

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO ALTER THE CONSTITUTION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA, 1999 (AS ALTERED) TO GUARANTEE INDIGENE STATUS TO PERSONS BY REASON OF BIRTH OR CONTINUED RESIDENCE FOR A PERIOD NOT LESS THAN TEN YEARS OR BY REASON OF MARRIAGE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu*

*Co-Sponsors:*

Hon. Ginger Onwusibe	Hon. James Faleke
Hon. Blessing Amadi	Hon. Regina Akume
Hon. Khadija Bukar Ibrahim	Hon Adbussamad Dasuki

[ ] Commencement

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

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 1  | 1. The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (As                   | Alteration of<br>CFRN, 1999<br>(As Altered) |
| 2  | Altered) (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is altered as set forth |   |
| 3  | in the Bill.   |   |
| 4  | 2. Section 31 of the Principal Act is altered by inserting new                     | Alteration of<br>Section 31                 |
| 5  | subsections "(2) - (5)" -  |   |
| 6  | "(2) A citizen of Nigeria is an indigene of a State if he -                        |   |
| 7  | (a) was born in that State and has lived in the State for a continuous             |   |
| 8  | period of at least 10 years; or  |   |
| 9  | (b) was not born in the State but has resided in a Local Government                |   |
| 10 | Area of that State for a continuous period of at least 10 years and can provide    |   |
| 11 | evidence of tax payment in that State for at least 10 years.                       |   |
| 12 | (3) A person under subsection (2) of this section is entitled to apply             |   |
| 13 | to the Local Government Chairman for a certificate of indigeneship of a            |   |
| 14 | State.   |   |

1                    (4) A woman who is married to an indigene of a State different from  
2                    her State of origin for at least five years becomes an indigene of that State and is  
3                    entitled to all rights and privileges of an indigene of that State in cases of  
4                    employment, appointment or election into any political or public office.

5                    (5) In the case of divorce or death of a spouse, a woman remains an  
6                    indigene if -

7                    (a) there were children born of the marriage or not; or

8                    (b) she elects to remain an indigene of that State."

Alteration of  
Section 318

9                    **3.** Section 318(1) is altered by substituting the interpretation of  
10                    "belong to" with -

11                    "belong to" or its grammatical expression when used with reference to a person  
12                    in a State refers to a person either of whose parents or any one of whose  
13                    grandparents was a member of a community indigenous to that State or the wife  
14                    or husband of such a person and such husband or wife shall continue to belong  
15                    to that State upon dissolution of marriage or death of spouse;"

Citation

16                    **4.** This Bill may be cited as Constitution of the Federal Republic of  
17                    Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2025.

#### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (As Altered) to guarantee indigene status to persons by reason of birth or continuous residence for a period not less than ten years or by reason of marriage.