

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELECTORAL ACT 2010 (AS AMENDED) TO PROMOTE PROPORTIONATE REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN IN ELECTIVE OFFICES IN NIGERIA AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by Hon. Oluga Taiwo*

[ ] Commencement

BE IT ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows

1           1. The Electoral Act (2010)(as amended) which is in this Bill  
2 referred to as the "Principal Act" is hereby amended as follows:

The Principal Act

3           2. Section 31 of the Principal Act is hereby amended by adding to  
4 the existing Section 31 a new subsection (2A) which shall be immediately  
5 after the existing Subsection(1) and the existing subsections  
6 (2)(3)(4)(5)(6)(7)(8) shall be renumbered accordingly after the new  
7 subsection (2A) and it shall read as follows:

Amendment of Section 31 of the Principal Act

8           "31(2) A list of candidates submitted to the Commission by a  
9 political party for election into

10           (a) The Senate shall have at least one-third of candidates from one  
11 gender; and

12           (b) The House of Representatives, States Houses of Assembly and  
13 Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory shall have at least 35 percent  
14 of candidates from one gender".

15           3. Section 87 of the Principal Act is hereby amended by amending  
16 subsection 3 thereof; by deleting the existing subsection 3 and redrafting  
17 same to state that all political parties shall ensure 35% of its nominated  
18 candidates are women and it shall read as follows:

Amendment of Section 87 of the Principal Act

19           "87(3) A political party that adopts the direct primaries procedure  
20 shall ensure that all aspirants are given equal opportunity of being voted for

1 by members of the Party and in furtherance, in conducting Primaries for  
2 National Assembly Elections, the political parties shall ensure that at least one  
3 candidate from the three Senatorial District in a State shall be a woman and not  
4 less than 35 percent of candidates for the House of Representatives candidates  
5 and 35 percent of the State House of Assembly Members shall be women".

Citation

6 4. This Bill may be cited as the Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill,  
7 2020.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the Electoral Act to provide special measures/quotas for women in elective offices and to ensure that political parties nominate at least 35 percent women at their general elections.