

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PRESCRIBE PUNISHMENT FOR ACTS AND CONDUCT THAT ARE UNDEMOCRATIC BY ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OR PERSON AND OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH 2015.

Sponsored by Senator Bala Ibn Na'allah

[] Commencement

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

1 1. Any person who knowingly obstruct by the use of force or
 2 threat, or any other means of a democratic process with intention to derive
 3 any benefit by undemocratic means shall be guilty of an offence and shall be
 4 liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years with an order of
 5 court barring him from holding any elective office for a period of 12 years or
 6 both.

Obstructing Democratic Process

7 2. Any person who being a civil servant and or a security personnel
 8 who with intent to circumvent democratic process offers or provide any
 9 information the width of which is relied upon to postpone time, date or
 10 venue of any democratic process shall be guilty of offence and upon
 11 conviction, shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of two year without
 12 option of fine.

Provision of information to deray democratic process

13 3. Any person who without lawful authority issues any statement
 14 written or verbal with intention to give advantage to any registered political
 15 party against any or all of the other political parties shall be guilty of an
 16 offence and upon conviction shall be liable to a term of imprisonment not
 17 exceeding 5 years with a fine of N5,000,000 or both.

Give advantage to any political party

18 4. Any person who being a public officer, civil servant and or
 19 security personnel who with intention of put a political party or any person
 20 contesting an election at a disadvantage, unlawfully obstruct or refuses to

Obstruction of political parties

1 grant permit for the use of a public place whether own by the state or the federal
2 government shall be guilty of an offence and upon conviction shall be liable to
3 imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years with fine of N2,000,000 or both.

Defacement or
removal of
campaign materials

4 5. Any person who defaces, tears, remove or cause to be removed any
5 poster, billboard or campaign materials of whatever descriptions shall be guilty
6 of an offence and upon conviction shall be liable to a term of imprisonment for
7 two years with a fine of N2,000,000 or both.

Unfair advert

8 6. Any media print or electronic, television station which accept and
9 air any advertisement from a political party and/or candidate which is intended
10 to unfairly disparage any candidate for an election with intention to give an
11 unfair advantage to a political party and/or candidate of a political party shall
12 be guilty of an offence and upon conviction shall be liable to a term of
13 imprisonment of 2 years and a fine of N2,000,000 for each of the slot already
14 aired, printed or circulated and revocation order of the license issued for the
15 purpose of its operation.

Disruption of
political process

16 7. Any person who with intention to disrupt a political process,
17 meetings, gathering, and/or rallies, does or cause to be done any violent act
18 and or conduct himself in an un orderly manner capable of disrupting a lawful
19 assembly of persons shall be guilty of an offence and upon conviction shall be
20 liable to a fine of N2,000,000 or an imprisonment of 2 years or both such fine
21 and imprisonment.

Distribution and
circulation of
false document

22 8. Any person who knowingly publishes, distributes, circulate or
23 course to be published, distributed, and/or circulate any document, pamphlet,
24 banner, posters knowing the contents to be false with intention to course
25 political mischief shall be guilty of. an offence and upon convention shall be
26 liable to a fine of N5,000,000 or an imprisonment for a term of 3 years or both
27 such fine and imprisonment.

Citation

28 9. This bill may be cited as a Bill for an act to punishment for
29 undemocratic act and conduct Bill, 2015.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to prescribe punishment for any act of undemocratic conduct by elected official aimed at hindering democratic process in Nigeria.
