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NIGERIAN NATIONAL MIGRATION POLICY

Background

Prior to the adoption of the NMP, it has been noticed that Nigeria migrants face a lot of challenges such as human rights violations. Furthermore, there is a need to effectively manage migration for the socio-economic development of Nigeria.

The policy addresses issues related to diaspora mobilization, border management, decent treatment of migrants, internally displaced persons, asylum seekers and the role of civil society in migration management, in order to ensure a more efficient management of migration in Nigeria.

The national migration policy is an indispensable tool for an effective cohesion and management of migration.

The Purpose Statement

The primary purpose of the NMP is to ensure the free movement of nationals as enshrined in the 1999 Nigerian constitution while reducing occurrences of irregular migration and provide a mechanism for the protection and monitoring of the well-being of Nigerians abroad as well as foreign migrants within Nigeria. In addition, the Policy will enhance the development of more efficient, effective and cheaper means of sending remittances and foreign direct investment by Nigerians in the diaspora, thus ensuring that remittances become one of the top three sources of foreign exchange. Through the implementation of this Policy, the Government of Nigeria will provide a solid mechanism to match the supply of labour with demand in a safe, humane, legal and orderly manner, so as to enhance the economic, social and human development of the country.

Furthermore, the purpose of the NMP is the advancement and protection of the human rights of Nigerian migrants, such as migrant workers, within and outside Nigeria. This policy recognizes the challenges of migration in Nigeria but focuses more on the opportunities and its benefits for national development.

The Applicability and Scope of the Policy

The policy and its implementation plan provide an appropriate legal framework for monitoring and regulating internal and international migration, and proper collection and dissemination of migration data. The policy is intended for migrants whether national or international. The national migration policy covers all those moving internally within a state and those crossing international borders. The policy is applicable in cases where migration involves moving from rural to urban cities in search of economic and social benefits.

The policy is also applicable to Nigerians in diaspora. According to the policy, some Nigerians in diaspora particularly in the United States and Cameroon are skilled professionals either as health workers or others and they have the potential to contribute to development in their state of origin.

Effective Date

Plans for the national migration policy began as early as 2006; the policy was formerly adopted on the 13th of May 2015.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the federal government to provide funds to finance the policy. The policy will also require the input of both state and local governors to ensure its success. The policy acknowledges that civil society, the organized private sector, national agencies, NGOs, international organizations and foreign nations all have a stake in the effective management of migration.