

# THE NIGERIAN MARITIME LABOUR ACT, 2003



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**THE NIGERIAN MARITIME LABOUR ACT 2003**  
**2003 ACT NO. 10**

AN ACT TO REPEAL THE NIGERIAN DOCK LABOUR ACT NO. 37 OF 1999 AND ENACT THE  
 NIGERIAN MARITIME LABOUR ACT, 2003

[ 25TH JUNE, 2003 ]

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

PART I—ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT MARITIME LABOUR INDUSTRIAL  
 COUNCIL AND ITS FUNCTIONS

1. There is established a body to be known as the Joint Maritime Labour Industrial Council (in this Act referred to as "the Council") at which—

- (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, and ;
- (b) may sue or be sued in its corporate name.

2. The Council shall—

- (a) register, keep and maintain the register of each dock workers, seafarer, stevedoring company and seafarer employers, jetty and terminal operators;
- (b) regulate the conditions of service of dock workers and seafarers;
- (c) ensure direct payment of wages to each dock worker and seafarer by the stevedoring companies and seafarer employers;
- (d) set out guidelines which will ensure that dock work and seafaring is rotated evenly among dock workers and seafarers in the pool;
- (e) ensure that dock worker and seafarer employers comply with the existing regulations and standards in relation to crewing, wages, safety, welfare and training of dock workers and seafarers at ports and on vessels ;
- (f) ensure that Nigerian National Carriers employ one hundred per cent of their crew, and at least seventy-five per cent of their shipboard officers including captain and the chief officer and where possible chief engineers, from its pool of seafarer ;
- (g) approve conditions of service for dockworkers and seafarers as recommended by stevedoring companies, and seafarers employers, jetty and terminal operators and Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria (MWUN) following guidelines set up by the Council ;
- (h) ensure that the activities of dock workers and seafarers are not inimical to the peace, security and industrial harmony and smooth operations at the Nation's seaports and off board vessels;
- (i) serve as a medium for resolving disputes and complaints among the interest groups in the maritime industry; and
- (j) conduct a census of dock workers and seafarers in the pool every three years.

3. —(1) There is established for the management of the Council a Governing Board (in this Act referred to as "the Board") which shall consist of the following members—

Establishment  
of Joint  
Maritime  
Labour  
Industrial  
Council, etc.

Functions of  
the Council.

Establish-  
ment and  
membership  
of the  
Governing  
Board.

(a) an Executive Chairman who shall be the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer;

(b) one representative of—

- (i) the Federal Ministry of Transport,
- (ii) the Federal Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity,
- (iii) the Nigerian Ports Authority,
- (iv) the Nigerian Shippers' Council,
- (v) the National Maritime Authority,
- (vi) Merchant Navy Officers Association of Nigeria,
- (vii) Dock Labour Employers,
- (viii) Seafarer Employers,
- (ix) Terminal Operators.

(c) two representatives of—

- (i) Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria; and
- (ii) the Nigerian Shipping Companies;

(d) two ex-officio members to be appointed by the Chairman; and

(e) the Secretary of the Council.

(2) The Chairman and members of the Board shall be appointed by the President, on the recommendation of the Minister.

(3) The members of the Board, other than ex-officio members, shall be nominated by the organisation or group which they represent, and where there is no such nomination, the Minister shall cause to be appointed from those organisations or groups such persons as it appears to him to be appropriate in each circumstance.

(4) The ex-officio members shall be people knowledgeable and experienced in maritime labour matters.

First Schedule.

(5) The provisions of the First Schedule to this Act shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board and other matters contained therein.

Tenure of Office.

4.—(1) The members of the Board, other than ex-officio members, shall each hold office for a term of 4 years in the first instance and may be re-appointed for a further term of 4 years and no more.

(2) The members of the Board shall be paid such allowances, as the Minister may, from time to time, determine.

(3) A member of the Board, other than an ex-officio member, may resign his appointment by notice in writing under his hand, addressed to the Minister and such resignation shall take effect only upon acknowledgment by the Minister.

Cessation of membership.

5.—(1) A member of the Board shall cease to hold office if —

- (a) he becomes of unsound mind;
- (b) he becomes bankrupt or makes a compromise with his creditors;
- (c) he is convicted of a felony or of any offence involving dishonesty,
- (d) he is guilty of serious misconduct in relation to his duties; or
- (e) his nomination by his organisation or association is withdrawn.

(2) A member of the Board may be removed from office by the Minister if, on the recommendation of the Council, he is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the Council or that of the public that the member should continue in office.

(3) The Minister shall declare in writing the office of a member of the Board vacant on ground of misconduct or inability to perform his functions but the Minister shall only declare the office of the Executive Chairman vacant on consultation with the President.

6.—(1) Where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, it shall be filled by the appointment by the Minister of a successor to hold office for the remainder of the term of office of his predecessor;

Termination  
of member-  
ship.

Provided that such appointee shall be from and represent the same interest as his predecessor.

(2) Without prejudice to the foregoing, the Minister may declare in writing the removal of a member on the recommendation of the Board where such member fails to give satisfactory explanation of his inability to attend two or more consecutive Board meetings.

7.—(1) There shall be at least four ordinary Board meetings in one calendar year.

Frequency of  
Board  
meetings.

(2) Notice of the Board meeting shall be served on members not later than 14 days before the date fixed for the meeting.

#### PART II.—STAFF OF THE COUNCIL

8.—(1) There shall be for the Council, an Executive Chairman to be appointed by the President.

Executive  
Chairman.

(2) The Executive Chairman—

(a) shall hold office for a period of 4 years on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment; and

(b) may be re-appointed for a further period of 4 years and no more.

(3) The Executive Chairman shall be the Chief Executive of the Council and be responsible for—

(a) the execution of the policies and the day-to-day administration of the Council;

(b) the direction, supervision and control of all other employees of the Council and, subject to such restrictions as the Council may impose, for disposing of all

questions relating to the service of the employees, their pay, allowances and privileges ; and

(c) matters concerning the accounts and records of the Council.

(4) There shall be appointed for the Council by the President, on the recommendation of the Minister, a secretary who—

(a) shall have such qualification and experience as are appropriate for a person required to perform the functions of that office under this Act ;

(b) may hold office for a period of four years and on such terms and conditions as to emolument and conditions of service as may be specified in his letter of appointment ; and

(c) shall subject to the directives of the Board and the Executive Chairman, be responsible for—

(i) keeping the books and proper records of the proceedings of the Board ; and

(ii) the administration of the secretariat of the Council and the Board.

(5) The Board shall have power to—

(a) employ either directly or from any public or private service in the Federation such number of employees as may, in the opinion of the Board, be required to assist the Council in the discharge of its functions under this Act; and

(b) pay to persons so employed such remunerations including allowances as the Council may determine subject to the approval of the Salaries and Wages Commission.

9.—(1) Service in the Council shall be approved service for purposes of the Pensions Act.

(2) Employees of the Council shall be entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits as the Council may determine from time to time.

(3) Nothing in subsections (1) and (2) of this section or in this Act shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on terms that preclude the grant of pension and gratuity in respect of that office.

(4) For the purpose of the application of the provision of the Pensions Act, any power exercisable by the Minister or other authority of the Government of the Federation, other than the power to make regulations under section 23, is vested in and shall be exercisable by the Board and not by any other person or authority.

### PART III.—FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

10. There shall be established and maintained for the Council a fund into which shall be paid and credited—

(a) 10 per cent of port dues paid by shipping companies and terminal operators to be deducted at source on behalf of the Council ;

(b) all subventions and budgetary allocations from the Federal Government ; and

Service in the Council to be pensionable.  
Cap 346 LFN 1990.

Funds of the Council.

(c) all sum accruing to the Council by way of gifts, endowments, bequest, grants or other contributions by persons and organisations ;

11. The Council shall, from time to time, apply the fund at its disposal—

Expenditure  
of the  
Council.

(a) to pay allowances, expenses and other benefits of members of the Board of the Council and any of its committees ;

(b) to pay the salaries, allowances and other benefits of members of staff of the Council ;

(c) for the establishment and payment of welfare scheme of registered casual dock workers and seafarers, as provided in section 25 (3) of this Act that no payment of any kind under this paragraph shall be made to any person who is in receipt of endowments from the Federal, State or any other paid employments ;

(d) to pay other overhead allowances, benefits and other administrative costs of the Council;

(e) to train its members of staff ; and

(f) to undertake such other activities as are connected with all or any of the functions of the Council under this Act.

12. The Council may accept gift of land, money or other property unconditionally or upon such condition as may be convenient with respect to the functions and policies of the Council.

Power to  
accept gifts.

13.—(1) The Board shall cause to be prepared and submitted to the Minister, not later than 30th September in each year, an estimate of the expenditure and income of the Council during the next succeeding year.

Annual  
estimates,  
account and  
audit.

(2) The Board shall cause to be kept proper accounts of the Council and proper records in relation to those accounts and when certified by the Board, the account shall be audited by auditors appointed by the Board from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the Federation.

14. The Board shall not later than 30th June in each year, submit to the Minister a report on the activities and administration of the Council during the immediate preceding year and shall include in the report the audited account of the Council and the auditors report on those accounts.

Annual  
report.

15.—(1) The Council shall be exempted from the payment of income tax on any income derived by the Council under this Act or accruing to it from any of its investments.

Exemption  
from tax.

(2) Accordingly, the provisions of any enactment relating to the taxation of companies or trust funds shall not apply to the Council.

#### PART IV.—REGISTRATION OF DOCK WORKERS, STEVEDORING COMPANIES, TERMINAL AND JETTY OPERATORS

16.—(1) An application for registration as a dock worker shall be in such form as may be prescribed by the Council, from time to time, and shall be accompanied with the

Registration  
of  
dock workers

following—

(a) three passport photographs of the applicant ;

(b) evidence of educational qualification of not less than secondary school certificate for skilled labour and such qualification and experience as appropriate for general labour.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, an applicant seeking registration as a dock worker under this Act shall satisfy the Board that—

(a) he is between 18-35 years of age ; and

(b) he has not been convicted of any criminal offence in Nigeria or in any other country.

(3) An applicant who satisfies the requirements specified in subsections (1) and (2) of this section may be registered as a dock worker and issued with a registration certificate to that effect.

Second  
Schedule

(4) No person, other than a registered dock worker shall be engaged in the performance of any dock work in any of the ports specified in the Second Schedule to this Act or on board any vessel.

(5) Any person who is not registered as a dock worker or seafarer and engages in any maritime labour in any port specified in this Act or on board any vessel commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦50,000.00 or to imprisonment for a term of 6 months or to both.

(6) Any applicant seeking registration as a dock worker under this Act who knowingly makes a false statement or produces a false document in order to procure registration is liable to imprisonment for a term of 6 months or a fine of ₦50,000.00 or to both.

(7) A dock worker or seafarer shall be disengaged from dock labour on attainment of the age of 55 years or of 35 years of service, but a dock worker or seafarer may voluntarily disengage on attaining the age of 45 years or 10 years of service.

Registration  
of dock  
labour  
employers,  
stevedoring  
company,  
jetty or  
terminal  
operator

17.—(1) An application for registration as a dock labour employer, stevedoring company, jetty or terminal operator shall be made in such form as may be prescribed by the Board, from time to time and shall be accompanied with the following—

(a) certified true copy of the certificate of incorporation ;

(b) certified true copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association ;

(c) certified true copy of its last annual report filed with the Corporate Affairs Commission ;

(d) evidence of tax payment as and when due for a period of three years immediately preceding the year of the application ; and

(e) an undertaking by a reputable insurance company signifying that its employees shall be covered under an insurance policy issued against any form of

industrial accident.

(2) An applicant seeking registration under this section shall in addition satisfy the Council that—

(a) it has a minimum paid up share capital of ₦5,000,000 and provides a bank guarantee equal to the same amount ; and

(b) it has the capacity to acquire adequate equipment required for stevedoring, dock labour and shore handling operations.

(3) An applicant who satisfies the requirements specified in subsections (1) and (2) of this section may—

(a) be registered as a dock labour or stevedoring company, jetty or terminal operator on payment of registration fee of not more than ₦100,000 ; and

(b) be issued with a registration certificate.

(4) A registration certificate issued under this Part of this Act to a dock labour employer, stevedoring company, jetty or terminal operator may be renewed annually on payment to the Council of the sum of not more than ₦50,000.00.

(5) No body corporate shall engage any person as a dock worker in the ports specified in this Act unless he is registered as a dock worker under this Act.

18.—(1) Where an offence under this Act which has been committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed on the instigation or with the connivance of or attributable to any neglect on the part of a director, manager, secretary, head of a branch or project manager, or similar other officer of the body corporate, or any person purporting to act in such capacity, he, as well as the body corporate, where practicable, shall be deemed to be guilty of that offence and liable to be prosecuted.

Offence by  
bodies  
corporate.

(2) Where a person is convicted of an offence under subsection (1) of this section, he shall—

(a) in the case of an individual, be liable to a fine not less than ₦50,000 or imprisonment for a term of six months ; and

(b) in the case of the body corporate, be liable to a fine not less than ₦500,000.

#### PART V.—REGISTRATION OF SEAFARERS AND SEAFARER EMPLOYERS

19. An application for registration as a seafarer may be made by eligible candidates who shall satisfy the following requirements—

Registration  
of seafarers.

(a) he is a Nigerian citizen ;

(b) he has attained the age of 18 years and not above 35 years ;

(c) evidence of educational qualification of not less than secondary school certificate for ratings and qualification and experience as appropriate for officers ; and

(d) he is certified medically fit by a medical practitioner approved by the Council in line with the requirements of International Convention of Standards of Training Certificate and Watch-keeping for seafarers (STCW Convention 1995) Regulation 1/9.

Form of  
application  
for seafarers.

20.—(1) All applications for registration shall be in the form prescribed by the Council from time to time and shall be accompanied by the following—

- (a) four passport photographs ;
- (b) evidence of educational qualification with mandatory courses ;
- (c) medical certificate ; and
- (d) birth certificate or declaration of age.

Registration  
of seafarer  
employers.

21.—(1) Application for registration as a seafarer employer shall be made in such form as may be prescribed by the Council from time to time and shall be accompanied by the following—

- (a) certified true copy of certificate of incorporation;
- (b) Memorandum and Articles of Association;
- (c) a copy of the operating licence and safety certificate of the vessel;

(d) evidence of tax payment for the preceding three years; and

(e) evidence of protection and indemnity (P&I) cover on the vessel to be crewed.

(2) Any company seeking registration under this section shall in addition satisfy the Council that—

(a) it has a minimum paid up share capital of at least ₦10,000,000.00; and

(b) it has adequate fire prevention, fighting and life saving appliances and equipment on the vessel to be crewed.

(3) An applicant who satisfied the requirements specified in subsections (1) and (2) of this section may be—

(a) registered as a seafarer employer on payment of a registration fee of not more than ₦100,000.00; and

(b) issued with a registration certificate.

(4) The registration certificate issued under this section may be renewed annually on payment to the Council of the sum of not more than ₦50,000.00.

(5) A registered seafarer employer shall engage only registered seafarers in their vessels in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Offences by  
individuals or  
corporate  
bodies.

22.—(1) A person who contravenes a provision of this part commits an offence and on conviction shall—

(a) in the case of an individual be liable to a fine of ₦100,000.00 or imprisonment for a term of 6 months or both;

(b) in the case of a body corporate, be liable to a fine of not less than ₦1,000,000.00.

Part VI.—OBLIGATIONS OF REGISTERED DOCK WORKERS, SEAFARERS,  
STEVEDORING COMPANIES, JETTY AND TERMINAL OPERATORS

23.—(1) A registered dock worker and seafarer shall—

Obligations of  
dock worker  
and seafarer.

(a) while on duty, wear his gears and carry his identity card on his person and produce it on demand for inspection by authorized personnel;

(b) while in the port premises or on vessel conduct himself properly and not constitute himself into a public nuisance or security risk; and

(c) carry out his duties in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the conditions of employment as agreed with his employers and approved by the Council.

(2) Any dock worker or seafarer who—

(a) fails to carry out his duties in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the conditions of his employment;

(b) fails to comply with any lawful order given to him by his employer;

(c) is inefficient or negligent in the discharge of his duties; or

(d) absent himself from duty without permission or other acceptable reason;  
is liable to be suspended from duty for a period not exceeding 90 days.

(3) Any dock worker or seafarer who—

(a) engages in any malpractice or fraudulent act; or

(b) conducts himself in a disorderly manner in a port area, the pool or on board vessel; commits an offence under this Act and is liable to have his registration certificate revoked by the Council.

24.—(1) A registered stevedoring company or seafarer employer, jetty and terminal operator shall—

Obligations of  
the employer.

(a) keep such records as may be required to be kept, from time to time, by the Council;

(b) furnish in such form as may be specified, from time to time by the Council, such true and accurate information relating to—

(i) the number of registered dock workers or seafarers in its employment within a period of time;

(ii) the basic and overtime remuneration rates paid to its dock workers or seafarers; and

(iii) any proposed disciplinary action involving the dismissal or suspension of any dock worker or seafarer to the Council for approval;

(c) engage the services of only registered dock workers or seafarers;

(d) promptly pay wages and other entitlements of dock workers and seafarers;

(e) report any other disciplinary action against erring dock workers and seafarers under its employment;

(f) provide adequate cargo handling plants and equipment which are necessary for the discharge of any of its duties in the ports and on vessel ;

- (g) provide adequate protective gears for the safety of its dock workers and seafarers;
- (h) provide group insurance cover from a reputable insurance company approved by the Council against any form of industrial accidents ;
- (i) only engage the services of stevedoring companies registered by the Council ;
- (j) in the case of seafarer employer sign the approved article of agreement with the seafarer in the presence of the Inspector of Shipping or any authorized officer ; and.
- (k) pay such levies and statutory contributions required to this Act or such other levies as may be imposed by the Council from time to time.

(2) A registered stevedoring company, seafarer employer, jetty or terminal operator who fails to comply with the provisions of this section or any regulation made pursuant to this Act, is liable to have its registration certificate suspended for a period not exceeding 90 days and, should the non compliance persist, its registration may be revoked by the Board.

#### PART VII—CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF DOCK WORKERS AND SEAFARERS

Training,  
medical  
services,  
welfare and  
pensions.

25.—(1) It shall be an implied condition in any contract of employment between a registered dock worker and a registered dock labour employer, stevedoring company, jetty or terminal operator or seafarer and seafarer employer that the rate of remuneration and conditions of service shall be in accordance with any local or national collective agreements for the time being in force.

(2) The conditions of service for permanent and casual dock workers and seafarers include—

- (a) training;
- (b) the provision of medical services ; and.
- (c) the establishment of a welfare and disengagement scheme for casual dock workers and seafarers by the Council based on levies from—
  - (i) the Nigerian Ports Authority,
  - (ii) the Shipping Companies,
  - (iii) the Stevedoring Companies,
  - (iv) the Jetty or Terminal Operators,
  - (v) registered seafarer employers,
  - (vi) the National Maritime Authority, and
  - (vii) the dock workers and seafarers (ratings).

(3) The Council shall prescribe *and administer* the training, medical and welfare scheme of registered casual dock workers and seafarers in the pool.

(4) The stevedoring companies, jetty or terminal operators and seafarer employers shall fund and administer the training, medical and pension scheme of registered permanent dock workers and seafarers under the supervision of the Council.

26.—A registered stevedoring company, jetty or terminal operator and seafarer employer shall—

Wages and remuneration.

(a) pay wages or other remuneration directly to a dock worker or seafarer for service rendered; and

(b) not pay wages or remuneration through a supervisor, headman or any person in charge of a gang of dock workers or seafarers.

27.—Any registered stevedoring company, jetty or terminal operator or seafarer employer who contravenes the provisions of section 26 of this Act commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of ₦500,000.00 or 6 months imprisonment or both.

Penalty

#### PART VIII—ESTABLISHMENT OF MARITIME LABOUR MONITORING COMMITTEE ETC

28.—There is established in each port a Maritime Labour Monitoring Committee (in this Act referred to as "the Committee"), which shall be charged with such responsibility as the Board may determine from time to time.

Establishment of Maritime Labour Monitoring Committee.

29.—(1) The Committee shall consist of—

Composition of Committee.

(a) a chairman,

(b) secretary,

(c) a representative each from the organisations represented in the Board, who shall be appointed by the Council.

30.—Subject to the provisions of this Act, a person appointed as a member of the Committee shall hold office for a period of two years from the date of appointment.

Tenure of office.

31.—The Committee shall—

Functions of the Committee.

(a) monitor the registration of dock workers and seafarers in the maritime industry in accordance with the conditions specified by the Council ;

(b) ensure that no person, other than a registered dock worker or seafarer, is engaged to perform any dock work or seafaring ;

(c) prevent the entry of any dock worker or seafarer into any place to which this Act applies who is not registered in accordance with the provisions of this Act ; and

(d) carry out such other functions as may, from time to time, be referred to it by the Council.

#### PART IX—ESTABLISHMENT OF A POOL OF DOCK WORKERS AND SEAFARERS

32.—There is established a pool for dock workers and seafarers (in this Act referred to as "the Pool") outside the port or vessel which shall consist of the following categories—

Establishment of a pool of dock workers and seafarers.

(a) in the case of dock workers—

(i) general labour,

- (ii) tally clerks,
- (iii) security men,
- (iv) winch men,
- (v) roll-on-roll-off drives, and
- (vi) plant operators,
- (b) in the case of seafarers—
  - (i) deck officers,
  - (ii) engine room officers,
  - (iii) catering officers, and
  - (iv) all ratings.

Choice of  
dock  
Workers and  
Seafarers.

**33.**—All registered stevedoring companies, seafarer employers, jetty or terminal operators, manning agents or such other similar bodies shall engage registered dock workers and seafarers in accordance with such guidelines as may be issued by the Council from time to time;

Provided that nothing in this part will limit the choice by seafarer employers to seafarers in the pool.

#### PART X—ESTABLISHMENT OF A MARITIME LABOUR WELFARE DISENGAGEMENT FUND

Establishment  
and  
management  
of the Fund.

**34—(1)** There is established for the Council a Maritime Labour Welfare Disengagement Fund (in this Act referred to as “the Fund”) into which shall be paid and credited—

(a) 2 per cent of dock workers' and seafarers' earnings which shall be deducted at source by their employers ; and

(b) contributions from all organisations represented in the Board as the Minister may determine from time to time.

(2) The Board shall set up a Maritime Labour Welfare and Disengagement Committee (in this Act referred to as “the Management Committee”) to manage the Fund.

(3) The management Committee shall, subject to the approval of the Board, apply the funds towards the following objectives—

- (a) the general welfare of casual dock workers and seafarers;
- (b) payment of disengagement benefits to casual dock workers and seafarers ;
- (c) the training of casual dock workers and seafarers and for that purpose to establish training centers ;
- (d) cost of administration of the Fund ; and
- (e) any other matter, which the Board may direct.

(4) The Committee set up in sub-section (2) of this section shall exercise such power as may be delegated to it by the Board pursuant to the directive of the Minister for the effective management of the Fund in accordance with the objectives of this Act.

35.—(1) The Maritime Labour Welfare and Disengagement Committee shall be headed by the Executive Chairman of the Council.

Membership  
and  
composition  
of the  
Committee.

(2) Other members shall comprise—

(a) one representative of—

- (i) the Federal Ministry of Transport;
- (ii) the Federal Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity;
- (iii) the Nigerian Ports Authority;
- (iv) the Nigerian Shippers' Council;
- (v) the National Maritime Authority;
- (vi) Merchant Navy Officers Association of Nigeria;
- (vii) Dock Labour Employers;
- (viii) Seafarer Employers;
- (ix) Terminal Operators; and

(b) two representatives of —

- (i) Maritime Workers Union of Nigeria; and
- (ii) the Nigerian Shipping Companies;

(c) two ex-officio members to be appointed by the Chairman; and

(d) the Secretary to the Board representing the Joint Maritime Labour Industrial Council.

36. The management Committee shall establish and maintain a separate account for the Fund from which shall be defrayed all the expenditure to be incurred by it.

Account of  
the Fund.

#### PART XI—LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

37.—(1) No suit shall lie against the Council for any act done unless it is filed within 12 months of the happening of the said act or within 12 months next after the continuance of the said act has ceased.

Proceeding  
against the  
Council.

(2) No suit shall be commenced against the Council before the expiration of a period of one month after written notice of intention to commence the suit shall have been served on the Council by the intending plaintiff or his agents and the notice shall clearly and explicitly state—

- (a) the cause of action;
- (b) the particulars of claim;
- (c) the name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff; and
- (d) the relief which he claims.

(3) For the purpose of this section "suit" means a civil proceeding commenced by writ of summons or such other manner as may be prescribed by rules of Court and includes an action but not a criminal proceeding.

(4) The notice referred to in subsection (2) and any summons, notice or other document required or authorised to be served on the Council in connection with a suit by or against the Council may be served by—

- (a) delivering it to Executive Chairman; or
- (b) sending it by registered post addressed to the Executive Chairman at the Head Office of the Council.

(5) In any action or suit against the Council, no execution or attachment or process in the nature thereof shall be issued against the Council, but the Council shall pay any sum of money, which may by the judgment of the Court, be awarded to the plaintiff, from the funds of the Council.

(6) A person connected with the direct working of the Council shall not be removed under arrest when his immediate removal from duty might result into danger to life or goods, whether in execution of a warrant or otherwise, which actually engaged in the performance of his duties until—

- (a) the head of the department in which he is employed; or
- (b) the officer in immediate charge of the work in which the person is engaged; has been given an opportunity of providing a substitute.

(7) In any suit pending before a court, the Council may be represented at any stage of the proceeding by any employee of the Council who shall satisfy the Court that he is duly authorised in writing by the Council in that behalf.

#### PART XII—MISCELLANEOUS

Cancellation  
of  
registration.

38. Where the Council or the Board orders the suspension or revocation of a registration certificate issued under this Act in relation to—

- (a) a dock worker or seafarer; or
- (b) a stevedoring company, seafarer employer, jetty or terminal operator, it shall direct the submission of the registration certificate to the Secretary to the Board within 3 days.

Jurisdiction

39. The Federal High Court shall have jurisdiction to try related offences and offences created in this Act and to which no penalties have been prescribed under any section of this Act.

Power to  
make  
regulations.  
Repeal of  
Act No. 37  
of 1999.

40. The Minister may in addition to any other powers conferred on him under this Act, make regulations generally for the purpose of this Act.

41. The Nigerian Dock Labour Act No. 37, 1999 is repealed.

42.—(1) Accordingly, the statutory functions, rights, interests, obligations and liabilities of the Joint Dock Labour Industrial Council existing before the commencement of this Act under any contract or instrument or in law or in equity shall, by virtue of this Act, be deemed to have been assigned to and vested in the Joint Maritime Labour Industrial Council established by this Act.

Savings and transfer of liabilities, staff, etc.

(2) Any such contract or instrument mentioned in subsection (1) of this section shall be of the same force and effect against or in favour of the Joint Maritime Labour Industrial Council established by this Act and shall be enforceable as fully and effectively as if instead of the Joint Dock Labour Industrial Council existing before the commencement of this Act, the Joint Maritime Labour Industrial Council established by this Act, has been named therein or had been a party thereto.

(3) The Joint Maritime Labour Industrial Council established by this Act shall be subject to all the obligations and liabilities to which the Joint Dock Labour Industrial Council existing before the commencement of this Act was subject immediately before the commencement of this Act and all other persons shall have the same rights, powers and remedies against the Joint Maritime Labour Industrial Council established by this Act as they had against the Joint Dock Labour Industrial Council existing before the commencement of this Act.

(4) Any proceeding or cause of action pending or existing immediately before the commencement of this Act, by or against the Joint Dock Labour Industrial Council existing before the commencement of this Act in respect of any right, interest, liability or obligation of the Joint Dock Labour Industrial Council existing before the commencement of this Act may be continued or, as the case may be, commenced and any determination of a court shall be for or against the Joint Maritime Labour Industrial Council established by this Act to the same extent that such proceeding or cause of action or determination might have been continued, commenced or enforced by or against the Joint Dock Labour Industrial Council existing before the commencement of this Act.

(5) All assets, funds, resources and other movable or immovable property which immediately before the commencement of this Act were vested in Joint Dock Labour Industrial Council existing before the commencement of this Act shall by virtue of this Act and without further assurance, be vested in the Joint Maritime Labour Industrial Council established by this Act.

(6) Any person who immediately before the coming into force of this Act is the holder of any office in the Joint Dock Labour Industrial Council or the Nigerian Shipping Federation existing before the commencement of this Act shall on the commencement of this Act, continue in office and be deemed to have been appointed to his office by the Joint Maritime Labour Industrial Council established by this Act unless the authority by which the person was appointed terminates the appointment.

43. In this Act—

"Board" means the Governing Board of the Joint Maritime Labour Industrial Council established under Section 3 of this Act ;

Interpretation.

"Committee" means the Maritime Labour Monitoring Committee established under section 28 of this Act ;

"Council" means the Joint Maritime Labour Industrial Council established under section 1 of this Act ;

"Dock Worker" means a person registered under this Act to perform dock work ;

"Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for matters relating to transport ;

"Pool" means a Maritime Labour and Seafarers Employment Center ;

"Port Dues" includes ship dues, cargo dues and any Royalty ;

"Register" means the register of dock workers, seafarers, stevedoring companies, seafarer employers, jetty and terminal operators to be maintained by the Council ;

"Seafarer" for the purposes of this Act, means a person who assists in the navigation and operation of a vessel at sea and includes officers and seamen (ratings) ;

"Seafarer Employer" means a shipping company or ship owner who employs seafarers ;

"Stevedoring Company" (or Dock Labour Employer) means a body corporate (registered by the Council) who employs dockworkers to perform dock work.

Citation.

46. This Act may be cited as the Nigerian Maritime Labour Act, 2003.

## SCHEDULES

## FIRST SCHEDULE

## Section 3 (5)

## SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD, ETC.

*Proceedings of the Board, Cap. 192 LFN.*

1. Subject to the provisions of this Act and section 27 of the Interpretation Act (which provides for decisions of a body to be taken by a majority of members of that body and for the person presiding to have a second or casting vote), the Board may make standing orders regulating its proceedings or those of any of its committees.

2. The quorum at a meeting of the Board shall consist of the Chairman (or in appropriate cases the person presiding at the meeting pursuant to this paragraph of this Schedule) and five other members.

Quorum.

3.—(1) The Chairman shall preside at any meeting of the Board, but in the absence of the Chairman, the members present shall appoint one of them to preside at the meeting.

(2) The provisions of subparagraph (1) of this paragraph shall also apply to meetings of the committees.

(3) Where standing orders made under paragraph (1) of this Schedule provide for the Board or a committee to co-opt persons who are not members of the Board or committee, any such person may advise the Board or committee on any matter referred to him by the Board or committee but shall not be entitled to vote at a meeting of the Board or committee or count towards a quorum.

4.—(1) The Board may appoint one or more committees to carry out, on behalf of the Board, such of its functions as the Board may determine.

Committees.

(2) A committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of such number of persons as may be determined by the Board, and any person other than a member of the Board shall hold office on a committee in accordance with the term of his appointment.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this Act a decision of a committee of the Board shall only have effect when confirmed by the Board.

5. The validity of any proceeding of the Board or of a committee shall not be affected by any vacancy in the membership of the Board or the committee, or by any defect in the appointment of a member of the Board or of a committee, or by reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings of the Board or the committee.

6.—(1) Any member of the Board and any person holding office in a committee of the Board who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Board or a committee shall disclose his interest to the Board and shall not vote on any question relating to the contract or arrangement.

(2) At any time while the office of the Chairman is vacant or the Chairman is, in the opinion of the Board temporarily or permanently unable to perform the functions of his office, a member of the Board duly appointed by the Board shall perform those functions and references in this Act to the Chairman shall be construed accordingly.

Miscellaneous.

7. The fixing of the seal of the Council shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or of any other person authorised in that behalf by the Board.

8. Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal may be made or executed on behalf of the Council by any person generally or specially authorised to act for that purpose by the Board.

9. Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal or on behalf of the Council or a committee may be received in evidence and presumed to be so executed unless the contrary is proved.

10. The Board or a committee may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership or of any defect in the appointment of a member or the absence of a member.

SECOND SCHEDULE *Section 16(4)*

PORTS TO WHICH THIS ACT APPLIES—

1. Lagos Port Complex, Lagos.
2. Tin Can Island Port, Lagos.
3. Roro Port, Lagos.
4. Container Terminal, Lagos.
5. Kirikiri Lighter Terminal, Lagos.
6. Port Harcourt Port.
7. Federal Lighter Terminal, Lagos.
8. Federal Ocean Terminal, Onne.
9. Calabar Port.
10. Warri Port.
11. Burutu Port.
12. Koko Port.
13. Koko Town Port.
14. Sapele Port.
15. Akassa Port.
16. Bonny Port.
17. Degema Port.
18. Forcados Port.
19. The Private Jetties.
20. Tiko.
21. Inland Port.
22. Inland Container Depots (ICD).
23. Terminal/Warehouse.
24. And any other Port as may be designated by the Minister.

I certify, in accordance with section 2(1) of the Acts Authentication Act, Cap. 4, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990, that this is a true copy of the Bill passed by both houses of the National Assembly.

IBRAHIM SALIM, CON  
*Clerk to the National Assembly*  
20th Day of June, 2003

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

This Act repeals the Nigerian Dock Labour Act No. 37 of 1999 and enact the Nigerian Maritime Labour Act, 2003.

**SCHEDULE TO THE NIGERIAN MARITIME LABOUR BILL, 2003**

| (1)<br><i>Short Title of<br/>the Bill</i>      | (2)<br><i>Long Title of the Bill</i>                                                                                  | (3)<br><i>Summary of Contents of the Bill</i>                                                                                  | (4)<br><i>Date<br/>passed by<br/>Senate</i> | (5)<br><i>Date passed<br/>by House of<br/>Representatives</i> |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| The Nigerian<br>Maritime Labour Bill,<br>2003. | An Act to repeal the Nigerian Dock Labour<br>Act No. 37 of 1999 and enact the Nigerian<br>Maritime Labour Bill, 2003. | This Bill seeks to repeal the Nigerian Dock<br>Labour Act No. 37 of 1999 and enact the<br>Nigerian Maritime Labour Bill, 2003. | 21-5-2003                                   | 22-5-2003                                                     |

I certify that this Bill has been carefully compared by me with the decision reached by the National Assembly and found by me to be true and correct decision of the Houses and is in accordance with the provisions of the Acts Authentication Act Cap. 4, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990.

I ASSENT.



IBRAHIM SALIM, CON  
*Clerk to the National Assembly*  
20th Day of June, 2003

CHIEF OLUSEGUN OBASANJO, GCFR  
*President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria*  
25th Day of June, 2003