

# #NoNGOBill: CSO ≠ NGO

*"Non-Governmental Organization means a private voluntary grouping of individuals or associations, not operated for profit or for other commercial purposes, but which have organized themselves nationally or internationally for the promotion of social welfare, development, charity, or research through mobilization of resources."*


- Section 57, A Bill for an Act to provide for the Establishment of the Non-Governmental Organization Regulatory Commission for the Supervision, Co-ordination and Monitoring of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) etc, in Nigeria for related matters. (HB 585)

This bill **applies to you** if you are a(n):

 <b>Religious Body</b>	 <b>Cooperative Society</b>	 <b>Private School (including university)</b>	 <b>Union</b>
 <b>Professional Association</b>	 <b>Media</b>	 <b>Artisan Association</b>	

## Some Issues with the Bill

- A** The bill is unnecessary as **there are 8 existing regulatory frameworks** guiding NGOs in Nigeria.
- Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA).
  - Companies Income Tax Act (CITA).
  - Taxes and Levies (Approved List for Collection) Act.
  - Value-Added Tax Act and Value-Added Tax Amendment Act.
  - Federal Inland Revenue Service (Establishment) Act.
  - National Planning Commission Act.
  - Money Laundering Prohibition Act.
  - Financial Reporting Council Act.

- B**  The following sections of the bill **violate our right to freedom of association and will create administrative & procedural bottlenecks** in the execution of our various services:



### Mandatory Registration

- Sections 11(1), 13(4) and 37(1-2) make it mandatory for NGOs to register with the commission.
- **This violates the second and third prongs of the Article 22 of the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).**
- Nigeria ratified the ICCPR on July 29, 1993.



### Delay in Project Implementation

- NGOs implement projects that provide support for citizen's empowerment.
- Section 26(1) and 27(1) of the bill **mandate NGOs to request for government approval** before implementation of projects.
- **The provision of this section will cause delay in providing real time critical support & services by NGOs.**



### Criminalization of Unregistered Organizations

- Section 24(1) of the bill **criminalizes specific NGOs involved in 'welfare, research, health, relief, agriculture, industry, education, the supply of amenities or any other similar purposes' without registration and certificate under the Act.**
- Section 24(2) of the bill provides that an individual operating an unregistered NGO will pay a fine of N500,000 or 18 months imprisonment or both.

## Public Hearing

Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup> | 10am daily  
Conference Hall 236, New Building, House of Representatives, National Assembly, Abuja.



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