

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO REPEAL THE NIGERIA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION ACT CAP. N110  
LAW OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA 2004 AND ENACT THE NIGERIA  
FOOTBALL FEDERATION ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF  
THE GAME OF FOOTBALL IN NIGERIA AND FOR THE RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by Hon. Edward Pwajok*

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Commencement

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

### PART I - ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NIGERIA FOOTBALL FEDERATION

1. There is established a body to known as the Nigeria Football  
Federation (in this Bill referred to as the "Federation").

Establishment of  
the NFF

2. The Federation shall:

Objective of the  
Federation

(a) Be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common  
seal; and

(b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

Establishment of  
the Federation Law

The Objectives of the Federation shall include:

(a) To improve the game of football constantly and promote,  
regulate and control it throughout the territory of Nigeria in the light of fair  
play and its unifying educational, culture and humanitarian values,  
particularly through youth and development programmes;

(b) To develop, promote, control and regulate the sport of  
association football in all its forms throughout the territory of Nigeria;

(c) To draw up regulations and provisions and ensure their  
enforcement;

(d) To protect the joint interest of its members;

(e) To respect and prevent any infringement of the statutes,

- 1 regulations, directives and decisions of FIFA, CAF, WAFU and NFF as well as  
2 the laws of the Game and to ensure that these are also respected by its members;
- 3 (f) To prevent all methods or practices which might jeopardize the  
4 integrity of matches or competitions or give arise to abuse of Association  
5 Football;
- 6 (g) To control and supervise all friendly football matches of all forms  
7 played throughout the territory of Nigeria;
- 8 (h) To manage international sporting relation connected with  
9 Association Football in all its forms;
- 10 (i) To encourage the sport at a national level, and in and in a spirit of  
11 fair play; j. To host competitions at international and other levels;
- 12 (j) To accept, train, classify and control Football Coaches and referees  
13 in the territory of Nigeria;
- 14 (k) To organize competitions in association football in all its forms at  
15 a national level by defining precisely as required, the areas of authority  
16 conceded to the various leagues of which it is composed.

17 PART II - ESTABLISHMENT, COMPOSITION, TENURE AND POWERS OF THE  
18 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Establishment  
and Composition

- 19 3. -(1) There shall be established for the Federation a Committee  
20 which shall be known as the "Executive Committee".
- 21 (2) The Executive Committee shall comprise 15 elected persons,  
22 including 2 each from the six geo-political zones of the country elected into the  
23 following offices:
- 24 (a) the President;
- 25 (b) 1st Vice President;
- 26 (c) 2nd Vice President, who shall be Chairman of the Premier League;
- 27 (d) One ordinary member who shall be Chairman of the National  
28 Amateur League;
- 29 (e) One ordinary member who shall be Chairman of the National  
30 League;

1 (f) One ordinary member who shall be Chairman of the Nigeria  
2 Women League;

3 (g) One ordinary member who shall be Chairman of the body of  
4 State Football Association Chairmen eight other ordinary members

5 4.-(1) The President, 1st Vice President and the eight ordinary  
6 members under paragraphs (a), (b) and (h) of sub-section (1) above shall be  
7 elected by the NFF General Assembly.

Elections of the  
President and  
other Executive  
Committee  
Members

8 (2) Every Candidate for the post of President must be nominated by  
9 his State FA of origin and endorsed by 3 members of NFF from 3 other geo-  
10 political zones;

11 (3) Every candidate for the post of 1st Vice President and the other  
12 8 ordinary candidates for the Executive Committee must be nominated by  
13 their State FA or origin and endorsed by 2 members of NFF from 2 other geo-  
14 political zones;

15 (4) Names of the candidates shall be submitted to the NFF General  
16 Secretariat not later than 2 months before the General Assembly at which the  
17 election into the Executive Committee shall hold;

18 (5) Every candidate for the Executive Committee must have  
19 already been active in football and must not have been previously convicted  
20 of a criminal offence and have residency in the territory of Nigeria;

21 (6) Names of candidates must be sent to the general Secretariat of  
22 NFF and the official list of candidates must be passed on to members of NFF  
23 along with the agenda for the general meeting at which the election of the  
24 Executive Committee is due to take place;

25 (7) A member of the Executive Committee may not at the same  
26 time be a member of a judicial body of NFF;

27 (8) Where a position is vacant, the Executive Committee shall fill  
28 that position until the next General Assembly, when a replacement will be  
29 elected for the remaining term of mandate.

Tenure of office  
of Executive  
Committee  
Clause 6

1                   5.-(1) The President, Vice President and other members of the  
2 Executive Committee shall hold office for a period of four years and shall all be  
3 eligible for re-election.

Functions of the  
Executive  
Committee

4 The Executive Committee shall have powers to:

5                   (a) Pass decisions on all cases that do not come within the sphere of  
6 responsibility of the General Assembly or are not reserved for other bodies by  
7 law or under these or under NFF Statutes;

8                   (b) Prepare and convene the Ordinary and Extra-ordinary General  
9 Assembly of NFF;

10                  (c) Appoint the Chairmen, Deputy Chairmen and members of judicial  
11 bodies;

12                  (d) Appoint the Chairmen, Deputy Chairmen and members of judicial  
13 bodies;

14                  (e) set-up ad-hoc Committee if necessary at any time;

15                  (f) Compile the regulations for the organization of standing  
16 committees and ad-hoc committees;

17                  (g) Appoint or dismiss the General Secretary on the recommendation  
18 of the President, the General Secretary shall attend the meetings of all the  
19 Committees ex-officio;

20                  (h) Proposed the independent auditors to the General Assembly;

21                  (i) Decide the place and dates of and the number of teams  
22 participating in the competitions of NFF;

23                  (j) Appoint Coaches for the respective teams and Other technical  
24 staff;

25                  (k) Approve regulations stipulating how NFF shall be organized  
26 internally;

27                  (l) Ensure that the statutes are applied and adapt the executive  
28 arrangement required for their application;

29                  (m) Dismiss a person or body or suspend a member of NFF  
30 provisionally until the next General Assembly;

1 (n) Delegate tasks arising out of its area of authority to other bodies  
2 of NFF or third parties;

3 (o) Organize the participation of Nigerian teams in International  
4 competitions;

5 (p) Provide, in corporation with other bodies, adequate training for  
6 its employees and various personnel, who may be involved in the  
7 administration and organization of League matches and its activities, with a  
8 view to improving the standard of football administration and officiating;

9 (q) determining such area of League activities to be  
10 commercialized, in order to earn income for the League, the Professional  
11 players, professional clubs and the Federation;

12 (r) determining such area of League activities to be  
13 commercialized, in order to earn income for the League, the Professional  
14 players, professional clubs and the Federation;

15 (s) grant annual license to persons seeking to be Members of the  
16 Nigeria Football Referees Association and the Nigeria Football Coaches  
17 Association.

18 PART III - ESTABLISHMENT, COMPOSITION AND DUTIES OF THE

19 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 6.-(1) There is established a body to be known as the Nigeria  
21 Football Federation General Assembly (in this bill referred to as "the  
22 General Assembly") which shall be the supreme and legislative authority of  
23 the Federation.

Establishment  
and composition  
of the General  
Assembly

24 (2) The General Assembly may be Ordinary or Extraordinary  
25 General Assembly and shall be composed of 44 members represented by 2  
26 delegate each as follows:

27 (a) thirty seven state football associations, including the Federal  
28 Capital Territory, subordinate to NFF, each shall have 2 delegates;

29 (b) two delegates from the Nigeria Referees Association;

30 (c) two delegates from the Nigeria Premier League, two delegates

- 1 from the Players' Association;
- 2 (d) two delegates from the Nigeria football Coaches Association;
- 3 (e) two delegates from the Nigeria National League;
- 4 (f) two delegation Nigeria Amateur League two delegates from the
- 5 Nigeria Women League;
- 6 (1) The President shall conduct the General Assembly's business in
- 7 compliance with the standing orders of the General Assembly.
- 8 (2) The honorary Chairmen or honorary members may take part in the
- 9 General Assembly and join in debates but are not entitled to vote.
- 10 7.-(a) adopting or amending the Statute, regulations governing the
- 11 application of the Statutes and standing orders of the General Assembly:
- 12 (a) appointing 6 members to check the minutes of the last meeting;
- 13 (b) appointment the scrutineers;
- 14 (c) approving the financial statements;
- 15 (d) approving the President's activities report;
- 16 (e) appointing the independent auditors upon the proposal of the
- 17 Executive Committee;
- 18 (f) approving the budget;
- 19 (g) fixing membership subscriptions;
- 20 (h) electing the President, Vice-Presidents and other members of the
- 21 executive committee;
- 22 (i) deciding on the proposal of the executive Committee, whether to
- 23 bestow the title of honorary President or member on a person who has made a
- 24 particular valuable contribution to football within NFF;
- 25 (j) admitting, suspending or expelling a member;
- 26 (k) revoking the mandate of one or a number of the members of a body
- 27 of the NFF;
- 28 (l) Dissolving NFF;
- 29 (m) Passing decisions at the request of a member in accordance with
- 30 the Bill and NFF Statutes;

1 (n) A as may appoint observers who take part in the General  
2 Assembly without the right to debate or vote.

3 PART IV - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISION

4 8. From the commencement of this Act, no transfer of a Nigerian  
5 football player to a club outside Nigeria shall be valid unless the transfer is  
6 under a written contract providing amongst others for:

Transfer of  
Nigerian players  
to foreign clubs

7 (a) the unconditional release by that club of the Nigerian player, if  
8 requested by the Federation for the purpose of representing Nigeria in a  
9 football competition organized by;

10 (b) the Federation of International Football Association, or the  
11 Confederation of African Football;

12 (c) the Confederation of African Football; and

13 (d) the payment by that club of such fees as may be prescribed by  
14 the Federation.

15 9. Copies of all contracts entered into in pursuance of the provision  
16 of section 10 of this Bill shall be endorsed by the General Secretary of the  
17 Federation and deposited with the Federation within 14 days signing of the  
18 contract by the player

Endorsement  
contract between  
Nigerian players  
to foreign clubs etc

19 PART V - STAFF OF THE ASSOCIATION

20 10. The Executive Committee appoints or dismisses the General  
21 Secretary on the recommendation of the President, the General Secretary  
22 shall attend the meetings of all the Committees as ex-officio

Appointment of  
the General  
Secretary of the  
Federation

23 11.-(a) Employment of staff in the Federation other than these  
24 through contracts shall be pensionable under the prevalent Pensions Act and  
25 such employees shall be entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement  
26 benefits as provided by that Act;

Pensions

27 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this  
28 section, nothing shall prevent the Federation from employing any person to  
29 any office which precludes the grant of a pension and gratuity in respect of  
30 that office;

1 (c) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, any employment made  
2 under subsection 1 of this section, shall have effect as if the office were in the  
3 Civil Service of the Federation as defined in the constitution of the Federal  
4 Republic of Nigeria;

5 (d) Employment of staff to any office in the Federation offer through a  
6 contract of service shall not be pensionable but may attract a pay-off at the  
7 expiration of the whole contract even after any renewal:

8 Provided that any employment to an office in the Federation offered through a  
9 contract and terminated as a result of a breach of a fundamental term of the  
10 contract shall not attract the pay-off.

11 PART VI - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Funds of the  
Federation

12 12.-(1) The Executive Committee shall establish and maintain a fund  
13 from which shall be defrayed all expenditure incurred by the Federation and  
14 the fund shall be under the supervision of the National Sports Commission.

15 (2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund established under  
16 subsection (1) of this section:

17 (a) all monies as may be granted to the Federation by the Federal  
18 Government;

19 (b) all monies realized for the general purposes of the Federation;

20 (c) all monies accruing to the Executive Committee on behalf of the  
21 Federation by any means including grants: in-aid] endowments and  
22 donations;

23 (d) all charges, fees, dues or amounts recovered by the Executive  
24 Committee;

25 (e) all interests on money invested by the Executive Committee; and

26 (f) such other money as may, from time to time] accrue to the  
27 Federation or the Executive Committee.

Annual Report

28 13. The Federation shall prepare and submit to the National Sports  
29 Commission not later than a month to its Annual General Assembly a report of  
30 its activities during the preceding year and the report shall include a copy of the



1 audited accounts of the Federation and the auditors report therein.

2 14. The Federation shall prepare not later than 3 months to its  
3 Annual General Assembly, an expenditure account for its programmes for  
4 the following year and it shall be submitted to the National Sports  
5 Commission.

Accounts and  
Audit

6 PART VII

7 15.-(1) For the purpose of carrying out the functions conferred on  
8 the Executive Committee under this Bill the General Secretary or any other  
9 employee of the Federation authorized in this behalf:

Powers to obtain  
information

10 (a) shall have a right of access at all relevant times to records of any  
11 of its members;

12 (b) may by notice in writing served on any person in charge of the  
13 member require that person to furnish information on such matters as may  
14 be specified in the notice; and

15 (c) It shall be the duty of any person required to furnish information  
16 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section, to comply with the notice within a  
17 reasonable period of time

18 16. The Federation may make regulations generally for giving full  
19 effect to the provisions of this Bill and, in particular, for:

Regulations

20 (a) ensuring that there are appropriate, legally binding agreements  
21 between registered football clubs and professional and national league  
22 football players who may have the benefit of the services of legal advisers  
23 during negotiations;

24 (b) ensuring that the necessary documentary evidence and  
25 particulars are made available by registered football clubs, as regards the  
26 salaries and other emoluments to be paid to professional and national league  
27 football players, so as to enable tax deductions to be made from the salaries  
28 and other emoluments where appropriate, fixing the license fees to be paid  
29 in any year by every registered professional and national league football

1 player and providing for the production of his income tax receipt for the  
2 previous year;

3 (c) ensuring that a satisfactory insurance policy is taken out by each  
4 professional and national league club for every registered professional player  
5 and official, against physical injury or loss of life and also on behalf of third  
6 parties;

7 (d) requiring a referee officiating in a match under the auspices of the  
8 Federation to be registered with the Nigeria Football Referees Association and  
9 to hold a current licence from the Nigeria Football Federation;

10 (e) encouraging registered professional clubs to build and own  
11 standard football pitches and stadia according to Federation of International  
12 Football Association minimum specification within seven years of the  
13 commencement of this Bill and for disqualifying them from participating in  
14 professional football if this target is not met within the prescribed period; and

15 (f) regulating the activities of Amateur football clubs.

16 (2) (a) The provisions of the Statutes of the Federation 2010 shall  
17 operate where this Bill does not otherwise provide;

18 (b) The provisions of the Statutes of the Federation 2010 as adopted  
19 by General Assembly of the Federation in 2009 are hereby adopted as being  
20 valid.

Repeal of Cap.  
N110 LFN 2004.

21 17. The Nigeria Football Association Act Cap N110 Laws of the  
22 Federation 2004 is hereby repealed.

23 (1) From the commencement of this Bill:

24 (a) every person employed under the repealed Act other than under  
25 contract shall be transferred to and deemed to be employed by the Nigeria  
26 Football Federation;

27 (b) all assets, funds, resources, property, rights, interests, obligations  
28 and liabilities of the dissolved Association existing immediately before the  
29 commencement of this Bill shall vest in the Federation established by this Bill.

30 (2) Any proceedings or cause of action pending or existing or which

1 could have been taken by or against the dissolved Association immediately  
2 before the commencement of this Bill shall be taken by or against the  
3 Nigeria Football Federation;

4 (1) Pension:

5 (a) Employment of staff in the Federation other than these through  
6 contracts shall be pensionable under the prevalent Pensions Act and such  
7 employees shall be entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement  
8 benefits as provided by that Act;

9 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this  
10 section, nothing shall prevent the Federation from employing any person to  
11 any office which precludes the grant of a pension and gratuity in respect of  
12 that office;

13 (c) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, any employment made  
14 under subsection 1 of this section, shall have effect as if the office were in the  
15 Civil Service of the Federation as defined in the constitution of the Federal  
16 Republic of Nigeria;

17 (d) Employment of staff to any office in the Federation offer  
18 through a contract of service shall not be pensionable but may attract a pay-  
19 off at the expiration of the whole contract even after any renewal.

20 18. Provided that any employment to an office in the Federation  
21 offered through a contract and terminated as a result of a breach of a  
22 fundamental term of the contract shall not attract the pay-off In this Bill,  
23 unless the context otherwise requires:

24 "Executive Committee# means executive body of the Nigeria Football  
25 Federation;

26 "Federation" means the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) established by  
27 sections 1 of this Bill;

28 "League" means any other body subordinate and duly affiliated to the  
29 Nigeria Football Federation, that has been granted authority to organize  
30 competitions sanctioned in accordance with this Bill;

Interpretation

1 "Officials" means all committee members, coaches, referees and attendants as  
2 well as other people responsible for technical, medical and administrative  
3 matters relating to the activities of the Federation.

Short Title

4 **19.** This Bill may be cited as the Nigeria Football Federation Bill,  
5 2016.

## SUGGESTED CLAUSES

*Clause 13*

8 The Federation is hereby empowered to amend the Statutes in accordance with  
9 the provisions of the Statutes, such amendment shall become valid upon due  
10 passage by the General Assembly of the Federation

*Clause 14*

12 The 2010 Statutes of the Federation and all subsequent amendment and hereby  
13 enacted as a subsidiary legislation to this Act herein.

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to repeal the Nigeria Football Association Act Cap. N110 LFN,  
2004 and enact the Nigeria Football Federation Act to provide for the  
administration of the game of Football in Nigeria.