



1 327. Mental Health Intervention for Suicide Attempts:

2 (1) A person who attempts to commit suicide shall not be guilty of a  
3 criminal offence.(2) Such a person shall be referred for mental health  
4 evaluation and treatment in accordance with the National Mental Health Act.

5 (3) Law enforcement agencies shall collaborate with mental health  
6 institutions to provide non-custodial, rehabilitative care.

7 PART III - MODERNIZATION OF MORALITY AND PERSONAL FREEDOMS

Review of Sections  
relating to morality  
and consensual  
conduct

8 3.- (1) Provisions criminalizing consensual adult conduct that do not  
9 involve harm, coercion, or exploitation are hereby repealed or amended to  
10 conform with Nigeria's constitutional rights and international human rights  
11 obligations.

12 (2) The following sections are amended:

13 (a) Section 214-217 (unnatural offences) - repealed to the extent they  
14 criminalize private consensual adult behaviour;

15 (b) Section 222 (indecent practices) - repealed to the extent  
16 inconsistent with freedom of expression and privacy;

17 (c) A new section is inserted:

18 230A. Protection of Personal Autonomy and Privacy:

19 No person shall be criminally liable for conduct that is private, consensual, and  
20 non-harmful, unless expressly prohibited under the Constitution or by a  
21 justifiable law for the protection of public order, safety, or morality in a  
22 democratic society.

23 PART IV - MODERNIZATION OF SEXUAL OFFENCES AND DEFINITIONS

Amendment  
of Section 357-  
Definition of  
Rape

24 4. Section 357 is amended to:

25 357. Rape:

26 A person commits rape if he or she intentionally penetrates the vagina, anus, or  
27 mouth of another person with any body part or object without consent.

28 Consent must be freely given and may be withdrawn at any time. Lack of  
29 physical resistance shall not by itself constitute consent.

1	<b>5.</b> Insert after Section 357:	
2	357A. Sexual Assault:	Insertion of New Sections on Sexual Assault
3	Any non-consensual sexual contact, harassment, or coercive touching shall	
4	constitute sexual assault and is punishable under the law.	
5	PART V - CYBERCRIME AND TERRORISM	
6	<b>6.</b> 430A. Cybercrime Offences:	
7	(1) Unauthorized access to computer systems, identity theft, digital	Insertion of New Section on Cybercrime
8	fraud, dissemination of harmful digital content, cyberbullying, and online	
9	harassment shall constitute offences under this Act.	
10	(2) The penalty shall range from fines to imprisonment, depending	
11	on the nature and gravity of the offence.	
12	(3) Courts may rely on electronic records, metadata, and digital	
13	forensics in prosecuting such offences.	
14	<b>7.</b> 430B. Definition and Criminalization of Terrorism:	Insertion of New Section on Domestic Terrorism
15	(1) Any act intended to intimidate the public or compel a	
16	government, with the use or threat of violence for ideological, religious, or	
17	political purposes, constitutes an act of terrorism.	
18	(2) This includes financing of terrorism, radicalization, and the use	
19	of digital platforms for incitement.	
20	(3) The definition shall conform to Nigeria's obligations under	
21	international counter-terrorism conventions.	
22	PART VI - MISCELLANEOUS AND INTERPRETATIVE CLAUSES	
23	<b>8.</b> In this Bill-	Interpretation
24	Insert:	
25	"AI" means artificial intelligence systems that operate autonomously or	
26	semi-autonomously to generate data or perform decisions;	
27	"Blockchain" means a decentralized digital ledger or record-keeping	
28	system;	
29	"Consent" means the unequivocal, voluntary agreement to engage in a	
30	specific act, capable of being withdrawn.	

Short title           1                   **9.** This Bill may be cited as the Criminal Code (Modernization and  
                          2                   Human Rights Alignment) Amendment Bill, 2025.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the Criminal Code Act, Cap C38, LFN 2004, to modernize its provisions, eliminate outdated colonial-era definitions, decriminalize suicide, protect personal freedoms, redefine sexual offences, and introduce modern crimes such as cybercrime and terrorism in line with global best practices and Nigeria's constitutional and human rights obligations.