

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S ROLE IN FORMULATING NIGERIA'S  
FOREIGN POLICY (2015-2021)**

**DUBAKEME, ENIYE CHRISTIAN**

**Matriculation Number: 20PAH02112**

**BSc. Political Science, Niger Delta University, Wilberforce Island, Bayelsa State**

**JULY, 2022**

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**BY**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF  
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STUDIES, COVENANT UNIVERSITY, OTA, OGUN STATE,  
NIGERIA.**

**JULY, 2022**

## **ACCEPTANCE**

This is to attest that this dissertation is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Science (M.Sc.) in International Relations in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria.

**Mr. Taiwo B. Erewumi**

**(Secretary, School of Postgraduate Studies)**

**Signature and Date**

**Prof. Akan B. Williams**

**(Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies)**

**Signature and Date**

## **DECLARATION**

**I, DUBAKEME, CHRISTIAN ENIYE (20PAH02112)** declare that this research was carried out by me under the supervision of Prof. Sheriff Folarin of the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria. I attest that this dissertation has not been presented either wholly or partially for the award of any degree elsewhere. All sources of data, scholarly information used in this dissertation are duly acknowledged.

**DUBAKEME, CHRISTIAN ENIYE**

**Signature and Date**

## **CERTIFICATION**

We certify that this dissertation titled **National Assembly's Role in Formulating Nigeria's Foreign Policy (2015-2021)** is an original research carried out by **DUBAKEME, CHRISTIAN ENIYE (20PAH02112)** in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria under the supervision of Prof. Sheriff Folarin. We have examined and found this work acceptable as part of the requirements for the award of Master of Science (M.Sc.) in International Relations.

**Prof. Sheriff Folarin**  
(Supervisor)

**Signature and Date**

**Prof. Daniel E. Gberevbie**  
(HOD, Political Science and International relations)

**Signature and Date**

**Dr. Bonnie Ayodele**  
(External Examiner)

**Signature and Date**

**Prof. Akan B. Williams**  
(Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies)

**Signature and Date**

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this dissertation to the Almighty God for his protection, provision, guidance, love, mercies, and great favour throughout my academic programme.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

AFRPN	Association of Foreign Relations Professionals of Nigeria
APU	African Parliamentary Union
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency
CCB	Code of Conduct Bureau
CPA	Commonwealth Parliamentary Association
CUHREC	Covenant University Health Research Ethics Committee
DFA	Department of Foreign Affairs
DMO	Debt Management Office
DRSC	Departmental Related Standing Committees
DSS	Directorate of State Services
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
MEA	Ministry of External Affairs
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NIIA	Nigerian Institute of International Affairs
NIS	Nigeria Immigration Service
MPC	Monetary Policy Committee
PCFA	Parliamentary Committee on Foreign Affairs
PFG	Parliamentary Friendship Group
RCR	Responsible Conduct of Research
SCEA	Standing Committee on External Affairs
USA	United States of America

## **ABSTRACT**

The research examined the role of the National Assembly in the formulation of foreign policies (2015-2021), by scrutinising its foreign relations powers as enshrined in the 1999 Nigerian constitution. The legislature is one of the principal elements in a political system and it is crucial in foreign policy formulation. The confirmation of presidential nominees, appropriation of budget, treaty ratification, parliamentary diplomacy, deployment of troops, and legislative oversight on foreign affairs are crucial foreign policy areas that brings the legislature into the spotlight in the formulation of Nigeria's foreign policy. However, the place of the legislature in performing its foreign policy competences has been debated. Thus, this study examined the extent to which the National Assembly has been playing its roles in foreign policy making between 2015 and 2021. It analysed the effectiveness of the National Assembly in performing its foreign relations competences; the nature of the legislature-executive relations in foreign policy formulation; and the challenges encountered by the National Assembly in exercising its foreign policy powers. The study was predicated on the bureaucratic politics model of foreign policy analysis, which explains that domestic institutions shape foreign policies through negotiation, competition and conflicting interests. The qualitative and exploratory nature of the research informed the adoption of the historical and descriptive survey designs in the study. The study obtained primary data from conducting interviews and the secondary data were obtained from published articles, textbooks, newspapers, seminar and conference papers etc. The data were analysed using thematic method of analysis. The study revealed that the national assembly was ineffective in exercising its foreign policy duties due to the politicisation of the nominee screening process, controversial issues on budget appropriation, and the disregard for legislative oversight. The study also ascertained that from 2015 to 2021, the relationship between the legislature and the executive was mostly antagonistic than collaborative, and there were challenges of executive dominance, legislative impotence, and power tussle between both arms in the formulation of foreign policies. Thus the National Assembly did not effectively contribute to the making of foreign policies from 2015 to 2021. The study therefore recommends among other things, that the power imbalance in the legislative-executive relationship needs to be rectified and that the screening procedures of the National Assembly, the budget appropriation procedure, and the performance of legislative oversight should be rigorous and free from politics.

***Keywords: Executive, foreign Policy, legislature, National Assembly, Nigeria***