

## **CHAPTER 35 - COMMISSION FOR WOMEN**

### **AN EDICT TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION FOR WOMEN IN THE STATE AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THERETO**

1. This Edict may be cited as the Adamawa/or Taraba State Citation. Commission for Women Edict.

2. In this Edict unless the context otherwise requires:-

"Board" means the Adamawa/or Taraba State Women Advisory Board;

"centre" includes ward or village or Urban Integrated Women Development Centres;

"Commission" means Adamawa/or Taraba State Commission for Women;

"Committee" includes Local Government ward or village Women Development Advisory Committees;

"Director of Audit" means the State Director of Audit;

"Governor" means the Chief Executive of Adamawa/or Taraba State;

"member" includes the chairperson and other members;

"Secretary" means the Executive Secretary of Commission;

"State" means Adamawa/or Taraba State of Nigeria; and

"unit" means Local Government Women Development Unit.

### **PART I—THE COMMISSION**

3. —(1) There is hereby established a body to be known as the the Adamawa/or Taraba State Commission for Women.

(2) The Commission shall consist of the following members:-

(a) a part-time chairperson who shall have sufficient interest in the advancement of women;

(b) seven other persons who shall include representatives of:-

(i) market women;

(ii) professional women's organisations;

(iii) humanitarian women's organisations;

(iv) service organisations;

(v) at least one man;

(vi) media organisations;

(vii) banking and Chamber of Commerce;

(c) six ex-officio members who shall include representatives of the Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture, Commerce and Industry and Justice.

4-(1) The objectives of the Commission shall be to:-

(a) promote the welfare of women in general;

(b) promote the full utilisation of women in the development of human resources and to bring about their acceptance as full participants in every phase of national development, with equal rights and corresponding obligations;

(c) promote responsible motherhood and maternal health of women;

(d) stimulate actions to improve the civic, political, cultural, social and economic education of women;

(e) support the work of non-governmental organisations and to play a co-ordination role between Government and Nigerian Women's Organisations;

(f) encourage the sense and essence of co-operative societies and activities amongst women both in the urban and rural areas and also stimulate in them creative entrepreneurship in the field of cottage industries and small scale industries;

(g) formulate and propagate moral values within the family units and in the public and to establish programmes with institutions and organisations to inculcate moral education in women and children; and

(h) work towards total elimination of all social and cultural practices tending to discriminate against and de-humanise womanhood.

(2) For the purposes of achieving the objectives set out in subsection (1) the Commission shall perform the following functions:-

(a) formulate policies and programmes within the context of State Development Plans aimed at enhancing the position and development of women in the social, economic and political context;

(b) establish bodies in the State and Local Government Council Areas for the implementation of the policies and programmes of the Commission;

(c) promote, develop and consolidate income generation and employment through schemes, home and cottage industries, acquisition of skills generally for the improvement of arts and crafts and food processing and such other vocational training of women within the context of their needs and potentials;

(d) monitor, liaise with appropriate State Government Ministries, Departments, bodies, non-governmental bodies including United Nations agencies on matters concerning women and

development;

(e) monitor and submit reports on:-

(i) education and counselling of women;

(ii) health of women and children; and

(iii) existing legislation;

(f) ensure self reliance and enhancement of women;

(g) co-ordinate, structure and monitor the activities of women's voluntary organisations, grant-aid them and evaluate their performance;

(h) generally conduct research and planning aimed at improving the status of women and the attainment of policy objectives generally in relation to women;

(i) carry out all other functions and objectives of the Commission as stipulated in subsection (1) of this section.

5.—(1) The chairperson of the Commission shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for a further term of three years.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Edict, a member of the Commission other than an ex-officio member, shall hold office for a term of four years from the date of his appointment and shall be eligible for re-appointment for a further period of four years.

(3) The office of a member of the Commission other than an ex-officio member shall become vacant if:-

(a) he resigns his office by notice in writing under his hand addressed to the Governor; or

(b) the Governor is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the Commission or of the public for the person appointed to continue in office.

(4) Where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Commission, it shall be filled by the appointment of a successor to hold office for the remainder of the term for which his predecessor was appointed so however that the successor shall represent the same interest and shall be appointed by the Governor.

6.—(1) There shall be appointed for the Commission an Executive Secretary who shall be a Director-General and who shall be by the Governor.

(2) The Executive Secretary shall be head of the Secretariat of the Commission and shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the Commission and for putting into effect the

decisions, policies and approved recommendations.

(3) The Commission may, from time to time, appoint such other staff as it may deem necessary to assist the Commission in the performance of its functions under this Edict.

(4) The staff of the Commission appointed under subsection (3) of this section shall be appointed upon such terms and conditions of service as the Commission may after consultation with the State Civil Service Commission, determine.

7.—(1) The Commission shall have power to regulate its proceedings and may make standing orders for such purposes and subject to any such standing orders and to subsection (2) of this section may function notwithstanding:-

- (a) any vacancy in its membership; or
- (b) any defect in the appointment of a member; or
- (c) that a person not entitled to do so took part in its proceedings.

(2) The quorum at any meeting of the Commission shall be four including the Chairperson.

8. Subject to its standing orders, the Commission may appoint such number of standing and ad hoc committees as it may think fit to consider and report on any matter with which the Commission is charged with responsibility under this Edict, but the decision of any committee appointed under this section shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Commission.

9.—(1) The Commission shall establish and maintain a fund from which shall be defrayed all expenditure incurred by the Commission.

(2) There shall be paid or credited to the fund established in pursuance of subsection (1) of this section:-

- (a) such money as may be granted in each year to the Commission by the State;
- (b) all other moneys accruing to the Commission from any other source approved by the Government and which shall be reported and accounted for.

(3) The Executive Secretary shall, not less than the thirty-first day of October each year prepare an estimate of the income and expenditure of the Commission during the next succeeding year and submit it to the Governor.

(4) The accounts of the Commission shall be audited by the Director of Audit.

10. The Commission shall prepare and submit to the Governor not later than 30th April in each year a report on the activities of the Commission during the immediate preceding year and shall include in the report the audited accounts of the Commission and the Director of Audit's report.

11.—(1) There is hereby established a body to be known as the State Women Advisory Board.

(2) The Board shall consist of four members which shall include the following:-

- (a) the spouse of the Governor as Chairperson; and
- (b) three other members.

(3) The other members of the Board referred to in paragraph (b) of subsection (2) shall be appointed by the Governor.

(4) In appointing other members of the Board regard should be had to fair representation of a cross-section of the State.

12. The duties of the Board shall be:-

- (a) to advise the Commission on the programmes and policies of the Commission;
- (b) to facilitate the activities of the Commission in the performance of its function under this Edict;
- (c) to formulate, design and implement policy programmes and projects to meet the Board's peculiar social, cultural and economic needs,
- (d) to promote responsible motherhood and maternal health of women;
- (e) to stimulate actions to improve women civic, political, cultural, social and economic education;
- (f) to support the work of non governmental organisations and to play a co-ordination role between Government and Nigerian Women's Organisations;
- (g) to encourage the sense and essence of co-operative societies and activities amongst women both in the urban and rural areas and also stimulate in them creative entrepreneurship in the field of cottage industries and small scale industries;
- (h) to formulate and propagate moral values within the family units and in the public and to establish programmes with institutions and organisations to inculcate moral education in women and children;
- (i) to work towards total elimination of all social and cultural practices tending to discriminate against and dehumanise womanhood; and
- (j) to conduct activities of the Better Life Programme for the rural women.

13. The Board may meet on such date and at such times as the Chairperson may from time to time determine.

## PART II—ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT WOMEN DEVELOPMENT UNIT

14.—(1) There shall be established a Local Government Women Development Unit by each Local Government Council

(2) Each unit shall consist of the following members:-

(a) a Principal Women Development Officer on Grade Level 12 who shall be the head of the unit;

(b) a Senior Planning Officer (Programmes, Planning, Monitoring, Research and Statistics) on Grade Level 10;

(c) a Senior Community Development Officer (Co-ordination of Better Life Programme) on Grade Level 10; and

(d) such number of other officers as may be necessary depending on the workload of the unit.

15. Each unit shall perform such functions as are similar to the Functions of the Commission at Local Government level.

16. —(1) There shall be established an advisory body to the Local Government Advisory Committee.

(2) The Committee shall consist of the following members:-

(a) the spouse of the Chairman of the Local Government as the Chairperson; and

(b) three other members to be appointed by the Chairman of the Local Government.

(3) In appointing the three other members the Chairman shall ensure that the members represent a cross-section of the Local Government area.

17. The functions of the Committee shall be:-

(a) to advise the Development unit on programmes and policies; and

(b) to facilitate the work of the Development unit.

18. —(1) There shall be established in each Local Government ward and village, a Women Development Centre.

(2) Each village or ward centre shall be located in one of the following, that is to say:-

(a) an existing Women Education Centre;

(b) an existing Women Co-operative Centre;

(c) a community-owned hall or Health Centre.

19. Each centre shall provide the following services:-

- (a) adult literacy;
- (b) maternal and child welfare nutrition training;
- (c) population education and family planning;
- (d) skills and income-generating activity;
- (e) agricultural services;
- (f) environmental Sanitation and protection;
- (g) civic, political and legal literacy;
- (h) training of female village community workers.

20. —(1) There shall be established an advisory body to each ward or village centre to be known as ward or village Advisory Committee.

(2) The Committee shall consist of representatives of women organisations in the locality of each village or ward.