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## **A LAW TO ESTABLISH THE BENUE STATE COMMISSION FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION AND FOR OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH**

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**A LAW TO ESTABLISH THE BENUE STATE COMMISSION FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION AND FOR OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH.**

ENACTED by the Benue State House of Assembly as follows:

**PART I  
PRELIMINARY**

1. This Law may be cited as the Benue State Commission for Peace and Reconciliation Law, 2022 and shall come into effect on the 21st day of September, 2022. *Short title and commencement.*
2. In this Law, *Definition.*
  - “Board” means the Board of the Commission established under this Law;
  - “Chairman” means the Chairman of the Board of the Commission or of the Local Government Peace Committee or of the Peace Fund Committee as established under this Law;
  - “Commission” means the Benue State Commission for Peace and Reconciliation established under this Law;
  - “Committee” means Executive Working Committee, the Local Government Peace Committee established for each Local Government Area of the State under this Law, or Peace Fund Committee established under Section 22 of this Law;
  - “CSOs” means Civil Society Organisations;
  - “Court” means any court of competent jurisdiction with powers to hear and determine causes and matters (Civil or Criminal) under the Laws of Benue State and Nigeria;
  - “Director General” means the Director General and Chief Executive Officer of the Commission;
  - “Executive Working Committee” means the Executive Committee established under this Law;
  - “Farmer” means a person who cultivates land;
  - “Function” includes powers and duties;
  - “Fund” means the Benue State Peace Fund created for the Commission under this Law;
  - “Governor” means the Governor of Benue State;
  - “Gross Misconduct” means a specific act of wrongdoing such as dishonesty, insubordination, negligence and corruption;
  - “Herdsman”, “Herder” or “Pastoralist” means a person who rears, takes care of, tends or drives animals or herds livestock, often as a nomad;

“House of Assembly” means the Benue State House of Assembly;

“Member” means a member of the Board or the Executive Working Committee including the Chairman and the Director General of the Commission;

“NGOs” means Non Governmental Organizations; and

“State” means Benue State of Nigeria.

## PART II

### ESTABLISHMENT, OBJECTIVES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION

3. (1) There is hereby established for the State a body to be known as the Benue State Commission for Peace and Reconciliation (in this Law referred to as “the Commission”). *Establishment of the Commission.*
- (2) The Commission shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, and may sue and be sued in its corporate name.
- (3) The Commission shall have the power to acquire, hold or dispose of any property or interest in property, whether movable or immovable, for the purpose of carrying out its functions under this Law.
4. The broad objective of the Commission shall be to ensure mitigation of conflict, management of emerging disputes and positive transformation of relationships at all levels of society including working closely with relevant Government Institutions and Non-State Actors to promote peaceful co-existence among ethnic, cultural and religious groups in the State. *Objectives.*
5. The main functions of the Commission shall be as follows: *Functions of the Commission.*
- (1) Regularly advise the Government on issues of peace and conflict, propose policy options and establish mechanisms for reconciliatory dialogues and sustainable peace.
- (2) Design, adopt and implement appropriate frameworks for collaborative partnerships amongst governmental, Non-Governmental, Civil Society Organisations and Community-Based Organisations working on issues relating to conflict prevention and peace building in the State;

- (3) Formulate, adopt and implement appropriate proactive measures and strategies for prevention of crises bordering on communal clashes, land/boundary disputes, farmer/herder (pastoralist) attacks, chieftaincy disputes, Indigenes-Settlers disputes, and religious disagreements, including early warning and response to conflicts involving diverse occupational groups and resource users in the State;
  - (4) Provide a viable platform for coordination of the activities of State and Non- State Actors involved in peace building and/or conflict prevention and mitigation in the State.
  - (5) Support the development and coordination of governmental policies on post-conflict recovery, reconstruction and resettlement of persons and groups affected by conflicts in a manner that promotes sustainable peace and security in the State;
  - (6) Serve as an intellectual pool and support-base to government in formulating policies and implementing programmes that contribute to the promotion of peace as well as prevention and management of conflicts;
  - (7) Regularly review peace and reconciliatory policies and practices in the state to make them consistent with emerging trends and global best practices.
  - (8) Engage in conflict monitoring and mitigation activities, including organising regular interactive meetings among communities, carrying out peace advocacy and sensitization programmes in the mass media, schools, places of worship and other public places with a view to promoting inter-communal and inter-faith understanding and mutual respect among communities and groups in the State;
6. The Commission shall perform the following Additional Functions:
- (1) Assist the Government in the formulation of policies and measures that promote general security, social stability and compliance with the rule of law, and develop strategies that will check negative social values and vices capable of causing crisis in the State;

- (2) Adopt its own measures, modalities and operations and support the State government to develop and integrate conflict sensitivity measures in all State wide-plans and programmes with a view to promoting peaceful co-existence and minimizing conditions for conflict aggravation;
  - (3) Develop models of conflict prevention, management and resolution for Communities involved in communal clashes, boundary/land disputes, chieftaincy disputes, religious conflicts, political conflicts, conflicts between farmers and herders, and other forms of conflict among other resource users with a view to promoting environmental peace building;
  - (4) Promote mutual understanding and respect between Communities involved in communal clashes and other disputes through sensitization and regular joint interactive meetings with Community leaders to settle disputes and resolve common problems;
  - (5) Liaise and partner with other local Communities, neighbouring States, local and international Organizations and Agencies involved in peace mediation and conflict resolution works in carrying out its functions;
  - (6) Carry out such other functions as may be necessarily connected with or incidental to the performance of these functions or such other functions as may from time to time be assigned to it by the Governor.
7. The Commission shall in the performance of its duties under this Law exercise the following powers:
- (1) To gather, by means it deems appropriate, any information it considers relevant, including the power to request reports, records, documents or any information from any source, including governmental authorities, and to compel the production of such information as and when necessary;
  - (2) To visit any establishment or place without giving prior notice, and to enter upon any land or premises for any purpose which is material to the fulfilment of the Commission's mandate and

*Powers of the  
Commission.*

in particular, for the purpose of obtaining information or inspecting any property or taking copies of any documents which may be of assistance to the Commission, and for safeguarding any such property or document;

- (3) Subject to adequate provisions being made to meet his expenses for the purpose, to call upon any person to meet with the Commission or its staff, or to attend a session or hearing of the Commission, and to compel the attendance of any person who fails to respond to a request of the Commission to appear and to answer questions relevant to the subject matter of the session or hearing;
- (4) To request information from the relevant authorities of any State in Nigeria and to gather information from victims, witnesses, government officials and others in any State;
- (5) Monitor and receive reports from its Committees, deliberate, review and act on the reports as appropriate;
- (6) Issue invitations for the purposes of carrying out its functions;
- (7) Receive complaints and intervene by using non-violent means to deal with matters that are likely to cause disturbance to communal peace and tranquillity from whatever sources;
- (8) Cause a register to be kept by all Civil Societies and Non Governmental Organisations which are operating or intend to operate within the State in peace building and or conflict prevention and mitigation;
- (9) Liaise with all relevant Agencies to cause the attendance of any person before it to answer questions relevant to the subject matter of any hearing before it, and to that extent require that statements be given under oath or affirmation and to administer such oath or affirmation;
- (10) Interview any individual, group or members of Organizations or Institutions and at the Commission 's discretion, conduct such interviews in private or public;
- (11) Collaborate with similar agencies in other States for the purpose of achieving its objectives; and

- (12) Issue regulations and guidelines to regulate its own activities and the conduct of its members and staff from time to time;
8. The Commission shall in the performance of its functions and the exercise of its powers under this Law be guided by the following principles:
- (1) Impartiality, fairness, transparency, equality before the law, justice and the protection of human rights;
- (2) Public participation, respect for diversity, non-discrimination and peaceful co-existence; and
- Guiding Principles of the Board.*

**PART III**  
**STRUCTURE, APPOINTMENTS, AND STAFF**  
**OF THE COMMISSION**

9. (1) There is hereby established a Governing Board for the Commission.
- (2) The governance and direction of the Commission shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Law.
- (3) The Board of the Commission shall comprise the following Members:
- (a) a Chairman who shall be a person of integrity and who is well respected within the society with not less than twelve (12) years' cognate experience in matters relating to his assignment;
- (b) the Director General who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission shall be recruited through a competitive process; and shall have a minimum of ten (10) years' experience in policy formulation, peace work and conflict resolution;
- (c) the Secretary who shall double as secretary of the Executive Working Committee;
- (d) representatives of relevant Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies not less than the rank of Director and shall be well respected persons with proven experience to serve in that capacity;
- Governing Board of the Commission.*

- (e) one (1) representative of the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice;
- (f) three (3) well respected, eminent persons, one each from zone A, B and C of the State;
- (g) one (1) representative with vast experience in peace building;
- (h) one(1) representative of Ministry of Water Resources and Environment;
- (I) one(1) representative of Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources;
- (j) one(1) representative of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA);
- (k) the most Senior Appointee of the Governor responsible for security matters;
- (l) one (1) representative of Bureau of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs;
- (m) one (1) representative of Ministry of Women Affairs;
- (n) one (1) representative of Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning;
- (o) one (1) representative of Ministry of Information and Orientation;
- (p) one (1) representative from a recognised NGO whose mandate includes conflict resolution and peace building;
- (q) one (1) representative from the Ministry of Health;
- (r) one (1) representative from the Office of the Secretary to the State Government;
- (s) one (1) representative of the Army or/and Police, National Security and Civil Defence Corp (NSCDC) and State Security Service;
- (t) the Commander of the Benue State Vigilante Service or any other related organisation;
- (u) one (1) Representative of the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) in the State;
- (v) one (1) representative of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN);
- (w) one (1) representative of the Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) in the State;
- (x) two (2) representatives of Traditional Rulers in the State;
- (y) one (1) representative of the National Council of Women Societies or women umbrella organization;

- (z) two (2) representatives of the National Youth Council (NYC), one of whom shall be a female;
- (aa) Two (2) Civil Society Organisation (CSO) representatives one of whom shall be a female;
- (bb) one (1) representative of the Farmers' Association in the State;
- (cc) one (1) representative of the Herders' Association in the State; and
- (dd) one (1) representative of the Ministry of Lands, Survey and Solid Minerals.
- 10(1) A Member of the Board of the Commission shall hold office for a period of four (4) years and may upon satisfactory performance and subject to the provisions of Section 5 of this Law, be eligible for re-appointment for a further period of four (4) years and no more. *Tenure of Office and Appointment.*
- (2) The Chairman and other Members of the Board of the Commission other than the Director General and the Secretary shall serve on part time basis.
- (3) The Chairman and the Director General shall be appointed by the Governor.
- (4) Other members of the Board of the Commission shall be appointed by the Governor after consultation with the relevant groups and organisations they represent.
11. The Chairman and other Members of the Board of the Commission other than the Director General and the Secretary shall be paid such allowances as may be approved by the Governor. *Remuneration of Board Members.*
12. The Board shall be responsible for -:
- (a). providing general policy guidelines regarding the functions of the Commission and supervising the implementation of such policies; *Functions of the Board.*
- (b). ensuring proper monitoring and mitigation of conflicts and communal clashes within the State; and
- (c). doing all such things that may be deemed necessary and expedient towards achieving the aims and objectives of the Commission under this Law.

13. The Office of the Chairman or a Member of the Board of the Commission shall become vacant if the member:
- (a) dies before the expiration of the tenure;
  - (b) resigns by notice in writing under his hand addressed to the Governor; or
  - (c) is removed by the Governor in accordance with the provisions of this Law
- Vacancy of Office of the Chairman.*
14. The Governor may remove any Member of the Board of the Commission in the public interest if the Member is:
- (a) convicted of an offence which disqualifies him from being a member;
  - (b) incapacitated and is unable to perform the functions of his office due to physical or mental illness;
  - (c) found to have conflict of interest which is prejudicial to the objectives of the Commission ;
  - (d) absent from three (3) consecutive meetings of the Commission without permission of the Chairman; or
  - (e) indicted by a Panel of Inquiry for gross misconduct or deliberate engagement in activities that are incompatible with the objectives and policies of the Commission .
- Disqualification and removal of a Member.*
15. Where the position of any Member of the Board of the Commission has become vacant in accordance with the provisions of this Law, the Governor may fill the vacancy by appointing another person to complete the term under the provisions of this Law.
- Replacement of a Member.*
16. (1) The Board shall be autonomous in the day-to-day running of the technical, professional and administrative affairs of the Commission .
- Autonomy of the Board.*
- (2) Except for the Director-General and the Secretary, the recruitment of all staff of the Commission shall be subject to the Approval of the Board.
- ESTABLISHMENT OF EXECUTIVE WORKING COMMITTEE**
17. There shall be an Executive working committee of the Commission referred to in this Law as "The Executive working committee" which shall comprise of the following: -
- (a) the Director General of the Commission;
- Establishment of the Executive Working Committee.*

- (b) the Secretary of the Commission; and
- (c) eight (8) Directors of Departments as listed under Section 18(1) of this Law.

18(1) The Executive working Committee shall: -

- (a) have the power to recruit staff who are experienced in Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Matters as the Committee may consider necessary in the discharge of its duties;
- (b) have the power to co-opt staff from public service as the Committee may consider necessary in the discharge of its duties;
- (c) consider all matters that require professional and technical expertise and make recommendations to the Board;
- (d) advise the Board on all its powers and duties as specified in this Law; and
- (e) attend to such other matters as may be referred to it by the Board;

*Functions/Power  
s of Executive  
W o r k i n g  
Committee.*

- (2) The Executive working Committee may draft or accept on secondment, such officers of the public service of the State as it may consider necessary for the discharge of its duties under this Law, upon such terms and conditions as to remunerations or otherwise as are permitted under the provisions of the Public Service Rules.

- (3). Without prejudice to the provision of subsection (1) of this section, the Executive working Committee shall have power to appoint and exercise disciplinary control over such other officers, servants or agents of the Commission as it may deem necessary and shall determine the terms and conditions of their service as to remunerations or otherwise.

19. The Director General shall:

- (a) be the Chief Executive Officer of the Commission and shall have responsibility for implementing the policies, programmes and decisions of the Board; and
- (b) perform such functions and receive remunerations on such terms and conditions of service as shall be spelt out in his letter of appointment to the office.

*Office of the  
D i r e c t o r  
General.*

- 20 The Secretary of the Commission shall: *Office of the Secretary.*
- (a) be a senior employee of the status of a Director within the public service of the State and shall be appointed by the Governor;
  - (b) function as the administrative officer of the Commission and perform such functions of administrative nature in addition to such other duties as the Board may from time to time assign to the office;
  - (c) receive and issue communications and notices on behalf of the Board or the Management; and
  - (d) perform such functions and receive such remunerations on such terms and conditions of service as shall be spelt out in the letter of appointment to the office.
21. (1) There shall be established for the Commission the following Departments for efficient and effective discharge of its duties under this Law: *Departments under the Commission.*
- (a) Community Engagement, Advocacy and Strategic Partnerships
  - (b) Conflict Prevention, Early Warning and Response;
  - (c) Dialogue and Mediation;
  - (d) Reconciliation and Social Integration;
  - (e) Gender and Social Inclusion
  - (f) Legal and Advisory Services;
  - (g) Research and Evidence;
  - (h) Monitoring and Evaluation; and
  - (i) Finance and Administration.
- (2) The Departments shall operate under the direct control and guidance of the Director General who shall, in matters of administration, act through the Secretary of the Commission.
22. (1) There shall be established for each Local Government Area in the State a Local Government Peace Committee (hereinafter referred to as 'Peace Committee') whose members shall be appointed by the Governor and such appointments shall be notified to the Commission. *Establishment of Local Government Peace Committee.*
- (2) The Committee shall operate under the overall direction of the Commission and perform such functions at the Local Government level as may be delegated to it by the Board.

- (3) The Committee shall submit periodic reports to the Commission as may be required in line with guidelines issued by the Commission from time to time.
- (4) The Committee shall keep records of and liaise with all Traditional Rulers and Community/Town Association Leaders within the Local Government Area for the purpose of promoting inter-communal peace and preventing conflicts.
23. (1) The Committee shall comprise the following:
- (a) A Chairman who is experienced in conflict resolution and who is a highly respected member in the community;
- (b) Three (3) persons to represent the diverse demography of the Local Government Area, one (1) of who shall be a female recommended by the Chairman of the Local Government Council;
- (c) One (1) representative each of the Christian and the Muslim communities in the Local Government Area;
- (d) One (1) representative of the Benue State Community Volunteer Guards or any other security outfit established by Law in the State;
- (e) One (1) representative of the Traditional Institution in the Local Government Area;
- (f) Two (2) women with considerable experience in conflict prevention, conflict management and peace building appointed in a manner that reflects the diversity of ethnic and religious groups in the Local Government Area; and
- (g) Two (2) representatives of the Youths, one of whom shall be a female;
- (2) The Governor shall appoint a person who is experienced in administrative matters to serve as the Secretary of the Committee.
- (3) The Board shall have powers to recommend to the Governor the removal of any member of the Committee in the public interest or for inability to perform the function of his office, and the Governor shall, as he deems fit, appoint a person to replace the Member so removed.

*Composition of  
the Local  
Government  
Peace  
Committees.*

- (4) A member of the Committee may resign his/her membership by sending a one (1) month notice of resignation in writing to the Governor through the Chairman of the Committee, and upon receipt of the letter of resignation, the appointment of the member shall cease.

*Resignation by a  
Committee  
Member.*

24. (1) The Board and Local Government Peace Committees shall meet at least six (6) times in a year.

*Meetings of the  
Board of  
Committee.*

- (2) The Secretary shall issue notices of meetings of the Board whenever business requiring its attention warrants, or on the request of the Chairman, Director General and any three (3) members.
- (3) The Board and the Committee shall meet for the conduct of their businesses at such times and places and on such days as the Chairman of the Board and of the Committee respectively may appoint.
- (4) The Chairman of the Board or of the Committee may respectively on their own volition or at the request of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the members summon an emergency meeting to handle any particular matter as may become necessary from time to time.
- (5) The Chairman of the Board shall preside at every meeting of the Board but in his absence, the Director General of the Commission shall preside. Where both are absent, members present may nominate one of their number to preside over the meeting.
- (6) The Chairman of the Committee shall preside at every meeting of the Committee, but in his absence members present may nominate one of their number to preside over the meeting.
- (7) The person nominated pursuant to sub-section (5) of this section shall exercise all the powers and privileges of the Chairman for the purposes of that meeting only.
- (3) The quorum for meetings of the Board or of the Committee shall be a simple majority of members including the presiding chairman.

- (9) At a meeting of the Board or of the Committee, issues requiring a vote shall be determined by a simple majority of the members present and where there is a tie, the Chairman shall cast the deciding vote.
- (10) Where the Commission or the Committee desires to obtain the advice of any person on any particular issue or matter in its meeting, it may co-opt such a person to be a member for that purpose only.
- (11) A person so co-opted pursuant to sub-section (10) of this section shall not be entitled to vote and shall not count towards a quorum for meetings.
- (12) The Commission or the Committee may make standing orders for the purpose of regulating its own proceedings.
- (13) The Commission or the Committee may set up sub-committees to advise it on any matter which in its opinion would be better dealt with by such sub-committees and shall prescribe regulations that may guide such sub-committees in the performance of their duties.

*Sub-Committee of the Commission and of the Local Peace Committee.*

#### PART IV

##### FUNDING AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

- 25.(1) The Commission shall establish and maintain a Peace Fund which shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objectives of the Commission, into which shall be credited all monies appropriated to it and from which all expenditures incurred by it shall be defrayed.

*Establishment of Peace Fund.*

- (2) The Commission shall receive monies from the following sources:
- (a) Annual appropriation or supplementary appropriation from the State House of Assembly;
  - (b) Grants and donations from the Federal Government of Nigeria or the Benue State Government;
  - (c) Grants and donations from Development Partners, Philanthropic Individuals and Organisations, and

- other Donor Agencies;
- (d) Contributions from Local Government Areas for any specific and general purposes connected with the work of the Commission ;
- (e) Loans and other borrowings on such terms and conditions as may be approved by the Governor or the State Executive Council.
- (3) The Commission may accept donations from like-minded individuals and organizations if the conditions attached to the donations are not inconsistent with the objectives of the Commission.
- 26.(1) The Fund shall be managed by a Committee headed by the Chairman of the Board of the Commission and three (3) other members one (1) of whom shall be a female. *Management of Peace Fund Committee.*
- (2) The Director General of the Commission shall be the Secretary of the Fund.
- (3) All monies accruing to the Fund shall be used solely to further the objectives of the Commission as may be approved by the Governor on the recommendation of the Board. *Funding.*
- (4) The Local Government Peace Committee shall further be funded as directed by the Commission.
- 27.(1) The Commission shall maintain proper Books of Accounts of the Commission and that of the Committee, including Accounts of receipts, payments, assets and liabilities, and shall in respect of each year, cause the Account to be audited for the purpose of ensuring transparency and accountability. *Financial Regulations.*
- (2) The Accounts of the Commission for each year shall be audited by an Auditor appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the Auditor General of the State not later than three (3) months after the end of the financial year.
- (3) The Commission shall not later than three months before the end of each financial year or at such other time as the Governor may direct, submit an Estimate of its Revenue and Expenditure for the next succeeding financial year for

incorporation into the Appropriation Bill to be submitted to the State House of Assembly.

- (4) The Commission shall, within three (3) months after the expiration of each financial year, prepare and submit to the Governor a Report of its activities in such form and containing such particulars as he may from time to time direct during the immediately preceding financial year and shall include in the Report a copy of the audited account of the Commission for that year and of the Auditor's Report of the Accounts.

**PART V  
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

28. No member or staff of the Board, the Commission or of the Committee shall be liable for any act or omission done or made in good faith during lawful execution of his or her official duties as provided under the Law. *Protection of Commission and Committee Members.*
29. A person who is a party to any agreement or resolution of disputes against the Commission may seek the enforcement of such agreement, mediation or arbitral awards in a manner prescribed under the Arbitration Law for the time being in force in the State. *Enforcement of Arbitral Awards.*
- 30.(1) No suit shall be instituted in any Court of Law or Tribunal against the Commission or any of its Committees or officials until the expiration of one (1) month after a written notice has been served at the office of the Commission stating the cause of action, the reliefs sought and the particulars of the would be parties thereof. *Notice of Action on the Commission.*
- (2) Service of Notices and Documents on the Commission or any of its committees or officials shall be effected in such manner as ordinarily done in respect of processes directed at officials of the State or other public institutions. *Service of Notices and Documents.*
31. Where any person fails to respond or appear before the Commission pursuant to a summons or subpoena, without any lawful justification, such an act shall, at the discretion of the Commission, be treated as contempt, and may be referred to the High Court for trial and punishment. *Refusal to appear before the Commission.*

- 32 (1) The Commission, its Members and every other staff or employee shall function without bias or interference from any quarters whatsoever, and shall be impartial in the discharge of their duties under the Law; *Duties and Obligations of Members and Staff of the Commission.*
- (2) If at any stage during proceedings at any meeting of the Board or the Committee, it appears that a member has or may have a financial, personal or other pecuniary interest which may lead to conflict of interest in the performance of his functions, such a member shall excuse himself from that meeting to enable the remaining members decide whether the member should be precluded from participating in the meeting by reason of that interest.
- (3) If a member fails to disclose any conflict of interest as required and is present at a meeting of the Board or Committee or in any manner participates in the proceedings, such proceedings in relation to the relevant matter shall, as soon as such non-disclosure is discovered, be reviewed and be varied or set aside by the Board or Committee without the participation of the member concerned.
33. All persons, including members and officers of the Government, Traditional Institutions, Religious Leaders, and Groups shall always cooperate with the Commission in the course of performing or discharge of its duties, and accordingly shall provide unrestricted access to the Commission and its staff. *General Duties and Obligations.*
34. A person who wilfully obstructs or otherwise interferes with the activities of the Commission or any of its members or officers in the discharge of its or their functions under this Law commits an offence and shall be liable on conviction by a Court of competent jurisdiction to a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Naira (₦50,000.00) or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding three (3) months or both. *Offences.*

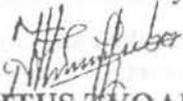
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No. 40 Vol. 47 6th October, 2022 BENUE STATE OF NIGERIA, GAZETTE Part A

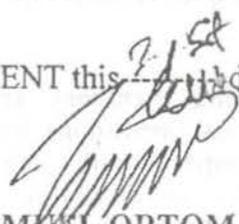
This Printed impression has been carefully compared by me with the Bill which passed the State Legislature and found to be a true and correctly printed copy of the said Bill.

  
**BARR. BERNARD I. NULE**  
*Clerk of the House*

This printed impression has been endorsed by me to be correct.

  
**RT. HON. TITUS TYOAPINE UBA**  
*Speaker*  
Benue State House of Assembly

I ~~ASSENT / WITHHOLD~~ ASSENT this <sup>21<sup>st</sup></sup> day of <sup>Sept</sup> 2022.

  
**SAMUEL ORTOM**  
*Governor*  
Benue State of Nigeria

----- Explanatory Note -----

The Law establishes the Benue State Commission for Peace and Reconciliation as a Commission for State Government and the Twenty Three (23) Local Governments in the State, responsible for the use of non-violent means to prevent conflict and promote and coordinate all activities targeted at building the culture of peaceful and harmonious coexistence among the diverse ethnic, cultural and religious groups in the State.