

**SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER BILL, 2015**

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**SCHEDULE**



# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRES IN THE COUNTRY TO CATER FOR THE NEEDS OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS AND FOR OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH, 2015

*Sponsored by Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha*

[ ] Commencement

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

1 PART I - DECLARATION OF POLICY, ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION,  
2 OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS CENTERS GOVERNING BOARD

3 1. In line with section 16 (2) (d) of the 1999 Constitution it is  
4 hereby declared that it shall be State policy to provide adequate social  
5 services and an improved quality of life for the elderly.

Declaration of policy

6 2.-(1) There is established a body to be known as the senior citizens  
7 center (in this Bill referred to as "the Center").

Establishment of the senior citizens Centre

8 (2) The Center shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession;  
9 and may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

10 (3) The Headquarters of the Centre shall be located in Federal  
11 Capital Territory, Abuja.

12 (4) There shall be established a Senior Citizen Centre in each State  
13 of the Federation.

14 3.-(1) There is established for the management of the National  
15 Center, a Governing Board to be known as the senior citizens centers Board  
16 (in this Bill referred to as "the Board") which shall, subject to this Bill, have  
17 general control of the Centre.

Establishment of the Governing Board of the National Centre

18 (2) The Board shall consist of-

19 (a) a Chairman;

20 (b) 10 other members; and

1 (c) the Director General of the Center.  
2 (3) the Chairman and other members of the National Board shall -  
3 (a) be appointed by the President based on Federal Character  
4 Principle; and  
5 (b) be persons with proven integrity.  
6 (4) The supplementary provisions contained in the Schedule to this  
7 Bill shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board.

Tenure of office

8 4.-(1) The members of the Board appointed under section 3 (2) (a) and  
9 (b) of this Bill shall hold office for a period of 4 years in the first instance and  
10 may be eligible for reappointment for a further period of 4 years and no more.  
11 (2) The members of the Board shall be paid such remuneration and  
12 allowances as the National Salaries Income and Wages Commission specify.  
13 (3) A member of the Board other than an ex-officio member may  
14 resign his appointment by a notice in writing under his hand, addressed to the  
15 appointing authority.

Cessation of  
membership

16 5.-(1) A member of the Board shall cease to hold office if-  
17 (a) he becomes of unsound mind;  
18 (b) he becomes bankrupt or makes a compromise with his creditors;  
19 (c) he is convicted of a felony or of any offence involving dishonesty;  
20 (d) he is guilty of serious misconduct in relation to his duties.  
21 (2) A member of the Board may be removed from office by the  
22 President, if, he is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the Center or the  
23 interest of the public that the member should continue in office.  
24 (3) Where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, it shall  
25 be filled by the appointment of a successor to hold office for the remainder of  
26 the term of office of his predecessor, so however that the successor shall  
27 represent the same interest and shall be appointed by the President.

Functions of the  
National Centre

28 PART II - FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTER  
29 6. The functions of the Center shall be to:  
30 (a) to identify the needs, trainings, and opportunities of senior citizens

1 in the country and be responsible for the provision of recreational, sports,  
2 educational, health and social programs and facilities designed for the full  
3 enjoyment and benefit of the senior citizens in the country as well as provide  
4 guidance and counseling for senior citizens;

5 (b) initiate, develop and implement productive activities and work  
6 schemes for senior citizens in order to provide income or otherwise  
7 supplement their earnings;

8 (c) promote and maintain linkages with state and local  
9 governments and other instrumentalities of government for the delivery of  
10 health care services, facilities, professional advice services, and training;

11 (d) keep records and statistics of senior citizens in the country as  
12 well as liaise with national, regional and international agencies involved in  
13 the provision of welfare and recreational activities for senior citizens.

14 (e) to exercise such other functions which are necessary to carry  
15 out the purpose for which the centers are established.

16 7.-(1) The National Board shall be responsible for-

Functions of the  
National Board

17 (a) ensuring effective administration of the Centers in providing  
18 basic welfare, and recreational facilities to the senior citizens in Nigeria;

19 (b) maintaining buildings and facilities of the Center in good  
20 condition; and

21 (c) Carrying out such other activities as are necessary for carrying  
22 out of the functions set out in this Bill.

23 (2) The Board shall also have power to carry out such activities as  
24 may appear to it to be necessary and incidental or conducive to the  
25 attainment of its objects under this Bill.

26 (3) The Board may, subject to such conditions as it may impose,  
27 delegate any of the powers conferred on it by this Bill (including power to  
28 appoint and exercise disciplinary control) to any of its committees or the  
29 Director General of the Center, as the case may be.

30 (4) Nothing in this section shall preclude the Board from

1 exercising any of the powers  
2 delegated pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.

3 PART III - STAFF OF THE CENTER

Appointment of  
Director General

4 8.-(1) There shall be appointed for the National Center, a Director  
5 General who shall be appointed by the President.

6 (2) The Director General shall be subject to the general control of the  
7 Board-

8 (a) be responsible for the implementation of the decisions of the  
9 Board and the day-to-day administration of the affairs of the Center;

10 (b) be responsible for keeping proper records of the proceedings of  
11 the Board; and

12 (c) be the head of the Board's Secretariat and be responsible for the  
13 administration thereof and the direction and control of all other employees of  
14 the Center with the approval of the Board.

15 (3) The Director General shall hold office for a period of four 4 years  
16 in the first instance and may be eligible for reappointment for a further period  
17 of Four 4 years and no more.

The Secretary  
and other staff  
of the Centre

18 9.-(1) The Board shall appoint for the Center an officer to be known as  
19 the Secretary to the Board who shall perform the functions of keeping the  
20 record of proceedings and decisions of the Board and such other functions as  
21 the Board may, from time to time, direct.

22 (2) The Board shall have power to appoint either on transfer or on  
23 secondment from any public service in the Federation, such number of  
24 employees as may, in the opinion of the Board, be required to assist the Center  
25 in the discharge of any of its functions under this Bill; and shall have power to  
26 pay to persons so employed such remuneration (including allowances) as the  
27 Board may, from time to time, determine.

28 (3) The terms and conditions of service (including terms and  
29 conditions as to remuneration, allowance, pensions, gratuities and other  
30 benefits) of the person employed by the Center shall be as determined by the

1 Board from time to time.

2 10.-(1) The Board may, subject to the provisions of this Bill, make Staff regulations  
3 staff regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of the  
4 employees of the Center and without prejudice to the generality of the  
5 foregoing, such regulations may provide for-

6 (a) the appointment, promotion and disciplinary control (including  
7 dismissal) of employees of the Center; and

8 (b) appeals by such employees against dismissal or other  
9 disciplinary measures and until such regulations are made, any instrument  
10 relating to the conditions of service of officers in the Civil Service of the  
11 Federation shall be applicable, with such modifications as may be  
12 necessary, to the employees of the Center.

13 (2) Staff regulations made under subsection (I) of this section shall  
14 not have effect until approved by the President.

15 11.-(1) Service in the Center shall be public service for the Pensions  
16 purposes of the Pensions Reform Act and, accordingly, officers and other  
17 persons employed in the Center shall, in respect of their service in the  
18 Center, be entitled to pension, gratuities and other retirement benefits as are  
19 prescribed there under, so however that nothing in this Bill shall prevent the  
20 appointment of a person to any office on terms which preclude the grant of a  
21 pension or gratuity in respect of that office.

#### 22 P ART IV - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

23 12.-(1) There shall be paid and credited to the National Center-

24 (a) the take off grant for the Center;

25 (b) the annual subvention or allocation received from the Federal  
26 Government;

27 (c) such money as may, from time to time, be granted to the Center  
28 by the Government of the Federation, State or Local Government;

29 (d) all subventions, fees and charges for services rendered by the  
30 Center; and

Sources of  
funding for the  
National Centre