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# Improved Accountability and Transparency for Public Parastatals in Nigeria through Enhanced Legislative Oversight

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## Abstract

This paper utilizes a qualitative approach to investigate how legislative oversight contributes to improving accountability and transparency in Nigeria's public parastatals. Legislative oversight is crucial for democratic governance, as it monitors the actions of the executive branch and ensures responsible management of public resources in Nigeria. The paper adopted the principal-agent theory to provide more empirical clarification of its content and presentation. Data was obtained for the study from secondary sources. Further, despite its constitutional mandate of the legislature under Section 88 of the 1999 constitution, the paper explains that the efficacy of legislative oversight has been inconsistent due to challenges such as executive interference, corruption, partisan politics, weak institutional frameworks, autonomy, financial independence, and limited technical capacity. Ultimately, the findings emphasize the necessity for reforms to strengthen the legislative oversight function, enabling it to effectively act as check on executive power with the following recommendations: Complete Financial Autonomy for the legislature from the executive, Resistance to executive interference in the appointment of the leadership of the legislature, complete independence for the judiciary and INEC, among others.

*Keywords: Legislature, Legislative Oversight, Public Parastatals, transparency, and Accountability*

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## **Introduction**

Legislative oversight is a fundamental element of democratic governance that guarantees accountability, transparency, and effective bodies can monitor, assess, and review the actions of the executive branch, ensuring proper implementation of law and policies, efficient use of public resources, and adherence to accountability standards by public officials. In Nigeria, the significance of legislative oversight cannot be overstated, given the country's challenges with corruption, mismanagement of public resources, and ineffective policy implementation. As a constitutional democracy, Nigeria's National Assembly (comprising the Senate and the House of Representatives) is empowered to conduct oversight functions as outlined in sections 88 and 89 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

The oversight functions of the legislature in Nigeria serve as a crucial mechanism for preventing abuse of power and combating corruption in the public sector. By conducting investigations, holding public hearings, and scrutinizing government spending, the legislature ensures that public monies are used following budget allocations and that the executive branch remains accountable to the populace. This role is vital in a country where mismanagement of public resources and corruption have impeded development efforts and undermined public trust in government institutions. Additionally, legislative oversight is indispensable for promoting transparency in governance. It facilitates open discussions, debates, and scrutiny of government policies and programs. For instance, the legislature, through its committees, is constitutionally authorized to summon government officials, agencies, and parastatals to justify their actions and expenditures. This public involvement in legislative processes ensures that citizens are informed about how their government operates, thereby fostering a culture of transparency and accountability.

Despite the constitutional provisions and the legislature's efforts to carry out its oversight responsibilities, numerous challenges persist. These include limited resources, political influence, lack of technical expertise, and in some cases, executive non-compliance with legislative recommendations. These challenges have, at times, hindered the efficacy of legislative oversight in Nigeria, allowing corruption and mismanagement to persist in specific sectors.

Therefore, this paper explores the role of legislative oversight in ensuring accountability and transparency in Nigeria's public parastatals. It examines the various mechanisms employed by the legislature, such as investigations, public hearings, and audits, to hold the executive accountable. Also, it evaluates the effectiveness of these mechanisms in addressing corruption and ensuring the effective implementation of government policies. Ultimately, the goal is to assess the importance of strengthening legislative oversight to promote good governance and sustainable development in Nigeria.

## **Conceptual Review**

**The Legislature:** The Legislature is the hub of constitutional democracy in any society. The legislative organ of government is made up of democratically elected representatives saddled with the responsibility of law-making, representation, and oversight by the constitution. The Legislature acts as a watchdog on the other arms of government to prevent abuse of power using its power of oversight. The powers, borders, and responsibilities of the legislature are provided in the constitution (Ogbonnaya, Ogunjiuba & Stegler, 2017).

The legislative arm of government takes different forms and structures depending on the system of governance in practice. The two major structures of the legislature are the Unicameral and Bicameral legislatures. The Unicameral legislature consists of only one chamber, while the bicameral legislature accommodates two chambers. In Nigeria, the federal legislature, which is referred to as the National Assembly, operates a bicameral system that consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives. However, at the sub-national level, unicameralism is generally practiced. The bicameral system provides a check against dictatorship and hasty law-making (Drexhage, 2015). Conversely, the unicameral legislature operates only one chamber, which does not allow for duplication of legislative structures.

**Legislative Oversight:** Legislative oversight is the deliberate and structured coordination of sensory, data-driven governance frameworks designed to measure, predict, and preempt potential governance failures, not just as a reactive tool but as a real-time performance feedback loop for both government

and civil institutions. Legislative oversight could be defined as a technique through which the legislature monitors, supervises, and evaluates the actions of the executive and other arms of government to ensure accountability, transparency, and compliance with established laws and policies. In Nigeria, legislative oversight is a constitutional responsibility conferred upon the National Assembly by Section 88 of the 1999 constitution, which empowers the National Assembly to direct or cause to be directed an investigation into the conduct of any person, authority, ministry, or government department. This mandate ensures that the executive operates within the boundaries of the law and acts in the best interest of the public.

Oversight aims to prevent abuse of power, ensure efficient use of public resources, and foster good governance (Ojo, 2019). It is a vital tool in democratic governance as it strengthens checks and balances between the executive and legislative arms of government (Adejumobi & Igbuzor, 2020). To Aberbach (1990), legislative oversight could be referred to as the appraisal, tracking, and inspection of government agencies, programs, activities, and policy implementation by the legislature. Barkan (2009), legislative oversight is the constitutional mandate of the legislature to scrutinize the executive branch and ensure that laws are properly implemented and that public monies are spent judiciously. Ogundiya (2010) describes legislative oversight as the duty of the legislature to monitor and evaluate government actions and policies to ensure the rule of law and accountability. Maffio (2002) opines that legislative oversight is the control and influence exerted by parliaments in the government to ensure accountability and transparency. Mezey (1979) posits that legislative oversight is the system through which legislatures monitor the implementation of laws and public policies to ensure they align with the legislature's intent.

**Accountability:** Accountability refers to the intentional alignment of authority and consequence, where power is not merely answerable but is actively and continuously verified through reciprocal channels of moral, social, and digital legitimacy that span beyond traditional structures. In the words of Bovens (2007), accountability is a relationship between a stakeholder and a forum, in which the stakeholder is duty-bound to give account and validate his or her actions, the forum can pose questions and pass judgment, and the actor may face

consequences. Scheduler (1999) describes accountability as the responsibility of public office holders to account for their conduct, to provide information, and to accept sanctions or rewards depending on performance. Behn (2001), accountability as holding people in public organizations responsible for their actions and ensuring they meet their obligations to the public. Mulgan (2000) describes accountability as the process by which individuals or institutions are required to account for their actions, typically involving some form of external evaluation. Romzek, & Dubnick (1987) define accountability as how public parastatals and employees are held responsible for their actions, particularly through formal mechanisms like laws, regulations, and oversight.

**Transparency:** Transparency is a dynamic process of information fluidity, wherein governance data and actions are seamlessly integrated with public cognition in a way that they become simultaneously observable, understandable, and interactive, removing barriers between perception and truth. Florin (1999) defines transparency as the degree to which information is available to outsiders that enables them to have informed opinions about institutions or decisions affecting them. Fung, Graham, & Weil. (2007), transparency could be referred to as the open disclosure of information in ways that are accessible and usable by citizens to hold governments and organizations accountable. Hood (2000) describes transparency as a feature of good governance where decisions, policies, and processes are open to public scrutiny. Piotrowski, & Van Ryzin (2007) define transparency as the availability of information about government decision-making processes and the performance of public officials, allowing for public participation and accountability. Meijer (2009) posits that transparency is the disclosure of information to external parties to foster accountability and public trust.

**Public Parastatals:** Public parastatals can also be referred to as public enterprises. Ezeani (2006) refers to public parastatals as lawfully established structures rendering either economic or social services or both for the government. Although these bodies are largely self-governing in their administration, they are under government control and funding. Further, Duru (2011) conceives the term as semi-independent organizations, under government control, but possessing internal administrations in charge of procedures and decisions. The



wide-ranging features of public parastatals as stated by Duru (2011) are: (a) Public proprietorship and regulation, (b) Semi-independent administration appointed for a specific period of years; (c) Distinct legal personality of the organization; and (d) Clearly stated objectives, rights, responsibilities and spheres of activity.

Public parastatals in Nigeria operate across various sectors and are vital for economic growth and service delivery. The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), and Nigeria Ports Authority are notable examples. They are established to provide public services and economic utility, often filling gaps left by private sector inefficiencies or unavailability (Okwudishu & Gundersen, 2020). Despite their importance, public parastatals are challenged several limitations, including inefficiency, corruption, poor financial management, and underperformance. The compliance of these entities with legislative oversight is crucial for enhancing their functionality and efficiency, ultimately impacting economic performance and public welfare.

## **Theoretical Framework**

The theoretical foundation for understanding legislative oversight in Nigeria's public sector is based on the principal-agent theory. The principal-agent theory elucidates the dynamic between citizens (principals) and elected officials (agents), with the legislature representing the people to supervise the executive branch. This oversight helps mitigate power imbalances and prevents opportunistic behaviour by the executive, ensuring transparency in managing public resources (Ojo, 2018). The legislative branch scrutinizes government actions, decreasing information asymmetry and holding the executive accountable through oversight functions.

In Nigeria, mechanisms such as committee hearings, budget reviews, and investigations enable the legislative branch to foster accountability and limit power abuse (Olaniyi, 2020). However, political interference and corruption within the legislative body often undermine this system (Adeosun, 2019). However, legislative oversight in Nigeria seeks to bolster accountability by

compelling public officials to justify their resource allocation and authority utilization. Transparency is advanced by mandating the executive to divulge information, typically through public hearings and investigative panels (Okoye, 2021).

## **Methods of Legislative Oversight**

The Nigerian legislature utilizes various methods encompassing. These include:

**Question Time in Plenary Sessions:** During plenary sessions, legislators are allowed to engage in question time, a vital mechanism that strengthens the checks and balances between the legislative and executive branches of government. Question Time allows legislators to question government officials, including ministers, about specific policies, decisions, and public spending. This process is crucial for promoting transparency and accountability within the government (Agbaje & Onigbinde, 2018). By scrutinizing the actions of the executive, legislators can ensure that government activities align with established laws and public interest, fostering a more responsible governance system.

Furthermore, Question Time enables the public, through their elected representatives, to gain insights into government operations, thus enhancing democratic governance. It also provides a platform for clarifying policies that may affect citizens, especially in areas where public resources are involved. This contributes to informed public discourse and reduces misinformation (Adeniran, 2020). Moreover, the ability to challenge and request justifications for government actions discourages arbitrary decision-making and promotes better governance practices. In parliamentary democracies, Question Time is a tool that not only keeps the executive in check but also builds trust in the political system, as it exemplifies the strength of legislative oversight, ensuring that public officials are answerable for their actions in managing state resources (Ojo & Adeyemi, 2019).

**Budgetary Oversight by Legislature:** Budgetary oversight is a crucial function of the legislature, enabling it to check the executive's annual budget to ensure that public funds are allocated effectively and spent according to legislative

approval. This oversight function serves as a vital mechanism for ensuring fiscal discipline, promoting transparency, and preventing the misuse of public resources. According to Ojo (2019), the legislature, debating the appropriateness of allocations and adjusting budgetary provisions where necessary. This scrutiny allows the legislature to ensure that government spending aligns with national priorities and public interests.

Furthermore, legislative oversight on budgeting fosters accountability by requiring the executive to justify its spending decisions and demonstrate its effectiveness in achieving policy goals. It also provides a platform for opposing views to be aired, encouraging a broader deliberation on fiscal matters (Adegboye, 2021). When the legislature effectively monitors budget execution, it minimizes the risk of financial mismanagement and corruption, as irregularities can be detected and addressed promptly. Ultimately, strong budgetary oversight reinforces the democratic principle of checks and balances, where the legislature holds the executive accountable for the prudent use of public funds (Afolayan, 2020).

**Investigative Hearings:** Investigative hearings are a crucial oversight mechanism utilized by legislative bodies to scrutinize and address specific issues within public agencies, such as corruption, inefficiency, or mismanagement. These hearings provide a platform where lawmakers gather evidence and interrogate officials, stakeholders, and experts on matters of public interest. By delving into particular issues, investigative hearings enable legislators to hold public agencies accountable for their actions or inactions. The primary objective is to uncover facts and gain insights into the operations of these agencies to assess whether they are fulfilling their mandate effectively (Eme & Ugwu, 2019).

In cases involving corruption or mismanagement, investigative hearings often reveal irregularities in the management of public funds, abuse of office, or unethical practices that erode public trust. For example, misallocation of public resources or ineffective service delivery may be brought to light during these hearings, triggering further inquiries or legal actions. The conclusion of investigative hearings can result in significant policy modifications or sanctions, based on the findings. Recommendations put forth during these hearings can inform the restructuring of public agencies, enhance transparency, and boost

overall governance (Adeyemi, 2020). Through this oversight tool, legislative bodies fortify the checks and balances in governance, ensuring that public agencies are answerable to the public.

**Committee Oversight:** Committees play a crucial role in the effectiveness of legislative oversight by allowing for thorough examination of government operations and the use of public funds. Specialized committees, such as the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and those focused on anti-corruption, are essential in ensuring government institutions comply with public financial regulations. The PAC, for example, evaluates how public funds are used by government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) to promote accountability and transparency. These committees have the authority to summon heads of MDAs to clarify the use of allocated resources and the status of project implementation.

By conducting these examinations, committees can uncover inefficiencies, irregularities, or misappropriations, thereby promoting accountability. Their ability to interrogate public officials and request documentation ensures that government projects align with approved budgets and that public funds are appropriately spent. Furthermore, the oversight functions of legislative committees enhance checks and balances by enabling legislators to monitor the activities of the executive branch, reducing the risk of financial misconduct. This oversight is vital for maintaining transparency and confidence in public governance. Ultimately, committee oversight enhances democratic governance by holding government institutions accountable to the public.

**Scrutiny of Executive Appointments:** One crucial aspect of legislative oversight involves examining and either approving or rejecting executive appointments. This process is essential for ensuring that only qualified, competent, and for ensuring that only qualified, competent, and experienced individuals are placed in key public positions. By reviewing these appointments, the legislature maintains governance and professionalism standards, preventing the executive from appointing individuals based on reasons like favouritism or political connection rather than merit. The legislative scrutiny process typically includes thorough background checks, interviews, and public hearings to evaluate a nominee's qualifications and suitability for specific roles. Through

this process, the legislature can assess the nominee's expertise, ethical standing, and potential conflicts of interest, guaranteeing that appointments serve the public interest. This function enhances accountability and transparency in governance by promoting merit-based recruitment into public service.

### **Economic Implications of Legislative Oversight**

The economic ramifications of legislative oversight regarding public parastatals are multi-faceted, encompassing efficiency, service delivery, and general economic growth.

**Enhancing Efficiency and Accountability:** Effective legislative oversight can improve operational efficiency within public parastatals. By scrutinizing expenditures, performance metrics, and operational processes, legislators can identify inefficiencies and demand accountability from management. For instance, the oversight of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has brought attention to issues such as revenue leakage and procurement malpractices, which, if resolved, would enhance its contributions to national revenue (Okwudishu & Gundersen, 2020).

**Impact on Public Investment:** Legislative oversight also impacts public investment. Effective scrutiny of parastatals ensures that funds allocated toward infrastructure development or service provision yield tangible results. This evaluation contributes to citizens' trust in government institutions, encouraging public participation in economic activities. A lack of oversight, conversely, can lead to wastage of public funds, eroding confidence, and disincentivizing investment (Umar & Adebayo, 2022).

**Economic Growth and Service Delivery:** Legislative oversight plays a critical role in ensuring that public parastatals deliver quality services vital for economic growth. The transport sector, for instance, facilitates trade and mobility, which are essential for economic development. Effective oversight can enhance the performance of entities such as the Nigeria Ports Authority, thereby reducing congestion and improving service delivery at ports, ultimately enhancing overall economic performance (Ogunshola, 2017).

## **Enhancing Accountability and Transparency through Legislative Oversight**

Legislative oversight plays a significant role in improving accountability and transparency by making sure that government officials and institutions are accountable for their actions. According to Amadi & Amadi (2020), effective oversight helps prevent corruption and encourages good governance by ensuring that public officeholders follow legal and ethical standards.

**Curbing Corruption:** Corruption remains one of the most significant challenges to governance in Nigeria, undermining economic development and eroding public trust in institutions (Transparency International, 2019). Legislative oversight plays a critical role in the fight against corruption by ensuring transparency and accountability in public administration. One notable instance of this oversight is the inquiry into fuel subsidy fraud, where lawmakers investigated the diversion of funds meant to subsidize fuel prices for citizens. The investigation exposed a network of corrupt practices within the oil sector, leading to a public outcry and the eventual prosecution of some individuals involved (Sahara Reporters, 2012). Such inquiries not only expose corruption but also act as deterrents to future malfeasance.

Another example is the probe into the alleged mismanagement of funds by the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC). The NDDC was established to address developmental challenges in the Niger Delta region, but it has been plagued by allegations of financial impropriety. Legislative investigations have revealed widespread corruption, including inflated contracts and misallocation of resources (The Cable, 2020). Although these legislative efforts often face political interference and are sometimes inconclusive, they underscore the importance of parliamentary oversight in curbing financial misconduct and promoting good governance. By holding public officials accountable, legislative inquiries serve as a vital mechanism in Nigeria's fight against corruption.

**Promoting Transparency in Public Expenditure:** Promoting transparency in public spending is a core duty of the legislature, as it ensures that government funds are used effectively for their intended purpose, such as infrastructure development, education, and healthcare. The legislative bodies scrutinize government expenditures through various means, including regular audits,

investigations, and budget assessments. This oversight is crucial for holding public officials accountable and preventing the mismanagement of public funds. By conducting audits and investigations, the legislature ensures that officials comply with financial regulations and that spending reports are accurate and thorough. This helps build public trust and improves governance (Ibeanu & Ezenwa, 2021).

Moreover, budget assessments carried out by the legislature offer a way to assess whether allocated funds are being used to achieve the desired outcomes, such as enhancing healthcare systems, constructing infrastructure, and upgrading educational facilities. The legislature's oversight goes beyond financial reporting to include evaluating project completion and quality, ensuring that funds are not utilized but are spent efficiently and effectively (Oguonu, 2019). This aspect of legislative scrutiny promotes transparency by uncovering financial mismanagement or corruption, allowing corrective actions to be taken before further harm is done (Ibeanu & Ezenwa, 2021). In general, the promotion of transparency in public spending is crucial for enhancing governance and fostering economic development.

**Building Public Trust:** Establishing public trust is a vital aspect of legislative oversight, which is crucial in promoting transparency and accountability within government institutions. When elected officials actively supervise and scrutinize the actions of the executive branch, it reassures the public that their interests are being protected. Transparency in governance is essential in this regard. By ensuring that governmental activities are monitored, the public can see that their leaders are held accountable for their decisions (Ogunyemi, 2017). This transparency is critical in building trust between citizens and their government.

Public trust is reinforced when citizens observe that their representatives are dedicated to ensuring that government operations are free from corruption and inefficiency. When these representatives fulfill their oversight responsibilities, it demonstrates to the public that the system is reliable and functions with integrity. Trust in governance is not only crucial for the legitimacy of political institutions but also for the overall well-being of democracy. When citizens have confidence in their government, they are more likely to participate in democratic



processes, such as voting and engaging in civic activities (Adeyemi, 2020).

Enhancing public trust facilitated by effective legislative oversight leads to stronger democratic institutions and increased citizen engagement. Citizens who have faith in their government are more willing to support its initiatives and are less likely to take actions that could undermine democratic governance (Ogunemi, 2017). Consequently, legislative oversight serves as a foundation for upholding public confidence in the political system.

### **Challenges Facing Legislative Oversight in Nigeria**

Legislative oversight, a vital mechanism for ensuring accountability in governance, encounters numerous obstacles in Nigeria. Important challenges include:

**Executive Interference:** Executive interference hinders legislative oversight in Nigeria, reducing the legislature's ability to hold the executive accountable. The executive arm in Nigeria often influences the legislative process, thereby disrupting the separation of powers (Ojo, 2019). This interference can manifest in pressuring legislative leaders, manipulating legislative priorities, or influencing budget allocations in ways that undermine legislative independence. The executive may also use patronage, appointing loyal legislative leaders or offering political favours, compromising the legislature's impartiality (Ojo, 2019). As a result, legislative oversight weakens, limiting the legislature's scrutiny of executive actions and weakening democratic governance in Nigeria. Moreover, the blurred line between executive and legislative roles leads to reduced accountability, weakening parliamentary inquiries into governmental activities. Failure to establish clear boundaries between the executive and legislative arms erodes the framework that allows the executive to avoid scrutiny.

**Corruption:** Corruption within the legislature presents another significant challenge to effective oversight in Nigeria. Lawmakers have been involved in scandals that tarnish their reputation and compromise their moral authority to hold others accountable (Ibrahim, 2020). Bribery scandals and misappropriation of public funds have undermined the credibility of oversight committees, meant to ensure government transparency (Ibrahim, 2020). Corruption diminishes



public trust in the legislature and weakens the governance system, making legislators seem complicit in the malpractices they are supposed to investigate. In some cases, corrupt legislators engage in oversight for sale, accepting bribes for favourable reports or avoiding scrutiny of executive actions (Ibrahim, 2020). This corruption undermines the legislature's ability to check executive overreach and erodes accountability and transparency in governance. Furthermore, corruption within the legislature perpetuates a cycle of impunity, as legislators are less likely to advocate for reforms to curb executive abuses if they are involved in corrupt activities.

**Lack of complete Financial Independence from the Executive:** In Nigeria, the lack of autonomy and financial independence greatly impedes legislative oversight. The legislative bodies depend heavily on the executive arm for budget approvals, which undermines their ability to operate independently. When the legislature lacks full control of its budget, it becomes vulnerable to the executive, making it difficult to conduct crucial oversight functions objectively, like investigating executive mismanagement or scrutinizing government expenditures. This financial reliance weakens the legislature's ability to question or sanction executive actions out of fear of budget cuts or political backlash. Also, this reliance often results in delayed legislative activities as the legislature waits for executive approval to carry out its mandates.

Moreover, the lack of financial independence restricts the capacity of legislative committees to conduct thorough investigations due to inadequate resources for research, expert consultations, or field investigations. In contrast, financially autonomous legislatures are better equipped to conduct independent inquiries, ensure accountability, and promote transparent governance.

**Limited Technical Capacity:** A major hurdle to effective oversight in the Nigerian legislature is the limited technical capacity. Many lawmakers lack the specialized knowledge and expertise necessary to thoroughly scrutinize complex issues such as budget allocations, defense spending or international agreements. Oversight demands a profound understanding of various policy areas from economics and law to security and social welfare. Without this expertise, lawmakers may conduct superficial investigations, often relying on external consultants or executive reports, which might not offer accurate

or comprehensive information. This lack of technical capacity diminishes the effectiveness of oversight committees, which struggle to ask critical questions or challenge flawed policies. Additionally, the absence of ongoing training and professional development opportunities for legislators worsens the issue as they are ill-prepared to address emerging governance challenges like digitalization and climate change. Enhancing technical capacity through training and institutional support is essential for enhancing legislative oversight in Nigeria.

**Partisan Politics:** Partisan politics often impede the effectiveness of legislative oversight in Nigeria. Lawmakers prioritize party loyalty over accountability and good governance principles, hindering their ability to critique or investigate the executive. This partisanship weakens oversight efforts, creating a divided legislature where political gain outweighs national interests.

**Weak institutional frameworks (The Judiciary and INEC):** Weak institutional frameworks limit legislative powers, leaving lawmakers struggling to hold the executive accountable. Outdated laws and enforcement mechanisms contribute to executive manipulation and hinder the legislature's oversight role. Strengthening legal provisions, enforcement mechanisms, and institutional support structures is crucial for improving legislative oversight in Nigeria.

## **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The interplay between legislative oversight, public parastatals, and the broader political and economic environment in Nigeria is complex and fraught with challenges. Inconclusive oversight hampers economic performance, weakens democratic institutions, and perpetuates a cycle of mismanagement and inefficiency within public parastatals. This multifaceted approach is necessary for harnessing the full potential of public parastatals to contribute positively to the Nigerian economy and the overall well-being of its citizens. Legislative oversight plays a vital role in enhancing accountability and transparency within Nigeria's public sector. By holding public officials and institutions accountable. The legislature helps prevent corruption, fosters transparency, and boosts public trust in governance. To improve the effectiveness of legislative oversight, it is crucial to address challenges such as executive interference, corruption,

partisan politics, weak institutional frameworks, limited technical capacity, complete financial independence from the executive, Strengthening the capacity of legislative committees and ensuring greater independence in their operations will significantly enhance the oversight function of the Nigerian legislature.

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