

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE TRADE DISPUTES ACT CAP. T8 LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA 2004 TO PROHIBIT MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN THE EMPLOYMENT OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (AS EMPLOYEES IN THE ESSENTIAL SERVICES SECTOR) FROM EMBARKING ON STRIKE AND TO ACCELERATE ADMINISTRATIVE AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS IN THE DETERMINATION OF TRADE DISPUTES INVOLVING THEM AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Danburam Abubakar Nuhu

[] Commencement

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

1 1. Section 17 of the Trade Disputes Act Cap. T8 Laws of the Amendment of
2 Federation of Nigeria 2004 (in this Bill referred to as "the principal Act") is the Principal Act
3 hereby amended as follows:

4 (a) By renumbering the original section 17 as section 17(1);

5 (b) By the insertion of the following new subsection (2):

6 “Where a trade dispute has been declared by an organisation of
7 medical practitioners employed by or under the Government of the
8 Federation or of a State or of a local government or any municipal or
9 statutory authority in a government hospital or medical centre or otherwise
10 in the treatment of the sick or the prevention of disease or the Minister has
11 received a report of a dispute concerning such an organisation, the
12 organisation may approach the National Industrial Court for a resolution of
13 the dispute provided that at the time of the organisation's approach to the
14 Court, the Minister is also notified by the organisation and all processes are
15 served on all the parties”.

16 (c) By the insertion of the following new subsection (3):

1 "Subject to the requirement of fair hearing, the National Industrial Court may
2 abridge procedures and time stipulations for the purpose of a speedy resolution
3 of the dispute".

Amendment of
Section 49

4 2. Section 49 of the Principal Act is hereby amended by the insertion
5 of the following new subsection (3):

6 "This Act shall apply to any medical practitioner employed by or
7 under the Government of the Federation or of a State or of a local government
8 or any municipal or statutory authority in a government hospital or medical
9 centre or otherwise in the treatment of the sick or the prevention of disease but
10 no such legal practitioner shall embark on an industrial action".

Citation

11 3. This Bill may be cited as the Trade Disputes Act (Amendment)
12 Bill, 2017.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This bill seeks to amend sections 17 and 49 of the trade disputes Act Cap. T8
Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 to prohibit Medical Practitioners in the
employment of federal, state and local governments (as employees in the
essential services sector) from embarking on strike given its usual catastrophic
consequences and at the same time accelerate administrative and judicial
proceedings in the determination of trade disputes involving them.