

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR RESTITUTION, COMPENSATION, AND REHABILITATION OF PERSONS AND FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE ABANDONED PROPERTY EDICT NO. 5 OF 1976, TO OFFICIALLY CONDEMN THE ACT AS A VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AND TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL JUSTICE AND RESTITUTION, AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Paul Nnamchi

Co-Sponsors:

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

[] Commencement

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

1 PART I - CONDEMNATION OF THE ABANDONED PROPERTY POLICY

2 1.-(1) The Federal Republic of Nigeria, through this Act, Condemnation
of Historical
Injustice

3 unequivocally condemns the Abandoned Property Edict No. 5 of 1976 as a

4 grave act of man's inhumanity to man, and a violation of the fundamental

5 rights of Nigerian citizens, particularly of Igbo and other Eastern Nigerian

6 descent.

7 (2) The Edict is hereby acknowledged as an act of collective

8 punishment inconsistent with the spirit of the post-war "No Victor, No

9 Vanquished" policy declared by the Federal Government in 1970.

10 2.-(1) The persistent silence of the Federal Government of Nigeria Acknowledgment
of Federal Silence
and Responsibility

11 regarding the injustices perpetrated through the implementation of the

12

1 Abandoned Property Edict is hereby condemned.

2 (2) The Federal Government bears moral and political responsibility
3 for failing to protect affected citizens and shall lead efforts toward
4 reconciliation and redress.

5 PART II - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
6 HISTORICAL JUSTICE AND RESTITUTION

Establishment
of the Commission

7 3. There is hereby established the National Commission for Historical
8 Justice and Restitution (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission").

Functions of the
Commission

9 4. The Commission shall-

10 (a) Investigate the scope, impact, and enduring consequences of the
11 Abandoned Property Edict No. 5 of 1976;

12 (b) Compile and verify claims of affected persons and families;

13 (c) Recommend appropriate restitution including financial
14 compensation, symbolic restitution, and official apologies;

15 (d) Promote national healing through truth-telling, historical
16 preservation, and reconciliation programs;

17 (e) Collaborate with relevant state governments, federal agencies,
18 and international partners.

Powers of the
Commission

19 5. The Commission shall have powers to-

20 (a) Subpoena documents and witnesses;

21 (b) Hold public hearings and consultations;

22 (c) Recommend restitution packages and policy reforms to the
23 National Assembly;

24 (d) Publish annual reports to the President and the National Assembly.

25 PART III - RESTITUTION, COMPENSATION AND REHABILITATION

Categories of
Restitution

26 6. Restitution shall include:

27 (a) Return of confiscated properties where feasible;

28 (b) Monetary compensation for verified claims;

29 (c) Scholarships and educational grants to descendants of affected
30 families;

1 (d) Official issuance of apology from the Federal Government of
2 Nigeria.

3 7.-(1) There shall be a Federal Abandoned Property Restitution Establishment
4 Fund to be domiciled with the Central Bank of Nigeria. of Restitution
Fund

5 (2) The Fund shall be financed by:

6 (i) Annual budgetary allocations from the Federal Government;

7 (ii) Special contributions from oil-producing states;

8 (iii) Grants from international donors and institutions.

9 PART IV - FINAL PROVISIONS

10 8. The Commission shall report quarterly to the National Assembly Reporting and
11 and annually to the President on its activities, challenges, and Oversight
12 recommendations.

13 9. No person shall be penalized for seeking redress under this Act. Legal Protection
14 Historical claims shall not be time-barred.

15 10. The provisions of this Act shall serve as part of a broader Transitional
16 transitional justice effort to address grievances arising from the Nigerian Justice Framework
17 Civil War and promote national unity.

18 11. In this Act: Interpretation

19 "Affected Persons" means citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
20 particularly of Eastern Nigerian origin, whose properties were declared
21 abandoned and confiscated under Edict No. 5 of 1976;

22 "Commission" refers to the National Commission for Historical Justice and
23 Restitution established under this Act;

24 "Edict No. 5 of 1976" refers to the Abandoned Property Edict enacted by the
25 Military Government of Rivers State in 1976;

26 "Restitution" includes financial compensation, restoration of property
27 rights, or other appropriate redress as determined by the Commission.

28 12. This Bill may be cited as the Abandoned Property Restitution Short title
29 and Rehabilitation Bill, 2025.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to recognize and redress the historical injustice caused by the Abandoned Property Edict No. 5 of 1976. It proposes the establishment of a Commission to investigate, document, and compensate families affected by the wrongful seizure of their properties, and affirms the moral responsibility of the Federal Government to pursue justice, healing, and national unity.