

NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL CONFERENCE 2025



FIDA NIGERIA SIDE EVENT

THEME: STAND OUT, STAND TALL: BUILDING RESILIENCE FOR EXCELLENCE; EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENDER PARITY AND PROTECTION OF THE NIGERIAN CHILD

SAFEGUARDING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN THROUGH THE EFFECTIVE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHILD RIGHTS ACT:
MYTH OR REALITY

CHISOM SAM-IGBOKWUE LLM, FICMC



The Journey Thus Far



Novelty? Conceptualization-> Defined Standards

- Children-> Human Beings
- Childhood-> Stage of Human Life (Peculiarity)
- Children's Rights-> Human Rights







Advent of Legal Framework

Simply Benevolence-Based ----- Legal Obligation

Transition

Legal Instruments → General + Specific

1924 Declaration of the Rights of the Child

- 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child
- 1990 African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- 2003 Child Rights Act
 - 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended)







Nationwide Adoption of the Child Rights Act 2003

Sokoto (2021) Kebbi (2022)

Zamfara (2022)

Niger (2010)

Kaduna (2018)

Kwara (2006)

Oyo (2006)

Ogun (2006)

Osun (2007)

Ekiti (2006)

Ondo (2009)

Lagos (2007)

Edo (2007)

Kogi (2009)

Delta (2008)

Bayelsa (2016)



Cross River Rivers (2009) Akwa Ibom (2009)(2008)

Imo (2004)

Source: www.sceptreandprima.com







Abia (2006)

Kano (2023)

Jigawa (2021)

Borno (2022) Bauchi (2023)

Gombe (2022)

Plateau (2005)

Taraba (2005)

Benue (2008)

Enugu (2016)

Ebonyi (2010)

Adamawa (2022)

Nasarawa (2005)

Anambra (2004)

Yobe (2022)

Katsina (2023)

'NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN'

ACTION:

KNOWLEDGE

ACCOUNTABILITY

MONITORING

DEVELOPMENT

KNOWLEDGE

CHILDREN: About 50% of Nigeria's Population. (FMBEP 24 & UNICEF)

S.154, S.206 CRA- Professional Education, In-service Training, Refresher Courses, etc: Judges, Magistrates, Personnel of the Court, Officers of Specialized Children's Police Unit Supervisors, Child Development Officers

DUTY BEARERS

S.1 CRA- BEST INTEREST PRINCIPLE - "In every action concerning a child, whether undertaken by an individual, public or private body, institutions or service, court of law, or administrative or legislative authority, ..."

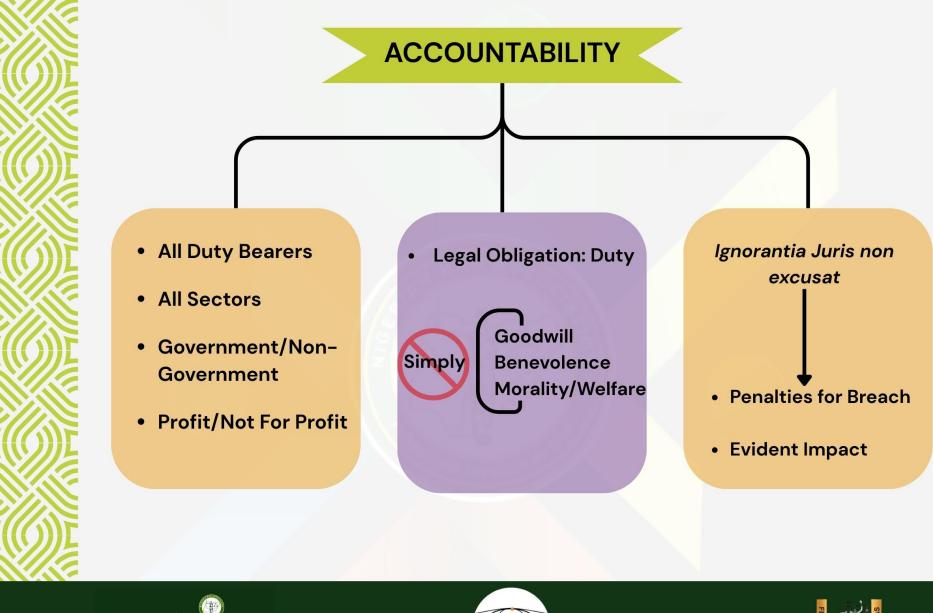
S.2: PROTECTION AND CARE: "A child shall be given such protection and care as is necessary for the well being of the child..."

















MONITORING

Various Levels

+

Within Organisations

CRA Part XXIII (S.260–271): CHILD RIGHTS IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

- Details the Establishment & Operation of the CRIC
- Committee comprised of reps across various sectors and organisations
- Not optional: Legal Obligation
- Multi-layered National, State, LGA

<u>Functionality</u>

- Ensure Knowledge & Observance of Children's Rights and Welfare
- Practical Support for Implementation
- Information collection and documentation
- Continuous review of state of implementation

















- **──→** Milestone?
- Areas for Improvement?

Safeguarding the rights of children through the effective implementation of the Child Rights Act requires these PRACTICAL, INTENTIONAL AND COMMITTED measures, upholding standards and recognizing that our actions and decisions concerning the child are not merely based on benevolence but rather are bound by a legal obligation.













THANK YOU

Every Child, a Successful Life

