

Extraordinary



Federal Republic of Nigeria

Official Gazette

No. 11 Lagos - 22nd January, 2016 Vol. 103

Government Notice No. 14

The following is published as supplement to this *Gazette* :

S.I. No.	Short Title	Page
1	Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges (Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa) Order, 2016)	B3-7

Printed and Published by The Federal Government Printer, Lagos, Nigeria
FGP 13/12016/650

Annual Subscription from 1st January, 2016 is Local : ₦25,000.00 Overseas : ₦37,500.00 [Surface Mail]
₦49,500.00 [Second Class Air Mail]. Present issue ₦1,000.00 per copy. Subscribers who wish to obtain *Gazette* after
1st January should apply to the Federal Government Printer, Lagos for amended Subscriptions.

**DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES ACT CAP. D9,
LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004**

**DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES (REGIONAL
EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF WEST AFRICA) ORDER, 2016**



ARRANGEMENT OF ORDER

Order :

1. The Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa.
2. Legal Capacity of RECOWA.
3. Immunity against the property of RECOWA.
4. Exemption from certain Taxes, Rates and Custom Duties.
5. Immunities and Privileges of members, officials and employees of RECOWA.
6. Experts on Mission.
7. Miscellaneous.
8. Citation.

S. I. No. 1 of 2016

**DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES ACT CAP. D9,
LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004**

**DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES (REGIONAL
EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE OF WEST AFRICA) ORDER, 2016**

[21st Day of January, 2016]

Commence-
ment.

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by Section 11 of the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act, Cap D9, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I, MR GEOFFREY ONYEAMA, Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs, hereby make the following Order—

1. The Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa (hereinafter referred to as RECOWA), is an organisation of which Nigeria and other foreign sovereign powers are members.

The
Regional
Episcopal
Conference
of West
Africa.

2. RECOWA shall have—

Legal
capacity of
RECOWA.

(a) the legal capacity as a corporate body, with capacity to contract, acquire, dispose of moveable and immovable property and to institute legal proceedings ; and

(b) immunity from suits and legal processes, except in a case where it has expressly waived its immunity, which shall not be extended to execution of any judgment of the court against RECOWA and its assets.

Immunity
against the
property of
RECOWA.

3.—(1) All properties, archives and assets of RECOWA shall be exempted from search, seizure, requisition and confiscation.

(2) Notwithstanding the provision of sub-paragraph (1) of this Paragraph, all properties, archives, and assets of RECOWA shall for the purpose of public safety and public order be subject to the laws of Nigeria.

4.—(1) RECOWA's assets, income, operations and transactions authorised by its statutes, shall be exempted from tax, levy, custom duty, and liability for the collection or payment of any duties.

Exemption
from certain
taxes, rates
and custom
duties.

(2) All goods imported or exported by RECOWA for the purposes of carrying out its functions or performance of its activities in this order shall be exempted from duties and other charges, except payment for services rendered, servicing of its programmes and reasonable quantity of drinks and tobacco for members.

(3) RECOWA shall not pay tax and custom duty on telecommunications equipment, transmission equipment and official correspondence such as

publications, documents, still and moving pictures, films and sound recorders, which are directly imported by the organisation into Nigeria for the exclusive use of RECOWA in Nigeria and such exemption shall be subjected to having complied with the laws and regulations of Nigeria.

immunities
and
privileges of
members.
Officials and
employees
of
RECOWA.

5.—(1) Representative of member's state, delegates, officials and employee of RECOWA shall enjoy—

(a) immunity from suit in respect of words spoken or written and any acts done in the course of the performance of their official duties ;

(b) exemption from income tax in respect of salaries and emoluments received by them as officers or employees of RECOWA ;

(c) exemption from immigration restriction and alien registration requirements ;

(d) exemption from import duty in respect of personal effects imported on first arrival, which include duty free purchase of a motor vehicle ; and

(e) exemption from payment of custom duty for a limited quantity of assorted drinks and tobacco bought for personal consumption.

(2) Where the representative of such member state or delegate or official or employee of RECOWA is a citizen of Nigeria, he shall not enjoy any waiver or immunity under sub-paragraphs (d) and (e) of Paragraph 5, except domestic servants.

(3) Where any privilege or immunity is waived by RECOWA for—

(a) the Secretary General ;

(b) other Members ; and

(c) non-Nigerian senior staff of RECOWA ;

such person shall be accorded respect in relation to their spouse, children under the age of 21 and immunity from suit and legal processes.

Experts on
mission.

6. Where immunity or privilege is waived by the President or anyone acting on his behalf to any expert employed on a mission or on behalf of RECOWA, such expert shall enjoy privileges accorded to any envoy of a foreign power accredited to Nigeria—

(a) in respect of words spoken, written and other acts done by him in the course of the performance of official duties ;

(b) while in Nigeria for the performance of his duties, immunity from arrest or detention and from seizure of his personal baggage ;

(c) while in Nigeria for the discharge of its duties, shall have access to all documents relating to the work in which he is engaged to do for RECOWA ; and

(d) where such expert is a Nigerian, he shall not enjoy any of the immunities under this Paragraph.

7.—(1) The name of any person to whom the provisions of Paragraphs 5 and 6 of this Order relates, shall be set forth in a list to be compiled and published from time to time by the Minister under Section 11 sub-section (2) of the Act, and such list shall indicate for the purposes of this order, the date he first held the office or employment in question and the date he ceased to hold that office or employment.

Miscellaneous.

(2) Every reference to RECOWA in this Order includes reference to the Act and any subsidiary instruments made pursuant to.

(3) For the purposes of this order “the Act” refers to Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act (Cap D9, LFN), 2004.

8. This Order may be cited as the Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges (Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa) Order, 2016.

Citation.

MADE at Abuja this 21st day of January, 2016.

GEOFFREY ONYEAMA
Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs

EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note does not form part of the above Order
but is intended to explain its purport)*

This Order grants immunities and privileges to the Regional Episcopal Conference of West Africa, pursuant to Section 11 of the Diplomatic immunities and Privileges Act, Cap D9, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.