

**LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES IN OYO
STATE NIGERIA 2019-2026**

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the extent to which legislative oversight in Oyo State between 2019 and 2026 has contributed to strengthening democratic values. It explores the effectiveness of oversight mechanisms, the relationship between the legislature and the executive, and the impact of oversight activities on transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance. By focusing on Oyo State, the research provides insights that can enrich scholarly debates and inform policy strategies for deepening democratic governance in Nigeria. This study will adopt a mixed-methods research approach within a case study design to provide a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the relationship between legislative oversight and democratic values in Oyo State from 2019 to 2025. The Separation of Powers Theory serves as the foundational pillar. The study found that the Oyo State House of Assembly performs legislative oversight functions regularly, as confirmed by the majority of respondents. This study concludes that legislative oversight in the Oyo State House of Assembly between 2019 and 2026 has made a moderate but meaningful contribution to the promotion of democratic values in the state.

Keywords: Democracy, Governance, Legislative, Law making, Oversight functions, Oyo State Assembly

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INTRODUCTION

This study investigates the critical role of legislative oversight in strengthening democratic values within Oyo State, Nigeria, from 2019 to 2026. It examines how the oyo house of assembly's oversight functions, or lack thereof, have impacted accountability, governance, and the delivery of democratic dividends to the people. By analyzing key aspects like budget scrutiny, public hearings, and accountability mechanisms, the research aims to identify the challenges and successes of legislative oversight in the state and offer insights for enhancing its effectiveness in fostering a more robust democracy. Democratic governance thrives on the principles of accountability, transparency, inclusiveness, and the rule of law. Central to these principles is the ability of the legislature to serve as an effective check on the executive arm of government through oversight functions. In Nigeria, legislative oversight has become increasingly significant, especially as citizens demand better governance, prudent management of public resources, and improved service delivery. As a federal system with powers shared across national, state, and local levels, the strength of Nigeria's democracy is partly reflected in how well state legislatures perform their constitutional responsibilities. Oyo State presents a compelling context for examining the role of legislative oversight in promoting democratic values. Since 2019, the state has experienced notable political developments, reforms in public administration, and evolving relationships between the executive and legislative arms of government. The period between 2019 and 2026 captures ongoing efforts toward improving governance, budget implementation, public accountability, and citizens' participation in decision-making.

Despite constitutional provisions empowering the legislature, challenges such as political interference, limited financial autonomy, weak institutional capacity, and inadequate public engagement continue to hinder effective oversight in many Nigerian states, including Oyo State. Understanding how these factors shape legislative performance is crucial for assessing the quality of democracy at the subnational level.

This study, therefore, investigates the extent to which legislative oversight in Oyo State between 2019 and 2026 has contributed to strengthening democratic values. It explores the effectiveness of oversight mechanisms, the relationship between the legislature and the executive, and the impact of oversight activities on transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance. By focusing on Oyo State, the research provides insights that can enrich scholarly debates and inform policy strategies for deepening democratic governance in Nigeria.

The main objective of this study is to critically assess the impact of legislative oversight functions on the promotion and sustenance of democratic values in Nigeria, using Oyo State as a case study between 2019 and 2025.

Definition of Term

The definitions of the terms as used in this topic are detailed below:

1. Legislative Oversight

Legislative oversight is a core function of the legislature (in this case, the Oyo State House of Assembly) that involves the review, monitoring, and supervision of the executive arm of government and its various ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs). The primary goal is to ensure accountability, transparency, efficiency, and that the executive's actions comply with the laws and budget passed by the legislature.

Includes;

1. Investigative Powers: The power to conduct inquiries into the affairs of any government ministry or department to expose corruption, inefficiency, or waste, as provided by Sections 88 and 120 of the Nigerian Constitution.
2. Budgetary Control: The process of scrutinizing annual budget proposals (Appropriation Bills), approving government spending, and monitoring the use of public funds to ensure they are used for their intended purposes.
3. Confirmation of Appointments: The power to screen and approve or reject individuals nominated by the executive for key government positions, a mechanism for checking the executive's power.
4. Post-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS): A relatively new mechanism, notably piloted by the Oyo State House of Assembly in 2025, which involves examining existing laws after implementation to evaluate their impact and effectiveness.
5. Plenary Debates and Committee Hearings: Utilizing platforms like question time, debates, and committee reports to publicly scrutinize executive actions and policies.

Democratic Values

Democratic values refer to the fundamental moral principles, beliefs, and standards of behavior that underpin a democratic system of governance. In the context of the Oyo State study, these values are the benchmarks against which the performance and legitimacy of the government and the legislature's oversight function are measured.

Core democratic values relevant to this topic include;

1. Rule of Law: The principle that everyone, including the government and its officials, is

subject to the law and that the constitution is supreme.

2. Accountability: The obligation of elected officials to be answerable for their actions, particularly regarding the management of public resources and the delivery of social services.

3. Transparency: The requirement for government operations and decision-making processes to be open to public scrutiny, which helps minimize corruption and build public trust.

4. Separation of Powers/Checks and Balances: The division of governmental authority into distinct legislative, executive, and judicial branches to prevent the concentration and abuse of power by any single arm.

5. Popular Participation: Ensuring that citizens have the opportunity to participate actively in political processes, not just through elections but also through engagement with their representatives and in decision-making.

6. Justice and Equality: The commitment to treating all citizens with fairness and providing equal opportunities and protection of human rights.

Legislative oversight

Legislative oversight is widely regarded as one of the most critical pillars of democratic governance, particularly in emerging democracies such as Nigeria. The effectiveness of democratic institutions depends not only on the existence of constitutional provisions but also on the practical enforcement of accountability mechanisms. Among these mechanisms, legislative oversight occupies a central position because it ensures that the executive arm of government remains accountable to the people through their elected representatives. This chapter provides a

comprehensive review of literature related to legislative oversight and democratic values, with particular emphasis on Nigeria and sub-national legislative institutions such as the Oyo State House of Assembly. The review is structured to examine conceptual clarifications, theoretical perspectives, empirical findings, and contextual realities that shape oversight functions in Nigeria.

Legislative oversight is not a peripheral function of democracy; it is the very mechanism through which power is checked, accountability is enforced, and transparency is institutionalized. Without oversight, democracy risks degenerating into authoritarianism cloaked in electoral rituals. Nigeria's democratic journey since 1999 has been marked by both progress and regression, making oversight functions particularly critical.

The chapter also critically evaluates the extent to which legislative oversight has contributed to the promotion of democratic values such as accountability, transparency, rule of law, responsiveness, and participation.

Furthermore, it explores the challenges undermining effective oversight and assesses how these challenges affect democratic consolidation in Nigeria.

LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS IN NIGERIA

Legislative oversight refers to the process through which the legislature monitors, supervises, evaluates and influences the actions of the executive branch of government. According to Adebayo (2024), legislative oversight is "the systematic review of executive activities to ensure compliance with laws, policies, and public expectations". Legislative oversight also refers to the monitoring, evaluation, and control functions exercised by the legislature over the executive

and other arms of government. It is a constitutional responsibility designed to ensure accountability, transparency, and adherence to the rule of law. In Nigeria, Sections 88 and 89 of the 1999 Constitution empower both the National Assembly and State Houses of Assembly to conduct investigations into the conduct of government agencies and officials. Therefore, Legislative Oversight serves the "Watchdog" function. In Oyo State, this is the power of the Assembly to monitor the implementation of the Roadmap for Sustainable Development. It is operationalized through Section 128 of the Constitution and carried out by Standing Committees (e.g., Public Accounts, Works, and Health). While

Democratic Values serves the "Standard of Governance." This refers to the non-negotiable principles of Accountability, Transparency, and the Rule of Law. The 2019–2026 Context This period covers the "Seyi Makinde Era." It is unique because it captures the shift from the 9th Assembly (laying the groundwork) to the 10th Assembly (launching the PLS Unit in 2025), marking Oyo as a pioneer in evidence-based oversight in Nigeria. Okeke (2025) argues that legislative oversight is not only a constitutional responsibility but also a democratic necessity that enhances accountability and curbs executive excesses.

The dimensions of legislative oversight refer to the different areas or aspects through which the legislature exercises control, monitoring, and supervision over the executive branch of government. Understanding these dimensions is essential because oversight is not a single activity but a multi-layered process that ensures accountability, transparency, and effective governance.

In the Nigerian federal system, the Oyo State House of Assembly (OYSHA) serves as the unicameral legislative body responsible for

exercising the legislative powers of the state. this section provides the structural and functional analysis of how the legislature operates within a sub-national context. Legislative Functions in Nigeria with Oyo as the case study, The Oyo State house of assembly is composed of 32 members representing 33 local government areas. Its operations are governed by the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as amended), which outlines its primary mandates:

I. The Law-Making Function

The core responsibility of the OYSHA is to enact, amend, or repeal laws for the "peace, order, and good government" of Oyo State.

Performance (10th Assembly): As of mid-2025, the 10th Assembly under Speaker Rt. Hon. Adebo Ogundoyin has considered roughly 32 bills and passed over 143 resolutions.

Case Example: The assembly has focused on "people-centred" legislation, including laws aimed at industrial transformation and the Oyo State Digital Talent Revolution Initiative (OYO-DTRI) to equip youth with AI and cybersecurity skills.

II. The Oversight Function (Watchdog Role)

Legislative oversight in Oyo State involves monitoring the executive arm to ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of laws and projects.

Constitutional Authority: Under Sections 128 and 129, the House has the power to conduct investigations into any matter it can legislate on, summon officials as witnesses, and compel the production of documents.

Innovative Oversight (Post-Legislative Scrutiny): In November 2025, Oyo State became the first in Nigeria to pilot Post-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS). This evidence-based oversight mechanism evaluates the real-world impact of laws after they are passed to ensure they meet their original target.

III. Power of the Purse (Fiscal Control)

The legislature must approve the state's annual budget before any funds can be spent from the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

In Oyo State, this involves scrutinizing budget proposals from the Governor to ensure they align with the needs of the 33 Local Government Areas.

IV. Representation and Constituency Service

Legislators act as the "immediate representatives of the people," articulating local grievances and aspirations. In Oyo State, this is demonstrated through constituency projects and collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to ensure gender-responsive budgeting and inclusive education reforms.

In conclusion, the legislative functions in Nigeria encompassing lawmaking, oversight, representation, and fiscal control form the bedrock of the country's democratic stability. While the 1999 Constitution provides a robust legal framework for these roles, their effectiveness in a state like Oyo depends heavily on the assembly's ability to remain independent of executive influence. For Oyo State to serve as a model for enhanced democratic values, its legislature must move beyond the mere passage of bills to a more rigorous, transparent application of its oversight powers. Ultimately, the strength of Nigeria's democracy is not found in the existence of these functions, but in the political will of legislators to exercise them as a check against corruption and as a tool for public accountability.

LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT IMPACTS ON DEMOCRATIC VALUES

Between 2019 and 2026, legislative oversight in Oyo State has played a significant role in strengthening democratic values, particularly through the introduction of post-legislative

scrutiny (PLS). This innovative approach ensures that laws passed by the Oyo State House of Assembly are not only enacted but also effectively implemented to achieve their intended outcomes. By extending oversight beyond lawmaking to monitoring real-world impact, PLS has improved transparency, accountability, and public trust in governance. The legislature has also enhanced executive accountability by supervising government projects and expenditures. This has helped to reduce wasteful spending, limit administrative excesses, and promote more responsible governance. Through consistent review of executive actions, the legislative arm contributes to balancing power within the state, thereby reducing the likelihood of corruption and supporting democratic stability.

However, several challenges continue to limit the full effectiveness of legislative oversight in Oyo State. Institutional constraints, such as limited technical expertise and inadequate resources, often hinder thorough monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs. Additionally, political interference can undermine the credibility of oversight activities, especially when they are perceived as tools for targeting political opponents rather than promoting good governance. To maximize the benefits of oversight, there is a pressing need to strengthen the independence of the legislature both financially and operationally. Enhancing the capacity of lawmakers and insulating oversight processes from political pressures will be critical in sustaining democratic gains and ensuring that governance truly serves the public interest.

LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS IN NIGERIA

Legislative oversight is the process by which the legislature reviews, monitors, and supervises the activities of the executive

branch and its agencies to ensure accountability and transparency. It is often described as the "eyes and ears" of the public, acting as a surveillance mechanism to prevent the abuse of power.

I. Constitutional Basis and Scope

The authority for legislative oversight is firmly rooted in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended):

Federal Level (Sections 88 and 89): These sections empower the National Assembly to conduct investigations into any matter for which it has the power to make laws, and to investigate the conduct of any person or authority charged with administering laws or public funds.

State Level (Sections 128 and 129): These mirror the federal provisions, granting State Houses of Assembly (such as the Oyo State House of Assembly) the power to procure evidence, summon persons to testify, and issue warrants to compel attendance during investigations.

II. Oversight Mechanisms

Nigerian legislatures employ several tools to execute their oversight functions:

Investigative Hearings: Standing or ad-hoc committees conduct public or private inquiries into specific government activities, such as the management of public funds or the implementation of policies.

Budgetary Scrutiny (Power of the Purse): Before approving the annual Appropriation Act, the legislature defends and scrutinizes budget proposals. This process ensures that requested funds are justified and aligned with public needs.

Oversight Visits: Committee members physically visit project sites (e.g., road construction or hospital renovations) to verify that funds are being used as intended and that work is progressing according to contract specifications.

Audit Queries and Public Accounts: The legislature receives reports from the Auditor-General. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC)—traditionally chaired by an opposition member—interrogates MDAs (Ministries, Departments, and Agencies) regarding financial irregularities or lapses.

Confirmation of Appointments: The Senate (or State House of Assembly) must screen and confirm nominees for key executive positions, ensuring only qualified individuals lead public institutions.

III. Purpose for Democratic Values

In the Nigerian context, effective oversight is essential for:

- Curbing Corruption:** Exposing wastefulness and the misappropriation of government resources.
- Ensuring Policy Delivery:** Verifying that executive programmes authorized by the legislature are actually delivered to the citizens.
- Protecting Human Rights:** Monitoring government activities to prevent arbitrary behavior or unconstitutional conduct by public officials.
- Strengthening Separation of Powers:** Maintaining the balance of power between the arms of government to avoid executive tyranny.

While these functions are constitutionally robust, their practical application in Nigeria often faces challenges such as executive interference, limited technical capacity among legislators, and a lack of financial autonomy for the legislative arm.

EXTENT OF PERFORMANCE IN OYO STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND THEIR LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS

The performance of the Oyo State House of Assembly (OYSHA) in recent years has shown a high level of performance in its core functions, particularly under the 9th and 10th Assemblies (2019–Present), has been

characterized by a high volume of legislative output and the pioneering of innovative oversight mechanisms. Under the leadership of Speaker Rt. Hon. Adebo Ogundoyin, the Assembly has positioned itself as a proactive arm of government, characterized by timely budget passage, proactive oversight, and innovative legislative initiatives between 2023 and 2026. As of late 2025, the 10th Assembly, led by Speaker Adebo Ogundoyin, has focused on enhancing infrastructure, education, and security through legislative support for the executive's "Omituntun 2.0" roadmap.

I. Performance in Lawmaking

The Assembly has maintained a consistent record of bill passage, often surpassing previous legislative records.

Legislative Output: As of June 2025, the 10th Assembly had passed 32 bills out of 34 introduced within its first two years. This follows the 9th Assembly's record of over 86 bills and 148 resolutions.

Legislation: Recent laws have focused on critical sectors such as health, environment, and social welfare. Notable examples include the Oyo State Drug and Health Commodity Management Agency Bill (2024) and the Oyo State Flood Management Agency Bill (2024). Also key areas like education reform, security and agricultural development.

Budgetary Oversight: The Assembly has maintained a reputation for timely approval of the annual budget, ensuring it is passed before the start of the new fiscal year. In late 2025, they approved the 2026 Budget of Economic Expansion, totaling roughly N892 billion, after making adjustments to increase capital expenditure on infrastructure.

Responsive Lawmaking: The Assembly recently set up a committee to draft a bill aimed at regulating house agents to end the exploitation and extortion of residents.

II. Performance in Legislative Oversight

Oyo State has gained national recognition for advancing the "watchdog" role of the legislature through historic initiatives.

Post-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS): In November 2025, OYSHA became the first state assembly in Nigeria to pilot Post-Legislative Scrutiny. This process involves a formal inquiry into how passed laws are actually being implemented on the ground to ensure they achieve their intended outcomes.

Project Monitoring: The Assembly has successfully carried out numerous oversight visits, including inspections of 33 Local Government Areas to assess the status of earth-moving equipment and visits to major infrastructure projects like the Ibadan Circular Road.

Fiscal Transparency: The 10th Assembly has deliberated on establishing a State Central Revenue Account (SCRA), a unified digital treasury system intended to enhance transparency in public revenue.

III. Performance in Representation and Democratic Values

The extent of performance in representation is seen through the Assembly's engagement with the public and its focus on inclusive governance.

Inclusive Reforms: The Assembly has partnered with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) like the Malala Fund to push for gender-responsive education reforms and inclusive budgeting.

Youth Leadership: The OYSHA is notable for its high concentration of young legislators. In the 9th Assembly, 13 out of 32 members were aged between 25 and 40, reflecting a significant shift toward youth inclusion in Nigerian politics.

Citizen Engagement: Through public hearings and motions of "Urgent Public Importance," the Assembly has addressed local issues ranging from gang violence in Ibadan

neighborhoods to estimated billing by electricity distribution companies (IBEDC).

IV. Achievements in Performance

Historic Post-Legislative Scrutiny (PLS): In November 2025, the Oyo Assembly became the first in Nigeria to conduct a post-legislative scrutiny (PLS) inquiry, examining the impact of the Law to Prohibit Open Rearing and Grazing (2019) and the Oyo State Security Network Agency (Amotekun) Law 2020.

Support for Gender-Responsive Policies: The Assembly has strengthened collaboration with civil society organizations (CSOs) to focus on gender-responsive budgeting, particularly within the education sector.

Swift Budget Passage: The Assembly passed the 2026 appropriation bill less than a month after its presentation in November 2025.

Support for Economic Growth: Lawmakers have backed the Executive's initiatives to increase Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) and boost infrastructure investment (e.g., the 110km Rashidi Ladoja Circular Road).

V. Challenges and Areas for Improvement

Infrastructure and Capacity: Observers have noted that while the legislative output is high, the physical infrastructure of the Assembly complex needs modernization to reflect 21st-century standards.

Capacity Gaps: Despite active participation, some younger legislators face challenges regarding experience and navigating legislative dynamics.

Fiscal Constraints: The House has highlighted that budgetary limitations sometimes hinder the effective implementation of legislative, oversight, and constituency projects

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Separation of Power Theory

the Separation of Powers Theory serves as the foundational pillar. It explains why the

legislature must remain independent to check the executive and protect democratic integrity. The theory of Separation of Powers, famously articulated by Baron de Montesquieu in his 1748 work *The Spirit of the Laws*, posits that in order to prevent tyranny and protect liberty, governmental authority must be divided among three distinct and independent branches: the Executive, the Legislature, and the Judiciary.

The theory is built on three core principles. First is functional separation, which assigns specific responsibilities to each arm of government: law-making to the legislature, law enforcement and administration to the executive, and interpretation of laws to the judiciary. Second is institutional independence, which requires that each branch operate without undue control or domination by the others. Third is checks and balances, which empowers each arm to restrain the excesses of the others in order to maintain constitutional equilibrium and prevent abuse of power. In the context of Oyo State, the theory of Separation of Powers provides the legal and normative foundation for the oversight functions of the Oyo State House of Assembly (OYHA) over the executive arm of government. It assumes that without effective legislative scrutiny, the executive comprising the Governor and Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs) may become overly powerful or operate without sufficient accountability.

Legislative oversight, therefore, becomes a practical expression of constitutional “checks” designed to ensure transparency, accountability, and balance in governance. Within this framework, the OYHA’s activities such as probing contract awards, reviewing budget implementation, and summoning commissioners for questioning reflect its “watchdog” role. Between 2019 and 2026, these functions demonstrate how the

Assembly is expected to move beyond a passive or “rubber stamp” institution into an active oversight body capable of holding the executive accountable. Furthermore, through processes such as post-legislative scrutiny, the Assembly reinforces democratic legitimacy by ensuring that laws passed are not only implemented but also implemented in line with legislative intent, thereby sustaining the decentralization of power that is central to democratic governance. Although the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) formally adopts the doctrine of Separation of Powers, its practical application at the state level particularly in states like Oyo often reflects a “soft” or flexible separation.

In such contexts, the executive may exert significant influence over the legislature, potentially affecting the independence of legislative oversight. This reality provides a critical analytical framework for assessing whether the Oyo State House of Assembly (2019–2026) has been able to maintain genuine institutional autonomy or whether it has operated under executive influence. It also allows for an evaluation of whether the constitutional mechanism of checks and balances has effectively enhanced governance outcomes or been weakened by political interference.

CHALLENGES OF LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS IN NIGERIA

Legislative oversight in Oyo State between 2019 and 2026 has been significantly constrained by a number of structural and political challenges. These include executive dominance, inadequate funding, limited technical capacity, and corruption particularly in the form of godfatherism which collectively weaken accountability and undermine democratic values. The effectiveness of oversight is further reduced

by poor cooperation from Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), as well as the tendency for oversight activities to serve political interests rather than the public good.

Drawing from the broader challenges experienced during Nigeria's Fourth Republic, which are equally applicable to sub-national legislatures such as the Oyo State House of Assembly, the following key factors have hindered effective legislative oversight within the period under review:

I.Executive Usurpation and Dominance:

The executive arm frequently interferes with legislative responsibilities, thereby undermining the independence of the legislature. This imbalance weakens the principle of separation of powers and allows the executive to operate with minimal accountability.

II.Capacity Deficiency and Limited Resources:

Legislators and their support staff often lack the technical expertise required to conduct detailed audits or evaluate complex policy, financial, and technical matters. In addition, insufficient funding and logistical support limit the ability of legislative committees to carry out effective field inspections and oversight activities.

III.Corruption and Personal Interests (Godfatherism):

Oversight functions are sometimes compromised by political patronage systems, where legislators prioritize loyalty to influential political figures over public interest. In some cases, oversight mechanisms are exploited for personal gain, including the blackmail of executive officials or contractors.

IV.Poor Cooperation from MDAs:

Ministries, Departments, and Agencies often fail to provide necessary documentation or respond adequately to legislative inquiries.

This lack of cooperation delays investigations and weakens the overall oversight process.

V.Political Polarization and Witch-hunting:

Oversight activities are occasionally politicized and used as tools for targeting political opponents rather than promoting transparency and good governance. Rather than serving as a mechanism for accountability, oversight becomes an instrument of political vendetta, thereby undermining its credibility and effectiveness (Adetoro, 2019).

VI.Absence of Formalized Follow-up Mechanisms:

Even when oversight exercises are conducted and reports are produced, there is often no structured system to ensure the implementation of recommendations. This results in a weak enforcement framework and renders the legislature largely ineffective in ensuring compliance. This lack of follow-up weakens enforcement and renders the legislature ineffective in achieving meaningful outcomes (RSIS International, 2023).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study will adopt a mixed-methods research approach within a case study design to provide a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the relationship between legislative oversight and democratic values in Oyo State from 2019 to 2025. This approach allows for both the quantitative assessment of legislative activities and the qualitative exploration of perceptions, challenges, and contextual dynamics. The target population for the study includes key stakeholders involved in governance and legislative processes in Oyo State:

1. Serving and former Honourable Members of the Oyo State House of Assembly within the 2019-2025 timeframe.

2. Key officials within the House of Assembly Service Commission and relevant government ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs).

3. Representatives of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and political analysts actively monitoring governance and legislative affairs in Oyo State.

Method of Data Collection: Data will be collected through:

1. Interviews: Face-to-face or virtual interviews with key informants.

2. Administration of Questionnaires: Self-administered or interviewer-administered questionnaires to a wider range of respondents.

3. Documentary Analysis/Desk Review: A thorough examination of available secondary data sources to contextualize and triangulate primary findings.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Legislative Oversight Functions in Oyo State (N=152)

Key: SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; U = Undecided; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree

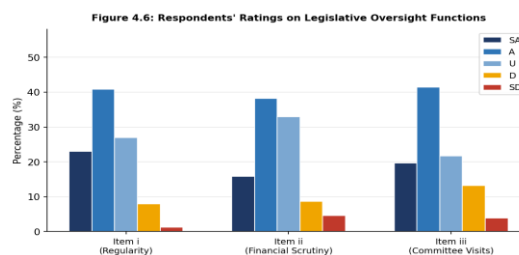


Figure 4.6: Bar Chart Showing Respondents' Ratings on Legislative Oversight Functions

Figure 4.6 presents respondents' views on legislative oversight functions in Oyo State. On item (i), which states that the legislature

performs oversight functions regularly in Oyo State, 35 respondents (23.0%) strongly agreed, while 62 (40.8%) agreed, giving a combined agreement rate of 63.8%. With a mean score of 3.76, this item is accepted, suggesting that a majority of respondents acknowledge the regularity of oversight activities by the Oyo State House of Assembly.

Item (ii), which addresses the scrutiny of public funds and expenditures, recorded 24 respondents (15.8%) who strongly agreed and 58 (38.2%) who agreed, yielding a combined agreement of 54.0%. The mean score of 3.52 exceeds the benchmark of 3.00, indicating agreement. However, the relatively high undecided rate of 32.9% suggests uncertainty about the depth of financial scrutiny, consistent with empirical literature noting the limited access legislators have to financial data (Adebayo, 2024).

Item (iii), on whether legislative committees regularly carry out oversight visits and investigations, showed that 30 respondents (19.7%) strongly agreed and 63 (41.4%) agreed, totalling 61.1%. The mean score of 3.60 confirms agreement. This finding aligns with Adetunji's (2024) observation that the Assembly has become more active in conducting oversight visits under the current administration. Overall, the data support the view that legislative oversight functions are being performed in Oyo State, though gaps remain in the depth of financial scrutiny.

Extent of Legislative Oversight Performance

This section examines the extent to which the Oyo State House of Assembly performs its oversight functions. The first item uses a five-point extent scale (Very High Extent to Very

Low Extent), while subsequent items use the standard Likert scale.

Extent of Oversight Performance – Extent Scale (N=152)

Key: VHE = Very High Extent; HE = High Extent; ME = Moderate Extent; LE = Low Extent; VLE = Very Low Extent

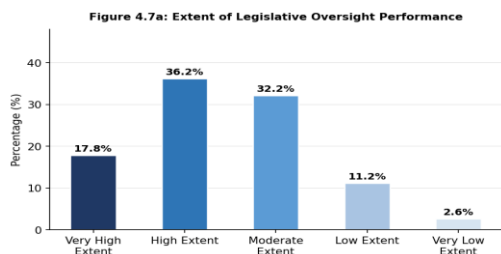


Figure 4.7a: Bar Chart Showing Extent of Legislative Oversight Performance

Figure 4.7a reveals that when asked about the overall extent of legislative oversight performance, 27 respondents (17.8%) indicated a very high extent and 55 (36.2%) indicated a high extent, producing a combined 'high' response of 54.0%. Additionally, 49 respondents (32.2%) chose moderate extent. The mean score of 3.55 places the extent of oversight performance at a 'High Extent' level. This finding suggests that while the legislature is active, its performance is not yet optimal, consistent with Adetunji's (2024) characterisation of the Assembly's performance as 'moderately effective but constrained.'

Table 4.8: Legislative Oversight and Democratic Values (N=152)

Key: SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; U = Undecided; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree

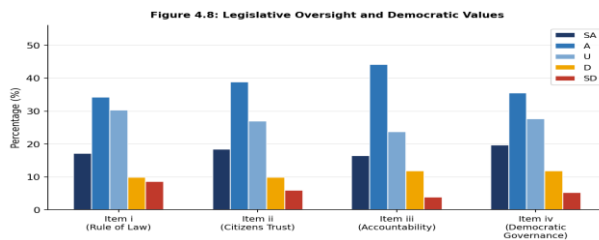


Figure 4.8: Bar Chart Showing Legislative Oversight and Democratic Values

figure 4.8 presents data on how legislative oversight impacts democratic values. On item (i), which addresses whether oversight strengthens the rule of law, 51.3% of respondents agreed (combined SA and A), with a mean of 3.41. This is above the benchmark of 3.00, indicating agreement. However, the relatively higher proportion of undecided respondents (30.3%) and those who disagreed (18.5%) suggests that the relationship between oversight and rule of law remains contested, likely due to selective application of laws noted by Okeke (2025).

Item (ii), on whether legislative oversight enhances citizens' trust in government, yielded a combined agreement of 57.2% and a mean of 3.54. This supports the theoretical position of Democratic Governance Theory that effective oversight builds public confidence in institutions. Eze (2025) equally found that corruption and poor governance reduce trust, making oversight a critical trust-building mechanism.

Item (iii), assessing whether oversight activities encourage accountability among public office holders, recorded the highest combined agreement among Section D items at 60.5% (16.4% SA + 44.1% A) and a mean of 3.57. This is a significant finding, affirming that oversight is perceived as an effective tool for enforcing accountability in Oyo State's governance system.

Item (iv), on whether democratic governance has improved due to legislative oversight, showed a combined agreement of 55.2% and a mean of 3.53. All four items in Section D exceeded the decision benchmark of 3.00 and are therefore accepted. The findings collectively confirm that legislative oversight in Oyo State contributes positively to democratic values, even though the impact is not uniformly felt across all dimensions of governance.

CHALLENGES OF LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

This section investigates the major challenges confronting legislative oversight in Oyo State. Two items were presented to respondents on a five-point Likert scale.

Table 4.9: Challenges of Legislative Oversight in Oyo State (N=152)

Key: SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; U = Undecided; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree

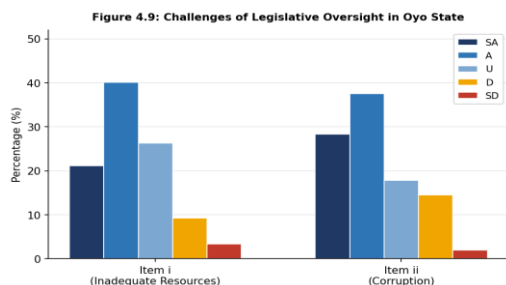


Figure 4.9: Bar Chart Showing Challenges of Legislative Oversight in Oyo State

Figure 4.9 shows the challenges facing legislative oversight in Oyo State. On item (i), which states that inadequate resources hinder effective oversight, 32 respondents (21.1%) strongly agreed and 61 (40.1%) agreed, producing a combined agreement rate of 61.2% and a mean of 3.66. This finding strongly supports the literature by Ojo (2024)

and Eze (2025), who identified inadequate technical knowledge and lack of institutional infrastructure as key obstacles to effective oversight. Financial dependence on the executive further compounds this challenge by limiting the legislature's operational autonomy.

Item (ii), on whether corruption weakens legislative oversight in Oyo State, recorded the highest mean score in Section E at 3.76, with 43 respondents (28.3%) strongly agreeing and 57 (37.5%) agreeing — a combined agreement of 65.8%. This is a highly significant finding. Both Okeke (2025) and Akinwale (2024) noted that legislators sometimes compromise oversight functions in exchange for personal benefits, and that oversight investigations are occasionally used as instruments of political bargaining rather than genuine accountability mechanisms. The high agreement on this item reflects widespread public awareness of corruption as a systemic challenge to effective oversight in Oyo State.

Solutions and Recommendations

This section presents respondents' views on remedies to the identified challenges of legislative oversight. Three items were tested using a five-point Likert scale.

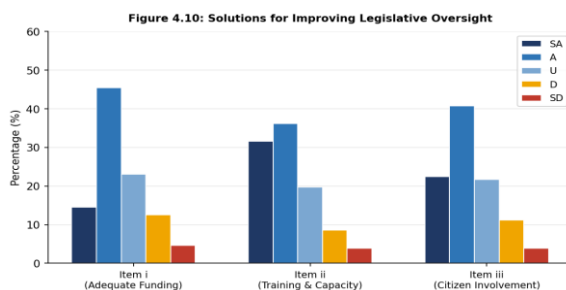


Figure 4.10: Bar Chart Showing Solutions for Improving Legislative Oversight

Figure 4.10 presents respondents' views on how legislative oversight can be improved. On item (i), which proposes that adequate funding should be provided for effective oversight, 69 respondents (45.4%) agreed and 22 (14.5%) strongly agreed, yielding a combined agreement of 59.9% and a mean of 3.53. The finding affirms that financial autonomy is critical to oversight effectiveness, as funding constraints directly limit the legislature's capacity to conduct thorough investigations and oversight visits.

Item (ii), proposing training and capacity building for legislators, achieved the highest mean score in Section F at 3.83, with 48 respondents (31.6%) strongly agreeing and 55 (36.2%) agreeing — a combined agreement rate of 67.8%. This is the strongest recommendation endorsed by respondents across the entire questionnaire. This result aligns with Ojo's (2024) finding that inadequate technical knowledge limits legislators' ability to analyse complex policy and financial data. Investment in capacity building would therefore directly address one of the root causes of weak oversight.

Item (iii), proposing greater citizen involvement in monitoring legislative activities, garnered a combined agreement of 63.2% and a mean of 3.66. This finding supports the Constituency-Based Oversight dimension discussed in Chapter Two, as well as the Democratic Governance Theory's emphasis on citizen participation. Increased civic engagement can serve as an external check on both the executive and the legislature, strengthening the overall accountability ecosystem.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data presented and analysed in this chapter, the following findings are established:

1. **Legislative Oversight Functions:** The majority of respondents (above 60%) affirmed that the Oyo State House of Assembly regularly performs oversight functions, with committee-based oversight visits being the most acknowledged mechanism. However, financial scrutiny is perceived to be less robust, with a third of respondents uncertain about its effectiveness.

2. **Extent of Oversight Performance:** The overall extent of legislative oversight performance was rated at a 'High Extent' (mean = 3.55) by respondents, though significant proportions expressed uncertainty about legislative independence from the executive.

3. **Impact on Democratic Values:** Legislative oversight in Oyo State positively influences democratic values. Among the four democratic value indicators tested, accountability received the strongest endorsement (mean = 3.57), while the rule of law received the lowest but still-positive mean score of 3.41, indicating that translating oversight into consistent legal compliance remains a challenge.

4. **Challenges:** Corruption emerged as the most severe challenge (mean = 3.76), followed closely by inadequate resources (mean = 3.66). Both challenges were strongly affirmed by respondents and are consistent with empirical literature.

5. **Solutions:** Capacity building through training and workshops received the strongest endorsement as a solution (mean = 3.83), followed by increased citizen involvement (mean = 3.66) and adequate funding (mean = 3.53). All three recommended solutions were accepted by respondents.

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