

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO ALTER PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO GUARANTEE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND  
LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

*Sponsored by Senator Solomon Olamilekan*

[ ] Commencement

1           1. The constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999  
2 (herein referred to as "the Principal Act") is altered as set out hereunder.

3           2. Section 56 is amended by adding new Sub-Sections (4) and (5)  
4 to read:

5           (4) No civil or criminal proceedings may be instituted against any  
6 member of the Senate or The House of Representatives:

7           (a) in respect of words spoken before that House or a Committee  
8 thereof; or

9           (b) in respect of words written in a report to that House or to any  
10 Committee thereof or in any petition, bill, resolution, motion or question  
11 brought or introduced by him therein.

12           (5) No civil or criminal proceedings may be instituted against the  
13 President of the Senate or Speaker of the House of Representatives or any  
14 officer of the National Assembly in respect of an Act carried out in  
15 compliance with a resolution of the House or the exercise or any power  
16 conferred on or vested in him by the Standing Orders or the House or by the  
17 Constitution.

18           3. The Principal Act is further amended by adding new Sub-  
19 sections (4) and (5) in Section 98 to read:

20           (4) No civil or criminal proceedings may be instituted against any  
21 member of a State House of Assembly:

1 (a) in respect of words spoken before that House or a Committee  
2 thereof; or

3 (b) in respect of words written in a report to that House or to any  
4 Committee thereof or in any petition, bill, resolution, motion or question  
5 brought or introduced by him therein.

6 (5) No civil or criminal proceedings may be instituted against the  
7 Speaker of a State House of Assembly or any officer of such House in respect of  
8 an act carried out in compliance with a resolution of the House or the exercise  
9 of any power conferred on or vested in him by the Standing Orders of the House  
10 or by the Constitution.

Citation

11 4. This Bill may be cited as Constitution Alteration (Amendment)  
12 Bill, 2016.

#### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Bill is aimed at strengthening our Democratic Institutions (The Legislature) by guaranteeing the freedom of speech and protection of Members of Parliament over words spoken and actions taken in the normal course of Legislative business.