

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A WELFARE SCHEME FOR THE AGED IN NIGERIA

*Sponsored by Hon. Mutiu Shadimu*

[ ] Commencement

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

- 1            1.-(i) There is hereby established a Board to be known as Nigerian Welfare Board For The Aged; Establishment of National Welfare Board for the Aged
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- 3            (ii) The Headquarters of the Board shall be located in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja with branches in all the Federal Constituency of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
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- 6            (1) The objectives of the Board shall be;
- 7            (iii) To identify and document in a database indigent aged people on constituency by constituency basis for effective management of the scheme;
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- 10            (iv) To take care of the welfare of the identified indigent aged in line with international best practices with reference to medical, housing allowances and other related welfare issues.
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- 13            (2) The Board shall be a body corporate and shall have power to sue and be sued in its corporate name.
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- 15            2. The policy making body of the Board shall be the Board of Management in this Act referred to as "The Board". Policy body of the Board
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- 17            3.-(1) The board consist of: Composition of the Board
- 18            (a) A Chairman who shall be appointed by the President;
- 19            (b) A Director-General who shall be the Chief Executive of the Board and shall be appointed by the President;
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- 21            (c) One representative of the Federal Ministry of Social Welfare or

1 the ministry in charge of welfare matters;  
2 (d) One representative of the Nigerian Medical Association;  
3 (e) One representative of Civil Society Organisations;  
4 (f) Six other persons representing the six geo-political zones;  
5 (g) Other members of the Board apart from the Chairman, shall be  
6 appointed by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the  
7 recommendation of the Heads of the related Ministries, Departments,  
8 Agencies and Organizations.

9 (3) The Minister in charge of social welfare shall in pursuant to this  
10 Act make regulations for effective performance of the duties conferred on the  
11 Board and management of the Board.

## Tenure of Office

12 4.-(1) (a) Members of the Board shall hold office for a period of four  
13 years;

14 (b) a member may be eligible for re-appointment for a further term of  
15 4 years at the pleasure of the President and no more.

16 (2) A member of the Board may be removed from office by the  
17 president for misconduct or inability to perform the functions of his office due  
18 to physical or mental incapacity.

19 (3) There shall be paid to the members of the Board such  
20 remuneration, travelling and other allowances in respect of any period of time  
21 spent on the business of the Board of management as the President may  
22 determine.

Functions of  
the Board

23 5. The Board is charged with the responsibility of:

24 (a) Collating and registering all indigent aged in Nigeria in order to  
25 carry into effect the aims and objectives of the Scheme;

26 (b) working out an acceptable monetary stipend payable to the Aged  
27 on monthly basis on the advice of the Minister;

28 (c) Keeping records and updating its database in respect of  
29 beneficiaries under the scheme;

30 (d) Organizing from time to time workshops capable of lifting the

1	spirit of the beneficiary;	
2	(e) Publishing on yearly basis records of living beneficiaries and	
3	the list of beneficiaries that passed on during the preceding year of such	
4	publication.	
5	6. The minister may from time to time give directives to the board	Power of the
6	in order to further the intent of this Act.	Minister to give directives
7	7. The Board shall have power to:	Powers of the
8	(a) acquire, hold and manage movable and immovable property;	Board
9	(b) sell, let, lease or otherwise dispose of property vested in the	
10	Board.	
11	8.-(1) The Board shall establish and maintain a fund which shall be	Fund of the
12	applied towards the promotion of the objectives of the Scheme.	Board
13	(2) The funds of the Board shall consist of:	
14	(a) such funds as the Local, State and Federal Government may,	
15	from time to time provide for the Scheme in the yearly budget;	
16	(b) gifts and donations; and	
17	(c) such funds as may be collected or received by the Board from	
18	other sources and the Board own sources of revenue if any.	
19	9.-(1) A person shall benefit from the scheme herein created	Conditions
20	provided:	precedent to
21	(a) He has attained the age of seventy years as evident by his birth	benefitting under
22	certificate or a declaration of age from a Court of records or from a Notary	the Scheme
23	Public;	
24	(b) He has no children or relations or that he has children and	
25	relations but that the children and relations are indigent and incapable of	
26	providing for his needs;	
27	(c) That he is not entitled to pension under the relevant Pension	
28	Act;	
29	(d) That he is a Nigerian citizen by birth or by naturalization.	

The Director-  
General and other  
Staff of the  
Commission

1                   **10.**-(1) The Director- General appointed pursuant to section 3 (b) of  
2 this Act shall:

3                   (a) be the chief Executive Officer of the Board;

4                   (b) be responsible for day to day running of the Board;

5                   (c) be the custodian of the records and correspondence of the Board;

6                   (d) carry out such duties as the Board may, from time to time direct.

Service in the  
Board to be  
pensionable

7                   **11.** Service in the Board except as it relates only to the Director-  
8 General and other employees of the Board shall be pensionable and in  
9 accordance with the Civil Service rules

Annual Estimates  
and Accounts

10                  **12.**-(1) The Board shall not, later than 31 October in each year, cause  
11 to be prepared and submitted to the National Assembly through the President  
12 for consideration and approval an estimate of the income and expenditure of  
13 the Board for the next succeeding year.

14                  (2) The Board shall cause to be kept proper accounts in respect of each  
15 year and proper records in relation to those accounts and when certified by the  
16 Board shall be audited as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

17                  (3) The accounts of the Board shall be audited not later than six  
18 months after the end of each year by Auditors appointed by the Board from the  
19 list of Auditors and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-  
20 General of the Federation.

Annual Report

21                  **13.** The Board shall, not later than 30th September in each year,  
22 prepare and submit to the National Assembly through the President, a report on  
23 the activities of the Board during the preceding year, in such form as the  
24 Minister shall determine.

Penalty for  
alteration and  
falsification of  
age records

25                  **14.** Any beneficiary who alters and or falsifies his age in order to  
26 benefit from this Scheme commits a crime and upon conviction shall be guilty  
27 of an offence punishable with seven years Imprisonment or a fine of  
28 N500,000.00 ( Five Hundred Thousand Naira)only or both.

Interpretation

29                  **15.** In this Act unless the context otherwise requires:

30 "Board" means the National Welfare Board;

1 "Minister" means the minister in charge of Social Welfare. President means  
2 the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

3 **16.** This Bill may be cited as the National Welfare Board for the Short Title  
4 Aged Bill, 2016.

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

**This Bill seeks to create a National Welfare Board whose responsibility shall  
be to take care of the aged in Nigeria and other issues connected therewith.**