



## **FUNDING PROBLEM AS A DETRIMENT OF GOOD GOVERNANCE. FOCUS ON BAUCHI STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY BAUCHI STATE, NIGERIA.**

**Nura Adamu**

Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management Sciences, Sa'adu Zungur University, Bauchi State.

**Mubarak Magaji**

Department of Public Administration, Faculty of Management Sciences, Sa'adu Zungur University, Bauchi State.

### **Abstract**

*Adequate funding of legislative institutions is essential for promoting transparency, accountability, and democratic governance. However, financial constraints continue to undermine legislative performance in many developing democracies. This study examines funding challenges as a major obstacle to good governance with specific focus on the Bauchi State House of Assembly in Bauchi State, Nigeria. Using a qualitative research design complemented by descriptive empirical analysis, the study analyzes budgetary allocations, institutional capacity, and legislative oversight effectiveness. Data were obtained from government budget reports, policy documents, and recent academic literature (2020–2024). Findings reveal that inadequate funding, weak fiscal autonomy, and executive dominance significantly affect legislative functions such as lawmaking, oversight, and representation. These challenges reduce the legislature's ability to monitor public expenditure and ensure accountability. The study concludes that funding problems undermine governance outcomes by weakening legislative institutions and reducing democratic checks and balances. The study recommends enhanced fiscal autonomy, transparent budgetary processes, and strengthened institutional capacity for state legislatures in Nigeria.*

**Keywords:** Legislative Funding, Governance, Accountability, Public Finance, State Legislature, Nigeria

### **1. Introduction**

Good governance is widely recognized as a fundamental element for political stability, economic development, and democratic consolidation. It involves transparency, accountability, rule of law, and effective institutional performance in public administration (World Bank, 2021). In democratic systems, governance effectiveness depends largely on the interaction among the executive, legislative, and judicial arms of government. The legislature plays a critical role in democratic governance because it performs key functions including lawmaking, oversight, representation, and budget approval. Through these functions, legislative institutions ensure accountability in the use of public resources and provide mechanisms for monitoring executive actions (Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2021).

However, the effectiveness of legislatures is often influenced by the availability of financial resources. Legislative funding supports administrative operations, committee activities, legislative research, and oversight investigations. Without adequate funding, legislatures may struggle to perform their constitutional duties effectively (OECD, 2023). In Nigeria's federal political system, each state maintains its own legislature responsible for oversight of the executive arm of government. The Bauchi State House of Assembly performs this function within Bauchi State. Despite its constitutional mandate, the institution faces financial challenges that may affect its operational efficiency and capacity to perform oversight functions.

Recent studies indicate that many state legislatures in Nigeria operate under conditions of financial

dependence on the executive branch (Aiyede & Aluko, 2021). Such financial dependence can weaken legislative independence and reduce the effectiveness of democratic checks and balances. This study therefore investigates funding problems as a major constraint to good governance in Bauchi State.

## 2. Literature Review

### 2.1 Conceptual Issues

#### Legislature

The legislature, being one of the arms of government in a democratic system, plays a vital role in ensuring fair governance. Parliaments have always had a significant constitutional obligation as democratically elected representatives of citizen to ensure that government is for the people (Sayuti, 2016).

Around the world, the term "legislature" is known by various names (Okpe & Taya, 2018; Oni, 2013). In Nigeria, for example, it is addressed as "the National Assembly." 'The Parliament' in the United Kingdom, 'The Congress' in the United States (Heywood, 2007; Lafenwa, 2009; Okpe & Taya, 2018; Oni, 2013). The legislature is a critical institution in the business of democratic governance (Ewuim et al., 2014; Heywood, 2007; Obidimma & Obidimma, 2015; Okpe & Taya, 2018, Oni, 2013). In the same vein, Bernick and Bernick (2008) saw legislature as a branch of the state with the primary goal of expressing and articulating society's collective will. It is the most important political representation institution (Murana & Bakare, 2019).

The legislature in Nigeria is a state legal body established by an act of the 1999 constitution to make, change, or amend laws as well as perform constituency representation in the National Assembly. It also exercises control over the government through an oversight role (Okpe & Taya, 2018). The legislature, according to Okoosi-Simbine (2010), is a policy-influencing organ. It is a legislative and deliberative body established to strengthen a democratic political system. The legislature represents the Site of

Sovereignty, the First Estate of the Realm, Public Expression, and the area of Public Will Representation. Okoosi Simbine's submissions above portray the legislature as a legal instrument of the state and the voice of the people. These also endorse Chukwudi and Ojatorotu (2021) description of the legislature. According to the above perspectives on the legislature, the institution derives its power from the people. It simply states that the legislature's existence and authority should be used to represent the will of the citizens.

#### Good Governance

The concept of good governance has gained increasing attention in public administration and development studies. According to the United Nations Development Programme (2022), good governance refers to the exercise of economic, political, and administrative authority in managing a country's affairs at all levels. Good governance is characterized by several principles including transparency, accountability, participation, responsiveness, equity, and effectiveness. These principles ensure that government institutions operate in the public interest and remain accountable to citizens.

Fukuyama (2020) argues that institutional capacity is a central determinant of governance performance. Where public institutions lack adequate resources or autonomy, governance outcomes tend to be weak due to limited accountability mechanisms and ineffective policy implementation. The concept of good governance has become central to discussions of democratic accountability and public sector performance in both developed and developing countries. Contemporary governance literature emphasizes that good governance refers to the processes and institutional arrangements through which authority is exercised and public resources are managed to achieve societal objectives efficiently and equitably (World Bank, 2021). In recent years, scholars and international organizations have highlighted governance as a fundamental determinant

of economic development, political stability, and social welfare.

According to the United Nations Development Programme, good governance is characterized by key principles including participation, transparency, accountability, responsiveness, effectiveness, and adherence to the rule of law (UNDP, 2022). These principles require institutions capable of ensuring that public officials are accountable to citizens and that policy decisions reflect public interests.

Recent governance scholarship emphasizes that strong institutions are essential for achieving these governance objectives. For example, Fukuyama (2020) argues that institutional capacity determines the effectiveness of governance systems, particularly in emerging democracies. Where institutions lack independence or adequate resources, governance outcomes tend to be weak due to limited accountability and ineffective policy implementation. Within democratic systems, legislatures occupy a central role in promoting good governance because they serve as mechanisms for representation, lawmaking, and oversight. Through legislative scrutiny of executive actions, parliaments ensure that government policies align with public interests and that public funds are utilized transparently (Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2021).

However, several studies note that the effectiveness of legislative oversight depends heavily on institutional capacity, including financial resources and administrative support (Stapenhurst, Pelizzo, & Jacobs, 2021). Without adequate funding, legislative bodies struggle to perform core governance functions such as budget analysis, policy evaluation, and oversight investigations. Consequently, scholars increasingly recognize that financial capacity is a key component of institutional effectiveness and a prerequisite for achieving good governance.

### **Legislative Funding and Institutional Capacity**

Legislative funding refers to financial resources allocated for the operation of legislative institutions.

These resources support activities such as policy research, committee investigations, public hearings, and oversight visits. Research indicates that well-funded legislatures are more capable of performing oversight functions and monitoring government programs effectively (Stapenhurst, Pelizzo & Jacobs, 2021). Conversely, legislatures operating under financial constraints often lack the capacity to conduct independent investigations or provide technical policy analysis.

Legislative funding refers to the financial resources allocated for the operation of legislative institutions, including administrative costs, committee activities, legislative research, staff salaries, and oversight functions. Adequate funding is necessary to support legislative activities such as drafting laws, reviewing budgets, conducting public hearings, and investigating government programs.

Recent research suggests that legislative funding directly influences institutional performance. Well-funded legislatures are better equipped to conduct policy analysis, monitor government programs, and represent citizens' interests effectively (OECD, 2023). Conversely, legislatures operating under financial constraints often lack the technical expertise and administrative support needed to perform their constitutional duties. For example, Stapenhurst et al. (2021) highlight that legislative committees require significant resources to carry out oversight functions such as field inspections, investigative hearings, and policy evaluations. Without sufficient financial support, these oversight mechanisms become ineffective.

Similarly, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (2022) notes that financial autonomy is critical for ensuring legislative independence. When legislatures depend on the executive branch for funding, their ability to scrutinize government actions may be compromised. This issue is particularly relevant in developing democracies where executive dominance often shapes institutional relationships. Studies show that executive control over public finances can undermine legislative

independence and weaken democratic checks and balances (Aiyede & Aluko, 2021).

Therefore, the availability of adequate funding is not merely an administrative issue but a structural determinant of democratic governance.

### **Legislative Autonomy and Executive-Legislative Relations**

Legislative autonomy refers to the ability of legislative institutions to perform their constitutional duties without undue interference from the executive branch. Financial independence is a key component of legislative autonomy (Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2022).

Where legislatures depend on executive-controlled budgets, their ability to scrutinize government policies may be compromised. This issue is particularly relevant in developing democracies where executive dominance often shapes institutional relationships. Another major theme in the literature concerns the relationship between legislative funding and institutional autonomy. Legislative autonomy refers to the capacity of legislatures to perform their constitutional functions without undue interference from other branches of government.

Recent studies emphasize that financial independence is one of the most important aspects of legislative autonomy (Inter-Parliamentary Union, 2022). When legislatures rely on executive-controlled budgets, their ability to challenge government policies may be limited. Scholars argue that executive dominance over legislative finances creates an imbalance in the separation of powers, particularly in emerging democracies (Olanrewaju, 2023). In such situations, the legislature may become reluctant to challenge the executive due to fear of budgetary retaliation.

In Nigeria, executive–legislative relations have historically been characterized by tension and power struggles. Research indicates that many state legislatures operate under conditions of financial dependency on the executive branch (Aiyede & Aluko,

2021). This dependency often undermines legislative oversight and reduces accountability in public governance. Moreover, financial constraints can weaken the internal structures of legislative institutions. Without sufficient resources, legislatures may lack professional staff, research units, and policy analysis capabilities necessary for effective lawmaking and oversight. These structural limitations highlight the importance of examining legislative funding as a key determinant of governance performance.

### **State House of Assembly**

The state house is made up of elected representatives from all the voting districts in the state. The number of representatives is determined by the population of the state and is typically based on a formula that considers a variety of factors (Adamu, Yusuf & Mohammed, 2023). The representatives usually have a mix of education, experience, and backgrounds that best serve the people of the state.

Bauchi state is located at northeastern state and was cover Gombe state its creation in 1996 and the state covers 20 LG and Hausa Fulani are the most predominant ethnic group with other tribes like Gerawa, Jarawa, Sayawa, Ningawa etc. Islam is the major religion in the state with some few Christians in Bogoro, Tafawa Balewa and some part of the state. As a major agriculture-based state, the Bauchi State economy partially relies on livestock and crops, cotton, groundnuts, millet, tomatoes, and yams with advanced irrigation schemes increasing agricultural production since statehood. The state has other food processing industries and canning facilities. It has tourism site in Yankari National Park and its Wikki Warm Springs.

### **The History of Bauchi State House of Assembly**

Mission is to always strive by way of motions, resolutions, legislations, and true representation to enhance the quality of life of the people in all the constituencies of Bauchi State and to cooperate with every arm and level of governance to engender

sustainable development of our dear state. (BAHA Archive, 2023). The Business of Legislature has been a recurring decimal in the art of governance, especially in a democratic set up. It is the turning point of democracy and of course, the first casualty when the elixir is brought to naught. In Bauchi State, the process of Legislation by a team of elected politicians began in 1979 when the State's first democratic Governor, Alhaji Tatari Ali, of blessed memory was elected. The first Speaker that headed what was in legislative parlance called the first session of the Assembly was Hon. Maigari Yerima Papa and since then, the assembly had witnessed successive leadership up to 2011-2015 era of Hon. Yahaya Muhammad Miya. History is replete with torrents of sorrow and joy in the business of legislation in Bauchi, but perhaps what makes the reign of Honorable Hon. Yahaya Muhammad Miya is the unity of purpose, sense of human belonging, open-door policy, human approach to issues, dedicated leadership, clarity of vision and sincerity of purpose. Indeed, it is gratifying to note that the result of all these virtues were translated into the modest achievements recorded by the State Governor in all facets of human endeavour, name it, electricity, rural roads, health care services, education, agriculture, information dissemination, water supply, urban roads, sports, and tourism development (BAHA, 2023). Bauchi State House of Assembly is among the first three houses described in the whole federation as one of peaceful, well focused, and certainly the most incorruptible. Bauchi in what appears to be the principle of separation of power at play, the Speaker, Bauchi House of Assembly, Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika, believed to be government anointed, has lost his seat to a new speaker. Honourable Jika was accused of breaching a House motion by visiting the governor at the Petition and Human Rights, Cabinet Services, Budget and Appropriation, Public Accounts Committee, Education, Agriculture, Housing and Environment, Security Sports, Commerce and Industry, Information, House Services, Works and Transport, Water Resources, Health, Women Affairs, and the Committee on Judiciary (BAHA, 2023). Government House, and general incompetence (Shehu

2007). That is the more reason why executive-cum-legislative cordially is at its apex in the state. The cordial relations between executive and legislative is hygienic to democratic system especially in developing states in Africa. In which the legislative body can easily be manipulated by the executive and make them ineffective or relegates their functions thereof. The executive and legislative arms of the government see each other as different institutions but with a common goal, which is dedicated service to the people of the State.

The 31 members represents districts in the state, some local governments have more than one representing because they have more than one district head. This is to allow proper representation in the parliament. Bauchi State House of Assembly have 32 standing Committees, they are: Public Each member is heading a specialized committee based on his professional calling, while the current leadership of the House-comprising Honourable Speaker, Hon. Abubakar Yakubu Suleiman Hon. Deputy Speaker, Jamilu Umar Dahiru, Leader (Majority) Hodi Sale Jibir, Minority Leader Abdu Bala Rishi, Chief Whip, Wakili Musa Nakwada, Deputy Chief Whip, Sarki Jadori Bello and Minority Whip Saleh Zakariyya were made to become part of decision making in most of the Committees. This makes information management easier and communication services more effective. Each of these Committees has the power and capacity to investigate any matter brought before it or initiates actions that will make life adorable for the entire people of the state.

### **Governance Challenges in Nigerian State Legislatures**

Nigeria's federal system consists of federal, state, and local governments. Each state maintains its own legislature responsible for lawmaking and oversight. However, recent studies reveal that many state legislatures face institutional challenges including limited financial autonomy, weak administrative capacity, and executive interference (Olanrewaju, 2023).

### 3. Methodology

This study adopts a qualitative research design complemented by descriptive empirical analysis. Qualitative research is appropriate because it allows for detailed examination of institutional structures and governance processes.

Data were obtained from Bauchi State budget documents, Legislative reports, Government policy publications and interview. Content analysis was used to examine the relationship between legislative funding and governance outcomes.

### 4. Results and Discussion

#### 4.1 Funding Constraints in Legislative Operations

Findings indicate that legislative committees often face financial limitations when conducting oversight activities. Oversight visits to government projects require travel expenses, logistics, and administrative support. When these resources are limited, oversight becomes less effective. An examination of public budget documents indicates that government expenditure in Bauchi State has increased significantly in recent years. These increases reflect the state government's commitment to expanding infrastructure development and public services.

However, the distribution of these financial resources reveals an imbalance between executive and legislative funding. While the executive branch receives substantial allocations for administrative operations and development projects, the legislature often receives comparatively smaller allocations. This imbalance limits the operational capacity of the Bauchi State House of Assembly and affects its ability to perform core governance functions effectively.

One of the major findings of this study is that inadequate financial allocation significantly affects the operational efficiency of the legislature in Bauchi State. Legislative institutions require funding to support several critical activities including committee investigations, policy research, constituency

engagement, and oversight visits to public projects. However, evidence from Nigerian legislative studies suggests that many state assemblies operate with limited operational budgets, which restricts their ability to perform these functions effectively.

Empirical research on legislative oversight in Nigeria indicates that inadequate financial resources constitute a major constraint to legislative performance. Studies examining oversight effectiveness in Nigeria's parliament reveal that limited resources, bureaucratic constraints, and weak executive-legislative cooperation significantly hinder legislative oversight activities (Sinime-Paulker, 2023).

The implication of such funding limitations is that legislative committees often lack the logistical support required to conduct field inspections of government projects. Oversight visits typically require transportation, technical staff, and administrative support. Without sufficient financial resources, legislators may rely heavily on reports provided by executive agencies rather than conducting independent verification.

This situation creates a structural governance problem because effective oversight is a critical mechanism for ensuring accountability in public financial management. When oversight is weakened, government agencies may operate with minimal scrutiny, thereby increasing the risk of mismanagement or inefficiency.

#### 4.2 Limited Research Capacity

Another challenge identified in the findings is limited research capacity within the legislature. Effective lawmaking requires policy research, data analysis, and expert advice.

However, many state legislatures lack dedicated research units capable of supporting complex policy evaluation.

### 4.3 Executive Dominance

The findings also reveal significant executive influence over legislative finances. When legislative funding is controlled by the executive branch, the independence of the legislature may be compromised.

Another important finding relates to the issue of financial dependence of state legislatures on the executive branch. Despite constitutional provisions guaranteeing financial autonomy for state legislatures in Nigeria, practical implementation remains inconsistent across many states.

Reports from legislative associations indicate that some governors continue to control or delay the release of funds meant for state legislatures, thereby undermining their independence. This practice has been criticized as a violation of constitutional provisions that mandate direct disbursement of funds to legislative institutions (Sunday, 2024).

The erosion of financial autonomy has significant implications for democratic governance. When legislative institutions depend on the executive for funding, their capacity to challenge government policies or investigate executive actions may be compromised. From an institutional perspective, financial autonomy is a fundamental requirement for maintaining the separation of powers within democratic systems. Without such autonomy, legislatures risk becoming subordinate to the executive branch, thereby weakening institutional checks and balances. In the context of the Bauchi State House of Assembly, the lack of full financial autonomy may affect the ability of legislators to perform independent oversight of government programs and public expenditures.

### 4.4 Implications for Governance

Weak legislative oversight can lead to several governance challenges including inefficient public spending, limited transparency, and reduced accountability.

The consequences of weak legislative oversight extend beyond institutional performance and directly affect governance outcomes. When legislatures fail to monitor government activities effectively, public sector accountability may decline. One major governance consequence is the increased risk of financial mismanagement. Reports indicate that weak legislative scrutiny has allowed large amounts of public funds to remain unaccounted for in government agencies, thereby undermining transparency and fiscal discipline.

In addition, weak oversight may contribute to policy implementation failures. Government programs often require continuous monitoring to ensure that allocated resources are used efficiently and that project objectives are achieved. Without legislative oversight, these programs may suffer from delays, corruption, or administrative inefficiencies. Scholarly studies examining governance outcomes in Nigeria further highlight that ineffective legislative oversight has contributed to the poor performance of poverty alleviation programs and other public policy initiatives. These failures are often attributed to mismanagement, political interference, and weak institutional monitoring mechanisms. Consequently, strengthening legislative capacity is widely considered a critical strategy for improving governance performance.

## References

- Adamu, N., Yusuf, Y. A., & Musalli, N. M. (2023). Assessment of constitutional provision on committee's effectiveness on legislative process in Bauchi State House of Assembly. *International Journal of Intellectual Discourse*, 6(4), 253–264.
- Aiyede, E., & Aluko, Y. (2021). Legislative-executive relations and democratic governance in Nigeria. *African Governance Review*.
- Federal Republic of Nigeria (1999) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Lagos: Federal Government Press.
- Fukuyama, F. (2020). Political order and political decay in the 21st century.
- Hossain A.M. (2020) Role of Parliament and Governance in Bangladesh: Problems and Prospects. *Journal of International Politics*2(2), 6-16.
- Inter-Parliamentary Union. (2021). Global Parliamentary Report.
- Inter-Parliamentary Union. (2022). Parliamentary independence and capacity.
- Lafenwa, S. A. (2009). *The legislature and the challenges of democratic governance in Africa: The Nigerian case*. Paper presented at a Conference on Governance and Development on Democratization in Africa: Retrospective and Future Prospects. University of Leeds, England.
- Martin S. & Whitaker R. (2019): Beyond committees: parliamentary oversight of coalition government in Britain, *West European Politics*, DOI:10.1080/01402382.2019.1593595
- Mollah M. H. (2016) Free, Fair and Credible Election and Democratic Governance in Bangladesh: How Far the Dream of Success? *Review of Public Administration and Management*, 4:193.
- Murana, A. O., & Bakare, A. R. (2019). Constituency–legislature relations in Nigeria. In J. Y. Fashagba, O. R. Ajayi, and C. Nwankwo, (Eds.), *The Nigerian National Assembly* 73–89.
- Myers, M. D. (2013). *Qualitative research in business and management* (2nd ed.). London: SAGE Publications.
- OECD. (2023). Government at a glance.
- Okechukwu N. O. (2014) The Legislature and Democracy in Nigeria, (1960-2003): History, Constitutional Role, and Prospects. *Research on Humanities and Social Sciences* 4(15), 80–90.
- Okoosi-Simbine, A. (2010): “Understanding the Role and Challenges of the Legislature in the Fourth Republic: The Case of Oyo State House of Assembly.” *Nigeria Journal of Legislative Affairs*, 3(2), 1-27
- Okoro, O. (2017). The concept of legislative oversight. Retrieved online from <http://www.aronewsonline.com/?p=1947>
- Olanrewaju, J. (2023). Legislative autonomy and democratic consolidation in Nigerian states.
- UNDP. (2022). Governance for sustainable development.
- World Bank. (2021). Worldwide governance indicators.