

A BILL
FOR

AN ACT TO ALTER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 TO PROVIDE FOR THE RECOGNITION, REGULATION, AND INTEGRATION OF COMMUNITY POLICING AND INFORMAL SECURITY STRUCTURES WITHIN NIGERIA'S SECURITY FRAMEWORK; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Abubakar Makki Yalleman

[] Commencement

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

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1. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is altered as set out in this Bill.

2. Section 214 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting "the National Assembly or a State House of Assembly may make laws for the establishment of community, State, or local police forces for their respective jurisdiction."

"There shall be a Police Force for Nigeria, known as the Nigeria Police Force. Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, the National Assembly or a State House of Assembly may make laws for the establishment of community, state, or local police forces for their respective jurisdictions."

3. Section 215 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting in numerical order a new subsection 5 -

"(5) In a State where a State Police Force has been established by law, the Governor shall appoint a State Commissioner of Police, subject to confirmation by the State House of Assembly."

4. Section 216 is altered by inserting a new subsection "(3)" -

"(3) The President shall, in consultation with the National Council on Policing and Security, ensure policy integration between the Nigeria
- Alteration of the Constitution

Alteration of Section 214

Alteration of Section 215

Insertion of a new subsection (3)

1 Police Force and recognized Community and Informal Security Structures.

Insertion of new
sections 216A-
216B

2 **5.** Insert of new section "216A" - "216B"-

3 216A. Community Policing and Informal Security Structures

4 (1) There shall be recognized within the Nigerian security

5 architecture a framework for community policing, including community-

6 based and informal security structures, as mechanisms for grassroots safety

7 and partnership with formal law enforcement.

8 (2) The National Assembly and State Houses of Assembly may enact

9 laws to regulate the establishment, structure, operation, and accountability of

10 community policing units and informal security groups, including

11 neighborhood watches, vigilantes, and traditional security bodies.

12 (3) Such structures shall operate within their defined jurisdictions and

13 under prescribed codes of conduct and operational oversight frameworks.

14 (4) The objectives of community policing shall include:

15 (a) Enhancing community participation in crime prevention and

16 resolution;

17 (b) Fostering trust and cooperation between communities and the

18 police;

19 (c) Providing localized response to security challenges; and

20 (d) Respecting human rights and the rule of law.

21 (5) The Federal Government shall support capacity building, training,

22 and coordination efforts through national security agencies to integrate

23 community policing into the broader security strategy.

24 216B. Recognition of Informal and Traditional Security Structures

25 (1) The Constitution recognizes the role of informal, community-

26 based, and traditional security structures in maintaining peace, order, and

27 safety within communities across the Federation.

28 (2) Informal and traditional security structures shall include, but are

29 not limited to, vigilante groups, neighborhood watch organizations, and

30 traditional institutions or mechanisms recognized under customary law or

1 local government systems, that engage in non-formal security services.

2 (3) Such structures shall be recognized under law and may be
3 incorporated into the broader security architecture of the State or Local
4 Government, provided that their operations shall be subject to:

5 (a) Regulation and oversight by the relevant State or Local
6 Government authority,

7 (b) Compliance with the Constitution and all applicable laws,
8 including fundamental rights under Chapter IV,

9 (c) Non-interference with the jurisdiction of the Nigeria Police
10 Force or other formal security agencies, and

11 (d) Community consent and cultural appropriateness.

12 (4) The National Assembly or a House of Assembly of a State may
13 enact legislation to provide frameworks for:

14 (a) Registration, recognition, and regulation of such informal or
15 traditional security structures,

16 (b) Their relationship with formal security institutions, and

17 (c) Mechanisms for accountability, dispute resolution, and
18 capacity building.

19 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the
20 creation of parallel armed forces or militias contrary to the provisions of this
21 Constitution.

22 **6. (a)** Part I of the Second Schedule (Exclusive Legislative List)

23 Item 45 is amended by inserting the phrase:

24 "...provided that this shall not preclude the powers of the State House of
25 Assembly to establish and regulate Community Police and Informal
26 Security Structures within their territories."

27 (b) Item 68 (Police and other Government Security Services)

28 Item 68 is amended by inserting after the word "Police":

29 "...and community policing or informal security services as may be created
30 or recognized under applicable federal or state legislation..."

Alteration of the
Second Schedule
to the Constitution

Citation 1 7. This Bill may be cited as the Constitution of the Federal Republic of
 2 Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2025.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to provide for the Recognition, Regulation, and Integration of Community Policing and Informal Security Structures within Nigeria's Security Framework