

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA,1999 (AS AMENDED), TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR INDEPENDENT CANDIDACY IN GENERAL ELECTIONS IN NIGERIA AND FOR RELATED

Sponsored by Senator Abba Moro

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

1. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,1999 (as amended) in this Bill referred to as the Principal Act is altered as set out in this Bill.
2. Section 65 of the Principal Act is altered by deleting the word “and” at the end of paragraph (b) and inserting a paragraph (c):

(c) he stands alone as an Independent Candidate, not being a member of or and being sponsored by any political party; and by inserting a new subsection 3

(3) in line with the provisions of the Electoral Act, a Candidate standing alone as an Independent Candidate shall by himself submit to the Independent National Electoral Commission, in the prescribed forms document and information required by the Act not later than 60 days before the date appointed for general election.

Section 106 of the Principal Act is altered by deleting the word “and” in paragraph (d) and inserting a new paragraph (e)

(e) he stands alone as an independent Candidate, not being a member of and or being sponsored by a political party.

Section 131 is amended by deleting the word “and” at the end of paragraph (c) and inserting after paragraph (d) a new paragraph;

(e) he stands alone as an Independent Candidate, not being a member of or and being sponsored by a political party.

Section 132 (3)of the Principal Act is altered by inserting a new line immediately after the word nominated *or standing alone as an Independent Candidate* on the second line.

3. This Bill may be cited as the 1999 Constitution (Alteration) Bill, 2020.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to among other things,

- a. Alter the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), to make provisions for Independent Candidacy in the electoral process in Nigeria.
- b. To create a platform for credible and eligible Candidates desirous to participate in the electoral process in Nigeria to so do without the sponsorship of a political party.
- c. To make provisions that will allow anyone who is eligible to stand for election to any political office as an Independent Candidate.

Second Schedule, Part 111 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting a new section 3

(3) an Independent Candidate is a Politician who is not affiliated to any political party and stands alone to run for an elective office independently without being nominated or sponsored by a political party.