

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL CENTRE FOR RESEARCH, MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF AUTISM, DOWN SYNDROME AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso

[8] Commencement

BE IT ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal

Republic of Nigeria as follows:

PART I ESTABLISHMENT

1.-(1) There is hereby established a body to be known as the National Centre for Autism, Down syndrome and for other related matters (NACADS) (herein in this Bill referred to as "the Centre").

(2) The Centre shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, and may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

2.-(1) There is hereby established for the management of "the Centre" a governing board (in this Act referred to as the Board) which shall

consist of - (a) the President, (b) the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria,

(c) Representatives of the following Federal Ministries and Institutions -

(i) the Presidency, (ii) two representatives from Federal Ministry of Health, one of whom shall be from the Institute of Medical Research;

(iii) a representative of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs; (iv) One representative of the Federal Ministry of Youth and Social Development, who shall not be less than a Director as ex-officio,

(v) One representative of the Federal Ministry of Health, one of whom shall be from the Institute of Medical Research; (vi) a representative of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs; (vii) One representative of the Federal Ministry of Youth and Social Development, who shall not be less than a Director as ex-officio,

Establishment

Establishment and Membership of the Board

Removal from Office

Functions of the Centre

1 (v) One representative of the Federal Ministry of Information and
2 Communications;

3 (vi) a representative of Non-governmental organizations engaged in
4 Autism and other related campaigns;

5 (vii) Two representatives of Nigerian Medical Associations, one of
6 whom shall be from Nigerian National Association of Nurses and Midwives;

7 (viii) a representative of the Organized private sector;

8 (ix) a representative of Civil Society Organizations including Women
9 Groups; and

10 (x) The Director-General shall be Secretary to the Board.

Appointment of
the Chairman
and Members

11 3. The Chairman and members of the Board shall be appointed by the
12 President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

13 (3) Members of the Board, other than the Director-General shall be
14 appointed by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Tenure of Office

15 4. The Chairman and members of the Board-

16 (a) shall each hold office for a period of 4 years on such terms and
17 conditions as may be specified in their letters of appointment; and

18 (b) May be re-appointed for an additional period of 4 years and no
19 more.

Removal from
Office

20 5.-(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 2(5) of this Act the
21 chairman or any member of the Board may at any time be removed from the
22 office by the president for inability to discharge the functions of his office
23 (whether arising from infirmity of mind or body or any other cause).

24 (2) A member of the Board shall be paid such emoluments,
25 allowances and benefits as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
26 may, from time to time approve.

27 PART II - FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF "THE CENTRE"

Functions of
"the Centre"

28 6. -(1) The functions of the Centre shall be to-

29 (a) Co-ordinate various programmes and projects aimed at improving
30 the health, social and economic well-being of victims of Autism, Down

1 syndrome and other similarly related cases;

2 (b) Co-ordinate research on Autism and other related cases with a
3 view to providing solutions to most of the challenges facing the victims of
4 these ailments;

5 (c) Co-ordinate, monitor and advise on all social protection
6 activities of governmental and non-governmental agencies related to
7 Autism, Down syndrome and other related cases;

8 (d) Maintain a data bank on autism, down syndrome and other
9 related matters;

10 Develop a national benchmark for a multi-disciplinary diagnostic team,
11 responsible for the diagnosis of Autism, Down syndrome and other related
12 cases.

13 7. - (1) The Powers of the "Centre" shall be to -

Powers of "the
Centre"

14 (a) Demand and obtain relevant information, data, statistics and
15 report on matters relating to the prevention and control of Autism, Down
16 syndrome, and other related cases;

17 (b) Liaise with relevant establishments within and outside Nigeria
18 in pursuance of the functions of the Centre;

19 (c) Initiate and implement programmes geared towards the
20 development of the capacity and capabilities of persons with Autism, Down
21 syndrome and other related cases;

22 (d) Create awareness on Autism, Down syndrome as well as other
23 similarly related cases;

24 (e) Act as government agency for catalyzing and mobilizing
25 resources at all tiers of government and throughout the country for the
26 purpose of addressing the challenges of Autism, Down syndrome and other
27 related cases;

28 (f) Carry out such activities as are necessary or expedient for the
29 performance of its functions under this Act.

	1	(c) For the purchase or acquisition of property or other equipment and	
	2	other capital expenditure and for maintenance of any property acquired or	
	3	vested in the Centre; and	
	4	(d) For or in connection with all or any of the functions of the Centre	
	5	under this Act or its subsidiary legislation.	
Financial Year and Audit of Centre's Account	6	17.-(1) The financial year shall start on 1st January of each year and	
	7	end 31st December of the same year.	
	8	(2) The Centre shall keep proper records of its accounts to be audited	
	9	within six from the end of each financial year by auditors whose appointment	
	10	shall be approved by the Board and shall be subjected to reappointment on	
	11	annual basis provided that such Auditors are on the list of Auditors approved	
	12	from time to time by the Auditor-General of the Federation.	
Annual Report to the National Assembly	13	18. The Centre shall prepare and submit to the National Assembly	
	14	annually, through the President not later than six (6) months after the end of its	
	15	financial year, a report on the activities of the Centre's audited accounts for the	
	16	year under review together with auditor's report thereon.	
Exemption from Taxation	17	19. The provision of any enactment relating to the taxation of	
	18	companies or trust funds shall not apply to the Centre.	
Miscellaneous	19	20. The offences referred to in this Act shall apply to recall of a	
	20	member of a Legislative House and a member of an Area Council.	
Limitation against Suit	21	21. The Subject to the provision of this Act, the provision of the public	
	22	officers' protection Act shall apply in relation to any suit instituted against an	
	23	officer or employee of the Centre.	
Service Documents	24	22. A notice summons or other document required or authorized to be	
	25	served upon the Board under the provisions of this Act or any other law or	
	26	enactment may be served by delivering it to the Director-General or by	
	27	sending it by registered post and addressed to the Director-General at the	
	28	principal office of the Board.	
Restriction on Executive against properties of the Commission	29	23. In any action or suit against the Board, no execution or attachment	
	30	of process shall be issued against the Board.	

1 towards a quorum.

2 *Committee*

3 3.-(1) The Centre may appoint one or more committee to carry out, on
4 behalf of the Agency such functions as the Centre may determine.

5 (2) The Committee appointed under this paragraph shall consider
6 such number of persons as may be determined by the Centre and a person shall
7 hold office in the committee in accordance with the term of his appointment.

8 (3) A decision of a committee of the Centre shall be of no effect until it
9 is confirmed by the Centre.

10 4.-(1) the fixing of the seal of the Centre shall be authenticated by the
11 signature of the Chairman or any other member of the Centre generally or
12 specified by the Centre to act for the purpose and the Chief Executive.

13 (2) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person
14 not being a body corporate, would not require to be under seal may be made or
15 executed on behalf of the Centre by the Chief Executive or any person
16 generally or specified authorized by the Centre to act for the purpose.

17 (3) A document purporting to be a document duly executed under seal
18 of the Centre shall be received in evidence and shall, unless and until the
19 contrary is proved, be presumed to so executed.

20 **5. The validity of any proceeding of the Centre or of a committee shall**
21 **not be adversely affected by-**

22 (a) A vacancy in the membership of the Centre or committee;

23 (b) A defect in the appointment of a member of the Centre or
24 committee; or

25 (c) Reason that a person not entitled to do take part in the proceedings
26 of the Centre or committee.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to Establish The National Centre for Autism and Down syndrome and other related matters (NACADS) to serve as an autonomous body to co-ordinate and implement programmes for the Research, Management and Control of Autism, Down syndrome and other related cases in Nigeria.

