



THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**NATIONWIDE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE BILL,
2021**

(SB. 583)

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONWIDE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE
FOR THE REPORTING OF EMERGENCIES THROUGHOUT THE FEDERATION AND FOR
OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

FIRST READING

WEDNESDAY, 2nd DECEMBER, 2020

SECOND READING

WEDNESDAY, 21ST APRIL, 2021

THIRD READING AND PASSAGE

TUESDAY, 21ST SEPTEMBER, 2021

NATIONWIDE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE BILL, 2021



CLAUSES

Purpose of the Bill

Designation of an Emergency Number

Emergency Services

Responsibilities of the Nigerian Communications Commission

Personnel

Exemption from Liability

Prohibition Respecting Automatic Dialer

Prohibition Respecting Vexatious Calls

Offences and Penalties

Regulations

Interpretation

Short title

A BILL
FOR
AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONWIDE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE FOR THE REPORTING OF EMERGENCIES
THROUGHOUT THE FEDERATION AND FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS. (SB. 583)

{ } Commencement.

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

PART I

1. The purpose of this Bill is to establish a Nationwide Emergency Communications Service for deployment and coordination throughout Nigeria of a seamless, ubiquitous and reliable end-to-end infrastructure for emergency needs. Purpose of the Bill

PART II – EMERGENCY NUMBER

2. The Emergency Communication number for the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be 112 and this number shall be uniform throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Designation of an
Emergency Number

PART III – EMERGENCY SERVICES

3. Emergency services provided by this emergency number shall be free for the caller subject to the provisions of this Bill. Emergency Services

PART IV – ADMINISTRATION OF THE BILL

4. 5. Administration of the Bill
(1) The Nigerian Communications Commission shall formulate policies, regulations and guidelines for the implementation of this Bill.

PART V

5. (1) The Nigerian Communications Commission shall be responsible for the development and implementation in a reasonable and timely manner of a Nationwide Emergency Telephone Communications System, including: Responsibilities of
the Nigerian
Communications
Commission

(a) the overall management, direction, co-ordination and support for the development and implementation of the system;

(b) taking all reasonable measures to ensure the participation of emergency service agencies in the system on terms required for the effective implementation and operation of the system;

(c) entering into agreements with individuals, persons, organizations or governments to carry out the purpose of this Bill;

(d) developing standards for primary public safety answering points;

(e) determining the location and coverage areas for primary public safety answering points and

secondary public safety answering points after consultation with states and local government and with affected parties;

(f) preparing a manual that will provide for, and ensure the maintenance, at all times, of a means of uniquely identifying every residence and business location within the Nation;

(g) the design and the use of an emblem to be associated with the system;

(h) preparing and administering policies, programmes, standards, guidelines, objectives, codes of practice and directives for the purpose of the administration and enforcement of this Bill.

PART VI

6. The Commission shall ensure that the Nationwide Emergency Communications Service is staffed with suitably qualified and experienced personnel. Personnel

PART VII

7. The Nigerian Communications Commission, and emergency service agencies are not liable, directly, for a claim arising out of, relating to or attributable to personal injury, property damage, death, or economic loss or for any contribution, reimbursement, or indemnification in respect thereof, or a suit, a fine, a demand, an action, a loss, costs or damage of any nature or kind arising out of the operation of, failure to operate the system or any part of it. Exemption Liability from

PART VIII

8. Except with the written approval of the Nigeria Communications Commission, no person shall use an automatic dialer to dial the number "112". Prohibition Respecting Automatic Dialer

PART IX

9. No person shall use or permit another person to use the telephone and Mobile Telecommunications Services to place a false, frivolous or vexatious call to the number "112". Prohibition Respecting Vexatious Calls

PART X

10. (1) A person who violates any of the provisions of this Bill or the regulations is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a penalty of not more than Fifty Thousand Naira or in default to a term imprisonment not exceeding six months, and for each subsequent offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not more than Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira or, in default, to a term of imprisonment not exceeding one year. Offences Penalties and

Insert new Subclasses (2), (3) & (4) as follows:

(2) a person who violates section 11 shall be issued a recorded voice warning in the first to third instances. Subsequent violations shall attract blacklisting from making 112 CALLS for a period not more than eight weeks.

(3) any further violation shall attract a summary conviction to penalty of not more than fifty thousand Naira or in default to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months.

(4) upon conviction the Court may in addition to the fine or imprisonment, order the blacklisting of an offender.

PART XI

11. (1) The Nigeria Communications Commission shall make regulations:

Regulations

(a) respecting standards, locations and coverage areas for primary public safety answering points and secondary public safety answering points;

(b) respecting emergency service agencies to which this Bill applies;

(c) requiring the owner or occupier of a residence or business location to post the applicable civic number on the building;

(d) respecting the size, location and design of civic numbers to be posted on residences and business locations;

(e) prescribing the minimum and maximum fines to be paid for a violation of the regulations;

(f) respecting any matter necessary or advisable for the establishment of fees to recover costs for any services or materials provided in the course of the administration of this Bill or the regulations;

(g) defining any word or expression used but not defined in this Bill;

(h) for any purpose necessary or advisable to carry out the intent and purpose of this Bill.

PART XII

12. "Commission" means the Nigerian Communications Commission

Interpretation

"emergency service agencies" means the public service and emergency service agencies operating within the Federal Republic of Nigeria including all Nigeria Police Forces required to be maintained pursuant to the Police Act, including the Federal Road Safety Commission, Nigeria Fire Service, National Emergency Management Agency, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, all ambulance services operating in Nigeria and such other emergency service agencies as may be approved by the an Act of the National Assembly and or State Houses of Assemblies;

"emergency service zone" means a geographical area served by a common group of emergency service agencies;

"information" refers to facts or data a person in distress is required to provide to enable the call takers properly handle his or her case. Such data may include name, age, home address, nature of distress, etc.

"master street address guide" means a database that correlates civic numbers and street, road or highway names or other identifies with emergency service zones;

"Nationwide Emergency Number" means the number called by person in any form of distress in Nigeria. The Nationwide Emergency Number in Nigeria is 112".

"primary public safety answering point" refers to public safety answering point to which 112 calls are first sent to directly for routing to emergency Centre personnel.

"public safety answering point" (PSAP) is point that has been designated to receive 112 calls and route the calls to applicable emergency centre personnel"

"secondary public safety answering point" refers to a public safety answering point to which 112 calls are sent from a primary public safety answering point in the event of capacity constraints at the primary public safety answering point.

"system" is an interconnection of telecommunication network nodes or peripherals to perform or achieve National Telecommunication Emergency Communication.

"national emergency number" means 112.

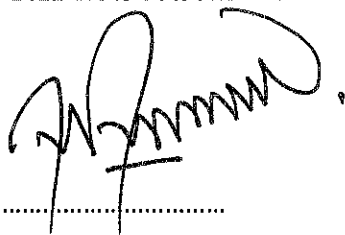
13. This Bill may be cited as the Nationwide Emergency Communications Service Bill, 2021.

Short title

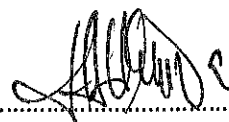
EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish the Nationwide Emergency Communications Service to be charged with the responsibility of deployment and coordination throughout Nigeria of a seamless, ubiquitous and reliable end-to-end infrastructure for emergency needs.

THIS BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON TUESDAY, 21st SEPTEMBER, 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