



Lagos State of Nigeria Official Gazette

No. 43

IKEJA — 13th September, 2016

Vol. 49

Lagos State Government Notice No. 63

The following is published as supplement to this Gazette:

Pages

LAW. No. 8 - A Law to Establish the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency for the Regulation and Control of Neighbourhood Safety Corps Activities and for conneced purposes. A53-59



MR. AKINWUNMI AMBODE
 GOVERNOR OF LAGOS STATE.

Law No. 8

2016

Lagos State of Nigeria
**A LAW TO ESTABLISH THE LAGOS STATE NEIGHBOURHOOD
 SAFETY AGENCY FOR THE REGULATION AND CONTROL OF
 NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY CORPS ACTIVITIES AND FOR
 CONNECTED PURPOSES**

(15th August 2016)

Commence-
ment.

THE LAGOS STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY enacts as follows:

1. In this Law, unless the context otherwise requires –
 - “Governor” means the Governor of Lagos State;
 - “Corps” means member of the Neighbourhood Safety Corps employed by the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency;
 - “Member” means a member of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency and includes the Chairman;
 - “Police” has the same meaning as in Police Act;
 - “State” means Lagos State.
 - “Local Government Areas” means the twenty (20) Local Government Areas and thirty-seven (37) Local Council Development Areas in the State;
 - “Appropriate Authority” means the Ministry or Department saddled with the responsibility to oversee the Agency;

2. The objectives of the Agency are to
 - (1) Establish a uniformed Neighbourhood Safety Corps within the State,
 - (2) Assist the police and other security agencies within the State to maintain Law and order by-
 - (a) gathering information about crime, crime in progress, suspicious activities and crime suspects among other things;

Interpreta-
tion.

Objectives of
the Agency

- (b) making available such relevant information on crime, crime in progress, suspicious activities and crime suspects to the Police or other security agencies that requires it;
- (c) putting structure in place to ensure that hoodlums and cult groups do not have the opportunity to operate in the communities or anywhere within the State.
- (d) undertaking routine motorised patrol day and night;
- (e) reducing the crime rate and ensuring that offenders are identified and made to account for their misdeeds;
- (f) following up on arrest of offenders to the court and ensuring justice;
- (g) timely reporting of suspicious activities and crimes in progress to the Police or other security agencies;
- (h) improving relationship between the Police and the community as it concerns law enforcement;
- (i) contributing to maintaining community peace;
- (j) providing the Police with relevant information that will enhance their understanding of how to effectively police the communities; and
- (k) assisting the Police to carry out any other lawful activities in maintaining law and order.

Establishment
of
Neighbourhood
Safety Agency.

3. — (1) There is established the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency (referred to in this Law as the “Neighbourhood Safety Agency”)

(2) The Agency shall-

- (a) be a body corporate with perpetual succession and common seal;
- (b) have power to sue and be sued in its corporate name; and
- (c) be capable of acquiring, holding, managing and disposing of properties movable or immovable, for the purpose of exercising its functions specified in this Law.

(3) The Neighbourhood Safety Agency shall be the coordinating body for the uniformed Neighbourhood Corps established and operating within all the Local Government Areas of the State.

Establishment
and Composi-
tion of the
Board.

4. — (1) There is established the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Agency Board (referred to in this Law as the “Board”) with responsibility for the operation and administration of the Agency.

(2) The Board shall comprise of-

- (a) a Chairman who shall be a person of impeccable character with experience in security matters, and shall be a retired military or police officer not below the rank of a major or its equivalent in other security services;

- (b) the Commissioner for Local Government & Community Affairs or the representative;
 - (c) the Executive Secretary, Lagos State Security Trust Fund;
 - (d) the Chairman Lagos State Task Force;
 - (e) a representative of the Commissioner of Police, Lagos State;
 - (f) a representative of the Director of State Security Service, Lagos State;
 - (g) five (5) persons with Community Security and Development Experience appointed from the five (5) divisions of the State; and
 - (h) Executive Secretary of the Agency.
5. The Chairman and other members of the Board except the Ex-officio members shall be appointed by the Governor. Appointment of Members of the Board.
6. The Chairman and members of the Board except the Ex-officio members shall hold office for a period of four (4) years, and be eligible for reappointment at the discretion of the Governor. Tenure of Office.
7. The Chairman and members of the Board with the exception of the Ex-officio members shall operate on part time basis and shall only be entitled to sitting allowance as approved by the Governor. Remuneration.
8. — (1) The Chairman or any member of the Board shall cease to hold office if the Chairman or member- Cessation of Membership.
- (a) resigns by giving one (1) month notice in writing addressed to the Governor;
 - (b) is unfit or unable to discharge the functions of the office either by reason of infirmity or mental incapacity;
 - (c) is convicted of a crime;
 - (d) becomes bankrupt; and
 - (e) is guilty of serious misconduct or dereliction of duties.
- (2) The Chairman or any member of the Board may be removed from office by the Governor, if the Governor is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the public that such a member should continue in office.
9. The functions of the Agency shall be to- Functions of the Agency.
- (1) take over all existing responsibilities of the neighbourhood Watch and absorb all eligible Watchers into the Corps;
 - (2) establish the uniformed neighbourhood Safety Corps in all Local Government Areas in the State;
 - (3) prescribe the regulations guiding operations of the Corps and other local vigilante groups within the State;
 - (4) approve the recruitment of eligible persons as corps members in all Local Government Areas of the State;

- (5) formulate guidelines, regulations and policies for the day to day operations of the Corps; and other local vigilante groups within the State;
- (6) discipline erring corps members;
- (7) provide uniforms, boots, communication gadgets and other equipment for the corp members in all the Local Government Areas of the State;
- (8) pay salaries and emoluments of the Corps members;
- (9) establish offices/ Safety Corps posts in all Local Government Areas and the headquarters in a place as approved by the Governor;
- (10) appoint the head of each Safety Corps in each Local Government Area from among officers in such Local Government Area; and
- (11) provide a uniform graded system of structure for the Safety Agency.

Meetings of
the Board.

10.—(1) Meetings of the Board shall be held quarterly except in situations where additional meeting may be called by the Executive Secretary of the Board after approval is obtained from the Chairman.

(2) The Chairman shall preside at all meetings and if absent any other member as agreed by members present after quorum is formed shall preside.

Quorum.

11. The quorum for the meeting of the Board shall be seven (7) members.

Secretary to
the Board.

12.—(1) There shall be an Executive Secretary of the Board who shall be a Legal Practitioner of at least ten (10) years post call experience and a public servant not below grade level 15.

(2) The Executive Secretary, who shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Agency is to be responsible for the day to day administration of the Agency and other duties as may be assigned by the Board.

Functions of
the Corps.

13. The Corps shall assist and complement the Nigeria Police Force and other Security Agencies in-

- (1) the protection of lives and properties within the State;
- (2) preventing and combating crime;
- (3) ensuring that all persons within the State are free to participate in their normal social and economic life without molestation, fear, let or hindrance;
- (4) protecting properties and infrastructure belonging to the State and Local Government Areas and public properties generally;
- (5) disarming unauthorised persons in possession of arms and other dangerous weapons;
- (6) rendering prompt assistance to accident victims;
- (7) gathering and making available intelligence security report to relevant authorities; and
- (8) providing daily security report to the Chairman of the Local Government Area;

- (9) registration of all private vigilante groups, private home security and any other person employed for private security;
- (10) exercising supervisory role over all existing local government owned vigilante groups;
- (11) assisting the Police in investigating crimes committed within its area;
- (12) timely report of suspicious activities, crimes in progress, crime suspects among other things;
- (13) providing relevant grass root information that will enhance the understanding of the Police on how to be effective within the community;
- (14) assisting the Police to carry out all lawful activities in maintaining law and order;
- (15) the protection of lives and properties by the prevention of crime and violence;
- (16) contributing to maintenance of peace within the community;
- (17) encouraging harmony and peaceful coexistence within the community;
- (18) alerting and educating the public of potential crimes, threats and behaviours that induce crime; and
- (19) such other directives the Governor may expressly confer on the Safety Corps in relation to the maintenance and security of public order and safety.

14. The appointment, promotion and exercise of disciplinary control of Safety Corps members shall be vested in the Board.

Appointment
and
Discipline of
Corps
Members.

15. A member to be qualified for enlistment into the Neighbourhood Safety Corps shall-

Qualification
of corps
Members

- (1) be a registered resident in the State in accordance with the Lagos State Residents Registration Agency (LASRRA); Law
- (2) apply in writing to be a Corps member;
- (3) be of proven character and integrity;
- (4) be recommended by a traditional ruler of the community or a top government functionary resident in the community; and
- (5) not have any criminal record.

16. The Board shall ensure cordial relationship with the Nigeria Police Force and other Security Agencies in the State.

Working
Relationship
with Security
Agencies.

17. The funds and resources of the Agency shall consist of-

Funds.

- (1) an initial take-off grant allocated to it by the State Government and monthly subventions from the State;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (2) donations and grants from Local Government Areas; (3) donations from individuals and corporate bodies; (4) yearly grant from the Lagos State Security Trust Fund; and (5) revenue generated from the Neighbourhood Safety Corp's security services.
Conditional Gift.	18. The Board shall not accept any gift if the condition attached by the person or organization making the gift is inconsistent with the objectives of the Agency.
Salaries and Allowances.	<p>19.—(1) There shall be paid to the Safety Corps members such salaries, allowances and welfare packages as may be determined by the Agency.</p> <p>(2) The amounts payable under subsection (1) of this Section shall be charged and paid out of the Agency's Fund.</p>
Estimates of Income/Expenditure and Emergency Operations.	<p>20.—(1) The Agency shall prepare, and submit through the appropriate authority its annual estimates of income and expenditure to the Governor.</p> <p>(2) The Board shall cause to be prepared an estimate of expenditure of fund during any emergency operations. Such prepared estimates shall be submitted by the Board through the appropriate authority to the Governor.</p>
Accounts and Audit.	21. The Board shall keep proper record of the funds and when certified by the Board, such accounts shall be audited by the auditors appointed by the appropriate authority, in accordance with the recommended guidelines issued by the Auditor-General of the State.
Submission of Reports.	<p>22.—(1) The Board shall submit quarterly reports to the Governor through the appropriate authority.</p> <p>(2) Each Local Government Safety Corps Head shall submit weekly report of its activities to the Board through the Executive Secretary.</p>
Delegation of Functions of the Board.	23. Nothing in this Law or any other enactment shall prevent the Governor from delegating any of the functions under this Law to any other Security Agency.
Power to arrest and Duty to hand over of suspects to the Police	<p>24.—(1) The Safety Corps shall have power to arrest and conduct searches on anyone that commits a crime or involved in crime or crime in progress or suspected of criminal activities:</p> <p>(2) A person arrested by a Safety Corps shall be handed over to the Police forthwith after preliminary enquiries and investigation for prosecution.</p>
Pre-action Notice.	25. A suit shall not commence against the Safety Corps unless thirty (30) days written notice of intention to commence action is issued to the Board, which must include the particulars of the intending plaintiff, and the details of the complaints and relief sought.

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| <p>26. A Safety Corps member shall not put himself in a position where personal interest conflicts with the duties and responsibilities assigned and shall be obliged to declare personal interest in any assignment involved in.</p> | <p>Conflicts of Interest.</p> |
| <p>27. A person shall not offer a Safety Corps member gift or benefit of any kind and a Safety Corps member shall not accept any such gift as an inducement or bribe for the granting of any favour in the discharge of the duties.</p> | <p>Prohibition of Inducements.</p> |
| <p>28. The Board shall make necessary regulations for the operations of the Safety Corps subject to the approval of the Lagos State House of Assembly</p> | <p>Power to make Regulations.</p> |
| <p>29.—(1) Safety Corps members shall not conduct themselves in a manner that is inconsistent with the regulations, guidelines and policies of the Agency.</p> <p>(2) A Safety Corps member shall operate at all times within the framework of the Law.</p> | <p>Conduct Inconsistent with Regulations.</p> |
| <p>30. The Neighbourhood Watch (Registration) Law Cap N3 Vol. 8 Law of Lagos State of Nigeria, 2015 is repealed.</p> | <p>Repeal.</p> |
| <p>31. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 30 above, anything done or any action taken under the said Law shall be deemed to have been done or taken under this Law.</p> | <p>Savings.</p> |
| <p>32. This Law may be cited as the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps Law 2016 and shall come into force on 15th day August, 2016.</p> | <p>Citation and Commencement.</p> |

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

MR. A. A. SANNI
Acting Clerk of the House of Assembly