

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL CENTER
FOR RESEARCH AND PRODUCTION OF SNAKE VACCINES IN NIGERIA AND
FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2017

Sponsors: Hon. Timothy Golu, Hon. Binta Bello

[] Commencement

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

- 1 1. There is hereby established the National Center for Research
2 and Production of Snake Vaccines (in this Act referred to as "the Center").
3 2. The Center shall have the following as functions:
4 (a) to provide national leadership in snake research, Production of
5 Vaccines;
6 (b) to guide scientific improvements to snake prevention,
7 treatment and care;
8 (c) to coordinate and liaise between the wide range of groups and
9 health care providers with an interest in Snake;
10 (d) to make recommendations to the Government about snake
11 policy and priorities;
12 (e) to oversee a dedicated budget for research into snake;
13 (f) to assist with the implementation of Government policies and
14 programs in snake control;
15 (g) to provide financial assistance, out of money appropriated by
16 the National Assembly, for research and treatment as mentioned in
17 paragraph (e) and for the implementation of polices and programs
18 mentioned in paragraph (f).
19 (2) The Center may carry out such other activities as are necessary

Establishment of
the National
Center for Research
and Production
of Snake Vaccines

Objectives and
functions of the
Center

1 or expedient for the full discharge of any of the functions of the Center under
2 this Act.

Establishment
of the Board

3 3.-(1) There is hereby established a Board to be known as The
4 National Center for Research and Production of Snake Vaccines Board (in this
5 Act referred to as the "Board").

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

Membership
of the Board

8 4. The Board shall consist of:

9 (a) a Chairman to be appointed by the President;

10 (b) Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health;

11 (c) a representative each of:

12 (i) Pharmaceutical Council of Nigeria;

13 (ii) Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria;

14 (iii) National Association of Nigerian Nurses and Midwives;

15 (iv) eight persons with relevant qualifications and experience who

16 shall represent each of the following groups: Radiologists, Medical Laboratory

17 Scientists, Physiotherapists, Nigerian Snake Society, Civil Society

18 Organizations, A Snake Survivor living free of Snake for a minimum of 5 years,

19 National Complementary and Alternative Medical Association (NACAMA)

20 and National Association of Nigeria Traditional Medicine Practitioners

21 (NANTMP);

22 (d) the Director of the Center.

Tenure of Office
of Members

23 5.-(1) Subject to the provision of this section, a member of the Board

24 shall hold office for four years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for a

25 further period of four years and no more.

26 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section,

27 the President may at anytime remove a member from the Board.

28 (3) Any member may, in writing under his hand addressed to the

29 Minister at anytime.

30 (4) The office of a member of the Board shall become vacant if:

1 (a) the period of his appointment has expired;

2 (b) he absents himself without leave of the Board from three
3 consecutive meetings of the Board and without reasonable excuse for so
4 doing;

5 (c) he is guilty of misconduct in his office as a member and a
6 resolution of the Board approves the termination of his membership;

7 (d) he dies, resigns or is removed from office.

8 (5) Soon after the office of a member of the Board becomes vacant,
9 the authority by whom he was appointed shall appoint another person in his
10 place in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

11 (6) Members of the Board, other than ex-officio members, shall be
12 paid out of money at the disposal of the Board, such remunerations and
13 allowances as the Minister may, with the approval of the President
14 determine.

15 (7) The provisions contained in the schedule proceedings to this
16 Act shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board and other
17 matters contained therein.

18 6. The Board shall have power to:

Power of the
Board

19 (a) erect, provide equip and maintain research, centre, training
20 schools with state of the art facilities as are necessarily suitable for the or
21 required for any of the objects of the Center;

22 (b) encourage and provide for research at the Center;

23 (c) accept gifts, legacies and donations which are consistent with
24 the objects of this Center;

25 (d) enter into contract;

26 (e) acquire and hold movable and Immovable property;

27 (f) with the approval of the Minister:

28 (i) subject to the land use Act sell, mortgage, transfer or otherwise
29 deal with movable or immovable property;

30 (ii) borrow at interest on the security of land or movable property of

1 the Board such moneys as the Board may, from time to time require for the
2 purpose of this Act;

3 (iii) invest the funds of the Board as it thinks fits;

4 (g) do anything which in its opinion, may advance the objects of
5 which the Center was set up.

Director and
other Staff of
the Center

6 7.-(1) There shall be a director of the Center who shall be appointed by
7 the President, on the recommendations of the Minister.

8 (2) A person shall not be qualified to be appointed as a Director, unless
9 he is an Oncologist with 10 years research experience and preferably a
10 Professor with administrative experience.

11 (3) The Board shall not exercise any disciplinary control over the
12 director, without the approval of the Minister.

13 (4) Subject to the provision of this Act and the control of the Board
14 over the matters affecting finance of the Center, the director shall be the chief
15 executive of the Center and shall be charged with the general responsibility for
16 the management and administration of the affairs of Center and in particular:

17 (a) direct and regulate the programme of work at the Center;

18 (b) promote research within and outside of the Center;

19 (c) keep safe custody of all records of the Center;

20 (d) demand and receive from any person attending training or courses
21 at the Center fees as the Board may, from time to time determine;

22 (e) prepare and present to the Board annual and other reports on the
23 progress of work at the Center and on the expenditure or liabilities by the
24 Center;

25 (f) be responsible for the day to day running and management of the
26 Center;

27 (g) exercise such powers and performs such duties as may be
28 determined from time to time by the President;

29 (h) create a Central Online data base for statistical analysis to create

1 access by both public and private individuals with a view to attracting donor
2 agencies;

3 (i) establish a department of telemedicine for collaboration with
4 peers both within and outside the country;

5 (j) responsible for establishing a Snake preventive protocol
6 according to age and family history of every Nigerian with a view to
7 carrying out a public awareness campaigns for screening right from the
8 primary health centre to the secondary and tertiary hospitals with the
9 ultimate referral centre for everything Snake being the Center is aimed at
10 eradicating medical tourism by the theme "Operation know your Health
11 Centre and Referral Point".

12 8.-(1) There shall be for the Center an administrative secretary who
13 shall be appointed by the Board to perform such duties as may be assigned to
14 him by the Board. Appointment of
the Secretary and
other Staff

15 (2) Subject to section 7 of this Act, the Board may appoint such
16 other staff for the Center as it may determine and pay to its staff such
17 remunerations and allowances as payable to persons on equivalent in the
18 Civil Service of the Federation.

19 9.-(1) Service in the Center shall be approved service for the Pension Reform
Act 2004
20 purposes of the Pension Reform Act 2004.

21 (2) Officers and employees in the Center shall be entitled to
22 pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits as prescribed in the
23 Pension Reform Act 2004, so however that nothing in this Act shall prevent
24 the appointment of a person to any office on terms which or other retirement
25 benefit in respect of that office.

26 10.-(1) The Board shall establish and maintain a fund from which Financial
Provision
27 shall be defrayed with the general or specified approval of the Minister in
28 any case, all expenditure incurred by the Board.

29 (2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund established in
30 pursuance of subsection (1) of this section:

1 (a) such sums as may be provided by the Federal Government or a
2 State Government for payment into the fund;

3 (b) all moneys raised for the general purposes of the Center;

4 (c) all moneys accruing to the Board on behalf of the Center by any
5 means, including grants-in-aid, endowments and donations;

6 (d) all charges, dues, fees for services rendered by the fund.

7 (3) the Board shall establish Public Private Partnership (PPP)
8 wherever possible for providing clinical services using PPP model to defray
9 costs and maximize efficiency.

Account and
Audit

10 **11.**-(1) The Board shall keep proper accounts in respect of each year
11 and proper records in relation to those accounts and shall cause to be prepared
12 in each year:

13 (a) a statement showing the income and expenditure of the Center for
14 immediately preceding year; and

15 (b) a statement of the assets and liabilities of the Center as at the last
16 day of the immediately preceding year.

17 (2) The Board shall cause every statement prepared under this section
18 to be audited within six months after the end of the year to which the statement
19 relates by auditors appointed from the list and in accordance with the
20 guidelines supplied by the Auditor General for the Federation.

Annual estimate

21 **12.** The Board shall cause to be prepared not later than 1st June in
22 each year an estimate of the expenditure necessary to carry out the programme
23 approved by the Board during the immediately preceding year, and shall not
24 later than 31st October in each year, submit to the Minister the estimate of
25 expenditure and that of its income during the next succeeding year.

Annual Report

26 **13.**-(1) The Board shall prepare and submit to the Minister once every
27 year a report, in such form as the Minister may direct, on the activities of the
28 Board during the immediately preceding year, and shall include in the report a
29 copy of the credited accounts of the center for that year and the auditor's report
30 thereon.

1 14. The Minister may give directives of a general nature with Power to give
2 regard to the carrying out the objects of the Center under this Act and it shall Directives
3 be the duty of the Center to comply with such directives.

4 15. The Board may, with the approval of the Minister, make Regulation
5 regulations generally for carrying into effect the provisions of this Act and
6 due administration of the Center.

7 16. In this Act unless the context otherwise requires: Interpretation
8 "Board" means the National Center for Research and Production of Snake
9 Vaccines Board established under section 3 (1) of this Act;
10 "Snake" means the uncontrolled growth of the cells in the human body and
11 the ability of these cells to migrate from the original site and spread to distant
12 sites and includes but is not limited to skin Snake, lung Snake, colon Snake,
13 breast Snake (in women), and prostate Snake (in men), Snake of the kidneys,
14 ovaries, uterus, pancreas, bladder, rectum, and blood and lymph node Snake
15 (leukemias and lymphomas);
16 "Director" means the Director of the Center appointed under section 7(1) of
17 this Act;
18 "Center" means the National Center for Research and Production of Snake
19 Vaccines established by section 1 of this Act;
20 "Minister" means the Minister charged with the responsibility for matters
21 relating to Health;
22 "Power" includes duties and functions.

23 17. This Bill may be cited as the National Center for Research and Citation
24 Production of Snake Vaccines (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017.

SCHEDULE

Section

Proceedings of the Board, etc

28 1. Subject to this Act and Section 27 of the Interpretation Act, the
29 Board may make standing orders to regulate the proceedings of the Board or
30 any committee thereof.

1 2.-(1) The Board shall meet not less than two times in every year for
2 the exercise of its functions under this Act and at such times and places as the
3 chairman may, from time to time appoint.

4 (2) The chairman shall, if required to be so by notice in writing by not
5 less than five other members, call a special meeting of the Board to be held
6 within 28 days from the date on which the notice is given.

7 (3) Any notice given under sub-paragraph (2) of this paragraph shall
8 state the matters to be discussed at the special meeting and any matter not so
9 stated shall not be discussed at the meeting.

10 (4) At every meeting of the Board, the chairman shall preside and in
11 his absence the members present shall appoint one of their numbers to preside
12 at that meeting.

13 3. The quorum of the Board shall be four and the quorum of any
14 committee of the Board shall be determined by the Board.

15 4. Minutes of every meeting of the Board shall be regularly entered in
16 a book to be kept for the purpose and shall, after approval by members, be
17 signed by the chairman at the next ensuing meeting.

18 5. The Board may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership
19 or any defect in the appointment of a member or the fact that any person not
20 entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.

21 6.-(1) The seal of the Board shall not be used or affixed to any
22 document, except in pursuance of a resolution duly passed at a properly
23 constituted meeting of the Board.

24 (2) The fixing of the seal of the Board shall be authenticated by the
25 signature of chairman or the director or of some other member authorized
26 generally or specifically to act for that purpose by the Board.

27 (3) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person
28 not being a body corporate, would be required to be under seal, may be made or
29 executed on behalf of the Board by any person generally or specially
30 authorized to act for that purpose by the Board.

1 (4) Any document purporting to be document duly executed under
2 the seal of the Board shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the
3 contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed.

4 7. Members of the Board who are not public officers shall be paid
5 out of the money at the disposal of the Board such traveling and other
6 allowances, in accordance with such scales as may be approved, from time
7 to time, by the Minister.

8 8. Any member of the Board or a committee thereof who has a
9 personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or purposed to
10 be considered by the Board or a committee thereof shall forthwith disclose
11 his interest to the Board or committee and shall not vote on any question
12 relating to such contract or arrangement.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Bill seeks to provide for the establishment of the National Center for Research and Production of Snake Vaccines to research into Snake and to provide treatment to patients in Nigeria.

