

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO CREATE A DEPARTMENT OF CATTLE RANCHES UNDER THE FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OR ANY SUCH MINISTRY OVERSEEING THE PRODUCTION AND REARING OF LIVESTOCK INCLUDING CATTLE AND FOR OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO, 2015

Sponsored by Hon. Dickson Tarkighir

[] Commencement

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

- 1 **1. Objectives of the Bill:** Objectives
- 2 **(a) Enhance the production of high breeds of cattle to compete in**
- 3 **the export market with a view to improving on the country's balance of trade;**
- 4 **(b) To ensure greater productivity and profitability in the cattle**
- 5 **business;**
- 6 **(c) To create a more robust beef industry that meets the highest**
- 7 **health standards and diary needs locally and internationally;**
- 8 **(d) To cope with the rising cattle density in a more scientific and**
- 9 **efficient manner;**
- 10 **(e) To embrace the modernized techniques in production and**
- 11 **rearing of cattle;**
- 12 **(f) To prevent clashes between herders and farmers;**
- 13 **(g) To open up job and investment opportunities associated with**
- 14 **cattle farming as well as expand the value chain;**
- 15 **(h) To regulate and support the growth of cattle farming for**
- 16 **industrial needs as well as manage the environmental impact of cattle**
- 17 **rearing;**
- 18 **(i) To prevent, control and manage the spread of diseases as well as**
- 19 **ease the implementation of policies that enhance production of higher**

1 breeds for local and exports markets;

2 (j) To boost the diversification of the economy by growing the cattle
3 industry to take advantage of export markets.

4 **2. The Creation of a Department of Cattle Ranches Under the Federal**
5 **Ministry of Agriculture or any such ministry overseeing the production and**
6 **rearing of livestock including Cattle:**

7 (I) -(a). There is hereby established Under the Federal Ministry of
8 Agriculture or any such ministry overseeing the production and rearing of
9 livestock including Cattle, a department of Cattle Ranches.

10 The Department shall be made up of:

11 (b) A Director who shall head the Department and report directly to
12 the Permanent Secretary of the ministry.

13 (ii) Qualifications For Position Of Director.

14 While all other Federal Civil Service requirements for promotion or
15 appointment to the position of a Director subsist, a Director of the Department
16 of Cattle Ranches must also:

17 (a) Hold a first degree in any of Animal Science, Agricultural Science,
18 Soil Science or any other closely related field;

19 (b) Hold at least a postgraduate qualification in management or
20 administration;

21 (c) Hold a reputable certification in any of: Cattle management; Cattle
22 Health; Ranch Management; or beef production.

23 (iii) The hosting ministry shall, in conjunction with the Federal Civil
24 Service Commission, recruit for the department, such number of employees as
25 the department may require in all the States of the Federation and the Federal
26 Capital Territory.

27 **3.-(i) Facilitate and or sanction the lease or sell of land by persons,**
28 **communities, Local, State and Federal Governments for the purpose of Cattle**
29 **ranches;**

30 (ii) Inspect the establishment of ranches; register and issue ranching

1 permits to all cattle ranches;

2 (iii) Keep a manual register as well as an electronic register of all
3 cattle ranches in the country and make the register easily available to all;

4 (iv) Set establishment and operational standards for all cattle
5 ranches;

6 (v). Ensure compliance with mandatory veterinary checks on
7 cattles and assist in the deployment of quarantine or bio-security measures
8 when needed;

9 (vi) Set the standards for commercial and personal ranches as well
10 as ranches for dairy needs or just for calves including those for cattle;

11 (vii) Enforce restrictions and conditions on movement of cattle
12 outside ranches and doubly ensure that cattles are ONLY raised on ranches
13 permitted by the department.

14 (viii) Ensure that where movement or transportation of cattle
15 becomes impossible to avoid, that the movement does not lead to trespass on
16 crop farms nor disturbance to flow of traffic on roads;

17 (ix) Regardless of the provisions in subsection (viii) above, any
18 movement of up to 15 cattles in a herd conveyed by themselves or in a truck,
19 lorry, ship, train must receive the authorisation of the Cattle Ranching
20 Department;

21 (x) A stray cattle when caught by a third party or in possession of a
22 third party, must be kept in good not worse condition while effort is made to
23 reach the owner or local authority, which ever is more easily accessible;

24 (xi) On becoming aware of a missing cattle, the owner or operator
25 of a ranch shall report to the local authority within 48 hours of becoming
26 aware of the fact;

27 (xii). Ranches must be properly fenced to avoid cattle straying
28 from them;

29 (xiii). Ranching licenses or permits may be withdrawn upon non-
30 compliance with the ranching rules and regulations already brought to the

1 awareness of ranch owners or operators;

2 (xiv) The Cattle Ranching Department shall help share knowledge of
3 best husbandry practises as well as on best selling breeds in addition to
4 facilitating the procurement of such breeds;

5 (xv) The Department must cultivate a close industry relationship with
6 associations of Cattle rearers; cattle sellers; abattoirs; and consumers of beef;

7 (xvi) The Department shall make such other rules and regulations that
8 will impart positively on the industry standards for a thriving cattle business.

9 **4. Any person who violates any provision of this bill or those other**
10 **rules and regulations as shall be deemed fit by the' department shall be arrested**
11 **and prosecuted in a customary or magistrate court and if convicted, shall be**
12 **fined, imprisoned or both and the extent of such fines and imprisonment shall**
13 **be as deemed fit by the court for as far as the penalty is adjudged sufficient to**
14 **deter repeat violations.**

15 **5. The department shall have powers to fix the costs of permits relying**
16 **majorly on size and purpose of ranch.**

17 **6. The full commencement of cattle ranches and other functions and**
18 **powers vested in the department shall come into force not later than five (5)**
19 **years after the assent of this bill. The active participation of the Miyetti Allah**
20 **Cattle Rearers Association and other stake holders in the cattle industry should**
21 **be craved and all such bodies shall have an opportunity to contribute in the**
22 **facilitation of the full commencement of this law within the stipulated period.**

Definition

23 **7. Except otherwise stated;**

24 **The department shall mean “Department of Cattle Ranches”.**

25 **Authorities or Local Authorities shall mean an official of the department or the**
26 **police or the civil defence. A Ranch shall mean an area certified and permitted**
27 **as such by the department for the rearing and production of cattle. Full**
28 **commencement means the beginning of the full implementation of this bill.**

Citation

29 **8. This Bill may be cited as the Cattle Ranching Bill, 2015.**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This bill seeks to alter our husbandry practises towards cattle to ensure more productivity and profitability of cattle business as well as lead to trading in the cattle exports markets with a view to improving on the country's trade balance; boost the beef industry and contribute to diversifying our economy while also halting the clashes between our farmers and our herders.

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