

**CHAPTER 64 - HISTORY BUREAU**  
**A LAW TO ESTABLISH A HISTORY BUREAU FOR THE STATE AND FOR**  
**PURPOSES CONNECTED THEREWITH**

[9 August 1973]

**1.** This Law may be cited as the State History Bureau Law.

**2.** In this Law, unless the context otherwise requires:-

"the Board" means the Board of Governors appointed under section 4;

"the Bureau" means the State History Bureau established under section 3;

"the Chairman" means the Chairman of the Board;

"the Director" means the Director appointed under section 5;

"member" means a member of the Board of Governors and includes the Chairman;

"the Governor" means the Governor of the State;

"the State" means Gongola State of Nigeria.

**3.—**(1) There is hereby established a body called the State History Bureau which shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and which shall have the functions conferred upon it by or under this Law.

(2) The Bureau shall have the power to enter into contracts and to acquire, purchase, hold, lease, mortgage, sell or otherwise dispose of any property whatsoever whether movable or immovable and may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

**4.—**(1) There shall be a Board of Governors of the Bureau which shall be charged with the responsibility for the management of the affairs of the Bureau and shall consist of a Chairman and eleven other members to be appointed by the Governor.

(2) The names of the original members and every change in the membership shall be published in the State Gazette.

**5.—**(1) There shall be a Director of the Bureau who shall be responsible for running the activities of the Bureau through the Board.

(2) The Director shall be the chief executive of the Bureau and shall be appointed by the Governor on such terms and conditions as he may think fit.

(3) The Director shall, subject to the provisions of subsection (2), hold office for five years from the date of his appointment but shall be eligible for re-appointment.

**6.** The Bureau shall have the power to create within itself such divisions as it may consider necessary for the efficient performance of its functions under this Law.

**7.—**(1) Subject to the provisions of this Law the Board may regulate its own procedure and meetings shall be convened as and when required.

(2) The Chairman and four other members shall form a quo-rum.

(3) The Board may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership and any act authorised or required to be done by the Board may be done in the name of the majority but in the event of any equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

**8.** Where upon any special occasion the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on any particular matter, the Board may co-opt such person to be a member for such a meeting or meetings as may be required, and such person whilst so co-opted shall have all the rights and privileges of a member save that he shall not be entitled to vote on any question.

**9.** Where any member of the Board is temporarily incapacitated by illness from performing the functions of his office or is temporarily absent from Nigeria, the Governor may appoint any person to hold temporarily the office held by such incapacitated or absent member during the

period of such incapacity or absence and all the functions of such member under this Law shall devolve upon the person so temporarily appointed.

**10.** —(1) The Governor shall appoint, by name or office, an Administrative Secretary of the Bureau who shall conduct the correspondence and keep records thereof and perform such other duties as the Board may from time to time direct or which are placed upon him under the provisions of this Law or any other Law.

(2) The Administrative Secretary shall be an officer but not a member of the Board.

**11.**—(1) The Chairman or any other member of the Board shall hold office for three years from the date of his appointment but shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(2) The Chairman or any other member of the Board may be paid such remuneration, if any, whether by way of salary, allowances or fees as the Governor may from time to time determine.

**12.**—(1) A member shall not be personally liable for any act or other any omission to do any act or any default of the Board so long as such act, omission or default is in the course of the operations of the Board and in good faith.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in the instrument by which a member is appointed, a member may resign his office as a member by notice in writing to the Governor, and upon receipt of such resignation by the Governor the appointment of such member shall be terminated.

(3) The Governor may at any time remove any member from his office.

**13.** Subject to the provisions of this Law, it shall be the duty of the Bureau to administer the law relating to the preservation and management of the public archives of the State.

**14.** In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the provisions of section 13, the Bureau shall have power:-

(a) to organise and undertake archaeological works and exhibition in the State;

(b) to provide and maintain a comprehensive research library for Nigerian and foreign researchers in the field of history;

(c) to review all research papers pertaining to the State which are intended for publication as well as for academic qualifications;

(d) to conduct, direct and promote research and to act as a coordinating agency for research in all matters relating to the history of the State;

(e) to act in an advisory and consultative capacity on matters pertaining to the history of the State;

(f) to accept from any person or authority any work of history which meets its required standard;

(g) to encourage private individuals or scholars to write on matters of historical importance;

(h) to establish and maintain museums throughout the State;

(i) to lay down the rules under which foreign researchers may use the research library in the State;

(J) to organise or conduct lectures or demonstrations and to provide instruction in history;

(k) to publish or sponsor the publication of any literature, periodical or newspaper or book in relation to the history of the State;

(l) to accept, hold and administer any subscriptions or any gift or property for any purpose connected with the Bureau;

(m) to affiliate with other institutions of a generally similar character;

(n) to carry on all activities, the undertaking of which appears to the Bureau to be necessary, advantageous or expedient for the performance of its functions.

**15.** In the exercise of its functions under the provisions of this Law, the Bureau shall comply with any general or special directions given to it by the Governor.

**16.** The funds of the Bureau shall include:-

- (a) all monies accruing to the Bureau by way of loan, endowment, grant, gift or otherwise;
- (b) all monies raised for the general purpose of the Bureau;
- (c) all other sums of money or property which may in any manner become payable to or vested in the Bureau in respect of any matter incidental to its functions.

**17.** The funds of the Bureau shall be applied by the Bureau in pursuance of its functions and as laid down in this Law.

**18.** Subject to the provisions of sections 5 and 10, the Board Power may -

- (a) from time to time appoint, upon such salaries, terms and conditions as it thinks fit, such employees, as may be necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of the operations of the Bureau;
- (b) grant pensions, gratuities or retiring allowances to any employees, and may require employees to contribute to any pension or contributory scheme; and
- (c) grant loans to employees for such purposes as the Board may approve.

**19.** The Board shall keep proper accounts in respect of the Bureau's functions under this Law and such accounts shall be and audited by auditors appointed by the Governor and the professional fees, if any, of such auditors shall be charged on the funds of the Bureau.

**20.** —(1) As soon as may be after the end of each financial year the Board shall forward to the Governor a full report of the operations of the Bureau during the preceding year together with a certified copy of the audited accounts of the Bureau.

(2) The accounts of the Bureau together with the report of the auditors thereon shall be published in the State Gazette.

**21.** —(1) The Bureau shall as soon as may be after its establishment provide itself with a common seal.

(2) The common seal of the Bureau shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or some other member thereof authorised by the Board to act in that behalf and the signature of the Secretary of the Bureau.

**22.**—(1) The Board shall have the power to appoint one or more committees for the purpose of exercising and performing such functions conferred or imposed by this Law on the Bureau and generally for carrying out any of the purposes of the Bureau.

(2) A committee may include persons who are not members of the Board.

(3) A committee may regulate its own proceedings and may, with the approval of the Board, make standing orders for this purpose.

(4) A committee shall submit minutes of its proceedings to the Board at the next meeting of the Board following that to which the minutes relate.

**23.** Subject to the provisions of this Law, the Board may make standing orders for the purpose of regulating its own proceedings.

**24.** The Governor may, after consultation with the Board, make regulations for carrying into effect the provisions of this Law.