

NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION (ESTABLISHMENT) ACT, 2026**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

This Act repeals the National Identity Management Commission Act, No. 23, 2007 and enacts the National Identity Management Commission Act, 2026 to establish a National Identity Database for the country and the National Identity Management Commission as the statutory body charged with the responsibility of maintenance of the National Identity Database, registration of registrable persons, and issuance of identity credentials.

NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION (ESTABLISHMENT) ACT, 2026

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NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION (ESTABLISHMENT) ACT, 2026

A Bill

For

An Act to repeal the National Identity Management Commission Act, No. 23, 2007, and enact the National Identity Management Commission Act, 2026, to provide for the establishment of a National Identity Database and the National Identity Management Commission charged with the responsibilities for maintenance of the National Identity Database, the registration of individuals, and the issuance of identity credentials; and for related matters.

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Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria —

PART I — OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION

1. The objectives of this Act are to —

Objectives

- (a) establish a national identity database for the nation;
- (b) establish the National Identity Management Commission charged with responsibility for the maintenance of the National Identity Database, registration of registrable persons, issuance of identity credentials and to superintend over identity management issues;
- (c) strengthen the legal framework of national and digital identity, by creating an optimal foundational identification ecosystem that fosters inclusion, universal coverage and accessibility; and
- (d) establish a harmonised foundational ID system that is governed by a regime that is less restrictive, less cumbersome, non-discriminatory, non-punitive, data-protection driven, cost effective, and compliant with global best practices.

2. (1) This Act shall apply to registration of registrable persons within and outside Nigeria, the management and operation of the National Identity Database.

Application

- (2) Without prejudice to subsection (1), this Act shall apply whether or not an act qualifies as an offence or contravention of this Act, is committed in Nigeria by any person, irrespective of nationality.

PART II — ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL IDENTITY MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

3. (1) There is established the National Identity Management Commission (in this Act referred to as "the Commission").

Establishment of National Identity Management Commission.

(2) The Commission —

- (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;
- (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
- (c) may hold, acquire and dispose of any property or interest in property, movable or immovable, for the purpose of its functions under this Act.

4. (1) There is established for the Commission a Governing Board (in this Act referred to as "the Board"), which shall consist of — Membership of the Commission

- (a) a Chairman;
- (b) five Commissioners;
- (c) a representative each, not below the rank of a Director or its equivalent of the —
 - (i) Independent National Electoral Commission,
 - (ii) National Health Insurance Scheme,
 - (iii) Federal Road Safety Commission,
 - (iv) Nigeria Revenue Service,
 - (v) National Pension Commission,
 - (vi) Nigeria Police Force,
 - (vii) Nigeria Immigration Service,
 - (viii) Office of the National Security Adviser,
 - (ix) National Population Commission,
 - (x) Central Bank of Nigeria,
 - (xi) State Security Services,
 - (xii) Economic and Financial Crimes Commission,
 - (xiii) Chief of Defence Staff, and
 - (xiv) Corporate Affairs Commission; and
- (d) the Director-General of the Commission, who shall also be the Secretary to the Board.

(2) The Chairman shall —

- (a) be appointed by the President;
- (b) be citizen of Nigeria; and
- (c) hold office on a part-time basis.

(3) The appointment of the Chairman and Commissioners shall be on the recommendation of the Minister.

(4) The Chairman and Commissioners shall each represent the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria.

- (5) The Chairman of the Board shall have at least 15 years cognate experience in any of the fields of information communication technology, engineering, management science, law, business administration, economics or related fields.
- (6) The Commissioners shall —
 - (a) be appointed by the President;
 - (b) hold office on a part-time basis; and
 - (c) have at least 10 years cognate experience in any of the fields of information communication technology, engineering, management sciences, law, business administration, economics, mass communication, public relations, security management or related fields.
- (7) The provisions of the Schedule to this Act shall apply with respect to the proceedings of the Board and the other matters mentioned in it. Schedule

TO READ MORE, FIND THE FULL DOCUMENT AT

<https://www.lexark.org/d/national-identity-management-commission-nimc-establishment-act-2026>