

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCHES NATIONWIDE

Sponsored by Senator Ben Murray - Bruce

[] Commencement

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

1 1.-(1) This Bill shall establish a Ward Security Watch (hereinafter
2 referred to as "Watches"), in every ward in Nigeria.

3 (2) It shall be the duty of every ranking Traditional Ruler in the
4 ward to set up Watches in every ward in each Local Government Area.

5 (3) The Watches shall be coordinated by every elected Councillor
6 in every ward of every Local Government in Nigeria.

7 (4) Every Councillor shall be responsible to each Local
8 Government Chairman.

9 (5) The Watches shall comprise 10 citizens of Nigeria resident in
10 the ward and known to be of outstanding character who are held in high
11 esteem in each community.

12 (6) Membership of the Watches shall be voluntary and the
13 members shall not be entitled to paid remuneration.

14 (7) Each of the Watches shall have a Chairman who shall act as
15 presiding officer and a secretary.

16 (8) Every police station in every ward shall have a Watch Liaison
17 Officer whose responsibility shall be to maintain open communication with
18 Watches in the ward.

19 (9) It shall be the duty of the Divisional Police Officer to nominate
20 and supervise the Watch Liaison Officer.

21 (10) The Divisional Police Officer in each ward shall make a
22 monthly report of activities of Watches in his ward which shall be relayed to

1 the State Commissioner of Police.

2 (11) The State Commissioner of Police shall make a monthly report of
3 Watches in his state which shall be relayed to the Inspector General of Police,
4 the Director General of the Department of State Security and the National
5 Security Adviser.

Functions of
Watches

6 2. The function of Watches shall be to:

7 (a) Identify and keep a written record of all residents of their ward and
8 familiarize themselves with the day to day activities in their ward.

9 (b) Report any suspicious person, movement or activity within their
10 ward to the Watch Liaison Officer.

11 (c) Make a monthly report of activities within the ward to the Watch
12 Liaison Officer.

Protection for
Members of
Watches

13 3. The members of Watches shall be protected from retaliation by
14 terrorists, criminals, felons or any other persons whose activities shall come to
15 the attention of the security services through their efforts in the following
16 manner:

17 (a) It shall be the duty of the police, the Department of State Security
18 and other security agencies to follow up on reports from Watches and in doing
19 so shall not put members of Watches in jeopardy.

20 (b) Where information provided by member of Watches leads to the
21 arrest and prosecution of terrorists, criminals, felons or any other persons, the
22 members of Watches shall not be compelled to testify in courts neither shall the
23 terrorists, criminals, felons or any other persons be informed of the source of
24 the information leading to his or her arrest.

25 (c) Reports from Watches may be tendered in court as evidence in
26 chambers to the trial judge only and the identification details of members must
27 be redacted.

Supremacy of
Bill of Bill on
existing Law

28 4. Where the provisions of this Bill contradicts the provision of any
29 other law, the provision of this Bill shall prevail over her law to the extent
30 of the contradiction shall be deemed.

1 **5. This Bill may be cited as the Establishment of Ward Security** Citation t
2 **Watches Nationwide Bill, 2015.**

3 **6. Where the provisions of this Bill contradicts the provision of**
4 **any other law, the provision of this Bill shall prevail and that other law to the**
5 **extent of the contradiction shall be deemed void.**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

**This Bill seeks to Establish Ward Security Watches Nationwide to increase
our nation's security infrastructure and help reduce incidences of terrorism,
insecurity and other forms of criminality.**

CHAIN OF COMMAND FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH (10 PEOPLE)



TRADITIONAL RULER



COUNCILLOR

FOR EVERY WARD OF EVERY LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AREA



LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHAIRMAN



POLICE

Every Police station in every ward will
have a Watch Liaison Officer



DIVISIONAL POLICE OFFICER

Nominates and supervises Watch Liaison
Officer. Reports to the Commissioner of
Police



COMMISSIONER OF POLICE