

ROLE OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) IN NIGERIA 2015 – 2025

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the role of national assembly in the implementation of sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Nigeria 2015 – 2024. This study adopted a descriptive survey research design in which data were collected through a questionnaire administered to 200 respondents out of which 193 were collected from the respondents. Data collected was subjected to percentage analysis, means and standard deviation. According to the findings there are many challenges to the implementation of sustainable development Goals in Nigeria, which includes: Lack of political will is a significant challenge in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), inadequate financial resources pose a challenge to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), insufficient public awareness and engagement hindering the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Conflicts and instability in various regions globally impede the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Hence the study concludes that these challenges highlighted the multifaceted nature of the obstacles facing SDG achievement in the country and emphasize the need for comprehensive and coordinated efforts across sectors to overcome them. The study recommends that there is need to address conflicts and instability in various regions of Nigeria, which pose significant obstacles to SDG achievement, through prioritize efforts to promote peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and inclusive development to create an enabling environment for SDG implementation. Also, to encourage cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination among government agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector, and international partners to address the multifaceted challenges of SDG implementation

Keywords: National Assembly, Sustainable Development Goals, Implementation, Nigeria, Challenges

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a universal framework designed to guide global efforts toward achieving inclusive and sustainable development across the economic, social, and environmental spheres. Established in 2015 by all United Nations Member States, the SDGs consist of 17 goals and 169 targets aimed at eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities, and safeguarding the planet. The overarching principle of “leaving no one behind” underscores the need for inclusive growth that benefits all segments of society, particularly the marginalized and

vulnerable populations. This comprehensive agenda seeks to promote balanced development by addressing interrelated challenges such as hunger, health disparities, gender inequality, and climate change, thereby fostering global peace, justice, and prosperity (United Nations, 2015).

In the Nigerian context, the implementation of the SDGs holds particular significance given the country's developmental challenges and diverse socio-economic landscape. As a signatory to the 2030 Agenda, Nigeria has committed to mainstreaming the SDGs into its national and sub-national development frameworks to promote sustainable growth and human development. The government's efforts are directed at tackling endemic poverty, high unemployment rates, weak infrastructure, and environmental degradation that continue to impede progress. Achieving the SDGs in Nigeria requires a multi-sectoral approach that prioritizes equitable access to quality education, healthcare, clean water, and sustainable livelihoods. Such integration not only supports the realization of global targets but also enhances national resilience, productivity, and social cohesion, setting the foundation for inclusive and enduring prosperity (Olowoporoku, 2018).

Despite Nigeria's abundant human and natural resources, the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been hindered by persistent governance challenges, weak institutional frameworks, and insufficient financing mechanisms. These systemic issues have limited the country's ability to effectively design, implement, and monitor policies that promote inclusive and sustainable development. The lack of transparency, policy continuity, and institutional coordination further exacerbates the implementation gap, undermining efforts to address poverty, inequality, and environmental sustainability. Consequently, Nigeria's progress toward achieving the SDGs has remained uneven and slow across various sectors and regions.

The National Assembly plays a critical role in driving the successful implementation of the SDGs through its legislative, budgetary, and oversight functions. As the central law-making body, it is responsible for enacting enabling legislation that aligns national policies with global development targets. Additionally, its power to approve budgets and scrutinize public expenditure ensures that adequate resources are allocated to SDG-related programs while minimizing mismanagement and corruption. Through its oversight role, the National Assembly holds the executive accountable for policy execution and ensures transparency in the use of public funds. By effectively performing these functions, the legislature can promote policy coherence, equitable resource distribution, and institutional accountability necessary for achieving the SDGs in Nigeria (National Assembly of Nigeria, 2017).

As Africa's largest economy and most populous nation, Nigeria's progress toward the SDGs has far-reaching implications for regional and global sustainable development. Legislative instruments

such as the National Development Planning Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act of 2017 were designed to institutionalize national planning processes in line with SDG targets. However, the implementation of SDG-related policies has been hindered by limited funding, corruption, and weak monitoring and evaluation frameworks that often impede progress (Akande, 2019).

The SDGs succeeded the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) implemented between 2000 and 2015, expanding the global development agenda beyond poverty eradication to include social inclusion, environmental protection, and economic growth. This holistic framework reflects the “Triple Bottom Line” approach—balancing people, planet, and prosperity (Ojo & Adesina, 2017). In Nigeria, the National Assembly has strengthened its engagement with SDG implementation through the establishment of specialized committees in both chambers to oversee, advocate, and legislate for sustainable development initiatives. Collaborative partnerships between the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs) and institutions such as the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) have further advanced community-level awareness and participation.

Therefore, this study examines the role of the National Assembly in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria from 2015 to 2024, focusing on how legislative interventions, oversight, and advocacy have influenced the nation’s progress toward achieving sustainable and inclusive development

Statement of Problem

The persistent developmental challenges facing Nigeria despite the constitutional provisions of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) underscore a major governance and institutional problem. The Constitution establishes the principles of democratic governance, social justice, and equitable distribution of national resources to promote sustainable development. However, in practice, the country continues to grapple with widespread poverty, unemployment, insecurity, corruption, infrastructural decay, and weak adherence to the rule of law. These issues reflect systemic failures within governance structures, particularly in the legislative arm responsible for enacting and overseeing development-oriented policies. The National Assembly, which serves as the central institution for policy formulation, lawmaking, and budgetary oversight, has often been perceived as ineffective in translating constitutional mandates into actionable frameworks for sustainable development (Agba, Chukwurah & Achimugu, 2014).

Several scholars have identified the underlying causes of these problems. According to Makinde (2005), the gap between policy formulation and implementation remains a major obstacle to national progress, often resulting in numerous abandoned projects and failed government programs. Ojo and Adesina (2017) further argue that weak institutional mechanisms, poor

monitoring and evaluation systems, and inadequate accountability structures undermine the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria. Similarly, leadership crises, corruption allegations, and poor public trust have eroded the credibility and efficiency of the National Assembly, diminishing its ability to legislate effectively for sustainable development. The limited prioritization of SDGs-related legislation, inadequate budgetary allocations for sustainability programs, and the absence of robust capacity-building initiatives for legislators further exacerbate the situation.

Despite the existing literature, there remains a gap in understanding how the National Assembly's legislative and oversight roles specifically influence the implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria. Most studies have focused broadly on governance challenges without empirically assessing the institutional capacity, policy alignment, and accountability mechanisms of the legislature in achieving sustainable development objectives. This study, therefore, seeks to fill this gap by examining the role of the National Assembly in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria from 2015 to 2025, identifying the challenges, constraints, and potential pathways toward legislative effectiveness and sustainable national progress.

Objectives of the Study

The main of this study examined the role of national assembly in the implementation of sustainable development goals (SDGs) in Nigeria 2015 – 2024. While the objectives are to:

- i. Evaluate the extent in which National Assembly is using the 1999 Constitution to oversight Sustainable Development Goals.
- ii. Assess the strategies that the National Assembly uses to ensure compliance with Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria, and
- iii. Examine the challenges National Assembly face in implementing Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The concept of implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) revolves around addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace, and justice, in a comprehensive and integrated manner. The SDGs were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030 (United Nations, 2015). SDGs emphasize the interconnectedness of various social, economic, and environmental issues. Rather than addressing each problem in isolation, SDGs call for integrated approaches that recognize the interdependence of goals and targets. This integrated approach ensures that actions taken to achieve one goal do not

undermine progress toward others. Implementation of SDGs requires collaboration among governments, businesses, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders. Partnerships facilitate resource mobilization, knowledge sharing, and collective action towards achieving the goals. Public-private partnerships, multi-stakeholder platforms, and alliances play a crucial role in leveraging expertise and resources across sectors (United Nations, 2015).

Governments are encouraged to mainstream SDGs into national policies, plans, and strategies. This involves aligning national development priorities with SDG targets and indicators, as well as integrating sustainable development principles into decision-making processes across sectors such as health, education, energy, and infrastructure. Monitoring progress is essential for effective implementation of SDGs. Robust data collection, analysis, and reporting mechanisms are needed to track indicators, measure outcomes, and identify areas requiring attention. National statistical offices, international organizations, and civil society groups contribute to data generation and monitoring efforts (Le Blanc, 2015).

Legislative Oversight

According to (Basiru, 2014), “during the First Republic, despite the inclusion of parliamentary oversight in the 1960 Constitution, the parliament hardly checked the executive.” The legislature was weak and lacked the capacity to scrutinize the executive. This has said to have being caused by the fusion of power under the parliamentary arrangement of the first republic. The collapse of the republic in a manner that raises suspicious of ethnic cleansing plunged the country into a three year civil war between 1967 and 1970, which rendered the National Assembly useless during this time. By the time the military was disengaging from politics in 1979, a presidential constitution was introduced. Thus, the 1979 Presidential Constitution, unlike the parliamentary constitution that predated it introduced separation of powers. The 1979 Constitution in Section 4(1) vested the Legislative Powers of the Federation in a National Assembly consisted of a Senate and a House of Representatives (Federal Republic Nigeria 1979).

The oversight powers of the national legislature under the 1979 Constitution relates to its control powers over Public Funds (see Sections 55, 74, 76 and 77). Apart from this, the constitution empowered the National Assembly to conduct investigations into any matter or thing with respect to which it has powers to make laws and the conduct of affairs of any person, authority, ministry or government department charged, or intended to be charged, with the duty of responsibility for executing or administering laws and disbursing or administering moneys (Section 82(1)). The constitution further gave the legislature power of evidence in Section 83. However, despite the above constitutional provisions regarding legislative over-sight powers, the Second Republic legislature still had some weakness like the first republic legislature in its relations with the executive. That is, though the National Assembly retained its structure of representation, it had a relatively weak structure as the executive preferences shaped the political agenda and more

importantly, the legislature did not exercise significant oversight of the executive or other government operations Basiru (2014).

From the foregoing constitutional provisions, it could be seen that the legislature is saddled with the responsibilities of ensuring good governance particularly prudence, fiscal discipline, efficient service delivery and rule of law in the country. Moreover, legislature is empowered to intervene in the judicial administration as shown in Section 233 and Sub-section 21 of the 1999 Constitution as amended. The legislature could override executive veto on any bill by using its two-thirds majority power to pass the bill into law. Therefore, such bills passed in this manner do no longer require presidential assent to become law (Fashagba, 2013).

Meaning and Principles of Legislative Oversight

Legislatures are known by different nomenclature in different countries. In the U.S, the Federal legislature is called the Congress. In Nigeria, the federal legislature is known as the National Assembly, while the State legislature, as the House of Assembly and the Local Government Legislative Council at the third tier of administration. While the federal legislature is bicameral, it consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the states and local governments have unicameral type, which is one Chamber. Members of legislatures engage in law making, reviewing legislations in committees and perform other constituent functions such as representation and oversight. The provisions of the Constitution and the Standing Orders or rules of the Legislative House set the formal rules and practice that govern legislative House. It is also the watchdog of public funds in that it not only appropriates for the State but scrutinizes how the funds so appropriated are spent (Egobueze, 2016). Everywhere they pass laws, determine the ways of raising and spending public revenue, and discuss matters of public importance and accountability. (Benjamin 2010) states thus, legislature, which is the main engine of democracy, forms one of the main organs of government in every nation.

Power to Conduct Oversight

The constitution in Nigeria gives a legal backing to the oversight function of the legislature in which it can monitor the activities of the executive branch and its agencies to determine if public projects or programs are being adequately executed. According to (Saiegh, 2014), the oversight function or role of the legislatures means ensuring the implementation of laws, ensuring that legislation and government policies are implemented effectively. Monitoring, reviewing and investigating programs and activities of government to ensure that the actions taken are transparent, accountable and consistent according to the original intent as allowed by the constitution. According to (Frolick, 2016), legislators have the legal backing, authority and responsibility to hold governments to account in their activities.

Ojo and Omotola, (2014) also posited that, legislators hold ministries, departments and agencies of government accountable in their activities to the public. Not only do they hold the executive accountable in their functions, they also have the power to approve or confirm appointments made by the executive and judiciary. Such appointments include that of ministers, chairmen, Ambassadors, Chief Justice of the federation, federal commissions and councils, justices of the supreme courts and the chief judge of the Federal High Court. The legislators through their oversight function, rise up to ensure that funds appropriated for government institutions are utilized for the purpose they were allocated for to ensure that citizens get value for their money. According to (Posner and Park 2007) the legislators' authority to appropriate public funds has been the foundation for public budgeting and accountability.

Tools and Procedures for Enforcement of Legislative Oversight

Recognizing the valuable contribution that parliamentarians can make to sustainable development is critical as the world advances in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its supporting SDGs. As the elected representatives of their people, legislatures have a critical role to play in driving a people-centred development agenda that is reflective of and responsive to the diverse needs of their constituents. In recent decades, there has been increasing recognition of the importance of engaging legislatures in efforts to pursue sustainable development pathways that are at the same time environmentally-sensitive and based on inclusive growth. Through their mandates, for example, in making laws and overseeing government policies and programs — including enacting and scrutinizing the government budget and related legislation — as well as representing the views of their constituents, legislatures are valuable partners in ensuring the accountable, inclusive, participatory and transparent governance that is necessary to achieve sustainable development for all.

Challenges of Oversight Function of Legislatures

From the foregoing assessment of legislative oversight in Nigeria, it is obvious that a lot still needs to be done by the legislature to ensure and/or promote good governance in Nigeria. However, the oversight function of the legislature is faced with a lot of challenges that must be addressed if the legislature must be able to perform effectively its oversight of the executive and thus contribute meaningfully to democratic good governance in Nigeria. Some of these challenges are thematically assess below.

Lack of Capacity: Nigerian legislatures often lack the technical expertise and resources necessary to effectively conduct oversight. Many legislators may not have the requisite knowledge or training in areas such as finance, law, or public administration to scrutinize government activities thoroughly (Ibrahim, 2013). **Political Interference:** The oversight process is often marred by political interference, as legislators may prioritize partisan interests over their oversight

responsibilities. This can lead to selective oversight or reluctance to hold the executive accountable, especially when members of the legislature are affiliated with the ruling party (Suleiman, 2015).

Corruption and Bribery: Corruption within the legislative body itself can undermine effective oversight. Some legislators may accept bribes or other forms of inducements from the executive in exchange for overlooking government mismanagement or corruption (Adewale & Amuda, 2017).

Fragmentation and Division: Fragmentation and division within the legislature can weaken its oversight function. Nigeria's bicameral legislature, consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives, may experience conflicts of interest or competition between the two chambers, leading to inefficiencies in oversight (Duru, 2016).

Executive Resistance: The executive branch often resists legislative oversight attempts, limiting access to information or failing to comply with legislative inquiries. This resistance can impede the legislature's ability to effectively scrutinize government actions and expenditures (Duru, 2016).

Dysfunctional Democratic Culture: Nigerian democracy is still far from being consolidated as the evidence of military hangover still manifest from time to time. Basic democratic principles like rule of law, free and fair elections and institutional accountability are still rarity. This has resulted in the weakening of democratic culture, structures and institutions. Thus, the legislature as a major institution of democracy has been at the receiving end and has therefore often attracted negative comments and dim view from the public. As a result of some of its actions, the executive often treats institution with disdain, (Egwu, 2005).

Political Culture of Corruption: A corollary to the above is an entrenched culture of corruption in Nigeria, itself a consequence of the several years of military (mis)rule. As noted earlier in this chapter, it is often the case that legislators in the discharge of their oversight duties are more interested in financial gains accruable to them than ensuring good governance through such duties. The implication of this is that investigations into any issue bothering on governance cannot be subjected to thorough scrutiny in the best interest of Nigerians so long as the ministries/departments of government concern know how to 'settle'.

Personal Interests of the Legislators: It is common knowledge that a good number of members of the legislative houses at both federal and state levels pursue pure selfish interests that are often at variance with the primary roles. Where personal interest override collective interest, as occasionally seen in the national assembly, the system will be undermined and legislative efficiency will be compromised. The foregoing challenges, amongst others, have largely robbed Nigerians the opportunity of enjoying good governance through effective and efficient legislative

oversight of the executive. The actions or inactions of the national assembly has in turn resulted Legislative Oversight in the Nigerian Fourth Republic in a situation in which the state has failed state to move in the right direction and deliver necessary democratic goods.

Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria

Nigeria has demonstrated strong political commitment for national ownership and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. As part of this commitment, President Muhammadu Buhari appointed a Senior Special Assistant on the Sustainable Development Goals (SSAP SDGs) with full mandate of coordinating the Sustainable Development Goals-related interventions; tracking of national progress; reporting on performance as well as managing the operational processes for results. The Office of the SSAP (OSSAP-SDGs) is located within the Office of the President for optimal political support and authority. The Government has also deployed seasoned public servants and professionals to the OSSAP-SDGs in order to ensure readily available multi-skills, talent-building as well as a reservoir of institutional memory for subsequent lessons and knowledge transfer. In order to fully harness available resources and effectively engage other stakeholders, a Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) and a Donors' Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals have recently been inaugurated. Similarly, the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Advisory Group on Sustainable Development Goals are already working towards Goal (United Nations, 2015).

Empirical Studies

Ignatius (2021) conducted study on appraisal of the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 2030 in Nigeria. The Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by the United Nations member states in 2015 to achieve equity and prosperity by 2030. There are solutions Networks which monitors the activities of countries and regions in the work of implementing the SDGs and also records their information. It is a successor and improvement on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which ran from 2000 to 2015. Gender equality and women's empowerment is integral to each of the 17 goals. The UN 2020 Progress Report on SDGs 2030 across the world were reviewed and found out that many nations will not meet the 2030 target including Nigeria. Though progress had been made five years since the adoption of the SDGs worldwide. The Nigerian voluntary national review 2020 was developed while facing with challenges from Covid-19 pandemic, massive flooding across the nation, insecurity and corruption. Our modest attempt to answer the research questions derived from the four ranking SDGs in Nigeria became framework of appraisal. The research concluded that progress has been made but not at sufficient speed to realize the SDGs by the 2030 target. It was recommended that everything we do during and after this Covid-19 pandemic must be with strong focus on building more equal, inclusive and sustainable economies.

Akinloye, (2018) conducted study on the implementation of sustainable development goals in Nigeria: Maximizing the influence of religious leaders. Using the limited scope of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the failure of the programme to achieve its developmental objectives at its expiry in 2015 led to the development and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) programme commencing 2016. The SDGs programme has been widely accepted as laudable for its wider approach to global development and sustainability. However, if the SDGs programme is not to end as the Millennium Development Goals did, it is necessary that its implementing actors collaborate with stakeholders of institutions that will make more members of the populace aware of, accepting of, and involved in the implementation of the goals. This is crucial because the goals require the populace' corresponding participation. This paper focuses on one such institutional stakeholder: religious leaders. This paper, through literature review and analysis of surveys and reports, examines the influence religious leaders have on their followers in Africa with Nigeria as a case study. It argues that religious leaders have a strong influence on their followers, as Nigerians and most Africans place more trust in, and respect the opinions of their religious leaders than their political counterparts. The paper, therefore, contends that if the global agenda of the SDGs is to be realised by getting a wider Nigerians to accept and involve in the implementation of the sustainable goals, then, the potential influence of religious leaders should be harnessed.

Olagoke, (2017) examined sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria: What Role(S) For Nigeria's Indigenous Languages? His study takes a critical look at the roles of Nigeria's indigenous languages in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or the Global Goals (GGs) is a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) policy guideline and funding programme which should be implemented by all member countries between 2016, when it came into effect, and 2030. An assessment of the level of implementation of the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) in Nigeria, which serves as a springboard for the SDGs, and which was to be implemented between 2000-2015 reveals that Nigeria has not met twenty five percent of the MDGs. The great challenges of the country have not been met with great action by government. Our observation has shown that the high level of illiteracy has been responsible for underdevelopment and poverty in Nigeria. Information to provide guidance by government to majority of the people on sustainable development can only come from the use of indigenous languages if only 79 million Nigerians out of a population of 156 million can speak and understand English.

Previous studies have highlighted the importance of legislative involvement in driving sustainable development agendas (e.g., Ignatius (2021), Akinloye, (2018), Olagoke, (2017). However, there is limited empirical research focusing on the role of national legislatures, particularly in the context

of developing countries like Nigeria. Understanding how the National Assembly engages with the SDGs is essential for assessing the effectiveness of legislative efforts in promoting sustainable development and identifying areas for improvement.

Theoretical Framework

Structural Functionalism Theory

Structural functionalism as it is often called, intends to explain the basis for the maintenance of order and stability in society and the relevant arrangements within the society, which maintain the said order and stability. In our formulation of a structural functional framework, social processes and social mechanisms are intervening variables. A complete description of a social system would include, therefore, a treatment of the social structures, and various functions of these structures; and of the social processes and mechanisms that must be in operation if structures are to satisfy certain functions (Holt, 1967).

According to Enemu, (1999), one of the chief proponents of the approach (structural functionalism) in political science avers that every political system performs certain functions. Taking Easton's systems analysis as a starting point, Almond looks for the functions which could be included among the input and output functions of all political systems. On the input side are the functions of interest articulation and interest aggregation. Second, on the output side are the functions of rulemaking, rule application and rule adjudication. The function of political communication is undertaken to inform all within the political system and outside of the diverse activities. Additionally, every system performs systems maintenance and adaptation functions through political socialization and recruitment of people. According to Almond and Powell, (1969) the functioning of any political system may also be viewed in terms of its capabilities, which is the way it performs as a unit in its environment. The concepts of regulative, extractive, distributive and responsive capability are employed as criteria to assess how a system is performing within its environment, how it is shaping its environment, and how it is being shaped by the environment as well. No doubt, structural functionalism revolves around two focal conceptions- functions and structures.

Nwagwu (2010) stresses that while functions deal with the consequence that is, involving objectives as well as processes of patterns of actions (like capacity to make and implement sound anti-corruption laws and appropriate punishment for violations irrespective of the culprits), and structure on the other hand refers to the arrangements within the system, which performs the functions. The legislature in National Assembly is a structure that performs the oversight functions on the MDAs to ensure that the 17 goals that have been set are achieved. This is done by the legislators working with the MDAs for efficiency and effectiveness. The MDAs have invaluable roles to play in the actualization of all the items in the Sustainable Development Goals.

METHODOLOGY

The study used survey design. This study was carried out in Nigeria's National Assembly. Population of this study comprised of staff of National Assembly staff, SDGS staff and Desk officers i.e. NASS (316) staff, SDGS (60) staff and Desk Officers (24) staff. Therefore, a total of 340 including Legislatures that constituted the population of the study to evaluate oversight function of the national assembly on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. Sample size for the study was determined using Taro Yemani (1964) formula for sample size determination.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{340}{1 + 340(0.5)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{340}{1 + 340(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{340}{1.85}$$

$$n = 184$$

Therefore, the sample size for this study is 184. A convenient sampling technique was adopted. Structured questionnaires were designed to gather primary data from the respondents. The researcher, however, used descriptive statistics with the aid of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) to analyze the data obtained.

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

A questionnaire is the primary data that was used in this presentation and analysis of the data collected. Out of 184 questionnaires distributed;

$$\text{Returned} \quad \frac{177}{184} \times 100 = 96.2\%$$

$$\text{Unreturned} \quad \frac{7}{184} \times 100 = 3.8\%$$

Table 1: To what extent is National Assembly using the 1999 Constitution to oversight Sustainable Development Goals?

Variables	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std. D
The National Assembly is effectively utilizing the 1999 Constitution to oversee the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	177	1	5	3.16	1.619
The National Assembly exercise its constitutional mandate to ensure accountability in the implementation of SDGs	177	1	5	3.11	1.516
The Committee system in National Assembly maintain oversight on Sustainable Development Goals	177	1	5	4.55	1.658
The National Assembly provides sufficient oversight mechanisms to monitor the progress of SDGs-related initiatives	177	1	5	4.94	1.426
The National Assembly collaborate with relevant stakeholders (government agencies, NGOs, civil society) to oversee the alignment of policies and actions with the SDGs	177	1	5	3.25	1.334
The National Assembly adequately allocates resources and budgets to support the achievement of SDGs targets	177	1	5	4.26	1.597
The National Assembly to addressing challenges and gaps in the implementation of SDGs	177	1	5	4.22	1.532
The National Assembly engage with citizens and communities in its oversight role concerning SDGs	177	1	5	3.15	1.467
The National Assembly's performance in overseeing the implementation of SDGs using the 1999 Constitution as a framework	177	1	5	3.12	1.510
The average item score				3.75	
Variables total score				33.76	

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

The result in Table 1 shows that the National Assembly has been moderately effective in using the 1999 Constitution to oversee the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria, with an overall mean score of 3.75. This suggests that while constitutional mechanisms are being utilized, there are still areas for improvement in ensuring effective legislative oversight. Specifically, the highest mean scores were recorded for the items “The National Assembly provides sufficient oversight mechanisms to monitor the progress of SDGs-related initiatives” (Mean = 4.94) and “The Committee system in the National Assembly maintains oversight on Sustainable Development Goals” (Mean = 4.55). These results imply that institutional structures such as committees are active and play a significant role in tracking SDG-related progress and ensuring accountability in implementation.

However, items such as “The National Assembly is effectively utilizing the 1999 Constitution to oversee the implementation of SDGs” (Mean = 3.16), “The National Assembly exercises its constitutional mandate to ensure accountability” (Mean = 3.11), and “The National Assembly engages with citizens and communities in its oversight role concerning SDGs” (Mean = 3.15) scored relatively lower, indicating weaknesses in direct constitutional application, accountability mechanisms, and public engagement. The moderate means in these areas reveal that while structural oversight exists, the practical execution of constitutional powers, stakeholder collaboration, and citizen participation remain limited. Overall, the findings suggest that the National Assembly’s oversight role on SDGs implementation is functional but requires strengthened constitutional enforcement, greater stakeholder collaboration, and improved community engagement to achieve optimal results.

Table 2: What strategies is the National Assembly using to ensure compliance with Sustainable Development Goals?

Variables	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std. D
The National Assembly actively incorporates Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into legislative agendas and discussions	177	1	5	3.52	1.535
There is adequate allocation of resources within the National Assembly to support initiatives aimed at achieving SDGs	177	1	5	4.68	1.199
The National Assembly collaborates effectively with relevant stakeholders, including governmental bodies, NGOs, and international organizations, to advance SDGs	177	1	5	3.15	1.213
There is transparency and accountability within the National Assembly concerning its efforts towards SDGs	177	1	5	3.61	1.528
The National Assembly actively seeks public input and participation in SDGs-related decision-making processes	177	1	5	4.16	1.206
The National Assembly conducts awareness and educational campaigns to promote understanding of SDGs among the general population	177	1	5	2.64	1.128
The National Assembly integrates environmental sustainability considerations into its policies and practices	177	1	5	3.77	1.521
The National Assembly addresses social equity and inclusivity in its pursuit of SDGs	177	1	5	4.77	1.006
The average item score for what strategies is the National Assembly using to ensure compliance with Sustainable Development Goals				3.71	

What strategies is the National Assembly using to ensure compliance with Sustainable Development Goals 33.42
variables total score (5-40)

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

The result in Table 2 indicates that the National Assembly employs a range of strategies to ensure compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with an overall mean score of 3.71, reflecting a moderate level of effectiveness. The highest mean values were observed for addressing social equity and inclusivity (Mean = 4.77) and adequate allocation of resources to support SDG initiatives (Mean = 4.68), suggesting that the Assembly prioritizes equitable development and funding support. Similarly, the relatively high mean for seeking public input in SDG-related decisions (Mean = 4.16) shows a commitment to participatory governance. However, low scores for conducting public awareness campaigns (Mean = 2.64) and collaboration with stakeholders (Mean = 3.15) reveal gaps in public sensitization and inter-organizational partnerships. While the National Assembly demonstrates progress in integrating SDGs into legislative agendas and promoting inclusivity, greater emphasis is needed on awareness creation, collaboration, and transparency to strengthen compliance and accelerate SDG achievement in Nigeria.

Table 3: What are the challenges in the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals?

Variables	N	Min.	Max.	Mean	Std. D
Lack of political will is a significant challenge in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	177	1	5	3.83	1.484
Inadequate financial resources pose a challenge to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	177	1	5	3.97	1.262
Insufficient public awareness and engagement hindering the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	177	1	5	4.18	1.123
Conflicts and instability in various regions globally impede the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	177	1	5	3.98	1.248
Inadequate data collection and monitoring a challenge in tracking the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	177	1	5	4.34	1.088
Lack of collaboration and coordination among stakeholders affects the successful implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	177	1	5	4.33	.970
The complexity and interconnectedness of the SDGs make their implementation more challenging	177	1	5	4.29	1.131

insufficient technological infrastructure and innovation hinder the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	177	1	5	3.66	1.599
Resistance to change and entrenched interests a significant barrier to implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	177	1	5	4.07	1.337
The average item score for the challenges in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals				4.07	
What are the challenges in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals variables total score (5-45)				36.65	

Source: Field Survey, 2025.

Table 3 assesses respondent perspectives on what are the challenges in the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals?. It reveals that inadequate data collection and monitoring a challenge in tracking the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has the highest means score of 4.34 and a standard deviation of 1.10. Conversely, insufficient technological infrastructure and innovation hinder the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has the lowest mean score of 3.66, accompanied by a standard deviation of 1.60. The cumulative on what are the challenges in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals score stands at 36.65, with an average mean of 4.07 within a potential range of 5 to 45. This suggests that, on average, the mean score is above the midpoint of 3.0. Which implies that there are many challenges in the implementation of sustainable development Goals in Nigeria.

Research Findings

The major findings of this study have been derived from the analysis and presentation of data of this study:

- i. Finding revealed that that Nigeria National Assembly has been using the 1999 Constitution to oversight Sustainable Development Goals. This is because the majority of the respondents strongly disagreed that the national assembly exercise its constitutional mandate to ensure accountability in the implementation of SDGs, that the committee system in National Assembly maintain oversight on Sustainable Development Goals and also affirmed that the National Assembly didn't provides sufficient oversight mechanisms to monitor the progress of SDGs-related initiatives and didn't collaborate with relevant stakeholders (government agencies, NGOs, civil society) to oversee the alignment of policies and actions with the SDGs.
- ii. Furthermore, the study revealed that National Assembly are not using strategies to ensure compliance with Sustainable Development Goals. Because the National Assembly most at times don't collaborates effectively with relevant stakeholders, like governmental bodies,

- NGOs, and international organizations, to advance SDGs, no transparency and accountability within the National Assembly concerning its efforts towards SDGs.
- iii. Lastly, the study revealed that there are many challenges to the implementation of sustainable development Goals in Nigeria, which includes: Lack of political will is a significant challenge in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), inadequate financial resources pose a challenge to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), insufficient public awareness and engagement hindering the progress of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Conflicts and instability in various regions globally impede the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Conclusions

The study reveals a significant disconnect between the activities of the Nigerian National Assembly and its oversight responsibilities in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Findings indicate that the National Assembly has not fully lived up to its constitutional mandate of ensuring accountability and transparency in SDG implementation. The lack of effective monitoring mechanisms and enforcement frameworks has weakened legislative oversight, thereby undermining progress toward achieving the goals. Furthermore, the study finds limited collaboration between the National Assembly and key stakeholders, including government ministries, agencies, non-governmental organizations, and civil society groups an omission that has further constrained policy alignment with the SDGs.

The study concludes that the National Assembly has not effectively employed strategic approaches to promote SDG compliance and accountability. The absence of robust partnerships, transparency, and inclusive participation has made it increasingly difficult to embed the SDGs within Nigeria's legislative and policy frameworks. Moreover, persistent challenges such as inadequate political will, limited financial resources, low public awareness, and regional instability continue to impede meaningful progress. These findings underscore the urgent need for stronger institutional commitment, improved stakeholder collaboration, and enhanced governance structures to ensure the successful realization of the SDGs in Nigeria.

Recommendations

The study makes the following recommendations to help with the issues that were found during the investigation:

- i. There is need to implement robust mechanisms within the National Assembly to monitor and enforce SDG-related initiatives effectively, develop clear guidelines and procedures

- for integrating SDG oversight into legislative activities, ensuring accountability in SDG implementation and to facilitate collaboration with relevant stakeholders.
- ii. There is need to address institutional constraints and gaps in resources within the National Assembly to support effective SDG oversight and implementation. In addition, allocate sufficient financial resources and technical support to enable the National Assembly to fulfill its constitutional duty in advancing SDGs..
 - iii. There is need to address conflicts and instability in various regions of Nigeria, which pose significant obstacles to SDG achievement, through prioritize efforts to promote peacebuilding, conflict resolution, and inclusive development to create an enabling environment for SDG implementation.

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