

# THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL CITIZENS CENTER IN NIGERIA

BY

**KAYODE FAGBEMI**

**NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER, NIGERIA**

**MINISTRY OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS DISASTER MANAGEMENT  
AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**AT**

**THE WORKSHOP ON EVIDENCE-BASED AGEING-RELATED POLICIES IN SUB-SAHARAN  
AFRICA**

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# INTRODUCTION

**The National Senior Citizen Center (NSCC) was set up in June 2021 with the inauguration of the Board and appointment of a Director General.**

**NSCC** is set up by the National Senior Citizens' Centre Act 2017 to cater for the needs of senior citizens. It is the first distinct national corporate body with focus on inclusion of senior citizens in sustainable development in the history of Nigeria.

# LEGAL FRAMEWORK

## 1. NIGERIAN CONSTITUTION

Section 16 (2) (d) of the 1999 Constitution (As Amended), states that: The State shall direct its policy towards ensuring: (d) that suitable and adequate shelter, suitable and adequate food, reasonable national minimum living wage, **old age care and pensions**, and unemployment, sick benefits and welfare of the disabled are provided for all citizens.

## 2. NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE ACT, 2017

An Act to establish the National Senior Citizens Centre in the country to cater for the needs of senior citizens; and for related matters.

# FUNCTION OF NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS CENTER

(NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZENS CENTRE ACT, 2017)

- a. Identify the needs, trainings, and opportunities of senior citizens in the country and be responsible for the provision of recreational, sports, educational, health and social programs and facilities designed for the full enjoyment and benefit of the senior citizens in the country as well as provide guidance and counseling for senior citizens;
- b. Initiate, develop and implement productive activities and work schemes for senior citizens in order to provide income or otherwise supplement their earnings;
- c. Promote and maintain linkages with state and local governments training;
- d. Keep records and statistics of senior citizens in the country as well as liaise with national, regional and international agencies involved in the provision of welfare and recreational activities for senior citizens; and
- e. Perform such other functions which are necessary to achieve out the purpose for which the Centres are established.

# NATIONAL POLICY ON AGEING

- a. The National Policy on Ageing is developed to address the special needs and harness opportunities in the increasing number of older persons in Nigeria. The Federal Government of Nigeria is committed to effectively mobilize human and capital resources needed for its primary responsibility in promoting, providing and ensuring access to basic social services of older persons.
- b. The policy is premised on the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) which guarantees the rights of everyone in Nigeria. The policy also applies the regional and international instruments ratified by Nigeria, such as the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (2002), AU Agenda 2063 and AU Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing (2002); the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), the UN International Plan of Action on Ageing, the UN Political Declaration on Ageing (2002) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

# NATIONAL POLICY ON AGEING-Strategic Objectives

- a. To cause a fundamental positive change in perception, attitude and paradigm about ageing, old age and an inclusive society;
- b. To guarantee an improved quality of life for older persons in Nigeria and strengthen the traditional support systems for older persons;
- c. To provide framework for the establishment of regulatory mechanism for ageing issues;
- d. To guarantee adequate and sustainable income security and ensure healthy ageing;
- e. To ensure that the fundamental human rights of older persons are upheld and protected;
- f. To develop a functional data management systems for effective research, planning, monitoring and evaluation for ageing programming;
- g. To establish a responsive system to address older persons issues in terms of accessibility, availability, equity and quality health and social services for healthy ageing;
- h. To strengthen partnership and collaboration among sectors for effective delivery of programme for older persons.

# INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

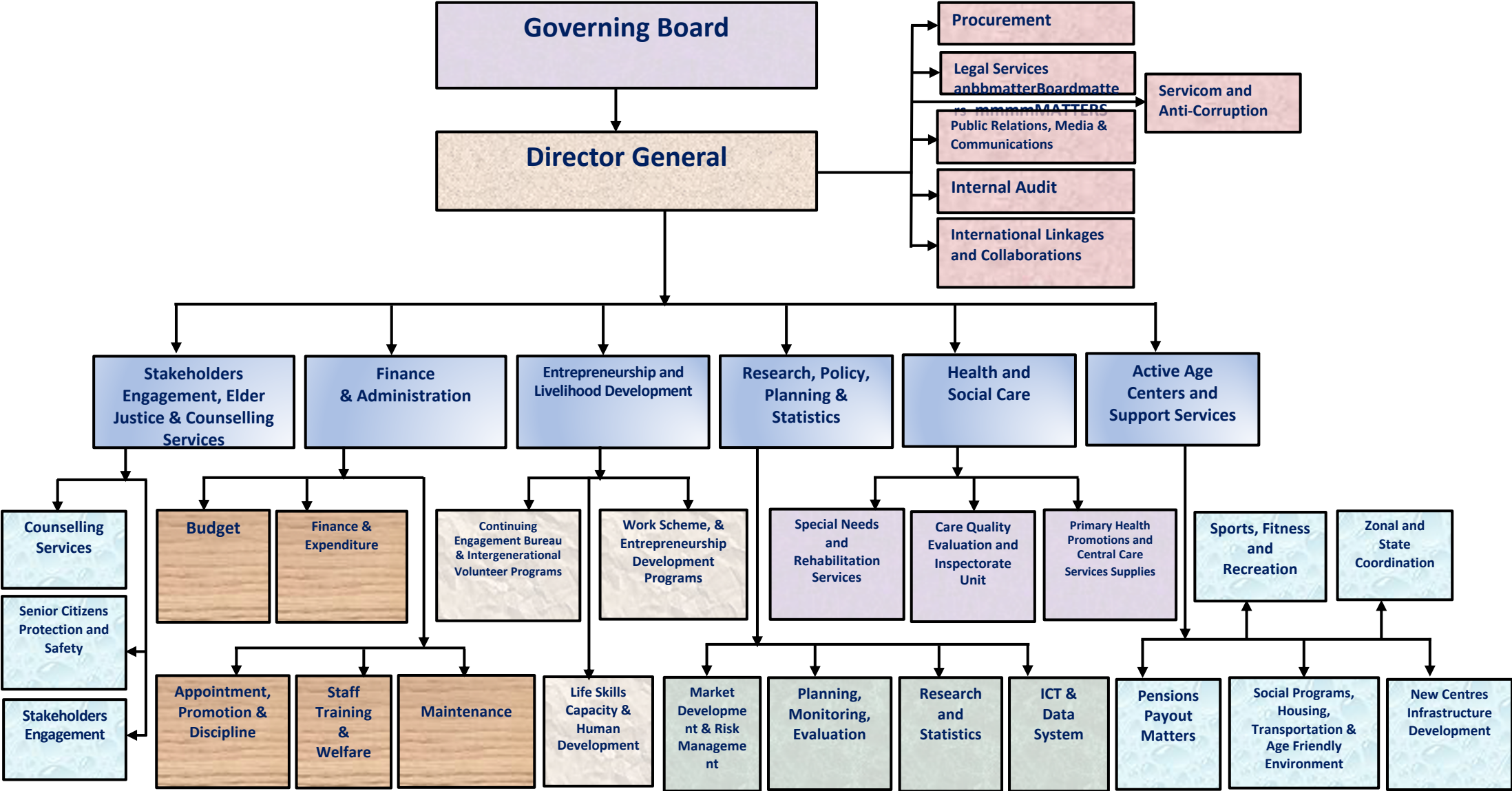
There is established for the management of the National Centre, the Senior Citizens Centre **Governing Board** which has general control of the National Centre.

The Board shall consist of-

- i. chairman;
- ii. Ten other members; and
- iii. The Director-General of the Centre who manages the day-to-day affairs of the Centre



# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



# ACTIVITIES SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER

## I. Maiden dialogue with senior citizens



# ADVOCACY AND MEDIA ENAGAMENT



# ACTIVITIES SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER

## II. Strategic Partnerships Advocacy

The NSCC has engaged in strategic partnership with specific MDAs due to their mandates which have been identified to address the needs of older person.

- a. **Advocacy visits to the National Directorate of Employment** for development of enterprise and work schemes for older person.
- b. **National Orientation Agency** for design of Information, education and communications materials for specific advocacy and enlightenment program and activities on ageism and elder abuse
- c. **Nigerian Television Authority** development of content and programmes to feature issues of neglect, abuse and violence against older persons in our society.

# ACTIVITIES SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER

## II. Strategic Partnerships Advocacy

- d. **Nursing and Midwifery Council** for curriculum development in Geriatric care and regulation of care system and quality care.
- e. **Legal Aid Council** for provision of legal aid and representation to older persons and victim of elder abuse
- f. **National Human Rights Commission** for protection, promotion and prevention of human rights of older persons, through community based, response, mechanism.
- g. **National Bureau of Statistics** for multi-indicator survey for older persons in present and future national surveys.

# DEVELOPMENT OF TEN-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN



Establishment of National Working Committee to develop a 10 year Strategic Plan

# ACTIVITIES SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER

## III. **Multi-Sectorial, multi- disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional Consultative Meetings - one in the North and the other in the South of Nigeria**

- ✓ Increased stakeholders' understanding of NSCC's mandate and responsibilities;
- ✓ Engaged relevant stakeholders across Nigeria on critical issues affecting senior citizens towards the development of a robust 10-year organizational strategy.
- ✓ Created and fostered an environment of collaboration and inclusiveness in key decision making with relevant stakeholders across government, citizens, NGOs, Private Sector, Development Partners, research and academia, professional associations and media.

# ZONAL STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER 10- YEAR STRATEGY

Kano - 12 October, 2021 and Lagos – 14 October, 2021



Stakeholder included:

- State MDAs including State Pensions Commissions
- Older Persons Associations & National Pension Union
- Professional Associations-Subject matter experts
- CSOs in the field of Ageing, Gender & Disabilities
- Academia-Research
- Private Sector and Development Partners.



## ACTIVITIES SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER

- IV. Establishment of National Working Committee to develop a 10 years Strategic Plan
- V. NSCC meeting with National Primary Health Care Development Agency, World Health Organization and Stakeholders on ICOPE –to determine a roadmap for integration of Geriatric Care in National Primary Care capacity building for Health and Social care workers
  
- IV. Medical outreach for senior citizens as form of research.
  
- IV. National Private Sector Round-Table table

# CHALLENGES

- I. Collaboration and Coordination:** The challenge of coordination, collaborating and mainstreaming Ageism into many structures and working with all levels of government
- II. Location of Older Person:** Most of the older persons are in rural areas where facilities and structures are lacking
- III. Funding:** Being a new organization, funding all programmes, projects activities, and infrastructure necessary for the Center is difficult.
- IV. Capacity:** There is presently low capacity and the need to build capacity of Board Members, Staff, Health Workers, Legislatures, Local Government workers and Social Workers.

# WAY FORWARD

1. Advocacy and Policy Dialogue
2. Strategic Engagement with Partners
3. Community Engagement
4. Capacity Building
5. Establishment of Zones and State Offices

**THANK YOU FOR LISTENING**