

DIETITIAN COUNCIL OF NIGERIA BILL, 2016

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# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH DIETITIANS COUNCIL OF NIGERIA TO REGULATE  
THE PROFESSION OF DIETETICS AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun Dokun*

[ ] Commencement

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

1 PART I - ESTABLISHMENT OF DIETITIANS COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

Establishment of  
Dietitians Council  
of Nigeria

2 1.-(1) There shall be established a body to be known as the  
3 Dietitians Council of Nigeria (in the Bill referred to as "The Council").

4 (2) The Council shall be a body corporate with perpetual  
5 succession and a common seal and shall sue and be sued in its corporate  
6 name and shall have power to own, hold and dispose off property whether  
7 movable or immovable.

8 2.-(1) The functions of the Council are to-

Functions of the  
Council

9 (a) determine, prescribe and regulate standards of academic  
10 qualification and practical skills to be attained by persons seeking to become  
11 registered as Members, Associates or Fellows of the Council, as the case  
12 may be; and to raise those standards, from time to time, as circumstances  
13 may permit;

14 (b) regulate the practice of the profession for Dietitians;

15 (c) regulate and control the training of dietetic practitioners in all  
16 the institutions in Nigeria and the regular inspection and accreditation of  
17 such institutions;

18 (d) evaluate and assess the standard of education and registration  
19 of foreign graduates of nutrition and dietetics;

20 (e) supervise and regulate the National Post Degree Dietetics  
21 Internship programme and the publication from time to time of list of

- 1 persons so qualified;
- 2 (f) ensure that Dietetics Practitioners in Nigeria uphold the Code of  
3 ethics, Code of good conduct and practice of the profession and guarantee the  
4 sustainability of high quality dietetic practice;
- 5 (g) promote adoption of healthy diets and lifestyle for all Nigerians  
6 and collaborate with government ministries, parastatals, international agencies  
7 and civil societies with similar mandate;
- 8 (h) promote rapid sustainability of high quality diets for Nigerians  
9 through scientific methods, and regulate all issues pertaining to Dietetics in  
10 Nigeria;
- 11 (i) advance the education, science, technology and art of Nutrition  
12 and Dietetics;
- 13 (j) advise and encourage the enactment and the enforcement of laws  
14 that will guarantee good nutrition, quality diets and consistent supply of high  
15 quality foods to Nigerians;
- 16 (k) educate the public on healthy diets for maintenance and  
17 prevention of diseases;
- 18 (l) co-operate or affiliate with any relevant association in Nutrition  
19 and Dietetics either locally or internationally; and
- 20 (m) establish, update and maintain a Register of Dietitians under this  
21 Bill according to their various ranks and to regulate the prerogatives and  
22 privileges pertaining to those ranks as provided in Section 2 (1)(a) of this Bill.
- 23 (n) appoint when necessary technical committees comprised of  
24 persons with requisite technical competence from the private or public sector  
25 to advise the Council on such matters as may be determined from time to  
26 time;
- 27 (o) do such other things as may, from time to time, be necessary to  
28 achieve the objective of the Council and
- 29 (p) perform all or any other functions conferred on it by this Bill.

- 1                   3. The Council shall have power to- Power of the Council
- 2                   (a) establish and promote all manner of professional certificate
- 3 courses in Dietetics;
- 4                   (b) establish such offices, departments, units and branches of the
- 5 Council as may be required for the proper administration and operation of
- 6 the Council;
- 7                   (c) subject to such terms and conditions as the Council may
- 8 approve, engage staff, agents and other workers as the Council may from
- 9 time to time require for the performance of its functions under this Bill;
- 10                  (d) establish necessary organization for the proper and efficient
- 11 conduct of the affairs of the council;
- 12                  (e) provide regulations for all staff of the Council and provide v
- 13 pension and welfare schemes for the staff; and
- 14                  (f) do such other acts and things as may be necessary for the
- 15 performance of the functions of the Council.

16                                   PART II - MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL

- 17                   4.-(1) There shall be established for the Council, a Governing Governing body of the Council and Membership
- 18 body to be known as the Governing Council (in the Bill referred to as the "
- 19 Governing Council"), which shall be charged with responsibility for the
- 20 administration and general management of the Council.
- 21                   (2) The Governing Council shall consist of the following
- 22 members-
- 23                   (a) the President of the Council, who shall be a dietitian of not less
- 24 than 25 years post registration experience;
- 25                   (b) the two Vice Presidents;
- 26                   (c) the Registrar; and
- 27                   (d) fourteen persons who shall be elected by the Council,
- 28 respectively to represent each of the following practice groups in Dietetics:
- 29                   (i) Clinical dietitians;
- 30                   (ii) Community dietitians;

- 1 (iii) Foodservice dietitians;  
 2 (iv) Gerontological dietitians;  
 3 (v) Neonatal dietitians;  
 4 (vi) Pediatric dietitians;  
 5 (vii) Research dietitians;  
 6 (viii) Administrative dietitians;  
 7 (ix) Dietitians in the Food and Nutrition Industry and Business;  
 8 (x) Consultant dietitians;  
 9 (xi) Sports Nutrition;  
 10 (xii) Corporate Wellness dietitians;  
 11 (xiii) Dietitians in the Media;  
 12 (xiv) Dietitians in the Military.  
 13 (e) Minister of Health or his representative;  
 14 (f) The Minister of Education or his representative;  
 15 (g) The Minister of Agriculture or his representative;  
 16 (h) The Minister of Women Affairs or his representative;  
 17 (i) One person to be elected by the Council to represent Dietitians in  
 18 private practice;  
 19 (j) Four dietitians to be elected by the Council to represent the various  
 20 departments of Nutrition and Dietetics in Nigerian polytechnics and  
 21 universities;

Election of  
 Members of the  
 Governing Council

22 **5.** The President, 2 Vice-Presidents and other members of the Council  
 23 mentioned in paragraphs (d), (i) and (j) of subsection (2) of section 4 of this  
 24 Bill, shall be elected by the Council from Amongst the Members who are  
 25 registered dietitians, at an annual general meeting of the Council provided that  
 26 the first such members shall be elected at a special general meeting convened  
 27 by the Dietitians Association of Nigeria immediately after the commencement  
 28 of this Bill, for the purpose of electing them.

Tenure of office

29 **6.-(1)** (a) The tenure of office of a member of the Council other than  
 30 an ex-officio member shall be two years but such member shall at the end of

1 that term be eligible for re-election, for one more term only;

2 (b) All members of Council shall be on part time basis except the  
3 Registrar who shall be on full time engagement;

4 (c) The remuneration of the Registrar and other members of staff  
5 shall be determined by the Council;

6 (d) Sitting allowance and other remunerations for other part time  
7 staff shall be determined by the governing Council based on the prevailing  
8 economic realities;

9 (2) The office of a member of the Council shall become vacant if  
10 the member-

11 (a) resigns his office, by notice under his hand, addressed to the  
12 Council;

13 (b) Is removed from office by the Council, by reason of his  
14 professional misconduct or physical or mental infirmity; or;

15 (c) without leave of the Council, absents himself from 3  
16 consecutive meetings of the Council;

17 7. The functions of the Council shall be to-

18 (a) carry into effect the functions and powers of the Council;

19 (b) govern the affairs of the Council;

20 (c) effect proper management of the Council;; and

21 (d) do other acts and things as the Council may consider necessary  
22 for carrying out the functions and powers of the Council;

23 8. The funds of the Council shall consist of-

24 (a) contributions, levies, subscriptions, practicing fees and other  
25 dues paid by the Members:

26 (b) revenue accruing to the Council from its investments, activities  
27 and services;

28 (c) grants, endowments and donations from Governments,  
29 agencies, organizations, benefactors and other donors;

30 (d) revenue accruing to the Council; from any other source

Functions of the  
Governing Council

Funds of the  
Council

1 approved by the Council:

Bank Account

2 9. The funds of the Council shall be paid into an account in a reputable  
3 bank approved by the Council and no instrument for the withdrawal of any  
4 money from that account shall be valid unless it is authenticated by the  
5 signatures of the President and the Registrar or by the signatures of such  
6 officers of the Council as may from time to time be approved by the Council.

Investment

7 10. The Council may from time to time subject to such terms and  
8 conditions as the council may approve, invest any part of its funds in any  
9 securities and may at any time dispose of such securities.

Borrowing power

10 11. The Council may from time to time, subject to such terms and  
11 conditions as the council may approve, borrow such money as the Council may  
12 require for carrying out any of the functions of the power of the Council.

Appointment of Auditor

13 12.-(1) The Council shall have the power to appoint an external  
14 auditor as the need arises.

15 (2) The Audited account of the Council shall be submitted to the  
16 Governing Council not later than the 30th day of September of each year.

17 PART III - APPOINTMENT OF REGISTRAR AND REGISTRATION

18 13.-(1) there shall be appointed by the Council, a Registrar who shall  
19 be a practicing registered dietitian with 15 years clinical experience.

20 (2) the Registrar shall, subject to the overall control of the council:

21 (a) be the Secretary to the Council;

22 (b) keep record of the register of the accounts of the Council and  
23 make such entries in the Register as the Governing Council may from time to  
24 time by resolution, direct;

25 (c) keep custody of the common seal of the Council and affix same to  
26 such documents as the Governing Council may direct; and

27 (d) carry out other duties as the Governing Council or the President  
28 may from time to time direct.

29 14. The Registrar shall keep and maintain a register of all the  
30 Members including the Associates, Fellows and Honorary Fellows.



- 1                   **15.** The Governing Council shall subject to the provisions of this      Registration of  
2 Bill, admit and register any-      Members
- 3                   (a) Person as a registered Member;
- 4                   (b) Person as an Associate;
- 5                   (c) Member as a Fellow; or
- 6                   (d) Person as an Honorary Fellow
- 7                   **16.**-(1) A person shall be eligible to be admitted and registered as a      Qualification for  
8 registered Member if that person is-      Membership
- 9                   (a) a holder of a first degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from any
- 10 University accredited by the Council,
- 11                   (b) has completed a 12-month dietetic internship at an accredited
- 12 hospital;
- 13                   (c) passed the national dietitians registration examination and
- 14 registered to practice; or
- 15                   (2) (a) holder of a higher National Diploma in Nutrition and
- 16 Dietetics from any institution accredited by the Council;
- 17                   (b) a postgraduate diploma in Nutrition and Dietetics;
- 18                   (c) completed a 12-month dietetic internship at an accredited
- 19 hospital;
- 20                   (d) passed the national dietitians registration examination and
- 21 registered to practice; or
- 22                   (3) (a) member of any equivalent Dietitians body recognized by
- 23 the Council.
- 24                   **17.** A registered member has a right to practice and to affix the title      Right of a  
25 RDN after his/her name.      registered member
- 26                   **18.** A person shall be eligible to be registered as an Associate if-      Associate  
27                   (a) a holder of a higher National Diploma in Nutrition and      Members  
28 Dietetics from any accredited Institution and has in addition one (1) year  
29 post graduation or post qualification working experience;
- 30                   (b) that person has by research efforts, publications and experience

1 in any area of Nutrition and Dietetics, contributed significantly to the growth  
2 and development of Nutrition and Dietetics or related areas; and

3 (c) the Council is satisfied that the Member is a fit and proper person  
4 to be elevated to the rank of Associate;

Fellows

5 **19.** A person who is a registered Member or Associate shall be eligible  
6 to be registered as a fellow if-

7 (a) that person has by research efforts, publications and experience in  
8 any area of Nutrition and Dietetics, contributed significantly to the growth and  
9 development of Dietetics or related areas;

10 (b) the Council is satisfied that the Member is a fit and proper person  
11 to be elevated to the rank of Fellow;

12 (c) the person holds the minimum academic qualification that admits  
13 registered or associate members.

Honorary  
Members

14 **20.** A person may be registered as an Honorary Fellow if-

15 (a) that person is distinguished in any area of Nutrition and Dietetics  
16 or related field/industry; and

17 (b) the Council is satisfied that the person is a fit and proper person to  
18 be elevated to the rank of Honorary Fellow.

19 **21.** The Council may subject to its rules in that regard award  
20 distinctive certificate and other honours to any person, Registered Member,  
21 Associate, fellow or Honourary Fellow as the case may be, for any distinctive  
22 Honours, achievement in any discipline and or area of nutrition and  
23 dietetics.

24 **PART IV - ACCREDITATION OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS PROGRAMMES**

25 **22.-(1)** The Council shall pursuant to Section 2(1)(c) of this Bill  
26 regulate and accredit the Academic Programmes of Nutrition and Dietetics:

27 (a) Every Department of Nutrition and Dietetics in any Nigerian  
28 university shall be domiciled in the Faculty of Health Sciences or College of  
29 Medicine where such exists.

30 (b) Every Faculty, College or University where Nutrition and

1       Dietetics is studied in Nigeria shall on demand by the Council submit to the  
2       Council details of its curriculum and courses of study in Nutrition and  
3       Dietetics for the consideration and approval of the Council;

4               (c) The Council shall thereupon, delegate a committee of the  
5       Council to evaluate the contents of such curriculum and courses and ensure  
6       that such curricula and courses sufficiently endow any person pursuing such  
7       curricula and courses with the requisite knowledge, skill and working  
8       experience for the practice of the Dietetics profession;

9               (d) The Council shall where such curricula and courses are  
10       approved, thereafter by instrument, accredit such programme and as the  
11       case may be, as a fit and proper programme for the training of prospective  
12       Members;

13              (e) Subject to this Bill a person who has not obtained his first  
14       degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from an accredited institution shall not be  
15       eligible to head a department of Nutrition and Dietetics in any tertiary  
16       Institution or Hospital as the case may be.

17              (2) The Council shall pursuant to Section 2(1)(e) of this Bill  
18       regulate and accredit the Internship Programmes of Nutrition and  
19       Dietetics:

20              (a) Every Tertiary or Secondary Health Facility where Internship is  
21       undertaken in Nigeria shall on demand by Council, submit to the Council  
22       details of its dietetic internship curriculum, Staff strength, categories and  
23       qualifications of Staff, therapeutic diet kitchen, outpatient and inpatient  
24       facilities and availability of departments of medicine & surgery, pediatrics,  
25       obstetric and gynecology for consideration and approval of the Council.

26              (b) The Council shall thereupon, delegate a committee of the  
27       Council to evaluate the contents of such curriculum, courses and facilities  
28       and ensure that such curriculum, courses and facilities will sufficiently  
29       equip any person pursuing Dietetics internship at the hospital with the  
30       requisite knowledge, skill and working experience for professional

1 registration and practice of the Dietetics profession;

2 (c) The Council shall where such a centre is approved, thereafter by  
3 instrument, accredit such programme and as the case may be, as a fit and proper  
4 Dietetic internship training centre for the training of prospective registered  
5 Members;

6 (d) Subject to this Bill, a person who has not obtained his first degree  
7 in Nutrition and Dietetics from an accredited institution shall not be eligible to  
8 undergo dietetic internship;

9 (e) In like manner and subject to this Bill, a person who has not  
10 obtained his first degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from an accredited  
11 institution, and who has not been registered to practice, shall not be eligible to  
12 be employed as a dietitian or head of a department of Nutrition and Dietetics in  
13 any hospital in Nigeria.

14 PART V - PRACTISING FEES

15 23.-(1) Subject to sub-section (2) of this section, no Dietitian shall  
16 practice as a Dietitian, in any year unless he has paid to the Council in respect of  
17 that year the appropriate practicing fees prescribed hereunder-

18 (a) In the case of a Dietitian of not less than 10 years standing,  
19 N15,000;

20 (b) In the case of a Dietitian of less than 10 years standing, N5,000

21 (c) In the case of a Dietitian on internship, N2,000.

22 (2) A Dietitian during his service year in the National Youth Service  
23 Corps Scheme shall be exempted from the payment of practicing fees.

24 (3) The Council may from time to time, vary the practicing fees  
25 prescribed under subsection (1).

26 (4) The Council shall share the aggregate amount collected as  
27 practicing fees during the year with the Dietitians Association of Nigeria  
28 (DAN), 50 percent.

29 (5) Any Dietitian who in respect of any year and without paying the  
30 prescribed practicing fees as such shall be guilty of an offence and shall be

1 liable on conviction-

2 (a) in the case of a first offence, to a fine of twice the prescribed  
3 practicing fees; and

4 (b) in the case of a second or subsequent offence, to a fine of not  
5 less than ten times prescribed practicing fee, and if the Dietitian is in the  
6 employment of any person, that person shall also be guilty of an offence and  
7 punished in like manner as the Dietitian unless he proves that the failure to  
8 pay the practicing fee was without his knowledge, consent or connivance.

9 PART VI - PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT

10 24. In this part, "professional misconduct" means any conduct  
11 considered by the Council to be professional misconduct and includes  
12 professional indiscipline, abuse of office and corrupt practices in the  
13 conduct of a member in the public service.

14 25.-(1) There shall be established for the Council a Disciplinary  
15 Tribunal to be known as the Dietitians Council of Nigeria Disciplinary  
16 Tribunal (in this Bill referred to as the "Tribunal").

17 (2) The Tribunal shall hear and determine any case of professional  
18 misconduct against any Dietitian in the discharge of his official duties as a  
19 professional dietitian.

20 (3) The Tribunal shall consist of the President and 6 other  
21 Members from among members Of the Association who are of impeccable  
22 character and records to be appointed by the Council.

23 26. -(1) There shall, for the purpose of the proceedings before the  
24 Tribunal be established a panel to be known as the Investigating Panel of the  
25 Dietitians Council of Nigeria (in this Bill referred to as the "Panel").

26 (2) The Panel shall-

27 (a) conduct preliminary investigations into any allegation of  
28 complaint of professional misconduct against any Registered member,  
29 Associate or Fellow of the Council; and

30 (b) decide whether or not such Registered member, Associate or

1 Fellow has a case to answer before the Tribunal and where applicable to refer  
2 such case to the Tribunal for hearing and determination.

3 (3) The Panel shall consist of a Chairman and 4 other members from  
4 among members of the Council who are of impeccable character and records  
5 to be appointed by the Governing Council.

Penalties for  
Professional  
Misconduct

6 27.-(1) Where-

7 (a) a registered dietitian is adjudged by the Disciplinary Tribunal to be  
8 guilty of infamous conduct in any professional respect;

9 (b) a registered dietitian is convicted, by any court of law or Tribunal  
10 in Nigeria or elsewhere having power to impose imprisonment, for an offence  
11 (whether or not an offence punishable with imprisonment) which in the  
12 opinion of the Disciplinary Tribunal is incompatible with the status of a  
13 registered dietitian; or

14 (c) the Disciplinary Tribunal is satisfied that the name of any person  
15 has been fraudulently registered in the Register of Members, the Disciplinary  
16 Tribunal may, if it thinks fit, give any of the directions specified in subsection  
17 (2) of this section.

18 (2) The Disciplinary Tribunal may give a direction under subsection  
19 (1) of this section-

20 (a) ordering the Registrar to strike the person's name off the relevant  
21 register or registers;

22 (b) suspending the person from practice by ordering him not to  
23 engage in practice as a dietitian, for such period not exceeding six months as  
24 may be specified in the direction; or

25 (c) admonishing that person.

26 (3) The Disciplinary Tribunal may, if it thinks fit, defer or further  
27 defer its decision as to the giving of a direction under subsection (1) of this  
28 section until a subsequent meeting of the disciplinary committee; but-

29 (a) no decision shall be deferred under this subsection for any period  
30 exceeding two years in the aggregate; and

1 (b) no person shall be a member of the Disciplinary Tribunal for the  
2 purposes of reaching a decision which has been deferred or further deferred  
3 unless he was present as a member of the Disciplinary Committee when the  
4 decision was deferred.

5 (4) For the purposes of subsection (1) of this section, a person shall  
6 not be treated as convicted as mentioned in paragraph(b) of that subsection  
7 unless the conviction stands at a time when no appeal or further appeal is  
8 pending or may, without extension of time, be brought in connection with  
9 the conviction.

10 (5) When the Disciplinary Tribunal gives a direction under  
11 subsection (1) of this section, the Disciplinary Tribunal shall cause notice of  
12 the direction to be served on the person to whom it relates.

13 (6) The person to whom such a direction relates may, at any time  
14 within 28 days from the date of service on him of the notice of the direction,  
15 appeal against the direction to the Court of Appeal; and the Disciplinary  
16 Tribunal may appear as respondent to the appeal and, for the purposes of  
17 enabling directions to be given as to the costs of the appeal and of  
18 proceedings before the Disciplinary Tribunal, the Disciplinary Tribunal  
19 shall be deemed to be a party thereto whether or not it appears on the hearing  
20 of the appeal.

21 (7) A direction of the Disciplinary Tribunal under subsection(1) of  
22 this section shall take effect-

23 (a) where no appeal under this section is brought against the  
24 direction within the time allowed for the appeal, on the expiration of that  
25 time;

26 (b) where such an appeal is brought and is withdrawn or struck out  
27 for want of prosecution, on the withdrawal or striking out of the appeal;

28 (c) where such an appeal is brought and is not withdrawn or struck  
29 out as aforesaid, if and when the appeal is dismissed.

30 (8) A person whose name is removed from a register in pursuance

1 of a direction of the Disciplinary Tribunal under this section shall not be  
2 entitled to be registered in that register again except in pursuance of a direction  
3 in that behalf given by the Disciplinary Tribunal on the application of that  
4 person.

5 (9) A direction under this section for the removal of a person's name  
6 from a register may prohibit an application under subsection (8) of this section  
7 by that person until the expiration of such period from the date of the direction,  
8 and where he has duly made such an application, from the date of his last  
9 application, as may be specified in the direction.

10 PART VII - MEETINGS

11 28. The Council shall hold not less than 4 Council meetings every  
12 year, but the President shall upon the requisition of not less than 5 members  
13 convene an emergency Council meeting to transact the business Council  
14 specified in the notice of that emergency Council meeting.

15 29. The President shall preside at any meeting of the Council, and in  
16 the absence of the President, the First Vice-President shall preside and in the  
17 absence of both the President and the First Vice-President, the Second Vice-  
18 President shall preside and where he is also not available, members of the  
19 Council present shall elect one of their member to preside at such a meeting.

20 30. The proceedings of the Council shall not be affected by the  
21 absence of any member of the Council or any defect in the election or  
22 appointment of any member or by reason that a person not entitled to be part of  
23 the Proceedings, has taken part in such proceedings.

24 31. The Council may make standing orders to regulate its proceedings  
25 and those of any of its committees.

26 32.-(1) The Council shall hold an annual general meeting of all  
27 Members every year.

28 (2) The President shall preside at any annual general meeting of the  
29 Council; and in the absence of the President, the First Vice-President shall  
30 preside, and in the absence of the First Vice-President, the Second Vice



1 President shall preside and where both the President and the two Vice-  
2 Presidents are absent, the members present shall elect one of their number to  
3 preside at such meeting.

4 PART VIII - MISCELLANEOUS

5 **33.**-(1) The Council may make regulations to carry into effect any  
6 of the provisions of this Bill.

7 (2) Without prejudice to Subsection (1), the Council may make  
8 regulations to-

9 (a) prescribe the fees, dues and subscriptions payable by the  
10 Members;

11 (b) prescribe the forms of the licenses and certificates, to be issued  
12 to Dietitians;

13 (c) prescribe the date, procedure and agenda of the annual general  
14 meeting of the Council; and

15 (d) specify the offices and duties of the officers of the Council.

16 **34.** In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires-

Interpretation

17 "Council" means Dietitians Council of Nigeria established by Section 1 (1)  
18 of this Bill;

19 "Governing Council" means Governing Council, established by Section  
20 4(1) of this Bill;

21 "Institution" means Faculty, College or University where Nutrition and  
22 Dietetics is Studied;

23 "Member" means member of the Council and includes Registered Member,  
24 an Associate and a Fellow of the Council;

25 "President" means President of the Council;

26 "Ranks" means status of Registered members, Associates or Fellows;

27 "Register" means Register created and maintained under Section 14;

28 "Tribunal" means Tribunal established under Section 23;

29 "First Vice-President" means First Vice-President of the Council;

30 "Second Vice-President" means Second Vice-President of the Council;

1 *Finding*

2 9. If after the hearing, the Tribunal adjudges that the charge of  
3 professional misconduct has not been proved, the Tribunal;

4 (a) shall record the findings that the respondent is not guilty of such  
5 misconduct in respect of which the charge was preferred; and

6 (b) may, nevertheless order any party (except the complainant) to pay  
7 the costs of the proceedings, having regard in his conduct and to all the  
8 circumstances of the case.

9 *Publication of Finding*

10 10. Any finding made or direction given by the Tribunal shall be  
11 published in the Federal Gazette immediately after such finding or direction,  
12 as the case may be.

13 *Record of Proceedings*

14 11. The Chairman shall during the hearing, take the minutes of the  
15 proceedings which shall be open to inspection by the parties and shall be made  
16 available to any party upon the payment of such charges as the Registrar may  
17 by instrument published in the Federal Gazette, fix.

18 *Miscellaneous Powers of the Tribunal*

19 12. The Tribunal may dispense with any requirements of these rules  
20 regarding notices, affidavits, documents, service or time for doing or omitting  
21 anything, in any case where it appears to the Tribunal to be just or expedient so  
22 to do, and the Tribunal may in any particular case extend the time for doing  
23 anything under these rules.

24 *Powers to retain exhibit pending appeal*

25 13. Books and other exhibits whatsoever produced or used at the  
26 hearing shall unless the Tribunal otherwise directs, be retained by the Registrar  
27 until the expiry of the time for filing an appeal against any finding or direction  
28 of the Tribunal or, if notice of any such appeal is given, until the hearing and  
29 disposal of the appeal.

1 *Appointment and Duties of Assessors*

2 **14.**-(1) An Assessor shall be appointed by the Council by  
3 instrument, and the assessor shall hold and vacate office as provided in his  
4 instrument of appointment, and where the appointment is not a general one,  
5 it shall have effect only in respect of a particular proceeding of the Tribunal.

6 (2) Subject to the terms of his appointment, an assessor shall attend  
7 the proceedings of the Tribunal whenever required to do so by notice in  
8 writing given to him by the Registrar not later than 3 days, before the date  
9 fixed for the hearing of such Proceedings; and he shall advise the Tribunal  
10 on questions of law only.

11 *Interpretation*

12 **15.** In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires-  
13 "Complainant" means a person or body that brings complaint of  
14 professional misconduct against a member of the Council to the tribunal;  
15 "Respondent" means the persons required to answer to any charge of  
16 Professional Misconduct brought by the Complainant.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This bill seeks to establish Dietitian Council of Nigeria, to regulate the profession of Dietitics and other matters connected therewith.