THE NIGERIA POLICE FORCE ACT 2020 ANALYSIS

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The Nigeria Police Force (Establishment) Act, 2020 ('the new Act') which came into force on the 17th of September 2020, repealed the Police Act of 2004. The general objective of the new Act is to provide for an effective and well organised police service, driven by the principles of transparency and accountability in its operations and management of its resources, protection of human rights, and partnership with other security agencies.

Among others, the Act establishes an appropriate funding framework for the Police in line with what is obtainable in other Federal Government key institutions, enhances professionalism in the Police Force through increased training opportunities, and creates enduring cooperation and partnership between the Police Force and communities in maintaining peace and combating crimes nationwide. https://barristerng.com/download-nigeria-police-force-establishment-act-2020/

### INTRODUCTION

### WHAT POLICE OFFICERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE POLICE FORCE ACT 2020

1. Police officer should provide services that are responsive, fair and just to the needs of the general public.
2. According to the Police Force Act 2020, police officers are to maintain and secure public safety and public order.
3. Police officers are to protect lives and property of all persons in Nigeria.
4. Police officers are to prevent and detect crimes.
5. Police are to collaborate with other agencies to take any necessary action and provide the required assistance or support to persons in distress, including victims of road accidents, fire disasters and floods.
6. A police officer shall not, in discharging his/her duty discriminate against any person.
7. A police officer shall not take any intoxicating liquor or psychotropic substance while on duty; he/she shall be punished in accordance with the police disciplinary procedures if found guilty.
Know that the police force act is an act to reposition the police force to uphold and safeguard the fundamental rights of every person in Nigeria in all its operations.

The Police act will empower the police force to effectively prevent crimes without threatening the liberty and privacy of persons in Nigeria.

The Police act will strengthen the police force in the performance of its functions, including safety and security of all persons, communities and property in Nigeria.

Police officers are to perform their function by creating an enabling environment to foster cooperation and partnership between the police force and the communities they serve to effectively prevent crimes.

Police officers must respect the right of victims of crime and an understanding of their needs.

The police force is responsible for promoting and protecting the fundamental rights of persons detained in police custody as guaranteed in the Nigeria Constitution.

The Inspector general of police shall ensure that all police officer undergo regular training and re-training in basic policing, ethics, code of conduct, crime detection and law enforcement, investigation and gathering of evidence, effective nationwide citizen engagement, human rights, gender issues, public relations, democratic policing, emotional intelligence, prosecution/defence and other emerging issues.

WHAT CELEBRITIES/INFLUENCERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE POLICE FORCE ACT 2020

1. Know that the police force act is an act to reposition the police force to uphold and safeguard the fundamental rights of every person in Nigeria in all its operations.

2. The Police act is to empower the police force to effectively prevent crimes without threatening the liberty and privacy of persons in Nigeria.

3. Police officers must respect the right of victims of crime and an understanding of their needs.

4. The police force is responsible for promoting and protecting the fundamental rights of persons detained in police custody as guaranteed in the Nigeria Constitution.

5. The Inspector general of police is the head of the Nigeria Police Force and the lowest cadre are recruits.

6. Police officers undergo psychological and other medical evaluations as may be required before they are recruited into the police force.
7 An innocent person shall not be arrested in place of suspect.

8 A police officer may without an order or warrant arrest a suspect who commits an offence in his presence, a suspect who obstructs a police officer while in the discharge of his duty, a suspect who is found to be in possession of a stolen item or property and a suspect who the police officer has been directed to arrest by a judge or magistrate.

9 No person shall be arrested without a warrant.

10 A police officer may detain or search any person or vehicle where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion, suspicion exist that such person or vehicle is carrying a stolen item.

11 Intimate search can only be carried out at a police station, a hospital or at any other place used for medical purposes.

12 A search warrant shall specify the name of the person who applies for it, the date issued, law under which it was issued and the premises to be searched.

WHAT THE CIVIL SOCIETY SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE POLICE FORCE ACT 2020

1 Know that the police force act is an act to reposition the police force to uphold and safeguard the fundamental rights of every person in Nigeria in all its operations.

2 The Police act is to empower the police force to effectively prevent crimes without threatening the liberty and privacy of persons in Nigeria.

3 Police officers must respect the right of victims of crime and an understanding of their needs.

4 There is a police council that consists of the president as the chairman, the governor of each state, the chairman of the police service commission and the inspector general of police.

5 The function of the police council is to see to the administration and organisation of the Nigeria Police Force and other matters relating to the appointment, disciplinary control and dismissal of members of the force.

6 The Police council meets at least twice in a year and may hold emergency meetings if necessary.

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11 No person shall be arrested without a warrant.

12 The Commissioner of police of a state and the head of security agencies authorized by law to make arrest within a state shall remit quarterly report of all arrest made with or without warrant, to the Attorney-General of that State.

13 Intimate search can only be carried out at a police station, a hospital or at any other place used for medical purposes.

14 A search warrant shall specify the name of the person who applies for it, the date issued, law under which it was issued and the premises to be searched.

WHAT THE CITIZENS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE POLICE FORCE ACT 2020

1 Citizens should note that a police officer may seize and retain anything for which a search has been authorized.

2 A search warrant authorizes an entry on one occasion only.

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