

# MODEL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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2019 PLAC LEGISLATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME







## About PLAC

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Founded in 2009, PLAC is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit capacity building organization that works to strengthen democratic governance and citizens' participation in Nigeria. Through broad-based technical assistance and training, PLAC works to promote citizens' engagement with government institutions, advocate for legal and policy reforms and promote transparency and accountability in policy and decision making processes.

At the core of our programming is a deep commitment to increase legislative advocacy, promote transparency and good governance, support electoral reforms, enhance citizen's access to public policies and advance anti-corruption campaigns. Over its 10 years of history, PLAC has worked and evolved into a foremost leading institution with capacity to deliver cutting-edge research, policy analysis and advocacy.





# Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria and ECOWAS

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The EU Delegation to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and ECOWAS is a full diplomatic mission representing the European Union in Nigeria with concurrent accreditation to the regional economic body, ECOWAS, headquartered in Abuja.

The Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria and to ECOWAS (the Delegation) is part of the European Union External Service and is one of the 140 Delegations throughout the world.

The 2019 PLAC Legislative Internship Programme is one of the programmes supported by the Delegation in its Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria.





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# Introduction

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The Model Legislative Assembly is a mock legislative plenary session patterned after a typical plenary session of the House of Representatives in Nigeria's National Assembly. At the one-day mock legislative plenary session, PLAC interns feature as principal officers of the Model Legislative Assembly and sponsors of Bills as they recreate experiences from live plenary proceedings, public hearings and Committee activities.

The purpose of the Model Legislative Assembly (MLA) is to provide an opportunity for young and vibrant minds, to realize their leadership potential and work towards building on it. In October 2019, 38 (thirty-eight) young Nigerian professionals drawn from the 36 states in Nigeria and the Federal Capital Territory were selected to intern in the National Assembly after a thorough selection process. The MLA is also intended as a platform to assess participants learning within the duration of the internship.

## Pre-activities

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Sequel to the mock legislative plenary session, the interns had conducted elections to select principal officers from among themselves. The persons selected are to act as the following: -

- Speaker -Yusuf Abdullahi Ahmed Kano
- Deputy Speaker-Olorunnisola Oluwatosin -Ogun
- Majority Leader- Zayyan Bello Usman- Zamfara
- Minority Leader Lilian Chinonso Udonu -Imo
- Chief Whip -Iveren Emmanuel -Benue
- Deputy chief whip -Fehintola Omotesho -Lagos
- Deputy Minority Leader -Esther Omolola Adeyemi-Ekiti
- Deputy Majority Leader- Muktar Abdulrahman- Yobe
- Majority Chief Whip -Umar Safana -Katsina
- Minority Chief Whip -Kaltimi Galadima

### Legislative Staff

- Sergeant-at-arms-Johnson Osaze Anthony -Edo
- Clerk -Hadiza Adam Sheik Abdullahi-Borno

These principal officers led the group through a series of practice sessions and debates to get ready for the Model Legislative Assembly.

We hope you enjoy the session!



# Agenda

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 10:30am – 11:00am  | Registration   |
| 11:00 am – 12:00pm | <p><b>OPENING CEREMONY</b><br/>Introduction of guests, resource persons and participants</p> <p><b>Welcome Remarks</b><br/>Clement Nwankwo<br/><i>Executive Director, PLAC</i></p> <p><b>Goodwill Remarks:</b><br/>Clément Boutillier<br/><i>Head of Section<br/>Democracy, Governance and Migration<br/>Delegation of the European Union to the<br/>Federal Republic of Nigeria &amp; ECOWAS</i></p> <p><b>Opening Remarks:</b><br/>Alhaji Sani Omolori<br/><i>Clerk of the National Assembly</i></p> |
| 12:00pm – 12:30pm  | <p><b>MOCK LEGISLATIVE SESSION</b><br/>Plenary Session led by the leader of the group</p> <p>Mr. Yusuf Abdullahi Ahmed<br/><i>Speaker of the Model Legislative<br/>Assembly (MLA)</i></p> <p>Deliberation of Bills by the Interns &amp;<br/>Issues of National Importance</p> <p>Resolutions and Closing of Plenary<br/>Session</p>  |

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <p>1:30pm – 2:00pm</p> | <p><b>REACTIONS FROM PANELISTS</b></p> <p>Mr Gbenga Aruleba<br/><i>Journalist/ Anchor, Focus Nigeria on AIT</i></p> <p>Mrs Rabi Audu<br/><i>National Secretariat of Nigerian Legislatures</i></p> <p>Mr. Chinedu Akabueze<br/><i>Deputy Clerk, House of Representatives</i></p> <p>Mr Emmanuel Anyaegbunam<br/><i>Senior Legislative Aide, National Assembly</i></p> <p><b>Presentation of Certificates</b></p> <p><b>Clement Nwankwo</b></p> |
| <p>2:00pm – 2:30pm</p> | <p><b>Presentation of Certificates &amp; Photo Session</b></p>  |
| <p>2:30pm – 3:00pm</p> | <p><b>Wrap Up &amp; Lunch</b></p>   |



# HOUSE OF PLAC ASSEMBLY FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA ORDER PAPER

Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2019

1. Prayers
2. National Pledge
3. Approval of the Votes and Proceedings
4. Oaths
5. Message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*if any*)
6. Message from the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*if any*)
7. Messages from Other Parliament(s) (*if any*)
8. Other Announcements (*if any*)
9. Petitions (*if any*)
10. Matter(s) of Urgent Public Importance
11. Personal Explanation

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## PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. Schools Guidance and Counselling (Primary and Secondary) Bill, 2019 (HB. 005) (*Hon. Omoniyi Olorunnisola*) – *First Reading*.
2. The Biodiversity Conservation Training Institute (BCTIA) Bill, 2019 (HB. 006) (*Hon. Akpose Isaac Othouke*) – *First Reading*.

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## ORDERS OF THE DAY BILLS

1. A Bill for an Act to Establish the North Central Conflict Resolution Commission to Address Intra and Inter Communal Conflicts within the North Central Geopolitical Zone; and for Related Matters (HB. 001) (*Hon. Winner Adebayo*) – *Third Reading*.
2. A Bill for an Act for the Establishment of a Trust Fund for the Execution of Development Projects in the South East of Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 002) (*Hon. Ukairo Ezinma Ukpa*) – *Second Reading*.
3. A Bill for an Act for North East Rehabilitation, Social and Environmental Sustainability; and for Related Matters (HB.003) (*Hon. Alhusman Khadijah*) – *Second Reading*.

4. A Bill for an Act to Modernize Farming Practices in the Northwest of Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 004) (*Hon. Alhassan Masirana*) – *Second Reading*.

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## MOTIONS

5. **Urgent Need to Deploy Security and Military Personnel to Combat the Boko Haram Insurgency in the Northeast of Nigeria.**

**Hon. Ifeoma Akpotue:**

**The House:**

*Notes* that Section 14(2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 provides that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government;

*Informed* that six aid workers, working on a health project being implemented by the International Non-governmental Organization, Action Against Hunger were abducted on 26 July, 2019 when their convoy was attacked near Damasak, in Mobbar Local Government Area of Borno State, during which one of the driver was killed and another reportedly executed on 24 September, 2019;


*Also informed* that on 13 December 2019, the remaining four men abducted on that day, were executed by the terrorists despite all efforts to secure their release.

*Aware* that Action Against Hunger has been actively involved in providing humanitarian services in the areas of nutrition, health, water, sanitation and hygiene in most part of the volatile northeast for quite some time now;

*Recalls* that in March 2018, some United Nation's aid workers were killed in a night attack by Boko Haram insurgents in Rann community in Kala Balge Local Government Area of Borno State;

*Concerned* that Borno State and neighbouring Yobe and Adamawa States have suffered a decade of attacks by Boko Haram insurgents, the terrorist group responsible for tens of thousands of deaths and the displacement of millions of people;

*Worried* that the continuous killings may continue because of the limited number of security and military personnel deployed to the affected local government areas to protect the lives of citizens in that area;



*Cognizant* of the need for more security and military personnel to be deployed to the affected area;

***Resolves to:***

- (i) Observe a minute silence in honour of all those executed by the Boko Haram terrorists;
  
- (ii) Urge the Nigeria Army, Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies to urgently deploy more officers to strategic places in Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa States to safeguard the lives of people living in that geographical area;
  
- (iii) Also urge the Federal Government to deliberately take up measures to improve on budgetary provisions for, and attention to the Security system in the Country.

**6. Need to Empower Hospitals to Treat Accident Victims without Demanding for Police Report First. - Hon. Joseph John**

**The House:**

*Notes* that most hospitals, both private and public across the country generally refuse to treat accident victims rushed to them, unless a Police Report is provided. This practice has resulted in a lot of avoidable deaths and serious medical complications, many of which remain unreported.

The reason for this unfortunate situation is largely due to the serious threats and harassment these hospitals receive from the police for treating accident victims without first obtaining a police report. Some hospitals, especially privately owned ones have reported that police officers are known to visit their clinics to harass, extort and sometimes arrest clinic staff for treating accident victims without a Police Report.

*Worried* by this trend, the then Inspector General of Police, Mr. Solomon Arase, in 2015, gave a directive to hospitals and other health institutions across the country to treat Accident and Gunshot victims even before contacting the police. However, this inhuman practice of insisting on the presentation of a Police Report first before administering even First Aid to accident victims has remained a standard practice in most hospitals, largely due to the fear of overzealous police officers.

*Also recalls* that recently, a young lady by name Jemimah and her friend, both of whom were students of the University of Jos, died because the first hospital they were taken to refused to treat them because the people who took them there could not provide a Police Report. A similar case was also reported to have happened in Lagos, sparking serious public outcry, especially on the Social Media, where the ‘#TreatFirstQuestionsLater’ trended for days.

***Resolves to:***

- (i) Mandate the Committees on Police Affairs and Healthcare Services to dialogue with relevant stakeholders in the police and health sector to end this inhuman practice;
- (ii) Recommend appropriate sanctions for erring police officers and health workers;
- (iii) Mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance.



7. **Need to Urgently Decentralize Power and Restructure Nigeria**  
**Hon. Udonu Chinonso Lilian**

**The House:**

*Notes* that Nigeria is Africa's biggest economy and the most populous black nation in the world. Yet regional economic inequality and the lopsidedness of Nigeria's political system have led to a series of protracted conflicts.

*Also notes* that; despite being a Federal Republic, Nigeria has a unitary constitutional arrangement in which the federal government wields overarching powers.

*Aware* that Nigeria is structured as a Federation with 36 states, one Federal Territory and 774 Local Government Areas, including Abuja. However, the central government controls the revenues and nearly all of the country's resources; especially oil and natural gas.

*Also aware* that since the amalgamation of Nigeria, all efforts to stitch the union cohesively together into a nationalistic whole have been undermined by centrifugal forces, including; ethnicity, religiosity and other primordial and mundane forces that tend to pull the country apart.

*Further aware* that; when crude oil exploration became commercialized and subsequently became the mainstay of the Nigerian economy, previous regional resource control arrangements were jettisoned, just as the various products, including cocoa, groundnut, palm oil, rubber, etc. that had been the mainstay of the economy were all relegated to the back burner.

*Cognizant* that Federalism talks and debates are centered around restructuring rather than on disintegration of the country and restructuring in the form of political decentralization and a differential economic model is necessary, if not sufficient for solving some of the country's most vexing problems.

*Worried* that in an imposed Federal State like Nigeria; regional powers/authorities are at the mercy or discretion of the Federal Government, thereby hampering the exploration, provision and management of resources and development of each region and state independently.

***Resolves to:***

- (i) Deliberate on the recommendations of the 2014 National Conference;
- (ii) Mandate the Special Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution.

# Bills Produced for the Model Legislative Assembly

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1. A Bill for an Act to Establish the North-Central Conflict Resolution Commission to address Intra and Inter-Communal Conflicts within the North-Central Geo-Political zone; and for related matters

*(Sponsored by Winner Adebayo, Rotshak Micah Piwuna, Kator Gondo Aluta Iveren Emmanuella Keghku , Dogara Nuhu Tagyiagbe, Jonathan Omonogun and Kaltimi Muhammed Galadima)*

2. A Bill For An Act For The Establishment And Regulation Of A Guidance And Counselling Unit In All Government Owned Primary And Secondary Schools In Nigeria And For Other Related Matters Thereto.

*(Sponsored by Akinpelumi Teniola, Fehintola Omotesho, Mayowa Mogbojuri, Musa Olatunji, Omoniyi Olorunnisola and Omolola Adeyemi)*

3. A Bill For An Act To Provide For The Establishment Of The Biodiversity Conservation Training Institute Act 2019 (Bctia) And Other Related Matters

*(Sponsored by Akpose Isaac , Allen Ibinabo Blessing, Edidiong Enefiok UdofiaNyang, Martins Victor Johnson, Anthony Joseph Bareyei)*

4. A Bill for an Act for the Establishment of a Trust Fund for the Execution of Development Projects in the South East of Nigeria

*Sponsored by Ukairo Ezinma Ukpai, Okoro Mark Ogbonnaya, Akpotue Ifeoma, Ngwu Ijeoma Jennifer, Udonu Chinonso Lilian, Onwuckekwa Chijioko)*

5. A Bill For An Act to provide for effective and efficient rehabilitation and resettlement of Displaced Persons in the Northeast, address the social issues of rapid Population Explosion and the Almajiri System, as well as tackle the Environmental threats posed by Desertification, Climate Change, Global Warming, and the establishment of an Environmental Task Force, with a mandate to safeguard and check harmful environmental practices in the Northeast; and for Related Matters

*( Sponsored by: Joseph John, Khadijah El-Usman, Mukhtar Abdulrahman, Wafar Elam Afartinda, Hadiza Adam Sheikh Abdullahi and Hafiz Mohammed Sulaiman)*

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6. A Bill For An Act To Modernise Farming Practices in Northwest Nigeria And Other Related Matters

*(Sponsored by Aisha Ibrahim Ja'e, Masirana Alhassan, Umar Ibrahim Safana, Abdulkadir Sumayya Marafa, Zayyan Bello Usman, Rukayya Abdullahi Goje and Yusuf Abdullahi Ahmad)*

{PB. 000}  
C00

## A BILL FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH-CENTRAL CONFLICT  
RESOLUTION COMMISSION TO ADDRESS INTRA AND INTER-  
COMMUNAL CONFLICTS WITHIN THE NORTHCENTRAL GEO-  
POLITICAL ZONE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by*

*Honourable Winner Adebayo*

*Honourable Rotshak Micah Piwuna*

*Honourable Kator Gondo Aluta*

*Honourable Iveren Emmanuella Keghku*

*Honourable Dogara Nuhu Tagyiagbe*

*Honourable Jonathan Omonogun*

*Honourable Kaltimi Muhammed Galadima*

Enacted by the PLAC Model Legislative Assembly as follows-

Enactment Clause

### PART 1 – ESTABLISHMENT, ETC. OF THE NORTH – CENTRAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION COMMISSION

1. –(1) There shall be established a body to be known as the North – Central Conflict Resolution Commission to address Intra and Inter-Communal Conflicts within the North – Central Geo-Political zone to serve as an intervention programme to mediate, reconcile, adjudicate and resolve intra and inter communal conflicts within the North – Central region of Nigeria (in this Act referred to as the “Commission”).

Establishment  
of North  
Central  
Conflict  
Resolution  
Committee

(2) The Commission –

(a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal; and

(b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

(3) may hold, acquire, and dispose any property or interest in property, movable or immovable for the purposes of its functions under this Act.

(4) shall have its headquarters and Liaison office in Plateau and Benue States respectively.

2. –(1) There is hereby established for the Commission a Governing Board (in this Act referred to as the “ the Board”) which shall consist of –

Establishment and  
Membership of  
Governing Board

(a) a Chairman appointed by the President;

(b) two representatives from the traditional institutions;

(c) a representative from each of the seven states of the North Central geopolitical region;

(d) two representatives of civil society organisations;

(e) one representative of select conflict resolution practitioner institution;

(f) a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources;

(g) a representative of the Ministry of Justice;

(h) a representative of the Ministry of Water Resources and Rural Development;

(i) a representative of the Ministry of Interior;

(j) two representatives of religious institutions;

(k) one representative of Miyetti-Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN);

(l) the secretary.

(2) Members of the Board other than the Chairman and the Secretary shall be part-time members.

## PART II – FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

### 3. The Commission shall –

- (a) serve as a centre to develop a critical conflict resolution process and plan effective security in the North – Central communities;
- (b) formulate policies and programmes for the successful resolution of communal ethno-religious, indigene-settler and Herder -Farmer conflicts and facilitation of bottom-up communal peace building in the North-Central region;
- (c) be charged with the responsibility of conflict monitoring, conducting investigation and fact-finding missions on communal clashes and implementing early warning mechanisms;
- (d) facilitate trainings on alternative dispute resolutions methods, conflict management, interest-based negotiation and conflict prevention forums;
- (e) engage with local stakeholders such as traditional leaders, religious leaders, farmers, herdsman, Non-Governmental Organisations and other organisations running local peace processes;
- (f) provide an interface between security agencies, civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations;
- (g) advise the Federal Government on the funding and compensation process for communities affected by communal clashes;
- (h) recommend policy matters related to alleviating conditions of internally displaced persons including ensuring protection and humanitarian assistance of displaced communities during and after

Functions of  
the  
Commission

displacement as well as during return, reconstruction and social reintegration;

(i) ensure coordination with the state governments, other relevant agencies and partners to organise community-level peace initiatives;

(j) establish programmes that will facilitate inter-communal dialogue, organise dispute resolution centres for mediation, negotiation and reconciliation and other alternative dispute resolution mechanisms;

(k) ensure that the peace intervention and negotiations between communal stakeholders are conducted with fairness and transparency;

(l) organise mass sensitization campaigns to promote communal cohesion and education;

(m) identify and engage with stakeholders who orchestrate or are directly involved in violence and hostile activities.

(n) advise the Federal Government on the Demobilisation, Disarmament and Rehabilitation (DDR) processes to disengage, demobilise and rehabilitate communal armed groups;

(o) recommend and implement community-based approaches to reconciliation and transitional justice;

### PART III – STAFF OF THE COMMISSION

4.-(1) There shall be for the Commission a Chairman and Secretary who shall-

- (a) be appointed by the President;
- (b) be rotated among member states from the North Central geo-political zone;
- (c) possess skills and 10 years cognate experience.

Qualifications of  
Chairman and  
Secretary



(2) The Chairman, in addition to chairing the Board, shall be the Chief Executive of the Commission.

(3) The Secretary shall subject to the control of the Board, be responsible for;

(a) the execution of the policies and the decisions of the Board and its day-to-day operations and administrations;

(b) keeping records of proceedings of the Board;

(c) the direction and management of all other employees

(4) The Secretary shall hold office -

(a) for a term of 3 years and may be reappointed for a further term of 3 years and no more and on such terms and conditions as may be contained in his letter of appointment;

(b) on such terms and conditions and otherwise as may be specified in his letter of appointment.

5. The Board shall have the power to appoint for the Commission such other employees as it may deem necessary for the efficient performance of its functions under this Act and shall have power to pay persons so employed such remuneration as the Commission may determine with the approval of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission.

#### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish the North-Central Conflict Resolution Commission to address inter and intra communal conflicts in the North - Central region to serve as an intervention to resolve protracted conflicts and promote peace building in the North Central communities as well as fostering humanitarian assistance and transitional justice.

**SCHOOLS GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING  
(PRIMARY AND SECONDARY) BILL, 2019**

**ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS**

**Sections**

- 1. Objective of the Act**
- 2. Commencement**
- 3. Citation**
- 4. Application**
- 5. Duration**
- 6. Establishment of Guidance and Counselling Unit**
- 7. Establishment of a Supervisory Board**
- 8. Removal of a member**
- 9. Payments**
- 10. Functions of the Board**
- 11. Proceedings**
- 12. Guidance and Counselling Programmes**
- 13. Rights to Privileged Communication**
- 14. Conflict of interest**
- 15. Psychological Evaluation**
- 16. Funding**
- 17. Penalty**
- 18. Severability Clause:**
- 19. Interpretation**

**A BILL FOR AN ACT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND  
REGULATION OF A GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING  
UNIT IN ALL GOVERNMENT OWNED PRIMARY AND  
SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NIGERIA AND FOR OTHER  
RELATED MATTERS THERETO**

*Sponsors:*

*Hon. Akinpelumi Teniola  
Hon. Fehintola Omotesho  
Hon. Mayowa Mogbojuri  
Hon. Musa Olatunji  
Hon. Omoniyi Olorunnisola  
Hon. Omolola Adeyemi*

ENACTED by the House of PLAC 2019 Assembly, Federal  
Republic of Nigeria as follows:

1. The primary objectives of this Bill shall be to;

- (a) Provide Guidance and Counselling services for students at the primary and secondary level of education
- (b) Assist students identify and modify maladaptive behaviours and developmental needs.
- (c) Ensure Guidance and Counselling becomes an integral component of the educational mission in Nigeria.
- (d) Improve the involvement of members of staff of schools, parents and members of the community in the execution of Guidance and Counselling programs.
- (e) Mandate the Guidance and Counselling Supervisory Board to establish a Guidance and Counselling unit for all schools
- (f) Assist students to identify and cope with any disability they may have.

Objectives

[PB. 19.12.2019

**Schools Guidance and Counselling  
(Primary and Secondary) Act, 2019**

C007

(g) Establish a Guidance and Counselling Supervisory Board in Nigeria.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2. The provisions of this Act shall come into force as from the day it is published in the official gazette of the National Assembly.   | Commencement                                   |
| 3. This Act may be cited as the “Schools Guidance and Counselling (Primary and Secondary) Act 2019”.  | Citation                                       |
| 4. This Act shall apply to all Government owned Primary and Secondary schools in Nigeria.   | Application                                    |
| 5. This Act shall continue to be in force until repealed in a manner prescribed by law.   | Duration                                       |
| 6. (1) There shall be Established a Guidance and Counselling unit in all Government owned Primary and Secondary schools in Nigeria (hereinafter referred to as “The Unit”).<br>(2) The Unit shall consist of at least one Certified Guidance Counsellor to perform the functions of the Unit.<br>(3) For the Purpose of this Act, the Unit shall perform the following functions:<br>(a) Be responsible for preparing students for academic, career and social challenges;<br>(b) Conducting assessments and diagnostic examination for students including the assessment of their developmental, educational, psychological physical abilities and needs;<br>(c) Identifying educational problems in schools that impose barriers and limit active and full participation of students in schools;<br>(d) Implementing measures that address addictions and other problems that children and young people are faced with;<br>(e) Initiating and conducting mediation and other forms of support in crisis situations such as teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, school violence/child bullying, gang activities that students are involved in. | Establishment of Guidance and Counselling unit |

[PB. 19.12.2019

**Schools Guidance and Counselling  
(Primary and Secondary) Act, 2019**

C007

7. (1) There shall be established after the commencement of this Act a Guidance and Counselling Supervisory Board in Nigeria. (hereinafter referred to as “The Board”)
- (2) The Board shall consist of-
- (a) A Chairman, who must have been qualified for a minimum of 13 years in the field of Education or Guidance and Counselling or both.
- (b) At least five persons with relevant experience from the Ministry of Education with relevant experience in the field of education.
- (c) At least five Persons who are qualified and Certified as a Guidance Counsellor with a minimum of 10 years experience.
- (3) The Chairman and the member of the Board shall;
- (a) Be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister for Education.
- (b) Be persons with proven integrity and with relevant cognitive experience.
- (4) The Chairman and other members of the Board;
- (a) Shall hold office for a period of four years in the first instance and on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed in their letters of appointment and;
- (b) May be reappointed for a further period of four years upon satisfactory performance and no more.
8. (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 7 of this Act, a member may at any time be removed from office by the President for inability to discharge the functions of his office (whether arising from infirmity of mind or body) or for any fraudulent act or misconduct.
- (2) A Member may resign his membership by a notice in his handwriting addressed to the Chairman and other members of the Board and that Member shall on the date of the acceptance of the resignation by the Board cease to be a member of the Board.

Establishment of a  
Supervisory BoardRemoval of a  
member

[PB. 19.12.2019

**Schools Guidance and Counselling  
(Primary and Secondary) Act, 2019**

C007

Payments

9. A member of the Board shall be paid such emoluments, allowances, and benefits as the President from time to time approve.

10. (1) The Board shall:

Functions of the  
Board

(a) Be a body corporate to supervise and regulate the practise of Guidance and Counselling in schools.

(b) Be responsible for the creation of policies, guidelines, and procedures to provide direction to schools and a comprehensive Guidance and Counselling program to be used within the schools' learning environment.

(c) Be responsible for the appointment of Guidance Counsellors and evaluation of their qualifications in schools.

(d) Monitor the conditions affecting the practise of Guidance and Counselling.

(e) Conduct regular inspections of the Units in schools and adopt measures for the enhancement of the profession and the maintenance of high professional, technical and ethical standards.

(f) Be responsible for the creation of database and educational resources and dissemination of information in the area of career guidance for schools.

(g) Constructively challenge and critically review proposals and information provided by members of the management body in its management functions as well as its decisions.

11. (1) The Board shall, for the purpose of this Act meet not less than six times in a year.

Proceedings

(2) Every meeting of the Board shall be presided over by the Chairman and in the absence of the Chairman at the meeting, a member may be appointed by the members present to act as Chairman of that particular meeting.

(3) The quorum at a meeting of the Board shall be one-third of its total membership.

[PB. 19.12.2019

**Schools Guidance and Counselling  
(Primary and Secondary) Act, 2019**

C007

- (a) The Board shall meet as when agreed or upon the Chairman giving a seven days notice .
- (b) A Member may also summon a meeting where it is supported by not less than five other members. In such instance, he shall summon a meeting of the Board to be held within seven days from the date on which the notice us given.
- (c) Where the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person, on a particular matter, the Board may co-opt him to the Board for a sub period as it thinks fit but a person who is a member by virtue of this sub-section shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board and shall not count towards a quorum.

12. (1) The Units in schools, in line with the guidelines of the Board shall conduct programmes quarterly.

Guidance and Counselling  
Programmes

(2) Upon the creation of such programmes, their primary objectives shall be to;

- (a) Provide a structure to help meet the guidance and counselling needs of all students.
- (b) Assist students understand themselves and build meaningful relationships with others.
- (c) Help students plan and achieve educational goals and explore personal career paths.
- (d) Provide consultation and co-ordination services to educators, parents, administrators, and others who work with students.
- (e) Provide developmental as well as preventative and reactive services.

(3) The Board, alongside relevant stakeholders in the educational process shall play a pivotal role towards the development and implementation of comprehensive Guidance and Counselling programmes in all schools;

- (a) Assist in communicating the aims, objectives, and outcomes of the program to both students and parents.

(b) Ensure that the program is an integral component of the curriculum at all levels .

(c) Encourage parental interest and involvement in and communication about the program in schools.

(d) Provide assistance, resources, and professional development to facilitate the successful establishment, implementation, and evaluation of the program in schools.

(e) Provide on-going district support and monitoring of the program.

(f) Encourage the involvement of stakeholder groups in the program in order to make shared decisions and provide solutions that benefit student learning and development.

13. (1) A Guidance Counsellor in Units, in accordance with this Act cannot without the consent of the students disclose any information as to any privileged communication or information and document which has been acquired in while conducting the psychological evaluation.

Right to Privileged  
Communication

(2) Notwithstanding the confidentiality clause, information gathered from the psychological evaluation may be disseminated to the appropriate person or body where further help is required.

(3) Any evidence obtained in violation of this provision shall be inadmissible for any purpose in any proceeding.

(4) Where there is a breach of this section, appropriate action will be taken in accordance with this Act and other applicable laws

14. (1) A Guidance Counsellor is expected to avoid situations where personal interests conflict with official duties and in such cases, should declare his own personal interest and refrain from deliberations with respect to the matter.

Conflict of Interest

(2) A Guidance Counsellor must adhere to the principles of ethical decision making to resolve ethical dilemma in counselling.



15. (1) The Guidance and Counselling Unit shall carry out regular Psychological Evaluation for all school students in every school session, which shall be conducted at the beginning of every academic term.

Psychological Evaluation

(2) Upon the Psychological evaluation of the student, any of these causes of action may be taken in order to support the student's developments:

- (a). Recommendation of individualised early support issued by the Guidance Counsellor in charge of the unit of the school.
- (b) Statement granting permission to follow an individualised program.
- (c) Statements confirming specific learning difficulties (if any).
- (d) Direct psychological and educational support provided by the Guidance Counsellors.
- (e) Statements recommending modification of educational requirement.
- (f) Statement recommending the inclusion of a student in therapeutic classes.
- (g) To do such other things necessary to support the development of a student.

16 (1) The Board shall cause to be prepared, not later than 30<sup>th</sup> November in each year, an estimate of expenditure for the implementation for the succeeding year and when prepared they shall be submitted through the Minister to the President for approval.

Funding

(2) The Board shall cause to be kept proper accounts and the accounts shall be audited by the auditors appointed by the Board and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the Federation.

17. Any person who violates any provision of the Bill shall be punished with an imprisonment of not less than 6 months but not more than 8 years or a fine not less than 50,000 naira but not more than 200,000 or both as is in the discretion of the court.

Penalty

18. If any part of this Bill is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining part(s) not affected thereby, if separable, shall continue to be valid, enforceable, and operational.

Severability Clause

19. This part of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

“**Student**” means a person enrolled in a government owned primary or secondary school.

Interpretation

“**Guidance and Counselling**” includes psychological testing, (i.e Personality, career, interests, attitude, mental ability, achievement) research, referral and group processes, learning and study orientation for the promotion of personal, social, educational, and career development of students.

“**Unit**” means department/body/office to render Guidance and Counselling services to the students in the schools.

“**Guidance Counsellor**” means any person trained, registered and certified to give professional advice on personal, careers and psychological problems.

“**Supervisory Board**” means body overseeing and regulating activities of the Guidance and Counselling Units in schools in Nigeria.

“**School**” include all Government owned primary and secondary schools in Nigeria.

“**Psychological Evaluation**” means written test conducted to assess academic, behavioural, social-emotional, vocational and adaptive functioning of the student.

“**Academic Term**” means a portion of an academic year.

“**Quorum**” means minimum numbers of members of the board to be present at meetings.

# **THE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION TRAINING INSTITUTE ACT 2019**

## **A BILL FOR**

**An Act to provide for the establishment of the BIODIVERSITY  
CONSERVATION TRAINING INSTITUTE ACT 2019 (BCTIA) and other  
related matters**

Sponsored by:

*Hon. Akpose Isaac*

*Hon. Allen Ibinabo Blessing*

*Hon. Edidiong Enefiok Udofia*

*Hon. Inyang Martins Victor*

*Hon. Johnson Anthony*

*Hon. Joseph Bareyei*

## **SECTION OVERVIEW**

### **PART I: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE**

1. Establishment of the Institute

### **PART II: COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL**

2. Establishment and constitution of the Council.
3. General functions and powers of the Council.
4. Power of the Institute to enter contracts, to hold property and to invest.
5. Secretary to the Council.
6. Appointment of the principal and other staff.
7. Tenure of the office.
8. Discipline of students.

### **PART III: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

9. Annual budget and estimates, etc.
10. Revenue of the Institute.
11. Donations for particular purposes.
12. Payment into bank.

#### **PART IV: MISCELLANEOUS**

13. Power to make bye-laws.
14. Interpretation.
15. Short title.

#### **SCHEDULE**

Supplementary provisions relating to the Council

#### **PART I: ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE**

**1.** (1) There shall be established an Institute to be known as the Biodiversity Conservation Training Institute (in this Act referred to as “the Institute”). *Establishment of the Institute*

(2) The Institute shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

#### **PART II: COMPOSITION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL**

**2.** (1) There shall be established a body to be known as the Council of the Biodiversity Conservation Training Institute (hereinafter referred to as “the Council”). *Establishment and constitution of the Council.*

(2) The Council shall consist of the following members—

- (a) The Minister of Environment, who shall be the Chairman;
- (b) One person appointed by the Permanent Secretary to represent the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology;
- (c) One person appointed by the Permanent Secretary to represent the Federal Ministry of Finance;
- (d) The Federal Adviser on Technical Education;
- (e) The Principal of the Institute;
- (f) Two persons appointed by the Minister to represent the National Biosafety Management Agency;
- (g) One person appointed by the Minister to represent the National Environmental Standards and Regulation Enforcement Agency (NESREA); and
- (h) One person appointed by the Minister to represent the interest of other bodies (excluding the Nigerian National

Petroleum Corporation) engaged in the oil industry in Nigeria.

(3) The provisions set out in the Schedule to this Act shall apply in relation to the constitution of the Council and as to other matters therein specified.

(4) The Minister may by order published in the Federal Gazette amend the provisions of the Schedule to this Act, and such provisions shall have effect, as amended.

3. The functions of the Institute shall be to -

(a) Provide courses of instruction, training and research in bio-conservation technology and produce scientist and such skilled personnel normally required for bio-conservation including wild-life conservation and care;

(b) Develop and manage bio-conservation and wide-life conservation parks that aim to conserve and prevent rare and few species from going extinct and also replace the lost ones.

(c) Run from time-to-time documentaries of activities and events in the field of wide life conservation and relating such documentaries to the public;

(d) Develop a world class tourism business around the South-South region;

(e) Arrange conferences, seminars and study groups relative to the field of learning specified in paragraph (a) of this subsection; and

(f) Perform such other functions as in the opinion of the Council to promote the objectives of the Institute, including, without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, the making of such regulations as may be necessary for entry into and type of courses approved by the Institute, the duration of such courses and their academic standards, and the recognized equivalents of such certificates and diplomas that the Institute may award.

*General functions and powers of the Council*

4. (1) The Institute may enter into such contracts as may be necessary or expedient for the carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.

*Power of the Institute to enter contracts, to hold*

(2) The Institute may acquire and hold such movable *property and to* or immovable property as may be-necessary or expedient *invest.* for carrying into effect the provisions of this Act, and for the same purpose may sell, lease, mortgage, or otherwise alienate or dispose of any property so acquired.

(3) Subject to section. 11(1) of this Act, the Institute may invest its funds in such manner and to such extent as it may. Think necessary or expedient.

5. (1) The Registrar of the Institute shall be the *Secretary to the* secretary to the Council and shall attend all meetings of *Council* the Council and its committees.

(2) In the absence of the Registrar, the chairman of the Council may, after consultation with the principal, appoint a suitable person to act as secretary for any particular meeting.

(3) The secretary to the Council or a person appointed under subsection of this section shall not be entitled to vote on any question before the Council unless he is so entitled as a member of the Council.

6. (1) The principal of the Institute, who shall be the *Appointment of* chief academic and administrative officer, shall be *the principal and* appointed by the Council on such terms and conditions as *other staff* it may think fit, and he shall have power to exercise general authority over the staff, and shall be responsible for the discipline of the Institute.

(2) The vice-principal, heads of departments, the Registrar, and any other academic and senior administrative staff shall be appointed by the Council on the recommendations of a committee appointed under paragraph (3) of the Schedule to this Act, to be known as the "Appointment Committee" which shall be charged by the Council with the responsibility for the making of recommendations for the appointment of academic and senior administrative staff.

(3) The power to appoint other categories of staff shall be exercised by the Principal with the assistance of such committee as maybe constituted by him for such purpose.

7. (1) If it appears to the Council that a member of the Council who is a member by virtue of section 2 of this Act should be removed from office on the grounds of misconduct her inability to perform the functions of his office, the Council shall, after consultation with the interest represented by such member, make a recommendation to that effect to the Minister; and if the Minister approves the recommendation, he shall remove the member from the membership of the Council. *Removal from office of members of the Council, etc.*
- (2) If it appears to the Council that the principal; vice-principal or any other member of the academic or senior administrative staff of the Institute should be removed from office or employment on the grounds of misconduct or inability to perform the functions of his office, the Council shall make a recommendation to that effect to the Minister and, if the Minister approves the recommendation, the Council shall remove the person concerned from his office or employment.
- (3) Nothing in subsection (2) of this section shall be construed as precluding the Council from exercising disciplinary control (other than the power of removal from office or employment) in relation to the persons to whom that subsection applies; and in the operation of subsection (2) of this section, the Council shall have power at any time to suspend the person concerned from his office or employment until the decision of the Minister on the recommendation made by the Council is known.
- (4) Other categories of staff shall for the purposes of discipline be subject to the authority of the principal, so however that no member of such staff (except members who are daily paid) shall be removed from office without the approval of the Council; and in exercise of his authority under this section, the Principal shall have power to appoint, in any case where he considers it appropriate so to do, a disciplinary panel of such number of members of the staff of the Institute as he may in his

discretion determine for the purpose of advising him on any particular matter relating to discipline.

8. (1). Subject to the provisions of any bye-law made under the provisions of section 13 of this Act, the Principal shall have power to exclude or suspend for such period as he may in his discretion determine any student from attending the Institute for any course which the principal considers adequate to warrant such action; and any such exclusion or suspension shall be reported to the Council so soon thereafter as may be convenient. *Discipline of students*
- (2). A student may, with the approval of the Council, be expelled by the Principal for misconduct.

### **PART III: FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

9. (1). As soon as may be after the end of March in any year after the commencement of this Act, the Council shall cause to be prepared a statement of its income and expenditure during the previous financial year together with a statement of the assets and the liabilities of the Institute as at the last day of that financial year. *Annual budget and estimates, etc.*
- (2) The statements referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall, when certified by the Principal, he audited by an independent firm of auditors appointed by the Council with the approval of the Minister, and shall be published within six months thereafter in the Federal Gazette.
- (3) The Council shall cause to be prepared not later than 1 December in any year estimates of revenue and expenditure for the ensuing financial year and when prepared they shall be submitted to the Council for approval.
10. The revenue of the Institute shall include:- *Revenue of the Institute*
- (a) Fees charged by and payable to the Institute in respect of students;
  - (b) Any other amounts, charges or dues recoverable by the Institute;
  - (c) Revenue, from time to time, accruing to the Institute by way of subvention, grants-in-aid, endowment or



otherwise;

(d) Interests on investments; and

(e) Donations and legacies accruing to the Institute from any source for the general or special purposes of the Institute.

- 11.** (1). Donations of money to be applied for any particular purpose shall be placed to the credit of a special reserve account and may be invested in such securities or other investments as may be approved by the Minister until such time as they may be expended in fulfillment of such purposes: *Donations for particular purposes*
- Provided that the Institute shall not be obliged to accept a donation for a particular purpose if it is contrary to its interest.
- (2) The interests derived from the investments referred to in subsection (1) of this section, unless the terms of the donation otherwise require, shall be deemed to be revenue of the Institute.

- 12.** All sums of money received on account of the Institute shall be paid into such bank as may be approved by the Council for the credit of the Institute's general, current or deposit account: *Payment into bank*
- Provided that the Council may invest, as it deems fit, any money not required for immediate use other than donations of money referred to in subsection (1) of section II of this Act.

#### **PART IV: MISCELLANEOUS**

- 13.** (1) The Council may, within the scope of its authority under this Act, make bye-laws relating to any internal and domestic matters placed by this Act under its control and superintendence other than matters for which provision is to be made by standing orders under paragraph 7 of the Schedule or in pursuance of paragraph 8 of the said Schedule. *Power to make bye-laws*
- (2) All such bye-laws shall be in writing and shall come into force when sealed with the seal of the Institute, unless some other date for commencement be therein prescribed.

(3) Nothing in subsection (2) of this section shall make it obligatory for the Council to publish any of the said bye-laws in the Federal Gazette.

**14** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires— *Interpretation*

**“Bye-Laws”** means bye-laws made under section 13 of this Act;

**“Council”** means the governing body of the Institute established under section 2 of this Act;

**“Government”** means the Federal Government;

**“Institute”** means the Bio-diversity conservation Institute established under section 1 of this Act;

**“Minister”** means the Minister charged with responsibility for matters relating to Petroleum

**“Property”** includes rights, liabilities and obligation

**“Registrar”** means the registrar of the institute

**“Staff”** means all persons employed to the Council to serve at the Institute.

16. This Act may be cited as the Bio-diversity Conservation Institute Act, 2019. *Short title*


## **SCHEDULE**

[Section 2(3).]

*Supplementary provisions relating to the council*

*Term of office of members*

1. (1) A Member of the Council who is a Member by virtue of section 2 (2) (f) or (g) of this Act shall hold office for a period of three years beginning with the date on which he is appointed.  
(2) A Member of Council holding office as specified in sub-paragraph (1) of this paragraph may, by notice to the council, resign his office.  
(3) A person shall cease to hold office as a Member of the Council and otherwise than by removal or misconduct, shall be eligible for re- appointment
2. (1) where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Council that vacancy shall be filled by the appointment



of a successor to hold office for the remainder of the term of office of his predecessor, so however that the successor shall represent the same interest as his processor.

(2) The Council may act, notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership or the absence of any member.

### ***Committee***

3. (1) The Council may appoint one or more committee(s) to which it may delegate any of its function.

(2) No decision of a committee shall have effect unless it is confirmed by the Council.

### ***Meeting of the Council***

4. (1) The Council shall meet for the conduct of business at such times and place as the Chairman may appoint but shall not meet less than twice in a year.

(2) The Chairman may at any time, and shall at the request in writing of not less than four members of the council, summon a meeting.

(3) Particulars of the business to be transacted at any meeting shall be circulated to members with the notice of the meeting.


### ***Power to co-opt members***

5. (1) Where the Council desires to obtain the advice of any person on any particular matter, it may co-opt such person as a member for a meeting whether or not expressly convened for the purpose of considering the particular matter.

(2) Such member shall not be entitled to vote nor shall he count towards a quorum.

### ***Questions how decided***

6. (1) Every question put before the Council at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting.



(2) Four members shall form a quorum at any meeting of the Council.

(3) The chairman shall, at any meeting, have a vote and, in the case of an equality of votes, may exercise a casting vote.

7. Subject as aforesaid, the Council shall make standing orders with respect to the holding of meetings, the nature of notices to be given, the proceedings thereat, the keeping of minutes of such proceedings and the custody and production for inspection of such minutes.

#### ***Absence of the Chairman***

8. If the Chairman is absent from a meeting of the Council, the members present shall elect one of their number to act as chairman for ‘the purpose of that meeting.’

#### ***Contracts and instruments***


9. (1) Any contract or instrument which if, entered into, or executed by a person not being a body corporate would not be required to be under seal may in like manner be entered into or executed on behalf of the Institute by any person generally or specifically authorized by it for that purpose.

(2) Any Member of the Council or of a Committee thereof, who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Council or’ a committee thereof, shall forthwith disclose ‘his interest to the’ Council and shall not vote on any question relating to such contract or arrangement.

#### ***Seal of the Institute***

10. (1) The common seal of the institute ‘shall not be used or’ affixed to any document except in pursuance of a resolution duly passed at a properly constituted meeting of the Council and recorded in the minutes of such meeting.

(2) The fixing of the seal of the Institute shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or some other Member authorized generally’ or specifically by

- 
- the Council to act for that purpose.
- (3) Any document purporting to be a ‘document duly executed under the seal’ of the institute, shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to be so executed.

#### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish the Biodiversity Conservation Training Institute, Calabar to make comprehensive provisions for its due management.

**A BILL FOR AN ACT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRUST FUND FOR THE EXECUTION OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN THE SOUTH EAST OF NIGERIA**

*Sponsored by*  
*Hon. Ukairo Ezinma Ukpai*  
*Hon. Okoro Mark Ogbonnaya*  
*Hon. Akpotue Ifeoma*  
*Hon. Ngwu Ijeoma Jennifer*  
*Hon. Udonu Chinonso Lilian*  
*Hon. Onwuckekwa Chijioke*

ENACTED by House of PLAC, Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:

**PART 1**  
**ESTABLISHMENT, ETC OF THE SOUTH EAST DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND AND THE GOVERNING BOARD**

1. (1) There is established a South-East Development Trust Establishment of Fund Act ( hereinafter referred to as “the Trust Fund”). South-East of
- (2) The Trust Fund- Development
- (a) is a corporate body with perpetual succession and a Trust Act common seal;
- (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name.
- (3) The Member States of the Trust Fund shall include all states of the South East Geopolitical zone, that is:
- I. Abia State.
  - ii. Anambra State.
  - iii. Ebonyi State.
  - iv. Enugu State.
  - v. Imo State
  - vi. Any other state that may be added to the South East Geopolitical zone.
- Without prejudice to the above, any community outside of the South-East may benefit and be included in any program being implemented by the Board.
- (4) The Trust Fund will have its head office in Enugu, Enugu State and liaison offices shall be established at the capital cities of each of the Member States and major States of the Federation.

2. The Trust Fund shall consist of
- (1) Funds as provided for in Section 3, 4 and 5 of this bill;
  - (2) such moneys as may from time to time, be granted to or deposited with the Trust Fund by the Federal or a State Government, any other body or institution whether local or foreign;
  - (3) proceeds from all other assets that may, from time to time, accrue to the Trust Fund;
- Establishment of the Trust Fund
3. The Federal Government shall deduct 5% of the monthly statutory allocation due to the Member states and remit same to the Trust Fund.
- Monthly statutory allocation
4. (1) There shall be established a scheme known as the South-East Development Trust Fund Scheme ( hereinafter referred to as “the Scheme”)
- (2) The Scheme shall be a Public Private Partnership intervention that shall
- (i) enable the various levels of government to leverage on private sector funding for the development of projects by the fund;
  - (ii) focus on the development of eligible projects in an efficient and efficient manner that creates value through private sector discipline;
  - (iii) guarantee participants in the Scheme timely and full recovery of funds provided for the development of the eligible projects.
- (4) Participation in the scheme shall be by contributing money, capital, machinery, land, intellectual property and any other means of production to the Trust fund.
- (5) Participants in the Scheme shall be entitled to recover contributions as credit against tax payable to the Federal and State government.
- (6) Contributions to the Trust Fund shall be exempted from tax.
- Establishment of South-East Development Trust Fund Scheme
5. (i) The Board shall issue a South-East Development Trust Fund Credit Certificate (The Certificate) to the participants.
- (ii) The Certificate shall contain the sum of the Contribution made by the Participant as it relates to projects undertaken by the Trust fund
- (iii) The Board shall not issue a certificate to a person or an organisation unless the person or organisation is
- a) Duly registered with the Board as a participant.
  - b) Provides evidence of contribution to any project undertaken by the Trust Fund
- Issuance of Certificate

**PART II**  
**STRUCTURE OF THE TRUST FUND**

6. 1) There is hereby established for the Trust Fund; a governing board ("The Board") which shall consist of - Establishment of a Trust Fund

- (a) a Chairman;
- (b) three Executive Directors
- (c) a representative each of the following member states, that is:
  - (i) Abia State
  - (ii) Anambra State
  - (iii) Ebonyi State
  - (iv) Enugu State and
  - (v) Imo State
- (d) The following ex-officio members:
  - i. A representative of the Minister and Commissioner in charge of Finance at Federal and State level respectively
  - ii. A representative of the Minister and Commissioner in charge of Works at Federal and State level respectively
  - iii. A representative of the Attorney General and Commissioner of Justice at Federal and State level respectively
  - iv. A representative of the Federal Inland Revenue Service and each of the Member State's Internal Revenue Service.

(2) The Chairman and other Members of the Board shall

- (a) be nominated by the Governors of Member States subject to confirmation by their respective State House of Assembly;
- (b) be professionals with a minimum of 10 years practice;
- (c) be persons of proven integrity and ability;
- (d) be excluded from contributions to the fund;

(4) The supplementary provisions set out in the schedule to this Act shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the board and the other matters contained therein.

(5) The Secretary of the Board shall be appointed by the Board for a non-renewable period of four years.

(1) Subject to the provisions of section 4 of this Act, a Member of the Board, other than an ex-officio member, shall hold office for a term of 5 years at the first instance and may be re-appointed upon satisfactory performance for a further term of 5 years and no more. Tenure of Office

(2) A Member of the board other than ex-officio member may resign



his appointment by notice, in writing under his hand addressed to the board, which resignation shall take effect only upon receipt by board.

8. The Office of the Chairman shall rotate amongst Member States of the Commission in alphabetical order Office of Chairman

9. The Members of the Board shall not be entitled to any remuneration; however, they shall be paid sitting allowances and their reasonable expenses in pursuance of their duties shall be defrayed by the Trust fund.

10. (1) Notwithstanding, the provisions of Section 7, a person shall cease to hold office as a Member of the Board where the person- Disqualification

(a) becomes bankrupt;

(b) is convicted of a felony or any offence involving dishonesty or fraud;

(c) becomes of unstable mind or incapable of carrying out his duties as may be determined by a government medical examiner or the court, or

(d) The Governing Council determines that a prima-facie case of misconduct has been made against him;

(e) in the case of a person possessed of professional qualifications, if he is disqualified or suspended, other than at his own request, from practicing his profession in any part of the world by an order of a competent authority made in respect of that member, or

(f) he resigns his appointment by a letter addressed to the board.

(2) Where a vacancy occurs in the Membership of the Board it shall be filled by the appointment of a successor to hold office for the remainder of the term of office of his predecessor, so however, that the successor shall represent the same interest and shall be appointed by the representative's state governor subject to confirmation by the board.

10. (1) There shall be established in the offices of the Trust fund, the following departments; Departments

(a) the Department of Research and Development.

(b) the Department publicity and Communications;

(c) the Department of Project Management;

(d) the Department of Administration and Human Resources,

(e) the Department of Project Monitoring and Evaluation;

(f) the Department of Accounting;

(g) the Department of Audit and Internal affairs; and

(h) the Department of Legal Services.

10. The Board shall make regulations, subject to the approval of the governing council for the regulation of the internal affairs of the Trust Fund.

11. (1) There is hereby established for the Trust Fund, a South-East South-East

Development Trust Fund Governing Council (the Governing Council) which shall consist of-

(a) the Governors of the Member States of the South –East geographical zone

(b) two other persons as may be determined, from time to time, by the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces

(2) The Governing Council is responsible for the monitoring of the activities of the Board, with a view to achieving the objective of the Trust Fund.

(3) The Governing Council may make rules regulating its own proceedings

Development Trust Fund Governing Council

12. The Governing Board shall be responsible for the following:

a. Deciding the development projects to be executed for the benefit of the region, such decision being by a simple majority of all members present and voting

b. Formulating policies and guidelines for the disbursement of funds for the projects;

c. Ensuring the swift completion of the approved project.

d. Overseeing the general management of funds towards attaining the objectives of the Fund.

Functions and Powers of the Governing Board

PART III  
FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

13. All expenditures of the Trust Fund shall be defrayed from the Trust Fund with the approval of the Board.

Trust Fund

14. The accounts of the Trust Fund shall be audited quarterly and independent external auditors shall conduct forensic audit of the activities of the Trust Fund every two years. The external auditors shall also report directly to the Governing Council.

Accounts

15. The accounts and audit reports of the fund shall be made available to the public.

Audit


16. The Trust Fund shall be exempted from the payment of tax, levies, statutory charges accruable to all levels of government provided that the Trust Fund shall be liable to pay for services provided by the government.

Exemption from Tax

PART IV  
MISCELLANEOUS

17. The Board shall publish an annual report of activities in compliance with reports prepared by public companies.

Annual Report

- 
18. Members of the Board shall be immune from civil liability for acts performed in good faith to further the objectives of the Trust Fund. Immunity
19. No civil proceedings shall be commenced against the Board without a prior 2 months written notice issued to the Trust fund, stating the grievances sought to be redressed. Statutory Notice
20. This Bill shall be referred to as The South East Development Trust Fund Bill 2019. South-East Development Trust Fund Bill



## **Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019**

### **NORTHEAST REHABILITATION, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BILL, 2019**

#### **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

An Act to provide for effective and efficient rehabilitation and resettlement of Displaced Persons in the Northeast, address the social issues of rapid Population Explosion and the Almajiri System, as well as tackle the Environmental threats posed by Desertification, Climate Change, Global Warming, and the establishment of an Environmental Task Force, with a mandate to safeguard and check harmful environmental practices in the Northeast.

# Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

## PART I

### REHABILITATION AND RESETTLEMENT OF BOKO HARAM VICTIMS

1. Rehabilitation
2. Resettlement

## PART IV

### TACKLING DESERTIFICATION IN THE NORTHEAST

3. Mapping out of Endangered Areas
4. Awareness Programme
5. Introduction of Environmental Studies in Schools
6. Prohibition of Overgrazing in Endangered Areas.
7. Utilization of Technology
8. Adoption of Rehabilitative Methods

## PART V

### PROHIBITION OF INDISCRIMINATE FALLING OF TREES

9. Prohibition of Illegal Logging and Penalty
10. Adoption of Alternative Energy Sources
11. Creation of Reservation Areas and Recreational Parks.
12. Adoption of Environmentally Friendly Farming Practices

## PART VI

### AFFORESTATION

13. Mobilization of Communities
14. Research
15. Rewards/Incentives for Deserving Communities

## PART VII

### ESTABLISHMENT OF A NORTHEAST ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE

16. Establishment of a Northeast Environmental Task Force



## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

17. Establishment of Membership of the Governing Council
18. Proceedings of the Council.
19. Tenure of Office.
20. Cessation of Office.
21. Allowances of Members.
22. Powers of the Council.
23. Functions of the Environmental Task Force.
24. Powers of the Environmental Task Force.

### PART VIII

#### APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES OF THE COMMANDANT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE

24. Appointment and Duties of the Commandant of the Task Force.
25. Staff of the Environmental Task Force and their Remuneration.
26. Appointment and Secondment from Public Service.
27. Structure of the Environmental Task Force.
28. Pension and Gratuity.
29. Funding of the Environmental Task Force.
30. Power to accept Gifts.
31. Annual Estimate and Expenditure
32. Audit
33. Annual Report.
34. Loans
35. Service of Documents
36. Court Awards
37. Indemnity
38. Damages
39. Regulations of Act

## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

### NORTHEAST REHABILITATION, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY BILL, 2019

#### A Bill

#### For

**An Act to provide for effective and efficient rehabilitation and resettlement of Displaced Persons in the Northeast, address the social issues of rapid Population Explosion and the Almajiri System, as well as tackle the Environmental threats posed by Desertification, Climate Change, Global Warming, and the establishment of an Environmental Task Force, with a mandate to safeguard and check harmful environmental practices in the Northeast; and for Related Matters.**

#### *SPONSORS*

*Hon. Joseph John*

*Hon. Khadijah El-Usman*

*Hon. Mukhtar Abdulrahman*

*Hon. Wafar Elam Afartinda*

*Hon. Hadiza Adam Sheikh Abdullahi*

*Hon. Hafiz Mohammed Sulaiman*

ENACTED by House of PLAC, Federal Republic of  
Nigeria as follows:

#### PART I – REHABILITATION AND RESETTLEMENT OF BOKO HARAM VICTIMS IN THE NORTHEAST

1. (1) The Federal Ministry of Health shall liaise with relevant government agencies and non-governmental organizations to provide psychological counseling and advice to victims of Boko Haram, especially those who exhibit signs of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Mental health Assistance

## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

(2) The Federal Ministry of Environment shall undertake an environmental clearing exercise to rid parts of the Northeast of unexploded war remnants (landmines), so as to ensure a safety of lives and properties of inhabitants.

Explosives waste management

(3) The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development shall make arrangements for the reunification of displaced persons who were separated from their families, as a result of the Boko Haram crisis in the Northeast.

Reuniting families

2. (1) The Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development shall liaise with the Federal Ministry of Finance and other relevant agencies to provide financial support to victims of Boko Haram, whose homes were torched during attacks from insurgents in the Northeast, so as to enable them rebuilt and renovate their homes.

Disaster management

(2) The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) shall be saddled with the responsibility of identifying and verifying, as well as documenting claims by victims, solely to determine those eligible for financial support.

Victim Documentation

(3) The Northeast Development Commission, the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing, and other relevant government agencies shall undertake the reconstruction and renovation of schools, roads, hospitals, bridges, police stations, markets, worship centres etc, destroyed as a result of the Boko Haram insurgents' attacks.

Reconstruction

### PART IV – TACKLING DESERTIFICATION IN THE NORTHEAST

3. (1) The Federal Ministry of Environment shall make provision to map out areas under serious threat of



## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

desertification, so that necessary actions can be taken to contain such threats. This shall be achieved through the following;

- a. Classifying such areas as “Endangered Areas”.
- b. An area classified as (a) above shall be subjected to thorough evaluation by environmental experts, who in turn shall lay out appropriate measures to be taken.

4. (1) The Federal Ministry of Information and Culture, as well as the National Orientation Agency (NOA) shall sponsor radio, television and newspaper adverts to create awareness on the threat of desertification in the Northeast.

(2) Mobilization of community leaders, religious leaders, market men and women, parents, and youths in various communities across the Northeast, to sensitize them on the dangers posed by desertification to their sources of livelihood and their lifestyle in general.

5. The Federal Ministry of Education, through the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) shall undertake to introduce a subject to be called “Environmental Studies” in primary and secondary schools in the Northeast, and the country at large. In this regard;

- a. A Committee of experts on environment shall be constituted to immediately develop a curriculum for the subject in sub section (1) above.
- b. Experts and researchers on environment shall be recruited to write textbooks with which students shall be taught.
- c. The subject “Environmental Studies” shall be introduced into primary and secondary schools, not

Endangered Areas

Media Orientation

Community sensitization

Curriculum Adjustment

## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

later than five (5) years of this Act coming into effect.

- d. Adequate number of qualified teachers shall be employed and deployed to primary and secondary schools accordingly.

6. Over-grazing in the “Endangered Areas” of the Northeast shall be prohibited forthwith.

Over-grazing

- a. A person who contravenes section (6) above, commits an offence, and is liable upon conviction, to a fine of N100, 000; as a first time offender.
- b. Where a person is convicted multiple times, such a person, in addition to the payment of the N100.000 fine shall serve a jail term of not more than 90 days.

7. The Federal Ministry of Environment shall liaise with the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Ecological Fund Office shall make provision for the procurement of state of the art gadgets and equipment for the detection and regeneration of desert prone areas in the Northeast.

Detection of desert prone areas

8. The adoption of environmentally friendly farming practices, discouraging indiscriminate bush burning, over cultivation/utilization of land, illegal mining and other harmful environmental practices, shall be promoted through grassroots mobilization and sensitization programmes by the NOA across communities in the Northeast.

Environmentally friendly practices

### PART V –PROHIBITION OF INDISCRIMINATE FALLING OF TREES

9. (1) Logging activities in “Endangered Areas” shall by this Act be prohibited. Under no circumstance should logging be allowed in such areas.

Logging Activities

## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

(2) A person who contravenes sub section (1) above, commits an offence and is liable upon conviction to the following

- a. A fine of N250, 000 or;
- b. A jail term of two (2) years.
- c. Where a person is convicted multiple times, the penalties in (a and b) above shall apply.

10. Community members shall be encouraged to utilize alternative energy sources such as kerosene and cooking gas, other than the firewood and charcoal that are mostly used in different communities across the Northeast. The Federal Ministry of Information and Culture, as well as NOA shall make provision for awareness and sensitization programmes.

Alternative Energy sources

11. The Federal Ministry of Environment shall liaise with the Federal Ministry of Culture and Tourism to create reservation areas and recreational parks, which shall aid in the conservation of the environment, as well as serve as relaxation and educational centres.

Reservation and recreational Centers

12. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture shall liaise with the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture to make provision for the sensitization of the people of the Northeast on the best and environmentally friendly methods of farming to adopt.

### PART VI - AFFORESTATION

13.(1) The Federal Ministry of Environment shall liaise with the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to make provision for the distribution of seedlings of drought resistant trees, and the mass mobilization of communities in the Northeast to plant and nurture them.

Planting of Trees

## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

(2) Community members shall also be encouraged to plant local species such Moringa Oleifera, Africa night shade, drought resistant bamboo etc, alongside the ones to be distributed by the Ministries in sub section (1) above. In areas where there is a shortage of rainfall, arrangement shall be made to provide mini irrigation facilities, in order to enhance the success of the tree planting programme.

14. The Federal Ministry of Environment, the Ecological Fund Office and the Federal Ministry of Finance shall provide funds for scholars and researchers in the field of environment and related fields, to undertake research programmes; which shall be aimed at discovering drought resistant and fast growing large trees which are capable of acting as wind breakers.

Research programs

15. In order to encourage tree planting programme across communities in the Northeast, the Federal Ministry of Environment shall make provision to identify and recognize communities and individuals who take tree planting seriously, and reward them accordingly. The essence of this is to provide incentive for such communities and individuals to do more. Such rewards shall take the following forms;

Rewards

- a. Construction of community projects such as roads, market stalls, recreation centres, rehabilitation of schools etc.
- b. Provision of scholarship to indigent students in primary, secondary and tertiary institutions.
- c. Recruiting individuals who display exceptional zeal for tree planting as ambassadors to motivate others to take tree planting seriously.

## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

### PART VII – ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NORTHEAST ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE

Environmental task force

16. (1) There is established, the Northeast Environmental Task Force (in this Act referred to as “the Environmental Task Force) to be placed under the Presidency.

(2) The Environmental Task Force-

- a. is a corporate body with perpetual succession; and a common seal,
- b. may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
- c. may acquire, hold and dispose of property, movable or immovable.

(3) The head office of the Environmental Task Force shall be in Maiduguri, Borno State.

17. (1) There is established a Governing Council for the Environmental Task Force (in this Act referred to as “the Council”) which shall conduct the affairs of the Environmental Task Force.

Task force Governing Council

(2) The Council shall consist of -

- a. one person from each state in the Northeast;
- b. a representative each from the following;
  - i. Federal Ministry of Environment,
  - ii. Federal Ministry of Agriculture,
  - iii. Federal Ministry of Environment,
  - iv. Federal Ministry of Water Resources,
  - v. Federal Ministry of Education,
  - vi. Federal Ministry of Finance,
  - vii. Federal Ministry of Information,



## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

- viii. Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Social Development, and Disaster Management,
- ix. The Federal Ministry of Science and Technology,
- x. The Federal Ministry of Culture and Tourism,
- xi. National Emergency Management Agency, and
- xii. The Ecological Fund Office; and

(3) The Chairman of the Council and one representative each from the 6 geo-political zones shall be appointed by the President subject to the confirmation of the Senate.

18. The supplementary provisions set out in the First Schedule to this Act shall have effect with respect in the proceedings of the Council and the other matters contained in the Schedule.

19. The Chairman and members of the Council shall hold office-

Tenure of Office

- a. for a term of five years only; and
- b. on such terms and conditions as may be specified in their letters of appointment.

20. (1) A person ceases to hold office as a member of the Council if he-

Cessation of Office

- a. becomes bankrupt, or compounds with his/her creditors;
- b. is convicted of felony or any offence involving dishonesty or fraud;
- c. is guilty of a serious misconduct in relation to his duties;
- d. is disqualified of his professional/academic qualification; or

## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

- e. resigns his appointment through a letter addressed to the President.

(2) If a member of the Council ceases to hold office for any reason whatsoever before the expiration of the term for which he/she is appointed, another person representing the same interest as that member shall be appointed to the Council for the unexpired term.

(3) A member of the Council shall be removed by the President on the recommendation of the Council if he/she is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the Environmental Task Force or the public that the member continues in that office.

21. Members of the Council shall be paid allowances and expenses as the Government may direct.

22. The Council shall have power to-

- a. manage and superintend over the affairs of the Environmental Task Force;
- b. make rules and regulations for the effective running of the Environmental Task Force;
- c. liaise with the public and private sectors, and other bodies to ensure trees and other measures put in place to secure the environment are protected;
- d. receive complaints and reports on the abuse of power and authority by overzealous officials of the Environmental Task Force;
- e. collaborate with the media to make information available and accessible to members of the public on environmental safety measures; and
- f. ensure research, development and education on environmental issues.

Power of council

## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

23. (1) The Environmental Task Force shall have the power to do any lawful thing, which will facilitate carrying out of its functions and in particular may-

- a. arrest persons found logging and overgrazing in “Endangered Areas”;
- b. arrest persons found cutting down trees illegally or indiscriminately;
- c. issue license to loggers;
- d. supervise the cutting down of trees for domestic and industrial purposes;
- e. purchase or acquire any assets, business or property considered necessary for the proper conduct of its activities;
- f. sell, let, lease or dispose of any of its property;
- g. undertake or sponsor research where necessary for the performance of its functions; and
- h. train managerial, technical, field or other category of staff for the purpose of running the affairs of the Environmental Task Force.

Power of task force

(2) The power conferred on the Environmental Task Force may be exercised by it or through any of its employees or agent authorized in that behalf by the Environmental Task Force.

(3) The Environmental Task Force shall not be subject to a direction, control or suspension by any other authority or person in the performance of its functions under this act except the President.

### PART VIII – APPOINTMENT AND DUTIES OF THE COMMANDANT AND OTHER STAFF.

24. (1) There shall be a Commandant for the Environmental Task Force who shall –



## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

- a. be a retired military officer not below the rank of colonel or its equivalent;
- b. be a person from the Northeast; and
- c. be responsible to the Council for the execution of the policies and administration of the daily affairs of the Environmental Task Force.

25. The Council shall appoint for the Environmental Task Force such number of employees as may, in the opinion of the Council, be expedient and necessary for the proper and efficient performance of its functions.

Employment of Task Force Officials

26. (1) The Council may appoint for the Environmental Task Force, either directly or by secondment from any relevant Public Service of the Federation, such number of employees as may, in the opinion of the Council, be required to assist in the performance of any of its functions under this Act.

(2) The person seconded under this section, may elect to be transferred to the service of the Environmental Task Force, and any previous service the person may have rendered in the Public Service shall count as service to the Environmental Task Force for the purpose of any pension subsequently payable by the Environmental Task Force.

27. There shall be established, in the head office of the Environmental Task Force, such departments as may be deemed necessary for the effective and efficient functioning of the Environmental Task Force.

Head Office of Task Force

28. The Staff of the Environmental Task Force are entitled to pension, gratuity, and any other retirement benefit in accordance with the Pension Reform Act.

## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

29. (1) The Environmental Task Force shall establish and maintain a fund into which shall be paid and credited –

- a. all subventions and budgetary allocations from the Federal Government of Nigeria; and
- b. such money as may be granted to the Environmental Task Force by anybody or institution within or outside Nigeria.

Task Force Fund

(2) The Environmental Task Force shall defray all expenditures incurred by it including –

- a. cost of administration;
- b. payment of salaries, fees, or other remuneration, allowances, pensions and gratuities payable to members and employees of the Environmental Task Force; and
- c. anything done in connection with any of its functions.

(3) The Council shall cause the account of the Environmental Task Force to be audited quarterly and shall be externally audited once every year.

30. (1) The Environmental Task Force may accept gift of land, money or other property on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organization making the gift, provided such terms and conditions are not inconsistent with any prevailing law.

Audit

(2) The Environmental Task Force shall not accept any gift if the condition attached are inconsistent with the functions of the Environmental Task Force under this Act.

## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

31. (1) The Environmental Task Force shall –

- a. cause to be kept accounts and records of transaction and affairs of the Environmental Task Force; and
- b. ensure all payments out of its Fund are correctly made and properly authorized.

(2) The Environmental Task Force shall ensure that adequate control is maintained over the assets of, or in the custody of, the Environmental Task Force and over its incurring of liabilities.

Assets of task force

32. (1) The Auditor General of the Federation shall –

- a. inspect and audit the account and records of financial transactions of the Environmental Task Force;
- b. inspect records relating to assets of the Environmental Task Force; and
- c. draw attention of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to any irregularities disclosed by the inspection and audit.

(2) The Auditor-General of the Federation may dispense with all or any part of detailed inspection and audit of accounts or record referred to in subsection (1) above.

(3) The auditor or an officer authorized by him is entitled at all reasonable time to a full and free access to all records, documents and papers of the Environmental Task Force, relating directly

## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

or indirectly to the receipt or payment of money by the Environmental Task Force or to the acquisition received, custody or disposal of assets by the Environmental Task Force.

33. The Environmental Task Force shall submit –

- a. an annual report of its activities to the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation not later than 30<sup>th</sup> of June of each financial year; and
- b. a copy of its audited accounts and a copy of the annual report to the National Assembly.

Annual report

### PART IX – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

34. The Environmental Task Force may borrow such money as it may require to execute or complete some of its special projects.

35. A notice, summons, or other documents required or authorized to be served upon the Environmental Task Force under the provisions of this Act, any other law or enactment may be served by delivering it to the Commandant or by sending it by registered post and addressing it to the Commandant at the head office of the Environmental Task Force.

Legal Matters

36. Any such money which may be the judgment of any court awarded against the Environmental Task Force shall be paid from its Fund.

37. A member of the Council, the Commandant, any officer or employee of the Environmental Task Force shall be indemnified against any proceeding, whether civil or criminal, in which judgement is given in his favour or in which is acquitted, if any such proceeding is brought against him/her, in his/her capacity as a

Indemnity

## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

member of the Council, the Commandant, officer or employee of the Environmental Task Force.

38. (1) To be entitled to the damages specifically provided in this Act, it shall be sufficient for a plaintiff or claimant, as the case may be, in a court proceeding to prove the violation of the relevant section of this Act without specific proof of damages.

(2) Nothing in this Act shall prevent a court from accessing and awarding general and special damages in addition to the normal damages provided for in this Act.

39. The Council may make regulations for the purpose of carrying out or giving full effect to the provisions of this Act.

### PART X – INTERPRETATION

In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires –

“afforestation” includes any activity that involves tree planting;

“alternative energy” includes sources of energy such as kerosene, solar and liquefied natural gas.

“awareness” in the context of dissemination of vital information to members of the public;

“Boko Haram” means the insurgent groups in the Northeast, including ISWAP;

“desertification” means a situation in which a community becomes arid and barren;

“document” includes any book register or other record of information, however compiled, recorded or stored;

“Endangered Areas” include all communities threatened by aridity and barrenness.

“environment” means the surface of the earth or the ecosystem;

“Environmental Studies” refers to the teaching and learning of issues relating to surface of the earth or the ecosystem;



## Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

“Environmental Task Force” refers to the Northeast Environmental Task Force established under this Act;

“logging” means the harvesting of trees on a large scale for industrial purpose;

“Northeast” means States of the Federation comprising Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe only.

“rehabilitation” means efforts aimed at making displaced communities habitable or the psychological evaluation and counseling of displaced persons;

“reward” means a compensation or incentive for doing well;

“overgrazing” means the over utilization of grasses for animal consumption;

40. This Act may be cited as the Northeast Rehabilitation, Social and Environmental Sustainability Act, 2019.

# Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019

## SCHEDULE

### SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE COUNCIL

#### *Proceedings of the Council*

1. (1) Subject to this Act and section 27 of the Interpretation Act, the Council may make standing orders regulating its proceedings or those of any its Committees.

(2) The quorum of the Council shall be the Chairman or the person presiding at the meeting and five other members of the Council, one of whom shall be an ex-officio member, and the quorum of any committee of the Council shall be determined by the Council.

2. (1) The Council shall meet whenever it is summoned by the Chairman and if the Chairman is required to do so by notice given to him by at least eight other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Council to be held within 14 days from the date on which the notice was given.

3. (1) The Council may set up one or more committees to perform, on behalf of the Council, such functions as the Council may determine.

(2) A Committee set up under paragraph (1) above shall consider such number of persons as may be determined by the Council and a person shall hold office in the Committee in accordance with the terms of his appointment.

(3) A decision of a Committee is of no effect until confirmed by the Council.

4. (1) The affixing of the seal of the Commission shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Chairman, the Commandant or any member of the Council generally or specifically authorized by the Council to act for that purpose.

(2) A contract or instrument, which if made or executed by any person not being a corporate body would not be required to be under seal, may be executed on behalf of the Environmental Task Force by the Commandant or any person generally authorized by the Council to act for that purpose.

(3) A document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Environmental Task Force shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed.



## **Northeast Rehabilitation Bill, 2019**

5. The validity of any proceeding of the Council or Committee shall not be affected by a –

- a. vacancy in the membership of the Council or Committees;
- b. defect in the appointment of a member of the Council or Committee; or
- c. reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of the Council or Committee.



**A BILL**  
**FOR**  
**AN ACT TO MODERNISE FARMING PRACTICES IN NORTHWEST**  
**NIGERIA AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS**

*Sponsored by*  
*Hon. Aisha Ibrahim Ja'e*  
*Hon. Masirana Alhassan*  
*Hon. Umar Ibrahim Safana*  
*Hon. Abdulkadir Sumayya Marafa*  
*Hon. Zayyan Bello Usman*  
*Hon. Rukayya Abdullahi Goje*  
*Hon. Yusuf Abdullahi Ahmad*

[ ] *Commencement*

BE IT ENACTED by the PLAC assembly of the federal republic of Nigeria as follows:-

1. Poverty has persisted Northwest Nigeria largely because of poor agricultural performance. It is often contended that northern farmers are unsuccessful at intensifying agriculture through the utilization of a method that is environmentally sustainable as well as economically productive.
2. After the commencement of this act, the Ministry of agriculture shall replace crude tools with modern equipment that will make farming easier, take off excessive human labor and improve the current state of agriculture in Northwest Nigeria.
3. Adequate training and seminars shall be held for farmers and new technologies shall be introduced. If possible, farmers should be monitored to ensure new knowledge gained is applied on their farms.
4. The act seek to address the constraints which hinder the progress of farming in the North West Nigerian
  - i. Lack of recent methods, ideas, and equipment in farming is the major thing that limits the progress of farming activities in the North West Nigerian, and thus stagnates development
  - ii. Lack of proper information. There is an information deficit in Nigeria's agriculture sector and modernization cannot thrive if farmers are not equipped with the knowledge required to utilize modern tools and ideas
  - iii. Lack of modern storage tools lead to food wastage. Even after successful farming, poor storage equipment could still stand in the way of successful distribution of good, especially perishable goods.

*Constraint*

5. The primary objective of this act shall be to:-
- (a) educate farmers about the importance of applying the modern farming techniques
  - (b) inform farmers about the significant of using the weather tracking website or applications
  - (c) enlighten farmers on using the advance marketing procedures for conveyance of agricultural products to their ultimate users.
  - (d) edify farmers on the need to learn new techniques to improve their crop yield
- Objectives of the Act*
6. This act may be cited as Northwest agricultural development Act, 2019
- Citation*
7. The main crops in this area include beans, rice, cassava, groundnuts, maize (corn), millet, sorghum and yams.
- Major crops*
8. (a) The absence of irrigation tools limits farming in the Northwest to rainy season which usually begins in June or July, and this is when most planting begins.
- Harvesting Period*
- (b) In September, millet is harvested, followed closely by beans. In late October or November sorghum is harvested. In addition to this, farmers who do not wish for their cereal stalks to be consumed by livestock must also harvest
9. Mechanization shall be provide for weather prediction. The inability of farmers to predict weather conditions can take a toll on farming productivity. There is paucity of farming equipment which can be used to measure the weather.
- Weather Conditions*
10. In the Northwest Nigeria Agricultural sector is and shall continue to be the biggest employer of labour. It currently employs the 70% of the working population in the region. However, Agriculture in this region today is faced with different constraints which hinder productivity.
- Employment*
11. Modern farming technology shall be used to:-
- i. improve the wide types of production practices employed by farmers
  - ii. improve the current method of storage
  - iii. automate the crop production cycle
  - iv. automate the watering activities
  - v. predict the weather conditions
  - vi. improve the
- Modern farming technology*

12. Farmers shall be able to use the adequate marketing techniques to convey their agricultural product to their ultimate users. Relying on the traditional marketing procedures will not lead to profitable outcomes.

*Marketing*

13. The Federal government shall provide farmers with cooling devices for transportation. This will enable food products to remain fresh during transport and upon delivery.

*Transportation*

14. This act shall be apply to Nigeria’s agricultural sector

*Application*

### **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

This Bill seek to address and improve the current practice of agricultural activities in the Northwest Nigeria. Agriculture in Northwest Nigeria employs more than 68% of the working population. However, this numbers has been facing a decline due to the problems facing the sector. The absence of mechanization hamper the progress of farming activities and this stagnates development. For instance, the absence of irrigation tools limits farming in Northern Nigeria to rainy season and lack of modern planting and harvesting tools could lead to an overload on human labour. Likewise, lack of modern storage tools lead to food wastage. In 2018, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development mentioned that about 30% – 40% of the foods produced in Nigeria are ultimately wasted. For example, it takes an average of 6–8 days to move a truckload of tomatoes along the country’s main transport corridor, from Jibiya Katsina state in the northwest to Lagos in the southwest. Unless the cargo is refrigerated, it will perish before reaching Lagos port.



# 2019 LEGISLATIVE INTERNS

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## PRINCIPAL OFFICERS



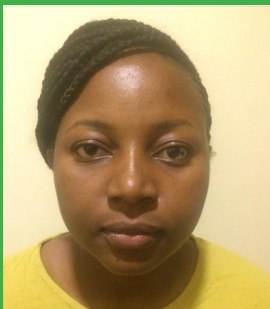
*Speaker*  
**Yusuf Abdullahi Ahmed**  
*Kano*



*Deputy Speaker*  
**Olorunnisola Oluwatosin**  
*Ogun*



*Majority Leader*  
**Zayyan Bello Usman**  
*Zamfara*



*Minority Leader*  
**Lilian Chinonso Udonu**  
*Imo*



*Chief Whip*  
**Iveren Emmanuela Keghku**  
*Benue*



*Deputy Chief Whip*  
**Fehintola Omotesho**  
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*Deputy Minority Leader*  
**Esther Omolola Adeyemi**  
*Ekiti*



*Deputy Majority Leader*  
**Muktar Abdulrahman**  
*Yobe*



*Majority Chief Whip*  
**Umar Safana**  
*Katsina*



*Minority Chief Whip*  
**Kaltimi Galadima  
Muhammad**  
*Nasarawa*



*Clerk, House of Representatives*  
**Hadiza Adam Sheikh Abdullahi**  
*Borno*



*Sergeant-at-arms*  
**Johnson Osaze Anthony**  
*Edo*

## LEGISLATIVE STAFF

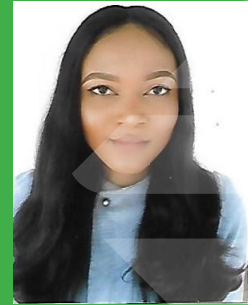
# 2019 LEGISLATIVE INTERNS



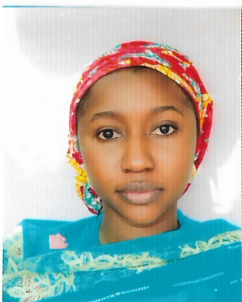
**Khadijah El-Usman**  
*Bauchi*



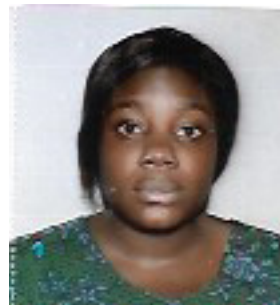
**Wafar, Afartinda Elam**  
*Adamawa*



**Ifeoma Akpotue**  
*Anambra*



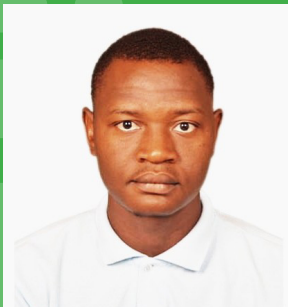
**J'ae Aisha Ibrahim**  
*Kaduna*



**Edidiong Udofia Enefiok**  
*Akwa Ibom*



**Joseph Bareyei**  
*Bayelsa*



**Joseph John**  
*Taraba*



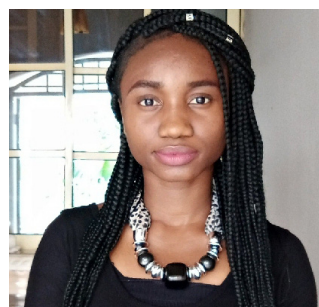
**Isaac Othuouke Akpose**  
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**Jonathan Omonogun Iyanuoluwa**  
*Kogi*



**Winner Adebayo**  
*Kwara*



**Allen Ibinabo**  
*Rivers*



**Inyang Victor Martins**  
*Cross Rivers*

# 2019 LEGISLATIVE INTERNS



**Ogbonnaya Mark**  
*Ebonyi*



**Gondo Kator Aluta**  
*Niger*



**Onwuchekwa Samson Chijioke**  
*Abia*



**Musa Olatunji**  
*Ogun*



**Micah Piwuna Rotshak**  
*Plateau*



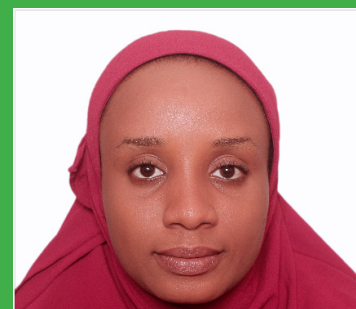
**Ruqayya Abdullahi Goje**  
*Jigawa*



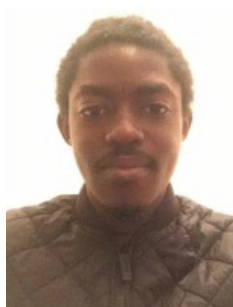
**Ijeoma Jeniffer Ngwu-Hyacinth**  
*Enugu*



**Mayowa Mogbojuri**  
*Ondo*



**Sumayya Abdulkadir Marafa**  
*Kebbi*



**Mohammed Hafiz Sulaiman**  
*Gombe*



**Nuhu Dogara Tagyiangbe**  
*FCT*



**Teniola Akinpelumi Timothy**  
*Oyo*



**Ezinma Ukairo**  
*Abia*



**Alhasan Masiranna**  
*Sokoto*





## About PLAC

Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) is a non-governmental organization committed to strengthening democratic governance and citizens' participation in Nigeria. PLAC works to enhance citizens' engagement with state institutions, and to promote transparency and accountability in policy and decision-making processes.

The main focus of PLAC's intervention in the democratic governance process is on building the capacity of the legislature and reforming the electoral process. Since its establishment, PLAC has grown into a leading institution with capacity to deliver cutting-edge research, policy analysis and advocacy. PLAC receives funding support from donors and other philanthropic sources.