



**CLA**

**COMMONWEALTH LAWYERS ASSOCIATION**

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### **Statement on the Freedom of Information Bill in Nigeria**

The Commonwealth Lawyer's Association (CLA) commends the Senate and the House of Representatives in the Federal Republic of Nigeria for passing their respective versions of the Freedom of Information Bill (the Bill).

The CLA notes that it is "An act to make public records and information more freely available, provide for public access to public records and information, protect public records and information to the extent consistent with the public interest and the protection of personal privacy, protect serving public officers from adverse consequences for disclosing certain kinds of official information without authorisation and establish procedures for the achievement of those purposes and related purposes thereof." Freedom of information empowers citizens and enables them to hold their governments to account thereby reducing the prevalence of corruption and having a significant impact on overall transparency and improved governance.

The CLA urges the Senate and House of Representatives to harmonise the two versions of the Bill and promptly transmit the final version to the office of the Clerk of the National Assembly for signature by the President before the end of the current term prior to the national election.

**Commonwealth Lawyers Association**  
**7 April 2011**

#### **NOTE TO EDITORS:**

The **Commonwealth Lawyer's Association** is an international organisation which exists to promote and maintain the rule of law throughout the Commonwealth by ensuring that an independent and efficient legal profession, with the highest standards of ethics and integrity, serves the people of the Commonwealth. [www.commonwealthlawyers.com](http://www.commonwealthlawyers.com)