

**A BILL  
FOR**

**AN ACT TO REPEAL THE NIGERIA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION ACT, CAP. N110, LFN, 2004 AND ENACT THE NIGERIA FOOTBALL  
FEDERATION AND FOR OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH - 2017**

*Sponsored by* **SENATOR OBINNA OGBA**

**ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:**

CLAUSES	PRINCIPAL ACT	PROVISIONS OF THE BILL	COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION	REMARKS
<i>Part 1</i>		<b>PART 1: ESTABLISHMENT OF NIGERIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION</b>	Retained as in bill	
1.	<p><b>Establishment, aims and objectives of the Nigerian Football Association</b></p> <p>1. There is hereby established an Association to be known as the Nigerian Football Association (in this Act referred to as "the Association")</p> <p>2. The Association-</p> <p>(a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal; and</p> <p>(b) may sue or be sued in its corporate name.</p>	<p><b>Establishment of the Nigeria Football Federation.</b></p> <p>1. (1) There is hereby established a body to be known as the NIGERIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION (in this Act referred to as: "The Federation").</p> <p>(2) The Federation—</p> <p>(a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;</p> <p>(b) shall be a body with legal rights capable of suing and being sued in its corporate name in matters that are not related to the application of the Laws of the Game of football, and no member shall have any right to its assets nor incur any liability for its obligations;</p>	Retained as in bill	

		<p>(c) shall be neutral in matters of politics and religion and shall avoid discrimination of any kind against a country, private person or group of people on account of politics, religion, gender, ethnic or other consideration and, discrimination of any kind among its members shall be strictly prohibited and punishable with suspension or expulsion;</p> <p>(d) is formed for an unlimited period;</p> <p>(e) shall have its headquarters located in Abuja, Nigeria;</p> <p>(f) shall be abbreviated as "NFF";</p> <p>(g) shall register its flag, emblem, logo and abbreviation with the trademarks registry of the appropriate authority in Nigeria;</p> <p>(h) shall have as its area of Jurisdiction the Federal Republic of Nigeria.</p>		
2.	<p><b>Objectives of the Association</b></p> <p>The aims and objectives of the Association are to</p> <p>(a) encourage the development of all forms of amateur and professional football in accordance with the statutes and laws of the Federation of the sport of football, and any other international football body to which the Association is affiliated</p> <p>(b) encourage the affiliation of Nigerian Football clubs with recognised international football</p>	<p>2. The Statutes of the Federation:</p> <p>a) The Statutes of the Federation as drafted and approved by its members at its Congress and ratified by FIFA shall be the supreme laws for the governance of the functioning, organisation, administration and operations of the Federation.</p> <p>b) The Statutes of the Federation may be amended from time to time in accordance with the procedure and process stipulated in the Statutes.</p> <p>c) Specifically, the Federation and its members shall be self-governed by the Federation and its bodies,</p>	Retained as in bill	

	<p>bodies, to improve the standard or the performance of Nigerians in world soccer</p> <p>c)enhance the status and impartiality of football referees in Nigeria</p> <p>(d)find ways and means of ensuring the security and safety of soccer fans generally and the participants themselves, in particular</p> <p>(e)provide source of funding the game of football in Nigeria</p> <p>(f)encourage the participation of Nigerian youths in the game of football</p>	<p>according to its statutes and regulations, as well as those that are determined by WAFU, CAF and FIFA even if different regulations are provided by this Act.</p> <p>d) The Federation shall deposit its Statutes, as may be amended from time to time, with the National Assembly and the agency of the Federal Government in charge of sports, for information and guidance.</p> <p>e) Howsoever that, the subjects of Audit for the subsidies, grants and/or appropriation received from the Government by the Federation, control of legality, public order and safety shall be within the exclusive competence of the Government.</p>		
3.	<p><b>PART II Establishment and functions of the Governing Board of the Association</b></p> <p><b>Section 3</b></p> <p><b>Establishment and composition of the Board of the Association</b></p> <p>(1)There is established for the Association, a board which shall be known as the Nigerian Football Association Governing Board (in this Act referred to as “the Board”)</p> <p>(2)The Board shall consist of the following members, that is-</p>	<p>3. National Asset:</p> <p>a) The Sport of Football is hereby recognized and classified as a National Asset by the Federal Government.</p> <p>b) Pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the Federation is entitled to special privileges, concessions and to from time to time receive grants, subvention and/or appropriation from the</p>	Retained as in bill	

	<p>(a) one person to represent each of the following bodies that is-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) the Armed Forces of the Federation;</li> <li>(ii) the Nigerian Police Force</li> <li>(iii) the Nigerian Inter-Collegiate Sports Association</li> <li>(iv) the Nigerian Schools Sports Federation;</li> <li>(v) the Nigerian Referees Association)</li> <li>(vi) the Nigerian Football Coaches Association</li> <li>(vii) the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria;</li> <li>(viii) the Nigerian Association of Physical and Health Education and Recreation; and</li> <li>(ix) four Nigerians to be appointed on merit by the Minister;</li> </ul> <p>(b) one person to represent the Ministry;</p> <p>(c) eight other persons to represent the amateur and professional football clubs to be selected from the zones, which may from time to time, be established by the Ministry, provided that no re-zoning shall take effect, until after three years of the first zoning, under this paragraph ; and</p> <p>(d) the Secretary General of the Association.</p> <p>3. The supplementary provisions contained in the Schedule to this Act shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board and the other matters mentioned therein</p>	<p>Government in furtherance to its objectives and functions and to facilitate the overall development of football in Nigeria.</p>		
4.	<p><b>Election of Office of the Chairman of the Board</b></p> <p>(1) The members of the Board shall elect one of the number to be the Chairman of the Board</p> <p>(2) Election to the office of the chairman shall be held in such manner as the members may be by bye-laws prescribe and until bye-laws are made in that behalf, the election shall be decided by a</p>	<p>4. 1. The aims and objectives of the Federation shall be as stipulated in its statutes and shall include to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) organise the management, administration and governance of football in all its ramification in Nigeria;</li> <li>b) develop, promote, administer, co-ordinate, control and regulate the sport of Association Football in all its</li> </ul>	Retained as in bill	

	<p>show of hands.</p> <p>(3) A chairman who ceases to be a member of the Board shall also cease to be the chairman.</p> <p>(4) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, the chairman shall hold office for a period of three years from the date of his election and shall be eligible for re-election for the same period but no chairman shall serve for more than two consecutive periods in office.</p>	<p>forms throughout the territory of Nigeria in accordance with the principles laid down in the Statutes of FIFA;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c) consider and establish rules to control football in Nigeria;</li> <li>d) enforce the Laws of the Game as promulgated by IFAB and FIFA from time to time and protect the game against any form of abuse;</li> <li>e) encourage the sport at a national level, and in spirit of fair play;</li> <li>f) organise competitions in Association Football in all its forms at a national level, by defining precisely, as required, the areas of authority conceded to the various leagues of which it is composed;</li> <li>g) control and supervise all friendly football matches of all forms played throughout the territory of Nigeria;</li> <li>h) initiate, negotiate, arrange, finance and control tours and matches of teams to and from Nigeria;</li> <li>i) manage the international sporting relations connected with Association Football in all its forms;</li> <li>j) protect the joint interests of its members;</li> <li>k) settle disputes arising between members or bodies or persons connected directly or indirectly with football within the jurisdiction of the Federation;</li> </ul>		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>l) raise and administer the funds of the Federation in such a manner as the Federation may deem advisable and in particular by means of subscriptions, donations, sponsorships and grant (appropriation) from Government;</li> <li>m) liaise and cooperate with the various Government agencies in charge of sports in Nigeria in the discharge of its duties;</li> <li>n) affiliate with international sporting organisations including, FIFA, CAF, WAFU, National Council of Sports, and the Nigerian Olympic Committee;</li> <li>o) manage and encourage the development and promotion of the National teams and all forms of Association Football in accordance with the statutes and laws of the Federation, and of any other international football body to which the Federation is affiliated;</li> <li>p) encourage the affiliation of Nigerian football clubs with the Federation and recognise international football bodies to improve the standard or the performance of Nigerians in world football;</li> <li>q) enhance the status and credibility of football referees in Nigeria;</li> <li>r) find ways and means of ensuring the security and safety of football spectators generally and the participants themselves, in particular;</li> <li>s) encourage the participation of Nigerian youths in the game of football;</li> </ul>		
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		<p>t) to do all things as may be incidental or conducive to the attainment of the objectives or any one of them.</p> <p>(2) The Powers of the Federation shall be as stipulated in the Statutes of the Federation and shall include to:</p> <p>a) have the full power and authority to do any act, matter or thing as may be required to give effect to the objects of the Federation as described herein, and in addition to the general powers and authority herein conferred on the Federation, and without in any way limiting such powers and authority, the Federation may not have the power to carry on any business, including, inter alia, ordinary trading operations in the commercial sense, speculative transactions, dividends stripping activities as well as letting of property on a systematic or regular basis;</p> <p>b) engage staff on the basis of a policy of fair employment and equal opportunities, acquire assets and enter into commitments for the promotion of its aims and objectives;</p> <p>c) grant practical and financial assistance to individuals and organisations in order to enable them to promote ideas and concepts consistent with objects of the Federation;</p> <p>d) enter into donor funding arrangements with companies or individuals and to solicit and accept fees, donations, bequests, contributions and subscriptions for the funds of the Federation, provided however that the Federation shall ensure</p>		
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		<p>that no donor will derive any monetary advantage from any monies paid to and on behalf of the Federation;</p> <p>e) partner with, invest, promote or own shares in competent business companies and other investment outfits with the view to deriving financial benefits or dividends for the funds of the Federation;</p> <p>f) utilized its goodwill for the maximum benefit and promotion of the Federation in all ramifications;</p> <p>g) take lease, purchase or otherwise acquire premises, equipment, vehicles, furniture and other property or assets, whether movable or immovable which may be deemed necessary or convenient for any purposes of the Federation, and in order to provide suitable equipment, accommodation and facilities;</p> <p>h) improve, manage, develop, exchange or lease, mortgage, sell, dispose of, turn to account and grant options, rights and privileges in respect of, or otherwise deal with, all or any part of the property and rights of the Federation;</p> <p>i) deposit or invest the monies and assets of the Federation not immediately required in such securities and in such a manner as may from time to time be determined, and provided that cash resources and investment will only be made with Financial Institutions as defined by the Central Bank of Nigeria, and in Securities listed on a licensed Stock Exchange as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission;</p>		
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		<p>j) borrow, or raise money in such a manner as the Federation shall deemed fit, and in particular to secure payment of any money borrowed by means of mortgage, pledge, charge or lien to secure and guarantee the performance by the Federation of any obligation or liability it may undertake;</p> <p>k) open and operate banking accounts and to draw, make, accept, endorse, sign, discount, execute, issue cheques, promissory notes, bills of exchange, bills of lading, warrants, debentures and other negotiable documents;</p> <p>l) make rules, regulations and directives that, shall not be inconsistent with the terms of the Statutes of the Federation. The rules, regulations and directives of the Federation shall have the same force and effect as if they were incorporated in the Articles of the Statutes of the Federation;</p> <p>m) select Nigeria teams for International and Representative matches at all levels and to arrange tours and to sanction matches in and regulate the transfer of players to and from the Federal Republic of Nigeria in terms of the Rules of FIFA;</p> <p>n) keep or cause to be kept, true accounts of all receipts, credits, payments, assets and liabilities of the Federation and all other matters necessary for showing the correct financial state of affairs of the Federation. The account shall be kept in such books and in such manner in accordance with appropriate accounting principles as the Executive Committee</p>		
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		<p>deems fit and to the satisfaction of the Auditors of the Federation;</p> <p>o) appoint auditors to audit accounts of the Federation and to perform duties relating to the nomination and elections of officers as set out in the Articles of the Statutes of the Federation;</p> <p>p) inquire into the administrative and/or financial affairs of Members;</p> <p>q) appoint such sub-committees or commissions upon such terms as it may consider to give effect to its powers;</p> <p>r) suspend, fine, terminate the membership of or otherwise deal with any State FA, League, Club or individual affiliated to the Federation (including Associate members) for infringing the Statutes of the Federation, rules, policies, principles or resolutions of the Federation or for engaging in acts of misconduct, improper practices, misdemeanour, acts of defiance, or for bringing the game of Association Football or the Federation into disrepute.</p> <p>s) All disputes within the Federation and football matters shall be resolved through the alternative dispute resolution mechanisms enshrined in the Statutes of the Federation and other football governing bodies including those of CAF, FIFA and Court of Arbitration on Sports (CAS). The decisions obtained through such alternative dispute resolution mechanisms shall be final and binding on all parties to the disputes.</p>		
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		<p>t) Participation in the activities of the Federation being voluntary, its members and all participants shall be deemed to have undertaken to waive their rights to take the internal disputes of the Federation and football matters to ordinary courts of law and to resolve all such disputes only through the alternative dispute resolution mechanisms provided in the Statutes of the Federation.</p>		
5.	<p><b>Tenure of Office of members of the Board</b></p> <p>(1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a member of the Board shall hold office-</p> <p>(a) for a period of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for such further periods of three years as the body appointing him may determine; or</p> <p>(b) where he represents a zone and his appointment is on a yearly basis, until after the annual election in his zone.</p> <p>(2) A member of the Board, including the Chairman, may be removed from office by the Board, by adopting the methods set out in any bye-laws which it may adopt, pursuant to this Act, on the ground of ill health or misconduct or if it is in the interest of the Association or of the public that the member or the chairman should be removed from office.</p>	<p><b>PART II: ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NIGERIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION CONGRESS AND/OR GENERAL ASSEMBLY</b></p> <p>5. (1) There is hereby established, for the Federation, a body to be known as the NIGERIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION Congress or General Assembly (in this Act referred to as "the Congress").</p> <p>(2) The Congress is the meeting to which all the members of Federation shall be regularly convened. It represents the supreme and legislative authority of Federation. Only a Congress meeting that is properly convened has the authority to make decisions.</p> <p>(3) A Congress may be an Ordinary or Extra-ordinary. Ordinary Congress shall be held once every year while Extra-Ordinary Congress may be held from time to time as the situation demands.</p> <p>(4) The President of the Federation shall conduct the Congress business in compliance with the Statutes of the Federation and the standing orders of the Congress.</p> <p>(5) The Executive Committee decides on the participation</p>	Retained as in bill	

	<p>(3)A member of the Board, including the Chairman, may in writing under his hand, resign his appointment by communicating notice of his intention to the Board through the body which he represents and on receipt and approval of the notice by the Board, the resignation shall be deemed to have taken effect, and the body shall then nominate another representative to complete the tenure of the resigning member of the Board.</p> <p>(4)A body mentioned in section 3(2)(a) of this Act may withdraw its representative on the Board at any time, by giving notice of his intention to do so to the Board; and on receipt of the notice by the Board the withdrawal shall be deemed to have taken effect and the body may then appoint another representative who-</p> <p>(a)shall complete the tenure of the withdrawn member; and</p> <p>(b)may thereafter be eligible for reappointment for one further term only.</p>	<p>of third parties at the Congress. Third parties have no voting rights at the Congress, and can only be consulted with the express permission of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>(6) The General Secretary shall be responsible for the coordination, recording and keeping records of minutes of the Congress as well as circulating it to all members</p>		
6.	<p><b>Functions of Board</b></p> <p>The functions of the Board shall be to –</p> <p>(a)organize league and other matches for professional and amateur clubs in co-operation with the respective bodies recognized by the Association;</p> <p>(b)organize the participation of Nigerian clubs in international competitions, subject to the prior</p>	<p>6. The Congress shall consist of all the accredited members of the Federation as outlined in the Statutes of the Federation including the following;</p> <p>(1) State Football Associations;</p> <p>(2) The body representing football referees, as recognised by the Federation;</p> <p>(3) All football Leagues of the Federation;</p>	Retained as in bill	

<p>approval of the Minister;</p> <p>(c)provide, in co-operation with other bodies, adequate training for its employee and various personnel, who may be involved in the administration and organization of league matches and its activities, with a view to improving the standard of football administration and officiating;</p> <p>(d)determine such areas of legal activities to be commercialized, in order to earn income for the league, the professional players, professional clubs and the Association;</p> <p>(e)organize and regulate the activities of the Nigerian Referees Association and the Nigerian Coaches Association ;</p> <p>(f)grant annual license to persons seeking to be members of the Nigerian Referees Association and the Nigerian Coaches Association;</p> <p>(g)recommend for the approval of the Minister, the international bodies to which the Association may, from time to time, associate;</p> <p>(h)set up or recognize such subsidiary bodies to assist the Board in the performance of its functions under this Act;</p> <p>(i)set up standing and <i>ad hoc</i> committees as the Board may consider necessary to enable the Board perform its functions under this Act; and</p>	<p>(4) The body representing football players, as recognised by the Federation;</p> <p>(5) The body representing Coaches or Managers of football clubs, as recognised by the Federation;</p> <p>(6) The Clubs in the first tier League of the Federation;</p> <p>(7) Representatives of the clubs in the second tier League of the Federation;</p> <p>(8) Representatives of the clubs in the women League of the Federation;</p> <p>(9) Representatives of the clubs in the amateur League of the Federation;</p> <p>(10) Designated honourary members</p>		
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	(j) carry out such other functions as the Minister and the Board may consider necessary to facilitate the implementation of the Provisions of this Act.			
7.	<p><b>Establishment and functions of the National Football Association Council, etc.</b></p> <p>(1) There is hereby established for the Association a council to be known as the Nigerian Football Association Council (in this Act referred to as "the Council").</p> <p>(2) The Council shall consist of-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) all the members of the Board appointed under section 3 of this Act.</li> <li>(b) the chairman of each State Football Association, including the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja; and</li> <li>(c) the accredited representatives of the Association's subsidiary bodies</li> </ul> <p>(3) The Council shall determine its quorum and otherwise regulate its proceedings.</p>	7. All voting members of the Congress shall be natural or juridical persons.	Retained as in bill	
8.	<p><b>Functions of the Council</b></p> <p>The functions of the Council shall be to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) approve the bye-laws of the Association;</li> </ul>	8. Juridical persons who are voting members of the Congress shall be represented at the Congress in accordance with their governing regulations approved by the Federation.	Retained as in bill	

	<p>(b) advise the Board on matters affecting the Association; and</p> <p>(c) perform such other functions as the Board may, from time to time, assign to it.</p>			
<b>Part 2</b>				
9.	<p><b>Divisions of the Association</b></p> <p>(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Association shall be constituted into the following four Divisions, that is -</p> <p>(a) the Professional Football Division;</p> <p>(b) the Competitions Division (National and International);</p> <p>(c) the Technical Division; and</p> <p>(d) the Finance and Administration Division.</p> <p>(2) The Association shall be solely responsible –</p> <p>(a) for approving the constitution and composition of the Divisions;</p> <p>(b) for the general supervision of the Divisions; and</p> <p>(c) for ensuring absolute compliance by the Divisions and any other bodies, involved in the sport of football with bye-laws relating to the sport of football and with rules and regulations of the Federation of international Football</p>	<p>9. As the from the commencement of this Act, the Statutes of the Federation may permit non-juridical persons, associations or groups to participate in the activities of the Federation to such extent as the Federation deems fit but, excluding the right to vote at and be counted for the quorum of the Congress of the Federation.</p>		

<p>Association and the Confederation of African Football.</p> <p>(3) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, each Division shall be managed by an Assistant Secretary-General, who shall liaise regularly with all affiliated bodies and clubs.</p> <p>(4) The Assistant Secretary-General shall be responsible to the Secretary-General for the activities of the Division under his care and shall perform such other duties which the Secretary-General may, from time to time, assign to him.</p>			
<p><b>Transfer of Nigerian players to foreign clubs</b></p> <p>As from the commencement of this Act, no transfer of a Nigerian amateur or professional football player to a club outside Nigeria shall be valid, unless the transfer is under a written contract providing, amongst others, for –</p> <p>(a) the unconditional release by that club of the Nigerian player, if request by the Association, for the purpose of representing Nigeria in a football competition organized by –</p> <p>(i) the Federation of International Football Association; or</p> <p>(ii) the Confederation of African Football;</p> <p>(b) the payment by that club of such fees as may be prescribed by the Association.</p>	<p><b>10.</b> The Congress (ordinary and extraordinary) shall be convened and organised in accordance with the stipulations of the Statutes of the Federation</p>	<p>Retained as in bill</p>	
<p><b>Endorsement of contracts between Nigerian players and foreign clubs, etc.</b></p>	<p><b>11.</b> The areas of authority of the Congress shall be as stipulated in the Statutes of the Federation and shall include:</p>	<p>Retained as in bill</p>	



<p>Copies of all contracts entered into in pursuance of the provisions of section 10 of this Act, shall be endorsed by the Secretary-General of the Association and deposited with the Association within fourteen days of the signing of the contract by the player.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) adopting or amending the statutes, regulations governing the application of the Statutes and the standing orders of the Assembly;</li> <li>(b) electing the President, Vice Presidents and other members of the Executive Committee from time to time as stipulated by the Statutes of the Federation;</li> <li>(c) approving the annual accounts and deciding on the allocation of surplus or issuing statements on how deficits arising in the profit and loss account must be covered;</li> <li>(d) approving the President's activity report;</li> <li>(e) formally approving the actions of the Executive Committee after having listened to the report from the accounts auditing organs;</li> <li>(f) approving the budget of the Federation;</li> <li>(g) appointing the independent auditors upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;</li> <li>(h) fixing membership subscriptions;</li> <li>(i) electing half of the members of the judicial bodies every two (2) years;</li> <li>(j) deciding, on the proposal of the Executive Committee, whether to bestow the title of Honorary President or member on a person who has made a particularly valuable contribution to Football within Federation;</li> <li>(k) admitting, suspending or expelling a member;</li> </ul>		
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		<p>(l) approving the resignation of a member;</p> <p>(m) revoking the mandate of one or a number of the members of an organ of the Federation as outlined in the Statutes of the Federation;</p> <p>(n) dissolving Executive Committee Federation;</p> <p>(o) Passing decisions at the request of a member in accordance with the Statutes of the Federation</p>		
<b>Part 3</b>				
12.	<p><b>Security arrangement for football matches</b></p> <p>There shall be a security committee in each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, for the purpose of ensuring effective security at all football matches played in any particular State or the Federal Capital Territory, for such period or occasions as may be determined from time to time.</p>	<p><b>12.</b> Members of the Congress shall be given such notices before the convening of Ordinary Congress or an Extra Ordinary Congress in accordance with the Statutes of the Federation.</p>	Retained as in bill	
13.	<p><b>Appointment of Secretary-General of the Association</b></p> <p>(1) There shall be a Secretary-General of the Association who shall be appointed by the Minister.</p> <p>(2) The Secretary-General shall be the chief executive and accounting officer of the Association and shall be responsible for its day-to-day administration.</p> <p>(3) The Association may appoint such other</p>	<p><b>13.</b> (1) The General-Secretary shall draw up the agenda for the Congress based on proposal from the Executive Committee and any member. Any proposal that a member wishes to submit to the Congress shall be sent to the General Secretariat in writing with a brief explanation within the time limited by the Statutes of the Federation before the date of the Congress.</p> <p>(2) The Congress Agenda shall be drawn up as stipulated by the Statutes of the Federation but shall include the following mandatory items:</p> <p>(a) a declaration that the Congress has been convened and composed in compliance with the Statutes;</p>		

	<p>persons to be employees of the Association as the Association may, from time to time, determine to assist the Secretary-General in the exercise of his functions under this Act.</p> <p>(4) The remuneration, tenure of office and conditions of service of the Secretary-General and other employees of the Association shall be in accordance with the relevant Federal Civil Service Rules and regulations, applicable generally to staff of the Ministry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(b) Verification of the composition of the meeting;</li> <li>(c) Approval of the Agenda;</li> <li>(d) The President's address;</li> <li>(e) Appointment of Members to check the minutes of the previous meeting;</li> <li>(f) Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting;</li> <li>(g) Appointment of the scrutineers;</li> <li>(h) Suspension or expulsion of Members (if applicable)</li> <li>(i) President's activity report (containing the activities since the last Assembly);</li> <li>(j) Presentation of the consolidated and revised balance sheet and the profit and loss statements;</li> <li>(k) Approval of financial statements;</li> <li>(l) Approval of budget;</li> <li>(m) Admission for membership (if applicable);</li> <li>(n) Votes on proposals for amendment to the Statutes, the regulations governing the application of the Statutes and the standing orders of the Assembly (if applicable);</li> <li>(o) Discussion of proposals submitted by the Members and the Executive Committee;</li> </ul>		
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		<p>(p) Appointment of independent auditors (if applicable) upon the proposal of the Executive Committee;</p> <p>(q) Dismissal of a person or a body (if applicable);</p> <p>(r) Election of the President, Deputy President and members of the Executive Committee;</p> <p>(s) Nomination, if any, of the state to host the next General Assembly;</p> <p>(t) Fixing the date of the next General Assembly;</p> <p>(u) Questions from members and any other business.</p> <p>(3) The admission of a member must appear on the agenda after all debates. Conversely, the suspension or exclusion of a member must take place before any debates.</p> <p>(4) The agenda for an Ordinary Congress may be altered, provided two-thirds of the members present at the Congress and eligible to vote agree to such a motion.</p>		
14.	<p><b>Pensions</b></p> <p>(1) Service in the Association shall be pensionable under the Pensions Act, and accordingly, employees of the Association shall, in respect of their services in the Association, be entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits as are prescribed in that act.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, nothing in this Act shall</p>	<p><b>14.</b> (1) The Executive Committee may convene an Extraordinary Congress Meeting at any time, if it deems this to be necessary.</p> <p>(2) When the required number of members of the Federation as stipulated in the Statutes of the Federation submits the request properly justified and in writing, the Executive Committee is obliged to convene an extraordinary congress meeting within the limited in the Statutes of the Federation. If the meeting is not convened,</p>		

	<p>prevent the appointment of a person to any office, on terms which preclude the grant of a pension and gratuity, in respect of that office.</p> <p>(3) For the purpose of the application of the Pensions Act, any power exercisable thereunder by the Minister or authority of the Federal Government (not being the power to make regulations under section 23 thereof), is hereby vested in and shall be exercisable by the Board and not by any other person or authority.</p> <p>(4) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, the Pensions Act shall, in its application by virtue of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section to any office, have effect as if the office were in the civil service of the Federation, within the meaning of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999.</p>	<p>the members who requested it may convene the meeting themselves. As a last resort, the members can refer the matter to FIFA for a decision.</p> <p>(3) The members shall be notified of the place, date and agenda within the time limited by the Statutes of the Federation before the date of the Extraordinary Congress.</p> <p>(4) The agenda and any other relevant documents must be sent out to the members within the Statutes of the Federation before the meeting.</p> <p>(5) When the Extraordinary Congress is convened on the initiative of the Executive Committee, this body must set the agenda. When it is convened at the request of the Federation members, the agenda must contain the points raised by those members.</p> <p>(6) The agenda of an Extraordinary Assembly may not be changed under any circumstances.</p>		
15.	<p><b>Appointment of Secretary-General of the Association</b></p> <p>(1) There shall be a Secretary-General of the Association who shall be appointed by the Minister.</p> <p>(2) The Secretary-General shall be the Chief</p>	<p><b>PART III: ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERATION</b></p> <p><b>15.—(1)</b> There is established for the Federation an Executive Committee which shall be known as the NIGERIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION Executive Committee (in this Act referred to as “Executive Committee”)</p> <p>(2) Membership of the Executive Committee shall be by</p>	Retained as in bill	

	<p>Executive and accounting officer of the Association and shall be responsible for its day-to-day administration.</p> <p>(3) The Association may appoint such other persons to be employees of the Association as the Association may from time to time, determine to assist the Secretary-General in the exercise of his functions under this Act.</p> <p>(4) The remuneration, tenure of office and conditions of service of the Secretary-General and other employees of the Association shall be in accordance with the relevant Federal Civil Service Rules and regulations, applicable generally to staff of the Ministry.</p>	<p>election, appointment or ex-officio basis in accordance with the stipulations of the Statutes of the Federation.</p> <p>(3) The Federation Executive Committee shall be composed as stipulated by the Statutes of the Federation and shall consist of the following;</p> <p>a) The President,  b) Vice Presidents,  c) and ordinary members  duly elected and or appointed by the Congress.</p>		
<b>Part 4</b>				
16.	<p><b>Pensions</b></p> <p>(1) Service in the Association shall be pensionable under the Pensions Act, and accordingly, employees of the Association shall, in respect of their services in the Association, be entitled to pension, gratuities and other retirement benefits as a prescribed in that Act</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, nothing in this Act shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office, on terms which preclude the grant of a pension and gratuity, in respect of that office.</p> <p>(3) For the purposes of the application of the Pensions Act, any power exercisable thereunder</p>	<p>16. The tenure of office of Members of the Executive Committee, proceedings of the Executive Committee and the other matters connected with the functions of the Executive Committee shall be as stipulated in the Statutes of the Federation</p>	Retained as in bill	

	<p>by the Minister or authority of the Federal Government (not being the power to make regulations under section 23 thereof), is hereby vested in and shall be exercisable by the Board and not by any other person or authority.</p> <p>(4) Subject to subsection (2) of this Act, the Pension Act shall, in its application by virtue of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section to any office, have effect as if the office were in the civil service of the Federation, within the meaning of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999.</p>			
17.	<p><b>Financial Provisions</b> <b>Funds of the Board</b></p> <p>(1) The Board shall establish and maintain a fund from which shall be defrayed, with the general or specific approval of the Minister, all expenditure incurred by the Board.</p> <p>(2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund established under subsection (1) of this section-</p> <p>(a) All money, as may be granted to the Association by the Federal Government;</p> <p>(b) All money realized for the general purposes of the Association;</p> <p>(c) All money accruing to the Board on behalf of the Association by any means, including grants-in-aid, endowments and donations;</p> <p>(d) All charges, fees, dues or amounts recovered</p>	<p><b>17.</b> A person shall be qualified for election, appointment or membership of the Executive Committee of the Federation if he:</p> <p>a) is a Citizen of Nigeria in accordance with the Constitution of the Federal republic of Nigeria.</p> <p>b) has attained the age of thirty-five (35) years.</p> <p>c) has been educated up to at least school certificate level or its equivalent.</p> <p>d) is not adjudged to be a lunatic or otherwise declared of unsafe mind.</p> <p>e) is not an Ex-Convict.</p> <p>f) is not a member of a secret society or cult or an unlawful organisation.</p> <p>g) is not adjudged to be bankrupt.</p> <p>h) is a proven and accredited Executive Member of a Football club or Federation affiliated to the NFF or, such other recognized football bodies including NGO's, Football Academies who are members of the NFF or, has contributed or been involved in the administration of football for a minimum period of 3</p>	Retained as in bill	

	<p>by the Board;</p> <p>(e) All interests on money invested by the Board; and</p> <p>(f) Such other money as may, from time to time, accrue to the Association or the Board.</p>	<p>years prior to the election or, on the special recommendation of a serving member of the executive committee.</p> <p>i) has a proven and verifiable means of livelihood.</p> <p>j) has provided a Bank Bond/Guaranty (from a reputable bank) in favour of the Federation as an indemnity to cover the period of his mandate, for an amount to be determined by the General Assembly upon the proposal of the Executive Committee. The amount of the Bank Bond shall not be less than 10 Million Naira (N10m) in the case of President and 8 Million Naira (N8m) for Vice President and Five Million (N5m) in the case of an ordinary member.</p>		
<b>Part 5</b>	<b>Funds of the Board</b>			
18.	<p><b>Annual Estimate</b></p> <p>The Board shall cause to be prepared, not later than 30<sup>th</sup> September in each year an estimate of expenditure necessary to carry out the programmes approved by the Board for the next succeeding year and they shall submit to the Minister the estimate of expenditure and that of its income during the next succeeding year.</p>	<p><b>18.</b> The Powers and Functions Executive Committee shall be as stipulated in the Statutes of the Federation and shall include:</p> <p>(a) be the executive body of the Federation and shall be directly accountable to the Congress for interpreting and carrying out the general policies established by the Congress for the administration, management and control of the affairs of the Federation;</p> <p>(b) make policies when necessary, which are not in conflict with those adopted by the Congress, or in all cases that do not come within the sphere of responsibility of the Congress;</p> <p>(c) at all times further the objectives of the Federation and in particular supervise the carrying out of the decisions of the Federation as determined by the Congress;</p>	Retained as in bill	



		<p>(d) Taking such decisions and actions as the committee considers appropriate in managing the affairs of the Federation including without limitation appointing the General Secretary and determining the terms of service of the President of the Federation and the General Secretary</p> <p>(e) Making decisions upon any and all matters of policy or procedure to be followed by the Federation as such relate to income or expenditure of the Federation, including consideration of strategy, budgets and business plans.</p> <p>(f) Exercising all such powers of the Federation as may be required to give effect to the objects as described in the provisions of the Federations Statutes and this act and which are not by statutes or Articles specifically to be done or exercise by the Congress</p> <p>(g) shall pass decisions on all cases that do not come within the sphere of responsibility of the Congress or are not reserved for other bodies by law or under these Statutes;</p> <p>(h) shall prepare and convene the Ordinary and Extraordinary General Congress of Federation;</p> <p>(i) shall appoint the chairmen, deputy chairmen and members of the standing committees;</p> <p>(j) shall appoint the chairmen, deputy chairmen and</p>		
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		<p>members of the judicial bodies;</p> <p>(k) may decide to set up ad-hoc committees if necessary at any time;</p> <p>(l) shall compile the regulations for the organisation of standing committees and ad-hoc committees;</p> <p>(m) shall appoint or dismiss the General Secretary on the proposal of the President. The General Secretary shall attend the meetings of all the committees ex-officio;</p> <p>(n) shall propose the independent auditors to the Congress;</p> <p>(o) shall decide the place and dates of and the number of teams participating in the competitions of the Federation and Leagues under its jurisdiction;</p> <p>(p) shall appoint the coaches for the national representative teams and other technical staff;</p> <p>(q) shall approve regulations stipulating how the Federation shall be organised internally;</p> <p>(r) shall ensure that the Statutes are applied and adopt the executive arrangements required for their application;</p> <p>(s) may dismiss a person or body or suspend a Member of the Federation provisionally until the next Congress;</p>		
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		<p>(t) may delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies of Federation or third parties.</p> <p>(u) carry out such other functions as the Congress may consider necessary to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of the Statutes of the Federation and this Act;</p> <p>(v) meet at least twice a year;</p> <p>(w) At its own discretion, it may delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority and call on the services of advisers or grant mandates to third parties</p> <p>(x) The Executive Committee may delegate any of its powers to a committee consisting of one or more Executive Committee members, or to the General Secretary or any other person holding any other executive office. Any such delegation may be made subject to any conditions as the Executive Committee may impose and either collaterally with or to the exclusion of its own powers and may be revoked or altered.</p> <p>(y) The Executive Committee may, by power of attorney or otherwise, appoint any person to be the agent of the Federation for such purposes and on such conditions as the Executive Committee shall determine, including authority for the agent to delegate all or any of his powers.</p>		
19.	<p><b>Power of Minister to give directives</b></p> <p>(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Minister may give the Association directives of a general or specific nature, with regard to the exercise by the Board of its functions under this Act.</p>	<p>19. Elections and or appointment into the Executive Committee shall be conducted as stipulated in the Statutes of the Federation.</p>	Retained as in bill	

	(2) It shall be the duty of the Board to comply with any directives given by the Minister under subsection (1) of this section.			
20.	<p><b>Power to obtain information</b></p> <p>(1) For the purpose of carrying out the functions conferred on the Board under this Act, the Secretary-General or any other employee of the Association authorized in that behalf -</p> <p>(a) shall have a right of access at all relevant times to records of anybody or club to which this Act applies; and</p> <p>(b) may by notice in writing served on any person in charge of the body or club, require that person to furnish information on such matters as may be specified in the notice.</p> <p>(2) It shall be the duty of any person required to furnish information pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, to comply with the notice within a reasonable period of time.</p>	<p><b>20.</b> The President represents the Federation legally and his responsibilities shall be as stipulated by the Statutes of the Federation and shall include:</p> <p>(a) ensuring the implementation of the decisions passed by the Congress and the Executive Committee through the Federation Secretariat ;</p> <p>(b) ensuring the effective functioning of the bodies of Federation in order that they achieve the objectives described in the Federations Statutes and this act.</p> <p>(c) supervising the work of the General Secretariat of the Federation.</p> <p>(d) ensuring the regular and effective function of the Secretariat to allow it to achieve its objectives;</p> <p>(e) ensuring the smooth relations between the Federation and FIFA, CAF, WAFU, members, political bodies and other organizations.</p> <p>(f) Only the President may propose the appointment or dismissal of the General Secretary</p> <p>(g) presiding over the congress, the Executive Committee meetings, the emergency Committee, and those Committees in which he has been appointed President.</p> <p>(h) The President shall have an ordinary vote on the Executive Committee and, whenever votes are equal, shall have a casting vote</p>		

		<p>(i) If the President is absent or unavailable, such Vice-President as specified by the Statutes, and available shall deputise.</p> <p>(j) Any additional powers of the President shall be contained in the internal organisation regulations of Federation.</p>		
21.	<p><b>Regulations</b> The Association may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations generally for giving full effect to the provisions of this Act and, in particular, for –</p> <p>(a) limiting the total number of professional football players to be registered with the Association;</p> <p>(b) ensuring that there are appropriate, legally binding agreements between registered football clubs and professional football clubs and professional football players who shall have the benefit of the services of legal advisers during negotiations;</p> <p>(c) ensuring that the necessary documentary evidence and particulars are made available by registered football players, so as to enable tax deductions to be made from the salaries and other emoluments where appropriate;</p> <p>(d) requiring that before a football club wishing to engage professional football</p>	<p><b>PART IV: GENERAL SECRETARIAT OF THE FEDERATION</b></p> <p>21. Subject to the provisions of the Statutes of the Federation, the General Secretariat shall carry out all the administrative work of the Federation under the direction of the General Secretary. The members of the General Secretariat are bound by the internal organisational regulations of the Federation and shall fulfil the given tasks in the best manner.</p>	Retained as in bill	

	<p>players is registered, it appoints an external auditor to audit the accounts of the club and that before registration is effected in any year, the club produces its audited accounts for the previous year and the auditor's report thereon;</p> <p>(e) determining the amount of money to be deposited by any club as compensation to be paid in respect of damage, loss, fines and other financial liabilities incurred, as a result of default by its players or staff;</p> <p>(f) fixing the licence fees to be paid in any year by every registered professional football player and providing for the production of his income tax receipt for the previous year;</p> <p>(g) ensuring that a satisfactory insurance policy is taken out by each professional club for every registered professional football player and official, against physical injury or loss of life and on behalf of third parties;</p> <p>(h) making every registered football club responsible, in league and friendly matches, for organizing its matches with respect to publicity, security, sale of tickets and concessionary rights;</p> <p>(i) requiring a referee officiating in a match</p>			
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	<p>under the auspices of the Professional Football Division, to be registered with the Nigerian Referees Association and to hold a current licence from the Nigerian Football Association;</p> <p>(j) fixing minimum emoluments per annum. For registered professional football players and registered football coaches, as may be approved by the Minister;</p> <p>(k) encouraging registered professional clubs to build and own standard football pitches and stadia according to Federation of International Football Association minimum specification within seven years after their initial active participation in professional football and for disqualifying them from participation in professional football, if this target is not met within the prescribed period; and</p> <p>(l) regulating the activities of amateur football club.</p>			
<b>Part 6</b>				
22.	<p><b>Repeal of 1990 No. 10</b></p> <p>(1) The Nigerian Football Association Act is hereby repealed accordingly and the Nigerian Football Association (in this section referred to as "the dissolved Association") and the Government Board established thereunder are hereby, consequently, dissolved.</p>	<p><b>22.</b> The General Secretariat shall be internally organized as deemed fit by the Executive Committee of the Federation.</p>	Retained as in bill	

<p>(2) As from the commencement of this Act –</p> <p>(a) every person employed by the dissolved Association, other than under a contract, shall be transferred to and deemed to be employed by the Association established by this Act;</p> <p>(b) all assets, funds, resources and other movable and immovable property vested in the dissolved Association shall, by virtue of this Act and , without further assurance, be vested in the Association established by this Act;</p> <p>(c) the rights, interests, obligations and liabilities of the dissolved Association existing immediately before the commencement of this Act under any contract or instrument or at law or in equity shall, by virtue of this Act and with further assurance, be assigned to and vested in the Association established by this Act;</p> <p>(d) any contract or instrument as is mentioned in paragraph (c) of this subsection, shall be of the same force and effect against or in favour of the dissolved Association and shall be enforceable as fully and effectively, as if instead of the dissolved Association, the Association established by this Act, had been named therein or had been a party thereto.</p> <p>(3) Any proceeding or cause of action pending or existing or which could have been taken by or against the dissolved Association, immediately before the commencement of this Act in respect, of any right, interest, obligation or liability of the dissolved Association, may be continued against</p>			
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	the Association established by this Act, as if the Association established, had been a party thereto.			
23.	<p><b>Interpretation</b> In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires –</p> <p>“<b>Association</b>” means the Nigerian Football Association, established by section 1 of this Act;</p> <p>“<b>Board</b>” means the Nigerian Football Association Governing Board, established by section 3 of this Act;</p> <p>“<b>Council</b>” means the Nigerian Football Association Council, established by section 8 of this Act;</p> <p>“<b>Member of the Board or Council</b>” includes the chairman of the Board or Council;</p> <p>“<b>Minister</b>” means the Minister charged with responsibility for sports and Ministry shall be construed accordingly;</p> <p>“<b>Professional club</b>” means any club licensed by the Association on the recommendation of the Professional Football Division, to participate in professional football either in Nigeria or outside Nigeria.</p>	<p><b>23.</b> The General Secretary of the Federation:</p> <p>(a) is the chief executive of the General Secretariat</p> <p>(b) shall be appointed on the basis of an agreement governed by private law and shall have the necessary professional qualifications.</p>	Retained as in bill	
24.	<p><b>Short title</b> This Act may be cited as the Nigerian Football Association Act.</p>	<p><b>24.</b> (1) The responsibilities of the General Secretary shall be as stipulated in the Statutes of the Federation and shall include:</p> <p>(a) implementing decisions passed by the Congress and</p>	Retained as in bill	

		<p>Executive Committee in compliance with the President's directives.</p> <p>(b) attending the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee, Emergency Committee and the standing and ad-hoc committees;</p> <p>(c) organising the Congress and meetings of the Executive Committee and other bodies;</p> <p>(d) compiling the minutes for the meetings of the Congress, Executive Committee, Emergency Committee and standing and ad-hoc committees;</p> <p>(e) managing and keeping the accounts of the Federation properly;</p> <p>(f) preparing and managing the correspondence of the Federation;</p> <p>(g) coordinating and managing relations with the Members, Committees, FIFA, CAF and WAFU;</p> <p>(h) organising the General Secretariat;</p> <p>(i) the appointment and dismissal of staff working in the General Secretariat;</p> <p>(2) The General Secretary may not be a Congress delegate or a member of any body of the Federation</p>		
25.		<p><b>25.</b> The Federation may appoint, on the proposal of the General Secretary such other persons to be employees of the Federation as the Federation may from time to time, determine to assist the General-Secretary in the exercise</p>	Retained as in bill	

		of his function under the provisions of the Statutes of the Federation and this Act.		
<b>Part 7</b>				
26.		<b>26.</b> The remuneration, tenure of office and conditions of service of the General Secretary and other employees of the Federation shall be as determined by the Executive Committee in accordance with the stipulation of the Statutes of the Federation.	Retained as in bill	
27.		<b>27.</b> The Appointment and Dismissal of the General-Secretary shall be as stipulated in the Statutes of the Federation.	Retained as in bill	
28.		<p><b>28.</b> The functions of the General Secretariat shall be as stipulated by the Statutes of the Federation and shall include:</p> <p>(a) organise matches for clubs affiliated to it;</p> <p>(b) organise the participation of Nigerian clubs and National teams in international competitions in consultation with the Federal Government Agency in charge of Sports;</p> <p>(c) provide in co-operation with other bodies, adequate training for its employees and various personnel who may be involved in the administration and organisation of matches and its activities, with a view to improving the standard of football administration and officiating;</p> <p>(d) organise and regulate the activities of the Nigeria Football Referees Federation, Nigeria Players Union, the Nigerian Football Coaches Federation</p>	Retained as in bill	

		<p>and the Nigeria Football Supporters Club and any other body involved with football as stipulated in the Statutes of the Federation;</p> <p>(e) grant annual licence to persons seeking to be members of the Nigeria Referees Federation, the Nigerian Football Coaches Federation and football clubs in Nigeria and their administrators and managers;</p> <p>(f) send for the approval of the Congress on the recommendation of Executive Committee, the International bodies to which the Federation may, from time to time, associate;</p> <p>(g) carry out such other functions as the Federation Executive Committee may assign to it to facilitate the implementation of the provisions of the Statutes of the Federation and this Act; and</p> <p>(h) advise the Executive Committee on matters affecting the Federation and the sport of Association Football generally.</p> <p>(i) Any other functions as may be determined by the Executive Committee towards the attainment of the objects of the Federation.</p>		
29.		<p><b>29. (1)</b> There shall be such number of Standing and Ad-hoc committees appointed by the Executive Committee as deemed necessary in accordance with the Statutes of the Federation.</p> <p><b>(2)</b> The Standing and Ad-hoc Committees shall consist of such number of members as deemed necessary by the</p>	Retained as in bill	

		Executive Committee in accordance with the Statutes of the Federation.		
30.		<b>30.</b> There shall be a Security Committee in each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja for the purpose of ensuring effective security, safety and maintenance of public order at all football matches played in any particular State or the Federal Capital Territory for such period or occasions as may be determined from time to time.	Retained as in bill	
31		<b>PART V: LEAGUES</b> <b>31.</b> The Federation Executive Committee shall, subject to the approval or ratification of the Congress, authorize the formation, registration, management and operation of Leagues, as it deems necessary in accordance with the provision of the statutes of the Federation, CAF and FIFA and any regulations thereof.	Retained as in bill	
		<b>32.</b> (1) The Clubs shall make up the Leagues in the competition in which they take part and, where the League is operated by an incorporated body, members in a general meeting of such body.  (2) The Leagues are subordinate to the Federation, which shall approve their statutes/Governing regulations and regulations along with any amendment to the same.  (3) The Leagues shall be managed and operated in accordance with their approved governing regulations independently of any external body, irrespective of the corporate structure of the League.  (4) The composition of the membership of administration of the League bodies may either be by election and or appointment as may be provided by their governing regulations.	Retained as in bill	

		<p>(5) The Leagues may be incorporated as limited liability companies with the Federation as the preference or golden shareholder, with special rights, and the participating clubs as ordinary members.</p> <p>(6) The League Management Company (LMC) incorporated as a limited liability Company shall be in charge of the management and operation of the elite professional football League and any other league the Federation may assign to the company in accordance with the Statutes of the Federation. The company shall be composed and operated in accordance with its governing regulations, as may be amended from time to time.</p>		
		<p><b>33.</b> (1) The Statutes and Regulations of all Leagues, that are members of the Federation, shall be in line with the principles of the Statutes of the Federation, in particular, and those of FIFA, CAF, WAFU and other football bodies to which the Federation may be subsequently affiliated.</p> <p>(2) Notwithstanding the corporate structure of the League, every League affiliated to the Federation shall ensure that it takes decisions on any matter regarding membership independently of any external body.</p> <p>(3) Each League shall ensure that no natural or legal person(including holding companies and subsidiaries) exercise control over more than one club, so that the integrity of its competition or any match is not jeopardized.</p> <p>(4) The Leagues shall ensure that their member clubs are in compliance with the Clubs Licensing Regulations of the Federation as a condition for participation in the competitions organised and managed by each League.</p>	Retained as in bill	

		<p><b>PART VI: INTERNATIONAL TRANSFER OF NIGERIAN PLAYERS</b></p> <p><b>34. (1)</b> All Transfers of players that are under the age of 23 from Nigeria (clubs or academies) to foreign Clubs shall be conducted in accordance with the stipulations of the Statutes of the Federation, as well as CAF and FIFA regulations for international players transfers.</p> <p>(2) All transfer contracts for Players Under the age of 23 shall include a clause to guarantee the receipts of a certain percentage of not less than 5% of at least the player's two future transfers by his club in Nigeria.</p> <p><b>35.</b> Copies of all contracts entered into between Nigerian players under the age of 23 transferring to foreign clubs from Nigeria shall be endorsed by the General-Secretary of the Federation and deposited with the Federation within 30 days of the signing of the contract by the player.</p>	Retained as in bill	
		<p><b>PART VII: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS</b></p> <p><b>36. (1)</b> The Federation shall be conducted on a non-profit basis, with the intent and purpose that its capital and income when so ever derived, shall be applied solely towards the promotion of it objectives, and no portion shall be paid or transferred directly or indirectly, (whether by salary, dividends, bonus or otherwise howsoever) by way of profit or distribution to any of the members of the Federation, provided that nothing herein contained shall preclude the payment in good faith to a member or any other person of:-</p> <p>(a) Reasonable remuneration for services actually</p>	Retained as in bill	

		<p>rendered for or on behalf of the Federation;</p> <p>(b) Reimbursement of actual cost, expenses and other commitments incurred on behalf of the Federation;</p> <p>(c) Payment of gratuity and/or pension on the retirement of any person who previously shall have been in the employment of the Federation;</p> <p>(d) Payment of honoraria to members of the National Executive Committee on the basis to be determined and approved by the Congress</p> <p>(2) The financial period is one year and the specific timing shall be as stipulated in the Statutes of the Federation</p> <p>(3) The revenue and expenses of the Federation shall be managed so that they balance out over the financial period.</p> <p>(4) The Federation major duties in the future shall be guaranteed through the creation of reserves.</p> <p>(5) The General Secretary is responsible for drawing up the annual consolidated accounts of the Federation as stipulated in the Statutes of the Federation</p>		
		<p><b>37.</b> (1) The Federation through the Executive Committee shall establish and maintain a fund from which shall be defrayed, with the general or specific approval of the Congress, all expenditure incurred by the Executive Committee in the running of the Federation.</p> <p>(2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund</p>		



		<p>established under sub-section (1) of this section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) all monies as may be granted to the Federation by the Federal Government for the funding of national representatives teams, developmental projects/programs, grassroots development, hosting of major competitions and championships and special grants etc;</li> <li>(b) all monies realized for the general purposes of the Federation;</li> <li>(c) all monies accruing to the Federation by any means, including grants-in-aid, endowments and donations.</li> <li>(d) all charges, fees, duties or amounts recovered by the Executive Committee;</li> <li>(e) return on investments</li> <li>(f) all interests on money invested by the Executive Committee;</li> <li>(g) members' annual subscription;</li> <li>(h) the receipts generated by the marketing of rights and commercial properties to which Federation is entitled;</li> <li>(i) Sponsorships</li> <li>(j) Loans</li> </ul>		
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		<p>(k) the fines imposed by the authorised organs of the Federation;</p> <p>(l) the other subscriptions and receipts in keeping with the objectives pursued by Federation and such other money as may, from time to time accrue to the Federation.</p>		
		<p>38. The Executive Committee shall cause to be prepared and submit to the Congress in each fiscal year an estimate of the expenditure necessary to carry out the programmes approved by the Executive Committee for the next fiscal year.</p>	Retained as in bill	
		<p>39. The Executive Committee shall prepare and submit to the Congress every year a report in such form as the Congress may direct on the activities of the Executive Committee during the immediate preceding year and shall include in the report a copy of audited accounts of the Federation for that year and of the auditors report thereon.</p>	Retained as in bill	
		<p>40. (1) The Executive Committee shall cause true accounts to be kept of all receipts, credits, payments, assets and liabilities of the Federation, and of all matters necessary for showing the true state and condition of the Federation, and the accounts shall be kept in accordance with the appropriate principles of accounting as the Executive Committee think fit, and to the satisfaction of the auditors.</p> <p>(2) A copy of every balance sheet and profit and loss account (including any documents required by law to be annexed thereto) which is to be laid before the Federation Congress, the Executive Committee and auditors reports shall, for such period as may be stipulated</p>	Retained as in bill	

		<p>by the Statutes of the Federation, prior to the Annual Congress, be delivered or sent by post to every Member whose address the Federation is aware, and to every other person who is entitled to receive notice of meetings from the Federation under the provisions of the Statutes of the Federation and instead of such copies, a summary of financial statements derived from the Federation annual accounts and the report of the Executive Committee and prepared in the form and containing the information prescribed by the Statutes of the Federation and any regulations made thereunder.</p> <p>(3) The Federation book of accounts shall be kept at such place or places as the Executive Committee appoint, and shall be open to inspection by a Member with the consent of the Executive Committee or a special resolution of the Congress.</p> <p>(4) The accounts of the Federation shall be annually examined within six months after the end of the year to which the accounts relates and the correctness of the balance sheet and the accompanying accounts ascertained by an auditor or auditors to be appointed by the Federation at the annual Congress from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the Federation.</p> <p>(5) The independent auditors appointed by the Congress shall audit the accounts approved by the Finance Committee and the Executive Committee in accordance with the appropriate principles of accounting and present a report to the Congress. The auditors shall be appointed for a period of two years by the Congress. This mandate may be renewed</p>		
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		(6) The Federation shall cause its audited accounts to be published in at least two National Dailies at least once annually.		
		<p><b>41. (1)</b> The Federation shall prepare a consolidated annual budget of its guaranteed income and forecast expenditure including all contingencies thereon based on its programs and activities for the year and shall submit it to the Federal Government. The activities shall include but not limited to funding for the Nigeria National Representative teams, developmental project/programs, hosting of major competitions etc</p> <p>(2) The Federal Government shall make available grants and/or subventions to cover any shortfall in the budget outline in subsection (1) of this section and/or in support of the Federation to achieve its set objectives.</p> <p>(3) Grants and subventions to the Federation may also be paid by the Federal Government in consideration of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) some commercial rights of the Federation (specifically the Broadcast rights of the Nigeria National representative teams' matches for the Nigerian territory)</li> <li>(b) the position of Football as a National Asset,</li> <li>(c) the role of football in the socio-economic and political development of the Nation,</li> <li>(d) the role of football in strengthening of unity and tranquillity within the nation and the projection of Nigeria's positive image worldwide.</li> </ul>	Retained as in bill	

		(4) The amount of grant approved by the Federal Government shall be paid directly into the Federation consolidated fund (account) en bloc at the beginning of every financial year of the Federal Government.		
		<p>42. (1) The Federal Government, subject to the approval of the President and/or the Federal Executive Council (FEC), at the request of the Federation shall grant special concessions, waivers and tax rebates to companies, individuals and corporations sponsoring the activities of the Federation as major sponsors.</p> <p>(2) All request for special concession, waivers and tax rebates etc shall be forwarded for approval by the Federation through the Agency of Government in charge of sports or Minister of Sports of the Federation.</p> <p>(3) The quantum of the concession, waivers and tax rebates to be granted shall be at the discretion of the President and/or the Federal Executive Council (FEC).</p> <p>(4) Major sponsors of the Federation shall be those Sponsors categorized as such by the Executive Committee in accordance with the Federation Marketing and commercialization Plans.</p> <p>(5) The Federal Government, subject to approval of the National assembly may issue special regulations, tariff, and concessions to specific companies, industries, business sectors etc with the objective to raise funds for football development as a national asset.</p>	Retained as in bill	
		<p><b>PART VIII – MISCELLANEOUS</b></p> <p>43. Subject to the provisions of this Act and the Statutes of</p>	Retained as in bill	

		<p>Federation, the Federation shall faithfully and diligently collaborate and work in partnership with the Agency of the Federal Government in charge of sports or the Minister of Sports and other relevant Government Agencies in the pursuance of its objectives and the discharge of its functions provided that no action of such collaboration will be inconsistent or in conflict with the rules and regulations of any International Federation to which the Federation may be affiliated to from time to time.</p>		
		<p><b>44. (1)</b> For the purpose of carrying out the functions conferred on the Executive Committee under the Statutes of the Federation and this Act, the General Secretary or such other employee of the Federation authorized in that behalf:</p> <p>(a) shall have a right of access at all relevant times to records of anybody, club, member of the Federation or body to which this Act applies; and</p> <p>(b) may by notice in writing served on any person in charge of the body, club or member of Federation require that person to furnish or cause to be furnished information on such matters as may be specified in the notice.</p> <p>(2) It shall be the duty of any person required to furnish information pursuant to subsection (1) of this section to comply with the notice within a reasonable period of time of not more than 30 working days except extension is granted by the Federation.</p>	Retained as in bill	
		<p>(a) making every member of Federation and bodies to which this act applies responsible, in its administration, management, governance,</p>		

		<p>finances and other related matters therein;</p> <p>(b) making every registered football club responsible, in friendly matches, for organising its matches with respect to but not limited to publicity, security, sale of tickets and concessionary rights;</p> <p>(c) requiring all football clubs, administrators, coaches, referees, match commissioners and such other persons as determined by the Executive Committee involved with football within Federation to be registered with and hold a current licence from the Federation;</p> <p>(d) regulating the activities of football in Nigeria</p>		
		<p><b>45. (1)</b> The Nigeria Football Association Act, Cap N110 Laws of the Federation 2004 is hereby repealed.</p> <p><b>(2)</b> As from the commencement of this Act</p> <p>(a) all assets, funds, resources and other movable and immovable property vested in the Nigeria Football Association shall, by virtue of this Act and, without further assurance, be vested in the Federation established by this Act;</p> <p>(b) the rights, interests, obligations and liabilities of the Nigeria Football Association existing immediately before the commencement of this Act under any contract or instrument or at law or in equity except for the personnel shall, by virtue of this Act and with further assurance, be assigned to and vested in the Federation established by this Act;</p>	Retained as in bill	

		<p>(c) any contract or instrument as is mentioned in paragraph (b) of this subsection, shall be of the same force and effect against or in favour of the Federation and shall be enforceable as fully and effectively as if instead of the Nigeria Football Association, the Federation established by this Act had been named therein or had been a party thereto.</p> <p>(3) Any proceeding or cause of action pending or existing or which could have been taken by or against the Nigeria Football Association, immediately before the commencement of this Act in respect, of any right, interest, obligation or liability of the Nigeria Football Association, may be continued, enforced or taken by or against the Federation established by this Act as if the Federation established by this Act and not the Nigeria Football Association had been a party thereto.</p>		
		<p><b>46.</b> In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires –</p> <p>“Federation” means the NIGERIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION established by Section 1 of this Act;</p> <p>“amateur club” means any club licensed by the authorize Division of the Federation to participate in amateur football either in Nigeria or outside Nigeria;</p> <p>“Association Football” means the team sport commonly known as football or soccer, and its variants, played in accordance with the codified rules called Laws of the Game subscribed to by FIFA.</p> <p>“CAF” means Confederation Africaine de Football or</p>	Retained as in bill	



		<p>Confederation of African Football, the continental governing body for Association Football in Africa, founded on February 8, 1957, with its headquarters in Cairo, Egypt;</p> <p>“CAS” means Court of Arbitration for Sports, an independent international body established to settle disputes in sports through arbitration and mediation, founded in 1984, with its headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland;</p> <p>“Congress” means the NIGERIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION Congress established by Section 8 of this Act;</p> <p>“Executive Committee” means the Nigeria Football Federation governing board established by section 4 of this Act;</p> <p>“Federal Ministry of Sports” means the Federal Ministry charged, from time to time, with responsibility for sports in Nigeria; and Minister shall be construed accordingly;</p> <p>“FIFA” means Federation International de Football Association or International Federation of Association Football, the world football governing body, founded in May 21, 1904, with its headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland;</p> <p>“football matters” mean matters, not of a criminal nature or the legality of any law or enactment, concerning the rules and conditions for the voluntary participation of persons, natural and juridical, in the activities of the Federation; or relating to the administration, governance and composition of the Federation and other bodies subordinate to it, as provided in the Statutes of the Federation and this Act; or arising from the application or</p>		
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		<p>enforcement, by the Federation and its subordinate bodies, of the rules and conditions for participation in their activities or, of the Laws of the Game;</p> <p>“IFAB” means International Football Association Board, the body that determines the Laws of the Game of Association Football, founded in 1886, with its headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland;</p> <p>“Laws of the Game” means the laws of the game of Association Football as determined or authorized by the International Football Association Board (“IFAB”) and, subscribed to by FIFA;</p> <p>“League” means the competition, subordinate to and organised by the Federation or any other body or entity authorized, delegated or licensed by the Federation to organise league competition, in accordance with the Statutes of the Federation;</p> <p>“Member of the Executive Committee or Congress: includes the President of the Executive Committee or Congress;</p> <p>“Misconduct” means misconducts as defined in the Statutes of the Federation and the Public Service Rules;</p> <p>“professional club” means any club licensed in accordance with the Club Licensing System and the Statutes of the Federation to participate in professional football either in Nigeria or outside Nigeria;</p> <p>“WAFU” means the West Africa Football Union founded in 1975.</p>		
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4.	<p>Where on a special occasion, the Board desires to obtain the advice of a person on a particular matter, the Board may co-opt that person to be a member for as many meeting as may be necessary, and that person while so co-opted, shall have all the rights and privileges of a member, except that he shall not be entitled to vote or count towards a quorum.</p>	5. Subject to its standing order, the Executive Committee may appoint such number of standing and ad-hoc committees as it thinks fit as guided by the Statutes of the Federation to consider and report on any matter with which the Executive Committee is concerned.		
5.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Committees</b></p> <p>(1) Subject to its standing order, the Board may appoint such number of standing and <i>ad hoc</i> committees as it thinks fit to consider and report on any matter with which the Board is concerned.</p> <p>(2) Every committee appointed under the provisions of sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph, shall be presided over by a member of the Board and shall be made up of such number of persons, not necessarily members of the Board, as the Board may determine in each case.</p>			
6.	<p>The decision of a committee shall be of no effect, until it is confirmed by the Board.</p>			
7.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Miscellaneous</b></p> <p>The fixing of the seal of the Association shall be authenticated by the signature of the chairman and of the Secretary-General or such other member authorized generally or specially by the Board to act for that purpose.</p>			

8.	<p>A contract or an instrument which, if made by a person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the Association by the Secretary-General or by any other person generally or specifically authorized by the Board, to act for that purpose.</p>			
9.	<p>A document purporting to be a contract, instrument or other document signed or sealed on behalf of the Association, shall be received in evidence and unless the contrary is proved, be presumed, without further proof, to have been so signed or sealed.</p>			
10.	<p>The validity of proceedings of the Board or of its committee shall not be adversely affected by –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) vacancy in the membership of the Board; or</li> <li>(b) by a defect in the appointment of a Board or committee; or</li> <li>(c) by reason that a person not entitled to do so, took part in the proceedings.</li> </ul> <p>A member of the Board or of its committee, who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Board or committee, shall forthwith disclose his interest to the Board or committee and shall not vote on any question relating to the contract or arrangement.</p>			

11.				
		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>EXPLANATORY NOTE</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>(This note does not form part of the above Act but is intended to explain its purpose)</i></p> <p>The Act provides for the Establishment of the NIGERIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION to administer, manage and governed and control the game of Federation football in Nigeria with the objective of improving and strengthening the standards of football. The Federation shall function strictly in accordance with the provisions of its statutes, the rules and regulations made from time to time by the international bodies it is affiliated to and the provisions of this Act.</p>	Retained as in bill	