

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE NIGERIAN CORRECTIONAL SERVICE ACT, 2019 TO STRENGTHEN NON-CUSTODIAL SENTENCING, EXPAND REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION FRAMEWORKS, AND ENHANCE CORRECTIONAL JUSTICE IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND CURRENT REALITIES; 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. Alfred Ajang Hon. Inuwa Muhammed Bassi
- Hon. Ime B. Okon Hon. John M. Dafaan
- Hon. Garba Ibrahim Mohammed

[] Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of

Nigeria:

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PART I - PRELIMINARY

1. The Nigerian Correctional Service Act, 2019 (hereinafter referred to as "the Principal Act") is amended as set out hereunder.

Amendment of Principal Act

PART II - NON-CUSTODIAL MEASURES

2. Substitute Section 37 with the following:

Amendment of Section 37 - Expansion of Non-Custodian Sentences

37. (1) The non-custodial service shall be strengthened to include:
- (a) Community service,
 - (b) Restorative justice programs,
 - (c) Electronic monitoring (tagging),
 - (d) Parole and conditional release,
 - (e) Home detention, and
 - (f) Diversionary programs for minor and first-time offenders.

	1	(2) Courts shall, where appropriate, prioritize non-custodial options
	2	for non-violent and low-risk offenders.
New Section 38A- Digital Non- Custodial Management System	3	3. 38A. (1) The Correctional Service shall establish a Digital Non-
	4	Custodial Management Platform for tracking, supervision, and reporting
	5	compliance with non-custodial orders.
	6	(2) The system shall be integrated with the judiciary and probation
	7	services to facilitate efficient communication and enforcement.
	8	PART III - REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION
New Section 42A- Mandatory Rehabilitation Programs	9	4. 42A. (1) The Service shall provide structured rehabilitation
	10	programs including:
	11	(a) Vocational and entrepreneurial training,
	12	(b) Substance abuse counseling,
	13	(c) Mental health support, and
	14	(d) Educational certification.
	15	(2) Participation in such programs shall form part of parole or early
	16	release considerations.
New Section 43A- Post-Release Reintegration Support	17	5. 43A. (1) There shall be established a National Offender
	18	Reintegration Fund, to support housing, employment placement, and
	19	continued psychological support for released inmates.
	20	(2) The Service shall collaborate with NGOs, religious bodies, and
	21	private sector partners in implementing reintegration pathways.
	22	PART IV - OVERCROWDING REDUCTION STRATEGIES
Section 12- Powers of the Comptroller- General	23	6. Amend Section 12 by inserting:
	24	(e) advise the Minister of Interior and Chief Justice of Nigeria
	25	quarterly on facility occupancy rates and recommend decongestion strategies
	26	where necessary.
Citation	27	7. This Bill may be cited as the Nigerian Correctional Service
	28	(Reform and Non-Custodial Enhancement) Amendment Bill, 2025.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the Nigerian Correctional Service Act, 2019 to expand the legal and institutional framework for non-custodial sentencing, reduce prison overcrowding, and promote a correctional system focused on rehabilitation, reintegration, and restorative justice.