

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH DANGEROUS WEAPONS, TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROHIBITIONS OF POSSESSION OF DANGEROUS WEAPONS INTENDED TO BE USED FOR UNLAWFUL PURPOSES AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai*

[ ] Commencement

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

1           1.-(1)Any person who is in possession of any dangerous weapon  
2 under circumstances which may raise a reasonable suspicion that the person  
3 intends to use the dangerous weapon for an unlawful purpose, is guilty of an  
4 offence and liable on conviction to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not  
5 exceeding three years.

Prohibition of  
possession of  
Dangerous  
Weapons

6           (2) In determining whether a person intends to use the object as a  
7 dangerous weapon for an unlawful purpose, all relevant factors, including  
8 but not limited to, the following must be taken into account:

9           (a) The place and time where the person is found;  
10           (b) The behavior of the person, including the making of any threat  
11 or the display of intimidatory behaviors;

12           (c) The manner in which the object is carried or displayed;  
13           (d) Whether the possession of the object was within the context of  
14 drug dealing, gang association or any organized crime or any other criminal  
15 activity; or

16           (e) Any other relevant factors, including any explanation the  
17 person may wish to provide for his or her possession of the object: provided  
18 that this paragraph shall not be interpreted as an obligation on the person to  
19 explain his or her possession of the object.

Application of  
Bill

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2. This Act does not apply to the following activities:

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(a) Possession of dangerous weapons in pursuit of any lawful

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employment, duty or activity;

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(b) Possession of dangerous weapons during the participation in any

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religious or cultural activities, or lawful sport, recreation, or entertainment; or

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(c) Legitimate or lawful collection, display or exhibition of weapons.

Jurisdiction

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3. The High Court of a state or the Federal Capital Territory shall have

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Jurisdiction to entertain and hear legal suits under this Act.

Interpretation

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4. In this Act, unless the context otherwise indicates:

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"dangerous weapon" means any object, other than a firearm, capable of

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causing death or inflicting serious bodily harm, if it were used for an unlawful

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purpose.

Short Title

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5. This Bill may be cited as the Dangerous Weapons Bill, 2018.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to nip in the bud some of the causes of criminality in our society by preventing the unlawful use of dangerous weapons.