

SOCIAL SAFETY NET SERVICE BILL, 2019

ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

Clause:

1. Establishment of the Service
2. Objectives and functions of the Service
3. Appointment and qualification of the Head of the Service
4. Some social safety net programs
5. The Service to discontinue Social safety net programs
6. Some criteria for selecting beneficiaries of the social safety net programs
7. Some prerequisite for selection into one or more social safety net program
8. Citation



A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET SERVICE TO PROVIDE FOR, REDUCTION OF HARDCORE POVERTY AMONG RURAL AND URBAN VULNERABLE GROUPS, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS AND MEASURES IN NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Simon D. Mwadkwon

[] Commencement

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

1 1.-(1) There is established the Social Safety Net Service (in this
2 Bill referred to as "the Service).

Establishment of the Service

3 (2) The Service shall be a department in the Federal Ministry of
4 Budget and Planning and shall be created in all branches of the Ministry in
5 the 36 States of the Federation.

6 (3) The Service shall create safety centers in the 36 States of the
7 Federation and safety units in the 774 Local Government Areas in Nigeria.

8 2. The Service shall:

Objectives and functions of the Service

9 (a) draw up social safety net programs periodically to address
10 chronic poverty in rural and urban areas and engage in schemes that will
11 graduate poor people from poverty;

12 (b) develop good targeting mechanism that will enhance increased
13 and level of benefits for the poor;

14 (c) provide effective coordination between the safety centers in the
15 States and the Safety units in the local government areas to adequately target
16 poorest areas and reach individuals better;

17 (d) have a monitoring and evaluation unit that will monitor and

1 assess projects, programs, beneficiaries and graduates from the social safety
2 net program;

3 (e) have such number of units as are required to work with the Safety
4 Centers in the States and Safety Units in the Local Government Areas for
5 effective implementation of the functions and objectives of the Service;

6 (f) develop a blue print for effective and monthly, quarterly and yearly
7 monitoring, evaluation and analysis of the social safety net programs to ensure
8 that the poor not only receives minimum assistance but graduate from poverty;

9 (g) maintain a register of beneficiaries and a register of graduates
10 from the social safety net programs;

11 (h) develop a sustainable development program to ensure that the
12 graduates from poverty do not fall back into poverty;

13 (i) develop a matrix for poverty reduction by collaborating with
14 Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) that have a platform for social
15 safety net programs and encourage participation by MDAs that do not have
16 such platforms;

17 (j) enter both public and private partnerships with donor agencies,
18 multinational companies, organizations and public -spirited individuals to
19 carry out social safety net programs;

20 Provided that such partnership will not undermine the integrity,
21 sovereignty and interest of Nigeria;

22 (k) understudy, learn useful systems and practices from middle
23 income Countries where the largest social safety net programs exist to develop
24 quality social safety net programs with good coverage in Nigeria;

25 (l) train and retrain social safety net officers in new forms of social
26 safety net programs and how best to achieve the objective of the Commission;

27 (m) develop a criteria for selecting beneficiaries that qualify to
28 partake in a social safety net program;

29 (n) embark all forms of agricultural projects with both beneficiaries
30 and experts as part of the project to develop food security for both beneficiaries

1 and the nation; and

2 (o) do things that shall enable it carry out the objectives and
3 functions under this Bill.

4 3. The Minister shall appoint a Head of the Service who shall:

5 (a) not be below the rank of a director;

6 (b) be qualified as an expert in social welfare programs and has at
7 least 15 years experience as a social welfare practitioner in a reputable non-
8 governmental organization, the public service or private sector;

9 (c) is a person of proven integrity, is innovative and has pioneered
10 successful social welfare programs for at list 10 years;

11 (d) have a master's degree in law, public health, development
12 economics, or international economic development.

13 4. The social safety net programs of the Service includes:

14 (a) food transfers;

15 (b) cash transfers;

16 (c) credit schemes;

17 (d) conditional subsidy programs;

18 (e) rural maintenance programs;

19 (g) households where one or more of the children or dependent is
20 terminally ill;

21 (f) education stipend programs;

22 (g) old age allowance;

23 (h) conditional disability and unconditional disability allowance;

24 (i) agricultural subsidy for marginal farmers; and

25 (j) unemployment housing programs and homeless shelters.

26 5. The Service may discontinue one or more of the social safety net
27 programs mentioned in section 4 of this Bill where it becomes irrelevant or
28 does not meet the changing demands of the objectives and functions of the
29 Service.

Appointment
and qualification
of the Head of
the Service

Some social safety
net

The service to
discontinue social
net programs

Some criterial
for selecting
beneficiaries
of the social
safety net
programs

- 1 6. The Service shall deploy the following criteria to select
2 beneficiaries of one or more of the social safety net program:
3 (a) households with monthly income of less than N5,000;
4 (b) day laborer or temporary worker with less than N3,000 per job;
5 (c) households that lack productive assets;
6 (d) family of low income professionals which includes fishing,
7 subsistent farmers, welders, blacksmiths, plumbers;
8 (e) households where the principal occupation of the head is day
9 labour;
10 (f) destitute woman headed family;
11 (h) household live in slums with no proper sewage, ventilation and
12 portable drinking water system; and
13 (i) such other criteria that the Service will deploy to select
14 beneficiaries from time-to time.

Some prerequisite
for selection
into one or more
social safety net
program

- 15 7. The prerequisite for selection of beneficiaries into the social safety
16 net program includes:
17 (a) the prospective beneficiary must be a permanent resident in the
18 area where the Safety Centre or Safety Unit is situated;
19 (b) the prospective beneficiary is not a beneficiary of any other
20 program organizes by a Non- Governmental Organization;
21 (c) where the prospective beneficiary is a young person of
22 reproductive age, he or she must have the physical and mental capacity to do
23 laborious work; and
24 (d) such other prerequisites that the Service may deploy to select
25 beneficiaries into one or more social safety net program.

Citation

- 26 8. This Bill may be cited as the Social Safety Net Service Bill, 2019.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish the Social Safety Net Service to provide for, reduction of hardcore poverty among rural and urban vulnerable groups, sustainable development goals and implementation of social protection systems and measures in Nigeria.

