

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS,  
REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS, BILL, 2016  
ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

*Clauses:*

PART I - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS, REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

1. Establishment of the Commission
2. Establishment and appointment of members of Council
3. Tenure, Resignation, cessation or removal from membership of the Board
4. Functions and Powers of the Board
5. Functions of the Commission
6. Powers of the Commission

PART II - APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND OTHER STAFF  
OF THE COMMISSION

7. Appointment of Director-General and Staff of the Commission

PART III - ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES OF THE COMMISSION

8. Establishment of Internally Displaced Management Committee
9. Protection, Registration, Documentation and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons
10. Establishment of Eligibility Committee for Refugees
11. Refugee Appeal Panel
12. Migration Management Committee
13. Management and protection of Rights of Migrants

PART IV - MANAGEMENT OF REFUGEES

14. Application for Refugees Status in Nigeria
15. Prohibition of Expulsion or Return of Refugees from Nigeria
16. Residence in Nigeria pending Recognition or Refusal as Refugee.
17. Cessation or Stay of Proceedings in respect of illegal entry
18. Residence in Nigeria of Person granted Refugee Status, etc

19. Withdrawal of Refugee Status
20. Right of Appeal to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation
21. Treatment of family members of Refugees
22. Rights and duties of Refugees
23. Detention and Expulsion of Refugees
24. Special Assistance to Refugees and their family members

PART V - FINANCIAL PROVISION

25. Funds of the Commission
26. Establishment of Humanitarian Trust Fund
27. Compensation

PART VI - MISCELLANEOUS

28. Powers to make Regulation
29. Annual Report
30. Repeal
31. Saving
32. Interpretation
33. Citation

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO REPEAL THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES ACT, CAP.N21 LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 AND ENACT THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS, REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR MANAGEMENT, REHABILITATION, RETURN, RE- INTEGRATION AND RESETTLEMENT OF VICTIMS OF DISPLACEMENT, REFUGE, MIGRATION AND FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by Senator Muhammad Ubali Shitu*

[ ] Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of

Nigeria-

1 PART 1 - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR  
2 INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS, REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS

3 1.-(1) There is established a Commission to be known as the  
4 National Commission for Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and  
5 Migrants (in this Bill referred to as "the Commission").

Establishment of  
the Commission

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

9 (3) The Commission may acquire, hold and dispose of any  
10 moveable or immovable property for the purpose of its functions under this  
11 Bill.

12 2.-(1) There is established for the Commission a Governing Board  
13 (in this Bill referred to as "the Board").

Establishment  
and appointment  
of members of  
Council

14 (2) The Board shall consist of-

15 (a) a Chairman;

16 (b) one representative each of the following who shall not be below

1 the rank of Director-

2 (i) Secretary to the Government of Federation,

3 (ii) National Security Adviser,

4 (iii) Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

5 (iv) Ministry of Justice,

6 (v) Ministry of Interior,

7 (vi) Nigeria Civil Defence Corp,

8 (vii) National Emergency Management Agency,

9 (viii) Red Cross Society of Nigeria;

10 (c) a representative of-

11 (i) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Nigeria,

12 (ii) International Organisation for Migration in Nigeria,

13 (iii) International Committee of the Red Cross,

14 (d) Director General who shall be the Secretary of the Board.

15 (3) The Chairman shall be appointed by the President, subject to the  
16 confirmation of the Senate.

17 (4) The members of the Board referred to in paragraph (b- c) of sub-  
18 clause (2) of this Clause shall be part-time members

Schedule

19 (5) The supplementary provisions set out in the Schedule to this Bill  
20 shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board and the other  
21 matters contained therein.

Recap, resignation,  
cessation or  
removal from  
membership of  
the Board

22 3.-(1) Members of the Board other than the Director General shall  
23 hold office on part time basis.

24 (2) Subject to the provisions of sub-clause (1) of this Clause, members  
25 of the Board shall hold office as follows-

26 (a) Director General for a term of 4 years renewable for another term  
27 and no more; and

28 (b) all other members of the Board other than statutory member shall  
29 hold office for a term of 5 years and no more.

30 (3) The Chairman may resign his appointment by notice in writing

1 addressed to the President.

2 (4) A member of the Council may cease membership if the  
3 member-

4 (a) becomes of unsound mind;

5 (b) becomes bankrupt;

6 (c) is convicted of a felony or of any offence involving dishonesty;

7 and

8 (d) is guilty of serious misconduct in relation to the office.

9 (5) Subject to any other provisions of this Bill, a member of the  
10 Board shall hold office on such terms and conditions as may be specified

11 (6) in his letter of appointment. Where a vacancy occurs in the  
12 Board's composition at any time, the Chairman of the Board shall formally  
13 notify the President through the Secretary to the Government of the  
14 Federation of the vacancy and shall make recommendations towards  
15 ensuring that the Board maintains a balance of skills, expertise, diversity and  
16 representation of relevant stakeholder groups.

17 (7) A member of the Board may resign his membership by giving 2  
18 months' notice in writing or such other period as may be specified in his  
19 letter of appointment to the Board Chairman who shall forward same to the  
20 Secretary to the Government of the Federation for onward transmission to  
21 the President.

22 (8) Membership of the Board shall be terminated where a member  
23 ceases to hold office on the basis of which he became a member.

24 4.-(1) The Board shall-

25 (a) formulate and provide policy guidelines for the discharge of the  
26 functions of the commission;

27 (b) monitor and ensure the implementation of the policies and  
28 programmes of the commission; and

29 (c) carry out such other functions as are necessary and expedient to

Functions and  
Powers of the  
Board

1 ensure the efficient performance of the functions of the Commission under this  
2 Bill.

3 (2) The Board shall have powers to-

4 (a) approve rules and regulations relating to the appointment,  
5 promotion and disciplinary measures for staff of the Commission; and

6 (b) regulate its proceedings and make standing orders with respect to  
7 the keeping of minutes of its proceedings, and such other matters as the Board  
8 may from time to time determine, subject to extant circular of the Federal  
9 Government on number of meetings of the Board.

Functions of  
the Commission

10 5.-(1) The functions of the Commission shall include the following-

11 (a) advising the Federal Government on policy matters relating to  
12 internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants;

13 (b) promoting Donor commitment to humanitarian response by  
14 organizing missions, liaising on an ongoing basis on developments,  
15 achievements and funding requirements for humanitarian interventions  
16 targeting internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants;

17 (c) organizing and maintaining relationship with relevant  
18 government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) and where  
19 required, facilitating the provision of appropriate advice and capacity support  
20 towards meeting the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced  
21 persons, refugees and migrants including returnees in collaboration with  
22 relevant UN Agencies;

23 (d) ensuring that the integration approaches for protecting and  
24 assisting internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants as well as host  
25 communities are mainstreamed into the policies and practices of relevant  
26 agencies, line ministries and local authorities;

27 (e) undertaking comprehensive multi-agency situational analysis by  
28 using participatory assessment methodologies to identify threats to the rights  
29 of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons and their host  
30 communities and assessing the protection risks, assistance gaps, resources and

1 opportunities available and offered locally, nationally and internationally by  
2 stakeholders;

3 (f) identifying, mobilizing and coordinating internally displaced  
4 persons, refugees and migrants camp management agencies and other  
5 sectorial partners and ensuring co- ordination among other sectors  
6 responding to their assistance and protection needs;

7 (g) evaluating the performance of refugees, migrants, returnees  
8 and internally displaced persons camp managing agencies and addressing  
9 issues relating to under-performing agencies, misuse of assets and strong  
10 religious agendas, in an objective and transparent manner;

11 (h) monitoring and regularly reviewing the development,  
12 implementation and evaluation of protection mechanisms and assistance  
13 programmes target in, internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants;

14 (i) identifying and promoting best practices in internally displaced  
15 persons, refugees and migrants camp management, including harmonizing  
16 protection and assistance standards between camps, taking into  
17 consideration the host community;

18 (j) developing and ensuring compliance by government, Civil  
19 Society Organization: and humanitarian agency workers to clear guidelines,  
20 Standard Operating Procedures and Codes of Conduct for working with  
21 various groups of refugees returnees, migrants and internally displaced  
22 persons including women children, elderly, persons with disabilities and  
23 such other groups with specie needs;

24 (k) creating humanitarian coordination sectors and prescribing the  
25 composition and responsibility of each technical sector in addition to or in  
26 modification of the sectors recommended in the relevant National Frame  
27 works and Policies on Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and  
28 Migrants;

29 (l) coordinating the activities of all Governmental and Inter-  
30 Governmental or Humanitarian Agencies on refugee, migration and internal

- 1 displacement issues in Nigeria;
- 2 (m) designating a lead agency for each of the humanitarian sectors  
3 responding to issues of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons in  
4 Nigeria and such other sectors that may be created or modified in furtherance of  
5 the wellbeing, safety and security of the affected persons, taking into  
6 consideration the mandates, capacities and capability of the relevant  
7 intervening agencies and institutions;
- 8 (n) developing standard procedures, in conjunction with relevant  
9 Ministries, Departments, Agencies and Inter-Governmental or Humanitarian  
10 Agencies, for the return, re-admission and re-integration of excluded migrants  
11 in line with extant legal instruments and measures to protect and promote the  
12 human rights and well-being of migrants;
- 13 (o) ensuring the protection and assistance of internally displaced  
14 persons during and after displacement as well as during return or resettlement  
15 and reintegration;
- 16 (p) providing a framework for conditions and means for internally  
17 displaced persons to return voluntarily, in safety and with dignity, to their  
18 homes or places of habitual residence, or to resettle voluntarily in another part  
19 of the country;
- 20 (q) collaborating and partnering with relevant Ministries,  
21 Departments, Agencies and Inter-Government or Humanitarian Agencies in  
22 carrying out the activities of the Commission or in implementing national and  
23 international legal instruments relating to the functions of the Commission;
- 24 (r) facilitating the negotiated and voluntary repatriation of Nigerian  
25 irregular migrants in conjunction with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the  
26 Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), National Agency for the Prohibition of  
27 Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), security agencies or organisations and other  
28 stakeholders;
- 29 (s) encouraging and ensuring capacity building and skill acquisition  
30 training programmes to Nigerians who are being repatriated in order to ensure



1 that they are gainfully engaged upon return;

2 (t) collaborating with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in negotiating  
3 and facilitating bilateral agreements with nations repatriating Nigerian  
4 citizens to provide adequate time for the deportees to secure, convey and  
5 wind up their personal belongings and affairs, including the provision of  
6 opportunity to arrange for banking and other financial transactions;

7 (u) considering such matters as the Secretary to the Government of  
8 the Federation may, from time to time refer to it and making  
9 recommendations thereon; and

10 (v) do such other things necessary or expedient to the performance  
11 of its functions under this Bill.

12 (2) Where there is a large scale influx of persons claiming to fall  
13 within the meaning of-

14 (a) refugees under this Bill;

15 (b) massive internal displacement; or

16 (c) situation of mass return deportation, the Commission shall, in  
17 consultation with other relevant Government Ministries, Departments or  
18 Agencies, meet on an emergency basis and advise the Federal Government  
19 on the appropriate measures to be taken on the provision of adequate  
20 facilities and services necessary to take care of the particular group of  
21 persons affected by the influx or displacement.

22 6.-(1) The Commission shall have powers to-

23 (a) set up appropriate advisory committees composed of  
24 administrative, technical or other experts in humanitarian, refugee,  
25 migration, internal displacement and development issues as may be  
26 necessary for the effective carrying out of its functions and powers under  
27 this Bill; and

28 (b) delegate its powers to any specific person or committee and to  
29 grant to such person or committee general or specific powers of sub-  
30 delegation.

Powers of the  
Commission.

1 (2) The Commission-  
2 (a) may accept gifts of Land, Money or other property on such terms,  
3 conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organization making  
4 gifts; and

5 (b) shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by the person or  
6 organization making the are inconsistent with its functions or any law in force  
7 in Nigeria.

8 PART II - APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND OTHER STAFF  
9 OF THE COMMISSION

Appointment of  
Director-General  
and Staff of the  
Commission

10 7.-(1) There shall be appointed by the President a Director General of  
11 the Commission who shall be-

12 (a) the chief executive of the Commission; and

13 (b) a person with not less than 10 years relevant requisite experience  
14 in refuge, humanitarian development or migration issues.

15 (2) The Director General shall-

16 (a) grant refugee status to applicants on the recommendations of the  
17 Eligibility Committee constituted under Clause 9 of this Bill;

18 (b) preside over the committees on refugees, migrants and internally  
19 displaced persons as may be set up from time to time;

20 (c) represent the Commission and enter contract on its behalf;

21 (d) ensure the provision of adequate facilities and services for the  
22 reception and care of refugees, migrants or returnees and internally displaced  
23 persons in Nigeria;

24 (e) exercise such other powers and perform such other duties relating  
25 to refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons as may be assigned to  
26 him from time to time, by the Board; and

27 (f) take such steps as he considers necessary to ensure compliance  
28 with the provisions of this Bill.

29 (3) The Board shall have power to appoint directly or request for the  
30 deployment from the Public Service of the Federation, such number of staff as

1 may be necessary for the proper and efficient performance of its functions  
2 under this Bill.

3 (4) The terms and conditions of service including remunerations,  
4 allowances and benefit: of staff of the Commission shall be as determined by  
5 the Board in consultation with the National Salaries, Income and Wages  
6 Commission, subject to extant Government Rules.

7 PART III - ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES OF THE COMMISSION

8 8.-(1) There is established for the Commission a Committee to be  
9 known as the Internally Displacement Management Committee which shall  
10 consist of-

Establishment of  
Internally Displaced  
Management  
Committee

11 (a) the Permanent Secretary Ministry of Interior as Chairman; and

12 (b) a representative of each of the following-

13 (i) Ministry of Justice,

14 (ii) Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development,

15 (iii) National Human Rights Commission,

16 (iv) National Planning Commission,

17 (v) National Emergency Management Agency,

18 (vi) State Security Service Office,

19 (vii) Nigeria Police Force,

20 (viii) Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps,

21 (ix) State Emergency Management Agencies and Local  
22 Government Emergency Management Committees, where there is mass  
23 displacement in the State or Local Government.

24 (2) The Internally Displacement Management Committee shall-

25 (a) assist in the formulation of guidelines, strategies and action  
26 plans by the Commission for periodic monitoring and evaluation of the  
27 practice implementation of the National Policy on Internally Displaced  
28 Persons;

29 (b) monitor and evaluate the progressive implementation of  
30 Nigeria commitments and obligations under regional and conventions on

- 1 Internally Displaced Persons;
- 2 (c) ensure and monitor the timely intervention of the Commission and
- 3 the humanitarian community towards providing lasting solutions to internally
- 4 displacement in Nigeria with effective participation of internally displaced
- 5 persons in all decision making processes affecting their lives;
- 6 (d) engender effective cooperation and collaboration between the
- 7 Commission and relevant Humanitarian organizations providing interventions
- 8 on internal displacement;
- 9 (e) receive, attend to and resolve complaints, petitions and grievances
- 10 expressed by internally displaced persons or their host communities as relate to
- 11 their fundamental rights, safety, security and wellbeing provided for in the
- 12 National Policy on internal displacement, regional protocols, conventions and
- 13 the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;
- 14 (f) liaise with the Commission to develop the requisite technical
- 15 capacity, human and material resources to respond to internal displacement
- 16 situations in Nigeria; and
- 17 (g) Advise the Commission on any other issue relating to effective
- 18 assistance and protection of internally displaced persons in Nigeria.

Protection,  
Registration,  
Documentation  
and Assistance  
of Internally  
Displaced Persons

- 19 9. The Commission shall-
- 20 (a) in collaboration with relevant agencies of government, ensure
- 21 compliance with the provisions of the African Union Convention for the
- 22 Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons, 2009 ( in this Bill
- 23 referred to as "Kampala Convention");

Fourth Schedule

- 24 (b) be the designated agency of government responsible for
- 25 coordinating activities aimed at protecting and assisting internally displaced
- 26 persons and shall seek the collaboration of other appropriate Ministries,
- 27 Departments or Agencies of Government for such protection and assistance;
- 28 (c) support State Governments in the creation and maintenance of an
- 29 up-dated register of all internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction;

1 (d) register and made personal documentation of internally  
2 displaced persons.

3 10.-(1) There is established a committee to be known as the  
4 Eligibility Committee for Refugees (in this Act referred to as "the Eligibility  
5 Committee") which shall consist of-

Establishment  
of Eligibility  
Committee for  
Refuges

6 (a) The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs as  
7 Chairman;

8 (b) the Comptroller General of Nigeria Immigration Service;

9 (c) a representative of the-

10 (i) Ministry of Interior;

11 (ii) Office of the Vice President,

12 (iii) National Human Rights Commission,

13 (iv) Non-Governmental Organizations with relevant expertise in  
14 humanitarian affairs,

15 (v) office of the National Security Adviser;

16 (vi) Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees  
17 in Nigeria who shall participate as an observer.

18 (2) The Committee shall-

19 (a) process and consider applications for refugee status and  
20 recommend such applicants that qualify for that status to the Director-  
21 General;

22 (b) consider cases for cancellation and withdrawal of refugee  
23 status as may be referred to it by the Director General; and

24 (c) exercise any other powers and perform any other duties that  
25 may be assigned to it, from time to time, by the Director General.

26 11.-(1) There is established for the commission, the Refugee  
27 Appeal Panel (in this Bill referred to as "the Appeal Panel").

Refuge Appeal  
Panel

28 (2) The Appeal Panel shall consist of three legal practitioners, one  
29 of whom shall-

30 (a) be a retired Judge with adequate knowledge in international

1 Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law or International  
2 comparative law who shall be the Chairman;

3 (b) two legal practitioners of at least 10 years' experience; and

4 (c) be appointed by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation  
5 in consultation with the Attorney-

6 (3) General of the Federation and Minister of Justice. The  
7 representative of tile United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees in  
8 Nigeria may be invited to participate in the proceedings of the Appeal  
9 Committee and shall have the right to make an oral or written representation on  
10 behalf of any person concerned in an appeal that is being heard by the Appeal  
11 Panel.

12 (4) The Appeal Panel shall meet at the invitation of the Director  
13 General.

14 (5) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Appeal Panel shall hear  
15 appeals against the decisions of the Eligibility Committee.

16 (6) The Appeal Panel shall give due consideration to any  
17 representation made or on behalf of an appellant before coming to a final  
18 decision on the appeal.

19 **12.-(1)** There is established for the Commission a Committee to be  
20 known as the Migration Management Committee which shall consist of-

21 (a) the Solicitor-General who shall be the Chairman; and

22 (b) a representative of the following-

23 (i) Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

24 (ii) Ministry of Interior;

25 (iii) Ministry of Finance;

26 (iv) National Population Commission;

27 (v) Nigeria Immigration Service;

28 (vi) National Planning Commission;

29 (vii) Central Bank of Nigeria;

30 (viii) Office of the Vice President.

- 1 (2) The Migration Management Committee shall-
- 2 (a) facilitate, formulate, review and make necessary
- 3 recommendations on national policy on migration;
- 4 (b) monitor the implementation of bilateral agreements regarding
- 5 migration and recommend to the Commission situations where new
- 6 bilateral agreements are required to ensure that Nigerians being repatriated
- 7 from abroad are treated humanely and fairly, in safety, dignity and that their
- 8 basic human rights are respected;
- 9 (c) monitor and recommend actions to the Commission aimed at
- 10 ensuring that the human, economic, labour and civil rights of Nigerians
- 11 resident abroad are well protected in their host countries including those
- 12 guaranteed by existing International Conventions, Customary Laws and
- 13 General Principles and such other agreements concluded on bilateral and
- 14 multilateral basis;
- 15 (d) make policies and guiding principles as well as advise the
- 16 Commission on strategies for a well-managed labour migration that would
- 17 enhance its benefits to Nigeria and reduce the adverse impact resulting from
- 18 the loss of skilled citizens;
- 19 (e) monitor, advise and ensure protection of migrants in Nigeria,
- 20 and Nigerian migrants in other countries under the International Convention
- 21 on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their
- 22 Families;
- 23 (f) support the Commission in liaising with the Technical Partners
- 24 in the implementing technical cooperation in identified areas of needs; and
- 25 (g) advise the Commission on general migration issues and
- 26 ratification and implementation of relevant Migration treaties, protocols
- 27 and conventions
- 28 13.-(1) This Bill vests on the Commission the responsibility of
- 29 coordinating migration issues and ensuring the protection of migrants and
- 30 their families, whether other nationals resident in Nigeria or Nigerians

1 resident in other countries, in line with the provisions of international  
2 conventions, protocols and treaties guiding the protection of rights and  
3 promotion of the welfare of migrants.

4 (2) The Commission, through the Migrant Management Committee  
5 established under this Bill, shall provide a platform for the uniform  
6 administration of migration in Nigeria as a coordinating agency of all  
7 stakeholders in the field of migration and for formulating, reviewing and  
8 implementing a national policy on migration and development.

9 PART IV - MANAGEMENT OF REFUGEES

Application for  
Refugees Status  
in Nigeria

10 14.-(1) Application for the grant of a refugee status shall be made to  
11 the Director General through the nearest competent officer or through the  
12 office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Nigeria.

13 (2) A competent officer to whom a person seeking asylum first  
14 presents himself shall, where he is not an immigration officer, promptly notify  
15 an immigration officer that a person seeking a refugee status has entered into or  
16 is present in Nigeria.

17 (3) An application received by the office of the United Nations High  
18 Commissioner for Refugees shall be forwarded to the Eligibility Committee.

19 (4) The Eligibility Committee may invite the applicant to appear  
20 before it.

21 (5) The decision of the Eligibility Committee shall be notified in  
22 writing to the applicant by the Director General.

23 (6) Where the Eligibility Committee recommends that the applicant  
24 shall not be granted refugee status, it shall give reasons for its decision.

25 (7) In the case of a refusal to grant refugee status, the applicant may  
26 appeal against the decision of the Eligibility Committee to the Appeal Panel  
27 established under section 10 of this Bill within 30 days of his being notified of  
28 the refusal.

29 (8) Pursuant to clauses 14 and 15 of this Bill, an applicant shall be  
30 allowed to remain in the country while waiting for the final decision of the



1 Appeal Panel. Where an applicant is finally refused a refugee status, he shall  
 2 be given reasonable time to seek admission as a refugee into another country

3 15.-(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, no person  
 4 who is a refugee within the meaning of this Bill shall be refused entry into  
 5 Nigeria, expelled, extradited or returned in any manner to the frontiers of  
 6 any territory where-

Prohibition of  
 expulsion or  
 refugees from  
 Nigeria

7 (a) his or her life or freedom may be threatened on account of race,  
 8 religion, nationality, membership of a particular group or political opinion;  
 9 and

10 (b) physical integrity and liberty may be threatened on account of  
 11 external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously  
 12 disrupting public order in any part or the whole of that territory.

13 (2) The provisions of sub-clause(1) of this clause shall not apply to  
 14 a refugees who-

15 (c) constitutes a threat to the security of Nigeria; or

16 (d) Is convicted by a court or tribunal for committing any serious  
 17 crime stipulated in the conventions contained in the schedules to this Bill.

18 (3) No person claiming to be a refugee within the meaning of this  
 19 Bill, who has illegally entered into or is illegally present in Nigeria, shall be  
 20 expelled, extradited or returned merely by reason of his illegal entry or  
 21 presence in Nigeria or any part of Nigeria pending the determination of his  
 22 application for a refugee status.

23 (4) A person who has lawfully entered into or is lawfully present in  
 24 Nigeria and who wishes to remain in Nigeria on the grounds that he or she is  
 25 a refugee within the meaning of this Bill shall not be compelled to leave  
 26 Nigeria, unless he or she has found another country of asylum.

27 16.-(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law, any  
 28 person who has applied under Clause 14 of this Bill for grant of refugee  
 29 status and members of his family shall have the right to remain within  
 30 Nigeria, until he has-

Residence in  
 Nigeria pending  
 recognition or  
 refusal as Refugee

1 (a) been granted refugee status under the provisions of this Bill; or  
2 (b) had an opportunity to exhaust his right of appeal under clause 11 of  
3 this Bill, where his application is not successful.

4 (2) Where the person mentioned under sub-clause (1) of this clause  
5 has appealed pursuant to clause 11 of this Bill and the appeal was not  
6 successful, he shall, within 30 days from the date of determination of the appeal  
7 leave Nigeria for another country of his choice.

Cessation or stay  
of proceedings  
in respect of  
illegal entry

8 **17.** Notwithstanding the provisions of the Immigration Act, Cap. 11  
9 LFN, 2004, no proceedings shall be instituted or continued against any person  
10 or any member of his family in respect of his, unlawful entry into or unlawful  
11 presence within Nigeria where he-

12 (a) applies under clause 14 of this Bill for the grant of a refugee status,  
13 unless-

14 (i) a decision has been made on the application, and

15 (ii) he has had an opportunity of exhausting his right of appeal under  
16 that clause; or

17 (b) has been granted refugee status.

Residence in  
Nigeria of person  
granted Refugee  
Status, etc.

18 **18.-(1)** Subject to the provisions of this Bill, a person who has been  
19 granted refugee status under this Bill and members of his family shall be-

20 (a) issued with an identity card in the form prescribed by the Minister  
21 charged with responsibility for matters relating to internal affairs;

22 (b) issued with residence permit;

23 (c) subject to the laws in force in Nigeria.

24 (2) A refugee and members of his family lawfully staying in Nigeria  
25 shall, in accordance with Article 28 of the 1951 United Nations Refugees  
26 Convention and other relevant conventions, be issued with the United Nations  
27 Travel Document.

Withdrawal of  
Refugee Status

28 **19.-(1)** The Director General shall refer a matter to the Eligibility  
29 Committee, where he considers that there are reasonable grounds for believing  
30 that a person who has been granted a refugee status under this Bill-

1 (a) should not have been so granted; or

2 (b) has ceased to be a refugee;

3 (2) Where a matter has been referred to the Eligibility Committee  
4 established under clause 10 of this Bill, it shall cause a written notice to be  
5 served on the person whose status as a refugee is under reconsideration-

6 (c) informing him of the fact that his status as a refugee is to be  
7 reconsidered; and

8 (d) inviting him to make written representations to it within 14 days  
9 from the date of service of the notice, in respect of his status as a refugee.

10 (3) The Eligibility Committee shall consider every matter referred  
11 to it under sub clause (1) of this clause and enquire into or investigate the  
12 matter as it deems necessary.

13 (4) After considering any advice or recommendation given or  
14 made to him by the Eligibility Committee in relation to any case referred to it  
15 under sub clause (1) of this clause, the Director General-

16 (a) may withdraw the grant of refugee status; and

17 (b) shall cause the person concerned to be notified in writing of his  
18 decision on the matter.

19 20.-(1) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Director General  
20 to withdraw the grant of refugee status may, within 7 clays of being notified  
21 of such withdrawal, appeal in writing to the Secretary to the Government of  
22 the Federation.

23 (2) In any appeal under sub clause (1) of this clause, the Secretary  
24 to the Government of the Federation may confirm or set aside the decision  
25 of the Director General and inform the Director General of his decision on  
26 the matter.

27 (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub clause (2) of this clause  
28 the Secretary to the Government of the Federation may, before reaching a  
29 decision on all appeal-

30 (a) invite the representative of the United Nations High

Right of Appeal  
to the Secretary  
to the Government  
of the Federation

1 Commissioner for Refugees in Nigeria to make oral or written representation  
2 on the matter;

3 (b) refer the matter to the Eligibility Committee for further inquiry  
4 and investigation; and

5 (c) make such further inquiry or investigation into the matter as he  
6 deems fit.

7 (4) Where the Director General withdraws the grant of refugee status  
8 under clause 19 of this clause, the person concerned and any other person who  
9 became a refugee by virtue of being a member of his family shall cease to be a  
10 refugee with effect from-

11 (a) 7 days after he was notified of the withdrawal by the Director  
12 General; or

13 (b) the date on which the Secretary to the Federal Government  
14 notifies him of his confirmation of the decision of the Director General,  
15 such a person shall within 30 days leaves Nigeria to another country of his  
16 choice.

17 (5) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed as preventing  
18 a person who became a refugee by virtue of being a member of the family of the  
19 person mentioned under this section from applying for the grant of a refugee  
20 status.

Treatment of  
family members  
of Refugees

21 **21.-(1)** The Director General and all competent officers shall ensure  
22 that members of the family of a refugee-

23 (a) benefit from the same treatment as provided for refugees in this  
24 Bill,

25 (b) are permitted to enter and remain in Nigeria as long as the refugee  
26 concerned is permitted to remain in Nigeria under this Bill.

27 (2) Subject to the provision of clause 19 of this Bill, a change in family  
28 status or ties resulting from marriage of the dependant family member, divorce  
29 or legal separation, death of the principal applicant or attainment of age of

1 majority by a minor dependant shall not affect the refugee status of such  
 2 family members.

3 22. A person granted refugee status in Nigeria shall be entitled to  
 4 the rights and subject to the duties contained in the Articles, Protocol,  
 5 Conventions ratified by Nigeria and any other law in force in Nigeria

Rights and duties  
of Refugees

6 23.-(1) A refugee may be detained or expelled for reasons of  
 7 national security or public order.

Detention and  
expulsion of  
Refugees

8 (2) No refugee shall be expelled pursuant to this clause, to a  
 9 country where he has reasons to fear perscution.

10 (3) A refugee who has been notified of a decision of expulsion may  
 11 appeal to the Appeal Panel or the Secretary to the Government of the  
 12 Federation, as the case may be, for reconsideration of his provisions of this  
 13 Bill.

14 24.-(1) Subject to the provisions of any other Law in Nigeria, the  
 15 Commission shall assist refugee who has satisfied the criteria to achieve any  
 16 of the following-

Special assistance  
to Refugees and  
their family  
members

17 (a) citizenship by naturalization;

18 (b) voluntary repatriation;

19 (c) reintegration; or

20 (d) resettlement.

21 (2) The Commission shall-

22 (a) adopt procedures to be followed by the competent officer for  
 23 the purposes of facilitating entry and residence in Nigeria of refugees and  
 24 members of their family;

25 (b) assist in the training of family members of refugees,  
 26 particularly for unaccompanied children.

27 (c) seek co-operation with non-governmental organisations on  
 28 matters relating to refugees;

29 (d) give relief assistance to refugees while they are awaiting a final  
 30 decision of the Appeal Panel or the Secretary to the Government of the

1 Federation; and

2 (e) assist in seeking employment or education for refugees and  
3 members of their family.

4 PART V - FINANCIAL PROVISION

Funds of the  
Commission

5 25.-(1) The Commission shall establish and maintain a fund from  
6 which shall be defrayed all expenditure incurred by the Commission. There  
7 shall be paid and credited to the fund established pursuant to sub-clause (1) of  
8 this Clause-

9 (a) from the Federal Government as subvention;

10 (b) such monies as may from time to time, be granted or lent to or  
11 deposited with the Commission by the Federal or a State Government, any  
12 other body or institution whether local or foreign;

13 (c) all moneys raised for the purposes of the Commission by way of  
14 gifts, loan, grants-in-aid, testamentary disposition or otherwise; and

15 (d) proceeds from all other assets that may, from time to time, accrue  
16 to the Commission.

17 (2) The Commission shall from time to time apply the fund-

18 (a) to the cost of its administration;

19 (b) to the payment of the salaries, fees or other remuneration or  
20 allowances, payable to its staff or officers;

21 (c) for the maintenance of any property acquired or vested in it; and

22 (d) for and in connection with all or any of its functions under this Bill.

Establishment  
of Humanitarian  
Trust Fund

23 26.-(1) There is established for the Commission a fund to be known as  
24 the Humanitarian Trust Fund ( in this Act referred to as lithe Trust Fund") into  
25 which shall be paid the-

26 (a) grant from the Federal Government;

27 (b) donations, gifts or endowment from individuals, corporate  
28 entities, international donor agencies and other developmental partners.

29 (2) There shall be a Board, of Trustees for the Trust Fund established  
30 under this clause, to be headed by the Chairman of the Board of the

1 Commission, with the following as members-

2 (a) Director General; and

3 (b) 3 other members to be appointed by the Secretary to the  
4 Government of the Federation;

5 (3) Management of the Trust Fund shall be vested in the Board of  
6 Trustees.

7 (4) The Trust Fund shall be utilised in cases where there is an influx  
8 of persons or such other situations mass voluntary or involuntary  
9 displacement or migration and in cases of return, resettlement,  
10 reconstruction, rehabilitation and reintegration of refugees, migrants or  
11 internally displaced persons.

12 27.-(1) Where a case of arbitrary displacement is established by the Compensation  
13 Commission and where accused parties, whether state or non-state actors  
14 are guilty of not conducting necessary or required Environmental Impact  
15 Assessment prior to execution of a development project including  
16 exploration of natural resources resulting to forced or arbitrary  
17 displacement, the party or parties that commissioned the project shall  
18 provide persons affected by displacement with effective remedies.

19 (2) Where persons affected or internally displaced arbitrarily are  
20 not compensated or inadequately compensated by the perpetrators of the  
21 displacement caused by an act or omission not attributable to any  
22 foreseeable act of nature, the affected persons shall petition to the Internally  
23 Displaced Persons Committee of the Commission to seek Just and fair  
24 compensation and other forms of reparations, where appropriate, for  
25 damages incurred as a result of displacement, in accordance with  
26 international standards.

27 (3) Where it is established by a court of competent jurisdiction that  
28 a party wilfully engaged in activities that led to-

29 (a) environmental pollution or degradation;

30 (b) violence;

1 (c) conflict; or  
2 (d) other act of omission resulting in arbitrary or forced displacement  
3 of persons from their places of habitual residence, the party shall be liable to  
4 make reparation to internally displaced persons for damage.

5 PART VI - MISCELLANEOUS

Powers to make  
regulation

6 28. The Commission may, with the approval of the Minister make  
7 regulations necessary for giving full effect to the provisions of this Bill.

Annual Report

8 29. The Commission shall not later than 30th June in each year,  
9 submit to the Minister a report on its activities during the preceding year and  
10 shall include in such report the audited accounts of the Commission.

Repeal

11 30. The National Commission for Refugees Act, Cap.N21 Laws of  
12 the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 is hereby repealed

Saving Provision

13 31.-(1) Anything made or done or having effect before the  
14 commencement of this Bill by the National Commission for Refugees and  
15 having any resulting or continuing effect shall be treated as from the  
16 commencement of this Bill, as if it were made or done by the Commission.

17 (2) As from to the commencement of this Bill, any staff or officer who  
18 immediately before the commencement of this Bill holds office in the National  
19 Commission for Refugees existing before the commencement of this Bill, and  
20 who have been made an offer by the Commission shall be deemed to have been  
21 transferred to the Commission established under this Bill, on such terms and  
22 conditions no less favourable than those obtaining immediately before the  
23 commencement of this Bill.

24 (3) Service or employment in the department shall be deemed to be  
25 service or employment in the Commission established under this Bill and any  
26 director, employee, staff or officer to whom the Commission did not make an  
27 offer shall be redeployed by the Head of civil service of the Federation.

28 (4) All assets, rights, liabilities and obligations of the National  
29 Commission for Refugees, before the commencement of this Bill shall, by  
30 virtue of this Bill, be deemed to be that of the Commission.



1 32. In this Bill- Interpretation

2 "Chairman" means Chairman of the Governing Board of the Commission;  
3 "Competent Officer" means immigration officer, customs officer, police  
4 officer, Liaison officer of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants  
5 and Internally Displaced Persons or any other relevant security officer;  
6 "Country of Nationality" in relation to a person who has more than one  
7 nationality, means each of the countries of which that person is a national;  
8 "emigrant and immigrant" refer respectively to migrants from the  
9 perspective of the Country of origin or departure and the Country of  
10 destination or settlement;  
11 "Frontier" means land frontier, sea frontier, port or airport of airport;  
12 "Minister" means Minister of Interior;  
13 "In term al displacement" means the involuntary or forced movement,  
14 evacuation or relocation of persons or group of persons within  
15 internationally recognized state borders;  
16 internally displaced persons" are persons or groups of persons who have  
17 been forced or obliged to flee or leave their homes or places of habitual  
18 residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed  
19 conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or  
20 natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed any of Nigeria's  
21 internationally recognized borders.

22 33. This Bill may be cited as the National Commission for Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and Migrants Commission Bill, Citation  
23 2016.

24 SCHEDULES

25 *Supplementary Provisions Relating to the Board, Etc.*

26 1.-(1) Subject to the provisions of this Bill and section 27 of the  
27 Interpretation Act the Board may make standing orders regulating its  
28 proceedings or those of any of its committees.

29 (2) The quorum of the Board shall be the Chairman or the person  
30

1 presiding at the meeting, Director General and one third of other members of  
2 the Board. The quorum of any Committee of the Commission shall be as  
3 determined by the Board

4 2.-(1) The Board shall meet whenever it is summoned by the  
5 Chairman and if the Chairman is required to do so by notice given to him by not  
6 less than 4 other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Board to be held  
7 within 14 days from the date on which the Notice is given.

8 (2) At any meeting of the Board the Chairman shall preside but if he is  
9 absent, the members present at the meeting shall appoint one of their member  
10 to preside at the meeting.

11 3.-(1) The Board may appoint one or more committees to carry out, on  
12 behalf of the Board such functions as the Board may determine.

13 (2) A committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of such  
14 number of persons as may be determined by the Board and a person shall hold  
15 office on the committee in accordance with the terms of his appointment

16 (3) A decision of a committee of the Board shall be of no effect until it  
17 is confirmed by the Board.

18 4.-(1) The fixing of the seal of the Commission shall be authenticated  
19 by the signatures of the Chairman or any other member of the Board generally  
20 or specifically authorized by the Board to act for that purpose and the  
21 Managing Director.

22 (2) A document purporting to be a document duly executed under the  
23 seal of the Commission shall be received in evidence and shall, unless and until  
24 the contrary is proved be presumed to be so executed. The validity of any  
25 proceedings of the Board or of a committee shall not be adversely affected by-

26 (a) a vacancy in the membership of the Board or committee;

27 (b) a defect in the appointment of a member of the Board or  
28 committee; or

29 (c) reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the  
30 proceedings of the Board or committee.

1 SCHEDULES

2 FIRST

3 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951.

4 SECOND

5 Protocol Relating to Status of Refugees of 31<sup>st</sup> January 1967.

6 THIRD

7 Organisation of African Unity Convention 1969.

8 FOURTH

9 African Union (Kampala) Convention on Protection and Assistance to  
10 Internally Displaced Persons in Africa.

11 FIFTH

12 Internal Convention for the Protection of the Rights of All Migrants and  
13 Members of their Family.

14 SIXTH

15 Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons of 1954.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to Repeal the National Commission for Refugees Act, Cap.N21 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and enact the National Commission for Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and Migrants to provide a framework for management, rehabilitation, return, re-integration and resettlement of victims of displacement, refuge and migration.

