

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION ACT, CAP. N81, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. O. K. Chinda

[] Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:

- 1 **1.** The National Universities Commission Act, Cap. N81, Laws of
2 the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal
3 Act") is hereby amended as set out in this Bill. Amendment of
the Principal Act
- 4 **2.** The long title of the Principal Act is amended by replacing the
5 word "of" with the word "on" immediately after the word 'Governments' in
6 line 2 thereof, and adding the words "and degree granting institutions" after
7 the word 'universities' in line 3 thereof to read thus: Amendment of
long title of the
Principal Act
- 8 “An Act to set up the National Universities Commission as a body
9 corporate charged with the responsibility of advising the Federal and State
10 Governments on all aspects of university education and the general
11 development of universities and degree granting institutions in Nigeria”.
- 12 **3.** Section 2(1)(a)(i) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting
13 the words “and Youth Development” appearing after the word “Education”.
- 14 **4.** Section 2(1)(a)(ii) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting
15 the words “and Human Service” appearing after the word “Health”.
- 16 **5.** Section 2(1)(a)(iii) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting
17 the words “and economic Development” appearing after the word
18 “Finance”.
- 19 **6.** Section 2(1)(a)(iv) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting
20 or expunging the words “Establishment and management Service” and

1 replacing it with the words “office of the Head of Service of the Federation”.

2 **7.** Section 2(1)(b) of the Principal Act is amended by adding sub-
3 paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) to the existing paragraph (b) to read thus:

4 Section 2(1)(b) (i): The National Commission for Women.

5 Section 2(1)(b)(ii): Association of Theological Institutions of Nigeria
6 (AITN); and

7 Section 2(1)(b)(iii): National Association of Teachers of Arabic and
8 Islamic Studies (NATAIS).

Amendment of
Section 2(d)

9 **8.** Section 2(d) of the Principal Act is amended by adding sub-
10 paragraphs (ix) and (x) immediately after (viii) thereto to read thus:

11 Section 2(d)(ix): Christian Theological Studies;

12 Section 2(d)(x): Islamic and Arabic Studies.

Amendment of
Section 3(1)

13 **9.** Section 3(1) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting the words
14 'such other period as may be specified in his instrument of appointment'
15 immediately after the words 'for re-appointment' in line 3 thereof and replacing
16 it with the words “a further term of 3 years and no more”.

17 **10.** Section 4(1)(e) of the Principal Act is amended by adding the
18 word 'level' immediately after the word 'university' appearing in line 2 thereof
19 to read thus:

20 “inquire into and advise the Federal Government on the financial
21 needs both recurrent and capital, of university level education in Nigeria and in
22 particular, to investigate and study the financial needs of university research
23 and ensure that adequate provision is made for this in the universities”.

24 **11.** Section 4(1)(h) of the Principal Act is amended by adding the
25 word 'level' immediately after the word 'university' appearing in line 1 thereof
26 to read thus:

27 “collate, analyse and publish information relating top university level
28 education in Nigeria and from other sources, where such information is
29 relevant to the discharge of its functions under this Act”.

- 1 **12.** Section 5(1) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting the Amendment of
2 words 'have appropriate qualification' appearing after the word shall in line Section 5(1)
3 1 thereof and replacing it with the words 'be a professor of not less than 5
4 years standing' to read thus:
5 “There shall be appointed by the President an Executive Secretary
6 the Commission, who shall be a Professor of not less than 5 years standing”.
- 7 **13.** Section 5(3) of the Principal Act is amended by deleting the Amendment of
8 words “as the President may determine” appearing immediately after the Section 5(3)
9 words 'five years in line 2 thereof, to read thus:
10 “The Executive Secretary shall hold office in the first instance for a
11 period of five years and shall be eligible for reappointment for such further
12 terms of five years”.
- 13 **14.** Section 6(1) of the Principal Act is amended by adding the Amendment of
14 words “or employ” appearing immediately after the word “appoint” in line 1 Section 6(1)
15 thereof.
- 16 **15.** Section 6(2) of the Principal Act is amended by replacing the Amendment of
17 word “establishments” appearing immediately the words “responsible for” Section 6(2)
18 in line 3 thereof with the words “higher education” to read thus:
19 “The remuneration and tenure of office of the Deputy Executive
20 Secretary and the other officers and servants of the Commission, shall be
21 determined by the Commission after consultation with the Minister
22 responsible for higher education”.
- 23 **16.** Section 6(3) of the Principal Act is amended by adding the Amendment of
24 words 'or by fresh appointment from the private sector, through interview' Section 6(3)
25 immediately after the word “Federation” in line 3 thereof, to read thus:
26 “Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section,
27 the Deputy Executive Secretary or any of the other officers and servants of
28 the Commission, may be appointed by the Commission by way of transfer or
29 secondment from any of the public services in the Federation, or by fresh
30 appointment from the private sector, through interview”.

Amendment of Section 13(3)	1	17. Section 13(3) of the Principal Act is amended by adding the words
	2	'including Christian theological and Islamic; Arabic studies institutions'
	3	immediately after the word 'institution' in line 2 thereof, to read thus:
	4	“In this section, the reference to an institution is a reference to a university or
	5	any other degree granting institution, including Christian theological and
	6	Islamic/Arabic studies institutions, in Nigeria recognised for that purpose by
	7	the Commission”.
Amendment of Section 15	8	18. Section 15 of the Principal Act is amended by adding a definition
	9	of the words “Degree granting Institution” thus:
	10	“Degree granting Institution” means tertiary institutions of learning
	11	(whether public or private), which offers degrees, including Christian
	12	theological and Islamic; Arabic studies institutions.
Citation	13	19. This Bill may be cited as the National Universities Commission
	14	Act (Amendment) Bill, 2018.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the long title to the National Universities Commission Act, Cap. N81, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, as well as:

Sections 2(1)(a) (i), (ii), (iii), (iv); Section 2(1)(b);

Section 2(d);

Section 3(1);

Section 4(1)(e);

Section 4(1)(h);

Section 5(1);

Section 5(3);

Section 6(1);

Section 6(2);

Section 6(3);

Section 13(3); and

Section 15

to make the functioning of the Commission more effective, efficient and result oriented.