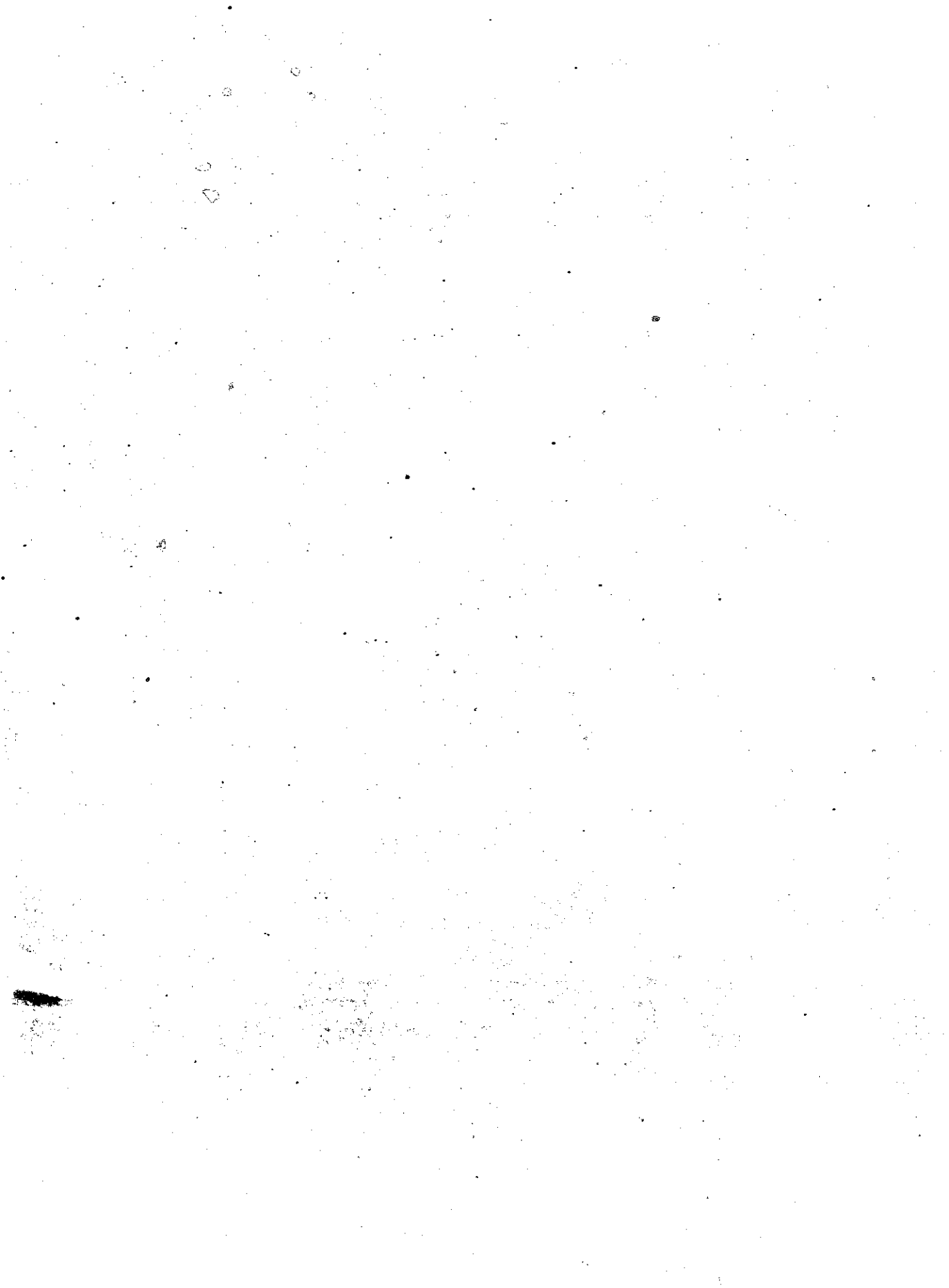


PUBLIC OFFICERS INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL TRIP
(REGULATION) BILL, 2019
ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

Clause:

1. Objectives
2. Upgrading and maintenance of public hospitals in Nigeria
3. Sensitization of public officers
4. Prohibition of overseas medical trip by public officers
5. Application for medical trip abroad
6. Conditions for approval
7. Documents for approval
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A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO REGULATE INTERNATIONAL TRIP FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT BY PUBLIC OFFICERS TO STRENGTHEN THE HEALTH INSTITUTIONS FOR EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon Sergius Oseasochie Ogun

[] Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria-

- 1 1. The objectives of the Bill are:
- 2 (1) To prohibit overseas medical trip by public officers without
- 3 approval.
- 4 (2) To regulate overseas medical trip by public officers.
- 5 (3) Strengthen the health institutions for efficient service delivery
- 6 and internal revenue generation.
- 7 2.-(1) The government shall ensure constant upgrading and
- 8 maintenance of hospitals and medical centres in Nigeria by:
- 9 (a) employing qualified doctors, nurses, and other medical and
- 10 paramedical staff with specialization in the treatment of various ailments;
- 11 (b) reviewing the salary of medical personnel in accordance with
- 12 international best practices to encourage Nigerian doctors in the Diaspora to
- 13 come back to practice in Nigeria;
- 14 (c) providing modern equipment and manpower for the treatment
- 15 of terminal ailments and non-terminal ailments;
- 16 (d) conducting constant oversight on the activities of hospital, to
- 17 ensure maintenance of standard; and
- 18 (e) meting out adequate sanction to the management of the hospital
- 19 that fails to ensure the maintenance and safekeeping of the equipment and
- 20 facilities in their hospital.

Objectives

Upgrading and maintenance of public hospitals in Nigeria

1 (2) The government shall encourage and sponsor research in every
2 area of medicine to ensure that the health sector is up to date in meeting up with
3 new medical challenges.

Sensitization of
public officers

4 3. Every government department, ministry or agency may, from time
5 to time, organize health seminars to sensitize public officers on the need to go
6 for constant medical check for early detection of diseases and aversion of
7 terminal diseases.

Prohibition of
overseas medical
trip by public
officers

8 4. A public officer shall not:
9 (a) embark on medical trip abroad without approval; or
10 (b) embark on medical trip abroad unless he satisfactorily proves to
11 the office where he is working, that such ailment cannot be treated in Nigeria.

Application for
medical trip abroad

12 5. A public officer desirous of travelling abroad for medical treatment
13 shall apply in writing to the Minister seeking approval to travel abroad for
14 medical treatment.

Conditions for
approval

15 6.-(1) A public officer may be allowed to travel abroad for medical
16 treatment for the treatment of ailments provided for in the schedule.

17 (2) A public officer seeking to travel abroad for medical treatment
18 shall fulfill all the requirements stated in the schedule prior to approval.

Documents for
approval

19 7. The applicant shall submit the following documents for
20 consideration by the Minister:

21 (1) A certified true copy of the doctor's report recommending further
22 treatment abroad.

23 (2) Local treatment paper consisting of the name of the hospital
24 visited and the treatment administered.

25 (3) Result of laboratory investigation conducted on the applicant.

26 (4) Sworn affidavit stating the urgency of the treatment.

27 (5) A Completed request form obtained from the Minister seeking to
28 travel abroad for medical treatment.

Investigation

29 8.-(1) The minister shall conduct an investigation to verify the
30 authenticity of the documents submitted for approval.

1 (2) If after the investigation under sub clause (1) it is revealed that
2 the ailment is not compelling enough to warrant overseas treatment, the
3 minister may refuse the application.

4 (3) If investigation reveals that the document is false, the minister
5 shall refuse the application.

6 9. The Minister shall inform the applicant in writing of his
7 approval or refusal within 5 working days of submission of request or within
8 2 working days of submission of request in case of emergency

Information of
decision

9 10.-(1) A public officer who receives approval to travel abroad for
10 medical treatment shall within 7 working days of his return, submit to the
11 Minister, photocopy of all the papers evidencing treatment received abroad
12 for documentation.

Report after
treatment

13 (2) The public officer shall while submitting the photocopies of the
14 treatment under sub clause 1, produce the original treatment paper for citing.

15 11. A person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Bill
16 shall, upon conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding one million naira or a
17 term not exceeding three years, or to both.

Offences/Penalties

18 12. In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires:

Interpretation

19 "Public Officer" means elected political office holders at all levels, political
20 appointees, civil servants and government officials;

21 "Minister" means the Minister for the time being responsible for health;

22 "Terminal illness" means those disease that cannot be cured or adequately
23 treated and that is reasonably expected to result in the death of the patient
24 within a short period of time maybe weeks, months or years;

25 "chronic disease" means disease lasting 3 months or more, that cannot be
26 prevented by vaccines or cured by medication, nor do they just disappear;

27 "Hospital" means federal government owned hospitals and medical centres;

28 "Government" means the federal government of Nigeria "Diaspora" means
29 any country outside Nigeria.

Citation 1 13. This Bill may be cited as Public Officers International Medical
2 Trip (Regulation) Bill, 2019.

3 SCHEDULE

4 1. The following ailments are categorized as chronic or terminal
5 ailments:

- 6 (a) Cancer;
- 7 (b) Chronic liver failure;
- 8 (c) Chronic kidney failure;
- 9 (d) Aids;
- 10 (e) Heart failure;
- 11 (f) Chronic hepatitis;
- 12 (g) Chronic ulcer;
- 13 (h) Syndromes;
- 14 (i) Eye failure; and
- 15 (j) Any other ailment that may be considered chronic or terminal.

16 2. Requirement for approval to travel Abroad for medical treatment:

- 17 (a) Application in writing to the minister;
- 18 (b) Obtaining of approval form for a token to be prescribed by the
19 Minister;
- 20 (c) Submission of the completed form with document in support of
21 the application;
- 22 (d) Refusal or approval by the Minister in writing;
- 23 (e) Deposition of treatment paper after treatment.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to regulate international trip for medical treatment by public officers to strengthen the health institutions for efficient service delivery.