

**NATIONAL AGENCY FOR SICKLE CELL DISEASE
AND OTHER HERITABLE BLOOD DISORDER
(PREVENTION AND TREATMENT) BILL, 2020**

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Sections:

~~PART I — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL AGENCY FOR THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF~~
~~SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND OTHER HERITABLE BLOOD DISORDER AND THE GOVERNING BOARD~~

1. Establishment of the Agency.
2. Establishment and Constitution of the Governing Board of the Agency.
3. Tenure of Office of Members of Board.
4. Cessation of Membership.
5. Allowances of Members of Board.

~~PART II — FUNCTIONS OF THE AGENCY~~

6. Functions of the Agency.
7. Powers of the Board.

~~PART III — GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE PARTICIPATION~~

8. Government involvement and participation in the prevention, treatment, control and the management of Sickle-Cell Disease.
9. Private Sector involvement and participation in the prevention, treatment, control and the management of Sickle-Cell Disease.
10. Accreditation of Public and Private Centres and Participants.
11. Remuneration of Accredited Health Institutions.
12. Refusal of Accreditation.
13. Accreditation of Non- Governmental Organizations.
14. Withdrawal of Accreditation.

~~PART IV — STRUCTURE AND STAFF OF THE AGENCY~~

15. Appointment of the Director - General
16. Other Staff of the Agency
17. Structure of the Agency
18. Pension

~~PART V — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS~~

19. Fund of the Agency.

C 1012

20. Expenditure of the Agency.

21. Donations to the Agency.

22. Restrictions on Donations.

23. ~~Power to Borrow~~

24. Annual Estimates and Expenditure

25. ~~Annual Report~~

PART VI — MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

26. Offences

27. Provision of Centres for Counselling and administering tests.

28. Pre action notice.

29. Directives by the President, etc.

30. Powers of the Minister.

31. Limitation of Suits against the Agency.

32. Services of Document.

33. Restriction of Execution against Property of the Agency.

34. Interpretations.

35. Short Title.

Schedule

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL AGENCY FOR SICKLE CELL DISEASE
AND OTHER HERITABLE BLOOD DISORDER (PREVENTION AND TREATMENT)
FOR THE TREATMENT, PREVENTION, CONTROL, MANAGEMENT OF AND
RESEARCH ON SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND OTHER HERITABLE BLOOD
DISORDERS IN NIGERIA AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by HON. B. AMIDELE SALAM

/

/

Commence-
ment.

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

PART I — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SICKLE CELL DISEASE AND OTHER

HERITABLE BLOOD DISORDER (PREVENTION AND TREATMENT)

AGENCY OF NIGERIA AND THE GOVERNING BOARD

1. — (1) There is established a body to be known as the Sickle
Cell Disease and other Heritable Blood Disorder (Prevention and
Treatment) Agency of Nigeria (in this Bill referred to as “the
Agency”).

Establishment
of the
Agency.

(2) The Agency:

(a) shall be a body Corporate with perpetual succession and a
common seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and

(b) acquire, hold, mortgage, purchase and deal howsoever with
property, whether movable or immovable, real or personal.

(3) The Agency established shall have its principal office located
at the Federal Capital Territory and such other liaison, operations and
coordinating branch offices, units and research or observation centres
as the Agency may require or determine for the proper discharge or
performance of its functions under this Act, within and outside Nigeria.

2. — (1) There is established for the management of the affairs of
the Agency a Governing Board (in this Bill referred to as “the Board”).

Establishment
and
Constitution

- of the
Governing
Board of the
Agency.
- 1 (2) The Board shall consist of:
- 2 (a) the Minister in charge of health who shall be the Chairman;
- 3 (b) 2 representatives not below the rank of a Director of the
- 4 Ministries in charge of
- 5 (i) Finance,
- 6 (ii) Women Affairs,
- 7 ~~(iii) Education,~~
- 8 (iv) Science and technology;
- 9 (c) one representative each of —
- 10 (i) NGOs involved in sickle cell disease or other heritable
- 11 ~~blood disorder,~~
- 12 (ii) Nigerian Medical Association,
- 13 (iii) Healthcare Providers Association of Nigeria,
- 14 (iv) Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria,
- 15 (v) Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria,
- 16 and
- 17 (vi) the secretary who shall be the Director General.
- 18 (4) The members of the Board shall be appointed by the President
- 19 subject to confirmation by the Senate.
- 20 (5) The Board shall from time to time elect from among its
- 21 members a vice-chairman, who shall in the absence of the chairman
- 22 have all the powers and duties of the chairman, and if neither the
- 23 chairman nor the vice-chairman is available, shall nominate a person
- 24 from their own ranks to preside at that meeting.
- 25 (6) Members of the Board shall —
- 26 (a) have at least 10 years cognate experience in public health;
- 27 (b) be persons of unquestionable character and proven integrity;
- 28 and
- 29 (c) as much as possible reflect equitable representation from the
- 30 six geopolitical zones in Nigeria.
- 31 (7) The supplementary provision set out in the schedule to this Bill

1 shall have effect with respect to the proceeding of the Board and other
2 related matters.

3 **3.—**(1) A member of the Board, holds office for a term of 4
4 (four) years renewable for another four years only.

Tenure of
office of
members of
Board.

5 (2) No person shall be appointed as a member of the Board if he
6 or she:

7 (a) is an undischarged bankrupt;

8 (b) fails to comply or is not capable of fully complying with a
9 judgment or order, including an order for costs, given against him
10 or her by a court of law in a civil case;

11 (c) in the preceding 10 years has been convicted of an offence of
12 which fraud, violence, dishonesty, extortion or intimidation is an
13 element; or

14 (d) is not permanently resident in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

15 **4.** A member of the Board shall vacate his or her office if he or
16 she —

Cessation of
Membership.

17 (a) becomes subject to a disqualification contemplated in section
18 3 (2) of this Bill;

19 (b) becomes of unsound mind;

20 (c) is absent without the leave of the secretary for more than two
21 consecutive meetings of the Board.

22 **5.** There shall be paid to every member of the Board such
23 allowances as the Agency may from time to time determine.

Allowances
of Members
of Board.

24 **PART II — FUNCTIONS OF THE AGENCY**

25 **6.** The Agency shall:

Functions of
the Agency.

26 (a) formulate and implement policies, guidelines and strategies
27 on sickle cell disease and other heritable blood disorders;

28 (b) facilitate the engagement of all tiers of government and all
29 sectors on issues of sickle cell disease and other heritable blood
30 disorders prevention, treatment, care and support;

31 (c) advocate for the mainstreaming of sickle cell disease and

1 other heritable blood disorders interventions into all sectors of the
2 country;

3 (d) promote, improve and support research, training and learning
4 in sickle cell disease and other heritable blood disorders,

5 (e) create awareness on sickle cell disease and other heritable blood
6 disorders;

7 (f) protect patients' rights including the right to humane treatment
8 and freedom from abuse;

9 (g) promote and coordinate partnerships and collaborations with
10 national and international organizations; and

11 (h) perform such other functions as may be permitted by the
12 Board to give effect to the provisions of this Bill.

Powers of
the Board.

13 7. The Board shall have powers to —

14 (a) manage and superintend the affairs of the Agency;

15 (b) provide leadership and advocacy for the prevention, treatment
16 and control of sickle cell disease and hereditary blood disorder
17 scourge in the Federation; and provide intergovernmental and
18 multisectoral coordination;

19 (c) facilitate funding for the purpose of this Bill;

20 (d) facilitate the formation and development of national and
21 international partnerships and collaboration for the purpose of
22 enhancing Nigeria's control initiatives on the sickle cell disease
23 and hereditary blood disorder pandemic;

24 (e) establish committees or specialized departments for the
25 purpose of effective regulation and discharge of the Agency's
26 functions under the Bill;

27 (f) review, from time to time, the extent of the implementation
28 of the national strategic framework on the prevention, treatment
29 and control of sickle cell disease and other heritable blood by the
30 Agency;

31 (g) subject to the provisions of this Bill, make, alter, implement,

1 enforce and revoke policies, rules and regulations for carrying out
2 the functions of the Agency;

3 (h) investigate breaches of the provisions of this Bill;

4 (i) use all legal and appropriate means of enforcement to recover
5 all costs or penalties imposed on any person for the purpose of
6 administration of this Bill;

7 (j) appoint either on transfer, secondment or leave of absence
8 from any public service of the federation or private sector, such
9 number of employees as may, in the opinion of the Board be required
10 to assist the Agency in the discharge of any of its functions under
11 this Bill, and shall have power to pay such employees remunerations
12 including allowances as the Board may from time to time determine;

13 (k) accept gifts of land, money or other testamentary
14 dispositions, donations, endowments and contributions on such terms
15 and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the donor of the gift
16 (provided that the Agency shall not accept any gift if the conditions
17 attached thereto by the donor are inconsistent with the functions of
18 the Agency);

19 (l) delegate to any staff or officer of the Agency or any other
20 person any of its powers and functions under this Bill as it may
21 deem necessary;

22 (m) make rules and regulations relating generally to the
23 appointment, promotion, discipline and conditions of service of
24 employees of the Agency;

25 (n) do such other thing which in the opinion of the Board and
26 directives of the Minister are necessary and expedient to ensure
27 the efficient discharge of the functions of the Agency.

28 PART III — GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE PARTICIPATION

29 8. The Government of the Federation shall engage in and
30 encourage the prevention, treatment and control of the occurrence
31 and spread of Sickle Cell Disease, hereinafter called "the Disease",

Government
involvement
and partici-
pation in the
prevention,
control and

the manage-
ment of
Sickle-Cell
Disease.

1 in the manner provided for in this Bill.

Private
Sector
involvement
and partici-
pation in the
prevention,
control and
the manage-
ment of
Sickle-Cell
Disease.

2 9.—(1) Any person or group in the federation may, subject to
3 any restriction or requirement under this Act, freely participate in the
4 prevention, treatment, control and management of the occurrence,
5 spread and effect of the disease.

6 (2) Subject to any law relating to information dissemination or
7 any restrictions arising from this Bill, any person or group may give,
8 disseminate or distribute appropriate information or literature useful
9 in the prevention, treatment, control and management of the disease.

Accreditation
of Public
and Private
Centres and
Participants.

10 10.—(1) In furtherance of the objectives of this Bill, the Agency
11 with the approval of the Minister may accredit reputable public and
12 private hospitals and medical clinics to act or function as accredited
13 participants in the prevention, treatment, control and management of
14 the disease in the Federation, and such accredited hospitals or medical
15 clinics shall:

16 (a) serve as accredited centres for the provision of medical
17 treatment for the disease, advice, guidance and counselling on the
18 causes, effects, prevention, control and management of the disease
19 and blood genotype testing for members of the public free of cost or
20 charge to such members of the public;

21 (b) dispense or administer to members of the public drugs for the
22 prevention, treatment, control and management of the disease;

23 (c) obtain, disseminate and distribute appropriate information to
24 members of the public regarding the prevention, treatment, control
25 and management of the disease. This includes but is not limited to
26 pasting flyers in conspicuous places in the hospitals or clinics, like
27 the walls, sensitizing the public on prevention, treatment, control
28 and management of the disease;

29 (d) keep, collate and transmit to the Agency, monthly or periodic
30 records of persons who have undergone genotype test, genetic

1 counselling and medical treatment for the disease. Such records
2 shall include the names, age, addresses of the persons attended to,
3 the dates of visit, dates of treatment, and the kind of and quantity of
4 drugs administered as a result of the tests carried out.

5 (2) In accrediting hospitals and medical clinics under this clause,
6 the Agency shall ensure that:

7 (a) equal number of hospitals or medical clinics are accredited
8 in each State of the federation, inclusive of the Federal Capital
9 Territory; and

10 (b) the hospitals or medical clinics accredited in a State are so
11 selected or distributed according to their location in the State as to
12 ensure their proximity to members of the public in that State and to
13 ensure easy access from every part of that State to the services
14 rendered at such hospitals or medical clinics regarding the
15 prevention, treatment, control and management of the disease.

16 11. The Agency shall pay to the Private hospitals and Medical
17 Clinics accredited under this Bill for the Performance of any of their
18 duties herein provided such remuneration as shall be determined by
19 the Agency.

Remuneration
of
Accredited
Health
Institutions.

20 12.—(1) A private hospital or medical clinic shall not be accredited
21 by the Agency under this section or any provision of this Bill if:

Refusal of
Accreditation.

22 (a) such hospital or clinic is not registered with the appropriate
23 government authorities; or

24 (b) the owner, proprietor or head of such hospital or clinic is not
25 a qualified Medical Practitioner; or

26 (c) the owner, proprietor or head of such hospital or clinic has
27 ever been convicted of an offence involving or found guilty of
28 professional misconduct or infamous conduct and such conviction
29 of finding has not been quashed or set aside by an appropriate
30 appellate court, tribunal or panel and there is no appeal pending in
31 respect thereof at his insistence; or

1 (d) in the opinion of the Agency, the hospital or medical clinic is
2 incompetent, ill equipped or in the preceding 10 years has been
3 found guilty of the offence of gross negligence or misconduct such
4 that it ought not be so accredited.

5 (2) No action or claim shall lie against the Agency for any refusal
6 to accredit any health institution under this Bill.

Accreditation
of Non-
Governmental
Organizations.

7 ~~13.~~ (1) The Agency may in furtherance of its functions under
8 this Bill, accredit local or foreign or private non-governmental
9 organization or bodies to act or function as accredited participants in
10 the prevention, treatment, control and management of the disease.

11 (2) The organizations or bodies accredited under this section may
12 be partners with the Agency in the prevention, treatment, control and
13 management of the disease and shall carry out the following duties,
14 without cost or charge to any member of the public:

15 (a) procure, obtain and disseminate or distribute appropriate
16 information or literature relating to the prevention, treatment, control
17 and management of the disease;

18 (b) procure, receive and distribute, administer or cause to be
19 administered drugs for the prevention, treatment, control and
20 management of the disease;

21 (c) carry out enlightenment campaigns and other forms of
22 enlightenment activities approved by the Agency for the prevention,
23 control and management of the disease;

24 (d) advocate for and encourage the carrying out of blood genotype
25 tests by members of the public including but not restricted to intending
26 couples;

27 (e) with the approval or upon the request of the Agency carry out
28 any special function or activity necessary for the prevention,
29 treatment, control and management of the disease.

1 **14.** The accreditation by the Agency of any Hospital, Medical
2 Clinic, organization or body under this Bill may be withdrawn or
3 cancelled where such hospital, medical clinic, organization or body

Withdrawal
of
Accreditation.

4 —

5 (a) does not satisfactorily perform its functions or those assigned
6 to it by the Agency under this Bill;

7 (b) has become affected by any of the disqualifications from
8 accreditation under this Bill or was not qualified for accreditation
9 under this Bill at the time it was accredited;

10 (c) diverts to its private use, any use contrary to the intent of this
11 Bill or is found to be unfair in the dispensation or administration of
12 any drugs or material or any part thereof made available or donated
13 to it for the benefit of the public;

14 (d) is in breach of or acts contrary to any clear provisions of this
15 Bill or any of the terms of its accreditation under this Bill, or

16 (e) is in breach of any of its functions or duties or the terms of
17 any specific or special functions assigned to it by the Agency under
18 this Bill.

19 **15.—**(1) There shall be appointed for the Agency, a Director-
20 General who shall be responsible for its day-to-day administration.

Appointment
of the
Director -
General.

21 (2) The Director-General shall be a medical practitioner with
22 not less than (15) fifteen years cognate experience particularly in sickle
23 cell disease or a related field to be appointed by the President on the
24 recommendation of the Minister.

25 (3) The Director-General shall hold office in the first instance
26 for a period of (5) five years and may be eligible for re-appointment
27 for another term of 5 years.

28 (4) Subject to this section, the Director-General shall hold office
29 on such terms as to emolument and otherwise as may be specified in
30 his letter of appointment and as may, from time to time, be approved
31 by the President.

PART IV — STRUCTURE AND STAFF OF THE AGENCY

Appointment
of the
Director-
General.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

16.—(1) The Board shall appoint for the Agency such number of employees as may in the opinion of the Board be expedient and necessary for the proper and efficient performance of the functions of the Agency.

(2) The terms and conditions of service(including remuneration, allowances, benefits, and pensions) of the employees of the Agency shall be as determined by the Board after consultation with the Federal Civil Service Commission

Structure of
the Agency.

17.—(1) Subject to this Bill, the Agency may be structured into any number of departments and divisions as the Board may deem appropriate for the effective administration of the Agency and proper discharge of its functions.

(2) The Board may create additional departments and Committees based on management recommendation and prevailing circumstances.

(3) Each Department shall be managed by a Director who is charged with the responsibility of coordinating the functions of such department as spelt out in the Administrative manual of the Agency.

Pension.

18. Service in the Agency to be pensionable under the subsisting Pensions Act.

PART V — FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Fund of the
Agency.

19.—(1) There shall be established and maintained by the Agency, a Fund into which shall be paid and credited —

(a) all allocations from the Federal Government;

(b) such monies as may, from time to time, be lent, deposited or granted to the Agency by the Government of the Federation or of a State;

(c) all Grants received from both local and international organization for the purpose of the Agency;

(d) fees, levies, penalties, charges, administrative costs of proceedings, and other moneys payable to the Agency in pursuance

1 of this Bill; -----

2 (e) all monies received by the Agency as gifts, loans,
3 contributions, testamentary deposition or donations; and

4 (f) all other monies and assets which may accrue to the Fund
5 from time to time.

6 (2) The Fund shall be managed in accordance with rules made
7 by the Board and without prejudice to the generality of the power to
8 make rules under this subsection, the rules shall in particular contain
9 provisions -----

10 (a) specifying the manner in which the assets of the Fund are to
11 be held and regulating the making payments into and out of the
12 Fund; and

13 (b) requiring the keeping of proper accounts and records for the
14 purposes of the Fund in such form as may be specified in the rules.

15 **20.** The Agency shall apply the proceeds of the fund established
16 pursuant to Section 19 of this Bill to —

Expenditure
of the
Agency.

17 (i) cost of administration of the Agency;

18 (ii) payment of salaries, fees, remuneration, bills, rent;

19 (iii) cost of maintenance of any property acquired or vested in
20 the Agency;

21 (iv) capital expenditure approved by the Agency;

22 (v) allowances, salaries, remuneration, pensions and gratuities
23 payable to the members of the Board specified in section 5 of this
24 Bill or any Committee of the Board and the employees of the Agency,
25 so however that no payment of any kind under this paragraph (except
26 such as may be expressly authorized by the Board) shall be made to
27 any person who is in receipt of emolument from the government of
28 the Federation or a State;

29 (vi) the payment for all contracts, including mobilization,
30 fluctuations, variations, legal fees and cost on contract
31 administration; -----

	1	(vii) to the payment for all purchases; and
	2	(viii) to undertaking such other expenses and activities as are
	3	connected with all or any of the functions of the Agency under this
	4	Bill.
Donations to the Agency.	5	21. The Agency may, subject to the provisions of this Bill, receive
	6	donations of funds, drugs, literature or other materials from persons,
	7	organizations, bodies or governments for the prevention, treatment,
	8	control and management of the disease.
Restrictions on Donations.	9	22.— (1) The Agency shall not accept any donation or gift if the
	10	conditions attached by the person or organization making the gift are
	11	inconsistent with the functions of the Agency under this Bill.
	12	(2) The Agency, before receiving or accepting any donation of
	13	drugs, literature or other material shall:
	14	(a) in the case of drugs, test the drugs in order to prove its
	15	relevance, genuineness, efficacy or quality;
	16	(b) in the case of literature and other materials, verify their
	17	relevance to or efficacy in the prevention, treatment, control and
	18	management of the disease.
Power to borrow.	19	23. The Agency may, with the consent of the Board, borrow, on
	20	such terms and conditions as the Agency may require in the exercise
	21	of its functions under this Bill.
Annual Estimates and Expenditure.	22	24.— (1) The Board shall, not later than 30th September of each
	23	year, submit to the Minister, an estimate of the expenditure and income
	24	(including payments to the Agency Fund) for the next succeeding year.
	25	(2) The Board shall cause to be kept proper accounts of the Agency
	26	in respect of each year and proper records in relation thereto and shall
	27	cause the accounts to be audited not later than 6 months after the end
	28	of each year by auditors appointed from the list in accordance with the
	29	guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the Federation.
Annual Report.	30	25.— (1) The Board shall prepare and submit to the Minister, not
	31	later than 30th June in each year, a report in such form as the President

1 may direct on the activities of the Agency during the immediately
2 preceding year, and shall include in the report a copy of the audited
3 accounts of the Agency for that year and auditor's report thereon.

4 (2) The Minister shall, upon receipt of the report referred to in
5 subsection (1) of this section, cause a copy of the report and the audited
6 accounts of the Agency and the auditor's report thereon to be submitted
7 to the National Assembly.

8 PART VII — MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

9 **26.—**(1) Any person who diverts or appropriates funds for his Offences.
10 private use, sells or diverts drugs, literature or material procured or
11 donated for the benefit of the public for the prevention, treatment,
12 control and management of the disease commits an offence under this
13 Bill and shall be liable on conviction to a term not exceeding 3 years
14 imprisonment or to a fine of ₦1,000,000.00 or both.

15 (2) Any person who diverts or converts to his private use funds,
16 drugs, literature or material meant for or dispatched for donation to
17 the Agency or any of its accredited hospitals, clinics, organizations or
18 bodies under this Bill for the prevention, treatment, control or
19 management of the disease commits an offence under this Bill and
20 shall be liable on conviction to a term not exceeding 3 years
21 imprisonment or to a fine of ₦1,000,000.00 or both.

22 **27.—**(1) The Hospitals and Medical Clinics accredited by the
23 Agency under this Bill shall each maintain a special section for
24 members of the public, particularly, intending couples where persons
25 intending or planning to be married to each other shall :

Provision of
Centres for
Counselling
and
administering
tests.

26 (a) carry out genotype tests at no cost or charge to the intending
27 couples or member of the public;

28 (b) receive advice or counselling at no cost or charges, on causes,
29 effects and prevention of the disease, particularly where one or
30 both of the couples is/are carriers of the disease and may bear
31 children prone or susceptible to the disease;

1 (c) in appropriate cases obtain medication or treatment necessary
2 for the prevention, treatment, control and management of the
3 disease;

4 (d) be in charge of obtaining and dissemination of information to
5 members of the public regarding the prevention, treatment, control
6 and management of the Disease.

7 (2) Where it is discovered through a genotype test on either of
8 the parties that the intending couple may bear children prone or
9 susceptible to the disease, the medical personnel attending to the couple
10 shall —

11 (a) advise such intending couple not to go into the marriage due
12 to the likelihood of occurrence of the disease in children that may
13 be born there under;

14 (b) reduce such advice in writing and issue the written advice to
15 the persons concerned and keep records of the full names, addresses
16 and other particulars of such persons so counselled.

17 (3) No action or claim for breach of promise to marry shall be
18 brought against anyone withdrawing from an intended or planned
19 marriage in compliance with a written advice of an appropriate
20 medical personnel under sub section 2 of this section.

Pre action
notice.

21 **28.—**(1) A person aggrieved by any action or decision of the
22 Agency under this Bill, including such action or decision taken on the
23 basis of the Agency's power under this Bill may file an action in the
24 Federal High Court provided that the aggrieved person shall give the
25 Agency 21 days' notice in writing of his intention to file an action
26 against such action or decision.

27 (2) The intending Plaintiff shall serve on the Agency a formal
28 written notice which shall clearly and explicitly state —

29 (a) the cause of action;

30 (b) the particulars of the claim;

31 (c) the name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff; and

1 (d) the reliefs which the Plaintiff intends to claim.

2 (3) The notice of intention to initiate an action against the Agency
3 referred to in subsections(1) and (2) of this section may be addressed
4 to and delivered to the office of the Chairman of the Agency.

5 **29.** The President may give directives of a general nature or
6 relating generally to matters of policy with regard to functions of the
7 Agency and it shall be the duty of the Agency to comply with the
8 directives.

Directives
by the
President,
etc.

9 **30.** The Minister may make regulations as may be necessary or
10 expedient for giving full effect to the provisions of this Bill and for the
11 administration thereof.

Powers of
the Minister
to make
Regulations.

12 **31.—(1)** Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the provisions of
13 the Public Officers Protection Act shall apply in relation to any suit
14 against any member or Officer or employee of the Agency.

Limitation
of suits
against the
Agency.

15 (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law or
16 enactment, no suit shall lie against any member of the Board, the
17 Chairman or any other officer or employee of the Agency for any Bill
18 done in pursuance or execution of this Bill or any other law or enactment,
19 or any alleged neglect or default in the execution of this Bill or such
20 law or enactment, duty or authority, shall lie or be Agency in any
21 court unless —————

22 (a) it is commenced within three months after the act, neglect or
23 default complained of; or

24 (b) in the case of a continuation of damage or injury, within six
25 months next after the leasing thereof.

26 **32.** A notice, summons or other document required or authorized
27 to be served upon the Agency under the provisions of this Bill or any
28 other law or enactment may be served by delivering it to the office of
29 the Chairman of the Agency.

Services of
document.

30 **33.** In any action or suit against the Agency, no execution or
31 attachment of process shall be made against the Agency, unless not

Restriction
of execution
against

property of
the Agency.

1 less than three months' notice of the intention to execute or attach has
2 been given to the Agency.

~~Interpretation.~~

~~3 34. In this Bill unless the context otherwise requires —~~

4 "Agency" means the National Agency For Sickle Cell Disease
5 And Other Heritable Blood Disorder (Prevention And Treatment);

6 "Board" means the Governing Board of the Agency;

7 "Disease" means any condition that causes pain, dysfunction,
8 distress, social problems or death to the person affected.

9 "member" means a member of the Board and includes the
10 Chairman;

11 "Minister" means the Minister in charge of health;

12 "President" means the President of the Federal Republic of
13 Nigeria;

Short Title.

14 35. This Bill shall be cited as National Agency for Sickle Cell
15 Disease and other Heritable Blood Disorder (Prevention and
16 Treatment) Bill, 2020.

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD

8. A decision of a committee of the Board shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Board.

Miscellaneous

9. The fixing of the Seal of the Agency shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman and the Secretary to the Board.

10. Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal may be made or executed on behalf of the Agency by any person generally or specially authorised by the Agency for that purpose.

11. A document purporting to be a document duly executed under the Seal of the Agency shall be received in evidence and shall, unless and until the contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish the National Agency for the Prevention and Treatment of Sickle Cell Disease and Other Heritable Blood Disorder for the treatment, prevention, control, management of and research on Sickle Cell Disease and other Heritable Blood Disorders in Nigeria.