A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME ACT, CAP. N42 LAWS OF THE FEDERATION TO ESTABLISH A HEALTH FUND TO ENSURE ACCESS TO GOOD HEALTHCARE FOR EVERY NIGERIAN AND FOR OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THERETO

Sponsored by Hon. Christopher S. Eta

BE IT ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows—

1. The National Health Insurance Scheme Act, Cap. N42 Laws of the Federation 2004 (in this Act referred to as the "Principal Act") is amended as set out below—

2. The Principal Act is amended by inserting immediately after Section 10 the following new sections 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 as Part IV and re-arranging the subsequent sections and Parts accordingly—

11.—(1) There is hereby established for the Scheme a Fund to be known as the "Health Fund" which shall be separate and distinct from the fund of the Scheme established under section 11 of the Principal Act and shall be managed and administered in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

(a) The Fund shall comprise of funds derived from the following sources—

(b) such monies as may be appropriated to the Health Fund from time to time by the National Assembly;

(c) Gifts, loans, grants, aids and such other assets that may from time to time accrue to the Health Fund.

12.—(1) The Federal Inland Revenue Services (in this Act referred to as "the Agency") shall collect the health tax mentioned in section 10 (b) of this
Act in substantial conformity with the relevant sections of the Value Added

(2) The Agency may do such things as it may deem necessary and expedient
for the collection of the health tax and may with the approval of the appropriate
minister, make regulations for the efficient and effective collection of the
health tax.

13. The Agency shall pay all taxes collected under this Act into the
Health Fund and shall when doing so submit to the Council a return in such
form as may be prescribed by the Council showing—

(a) the amount collected from taxable items;

(b) such other information as may be required by the Council for
    proper administration of the Health Fund.

14. The Council shall manage, administer, and provide broad policy
directions for the management of the Health Fund and shall have the
responsibility to—

(a) ensure the collection of the health tax by the Agency and ensure
    proper transfer to the Health Fund;

(b) ensure disbursement in accordance with the provisions of this Act;

(c) invest funds in appropriate and safe securities;

(d) update the Federal Government on the activities of the Fund and
    progress by rendering of annual and audited reports;

(e) do such other things as may be necessary or incidental to the
    objects of the Fund under this Act.

15.—(1) To ensure that every Nigerian has access to good quality health
care services the Council shall apply the Health Fund in the payment of
health insurance contributions for the following categories of persons
registered under the scheme—

(a) children under 5 years;

(b) aged and elderly persons above 65 years;

(c) the physically challenged or disabled;

(d) maternity care for 4 live births for women;
(e) prison inmates;
(f) indigent persons whose total annual income does not exceed ₦30,000

3. Section 49 of the Principal Act is amended by adding the following new interpretations—

"appropriate Minister" means the Minister charged with the responsibility for finance;

"indigent person" means a person who is unemployed and have no visible source of income and does not have any identifiable consistent support;

4. This Bill may be cited as the National Health Insurance Scheme (Amendment) Bill, 2011.