

CHAPTER 257

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELIEF AGENCY ACT

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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CHAPTER 257

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELIEF AGENCY

An Act to establish the National Emergency Relief Agency to perform the functions of organising, providing and co-ordinating emergency relief of victims of national disasters throughout the Federation and matter incidental thereto. 1976 No. 48.

[8th September, 1976] Commence-
ment.

1. (1) There shall be established a body to be known as the National Emergency Relief Agency which shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, and may sue or be sued in its corporate name. Establish-
ment of the
National
Emergency
Relief
Agency.

(2) The Agency shall consist of the following members, that is to say—

(a) the Minister who shall be the Chairman;

- (b) the Director of Social Development who shall be the Secretary;
- (c) one representative from each of the following Federal Ministries, that is—
- (i) Agriculture,
 - (ii) Communications,
 - (iii) Health,
 - (iv) Information,
 - (v) Internal Affairs,
 - (vi) Transport, and
 - (vii) Works and Housing;
- (d) one representative from each of the following bodies, that is—
- (i) the Nigerian Red Cross Society,
 - (ii) the Nigerian Armed Forces, and
 - (iii) the Nigeria Police Force;
- (e) such representatives of other voluntary organisations as the Minister may from time to time, appoint.
- (3) The members of the Agency (other than the Chairman and the Director of Social Development) shall be appointed by the Minister.
- (4) Where the Agency desires to obtain the advice of any person on any particular matter, the Agency may co-opt him as a member for such period as it thinks fit; but a person who is a member by virtue of this subsection shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Agency and shall not count towards a quorum.

Functions of
the Agency.

2. (1) The functions of the Agency shall be—
- (a) the collection of emergency relief supply from local as well as foreign sources; and from international and non-governmental agencies;
 - (b) the distribution of such emergency relief supply in any area of Nigeria affected by natural or other disasters;
 - (c) the receipt of financial and technical aid from the appropriate Federal Ministries for disbursement to the affected areas;

- (d) the determination of the priority of all emergency relief operations in any part of the Federation; and
- (e) the co-ordination of the activities of all voluntary institutions engaged in the emergency relief operations in all parts of the Federation.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (b) of subsection 1 of this section, natural or other disasters shall include any disaster arising from any crisis, epidemic, drought, floods, tornado, earthquake, train, aircraft or other accidents and mass deportation or repatriation of Nigerians from abroad.

3. The Social Development Division of the Federal Ministry of Social Development and Culture shall provide the Agency with the staff required by the Agency to carry out its functions under this Act.

Staff of the Agency.

4. (1) The funds of the Agency shall consist of such sums as may from time to time be provided by the Federal Government or may be received by the Agency from any other source for the purpose of the Agency's functions under the Act.

Financial provisions.

(2) The Agency shall keep proper accounts of its payments, receipts, assets and liabilities and shall cause the accounts to be audited by such persons and in such manner as the Minister for Finance and Economic Development may direct.

5. (1) There shall be established for each State an Emergency Relief Committee (hereafter in this Act referred to as "the committee").

Establishment of State Emergency Relief Committees, etc.

(2) The committee in each State shall consist of—

- (a) the Director-General in the State Ministry responsible for social development matters who shall be the Chairman;
- (b) one representative from each of the State Ministries of—
 - (i) Agriculture,
 - (ii) Health,
 - (iii) Information,
 - (iv) Transport, and
 - (v) Works and Housing;

(c) one representative from each of the following bodies, that is—

(i) the Nigerian Armed Forces;

(ii) the Nigeria Police Force; and

(d) two persons to be appointed by the State Commissioner responsible for social development matters.

(3) Members of the committee shall hold office for such period as may be directed by the State Commissioner responsible for social development matters.

Functions of
State
Committee.

6. (1) The functions of a State Committee shall be to—

(a) notify the Agency of any natural or other disasters occurring in its State; and

(b) to carry out any relief work in the State as may, from time to time, be directed by the Agency.

(2) It shall be the duty of a State Committee to place at the disposal of the Agency all necessary assistance that will enhance relief operations generally; and whenever required by the Agency, it shall be at the expense of the Agency to provide transport facilities, field staff and adequate location for relief supplies.

(3) Each State Committee shall be responsible and accountable to the Agency for the discharge of its functions under this Act.

Supplemen-
tary pro-
visions as to
proceedings,
etc. of the
Agency and
of a State
Committee.

7. (1) Subject to such directions as may be given by the Minister, the Agency or any committee established by this Act may determine its own quorum and may, subject as aforesaid, otherwise regulate its own proceedings.

(2) There may be paid to the members of the Agency or any committee remuneration and allowances payable in accordance with the directives of the Government of the Federation.

(3) The validity of any proceedings of the Agency or of any committee shall not be affected by—

(a) any vacancy in its membership; or

(b) any defect in the appointment of a member; or

(c) the fact that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of the Agency or of the committee, as the case may be.

8. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires— Interpretation.
“the Agency” means the National Emergency Relief Agency established under section 1 of this Act;
“the Minister” means the Minister charged with responsibility for matters relating to social development.

9. This Act may be cited as the National Emergency Relief Agency Act. Short title.

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*National Emergency Relief
Agency Act*

NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELIEF AGENCY ACT

CHAPTER 257

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION

No Subsidiary Legislation