

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 19 (1) (A), 19 (1) (B), 21 (5) (A), 21 (5) (B) AND 35 OF THE NIGERIAN PRESS COUNCIL ACT CAP N128 LFN 2004 BY PROVIDING THAT ONLY A PERSON WHO HAS FIRST DEGREE, HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA IN JOURNALISM, MEDIA ART, OR COMMUNICATION OR POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATE SHALL PRACTICE AS JOURNALIST AND INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FINE FOR FAKE JOURNALIST; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Francis Ottah Agbo

[] Commencement

BE IT ENACTED by the national Assembly of the federal republic of Nigeria as follows:

1 1. The Nigerian press council Act Cap N128 LFN 2004 is hereby
2 amended as contained herein

Amendment of
Press Council Act

3 2. Amendment of Section 19 (1) (a) of the principal Act Section 19
4 (1) (a) of the principal act is amended by deleting paragraph (a) and replaces
5 it with new one and rearranged as follows:

Amendment of
Section 19(1)(a)

6 19 (1) (a) he holds a first Degree, Higher National Diploma
7 Certificate or its equivalent in Journalism, media Art, or communication
8 from any Higher Institution in Nigeria or elsewhere.

9 3. Amendment of Section 19 (1) (b) of the principal Act Section 19
10 (1) (b) of the principal Act is amended by deleting paragraph (b) and
11 replaces it with new one and rearranged as follows:

Amendment of
Section 19(1)(b)

12 19 (1) (b) in the case of a person who has a first Degree in any other
13 course, he shall within 5 years obtain a postgraduate certificate in
14 Journalism, media Art, Communication, or related field from any Higher
15 Institution in Nigeria or elsewhere.

Amendment of
Section 21 (5) (a)
of the Principal
Act

1 4. Section 21 (5) (a) of the principal Act is amended by deleting the
2 figure N5,000 in the first line and replace it with N200,000 and delete the figure
3 N200 and replaces it with N500 and re-arrange as follows:

4 (a) in a High Court, he shall be liable to a fine not exceeding N200 ;
5 000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both such fine and
6 imprisonment and an additional fine N500 for each day during which the
7 offence continues; and

Amendment of
Section 21 (5) (b)
of the Principal
Act

8 5. Section 21 (5) (b) of the principal Act is amended by deleting N3.
9 000 in the first line and replaces it with N300,000 and delete N100 and replaces
10 it with N500 and rearranged as follows:

11 (b) in a Magistrate court, he shall be liable to a fine of N 300,000 and
12 to an additional fine of N500 for each day during which the offence continues.

Amendment of
Section 35 of the
Principal Act

13 6. Section 35 of the principal Act is amended by adding new
14 subsection (3) immediately after subsection (2) and rearranged as follows:

15 3. A journalist shall be entitled to monthly salary payable by the
16 publisher, owner or printer which the report of payment of the salary shall be
17 included in the return of performance of newspaper, magazine or journal to be
18 submitted to the council.

Citation

19 7. This Bill may be cited as Nigerian press council (Amendment)
20 Bill, 2020.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend sections 19 (1) (a), 19 (1) (b), 21 (5) (a), 21 (5) (b) and 35 of the Nigerian press council Act Cap N128 LFN 2004 by providing that only a person who has first degree, higher National diploma in Journalism, media Art, or communication or post graduate certificate shall practice as journalist and increase the punishment fine for fake journalists.