



The **Report** Card

1st Year of the 9th National Assembly
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BEYOND QUANTITY: Bills productivity index for senators

A distillation of the data on bills shows five senators who have shown commitment in advancing their drafts up to second reading stages and beyond. Topping this productivity index list is the Deputy President of the Senate, Ovie Omo-Agege (APC, Delta Central) with 12 bills that have moved to second reading and beyond. He is closely followed by Senator Abdullahi Adamu (APC, Nasarawa West) with five bills.

Senators Uba Sani (APC, Kaduna Central), Musa Sani (APC, Niger East), Bamidele Opeyemi (APC, Ekiti Central) have four bills each that have either been read for the second or third time.

The illustration to the right tells the TOP 3 Senators story succinctly while a full picture of all senators with bills is presented at the back page.

How bills progress in parliament...

A bill is read for the first time when its short title is listed on the order paper and mentioned at the day's plenary by the Clerk. The bill then progresses when it is listed for second reading for its general principles to be debated robustly by members and accepted as proposed legislation of the entire parliament. Some bills fail to make it past this stage but when they do, they are referred to appropriate committees for further legislative work, including conduct of public hearing.

The report of the committees are presented to plenary which may accept or amend or even reject the recommendations made by the committee. A bill further progresses when the committee's reports are accepted and the bill is read for the third time and passed by parliament.

In the case of a bi-camera legislature like Nigeria's a bill passed by one house is transmitted to the other house which must concur with the bill before it is sent to the President for assent to become law.



BEYOND QUANTITY: Bills productivity index for House of Representatives members

Even though the House of Representatives from June 2019 to June 2020 sponsored a total of 853 bills, only 200 of these have progressed beyond the stage of introduction at plenary.

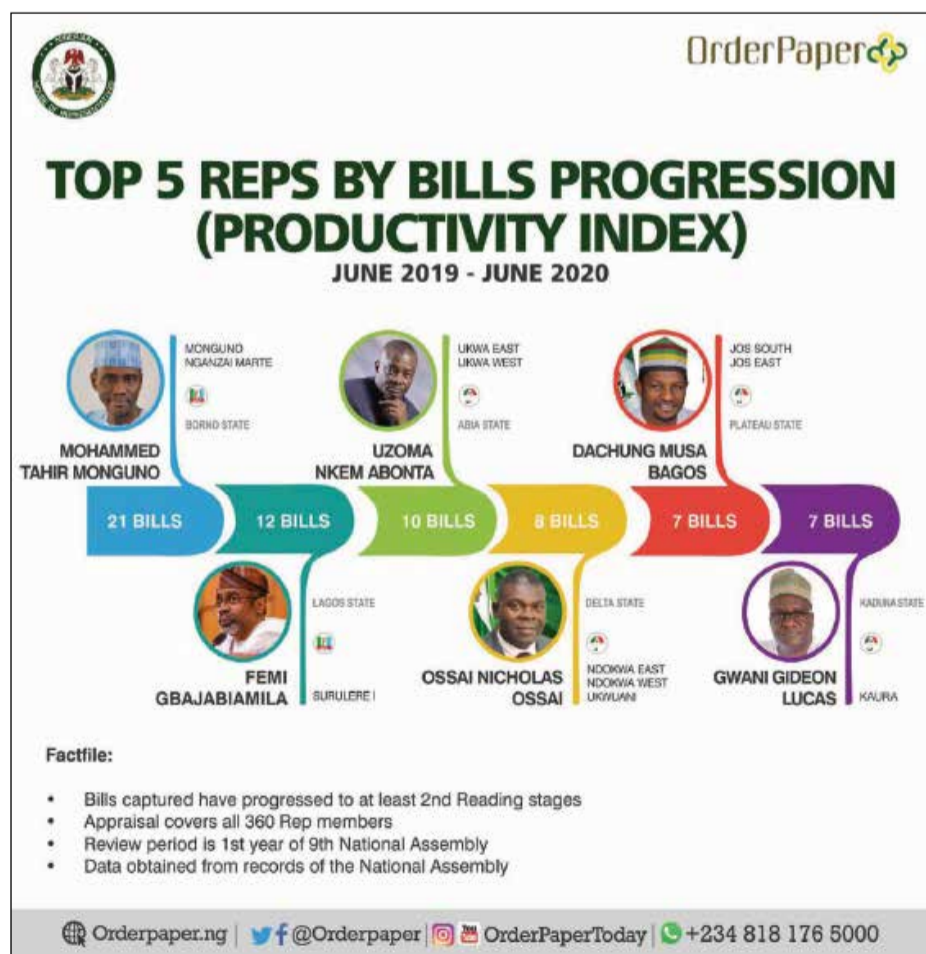
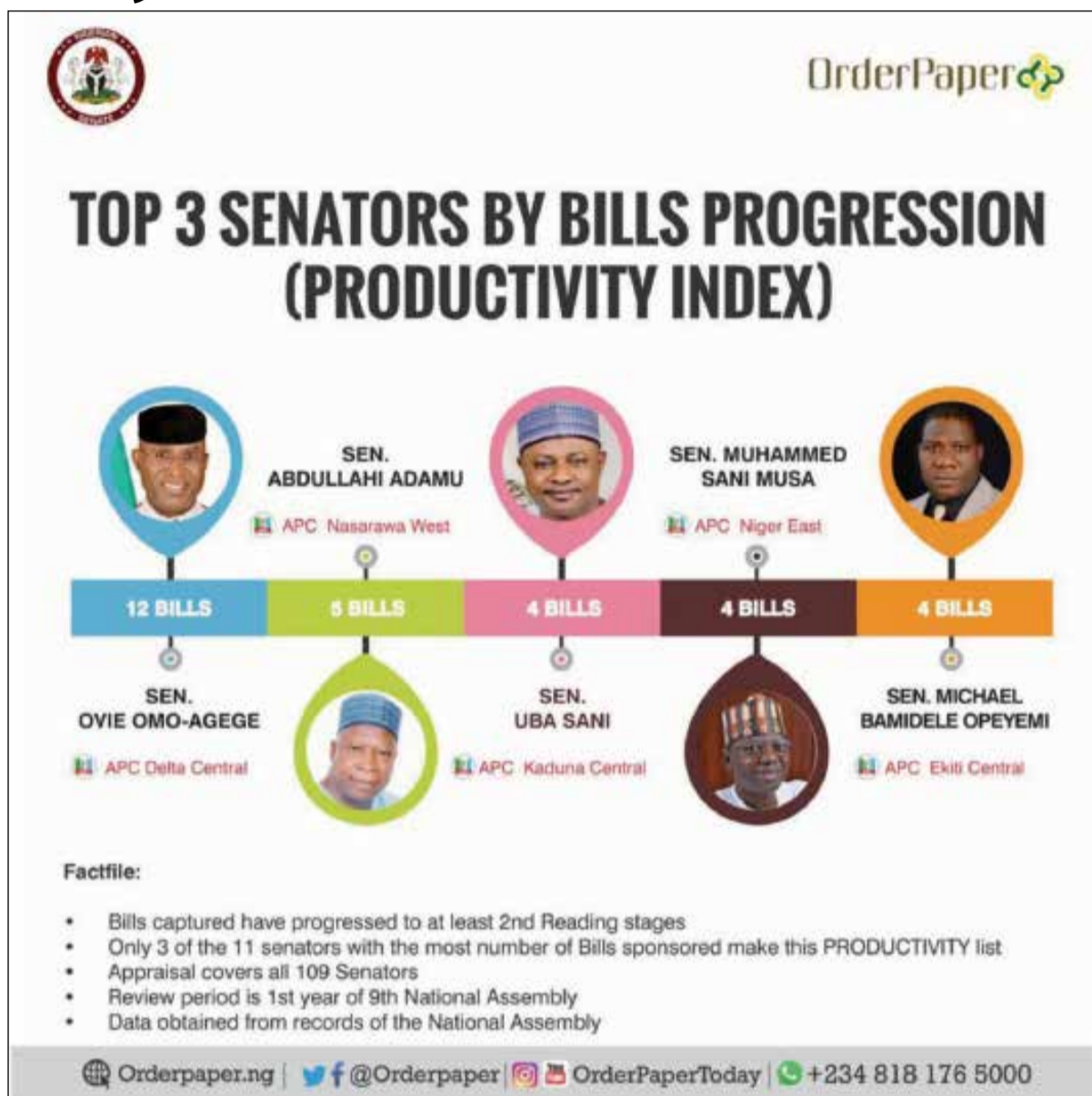
This productivity index looks at progression of bills that have scaled the second reading stage and

beyond. This article ranks members of the House according to the number of bills that meet this threshold. This bills productivity index is imperative due to the fact that some members have

sponsored several bills which have not gone beyond the first reading. For instance, while Mr. Tajudeen Abbas (APC, Kaduna) tops the chart of top sponsors with 59 bills sponsored, it is interesting to note that only 4 of these have gone through 2nd reading in the House. So, performance is not all about the number of bills sponsored but how far have the drafts progressed in parliament.

And interestingly, only 76 members out of the total 360 members of the House are captured in this productivity index which translates to 21.1%. A further

breakdown shows that 37 members have only one bill each while 16 members have 2 bills each captured and 8 members have 3 bills each. The top 5 members on this productivity index are seen below:



See back page for list of all members of the House who have had their bills progressed beyond mere mention.

How female Senators stand in 1st year bills chart of the 9th Senate

Female Senators in the 9th Senate have identified themselves to be trail blazers strategically positioning themselves ahead of their peers.

Following the one year anniversary marked by the 9th federal chambers, this article spotlights female Senators and how they stood in the bill chart within a year in office through a bill record exclusively gotten by OrderPaperNG.

Stella Oduah, a two time Senator and former Minister of Aviation, sponsored 26 bills in the first year of the senate.

Her bills include: "Protection of Personal Information Bill 2019, National Religious Equity Commission (Est,etc) bill, Private Hospital Regulation Bill 2019, Fiscal Responsibility Act 2010 (Amendment) Bill 2019, Exemptions Bill 2019, Renewable Energy Bill 2019, Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Bill 2019, Carbon Tax Bill 2019, NYSC Act (Amendment) Bill 2019, Marriage Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2019,

"Nigerian Latin Village Ibadan(Est,Etc) Bill 2019, Marital Right of Spouses Bill 2019, Investment Assurances Bill 2019, Government Performance and Accountability Office Bill 2019, South East Development Commission (Est, etc) Bill 2019, Constituency Projects (Budgetary Provisions) Bill 2019, Integrated Rural Development Agency (Est, etc) Bill 2019, Constitution (Alteration) Bill 2020,

Foreign Assistance Commission of Nigeria (Est, etc) Bill 2020, TETFUND Act 2011 (Amendment) Bill 2020, Health Equipment Credit Guarantee Fund (Est, etc) Bill 2020, Federal University of Entrepreneur Onitsha (Est, etc) Bill 2020, Examination Malpractice Act (Amendment) Bill 2020, Constitution (Alteration) Bill 2020, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (Est, etc) Bill 2020 and National Agricultural Programme Coordinating Agency (Est, etc) Bill 2019.

Senator Uche Ekwunife (PDP, Anambra Central) came second with 16, a wide gap from her previous three bills in the first six months of the senate.

She introduced the following bills: National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion Act Cap N63 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill 2019, Public Procurement Act 2007 (Amendment) Bill 2019, Penal Code Act Cap 53 (Abuja) LFN, Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill 2019, Constitution (Alteration) Bill 2019, National Commission for Ecological Problems (Est, etc) Bill 2019, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission Act Cap N117 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill 2019,

Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps Act No. 6 2007 (Amendment) Bill 2020, National Biosafety Management Act 2015 (Amendment) Bill 2020, Energy Commission of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill

2020, Nigerian Building and Road Research Institute (Est, etc) Bill 2020, Raw Materials Research and Development Council Act cap R3 LFN 2004 (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill 2020, Constitution (Alteration) Bill 2020, Federal University of Food Science and Technology Agulu (Est, etc) Bill 2020, National Broadcasting Commission Act (Amendment) Bill 2020 and Constitution (Alteration) Bill 2020.

Late Senator Rose Oko (PDP, Cross Rivers North), a returnee in the red chamber, sponsored 8 bills. These are: Compulsory Free Universal Education Act (Amendment) Bill 2019 , National Assembly Budget and Research Office (Est, etc) Bill 2019, Whistle Blower Protection Bill 2019, Constitution (Alteration) Bill 2019, Constitution (Alteration) Bill 2019, Constitution (Alteration) Bill 2019, Constitution (Alteration) Bill 2019 and Constitution (Alteration) Bill 2019.

Senator Betty Apiafi (PDP, Rivers West), a former House member and a newbie in the red chamber recorded 7 bills: Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act Cap E4 LFN 2004 amendment bill, Police Act Cap P19 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill 2019, Criminal Code Cap C38 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill 2019, Federal Medical Centres (Est, etc) Bill 2019, Marketing (Breast-Milk Substitute) Act (Amendment) Bill 2019, Federal Character Commission Act Cap

(Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill 2019 and National Agency for the Research and Management of Persons with Special Needs (Est, etc) Bill 2019

Senator Biodun Olujimi (PDP, Ekiti South), a returnee in the upper legislative chamber had 4 bills: Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill 2019, Federal College of Education, Omuwo, Ekiti State (Est, etc) Bill 2019, Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act Cap B2 LFN 2004 (Repeal & Re-enactment) Bill 2020 and National Institute for Cancer Research and Treatment (Est, etc) Bill 2020,

Coming sixth is Senator Aishatu Dahiru Ahmed (APC, Adamawa Central), a first timer in the red chamber with 3 bills: Modibbo Adama University of Technology(Est,etc) Bill 2019, Fiscal Responsibility Commission (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill 2019 and Constitution (Alteration) Bill 2020.

Senator Oluremi Tinubu (APC, Lagos Central), also a returnee in the red chamber who introduced 2 bills - Criminal Code Act (Amendment) Bill 2019 and Lagos State Special Economic Assistance Programme (Est,etc) Bill 2019.

Finally, Senator Akon Eyakenyi (PDP, Akwa-Ibom South), another newbie in the red chamber maintains had one bill- University of Maritime Studies, Oron (Est, etc) Bill 2019.

See illustration below:



How females fared in bills sponsorship in 1st year of the Reps

On the list of top ten bills' sponsors in the House of Representatives, the lawmaker from Abia State, Mrs. Nkiruka Onyejeocha, is the only female. Accordingly, she leads the chart in terms of females with the highest number of bills. The Deputy Chief Whip of the House, who represents Isikwato/Umunneochi federal constituency of Abia State on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC), has 19 bills to her name.

The fourth term member sponsored key bills like the National Commission against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons Bill, 2019, Securitization bill 2019, Payment Systems Management bill 2019, Assets Management Corporation of Nigeria, Nigeria Assets Management Agency (Establishment and Regulatory) bill 2019, National Youth Service Corps Act (Amendment) Bill 2019, Peoples Bank of Nigeria Act (Repeal) Bill, 2019, Psychiatric Hospitals Management Board Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019, and Related Products (Registration, Etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

Next to Mrs. Onyejeocha is Mrs. Taiwo Oluke-mi Oluga representing Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan from Osun State, also on the platform of APC. She is a first timer and the chairman of Women in Parliament Committee. She has sponsored 9 bills including the National Assembly Budget and Research of (Establishment) bill 2019, bill on Patent & Design Act, 2020; Women's Representation in Legislative Houses bill, 2020, Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) bill, 2020 (HB. 796) and bill on Price Control Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020.

Featured on the list is Beni Lar from Langtang North, Langtang South federal Constituency of Plateau State and a member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). She was elected into the Green Chamber in 2007 which makes her a fourth term. She currently has sponsored 8 bills within one year in the 9th assembly.

Mrs. Lynda Ikpeazu is one of the most visible lawmakers in the 9th House of Representatives. The ex-beauty queen-turned-politician is representing Onitsha North/South federal constituency of Anambra State. In the period under review, she sponsored 7 bills in the ninth assembly which placed her fourth on the female bill chart. These include Judgment Debt (Payment Guidelines) bill, 2019, Federal Medical Centre, Onitsha, Anambra (Establishment) bill, 2019, National Metallurgical Training Institute, Onitsha, bill, 2019, United Nations Convention on Arms Trade Treaty, 2019 and Federal Medical Centre, Onitsha, Anambra (Establishment) bill, 2019.

Mrs. Aisha Dukku represents Dukku/Nafada federal constituency of Gombe State. She was a member, Board of Trustees of the APC and was first elected a member of the federal legislature in 2015 on the party's platform. She is chairman House committee on Electoral Matters and Political Parties. She had 6 bills in the period which placed her on fifth position.

Zainab Gimba is representing Bama, Ngala, Kala-Balge federal constituency, Borno State (APC). In the past one year, Gimba has sponsored some bills such as the Federal Housing Authority Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2019 and the Nigerian Institute of Management Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019. This achievement puts her fifth on the bill chart.

Also, Mrs. Adewunmi Oriyomi Onanuga, represents Ikenne/Sagamu/Remo North federal constituency of Ogun State on the platform of APC. She is a first timer and chairs the House Committee on Women Affairs and Social Development. She has sponsored two bills and therefore comes number six on the bill table.

Miriam Onuoha represents Isiala Mbanu/Oni-mo/Okigwe federal constituency in Imo State. The lawmaker sponsored the Cannabis Control Bill 2020, a bill which seeks to regulate the cultivation, possession, availability and trade in cannabis for medical and research purposes).

On her part, Mrs. Ogunlola Omowunmi Olubumi hails from Ekiti State. She was first elected into the federal House of Representatives in 2019 and on the platform of the APC. She also has one bill to her name.

Mrs. Tolulope Akande-Sadipe represents Oluyole federal constituency, Oyo State in 2019 on the platform of APC and is currently the Chairman of the House Committee on Diaspora. Sadipe might not have sponsored a bill yet but has gained recognition in the federal legislature for tough stance while engaging the executive during committee meetings.

Other female Members without bills are: Blessing Onoh from Benue State. She is of the All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA); and Mrs. Khadija Bukar Abba represents Damaturu/Gujba/Gulan/Tarmuwa federal constituency of Yobe State. She was made the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs by President Muhammadu Buhari but later resigned and contested in 2019 and was re-elected on the platform of APC.

See illustration below:

How ex governors in senate fared in 1st year

The return of 17 former Governors to the 9th Senate after the 2019 general elections was widely received with reservations.

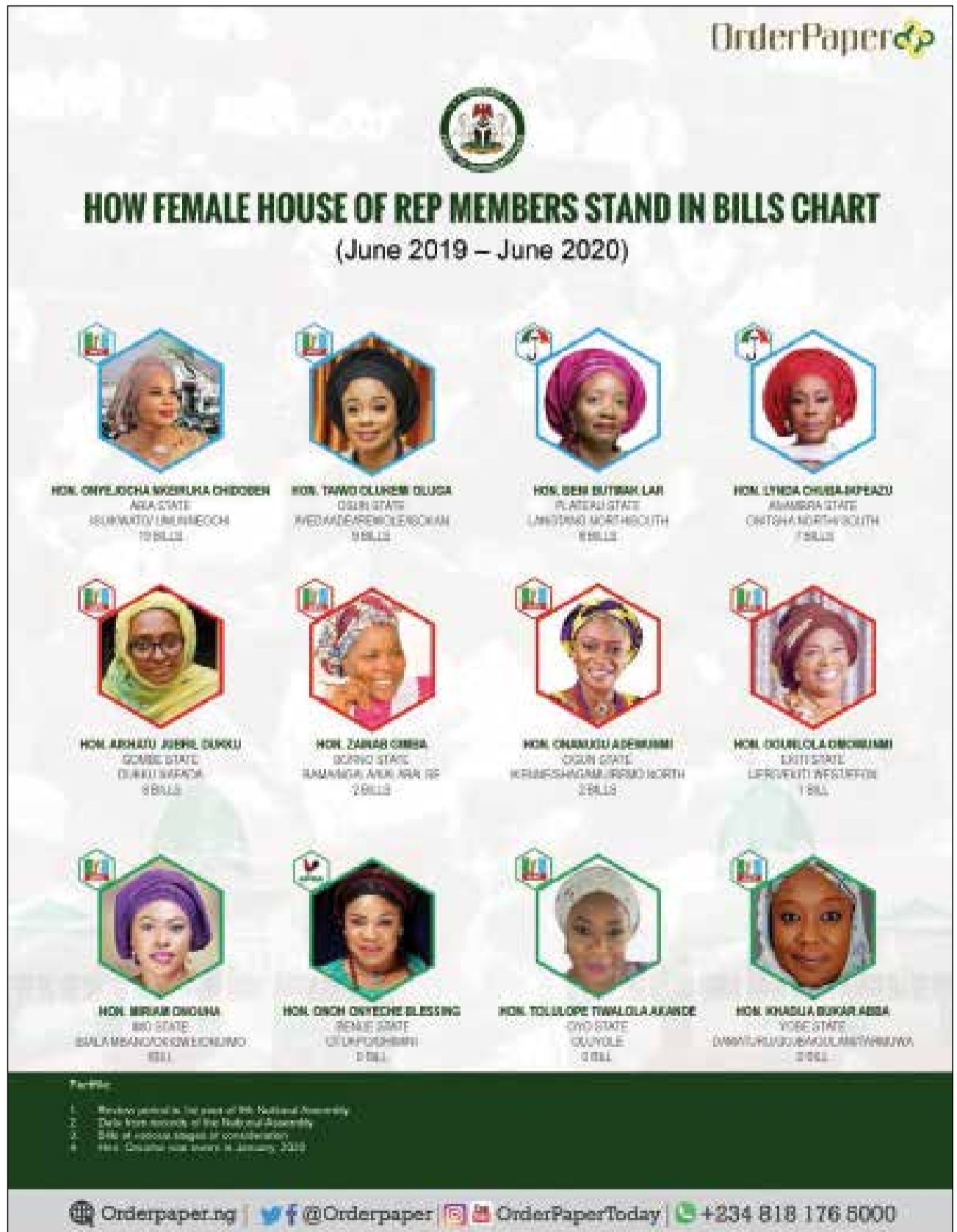
Some criticised the fact that the red chamber had turned to retirement homes for former governors.

Bearing this in mind, we examine how each of these former governors fared in bill sponsorship within their first year in office. This report is guided by data obtained exclusively obtained by OrderPaperNG.

Topping the list are Senators Theodore Orji (PDP, Abia Central) and Abdullahi Adamu (APC, Nasarawa West). Both are returning lawmakers with seven bills each.

The following are Orji's bills: Federal Polytechnic Aba (Est,etc) Bill 2019, Food Security Bill 2019, Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission Act Cap N117 LFN 2004 Repeal and Re-enactment bill, Nigerian Metallurgical Industry Bill 2019, Deoxy-ribonucleic Acid (DNA) Bill 2019, National Energy Reform Bill 2019 and Constitution (Alteration) Bill 2019.

Adamu's bills are: Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act Cap E4 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill 2019, Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (Amendment) Bill 2019, National Agricultural Development Fund (Est, etc) Bill 2019, National Land





HOW FORMER GOVERNORS STAND IN BILLS CHART OF THE 9TH SENATE

(June 2019 - May 2020)



Danjuma Goje, former governor of Gombe State, has three bills to his name. He represents Gombe Central on the platform of the APC and is a returnee member of the senate.

Four Senators who were ex-governors have two bills to their name.

They are Kabiru Gaya (APC, Kano South), Ibrahim Gaidam (APC, Yobe East), Samuel Egwu (PDP, Ebonyi North), Adamu Aliero (APC, Kebbi Central) and the Minority Leader, Enyinnaya Abaribe (PDP, Abia South).

Bills sponsored by Gaya are: National Road Fund (Est, etc) Bill 2019 and Federal Medical Centre Rano, Kano State (Est, etc) Bill 2019

Gaidam introduced National Cohesion and Integration Commission (Establishment, etc) Bill 2019 and National Agency for Education, Rehabilitation, De-radication and Integration of Insurgents (Est, etc) Bill 2020.

Egwu sponsored Federal College of Education (Technical) Abakiliki, Ebonyi State (Est, etc) Bill 2019 and Sickle Cell Anaemia (Prevention and Management) Bill 2019.

Also, Aliero's two bills are: Federal University Burning Kebbi (Est, etc) bill 2019 and Federal Revenue Enforcement Corps (Est, etc) bill 2019

Senators Umaru Tanko Al-makura (APC, Nasarawa South) and Chimaroke Nnamani (PDP, Enugu East) sponsored one bill each.

Tanko introduced Fire Arms Control Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) bill 2020 while Nnamani sponsored Social Assistance bill 2019.

There are three former governors in the 9th upper legislative chamber with no bills after spending a year in office.

They are Senators Ibrahim Shekarau (APC, Kano Central), Rochas Okorocha (APC, Imo West), and Orji Uzor-Kalu (APC, Abia North), whose ready alibi is his inevitable sojourn in jail for most of the period under review.

It is worthy to note that a lawmaker can be productive in other legislative duties besides bill sponsorship.

FRESHERS CLASS: Performance Scorecard of newbies in Reps

Illustration below tells the complete story:

Factfile:
 1. Members elected for 1st year of 9th National Assembly
 2. Data from records of the National Assembly
 3. Bill of original stages of introduction

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Reform Commission Bill 2019, Export Prohibition Act Cap E22 LFN 2004 (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill 2019, Constitution (Alteration) Bill 2019 and National Food Reserve Agency (Est, etc) Bill 2019.

Coming next are Senators Ibikunle Amosun (APC, Ogun Central) and Kashim Shettima (APC, Borno Central) with 6 bills respectively.

While Amosun once served in previous assemblies, Shettima is a newbie in the red Chamber.

Amosun sponsored the following bills: Federal University of Medicine and Medical Sciences Abeokuta, Ogun State (Est, etc) Bill 2019, Electronic Transactions Bill 2019, South West Development Commission (Est, etc) Bill 2019, Investment and Security Act (Amendment) Bill 2019, Chartered Institute of Stockbrokers (Est, etc) Bill 2019 and Child rights Act 2003 (Amendment) Bill 2019.

Shettima owns the following bills: Mental Health Bill 2019, Alternative Dispute Resolution bill 2019, Geospatial Information Regulation bill, Trade Mark Act (Amendment) bill, Nigerian Arabic Language Village (Est, etc) bill 2020 and Federal Polytechnic Maiduguri (Est, etc) Bill 2020.

Senator Aliyu Wammako (APC, Sokoto North), a returning lawmaker comes close with five bills.

His bills are: Federal Polytechnic Silame, Sokoto State (Est, etc) Bill 2019, Compulsory Free Universal Education Act (Amendment) Bill 2019, Pension Reform Act (Amendment) Bill 2019, National Commission for the Eradication of Child Destitution (Est, etc) Bill 2019 and National War College Act (Amendment) Bill 2019.

With four bills is Senator Gabriel Suswam (PDP, Benue North East). He is also a first timer in the red chamber.

His bills are: National Assembly Inauguration Bill 2019, Constitution (Alteration) Bill 2019, Terrorism (Prevention) Act 2003 (Amendment) Bill 2020 and Debt Management Office Act 2003 (Amendment) Bill 2020.



Sen. Ovie Omo-Agege (APC, Delta Central)

Distinguished Senator Ovie Omo-Agege is the Deputy President of the Senate. But that is hardly the reason why he is outstanding so far in the extant 9th National Assembly. After all, he is only second among equals in a chamber of 109 senators, some of whom are even higher in ranking status than him.

Yes, he features eminently on the bills productivity index of the 1st year, which is a worthy accomplishment, but then there are four others on same category. However, the details of his standing on the list commands the tag of 'outstanding' this Report Card confers on him.

In the period under review (June 2019 – May 2020), Sen. Omo-Agege sponsored a total of 16 bills. Only one senator had more bills sponsored and another, Uche Ekwunife, shares the slot with him. Of this number, 12 of the bills have progressed beyond first reading, a sharp contrast from many senators whose bills have only just been mentioned and no more. These include the timeous and topical Sexual Harassment Bill which has now (outside the period of this review) been passed by the Senate. Many have hailed this bill as a vital antidote to the pandemic of Sexual and Gender Based violence (SGBV) that plaguing the nation. Others are the Federal Polytechnic, Orogun (Establishment) bill that his constituents and indeed, the people of Delta State, are excited about; and the Electoral Act (Amendment) bill.

It is instructive that 10 of the 16 bills are constitutional amendment proposals. Incidentally, as deputy president of the senate, he chairs the committee on constitution amendment. These bills seek very fundamental reforms in areas like election-related litigations, immunity, judicial reforms, indigeneship and gender issues. Images below summarise details of some of his ground-breaking bills.

BRIEF PROFILE:

Ovie Omo-Agege is a lawyer by profession and represents Delta Central Senatorial District on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC). He is from Orogun in Ughelli North local Government of Delta State and was born on 3rd August 1963. Omo-Agege graduated in 1985 from the University of Benin with a degree in Law. He was called to the Nigerian bar in 1986. A grassroots politician with several hats on his head, he landed in the Senate in 2016 after a hard-fought legal battle to reclaim his mandate freely given him at the polls. He won his seat back easily into the senate in 2019 and was subsequently elected Deputy President of the Senate. Omo-Agege is the Obarisi of Urhobo land, a devout family man, Christian and promoter of desirable reforms in governance.



Bill for minimum appointment of women & youths into cabinet and ambassadorial positions

Objective

- To provide for minimum number of youths and women to be appointed as Ministers, Ambassadors and State Commissioners

Amendment Proposal

- To amend Section 142 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) by having a new subsection (2) to provide that: Any appointment under subsection (1) of this section by the President shall be in conformity with the provisions of section 143 of the Constitution.
- Provided that in giving effect to the provisions aforesaid the President shall appoint at least one Minister from each State, who shall be an indigene of such State, and of which:
 - At least five of which shall not be older than the age of forty years at the date of appointment; and
 - At least five shall be women.
- To amend Section 171 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) by inserting immediately after the word 'youth' in subsection (1) the words:
 - Provided that in the appointment of Ambassadors, High Commissioners or other Principal Representatives of Nigeria abroad:
 - At least five of which shall not be older than the age of forty years at the date of appointment; and
 - At least five shall be women.
- To amend Section 192 of the 1999 Constitution by substituting for the existing subsection (1) (a new subsection (1)) as follows:
 - There shall be such officials of Commissioners of the Government of the State as may be established by the Governor of the State, of which:
 - At least five Commissioners shall not be older than the age of forty years at the date of appointment; and
 - At least five shall be women.

Facility:

- Sponsor: Senator Ovie Omo-Agege (APC, Delta Central)
- Status: Referred to the Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendment

Bill to limit jurisdiction of State Court on pre-election cases for party officials

Objective

- To stop the State High Court from entertaining pre-election disputes convened by political parties for the purpose of electing members of its executive committees or other governing bodies

Amendment Proposal

- To amend Section 272 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) by inserting a new subsection to provide that:
 - Nothing in this section shall empower the High Court of a State to entertain a dispute from a member of a political party challenging the actions or decisions of a principal officer or member of its executive committee or other governing body following from a congress, conference, convention or other meeting convened by that political party for the purpose of electing such principal officers or members.

Facility:

- Sponsor: Senator Ovie Omo-Agege (APC, Delta Central)
- Status: Referred Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendment (March 11, 2020)

What You Need to Know about the Bill to Exclude Immunity for Vice President, Governors & Deputy Governors

Objective

- To exclude immunity for persons who hold the office of vice president, governors and deputy governors from criminal liability where the offence involves misappropriation of public funds.
- To allow for prosecution of public officers over the use of thugs to forestall violence.

Amendment Proposal

- To amend Section 305 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) by substituting a new subsection (2) to provide that, immunities shall not apply to persons who hold the office of Vice-President, Governor or Deputy Governor, if it is determined either by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Independent Corrupt Practices Commission, Nigerian Police and State Security Service through a collaborative investigation that the said person is involved in:
 - (a) Financial misappropriation of funds belonging to the Federal, State or Local Government; or
 - (b) Sponsoring of thugs to perpetrate violence that cause injury or death of a political opponent, a member of his family, agent or personal representative.

Facility:

- Sponsor: Senator Ovie Omo-Agege (APC, Delta Central)
- Status: Referred Senate committee on Constitutional Amendment (March 12, 2020)

Bill to limit jurisdiction of FCT Court on pre-election cases for party officials

Objective

- To stop the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory from entertaining pre-election disputes convened by political parties for the purpose of electing members of its executive committees or other governing bodies.

Amendment Proposal

- To amend Section 22 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) by inserting a new subsection to provide that:
 - Nothing in this section shall empower the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory to entertain a dispute from a member of a political party challenging the actions or decisions of a principal officer or member of its executive committee or other governing body following from a congress, conference, convention or other meeting convened by that political party for the purpose of electing such principal officers or members.

Facility:

- Sponsor: Senator Ovie Omo-Agege (APC, Delta Central)
- Status: Referred Senate committee on Constitutional Amendment (March 11, 2020)

Bill to allow married women contest for office in state other than birth

Objective

- To provide for the identification of women as indigenes of a State by marriage when running for political office

Amendment Proposal

- By including a new subsection in Section 85 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) to provide that a person shall be qualified for election if the person:
 - is a citizen of Nigeria;
 - has attained the age of twenty-five years;
 - has been educated up to at least School Certificate level or its equivalent;
 - is a member of a political party and is sponsored by that party; and
 - being a woman, is married to an indigene of that State.

Facility:

- Sponsor: Senator Ovie Omo-Agege (APC, Delta Central)
- Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendment

Bill to limit jurisdiction of court on pre-election cases for party officials

Objective

- To stop the Federal High Court from entertaining pre-election disputes convened by political parties for the purpose of electing members of its executive committees or other governing bodies.

Amendment Proposal

- To amend Section 251 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) by inserting a new subsection to provide that:
 - Nothing in this section shall empower the Federal High Court to entertain a dispute from a member of a political party challenging the actions or decisions of a principal officer or member of its executive committee or other governing body following from a congress, conference, convention or other meeting convened by that political party for the purpose of electing such principal officers or members.

Facility:

- Sponsor: Senator Ovie Omo-Agege (APC, Delta Central)
- Status: Referred to Senate committee on Constitutional Amendment (March 11, 2020)

Bill to establish separate tribunals for pre-election matters and election petitions

Provisions on Pre-election Matters

- Establishment of pre-election matters tribunal in the Federal Capital Territory with a primary time bar for commencement, at the expiration of a year or other period, whether a year or not, as may be determined by a political party as a condition for the commencement of proceedings.
- Establishment of a pre-election matters tribunal in each State of the Federation with a definite time bar for commencement, at the expiration of a year or other period, whether a year or not, as may be determined by a political party as a condition for the commencement of proceedings.

Time Frame & Finality for Pre-election Matters

- Early pre-election matter shall be filed not later than 7 days from the date of the publication of candidate of political parties by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).
- A pre-election matter shall, being a pre-election matter, shall, within its jurisdiction, be decided by the court within 45 days from the date of filing of the petition.
- An appeal from a decision of a pre-election tribunal shall be heard and decided within 45 days from the date of filing of the appeal.
- The court of appeal, if at all, shall, from a pre-election tribunal, may adopt the practice of not giving its decision and reserving the reasons therefor to a later date.

Caveat on Pre-election Matters

- Pre-election matter shall not include a dispute by a member of a political party challenging the actions or decisions of a principal officer or member of its executive committee or other governing body following from a congress, conference, convention or other meeting convened by that political party for the purpose of electing such principal officers or members.

Facility:

- Sponsor: Senator Ovie Omo-Agege (APC, Delta Central)
- Status: Referred Senate committee on Constitutional Amendment (March 12, 2020)

What you should know about the Indigeneship Bill for women

Objectives

- To provide for indigeneship status to married divorced and widowed women
- To provide requirements for application to become an indigene of a state
- To provide interpretation of the word 'indigene' in the constitution.

Amendment Proposal

- To amend Section 20 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) by inserting subsections 2, 3, and 4 to provide for qualification of indigeneship of a state by:
 - Residing for a continuous period of not less than ten years;
 - Evidence of tax returns issued for period of not less than ten years;
 - If a person has not been convicted for a criminal offence;
 - Referring to the Local Government Chairman for a certificate of indigeneship after necessary administrative checks;
 - Adding new provisions for women.

Facility:

- Sponsor: Senator Ovie Omo-Agege (APC, Delta Central)
- Status: Referred to Senate Committee on Constitutional Amendment

OMO-AGEGE'S N85M COVID-19 GIVEAWAY

- Beneficiary Local Government Areas (LGAs)
 - Ethiopia East
 - Okpe West
 - Sapale
 - Ughelli North
 - Ughelli South
 - Udu
 - Uvwie
- Beneficiaries in 85 Wards in the 8 LGAs
- Each Household benefits N5000 with 200 Households per Ward targeted
- Total of 17,000 Households in the Senatorial District receive N85,000,000.00

Facility:

- Sen. Ovie Omo-Agege is the Deputy President of the Senate
- He is 96th second term in the Senate on the platform of APC

SPOTLIGHT

Nwawuba: Silent force driving legislative reforms in reps

The House of Representatives under the leadership of Speaker Femi Gbajabiamila has been both proactive and swift in responding to national events. A good example of this is the revision of the House Legislative Agenda just after a year of the 4-year tenure. The move was a deft response to the dynamics of the coronavirus pandemic and the #EndSARS nationwide protests, a twin phenomenon that heavily impacted the country in multiple dimensions. The revised Legislative Agenda refocuses parliamentary resources and energies on reenergizing the economy, far-reaching police reforms and modernizing the business of parliament, among others. Results are already trickling in, according to observers, including the digitization of chamber operations and an imminent holistic police reform bill.



But one man stands deep and firm in the background of these legislative reforms and the much that lie ahead. He is Henry Nwawuba, member representing Mbaitoli /Ikeduru federal constituency of Imo State. Humble, unobtrusive but cerebral, experienced and articulate, Nwawuba is said to be one of the firm foundations upon which the House is resting its reformist drive. Whilst Gbajabiamila is resolved to push through these reforms, he quietly assembled a crack and competent backroom team to help achieve the outcome of a people-focused House of Reps. Nwawuba has emerged as the nucleus of these efforts.

Ranking member Nwawuba was appointed deputy chairman of the House Committee on Niger Delta in July 2019 when standing committees were constituted. But that was probably a ploy by Gbajabiamila to reserve him for a bigger assignment which soon began to manifest as the House settled to business and the coronavirus pandemic disruptions set in. Nwawuba was drafted into the backroom strategizing of the speaker and handed the task of chairing the adhoc committee on the legislative agenda. In announcing the appointment in plenary, the Speaker spoke extensively of the work of Committee. He said: "Before the recess, we presented to the Nigerian people the updated Legislative Agenda of the House, which we tagged "Our Contract with Nigerians." The updated

Legislative Agenda of the House and the accompanying Implementation Framework are a significant and thorough effort to outline a set of priority actions that taken together will help us achieve a more peaceful and more prosperous nation. The time has now come for us to make good on our obligations. To do that within the time frame we have committed to in the Implementation Framework, requires that we change the way we operate. From now on, motions and proposed bills that speak to the priorities set out in the Legislative Agenda will receive precedence in the House. The only exceptions will be for emergencies and matters of urgent national importance that require immediate action.

"To ensure fidelity to the commitments we have freely made, I am appointing an Adhoc Committee to guide implementation of the Legislative Agenda across the Committees and other institutions of the House of Representatives. This AdHoc Committee will work with the Committee on Rules and Business to ensure that bills brought forward for consideration align with our Agenda. Additionally, the Committee will monitor and provide regular reports on our individual and collective efforts to deliver on the objectives set out in the Agenda. Hon. Henry Nwawuba has worked closely with me to conceptualise and develop the Legislative Agenda, and Implementation Frame-

work will serve as Chairman of the Committee."

The Nwawuba Committee has since swung into action in redefining legislative interventions on various aspects of national life. The central importance of the Committee is not lost on members of the House as findings show that those with pertinent motions and bills have found it necessary to liaise with it. In a sense, the Imo rep has become chairman of chairmen of sorts.

Incidentally this huge responsibility has not affected the effective and productive representation Nwawuba owes his constituents. He has not only continued to project their voices on local issues but has remained nationalistic. For example, in the height of the bruising pandemic he moved a motion for Nigeria to "develop and adopt a long term economic, social and development framework for 20 years."

The motion urged "the Federal Government to develop a SMART 20 years Economic Master-plan and Development Strategy (Vision 20:2040), a long term economic plan and development strategy." It was adopted by the House.

In an apparent response to the resolution of the House, the Federal Government inaugurated a Steering Committee co-chaired by the Minister of Finance Hajia Zainab Ahmed and Mr Atedo Peterside in October 2020 to develop a framework for Nigeria Agenda 2050.

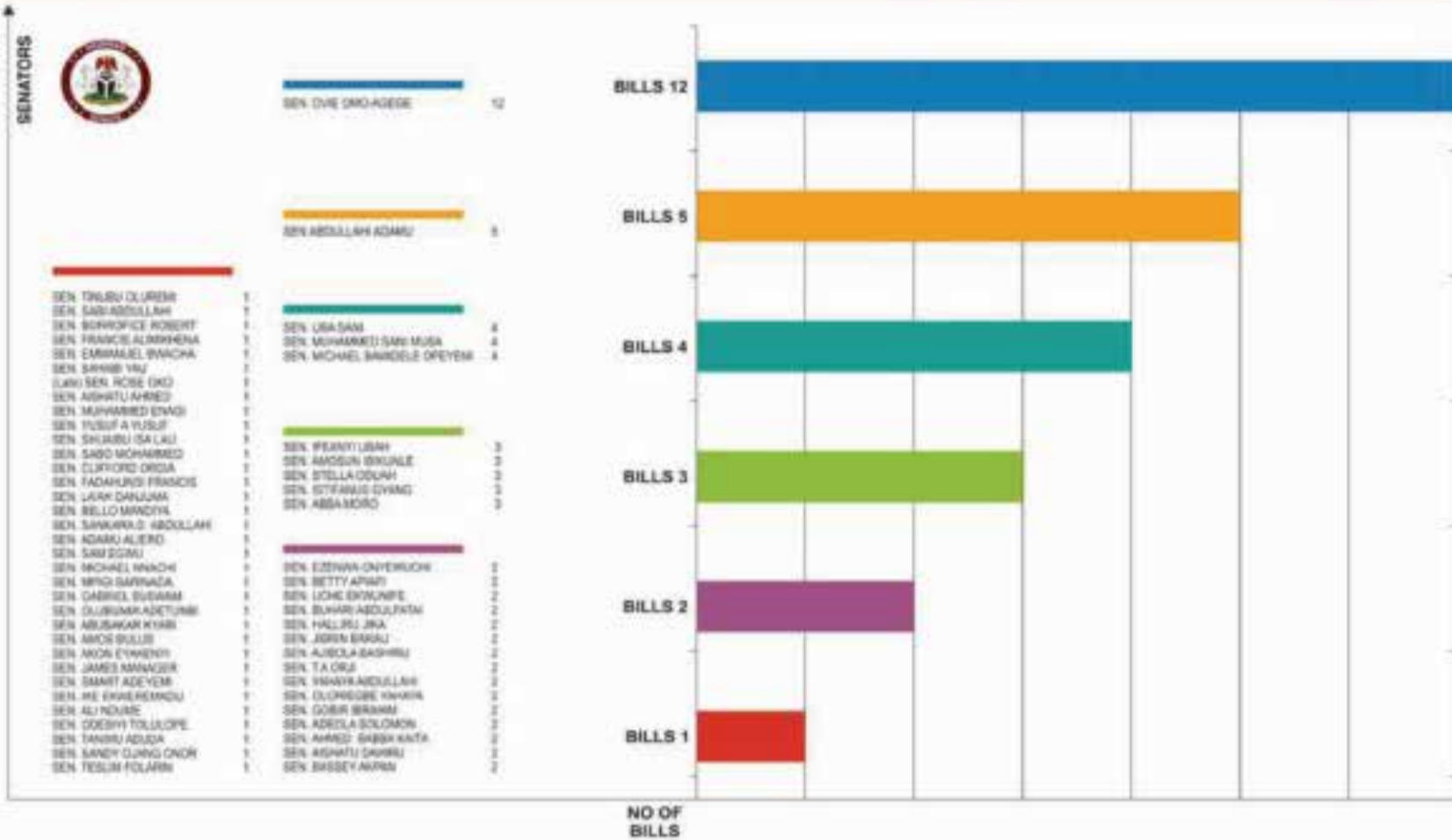
So who is Henry Nwawuba?

The 51 years old lawmaker attended the University of Jos; and University of Westminster, Harrow, London United Kingdom. These were after he had his Primary education at Bayero University Staff School Kano and Secondary school at both the Aminu Kano Commercial College and the Federal Government College Kano. Before going into politics, he had a flourishing career as a banker, cofounding one of Nigeria's foremost Micro Finance Banks, Fortis Micro Finance Banks Plc. His private businesses include ventures in Oil and Gas, Tourism, Telecommunications and Agro Processing. At a time, he worked as a computer farm manager at City of London Telecommunications in London, England.

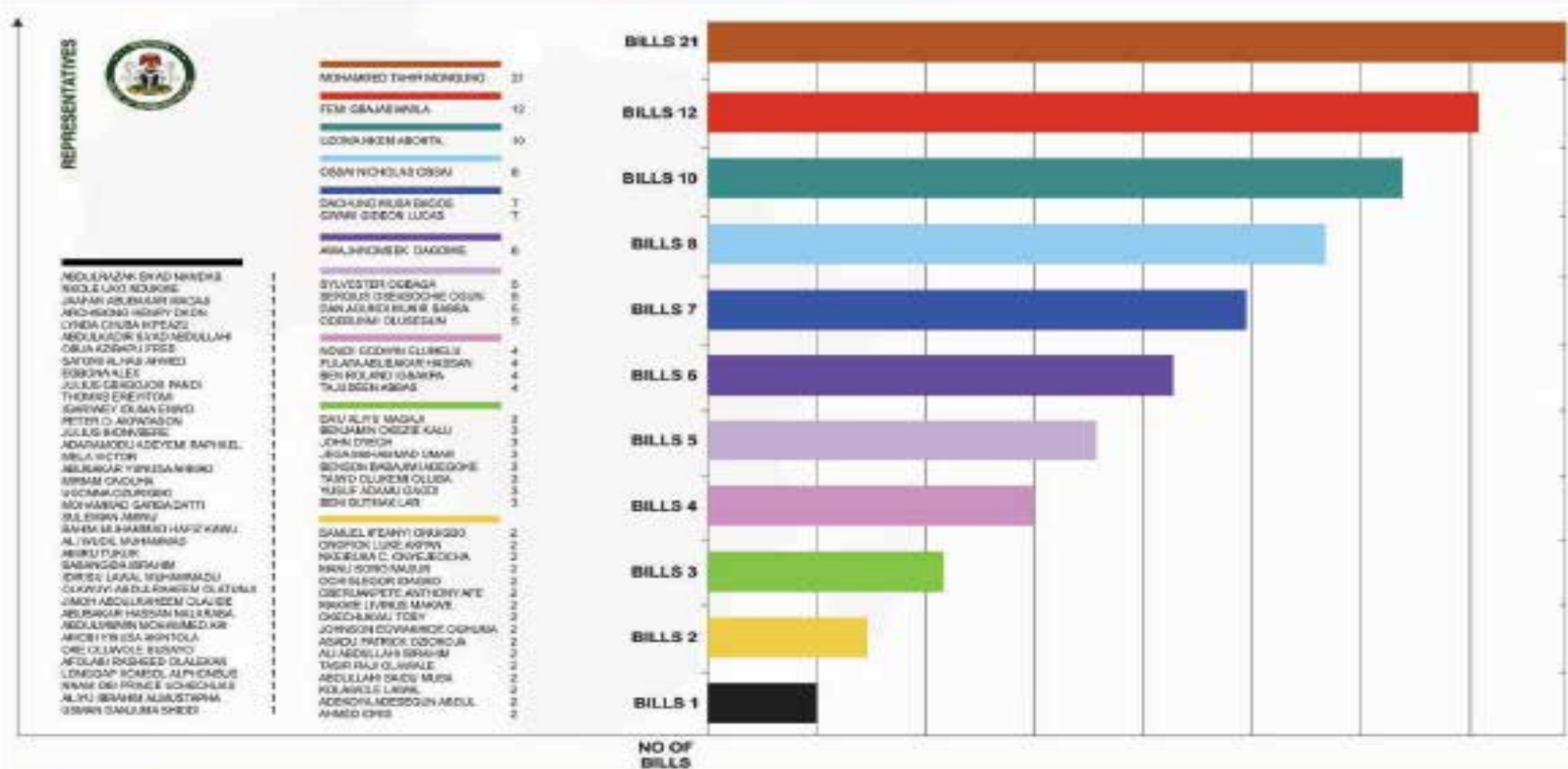
Nwawuba had served as Special Assistant on Special Duties to the Governor of Plateau State, Mr Michael Botmang, in mid 2000s. In 2015, he was elected into the House of Representatives to represent Mbaitoli/Ikeduru federal Constituency. He was reelected to serve a second term in 2019. So far, he has sponsored several bills and motions leading to impressive and successful resolutions. He is a leading voice in the campaign for the development of the Niger Delta region; and a leading voice for justice and equity. In march 2020 for instance, he led other law makers from the South East region to demand from the Federal Government the inclusion of the region in infrastructure projects to be funded from the \$22 billion loan from international finance agencies vide a petition he presented from the South East Elites. In the 8th National Assembly He co-sponsored a Bill for the establishment of the South East Development Commission which scaled first and second reading. He also served on the technical committee on the passage of the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) between 2018-2019 and has been nominated thereon currently.

Nwawuba has been on several international legislative delegations for Nigeria, including the elite team sent to south Africa to protest the xenophobia suffered by Nigerians in that Country in 2017. He has attracted several infrastructural and human capital development projects to his constituency.

TOP SENATORS BY BILLS PROGRESSION (PRODUCTIVITY INDEX)



TOP REPS BY BILLS PROGRESSION (PRODUCTIVITY INDEX) JUNE 2019 – JUNE 2020



Facilities:

- Bills captured have progressed to at least 2nd Reading stages
- Appraisal covers all 360 Rep members
- Review period is 1st year of 9th National Assembly
- Data obtained from records of the National Assembly