

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF TRADITIONAL RULERS  
IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIAN AND FOR OTHER RELATED  
MATTERS

*Sponsored by Hon. Lady Nkeiruka Onyejeocha*

[ ] Commencement

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

1 PART I – ESTABLISHMENT, COMPOSITION ETC OF THE NATIONAL  
2 COUNCIL OF TRADITIONAL RULERS

3 1.-(1) There is hereby established, a body to be known as the  
4 National Council of Traditional Rulers of Nigeria, (hereinafter in this Act  
5 referred to as “the Council”).

Establishment of  
the National  
Council of  
Traditional Rulers

6 (2) The Council shall have its Headquarters in Abuja.

7 2. The council shall consist of:

Composition of  
the Council

8 (a) A Chairman to be appointed from the members of the  
9 Traditional Council;

10 (b) Two Vice Chairmen (North and South) to be appointed from the  
11 members of the Traditional Council;

12 (c) Chairman of State Council Traditional Rulers and two others,  
13 one each from Senatorial District other than that of the Chairman; and

14 (d) The Chairman of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Council  
15 of Traditional Rulers. Members of the council other than the Chairman of  
16 State Council other than the chairman of state council shall serve a for a  
17 period of two years only.

18 3. The council shall perform the following functions:

Functions of the  
Council

19 (i) Giving general advice to the Federal Government;

20 (ii) Advising the Federal Government on proposed development

1 plans for Nigeria and on security matters as they see them from grassroot  
2 perspectives;

3 (iii) Undertake an evaluation of traditional customs and usages with a  
4 view to advising on and enhancement of our cultural heritage;

5 (iv) Advising on religious matters;

6 (v) Promoting and advising on Arts and culture;

7 (vi) Promoting and expressing opinions on any matter which it deems  
8 fit to be of importance to the whole country, as may be referred to it by the  
9 Federal Government;

10 (vii) Advising relevant bodies or Agencies of Federal Government;  
11 boundary disputes as may be required of the council;

12 (viii) Assisting in the mobilization of human and material resources  
13 towards self-reliance and welfare of the people of Nigeria; and

14 (ix) Carrying out such other functions as the President of the Federal  
15 Republic of Nigeria may refer or direct from time to time.

Meeting of the  
Council

16 4.-(a) The Council shall meet twice in a year;

17 (b) The Chairman, can however, convene an extra-ordinary meeting  
18 of the council as he deems necessary; and

19 (c) The Chairman may also convene such a meeting on the request of  
20 a simple majority of the membership of Council.

Committees

21 5. Subject to this standing Orders, the Council may, appoint  
22 Committees in the course of its work:

23 (a) A committee appointed under the provision of this Act, shall be  
24 presided over by a member of the council so appointed; and

25 (b) A decision of the committee set up by the Council shall not have  
26 effect until it is ratified by the Council.

27 PART II – ESTABLISHMENT, COMPOSITION ETC OF STATE COUNCIL OF

Establishment  
and composition  
of State Council  
of Traditional  
Rulers

28 TRADITIONAL RULERS

29 6.-(1) There shall be for each state be for each state of the Federation

1 and Abuja, a council of Traditional Rulers (hereinafter referred to as “the  
2 Council”)

3 (2) The Council shall consist of:

4 (a) A Chairman (who is a Traditional Ruler), who shall be the  
5 chairman of the state Council of Traditional Rulers;

6 (b) The member shall be the member of the State Security; and

7 (c) Membership of the council shall be as provided for in the State  
8 Laws.

9 7.-(1) The power to confirm Chiefs, Emirs, Ezes, Obis and Obas of Appointment  
10 the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th etc Classes shall vest on the Governor of the State  
11 on the recommendation of:

12 (i) The Kingmakers; and

13 (ii) The Traditional Rulers Council.

14 (2) The composition of the Kingmakers shall be as provided for  
15 and/or recognized by the custom and the Traditional Stool, respectively.

16 8. The Council shall perform the following functions:

Functions of  
State Council

17 (i) Giving general advice to the State Government;

18 (ii) Advising the State Government on proposed development on  
19 Security issues as the need arise;

20 (iii) Advising on Religious matters;

21 (iv) Promoting and Upgrading of Emirates, Kingdoms,  
22 Chiefdoms, Clans, Communities etc;

23 (v) Deliberating and expressing opinions on any public matters  
24 which it deems to be of importance to the State as a whole, or which may be  
25 referred to it by the State;

26 (vi) Assisting in the mobilization of human and material resources  
27 towards self-reliance, community development and welfare within the  
28 State;

29 (vii) Collaborate with State Government to codify the existing  
30 customs and traditions and gazette them accordingly;

1 (viii) Shall advice the State Executive Council in matters relating to  
2 the creation of new first class/paramount Traditional Rulers; and

3 (ix) Carryout such other functions as the Governor may refer or direct  
4 it from time to time.

Tenure of Office

5 9. The tenure of office of Traditional rulers with respect to  
6 appointment and/or deposition shall be regulated as follows:

7 (i) The traditional institution together with its Traditional Council as  
8 established by various customary laws and usage shall be guaranteed;

9 (ii) The appointment and deposition of Traditional Rulers in all the  
10 Council adherence shall made to the existing laws, customs and traditions of  
11 the people; and

12 (iii) All Laws relating to the traditional institution as may be passed by  
13 the State Government shall not be at variance with established customs and  
14 traditions of the various traditional councils.

Insulation from  
partisan politics

15 10. Members of the council shall not partake in partisan politics in  
16 whatever manner howsoever, and shall not be seen to take side with registered  
17 political associations.

Power to  
Discipline

18 11. The power to discipline or remove any Traditional Ruler or Staff  
19 of the Traditional Institution shall vest on the appointing authority as advised  
20 by the Traditional Council.

#### 21 PART III - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Financial  
provisions

22 12. The Council shall derive its funding from the approved 5% of the  
23 monthly statutory allocation for the running of the Council.

#### 24 PART IV - INTERPRETATION AND SHORT TITLE

Interpretation

25 13. In this Bill, unless the context otherwise required:  
26 "National Council of Traditional Rulers" mean the Federal Council of  
27 Traditional Rulers;  
28 "Chairman" means the Chairman of the National Council of Traditional  
29 Rulers;  
30 "Secretary" as the same meaning giving to the under the provisions of this Act.



