

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE NIGERIA POLICE ACT 2020 TO PROVIDE FOR A SPECIAL ANTI-RAPE UNIT (SARU) WITH NECESSARY EQUIPMENT AND RELEVANT TRAINING TO EFFECTIVELY COMBAT RISING RAPE CASES IN THE COUNTRY AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by Hon. Paul Ekpo Asuquo*

[ ] Commencement

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

1           1.-(1) There shall be a Head Officer of Central Unit of the Special  
2 Anti-Rape Unit in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) at the Force  
3 Headquarters or any other Location as the Inspector General of Police may  
4 deemed fit within the Federal Capital Territory;

Establishment  
and Location of  
the Special Anti  
Rape Unit

5           (i) This head office of the Special Anti-Rape Unit or Central office  
6 of the Special Anti-Rape Unit shall be spacious in having all the necessary  
7 ambience to accommodate a fully functional Police Division;

8           (ii) It shall have enough space to accommodate a comprehensive  
9 medical diagnostic laboratory and paraphernalia for such tests as the Unit  
10 may require.

11           (2) There shall be state units or State offices of the Special Anti-  
12 Rape Unit in every State Police Headquarters:

13           (i) The State Special Anti-Rape Unit or Office shall be situated  
14 within the building of the State headquarters or outside as deemed fit by the  
15 State Commissioners of Police after consultation with the State Anti-Rape  
16 Officers;

17           (ii) The State Units or States Offices of the Special Anti- Rape Unit  
18 must be located in the Capital of every State, even when not sited at the State  
19 Police Command due to lack of space, or as deemed for by the State

	1	Commissioner of Police.
Appointment of Command of the Special Anti-Rape Unit	2	<b>2,-(a)</b> The Head of the Anti-Rape Unit (SARU) shall called the
	3	Commissioner For Rape (CFR) and shall be an officer of no less Rank than a
	4	serving Commissioner of Police in the Nigerian Police Force:
	5	(i) The commissioner for Rape must be female in gender.
	6	(b) The State Units of Offices of the Special Anti-Rape Unit (SARU)
	7	shall be coordinated by a State ANTI-RAPE OFFICER (ARO)-
	8	(i) The State Anti-Rape officer (ARO) shall be and officer of no less
	9	Rank than an Chief Superintendent of Police up on up to an Assistant
	10	Commissioner of Police.
	11	(c) The Commissioner for Rape (CFR) shall be recommended by the
	12	Police Service Commissioner and Appointed by the Inspector General of
	13	Police-
	14	(i) Each State Anti-Rape Offices (ARO) shall be recommended and
15	appointed by the State Commissioners of the Police respectively;	
16	(ii) The Commissioner for Rape (CFR) shall report directly to the	
17	Inspector General of Police;	
18	(iii) The State Anti-Rape Officers will report directly to the State	
19	Commissioners of Police respectively.	
Enlistment into the Special Anti- Rape Unit (SARU)	20	<b>3.-(a)</b> The officers of the Special Anti-Rape Unit shall be drawn from
	21	existing experienced women and men already serving in the Nigerian Police
	22	Force-
	23	(i) Special Attention will be given to the antecedents and moral
	24	character of the officers before enlistment into the Special Anti-Rape Unit
	25	(SARU);
	26	(ii) The constitution of officers in the (SARU) shall be seventy
	27	percent (70%) female officers and Thirty percent (30%) male officers;
	28	(iii) In the case of a transfer request from another unit or the Nigeria
	29	Police Force into the (SARU), a thorough background check shall be
	30	administered on the said officer before transfer is effected;

1 (iv) Special consideration shall be giving to already serving  
 2 Officers of the Force who have relevant training in Psychology, and other  
 3 relevant, and or related fields.

4 4.-(a) An annual budget will be prepared for the Special Anti- Rape  
 5 Unit, which shall be a part of the Annual Police Budget-

Funding of the  
 Special Anti-Rape  
 Unit

6 (i) In preparing the Annual budget of the unit, the Inspector  
 7 General of Police will consult with the Commissioner for Rape (CFR) to  
 8 take into cognizance the unique needs of the Unit;

9 (ii) Corporate organisations and multinationals can contribute to  
 10 the Unit voluntarily;

11 (iii) The unit can seek direct assistance and aid from local and  
 12 international resources as it deems appropriate, if it does not contravene any  
 13 known law.

14 5. The Special Anti-Rape Unit (SARU) shall be responsible for all  
 15 the following: to investigate and prosecute-

Scope of duties  
 of the Special  
 Anti-Rape Unit  
 (SARU)

16 (i) The Special Anti-Rape Unit shall investigate and prosecute. all  
 17 cases of Rape, reported to the Nigeria Police Force;

18 (ii) The Unit will be responsible for all cases of Forced marriage  
 19 reported in the Federation;

20 (iii) All cases of underage marriage reported to NIGERIA Police  
 21 Force;

22 (iv) All cases of sexual harassment and or violence;

23 (v) The unit shall undertake all cases to do with paternity suits;

24 (vi) All cases to do with sex for grades in all tiers of the educational  
 25 system;

26 (vii) All cases to do with sexual harassment in the work place;

27 (viii) All cases that might be delicate in nature and or requiring of  
 28 the unique expertise of the unit;

29 (ix) All cases as the Inspector General of Police may deem fit to

1 refer to the Unit as result of delicateness of the case, and or uniqueness of the  
2 unit;

3 (x) Therapy, Counselling and rehabilitation services for victims of  
4 Rape, harassment and other forms of Abuse.

Training of the  
SARU

5 6.-(a) Due to the uniqueness of the Special Anti-Rape Unit, there shall  
6 be several unique trainings available to every member of the unit-

7 (i) Unique Training on how to collect delicate specimens in jars, test  
8 tubes and all other laboratories equipment as can be used to investigate and  
9 prosecute Rape cases;

10 (ii) Trainings only best preservative methods for Special Anti-Rape  
11 Unit;

12 (iii) Trainings on psychological evaluating of both victims and  
13 suspects.

14 (iv) Training on counselling for victims especially in the case of  
15 emotional trauma.

Equipping of the  
Special Anti-Rape  
Unit (SARU)

16 7. Due to the delicate nature of the (SARU) it shall be equipped as  
17 follows:

18 (a) (i) A central well equipped laboratory complete with a DNA detect  
19 in laboratory equipment;

20 (ii) All equipment that a modern laboratory should have for quick  
21 detection of rape and allied offences as the case may be;

22 (iii) All necessary Police para phenalia to assist in the timely  
23 apprehension and prosecution of rape, offenders;

24 (iv) Practical and pragmatic means of movement to ferry delicate  
25 material timely to avoid corruption of samples;

26 (v) Necessary equipment for the effective preservatives of samples  
27 without it been corrupted or compromised;

28 (vi) It shall have a comprehensive counselling and rehabilitation  
29 center with such tools as will ensure effective counselling and therapy of  
30 traumatised subjects.

1 (b) The State Special Anti-Rape Unit offices shall be equipped as  
2 follows-

3 (i) Each shall have a fully functional laboratory for such tests as is  
4 necessary or required;

5 (ii) They shall have relevant equipment for collection of data and  
6 samples for effective investigation and or prosecution;

7 (iii) They shall each have requisite equipment for precaution of  
8 delicate samples and (or) evidence as the case may be;

9 (iv) They shall have fast and reliable means of transportation to  
10 cover the whole State in which they operate;

11 (v) They shall have all necessary tools of the Police Force, what can  
12 aid in arrests and (or) prosecution of cases as reported;

13 (vi) Each shall have a fully functional counselling center, complete  
14 with counsellors and therapists.

15 **8.** This Bill may be cited as the Nigeria Police Act (Amendment) Citation  
16 Bill, 2024.

#### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to provide the necessary atmosphere for the Force to make this necessary improvement. The delicate nature of rape, the stigma attached to rape victims, the unprofessional way rape cases are sometimes handled, all give rise for the essence of this Bill.