

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE NIGERIAN CHILDREN'S TRUST FUND TO SET UP A  
SUITABLE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION AND  
DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE SERVICES AND RELIEF TO NIGERIAN  
CHILDREN IN NEED, AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by Hon. Evang. Joan Onyemaechi Mrakpor*

[ ] Commencement

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

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1. The Nigerian Children's Trust Fund Act (in this Bill referred to  
as “the principal Act”) is hereby amended as set out under this Bill.

2. Section 1 of the principal Act is amended:  
(1) by substituting for the existing paragraph (b) of subsection(2)  
thereof, the following new paragraph (b) therefor, that is:  
“such sums of money as may be raised, from time to time, by way of  
contributions or donations or grants from individuals (whether corporate or  
unincorporated), agencies and organisations (whether, local or  
international)”;

(2) by substituting in subsection 1(3) for the word “sixteen”  
appearing thereof, the eighteen" therefor.

3. Section 2 of the principal Act is amended:  
(1) by substituting in subsection (1) for the “National Advisory  
Council of the National Commission for Women” appearing thereof, the  
“National Child Rights Implementation Committee” therefor. [Cap. C50]  
(2) by substituting in subsection (2) for the “a period of three years  
only” appearing thereof, the “four years and shall be eligible for  
reappointment for one further period of four years, and no more” therefor.  
(3) by substituting in subsection (9) for the “National Commission
- Amendment of  
CAP. N93 LFN

Amendment of  
Section 1

Amendment of  
Section 2

Amendment of  
Section 3

1 for Women” appearing thereof, the “Ministry responsible for Women Affairs  
2 and Youth Development” therefor.

3 4. Section 3 of the principal Act is amended:

4 (l) By substituting for the existing paragraphs (a) to (d) thereof, the  
5 following new paragraphs (a) to (f) therefor, that is:

6 “(a) carry on periodical surveyor studies to assess generally, the  
7 impact of legal and institutional measures to address violence against children  
8 in Nigeria;

9 (b) carry on a regular survey and assessment of the financial and  
10 material requirements of Nigerian children for the purposes of providing relief  
11 in respect of children who are in needy circumstances such as:

12 (i) orphaned children whose parents were deceased by terrorists  
13 attacks, and those whose parents have died of HIV/AIDS infection, communal  
14 conflicts, accidents, riots, natural disaster, etc.,

15 (ii) abandoned, crippled, terminally ill and mentally affected  
16 children;

17 (iii) sexually abused, molested, injured, victims of child trafficking  
18 and neglected children;

19 (iv) children or pupils whose parents cannot pay their school fees or  
20 provide food and shelter for them.

21 (c) make grants from the Fund set up under this Act to voluntary  
22 organisations in the Federation concerned with the upkeep and care of children  
23 affected by any of the circumstances described under paragraph (b) of this  
24 section;

25 (d) organize and implement programmes and projects for the  
26 protection and enhancement of talents and abilities of children, and in this  
27 regard establish, as and when practicable, shelter Base Centres for children in  
28 each state of the Federation and such other parts of Nigeria as the need may  
29 warrant;

30 (e) devise ways and means of organizing charity shows, exhibitions

1 and such other events as the Board may deem fit for the purposes of  
2 generating additional funds for implementation of the welfare programmes  
3 specified under this Act;

4 (f) programmes and projects for the purposes of this Act to be  
5 implemented at subnational levels shall be carried out through the State and  
6 Local Government Child Rights Implementation Committees as the case  
7 may be”.

8 (2) By deleting the existing paragraph (e) thereof.

9 5. Section 4 of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the  
10 existing section 4 thereof, the following new section 4 therefor, that is:

Amendment of  
Section 4

11 “4. Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Minister may give to  
12 the Board directions of a general nature with regard to the exercise of the  
13 functions of the Board under this Act, and it shall be the duty of the Board to  
14 comply with such directions”.

15 6. Section 5 of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the  
16 existing section 5 thereof, the following new section 5 therefor, that is:

Amendment of  
Section 5

17 “5.-(1) There shall be appointed for the Board, a Secretary who  
18 shall:

19 (a) not be below the rank of a Director in the Civil Service of the  
20 Federation;

21 (b) responsible for the day-to-day management and operations of  
22 the Fund;

23 (c) be appointed by the Minister on such terms and conditions as  
24 may be specified in his/her letter of appointment.

25 (2) The Board may appoint such number of other persons to be  
26 employees of the Board for the purposes of this Act, and notwithstanding  
27 this foregoing provision of this subsection, employees may be appointed by  
28 way of transfer or secondment from any of the public service of the  
29 Federation.

1 (3) The Board, in relation to any employee thereof, shall have power:

2 (a) to exercise disciplinary control (including dismissal) over such  
3 employees; and

4 (b) with the prior approval of the Federal Civil Service Commission,  
5 to determine the remuneration and allowances (and in appropriate cases,  
6 pensions, gratuities and other terminal benefits) to be paid to such employees  
7 as it may think appropriate”.

Amendment of  
Section 7

8 7. Section 7 of the principal Act is amended in subsection (1), by  
9 substituting for the “fine of N5,000” appearing thereof, the “fine of N200,000”  
10 therefor.

Amendment of  
Section 10

11 8. Section 10 of the principal Act is amended by substituting for the  
12 existing section 10 thereof, the following new section 10 therefor, that is:

13 “10. The Board shall prepare and submit to the President and the  
14 National Assembly, through the Minister, not later than the last day of June in  
15 each financial year, a report in such form as the Minister may direct on the  
16 activities of the Board during the preceding financial year, and shall include in  
17 such report a copy of the audited accounts of the Fund for that year, and the  
18 auditor's report thereon”.

Amendment of  
Section 11

19 9. Section 11 of the principal Act is amended by inserting in  
20 alphabetical order the interpretation of the following words and expressions,  
21 that is “Minister” means the Minister of Government of the Federation  
22 responsible for matters relating to youth development and social welfare”.

Consequential  
Amendment

23 10. The following words and expressions appearing in the principal  
24 Act are hereby consequentially amended, that is:

25 (1) There is substituted for the word “Executive Chairman”, the word  
26 “Chairman”.

27 (2) Consequently, wherever the words “Executive Chairman”  
28 appears in the principal Act there shall be substituted the word “Chairman”.

29 (3) There is substituted for the words “Secretary/Treasurer” the word  
30 “Secretary”.

1                   (4) Consequently, wherever the words “Secretary/Treasurer”  
2                   appears in the principal Act there shall be substituted the word “Secretary”.  
3                   11. This Act may be cited as the Nigerian Children's Trust Fund                   Citation  
4                   (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the Nigerian Children's Fund Act to, among other things, to set up a Board of Trustees more suited in child protection and care for the proper administration and distribution of welfare services and relief to Nigerian children in need, ensure that the benefit of the Fund trickles down to the grassroots