

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A LAGOS STATE AND OTHER DESIGNATED AREAS SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME, TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR FEDERAL GRANTS TO LAGOS STATE AND OTHER DESIGNATED SPECIAL AREAS AND FOR OTHER CONNECTED PURPOSES

Sponsors:

Senator Oluremi Tinubu

Senator Solomon Olamilekan Adeola

Senator Sikiru Osinowo

[] Commencement

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

1 1.-(1) There is hereby established a special area, consisting of
2 Lagos State and such areas as the Federal Government may designate from
3 time to time as may be determined. Designation of
Lagos State as
a special area

4 (2) By virtue of its designation, Lagos State and such special areas
5 shall be qualified for special economic assistance in such terms as are
6 established by this Act.

7 2.-(1) The Federal Government shall pay to Lagos State and such Grant Aid
8 other areas as may from time to time be designated, a financial grant in aid to
9 supplement the revenue accruable to the State from the Federation Account.

10 (2) The financial grant payable under this section shall be
11 determined for each year by the President on advice by the Governor of such
12 special area, having regard to the total revenues accruing to the Federation
13 Account directly from taxes, levies, duties and other charges on individuals
14 and corporate bodies within the territory of such special area:

15 Provided that-

1 (a) the financial grant shall not be less than 1% of the share of revenue
2 allocated to the Federal Government in the Federation Account; and

3 (b) It shall be payable only upon appropriation by the National
4 Assembly in the Federal Government Budget for the relevant year.

Broad objectives
of the financial
grant

5 3. The financial grant which shall be payable at the time of any
6 distribution from the Federation Account shall be employed in furtherance of
7 the following broad objectives:

8 (a) building of new road, bridges, railways and other public
9 infrastructure;

10 (b) maintenance of existing infrastructure to keep them serviceable
11 and ease the movement of traffic across the State;

12 (c) improvement of facilities in public primary and secondary
13 schools;

14 (d) building of Police stations, prisons, and other security
15 establishments;

16 (e) procurement of equipment for public health institutions; and

17 (f) promotion of a conducive socio-economic environment for the
18 assistance of Federal Institutions and related activities as well as the
19 improvement of the State Government's capacity to host the increasing number
20 of personnel and activities resulting therefrom.

Expenditure
to be approved
by the State
legislature

21 4. Expenditure of financial grants made under this Act shall be based
22 on specific budgetary items approved for each year by the State House of
23 Assembly.

Establishment
of a Joint
Committee

24 5. There shall be established a Committee to be known as the Joint
25 Special Area Development Committee which shall consist of:

26 (1)(a) three members to be appointed by the President and
27 Commander in Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

28 (b) three members to be appointed by the Governor the Special Area.

29 (2) The President shall appoint one of the members nominated by him
30 to act as Chairman of the Committee while the Governor shall appoint one of

1 the members nominated by him to act as Secretary.

2 (3) Members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for a period
3 of 5 years.

Cessation of
membership

4 (4) Meetings of the joint committee shall hold:

5 (a) Not less than four times in a year and on such other occasions as
6 the Joint Committee may consider necessary;

7 (b) within the jurisdiction of the designated special area

8 (5) The administrative expenses of the Joint Committee shall be
9 borne by the State Government of designated special area.

10 (6) Notwithstanding the provision of section 5(3) of this Act, a
11 member of the Committee shall cease to hold office if he-

12 (a) becomes bankrupt or makes a compromise with his creditors;

13 (b) is convicted of a felony or any offence involving dishonesty,
14 corruption or fraud;

15 (c) becomes incapable of carrying out the functions of his office
16 either by reason of an infirmity of mind or body;

17 (d) resigns his appointment by notice under his hand, addressed to
18 the President in the case of a person appointed by the President or
19 addressed to the Governor in the case of a person appointed by the
20 Governor;

21 (e) has been found guilty of violation of the code of conduct or
22 serious misconduct in relation to his duties.

23 (7) When a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Committee, it
24 shall be filled by the appointment of a successor to hold office for the
25 remainder of the term of office of his predecessor provided that the
26 successor shall represent the same interest as his predecessor.

27 6. The Joint Committee shall prepare a report to be presented to
28 the President and the Governor respectively not later than September 30 of
29 each year with information on the following:

30 (a) level of activities and revenues accruing from Federal

1 Institutions and agencies in Lagos State and such designated special area;
2 (b) current or anticipated problems which might impede the
3 operations of relevant Federal or State agencies;
4 (c) plan of action for improving the operation of such federal agencies
5 in Lagos State and other designated special area;
6 (d) recommendations on the amount of grant to be made to Lagos
7 State and other designated area pursuant to section 2(2) of this Act; and
8 (e) any other matter which in the opinion of the Committee ought to be
9 given further consideration and necessary action by the President and the
10 Governor.

Power of Joint
Committee

11 7. The Joint Committee shall have power to-
12 (a) request information from any officer or agency of a State or
13 Federal Institution or from private individuals pertaining to the scope of its
14 reporting activity provided that all information required from Federal agencies
15 shall be procured through the members appointed by the President while
16 information required from State agencies shall be procured through the
17 members appointed by the Governor;
18 (b) formulate general policy guidelines for the discharge of its
19 functions;
20 (c) regulate its proceedings and make standing orders with respect to
21 holding of its meetings, notices to be given, the keeping of minutes of its
22 proceedings and such other matters as the Committee may from time to time
23 determine.

Allowances
and benefits

24 8.-(a) There shall be paid to the members of the Committee such
25 sitting allowances and benefits as may be determined by the Government of
26 such designated Special area from time to time.

Interpretation

27 9. In this Bill-
28 'Governor' means the Governor of Lagos State or Governor of such areas
29 designated as Special;
30 'President' means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

- 1 **10.** This Bill may be cited as the Lagos State and Special Areas Citation
2 Economic Assistance Bill, 2019.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to grant special status to Lagos State in recognition of its importance as the Commercial nerve centre, its unique mega city status, former Federal Capital of Nigeria and the and its strategic socio-economic significance in Nigeria; and other areas as may be designated from time to time. In addition, the Bill seeks the provision of financial grants to Lagos State and such designated special areas pursuant to section 164(1) of the 1999 Constitution.

