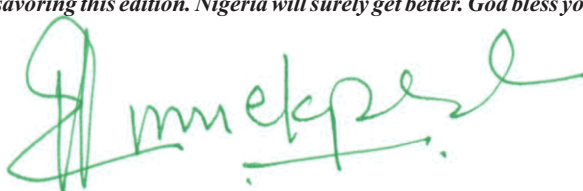


FROM THE PUBLISHER

Constitutional Review; Nigeria must get it right this time

The National Assembly has disclosed that it would transmit the report of the ongoing constitution review to the 36 state assemblies before December 2025, in line with its design and timetable. However, the parliament urged all stakeholders with specific demands to actively engage and lobby their respective state assemblies, noting that the National Assembly "cannot successfully review the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) without their approval." Since the beginning of constitutional amendment efforts in the Fourth Republic in 1999, key issues such as devolution of powers, local government autonomy, creation of additional states, and establishment of state police have dominated discussions at zonal public hearings. Addressing stakeholders, the Chairman of the Senate Review Committee Senator Bamidele reiterated that the constitution review report would be sent to all State Houses of Assembly before December 2025, consistent with the review timetable. According to him, "We have completed the public hearing. We are now returning to Abuja to prepare our report. Part of our timetable is to issue final notifications before the end of the year and transmit our report to all state assemblies. This will conclude the process of the constitution review." He emphasized that the review process "is not a jamboree, contrary to some dissenting views across the federation. Rather, it is aimed at making consequential reforms that can ensure our collective prosperity, a more efficient governance structure, and sustainable development." Bamidele warned that the National Assembly would be handicapped in completing the review if the proposed amendments were not approved by two-thirds of the state assemblies. He therefore challenged all stakeholders to begin lobbying their state assemblies and legislators to meet the constitutional threshold for amending the 1999 Constitution. While promising that the National Assembly would process all the proposals received and transmit them to the state assemblies, Bamidele stressed that stakeholders must take the lead in lobbying the states if the proposed amendments are to be adopted. "There is nothing the National Assembly can do without a two-thirds approval of all proposals by the state legislatures. All stakeholders must engage with their lawmakers at the state level. We must appreciate the role of the state assemblies in ensuring these proposals become law," he said. "Therefore, we advise all stakeholders with special interests to extend their advocacy to the state assemblies. It is not just about the elected representatives, but about ensuring that decisions reflect the will of their constituents."

It is in view of this that the PATRIOTS a non-partisan group of eminent Nigerians has conveyed a National Summit and came out with a Communique and framework that could enhance a new constitution for the country. The Contents of the Communique if properly studied and harness could help the National Assembly come up with a final Constitution that will address the myriads of contending issues that has continued to weaken our drive for a prosperous, peaceful and egalitarian society that will promote the development and unity of our Nation. It is very imperative that this issue of Constitutional Amendments will done right this time around in order to save the country from continuous wastage of resources and tax payers money for an exercise that has become a kind of jamboree and a source of wastage of public resources by successive administration of the National Assembly since 1999. "The amendment must among others clearly define the powers, responsibilities, and limits of state police, establish oversight mechanisms to prevent abuse, and create a framework for federal and state police to work collaboratively for effective coordination and balance of power." The outcome of the National Summit by the PATRIOTS takes the cover of our September 2025 edition. As usual other stories and our regulars are there for your reading pleasure. Enjoy yourself and don't forget to drop a line for us after savoring this edition. Nigeria will surely get better. God bless you.



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DEVELOPMENT Monitor

ISSN 0794-1625

An international Development Magazine
published monthly by Media Ideals for Development

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