

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO REPEAL THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL HEROES REGISTER ACT CAP N121 LFN 2010 AND ENACT THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL HEROES ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE RECOGNITION OF HEROES, RE-ESTABLISH THE NIGERIAN HEROES REGISTER AND CRITERIA FOR THE IDENTIFICATION, CATEGORIES, SELECTION AND HONORING OF NATIONAL HEROES AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by Hon. Abubakar Amuda-Kannike G.*

[ ] Commencement

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

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>1               <b>1.-(1)</b> The objective of this Bill is to repeal the Nigerian National</p> <p>2               Heroes Register Act Cap N121 LFN 2010 and to provide a more robust legal</p> <p>3               framework for the recognition and honour of national heroes in Nigeria.</p> <p>4               <b>(2)</b> A person shall be considered a hero for purposes of this Bill</p> <p>5               where the person has positively contributed selflessly and sacrificed for the</p> <p>6               country in any of the categories set out in the First Schedule.</p> | <p>Objectives and<br/>purpose of the<br/>Bill</p> |
| <p>7               <b>2.</b> Where the Council of State (in this Bill referred to as the</p> <p>8               “Council”) upon receipt of a nomination of citizens who are alive 'or dead</p> <p>9               and have acted to deserve well of our country on account of his outstanding,</p> <p>10              distinctive and distinguished service to Nigeria, The President may, by</p> <p>11              notice in the gazette, designate and register such person as a national hero of</p> <p>12              Nigeria.</p>  | <p>Designation of<br/>heroes</p>                  |
| <p>13              <b>3.</b> In the exercise of its functions, the Council shall have regard to</p> <p>14              the following national values and principles of governance-</p> <p>15              (a) patriotism, national unity, sharing and devolution of power, the</p> <p>16              rule of law, democracy and participation of the people;</p> <p>17              (b) human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality,</p>  | <p>Values and<br/>Principles</p>                  |

	1	human rights, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalized;
	2	(c) good governance, integrity, transparency and accountability;
	3	(d) sustainable development.
Call for nomination and selection	4	<b>4.</b> The Council may, from time to time, by notice published in the
	5	print and electronic media, call for proposals for nomination of suitable
	6	persons to be recommended for designation as national heroes.
Procedure for nomination	7	<b>5.-(1)</b> The nomination for consideration of a person as national hero
	8	may be made by any citizen of Nigeria to the Council.
	9	(2) Every nomination under this section shall be in writing, addressed
	10	to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation and shall set forth, in
	11	respect of each person nominated-
	12	(a) his full names an address;
	13	(b) his biographical data;
	14	(c) his personal attainments and specific contributions to national
	15	achievements; and
	16	(d) such other particulars as would, in the opinion of the person
	17	making the nomination, assist the Council in arriving at a determination in the
	18	case.
Public consultation	19	<b>6.-(1)</b> The Council shall, by notice in at least two national
	20	newspapers, publish the names of all persons proposed to be declared as
	21	national heroes under this Bill.
	22	(2) A notice under subsection (1) shall-
	23	(a) specify the names of the persons proposed to be so designated;
	24	(b) set out a brief summary of the achievement for which such
	25	designation is proposed to be made; and
	26	(c) invite objections and representations from members of the public
	27	who are of the opinion that the proposed honour is not deserved.
	28	(3) The Council shall consider all objections and representations
	29	received pursuant to subsection 2(c) and draw up a final list of the persons
	30	confirmed as qualified to be designated as heroes, which shall be forwarded to

1 the president for such declaration.

2 (4) The names of all persons designated as heroes shall be notified  
3 by the President by notice in gazette.

4 7.-(1) No citizen of Nigeria shall be nominated for consideration as  
5 national hero unless the following conditions are satisfied, that is to say-

Eligibility and  
certain restrictions  
on persons in  
Government

6 (a) he shall have rendered continuous service of a public nature  
7 (whether or not in the public service of the Federation) for a period of not  
8 less than ten years;

9 (b) he shall or have been a person of undoubted integrity;

10 (c) he shall have achieved distinction in his chosen occupation,  
11 profession, calling or in any field of human endeavor whatsoever; and

12 (2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, a person  
13 holding any executive, legislative or judicial office in the government of the  
14 federation or in any state or local government shall not be nominated for  
15 consideration as a national hero while holding any such office and shall  
16 continue to be so ineligible for nomination, until his death or until after the  
17 expiration of a period of five years upon his ceasing to hold such office,  
18 whichever is earlier:

19 Provided that where a person who ceased to hold office for such period or  
20 longer period is thereafter re-elected or, as the case may be, appointed to  
21 again hold any such office, the period of five years aforementioned shall be  
22 computed from the time he ceased finally to hold any such office.

23 8.-(1) All heroes under this Bill shall be invested with the honour  
24 by the President at a public ceremony.

Investiture

25 (2) The investiture of heroes shall take place during the  
26 Independence Day, celebrated on the 1st of October in each year, and the  
27 person(s) so inaugurated shall be awarded the certificate set out in the  
28 Second Schedule of this Bill.

29 (3) The honours proposed by this Bill may be awarded during the  
30 lifetime of the hero or posthumously.

Nigerian Heroes  
Register

1                   **9.-(1)** There is established a register to be known as the Nigerian  
2                   National Heroes Register (in this Bill referred to as “the register”) in which  
3                   shall be inscribed in a permanent form, the names of citizens of Nigeria  
4                   (whether alive or dead) deserving a place of honour in Nigeria's history.

5                   (2) The Register shall be kept within the premises of the Secretary to  
6                   the Government of the Federation and the National Library, and shall, subject  
7                   to such conditions necessary for the securing of its safety and preservation as  
8                   may be prescribed by the President, be open to members of the public.

The Register  
and power to  
inscribe therein  
names of the  
first national  
heroes

9                   **10.-(1)** The Register shall be divided into two parts, namely-

10                  (a) the first part for persons who are dead; and

11                  (b) the second part for living persons and which shall not, at anytime,  
12                  contain more than five names.

13                  (2) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Bill, the persons  
14                  mentioned in the Schedule to this Act are hereby declared as national heroes  
15                  and, accordingly, their names shall, as soon as may be after the commencement  
16                  of this Bill, be inscribed in the first part of the Register, without further  
17                  assurance but for this Bill.

18                  (3) The President shall, as occasion may demand, by order published  
19                  in the Federal Gazette, add to the list in the said schedule the names of other  
20                  persons who may, from time to time, be declared as national heroes and whose  
21                  names have been duly inscribed in the Register.

Power to direct  
registration, etc.

22                  **11.-(1)** Where the Council upon receipt of a nomination is of opinion  
23                  that the circumstances are such to render it expedient that the name of the  
24                  person concerned should be inscribed in the Register, the Council shall advise  
25                  the President accordingly, and the President may thereafter give such  
26                  directions relative thereto, as he may, in his discretion, think fit:

27                  Provided that the President shall not direct the inclusion of the name of a living  
28                  person in the Register if there are already not less than five names of other  
29                  living persons in the relevant part of the Register.

Chief Registrar,  
etc.

30                  **12.-(1)** The Secretary to the Government of the Federation shall be the

1 Chief Registrar and shall, subject to the provisions of this Bill, do or cause to  
2 be done, all such things as may be necessary for the purposes of this Bill.

3 (2) In pursuance of subsection (1) of this section, the Secretary to  
4 the Government of the Federation may designate such number of public  
5 officers to be Registrars to assist him in the discharge of his functions and the  
6 due administration of the provisions of this Bill.

7 13.-(1) A person declared a hero under this Bill shall be entitled to  
8 the following privileges, among others-

Forms recognition  
and honour of  
national heroes

9 (a) invitations to national and community functions as a state  
10 guest;

11 (b) having cultural festivals, concerts exhibitions and sports events  
12 organized in their honour;

13 (c) having towers, institutions, open parks in urban areas, roads,  
14 streets estates, stamps and notable landmarks named after hero;

15 (d) the award of medals, insignia, commendations, certificates and  
16 such other commemorative as may be determined by the Council from time  
17 to time;

18 (e) the issuance of such postage stamps, scarves mementoes,  
19 utensils, apparel and artifacts as may be determined by the Council from  
20 time to time;

21 (f) the publication, of books depicting their respective roles in the  
22 country's history or the social life of the society, which shall be part of the  
23 educational curriculum; or

24 (g) being accorded financial assistance where their economic  
25 circumstances warrant such assistance.

26 (2) in furtherance to the provisions of subsection (1), the  
27 Government may, from time to time, accord national heroes who are in need  
28 of assistance-

29 (a) the highest attainable standard of health care services, including  
30 reproductive health care;

1 (b) accessible and adequate housing and reasonable standards of  
2 sanitation;

3 (c) adequate food of acceptable quality;

4 (d) clean and safe water in adequate quantities;

5 (e) social security;

6 (f) free education for their dependants up to school-going age up to  
7 tertiary level;

8 (g) free transport to public functions to which they are invited within  
9 the country and;

10 (h) Employment opportunities for their dependants who have  
11 relevant qualifications.

Withdrawal of  
honours

12 **14.**-(1) The Council may, on its own motion or upon receipt of  
13 allegations of misconduct by a hero from any person or institution, appoint a  
14 committee of its members to investigate the allegations and make a report to its  
15 members to investigate the allegations and make a report to it within a specified  
16 period.

17 (2) The Committee shall conduct its investigations within the time  
18 specified, and during the course of the investigation-

19 (a) may adduce evidence from the complaints or from any other  
20 person to prove the allegations; and

21 (b) shall accord the person against whom the allegations are made a  
22 chance to be heard in his own defence.

23 (3) Upon receipt and consideration of the report of the committee  
24 under this section, the Council may-

25 (a) caution or censure the person; or

26 (b) withdraw all the privileges attached to the designation of a hero  
27 under this Bill and order the removal of the name of such person from the  
28 Register.

29 (4) For the purposes of this section 'misconduct' includes conviction

1 by a court of law of a cognizable offence and sentence to a term of  
2 imprisonment.

3 **15.** The President may, after consultation with the Council, make Regulations  
4 regulations as may be necessary for the purposes of this Bill and the due  
5 administration thereof as may be necessary for the purposes of this Bill and  
6 the due administration thereof and prescribe-

7 (a) the categories and classes of honours to be bestowed under this  
8 Bill;

9 (b) the privileges attached to each honour specified under  
10 paragraph (a);

11 (c) the procedure for the ceremony of investiture of honours;

12 (d) the symbols to signify investiture of honours;

13 (e) the criteria for identification, selection and designation of  
14 heroes; and

15 (f) a day to be designated as the Nigerian Heroes Day.

16 **16.** The Nigerian National Heroes Register Act Cap N121 Law of Repeal of the  
17 the Federation of Nigeria 2010 is hereby repealed. Nigerian National  
Heroes Register  
Act

18 **17.** In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires- Interpretation  
19 "dependent" in relation to a Hero means-

20 (a) a child, including a step child or an adopted child;

21 (b) widow or widower; or

22 (c) any person not referred to in paragraph (a) or (b) who was  
23 wholly or partly maintained by the hero at the time of the hero's death;

24 "hero or national hero" means a person designated and invested and invested  
25 with such honour under the provisions of this Bill.

26 **18.** This Bill may be cited as the Nigerian National Heroes Bill, Citation  
27 2017.

## First Schedule

## Section 1 (2)

No	CATEGORY	MERITS
1	STRUGGLE FOR LIBERATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrity</li> <li>• Commitment to the Nigerian Project</li> <li>• Courage</li> <li>• Selfness</li> <li>• Perseverance</li> <li>• Optimism</li> <li>• Decisiveness</li> <li>• Patriotism</li> <li>• Vision</li> </ul>
2	ARTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patriotism</li> <li>• Talent</li> <li>• Persistence</li> <li>• Creativity</li> <li>• Mentorship</li> <li>• Inspirational</li> <li>• Integrity</li> <li>• Vision</li> <li>• Commitment</li> </ul>
3	SPORTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patriotism</li> <li>• Talent</li> <li>• Inspirational</li> <li>• Mentorship</li> <li>• Vision</li> <li>• Discipline</li> <li>• Perseverance</li> <li>• Optimism</li> <li>• Integrity</li> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Competitiveness</li> </ul>
4	PEACE AND/OR CONFLICT RESOLUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selflessness</li> <li>• Patriotism</li> <li>• Vision</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrity</li> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Expertise</li> <li>• Inspirational</li> <li>• Reliability</li> <li>• Charisma</li> </ul>
5.	PHILANTROPY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patriotism</li> <li>• Vision</li> <li>• Integrity</li> <li>• Selflessness</li> <li>• Courage</li> <li>• Nationalism</li> <li>• Discipline</li> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Charisma</li> </ul>
6.	STATEMANSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patriotism</li> <li>• Vision</li> <li>• Integrity</li> <li>• Selflessness</li> <li>• Courage</li> <li>• Nationalism</li> <li>• Discipline</li> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Charisma</li> </ul>
7.	ENTERPRENEUSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patriotism</li> <li>• Talent</li> <li>• Innovative</li> <li>• Mentorship</li> <li>• Vision</li> <li>• Discipline</li> <li>• Perseverance</li> <li>• Optimism</li> <li>• Reliability</li> <li>• Commitment</li> </ul>
8.	CULTURAL VALUE AND PRACTICES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patriotism</li> <li>• Vision</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrity</li> <li>• Inspirational</li> <li>• Courage</li> <li>• Discipline</li> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Charisma</li> </ul>
9.	PROFESSIONALISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patriotism</li> <li>• Talent</li> <li>• Innovative</li> <li>• Mentorship</li> <li>• Vision</li> <li>• Discipline</li> <li>• Perseverance</li> <li>• Optimism</li> <li>• Reliability</li> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Discovery</li> <li>• Inspirational</li> <li>• Expertise</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
10.	SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patriotism</li> <li>• Vision</li> <li>• Integrity</li> <li>• Selflessness</li> <li>• Courage</li> <li>• Honesty</li> <li>• Discipline</li> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Charisma</li> <li>• Spirituality</li> <li>• Prophetic</li> <li>• Spirituality</li> </ul>
11.	HUMAN RIGHTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selfness</li> <li>• Patriotism</li> <li>• Vision</li> <li>• Integrity</li> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Courage</li> <li>• Inspirational</li> <li>• Reliability</li> <li>• Talent</li> <li>• Nationalism</li> <li>• Patience</li> <li>• Optimism</li> <li>• Innovation</li> </ul>

## SECOND SCHEDULE

*Section 8(2)*

## CERTIFICATE OF DESIGNATION AS NATIONAL HERO

This is to certify that.....has been duly recognised for his / her remarkable work and service to Nigeria in the field of.....and by the power conferred on me as President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and The Nigerian National Heroes Bill 2017, hereby confer him/her with the status of National Hero

This day.....

.....  
President Federal Republic of Nigeria

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to repeal the Nigerian National Heroes Register Act Cap N121 LFN 2004 and enact The Nigerian National Heroes Act to provide for the recognition of Heroes, Re-establish the Nigerian Heroes Register and criteria for the identification, categories, selection and honoring of National Heroes.