

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF EMPLOYMENT ACT 2004. LAWS OF THE FEDERATION TO CREATE SKILL ACQUISITION, ARTISAN AND VOCATIONAL CENTRES FOR SELF EMPLOYMENT, SKILL ACQUISITION, SELF-EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMMES FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Mike Etaba

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Commencement

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

1 1. -(1) The National Directorate of Employment Act is amended as
2 set out in this Act.

Amendment of
the National
Directorate of
Employment

3 2. The Principal Act is amended by inserting Part V with Sections
4 as follows:

5 '15' Establishment of National Vocational and Skill Acquisition
6 Centre;

7 (1) There is hereby established for the National Directorate of
8 Employment a National Vocational and Skill Acquisition Centre which shall
9 be known as the Centre.

10 (2) The Centre:

11 (a) Shall be a body Corporate with perpetual succession and a
12 Common seal;

13 (b) May sue and be sued in its corporate names;

14 (c) May acquire, hold or dispose of any property, movable and
15 immovable for the purpose of carrying out its functions under this Act.

16 (3) The Centre shall have its headquarters at the National
17 Directorate of Employment in Abuja.

18 (4) The Centre shall provide for the establishment and

1 standardization of Skill Acquisition and Artisan for the accreditation.
2 registration, training in all national skills and Artisans, certification of youths
3 for self-employment and national development".

4 (5) The Directorate shall establish the Skill Acquisition and Artisan
5 Centre one in each geo-political zone of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with a
6 state of the art equipment for the training of the youth and the unemployed.

7 '16' Establishment and Composition of the Board:

8 (1) The Centre shall consist of a Chairman and the following
9 members who shall be appointed by the minister that is-

10 (2) a representative not below the rank of a Director from the
11 following ministries-

12 (i) Employment, Labour and Productivity;

13 (ii) Ministry of Works, and;

14 (iii) Ministry of Health and Human Services;

15 (b) a representative of the National Board for Technical Education
16 (NBTE);

17 (c) a representative of Standards Organization of Nigeria, (SON);

18 (d) three representatives of Nigeria Society of Engineers, (NSE);

19 (e) two other persons, being persons who by reason of any requisite
20 ability, experience and special knowledge in Skill Acquisition and Artisans
21 Development that would be useful to the Centre;

22 (f) three successful persons who have distinguished themselves in any
23 of the designated/listed artisans trade or occupation.

24 '17' Power of the Board;

25 The Board of the Centre shall have power to-

26 (a) manage and superintend over the affairs of the Centre on behalf of
27 the Directorate;

28 (b) make rules and regulations for the effective running of the Centre;

29 (c) enter into such contract as may be necessary or expedient for the
30 discharge of its functions and ensure the efficient performance of the

- 1 functions of the Centres nationwide; and
- 2 (d) receive, disburse and account for all funds made available to the
- 3 Centres for the purposes of this Act.
- 4 '18. Functions of the Centre;
- 5 (3) The Centre shall-
- 6 (a) formulate guidelines and standards for the for the accreditation,
- 7 registration, training in all national skills and vocations, development and
- 8 certification of the unemployed in order to enhance national development
- 9 and self-employment;
- 10 (b) define occupational standards, basic work tools, work
- 11 environment and set standards for Nigerian Youth accredited and enrolled
- 12 into the Centre;
- 13 (c) determine the course content for the various levels of skill
- 14 acquisition and vocational certification standard;
- 15 (d) determine occupations and trades for which an artisan
- 16 certificate is required;
- 17 (e) advise the Board of the Directorate accordingly.
- 18 (4) the Centre shall be constituted into such committees relevant to
- 19 its functions.
- 20 '19. Maintenance of Register;
- 21 (1) The Centres shall-
- 22 (a) maintain a register of persons who have obtained an artisan
- 23 qualification pursuant to this Act;
- 24 (b) maintain a register of persons who are already practicing the
- 25 trade prior to the commencement of this Act;
- 26 (c) determine the criteria and procedure for the name of any person
- 27 to be included or removed from the register of artisans;
- 28 (d) determine the fees payable for registration;
- 29 (e) any matter necessary for maintaining the register of artisans
- 30 (2) The Centre may exempt any body from taking a trade test if such

1 person has been practicing the trade or occupation for the past 10 years prior to
2 the commencement of this Act and it appears to the Centre that such person has
3 acquired sufficient skill and knowledge to justify such exemption.

4 '20'. Provision of Certificates;

5 (1) Without prejudice to section 19(2) of this Act, no person shall
6 obtain an artisan qualification or certificate unless such person have
7 successfully undergone a trade test administered by an accredited trade test
8 Centre.

9 (2) The Centre shall for the purposes of this Act, accredit and approve
10 trade-test Centres that meet the accreditation standard prescribed by the
11 Centre, provided that the accreditation procedures of the Centre are not
12 cumbersome or stringent; so as to encourage the development and growth of
13 artisan trade and practices in Nigeria.

14 (3) A person shall apply to undergo a trade test in respect of an
15 occupation or trade of which he has satisfied the relevant apprenticeship or any
16 other learning programme, in-house company training, training workshop,
17 job-based or specialized training resulting in an occupational or vocational
18 qualification, inclusive of prescribed work experience.

19 (4) The trade test conducted by the Centre shall focus on the practical
20 and technical assessment of the standard and level of skill acquisition by the
21 artisan and not the academic ability.

22 (5) The Centre shall prescribe the fees chargeable by test centres.

23 (6) In determining any fee payable by applicants, the Centre shall
24 ensure that its fees are not excessive or prohibitive.

25 (7) The Centre shall make regulations on any matter necessary and
26 incidental for the conducting or moderating of trade tests.

27 '21'. Review of Occupational Standards;

28 (1) The Centre; shall review from time to time, its occupational
29 standards, basic working-tools and machinery, working environment
30 specification and quality of service delivery to reflect current trends and

1 international best practices in order to encourage the development and
2 growth of Nigerian artisan trade and practices to international standards.

3 (2) The Centre shall review from time to time, its occupational
4 standards, basic working tools and machinery, working environment
5 specification and quality of service delivery to reflect current trends and
6 international best practices in order to encourage the development and
7 growth of Nigerian artisan trade and practices to international standards.

8 (3) Upon the coming into force of this Act, the Artisan Council
9 shall set deadlines for artisans to regularize their trade practices to conform
10 to its regulations, made pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

11 '22'. Establishment of State Artisan Trade and Practices;

12 (1) There shall be established for the Centre in each State of the
13 Federation, including the Federal Capital Territory Abuja a "State Artisan
14 Trade and Practices Committee" (in this Act referred to as the "Artisan
15 Committee"), which shall:

16 (a) coordinate the activities of the Centre in the States;

17 (b) liaise with the State Governments for the implementation of the
18 programmes of the Centre in the State.

19 (2) The Artisan Committee shall consist of a Chairman who shall
20 be the officer in charge of the State Office of the Directorate and the
21 following members appointed by the Minister upon nomination by the by
22 the Governor of the states:

23 (a) five successful artisans who have distinguished themselves in
24 any of the designated/listed occupations or trade;

25 (b) five other persons, being persons who by reason of any
26 requisite ability, experience and special knowledge, have skills that would
27 be useful to the Artisan Committee and would enable them to make effective
28 contribution to the work of the Centre.

29 '23'. Allowances to State Artisan Committee Members;

30 (1) Any member of the Artisan Council or Artisan Committee not being a

1 Public Officer shall be paid a sitting allowance in accordance with the
2 allowances duly approved from time to time by the Minister, as provided by the
3 Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission.

4 (2) Any member of the Artisan Council or Artisan committee not
5 being a public officer shall hold office for four years and shall be eligible for re-
6 appointment for a further period of four years.

7 (3) Notwithstanding, the provisions of subsection 2 of this section,
8 the:

9 '24'. Registration of Qualified Artisans;

10 (1) No person whether employed or self-employed shall hold himself
11 out to be qualified as an artisan in a listed occupation or trade, unless that
12 person is registered as an artisan pursuant to this Act.

13 (2) Any person who contravenes subsection 1 of this section shall be
14 guilty of an offence and upon conviction shall be liable to 6 months
15 imprisonment or a fine of N100,000.

16 '25'. Funds of the Centre;

17 (a) annual budgetary allocation from the Federal Government to the
18 Centre;

19 (b) examination fees, registration fees, and accreditation fees
20 accruing to the Centre;

21 '26'. Interpretation;

22 In this Act, unless the context requires-

23 "artisans: shall include but not limited to auto technicians, refrigerator
24 technicians, barbers, mechanics, electricians, welders, masons, hair dressers,
25 plumbers, carpenters, tailors, vulcanizers, refrigerator technicians, vehicle and
26 house painters, and such other occupations or trade as may from time to time be
27 added to the list by the Directorate;

28 "artisan trade" means occupation or trade carried on by artisans and such other
29 occupation or trades as may be so designated by the Centre;

30 "artisan council" means the National Artisan Trade and Practices Council

1 established by this act;
2 "First School Leaving Certificate or its equivalent", for the purposes of this
3 Act, shall include the ability to understand and communicate in English
4 language to the satisfaction of the Directorate or any other certificate
5 acceptable to the Centre:

6 27. This Act may be cited as the National Directorate of Citation
7 Employment Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

8 SCHEDULE 1

9 LIST OF DESIGNATED TRADES AND OCCUPATION FOR WHICH SKILL 10 ACQUISITION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CERTIFICATION IS REQUIRED

- 11 1. Auto Mechanics,
- 12 2. Refrigerator Repairs,
- 13 3. Mechanical, electrical and Electronic repairs,
- 14 4. Iron Mongering/Works,
- 15 5. Masonry, Tiling, Bricklaying, etc.,
- 16 6. Hair Dressing/Hair Cutting,
- 17 7. Plumbing,
- 18 8. Carpentry,
- 19 9. Tailoring/ Fashion Designing,
- 20 10. Vulcanizing/Tyre Repairs, wheel Balancing,
- 21 11. Vehicle and House painting,
- 22 12. Leather works,
- 23 13. Photographic Services,
- 24 14. Catering/ Bakery/Confectionery,
- 25 15. Computer Operation and Website Designing,
- 26 16. Interior Design and Decoration,
- 27 17. Candle Making,
- 28 18. Soap and Detergent Making,
- 29 19. Foundry works/ Metal Fabrication,
- 30 20. Use Products Recycling,

- 1 21. Restaurants,
- 2 22. Refuse Collection,
- 3 23. Such other occupations and trades as may from time to time be
- 4 added to the list by the Centre.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend the National Directorate of Employment Act to provide for creation of the Skill Acquisition and Vocational Training Centres for the standardization of Skill Acquisition and Artisan Development; provide for the accreditation, registration, training in all national skills and Artisans, certification of youths for self-employment and national development. Among other things establish the Skill Acquisition and Artisan Centre one in each geopolitical zone of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.