

THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

NIGERIAN MARITIME ZONES BILL, 2021
(SB.49)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE ACT CAP. E17 LFN 2004 AND THE TERRITORIAL WATERS ACT CAP. T5 LFN 2004 AND ENACT THE NIGERIAN MARITIME ZONES ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE MARITIME ZONES OF NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2021

FIRST READING

THURSDAY, 10TH OCTOBER, 2019

SECOND READING

WEDNESDAY, 17TH MARCH, 2021

THIRD READING AND PASSAGE

TUESDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER, 2021

NIGERIAN MARITIME ZONES BILL, 2021



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A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE ACT CAP. E17 LFN 2004 AND THE TERRITORIAL WATERS ACT CAP. T5 LFN 2004 AND ENACT THE NIGERIAN MARITIME ZONES ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE MARITIME ZONES OF NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2021

{ } Commencement.

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

PART I – INTERNAL WATERS

1. (1) For the purpose of this Bill, baselines for Nigeria shall be the normal baselines determined at low water line along the coast, as marked on a large scale charts officially recognised by Nigeria. Normal Baselines and delineation of Baselines
- (2) Notwithstanding subsequent regression of the low water line, the normal baselines shall remain effective until changed by subsequent legislation in Nigeria.
- (3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, the Minister or appropriate authority shall, in accordance with the applicable principles of international law, delineate straight baselines joining appropriate base points for measuring the breadth of the territorial sea in the following localities-
- (a) where the coastline is deeply indented and cut into;
- (b) where due to the presence of a delta and other natural conditions, the coastline is highly unstable, the appropriate points may be selected along the furthest seaward extent of the low-water line;
- (c) where a river flows directly into the sea, the baseline shall be a straight line across the mouth of the river between points on the low-water line of its banks.
- (4) For the purposes of this section, "appropriate base points" shall include-
- (a) the outermost permanent harbour works, which form an integral part of a port;
- (b) low-tide elevations.
- (5) The Minister or appropriate authority may delineate a closing line across the mouth of a bay and the waters enclosed shall be considered as internal waters of Nigeria, if the bay satisfies the following criteria-
- (a) the bay must be a well-marked indentation whose penetration is in such proportion to the width of its mouth as to contain landlocked waters and constitute more than a mere curvature of the coast, and whose area is as large as, or larger than, that of the semi-circle whose diameter is a line drawn across the mouth of the indentation;

- (b) for the purpose of measurement, the area of an indentation is that line lying between the low-water mark around the shore of the indentation and a line joining the low-water mark of its natural entrance points;
- (c) where, due to the presence of islands, an indentation has more than one mouth, the semi-circle shall be drawn on a line as long as the sum total of the lengths of the lines across the different mouths;
- (d) islands within an indentation shall be included as if they were part of the water area of the indentation;
- (e) the distance between the low-water marks of the natural entrance points of a bay must not exceed 24 nautical miles;
- (f) where the distance between the low-water marks of the natural entrance points of a bay exceeds 24 nautical miles, a straight baseline of 24 nautical miles shall be drawn within the bay in such a manner as to enclose the maximum area of water that is possible with a line of that length.

(6) The Minister or appropriate authority shall delineate officially recognised charts for the purposes of this section and shall cause to be prepared, such charts or geographical coordinates showing the baselines of the territorial waters as he deems fit.

2. The internal waters of Nigeria for all purposes consist of the waters on the landward side of the straight baselines and closing lines from which the breadth of the territorial waters of Nigeria is measured.

Internal waters

PART II – TERRITORIAL SEA

3. (1) The waters within a distance of 12 nautical miles from the baselines as delineated in accordance with the provision of this Bill shall be the territorial sea of Nigeria.

Territorial sea

(2) The sovereignty of Nigeria shall extend beyond its land territory and internal waters to the territorial sea, the airspace over the territorial sea as well as their seabed and subsoil in line with international law.

(3) The right of innocent passage shall be enjoyed by ships of all States in the territorial sea of Nigeria in accordance with the Convention, International Law and laws enacted by Nigeria for this purpose.

(4) Where the distance between the coast of Nigeria and the coast of a neighbouring State is less than 24 nautical miles, Nigeria shall delimit the territorial sea boundary with that State, on the basis of

agreement. Where agreement cannot be reached, and unless there is an agreement with that state to the contrary, the territorial sea boundary with that State shall be the median line every point of which is equidistant from the nearest points on the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Nigeria and that State is measured.

(5) Having regard to International Law, the Minister or appropriate authority may, by regulation, amend limits of territorial sea as may be necessary from time to time.

4. (1) Subject to the provisions of this section, a Nigerian Court shall try a person who is not a citizen of Nigeria for any offence committed within the territorial sea of Nigeria, unless before the trial, the Attorney-General of the Federation has issued a certificate signifying his consent to the trial of that person for the offence.

Restriction on trial of persons other than Nigerian citizens for offences committed in territorial sea

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section-

- (a) shall affect any power of arrest, search, entry, seizure or custody exercisable with respect to an offence which has been, or is believed to have been, committed as aforesaid;
- (b) shall affect any obligation on any person in respect of a recognizance or bail bond entered into as a consequence of his arrest, or the arrest of any other person, for such an offence;
- (c) shall affect any power of any court to remand (whether on bail or in custody) a person brought before the court in connection with such an offence;
- (d) shall affect anything done or omitted in the course of a trial unless in the course of the trial objection has already been made that, by reason of Subsection (1) of this section, the court is not competent to proceed with the trial, or
- (e) shall, after the conclusion of a trial, be treated as having affected the validity of the trial if no such objection as aforesaid was made in the proceedings at any stage before the conclusion of the trial.

(3) The provision of subsection (1) of this section, shall not apply to the trial of any act of piracy as defined by the law of nations.

(4) A document purporting to be a certificate issued for the purposes of subsection (1) of this section, which is to be signed by the Attorney-General of the Federation, shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be taken to be a certificate issued by the Attorney-General.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed as derogating from the provisions of any other

enactment, restricting the prosecution of any proceedings or requiring the consent of any authority to the prosecution thereof.

PART III – CONTIGUOUS ZONE

5. (1) The contiguous zone of Nigeria shall be the zone beyond the territorial sea but within a distance of 24 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured, but does not include an area of the sea that forms part of the territorial sea of a neighboring state or where a neighboring state has sovereign rights. Contiguous zone

(2) The Minister or appropriate authority shall have the jurisdiction to exercise control as deems necessary to prevent the infringement of its customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations within the territory or territorial sea of Nigeria.

(3) Where persons who are responsible for the enforcement of customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations in Nigeria have reasonable grounds to believe that a person in the contiguous zone of Nigeria, if allowed entry into the territory or territorial sea of Nigeria would commit an offence, they shall prevent the entry of that person into the territory or territorial sea of Nigeria and from the commission of the offence.

(4) Where there are reasonable grounds to believe that a person within the territory or territorial sea of Nigeria has committed an offence against the customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations of Nigeria, power of arrest, entry, search and seizure or other powers that can be exercised in Nigeria with regard to such offence, shall be exercised in the contiguous zone of Nigeria.

(5) The powers of arrest and seizure in the contiguous zone of Nigeria shall be exercised, subject to the consent of the Attorney-General of the Federation.

(6) The Minister or the appropriate authority may make Regulations to put in place measures aimed at the prevention of the infringement of the customs, fiscal, immigration, sanitary laws and regulations of Nigeria in the Contiguous zone.

6. (1) Subject to any other law, Nigeria shall have, with regard to objects of archaeological or historical nature found in the contiguous zone, the same rights and powers as it has, with respect to its territorial sea. Archaeological and Historical Objects

(2) Unauthorised removal of archeological or historical objects from the seabed in the contiguous zone of Nigeria, without approval from the appropriate authority, constitutes an offence under this Bill

(3) The Minster or the appropriate authority may make regulations for the purpose of ensuring that preventive measures are put in place to control, avoid or prevent the traffic in archaeological and

historical objects, found in the contiguous zone and that adequate licensing procedures are put in place for their removal, where necessary.

PART IV – EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE

7. (1) The Exclusive Economic Zone of Nigeria shall be the area beyond and adjacent to the territorial sea and which extends to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines, which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured from.

Exclusive Economic
Zone

(2) In cases where part of the Exclusive Economic Zone of Nigeria overlaps with part of the Exclusive Economic Zone of a neighbouring State, the delimitation between the Exclusive Economic Zone of Nigeria and the Exclusive Economic Zone of the other State shall be effected on the basis of agreement in good faith in accordance with Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, in order to achieve an equitable solution.

(3) In the absence of any agreement, the delimitation of Exclusive Economic Zone between Nigeria and any other State shall be in accordance with Part XV of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

8. (1) In the Exclusive Economic Zone, Nigeria has –

Sovereign Rights
and Jurisdiction for
the Exploration,
Exploitation, etc. of
the Exclusive
Economic Zone

- (a) sovereign rights for the purposes of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources whether living or non-living, of the waters superjacent to the seabed and of the seabed and its subsoil, and with regard to other activities for the economic exploration and exploitation of the zone, such as, the production of energy from the water, currents and winds;
- (b) jurisdiction as provided for, in the relevant provisions of the Convention with regard to –
 - (i) the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures,
 - (ii) marine scientific research,
 - (iii) the protection and the preservation of the marine environment;
- (c) other rights and duties provided for in the Convention.

(2) The rights or jurisdiction referred to, in subsection (1) of this section shall be vested in the Federal Government of Nigeria who shall exercise such rights through the Minister or appropriate authority, as may be designated in that behalf, either generally or in any specific area.

(3) Nigeria may modify the application of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, by virtue of any Treaty, Convention or agreement to which Nigeria is a Party.

9. (1) Nigeria shall designate under this section for social protection, areas within its internal waters, territorial sea or the exclusive economic zone, as marine protected areas.

Marine protected areas

(2) Such areas that are designated as marine protected areas, shall be used for the conservation and protection of –

- (a) endangered or threatened marine species;
- (b) unique habitats;
- (c) commercial and non-commercial fishery resources and their habitats; and
- (d) marine areas of high biodiversity.

10. (1) In the Exclusive Economic Zone and on the Continental Shelf, Nigeria shall have the exclusive right to construct, authorise and regulate the construction, operation and use of artificial islands, installations and structures and may authorise an appropriate authority to exercise this right.

Exclusive right of jurisdiction as regards establishment and use of islands, installations, etc.

(2) Nigeria shall have exclusive jurisdiction over such artificial islands, installations and structures, including jurisdiction with regard to customs, fiscal, health, safety and immigration laws and regulations.

(3) The Minister or the appropriate authority shall give due notice of the construction of such artificial islands, installations or structures and permanent means for giving warnings of their presence.

(4) The Minister or the appropriate authority may direct that any installation or structure which is abandoned or becomes disused shall be removed to ensure safety of navigation.

(5) The removal of disused or abandoned installation or structure shall be subject to fishing, the need to protect the marine environment, and the rights and duties of other state.

(6) The Minister or the appropriate authority shall give due publicity to the depth, position and dimensions of any installation or structure not entirely removed.

(7) The appropriate authority may, for the purpose of protecting an artificial island, installation or structure and for safety of navigation, by order published in the Federal Gazette, prohibit any ship or person from entering a designated area specified in such order.

11. (1) Nigeria shall have the power to exercise control as it deems necessary, to prevent infringement of its customs, fiscal, health, safety and immigration laws and regulations within its exclusive economic

Prevention and enforcement in the Exclusive Economic Zone

zone.

(2) Any person who while within the exclusive economic zone of Nigeria does any act by commission or omission, which infringes against the customs, fiscal, health, safety or immigration laws and regulations shall be charged and tried in accordance with Nigerian Law.

(3) Arrested vessels and their crews shall be promptly released on their provisions of reasonable bond or other more acceptable security.

Provided that the provision for bond under this section shall not apply in respect of persons or vessels arrested for criminal activities committed within Nigerian maritime environment.

12. (1) Nigeria shall promote the optimum utilization of its Exclusive Economic Zone.

Managing and
utilization of the
living resources

(2) There shall be a determination of the capacity of Nigeria to harvest its living resources, in the Exclusive Economic Zone.

(3) If Nigeria does not have the capacity to harvest the entire allowable catch, it shall, through agreements or other arrangements, give other States access to the surplus of the allowable catch.

(4) In giving access to other States to its Exclusive Economic Zone, it shall consider the significance of such living resources to its economy and its national interest.

(5) Nationals of other States fishing in the Exclusive Economic Zone of Nigeria shall comply with the conservation measures and with other terms and conditions provided in the laws and regulations of Nigeria.

PART V – THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

13. (1) The Continental Shelf of Nigeria comprises the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond Nigeria's territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of Nigeria's land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, or to distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the Nigeria's territorial sea is measured, where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance.

Delineation and
Delimitation of the
Continental Shelf of
Nigeria

(2) Subject to International Law and State practice, the outer limits of the Continental Shelf of Nigeria shall not exceed 350 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial water is measured.

(3) Where part of the Continental Shelf of Nigeria overlaps with part of the Continental Shelf of a neighbouring coastal State, then the delimitation between the Continental Shelf of Nigeria and the

Continental Shelf of the other State, shall be effected on the basis of agreement in good faith in accordance with Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, in order to achieve an equitable solution.

(4) The Minister or the appropriate authority may on the recommendation of the National Boundary Commission make regulation causing charts to be prepared and prescribing geographical co-ordinates of points from which the outer limits of the continental margin or other outer limits of the continental shelf of Nigeria may be determined.

(5) The Minister or the appropriate authority shall submit to the Secretary General of the United Nations Organisation charts and relevant information, including geodetic data permanently describing the outer limits of Nigeria's Continental Shelf.

14. (1) Nigeria has Sovereign and exclusive rights over its Continental Shelf for the purposes of exploring and exploiting the minerals and other non-living natural resources of the seabed and sub-soil of the Continental Shelf, together with living organisms belonging to sedentary species, which at harvestable stage are immobile on or under the seabed of the Continental Shelf or unable to move except in constant physical contact with the seabed or the subsoil of the Continental Shelf.

Exploration,
Exploitation etc. of
the Continental
Shelf

(2) The rights of Nigeria in the Continental Shelf are vested in the Federal Government and shall be exercised by such appropriate authority as the Federal Government may from time to time designate in that behalf either generally or in any case.

(3) The application of the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, may be modified by Nigeria by virtue of any Treaty Convention or Agreement to which Nigeria is a party.

(4) Nigeria shall have exclusive right to authorize, permit and regulate drilling for all purposes on its Continental Shelf

(5) If any geological petroleum structure or petroleum field, or any single geological structure or field of any mineral deposit extends across the outer limits lines of Nigeria's extended continental shelf and the part of such structure or field which is situated on one side of the dividing line is exploitable, wholly or in part, from the other side of the dividing line, Nigeria shall in good faith seek to reach agreement with interested parties as to the manner in which the structure or field shall be most effectively exploited and the manner in which the proceeds deriving therefrom shall be equitably apportioned in conformity with international law.

15. (1) The delineation of the course for the laying of pipelines and cables on the Continental Shelf of Nigeria, is subject to the consent of Nigeria.

Laying cables and
pipes on the
Continental Shelf

(2) Nothing in this section shall affect the right of Nigeria to set terms and conditions for cables and pipelines entering its territory or territorial sea or its jurisdiction over cables and pipelines constructed or used in connection with the exploration of its Continental Shelf or exploration of its resources or the operation of artificial islands, installations and structures under its jurisdiction.

PART VI – OFFENCES, PENALTIES AND JURISDICTION

16. (1) Any person who while in the territory or the territorial sea of Nigeria, commits an offence against the customs, fiscal, immigration or sanitary laws and regulations of Nigeria and is apprehended in the contiguous zone shall be charged in accordance with Nigerian law(s) on the subject matter.

Offences and Penalties in the Contiguous Zone

(2) Any person who while in the contiguous zone of Nigeria removes from the seabed of that zone, any archaeological or historical objects, without the approval of the appropriate authority, commits an offence and shall be charged accordingly.

(3) Any person found guilty of removing archaeological or historical objects from the seabed of the contiguous zone of Nigeria in violation of this Bill shall, on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than two years or fine of not less than N2,000,000.00.

(4) Where a ship enters any part of a designated area in contravention of an order made under this section, its owner or master shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of 1 years or to a fine of N5,000,000 or both, unless he proves that the prohibition imposed by the order was not, and would not on reasonable inquiry have become known to the master or the owner of the ship.

17. (1) Any act or omission:

- (a) committed within the territorial sea of Nigeria, whether by a citizen of Nigeria or a foreigner; and
- (b) committed in any part of Nigeria, constitute an offence under the law in force in that part and the person who committed it may be arrested, tried and punished for it as if he had committed it in that part of Nigeria.

Jurisdiction in respect of offences committed in territorial sea

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) of this section –

- (a) shall apply whether or not the act or omission in question is committed on board or by means of a ship or in, on or by means of a structure resting on the sea bed or subsoil; and
- (b) shall, in the case of an act or omission committed by a foreigner on board or by means of a foreign ship, apply notwithstanding that the ship is a foreign one.

(3) For the purposes of the issue of a warrant for the arrest of any person who is by virtue of this section liable to be tried in some part of Nigeria for an offence, that offence shall be treated as having been committed in any place in that part.

(4) Any jurisdiction conferred on any Court by this section shall be without prejudice to any jurisdiction (and in particular any jurisdiction to try acts of piracy as defined by the law of nations), exercisable apart from this section by that or any other Court.

(5) Nothing in this section shall be construed as derogating from the jurisdiction of Nigeria under the law of nations, whether in relation to foreign ships or persons on board such ships or otherwise.

18. The power to try offences under this Bill shall be vested on the Federal High Court.

Jurisdiction

19. (1) A person commits an offence in, under and above an artificial island, installation or structure in a designated area if he unlawfully and intentionally:

Offences
Committed in the
Artificial Island,
Installation or
Structure

- (a) seizes or exercises control over, by force or threat thereof or any other form of intimidation;
- (b) performs an act of violence against any person thereon if that act is to endanger safety;
- (c) destroys or causes damage which is likely to endanger its safety;
- (d) places or causes to be placed thereon by any means whatsoever, a device or substance which is likely to destroy it or likely to endanger its safety;
- (e) intimidates a population, company or compels a government or an international organisation to do or to abstain from doing any act;
- (f) uses against or discharges therefrom any explosive, radioactive material or BCN weapon in a manner that causes or is likely to cause death or serious injury or damage;
- (g) discharges oil, liquefied natural gas, or other hazardous or noxious substance, which is not covered by subparagraph (a), in such quantity or concentration that causes or is likely to cause death or serious injury or damage; or
- (h) threatens, with or without a condition, to commit any of the offences set out in this section.

(2) The Prosecution of offences under this Section shall be at the instance of the Attorney-General of the Federation.

20. (1) Where a person is found guilty of an offence under section 18 of this Bill, he shall on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than 1 year or a fine of N3,000,000 or both.

Penalty for offence committed in Artificial Island, Installation or Structure

(2) Where a body corporate is guilty of an offence under this section and the offence is proved to have been committed with the consent and connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate or of any person purporting to act in any such capacity, he, as well as the body corporate shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(3) Where the body corporate is found to be guilty of the offence, it shall be liable to pay a fine of not less than N5,000,000,00.

(4) If a director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate or any person purporting to act in any such capacity is found guilty, he shall, on conviction be liable to imprisonment for a term of not less than 1 year or a fine of not less than N3,000,000 or both.

PART VII – MISCELLANEOUS

21. Any act or omission which –

Application of Criminal and Civil Laws, etc.

(a) takes place on, under or above an artificial island, installation or structure in a designated area or any waters within 200 meters of such island, installation or structure; and

(b) takes place in any part of Nigeria, incur liability under any enactment in force in that part, shall be treated for the purposes of that law as taking place in Nigeria.

22. (1) The Minister may make such regulations as he thinks fit for the purposes of this Bill.

Power to Make Regulations

(2) Without prejudice to the foregoing power, regulations made under subsection (1) of this section, may provide for –

(a) the conduct of any person in the territorial sea, the Continental Shelf or the Exclusive Economic Zone;

(b) the exploration and exploitation, conservation and management of the resources of the territorial sea, Continental Shelf, Contiguous Zone and Exclusive Economic Zone;

(c) the construction, maintenance of the artificial islands, offshore terminals, installations and other structures and devices;

(d) the protection of the marine environment and the prevention and control of marine pollution;

(e) the conduct of scientific research;

(f) the fees in relation to licences; and

(g) any matter incidental to any of the matters specified in paragraphs (a) to (f).

23. (1) Upon the enactment of this Bill, the Exclusive Economic Zone Act Cap. E17 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and the Territorial Waters Act Cap. T5 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, are hereby repealed.

Repeal and
Consequential
Amendment

(2) Consequent upon the enactment of this Bill, consequential amendment shall be made to all maritime related legislations in Nigeria.

24. Any Provisions of any existing law with respect to any of the maritime zones of Nigeria that are inconsistent with any provisions of this Bill shall be read subject to the provisions of this Bill.

Supremacy of this
Bill

25. "Appropriate Authority" means the Federal Government of Nigeria or any of its Agencies or person so designated to administer this Bill or any part thereof;

Interpretation

"BCN weapons" means biological weapons which are microbial or other biological agents, or toxins whatever their origin or method of production, of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes, chemical weapons which are toxic chemical and their precursors and nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosives devices;

"Convention" includes the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), signed at Montague Bay on the 10th December, 1982 and its subsequent amendments and protocols;

"Designated area" means any area of the Exclusive Economic Zone or Continental Shelf so designated by the appropriate authority for the purpose of this Bill;

"Due notice or due publicity" shall include the timely issuance of notices to mariners under the Merchant Shipping Act;

"Enactment" means any Act or law relating to criminal or civil law (including torts) and any subsidiary instrument made hereunder, including rules of court and in matter other than criminal matters, rules of law applicable to or adopted in any part of Nigeria;

"Federal High Court" means the Court that has jurisdiction to try matters arising in the Maritime Zones of Nigeria;

"Foreigner" means a person who is not a citizen of Nigeria;

"Foreign ship" means a ship of any country other than Nigeria;

"Installation or structure" includes –

- (a) any offshore drilling unit, production platform, subsea installation, pumping station, living accommodation, storage structure, loading or landing platform, dredger, floating crane, pipe lining or other barge or pipeline, anchor, anchor cable or rig pad used in connection therewith;
- (b) any ship, anchor, anchor cable or rig pad used in connection therewith; and
- (c) any other work or works as may be prescribed;

"Low Tide Elevations" means any naturally formed area of land which is surrounded by and above water at low tide but submerged at high tide;

"Minister" means the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice;

"Nautical Miles" means the International Nautical Miles of 1852 meters;

"Offence" means any act or omission which by virtue of the provisions of this Bill or any other enactment is an offence under the law of Nigeria or any part thereof;

"Reasonable grounds" means a fair suspicion, justification or probability that a person has committed or is committing a crime or that such a person has taken certain steps, done certain acts or makes certain omissions towards committing a crime;

"Sedentary species" means organisms which at the harvestable stage either are immobile on or under the seabed or are unable to move except in constant physical contact with the seabed or the subsoil; and

"Ship" includes every description of vessel, boat, ship or craft designed, used or capable of being used

solely or partly for navigation in, on, through or immediately above water without regard to methods or lack of propulsion.

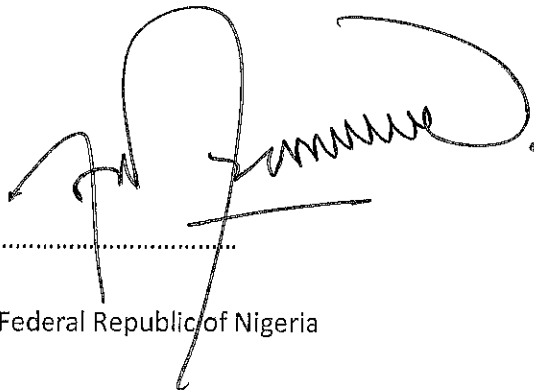
26. This Bill may be cited as the Nigerian Maritime Zones Bill, 2021.

Short Title

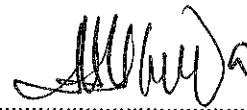
Explanatory Memorandum

This Bill seeks to repeal the Exclusive Economic Zone Act Cap. E17 LFN, 2004 and the Territorial Waters Act Cap. T5 LFN, 2004 and enact the Maritime Zones Act with the aim of streamlining and unifying our laws on the Exclusive Economic Zone and Territorial Waters in conformity with global best practices; and for related matters.

THIS BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON TUESDAY, 16th NOVEMBER, 2021



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President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria



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Clerk,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria