



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIBRARY TRUST FUND • FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

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At the Opening Ceremony of the 2026 National Assembly Library Week

Theme: Parliamentary Memory: Connecting Records, Legislation and the People

At the National Assembly Library, Abuja | Monday, 28th September, 2026.

[Protocols]

It is with a profound sense of responsibility that I welcome you all to the National Assembly Library & Resource Centre (The Bola Ahmed Tinubu Building) for the inaugural edition of the National Assembly Library Week.

Today marks an important milestone in our institutional journey.

From today, the 28th of September to the 30th of September, 2026, we begin what we intend to establish as an annual institutional platform for promoting knowledge, legislative research, access to information, parliamentary memory and the effective use of the resources of the National Assembly Library.

This year's theme, "Parliamentary Memory: Connecting Records, Legislation and the People," speaks directly to the essence of what we are building.

A Parliament does not exist only in the laws it passes. It also exists in the records it preserves, the debates it has had, the decisions it has taken, the experiences it has accumulated, and the knowledge it has transmitted from one generation of legislators and parliamentary staff to another.

Without institutional memory, each generation risks starting anew. That equates to stagnation – a merry-go-round with a lot of motion but no actual movement.

But with a well-preserved, accessible and properly managed parliamentary memory, today's lawmakers can learn from yesterday, legislate with greater context, and build more effectively for tomorrow.

This is the responsibility we have embraced at the National Assembly Library.

The National Assembly Library is more than a physical collection of books. It serves as the knowledge infrastructure of the Legislature. It is a repository for parliamentary records, legislative information, research materials, institutional knowledge, and the historical memory of Nigeria's democratic journey.

Our mission is therefore clear – **To be a catalyst for Legislative Excellence in Africa.**

We aim to achieve this by ensuring the National Assembly Library becomes not merely a place to visit, but a resource people instinctively rely on for everything from parliamentary records to archived information, Order Papers, Votes and Proceedings,

Committee Reports, Compendium of Acts passed by Parliament, gazetted copies of Nigerian laws, oversight manuals, as well as for civic education engagements and materials.

Ladies and gentlemen, permit me to share this story with you: imagine a scenario where a judge, while reading a judgment in court, is interrupted by a Senior Advocate who asks him which version of the law he was quoting, because his own copy of the same law was inconsistent with what the judge was quoting. That is the same Act of Parliament, but two completely different versions available to a judge and an SAN .

This proliferation of fake copies of official National Assembly documents and inconsistencies in official documents are part of the gaps the NALTF seeks to address.

To achieve this, we are guided by our core values of Service, Professionalism, Integrity, Collaboration, and Excellence (S.P.I.C.E.). These values continue to shape our determination to build a modern, accessible, innovative, and responsive Library and Resource Centre for the National Assembly.

Our values drive our significant investments in the Library. We are expanding both our physical and electronic repositories, enhancing the E-Library for faster access to legislative resources, and developing the NASS Library mobile application to deliver parliamentary information directly to the devices and pockets of lawmakers, aides, staff, researchers, and citizens.

We have also introduced the Bills Tracker system to make it easier to follow legislative proposals and their progress through the National Assembly. We are creating easy-to-digest infographics, audiovisual materials, and video explainers to make legislative processes, bills, acts, and activities of the National Assembly easier to understand and engage with. In the immediate period, we are planning to commence a project to translate our laws into local languages, and also hold public policy dialogues in this Library to deepen citizen participation in public hearings, and create more engagement opportunities between Legislators and Nigerians and other stakeholders to bridge the gap between public perception of the parliament and the dynamics of parliamentary work.

These innovations are driven by one fundamental principle: knowledge is most valuable when it is accessible and usable.

This is particularly important in a dynamic institution like the National Assembly, where legislators and staff need timely, credible, and authoritative information to support legislative work, research, policy development, and informed decision-making.

I do sincerely believe that the Parliament can indeed become an engine room for policy innovation.

Today's event is also significant as it coincides with the International Day for Universal Access to Information, observed on the 28th of September each year.

Distinguished Guests,

While we look to the future, we remain mindful of the importance of preserving the past. The National Assembly Library has painstakingly curated rare and valuable collections that document significant chapters in Nigeria's democratic and legislative history.

These collections tell stories that cannot be adequately captured in contemporary reports or digital summaries. They provide a window into our institutional evolution, helping us understand our origins, the choices that shaped our democracy, and the experiences that inform our institutional development.

Some of these remarkable collections are available for viewing at our Experience Centre, which is a key part of our broader effort to make parliamentary history more engaging and accessible.

I therefore encourage all participants to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by this Library Week. Please do not leave this complex without taking a tour of the National Assembly Library, our Museum and the Experience Centre. Our curators and library professionals are available to guide you, explain the collections, and demonstrate our digital resources and innovations.

As we commence this first edition of the Library Week, I encourage our legislators, Clerks, aides and all management staff of the National Assembly, as well as our wider stakeholders, to make the Library a regular part of their parliamentary work.

Come to the Library when you need to understand the history of a particular legislation.

Come when you need parliamentary records.

Come when you need research materials.

Come when you need historical context.

Come when you need to creatively demystify, simplify and communicate your legislative work to the public in clear, engaging and accessible formats.

Additionally, use our digital platforms to access these resources remotely.

As we proceed today, we will hear from distinguished experts, engage in thought-provoking discussions and examine the relationship between parliamentary records, institutional memory, legislation, and public trust.

Our lead presentation by Professor Jake Dan Azumi, chaired by the Leader of the House, Professor Julius Ihonvbere, CON, will provide valuable context for our discussions. Panel sessions will further explore how effective record-keeping and preservation of parliamentary memory strengthen legislative institutions and democratic engagement.

I encourage everyone to participate actively, ask questions, share experiences, and most importantly, explore the resources the National Assembly Library offers.

Let me, at this point, express my profound appreciation to the Leadership of the 10th National Assembly, particularly the President of the Senate and Chairman of the National Assembly, His Excellency, Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio, GCON, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, GCON, for their support for institutional development and knowledge infrastructure within the National Assembly.

I also appreciate Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, the Clerk to the National Assembly, management and staff of the National Assembly, our development partners, the diplomatic community, academia, civil society, the media, and all stakeholders for joining us today.

Your presence affirms our shared commitment to building a Legislature informed by knowledge, strengthened by institutional memory, and connected to the people it serves. I encourage you to become ambassadors for the National Assembly Library in your respective spheres of influence.

Once again, I warmly welcome you all to the 2026 National Assembly Library Week.

May this week mark the beginning of a stronger culture of knowledge, research, information access, and institutional memory within the National Assembly.

Thank you for your kind attention.

God bless the National Assembly.

God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.