

7. PROGRAMS ON MUTATION TOWARDS CLEAN AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

- 1) The state and federal government shall institute programs that will encourage and include incentives to communities and individuals to switch to cleaner, renewable energy sources such as solar power or biogas to continue to reduce and mitigate reliance on firewood and charcoal as a source of energy.

8. PUNISHMENT FOR COLLECTION, SALE, PRODUCTION AND COMMERCIAL USE OF FIREWOOD AND CHARCOAL

- 1) Anyone who is found guilty of collection, sale, production, commercial use and transportation of charcoal and/or firewood as in paragraphs 5 of this bill, shall be sentenced to a term of 3 (Three) years imprisonment, or a fine of not less than ₦3,000,000.00 (Three Million Naira) or both.

9. PROGRAMS FOR REFORESTATION AND AFFORESTATION

- 1) It shall be lawful for the state and the federal government to introduce and encourage programs that would support reforestation and afforestation efforts with a view to restoring degraded forest areas and increasing forest cover.

10. COURTS WITH JURISDICTION FOR OFFENCES UNDER THIS BILL

- 1) The High Court or the District Court of Plateau State shall have the jurisdiction to entertain charges emanating from the violation of this bill.

This Bill may be cited as the Plateau State House of Assembly (Powers and Privileges) Bill and Related Matters 2025 and the Bill shall Commence on the day of 2025

- 3) It is illegal and unlawful to log trees of any kind and type in protected areas like wildlife parks, forest reserves, national parks, zoological gardens, museums, monuments, and other protected areas to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystem services.

4. PUNISHMENT FOR ILLEGAL LOGGING

- 1) Anyone who is found guilty of logging a tree or trees as in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this bill shall be sentenced to a term of 2 (Two) years imprisonment, or a fine of not less than ₦2,000,000.00 (Two Million Naira) or both.

5. ESTABLISHMENT OF FOREST PROTECTION FORCE

- 1) It shall be lawful for the Local Government Council or the Plateau State Protection Agency to establish a force for Forest Rangers, and/or Forest Community Corps for the purposes of monitoring, protecting and safeguarding the forest resources in collaboration with state and federal law enforcement agencies. Provided that
 - I. It shall be lawful for the Plateau State Environmental Protection Agency (PEPSA) to promote sustainable logging practices, which include selective logging and responsible harvesting techniques, to ensure that the forest continues to provide environmental resources in the long run.
 - II. It shall be lawful for the Plateau State Environmental Protection Agency (PEPSA) to encourage the development of sustainable value chains for wood practices, ensuring that logging and forest-related activities contribute to economic growth while minimizing environmental damage.
 - III. It shall be lawful for the Plateau State Environmental Protection Agency (PEPSA) to provide sustainable incentives for businesses to adopt sustainable practices, such as tax breaks, grants, and subsidies.

6. ILLEGAL COLLECTION, SALE PROMOTION AND COMMERCIAL USE OF FIREWOOD AND CHARCOAL

- 1) The collection, sale, production, commercial use, and transportation of charcoal and firewood is illegal.
- 2) In addition to the federal and state law enforcement agencies, it shall be lawful for the Forest Rangers and the Forest Community Corp to monitor, carry out surveillance, track the movement of firewood and charcoal, detect illegal operations, and ensure compliance.

A BILL FOR A LAW TO PROHIBIT THE UNAUTHORISED LOGGING OF TREES, AND THE TRAFFIC, SALE, OR COMMERCIAL USE OF FIREWOOD AND CHARCOAL IN PLATEAU STATE AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS 2025

1. PURPOSE

A Bill for a law to address illegal logging and unsustainable use of forest resources, and the environmental impacts of deforestation, and for related matters. It is also conjectured that by fully and comprehensively implementing this bill which will address all aspects of illegal logging, charcoal and firewood traffic, production, sale and commercial use, Plateau state and indeed Nigeria can make a significant contribution to environmental protection and sustainable development.

2. INTERPRETATION

- Logging** – The process of cutting down trees for their timber (wood), usually for commercial purposes.
- Charcoal** – A black, porous substance made by burning wood or other organic materials in a low-oxygen environment. It's often used as fuel for cooking or heating.
- Court** – This means the High Court and the District Court.
- Traffic** – It refers to illegal trade.
- Trees** – Tall plants with a trunk, branches, and leaves. They are essential for the environment as they produce oxygen, provide shelter, and contribute to biodiversity.
- Firewood** – Wood that has been cut and prepared to be burned as fuel, typically for heating or cooking.
- PEPSA** – Plateau Environmental Protection and Sanitation Agency

3. ILLEGAL LOGGING

- 1) Illegal and unauthorized logging of trees includes the felling of trees without permits on all protected and unprotected lands, including the use of destructive methodologies in the felling process.
- 2) It shall be illegal for anyone to log trees in both protected and unprotected lands in Plateau state either for commercial use, or for industrial purposes without the prior authorization of the Local Government Council in respect of rural land and the Plateau State Environmental Protection Agency in respect of urban land, provided that the said trees were not logged for domestic family purpose.

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Arrangement of sections

Section:

1. Purpose
2. Interpretation
3. Illegal Logging.
4. Punishment for Illegal Logging.
5. Establishment of Forest Protection Force.
6. Illegal Collection, Sale Promotion and Commercial Use of Firewood and Charcoal
7. Programs on Mutation Towards Clean and Renewable Energy
8. Punishment For Collection, Sale, Production and Commercial Use of Firewood and Charcoal
9. Programs for Reforestation and Afforestation
10. Courts With Jurisdiction for Offences Under this Bill
11. Commencement

**A BILL FOR A LAW TO PROHIBIT THE UNAUTHORISED LOGGING OF TREES, AND
THE TRAFFIC, SALE, OR COMMERCIAL USE OF FIREWOOD AND CHARCOAL IN
PLATEAU STATE AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS 2025**

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