THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

PRISONS ACT (REPEAL AND ENACTMENT) BILL, 2018
(SBs. 125; 191; 288 & 308)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL THE PRISONS ACT CAP. P29 LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 AND ENACT THE NIGERIAN CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRISONS AND NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES IN NIGERIA AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS, 2018

FIRST READING
SECOND READING
THIRD READING AND PASSAGE

THURSDAY, 26TH MAY, 2016
WEDNESDAY, 26TH OCTOBER, 2016
THURSDAY, 20TH DECEMBER, 2018
PRISONS ACT (REPEAL AND ENACTMENT) BILL, 2018

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A BILL  
FOR  
AN ACT TO REPEAL THE PRISONS ACT CAP. P29 LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 AND ENACT THE NIGERIAN CORRECTIONAL SERVICE BILL TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRISONS AND NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES IN NIGERIA AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS  

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

1. (1) There is established for the Federation, the Nigerian Correctional Service (in this Bill referred to as "the Correctional Service"), which provides custodial and non-custodial services.
   
   (2) The Service shall consist of Nigerian:
   
   (a) Custodial Service; and
   
   (b) Non-Custodial Service.

   (3) There shall be for the administration of the Service:

   (a) a Controller- General;
   
   (b) a minimum of 8 Deputy Controllers—General; one of whom shall be responsible for the Non-Custodial Service; and
   
   (c) such other subordinates to the Controller—General as may be necessary for the administration of the Service.

   (4) The National Headquarters of the Service shall be in the Federal Capital Territory.

2. (1) The objectives of the Bill are to:

   (a) be in compliance with international human rights standards and good correctional practices;
   
   (b) Provide enabling platform for implementation of non-custodial measures;
   
   (c) enhance the focus on corrections and promotion of reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders; and
   
   (d) establish institutional, systemic and sustainable mechanisms to address the high number of persons awaiting trial.

3. (1) The Controller-General shall be appointed by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the recommendation of the Board subject to confirmation by the Senate.

   (2) The appointment shall be from serving Assistant Controllers-General and above who have:

   (a) evidence of attendance and satisfactory performance at all mandatory training and command courses;
   
   (b) vast experience in correctional management and administration;
   
   (c) evidence of quality leadership and good track record in the Service; and

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(d) evidence of satisfactory performance in field command positions.

4. (1) The Controller-General shall:

(a) have the general superintendence of the Service;

(b) exercise the powers, perform and all the duties and functions necessary to give effect to section 2 of the Bill;

(c) in accordance with the provisions of the Administration of Criminal Justice Act and other relevant legislation and policies, administer non-custodial measures;

(d) create a platform for interfacing with other criminal justice institutions;

(e) develop a plan at the beginning of each year stating the following activities of the Correctional Service:

(i) Custodial Service; and

(ii) Non-Custodial Service; and

(f) deploy officers and materials to Custodial and Non-Custodial Institutions and Centres.

(2) In line with the provision of subsection (1), the Controller-General shall also superintend on:

(a) inmates safety and humane custody;

(b) reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders;

(c) Non-Custodial Institutions and Centres; and

(d) any other custodial and Non-Custodial facility.

(3) The person appointed to the office of the Controller-General shall hold office for a single term of five years or on attainment of the mandatory retirement age of 60 or 35 years in service, whichever comes first.

5. The Controller-General shall direct the most senior Deputy Controller-General to discharge the duties of the office in his absence.

6. (1) The Controller-General shall not be removed from office during the subsisting tenure except where:

(a) a report of gross misconduct or incapacity to perform his function due to physical or mental ill health has been made against him by any person to the Board;

(b) the Board considers the allegation made under subsection (1)(a) serious and sets up a Committee, including relevant experts where necessary to investigate the matter;

(c) the Board considers the allegation and after fair hearing recommends that the Controller-General be removed from office; and

(d) the President accepts the recommendation of the Board and effects the removal.
(2) If the office of the Controller-General becomes vacant for reasons stated in section 6 (1) (a), the most senior Deputy Controller-General will assume office in acting capacity pending the appointment of a substantive Controller-General.

7. (1) The President shall on the recommendation of the Board, appoint a minimum of eight Deputy Controllers-General of whom shall be responsible for the non-custodial service.

(2) The appointment shall be from amongst serving Assistant Controllers-General who have demonstrated:

(a) evidence of attendance and satisfactory performance at all mandatory training and command courses;

(b) vast experience in correctional management and administration;

(c) evidence of quality leadership and good track record in the Service; and

(d) evidence of satisfactory performance in field command positions.

(3) Any person appointed as Deputy Controller-General, shall hold office until retirement or shall be removed by the President, on account of gross misconduct or incapacity based on recommendation made by the Board.

8. (1) There shall be established for the Correctional Service, the:

(a) National Headquarters;

(b) Zonal Offices;

(c) State Commands;

(d) Custodial and Non-Custodial Centres; and

(e) Training Institutions.

(2) The National Headquarters shall consist of the Directorates of:

(a) Finance and Accounts;

(b) Inmates’ Training and Productivity;

(c) Human Resources;

(d) Works and Logistics;

(e) Health and Welfare;

(f) Training and Staff Development;

(g) Operations; and

(h) Non-Custodial Service.
(3) Each of the Directorates shall be superintended by a Deputy Controller-General of Corrections who shall report to the Controller-General.

(4) The Zonal Offices shall be headed by Zonal Coordinators who are officers of the rank of Assistant Controllers-General and shall have the general superintendence of the State Commands and the Centres under their zones.

(5) The State Commands shall be headed by officers of the rank of Controllers and shall have the general superintendence of the Custodial and Non-Custodial Centres under their States; and

(6) The Non-Custodial Service in each State shall be superintended by an officer of at least the rank of Deputy Controller of Correctional Service who shall report to the State Controller of Correctional Service on all non-custodial activities and services in the State, including those implemented by State and Civil Society Organisations.

PART I - CUSTODIAL SERVICE

9. (1) The Minister may, by order in a Federal Government Gazette:

(a) declare any public building, with requisite facilities in an appropriate location within Nigeria, to be a Custodial Centre; and

(b) specify the area and the landmass for which the Centre is established:

Provided that in every building so declared as a Custodial Centre, sleeping accommodation shall meet all requirements of health, with consideration given, among other things, to adequate floor space, water and sanitation amenities, lighting and ventilation.

(2) A building declared to be a Custodial Centre under this part includes:

(a) the grounds and building within its enclosure; and

(b) any detention centre for the temporary detention which is declared by the Minister by order in the Federal Government Gazette to be part of the Custodial Centre.

(3) Upon the commencement of this Bill, no structure shall be erected anywhere less than 100 meters from the outer limit of the Custodial Centre land as designated by the beacon in the survey plan.

(4) Application of subsections (1) - (3) shall follow due process in relation to consultation and effective securing of the area and the buffer zone without prejudice to already existing provisions on payment of appropriate compensation.

(5) The category of Custodial Centres in the Federation is as set out in the First Schedule to this Bill.

(6) The Minister shall by the order establishing a Custodial Centre or by a separate order in the Federal Government Gazette designate every Custodial Centre as a Custodial Centre of a particular category.

10. Corrections shall be the primary goal of the Correctional Service and the functions are:

(a) taking custody of all persons legally interned;

(b) providing safe, secure and humane custody for inmates;
(c) conveying remand persons to and from courts in motorised formations;

(d) identifying the existence and causes of anti-social behaviours of inmates;

(e) conducting risk and needs assessment aimed at developing appropriate correctional treatment methods for reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration;

(f) implementing reformation and rehabilitation programmes to enhance the reintegration of inmates back into the society;

(g) initiating behaviour modification in inmates through the provision of medical, psychological, spiritual and counseling services for all offenders including violent extremists;

(h) empowering inmates through the deployment of educational and vocational skills training programmes, and facilitating incentives and income generation through Custodial Centres, farms and industries;

(i) administering borstal and related institutions;

(j) providing support to facilitate the speedy disposal of cases of persons awaiting trial; and

(k) performing other functions as may be required to further the general goals and functions of the Service.

11. In accordance with the Pensions Reform Act 2004, the staff and officers of the Correctional Service are entitled to gratuities, pensions and other benefits as are prescribed in the Act.

12. (1) Every person confined in a Custodial Centre is deemed to be in the legal custody of the Custodial Centre Superintendent, and shall be subject to discipline and regulations made under this Bill, whether or not the person is within the precincts of the Centre.

(2) In the case of an inmate under sentence of death, the Superintendent shall at such time on the day on which the sentence is to be carried out and from that time until the actual carrying out of the sentence, ensure that:

(a) the inmate is in legal custody of the Sheriff and;

(b) the Sheriff shall have jurisdiction and control over that portion of the Custodial Centre where the inmate is confined and the Custodial officers deployed therein so far as may be necessary for the safe custody during that period and for the purpose relating to such custody; and

(c) where an inmate sentenced to death has exhausted all legal procedures for appeal and a period of 10 years has elapsed without the execution of the sentence, the Chief Judge may commute the sentence of death to life imprisonment.

(3) Subject to subsection (1), the Custodial Centre Superintendent is authorised and required to keep and detain all persons duly committed to the custody by any court, judge, magistrate, justice of the peace or other authority exercising competent jurisdiction, according to the terms of any warrant or detention order by which any such person has been committed until that person is discharged by due course of law.

(4) In the event that the Custodial Centre has exceeded its capacity, the State Controller shall within a period not exceeding one week, notify the Chief Judge of the State, the Attorney-General of the

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State, the Prerogative of Mercy Committee, the State Criminal Justice Committee and other relevant bodies.

(5) In relation to the Federal Capital Territory, the Controller shall notify also the Attorney-General of the Federation and the Chief Judge of the Federal Capital Territory.

(6) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (1) and (2), the Controller General of Correctional Service shall notify the Attorney General of the Federation and the Chief Justice of Nigeria in relation to the Correctional Centres in the country.

(7) Upon receipt of the notification referred to in subsection (4), the notified body shall, within a period not exceeding three months, take necessary steps to rectify the overcrowding.

(8) Without prejudice to subsection (4), the State Controller of Correctional Service in conjunction with the Correctional Centre Superintendent shall have the power to reject more intakes of inmates where it is apparent that the Correctional Centre in question is filled to capacity.

(9) In relation to subsection (6), the Superintendent shall apply the following:

(a) ensure due documentation of the name, date, and other particulars relating to the person that was refused admission and the officer and agency that presented the person for admission into custody; and

(b) render immediate returns on documentation made under paragraph (a) above to the State Controller of Correctional Service.

(10) In relation to subsection (5), the criteria to be considered for the release of inmates or diversion of inmates to Non-Custodial Service may include:

(a) inmates sentenced to three years and above with less than six months to the completion of their sentence;

(b) inmates charged, convicted or sentenced for minor offences;

(c) inmates with civil cases; and

(d) any other criteria as may be determined by the Chief Judge or the Prerogative of Mercy Committee.

(11) A State Controller of Correctional Service shall be sanctioned if he fails to notify the relevant bodies when the Custodial Centre approaches full capacity within the stipulated time frame as stated in subsection (4).

(12) A Custodial Superintendent who fails or refuses to observe the procedure as stated in subsection (6) by continuing to accept inmates after the expiration of the notification timeline shall be sanctioned.

13. (1) When a person is sentenced, committed or transferred to the Custodial Centre, the Correctional Service shall take reasonable steps to obtain, as soon as practicable:

(a) relevant information about the person’s offence, biometrics, personal history, risk and needs assessment, including the person’s psychological or mental health status and his criminal antecedents;

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(b) any reason and recommendation relating to the sentencing or committal that are given or made by the Court that convicted, sentenced or committed the person and any Court that hears an appeal from the conviction, sentence or committal;

(c) any report relevant to the conviction, sentence or committal that is submitted to a Court mentioned in paragraph (b);

(d) any other information relevant to administering the sentence or committal, including existing information from the victim of the offence and the transcript of any comment made by the sentencing court regarding serving the sentence.

(2) The information collected under paragraphs (a) - (d) shall be kept in a centralised database management system of the Correctional Service.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1), a Custodial Centre Superintendent shall refuse to admit any person brought in with a severe bodily injury or who is mentally unstable or in an unconscious state of mind or who is underage.

(4) In relation to subsection (3), the Superintendent:

(a) shall ensure due documentation of the name, date, and other particulars relating to the person that was refused admission and the Officer and Agency that presented the person for admission into custody;

(b) shall render immediate returns on documentation made under paragraph (a) to the State Controller of Correctional Service; and

(c) may rely on relevant professionals in the determination of the state of mind, age or physical bodily conditions as presented.

14. (1) The Correctional Service shall provide opportunities for education, vocational training, as well as training in modern farming techniques and animal husbandry for inmates.

(2) In accordance with the provisions of subsection (1), the Correctional Service shall establish and run in designated Custodial Centres and, industrial centres equipped with modern facilities for the enhancement of vocational skills training for inmates aimed at facilitating their reintegration into society.

(3) Subsections (1) and (2) shall be administered to encourage generation of funds to aid the earning scheme for the inmates as well as aftercare and other support services towards their rehabilitation.

(4) The Controller-General shall approve the sharing of revenue due to the Correctional Service from any enterprise, provided that one-third shall be:

(a) set aside for the inmates participating in the activity;

(b) for sustainability of the enterprise; and

(c) paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation.

(5) The Correctional Service may recommend for issuance of certificates of good behaviour upon discharge to an inmate who had demonstrated good conduct, including those who have acquired training through formal and informal education aimed at facilitating their reintegration.

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(6) A person who is issued with the certificate of good behaviour shall not be discriminated against on grounds of his custodial sentence.

(7) The certificate shall be issued by the Board upon the recommendation of the Controller-General.

(8) The Correctional Service shall take adequate steps to ensure the:

(a) prevention of torture;

(b) prevention of inhumane and degrading treatment against inmates;

(c) prevention of sexual and non-sexual violence and bullying;

(d) effective procedure for:

(i) prevention,

(ii) identification of early warning signs,

(iii) early detection of occurrence,

(iv) punishment of perpetrators, and

(v) protection and treatment of affected victims.

15. (1) Inmates shall not be held in slavery or servitude, and labour carried out by inmates shall neither be of an afflictive nature nor for the personal or private benefit of any correctional officer.

(2) The effect of a sentence of imprisonment with labour passed upon an inmate shall be that such inmate be subjected to such labour as may be directed by the Correctional Centre Superintendent.

(3) The labour referred to in subsection (2) shall, as far as practicable, take place within or outside the Correctional Centre.

(4) The medical officer may certify any inmate to be excused from labour or to perform light labour.

(5) Where it is found that a medical officer falsely certifies an inmate to be excused from labour for any reason, the medical officer shall be appropriately sanctioned.

(6) Notwithstanding the provision of subsection (1), an inmate may be engaged in such labour as may be necessary to keep the Correctional Centre environment clean or for the general purpose of their wellbeing.

16. (1) The Controller-General of Correctional Service may, for security or administrative reasons, order in writing the transfer of any inmate, convicted or un-convicted, to a suitable Correctional Centre whether or not the Correctional Centre is named in the warrant or order of detention and such order by the officer shall be sufficient authority for such transfer.

(2) The correctional authority shall ensure that any unconvicted inmate transferred in accordance with subsection (1) is produced in court whenever required.

(3) Where it appears to the Controller-General that:
(a) the number of inmates is greater than the official capacity of the Correctional Centre and that it is more convenient to transfer the excess number of inmates to another Correctional Centre; or

(b) by reason of the outbreak of a disease within the Correctional Centre or for any other reason, it is desirable to provide for the temporary shelter and safe custody of any inmate, the Controller-General may, by order, direct that as many as the inmates as may be stated in the order shall be kept and detained in a building or place which is outside the Correctional Centre specified in the order and the building or place shall be deemed to form part of the Correctional Centre for the purposes of this Bill until the revocation of the order.

(4) Nothing in this Bill shall be construed as authorising the:

(a) transfer or removal of an inmate to a Correctional Centre of a different security category from that in which he was previously confined; or

(b) keeping or detaining of an inmate in a building or place in which there are confined inmates of a different class from that in which the inmate belongs except where, for security and other reasons in the opinion of the Correctional Centre, the conduct of the inmate necessitates transfer to a Correctional Centre of a different class.

17. (1) Where the presence of an inmate is required before a Court, the Court shall issue an order addressed to the Superintendent requiring the inmate to be produced before the court at the time and place specified in the order, and, by endorsement on the order, require that the inmate be brought up again at any adjourned hearing.

(2) Under subsection (1), proof of service or other acknowledgement with the signature and stamp of the Correctional Centre shall be required as evidence of delivery of the order to the Correctional Centre Superintendent.

(3) Where a notification has been given to the Custodial Centre and the Custodial Centre fails to produce the inmate in court, there shall be sanctions except where:

(a) circumstances arise that are outside the control of the Custodial Centre; and

(b) all necessary steps have been taken ahead of time to notify the court of the absence of the inmate.

(4) If an inmate charged with an offence is brought before a court under this section, the same procedure shall be followed if he had been brought before the court on a warrant.

(5) If the Controller-General receives a request or subpoena that the presence of an inmate is required at any place in Nigeria he shall in writing:

(a) order the inmate to be taken to that place, in compliance with the request after being satisfied that the request is in the public interest; or

(b) order the inmate to be taken to that place forthwith, in the case of a subpoena; and

(6) An inmate taken from Correctional Centre under subsection 5 (a) and (b) is to be kept in such custody and shall be deemed to be in lawful custody.

18. (1) The Correctional Service shall, in compliance with the requirements for efficient management of the criminal justice system, undertake to:
(a) liaise with heads of Justice Institutions and relevant agencies to review and eradicate causes of high numbers of pre-trial detainees and develop effective mechanisms to enhance speedy trial and resolution of such cases;

(b) provide returns and other necessary information to relevant bodies regarding persons awaiting trial in Correctional Centre;

(c) provide necessary support towards the provision of a national database of all persons in all places of detention; and

(d) issue early notification in respect of the Custodial Centre exceeding its capacity to the heads of:

(i) judiciary,

(ii) law enforcement and prosecuting agencies, Administration of Criminal,

(iii) Justice Monitoring Committee,

(iv) Prerogative of Mercy Committee, and

(v) relevant bodies and institutions.

(2) Upon receipt of the notification referred to in subsection (1) (d), the State Controller shall cause to be activated the procedure for refusal to admit awaiting trial persons to its Custodial Centre where the:

(a) the heads of the relevant agencies notified under subsection (1) (d) fail to take necessary steps to address the situation and concerns raised by the Custodial Centre authority;

(b) a reasonable time not exceeding three months has elapsed since the notification was issued by the Custodial Centre’s authority; and

(c) considerable steps shall have been taken to avert the activation of the refusal procedure.

19. (1) Where it appears that it is in the public interest or in the interest of the inmate that, upon discharge, he should be assisted towards effective reintegration, the Correctional Service shall provide:

(a) funds for transportation of the discharged inmates to their place of abode;

(b) aftercare support service; and

(c) any other support as may be deemed appropriate by the Correctional Service.

(2) If the sentence of an inmate expires on a public holiday, the discharge shall take effect immediately on the preceding working day.

(3) An inmate who is under medical treatment when the inmate’s sentence expires, shall not, except at the inmate’s written request, be discharged unless the medical officer certifies that the discharge can be effected without danger to the health of the inmate.

(4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3), the Custodial Centre superintendent shall inform the hospital authority that the inmate’s term has expired.
20. (1) A Correctional Officer may use firearms, tear gas or such other weapons as may be necessary against an inmate escaping or attempting to escape from lawful custody.

(2) A Correctional Officer may:

(a) use firearms on any inmate engaged in any combined outbreak or in any attempt to force or break open the gate or perimeter wall of a Custodial Centre; and

(b) continue to use weapons so long as the combined outbreak or attempt is ongoing.

(3) A Correctional Officer may use weapons against an inmate using violence if the Correctional officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the inmate may cause grievous harm to himself or others.

(4) Before using firearms against an inmate under subsection (1), a Correctional officer shall give warning to the inmates before firing.

(5) A Correctional Officer in the presence of a superior officer may not use weapons of any sort against an inmate under subsection (3), except under the orders of the superior officer but may not wait for the superior officer’s order in self-defense, or where the superior officer is not in the position to give such order.

(6) The use of weapons under this section shall, as far as possible, be to disable and not to kill.

(7) A police officer or any other security agent who is serving as an escort guard in or around a Custodial Centre for the purpose of ensuring the security of the Custodial Centre shall have all the powers and privileges granted to Correctional Officers under this section.

(8) A Correctional Officer may use weapons to prevent or ward off an attack on the Custodial Centre or during escort duties where it becomes obvious to the Correctional Officer that such attacks are aimed at freeing the inmates or endangering the life of the escorts.

(9) In the application of this section, the Custodial Centre Superintendent or the most senior Correctional officer on ground shall ensure compliance with principles of legality, necessity, proportionality and accountability.

(10) In the event of a riot or disturbance in a Custodial Centre, the Superintendent or the most senior Correctional Officer on ground shall:
    (a) appeal to the rioters that their requests or grievances shall be treated expeditiously; and
    (b) where the appeal fails, take necessary steps to restore normalcy as prescribed under this section and the applicable Standing Order.

21. (1) There shall be official visitors of Custodial Centre in Nigeria which shall consist of:

(a) ex-officio who shall be appointed by the President and include:

(i) the Chief Justice of Nigeria and other Justices of the Supreme Court,

(ii) the President and other Justices of the Court of Appeal,

(iii) the Chief Judge and other Judges of the Federal High Court;

(iv) the Chairperson and other Council members of the National Human Rights Commission,
(v) the Director General of Legal Aid Council of Nigeria,

(vi) the President and other executive members of the Nigerian Bar Association,

(vii) the Chief Judge and other Judges of the High Court of a State and the Federal Capital Territory,

(viii) the Grand Khadi and other Judges of the Sharia Court of Appeal and the President and other Judges of Customary Court of Appeal exercising Jurisdiction in the State and the Federal Capital Territory,

(ix) Magistrate and District Court Judges, and

(x) Area Court and Customary Court Judges.

(b) legislative oversight visitors who shall be presiding officers and members of the relevant Committees of the National Assembly and the State Houses of Assembly;

(c) Custodial Centre Visiting Committee which shall be set up by the Minister in consultation with State authorities and shall consist of reputable members of the society and Non-Governmental organisations; and

(d) voluntary visitors who shall be appointed by the Controller-General and consist of retired Correctional Officers with good track records and any other person as the Correctional Service may deem fit to serve as a Custodial Centre visitor.

(2) Information relating to all places of detention and all persons in detention shall be kept by the Ministry supervising Correctional Service, and steps shall be taken by the Ministry to enhance the process, capacities, human rights compliance and security of all facilities holding detainees and inmates including those on pre-trial detention.

22. (1) The functions of Custodial Centre visitors are to:

(a) visit the Custodial Centre and inspect the wards, cells, yards and other apartments or divisions of the Custodial Centre;

(b) receive the complaint (if any) of the inmates;

(c) inspect the journals, registers and books of the Custodial Centre and conditions of treatment of the inmates;

(d) call the attention of the Custodial Superintendent to any irregularity in the administration of the Custodial Centre or structural defects which may require urgent attention.

(2) With respect to the Custodial Centre Visiting Committee, the Committee shall visit the Centre at least once in a month between the hours of 9 am and 3 pm.

23. (1) The Correctional Service shall put in place healthcare services that consist of promotion and protection of physical and mental health, prevention and treatment of diseases.

(2) The health practitioner shall inspect the Custodial Centre daily and advise the Superintendent, the Controller of Correctional Service or the Controller-General of Correctional Service as appropriate, on the:

(a) quantity, quality, preparation and services of food;
(b) hygiene and cleanliness of the Inmates and the Custodial Centres;

(c) sanitation, lighting and ventilation of the Custodial Centre; and

(d) suitability and cleanliness of the Inmates’ clothing and beddings.

(3) The Superintendent shall take immediate steps to give effect to the recommendations if they are not within his competence and shall immediately submit a report to the State Controller.

(4) The Correctional Service shall establish a health centre and deploy at least one medical doctor in all main Custodial Centres.

(5) Where there is no medical officer appointed for a Custodial Centre, the functions of the medical officer shall be performed by the medical officers in the Civil Service of the Federation or a State as may be directed by the Minister of Health or the Commissioner of Health, as the case may be.

(6) The Minister of Health, with the concurrence of the State Commissioner of Health, may authorise a health personnel in the Civil Service of a State to attend to matters pertaining to general sanitation in a Custodial Centre and otherwise to assist the medical officer thereof.

24. Mental Health of Inmates.

(1) Where it appears to the Correctional Centre Superintendent that an Inmate undergoing imprisonment or under sentence of death is of unsound mind, he shall report the matter to the State Controller of Correctional Service who:

(a) shall appoint two or more qualified health practitioners with requisite mental health qualifications, (one of whom shall be a Correctional Centre health practitioner) to inquire into the inmate’s state of mental health;

(b) may, if deemed necessary, order the removal of the inmate from the Custodial Centre to another Custodial Centre within the State or to the closest mental health centre where practicable or any other hospital for appropriate treatment and care; and

(c) where an order is required to remove the inmate to a Custodial Centre outside the jurisdiction of the State Controller, shall report to the Zonal Coordinator or Controller-General, as appropriate.

(2) The health practitioners appointed under subsection (1) shall examine the inmate’s mental health status and give their opinion in a written report to the State Controller not later than two weeks from the receipt of the initial report for submission to the Mental Health Review Board for review and issuance of appropriate certification which shall be forwarded to the Controller-General, the Chief Judge and other relevant authorities.

(3) The Mental Health Review Board referred to under subsection (2) shall be appointed by the Controller-General on the recommendation of the State Controller of Correctional Service and other appropriate State authorities in all the States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory with membership including, at least:

(a) one psychiatrist who shall be the head of the Board;

(b) one representative of Federal or State Psychiatric Hospitals within the State or geo-political zone

(c) one clinical psychologist;

(d) one social worker; and
(e) a medical personnel from the Custodial Centre.

(4) Where an inmate into whose soundness of mind an inquiry has been made under subsection (1)
(a) is under sentence of death, the following provisions shall apply:
(a) the Custodial Centre Superintendent shall, as soon as possible, report the circumstances to the
relevant authority who, on receipt of the report, shall order the execution of the sentence to be
suspended until the report of the Mental Health Review Board has been received; and
(b) if the inmate is certified to be of unsound mind, the relevant authority shall order the execution
of the sentence of death to be stayed and may, by order in writing, direct the Custodial Centre
Superintendent to send the inmate to a suitable mental health hospital.

(5) Where an inmate not under a sentence of death is certified to be of unsound mind under
subsection (2), the following provisions shall apply:
(a) the Controller-General shall in writing direct the State Controller to remove the inmate to a
suitable mental health hospital;
(b) the inmate shall, pursuant to an order made under paragraph (a) and, subject to the mental
health laws, be detained until he is certified by the Mental Health Review Board to be of sound
mind or until the expiration of the sentence, whichever occurs first;
(c) if the inmate is certified to be of sound mind, the Controller-General shall, in writing, direct that
the inmate be moved to the Custodial Centre to serve the remaining part of the sentence; and
(d) if the inmate is still detained in a mental health hospital when the sentence of imprisonment is
about to be determined, the officer in charge of the mental health hospital shall give such
information as may be necessary under the mental health laws to secure consideration of the
question whether the inmate shall be detained under those laws as a person of unsound mind till
the date of the determination of the sentence.

25. (1) In case of serious illness of an inmate confined in a Correctional Centre in which there is no
suitable accommodation, the State Controller, or in an emergency, the Custodial Centre
Superintendent may, on certification by the medical officer, direct the removal of the inmate to a
hospital.

(2) All reasonable precautions shall be taken by the Custodial Centre and medical officers of a
hospital to prevent the escape of the inmates transferred there for treatment.

(3) The Custodial Centres may take such measures for preventing the escape of inmates as may be
necessary, including insisting on having the inmate within sight at all times.

(4) Where in view of the gravity of the offence for which an inmate is in custody or for any other
reason the Custodial Centre Superintendent considers it desirable to take special measures for the
security of the inmate under treatment in a hospital:

(a) the Correctional Centre Superintendent may give the inmate into the charge of fit and proper
persons (not being less than two in number), one of whom shall always be with the inmate day and
night, or he may place the inmate under supervision of other security personnel; and
(b) any person or security personnel, in whose charge an inmate has been placed under paragraph
(a), shall be:
(i) vested with full power and authority to take all necessary steps to prevent the inmate from escaping, and

(ii) responsible for the inmate’s safe custody until the inmate is handed over to the Correctional Centre Superintendent on discharge from the hospital or until the sentence expires, whichever occurs first.

(4) The powers conferred on officers of State authorities under this section shall not be exercised except with the consent of:

(a) the State authority in question; or

(b) such other person or authority to whom the power to exercise such functions has been conferred.

(5) Where it is found that a medical officer falsely certifies an inmate for any reason as required under subsection (1), he shall be appropriately sanctioned.

26. (1) There shall continue to be the Fund (in this Bill referred to as “the Correctional Officers’ Reward Fund”) into which shall be paid all fines and forfeitures inflicted upon Correctional Officers for offences against discipline under regulations or Standing Orders made under this Bill.

(2) The Correctional Officers’ Reward Fund shall be:

(a) administered by the Controller-General in accordance with regulations made under this Bill; and

(b) applied for the purposes of:

(i) rewarding Correctional Officers for extra or special service such as gallantry, long or meritorious service,

(ii) providing comforts, convenience and privilege for Correctional Officers which are not chargeable on the general revenues of the Federation, and

(iii) paying any compassionate gratuity which may be granted pursuant to regulations made under sections 11 and 17 of this Bill to the next of kins or, in his absence, to a member of the immediate family of the deceased Correctional Officer.

(3) There shall be a hazard allowance for officers deployed to serve in high-risk operations or difficult environments which shall:

(a) be reviewed within a period not exceeding three years;

(b) constitute 50% of the officer’s basic salary which is applicable in cases of serious bodily injury; and

(c) constitute 100% of the officer’s basic salary which is applicable in cases of fatality and payable to the officer’s next of kin.

(4) There shall be consideration for the children of an officer who suffers from serious bodily injury or who dies as stated in subsection (3) (b) and (c), and such children shall be allowed to remain in school until a one year period with the possibility of an extension for a few months, if the child is allowed to complete the school year.
27. (1) There shall be established, for the Correctional Service, the training institutions, command schools and colleges.

(2) Every staff on recruitment, shall be trained for a minimum of six months before deployment.

(3) The Correctional Service Staff College and Academy shall take all necessary steps to be upgraded to a degree awarding institution in penal administration and other related courses.

(4) Every staff shall attend and complete, with satisfactory performance, all mandatory courses stipulated for career progression in the Correctional Service.

(5) Training programmes shall be conducted regularly to enhance staff performance and efficiency.

(6) Staff on training shall be:

(a) provided accommodation and feeding;

(b) paid transport allowance; and

(c) paid such other allowances as prescribed in the Public Service Rules.

28. (1) There shall be provided monitoring devices to protect, control and safeguard correctional activities, including observatory towers, double perimeter walls, close circuit television, body scanners, e-monitoring devices, electrically activated alarm systems and instruments of restraint.

(2) The Correctional Service shall establish and maintain a fully equipped armed squads unit, intelligence and investigation unit to enhance security, surveillance, monitoring, intelligence gathering and protection.

(3) In deploying the facilities in subsection (1), priority shall be given to the security requirements of Maximum Security Custodial Centres.

29. (1) A person commits an offence if he:

(a) brings, throws or otherwise introduces into a Correctional Centre, gives to or takes from an inmate, any alcoholic beverage, tobacco, intoxicating or poisonous drug or prohibited article;

(b) communicates or attempts to communicate with an inmate without permission of the Custodial Centre Superintendent;

(c) procures or facilitates the procurement of communication devices for an inmate or makes conversation or aids the making of conversation through mobile phone and other devices to an inmate other than as provided in the Correctional Standing Orders and other related correctional policies;

(d) is found in possession of any article which has been supplied to a Correctional Centre Officer for the execution of his duty or any other Correctional Centre property and fails to account satisfactorily for his possession of the article, or without due authority purchases or receives any property from a Correctional Officer, aids or abets a Correctional Officer to conceal or dispose of any property;

(e) by any means directly or indirectly, procures or attempts to procure or persuade an inmate to desert, or aids, abets or is an accessory to the desertion by an inmate, or having reason to believe

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that an inmate is a deserting inmate harbours that person or aids in the inmate's concealment or rescue;

(f) directly or indirectly instigates, commands, counsels or solicits any mutiny, sedition or disobedience to a lawful command of a senior Correctional Officer by a Correctional Officer, or maliciously endeavours to seduce any Correctional Officer from his allegiance or duty;

(g) knowingly harbours in his house or land or otherwise, or knowingly employs any person under sentence of imprisonment who is at large; and

(h) interferes with an inmate working outside the Correctional Centre or allows such an inmate to enter a house, yard or other premises (unless it is at the request of the Correctional Officer and other person in charge of the inmate) or assist such an inmate to be absent or neglect his work.

(2) Any person who commits an offence:

(a) under subsection (1) (a) and (h), is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding N1,000,000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding 12 months, or both;

(b) under subsections (1) (b), (c), (e) and (g), is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding N3,000,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or both;

(c) under subsection (1) (d), is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding N2,000,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or both; and

(d) under subsection (1) (f), is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding N5,000,000 or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding four years, or both;

(3) The Correctional Officer may arrest such person and hand him over as soon as practicable to a police officer, who shall proceed as if the offence had been committed in his presence.

30. (1) There shall be for the Correctional Service funds appropriated for inmates' feeding as provided by the government.

(2) Subject to subsection (1), the cost of feeding shall be reviewed at a period not exceeding five years from the date of last review or as the national economic circumstance permits.

(3) There shall be the provision of basic needs to meet the minimum standards for the treatment of inmates which includes accommodation, feeding, potable water, hygiene, sewage disposal, clothing and toiletries.

(4) The Controller-General shall be provided with the funds and other resources to meet these minimum requirements under subsection (3).

31. (1) A Correctional Officer from whose lawful custody an inmate escapes, commits an offence unless he has taken adequate measures at all times to prevent such escape, and the burden of proving that such adequate measures were taken in the case lies on the Correctional Officer concerned.

(2) Where the person who escaped from the custody of a Correctional Officer is under a sentence of death or imprisonment for life or is charged with or has been detained on suspicion of having committed an offence punishable with death or imprisonment for life, the Officer concerned, if found culpable, commits a felony and shall be prosecuted.
32. (1) All death in custody shall be immediately reported to the State Controller of Correctional Service by the officer in charge for further communication to the Controller General.

(2) Where an inmate dies or suffers serious bodily injury, the State Controller of Correctional Service shall:

(a) investigate the incident and notify the next of kin, the police and the court;

(b) report to the Controller-General who shall inform the Minister.

(3) An inquest shall be instituted in all cases of deaths in custody to ascertain the nature and circumstances of the death.

(4) Where the investigation reveals that the injury or death was caused by the negligence or unlawful action of a Correctional Officer:

(a) the Correctional Officer shall be suspended and handed over for prosecution;

(b) the officer’s immediate supervising officer shall be sanctioned; and

(c) the Correctional Service shall:

(i) pay appropriate compensation as may be determined by the panel of inquiry or a Court of competent jurisdiction to the victim or the family of the victim whichever is applicable, and

(ii) cover the cost of all hospital and associated expenditure and, in the case of death, all expenditure related to burial rites as may be determined by the panel of inquiry or a Court of competent jurisdiction.

33. (1) The Controller-General shall, for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Bill, make:

(a) regulations with respect to the organisation and administration of correctional facilities;

(b) standing orders for the good order, discipline and welfare of staff and inmates; and

(c) any other administrative action as may be deemed necessary for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Bill.

(2) In relation to subsection (1), specialised civil society groups may provide technical and advisory support to the Controller-General.

34. (1) There shall be a provision of separate facilities for female inmates in all States of the Federation.

(2) The Correctional Service shall provide all necessary facilities to address the special needs such as medical and nutritional needs of female inmates including pregnant women, nursing mothers and babies in custody.

(3) Subsection (2) shall include the provision of a crèche in every female Custodial Centre for the wellbeing of babies in custody with their mothers, as well as prenatal, antenatal health care and sanitary provisions for female inmates.
(4) All female inmates shall undergo pregnancy tests on the first day of admission or as soon as possible but not exceeding 14 days from the date of admission and where the test is positive, the inmate shall be provided with the necessary medical care and support.

(5) Where a female inmate is found to be pregnant while in custody, an investigation, including DNA analysis where needed, shall be conducted to ascertain who is responsible and the perpetrator shall be prosecuted.

(6) Notwithstanding the provisions section, babies shall not remain in custodial facilities beyond 18 months, after which such babies shall be handed over to the families of the inmates, in the absence of which they shall be taken to designated welfare centres.

35. (1) Young offenders shall not be kept in adult custodial facilities.

(2) The Correctional Service shall establish separate male and female Borstal Training institutions for juvenile offenders in all the States of the Federation and their treatment, including rehabilitation, shall be the underlying principle for the custody.

(3) The facilities established under subsection (2) shall serve as rehabilitation and correctional centres for the purpose of processing, confinement and treatment of juveniles and young offenders.

36. (1) Where any action, prosecution or other proceeding is commenced against any person for any act done in pursuance or execution or intended execution of any Act, Law any public duty or authority, or in respect of the alleged neglect or default in the execution of the Act, Law, duty or authority, the provisions of subsection (2) shall have effect.

(2) In furtherance of subsection (1):

(a) the action, prosecution, or proceeding shall not lie or be instituted unless it is commenced within three months after the act, neglect or default complained of, or in case of a continuance act of damage or injury, within three months after the ceasing thereof; and

(b) if the action, prosecution or proceeding is at the instance of any person for causes arising while such person was a convicted inmate, it may be commenced within three months after the discharge of such person from custody.

(3) Without prejudice to the powers of the Attorney-General of the Federation, the Legal officers employed by the Correctional Service shall provide legal representation and advice to the Correctional Service on all matters including those applicable to subsections (1) and (2), as may be required.

(4) Subsection (3) is without prejudice to the Correctional Service engaging the services of other lawyers outside the Correctional Service.

PART II - NIGERIAN NON-CUSTODIAL SERVICE

37. (1) The Nigerian Non-Custodial Service shall be responsible for the administration of non-custodial measures including:

(a) community service;

(b) probation;
(c) parole;

(d) restorative justice measures; and

(e) any other Non-Custodial Measures assigned to the Correctional Service by a court of competent jurisdiction.

(2) There shall be the National Committee on Non-Custodial Measures to be appointed by the President and Constituted by the National Assembly.

(3) The National Committee on Non-Custodial Measures shall consist of:

(a) the Controller-General;

(b) Deputy Controller-General in charge of Non-Custodial Service;

(c) a retired High Court Judge;

(d) the Director of Social Welfare, Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports;

(e) the Director of Youths, Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports;

(f) the Inspector-General of Police or his representative, not below the rank of Commissioner;

(g) a representative from the:

(i) Ministry of Interior not below the rank of a Deputy Director;

(ii) Ministry of Justice not below the rank of a Deputy Director; and

(iii) Administration of Justice Monitoring Committee; and

(h) three representatives of non-governmental organisations working in the relevant sector.

(4) The Chairperson and the members of the National Committee on Non-Custodial Measures shall serve a term of four years renewable for another term of four years and no more.

(5) The National Committee on Non-Custodial Measures shall establish the Technical Committees on:

(a) Parole;

(b) Probation;

(c) Community Service;

(d) Restorative Justice Measures; and

(e) any other thing as may be determined by the National Committee on Non-Custodial Measures.

38. (1) The National Committee on Non-Custodial Measures shall:

(a) coordinate the implementation of non-custodial measures with the Judiciary and other relevant agencies;
(b) monitor and propose measures for effective operation of non-custodial measures;

(c) receive and consider any complaint or view from offenders, victims and affected communities, and make recommendations, where possible, on the nature of non-custodial measures; and

(d) perform any other function required for the proper implementation of the Bill.

(2) The Controller-General shall, in consultation with State and Federal Capital Territory Authority, and with the approval of the National Committee on Non-Custodial Measures, appoint State Committees on Non-Custodial Measures.

(3) The functions of the State and Federal Capital Territory Committees shall align with those of the National Committee on Non-Custodial Measures.

(4) The proposal stated in subsection (1) (b) shall be made available to:

(a) the Controller General;

(b) the Chairperson of the Administration of Criminal; Justice Monitoring Committee;

(c) the Minister of Justice;

(d) Minister responsible for social welfare; and

(e) any other body as may be determined by the National Committee on Non-Custodial Measures.

39. (1) The Controller-General shall make regulations prescribing:

(a) the duties of the supervising officer for each of the non-custodial measures stated in section 43;

and

(b) any other matter that is necessary for the proper implementation of this Bill.

40. (1) The Controller-General shall administer the parole process including:

(a) the appointment of members of the parole board;

(b) supervision of parolees;

(c) rehabilitation of the parolees;

(d) administration of the designated parole facilities; and

(e) undertake any other step for the proper implementation of this provision and other Non-Custodial Measures.

41. (1) the probation services shall include the:

(a) production of pre-sentencing report;

(b) supervision of convicts on probation order as assigned by a court of competent jurisdiction;

(c) production of pre-release report to facilitate reintegration of the offender; and

(d) provision of any other support service as may be required.
42. (1) The Controller-General shall:

(a) appoint supervisors to monitor those sentenced to community service;

(b) receive regular reports from supervisors indicating status of compliance with the Court Order; and

(c) report all cases of non-compliance submitted to him by the designated community service supervisors to the appropriate court for action.

(2) Subsection (1) (b) shall include reports on a number of completed community services.

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of this Bill, all offenders serving punishment of imprisonment imposed on them within the last six months before the coming into force of this Bill may be allowed to apply for community service, if eligible.

43. (1) The Controller-General shall provide the platform for restorative justice measures including:

(a) victim-offender mediation;

(b) family group conferencing;

(c) community mediation; and

(d) any other mediation activity involving victims, offenders and, where applicable, community representatives.

(2) In furtherance to subsection (1), the Correctional Service shall liaise with the Court and other relevant agencies in the provision of these activities.

(3) Restorative justice services may occur:

(a) at pre-trial stage;

(b) at trial stage;

(c) during imprisonment; and

(d) at post-imprisonment.

(4) The Correctional Service shall appoint supervisors to monitor the implementation of activities stated under subsections (1) and (3).

44. There shall be the Special Non-Custodial Fund to be administered by the Non-Custodial Committee into which there shall be paid:

(a) such sums as may be provided by the Government of the Federation or a State for payment into the Fund;

(b) such sums as may be paid by way of contribution under or pursuant to the provisions of this Bill or any other enactment

(c) all sums accruing to the Non-Custodial Service by way of gifts, testamentary disposition, contributions from philanthropic persons or organisations; and
(d) 5% of all fines paid to the Federal Courts.


(2) Without prejudice to section 6 of the Interpretation Act, the repeal of the enactment referred to in subsection (1) does not affect anything done under or pursuant to that enactment.

(3) The saving and transitional provisions of the Second Schedule to this Act shall have effect notwithstanding any other provision of this Bill.

46. In this Bill:

“afflictive nature” means any circumstance which causes grievous physical or mental suffering, pain or distress;

“Chief Judge” means the Chief Judge of the Federal High Court, the High Court of Federal Capital Territory and a State High Court;

“communication device” means any equipment that aids the analog, digital or wireless transmission of data, including mobile phones, tablets, laptops or Bluetooth devices;

“Controller-General” means the Controller-General of the Nigerian Correctional Service;

“Correctional Centre” means a prison or any centre that serves as a place for detention, imprisonment or incarceration aimed at promoting a reformation, rehabilitation and reintegration of inmates;

“correctional officers” means officers of the Nigerian Correctional Service (Officers of the Nigerian Custodial Service and the Nigerian Non-Custodial Service);

“custodial center” is a place where individuals sentenced by the court requiring imprisonment are kept or those remanded in custody by the order of the court are kept. This may be used interchangeably with “custodial facility” or

“custodial institution” for the purposes of this Bill;

“custodial officer” means officer of whatever rank appointed under Part I of this Bill;

“custodial service” is the aspect of the Nigerian Correctional Service that administers or supervises individuals or persons remanded in custody;

“custodial superintendent” means the Custodial Officer in charge of the Custodial Centre;

“function” includes powers and duties;

“Inmate” means any person lawfully committed to custody;

“juvenile offender” means an offender below the age of eighteen;

“medical officer” in relation to a Custodial Centre includes a person directed under this Bill to perform the functions of a medical officer in respect of that Custodial Officer;

“Minister” means the Minister charged with responsibility for the Nigerian Correctional Service;
“motorized formation” includes vehicles to convey inmates, escort officers, armed squad personnel, and back-up vehicles;

“Non-Custodial Officer” means supervisors and other officers appointed to administer Non-Custodial Measures under Part II of this Bill;

“Non-Custodial Service” is an aspect of the Nigerian Correctional Service that serves as an alternative to going to a custodial center (prison);

“Non-Custodial Centres” refer to designated centres in the community for the administration of non-custodial measures;

“public holiday” includes Saturday and Sunday and days officially declared as such;

“requisite health facilities” shall include sanitary installations adequate to enable every inmate to comply with the needs of nature when necessary and in a clean and decent manner, adequate bathing and shower installations shall be provided so that every inmate maybe enabled and required to bath or shower as frequently as necessary for health and cleanliness, and drinking water shall be available to every inmate whenever the inmate needs it;

“sentence of imprisonment” means any sentence involving confinement in a prison (whether or not it is combined with labour of any kind) and includes a sentence given by way of communication as well as an original sentence passed by Court;

“Service” means the Nigerian Correctional Service;

“sheriff” means the officer responsible to carry out the capital punishment ordered by the Court of competent jurisdiction as stipulated in the Sheriff and Civil Process Act;

“slavery” or “servitude” means forced labour, bondage imposed, or the involuntary subjection of one to another or others;

“State” means a state of the Federation and shall include the Federal Capital Territory; and

“State Authority” means the Governor of a State and the State Authority in relation to a person confined in Custodial Centre.

47. This Bill may be cited as the Nigerian Correctional Service Bill, 2018.

FIRST SCHEDULE

CLASSIFICATION OF CUSTODIAL CENTERS AND INMATES.

Maximum Security Custodial Centre
This refers to a Custodial Centre with an enhanced level of security including the use of close circuit television, electric fencing, electronic scanners and high level technology, reserved for high risk inmates of all classes.

Medium Security Custodial Centre
This refers to a Custodial Center with a reasonable level of security reserved for inmates of all classes.
Open Custodial Centres
Special Custodial Centres for the treatment of long term-first offenders.

Farm Centres
For convicts with good conduct who have six months or less to serve.

Satellite Custodial Facilities
For convicts serving three months imprisonment or less; and awaiting trial persons charged for minor offences who are required to be presented in courts in locations without major custodial facilities.

Borstar Institutions
For the detention and treatment of juvenile offenders.

Female Custodial Facilities
For all classes of female inmates.

SECOND SCHEDULE
Section 45 (3)

SAVING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.
1. All prisons declared under the repealed prisons Act Cap P29, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 shall be deemed to have been declared under this Bill.

2. Subsidiary legislation made or deemed to have been made under the repealed Prisons Act Cap. P29, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 if it was in force immediately before the commencement of this Bill, shall continue to be in force with necessary modifications and may be amended or revoked as if it has been made under this Bill.

3. The rights, assets, obligations and liabilities of the Prison Officers Reward Fund as established by the repealed Prisons Act Cap. 29, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 shall at the commencement of this Bill, vest in and devolve upon the fund as contained in this Bill.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Bill seeks to repeal the Prison Act Cap. P29, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to address new issues that are not covered under the repealed Act and provide clear rules setting out obligations of the Correctional Service and the rights of Inmates.

THIS BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH DECEMBER, 2018

[Signatures]
President,  
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

[Signatures]
Clerk,  
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria