM)**
HON. CLEVER IKISIKPO
HON. SAMUEL ARO
- 52 PETROLEUM RESOURCES (UPSTREAM)**
HON. TAM BRISIBE
HON. BALA ALMU BANYA
- 53 POLICE AFFAIRS**
HON. USMAN BAYERO
HON. PAULINUS IGWE NWAGU
- 54 POVERTY ALLEVIATION**
HON. BABAGANA TIJANI
HON. RUFUS OMEIRE
- 55 POWER**
HON. NDUDI ELUMELU
HON. MOHAMMED JIBO
- 56 PRIVATIZATION AND COMMERCIALIZATION**
HON. NJIDA GELLA
HON. ABASS BRAIMOH
- 57 PUBLIC SERVICES MATTERS**
HON. EMMANUEL DEEYA
HON. ABDULWAHAB ISA
- 58 RURAL DEVELOPMENT**
HON. DARLINGTON OKEREKE
HON. KHADIJAT BUKAR

59 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

HON. JAMES BAITACHI
HON. IKE CHINWO

60 SOLID MINERALS

HON. YAKUBU UMARU BARDE
HON. ONIGBOGI OLUGBENGA

61 SPECIAL DUTIES

HON. BADAMASI KABIR
HON. LINDA CHUBA IKPEAZU

62 SPORTS

HON. BELLO SULAIMAN
HON. GBENGA ELEGBELEYE

63 STATES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

HON. KGB OGUAKWA
HON. UBALE JEKADA

64 TOURISM AND CULTURE

HON. MERCY ALMONA-ISEI
HON. ISA DOBI

65 WATER RESOURCES

HON. TERNGU TSEGBA
HON. JOHNSON ABOLAGBA

66 WOMEN AFFAIRS

HON. BENNY LAR
HON. JULIET AKANO

67 WORKS

HON. CHUMA NZERIBE
HON. KABIRU JALLO

68 YOUTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HON. OYEDEPO OYEDOKUN
HON. BASSEY ETIM

69 LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

HON. DAEMI AKPANA
HON. AUSTIN ADIKPF

70 NTERJINTRA PARTY RELATIONS

HON. BASSEY OTU
HON. DEMENGE ALAAGA

71 DUE PROCESS

HON. BERNARD UDOH
HON. JUMOKE OKOYA THOMAS

72 HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. AMINU SHEHU SHAGARI
HON. SAMSON OSAGIE

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	SEGUN OSHIBOTE	SW	OGUN	PDP
2	OLADIMEJI S. MOSES	SW	OYO	PDP
3	NIYI J. AKINYUGBA	SW	ONDO	PDP
4	NELSON GO. ALAPA	NC	BENUE	ANPP
5	JSAH SHABA BELLO	NC	NIGER	PDP
6	ANDREW UCHENDU	SS	RIVERS	PDP
7	IFALUYI ISTBOR	SS	EDO	PDP
8	BELLO SULEMAN	NE	GOMBE	PDP
9	ZAKARI SULEMAN	NE	YOBE	ANPP
10	INNOCENT UGOCHIMA	SE	EBONYI	PDP
11	CHINENYE IKE	SE	ABIA	PDP
12	IBRAHIM M. BICHI	NW	KANO	ANPP
13	RABE NASIR	NW	KATSINA	PDP
14	IBRAHIM Y. KANYA	NW	JIGAWA	PDP
15	IDRIS MOH'D KETA	NW	ZAMFARA	ANPP

COMMITTEE ON AIDS, LOANS AND DEBT MANAGEMENT

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	OLUWOLE OKE	SW	OSUN	PDP
2	ABDULKARIM SALIU	NC	KOGI	AC
3	KOLAWOLE YUSSUF	NC	KWARA	PDP
4	ESEME S. EYIBOH	SS	A/BOM	PDP
5	DONALD EGBERTBIN	SS	BAYELSA	PDP
6	ABBAS BRAIMORSS	EDO		PDP
7	SABO U. IBRAHIM	NE	BAUCHI	ANPP
8	ADO DOGO AUDU	NW	KADUNA	PDP
9	USMAN ADAMUGAYA	NW	KANO	ANPP
10	SANI M. ALIYU KANO	NW	KANO	ANPP
11	GANIYU HAMZAT	SW	LAGOS	AC

COMMITTEE ON AIRFORCE

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	OLAKUNDE K. SALAKO	SW	OGUN	PDP
2	KAREEM T. ABISODUN	SW	OYO	AC
3	JOE ANOTA	SW	ONDO	PDP
4	ADIKPE AGBONU	NC	BENUE	PDP
5	ISAH SHABA BELLO	NC	NIGER	PDP
6	JOHN ENOR	SS	C/R	PDP
7	TAM BRISIBE	SS	DELTA	PDP
8	UMAR FARUK	NW	KEBBI	PDP
9	AHMED TSOHO	NW	KADUNA	PDP
10	SANI A. DABAI	NW	KATSINA	PDP
11	ALHASSA1N ADO	NW	KANO	PDP
12	CHINEDU ELUEMUNO	SE	ANAMBRA	PDP
13	AMINU R. HAMMAN	NE	ADAMAWA	PDP
14	BABA B. MACHINAMA	NE	YOBE	ANPP
15	JAMES BAITACHI	NC	NIGER	PDP

COMMITTEE ON ANTI CORRUPTION

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	GEORGE DALKA	NC	BENUE	PDP
2	YISA AMBAKA	NC	N/RAWA	ANPP
3	OJELABI C. OYEFOLU	SW	LAGOS	AC
4	AMINU RIBADU	NE	A/MAWA	PDP
5	BABA GISHIWARI	NE	YOBE	ANPP
6	NNANA UZOR KALU	SE	ABIA	PPA

For the Record

7	CHINEDU ELUEMUNO	SE	A/BRA	PDP
8	SABATH S. OBOT	SS	A/IBOM	PDP
9	JOYCE C. IGWE	SS	RIVERS	PDP
10	YAKUBU BARDE	NW	KATSINA	PDP
11	GARBA M. BUTALAWA	NW	KANO	ANPP
12	SUFIYANU UBALE	NW	JIGAWA	PDP
13	YUSSUF B. MSI ADUA	NW	KATSINA	PDP

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATION

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	AKINWALE FLORENCE	SW	EKITI	PDP
2	BANKOLE DIMEJI	SW	OGUN	PDP
3	ADEGOKE F. ADEWALE	SW	OYO	PDP
4	ONIGBOGI GBENGA	SW	OSUN	PDP
5	ADESIDA ABIODUN	SW	ONDO	PDP
6	AJATA JOSEPH	SW	LAGOS	AC
7	NJIDDA A. GELLA	NE	A/MAWA	PDP
8	ISHIAKU J. SHARA	NE	BORNO	ANPP
9	OMAR TATA	NE	BAUCHI	PDP
10	USMAN BAYERO	NE	GOMBE	PDP
11	JERRY MANWE	NE	TARABA	PDP
12	BABA G1SI-IJWARI	NE	YOBE	ANPP
13	INDEPENDENCE OGUNWE	SE	IMO	PDP
14	CHUMA NZERIBE	SE	A/BRA	PDP
15	OGBUEFI OZUMGBACHI	SE	ENUGU	PDP
16	NIURUKAONYEJEocha	SE	ABJA	PDP
17	CHRISTOPHER OMO ISU	SE	EBONYI	PDP
18	BASSEY EFFIONG ETIM	SS	A/IBOM	PDP
19	CLEVER TKISIKPO	SS	BAYELSA	PDP
20	JOFIN ENO	SS	C/RIVERS	PDP
21	ABULAGBA JOHNSON	SS	EDO	PDP
22	ANDREW UCHENDU	SS	RIVERS	PDP
23	LEO 000R	SS	DELTA	PDP
24	CHILE IGBAWUA	NC	BENUE	PDP
25	DANLADI LIMAN	NC	NIGER	PDP
26	LEONARD DILKON	NC	PLATEAU	PDP
27	MOH'D AL-MAKURA	NC	N/RAWA	PDP
28	ISA EGAH DOBI	NC	FCT	PDP
29	ALIYU H. PATEGI	NC	KWARA	PDP
30	UMAR BUBA JIBRIN	NC	KOGI	PDP
31	KABIRU MARAFA	NW	SOKOTO	PDP
32	FARUK MOH'D LAWAN	NW	KANO	PDP
33	DAHIRU ZUBAIRU	NW	ZAMFARA	ANPP
34	UMARU I. KURFI	NW	KATSINA	PDP
35	MOHAMMED U. JEGA	NW	KEBBI	PDP
36	MJSTAPJ-IA KJ-IAJ3EEB	NW	JIGAWA	PDP
37	ISAH MOH'D ASHIRU	NW	KADUNA	PDP

COMMITTEE ON ARMY

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	ODEBUNMI P. KEHINDE	SW	EKITI	PDP
2	KOLAWOLE ISMAILA	SW	OSUN	PDP
3	OLUKOLU G. TUNJI	SW	LAGOS	AC
4	JIM KWAWO AUDU	NE	A/MAWA	AC
5	HENRY SHAWULU	NE	TARABA	PDP
6	PATTY ETETE ENEMEH	SS	A/IBOM	PDP
7	FRIDAY TTULAH	SS	EDO	PDP
8	UMAR M. BATURE	NW	SOKOTO	PDP
9	ADO DOGO AUDU	NW	KADUNA	PDP

10	UBALE JAKADA K.	NW	KANO	ANPP
11	KABIR AHMED KOFA	NW	KATSINA	PDP
12	MAJMUNAT ADAJI	NC	KWARA	PDP
13	YISA EMMANUEL JEV	NC	BENUE	PDP
14	KALU UDUMA	SE	ABIA	PDP
15	PEACE U. NNAJI	SE	ENUGU	PDP

COMMITTEE ON AVIATION

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	AMUSAN KAYODE	SW	OGUN	PDP
2	NIYI J. AKINYUGHA	SW	ONDO	PDP
3	MOROUF A. FATAI	SW	LAGOS	AC
4	MODU ALHAJI MUSA	NE	BORNO	ANPP
5	ADAMU KALBA	NE	GOMBE	PDP
6	JOYCE OVERAH	SS	DELTA	PDP
7	IPONG KING	SS	A/IBOM	PDP
8	SHUAIBU G. GOBIR	NW	SOKOTO	PDP
9	MUSTAPHA S. HALIRU	NW	KADUNA	ANPP
10	SHEHU INUWA IMAM	NW	KATSINA	PDP
11	BALA IBN 'NALLAH	NW	KEBBI	PDP
12	DAVID ONOBI IDOKO	NC	BENUE	PDP
13	MUSA B. USMAN	NC	NIGER	ANPP
14	NNENA UKEJE	SE	ABIA	PDP
15	INDEPENDENCE OGUNWE	SE	IMO	PDP

COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND CURRENCY

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	OLUYEMI T. ADE WALE	SW	OYO	PDP
2	SAMUEL W. SEJORO	SW	LAGOS	AC
3	ODEBUNMI P. KEHTNDE	SW	EKITI	PDP
4	SA'AD M.C. TAHIR	NE	A/MAWA	PDP
5	ADAMU A. GURAJ	SS	BAUCHI	PDP
6	APIAFI BETTY	SS	RIVERS	PDP
7	SOLOMON AHWINAHWI	NW	DELTA	PDP
8	HUSSEIN N. ABDULKADIR	NW	JIGAWA	PDP
9	LABARAN Y. DANBATT	NW	KANO	ANPP
10	ABUBAKAR SHEHU	NW	Z/FARA	ANPP
11	UMARU I. KURFI	NW	KATSINA	PDP
12	NASIRU MOHAMMED	NC	FCT	ANPP
13	SAMSO N POSITIVE	NC	KOGI	PDP
14	CHUKWUNA UMUOJI	SE	ANAMBRA	LABOUR
15	SYLVESTER OGBAGA	SE	EBONYI	PDP

COMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKET

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	DURO FASEYI	SW	EKITI	PDP
2	ONIGBOGI OLUGBENGA	SW	OSUN	PDP
3	OLUKOLU G. TUNJI	SW	LAGOS	AC
4	SA'AD TAHIR M.C.	NE	ADAMAWA	PDP
5	YAKUBU DOGARA	NE	BAUCHI	PDP
6	OSITA HONOURABLE O.	SS	RIVERS	PDP
7	ANTEDI KING	SS	A/IBOM	PDP
8	SADA SOLI JIBIA	NW	KATSINA	PDP
9	UMAR M. BATURE	NW	SOKOTO	PDP

10	AHMED M. SALIK	NW	KANO	ANPP
11	MUSTAPHA SAM HALIRU	NW	KADUNA	PDP
12	EMEKA IHEDIOHA	SE	IMO	PDP
13	WILFRED ONYEMA	SE	ANAMBRA	PDP
14	DEMENGE ALAGA	NC	BENUE	PDP
15	MIKAIL AL-AMIN	NC	NIGER	ANPP

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	GBEDE A. WAHEED	SW	OYO	PDP
2	GANIYU O. HAMZAT	SW	LAGOS	AC
3	EMMANUEL O. ADEDEJI	SW	LAGOS	AC
4	BABAGANA TIJANI	NE	BORNO	ANPP
5	SALISU ZAKARI	NE	BAUCHI	ANPP
6	JOHN KALIPAR	SS	RIVERS	PDP
7	MERCY ALMONA-ISEI	SS	DELTA	PDP
8	EKPEYONG AYI	SS	C/RIVERS	PDP
9	UBALE JAKADA	NW	KANO	ANPP
10	HALIRU GARBA G.	NW	SOKOTO	PDP
11	IBRAHIM UMAR BALA	NW	KANO	ANPP
12	GODFREY A. GAIYA	NW	KADUNA	PDP
13	ISMATLA MOHAMMED	NC	PLATEAU	PDP
14	ALIYU PATEGI	NC	KWARA	PDP
15	JULIET AKANO	SE	IMO	PDP

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	ODUWAYE GBENGA	SW	OGUN	PDP
2	OLDNLOYO O. FOLAKE	SW	OYO	PDP
3	FAWEHINMI TAYO	SW	ONDO	PDP
4	KABIRU JALO	NE	TARABA	PDP
5	NJIDDA NGELLA	NE	ADAMAWA	PDP
6	IGWE CHINYERE	SS	RIVERS	PDP
7	INI AKPAN UDOKA	SS	A/IBOM	PDP
8	MUHAMMED S. RANO	NW	KANO	ANPP
9	AMINU S. SHAGARI	NW	SOKOTO	PDP
10	MUH'D SAM TAKOKI	NW	ZAMFARA	ANPP
11	ABDUL AZEEA A. TIJAM	NW	KATSINA	PDP
12	M. DANIEL DINO	NC	KOGI	PDP
13	BITRUCE KAZE	NC	PLATEAU	PDP
14	NNENNA I. UKEJE	SE	ABIA	PDP
15	CHUKWUEGBO OFFOR	SE	ENUGU	PDP

COMMITTEE ON COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION IN AFRICA

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	ABBAS OLOPOENIA	SW	OYO	PDP
2	AJAYI AGBOOLA	SW	ONDO	PDP
3	ADEFOLABI MOROOFDEEN	SW	LAGOS	AC
4	BASSEY EWA	SS	C/RIVER	PDP
5	MERCY ALMONA-ISEI	SS	DELTA	PDP
6	WARMAN OGORIBA	SS	BAYELSA	PDP
7	NJIDDA A. NGELLA	NE	ADAMAWA	PDP

8	AUWALU A. GWALABE	NE	BAUCHI	ANPP
9	SUMAILA A. MOHAMMED	NC	PLATEAU	ANPP
10	SAMSON POSITIVE	NC	KOGI	PDP
11	JULIET AKANO	SE	IMO	PDP
12	IBRAHIM U. BALLA	NW	KANO	ANPP
13	IBRAHIM B. CHAICHAI	NW	JIGAWA	PDP
14	SAIDU MOH'D GOBIRAWA	NW	SOKOTO	PDP
15	SANI ABDULAHI DABAI	NW	KATSINA	PDP

COMMITTEE ON CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	ADEWUSI BABATUNDE	SW	OGUN	PDP
2	JOE ANOTA	SW	ONDO	PDP
3	ISIAQ TUNDE	SW	LAGOS	AC
4	ETA ENANG	SS	A/IBOM	PDP
5	ESSIEN AYI	SS	C/RIVER	PDP
6	AUWULA A. GWALABE	NE	BAUCHI	ANPP
7	JERRY MANWE	NE	TARABA	PDP
8	TERNGU TSEGBA	NC	BENUE	PDP
9	BALA ADAMU KUTA	NC	NIGER	ANPP
10	MATTHEW OMEGARA	SE	IMO	PDP
11	EZIUCHE UBANI	SE	ABIA	PDP
12	AHMED AUDI ZAREWA	NW	KANO	ANPP
13	HALIRU GARBA G.	NW	SOKOTO	PDP
14	MUHAMMED U. JEGA	NW	KEBBI	PDP
15	NASIDI MOH'D DANLADI	NW	KATSTNA	PDP

COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	OLAKUNLE AMUNIKORO	SW	LAGOS	AC
2	GBENGALEGBELEYE	SW	ONDO	PDP
3	AKINADE A. ISIAQ	SW	OGUN	PDP
4	HENRY DICKSON	SS	BAYELSA	PDP
5	MERCY ALMONA-ISEI	SS	DELTA	PDP
6	MUSTAPHA BABASHEHU	NE	BORNO	ANPP
7	AUWALU A. GWALABE	NE	BAUICHI	ANPP
8	KOLA WOLE YUSUF	NC	KWARA	PDP
9	JAMES IDACHABA	NC	KOGI	PDP
10	NNANNA UZOR KALU	SE	ABIA	PPA
11	OBINNA CHIDOKA	SE	ANAMBRA	PDP
12	NASIRU SULE GARO	NW	KANO	PDP
13	UMAR M. BATURE	NW	SOKOTO	PDP
14	ABDUKADIRM NASIR	NW	KATSINA	PDP
15	IBRAHIM MOHAMMED	NW	JIGAWA	PDP

COMMITTEE ON DRUGS, NARCOTICS AND FINANCIAL CRIMES

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	DAVE SALAKO	SW	OGIJN	PDP
2	OLABANJI O. OLATEJU	SW	LAGOS	AC
3	YACOOB E.A. ALEBIOSU	SW	LAGOS	AC
4	BASSEY ETIM	SS	C/RIVER	PDP
5	NDUDI G. ELUMELU	SS	DELTA	PDP
6	SHETIMA SHEI-TU	NE	BORNO	ANPP

7	MUSTAPHA AHMED	NE	BAUCHI	ANPP
8	JAMES Y. AYUBA	NC	PLATEAU	PDP
9	NELSON ALAPA	NC	BENUE	ANPP
10	STANLEY OHAJUKA	SE	ABIA	PPA
11	CHRISTOPHER OMO ISU	SE	EBONYI	PDP
12	ISA MOH'D ASHIRU	NW	KADUNA	PDP
13	AMINU MUSA KOKO	NW	KEBBI	PDP
14	RABE NASIR	NW	KATSINA	PDP
15	IBRAHIM Y. KANYA	NW	JIGAWA	PDP

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	OLAKUNDE K. SALAKO	SW	OGUN	PDP
2	KAYODE IDOWU	SW	OSUN	PDP
3	BASHIRU O. BOLARINWA	SW	LAGOS	AC
4	GABRIEL E. EDI	SS	C/RIVER	PDP
5	HALIMS J. AGODA	SS	DELTA	PDP
6	KAKA ADAMS MUSTAPHA	NE	BORNO	ANPP
7	HARUNA IBRAHIM	NE	BAUCHI	ANPP
8	GBENGA MAKANJUOLA	NC	KWARA	PDP
9	JIBO MOHAMMED	NC	NIGER	PDP
10	IFEAYI UGWUANYI	SE	ENUGU	PDP
11	RALPH OKEKE	SE	ANAMBRA	PDP
12	ABUBAKAR G. SHEHU	NW	KATSINA	PDP
13	GARBA A. BAGUDO	NW	KEBBI	PDP
14	SABO MOH'D NAKUDU	NW	JIGAWA	PDP
15	IDRIS ALHAJI ISAH	NW	KANO	ANPP

COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL MATTERS

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	OLAKUNLE AMINTKORO	SW	LAGOS	AC
2	JOSEPH AJATA	SW	LAGOS	AC
3	MARTHA H. BODUNRIN	NC	PLATEAU	PDP
4	MOHAMMED ALMAKURA	NC	N/RAWA	PDP
5	JIALIMS I. AGODA	SS	DELTA	PDP
6	PAUL ADAH	SS	C/RIVER	PDP
7	SUMAJLA I. MOH'D	NE	BAUCHI	ANPP
8	MLTKTARI B. ALIYU	NE	BORNO	ANPP
9	AUSTINE NWACHUKWU	SE	IMO	PDP
10	NKIRUKA ONYEJECHA	SE	ABIA	PDP
11	MUSA SARKEN ADAR	NW	SOKOTO	PDP
12	MOHAMMED SALEH	NW	KADUNA	PDP
13	SHEHU INUWA IMAM	NW	KATSINA	PDP
14	NASIRU SULE	NW	KANO	PDP

COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

S/N	NAMES	ZONES	STATE	PARTY
1	FOLAKE O. OSHINOWO	SW	OYO	PDP
2	LEO ADEJARE	SW	OSUN	PDP
3	ABIODUN A. ADESIDA	SW	ONDO	PDP
4	PATRICK IKHARIALE	SS	EDO	PDP
5	PETER LINUS UMOH	SS	A/IBOM	PDP
6	HARUNA JBRAHLM	NE	BAUCHI	ANPP
7	MOH'D T. MONGUNO	NE	BORNO	ANPP
8	AHMED IDRIS	NC	PLATEAU	AC
9	NASIRU MOHAMMED	NC	FCT	ANPP
10	ELIZABETH OGBAGA	SE	EBONYI	PDP
11	LYNDA CHUBA IKPEAZU	SE	ANAMBRA	PDP

12	HARUNA MUSA FATAHI	NW	KANO	
13	SALISU YUSUF MAJIGIRI	NW	KATSINA	PDP
14	MOH'D SANI IBRAHIM	NW	KADUNA	ANPP

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT

S/N	NAMES	ZONE	STATE	PARTY
1	FASEYI SAMUEL DURO	SW	EKITI	PDP
2	M'SHIRU K. AKINLABI	SW	OYO	PDP
3	OLAKUNDE OLUWOLE	SW	ONDO	PDP
4	AHMED IDRIS	NC	PLATEAU	AC
5	SHUAIBU HAMISU IDRIS	NC	N/RAWA	PDP
6	HONOURABLE ASITA	SS	RIVERS	PDP
7	PATTY ETETE INEMEH	SS	A/IBOM	PDP
8	ALBERT T. TSOKWA	NE	TARABA	PDP
9	JOSHUA I. SHARA	NE	BORNO	ANPP
10	RUFUS OMEIRE	SE	IMO	PDP
11	IGWE NWAGU	SE	EBONYI	PDP
12	GARBA GULMA	NW	KEBBI	PDP
13	BASHIR ADAMU	NW	JIGAWA	PDP
14	DANLAMI HAMZA	NW	KANO	ANPP
15	GARBA MOHAMMED	NW	KANO	ANPP

COMMITTEE ON FCT

S/N	NAMES	ZONES	STATE	PARTY
1	SAMUEL DURO FASEYI	SW	EKITI	PDP
2	AKINADE A. RASAK	SW	OGUN	PDP
3	KOLAWOLE ISMAILA	SW	OSUN	PDP
4	AHMED WADADA	NC	N/RAWA	PDP
5	MUKIAR ARMED	NC	NIGER	PDP
6	BASSEY EWA	SS	C/RIVER	PDP
7	PATRICK OBAHIAGBON	SS	EDO	PDP
8	MOHAMMED S. ABDUL	NE	BAUCHI	ANPP
9	ISHIAKA MOH'D BAWA	NE	TARABA	PDP
10	ERNEST IBEJIAKO	SE	IMO	PDP
11	DARLINGTON OKEREKE	SE	EBONYI	PDP
12	ABUBAKAR G. SHEHU	NW	KATSINA	PDP
13	SANI SALE MINJIBIR	NW	KANO	ANPP
14	IBRAHIM B. CHAICHA	NW	JIGAWA	PDP
15	BELLO ABUBAKAR	NW	ZAMFARA	ANPP

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15	MUSTAPHA A. TSANYAWA	NW	KANO	ANPP

To be continued

“FCC Act ...”

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the Act to carry out its functions. So what I have done in that regard is by introducing some specific provisions that will empower them to carry out their functions. I have also suggested the setting up of some Statutory Committees such as; Enlightenment Committee because Federal Character principle is a major issue in this country. People must be educated on the efforts of the government in ensuring that there is equity, justice and fairness. And also, people need to be sensitised on the activities of the Commission, so that as they are working, hopes will be engendered, so that they will now know that government is now serious about addressing issues of discrimination, victimisation etc. We also suggested a department for research studies and analysis. I have been to some countries like America, China and they also have diversity like ours but they manage it in such a way that instead of it to become a source of problem, it has helped in solving their economy. This department is very strategic because you don't just wake up and address an issue without carrying out some research to get data.

Another department I have suggested is that of investigating and prosecuting department to ensure that all abuses are thoroughly investigated. This is because for corrections to be done, the issue needs proper and intelligent investigation. So these are some of the amendments and reinforcements that we are making to ensure that the law has biting teeth. We also believe that this law, if effectively equipped and implemented, it will turn around a lot of imbalances in our system.

These loopholes you identified in the Act may be responsible for the current lopsidedness in terms of employment, appointments and promotions which some sections of the country have continue to complain about. If your proposed amendment is effected, do you think such complaints would not arise again?

Yes, Federal Character principles abuses have been greatly responsible for today's unrestiveness, complaints and tension that we have in this country. You can see that the composition of the National Assembly as at today is a product of Federal Character. That is, finding a way to make sure that there is peace, unity, equity and justice in our system. But the few who have found their way into the position of authority tend to turn blind eye over this issue of Federal Character. A lot of public office holders see it as a way of helping their people even though at the expense of others. Now, it has dawned on us that Federal character principles must be respected. This is the only way that respect for the laws of the land can be guaranteed.

There seem to be a link between the Federal Character principles and the issue of corruption. In

your proposal, is there any recommendation that can strengthen the fight against corruption especially as regards enforcing those principles?

Let me say that the issue of fighting corruption through the Federal Character Commission is duly implied in the Law. When you look around many government parastatals, agencies and ministries, you will realise that most of the Chief Executives surround themselves with their cronies just to ensure that whatever they do, they are sure of being covered up. You see, in most cases they employ or appoint people from their area who may not be able to contribute meaningfully to the growth of the place. And so with the amendment of the law, many of these agencies, parastatals and departments will experience federal character distribution. The law will ensure that in a particular agency or department, the employments or appointments there reflect a true federal character spread. So corruption by implication will be addressed when the principles are effectively implemented.

Is there any provision that will address gender issues?

Yes, we also intend to address the issue of gender equity because when you look at international best practices gender equity is seriously respected; also in international treaties, gender equity is strongly advocated. Infact the law can only have effect when it is properly localized. So we intend to address the issue of gender equity, I don't mean equality. We are proposing 30% of women in every segment of federal position or appointment. Though, it is left for Nigerians to decide. I do know that 30% is internationally acceptable and I see no reason why Nigeria should not implement that, especially with the new zeal of women coming out to turn around the economy. You can see that a lot of them are doing very well. So it therefore means that there is no basis for discrimination.

The other issue is, we are also looking at the physically challenged people. These are created just like any one of us but for no fault of theirs they became incapacitated in various forms. In whatever form, they all have away of contributing to the society if they are properly catered for. By the time we start putting them in various positions of authorities, we will have less problems of trying to cater for them. So, it is very important to also include them as a means of addressing imbalances in our society.

“There are so many aspects of the Act that need to be amended in order to give biting teeth to the law. I still see the Federal Character Commission as a major catalyst that can turn around our economy if it is well equipped, not just in terms of funds but with adequate legal tools.”

“FCC Act needs amendment”

Honorable (Elder) Bassey Etim is a member representing Akwa Ibom state in the Federal House of Representatives. He was a Deputy Chairman, House Committee on Federal Character Commission from 2003-2005, and currently a member, Committee on Petroleum Resources, Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes, Youth and Social Development. He is pushing for the amendment Of the FCC Act and speaks on the content of the proposal in this interview with our Editor, Boniface Kassam.

May we know why you are pushing for the amendment of the Federal Character Commission Act?

I came into the House of Representatives in 2003. I have served as Deputy Chairman, House Committee on Federal Character, where a lot of oversights were carried out on so many government parastatals and agencies, including the Presidency. And we discovered that there were a lot of deficiencies in the Federal Character Commission Act. This discovery was what compelled me to seek for the amendment of the Act.

Let me also state that the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria makes provision for the establishment of the Federal Character Commission and to also ensure proper implementation of the Federal Character principles. Of course, one should be able to understand that the unity of this country bothers on the equitable distribution of both human and material infrastructures/resources. So based on that the constitution captures the essence of ensuring that the law is not only made but also enforced.

Now, let me refer you to a section of the Constitution, Section 14 (3) which says: “The composition of the government of the federation or any of its agencies and conduct of their affairs shall be carried out in such a manner as to reflect the Federal Character of Nigeria; and the need to promote national unity and also to command national loyalty thereby ensuring that there shall be no predominance of persons from a few states or few ethnic or sectional groups in that government or in any of its agencies.”

It went further to state that, “the composition of the government of a state, a local council or any of the agencies of such government or council in the conduct of the affairs of the government or council of such agencies shall be carried out in such a manner as to recognised the diversity of the people within its area of authority and to promote a sense of belonging and loyalty among all the people of the federation.”

Now, the people who are in position of government, who holds the mandate of the people, are being saddled with this great responsibility. The law is asking them to ensure that it is in those sanctities that these provisions are respected. But looking at the law that was set up in 1996 by then, military government, so many provisions contradict with the provisions of the constitution. And whenever there is a contradiction like that, the one in the constitution prevails. So based

on that, it has become necessary for the Federal Character Commission Act to be amended.

What are those specific provisions in the act that require amendment?

There are so many aspects of the Act that need to be amended in order to give biting teeth to the law. I still see the Federal Character Commission as a major catalyst that can turn around our economy if it is well equipped, not just in terms of funds but with adequate legal tools. And that is the essence of calling for an overhaul of some clauses. If you look at some sections as captured in the Principal

Act, for instance, the Constitution empowers the Commission to introduce a formula whereby Federal Character could be implemented, and at the end, it now directs the Commission to take their recommendations to the President or the then Head of State. But the Constitution is saying that such a formula ought to be approved by the National Assembly. So in such a situation, such a law which conflicts with the Constitution must be amended. And that is the step we can take to instil discipline in the Executive. We have a lot of them like that, and also when you look at the body of the Principal Act of the Federal Character Commission itself you will discover that so many provisions in the Act could not support

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Honourable Bassey Etim