

JUDICIAL REFORMS

1. Expedited Conclusion of Election Petitions

Bill No: SB 508

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999, TO ENSURE EXPEDITED HEARING AND DETERMINATION OF PETITIONS CHALLENGING THE ELECTION OF ANY PERSON TO AN OFFICE CREATED UNDER THE CONSTITUTION; 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 -	
		Clause 1 Alteration of the Constitution 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.	
232	232. Original jurisdiction (1) The Supreme Court shall, to the exclusion of any other court, have original jurisdiction in any dispute between the Federation and a State or between States if and in so far as that dispute involves any question (whether of law or fact) on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends.	Clause 2 Alteration of Section 232 Section 232 is altered by inserting after subsection (1), a new subsection “(1A)” – “(1A) – (a) The Supreme court shall, to the exclusion of any other court of law in Nigeria, have original jurisdiction to hear and determine any question as to whether – (i) any person has been validly elected to the office of President or Vice President under this Constitution, or	

		<p>(ii) the term of office of the President or Vice President has ceased, or</p> <p>(iii) the office of President or Vice President has become vacant;</p> <p>(b) in the hearing and determination of any election petition under subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of this constitution, the Supreme Court shall be duly constituted if it consist of at least five justices of the supreme Court;</p> <p>(c) in every Presidential election petition, the Supreme Court shall deliver its judgement in writing within 65 days of filing of the suit.</p>	
239	<p>Original jurisdiction</p> <p>(1) Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Court of Appeal shall, to the exclusion of any other court of law in Nigeria, have original jurisdiction to hear and determine any question as to whether -</p> <p>(a) any person has been validity elected to the office of President or Vice-President under this Constitution; or</p> <p>(b) the term of office of the President or Vice-President has ceased; or</p> <p>(c) the office of President or Vice-President has become vacant.</p>	<p>Clause 3 Alteration of Section 239</p> <p>Section 239 is altered –</p> <p>A. by substituting subsection (1), with a new Subsection “(1)” –</p> <p>“(1) – Subject to the provisions of this constitution, the Court of Appeal shall, to the exclusion of any other court of law in Nigeria, have original jurisdiction to hear and determine any question as to whether –</p> <p>(a) any person has been validly elected to the office of Governor or Deputy Governor or as a member of the National Assembly under this constitution; or</p> <p>(b) the terms of office of the Governor or Deputy governor or a member of the National Assembly has ceased; or</p>	

		<p>(c) the office of Governor or Deputy Governor or member of the National Assembly has become vacant.</p> <p>B. by inserting after subsection (2), a new subsection “(2A)” –</p> <p>“(2A) – in every Governorship election petition, the Court of Appeal shall deliver its judgement in writing within 50 days of filing the suit.</p>	
285	<p>285. Time for determination of pre-election matters, establishment of Election Tribunals and time for determination of election petitions</p> <p>(1)</p> <p>(2) There shall be established in each State of the Federation an election tribunal to be known as the Governorship Election Tribunal which shall, to the exclusion of any court or tribunal, have original jurisdiction to hear and determine petitions as to whether any person has been validly elected to the office of Governor or Deputy Governor of a State.</p> <p>(3) The composition of the National and State Houses of Assembly Election Tribunal and the Governorship Election Tribunal, respectively, shall be as set out in the Sixth Schedule to this Constitution.</p> <p>(4).....</p> <p>(5).....</p> <p>(6) An election tribunal shall deliver its judgment in writing within 180 days from the date of filing of the petition;</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 4 Alteration of Section 285</p> <p>Section 285 is altered–</p> <p>(a). by deleting subsection (2);</p> <p>(b). by substituting subsection (3), with new subsection “(3)” - “(3) – The composition of the State Houses of Assembly Election Tribunal shall be as set out in the Sixth Schedule of this Constitution;</p> <p>(c). in subsection (6), by substituting after the word “within”, the number 60, with the number “80”;</p>	

	<p>(7) An appeal from a decision of an election tribunal or <i>Court of Appeal in an election matter</i> shall be heard and disposed of within 60 days from the date of the delivery of judgment of the tribunal or <i>Court of Appeal</i>;</p> <p>(8).....</p> <p>(9).....</p> <p>(10) A Court in every pre-election matter shall deliver its judgment in writing within 180 days from the date of filing of the suit.</p> <p>(11).....</p> <p>(12) An appeal from a decision of a Court in a pre-election matter shall be heard and disposed of within 60 days from the date of filing of the appeal.</p> <p>(13).....</p> <p>(14) For the purpose of this section, “pre-election matter” means any suit by –</p> <p>(a).....</p> <p>(b).....</p> <p>(c).....</p>	<p>(d). (i) in subsection 7, by deleting the words “or court of Appeal”, where ever it appears in this subsection (ii) substituting after the word “within”, 60, with the word “30”;</p> <p>(e). in subsection 10, by substituting after the word “within”, the number 180, with the number “50”;</p> <p>(f). in subsection 12, by substituting after the word “within”, the number 60, with the number “30”;</p> <p>(g). in subsection 14, by inserting after paragraph (c), a new paragraph “(cc)” –</p> <p>“(cc) – a candidate of a political party challenging the qualification of the candidate of another political party to contest the election.”</p>	
Sixth Schedule	<p style="text-align: center;">SIXTH SCHEDULE [Section 285] <i>Election Tribunals</i> <i>A-National and State Houses of Assembly Election Tribunal</i></p> <p>1. (1) A National and State Houses of Assembly Election Tribunal shall consist of a Chairman and two other members.</p> <p>(2) The Chairman shall be a Judge of a High Court and two other members shall be appointed from among Judges of a High Court, Kadis of a Sharia Court of Appeal, Judges of a Customary Court of Appeal or other members of the judiciary not below the rank of a Chief Magistrate.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 5 Alteration of Sixth Schedule</p> <p>Sixth Schedule is altered –</p> <p>(a). in paragraph (1), subsection (1), by deleting after the word A, the words “National and”, and</p> <p>(b). by deleting paragraph “(2)”</p>	

		<p>Clause 6</p> <p>Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025</p>	
		<p>Explanatory Memorandum</p> <p>This Bill seeks to alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to ensure the expedited conclusion of petitions challenging the election of any person to an office created under the Constitution; and for related matters.</p>	

2. Court of Appeal as Court of First Instance in Governorship Election Petitions

Bill No: SB 305

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999, TO MAKE THE COURT OF APPEAL THE COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE TO HEAR AND DETERMINE GOVERNORSHIP ELECTION PETITIONS; 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>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>	
Sixth Schedule	<p>SIXTH SCHEDULE [Section 285] <i>Election Tribunals</i> <i>A-National and State Houses of Assembly Election Tribunal</i></p> <p><i>B - Governorship Election Tribunal</i></p> <p>2. (1) A Governorship Election Tribunal shall consist of a Chairman and two other members.</p> <p>(2) The Chairman shall be a Judge of a High Court and two other members shall be appointed from among Judges of a High Court, Kadis of a Sharia Court of Appeal, Judges of a Customary Court of Appeal or members of the judiciary not below the rank of a Chief Magistrate.</p>	<p>Clause 2 Alteration of the Sixth Schedule (Second Alteration, 2010)</p> <p>Paragraph 2 of the Sixth Schedule is further altered by substituting subparagraphs “(2)” and “(3)”, with new subparagraphs “(2)” and “(3)” –</p> <p>“(2) – The Chairman shall be a Justice of the Court of Appeal and the four members from the Court of Appeal; and</p> <p>(3) The Chairman and other members shall be appointed by the President of the Court of Appeal.”</p>	

	(3) The Chairman and other members shall be appointed by the President of the Court of Appeal in consultation with the Chief Judge of the State, the Grand Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the State or the President of the Customary Court of Appeal of the State, as the case may be.		
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 3 Citation</p> <p>This Bill is 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 provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, to make the Court of Appeal, the Court of the first instance to hear and determine governorship election petitions.</p>	

3. Reducing the Number of Days an Election Petition Tribunal shall Deliver Judgement.

Bill No: SB 307

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999, TO REVIEW THE NUMBER OF DAYS AN ELECTION TRIBUNAL SHALL DELIVER ITS JUDGEMENT; 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>	
285	<p style="text-align: center;">PART III <i>Election Tribunals</i></p> <p>(1).....</p> <p>(2).....</p> <p>(3).....</p> <p>(4).....</p> <p>(5).....</p> <p>(6) An election tribunal shall deliver its judgment in writing within 180 days from the date of filing of the petition;</p> <p>(7) An appeal from a decision of an election tribunal or <i>Court of Appeal in an election matter</i> shall be heard and disposed of within 60 days from the date of the</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 2 Alteration of Section 285 (second Alteration, 2010)</p> <p>Section 285(6) is altered by –</p> <p>A. substituting for the figures “180”, with the figures “120”</p> <p>B. substituting subsection “(7)”, for a new Subsection “(7)” –</p> <p>“(7) – an appeal from the decision of the Court of Appeal in Governorship election petition shall be heard and disposed of</p>	

	delivery of judgment of the tribunal or <i>Court of Appeal</i> ;	by the Supreme Court within 60 days from the date of delivery of judgement of the Court of Appeal.”	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 3 Citation</p> <p>This 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 provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to Review the number days the Tribunal shall deliver its judgement.</p>	

4. Powers of the Tribunal/Court to Declare a Winner Where it Invalidates the Election

Bill No: SB 374

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999, TO REVIEW THE POWERS OF A TRIBUNAL/COURT TO DECLARE A WINNER WHERE IT INVALIDATES THE ELECTION; 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>	
285	<p>Time for determination of pre-election matters, establishment of Election Tribunals and time for determination of election petitions</p> <p>(1).....</p> <p>(2).....</p> <p>(3).....</p> <p>(4).....</p> <p>(5).....</p> <p>(6) An election tribunal shall deliver its judgment in writing within 180 days from the date of filing of the petition;</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 2 Alteration of Section 285 (Second Alteration, 2010)</p> <p>Section 285 is altered by inserting after subsection (6), a new subsection “(6A)” –</p> <p>“(6) – The Tribunal shall not declare any person winner of an election where it invalidates an election of any candidate, but order for a bye-election.”</p>	

		<p>Clause 3 Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025</p>	
		<p>Explanatory Memorandum</p> <p>This Bill seeks to alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, to review the powers of the Tribunal/Court to declare a winner where the election was invalidated by the Court/Tribunal.</p>	

5. Regulating the Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal

Bill No: SB 247

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999, TO PROVIDE FOR THE REGULATION OF THE JURISDICTION OF THE SUPREME COURT AND THE COURT OF APPEAL; 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>	
230	<p>Establishment of the Supreme Court of Nigeria</p> <p>(1) There shall be a Supreme Court of Nigeria.</p> <p>(2) The Supreme Court of Nigeria shall consist of –</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(a) the Chief Justice of Nigeria; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">(b) such number of Justices of the Supreme Court, not exceeding twenty-one, as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 2 Alteration of Section 230</p> <p>Section 230(2) is altered by substituting for a new subsection “(2)” –</p> <p>“(b) such number of Justices of the Supreme Court, not less than twenty-one but not exceeding forty, as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.”</p>	
233	<p>Appellate Jurisdiction</p> <p>(1).....</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 3 Alteration of Section 233</p>	

	<p>(2) An appeal shall lie from the decisions of the Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court as of right in the following cases –</p> <p>(a) where the ground of appeal involves questions of law alone, decisions in any civil or criminal proceedings before the Court of Appeal;</p> <p>(b) decisions in any civil or criminal proceedings on questions as to the interpretation or application of this Constitution,</p> <p>(c) decisions in any civil or criminal proceedings on questions as to whether any of the provisions of Chapter IV of this Constitution has been, is being or is likely to be, contravened in relation to any person;</p> <p>(c) decisions in any criminal proceedings in which any person has been sentenced to death by the Court of Appeal or in which the Court of Appeal has affirmed a sentence of death imposed by any other court;</p> <p>(d) decisions on any question</p> <p>(i) whether any person has been validly elected to the office of President or Vice-President under this Constitution,</p> <p>(ii) whether the term of office of President or Vice-President has ceased,</p> <p>(iii) whether the office of President or Vice-President has become vacant,</p> <p>(iv) whether any person has been validly elected to the office of Governor or Deputy Governor under this Constitution,</p> <p>(v) whether the term of office of Governor or Deputy Governor has ceased,</p>	<p>Section 233 is altered by substituting the existing subsection (2a – 2e), with new subsection “(2a – 2e)” –</p> <p>“(a) decisions in any civil or criminal proceedings on questions as to the interpretation or application of the 1999 Constitution.</p> <p>(b) decisions in any civil or criminal proceedings on questions exclusively as to whether any of the provisions of Chapter IV of this constitution has been or is likely to be contravened in relating to any person.</p> <p>(c) decisions in any criminal proceedings in which any person has been sentenced to death by the Court of Appeal or in which the Court of Appeal has affirmed a sentence of death imposed by any other court.</p> <p>(d) decisions on any question –</p> <p>(i) whether any person has been validly elected to the office of President or Vice-President under this Constitution;</p> <p>(ii) whether the term of office of the President or the Vice-President has ceased;</p> <p>(iii) whether the office of the President or the Vice-President has become vacant.”</p>	
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	(vi) whether the term of office of Governor or Deputy Governor has become vacant; and		
234	<p>Constitution</p> <p>For the purpose of exercising any jurisdiction conferred upon it by this Constitution or any law, the Supreme Court shall be duly constituted if it consists of not less than five Justices of the Supreme Court:</p> <p>Provided that where the Supreme Court is sitting to consider an appeal brought under section 233(2)(b) or (c) of this Constitution, or to exercise its original jurisdiction in accordance with section 232 of this Constitution, the Court shall be constituted by seven Justices.</p>	<p>Clause 4 Alteration of Section 234</p> <p>Section 234 is altered by substituting the section with a new section “234 (1) and (2)” –</p> <p>“234(1) Where the Supreme Court is sitting to consider an appeal or to exercise its original jurisdiction in accordance with section 232 of this Constitution, the court shall be constituted by seven justices;</p> <p>(2) an Appeal to the Supreme Court in all criminal and civil appeals brought under 233(a), (b) and (c) shall be heard and dispensed of within 180 days from the filing of the appeal.”</p>	
237	<p>B – The Court of Appeal</p> <p>237. Establishment of Court of Appeal</p> <p>(1) There shall be a Court of Appeal.</p>	<p>Clause 5 Alteration of Section 237</p> <p>Section 237(1) is altered by substituting with a new subsection “(1)” –</p> <p>“237(1) – There shall be established in each State of the Federation a division of the Court of Appeal.”</p>	
		<p>Clause 6 Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (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 review the jurisdiction of the Supreme court and the Court of Appeal to address the seeming institutional inadequacies and legal regime that is limiting the operations of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal.</p>	
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6. Timelines for Hearing and Determining Civil and Criminal Causes at Trial and Appellate Courts

Bill No: SB 194

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999, TO PROVIDE THE TIMELINES WITHIN WHICH CIVIL AND CRIMINAL CAUSES ARE HEARD AND DETERMINED AT TRIAL AND APPELLATE COURTS TO ELIMINATE UNNECESSARY DELAY IN JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION AND DELIVERY; 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>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 2 Insertion of a new Section “287A”</p> <p>Insertion of new section “287A”, after the existing section 287 –</p> <p>“287 – Timeline for Delivery of Judgement</p> <p>287A (1) In any civil or criminal cause except in election petition-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) a trial superior court of record or tribunal shall deliver its judgement in writing within two hundred and seventy days from the date of the filing of the civil criminal cause; and</p>	

		<p>(b) a trial inferior court of record or tribunal shall deliver its judgement in writing within two hundred and ten days from the date of the filing of the civil or criminal cause.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section –</p> <p>(a) A trial superior court of record or tribunal may deliver its judgement in writing within three hundred-and thirty or more-days having regard to the circumstances of the cause, in particular to the complexity of the cause, number of parties, witnesses, documents or other exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>(b) A trial court of record or tribunal may deliver its judgement in writing within two hundred and seventy or more days having regard to the circumstances of the matter and in particular, to the complexity of the matter, number of parties, witnesses, documents or other exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>(3) An Appeal arising from a civil or criminal cause except in election petition shall be heard and judgement delivered in writing by an appellate court within one hundred and eighty days from the date of filing of the appeal or such number of days not exceeding two hundred and seventy days, having regard to the circumstances of the appeal and, in particular, to the complexity of the appeal, calling of fresh evidence or other exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>(4) A judgement of a court shall not be a nullity for the reason that it was not delivered within the time prescribed by this Section of the Constitution.</p>	
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		<p>(5) Where a court delivers judgement beyond the time prescribed by this section of the Constitution relying on exceptional circumstances, the judicial or presiding officer of the court, as the case may be, shall, before the beginning of a new legal year send a report on any such cause to:</p> <p>(i) the National Judicial Council or appropriate disciplinary body, stating the exceptional circumstances; and</p> <p>(ii) the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee against the legal practitioner who in his opinion contributed to the delay in the cause.</p> <p>(6)(1) The National Judicial council or appropriate disciplinary body shall upon receipt of the report mentioned in subsection (5) of this Constitution, consider and determine whether the reasons stated therein amount to exceptional circumstances and may sanction such judicial or presiding officer where appropriate.</p> <p>(2) The Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee shall upon receipt of report in subsection (5) of this Constitution investigate the legal practitioner and may discipline the legal practitioner where appropriate.</p> <p>(7)(1) The time limits prescribed by this Section shall not affect causes pending at the time of coming into effect of the provision of this Constitution.</p> <p>(2) The time limits prescribed by this Section shall not run during the annual vacation of a court.</p> <p>(8) The head of courts shall make rules for the purpose of bringing into effect the provisions of this section and in particular as they relate to-</p>	
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		<p>(a) specifying non-contentious or less complex matters commenced by way of originating summons or motions and summary that, and limit time within which such causes may be disposed of within the time limits prescribed by this Constitution; and</p> <p>(b) exceptional circumstances that may justify time limits set by this section.</p> <p>(10) In this Section-</p> <p>“appellate court” means any court established by this Constitution, the National Assembly or House of Assembly of a State with power and authority to review decisions of any court or tribunal and includes an inferior court sitting as appellate court;</p> <p>“appropriate disciplinary body” means, the body charged with the responsibility of overseeing, supervising and disciplining of magistrates and other judicial officials not subject to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the National Judicial Council;</p> <p>“judicial officer” includes a holder of an office in a trial inferior court of record, tribunal or appellate court;</p> <p>“presiding officer” means a judicial officer that presides over appellate court;</p> <p>“trial inferior court of record” means any court other than the courts established by this Constitution as superior court of record where evidence is first received and considered and presided by a person qualified s legal practitioner and applying, wholly or substantially, the rules and principles of the Evidence Act in force;</p>	
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		<p>“trial superior court of record” –</p> <p>(a) means the courts established by this Constitution as superior courts of record where evidence is first received and considered; and</p> <p>(b) includes any appellate court established by this Constitution sitting as a court of first instance over a matter; and</p> <p>“tribunal” means any administrative or judicial tribunal established by this Constitution, the National Assembly of the House of Assembly of a State and presided by a person qualified as legal practitioner and applying wholly or substantially, the rules and principles of the Evidence Act in force, except election petition tribunal.</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 3 Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (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 the timeline within which civil and criminal causes are heard and determined at trial and appellate courts to eliminate unnecessary delay in the administration and delivery of justice.</p>	

7. Repositioning the Code of Conduct Tribunal Under the Judiciary

Bill No: SB 192

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999, TO ESTABLISH THE CODE OF CONDUCT TRIBUNAL AS PART OF THE JUDICATURE UNDER THE CONSTITUTION TO ENSURE ITS INDEPENDENCE; 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, Cap. C23 Laws of The Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (in this Bill referred to as “the Principal Act”) is altered as set out in this Bill.</p>	
6	<p style="text-align: center;">Judicial powers</p> <p>(1) The judicial powers of the Federation shall be vested in the courts to which this section relates, being courts established for the Federation. (2)..... (3)..... (4)..... (5) This section relates to -</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 2 Alteration of Section 6</p> <p>Section 6(5) is altered by inserting immediately after the existing (cc), a new paragraph “(ccc)” – “(ccc) – the Code of Conduct Tribunal”</p>	
84	<p>Remuneration, etc. of the President and certain other officers</p> <p>(1)..... (2).....</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 3 Alteration of Section 84</p>	

	<p>(3).....</p> <p>(4) The offices aforesaid are the offices of President, Vice-President, Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice of the Supreme Court, President of the Court of Appeal, Justice of the Court of Appeal, Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Judge of the Federal High Court, President of the National Industrial Court, Judge of the National Industrial Court, Chief Judge and Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Chief Judge of a State, Judge of the High Court of a State, Grand Kadi and Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, President and Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Grand Kadi and Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of a State, President and Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of a State, the Auditor-General for the Federation and the Chairmen and members of the following executive bodies, namely, the Code of Conduct Bureau, the Federal Civil Service Commission, the Independent National Electoral Commission, the National Judicial Council, the Federal Judicial Service Commission, the Judicial Service Committee of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the Federal Character Commission, the Code of Conduct Tribunal, the National Population Commission, the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission, the Nigeria Police Council and the Police Service Commission.</p>	<p>Section is altered by inserting immediately after the words “Judge of the National Industrial Court”, the words “Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal, Member of the code of Conduct Tribunal”.</p>	
240	<p>Appellate jurisdiction</p> <p>Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the Court of Appeal shall have jurisdiction, to the exclusion of any other court of law in Nigeria, to hear and determine appeals from the Federal High Court, National Industrial Court, the High Court of the</p>	<p>Clause 4 Alteration of Section 240</p> <p>Section is altered by inserting immediately after the words “National Industrial Court”, the words “Code of Conduct Tribunal”.</p>	

	Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, High Court of a State, Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Sharia Court of Appeal of a State, Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Customary Court of Appeal of a State and from decisions of a court-martial or other tribunals as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.		
243	Exercise of the right of appeal from the Federal High Court, National Industrial Court or a High Court in civil and criminal matters	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 5 Alteration of Section 243</p> <p>Section 243 is altered by –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) inserting immediately after the words “National Industrial Court” in the marginal note, the words “Code of Conduct Tribunal” and (b) inserting immediately after the existing subsection (4), new subsection “(5) – (6)” – <p>“(5) An Appeal shall lie from the decision of the code of Conduct Tribunal as of right to the Court of Appeal on questions of fundamental rights as contained in Chapter IV of this Constitution as it relates to matters upon which the Code of Conduct Tribunal has jurisdiction.</p> <p>(6) An Appeal shall only be from the decisions of the Code of Conduct Tribunal to the Court of Appeal as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly:</p> <p>Provided that where an Act or Law prescribes than an appeal shall lie from the decisions of the Code of Conduct Tribunal to the Court of Appeal, such appeal shall be with the leave of the Court of Appeal.”</p>	

		(c) Renumbering section 243, as new section “243(1)”	
Chapter VII Part I	<p>CHAPTER VII</p> <p>The Judicature</p> <p>PART I</p> <p>Federal Courts</p>	<p>Clause 6</p> <p>Alteration of Chapter VII, Part I</p> <p>Part I of Chapter VII is altered by inserting immediately after section 254F –</p> <p>(a) a new sub-heading “(ccc)” “ccc” The Code of Conduct Tribunal; and</p> <p>(b) new section “254G – 254M” –</p> <p>“254G –(1) There shall be a Code of Conduct Tribunal</p> <p>(2) The Code of Conduct Tribunal shall consist of:</p> <p>(a) the Chairman of the Tribunal who shall overall control and supervision of the administration of the Tribunal; and</p> <p>(b) such number of Members of the Code of Conduct Tribunal as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly</p> <p>254 H- (1) The appointment of a person to the office of Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal shall be made by the President on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council subject to confirmation of such appointment by the Senate;</p> <p>(2) The appointment of a person to the office of as member of the Code of Conduct Tribunal shall be made by the President on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council.</p>	

		<p>(3) A person shall not be eligible to hold office of a Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal unless the person is qualified to practice as a legal practitioner in Nigeria and has been so qualified for a period of not less than ten years and has considerable knowledge and experience in public service administration.</p> <p>(4) A person shall not be eligible to hold office as a member of the Code of Conduct Tribunal unless the person is a legal practitioner in Nigeria and has been so qualifies for a period of not less than ten years and has considerable knowledge and experience in public service administration in Nigeria.</p> <p>(5) If the office of the Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal is vacant, or if the person holding the office is for any reason unable to perform the functions of the office, then until a person has been appointed to and assumed the functions of that office or until the person holding the office has assumed those functions, the President shall appoint the most senior Member of the Tribunal having the qualification to be appointed as Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal as provided under subsection (3) of this section to perform those functions.</p> <p>(6) except on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council, and appointment pursuant to the provisions of subsection (5) of this section shall cease to have effect after the expiration of three months from the date of such appointment and the President shall not re-appoint a person whose appointment has lapsed.</p>	
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		<p>254 I- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 251, 257, 272 and anything contained in this Constitution and in addition to such other jurisdiction as may be conferred upon it by an Act of the National Assembly, the Code of Conduct Tribunal shall have and exercise jurisdiction to the exclusion of any other court in matters of code of conduct in Part I of the Fifth Schedule to the constitution as referred to it by the Code of Conduct Bureau.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Constitution, appeal shall lie from the decision of the Code of Conduct Tribunal to the Court of Appeal as of right.</p> <p>254 J- (1) For the purpose of exercising any Jurisdiction conferred upon it by this Constitution or as may be conferred by an Act of the National Assembly, the Code of Conduct Tribunal shall have all the powers of a High Court.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the National Assembly may by law, make provisions conferring upon the Code of Conduct Tribunal powers additional to those conferred by this section as may appear necessary or desirable for enabling the Tribunal to be more effective in exercising its jurisdiction.</p> <p>254K – (1) Where the Code of conduct Tribunal finds a public officer guilty of contravention of any of the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Public Officers in part I of the Fifth Schedule to this Constitution, it shall impose upon that officer any of the punishment specified under sub-section (2) of this Section and such other punishment as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.</p> <p>(2) The punishment which the Code of Conduct Tribunal may impose shall include any of the following –</p>	
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		<p>(a) vacation of office or seat in any legislative House as the case may be;</p> <p>(b) disqualification from membership of a Legislative House and from the holding of period not exceeding ten years; and</p> <p>(c) seizure and forfeiture to the State of any property acquired in the abuse or corruption</p> <p>(3) The sanctions mentioned in subsection (2) hereof shall be without prejudice to the penalties that may be imposed, be imposed by any law where the conduct is also a criminal offence.</p> <p>(4) Where the Code of Conduct Tribunal gives a decision as to whether or not a person is guilty of a contravention of any of the provisions of the Code of Conduct for Public Officers in Part I of the Fifth Schedule to this Constitution, an appeal shall lie as of right from such decision or from any punishment imposed on such person to the Court of Appeal at the instance of any party to the proceedings.</p> <p>(5) Any right of appeal to the Court of Appeal from the decisions of the Code of Conduct Tribunal conferred by subsection (4) hereof shall be exercised in accordance with the provisions of an Act of the National Assembly and rules of court for the time being in force regulating the powers, practice and procedure of the Court of Appeal.</p> <p>(6) Nothing in this Section shall prejudice the prosecution of a public officer punished under this Section or preclude such officer from being prosecuted or punished for an offence in a court of law.</p> <p>(7) The provisions of this constitution relating to prerogative of mercy shall not apply to any punishment imposed in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph.</p>	
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		<p>254L – (1) Subject to the provisions of any Act of the National Assembly, the Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal may make rules for regulating the practice and procedure of the Code of Conduct Tribunal.</p> <p>(2) For the purpose exercising its jurisdiction, the provisions of the Criminal Code, Penal Code, Administration of Criminal Justice Act, Criminal Procedure Act, Criminal Procedure Code, Evidence Act, or any relevant law shall apply.</p> <p>254M – The Chairman shall have power to-</p> <p>(1) establish zonal offices of the Tribunal in any State of the Country as exigencies may demand for effective dispensation of justice; provided that more than one office shall not be established in a State.</p> <p>(2) constitute a Panel of the Tribunal of not less than three members, one of whom shall be designated as chairman for the purposes of sitting and administration at each of the zonal office;</p> <p>(3) make rules of procedure or practice direction for the Tribunal; and</p> <p>(4) carry out any other function as may be necessary for effective administration of the Tribunal.</p>	
287	<p>Enforcement of decisions</p> <p>(1).....</p> <p>(2).....</p> <p>(3) The decisions of the Federal High Court, National Industrial Court, a High Court and of all other courts established by this Constitution shall be enforced in</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 7 Alteration of Section 287</p> <p>Section 287(3) is altered by inserting after the words “the National Industrial Court”, the words “the Code of Conduct Tribunal”</p>	

	any part of the Federation by all authorities and persons, and by other courts of law with subordinate jurisdiction to that of the Federal High Court, National Industrial Court, a High Court and those other courts, respectively.		
292	<p>Removal of judicial officers from office</p> <p>(1) A judicial officer shall not be removed from his office or appointment before his age of retirement except in the following circumstances –</p> <p>(a) in the case of –</p> <p>(i) Chief Justice of Nigeria, President of the Court of Appeal, Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, President of the National Industrial Court, Chief Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Grand Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and President, Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, by the President acting on an address supported by two-thirds majority of the Senate,</p>	<p>Clause 8 Alteration of Section 292</p> <p>Section 292(1)(a)(1) is altered in line 2, by inserting after the words “National Industrial Court”, the words, “Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal”</p>	
295	<p>Reference of questions of law</p> <p>(1) Where any question as to the interpretation or application of this Constitution arises in any proceedings in any court of law in any part of Nigeria (other than in the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the Federal High Court or the National Industrial Court or a High Court) and the court is of the opinion that the question involves a substantial question of law, the court may, and shall if any of the parties to the proceedings so requests, refer the question to the Federal High Court or the</p>	<p>Clause 9 Alteration of Section 295</p> <p>Section 295 is altered –</p> <p>(a) in subsection (1), by inserting after the words “the National Industrial Court” in line 4 and 7, the words “Code of Conduct Tribunal”;</p>	

	<p>National Industrial Court or a High Court having jurisdiction in that part of Nigeria and the Federal High Court or the National Industrial Court or the High Court shall</p> <p>(a) if it is of opinion that the question involves a substantial question of law, refer the question to the Court of Appeal; or</p> <p>(b) if it is of opinion that the question does not involve a substantial question of law, remit the question to the court that made the reference to be disposed of in accordance with such directions as the Federal High Court or the National Industrial Court or the High Court may think fit to give.</p> <p>(2) Where any question as to the interpretation or application of this Constitution arises in any proceedings in the Federal High Court or the National Industrial Court or a High Court, and the court is of opinion that the question involves a substantial question of law, the court may, and shall if any party to the proceedings so requests, refer the question to the Court of Appeal; and where any question is referred in pursuance of this subsection, the court shall give its decision upon the question and the court in which the question arose shall dispose of the case in accordance with that decision.</p>	<p>(b) in subsection (1)(b), by inserting after the words “the National Industrial Court”, in line 3, the words, “the Code of Conduct Tribunal or”; and</p> <p>(c) in subsection (2) by inserting after the words “the National Industrial Court or”, the words, “the Code of Conduct Tribunal or”</p>	
316	<p style="text-align: center;">Resignations</p> <p>(1).....</p> <p>(2).....</p> <p>(3).....</p> <p>(4).....</p> <p>(5).....</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 10 Alteration of Section 316</p> <p>Section 316 is altered by inserting after subsection (5), a new subsection “(5A)” –</p> <p>“(5A) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the Code of conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act and any office or</p>	

		authority established and charged with any function under this Act, shall be deemed to have been duly established and shall continue to be charged with such functions by virtue of this Constitution or in accordance with the provision of a law made thereunder.”	
318	<p style="text-align: center;">PART IV Interpretation, citation and commencement</p> <p>“judicial office” means the office of Chief Justice of Nigeria or a Justice of the Supreme Court, the President or Justice of the Court of Appeal, the office of the Chief Judge or a Judge of the Federal High Court, the office of the President or Judge of the National Industrial Court, the office of the Chief Judge or Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the office of the Chief Judge of a State and Judge of the High Court of a State, a Grand Kadi or Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, a President or Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, a Grand Kadi or Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of a State, or President or a Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of a State; and a reference to a “judicial officer” is a reference to the holder of any such office;</p> <p>“public service of the Federation” means the service of the Federation in any capacity in respect of the Government of the Federation, and includes service as (a) Clerk or other staff of the National Assembly or of each House of the National Assembly;</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 11 Alteration of Section 318</p> <p>Section 318, is altered-</p> <p>(a) in paragraph 23, by inserting immediately after the words “National Industrial Court”, in line 3, the words “the Office of the Chairman or Members of the Code of Conduct Tribunal”; and</p>	

	(b) member of staff of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the Federal High Court, the National Industrial Court, the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja; or other courts established for the Federation by this Constitution and by an Act of the National Assembly;	(b) in paragraph 37(b), by inserting immediately after the words “National Industrial Court”, in line 1, the words “the Code of Conduct Tribunal”	
Third Schedule	<p style="text-align: center;">THIRD SCHEDULE PART I Federal Executive Bodies (established by section 153)</p> <p>12. Federal Judicial Service Commission</p> <p>13 The Commission shall have power to (a) advise the National Judicial Council in nominating persons for appointment, as respects appointments to the office of (i) the Chief Justice of Nigeria, (ii) a Justice of the Supreme Court, (iii) the President of the Court of Appeal, (iv) a Justice of the Court of Appeal, (v) the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, (vi) a Judge of the Federal High Court, (via) the President of the National Industrial Court, (vib) a Judge of the National Industrial Court, and (vii) the Chairman and members of the Code of Conduct Tribunal;</p> <p>(b).....</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 12 Alteration of Third Schedule</p> <p>The third Schedule is altered –</p> <p>(a) in paragraph 12, by inserting after sub-paragraph (dd), a new sub-paragraph “(ddd)” – “(ddd) – the Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal”;</p> <p>(b) in paragraph 13(a), by inserting immediately after subparagraph “(vib), new Subparagraphs “(vic)” and “(vid)” – “(vic) the Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal”, and “(vid) a Member of the Code of Conduct Tribunal”; and</p>	

<p>(c) appoint, dismiss and exercise disciplinary control over the Chief Registrars and Deputy Chief Registrars of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the Federal High Court, the National Industrial Court and all other members of the staff of the judicial service of the Federation not otherwise specified in this Constitution and of the Federal Judicial Service Commission.</p> <p>20. National Judicial Council</p> <p>The National Judicial Council shall comprise the following members –</p> <p>(a) the Chief Justice of Nigeria who shall be the Chairman;</p> <p>(b) the next most senior Justice of the Supreme Court who shall be the Deputy Chairman;</p> <p>(c) the President of the Court of Appeal;</p> <p>(d) five retired Justices selected by the Chief Justice of Nigeria from the Supreme Court or Court of Appeal;</p> <p>(e) the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court;</p> <p>(ee) the President of the National Industrial Court;</p> <p>21. The National Judicial Council shall have power to –</p> <p>(a) recommend to the President from among the list of persons submitted to it by</p> <p>(i) the Federal Judicial Service Commission, persons for appointment to the offices of the Chief Justice of Nigeria, the Justices of the Supreme Court, the President and Justices of the Court of Appeal, the Chief Judge and Judges of the Federal High Court, the President and Judges of the National Industrial Court, and</p>	<p>(c) in paragraph 13(c), by inserting immediately after the word “National Industrial Court”, in line 3 the words “for Code of Conduct Tribunal”;</p> <p>(d) in paragraph 20, by inserting after sub paragraph (ee), a new subparagraph “(eee)” –</p> <p>“(eee) the Chairman of the Code of Conduct Tribunal”; and</p> <p>(e) in paragraph 21(a)(i), by inserting after the words “National Industrial Court”, the words “the Chairman and Members of the Code of conduct Tribunal,”</p>	
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<p>Fifth Schedule</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FIFTH SCHEDULE [Sections 66, 107, 172, 173, 209, 292 and 318]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PART I Code of Conduct for Public Officers</p> <p>Code of Conduct Tribunal</p> <p>15. Code of Conduct Tribunal (1) There shall be established a tribunal to be known as Code of Conduct Tribunal which shall consist of a Chairman and two other persons. (2) The Chairman shall be a person who has held or is qualified to hold office as a Judge of a superior court of record in Nigeria and shall receive such remuneration as may be prescribed by law. (3) The Chairman and members of the Code of Conduct Tribunal shall be appointed by the President in accordance with the recommendation of the National Judicial Council. (4) The National Assembly may by law confer on the Code of Conduct Tribunal such additional powers as may appear to it to be necessary to enable it more effectively to discharge the functions conferred on it in this Schedule.</p> <p>16. Staff (1) The tenure of office of the staff of the Code of Conduct Tribunal shall, subject to the provisions of this Code, be the same as that provided for in respect of officers in the civil service of the Federation. (2) The power to appoint the staff of the Code of Conduct Tribunal and to exercise disciplinary control over them shall vest in the members of the Code of</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 13 Alteration of Fifth Schedule</p> <p>Fifth Schedule, Part I is altered –</p> <p>(a) by deleting the words “Code of Conduct Tribunal” appearing immediately after paragraph 14; and</p> <p>(b) paragraphs 15, 16, 17 and 18</p>	
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	<p>Conduct Tribunal and shall be exercisable in accordance with the provisions of an Act of the National Assembly enacted in that behalf.</p> <p>17. Tenure of office of Chairman and members</p> <p>(1) Subject to the provisions of this paragraph, a person holding the office of Chairman or member of the Code of Conduct Tribunal shall vacate his office when he attains the age of seventy years.</p> <p>(2) A person who has held office as Chairman or member of the Code of Conduct Tribunal for a period of not less than ten years shall, if he retires at the age of seventy years, be entitled to pension for life at a rate equivalent to his last annual salary in addition to other retirement benefits to which he may be entitled.</p> <p>(3) A person holding the office of Chairman or member of the Code of Conduct Tribunal shall not be removed from his office or appointment by the President except upon an address supported by two-thirds majority of each House of the National Assembly praying that he be so removed for inability to discharge the functions of the office in question (whether arising from infirmity of mind or body) or for misconduct or for contravention of this Code.</p> <p>(4) A person holding the office of Chairman or member of the Code of Conduct Tribunal shall not be removed from office before retiring age save in accordance with the provisions of this Code.</p> <p>18. Powers</p> <p>(1) Where the Code of Conduct Tribunal finds a public officer guilty of contravention of any of the provisions of this Code it shall impose upon that officer any of the punishments specified under sub-paragraph (2) of this paragraph and such other</p>		
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	<p>punishment as may be prescribed by the National Assembly.</p> <p>(2) The punishment which the Code of Conduct Tribunal may impose shall include any of the following –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) vacation of office or seat in any legislative house, as the case may be; (b) disqualification from membership of a legislative house and from the holding of any public office for a period not exceeding ten years; and (c) seizure and forfeiture to the State of any property acquired in abuse or corruption of office. <p>(3) The sanctions mentioned in sub-paragraph (2) hereof shall be without prejudice to the penalties that may be imposed by any law where the conduct is also a criminal offence.</p> <p>(4) Where the Code of Conduct Tribunal gives a decision as to whether or not a person is guilty of a contravention of any of the provisions of this Code, an appeal shall lie as of right from such decision or from any punishment imposed on such person to the Court of Appeal at the instance of any party to the proceedings.</p> <p>(5) Any right of appeal to the Court of Appeal from the decisions of the Code of Conduct Tribunal conferred by sub-paragraph (4) hereof shall be exercised in accordance with the provisions of an Act of the National Assembly and rules of court for the time being in force regulating the powers, practice and procedure of the Court of Appeal.</p>		
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	<p>(6) Nothing in this paragraph shall prejudice the prosecution of a public officer punished under this paragraph or preclude such officer from being prosecuted or punished for an offence in a court of law.</p> <p>(7) The provisions of this Constitution relating to prerogative of mercy shall not apply to any punishment imposed in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph.</p>		
Seventh Schedule	<p style="text-align: center;">SEVENTH SCHEDULE [Sections 26(1)(c), 27(2)(f), 52, 94, 135, 140, 142, 149, 180, 185, 187, 194 and 290] Oaths Judicial Oath</p> <p>I, do solemnly swear/affirm that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that as Chief Justice of Nigeria/Justice of the Supreme Court/President/Justice of the Court of Appeal/Chief Judge/Judge of the Federal High Court/President/Judge of the National Industrial Court/Chief Judge/ Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja/ Chief Judge of State/Judge of the High Court of State/ Grand Kadi/Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja/ Grand Kadi/Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of State/President/Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja/President/Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of State, I will discharge my duties, and perform my functions honestly, to the best of my ability and faithfully in accordance with the</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 14 Alteration of Seventh Schedule</p> <p>The Seventh Schedule is altered by inserting immediately after the words “National Industrial Court”, the Words “Chairman/Members of the Code of Conduct Tribunal”</p>	

	Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the law; that I will abide by the Code of Conduct contained in the Fifth Schedule to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; that I will not allow my personal interest to influence my official conduct or my official decisions; that I will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.		
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 15 Citation</p> <p>This Bill is cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (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 establish the Code of Conduct Tribunal as part of the judicature to guarantee its independence under the Constitution; and for related matters.</p>	

8. Payment from the Federation Account to the Judiciary

Bill No: SB 817

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999, TO ENABLE PAYMENT FROM THE FEDERATION ACCOUNT TO BE MADE DIRECTLY TO THE HEADS OF ALL FEDERAL AND STATE COURTS THROUGH THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

SECTION	PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION	PROVISIONS OF THE BILL	REMARKS
		ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:	
		Clause 1 Alteration of the Constitution 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.	
162.	Public Revenue. Distributable Pool Account 162 (9) Any amount standing to the credit of the Judiciary in the Federation Account shall be paid directly to the National Judicial Council for disbursement to the heads of courts established for the Federation and the	Clause 2 Alteration of section 162 Section 162 of the Principal Act is altered by substituting for subsection 9, a new subsection “(9)” – “(9) Any amount standing to the credit of the Federal and States Judiciaries in the Federation Account both the capital and recurrent expenditure shall	

	States under section 6 of this Constitution.	be paid directly to the National Judicial Council for disbursement to the heads of courts established for the Federation and the States under section 6 of this Constitution.”	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 3 Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM</p> <p>This Bill seeks to amend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to enable payment from the Federation Account to be made directly to the heads of all Federal and State courts through the National Judicial Council to guarantee the financial autonomy of courts.</p>	

9. Enhancing the Supreme Court’s Jurisdiction Relating to Leave to Appeal

Bill No: SB 816

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999, TO ENHANCE THE JURISDICTION OF THE SUPREME COURT AS IT RELATES TO LEAVE TO APPEAL; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

SECTION	PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION	PROVISIONS 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>	
233	<p>Appellate jurisdiction</p> <p>(1) The Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction, to the exclusion of any other court of law in Nigeria, to hear and determine appeals from the Court of Appeal.</p> <p>(2) An appeal shall lie from the decisions of the Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court as of right in the following cases —</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) where the ground of appeal involves questions of law alone, decisions in</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 2 Substitution for section 233</p> <p>Substitute for section 233 of the Principal Act, a new section “233” –</p> <p>“233. (1) The Supreme Court shall have jurisdiction to the exclusion of any other court of law in Nigeria, to hear and determine appeals from the Court of Appeal.</p>	

	<p>any civil or criminal proceedings before the Court of Appeal ;</p> <p>(b) decisions in any civil or criminal proceedings on questions as to the interpretation or application of this Constitution ;</p> <p>(c) decisions in any civil or criminal proceedings on questions as to whether any of the provisions of Chapter IV of this Constitution has been, is being or is likely to be, contravened in relation to any person ;</p> <p>(d) decisions in any criminal proceedings in which any person has been sentenced to death by the Court of Appeal or in which the Court of Appeal has affirmed a sentence of death imposed by any other court ;</p> <p>(e) decisions on any question whether —</p> <p>(i) any person has been validly elected to the office of President or Vice President under this Constitution,</p>	<p>(2) An appeal shall lie from the decisions of the Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court as of right in the following cases –</p> <p>(a) decisions in any criminal proceedings in which any person has been sentenced to death by the Court of Appeal or in which the Court of Appeal has affirmed a sentence of death imposed by any other court;</p> <p>(b) decisions on any question whether –</p> <p>(i) any person has been validly elected to the office of President or Vice-president under this Constitution,</p> <p>(ii) the term of office of the President or Vice-president has ceased,</p> <p>(iii) the office of President or Vice-president has become vacant,</p> <p>(iv) any person has been validly elected to the office of Governor or Deputy Governor under this Constitution,</p> <p>(v) the term of office of a Governor or Deputy Governor has ceased, or</p>	
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	<p>(ii) the term of office of President or Vice-President has ceased,</p> <p>(iii) the office of President or Vice-President has become vacant,</p> <p>(iv) any person has been validly elected to the office of Governor or Deputy-Governor under this Constitution,</p> <p>(v) the term of office of Governor or Deputy-Governor has ceased,</p> <p>(vii) the office of Governor or Deputy-Governor has become vacant ; and</p> <p>(f) such other cases as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.</p>	<p>(vi) the office of Governor or Deputy Governor has become vacant.</p> <p>(3) An appeal shall lie from the decisions of the Court of Appeal to the Supreme Court with leave of the Supreme Court.</p> <p>(4) The Supreme Court may dispose of any application for leave to appeal from any decision of the Court of Appeal in respect of any civil or criminal proceedings in which leave to appeal is necessary after consideration of the record of the proceedings if the Supreme Court is of the opinion that the interests of justice do not require an oral hearing of the application.</p> <p>(5) Any right of appeal to the Supreme Court from the decisions of the Court of Appeal conferred by this section shall be exercisable in the case of civil proceedings at the instance of a party thereto, with the leave of the Supreme Court at the instance of any other person having an interest in the matter and in the case of criminal proceedings at the instance of an accused person or subject to the provisions of this constitution and any powers conferred upon the Attorney-General of the Federation or the Attorney-General of a State to take over and continue or to discontinue such</p>	
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		<p>proceedings, at the instance of such other authorities or persons as may be prescribed.</p> <p>(6) Any right of appeal to the Supreme Court from the decisions of the Court of Appeal conferred by this section shall, subject to section 236 of this Constitution, be exercised in accordance with any Act of the National Assembly and rules of Court for the time being in force regulating the powers, practice and procedure of the Supreme Court.</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 8 Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM</p> <p>This Bill seeks to amend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to enhance the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court as it relates to leave to appeal.</p>	

10. Conclusion of a Part-Heard Criminal Matter by a Judge of the Federal High Court Elevated to the Court of Appeal and Expanding the Criminal Jurisdiction of the Federal High Court
 Bill No: SB 802

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999, TO ENSURE THE JURISDICTIONS OF FEDERAL HIGH COURT, EXPAND ITS CRIMINAL JURISDICTION TO INCLUDE ELECTORAL OFFENCES AND EMPOWER JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL TO SIT AS JUDGES OF THE FEDERAL HIGH COURT TO CONCLUDE PART-HEARD CRIMINAL MATTERS PENDING BEFORE THEM PRIOR TO THEIR ELEVATION TO THE COURT OF APPEAL; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

#	PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION	PROVISIONS 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>	
251.	<p>251. Jurisdiction of the Federal High Court</p> <p>(1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Constitution and in addition to such other jurisdiction as may be conferred upon it by an Act of the National Assembly, the Federal High Court shall have and exercise jurisdiction to the exclusion of any other court in civil causes and matters -</p> <p>...</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 2 Alteration of section 251</p> <p>Section 251 of the Principal Act is altered</p> <p>(a) in subsection (1), by inserting after the word “matters” in the opening paragraph, the words “irrespective of the cause of action and the nature of the transaction” -</p> <p>(b) inserting after subsection (4), a new subsection “(5)” –</p>	

	(4) The Federal High Court shall have and exercise jurisdiction to determine any question as to whether the term of office or a seat of a member of the Senate or the House of Representatives has ceased or his seat has become vacant.	“(5) The Federal High Court, High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, and High Courts of the States shall have and exercise concurrent jurisdiction for the trial of offences arising from violation of the provisions of the Electoral Act.”	
253.	253. Constitution The Federal High Court shall be duly constituted if it consists of at least one Judge of that Court.	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 3 Alteration of section 253</p> Section 253 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting new subsections “(2)” and “(3)” - <p>“(2) A Judge of the Federal High Court who is elevated to the Court of Appeal shall continue to sit as a Federal High Court Judge only for the purpose of concluding any part-heard criminal matter pending before him at the time of his elevation and shall do so within six months, excluding vacation period, from the date of being sworn-in as a Justice of the Court of Appeal.</p> <p>(3) In this subsection, “part-heard-criminal matter” means one in which the prosecution has closed its case.”</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 4 Citation</p> This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025	

		<p style="text-align: center;">EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM</p> <p>This Bill seeks to amend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to ensure the jurisdictions of Federal High Court, expand its criminal jurisdiction to include electoral offences and empowering Justices of the Court of Appeal to sit as Judges of the Federal High Court to conclude part-heard criminal matter pending before them prior to their elevation to the Court of Appeal.</p>	
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11. Conclusion of a Part-Heard Criminal Matter by a Judge of the National Industrial Court Elevated to the Court of Appeal

Bill No: SB 798

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO ENHANCE THE JURISDICTION OF THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL COURT AND EMPOWER JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL TO SIT AS JUDGES OF THE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL COURT TO CONCLUDE PART-HEARD CRIMINAL MATTERS PENDING BEFORE THEM PRIOR TO THEIR ELEVATION TO THE COURT OF APPEAL; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

SECTION	PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION	PROVISIONS 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>	
254C.	<p>254C. Jurisdiction</p> <p>(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 251, 257, 272 and anything contained in this Constitution and in addition to such other jurisdiction as may be conferred upon it by the National Assembly, the National Industrial Court shall have and exercise jurisdiction to the exclusion of any other court in civil cases and matters –</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 2 Alteration of Section 254C</p> <p>Section 254C of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (1) –</p> <p>(a) by substituting for the opening paragraph, a new subsection “opening paragraph” -</p>	

	254C (1) (e) relating to or connected with any dispute arising from national minimum wage for the Federation or any part thereof and matters connected therewith or arising therefrom;	<p>“(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 251,257, 272, the National Industrial Court shall, so far as the subject matter relates to a matter which the National Assembly have power to make laws under this Constitution, have and exercise jurisdiction to the exclusion of any other court in civil causes and matters –”</p> <p>(b) in paragraph (e) by deleting the word “national”.</p>	
254E.	<p>254E. Constitution of the Court</p> <p>(1) For the purpose of exercising any jurisdiction conferred upon it by this Constitution or any other law, the National Industrial Court shall be duly constituted if it consists of a single Judge or not more than three Judges as the President of the National Industrial Court may direct.</p> <p>(2) For the purpose of exercising its criminal jurisdiction, the President of the Court may hear and determine or assign a single Judge of the Court to hear and determine such matter.</p> <p>(3) For the purpose of exercising any jurisdiction conferred upon it by the Constitution or any other law, the Court may, if it thinks it expedient to do so or in</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 3 Alteration of section 253</p> <p>Section 254E of the Principal Act is altered by inserting new subsections “(5)” and “(6)” -</p> <p>“(5) A Judge of the National Industrial Court who is elevated to the Court of Appeal shall continue to sit as a National Industrial Court Judge only for the purpose of concluding any part-heard criminal matter pending before him at the time of his elevation and shall do so within six months, excluding vacation period, from the date of being sworn-in as a Justice of the Court of Appeal.</p> <p>(6) In this subsection, “part-heard criminal matter” means one in which the prosecution has closed its case.”</p>	

	<p>a manner prescribed under any enactment, law or rules of court, call in the aid of one or more assessors specially qualified to try and hear the cause or matter wholly or partly with the assistance of such assessors.</p> <p>(4) For the purpose of subsection (3) of this section, an assessor shall be a person who is qualified and experienced in his field of specialisation and who has been so qualified for a period of not less than ten years.</p>		
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 4 Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM</p> <p>This Bill seeks to amend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to enhance the jurisdictions of National Industrial Court and empower Justices of the Court of Appeal to sit as Judges of the National Industrial Court to conclude part-heard criminal matters pending before them prior to their elevation to the Court of Appeal.</p>	

12. Conclusion of a Part-Heard Criminal Matter by a Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory Elevated to the Court of Appeal

Bill No: SB 795

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO EMPOWER JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL TO SIT AS JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY TO CONCLUDE PART-HEARD CRIMINAL MATTERS PENDING BEFORE THEM PRIOR TO THEIR ELEVATION TO THE COURT OF APPEAL; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

#	PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION	PROVISIONS 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>	
258.	<p>258. Constitution</p> <p>The High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja shall be duly constituted if it consists of at least one Judge of that Court.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 2 Alteration of section 258</p> <p>Section 258 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting new subsections “(2)” and “(3)” -</p> <p>“(2) A Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja who is elevated to the Court of Appeal shall continue to sit as a Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory only for the purpose of concluding any part-heard criminal matter pending before him at the time of his elevation and shall do so within six months, excluding vacation period, from the date of being sworn-in as a Justice of the Court of Appeal.</p>	

		(3) In this subsection, “part heard-criminal matter” means one in which the prosecution has closed its case.”	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 3 Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM</p> <p>This Bill seeks to amend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to empower Justices of the Court of Appeal to sit as Judges of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory to conclude part-heard criminal matters pending before them prior to their elevation to the Court of Appeal.</p>	

13. Conclusion of a Part-Heard Criminal Matter by a Judge of the High Court of a State Elevated to the Court of Appeal.

Bill No: SB 795

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999, TO EMPOWER JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL TO SIT AS JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF A STATE TO CONCLUDE PART-HEARD CRIMINAL MATTERS PENDING BEFORE THEM PRIOR TO THEIR ELEVATION TO THE COURT OF APPEAL; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

SECTION	PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION	PROVISIONS 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>	
273.	<p>273. Constitution</p> <p>For the purpose of exercising any jurisdiction conferred upon it under this Constitution or any law, a High Court of a State shall be duly constituted if it consists of at least one Judge of that Court.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 2 Alteration of section 273</p> <p>Section 273 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting new subsections “(2)” and “(3)” -</p> <p>“(2) A Judge of the High Court of a State who is elevated to the Court of Appeal shall continue to sit as a High Court Judge only for the purpose of concluding any part-heard criminal matter pending before him at the time of his</p>	

		<p>elevation and do so within six months, excluding vacation period, from the date of being sworn-in as a Justice of the Court of Appeal.</p> <p>(3) In this subsection, “part-heard-criminal matter” means one in which the prosecution has closed its case.”</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 3 Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM</p> <p>This Bill seeks to amend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to empower Justices of the Court of Appeal to sit as Judges of the High Court of a State to conclude part-heard criminal matters pending before them upon their elevation to the Court of Appeal.</p>	

14. Streamlining the Process of Succession into a Judicial Office.

Bill No: SB 796

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO STRENGTHEN THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY BY PROVIDING FOR AN EXPEDITIOUS AND SEAMLESS SUCCESSION WHERE THERE IS A VACANCY IN A JUDICIAL OFFICE AND SAFEGUARD THE EXERCISE OF THE POWERS CONFERRED ON THE PRESIDENT OR GOVERNOR TO REMOVE A JUDICIAL OFFICER FROM OFFICE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

#	PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION	PROVISIONS OF THE BILL	
		ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria -	
		<p>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>	
231.	<p>231. Appointment of Chief Justice of Nigeria and Justices of the Supreme Court</p> <p>(2) The appointment of a person to the office a Justice of the Supreme Court shall be made by the President on the advice of the National Judicial Council subject to confirmation of such appointment by the Senate.</p>	<p>Clause 2 Alteration of section 231</p> <p>Section 231 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting after subsection (2), a new subsection “(2A)” –</p> <p>“(2A) Subject to existing vacancy, the National Judicial Council shall within three months recommend a person to be appointed as a Justice of the Supreme Court to the President subject to confirmation of such appointment by the Senate.”</p>	
238.	<p>CHAPTER VII The Judicature PART I</p>	<p>Clause 3 Alteration of section 238</p>	

	<p>238. Appointment of President and Justices of the Court of Appeal</p> <p>(2) The appointment of a person to the office a Justice of the Court of Appeal shall be made by the President on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council.</p> <p>(3).....</p> <p>(4) If the office of the President of the Court of Appeal is vacant, or if the person holding the office is for any reason unable to perform the functions of the office, then until a person has been appointed to and has assumed the functions of that office, or until the person holding the office has resumed those functions, the President shall appoint the most senior Justice of the Court of Appeal to perform those functions.</p> <p>(5) Except on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council, an appointment pursuant to the provisions of subsection (4) of this section shall cease to have effect after the expiration of three months from the date of such appointment, and the President shall not re-appoint a person whose appointment has lapsed</p>	<p>Section 238 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting after subsection (2), a new subsection “(2A)” –</p> <p>“(2A) Subject to existing vacancy, the National Judicial Council shall within two months recommend a person to be appointed as a Justice of the Court of Appeal to the President.”</p>	
249.	<p>249. Composition of the Federal High Court</p> <p>(2) (b) such number of Judges of the Federal High Court as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.</p>	<p>Clause 4 Alteration of section 249</p> <p>Section 249 of the Principal Act is altered in subsection (2) by substituting for paragraph (b), a new paragraph “(b)” –</p> <p>“(b) such number of Judges of the Federal High Court, not less than One Hundred, or as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.”</p>	
250.	<p>250. Appointment of Chief Judge and Judges of the Federal High Court</p>	<p>Clause 5 Alteration of section 250</p>	

	(2) The appointment of a person to the office a Judge of the High Court shall be made by the President on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council.	Section 250 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting after subsection (2), a new subsection “(2A)” – “(2A) Subject to existing vacancy, the National Judicial Council shall within two months recommend a person to be appointed as a Judge of the Federal High Court to the President.”	
254B.	254B. Appointment of Presiding and Judges of the National Industrial Court of Nigeria. (2) The appointment of a person to the office a Judge of the National Industrial Court shall be made by the President on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council.	Clause 6 Alteration of section 254B Section 254B of the Principal Act is altered by inserting after subsection (2), a new subsection “(2A)” – “(2A) Subject to existing vacancy, the National Judicial Council shall within two months recommend a person to be appointed as a Judge of the National Industrial Court to the President.”	
256.	256. Appointment of Chief Judge and Judges of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (2) The appointment of a person to the office a Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory shall be made by the President on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council.	Clause 7 Alteration of section 256 Section 256 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting after subsection (2), a new subsection “(2A)” – “(2A) Subject to existing vacancy, the National Judicial Council shall within two months recommend a person to be appointed as a Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory to the President.”	
292.	292. Removal of judicial officers from office (1) A judicial officer shall not be removed from his office or appointment before his age of retirement except in the following circumstances –	Clause 8 Alteration of the 292 Section 292 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting after subsection (1), a new subsection “(1A)”	

	<p>(a) in the case of -</p> <p>(i) Chief Justice of Nigeria, President of the Court of Appeal, Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, Chief Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Grand Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and President, Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, by the President acting on an address supported by two-thirds majority of the Senate.</p> <p>(ii) Chief Judge of a State, Grand Kadi of a Sharia Court of Appeal or President of a Customary Court of Appeal of a State, by the Governor acting on an address supported by two-thirds majority of the House of Assembly of the State, Praying that he be so removed for his inability to discharge the functions of his office or appointment (whether arising from infirmity of mind or of body) or for misconduct or contravention of the Code of Conduct;</p> <p>(b) in any case, other than those to which paragraph (a) of this subsection applies, by the President or, as the case may be, the Governor acting on the recommendation of the National Judicial Council that the judicial officer be so removed for his inability to discharge the functions of his office or appointment (whether arising from infirmity of mind or of body) or for misconduct or contravention of the Code of Conduct.</p>	<p>“(1A) The address from the Senate or House of Assembly, as the case may be, required under subsection (1) (a) and (b) of this section shall be accompanied with a memorandum from the National Judicial Council certifying that the judicial officer was accorded the right to fair hearing with respect to the issue in question and that, in the opinion of the National Judicial Council, a <i>prima facie</i> case for removal of the judicial officer has been established against him.”</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 9 Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (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 strengthen the independence of the Judiciary in Nigeria by providing for expeditious and seamless succession where there is a vacancy in a judicial office and safeguard the exercise of the powers conferred on the President or Governor to remove a judicial officer.</p>	
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15. Composition and Powers of the NJC/Judicial Service Committee of the FCT/Composition of the State Judicial Service Commission/Qualification and Appointment of the Secretary of the National Judicial Council

Bill No: SB 800

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO STRENGTHEN THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY IN NIGERIA BY MAKING THE APPOINTMENT AND DISCIPLINARY PROCESS OF JUDICIAL OFFICERS LESS CUMBERSOME, PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT AND QUALIFICATION OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL AND ENSURING EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION OF ALL FEDERAL COURTS IN THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL COUNCIL; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

SECTION	PROVISIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION	PROVISIONS 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>	
318.	<p>318. Interpretation</p> <p>“judicial office” means the office of Chief Justice of Nigeria or a Justice of the Supreme Court, the President or Justice of the Court of Appeal, the office of the Chief Judge or a Judge of the Federal High Court, the office of the President or Judge of the</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 2 Alteration of section 318</p> <p>Section 318 of the Principal Act is altered by substituting for the interpretation of judicial office, a new interpretation of “judicial office” –</p>	

	<p>National Industrial Court, the office of the Chief Judge or Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the office of the Chief Judge of a State and Judge of the High Court of a State, a Grand Kadi or Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, a President or Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, a Grand Kadi or Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of a State, or President or a Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of a State; and a reference to a “judicial officer” is a reference to the holder of any such office;</p>	<p>“judicial office” means the office of Chief Justice of Nigeria or a Justice of the Supreme Court, the President or Justice of the Court of Appeal, the office of the Chief Judge or a Judge of the Federal High Court, the office of the President or Judge of the National Industrial Court, the office of the Chief Judge or Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the office of the Chief Judge of a State and Judge of the High Court of a State, a Grand Kadi or Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, a President or Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, a Grand Kadi or Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of a State, President or a Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of a State, a Grand Kadi or Kadi of the Sharia Court, President or a Judge of the Customary Court; and a reference to a “judicial officer” is a reference to the holder of any such office;</p>	
<p>Part I of the Third Schedule</p>	<p>Federal Judicial Service Commission</p> <p>Paragraph 13 - Part 1 of the Third Schedule of the Principal Act</p> <p>The Commission shall have power to –</p> <p>(a) advise the National Judicial Council in nominating persons for appointment, as respects appointments to the office of -</p> <p>(i) the Chief Justice of Nigeria;</p>	<p>Clause 3</p> <p>Alteration of the Part I of the Third Schedule</p> <p>Part I of the Third Schedule to the Principal Act is altered –</p> <p>(a) in paragraph 13, by –</p> <p>(i) deleting subparagraphs (a) and (b);</p> <p>(ii) inserting after the word “appoint” in subparagraph (c), the word, “promote,”;</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (ii) a Justice of the Supreme Court; (iii) the President of the Court of Appeal; (iv) a Justice of the Court of Appeal; (v) the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court; (vi) a Judge of the Federal High Court; and (iv) the Chairman and members of the Code of Conduct Tribunal. <p>(b) recommend to the National Judicial Council, the removal from office of the judicial officers specified in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph; and</p> <p>(c) appoint, dismiss and exercise disciplinary control over the Chief Registrars and Deputy Chief Registrars of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the Federal High Court and all other members of the staff of the judicial service of the Federation not otherwise specified in this Constitution and of the Federal Judicial Service Commission.</p>	<p>(iii) inserting after subparagraph (c), a new paragraph “(d)” –</p> <p>“(d)” appoint the Secretary of the Commission who shall –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) be a legal practitioner who is qualified to practice in Nigeria for a period not less than fifteen years; and (ii) have cognate experience in judicial administration.” 	
	<p>20. National Judicial Council</p> <p>The National Judicial Council shall comprise the following members —</p>	<p>(b) in paragraph 20 by –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) inserting after subparagraph (ee), new subparagraphs “(ea)”, “(eb)” and “(ec)” 	

	<p>(a) the Chief Justice of Nigeria who shall be the Chairman;</p> <p>(b) the next most senior Justice of the Supreme Court who shall be the Deputy Chairman;</p> <p>(c) the President of the Court of Appeal;</p> <p>(d) five retired Justices selected by the Chief Justice of Nigeria from the Supreme Court or Court of Appeal;</p> <p>(e) the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court;</p> <p>(ee) the President of the National Industrial Court;</p> <p>[2010 No. 3.]</p> <p>(f) five Chief Judges of States to be appointed by the Chief Justice of Nigeria from among the Chief Judges of the States and of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja in rotation to serve for two years;</p> <p>(g) one Grand Kadi to be appointed by the Chief Justice of Nigeria from among Grand Kadis of the Sharia Courts of</p>	<p>“(ea) the Chief Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory,</p> <p>“(eb) the President of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, and</p> <p>“(ec) the Grand Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory</p> <p>(ii) substituting for the word “one” in subparagraph (g), the word “three”; and</p> <p>(iii) substituting for the word “one” in subparagraph (h), the word “three”.</p>	
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	<p>Appeal to serve in rotation for two years;</p> <p>(h) one President of the Customary Court of Appeal to be appointed by the Chief Justice of Nigeria from among the Presidents of the Customary Courts of Appeal to serve in rotation for two years;</p>		
	<p>Power of the National Judicial Council</p> <p>Paragraph 21 of Part I of the Third Schedule</p> <p>1. The National Judicial Council shall have power to -</p> <p>(a) recommend to the President from among the list of persons submitted to it by -</p> <p>(i) the Federal Judicial Service Commission, persons for appointment to the offices of the Chief Justice of Nigeria, the Justices of the Supreme Court, the President and Justices of the Court of Appeal, the Chief Judge and Judges of the Federal High Court, and</p> <p>(ii) the Judicial Service Committee of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, persons for appointment to the offices of the Chief</p>	<p>(c) in paragraph 21 –</p> <p>(i) by substituting for subparagraph (a) (i), a new subparagraph “(a) (i)” –</p> <p>“(a) recommend to the President persons for appointment to the offices of –</p> <p>(i) the Chief Justice of Nigeria, the Justices of the Supreme Court, the President and Justices of the Court of Appeal, the Chief judge and Judges of the Federal High Court, the President and Judges of the National Industrial Court, the Chief judge and Judges of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the Grand Kadi and Kadis of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and the President and Judges of the</p>	<p>1.</p>

	<p>Judge and Judges of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the Grand Kadi and Kadis of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and the President and Judges of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;</p> <p>(b) recommend to the President the removal from office of the judicial officers specified in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph and to exercise disciplinary control over such officers;</p> <p>(c) recommend to the Governors from among the list of persons submitted to it by the State Judicial Service Commissions persons for appointments to the offices of the Chief Judges of the States and Judges of the High Courts of the States, the Grand Kadis and Kadis of the Sharia Courts of Appeal of the States and the Presidents and Judges of the Customary Courts of Appeal of the States;</p> <p>(d) recommend to the Governors the removal from the office of the judicial officers in sub-paragraph (c) of this paragraph, and to exercise disciplinary control over such officers.</p> <p>(e) collect, control and disburse all moneys, capital and recurrent, for the judiciary;</p>	<p>Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja”;</p> <p>(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (g), a new subparagraph “(ga)” –</p> <p>“(ga) fix and review, in conjunction with the Salaries, Incomes and Wages Commission, salaries and other emoluments of judicial officers and judiciary staff”; and</p> <p>(iii) in subparagraph (i), by inserting after the word, “administration”, the words, “of the judiciary.”</p>	
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	<p>(f) advise the President and Governors or any matter pertaining to the judiciary as may be referred to the Council by the President or the Governors;</p> <p>(g) appoint, dismiss and exercise disciplinary control over members and staff of the Council;</p> <p>(h) control and disburse all monies, capital and recurrent; for the services of the Council; and</p> <p>(i) deal with all other matters relating to broad issues of policy and administration</p>		
	<p>22. The Secretary of the Council shall be appointed by the National Judicial Council on the recommendation of the Federal Judicial Service Commission and shall be a legal practitioner and shall be a legal practitioner of at least 15 years post call experience.</p>	<p>(d) by substituting for paragraph 22, a new paragraph “22” –</p> <p>“22 There shall be appointed the Secretary of the National Judicial Council who shall –</p> <p>(a) be appointed by the Federal Judicial Service Commission;</p> <p>(b) be a legal practitioner qualified to practise in Nigeria and has been so qualified for a period not less than fifteen years; and</p>	

		(c) possess cognate experience in judicial administration.”	
Part II of the Third Schedule	<p>5. Part II of the Third Schedule A State Judicial Service Commission shall comprise the following members —</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Chief Judge of the State, who shall be the Chairman; (b) the Attorney General of the State; (c) the Grand Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the State, if any; (d) the President of the Customary Court of Appeal of the State, if any; (e) two members, who are legal practitioners, and who have been qualified to practice as legal practitioners in Nigeria for not less than ten years; and (f) two other persons, not being legal practitioners, who in the opinion of the Governor are of unquestionable integrity. <p>6. The Commission shall have power to —</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alteration of Part II of the Third Schedule</p> <p>Part II of the Third Schedule to the Principal Act is altered –</p> <p>(a) by substituting for paragraph 5, a new paragraph “5” –</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“5. A State Judicial Service Commission shall comprise of the following members -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the Chief Judge of the State, who shall be the Chairman; (b) the Grand Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the State, if any; (c) the President of the Customary Court of Appeal of the State, if any; (d) the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice of the State; (e) two members, who are legal practitioners, and who have been qualified to practice as legal practitioners in Nigeria for not less than ten years; and 	

	<p>(a) advise the National Judicial Council on suitable persons for nomination to the office of —</p> <p>(i) the Chief Judge of the State,</p> <p>(ii) the Grand Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the State, if any,</p> <p>(iii) the President of the Customary Court of Appeal of the State, if any,</p> <p>(iv) Judges of the High Court of the State,</p> <p>(v) Kadis of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the State, if any, and</p> <p>(vi) Judges of the Customary Court of Appeal of the State, if any;</p> <p>(b) subject to the provisions of this Constitution, to recommend to the National Judicial Council the removal from office of the judicial officers specified in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph; and</p>	<p>(f) one other person, not being a legal practitioner, who in the opinion of the Governor are of unquestionable integrity”; and</p> <p>(b) in paragraph (6)(b) by inserting after the word, “paragraph”, the words, “provided that the judicial officer has been afforded the opportunity of being heard and <i>prima facie</i> has been established against him”</p>	
Part III of the Third Schedule	<p>PART III</p> <p>1. Judicial Service Committee of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja</p> <p>The Judicial Service Committee of the Federal Capital Territory,</p>	<p>Clause 5</p> <p>Alteration of the Part III of the Third Schedule</p> <p>Part III of the Third Schedule to the Principal Act is altered —</p>	

	<p>Abuja shall comprise the following members -</p> <p>(a) the Chief Judge of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja who shall be the Chairman;</p> <p>(b) the Attorney-General of the Federation;</p> <p>(c) the Grand Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;</p> <p>(d) the President of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;</p> <p>(e) one person who is a legal practitioner and who has been qualified to practise as a legal practitioner in Nigeria for a period of not less than twelve years; and</p> <p>(f) one other person, not being a legal practitioner, who in the opinion of the President is of unquestionable integrity.</p> <p>2. The Committee shall have power -</p> <p>(a) to recommend to the National Judicial Council suitable persons for nomination for appointment to the office of –</p> <p>(i) the Chief Judge of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja,</p>	<p>(a) in paragraph 1 by substituting for subparagraphs (e) and (f), new subparagraphs “(e)” and “(f)” –</p> <p>“(e) two members who are legal practitioners and who has been qualified to practice as a legal practitioner in Nigeria for a period of not less than twelve years; and</p> <p>(f) one other person, not being a legal practitioner, who in the opinion of the President is of unquestionable integrity”; and</p> <p>(b) by substituting for paragraph 2, a new paragraph “2” –</p> <p>“2. The Committee shall have power to appoint, promote and exercise disciplinary control over the Chief Registrar and Deputy Registrars of the High Court, the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, if any, Magistrates, Area Court Judges, Customary Court Judges and all other members of staff of the Judicial Service of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja not otherwise specified under this Constitution and of the Judicial Service Committee of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.”</p>	
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	<p>(ii) a Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja,</p> <p>(iii) the Grand Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja,</p> <p>(iv) the President of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja,</p> <p>(v) a Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja,</p> <p>(vi) a Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja;</p> <p>(b) subject to the provisions of this Constitution, to recommend to the National Judicial Council the removal from office of the judicial officers specified in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph;</p> <p>(c) to appoint, promote and exercise disciplinary control over the Chief Registrar and Deputy Chief Registrars of the High Court, the Sharia Court of Appeal and the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, magistrates, the judges and members of the District and Area Courts of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, if any, and all other members of the staff of the judicial service of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja not otherwise specified in this Constitution and of the Judicial Service Committee of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.</p>		
		<p>Clause 6 Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (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 strengthen the independence of the Judiciary in Nigeria by making the appointment and disciplinary process of judicial officers less cumbersome, providing for the appointment and qualification of the Secretary of the National Judicial Council and ensuring equitable representation of all Federal courts in the National Judicial Council.</p>	
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16. Expanding the Definition of “Judicial Office”

Bill No: SB 670

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999, TO EXPAND THE MEANING OF JUDICIAL OFFICE TO INCLUDE THE OFFICE OF A MAGISTRATE, CHAIRMAN OR PRESIDENT OF CUSTOMARY COURT; KADI OF UPPER AREA COURTS, AREA COURTS, SHARIA COURTS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Section	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>	
318	<p style="text-align: center;">PART IV</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Interpretation, citation and commencement</p> <p>“judicial office” means the office of Chief Justice of Nigeria or a Justice of the Supreme Court, the President or Justice of the Court of Appeal, the office of the Chief Judge or a Judge of the Federal High Court, the office of the President or Judge of the National Industrial Court, the office of the Chief Judge or Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the office of the Chief Judge of a State and Judge of the High Court of a State, a Grand Kadi or Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, a President or Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 2</p> <p>Section 318 (1) is altered by substituting for Paragraph “22” a new Paragraph “(22)”-</p> <p>“Judicial office” means the office of Chief Justice of Nigeria or a Justice of the Supreme Court, the President or Justice of the Court of Appeal, the office of the Chief Judge or a Judge of the Federal High Court, the office of the Chief Judge of Judge of the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, the office of the Chief Judge of a State and Judge of the High Court of a State, a Grand Kadi of Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, a President or Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of a State, office of a Magistrate; office of a Chairman or President of the</p>	

	Capital Territory, Abuja, a Grand Kadi or Kadi of the Sharia Court of Appeal of a State, or President or a Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of a State; and a reference to a “judicial officer” is a reference to the holder of any such office;	Customary Court, office of Kadi of the Upper Area Court or Sharia Court and a reference to a “judicial officer” is a reference of the holder of any such office. Provided that the holder of the office of a Magistrate; office of a Chairman or President of the Customary Court; office of the Kadi of the Upper Area Court, Area Court or Sharia Court has been a legal Practitioner within the meaning of the Legal Practitioner Act CAP L11 LFN 2004 for at least 3 years preceding appointment into such office.	
		Citation This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2025	
		Explanatory Memoranda The Bill seeks to alter the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to include the office of a magistrate, office of a Chairman or President of the Customary Court; office of Kadi of the Upper Area Court, Area Court or Sharia Court.	

17. Increase in the Number of Justices of the Court of Appeal.

Bill No: SB 793

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEAL, ENHANCE QUICK DISPENSATION OF JUSTICE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Section	Provision of the Constitution	Proposed Alterations to the Constitution	Remarks
		ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria -	
		<p>Clause 1</p> <p>Alteration of the Constitution</p> <p>The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, Cap. C23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is altered as set out in this Bill.</p>	
237	<p>B - The Court of Appeal 237.</p> <p>Establishment of Court of Appeal</p> <p>(1).....</p> <p>(b) such number of Justices of the Court of Appeal, not less than forty-nine of which not less than three shall be learned in Islamic personal law, and not less than three shall be learned in Customary law, as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.</p>	<p>Clause 2</p> <p>Alteration of Section 237</p> <p>Section 237 of the Principal Act is altered by substituting for subsection (2)(b), a new subsection “(2)(b)”:</p> <p>“(b) such number of Justices of the Court of Appeal, not less than one hundred and fifty Justices, of which not less than six shall be learned in Islamic law, and not less than six shall be learned in Customary law, as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly.”</p>	

		<p>Clause 3 Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025.</p>	
		<p>Explanatory Memorandum</p> <p>This Bill seeks to alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to increase the number of Justices of the Court of Appeal and enhance quick dispensation of justice.</p>	

18.Safeguarding the Office of the Governor from the Deputy Governor’s Office Concerning Qualification/Disqualification.

Bill No: SB 804

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO SEPARATE THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR FROM THAT OF THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR ON ISSUES OF QUALIFICATION OR DISQUALIFICATION; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Section	Provision of the Constitution	Proposed alterations of the Constitution	Remarks
		<p>Clause 1 Alteration of the Constitution</p> <p>The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, Cap. C23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is altered as set out in this Bill.</p>	
187	<p>Nomination and election of the Deputy Governor</p> <p>(1) In any election to which the foregoing provisions of this Part of this Chapter relate, a candidate for the office of Governor of a State shall not be deemed to have been validly nominated for such office unless he nominates another candidate as his associate for his running for the office of Governor, who is to occupy the office of Deputy Governor; and that candidate shall be deemed to have been duly elected to the office of Deputy Governor if the candidate who nominated him is duly elected as Governor in accordance with the said provisions.</p> <p>(2).....</p>	<p>Clause 2 Alteration of section 187</p> <p>Section 187 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting after subsection (1), new subsections “(1A)” and “(1B)”:</p> <p>“(1A) The removal of a deputy-governor or deputy-governorship candidate on account of qualification or disqualification by a Court or Tribunal, shall not affect the election of a governorship candidate or governor-elect.</p> <p>(1B) If a deputy governor or deputy-governorship candidate is removed by a Court or Tribunal, the governor or governorship candidate shall have the</p>	

		right to nominate another person as deputy-governor or deputy-governorship candidate.”	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 3</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Explanatory Memoranda</p> <p>This Bill seeks to alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to separate the office of the Governor from that of the Deputy Governor on issues of qualification or disqualification.</p>	

19. Finality of Court of Appeal’s Decisions in all Election Petition Appeals.

Bill No: SB 807

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO REFLECT THE FINALITY OF DECISIONS OF THE COURT OF APPEAL IN ALL ELECTION APPEALS INCLUDING PRE-ELECTION MATTERS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Section	Provision of the Constitution	Proposed Alterations of the Constitution	Remarks
		<p>Clause 1 Alteration of the Constitution</p> <p>The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, Cap. C23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is altered as set out in this Bill</p>	
246	<p>Appeals from Code of Conduct Tribunal and other courts and tribunals</p> <p>(1).....</p> <p>(2).....</p> <p>(3) The decisions of the Court of Appeal in respect of appeals arising from the National and State Houses of Assembly election petitions shall be final.</p>	<p>Clause 2 Alteration of Section 246</p> <p>Section 246 of the Principal Act is altered by substituting for subsection (3), a new subsection “(3)” —</p> <p>“(3) The decisions of the Court of Appeal in respect of appeals arising from the Governorship, National and State Houses of Assembly election petitions and all pre-election matters shall be final.”</p>	
		<p>Clause 3 Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025.</p>	

		<p style="text-align: center;">Explanatory Memorandum</p> <p>This Bill alters the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to reflect the finality of decisions of the Court of Appeal in all electoral appeals including pre-election matters.</p>	
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20. Timelines for Hearing and Determining Pre-election and Election Matters.

Bill No: SB 794

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ALTER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO SET TIMELINES FOR THE HEARING AND DETERMINATION OF ELECTION AND PRE-ELECTION MATTERS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Section	Provision of the Constitution	Proposed Alterations of the Constitution	Remarks
		<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 1 Alteration of the Constitution</p> <p>The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, Cap. C23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (in this Bill referred to as “the Principal Act”) is altered as set out in this Bill</p>	
285	<p style="text-align: center;">PART III Election Tribunal</p> <p>Time for determination of pre-election matters, establishment of Election Tribunals and time for determination of election petitions</p> <p>(7) An appeal from a decision of an election tribunal or Court of Appeal in an election matter shall be heard and disposed of within 60 days from the date of the delivery of judgment of the tribunal or Court of Appeal;</p> <p>(12) An appeal from a decision of a Court in a pre-election matter shall be heard and disposed of within 60 days from the date of filing of the appeal.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Clause 2 Alteration of Section 285</p> <p>Section 285 of the Principal Act is altered —</p> <p>(a) by substituting for subsections (7) and (12) of the Principal Act, new subsections “(7)” and “(12)” —</p> <p>“(7) An appeal from a decision of an election tribunal or Court of Appeal in all election matters shall be heard and disposed of within 60 days from the date an appeal is entered in the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court;</p> <p>(12) An appeal from a decision of a Court in a pre-election matter shall be heard and disposed of within 60 days from the date an appeal is entered in the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court”;</p>	

	<p>(14) For the purpose of this section, “pre-election matter” means any suit by</p> <p>(c) an aspirant who complains that any of the provisions of the Electoral Act or any Act of the National Assembly regulating the conduct of primaries of political parties and the provisions of the guidelines of a political party for conduct of party primaries has not been complied with by a political party in respect of the selection or nomination of candidates for an election;</p> <p>(d) an aspirant challenging the actions, decisions or activities of the Independent National Electoral Commission in respect of his participation in an election or who complains that the provisions of the Electoral Act or any Act of the National Assembly regulating elections in Nigeria has not been complied with by the Independent National Electoral Commission in respect of the selection or nomination of candidates and participation in an election; and</p> <p>(14).....</p>	<p>(b) in subsection (14), by deleting paragraphs (a) and (b); and</p> <p>(c) inserting after subsection (14) a new subsection “(15)” —</p> <p>“(15) All pre-election and post-election matters shall be heard and determined before the winners of the election take the oath of office.”</p>	
		Clause 3	

		<p style="text-align: center;">Citation</p> <p>This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025.</p>	
		<p style="text-align: center;">Explanatory Memorandum</p> <p>This Bill alters the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to reflect the finality of decisions of the Court of Appeal in all electoral appeals including pre-election matters.</p>	