EXECUTIVE-LEGISLATIVE RELATIONS AND LEGISLATIVE EFFECTIVENESS OF NIGERIA'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, 2015-2023

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KEYWORDS

ABSTRACT

The study examines the intricate dynamics of executive-legislative relations and its impact on legislative effectiveness, focusing on the Nigerian National Assembly during the period 2015-2023. The relationship between the executive and legislative branches is fundamental to the functioning of any democratic system, shaping policy outcomes, governance structures, and institutional stability. Through a comprehensive analysis of legislative activities, legislative outputs, and interactions between the executive and legislative arms, this research investigates how the nature of this relationship influenced the effectiveness of the legislative process during the specified time frame. Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, including qualitative analysis of legislative records, policy documents, and interviews with key stakeholders, complemented by quantitative data analysis, this study explores the extent to which executive-legislative dynamics affected legislative productivity, policymaking efficiency, and the overall performance of the National Assembly. System Theory was adopted, which is one among other theories that centres on the interaction between a system and sub-system within a holistic entity as well as in the interacting sub-system that the contestations and cooperation between these arms of government attest to the struggle for the independence of these institutions. Moreover, this study delves into the factors contributing to variations in legislative effectiveness, such as political party dynamics, institutional constraints, leadership styles, and external pressures. The findings from the analysis showed that there are institutional roles prescribed for each arm of government (executive and legislature) and that over the years, the system theory has not enjoyed proper application in the Nigerian political processes. However, this study identified that the relationship between the legislature and the executive suffered excessive friction in the 8th National Assembly (2015 to 2019) than the 9th National Assembly (2019 to 2023). Stemming from the above, to enhance legislative – executive relations and legislative

effectiveness, the study suggested discouraging pride and personality clashes, abiding by the dictates of the constitution, fashioning strategies for the execution of overlapping functions, amongst others as strategies to enhance executive – legislative relations and legislative effectiveness for improved national development. By examining the successes, challenges, and areas for improvement in the legislative process, this study contributes to a deeper understanding of the functioning of democratic institutions and informs strategies for enhancing legislative effectiveness and promoting constructive executive-legislative cooperation in future governance endeavours.

Introduction

Democracy is a process of self-government in which citizens operate in their environment directly and indirectly as they make decisions for themselves, pursue careers, enter into relationships with others, and otherwise live their lives indirectly through political representatives accountable to them (Mbachu, 2009). It is a system of government that makes possible a centralized decision making and rule setting in matters that affect all citizens; the responsibility that accompanies all freedoms. It is also a social and political system characterized by a high degree of personal liberty and equally high degree of political liberty, manifested in regular and free competitive elections, protected by a legal system based upon a constitution, and often articulated by means of federalism (Lakoff, 1996). Democracy is also conceived as "power of the people and for the people". Oyediran, (2003) and Egwu, (2005) espoused the concept to have constituted the institutional foundations of democracy and procedural, when they defined democratic method as the institutional arrangement for arriving at a political decision in which individuals require the power to decide by means of competitive struggle for people to vote for their representative.

Furthermore, the Constitution (CFRN) 1999 as amended Section 4 vests the legislative powers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in the legislature; the National Assembly, a bicameral legislature consisting of the Senate and the House of Representatives at the national level and also vested legislative powers of a state of the Federation in the House of Assembly of the state, a unicameral legislature. Similarly, Section 5 vests the executive powers of the Federation in the President at the federal level and that of the State in the Governor of the state. While Section 6 vests judicial powers of the federation and states, there is the judiciary, which consists of the Courts established for the federation and the states. Oshio, (2004) averred that the separation of powers was not created to establish isolation of any arm of government in its operations, but the boundaries for exercising the governmental powers were to guarantee an interlocking system among the arms of government. This principle entails among other things that one arm of government is not to exercise the powers and functions of another arm of government, neither is one arm of government allowed to encroach on the domain of other arms. The essence is to enhance the operations of the rule of law and to help in sustaining democratic culture, Section 64 (1), 109 (1) and 67, 108 (CFRN). The doctrine forms part of checks and balances in the operations of government rather than absolute separation of powers which is totally impracticable (Dumoye, 2005; Anyaebunam, 2010; Oni, 2013; Abdulrasheed & Kinge, 2015; Adetunji, 2018).

The relationship between the legislature and the executive is one of the key defining characteristics of the functioning of any political system (Kopecky, 2004). It is central to the constitutional and political system of any territory and has been at the forefront of parliamentary debate in recent times (Trobe, 2000). These relationships are complex,

depending on a range of formal and informal practices. The constitutional prerogatives vested in legislatures and the executive are, of course, most important because they structure the interactions between the two powers (National Democratic Institute) (NDI, 2000). Fashagba, (2009) asserted that legislative oversight is an essential component of the activities of modern legislature, regardless of the type of government system in practice. The legislature plays a critical role in the promotion of good governance. This is done through effective oversight. The legislature performed its oversight by the committee system in the legislature. Oversight activities include the review, monitoring, supervision of executive agencies programs and policy implementation, especially the level of compliance with the appropriation act as passed by the National Assembly and compliance with the laws guiding public expenditures and finances of government for the purpose of transparency and accountability in governance.

However, copious informal rules and conventions, such as the customs concerning nomination of members of the cabinet following an election, practically precedent habit and the influence of political parties are very important as well (Bernick, 2008). Productive relationships between the executive and the legislative arms of government are indispensable to the effective maintenance of the constitution and the rule of law (Holme, 2007). In recent years, however, the character of these relationships has reformed significantly, due to changes in governance and wider societal changes. Good scrutiny of these relations will bring to limelight the nature of legislature-executive relations, the factors engendering such relations with a view to bringing to the fore valid modalities for improving it and ensuring good governance. This research therefore examines the dynamics, nature, causes and consequences of the relationship between the two arms and on good governance in Nigeria's 8th and 9th Senates (2015-2019, 2019-2023).

Statement of the Research Problem

Over the years, the principle of separation of powers has become the cornerstone of democratic governance which aims at ensuring the prevalence of basic human rights and prevention of injustices and tyranny amongst the citizenry. Countries that operate it as a political system articulate clearly in their respective contributions and related laws; the power of various arms of government as well as how each relates with the other to ensure smooth governance transactions. The relationship between the executive and legislature during the 8th and 9th National Assemblies was cordial and at the same time frosty that it raises concern of compromise and suspicions amongst the Senate Members. The cordiality cannot be divorced from apparent collusion by both arms of government to defraud the nation. The investigation of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC) into some notable members of the Executive and Legislative arms revealed monumental fraud of great magnitude. The legislative powers of the National Assembly were rarely used to ensure financial accountability and probity. Indeed, the three arms of government could not be exonerated from financial impropriety (Okotoni, 2017).

There were several high profiles of alleged corrupt practices in the three arms of government. Against this background, it becomes imperative to periodically examine the executive – legislative relations in Nigeria's governance process with a view to highlighting any relational challenges that could constitute barriers to effective legislation or implementation of government policies. The problem at the heart of this study lies in the need to comprehend the intricate dynamics of executive-legislative relations in the National Assembly, during the period from 2015 to 2023 and to assess how these interactions have influenced legislative effectiveness. The overarching question centers on understanding whether collaboration or adversarial relationships between the executive and legislative branches have facilitated or hindered the legislative process, ultimately impacting the ability of the National Assembly to enact meaningful and impactful legislation.

During the specified timeframe, the National Assembly of Nigeria faced numerous challenges, ranging from economic crises and political transitions to social issues demanding legislative attention. This study seeks to identify and analyze the specific instances, patterns and factors within executive-legislative relations that may have impeded or facilitated legislative effectiveness. The problem statement is thus characterized by the imperative to explore the nuanced aspects of cooperation and discord

between the executive and legislative branches and their direct consequences on the quality and quantity of legislative output. The absence of a comprehensive understanding of the intricacies of executive-legislative relations within this specific temporal and institutional context represents a gap in existing research. By addressing this gap, the study aims to contribute not only to academic knowledge but also to provide practical insights for policymakers and stakeholders seeking to enhance democratic governance and legislative performance in Nigeria.

Conceptual Clarification

Various relevant concepts, opinions, and observations were explored in this session. The purpose is to establish a connection between extant studies and this paper. Thematic approach was also adopted for the clarification of the concepts, and for reviewing extant literature.

Legislative Effectiveness

The study of "legislative effectiveness" originated in the United States, and arguably dated back to the 1970s. Mayhew, (1974) conducted a comprehensive study to determine the criteria that can ensure a current parliamentarian's re-election. He analyzed the relationship between elections and Congress and found that incumbent Congressmen were very responsive to the possible political consequences of their votes. Consequently, they carefully consider their position when stating their stance on a roll-call vote. Essentially, voters will only re-elect a lawmaker if they perceive them to be effective in the parliament. Therefore, the performance of legislators is mostly driven by the desire to be re-elected. The researchers emphasize that the ability of elected representatives to understand and address the concerns of their constituents and convert them into public policy is a key factor in determining legislative effectiveness. According to (Volden and Wiseman, 2013), the position of lawmakers in the legislative efficiency ranking is influenced by their various abilities to promote their legislative agenda, which depend on their personal aptitude and institutional roles. This analysis suggests that the variations in how members advance agenda items might provide insight into the internal operations of the legislature and shed light on why certain legislators are more 'effective' than others.

The legislature symbolizes the existence of democracy. Fish (2006) argued that the effectiveness status of the legislature determines the status of democracy. If the legislature of a country is strong, the democracy of that country is bound to be strong. The fundamental question is: how can we measure the effectiveness of a legislature in order to know how strong or weak such a legislature is? Scholars, analysts, development partners and legislative practitioners have come to realize the need to constantly and continuously evaluate the legislature in attempts to deepen democratic process (Barkan, 2010; Okoosi-Simbine, 2010; Fish & Kroenig, 2009; Cox & William, 2008; and Zwingina, 2006). The motivating factor for this belief stems out of the centrality of the legislature to democratic experiences. In fact, it is arguable that democracy is inconceivable without the legislature, as the tenets of democracy are construed around the legislature. Perhaps, it is in light of this that Bello-Imam (2004) asserted that any attack against the legislature is a blow against democracy.

The Concept of Executive

The executive is the irreducible core of government operations (Heywood, 2007). Similarly, (Laski, 1992) posited the executive as having occupied a very crucial position in the administration of any given state. (Laski, 1992) further noted that the executive in all democratic systems exists to formulate policies and decides on those to be submitted to the legislature for approval. It is its business of the executive to see to it that the public services maximum adheres to the policy as approved by the legislature; and finally, it ensures that it delimits and also coordinates the activities of the different departments of state. It is on this note that (Puke, 2007) viewed the executive arm of government as being responsible for providing good and responsible governance for the state. Edosa and Azelama, (1995) also conceptualized the executive as the implementation arm of government. They argued that from ages, making and enforcement of rules through the executive have been the primary functions of government. They however, noted that while political structures have existed for centuries without separate agencies for making laws, state

structures without executive organ will be hard to come by. (Heywood, 2007) supported this argument, stating that political systems can operate without Constitutions, assemblies, judiciaries, and without political parties, but cannot survive without an executive arm to formulate government policy and ensure that they are implemented.

Anifowose (2008) further stated that the executive is the arm of government responsible for applying the authoritative rules and policies of a state. The executive implements the constitution, statutes, decrees, treaties, and gives effect to the will of the state. Furthermore, he observed that the executive carried out two basic functions which include ceremonial role and control of governmental administration. These two functions are carried out by the executive as the Chief of the State and as Head of Government respectively. Anifowose (2008) concluded that these two roles are performed by two distinct officials in a parliamentary system of government and by the same official in a presidential system of government. Also, Ikoronye, (2005) averred that the executive, as the organ of government, takes the responsibility of putting into effect the laws made by the legislature, subjecting same to the judgment and orders of the judiciary. Abonyi (2006) in a similar dimension viewed the executive as that arm of government which is the teeth of action to the will of the state by carrying out or executing the laws of the land as contained in the constitution, statutes, decrees, treaties, charters etc.

Legislative-Executive Relations

According to Bernick & Bernick, (2008), the legislature occupies a crucial position in the machinery of government. It is the branch of government with the singular purpose of articulating and expressing the collective will of the people. On his part, Okoosi- Simbine, (2010) conceptualizes the legislature as the law-making, deliberative and policy influencing body working for the furtherance of a democratic political system.

Steward (2021) argues that no form of human organization can function effectively without any rules of behavior. Legislatures are usually elected bodies which have the primary responsibility of making laws for the whole society. Although practically everywhere, the universal duty of legislative bodies is law-making, yet they do more than simply write laws. The legislature in Nigeria is also called the parliament. It is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Its laws are therefore meant to determine the acceptable behavior in the community. Modern legislatures do not perform the same type of functions. Their functions vary according to the type of political system existing in the country.

On the other hand, Heywood (2007) argues that the Executive is the irreducible core of government. Similarly, Okpeh (2014) sees the Executive as occupying a very crucial position in the administration of a state. For this author, the Executive in a democratic system exists to decide on the final choice of policy to be submitted to the Parliament for approval; it ensures that the public services fully adhere to the policy as intended by the Parliament; and ensures that it delimits and also coordinates the activities of the different Departments of State. In the same vein, Anifowose (2008) opines that the Executive is the branch of Government responsible for applying the authoritative rules and policies of society. Though the term Executive is understood both in broad and narrow senses, in the context of the study of politics, its narrow meaning is applied. Nevertheless, Abonyi (2006) argues that it is the Executive head, and his principal colleagues who run the machinery of government formulate national policy and see that it is properly implemented.

The Relationship between Executive - Legislature in 8th and 9th National Assembly

The 8th National Assembly was inaugurated on 9th June 2015, following its proclamation by President Muhammadu Buhari of the All Progressives Congress (APC) who had earlier won the Presidential elections and was sworn-in on May 29, 2015. From its inception, the 8thNational Assembly experienced a debilitating leadership crisis, following the unexpected emergence of Senator Bukola Saraki as Senate President, against the wishes of the APC leadership, whose desired candidate was outmaneuvered. As the crisis lingered, it paralyzed the work of the Assembly including the approval of nominees of the President. The new leadership of the National Assembly spent a considerable amount of time trying to establish its legitimacy and authority, which also adversely

affected its work. The net result was the fractionalization of APC legislators between those who backed the new Senate President and those who supported the President and upheld the supremacy of the party. Tension between the leadership of the National Assembly and the Executive arm circumscribed the work of the 8thNational Assembly, as their relations remained frosty until the Senate President and Speaker of the House later decamped to the opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), a few months to the 2019 elections. Matters were further complicated when the Senate President, Dr. Bukola Saraki, was arraigned before the Code of Conduct Tribunal on the allegation of false asset declaration. The 'trial' that ensued led to serious tension and disagreement between both arms of government, which delayed the passage of the budget, spawned dispute over the power of appropriation as well as Senate's refusal to confirm the appointment of Ibrahim Magu as the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), among others. Despite these challenges, however, the 8thNational Assembly will arguably go down in history as one of the most proactive, given the sheer volume of its legislative outputs and related activities. For instance, both Senate and the House developed and adopted Legislative Agenda and calendar that guided their activities during the four years life of the Assembly. During this period, there was also a marked increase in the number of Private Members' Bills that were successfully introduced and passed. One of the unforgettable pieces of legislation passed by the 8th Assembly was the "Not Too Young Run Bill", which reduced the age for those seeking elective seats in the National and State Houses of Assembly, for offices of President and vice President, Governor and Deputy Governor (Okotoni, 2017).

The Senate maintained a level of maturity and tranquility in almost all its activities. The amity in the Senate was a departure in the House as Hon. Yakubu Dogara who eventually emerged as the Speaker was not the preferred candidate. The preferred candidate for the speakership was Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, from the South-west. However, owing to a twist, Hon. Dogara, in connivance with the opposition parties, ambushed the APC. The party never forgave the duo and, arguably, set landmines on their way, but, despite the frosty relationship between Dogara and the APC, his time in office was a delight to observe, thanks to the active support of the oppositions (Obi 2019).

Research Methodology

This study is a mixed survey and data were generated from their natural setting. The study examines Executive – Legislative Relations and Legislative Effectiveness of Nigeria's National Assembly from 2015 to 2023. Therefore, the researcher examines the relationships existing between the variables on the above subject matter. In the process, data were collected from the targeted population through the administration of questionnaire and in-depth interviews.

The study adopted purposive sampling to select those that were considered within the confines of the study population, thus the target population is a total of 3,039 Representatives of the 10th National Assembly (469- elected law makers + 2,570- support staff from the Senate and House of Representative); 1,200 Representatives of the Presidency and Ministries Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and 52 Representatives from the Centre for Democracy and Governance. The researcher conducted a pre-survey visit to the organizations listed; this enabled the researcher to gather estimates of number of staff at the units or departments directly dealing with the subject of this research work. Also, the sample was drawn to cover views of the study population of 4,291. However, in selecting the sample size, the study adopted determination formula in social sciences propounded by Yamane (1967) as thus:

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

Theoretical Framework

The theories that are relevant to this study are system theory and the principle of separation of powers. These theories are adopted because the relationship between the executive and the legislature is a classical topic in political science.

System Theory

Systems theory is an inter-disciplinary field which studied systems. Enemuo (2008) asserted that David Easton is usually credited with domesticating this theory within field due to his view of political system as the system of interactions in any given society through which authoritative decisions are made and implemented (Ogundiwin, 2015). Focusing further on the contemporary dimensions of the system theory, (Okeke, 2014) elucidates that over the years, the spheres of elite activity have expanded to reach finance, business, bureaucracy, the military, education and different other areas. Consequently, types of elites, in addition to the power or political elite include the military elite, business elite, economic elite, bureaucratic/administrative elite, educational elite, economic elite, social elite and even sports elite. System theory therefore offers a lens that allows us to see the dynamic interplay between the various elements in the society. By recognizing and addressing challenges at the systematic level, we can devise more effective and sustainable methods. As it applies to social science, systems theory is crucial because it looks holistically at the individual to draw insights and use them to take steps forward.

Discussion of Findings

This study thoroughly examines the complex interactions between the executive and legislative branches of government and how it affects the ability of the legislature to effectively carry out its duties. It focuses on the Nigerian National Assembly and analyses the period from 2011 to 2019. The interaction between the executive and legislative branches of government is a crucial element of democratic governance, impacting policy creation, legislation, and overall national progress. The objective of this research project is to provide a deeper understanding of the intricacies of these relationships and evaluate their impact on legislative performance throughout the designated period. The study utilizes a comprehensive approach, integrating qualitative and quantitative approaches to achieve a comprehensive understanding of the topic matter. The research conducts a comprehensive analysis of the historical and theoretical underpinnings of executive-legislative relations. It explores fundamental ideas such as the separation of powers, checks and balances, and the influence of political parties on this complex relationship.

Study by Momodu & Matudi (2013) on the Implications of Executive-Legislative Conflicts on Good Governance in Nigeria, reveals that several factors are responsible for the triggering-off of executive-legislative conflicts in Nigeria. These include: limited conceptualization and understanding of their constitutional responsibilities; struggle for power and superiority between legislature and executive; conflict of roles; display of personal ego between the leadership of executive and legislature; arbitrariness and domineering attitude of the executive over the legislature and greed and corruption between members of the two organs. The study also identified the negative impacts of executive-legislative conflicts on good governance in Nigeria. In determining the negative impact of executive-legislative conflict with an open-ended question, which states thus: "What do you consider to be the negative impact of legislative-executive conflict on good governance in Nigeria?" Only 86, representing (86%) of the respondents responded to the questions out of 100. Fourteen (14) respondents left the answer space blank, which represent (14%). The following negative impact was extracted: slowing down the pace of governance; creates suspicion and hostility between the two organs; encourages bad governance; public resources are deployed by executive to create factions in the legislature, which undermines the unity of the legislature; it creates division between the executive and legislature; it also creates distraction to the process of governance; it creates tension and political instability and it encourages the culture of impunity and flagrant disregard to the rule of law among the political class.

The nature of executive-legislative interactions impacts legislative effectiveness, including the passage of bills, policy formulation, and overall governance within the National Assembly from 2015 to 2023

2015	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The nature of executive-legislative interactions significantly impacted the effectiveness of legislation, including the passage of bills, within the National Assembly from 2015 to 2023.	47 13%	178 50%	14 4%	72 20%	47 13%
The dynamics of executive-legislative interactions had a notable influence on the formulation of policies during the specified period in the National Assembly.	57 16%	82 23%	54 15%	100 28%	65 18%
Collaborative executive-legislative interactions positively affected the efficiency of bill passage and policy implementation in the National Assembly during the specified period.	47 13%	100 28%	47 13%	99 28%	65 18%
The influence of executive-legislative interactions on the formulation of policies during the specified period in the National Assembly.	32 9%	100 28%	72 20%	89 25%	65 18%
2023					
The nature of executive-legislative interactions significantly impacted the effectiveness of legislation, including the passage of bills, within the National Assembly from 2015 to 2023.	82 23%	111 31%	39 11%	79 22%	47 13%
The dynamics of executive-legislative interactions had a notable influence on the formulation of policies during the specified period in the National Assembly.	39 11%	133 37%	32 9%	97 27%	57 16%

The findings from the above table indicate a substantial impact of executive-legislative interactions on legislative effectiveness, bill passage, and policy formulation in the National Assembly from 2015 to 2023. About 13% strongly agreed and 50% agreed on the significant influence of these interactions on bill passage, while 20% disagreed and strongly disagreed. For policy formulation, 15% strongly agreed and 23% agreed, but 28% disagreed or strongly disagreed, reflecting varied perspectives on the impact of executive-legislative dynamics. Collaborative interactions were perceived positively by 28% (agreed) and 13% (strongly agreed) in terms of bill passage and policy implementation efficiency, while 28% disagreed and strongly disagreed. Regarding policy formulation, 28% strongly agreed and 9% agreed on the influence of executive-legislative interactions, but 25% disagreed. The study suggests a complex relationship between these branches, emphasizing the need for further research to understand the governance intricacies within the National Assembly during the specified period.

Similarly, in 2023, the findings underscore the continued impact of executive-legislative interactions on legislative effectiveness, bill passage, and policy formulation within the National Assembly, extending trends observed from 2015 to 2023. For the effectiveness of legislation, 31% agreed, and 23% strongly agreed that executive-legislative interactions significantly influenced the passage of bills. However, 22% disagreed or strongly disagreed, revealing some divergence in opinions.

Concerning policy formulation, 37% strongly agreed, and 37% agreed that executive-legislative interactions notably influenced the process, while 16% disagreed and strongly disagreed. Collaborative interactions were perceived positively, with 25% agreeing and 15% strongly agreeing that they affected the efficiency of bill passage and policy implementation. Nevertheless, 18% disagreed or strongly disagreed. Regarding the influence on policy formulation, 37% strongly agreed, and 15% agreed that executive-legislative interactions significantly impacted policies. Conversely, 28% disagreed.

In a response to the question “how did the nature of interactions between the executive and legislative branches impact the effectiveness of the National Assembly, comparing the 8th and 9th Assembly?” a respondent from the National Assembly has this to say:

> *During the 8th National Assembly, there is evidently collaboration for efficiency. A strong majority for the ruling party in both houses facilitated smoother collaboration on the executive's agenda. This enabled faster passage of bills, particularly those aligned with government priorities. However, concerns arose about robust debate and independent legislative oversight. However, during the 8th National Assembly, a shift in power with a divided legislature created a more adversarial environment. Increased scrutiny of the executive, while crucial for accountability, sometimes led to gridlock on crucial bills. Negotiating compromises and amendments became more time-consuming. Despite the differences, both Assemblies passed significant bills. The 9th focused on swift passage, while the 8th emphasized more rigorous debate and oversight, even if it slowed progress.*

The following ensued from the conversation had with one of the respondents from the Presidency:

> *During the 9th National Assembly, a strong majority for the ruling party fostered a collaborative environment. Bills aligned with the executive agenda passed swiftly, allowing for quicker implementation of our priorities. This facilitated a sense of progress on key national issues. But the 8th National Assembly presented a different dynamic. The shift in power to a divided legislature led to increased scrutiny and negotiation. While this slowed down the passage of bills, it ensured more robust debate and consideration of alternative perspectives. This could have strengthened the quality of legislation in the long run. This led to delays in passing crucial bills hampering the executive's ability to implement its agenda efficiently. This could have*

impacted the government's responsiveness to pressing national issues.

Conclusion

The study on Executive-Legislative Relations and Legislative Effectiveness of Nigeria's National Assembly from 2015 to 2023 has offered a detailed comprehension of the complex factors that influence democratic government. The research sought to understand the intricate dynamics between the executive and legislative branches and evaluate how they influenced the efficiency of legislative procedures within the designated timeframe. The results of this study highlight the crucial significance of executive-legislative ties in shaping legislative outcomes. A cordial and collaborative interaction between these branches is crucial for effective lawmaking and national growth. On the other hand, occurrences of disagreement, battles for control, and variations in beliefs can hinder the process of making laws, resulting in less-than-ideal results.

Moreover, the analysis of the National Assembly's legislative performance uncovered a plethora of elements in operation. The interaction of political ideology, party discipline, and leadership dynamics inside the legislative body had a considerable impact on the approval of bills, budgetary procedures, and the general effectiveness of the legislative process. The analysis highlighted key moments where the agreement or disagreement of executive and legislative interests influenced the direction of national policy. The executive and legislative arms of government are therefore central to the administration and governance of a state in a democracy. While the former is constitutionally tasked with the responsibility of policy formulation, implementation and evaluation, the latter is specifically empowered by the constitution to make laws and control the activities of the former. The power of investigation conferred on the legislature stems from the philosophy that it is a representative of the people.

Recommendation

In view of the above findings in the study, the following further recommendations were made, however, some of these recommendations had been made earlier in the extant literature by scholars in field of executive-legislative relations and legislative effectiveness. They are as follows;

i. The legislatures should be insulated from the influence of the executive. This influence in most cases is counterproductive as it is a means to sway the minds of the legislators from the serious business of lawmaking. For example, the House of Representatives was under pressure to water down the report of the Committee probing N1.3 Trillion oil subsidy, or dump the probe altogether for fear of indicting some perceived powerful people in government. The probe panel under the leadership of Hon. Faruk Lawan had insisted on submitting the report first to the house. Lawmakers should be more responsible and responsive to their responsibilities.

ii. The excuses that is often given that bills take time to go through the legislative process because of lack of quorum is not tenable anywhere in the world. A solution to this unhealthy trend may be to make the salaries and allowances payable to law makers vary directly with the number of times they participate in the proceedings at the Chamber. The leadership of both houses should be more financially responsible.

iii. Award of contract should follow due process and be carried out in a transparent manner. This will prevent the ugly scenario that was painted recently by the allegation of contract inflation levelled against the then Hon. Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Dimeji Bankole.

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