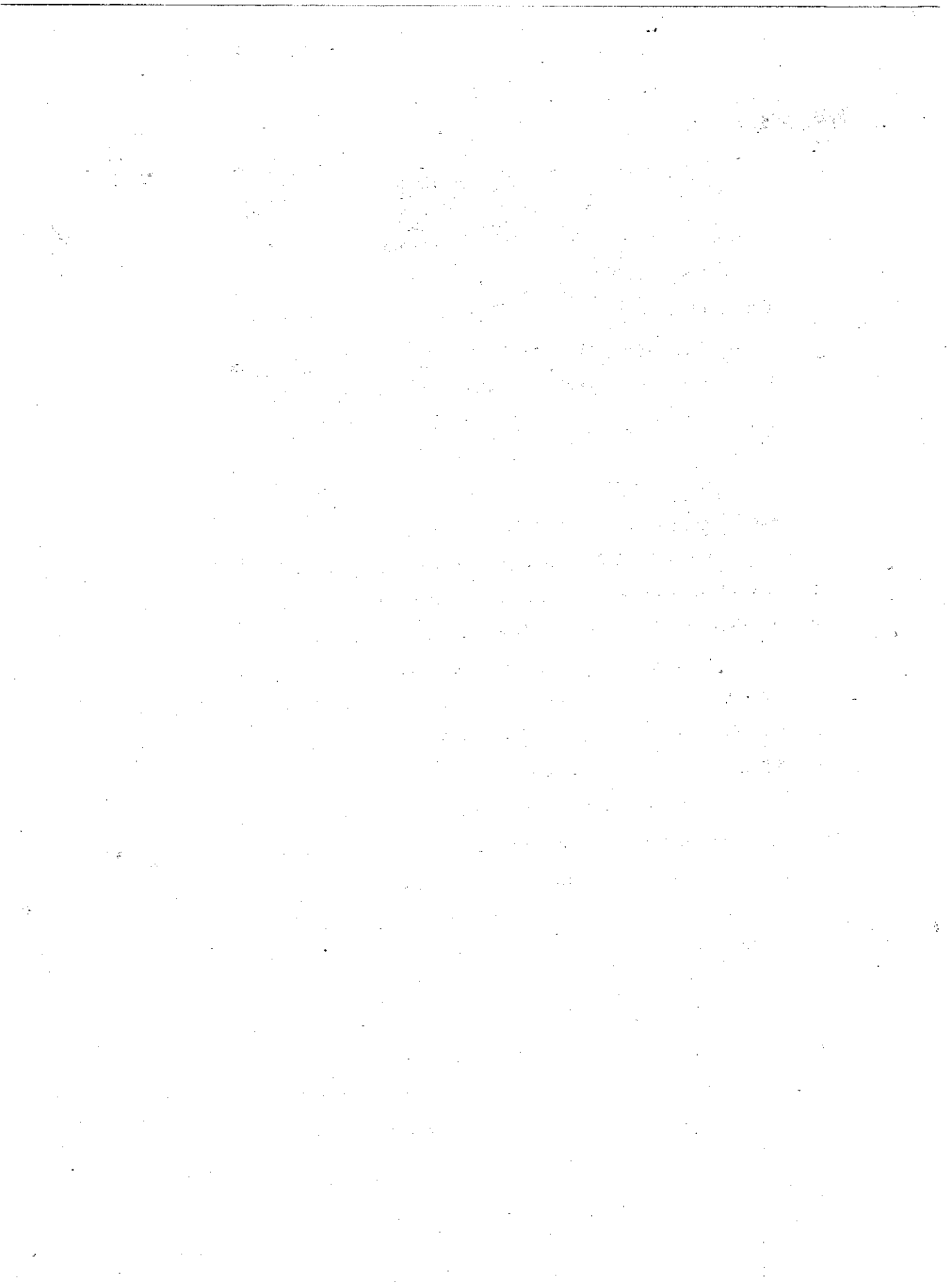


WOMEN'S REPRESENTATION IN LEGISLATIVE HOUSES BILL, 2020

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

1. Objectives of this Bill
2. Scope of the application
3. Conduct of Primaries
4. Elections of Women into the Senate, the House of Representatives and the Houses of Assembly
5. Elections of Women in Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory
6. Monitoring and Compliance
7. Power to make rules and issue guidelines
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A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PRESCRIBE SPECIAL MEASURES TO ENHANCE WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND REPRESENTATION IN THE SENATE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY AND AREA COUNCILS OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA 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 objectives of this Bill are as follows:
- 2 (a) Provide for women's representation in the legislative Houses in
- 3 Nigeria in accordance with the obligations incumbent upon Nigeria as a
- 4 State Party to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights("the
- 5 Charter");
- 6 (b) Ensure Nigeria's compliance with the provisions of Article 9 of
- 7 the Protocol to the Charter requiring State Parties to take specific positive
- 8 action to promote participative governance and the equal participation of
- 9 women in the political life of their countries through affirmative action; and
- 10 (c) Establish an appropriate legal framework, in addition to other
- 11 measures, that will ensure women's representation at all levels in the
- 12 legislative houses.
- 13 2. The provisions of this Bill shall apply to all political parties in
- 14 the presentation of Candidates for elections into:
- 15 (a) the National Assembly of the Federation, comprising the Senate
- 16 and the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- 17 (b) the Houses of Assembly; and
- 18 (c) the Legislative Houses of the Area Councils in the Federal

Objectives of the Bill

Scope of the Application

Conduct of
Primaries

1 Capital Territory, Abuja.

2 3.-(1) In the conduct of primaries for the elections referred to in
3 section 2 of this Bill, a political party, before submitting the list of its qualified
4 candidates to the Independent National Electoral Commission (in this Bill
5 referred to as "the Commission") shall ensure that all processes and procedures
6 for the conduct of primaries are carried out to ensure compliance with the
7 provisions of this Bill to achieve its objectives.

8 (2) For the purposes of this section, "primaries" shall have the
9 meaning ascribed to it under the Electoral Act.

Elections of
Women into
Senate, the House
of Representatives
and House of
Assembly

10 4.-(1) Where a general election is to be held in the country, a political
11 party, in the presentation of its list of candidates to the Commission, shall
12 ensure that in the case of:

13 (a) The Senate, at least one candidate from the three Senatorial
14 District of each State shall be a woman;

15 (b) The House of Representatives, at least 35% of the total number of
16 candidates shall be women;

17 (c) A House of Assembly, at least 35% of the total numbers of the
18 candidates are women.

19 (2) In complying with the provisions of subsection (1) of this Section,
20 the political parties shall by their constitution and rules, make provisions for
21 the nomination of women candidates among the Senatorial Districts, Federal
22 Constituencies and the State Constituencies.

Elections of
Women into
Area Councils
of the Federal
Capital Territory

23 5. Where elections are to be held into an Area Council of the Federal
24 Capital Territory, Abuja, a political party shall ensure that at least 35 per cent of
25 the total numbers of candidates for the electoral wards of the Area Council are
26 women.

Monitoring
and Compliance

27 6.-(1) In furtherance of the objectives of this Bill, political parties
28 shall comply with the principle of non-discrimination under section 42 of the
29 Constitution, to give full effect to the rights of women to participate and be
30 represented in elective offices in Nigeria.

1 (2) The political parties shall, in the implementation of the
2 provisions of this Bill, ensure strict compliance to democratic processes and
3 procedures in the Constitution and the Electoral Act.

4 (3) The Commission shall monitor and ensure compliance with the
5 provisions of this Bill.

6 (4) The Commission shall prepare and submit to the President and
7 the National Assembly, not later than one(1) year after every general
8 election, reports on the status of implementation of the provisions of this
9 Bill.

10 7. The Commission shall make rules and issue guidelines to
11 ensure the effective implementation of the provisions of this Bill and to
12 achieve its objectives.

Power to make
Rules and issue
Guidelines

13 8. In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires:

Interpretation

14 "Commission" means the Independent National Electoral Commission
15 established under the Electoral Act;

16 "Constitution" means the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as
17 amended);

18 "Electoral Act" means Electoral Act 2010(as amended) or Electoral Act for
19 the time being in force;

20 "Electoral Ward" has the meaning ascribed to it under Section 105 of the
21 Electoral Act 2010(as amended);

22 "House of Assembly" means State House of Assembly;

23 "Legislative Houses" means the Senate, House of Representatives and
24 House of Assembly;

25 "Protocol" means the protocol of the African Charter on Human and People's
26 Rights on Rights of Women in Africa.

27 9. This Bill may be cited as the Women's Representation in
28 Legislative Houses Bill, 2020.

Citation

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to prescribe Special Measures for participation and representation of women in the Senate, House of Representatives, House of Assembly, and Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja with appropriate mechanism for monitoring compliance with the provisions of this Bill.