

INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE

1. Additional Seats for Women

Bill No: SB 440

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SEATS FOR WOMEN IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Sections	Provision of the Constitution	Provision of the Bill	Remarks
		ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria -	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 1 Alteration of the Constitution</p> <p>The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (in this Bill referred to as “the Principal Act”) is altered as set out in this Bill.</p>	
48	<p style="text-align: center;">Composition of the Senate</p> <p>The Senate shall consist of three Senators from each State and one from the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 2 Alteration of Section 48 Substitution of section 48</p> <p>The Principal Act is altered by substituting section 48, with new section “48” –</p> <p>“Composition of the Senate</p> <p>48 (1) The Senate shall consist of –</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(a) three Senators from each State and one from the Federal Capital Territory; and</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">(b) one additional Senator for each State and the Federal Capital Territory, who shall be a woman.</p>	

		<p>(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, nothing shall prevent a woman from contesting for any of the Senatorial seats under subsection (1) (a).</p> <p>(3) The provisions of subsection (1) (b) shall commence after the life of the current National and State Houses of Assembly and shall be reviewed sixteen years after its commencement”.</p>	
49	<p>Composition of the House of Representatives</p> <p>Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the House of Representatives shall consist of three hundred and sixty members representing constituencies of nearly equal population as far as possible, provided that no constituency shall fall within more than one State.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 3 Substitution for section 49</p> <p>Substitute for section 49 of the Principal Act, a new section “49” –</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Composition of the House of Representatives</p> <p>“49 (1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the House of Representatives shall consist of –</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) three hundred- and sixty-members representing constituencies of nearly equal population as far as possible, provided that no constituency falls within more than one State; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) two additional members for each State and the Federal Capital Territory, who shall be women.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, nothing shall prevent a woman from contesting for any of the seats in the Federal constituencies referred to under subsection (1) (a).</p> <p>(3) The provisions of subsection (1) (b) shall commence after the life of the current National and State Houses of Assembly</p>	

		and shall be reviewed sixteen years after its commencement”.	
71	<p>Senatorial districts and Federal constituencies</p> <p>Subject to the provisions of section 72 of this Constitution, the Independent National Electoral Commission shall –</p> <p>(a) divide each State of the Federation into three Senatorial districts for purposes of elections to the Senate; and</p> <p>(b) subject to the provisions of section 49 of this Constitution, divide the Federation into three hundred and sixty Federal constituencies for purposes of elections to the House of Representatives.</p>	<p>Clause 4 Alteration of section 71</p> <p>Section 71 of the Principal Act is altered by –</p> <p>(a) inserting a new subsection “(2)” –</p> <p>“(2) For the purpose of –</p> <p>(a) section 48 of this Constitution, there shall be established an additional Senatorial seat to be occupied by a woman; and</p> <p>(b) section 49 of this Constitution, the Independent National Electoral Commission shall divide each State of the Federation into two Federal Constituencies to be occupied by women.”; and</p> <p>(b) renumbering the section appropriately.</p>	
77	<p>Direct election and franchise</p> <p>(1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, every Senatorial district or Federal constituency established in accordance with the provisions of this Part of this Chapter shall return one member who shall be directly elected to the Senate or the House of Representatives in such manner as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.</p>	<p>Clause 5 Alteration of section 77</p> <p>Section 77 of the Principal Act is altered –</p> <p>(a) in subsection (1), by inserting after the word, “constituency”, in line 2, the words, “and the additional seats”; and</p> <p>(b) by inserting after the word, “Assembly”, in line 5, a new “proviso” –</p>	

		“Provided that a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of at least twenty-four and not more than forty-three members”.	
91	<p>Composition of the House of Assembly</p> <p>Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of three or four times the number of seats which that State has in the House of Representatives divided in a way to reflect, as far as possible, nearly equal population:</p> <p>Provided that a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of not less than twenty-four and not more than forty members.</p>	<p>Clause 6 Substitution for section 91</p> <p>Substitute for section 91 of the Principal Act, a new section “91” –</p> <p>“Composition of the House of Assembly</p> <p>91 (1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, a House of Assembly of a State shall consist of –</p> <p>(a) three or four times the number of seats, which that State has in the House of Representatives divided in a way to reflect, as far as possible, nearly equal population; and</p> <p>(b) one additional member from each of the three Senatorial districts in the State under section 48 (1) (a) of this Constitution, who shall be a woman.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding the provision of subsection (1) of this section, nothing shall prevent a woman from contesting for any of the seats in the Federal constituencies referred to in subsection (1) (a).</p> <p>(3) The provisions of subsection (1) (b) shall commence after the life of the current State Houses of Assembly and be reviewed sixteen years after its commencement”.</p>	
117	<p>Direct election and franchise</p> <p>(1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, every State constituency established in accordance with the</p>	<p>Clause 7 Alteration of Section 117</p>	

	provisions of this part of this Chapter shall return one member who shall be directly elected to a House of Assembly in such manner as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly. (2).....	Section 117 (1) of the Principal Act is altered by inserting after the word, “constituency”, in line 2, the words, “and the additional seats”	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 8 Citation</p> <p>The Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (sixth Alteration) Bill 2025.</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Explanatory Memorandum</p> <p>This Bill seeks to alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to provide for seat reservation for women in the National Assembly and State Houses of Assembly. It seeks to address the underrepresentation of women in the legislature by providing for women-only constituencies to be contested and filled by women as a temporary special measure. The provision will be reviewed after four general election cycle of sixteen years for the purpose of either retaining, increasing or abolishing the measure.</p>	