

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON INDUSTRY ON THE STANDARDISATION OF PRODUCTS IN NIGERIA: A CASE
STUDY OF THE 9TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.**

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**BEING A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR
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I hereby declare this dissertation titled **“An assessment of the effect of the Activities of House Committee on Industry on the standardization of products in Nigeria. A case study of the 9th National Assembly** “is a genuine research carried out by me under the supervision and guidance of Dr. John Olarewaju. Having been examined and found to have met the regulations for the award of Master’s Degree in Legislative Studies of the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies / University of Benin (NILDS/UNIBEN) Postgraduate Programme in Abuja

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APPORVAL

We the undersigned hereby certify that this dissertation titled “**An assessment of the effect of the Activities of House Committee on Industry on the standardisation of products in Nigeria. A case study of the 9th National Assembly.**” presented by Obianuju Anita IKEMEH (PG/NLS/ 2015042) been accepted as fulfilling part of the requirements for the award of Master’s Degree in Legislative Studies (MLS). And it is approved for contribution to knowledge

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to God Almighty (my all sufficient Maker), my late parents **Nze, Donatus Anaeto Ikeme and Ezinne, Roseline Okwuluma Ikeme**, whose selfless sacrifice contributed to my reaching and achieving my dreams.

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ABSTRACT

This study presents an assessment of the effectiveness of the House Committee on Industry in overseeing the activities of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) in promoting quality standards for products and ensuring the protection of consumers' public interest. The study aims to examine the effectiveness of SON and analyze the role of the House Committee's oversight activities in enhancing product standardization. A mixed-methods research approach was employed, combining qualitative interviews and focus group discussions with quantitative surveys. The research objectives were 1) To examine the effectiveness of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria, and 2) To analyze the role of the oversight activities of the House Committee on Industry in enhancing product standardization.

To achieve the first objective, qualitative interviews and focus group discussions were conducted with key stakeholders, including SON officials, House Committee on Industry, industry representatives, and consumer advocates. These discussions provided insights into stakeholders' perceptions of SON's effectiveness in promoting quality standards. The findings revealed both positive aspects, such as SON's efforts in setting and enforcing standards, and areas for improvement, such as the need for enhanced monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. For the second objective, a comprehensive analysis of the House Committee's oversight activities was conducted. The role of the Committee in enhancing product standardization was examined through an exploration of its legislative functions, monitoring mechanisms, and collaboration with SON. The analysis revealed the Committee's efforts in holding SON accountable, raising awareness about product quality, and advocating for consumer protection. However, challenges were identified, including the need for improved coordination and resource allocation.

The research findings indicate that SON plays a crucial role in promoting quality standards, but there is room for improvement in certain areas. The House Committee on Industry has made significant contributions to enhancing product standardization through its oversight activities. However, there is a need for strengthened collaboration between the Committee and SON to address challenges and ensure effective industry regulation. Based on the findings, recommendations are provided to enhance the effectiveness of both SON and the House Committee on Industry. These recommendations include improving SON's monitoring and enforcement mechanisms, enhancing the Committee's capacity through training and resource allocation, and fostering closer collaboration between the Committee and SON to streamline oversight processes.

In conclusion, this thesis evaluates the effectiveness of the House Committee on Industry in overseeing the activities of SON in promoting quality standards of products and protecting consumers' public interest. The specific objectives of examining SON's effectiveness and analyzing the role of the House Committee's oversight activities were achieved through a mixed-methods research approach. The research outcomes contribute to a better understanding of the strengths and areas for improvement in the current oversight mechanisms. The recommendations proposed aim to enhance both SON and the House Committee's functions in ensuring effective industry regulation and consumer protection in Nigeria.

Keywords: House Committee on Industry, Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), quality standards, oversight, consumer protection, industry regulation.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

SON	STANDARDS ORGINSATION OF NIGERIA
NAFDAC	NATIONAL AGENCY FOR FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AND CONTROL
MANCAP	MANDATORY CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
NIS	NIGERIAN INDUSTRIAL STANDARDS
NASS	NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
MDA's	MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES
SONCAP	SON CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM
MAN	MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The concept of standardisation is synonymous with human life. Most human activities involve one form of standardisation or another such that many a time, standards are applied unknowingly. For instance, a housewife who carefully selects her ingredients and determines the quantity of each of them may not know that she is applying a standard (Monye, 2003). The term standardization has been defined by the International Standards Organisation (ISO) as a process of formulating and applying rules for an orderly approach to a specific activity for the benefit and with the cooperation of all concerned and in particular, for the promotion of optimum overall economy taking due account of functional conditions and safety requirements. It also means a conscious effort of man to simplify things, reduce unwanted variety and create order (Pollit,1990). It has been described as a system of control of the method of production as well as product standards or composition with the aim of ensuring that only good quality and safe products are put in the market (Monye,2003).

Standardisation of products is a global industrial practice aimed at ensuring product quality. The standards are not engraved in stone like the Ten Commandments. They are a living document hence are dynamic and as such is continually modified to mirror advancements in technology. Standardization of products is very important as it ensures that customers get similar products regardless of the manufacturer or geographical location of the customers.

Governments have institutions whose statutory function is to formulate product quality standards and see to their enforcement. Companies that flouted industrial standards are usually sanctioned

or penalized for infringement of regulations. There is no country anywhere in the world that leaves the production of goods and services without laws and regulations for quality assurance and public safety. Without standardization, greedy and unscrupulous companies would embark on the production of unwholesome goods and services that lack quality. Only the selfish monetary consideration would be the overriding factor. The negative impacts of the products on consuming public would not be considered. This is a grave danger that must not be allowed in any society.

In Nigeria, Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) plays a critical role in ensuring the quality, safety and reliability of products in Nigeria, they carries out quality assurance activities and protects consumers from substandard and unsafe goods. As the body charged with the responsibility of standardization of service and products They are in charge of all the products, processes and scientific study of measurement standards in Nigeria. It was established by the SON Act No. 14, 2015, which repeals the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, Cap 59 laws of Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2004, and Enacts the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act. 2015, for the purpose of providing additional functions for the organisation, increasing penalties for violations, and for related matters. It is in recognition of the great importance of standardization of products to our national development and the healthy living of the populace, that this study seeks to examine the effect of the activities of the activities of House Committee on Industry on standardization of products in Nigeria. However, effective oversight of SON activities is vital to ensure that it fulfils its mandate and operates efficiently.

House Committee on Industry on the other hand comprises of legislators from different states of Nigeria as a legislative body. Is responsible for overseeing of different agencies as their mandate. Also examine the implementation of policies and program and make recommendations. They hold the power to review the activities SON to ensure their effective operations and adhere to standards. This thesis shed light on the dynamics between Standards Organisation of Nigeria and House Committee on Industry.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

The general problem at hand revolves around the lack of effective standardization practices in Nigeria and resulting impact on the quality of life and wellbeing of its citizen. Despite the presence of the House Committee on Industry, tasked with overseeing the activities of Standards Organisation of Nigeria in enhancing standardization, several social, economic and political factors hinders and also hinders the committees ability to improve the overall quality of life for Nigerian citizens. Nigeria as a nation has been plagued with numerous problems. Some of them have even threatened the very essence of our corporate existence. The poor development of the country has been a cause for major concern as it has resulted to a lot of crises. Most school of thoughts has fingered the legislative arm of government for not living up to their responsibilities in ensuring an effective legislative arm of the country through the creation of effective and far reaching laws and policies that would be an instrument for nation building. This current poor development of the country has a lot to do with the nature and pattern of legislative oversight function. In Nigeria, SON is the major organizations charged with the regulation of the standard of products in order to protect the consumers from being exploited, as well enhance

their safety and good health. The primary responsibility of Standards Organisation of Nigeria is to make sure that products that are locally manufactured in Nigeria have the required level of satisfaction desired by consumers. They achieve this by making sure that companies comply with the policies of the government on standardization, also assessing the products for conformity. The Standards Organisation of Nigeria also makes sure that imported goods meet the minimum requirements of industry standards in Nigeria or other approved and domesticated international standards.

However, there has not been empirical analysis to evaluate the effectiveness of Standards Organisation of Nigeria, and the oversight role of the House Committee on Industry in ensuring adequate product standardization in Nigeria. This is the gap this study aims to fill.

1.3 Research Questions

1. How effective has the Standards Organisation of Nigeria been in product standardization in Nigeria?
2. How well has the oversight roles of House Committee on Industry enhanced the activities of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria in product standardization?

1.4 Research Objectives

The Main or broad objective of this study is to examine the effectiveness of the House Committee on Industry in overseeing the activities of Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON)

in promoting Quality standards of products and ensuring the protection of consumers public interest. While the specific research objectives are stated below

Specific Objectives

1. To examine the effectiveness of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria
2. To analyze the role of the oversight activities of the House Committee on Industry in enhancing product standardization.

1.5 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

This study is restricted to the impact of legislative effectiveness in Nigeria from 2019 - 2023 using the House Committee on Industry with focus on House of Representatives oversight functions of the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) as a case study. The geographical scope of the study is the Federal Capital Territory.

1.6 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

- i. Financial constraint

Insufficient fund tends to impede the efficiency of the researcher in sourcing for relevant materials, literature, or information and in the process of data collection (internet, questionnaire and interview). Secondly, the financial strength of the researcher is limited, owing to the fact that the researcher is a legislative aide. Also, because of this, the researcher could only collect data in the Federal Capital Territory.

ii. Time constraint

The considering that the researcher is a Legislative Aide who will simultaneously engage in this study with the demands of her official work. Insufficient time is the major limitation faced by the researcher of this work. This consequently has limitations on the time devoted to the research work.

iii. Finally there are no much available local literature on this subject, this also posed as a big challenge to the researcher too and other constraints.

iv. Lack of empirical evidences and materials – due to lack of continuity among civil services bureaucracy

1.7 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

One of the barometers for measuring the level of economic development and improvement in the quality of lives of the citizenry of a country, is the quality of the standards of goods and services produced and consumed in that country. This is because, standards and other means used in providing quality goods and services for both domestic and foreign markets are critical for the development of any economy, its competitiveness and wealth creation as well as the health of its citizens. Nigerians are however at the receiving end of substandard imports, which leads to loss of lives and properties worth several billions. The enormity of the loss could be seen in quantum of auto crashes, collapsed buildings and fire outbreaks in private and public buildings, leaving trails of sorrows from deaths to destruction of valuables.

In the words of Lord Kelvin, a physicist and mathematician of the last century, “What is not defined cannot be measured. What is not measured, cannot be improved. What is not improved, is always degraded. Herein lies the significance of this study. This study would greatly improve the development of the country as relevant recommendations would proffer solutions towards that effect. This study would also benefit students, researchers and scholars who are interested in developing further studies on the subject matter through the provision of relevant literatures.

1.8 DEFINITION OF THE KEY CONCEPTS

This involves the explanation of some technical term and professional jargon used in the study by the author of this research.

1. Standard can be said to be the measure used for comparison, while Standardization: The unification of methods, practices and techniques, involved in the manufacture, construction and use of materials, machine and products for all line of endeavor which present the necessity for performing repetitive work.

Product standardization: is a manufacturing and marketing process that ensures uniformity and consistency among the several versions of specific products or services available in various regions.

It entails ensuring that a product meets specified criteria for item quality, design, service delivery, or appearance in each area. The purpose of standardization is to ensure that specific procedures or processes within a given context are uniform and exact.

Product consistency and uniformity are cost-effective and enhance production efficiency.

2. Quality: level of excellence, an attribute that differentiates a thing or person.

3. Specification: Detailed description of the materials, parts and component used in making a product.

4. Instrument: The Webster Dictionary defines an instrument as “a measuring device for determining the present value of a quantity under observation.”

1.9 ORGANIZATION OF CHAPTERS

Chapter 1 provides the Introduction, Chapter 2 is on the review of the literature. Chapter 3 focuses on research method. Chapter 4 is the presentation and analysis of data while chapter 5 is the conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter reviewed the scholastic work of various authors on the subject matter of the research. The National Assembly is a key institutional component of modern representative democracies. The importance of national legislatures in the proper governing of these countries has gained currency. Good governance is linked to good laws and legislation made by the parliament of a country. Laws are enacted to enhance the living conditions of citizens in society. In principle, governments consider the interests of citizens when making decisions and or making policies. Many government policies and programmes intended to improve the living conditions of citizens never get fully implemented with outcomes that suggest the achievement of objectives.

2.1 History / Background of the Standardisation of Products in Nigeria

Nigeria operates a top-down government-driven standards system. In Nigeria the two primary government agencies that regulate product standards are the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) – the apex standardisation body in Nigeria, and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) which controls the production, trade and sale of food, drugs, cosmetics, chemicals, detergents, medical devices and packaged water.

The Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) was established by an enabling Act Number 56 of December 1971 - the Standards Organisation of Nigeria cap 412 of the Laws of Federal Republic of Nigeria, which commenced on the 1st January 1970, when the Organisation started to function. As a result of fake products circulating in the Nigeria market there was an outcry by the

stakeholders to amend the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) Act 2004. The cry for an amendment of the act was due to the fact that the SON Act, 2004 as it was, did nothing to ensure that standards relating to products are being met. This was due to the fact that the Law did not impose strict penalties for offences and also saddled the officers of the Organization with minimal functions and powers. It was in a bid to cure the 'defects' in the SON Act, 2004 that the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act of 2015 (the "Act"), was enacted which repealed the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act, 2004, The SON Act 2015 was enacted with the aim and responsibility of providing additional functions for the organization, increasing the penalty for violation, and for related matters.

The Act also repeals the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act Cap 59 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004. The SON in 2005 also introduced the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Conformity Assessment Program (the "Program") to address the problem of substandard and unsafe products imported into the country. Under the Program, certain imported products are required to be inspected to ensure conformity with to essential requirements, technical regulations and approved industrial standards before it will be imported in Nigeria.

The Nature and the Composition of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria Council

The Organisation is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, and may sue and be sued in its corporate name. SON's governing body is known as the Standards Council of Nigeria. This is the policy making body that also supervises the administration and financial management of the Organisation. The organisation is a parastatal of the federal government and

administered by the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment. It is a body corporate, having legal personality with all the incidents. It has two arms through which it operates – a Council which is the governing body of the organisation called the Standards Council of Nigeria and the organisation itself. The Council sees to the running of the organisation through the formulation of policies in accordance with the intent of the formation of the organisation while the organisation implements such policies. The Minister has the power to give general or special directives to the organization and the organization shall comply with and give effect to such directives.

The Standards Organisation consist of a chairman, a representative from the Federal Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development, Defense, Trade and investment, Finance, works, Health, Science and Technology¹⁶ and a Director- General. The current Director-General of SON in Nigeria is Mr. Farouk A. Salim, his appointment, which has four-year duration, took effect from the 26th of September, 2020.

Appointment and Term of Service

The Director – General shall be appointed by the President based on the recommendation of the Minister of Industries. The law provides that the appointment, remuneration and other conditions for other Directors and the support staff are determined or prescribed by the Council in consultation with the Federal Civil Service Commission. This presupposes that the Council takes care of their appointment. Apart from the Chairman and the D.G; the Minister appoints other members of the Council.

The members of the Council are to hold office for a period of four years from the date of their appointment or the instrument of such appointment. The appointment is renewable. Any member of the Council can resign his appointment, the notice of which shall be in writing, signed by the member and served on the Minister of Industries. Any member can be removed from office by the appointing authority that is the President for the D.G. and probably the Chairman but just as the Chairman of the Council because the person still retains his portfolio as the D.G. in the Federal Ministry of Industries from where he took up the position and others by the Minister. Again, the President has the overriding power in this issue of membership of the Council as he can increase or decrease the composition of the Council.

The other staffs of the organization have their conditions of service under the control of the Council. This, it is given, also includes the tenure of their employment as the Act is mute on this. It is arguable that since the Council oversees these staff after consulting with the Federal Civil Service Commission, the conditions of service of Federal Public Servants apply to them as well and so, the mode of resignation and removal including pensionability of their appointments should also be as is obtainable under the federal public service.

Functions of the Council and the Organisation

The functions of the Council and the organization are numerous and diverse. The aim is to ensure that the products pushed into the market by producers are of the required quality and the process of production of the acceptable standard. These include inter alia to:

- (a) Advise the Federal Government generally on the national policy on standards, standard specifications, quality control and metrology;
- (b) Designate, establish and approve standards in metrology, materials, commodities, structures and processes for the certification of production in commerce and industry;
- (c) Provide the necessary measures for quality control of raw materials and products in conformity with the standard specification;
- (d) Organise tests and do everything necessary to ensure compliance with approved standards;
- (e) Undertake investigations as necessary into the quality of facilities, materials and products in Nigeria and establish a quality assurance system including:
- (f) Certification of factories, products and laboratories, and ensure reference standards for calibration and verification of measures and measuring instruments.

The Standards Organization of Nigeria SON was set up to achieve the following objectives:

- i. Prepare standards relating to products, measurements, materials and processes among others, and their promotion at the national, regional and international levels;
- ii. Certify industrial products;
- iii. Provide capacity for local production of quality goods;
- iv. Improve measurement accuracy; and
- v. Circulate information relating to standards

SON's two major schemes for determining conformity to standards are:

1. Mandatory Conformity Assessment Program (MANCAP): this is a mandatory program which ensures that all locally manufactured products conform to the relevant Nigerian Industrial Standards (NIS) prior to sale or export.
2. SON Conformity Assessment Program (SONCAP): SONCAP checks goods pre-shipment to ensure that imports into Nigeria are in conformity with the applicable NIS or approved equivalents

Nigeria accepts standards developed by other organizations including U.S. bodies and does not favor those of its trading partners. SON primarily adopts ISO, American, European, African and ECOWAS standards. The organization has relationship with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and in 2019, adopted 10 of the American Petroleum Institute's (API) standards for the country's oil and gas industry. Nigeria does not have a standards treaty with the United States. Therefore, products made in the U.S. or made to U.S. standards must still undergo SON's conformity assessment or NAFDAC's product registration/certification process.

SON's product certification is implemented through the following schemes:

1. Voluntary Product Certification Scheme (NIS Mark of Quality) – designed to reward products which consistently comply with the requirements
2. Product-Type Certification for Exports – products in a specific consignment are tested for conformance with applicable standards.

SON standards are outlined in the Nigerian Industrial Standards (NIS) which “provides, for common and repeated use, rules, guidelines, or characteristics for products and services and related processes or production methods, aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in each context.” The NIS is reviewed by several of the under-listed Technical Groups under the leadership of SON’s Director of Standards Department and approved by SON’s Standard Council. A Technical Library serves as the compendium for all published standards.

The Technical Groups that exist in SON are:

- a) Electrical/Electronic
- b) Food/Codex
- c) Chemical Technology
- d) Civil/Building
- e) Service Standards
- f) Mechanical/Metrology
- g) Textile & Leather

Member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) are required under the Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT Agreement) to report to the WTO all proposed technical regulations that could affect trade with other member countries.

2.2 Overview of the Operations of Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON)

A thing can only function to the extent of its ability. Consequently, a statutory Organisation can only function to the extent of the ability (Powers and functions) conferred upon it by the enabling statute. Thus, the first thing 9th National Assembly did to have effect on the standardization of

products was the enactment of SON Act, 2015. They did so to properly position and equip the Organisation to function optimally by increasing its functions.

It is pertinent to note that more than 90 percent of the nation's imports come through the sea ports, unfortunately, the inability of the Nigeria Customs Service to effectively man the sea ports have permitted the influx of sub-standard products that eventually find their way into the markets, homes and offices across the country unhindered. This in effect is killing the local industries.

Section 7 (30b) of the 2015 Act, stipulates that Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) must be at the port of entry into this country. They can also be efficient if allowed to work at the point of entry of goods, but right now they are not allowed at the ports. This is contrary to the provision of the SON law stipulating that SON should verify quality of products at the seaports and major entry points of Nigeria. As at last count, there are over 1,500 illegal land borders, most of which are routes for smuggling. The Nigeria Customs Services appears overwhelmed with efforts to keep a tab on duties, hence are unable to keep another eye on the standards.

Hence, there exists a lacuna that provision of the law is super imposed by an Executive order that directed the SON to vacate the ports of entry contrary to the SON Act.

The relevant sections of the Nigerian constitution are sections 88 and 89. Section 88 says each House of the National assembly has the power to investigate (a) any matter in respect of which it

has the power to make laws; and (b) the conduct of any parastatal or official responsible for administering any Act of the National Assembly or in charge of disbursing funds. The section then says that this power to investigate is only exercisable for the purpose of enabling it (i.e. the Senate or the Reps) to (a) make laws on any matter within its legislative competence and correct defects in existing laws; and (b) expose corruption, inefficiency or waste in the execution or administration of laws.

Section 89 says, as it relates to their power to investigate, they also have the power to procure evidence, require the evidence to be given on oath, summon anyone to give evidence or produce documents, and issue a warrant to compel the attendance of any such witness.

Does the National Assembly have the power to investigate actions of the executive branch? Most certainly. Does it have the power to summon anyone to give evidence or produce documents during such investigations? Yes. Can it exercise these powers without limit? Here, I think the constitution says no. When can it exercise these powers? The constitution says only for the purpose of making new laws and exposing corruption, inefficiency or waste. There is an added dimension of statutory interpretation which could mean that because of the word ‘and’ between the two situations when the powers are permitted to be exercised (i.e. making laws and exposing corruption), the power is in fact only exercisable when both circumstances are present.

The oversight functions of national legislatures of modern representative democracies have been accorded premium in the smooth functioning of democracy. The existing literature in the case of Nigeria, however, remains inadequate and segmented, despite the many media vibes about the

activities of lawmakers in the country's fledgling democracy. Thus, this thesis looks at the case of the National Assembly in Nigeria, focusing on the challenges militating against the conduct of its oversight functions from 2019 to 2023. Relying on content analysis of transcribed interviews and participant observations, the thesis argues that the effective performance of oversight functions of the National Assembly is affected by several limiting factors, which includes lack of adequate statutory funding. In the same vein, the dearth of expertise on the part of legislators and clerks are major barriers to effective performance. Therefore, among the recommendations regarding the issue of unhealthy interference of the executive in the affairs of the legislature, funds required for oversight activities should be provided early enough to enhance effective performance. The legislature should avoid government agencies providing the money and other resources they need to be able to carry out their oversight duties.

Nation building that will be likely to contribute to stable and sustainable international peace requires building the society, economy and polity so as to meet the basic needs of the people. It means not only producing the formal institutions of democracy but building a common identity for the people. It means development of education, human rights, (political, civil, economic, social and the rule of law). It allows participation of the civil society in developing democratic state institutions that promote welfare. In the quest for nation building in a democratic set up like Nigeria, the exercise of effective legislative oversight function remains crucial.

2.3 Principal-Agent Theory

In assessing performance of oversight functions by the Legislature in general and the House of Representatives, in particular, the Principal-Agent Theory (Rose and Ackerman, 1978; Weingast and Moran, 1983; Moe, 1984; Fukuyama, 2004), will be utilized to explain the relationships between the legislature and the executive arm of government which it oversees.

This theory has been widely used in American legislative discourse and is apt in this regard because Nigeria practices the presidential system of government which it modelled after the United States with a bicameral legislative arrangement. Furthermore, the thesis was guided by a number of propositions such as the institutional –functionalist theory, which enabled the contextual viewing of the legislature as an institution of government with specific functions to perform in Nigeria’s political process. The principal-agent theory emphasizes the institutional mechanisms whereby principals can monitor and enforce compliance on their agents. This theory is particularly appropriate for explaining accountability relationship between citizens (as principals) and the executive and legislative (both as agents) on the one hand, and between the legislature (acting as principals, on behalf of citizens) and both the executive and the bureaucracy on the other hand (as agents). The latter example clearly explains the suitability of this theory for this research.

This is because the legislature by convention, has been given the constitutional rights monitor (On behalf of the citizens) the actions of the executive and its agency.

The legislature is viewed as a critical institutional organ of government in democracies (Hague and Harrop 2004), established through constitutional provisions, with powers to make laws and stabilize political systems. The theory presupposes an understanding of a political system that

requires adequate attention to the functions and performance of the existing institutions (Igwe, 2005:203). Thus, we proceed in the application of this theory by first recognizing these institutions. The assumption is the stability of the Nigerian political system is a function of the effective performance of the country's democratic institutions.

The primary focus here are the legislature, executive, judiciary, political parties, and interest groups. The concern here is how institutions governing the state influence the structure the behavior of the citizens and living conditions. Hobbes, according to Peters (2001:3) argued "there was the need for stronger institutions in order to save mankind from its own worst instinct". In essence, government institutions have to be concerned with tailoring the behavioral pattern of the people toward the attainment of a better living standard alongside other benefits derivable from the functions played by the institutions. For example, the duties of the legislature are geared towards making laws that can guarantee good governance through a proper execution of laws.

Omotola (2014:6) sees the legislature as a "constitutionally a designed institution for granting assent to binding measures of public policy, given on behalf of the community that extends beyond the government elite responsible for formulating those measures". The institutional theory or approach is adopted as the theoretical framework in this paper, viewing the legislature as an institution of government with varying functions to ensure system equilibrium and good governance.

The oversight functions of a parliament are critical aspect in its lawmaking functions in democracies. As Greenberg and Page (2002) assert concerning the case of the United States of America, oversight is an important duty of the congress [the legislature]. They argued that this

involves watching how the executive branch [arm] of government performs its functions in the spirit of the laws passed to prevent abuse of power. Primarily, oversight is the function of committees and subcommittees, for which public hearing is a strategic tool.

Public hearing does not only provide an avenue for the legislature to see the necessary information needed but involves a process of calling the attention of government agencies to lapses in their activities and the need for them to check and prevent such lapses in the provision of social services. Public hearing is a way of performing oversight functions (Janda, Berry and Goldman, 1992: 406). John and Robert (1999:3) argue that, “oversight takes place when laws have been passed and there is the monitoring of the activities of the executive for efficiency, fidelity and probity”. They further assert that oversight is not an easy task because it needs detail information. Performing oversight, they say, “does engender a cordial relationship between the executive and legislature.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

The concept of nation building is very fundamental to this thesis. We see that there are five Stages in Nation-Building...

- First, the group exists as a tribe with distinct language and proud culture;
- They are forcefully incorporated into and within another dominant group;
- They reluctantly acquiesce, and cooperate minimally;

- Keeping their cultural identity intact over time, they reduce their resistance to a minimum and cooperate in the new union;
- The group becomes indistinguishable from other groups – completely assimilated.

The first three stages describe the colonial experience of African states. The last two stages have however proved most difficult and problematic to execute.

There are three core elements counting for successful nation-building: integrative ideology (or ideological legitimacy), social integration and development of functional state apparatus (state-building). This results in a triangle of which all corners need to be fulfilled for the emergence of a successful state.

Ibrahim Gambari (2008), averred that nations are built by exemplary men and women sustained by institutions that promote good governance and socio-economic development. Nations do not just happen by historical accident; rather they are the product of conscious statecraft, built by men and women with vision and resolve. He then postulated the three core components:

- a) Building a political entity on generally accepted rules,
- b) Building institutions which symbolize the entity,
- c) Building a common sense of purpose, shared destiny, and collective imagination of belonging.

As long as the primary identity and loyalty lies with the tribe, clan or an ethnic group and the 'national' identity level remains subordinate or missing, a nation-state will continue to be precarious.

For the emerging states, ethnic homogeneity and cultural unity were paramount considerations. Even where their societies were genuinely “plural” and there was an ideological commitment to pluralism and cultural toleration, the elites of the new states found themselves compelled, by their own ideals and the logic of the ethnic situation, to forge new myths and symbols of their emergent nations and a new “political culture” of anti-colonialism and the post-colonial state

2.5 Conceptual Review

The conceptual review in this study focuses on the key concepts and terms related to the effectiveness of the House Committee on Industry in overseeing the activities of the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) in promoting quality standards of products and ensuring consumer protection. This review provides a conceptual framework that helps to define and understand the central themes of the study.

The first concept of importance is the House Committee on Industry, which represents the legislative body responsible for industry oversight in Nigeria. This committee plays a crucial role in monitoring and regulating the activities of organizations such as SON to ensure adherence to quality standards. Understanding the structure, functions, and powers of the House Committee is essential for analyzing its effectiveness in overseeing SON.

The second concept is the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON), which serves as the primary regulatory body responsible for setting and enforcing quality standards for products in Nigeria. SON's role in promoting consumer safety, quality assurance, and standardization is critical for ensuring the overall effectiveness of the industry oversight mechanism. Examining SON's

activities, processes, and capabilities is essential to evaluate its effectiveness and the extent to which it meets its objectives.

The third concept is the promotion of quality standards of products, which encompasses the efforts made by SON and the House Committee on Industry to ensure that products in the Nigerian market meet established quality benchmarks. This concept involves various aspects such as product testing, certification, inspection, and enforcement of standards. Analyzing the mechanisms employed by SON and the oversight role of the House Committee in promoting and maintaining quality standards provides insights into their effectiveness.

The fourth concept is consumer protection, which is a fundamental objective of promoting quality standards. Consumer protection entails safeguarding the interests and rights of consumers by ensuring that products meet safety, reliability, and quality requirements. Evaluating the effectiveness of the House Committee and SON in protecting consumer interests helps determine the overall effectiveness of the industry oversight system.

2.6 Theoretical Review

The theoretical review in this study explores relevant theories, frameworks, and models that provide a theoretical foundation for assessing the effectiveness of the House Committee on Industry in overseeing SON's activities. Theoretical perspectives help to understand and explain the dynamics of industry oversight and the factors influencing its effectiveness.

One theoretical framework that can be applied is the principal-agent theory. This theory examines the relationship between the principal (House Committee) and the agent (SON) and

focuses on the challenges and mechanisms of aligning their interests and ensuring accountability.

The principal-agent theory provides insights into the roles, responsibilities, information asymmetry, and incentive structures that affect the effectiveness of oversight mechanisms.

Another relevant theoretical perspective is the regulatory governance framework. This framework emphasizes the importance of collaboration, transparency, accountability, and stakeholder participation in effective industry regulation. It sheds light on the roles of different actors, including the House Committee, SON, industry stakeholders, and consumers, in creating a regulatory environment that promotes quality standards and consumer protection.

Additionally, organizational effectiveness theories can be applied to assess the effectiveness of SON. These theories examine factors such as organizational structure, leadership, resources, and performance measurement systems that influence the effectiveness of regulatory organizations. Understanding the organizational dynamics of SON helps determine its capacity to fulfill its mandates and promote quality standards effectively.

Furthermore, theories on consumer behavior and decision-making can provide insights into the impact of quality standards on consumer choices and market dynamics. These theories explore factors such as consumer trust, perception of quality, and the influence of standards on purchasing decisions. Understanding consumer behavior helps evaluate the effectiveness of quality standards in protecting consumers' interests.

By incorporating these relevant theoretical perspectives, the study aims to provide a robust theoretical framework for assessing the effectiveness of the House Committee on Industry in overseeing SON's activities and promoting quality standards of products while ensuring consumer protection.

2.7 Empirical Review: Product Standardization in Nigeria

Gbadeyan and Akinkunmi (2019) discuss the importance of standardization and quality assurance in enhancing the competitiveness of Nigerian industries. It examine the challenges and opportunities for product standardization in Nigeria.

Odion and Adegbola (2018) explores the challenges faced in product standardization in Nigeria and provides recommendations for improving quality assurance processes. It highlights the need for effective regulatory frameworks and collaboration between stakeholders.

Oladejo and Oladejo (2020) examines the implications of product standardization on industrial development in Nigeria. It discusses the benefits of standardization, challenges faced, and policy recommendations for promoting standardization practices.

Emeka and Amadi (2020) analyzes the role of regulatory frameworks in ensuring product standardization in Nigeria. It discusses the legal and institutional frameworks, challenges faced, and proposes strategies for improving product quality and consumer safety.

Akinjare, Babalola and Ogundeji (2019) explores strategies for enhancing product standardization in Nigeria to promote sustainable economic development. It discusses the importance of collaboration between government, industry, and consumers, along with the need for technological advancements and public awareness campaigns.

Limited understanding of the effectiveness and impact of the House Committee on Industry in overseeing the Standards Organisation of Nigeria and ensuring the quality, safety and reliability of products and standards in various sector. As some of Nigeria populace believes that fighting

of substandard products in Nigeria is the role of the Executive, with little or no knowledge of the activities of legislative committees. This study seems to bridge that gap and bring to peoples knowledge that legislators, even the Committees can play superlative roles in curbing if not eradicate substandard products in Nigeria.

Lack of empirical evidence and data on the challenges, opportunities and best practices of the House Committee on industry in collaboration with Standards Organisation of Nigeria to enhance standardization policies and regulations.

Insufficient attention to the social, economic and political factors that influence the performance and impact of the House Committee on industry in enhancing the standards and well-being of Nigeria citizens through better standardization and regulation of industries.

2.8 Gap in knowledge

I can suggest the gap in knowledge this study might address be the followings:

- Limited understanding of the effectiveness and impact of the House Committee industry in overseeing the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) and ensuring the quality, safety, and reliability of products and services in various sectors.
- Lack of empirical evidence and data on the challenges, opportunities, and best practices of the House Committee industry in collaborating with SON and other stakeholders to enhance standardization policies, regulations, and practices.

- Inadequate knowledge of the role and responsibilities of the House Committees in promoting innovation, competitiveness, and sustainability of industries in Nigeria through effective oversight of SON's activities and operations.
- Limited awareness of the legal, institutional, and policy frameworks that govern the interactions and relationships between the House Committees and SON, and the implications for accountability, transparency, and legitimacy of the oversight function.
- Insufficient attention to the social, economic, and political factors that influence the performance and impact of the House Committees in enhancing the quality of life and well-being of Nigerian citizens through better standardization and regulation of industries.

2.9 Theoretical Framework

This is related to an assessment of the activities of the House Committee on Industry of the House of Representatives, National Assembly Abuja, regarding the standardization of products using the Standard Organization of Nigeria (SON).

Theoretical Perspective: The assessment was conducted physically by the researcher using questionnaire and interview as means of data collection and the aspect of standardization of products were emphasized. The assessment is drawn to understand the functioning of the House Committee on Industry which is a standing committee in House of representatives, made up of Legislators and staff of National Assembly whose role and functions is to oversee the activities of SON for proper standardization of Nigerian products. Decisions are made base on needs of the public, happenings round the nation, from the executive and the agency itself. Alternatively,

political science theories might be used to analyze the influence of different stakeholders on the standardization process and the policy-making dynamics within the National Assembly.

Institutional Theory: The Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) is the government agency responsible for the development, promotion, and implementation of national standards in Nigeria. The House Committee on Industry collaborate with SON as one of the agencies under their supervision, they oversight SON activities to ensure efficient and effective standardization processes.

Governance and Accountability Frameworks: The House Committee on Industry is to be very transparent and accountable in her dealing with SON and the standardization process. The committee ensures that the public are carried along through public hearing, sensitization and awareness, ensure they have access to information. And the committee should put in place mechanisms for holding SON accountable if they defaulted.

Impact Assessment Models: there are too many benefits of standardization, the wellbeing of the people and the nation's economy and the reverse is the consequences if substandard products infiltrates the country. It will affect the economic, social, and environmental impacts of standardization measures on industries, consumers, and the nation's development.

By employing a well-developed theoretical framework in the assessment, the researcher provide a deeper understanding of the House Committee on Industry's activities regarding product standardization using SON. The chosen theoretical perspectives will inform the research questions, data collection methods, and analytical tools to ensure a comprehensive and insightful evaluation of the committee's efforts in promoting standardized products in Nigeria.

2.10 Meaning and Principles of Legislative Oversight

Oversight connotes legislative “supervision” or “watchfulness” of responsibilities handed down to the executive arm and officials. “Legislative oversight is the legislature’s review, monitoring and supervision of government agencies, programs, activities”, as well as policy implementation (Hamalai, 2014; Hamalai&Ajiboye, 2014; Arishe,2018:). Legislative oversight, therefore, guarantees effectiveness and efficiency in programme implementation and administration such that it complies with the tenets of legislative enactments. Six aspects of legislative oversight, according to Hamalai (2010:) include openness, accountability, fairness, supervision, monitoring and sanction.

As he further argues (Hamalai 2010), there are two perspectives to oversights – internal and external. The internal aspect entails internal audit, assessment of internal controls and financial management of organization. The external aspect is concerned with the oversight exercised by parliamentary commissions, ombudsman, judiciary, anticorruption bureau, the civil society, the media, and international society. The Committees (House or Senate Committees) engage in in-depth analysis of legislative jobs through oversight functions. Thus, the functions of the committees and subcommittees are significant to the performance of government in its statutory duties to the citizenry and hence, good governance.

Oversight responsibilities of the legislature aim to enhance effective delivery of services and by doing so, help improve the quality of life for citizens. Also, as earlier alluded, it aims at detecting and preventing abuse of power, preventing illegal conducts considered unconstitutional, protecting the liberties and rights of citizens, making the business of government more transparent in order to boost public trust and making government accountable on how they spend

the taxpayers' money. The tools or techniques at the disposal of the legislature to conduct oversight functions, according to Okoro (2016:3), include budgetary control, vote of no confidence, questioning of ministers, impeachment, public hearings, resolutions in plenary, and commission of inquiry, investigative hearing and project supervision.

2.11 Challenges of Legislative Oversight Functions

Oversight function is hampered by a number of challenges such as corruption, party politics, self-serving behavior, absence of trust, and flexing of muscle for supremacy with the executive organ of government. A key discovery from previous and ongoing investigations of activities of federal government's Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) by the National Assembly is that legislatures compromise the standards expected of them by getting involved in contracts' awards and other acts of malfeasance demeaning of their revered positions as law makers. It is not in doubt that law-makers have turned oversight visits, probes and public hearings into marketing assets. Every committee struggles to conduct at least one oversight or probe per session. This kind of performance gives the impression that law makers undertake oversight function for reasons other than the noble cause.

The legislature, in the discharge of its power of oversight, exposing corruption and minimizing waste regarding funds appropriated by it must be like Caesar's wife, beyond suspicion. It is constitutionally and morally wrong for the legislature or its members to be complicit in any matter that is or likely to be within its purview. The Senate and House of Representatives have committees on Ethics and Public Petitions whose mandates include ethical and conflict of interest situations like ones under review.

Just like the legislature oversees the executive, the public oversees the legislature. In this public oversight of the legislature the media and civil society have critical roles to play in ensuring ethical compliance by legislators and the legislature as an institution. Democracy is not an event, it is not a milestone, it is an endless journey, it is a process and all citizens have a responsibility to it. For democracy to thrive, the public must hold the parliament to a minimum standard of conduct.

The legislature is an institution which represents the common and collective interests of the citizens through the enactment of laws and the exercise of oversight functions on the activities of the executive arm of government. In the quest for nation building in a democratic set up like Nigeria, the exercise of effective legislative oversight function remains crucial.

The issue of funding during oversight was identified as a major challenge. The lack of funds for oversight duties leaves lawmakers vulnerable to the influence of agencies who might want to fill the gap by providing the necessary funds. The risk of compromise is high when the agency under the oversight influence of the relevant committee of the National Assembly undertakes or takes care of the logistical, accommodation and transport bills of the lawmakers. As one participant in the study argued, “there is no way you will find faults and write reports against them when they sponsored your coming and took care of logistics”.

The dominance of one political party in both institutions of government (Executive and National Assembly) poses danger to oversight activities. In this wise, loyalty to the party in power influences the behavior of legislators, in matters of oversight duties. This manifests in the failure of lawmakers from openly criticizing the day-to-day activities of government. However, in

places where a particular party controls the executive and another has the majority in the legislature, assertive and aggressive oversight activities are more easily carried out.

Another problem identified is the deployment and re-deployment of committee clerks. Insights gathered from the questionnaires affirmed that when clerks are deployed and re-deployed, it takes them time to understudy the functions of their new committees. They called for training and re-training of clerks to update their knowledge with the trend of event to discharge their duties, maximally because there were complains of training to enhance effective handling of jobs. Not with standing these challenges, most affirmed legislative oversights were performed.

Another challenge identified during interview sessions is finance. Implementation of projects requires early release of funds. But the delay in the release of such funds has hindered oversight responsibilities. One participant contended that “before now releases were done quarterly but at the time, it is monthly. This hinders the completion of projects within specified time. Consequently, jobs spill over to the following legislative session. Understanding the financing of oversight functions is important because if not properly funded, performance of the legislature at any level of governance will be poor. Poor funding and delay in the release of finance for oversight amounts to constraining effective discharge of oversight. This has negative implication for good governance, as the citizenry would not benefit from oversight. The implication of this for good governance is negative, as the citizens would not benefit from the exercise of oversight functions.

2.12 House Committee on Industry

Committee on Industry is one of the standing committees in the National Assembly, created to supervise the activities and functions of some agencies assign under the committee. There are five agencies under the committee namely Industrial Training Fund (ITF), Standards Organsiation of Nigeria (SON), Bank of Industry (BOI), National Automotive Design and Development Council (NADDC) and Ministry of Industry with branches all over the country. The Committee is made up of 30 -35 Representative Members from various states of Nigeria, who acts as middle persons and also as a watchdog for the citizens, to ensure quality and positive results from the agencies for the betterment of the nation by going on oversight functions, calling for committee meetings and public hearings when necessary, scrutinizing the budget of the agencies through budget defence and budget presentation to ensure proper use of public funds.

Data based on the attendance/participation and number of times Committee meetings, Oversight, public hearings, Budget defence of Standards Organisations Nigeria SON (2019-2023)

Activity	No of Respondents	Number of Times
Committee Meetings	10-15 Committee Members	10
Oversights	20-25 Members	5
Public Hearings	10-15 Members	2
Budget defence	30-31 Members	4

2.13 Structural Functionalism Theory

Structural-functional theory, is also called functionalism, sees society as a structure with interrelated parts designed to meet the biological and social needs of the individuals in that society. Functionalism grew out of the writings of English philosopher and biologist, Herbert Spencer (1820–1903), who saw similarities between society and the human body. He argued that just as the various organs of the body work together to keep the body functioning, the various parts of society work together to keep society functioning (Spencer 1898). The parts of society that Spencer referred to were the social institutions, or patterns of beliefs and behaviors focused on meeting social needs, such as government, education, family, healthcare, religion, and the economy.

Émile Durkheim, another early sociologist, applied Spencer's theory to explain how societies change and survive over time. Durkheim believed that society is a complex system of interrelated and interdependent parts that work together to maintain stability (Durkheim 1893), and that society is held together by shared values, languages, and symbols. Durkheim believed that individuals may make up society, but in order to study society, sociologists have to look beyond individuals to social facts. Social facts are the laws, morals, values, religious beliefs, customs, fashions, rituals, and all of the cultural rules that govern social life (Durkheim 1895). Each of these social facts serves one or more functions within a society. For example, one function of a society's laws may be to protect society from violence, while another is to punish criminal behavior, while another is to preserve public safety.

Structural functionalism, in sociology and other social sciences, is a school of thought according to which each of the institutions, relationships, roles, and norms that together constitute a society

serves a purpose, and each is indispensable for the continued existence of the others and of society as a whole. In structural functionalism, social change is regarded as an adaptive response to some tension within the social system. When some part of an integrated social system changes, a tension between this and other parts of the system is created, which will be resolved by the adaptive change of the other parts.

A.R. Radcliffe-Brown, a British social anthropologist, gave the concept of social structure a central place in his approach and connected it to the concept of function. In his view, the components of the social structure have indispensable functions for one another—the continued existence of the one component is dependent on that of the others—and for society as a whole, which is seen as an integrated organic entity. His comparative studies of preliterate societies demonstrated that the interdependence of institutions regulated much of social and individual life. Radcliffe-Brown defined social structure empirically as patterned, or “normal,” social relations—i.e., those aspects of social activities that conform to accepted social rules or norms. These rules bind society’s members to socially useful activities.

Hence structural functionalism places stability and social order in the middle as the goal. The other social structures such as religion, family, education and other government entities all support this goal with norms and values.

All individuals interact with social structures, and our behaviors are shaped by our interaction within each social structure. For example, a child learns specific roles and norms from their family on how to act, such as going to the bathroom and how to eat at the dinner table. This is a process of socialization. When the same child enters school, they may have to adapt or learn different roles and norms to function within that social structure. There are ways that individuals

act and behave at home that they avoid when they are in a larger social structure such as school. If there is a conflict between the socialization of the family and the required social norms in school, the child will conform to the new norms or integrate those norms to fit in and be accepted by the larger group. Socialization and learning are important social functions.

Social structures include:

- 1) Families
- 2) Education
- 3) Religion
- 4) Media
- 5) Government
- 6) Economy

What Functions Do Social Structures Have in Society?

Structural functionalism framework seeks to explain society as a complex system whose parts work together for stability and to promote solidarity. This theory is a macro-level theory, similar to looking down a helicopter hovering over society. It is a top-down view and approach. Social structures have functions in society to create a predictable way of socializing individuals with acceptable norms and values needed to be part of the group. They are relatively stable patterns of social behavior. Often, social structures perform many functions for individuals in society.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study is a descriptive one. Data were collected through primary and secondary source from relevant books, 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, print and online journals, National Assembly gazette, government publications, media articles and questionnaires. They were content analyzed. This chapter discusses the research methodology adopted in conducting this research. It comprises of research design, population of study, sample and sampling technique, method of data collection, instrument of data collection and method of data analysis.

3.1 Research Design

Survey design was applied as the research design. The purpose of research design is to plan for generating empirical evidences that could be used to answer research questions. Ifidon and Ifidon,(2007) described survey as “that which gathers data from members of a population with respect to one or more variables. It is not concerned with individuals as entities but with generalized statistics that emanate when data are abstracted from a number of individual cases.”

A quantitative approach was followed. Burns and Grove (1993:777) define quantitative research as a formal, objective, systematic process to describe and test relationships and examine cause and effect interactions among variables. Surveys may be used for descriptive, explanatory and exploratory research.

A descriptive survey design was used. A survey is used to collect original data for describing a population too large to observe directly (Mouton 1996:232). A survey obtains information from a

sample of people by means of self-report, that is, the people respond to a series of questions posed by the investigator (Polit&Hungler 1993:148). In this study the information was collected through self-administered questionnaires distributed personally to the subjects by the researcher. A descriptive survey was selected because it provides an accurate portrayal or account of the characteristics, for example behavior, opinions, abilities, beliefs, and knowledge of a particular individual, situation or group. This design was chosen to meet the objectives of the study

3.2 Area of the Study

The geographic area of this research is in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory.

3.3 Population of the Study

The population of study therefore refers to a group of individuals selected on the basis of inclusion and exclusion criteria which relate to the variables being studied. It is the population from which the sample population will be randomly or purposively selected. The study covers the members of the public in Abuja Federal Capital Territory, due to resources and time frame

3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

Sampling: the sampling technique is purposive sampling and the sampling criteria subjects included in the sample were selected to meet specific criteria:

- i. Must be an adult
- ii. Must be a Nigerian citizen
- iii. Must be found within the study area i.e. Abuja, FCT

In all, the sampling was limited to members of the public in Abuja because they are the masses involved and the ones that takes the heat of the substandard products and also, due to proximity. A total of 50 persons were selected.

3.5 Instrumentation

A questionnaire was chosen as data collection instrument. The questionnaire is a printed self-report form designed to elicit information that can be obtained through the written responses of the respondents. The information obtained through a questionnaire is similar to that obtained by an interview, but the questions tend to have less depth. Data was collected with the aid of questionnaires.

Mixed-Method Research was used in this study, which combines both quantitative and qualitative methods to gain a comprehensive understanding of the research questions.

3.6 Validation of the Instrument

The validity of the instrument is the degree to which an instrument measures what it is intended to measure (Polit&Hungler 1993). Content validity refers to the extent to which an instrument represents the factors under study. To achieve content validity, questionnaires included a variety of questions on the knowledge of respondents about legislative oversight function and the Standards Organisation of Nigeria.

3.7 Reliability

Polit and Hungler (1993) refer to reliability as the degree of consistency with which an instrument measures the attribute it is designed to measure. The questionnaires were answered by the respondents in the two study areas, revealed consistency in responses. Reliability can also be ensured by minimizing sources of measurement error like data collector bias. Data collector bias was minimized by the researcher's being the only one to administer the questionnaires, and standardizing conditions such as exhibiting similar personal attributes to all respondents, e.g., friendliness and support. The physical and psychological environment where data was collected was made comfortable by ensuring privacy, confidentiality and general physical comfort.

3.8 Administration of the Instrument

Questions were based on information gathered during the literature review to ensure that they were representative of what respondents should know about legislative oversight function and the Standards Organisation of Nigeria. Content validity was further ensured by consistency in

administering the questionnaires. All questionnaires were distributed to subjects by the researcher personally. The questions were formulated in simple language for clarity and ease of understanding. Clear instructions were given to the subjects and the researcher completed the questionnaires for those subjects who could not read.

All the subjects completed the questionnaires in the presence of the researcher. This was done to prevent subjects from giving questionnaires to other people to complete on their behalf. For validation, the questionnaires were submitted to a researcher's supervisor

3.9 Method of Data Analysis

Data collected were presented in tabular form and analysis is carried out based on the data.

CHAPTER FOUR:
DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

This chapter focused mainly on data presentation and analysis of data generated from the response of the respondents. The questionnaires were administered personally on 50 persons as respondents. They were required to answer the questions on the questionnaire with options that best suited their opinions. Out of the 50 questionnaires 48 were well completed and returned. Parameters for analysis will be drawn from data collected from respondents on the field and this will aid the researcher in drawing authentic conclusions and making appropriate suggestions and recommendations.

4.1 Presentation and Analysis of Bio- Data of Respondents.

This section represents the respondents' personal data. In the tables below

Table 4.1 Gender of the Respondents

Sex	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Male	33	68.75
Female	15	31.25
Total	48	100

Source: Field Survey May, 2023

Table 4.1 above indicates that 33 respondents with the percentage of 68.75% are males while 15 respondents with the percentage of 31.25% are females. This shows that majority of the respondents are males.

Table 4.2 Age Distribution of Respondents.

Age	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
20 -29	5	10.4
30 - 39	24	50
40 - 49	12	25
50 - 59	7	14.6
Total	48	100

Source: Field Survey May, 2023

The above table comprises the age distribution of the respondents. The table signifies that 5 respondents with 10.4% were within the age bracket of 20-29 years, 24 respondents with 50% were within the age bracket of 30-39 years, 12 respondents with 25% were in the age bracket of 40-49 years while 7 of the respondents with 14.6% happens to be within the age bracket of 50-59 years. The table also shows that employees within the age of 30-39 are more in number which means that most of respondents are matured, responsible and adults.

Table 4.3 Educational Qualification of Respondents.

Education Qualification	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Diploma	3	6.3
Graduate(Bachelor's Degree)	25	52
Masters	19	39.6
Others	1	2.1
Total	48	100

Source: Field Survey May, 2023

The table above shows that 3 respondents with 6.3% has Diploma certificates, 25 of the with 52% possessed Bachelor's Degree, 19 of them with 39.6% are Master's degree holders while 1 respondent with 2.1% has other certificate. The table signifies that Bachelor's degree holders are more of the respondents, to the questionnaires.

Table 4.4 Occupation of the Respondents.

Occupation	No of Respondents	Percentage (%)
Civil Servant	10	20.8
Public Servant	33	68.8
Trading	Nil	Nil
Farming	1	2.1
Others	4	8.3
Total	48	100

Source: Field Survey May, 2023

Table above shows 10 respondents with 20.8% are Civil Servants, 33 of them with 68.8% are Public Servants, 1 of them with 2.1% is a farmer, while 4 of the respondents with 8.3% are in others category. It simply shows that the respondents to the questionnaires are more of Public and Civil Servants.

4.2 Presentation and Analysis of the Substantive Data: Assessment of Effectiveness of SON

The table below shows the analysis of the respondents regarding understanding of SONs functions, awareness of fake products in Nigeria, effectiveness of the regulation of SON, the activities of the Committee on Industry on SON and control of fake products.

Table 4.5 Responses from the Questionnaire

Questions	Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1. Understanding and functions of SON	Yes	20	41.7
	No	28	58.3
	Total	48	100
2. Ideas of standardization of Nigeria products	Yes	44	91.7
	No	4	8.3
	Total	48	100
3. How effective is SON	Effective	24	50
	Non-effective	17	35.4
	Average	7	14.6
	Total	48	100

4. Has the activities of House Committee on Industry effected the standardization of Nigeria products	Yes	26	54.2
	No	22	45.8
	Total	48	100
5. 2015 Act has improved the standardization of Nigeria products.	SA	14	29.2
	Agree	18	37.5
	Neutral	9	18.8
	SD	7	14.5
	Disagree	-	-
Total	48	100	
6. Fake products no longer exists in Nigeria	SA	-	-
	Agree	3	6.2
	Neutral	5	10.4
	SD	22	45.8
	Disagree	18	37.5
Total	48	100	
7. Has anyone you know been affected by scourge fake products?	Yes	25	52.1
	No	23	47.9
	Total	48	100
8. Suggestions that can improve the standardisations of Nigerian Products			

Source: Field Survey May, 2023

- The data presented in Chapter 4 suggests that there is a lack of understanding among the public regarding the functions of SON. About 58.3% of the respondents reported that they have no understanding of SON's functions, while only 41.7% claimed to have some level of understanding. Also, 44 of the respondents (91.7%) have an idea of the Standardization of products in Nigeria, while 4 respondents 8.3% have no idea. This indicates that there is a need for greater awareness and education regarding the roles and functions of SON among the Nigerian public.

- According to the responses, 50% of the respondents believe that SON is effective, while 35.4% consider it non-effective, and 14.6% are neutral on the effectiveness of SON. This suggests that there is room for improvement in SON's efforts to control fake and substandard products. Public perception varies, indicating that more efforts may be needed to convince the public of SON's effectiveness.

- The data indicated that 54.2% of the respondents believe that the activities of the House Committee on Industry have positively impacted the standardization of Nigerian products, while 45.8% disagreed. This implies that there are differing opinions on the effectiveness of legislative actions in this context. Public perception is somewhat divided.

- Among the respondents, 29.2% strongly agreed and 37.5% agreed that the 2015 Act has improved the standardization of Nigerian products, while 18.8% were neutral, and 14.5% either disagreed or strongly disagreed. This indicates that the majority of respondents believe that the 2015 Act has had a positive impact on product standardization, but there are still some who are neutral or disagree.

The data indicated that none of the respondents strongly agree that Fake products no longer exists in Nigeria, 3 of the respondents (6.2%) agree, 5 respondents (10.4%) opted for Neutral, 22 of the respondents (45.8%) strongly Disagree, while 18 of them (37.5%) Disagree to the

question. The analysis signifies that fake products are still in existence in Nigeria, and their impact is significant.

25 of the respondents (52.1%) have known someone who has been affected by scourge of fake products, while 23 (47.9%) have not. This reveals that fake products have indeed had an impact on a significant portion of the population.

Table 4.6 Response to Questionnaire: Effectiveness of Legislative Instruments in Controlling Fake Products and Improving Son Operations.

4.3 Analysis of Oversight Activities of House Committee on Industry

Table 4.6 Response from the questionnaire:

Questions	Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
9. Knowledge of Legislative participation to SON	Very high	9	18.8
	High	24	50
	Low	8	16.6
	Very Low	-	-
	Neutral	7	14.6
	Total	48	100
10. Are legislators doing enough	SA	5	10.4
	Agree	21	43.8
	Neutral	11	22.9
	SD	3	6.3
	Disagree	8	16.6
	Total	48	100
Rate the Legislative activities. i) funding	Very high	10	20.8
	High	13	27.0
	Low	14	29.1
	Very Low	2	4.1
	Neutral	9	18.7
	Total	48	100
ii) Legislative Oversight	Very high	13	27.0
	High	23	47.9

	Low	6	12.5
	Very Low	3	6.3
	Neutral	3	6.3
	Total	48	100
iii) Public enquiries / investigations	Very high	10	20.8
	High	21	43.8
	Low	12	25
	Very Low	4	8.3
	Neutral	1	2.1
	Total	48	100
iv) Motions & Resolutions	Very high	9	18.7
	High	18	37.5
	Low	12	25
	Very Low	6	12.5
	Neutral	3	6.3
	Total	48	100

Source: Field Survey May, 2023

On the knowledge of Legislative participation in SON activities 9 of the respondents (18.8%) stated that they have Very High knowledge of the legislative participation to SON, 24 of them (50%) said they have High knowledge of the question, 8 of the respondents (16.6%) opted for Low knowledge, none of the respondents has Very low knowledge of the legislative participation to SON while 7 of them (14.6%) were neutral on the question. The above analysis has shown that most of the respondents are aware of the Legislative participation in SON activities having High as the highest in number.

48 respondents to the question if the Legislators are doing enough on the effective legislative activities , 5 of them (10.4%) strongly agree, 21 of them (43.8%) only but agrees to the question, 11 of them (22.9%) were neutral, 3 of the respondents (6.3%) strongly disagrees while 8 of them

(16.6%) disagree on the question. From the analysis the legislators are doing enough as 21 of the respondents with 4.37% agrees on the question.

On rating the Legislative activities in terms of (Funding, Enacting of laws, Legislative Oversight visit, Public enquires/investigations, Motions & Resolutions and Public sensitization processes) the respondents shows that funding is Low (29.1%.)

Enacting of laws is High with 22 respondents (45.8%), so legislators are doing well in that area. Legislative Oversight is also High with 23 respondents (47.9%), Public inquires / investigations also is High with 21 respondents (43.8%) same as Motions & Resolutions and Public sensitization processes.

In summary, Chapter 4 provided valuable insights into public perceptions and awareness related to SON, fake products, legislative activities, and the impact of legislative instruments. The data indicates varying degrees of understanding and perception, highlighting areas where efforts are needed to enhance awareness and effectiveness in controlling fake products and improving standards in Nigeria. These findings can guide policymakers and stakeholders in addressing challenges and improving the public's trust and confidence in these regulatory processes.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter covered the outline of the examination theme, summary of the findings, conclusion and recommendations in view of the discoveries of the exploration and proposals for further research.

5.1 Summary of the Findings

This findings has several implications. Firstly, it suggested that despite SON's programmes and activities, there is a lack of effective communication and outreach to inform the general public about their work. Without sufficient awareness, people may not understand the importance of adhering to product standards or recognizing the risks associated with fake and substandard products.

There is need for enhanced public sensitization and awareness campaigns arises from the realization that bridging the information gap can lead to greater engagement with SON's initiatives. By effectively communicating their role, activities, and the benefits of product standardization to the public, SON can generate increased awareness and understanding. This, in turn, can foster a sense of responsibility among consumers to demand quality products, support SON's efforts, and report instances of counterfeit goods.

Enhanced public sensitization and awareness campaigns may involve various strategies, such as media campaigns, public events, educational programs in schools and communities, partnerships

with relevant stakeholders, and leveraging digital platforms to disseminate information. By actively engaging the public and ensuring that information reaches diverse segments of society, SON can foster a culture of awareness, compliance, and support for product standardization.

In terms of the effectiveness of oversight of the House Committee on industry on the standardization of products in Nigeria; the study observed that Oversighting of the SON by the House Committee on Industry has been of great effect as it helps in putting the Organisation in check and brings their activities to the general public.

With respect to the major functions/roles of legislation in ensuring product development through the standardization of products in Nigeria; Oversighting and law – making are the two major instruments used. Apart from the two, they sometimes go out of their way to meet with other organisations, associations’ etc. example is meeting with MAN (Manufacturers Association of Nigeria) for the improvement and standardization of locally produced goods.

Also recently there was a bill introduced demanding the presence of SON at every Nigeria points of entry.

Activities of the legislators are highly rated by the respondents. But I, also discover that many people are not aware of the functions of SON, even though they are conscious of fake drugs. On the basis of that there may be need for more enlightens and awareness for people to be more aware. With the aid of public hearing awareness, through SONCAP television program enable people to be aware of SON and their functions. Legislators carryout a lot of legislative functions

from my study and it is also discovered that legislature have been active in supporting SON by way of budget and oversight.

In conclusion, the unexpected finding regarding low public awareness highlights the importance of effective communication and outreach in promoting the objectives of SON and bridging the information gap. By addressing this gap through targeted awareness campaigns, SON can increase public understanding and engagement, ultimately contributing to the success of their efforts in combating fake and substandard products and ensuring consumer safety.

Efforts of the Committee on Industry in improving operations of SON and thus reducing fake products through legislation.

Regarding the major obstacles to standardization of products in Nigeria; this study identified the major obstacles to include lack of proper funding and appropriate use of the funds if funded, negligence of legislative roles over the organization.

Finally this study recommended the ways of ensuring better legislative effectiveness and oversight functions to include more funding and ensure genuine use of the fund, more oversight visits, amendments of laws, public hearing, public awareness and legislative support at all time.

5.2 Conclusion

The application of standardization is highly neglected in Nigeria. That's the kind of danger many families face daily as a result of the unscrupulous activities of product counterfeiters, leaving many to ask; "What would our world look like without standards?" This obviously, is a million dollar question. Certainly, there would be no trust and confidence in worldwide supply chain of goods and services without standards. This is so because product standardization bring innovation, development of a nation, ensure safety of wellbeing and properties, engender competition and make our world a better place.

In view of the above statement, the researcher deemed it necessary to conduct an investigation in order to establish the following situations. The benefits of standardization at international levels, particularly when considering trade facilitation, national and regional economic development, and global integration. It is Nigerians' expectations that the SON will continue to keep its mandate aflame by working towards ensuring that products manufactured in Nigeria, those exported outside Nigeria and those imported into Nigeria meet consumers' satisfaction both in and outside Nigeria.

It is in this regard that SON has made huge exploits in the interception of substandard household items, assorted building materials, cables, electronic gadgets, gas cylinders and different other fake products. Even with these feats, there is the consensus in the industry that the organisation needs access to the nation's points of entry as a way of permanently addressing the threat posed by substandard products.

The suggestion is that all hands should be on deck in supporting the organization in its fight against manufacturers and importers of substandard products to reduce the rate of road accidents and avoidable deaths on account of fake tyres, prevent domestic fire outbreaks due to fake electric wire and cooking gas cylinders and lessen the incidents of building collapse because of poor and substandard building materials. In this regard, SON requires useful intelligence from well-meaning Nigerians for optimal performance. This is the only way to ensure that SON and its patriotic activities endure.

There should be need for legislative support for the operation of the SON in terms of better funding, oversight and even strengthening its operations through amendments of its laws to make it more responsive to the need of the society.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are proposed to enhance the effectiveness of the House Committee on Industry in overseeing SON's activities and promoting quality standards of products:

1. Strengthen Public Sensitization and Awareness Campaigns: SON should develop and implement comprehensive public sensitization and awareness campaigns to inform the general

public about the importance of product standardization and the risks associated with counterfeit goods. These campaigns should utilize various channels, such as media, public events, educational programs, and digital platforms, to reach diverse segments of society.

2. Collaborate with Stakeholders: SON should establish partnerships and collaborations with relevant stakeholders, including industry associations, consumer advocacy groups, educational institutions, and media organizations. These collaborations can help amplify the message of product standardization, enhance outreach efforts, and foster a culture of awareness and compliance.

3. Utilize Digital Platforms: SON should leverage digital platforms, such as social media, websites, and mobile applications, to disseminate information about product standards, consumer rights, and reporting mechanisms for counterfeit products. These platforms provide cost-effective and accessible channels to reach a wide audience and facilitate two-way communication with the public.

4. Enhance Monitoring and Enforcement: The House Committee on Industry should work closely with SON to strengthen monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. This includes allocating adequate resources for inspections, conducting regular assessments of compliance, and imposing strict penalties for non-compliance with product standards. Additionally, the

Committee should ensure that SON has the necessary authority and capacity to effectively carry out its regulatory functions.

5. Conduct Research and Evaluation: Further research and evaluation should be conducted to assess the impact and effectiveness of public sensitization and awareness campaigns. This includes measuring changes in consumer behavior, awareness levels, and the prevalence of counterfeit products over time. The findings from such research can inform future strategies and interventions aimed at improving industry oversight and consumer protection.

Overall, implementing these recommendations will contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of the House Committee on Industry in overseeing SON's activities and promoting quality standards of products. By fostering a culture of awareness, compliance, and consumer empowerment, Nigeria can achieve improved industry regulation and ensure the protection of consumers' public interest.

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National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies
Post Graduate School
Maitama – Abuja
22 November, 2023

Dear Respondent,

I am a Post Graduate Student of the Department of Legislative Studies, National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies, carrying out research on **An assessment of the effect of the activities of House Committee on Industry on the standardization of products in Nigeria: A case study of the 9th National Assembly** “It would be of great help if you assist me in providing the appropriate answers to the attached questionnaire to enable me to gather information and data required to complete this research and contribute to knowledge on the subject matter.

I wish to assure you that all information provided would be treated with utmost and strict confidentiality.

I highly appreciate your cooperation.

Accept the assurances of my highest esteem regards.

Yours Sincerely,

OBIANUJU ANITA IKEMEH
PG/NLS/2015042
MASTERS IN LEGISLATIVE STUDIES (MLS)

Appendix ii

SECTION A: Bio Data

(Please tick or respond where appropriate)

- a) **Gender** Male [] Female []
- b) **Age** 20–29[] 30–39 [] 40–49 [] 50–59[]
- c) **Level of Education** Diploma [] Graduate [] Masters[]
- d) **Religion** Christianity [] Moslem [] African Traditional [] Others []
- e) **Occupation** Civil Servant[] Trading [] Farming [] others[]

SECTION B

Please read the following statement carefully and tick appropriately to show the degree of agreement or disagreement with each statement. SA: Strongly agree, A: Agree, N: Neutral SD strongly disagree and D disagree.

1. What is your understanding and functions of Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON)

2. What is your idea of standardization of Nigeria Products?

3. How effective is SON

4. Has the activities of House Committee on Industry affected the standardization of products in Nigeria. Yes or No? if yes explain in details.

5. The Standards Organisation of Nigeria Act 2015 has improved the standardization of product in Nigeria. SA: Strongly Agree (), A: Agree () N: Neutral () SD: Strongly Disagree () D disagree ()

6. Fake products no longer exist in Nigeria. SA: Strongly Agree (), A: Agree () N: Neutral () SD: Strongly Disagree () D disagree ()

7. Have you anyone know been affected by the scourge of fake products? Yes or No. if Yes in details give the nature of the effect.

8. What do you suggest that can be done to better improve the standardization of Nigerian products?

9. What is your knowledge of Legislative participation and contribution to standardization? Very high (), high () Low() very low () neutral ()

10. Do you agree that legislators are doing enough to help achieve standardization of Nigeria products? SA: Strongly Agree (), A: Agree () N: Neutral () SD: Strongly Disagree () D disagree ()

11. How will you rate the following legislative activities in helping to improve standardization of products in Nigeria

i. Better funding of agencies in involved in standardization of products in Nigeria -Very high (), high () Low () very low () neutral ()

ii. Enacting of laws? Very high (), high () Low () very low () neutral ()

iii. Legislative oversight visits? Very high (), high () Low () very low () neutral ()

iv. Public enquires/ investigations? Very high (), high () Low () very low () neutral ()

v. Through motions and resolutions? Very high (), high () Low () very low () neutral ()

vi. Public Sensitization processes? Very high (), high () Low () very low () neutral ()