

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY BILL, 2017

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

PART I - OBJECTIVE, PURPOSE ETC.,

1. Object and Purpose
2. Implementation of Bill
3. Application of Bill
4. General Principles

PART II - PROMOTION AND PROPAGATION OF CIVIC EDUCATION

5. Promotion and Propagation of Civic Education

PART III - ACCESSING AND OBTAINING PUBLIC AND OTHER SERVICES

6. Accessing services

PART IV - OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

7. Offences in relation to contraventions of provisions of this Bill
8. Procedure for trial of offences

PART V - MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTAL

9. Regulation
10. Interpretation
11. Short Title

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE ENTRENCHMENT IN NIGERIANS, A CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY BEHAVIORAL PATTERN, PROMOTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND RIGHTS, AS WELL AS ENSURE ORDERLINESS, EQUITY, FAIRNESS AND JUSTICE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF SERVICES 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:

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18

PART I - OBJECTIVE, PURPOSE ETC.,

1. The objective of this Bill is to-

- (a) imbibe and sustain a behavior of civic responsibility in Nigerians;
- (b) provide a legal framework that would promote the distribution of social justice in the society;
- (c) promote orderliness amongst Nigerians;
- (d) encourage equity, justice and fairness in the distribution of services;
- (e) promote peace at avenues for accessing services; and
- (f) enhance the culture of first come, first serve in public and other places.

Object and Purpose

2.-(1) All organs of government charged with the responsibility of observing and applying the fundamental objectives and directive principle of state policy set out in Section 15 (4) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) shall be responsible for administering the provisions of this Bill.

Implementation of the Bill

(2) Recognising that amidst competing social and economic needs, such organs of government provided in subsection (1) of this section must

1 take adequate and reasonable measures to the maximum extent of their
2 available resources to achieve the realization of the objects of this Bill.

3 (3) To achieve the implementation of this Bill in the manner
4 contemplated in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, the Nigeria Security
5 and Civil Defence Corps shall organize efforts towards the enforcement of the
6 provisions of this Bill.

Application
of the Bill

7 3. All persons, officials, employees and representatives of
8 government departments and other institutions must ensure the respect for,
9 protection and promotion of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and
10 entities in the country.

General Principles

11 4. The general principles set out in this Bill shall aim to-

12 (a) create and sustain within the society, the awareness of the
13 principles and objectives of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
14 (as amended);

15 (b) promote, educate and encourage the public to defend the
16 Constitution and their rights at all times, against all forms of abuse and
17 violation;

18 (c) encourage the consideration of all organs of government to
19 formulate from time to time, programmes at the national, state and local
20 government levels aimed at realizing the objects of this Bill;

21 (d) encourage equity and fairness in administration of social justice;
22 and

23 (e) assess for the information of Government, the limitations to the
24 attainment of human rights and true democracy.

25 PART II - PROMOTION AND PROPAGATION OF CIVIC EDUCATION

Promotion and
propagation of
civic education

26 5.-(1) All government organs, establishments and other educational
27 establishments responsible for instituting educational curricula programmes
28 shall ensure the inclusion of civic education into school subjects at all levels.

29 (2) It shall be the duty of the Broadcasting Organization of Nigeria to
30 ensure the inclusion in the programmes of broadcasting units, the propagation

1 of tenets of the constitution including human rights and/or civic education or
2 responsibilities.

3 PART III - ACCESSING AND OBTAINING PUBLIC AND OTHER SERVICES

4 6.-(1) From the commencement of this Bill, a person or entity Accessing Services
5 distributing services shall do so on the basis of first come, first serve.

6 (2) In determining the basis for first come, first serve, a queue of
7 persons seeking the service shall be formed beginning with the first person
8 to arrive at the venue.

9 (3) A person who seeks to access or procure services shall do so
10 observing the system of first come first serve contemplated under this Bill.

11 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, preference shall
12 be accorded to persons who are incapacitated or are elderly in distributing
13 and assessing services.

14 PART IV - OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

15 7.-(1) Any person who contravenes the provisions of this Bill shall Offences in
16 relation to
17 contravention of
18 provisions of the
19 Bill
20 be guilty of an offence and shall, upon conviction, be liable to community
21 service or imprisonment for a term not less than 6months or to a fine not less
22 than fifty thousand naira or to both imprisonment and fine.

23 (2) A person shall not be guilty of an offence under this section if he
24 proves to the satisfaction of the court that he had reasonable grounds for
25 believing, and did believe in fact, that he was the first to arrive at the venue of
26 procuring or accessing a common service or did not violate the provisions of
27 this Bill.

28 8.-(1) Offences under this Bill shall be triable summarily by Procedure for
29 trial of offences
30 Magistrate Court of the State where the offence was committed and the
31 procedure applicable in the case of summary trial of offences before such
32 court shall apply to the same extent for the purposes of trials for offences
33 under this Bill.

34 (2) If a court, during the trial of a person charged with an offence
35 under this Bill, finds that such a person has been convicted of such crime or

1 offence, such finding must be regarded as an aggravating circumstance for
2 sentencing purposes.

3 PART V - MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTAL

Regulation

4 **9.**-(1) The Minister may, in consultation with law enforcement
5 agents, make rules for giving effect to this Bill.

6 (2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1) the rules may-

7 (a) prescribe what is required under this Bill;

8 (b) provide for the prior administrative steps to be taken under this
9 Bill;

10 (c) provide for the dissemination of information under this bill; and;

11 (d) formulate, implement and oversee programmes intended to
12 inculcate in Nigerian citizens, awareness of their civic responsibilities and an
13 appreciation of their rights and obligations as free people;

Interpretation

14 **10.** In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires-

15 "civic education" means or constitutes responsibilities such as obeying the law,
16 being informed and attentive to public issues, assuming leadership when
17 appropriate, paying taxes, voting or in the armed forces, monitoring the
18 adherence of political leaders and governmental agencies to constitutional
19 principles and taking appropriate action if that adherence is lacking, and
20 performing public service;

21 "Incapacitated person" means persons who are deformed, sick or do not have
22 equal capacity to compete for services;

23 "elderly" means a person who, in the case of a male, is 65 years of age or older
24 and, in the case of a female, is 60 years of age or older;

25 "Minister" means the Minister in charge of the government department for the
26 time being responsible for matters relating to information and national
27 orientation;

28 "services" means public goods and services, schools and work place services,
29 points of sale, transport services, banking and other commercial activities;

30 "queue" means physical lineup of persons;

1

11. This Bill shall be cited as Civic Responsibility Bill, 2017.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Bill seeks to imbibe in Nigerian citizens, a culture of civic responsibility through adequate awareness and sanctions that would guide human activities as well as ensure fairness and equity of distribution of services within the society.