

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE PROCEDURE TO PETITION THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR GRIEVANCES TO ENHANCE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PEOPLE IN THEIR GOVERNMENT AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Sponsored by Hon. Nkem Uzoma-Abonta

[] Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:

1 1.-(1) A person shall have the right to present a petition to the
2 National Assembly in favor of or against policies that affect them or in
3 which they feel strongly.

Right to petition
the National
Assembly

4 (2) The National Assembly shall possess the undoubted right and
5 privilege to receive petitions and determine if the nature and matter of such
6 petitions are fit or unfit to be received and responded to.

7 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of this Bill, a petition that is
8 accompanied with:

9 (a) 10,000 signatures shall receive immediate response from the
10 National Assembly;

11 (b) 100,000 signatures shall immediately be considered for debate
12 by the National Assembly.

13 2. A petition to the National Assembly shall be in the form set out
14 in the Schedule and shall:

Form of Petition

15 (a) be handwritten, printed, or in an electronic version;

16 (b) be in English or any of the three major languages and must be
17 written in a decorous and formal language;

18 (c) be free of alterations and interlineations in its text;

19 (d) be addressed to either House of the National Assembly;

20 (e) have its subject-matter indicated on every sheet where it

1 consists of more than one sheet;

2 (f) indicate whether any efforts have been made relating to the matter

3 by a relevant government agent and whether there has been any response from

4 that agent or whether the response has been unsatisfactory;

5 (g) indicate whether the issues in respect of which the petition is made

6 are pending before any court of law or other constitutional or legal body;

7 (h) conclude with a clear, proper and respectful prayer, reciting the

8 definite object of the petitioner or petitioners in regard to the matter to which it

9 relates;

10 (i) subject to paragraph (m), contain the names, addresses, National

11 Identification Numbers, signature or a thumb impression of the petitioner or of

12 every petitioner, where there is more than one petitioner;

13 (j) contain only signatures or thumb impressions, as the case may be,

14 and addresses and National Identification Numbers written directly onto the

15 petition and not pasted thereon or otherwise transferred to it;

16 (k) not have any letters, affidavits or other documents annexed to it;

17 (l) in the case of a petition presented by a member of the legislature on

18 behalf of a petitioner, be countersigned by the legislator presenting it; and

19 (m) be signed by the petitioner, or if the petitioner is unable to sign, by

20 a witness in whose presence the petitioner shall make his or her mark on the

21 petition.

22 3.-(1) A petition to the National Assembly shall be:

23 (a) submitted to the Clerk of the relevant House by the petitioner; or

24 (b) presented by a member of the legislature on behalf of a petitioner;

25 with the consent of the Speaker or Senate President or presiding officer;

26 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of (1) (b) of this clause, a member

27 of the legislature shall not be eligible to present a petition on his own behalf.

28 (3) The Clerk of the relevant House of the National Assembly shall,

29 within seven days of the date of receipt of the petition, review the petition to

30 ascertain whether the petition meets the requirements of this Bill.

Procedure for presenting petition

1 (4) Where the Clerk of the relevant House of the National
 2 Assembly considers that a petition does not comply with clause 1, the Clerk
 3 may give such directions as are necessary to ensure that the petition is
 4 amended to comply with that clause.

5 4.-(1) The Clerk shall, if satisfied that the petition meets the
 6 requirements of this Bill, forward the petition to the Speaker or Senate
 7 President or Presiding Officer of the relevant House for scheduling on the
 8 Floor of the House.

Consideration of petition

9 (2) A petition that is scheduled for consideration under this Bill
 10 shall be considered in accordance with the Standing Orders of the relevant
 11 House of the National Assembly.

12 (3) The Clerk of the relevant House of the National Assembly shall,
 13 within ten working days of the decision of the relevant House, in writing,
 14 notify the petitioner of the decision of the House.

15 5.-(1) The Clerk of each House of National Assembly shall keep
 16 and maintain a register in which shall be recorded all petitions and
 17 supporting documents, and the decisions of the House.

Register of petitions

18 (2) The register of petitions under sub-clause (i) shall be accessible
 19 to the public during working hours.

20 6. In this Bill:

Interpretation

21 "Clerk" means the Clerk of the Senate or House of Representatives;

22 "petition" means a written prayer to the National Assembly relating to a
 23 grievance made in accordance with this Bill;

24 "petitioner" means a person who petitions the National Assembly against a
 25 grievance in accordance with the procedure set out in this Bill;

26 "Presiding Officer" means Senate President or Speaker including the
 27 Deputy Senate President and or Deputy Speaker

28 "Register" means the register established and maintained by the Clerk under
 29 clause 4;

1 7. This Bill may be cited as the Petitions to the National Assembly

2 (Procedure) Bill, 2021.

3 SCHEDULE

4 [Clause 1]

5 FORM OF PETITION

6 I/We, the undersigned,

7 (Here, identify in general terms, who the petitioner or petitioners are, for

8 example, Nigerian citizens, residents of state or local government, workers of

9 industry, association etc.)

10 DRAW the attention of the legislature to the following:

11 [Here, briefly, state the reasons underlying the request for the intervention of

12 the legislative House by outlining the grievances or problems by summarizing

13 the facts which the petitioner or petitioners wish the House to consider.]

14 THAT

15 [Here confirm if efforts have been made to have the matter addressed by any

16 relevant body or government agent, and it failed to give satisfactory response.]

17 THAT

18 [Here confirm that the issues in respect of which the petition is made are not

19 pending before any court of law, or constitutional or legal body.]

20 THEREFORE, your humble petitioner(s) pray that legislature:

21 (Here, set out the prayer by stating in summary what action the petitioners wish

22 the legislature to take or refrain from.)

23 Name of petitioner:

24 Full Address:

25 National ID (NIN) or valid means of identification

26 Signature/Thumb print

27 Or

28 In the case of more than one petitioner:

S/No	Name	Full Address	National ID (NIN) or valid means of identification	Signature/Thumb Print
1.				
2.				
3.				

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to make provision for the procedure to Petition the National Assembly for grievances to enhance the participation of the People in their Government.

