

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL ICONS, SYMBOLS LEGACY AGENCY (NISLA) AS A REVENUE GENERATING AGENCY OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRODUCTION, SALES AND DISTRIBUTION OF UNIFORM PRODUCTS SUCH AS THE NIGERIAN NATIONAL FLAG, THE COAT OF ARMS, AND PRINTING OF COPIES OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM IN THE NIGERIAN LANGUAGES AND FOR PRESERVATION OF ALL NATIONAL ICONS AND SYMBOLS AS A LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by Hon. Babajimi Benson*

[ ] Commencement

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

1 PART I - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AGENCY, GOVERNING BOARD, ETC.

2 1.-(1) There is established the National Icons, Symbols Legacy  
 3 Agency (NISLA) (in this bill referred to as "Agency") which shall have such  
 4 powers and exercise such functions as are conferred on it by this Bill.

Establishment  
 of the National  
 Icons, Symbols  
 Legacy Agency  
 (NISLA)

5 (2) The Agency-

6 (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a  
 7 common seal;

8 (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and

9 (c) may acquire, hold and dispose of interests in movable and  
 10 immovable property for the purpose of carrying out its functions under this  
 11 Bill.

12 2. The Object of the Agency shall be to preserve national symbols  
 13 as legacies for future generations, and to serve as a revenue generating  
 14 agency of the Federal Government for the purpose of promoting unity

Object and purpose  
 of the Agency

	1	through the production, sales, and printing of all symbols and icons of Nigeria.
Establishment of the Governing Board, Membership and Tenure of office of the Governing Board of the Agency etc.	2	3.-(1) There is hereby established for the Agency, a Governing
	3	Board(in this bill referred to as "Board") which shall exercise overall
	4	supervision of the Agency in accordance with the provisions of this Bill.
	5	(2) The Board shall consist of a chairperson and six other members
	6	drawn from the six geo-political zones of Nigeria, one the members of the
	7	Board shall be a representative of a relevant CIVIL SOCIETY organization
	8	with cognate experience in the subject matter of this Bill, whom shall serve as
	9	Secretary of the Board;
	10	(3) The Members of the Board shall be appointed by the President on
	11	the recommendation of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, and
	12	the Agency shall be under the supervision of the office of the Secretary to the
	13	Government of the Federation.
	14	(4) The persons appointed to be members of the Board shall be
	15	persons appearing to the President to be suitably qualified by reason of their
	16	professional, academic or administrative qualifications or by their attainments
	17	in any field of human endeavour.
	18	(5) Subject to sub-clause (6) of this clause, a person appointed as a
	19	member of the Board shall hold office for three years and shall be eligible for
	20	re-appointment for one further period of three years.
	21	(6) The President may terminate the appointment of a member of the
	22	Board on grounds of misbehavior or inability to discharge the duties of his
	23	office by reason of physical or mental incapacity.
	24	(7) The supplementary provisions set out in the Second Schedule
	25	shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board and other matters
	26	mentioned therein.
Functions and Powers of the Board and Agency	27	4. The Board shall-
	28	(a) providing general policy guidelines of the Agency and supervise
	29	the implementation of such policies;
	30	(b) review and approve the strategic plans of the Agency;

1 (c) consider and approve the research to be undertaken by the  
2 Agency;

3 (d) appointing, promoting, transferring and imposing discipline on  
4 employees of the Agency;

5 (e) with the prior approval of the Federal Civil Service  
6 Commission, determine the remuneration and allowances (and in  
7 appropriate cases, pensions, gratuities and other terminal benefits) to be  
8 paid to such employees and such other conditions of service of the  
9 employees as it may think appropriate;

10 (f) issuing such regulations, orders and guidelines as may be  
11 recommended to it by the Agency and considered to be necessary for the  
12 implementation of policies of the Federal Government;

13 (g) consider and approve the annual estimate and investment plans  
14 of the Agency;

15 (h) appoint one or more committees to carry out on behalf of the  
16 Board such functions as the Board may determine. A committee appointed  
17 by the Board shall consist of the number of persons as determined by the  
18 Board, of whom not more than one third shall be persons who are not  
19 members of the Board and a person other than a member of the Board shall  
20 hold office on the committee in accordance with the terms of the instrument  
21 by which he is appointed. A decision of a committee of the Board shall be of  
22 no effect until it is confirmed by the Board; and

23 (i) doing such other things as are in the opinion of the Board  
24 necessary to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of the Agency  
25 under this Bill.

26 The Agency shall-

27 (a) undertake identification of all the national symbols and icons of  
28 Nigeria and publish a list of such national symbols and icons within three  
29 months after the enactment of this Bill;

30 (b) ensure the preservation of all national symbols and icons in

- 1 both digital and manual formats;
- 2 (c) be solely responsible for the uniform printing and sale of all
- 3 national symbols and Icons;
- 4 (d) account for all amounts so collected for the sale of all national
- 5 symbols and icons in a manner to be prescribed by the President;
- 6 (e) in conjunction with the Nigerian Immigration Service conduct
- 7 oral and written examinations to evaluate and ascertain that applicants for
- 8 citizenship have basic knowledge of national symbols and national anthem;
- 9 (f) in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, conduct oral and
- 10 written examinations in schools to inculcate and ensure that students have
- 11 knowledge of national symbols and anthem;
- 12 (g) institute measures designed to promote national unity in Nigerians
- 13 for this purpose and shall liaise with academic, professional and media houses
- 14 in Nigeria;
- 15 (h) do such other things as are in the opinion of the Board necessary to
- 16 ensure the efficient performance of the object of the Agency under this Bill.

17 PART III - APPOINTMENT OF FUNCTIONARIES OF THE AGENCY

Director General  
of the Agency

- 18 5.-(a) There shall be a Director General for the Agency, who shall be
- 19 the chief accounting officer of the Agency;
- 20 (b) The Secretary to the Government of the Federation shall nominate
- 21 any person to serve as the Director-General subject to confirmation of the
- 22 President and provided that such a person has served not less than fifteen years
- 23 in the public service, five of those years on the cadre of a Director;
- 24 (c) The supplementary provisions set out in the third Schedule shall
- 25 have effect with respect to Staff Appointments, Promotions, Discipline,
- 26 Remuneration, etc. and other matters mentioned therein.

27 PART IV - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Funds of the  
Agency

- 28 6.-(a) The Agency shall establish and maintain such bank accounts to
- 29 be applied towards the discharge of its functions which shall consist of and to
- 30 which shall be credited:

1 (b) a percentage as stipulated by the President and appropriated by  
2 the National Assembly not less than five percent (5%) of all sales made in  
3 the preceding financial year, which sum shall be deployed to pay part or all  
4 the capital and recurrent expenditures of the Agency;

5 (c) all other moneys which may from time to time, accrue to the  
6 Agency from other services;

7 (d) annual appropriation, subvention or other budgetary allocation  
8 from the annual budget and appropriation of the Federal Government for the  
9 duration of five (5) years from the date of commencement of this Bill and  
10 thereafter the Agency shall become self-funded; and

11 (e) all monies accruing to the Agency by way of gifts, grants-in-aid,  
12 testamentary dispositions, endowments and contributions from any source.

13 **7.** The Agency may from time to time, apply the proceeds of the  
14 funds established under Section 7 of this Bill to:

Proceeds of  
Funds

15 (a) the cost of administration of the Agency;

16 (b) paying the emoluments, allowances and benefits of members of  
17 the Board and for reimbursing members of the Board or of any committee of  
18 the Board for such expenses as may be expressly authorized by the Board;

19 (c) the payment of the salaries, fees or other remuneration or  
20 allowances to the officers and other employees of the Agency;

21 (d) the development of any property vested in or owned by the  
22 Agency; and

23 (e) any other payment for anything incidental to the foregoing  
24 provisions or in connection with or incidental to any other function of the  
25 Agency.

26 **8.** -(a) The Agency shall, not later than 30th August in each year  
27 submit to the Secretary Government of the Federation an estimate of its  
28 expenditure and income - for the next succeeding year for the purpose of  
29 submission to the National Assembly for appropriation.

Annual Estimates  
and Accounts

30 (b) The Agency shall keep proper books of accounts in respect of

	1	each year and proper records in relation to those accounts and shall cause a
	2	comprehensive audit of all its accounts to be undertaken and completed within
	3	three months after the end of each financial year by auditors appointed from the
	4	list provided and in accordance with guidelines supplied by the Auditor-
	5	General for the Federation.
Annual report, etc.	6	<b>9.</b> -(a) The Agency shall, not later than the 30th day of June in each
	7	year, submit to the Auditor-General of the Federation, a report of its activities
	8	during the immediate preceding year and shall include in such report the duly
	9	audited accounts of the Agency;
	10	(b) The Auditor-General shall within 30 days of receipt of the report,
	11	present a copy of the report to the-
	12	(i) Federal Executive Council; and
	13	(ii) National Assembly.
Power to accept gifts	14	<b>10.</b> -(a) The Agency may accept any gift of land, monetary or other
	15	property on such terms and conditions, if any as may be specified by the person
	16	or organization making the gift and agreed to by the Board;
	17	(b) The Agency shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by
	18	the person or organization offering the gift are inconsistent with any law in
	19	force or with the functions of the Agency.
Investment	20	<b>11.</b> The Board may, subject to the provisions of this Law and the
	21	conditions of any trust created in respect of any property, invest all or any of its
	22	funds in any security or any other fund as may, from time to time, be approved
	23	by the Secretary.
	24	PART V - PENAL PROVISIONS
Penalties	25	<b>12.</b> -(a) Three months after the enactment of this bill, any person found
	26	printing or making any Nigerian national symbol for both personal and
	27	commercial purposes shall upon conviction pay a sum of N200,000.00 to the
	28	Agency;
	29	(b) Three months after the enactment of the Bill, any person found
	30	selling unauthorized Nigerian national flag shall upon conviction pay the sum

1 ofN50,000 to the Agency.

2 PART VI - MISCELLANEOUS

3 **13.** As from the date of commencement, this Agency shall be  
4 responsible for administration of provisions of the following legislation  
5 listed under Clause 14 of this Bill: FLAGS AND COAT OF ARMS ACT,  
6 1960; Counterfeit Currency Offence (Special Provisions) Act, 1984.

Consequential  
Amendments,  
Repeals and  
Savings

7 **14.** In this Bill-

Interpretation

8 "Fund" means the Funds of the Agency established by Clause 7 of this Bill;

9 "Governing Board" or "the Board" means the Governing Board of National

10 Icons, Symbols Legacy Agency established by Clause 2 of this Bill;

11 "Symbols" means the Nigerian national flag, coat of arms or any other  
12 symbol that has been adopted to represent Nigeria;

13 "Secretary" means the Secretary to the Government of the Federation or the  
14 representative.

15 **15.** This Bill may be cited as National Icons, Symbols Legacy  
16 Agency Bill, 2020.

Citation

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish the National Icons, Symbols legacy Agency (NISLA) as a revenue generating agency of the federal government of Nigeria for the purpose of production, sales and distribution of uniform products such as the Nigerian national flag, the coat of arms, and printing of copies of the national anthem in the Nigerian languages and for preservation of all national icons and symbols as a legacy for future generations and for related purposes.