

NIGERIAN NATIONAL HEROES BILL, 2019

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# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT 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 AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by Hon. Sulaiman Abubakar Gumi*

[ ] Commencement

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

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

	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 print
	5	and electronic media, call for proposals for nomination of suitable persons to
	6	be recommended for designation as national heroes.
Procedure for nomination	7	<b>5.</b> -(1) 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.</b> -(1)The Council shall, by notice in at least two national newspapers,
	20	publish the names of all persons proposed to be declared as national heroes
	21	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 nit shall forward the

1 president for such declaration.

2 (4) The names of all persons designated heroes shall be notified by  
3 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 person in  
Government

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

9 (b) he shall have be 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 (d) if alive, he shall not be less than fifty years old and, if dead he  
13 shall not have died before 1st January 1914.

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

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

26 8.-(1) all heroes under this Bill shall be invested with the honour by  
27 the President at a public ceremony.

Investiture

28 (2) The investiture of heroes shall take place during the  
29 Independence Day, celebrated on the 1st of October in each year, and the  
30 person(s) so inaugurated shall be awarded the certificate set out in the

1 Second Schedule of this Bill.

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

Nigerian National  
Heroes Register

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

8 (2) The Register shall be kept within the premises of the Secretary to  
9 the Government of the Federation and the National Library and shall, subject to  
10 such conditions necessary for the securing of its safety and preservation as may  
11 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

12 **10.**-(1) The Register shall be divided into two parts, namely-

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

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

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

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

Power to direct  
resignation, etc.

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

30 Provided that the President shall not direct the inclusion of the name

1 of a living person in the Register if there are already not less than five names  
2 of other living persons in the relevant part of the Register.

3 **12.**-(1) The Secretary to the Government of the Federation shall be Chief Registrar, etc.  
4 the Chief Registrar and shall, subject to the provisions of this Bill, do or  
5 cause to be done, all such things as may be necessary for the purposes of this  
6 Bill.

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

11 **13.**-(1) A person declared a hero under this Bill shall be entitled to Forms of  
12 the following privileges, among others- recognition and  
and honour of  
national heroes

13 (a) invitations to national and community functions as a state guest

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

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

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

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

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

27 (g) being accorded financial assistance where their economic  
28 circumstances warrant such assistance.

29 (2) in furtherance to the provisions of subsection (1), the  
30 Government may, from time to time, accord national heroes who are in need

- 1 of assistance-
- 2 (a) the highest attainable standard of health care services, including
- 3 reproductive health care;
- 4 (b) accessible and adequate housing and reasonable standards of
- 5 sanitation;
- 6 (c) adequate food of acceptable quality;
- 7 (d) clean and safe water in adequate quantities;
- 8 (e) social security;
- 9 (g) free education for their dependants up to school-going age up to
- 10 tertiary level;
- 11 (h) free transport to public functions to which they are invited within
- 12 the country and;
- 13 (I) Employment opportunities for their dependants who have relevant
- 14 qualifications.
- 15 **14.**-(1) The Council may, on its own motion or upon receipt of
- 16 allegations of misconduct by a hero from any person or institution, appoint a
- 17 committee of its members to investigate the allegations and make a report to its
- 18 members to investigate the allegations and make a report to it within a specified
- 19 period.
- 20 (2) The Committee shall conduct its investigations within the time
- 21 specified, and during the course of the investigation-
- 22 (a) may adduce evidence from the complaints or from any other
- 23 person to prove the allegations; and
- 24 (b) shall accord the person against whom the allegations are made a
- 25 chance to be heard in his own defence.
- 26 (3) Upon receipt and consideration of the report of the committee
- 27 under th this section, the Council may-
- 28 (a) caution or censure the person; or
- 29 (b) withdraw all the privileges attached to the designation of a hero

Withdrawal of  
Honours



1 under this Bill and order the removal of the name of such person from the  
2 Register.

3 (4) For the purposes of this section' "misconduct" includes  
4 conviction by a court of law of a cognizable offence and sentence to a term of  
5 imprisonment

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

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

12 (b) the privileges attached to each honour specified under  
13 paragraph (a);

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

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

16 (e) the criteria for identification, selection and designation of  
17 heroes.

18 (f) day to be designated as the Nigerian Heroes Day

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

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

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

24 (b) widow or widower; or

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

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

29 **18.** This Bill may be cited as the Nigerian National Heroes Bill, Citation  
30 2019.

## 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.

## FIRST SCHEDULE

S.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> <li>• Integrity</li> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Expertise</li> <li>• Inspirational</li> <li>• Reliability</li> <li>• Charisma</li> </ul>

5.	PHILANTHROPY	<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> <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> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perseverance</li> <li>• Optimism</li> <li>• Reliability</li> <li>• Commitment</li> <li>• Discovery</li> <li>• Inspirational</li> <li>• Expertise</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> </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

S. 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 COFFERED ON ME AS PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF  
 NIGERIA AND THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL HEROES BILL 2019, HEREBY CONFER HIM/HER  
 WITH THE STATUS OF NATIONAL HERO

THIS DAY.....