

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE IMMIGRATION ACT, CAP I1, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA 2004, TO PROVIDE FOR E-VISA SYSTEMS, BIOMETRIC BORDER MANAGEMENT, REFUGEE AND ASYLUM PROCEDURES, AND ENHANCED PROVISIONS FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION MANAGEMENT, AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Paul Nnamchi

Co-Sponsors:

- Hon. Ahmed Yusuf Doro
- Hon. Ahmed Munir
- Hon. Chimaobi Sam Atu
- Hon. Husseni A. Abdulkareem
- Hon. Garba Ibrahim Mohammed
- Hon. Alfred AJang
- Hon. Inuwa Muhammed Bassi
- Hon. Ime B. Okon
- Hon. John M. Dafaan

[] Commencement

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

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PART I - PRELIMINARY

1. The Immigration Act, Cap I1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (hereafter referred to as "the Principal Act"), is amended as set out in this Act.

Amendment of Immigration Act

PART II - KEY AMENDMENTS

2. Insert after section 3 a new Section 3A as follows:
3A. E-Visa System:

Section 3 - Establishment of E-Visa Framework

(1) The Minister shall, in consultation with the Nigeria

	1	Immigration Service (NIS), establish an electronic visa (e-visa) system to
	2	facilitate digital visa applications, payment, processing, and issuance.
	3	(2) The e-visa system shall ensure data security, verification by
	4	foreign missions, and integration with biometric databases.
Section 5 - Digital Entry/ Exit Records and Biometrics	5	3. Insert new Section 5A:
	6	5A. Biometric Entry/Exit System
	7	(1) Every entry into and exit from Nigeria shall be logged with
	8	biometric identification including facial recognition and fingerprints.
	9	(2) The Service shall maintain a centralized biometric database of all
	10	non-citizens for the purpose of identity verification, border security, and lawful
	11	tracking of visa compliance.
	12	PART III - REFUGEE AND HUMANITARIAN PROTECTIONS
New Section 12A- Refuges and Asylum Seekers	13	4. 12A. Refugee and Asylum Procedures:
	14	(1) The Service shall establish procedures in line with the 1951 UN
	15	Convention on Refugees and the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention to:
	16	(a) Accept and review asylum applications;
	17	(b) Protect individuals fleeing persecution, conflict, or generalized
	18	violence;
	19	(c) Ensure non-refoulement and safe humanitarian entry.
	20	(2) Asylum seekers shall not be penalized for illegal entry if they
	21	present themselves without delay to immigration authorities and provide a
	22	valid reason for their entry.
	23	PART IV - BORDER AND IDENTITY ENFORCEMENT
Section 15 - Enhanced Penalties for Border Crimes	24	5. Amend Section 15 by replacing subsection (1) with:
	25	15(1) Any person who knowingly:
	26	(a) Forgeries travel documents;
	27	(b) Engages in human trafficking, smuggling, or illegal migration
	28	networks; or
	29	(c) Facilitates identity fraud or impersonation at a point of entry-
	30	shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term

1 not exceeding 10 years or a fine not less than N10,000,000, or both.

2 PART V - COORDINATION AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

3 6. 20A. International Collaboration:

New Section 20A-
Cross Border
Cooperation

4 (1) The Service may collaborate with international agencies,
5 neighbouring countries, and INTERPOL in matters of:

6 (a) Trafficking prevention;

7 (b) Intelligence sharing;

8 (c) Emergency evacuations and mass migration response;

9 (d) Data exchange for high-risk travelers and fugitives.

10 (2) All actions under this section shall comply with human rights
11 obligations and applicable international treaties.

12 PART VI - MISCELLANEOUS

13 7. The Minister may make further regulations to give full effect to
14 this Act, including:

Regulations

15 (a) Procedures for asylum application;

16 (b) Protocols for biometric data handling;

17 (c) Periodic review of visa categories and requirements.

18 8. Add to Section 24 the following definitions:

Interpretation

19 (a) "Asylum seeker" means a person who seeks international
20 protection but whose claim for refugee status has not yet been determined;

21 (b) "Biometric data" includes digital fingerprints, facial images,
22 iris scans, and voice patterns;

23 (c) "E-visa" means an electronically issued authorization to travel,
24 applied for and obtained online.

25 9. This Bill may be cited as the Immigration Act (Amendment)
26 Bill, 2025.

Citation

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill amends the Immigration Act, Cap I1, LFN 2004, to modernize Nigeria's immigration system in line with 21st-century standards. It introduces digital visa systems, biometric entry/exit logs, and refugee protection measures, and strengthens enforcement against trafficking and border fraud. It aims to facilitate lawful migration while preserving national security and fulfilling Nigeria's international obligations.