

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NCDC), SADDLED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF, AMONG OTHER THINGS, RECEIVING AND MANAGING FUNDS ALLOCATED BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND DONORS (INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL DONORS) FOR THE RESETTLEMENT, REHABILITATION, INTEGRATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF ROADS, HOUSES AND BUSINESS PREMISES OF VICTIMS OF FLOOD AND FARMERS/HERDERS CLASHES, CONSTRUCTION OF LARGE FORMAT DRAINAGE SYSTEMS, DREDGING OF RIVERS BENUE AND NIGER TO CONTROL FLOOD AND OTHER INCIDENTAL MATTERS, AS WELL AS TACKLING THE MENACE OF POVERTY, ILLITERACY AND OTHER RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL CHALLENGES IN THE NORTH CENTRAL STATES AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsor: Senator Abba Moro

Co-Sponsors-

Senator I.D Gyang

Senator G.T Suswam

Senator Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa

[] Commencement

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

1 PART I - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NORTH CENTRAL COMMISSION

2 1.-(1) There is hereby established the North Central Development
3 Commission (NCBC) (in this Bill referred to as "the Commission").

Establishment
of the North Central
Commission

4 (2) The Commission-

5 (a) Shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a
6 common seal, and

7 (b) May sue or be sued in its corporate name.

1 allowances as appropriate;

2 (e) Enter into such contracts as may be necessary or expedient for
3 the performance of its functions, and ensure the efficient performance of the
4 functions of the Commission.

5 3.-(1) The offices of the Chairman, Managing Director, Executive
6 Director (administration and finance), Executive Director (humanitarian
7 affairs and special duties), Executive Director (Operations), shall rotate
8 amongst the member States of the Commission in an order that shall be set
9 out by the Board.

10 (2) A member of the Board ceases to be a member if the member-

11 (a) Becomes deceased;

12 (b) Becomes of unsound mind;

13 (c) Becomes bankrupt;

14 (d) Is convicted of a felony, misdemeanor or any offence involving
15 dishonesty, or

16 (e) Is guilty of serious misconduct in relation to the office.

17 (3) A member may resign his appointment by notice in writing to
18 the President and the resignation shall take effect upon receipt and approval
19 by the President.

20 (4) Where a vacancy exists in the membership of the Board, the
21 vacancy shall be filled by appointment of a person representing the area
22 where the vacancy exists to complete the remainder of the term of office of
23 the predecessor.

24 (6) There shall be paid to every member of the Board such
25 remunerations, allowances and expenses as the Federal Government may
26 direct.

27 PART II- FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

28 4. The Commission shall-

29 (a) Formulate policies and guidelines for intervention in the
30 development of the North Central Zone;

Functions of the
Commission

1 (b) Cause the North Central Zone to be surveyed in order to ascertain
2 the extent of loss or destruction and embark on measures that are necessary for
3 proper planning and implementation of physical and socio-economic
4 reconstruction of the Zone, and such survey shall include-

5 (i) Ascertainment of persons who were killed or missing and details of
6 their dependents;

7 (ii) Detailed account of destruction and valuation of infrastructure
8 and assets destroyed owing to incidences of flood, herdsmen crises, inter
9 communal and border clashes;

10 (iii) Requirements for rehabilitation and reconstruction of
11 infrastructures (roads, bridges and similar infrastructures), institutions
12 (schools, hospitals, homes, places of worship and similar institutions);

13 (iv) Requirements for recapitalization of businesses and
14 empowerment schemes for poverty alleviation;

15 (v) Requirements for re-activation of health, nutrition agriculture,
16 education and welfare services;

17 (vi) Requirements for the re-orientation youth and out of school
18 children, including modernization of schools and almajiri education, and (vii)
19 Peace and conflict assessment to determine the root causes and impact of the
20 crises and the factors inhibiting reconciliation and peaceful co-existence.

21 (c) Develop a master plan based on the needs assessment of the North
22 Central Zone to be known as the " North Central Stabilization and
23 Development Master Plan" (in this Bill referred to as "the master plan") which
24 shall contain-

25 (i) Programmes and schemes that promote and facilitate the physical
26 and socio-economic development of the North Central Zone, and

27 (ii) Estimates of the time and costs of implementing such programmes
28 and schemes.

29 (d) Coordinate in accordance with set rules and regulations, projects
30 and programmes within the master plan for the rehabilitation, resettlement,

1 reconciliation, reconstruction and sustainable development of the North
2 Central Zone in the fields of infrastructure, human and social services
3 including health and nutrition, education and water supply, agriculture
4 ,wealth creation and employment opportunities, urban and rural
5 development and poverty alleviation;

6 (e) Liaise with Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies,
7 States and Development Partners on the implementation of all measures
8 approved in the master plan for the stabilization and development of the
9 North Central Zone by the Federal Government;

10 (f) Subject to appropriation by the National Assembly, implement
11 programmes and Schemes contained in the master plan but not captured by
12 Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies, State Government and
13 Development Partners;

14 (g) Identify factors inhibiting the development of the North Central
15 Zone and assist member States and other Stakeholders in the formulation of
16 policies to ensure sound and efficient management of the resources of the
17 North Central Zone;

18 (h) Assess and report on any project being funded or carried out in
19 the North Central Zone by any Federal Ministry, Department and Agency or
20 company that has an agreement with the Federal Government and ensure
21 that funds released for such projects are properly utilized;

22 (i) Liaise with other Stakeholders on the tackling of humanitarian,
23 ecological and environmental problems in the North Central States;

24 (j) Seek humanitarian, material, technical and financial support
25 from development partner (Local or International) and Non-Government
26 Organizations with a view to developing the North Central.

27 PART III - STRUCTURE OF THE COMMISSION

28 5.-(1)The Commission shall have its head office in Abuja and an
29 office in each Member State of the North Central Zone.

Head Office of
the Commission

30 (2) There is established in the Head Office of the Commission-

1 (a) Administrative and Human Resource Department;

2 (b) Humanitarian Department; and

3 (c) Technical Department.

4 (3) There shall be the Projects Monitoring and Supervision Units
5 which shall be under the relevant department.

6 (4) The Board may create, increase or decrease the number of
7 departments, Divisions and Units as it may deem necessary and expedient to
8 facilitate the realization of the objectives of the Commission.

Establishment
of Management
Committee

9 **6.**(1) There is established for the Commission, a management
10 Committee which consists of-

11 (a) The Managing Director, Executives Directors and Directors
12 responsible for the Departments established under Section 9 (2) of this Bill;
13 and

14 (b) Such number of other members as may be determined by the
15 Board.

16 (2) The Management Committee shall be responsible to the Board for
17 the general administration of the Commission.

Appointment
of Secretary
to the Commission

18 **7.**(1) The Board shall appoint a Secretary to the Commission who
19 shall also act as its Legal Adviser.

20 (2) The Secretary to the Commission shall be a Legal Practitioner of
21 ten years post call and above and must possess the requisite experience to hold
22 such an office.

23 (3) The Secretary shall hold office on such terms and conditions as
24 specified by the Board.

25 PART IV- STAFF OF THE COMMISSION

Appointment of
Managing Director

26 **8.**(1) There shall be for the Commission, a Managing Director who
27 shall be an indigene of the North-Central Zone and the position shall rotate
28 among the Member States:

29 (a) The Managing Director shall have such qualification and
30 experience as appropriate for a person required to perform the functions of the

1 office under this Bill;

2 (b) He shall be the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the
3 Commission;

4 (c) The Managing Director shall hold office on terms and
5 conditions as to emolument, conditions of as may be specified in his letter of
6 appointment;

7 (d) Subject to the direction of the Board, the Managing Director
8 shall be responsible for-

9 (i) day to day administration of the Commission;

10 (ii) general direction and control of other employees of the
11 Commission;

12 (e) there shall be for the Commission other Staff as may be
13 employed by the Board subject to the provisions of this Bill;

14 (f) the remuneration and allowances of Staff of the Commission
15 shall be determined by the Board;

16 (g) Service in the Commission shall be public service for the
17 purpose of the Pensions Reform Act.

18 PART V - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

19 **9.-(1)** The Commission shall establish and maintain a financial
20 account from which shall be defrayed all expenditure by the Commission.

21 (2) there shall be paid and credited into the account established
22 under Subsection (1) of this Section:

23 (a) in each financial year, an appropriation of at least 10% annual
24 statutory allocations due to the Member States of the Commission from the
25 Federation Account as the contribution of the Federal Government to the
26 Commission;

27 (b) a sum of at least 10% of the Ecological Fund annually for a
28 specific number of years as shall be determined by the National Assembly;

29 (c) a sum equivalent to 3% of the annual VAT collections to accrue
30 to the Commission for a period of 10 years;

1 (d) such money as may be granted, lent to or deposited with the
2 Commission by the Federal or State Government, or any other body or
3 institution whether local or foreign;

4 (e) proceeds from all assets that may accrue to the Commission;

5 (f) fees charged by the Commission;

6 (g) all monies collected from and by the Federal Government shall be
7 domiciled in the Commission;

8 (h) the fund/money shall be managed in accordance with laws or rules
9 governing public finance;

10 (3) the Commission shall apply all the proceeds of the fund for-

11 (a) the cost of administration;

12 (b) the payment of salaries, fees, remuneration, allowances, pensions
13 and gratuity payable the members of the Board and employees of the
14 Commission.

Interpretation

15 **10.** Unless the context otherwise requires:

16 1. "States" means States as enshrined under Section 3(1) of the
17 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended);

18 2. North Central is comprised of the following States of the
19 Federation and FCT:

20 (a) Benue;

21 (b) Kogi;

22 (c) Kwara;

23 (d) Nasarawa;

24 (e) Niger;

25 (f) Plateau;

26 (g) Abuja-FCT.

27 3. "Board" means the Governing Body established for the
28 Commission under this Bill;

29 4. "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Board appointed under this
30 Bill;

1 5. "Commission" means the North Central Development
2 Commission (NCDC);

3 6. "President" means President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

4 **11.** This Bill may be cited as the North Central Development Short title
5 Commission (NCDC) Bill, 2020.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish the North Central Development Commission (NCDC), saddled with the responsibility of, among other things, receiving and managing funds allocated by the Federal Government and donors (International and Local donors) for the resettlement, rehabilitation, integration and reconstruction of roads, houses and business premises of victims of flood and farmers/herders clashes, construction of large format drainage systems, dredging of rivers Benue and Niger to control flood and other incidental matters, as well as tackling the menace of poverty, illiteracy and other related environmental or developmental challenges in the North Central states.