

1 gender, Youths, recognised professional associations in the existing geo-
2 political zones in the country.

Geo-political
zones

3 4.-(1) For the purpose of this Bill, there shall be six geo-political
4 zones in Nigeria, namely North-central; North-East; North-West; South-East;
5 South-South and South-West zones.

6 (2) Each of the six geo-political zones shall consist of the States that
7 fall under that head or categorization.

Establishment
of zonal councils

8 5.-(1) There shall be established in each zone, a zonal Council.

9 (2) Each zonal Council shall have a Chairman and two Members from
10 each of the Senatorial Districts of States within the particular zone and shall
11 serve as the rallying point for harnessing the aggregate views and pre-
12 conference position of such zone.

13 (3) Members of a zonal Council shall be appointed by the traditional
14 council and the State Governor in equal number.

15 (4) The Chairman of a zonal Council shall be elected by Members of
16 that Council.

Meeting of zonal
council

17 (5) the inaugural meeting of the zonal council for the purpose of
18 electing the Chairman of that Council shall be convened by the Governor of the
19 State by the Attorney-general of the State that nominated the zonal council and
20 the date, time and venue of such meeting shall be notified to every member of
21 the council.

22 6. A person shall cease to hold office as Chairman or member of zonal
23 council if:

24 (a) He becomes of unsound mind;

25 (b) He becomes bankrupt or makes a composition with his creditors;

26 (c) He is convicted of a criminal offence or of any offence involving
27 fraud or dishonesty;

28 (d) He is guilty of serious misconduct relation to his duties;

29 (e) He accepts office as a public officer in the public service of the
30 Federation or in the public service of a State.

1 7. Subject to the provisions of this Act, a Zonal Council shall have
2 powers to organise and conduct the election of the persons who are to serve
3 as delegates to the national conference from that zone. For this purpose the
4 zonal council shall have power to employ its own machinery for organising
5 the election.

Powers to organise
and conduct the
election

6 8.-(1) A person shall not be qualified to be elected as a delegate to
7 the National Conference if he is employed in the public service of the
8 Federation or in the public service of a State.

Qualifications

9 (2) A person shall not be qualified to be elected as a delegate to the
10 National Conference, notwithstanding the fact that he is a member of a
11 Zonal Council.

12 (3) In the election of delegates to the National Conference, a Zonal
13 Council shall ensure that as far as the practicable, ethnic groups or
14 nationalities indigenous to the zone and the shades of political opinion in the
15 area for which it is established are fairly represented and further that the
16 delegates include persons who by reason of their academic backgrounds,
17 experience in or knowledge of the affairs of the country or membership of
18 important interest groups can contribute meaningfully to deliberations at the
19 National Conference.

20 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of section (3) of this section, a
21 zonal council may co-opt any person as a delegate to represent the zone,
22 including a person from the zone, but the total number of delegates from any
23 zone shall not exceed that allocated to it under the provisions of this Bill.

24 (5) Subject to the provision of subsection (3) of this section,
25 delegates to the Conference shall be by nomination or election as the case
26 may be.

27 (6) a person shall not be elected or nominated as a delegate to the
28 national conference, or if elected or nominated shall cease to be a member if
29 any of the events mentioned in subsections (a)-(e) of section (6) of this Bill
30 (which would disqualify a chairman or member of a zonal Council) occurs

1 in relation to him.

2 (7) Any vacancy occurring among the delegates to the National
3 Conference shall be filled by an election conducted by the appropriate Zonal
4 Council in accordance with the provisions of this Bill.

5 9.-(1) There shall be for the purpose of this Bill a National Conference
6 Committee which shall, subject to this Bill have full power to deliberate upon
7 and produce a draft Constitution or amendment of same for the Federal
8 Republic of Nigeria as well as other matters relating to the unity, welfare and
9 good government of the country.

10 (2) For the purpose of subsection 1 above, a draft new constitution
11 prepared by a Committee and members of the presidential advisory committee
12 on National Conference appointed for that purpose by the President shall be
13 laid before the conference and form the basis of its deliberation and decision.

14 10. The outcome of a National Conference shall be subjected to a
15 referendum and the outcome of the referendum shall be adopted by the
16 National Assembly, subject to the procedure for passage of an ordinary Bill.

17 11. The NASS shall conclude its deliberations on same within 4
18 months and forward to President for assent within 2 months.

19 12. Where same is not passed or assented to after the stipulated time, it
20 will be deemed to have been passed or assented to.

Interpretation

21 13. In this Bill and except where the context otherwise requires:

22 "National Conference" means body of persons established in accordance with
23 the provisions of this Bill;

24 "President" Means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

25 "Public Service of the Federation" or "public service of a State" has the
26 meaning assigned to those expressions in the constitution of the Federal
27 Republic of Nigeria, 1999;

28 "Ethnic Nationality" means the people of Nigeria consisting of social groups,
29 with self perpetuating biological group sharing the same culture, symbols
30 language, value system, custom, normative behaviour and whose members are

1 anchored in a particular part of Nigeria homeland and/or safe heaven;
2 "State" or "States" refers to a territory or territories described as such in part I
3 of the First to schedule to the Constitution of the Federal republic of Nigeria,
4 1999 and include the government in control of such territory or territories;
5 "Zone" and cognate expression refer to any of the six groups of states
6 mentioned in section 4 of this Bill.

7 14. This Bill may be cited as the National Conference and Citation
8 Referendum Bill and shall come into force on the date of its public in the
9 Gazette.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to provide for the convocation of a National Conference and the holding of a Referendum and for other purposes connected thereto in Nigeria.