These are few tips you should know before visiting the National Assembly to avoid stress and time wasting.
This aspect is very important so you need to take note. When going to the National Assembly, make sure your outfit is not sleeveless or even half an inch above your knee. Yes I said half an inch above your knee! The security guards do not want to see your knee cap in any way, when approaching them. I have been sent back a few times myself. Two weeks ago, I wore a pair of three quarter pants and a long sleeve shirt, all tucked in. In my head I thought I looked descent and corporate but I was wrong. I got turned back when I got to the entrance. Although there is no formal dress code to gain entry into the National Assembly, you can even wear jeans all week if you want to but make sure they reach your ankle. Make sure your shirts and dresses have sleeves and are 'decent' to avoid the stress of being asked to go home to change.
This is solely for professional photographers and tourists. NASS is not exactly a tourist friendly place. You are not allowed to bring out a huge camera to take pictures. They have accredited professional photographers. You would be stopped by the security. The only place I see people really taking pictures are outside the building. Even as a NASS correspondent, I was told to specifically add photography to my job description letter and submit because I was not accredited to take pictures. So if you are just visiting, take note of this.
Whenever you want to go to NASS, avoid the painted taxis because you will be stopped by the police officers at the gate and asked to turn around. No amount of begging would get you in. Sometimes, unpainted taxis are harassed as well but that is rarely the case. Sincerely, to avoid odd questions, try all means to use a personal car. Even if you get dropped off at the gate, you would have to join the long queue for a shuttle bus which usually takes a while. In this case, patience is the key.
There are two entrances into NASS. They let everyone who wants to drive in through the first gate but the second gate is a no go area for visitors. The second gate is only for a few staff and journalists who have a licence to access that area. As a visitor, you would be diverted to a car park close to the second gate. Ladies, flat shoes are advisable to wear to NASS because it's a long walk to the main building. Lord help you if the sun is scorching hot because it's a long walk from the second gate to the main building. You can do it my way. Suck it up, plug in your earphone, wear your flat shoes, ignore the sun and keep walking. You would not even know when you get to your destination. Well, it works for me.
You will need to drop a phone with the security, this is to guarantee that you will return with the visitor tag issued to you. If you are using two phones, please drop the one with less traffic. And if you use only one phone you will have to drop this. You may want to activate your voice message system or keep it on so that you can return your important calls.

THINGS TO NOTE WHEN ATTENDING A PUBLIC HEARING
Public hearings are open to the public so everyone is welcome to attend a public hearing.

Arrive early, at least 2hrs before the start time to have enough time to clear security and find the meeting room.

Note that the room for the public hearing may have changed be sure to ask any legislative aide you may find around.


Be abreast of your presentation and read the NNNGO talking point at [http://bit.ly/2iTnmHy](http://bit.ly/2iTnmHy)

Listen attentively

Take notes and where possible when given the floor counter points with evidences and avoid emotions.

Be friendly and courteous

Remember to put your phone on silent or vibration mode

The structure of each public hearing varies depending on the specifications made by the organizing group; however, a typical hearing begins with statements and presentations made by the officials presiding over the hearing.

Interested parties are required to present their views, opinions and ideas to the Committee—Be respectful and make your points clear.

The Committee will not necessarily provide information at a public hearing.

Prior to the start of the public hearing a schedule MAY be distributed indicating the order in which speakers will be called and there would be a time limit for each speaker.

The Committee will not usually ask questions but may sometime seek clarification from the speaker.

At the end of the public hearing, be sure to network with legislative aides and Committee members. During this period, you can informally provide them with further thoughts on why you think the Bill should not pass. Be kind enough to listen to the concerns of the legislators and aides too.
The Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNNGO) is the first generic membership body for civil society organizations in Nigeria that facilitates effective advocacy on issues of poverty and other developmental issues. Established in 1992, NNNGO represents over 2,400 organizations ranging from small groups working at the local level, to larger networks working at the national level.

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