
NIGERIA'S LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Nigeria's Legislative Process

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2012

Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies
Lagos

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Published 2012
Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies,
P.M.B. 12820
Lagos, Nigeria.

ISBN: 978-978-50-8

Printed by NIALS Press, Abuja

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Foreword

In most democratic societies, there are three organs of government- the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary; each having its own functions. In modern democracies, the powers of the Legislature in ensuring good governance cannot be over emphasised. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, vests the Legislature with the powers to make laws for the good governance of the Federation. At the Federal Level, the Nigerian Legislature operates a bicameral legislature with the Senate and the House of Representatives jointly referred to as the National Assembly. At the state level, it operates a unicameral legislature where each state has its own State House of Assembly.

Nigeria has witnessed its longest ever democratic rule. Since 1999 when the military government handed over power to civilians, there have been four inaugurated assemblies including the current assembly. It can be said that giving the hitches in democratic governance, the Nigerian Legislative Process is maturing; time and events bring about experiences which become vital in building the human capacity sufficient to debate on and make our laws.

This book is a collection of essays which interrogates issues relating to the legislative process in Nigeria especially since the return to democracy in 1999. The research topics are deliberately broadly framed by the editors to cover legal, political, economical and procedural ingredients in the Nigerian Legislature. Topics covered in this book include: Electoral Process, Inauguration and Tenure of Parliament, Powers and Privileges of Parliament, Oversight Functions of Parliament, Penal Jurisdiction of the National Assembly, Contempt of Legislature, Rules and Procedure of Parliament, Plenary Sessions and Business Pattern of

Parliament, Proceedings of Sub-Committees of the National Assembly, Executive Assent and Veto, Constitutionality of Legislation, Public Petitions, Expenditure and Financial Procedure of Parliament, Roles and Responsibilities of Principal Functionaries of the Legislature, and Information Delivery And Legislative Library: Matters Arising.

It is believed that the academic discussions as assembled in this book will enhance the knowledge of other academics and the public at large on issues relating to the legislative process of the Nigerian Parliament.

Professor Epiphany Azinge SAN

Director General

2012

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