



# BILLS THAT I WILL PROPOSED ONCE ELECTED AS THE SENATOR

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From the socio-economic standpoint of the Imo East Senatorial Zone (Owerri Zone), the most pressing realities today are:

- Rising youth unemployment and underemployment
- Weak industrial and agricultural value chains
- Poor access to startup capital
- Rural insecurity and land disputes
- Poor road and digital infrastructure
- Migration ("japa") of skilled youths
- Collapse of small businesses due to inflation and high energy costs
- Skills mismatch between graduates and labour market needs

Studies on youth empowerment in the zone show that previous intervention programmes created temporary jobs but failed to produce sustainable employment because of weak implementation, poor vocational training, and lack of permanent opportunities.

Based on these realities, the following bills would be highly pertinent for the Senate or National Assembly representative from Imo East Senatorial Zone:

## **Priority Bills for Imo East Senatorial Zone**

### **1. Youth Enterprise and Startup Development Bill**

#### **This should focus on:**

- Interest-free or low-interest loans for youths
- Innovation hubs in Owerri and surrounding LGAs
- ICT and digital economy training
- Tax holidays for youth-owned businesses
- Protection for freelancers and gig workers

### **Expected Impact**

- Reduction in unemployment
- Increased tech entrepreneurship
- Retention of skilled youths in Imo State
- Expansion of SMEs

This aligns with current national conversations around digital economy and youth innovation.

### 2. Imo East Agricultural Value Chain Development Bill

Agriculture remains a major employer in the zone, especially in:

- Ngor-Okpala
- Aboh Mbaise
- Ikeduru
- Ezinihitte
- Ahiazu Mbaise

### **The bill should provide:**

- Agro-processing centers
- Farm-to-market roads
- Storage facilities
- Youth mechanized farming schemes
- Agricultural cooperatives

### **Expected Impact**

- Food security
- Rural employment
- Increased internally generated revenue
- Reduction in rural poverty

### 3. Technical and Vocational Education Reform Bill

Research on Imo East showed that Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) was poorly implemented despite its importance.

### **This bill should establish:**

- Functional vocational centers in all LGAs
- Partnerships with industries

**\* Certification in:**

- welding
- solar installation
- software development
- fashion
- agribusiness
- automobile technology

**Expected Impact**

- Transition from “job seekers” to “job creators”
- Reduction in graduate unemployment
- Better industrial productivity

**4. Youth Employment and Local Content Bill**

This bill should mandate:

- Minimum youth employment quotas in federal projects
- Preference for local contractors and artisans
- Internship placements for graduates

**Expected Impact**

- Increased local participation in infrastructure projects
- Skills transfer
- Economic circulation within the zone

**5. Small Business Protection and Tax Relief Bill**

Many businesses in Owerri struggle because of:

- Multiple taxation
- Power costs
- Inflation
- Harassment by agencies

The bill should provide:

- Tax relief for SMEs
- Simplified registration
- Energy support incentives
- Protection from illegal levies

### **Expected Impact**

- Survival of local businesses
- More employment opportunities
- Improved investment climate

### **6. Community Security and Rural Protection Bill**

Given increasing insecurity, kidnapping, and land-related conflicts in parts of Imo State, this bill should support:

- Community policing
- Technology-driven surveillance
- Rural vigilante regulation
- Conflict mediation systems

### **Expected Impact**

- Safer investment environment
- Protection of farmers
- Reduced rural displacement

### **7. Education-to-Employment Transition Bill**

This would connect tertiary institutions such as:

- Imo State University
- Federal University of Technology Owerri with industries through:
  1. Internship mandates
  2. Entrepreneurship incubation
  3. Graduate apprenticeship schemes

### **Expected Impact**

- Reduced graduate unemployment
- Practical skill acquisition
- Improved employability

Strategic Sectors Imo East Should Prioritize

### **Digital Economy**

Owerri has strong youth potential in:

- Software development
- Fintech
- Digital marketing
- Remote work

A Senate-backed Digital Innovation Bill could make Owerri a regional tech hub.

### **Creative Economy**

The zone has strong talent in:

1. Music
2. Film
3. Fashion
4. Content creation

### **A Creative Industry Development Bill can:**

- Create grants
- Provide studios and hubs
- Formalize creative jobs

### **Infrastructure and Power**

No empowerment policy succeeds without infrastructure.

Critical legislative focus should include:

- Rural electrification
- Independent power projects
- Road rehabilitation
- Broadband internet expansion

### **Most Important Legislative Priorities**

If only 5 bills are prioritized immediately, they should be:

1. Youth Enterprise and Startup Development Bill
2. Technical/Vocational Education Reform Bill
3. Agricultural Value Chain Development Bill
4. SME Protection and Tax Relief Bill
5. Education-to-Employment Transition Bill

These directly address unemployment, poverty, insecurity, and economic stagnation in Imo East Senatorial Zone.