

NATIONAL UNITY CORPS (ESTABLISHMENT, ETC.) BILL, 2021

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A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL UNITY CORPS TO UPHOLD AND IMPART THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE NATIONAL ETHICS FOR RESTITUTING DILIGENCE; REKINDLE AND REJUVENATE THE VIRTUES OF DISCIPLINE IN THE CITIZENRY, BUILD A SOCIETY OF RESOURCEFUL AND PRODUCTIVE PERSONS FOR NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Aminu Ashiru Mani

[] Commencement

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

PART I - ESTABLISHMENT, OBJECTS, FUNCTIONS, ETC. OF THE NATIONAL UNITY AND UNITY CORPS

1.-(1) There is hereby established for the Federation, a body to be known as the National Unity Corps (in this Act referred to as "the Unity Corps") which shall be a non-security, non-partisan and religious social services organisation.

Establishment
of the National
Unity Corps

(2) The Unity Corps established pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall consist of such number of uniformed and non-uniformed members as may be determined, from time to time, by the Council with the approval of the President.

2. The objects of the Unity Corps shall be-

Objects of the
Unity Corps

(1) to halt constant disputes caused by religious, ethnic, political and boundary skirmishes within the country;

(2) to supervise and monitor trees planted to avert extant desertification in the northern parts of the country, erosion, over-flooding menace and other natural disasters in the southern parts of Nigeria;

(a) to assist appropriate authorities in the management and preservation of Nigeria's ecosystem applying cognitive roles involving

1 activities that would conserve and preserve certain mineral resources; .

2 (b) to enforce the re-planting of trees hewed or failed to serve as its
3 replacement to beef up afforestation;

4 (c) To assist appropriate agencies in anti-corruption and
5 environmental degradation measures; and

6 (3) to resuscitate and maintain abandoned machines, vehicles,
7 buildings, and other valuable assets purchased with tax payers money scattered
8 all over Nigeria and visit government establishments to inspect and
9 recommend the maintenance and refurbishment of broken down/abandoned
10 machineries and buildings belonging to the public.

11 (4) to undertake a massive campaign against criminal activities in the
12 society such as kidnapping, militancy, armed and pen robbery, rape, drug
13 peddling and abuse, prostitution, and hostage taking.

14 (5) Without prejudice the provisions of sub-sections (1) - (4), the
15 object of the Corps shall be to-

16 (a) to act as emissary to government for propounding its reform
17 programmes, policies and other definitive regulations and procedures of action
18 aimed at guiding and determining the present and future growth of Nigeria at
19 grassroots level, in a most subtle, astute and efficient manner;

20 (b) to rekindle, reconstitute or rejuvenate the virtues of discipline, dignity
21 of labour and self-reliance in the generality of Nigeria, in order to foster a
22 society of resourceful and productive persons;

23 (c) to deepen and enrich the concept of family values, societal
24 integration and national unity for the purposes of encouraging the promotion of
25 peace, harmony and progress in the affairs of the nation;

26 (d) to give new energy to government's endeavour to purge the youth
27 and the larger society of prevailing social evils and crimes such as prostitution,
28 sexual abuse of minors, drug abuse, examination malpractices, pornography,
29 cultism, child labour, child marriage, child apprenticeship, etc.;

30 (e) to disseminate and impart, in a most discreet and conciliatory

1 manner, the attributes of dispensing social justice, obeying constituted
2 authorities, imbibing religious tolerance and demonstrating patriotism by
3 every citizen, enterprise or undertaking in Nigeria;

4 (f) to emphasize and elevate the best traits shared by the generality
5 of Nigerian as a product of common heredity, folkways, cultural and
6 traditional customs which are inherent in all communities for the purposes
7 of dousing tribal and ethnic bigotries, and fostering the peaceful co-
8 existence, integration and unity of all Nigerians;

9 (g) to play down and de-emphasize all forms of negative points of
10 view, demeanor and beliefs which hamper, or are capable of hampering, the
11 best intentions of government in every genuine effort to provide the good
12 things of life for the citizenry;

13 (h) to act as the official body for advancing public acceptance and
14 adherence to the concept and intendment of the Universal Basic Education
15 Scheme in order to attain massive enrolment into schools of every child of
16 school age;

17 (i) to galvanize and stimulate the generality of Nigerians to
18 endeavour to perform their civic responsibilities selflessly to their
19 communities, States and the nation, and as specified by the Constitution;

20 (j) to continuously appeal to and persuade communities and
21 individuals to refrain from perpetrating acts of vandalism on public
22 properties and other installations of government;

23 (k) to ensure that the voices of survivors of sexual violence and
24 violence against women is heard and ensure that perpetrators face justice;

25 (l) to create a National Registry of forensic evidence of domestic
26 violence; and

27 (m) to offer programmes and services of rehabilitation for
28 survivors,

29 3.-(1) The primary functions of National Unity Corps shall be-

30 (i) Facilitative Mediation-Intervention for the Nation;

Functions and
powers

- 1 (ii) Early warning Conflicts Signs- Monitoring and Detection;
- 2 (iii) Action Research in National Peace and Conflict Issues;
- 3 (iv) Developing Conflict Related Data base for the Nation;
- 4 (v) Peer Mediation in Nigerian Schools;
- 5 (vi) Public Peace Enlightenment;
- 6 (vii) Alternative Dispute Resolution Workshops/seminars
- 7 (viii) Civil/Human Rights Advocacy

8 (2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, members of the Corps shall
9 have responsibility for performing the following duties, that is to say-

10 (a) conducting programmes and activities for upholding and
11 imparting the attributes of the national ethics of discipline, integrity, dignity of
12 labour, social justice, religious tolerance, self-reliance and patriotism within
13 various communities, institutions and groups of Nigerians for the purposes of
14 enhancing the power, ideals, unity, prestige and good name of Nigeria;

15 (b) carrying on massive campaigns and counseling programmes for
16 the youth and other members of society to abstain from perpetrating certain
17 anti-social and criminal activities such as cultism, prostitution, examination
18 malpractices, drug abuse, child abuse, trafficking in persons, corruption, etc.;

19 (c) mobilizing and guiding the citizenry at grass roots level to
20 understand, savour, imbibe and abide by the precepts and overall purport of the
21 Constitution in order to enable Nigerians to accord respect and belief in its
22 ideals, and render support to the duties of the institutions established in
23 consequence thereof;

24 (d) rendering its services meritoriously to departments of
25 government, agencies, etc. for advancing their reform programmes, policies
26 and other measures aimed at improving the quality of life and economic well-
27 being of the citizenry;

28 (e) organizing community outreach programmes and other activities
29 for realizing public acceptance and adherence to the provisions and purposes of
30 the law establishing the Universal Basic Education Scheme;

1 (f) initiating and conducting regular interactive meetings with
2 various associations, cooperatives, unions, communities and other social
3 bodies or organizations on the evils and setbacks that acts of vandalization
4 of public property has on the development efforts of government;

5 (g) assist appropriate authorities in the management and
6 preservation of Nigeria's ecosystem to include getting involved in activities
7 and other efforts that would advance the conservation of certain natural
8 resources, the protection of endangered species, control of stray animals,
9 anti-pollution and environmental degradation measures;

10 (h) applying its best efforts in prompting and motivating Nigerians
11 to imbibe and demonstrate patriotic zeal and zest in promoting the affairs of
12 the nation, and making positive and far-reaching contributions for the
13 advancement, progress and well-being of members of the communities
14 where they reside;

15 (i) promoting the rejuvenation and practice of the best cultural and
16 traditional customs of the generality of Nigerians with regard to family
17 values, ties and morals, and bolstering the most beneficial aspects of
18 society's folkways, folklore and norms of behaviour and contentment;

19 (j) assisting in the control, orderliness and peaceful conduct of
20 crowds at any social gathering or occasion, and instilling queue culture into
21 the way of life of Nigerians;

22 (k) carrying on a continuous crusade and counseling of members of
23 society against certain abhorrent, contemptible and harmful social
24 behaviours and practices such as street hawking by children, child labour,
25 street begging, defecation in public places, indiscriminate dumping of
26 refuse, mutilation and defacing of the Naira currency, and other related
27 social vices;

28 (l) inculcate in society, the benefits of practicing thrift and
29 prudence in spending, the application of hard work and tenacity in any
30 venture, and the virtues of according respect for elders;

1 (m) discharging such other duties and functions which are incidental
2 or supplementary to the provisions of this subsection.

3 (3) In order to give effect to the objects and functions specified under
4 and pursuant to this Act, the Unity Corps shall have powers to-

5 (a) apply all lawful forms of person-to-person persuasion, interaction
6 and dialogue with communities, associations, unions, cooperatives and other
7 interest groups to achieve its objects under this Act;

8 (b) embark on the compilation, printing and publication of a variety of
9 handbills, posters, placards, billboards and other forms of literature to
10 continuously appeal to the conscience of society on their responsibilities with
11 regard to adherence to and regard for the national ethics as prescribed by the
12 Constitution, and the benefits attendant in avoiding greed and avarice In their
13 dealings and other harmful social behaviours;

14 (c) carry on street by street and house to house campaign, education
15 and enlightenment of individuals and groups Oil its objects and functions in a
16 most discreet, astute, trusting and conciliatory manner;

17 (d) appoint, from time to time, certain influential and popular
18 personalities to act as ambassador for propagating and disseminating any
19 selected objects and functions of the Unity Corps to members of the public or
20 certain target audience, through the application of music, drama, satire, opera
21 or other stage, radio or television performances;

22 (e) organize and conduct, from time to time, enlightenment
23 programmes and activities such as conferences, seminars, workshops,
24 community and village meetings for the purposes of spreading the objects of
25 the Unity Corps in a most effective manner;

26 (f) carry on the regular training, retraining and education of members
27 for the Unity Corps within and outside Nigeria to enhance their skills, broaden
28 their knowledge and strengthen their fortitude for performing their duties
29 under this Act;

30 (g) carry on research studies and analysis on the best and most

1 effective methods and procedure for reaching out to various interest groups
2 in the Federation in order to foster a decent, peaceful, productive and
3 resourceful society;

4 (h) compile and present a report to the appropriate authority on any
5 abhorrent, contemptible anti-social or criminal activity perpetrated or being
6 perpetrated by any person or group of persons in the course of performing
7 any of its functions under and pursuant to this Act;

8 (i) enter into contracts with anybody corporate, firm or person for
9 the purposes of executing or fulfilling its functions and responsibilities
10 under this Act;

11 (j) have access to any school, college or institution of learning in
12 any part of the Federation for the purposes of disseminating information,
13 imparting knowledge and generally educating pupils, students and other
14 persons on the objects of the Unity Corps;

15 (k) acquire land, hold and manage movable and immovable
16 property for the purposes of facilitating the discharge of its duties;

17 (l) carry on liaison with relevant bodies or institutions locally or
18 overseas for effective performance of its functions under this Act;

19 (m) carry on the administrative and incidental work connected
20 with the exercise of its powers, the execution of its duties and the
21 performance of its functions through persons employed, appointed or
22 seconded to the services of the Unity Corps; and

23 (n) develop and promote such processes, methods or devices as
24 may be useful, expedient or incidental for fulfilling the purposes and
25 intent of this Act.

26 (4) For the avoidance of any doubt, the powers conferred on the
27 Unity Corps under subsection (3) of this section shall be exercised in
28 consultation with the Minister.

1 PART II - ESTABLISHMENT, COMPOSITION, ETC OF THE NATIONAL

2 UNITY CORPS COUNCIL

Establishment
of the National
Unity Corps
Council

3 4.-(1) There is hereby established for the National Unity Corps
4 Council (in this Act referred to as "the Council") which under that name shall
5 be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal, and may sue
6 or be sued in its corporate name.

7 (2) The Council established pursuant to subsection (1) of this section
8 shall have its headquarters located in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

Membership,
tenure of office,
etc. of the Council

9 5.-(1) The Council shall consist of-

10 (a) the Commandant-General of the Corps, who shall be chairman of
11 the Council;

12 (b) the Deputy Commandant-General of the Corps;

13 (c) the Assistant Commandant-General of the Corps;

14 (d) the Zonal Commandants of the Corps;

15 (e) one representative each of-

16 (i) the Ministry of Interior;

17 (ii) the ministry of Defence,

18 (iii) the Ministry of Sports and Youth Development,

19 (iv) the National Orientation Agency; and

20 (f) the Head of the Department of Administrative Services of the
21 Corps, who shall be the Secretary to the Council.

22 (2) Members of the Council shall be appointed by the President on the
23 recommendation of the minister.

24 (3) Subject to section 4 of this Act, a member of the Council, other
25 than an ex-officio member, shall hold office for a period of five years, and shall
26 be eligible for reappointment for one further period of five years, and no more.

27 (4) The salaries and allowances payable to members of the Council
28 shall be in accordance with such rates as may be approved by the Government
29 of the Federation, from time to time.

6. The provisions of the First Schedule to this Act shall apply with respect to the proceedings of the Council and the other matters contained therein.

7. A member of the Council, other than an ex-officio member,	Removal from office, and cessation of membership of the Council
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(a) be removed from office by the President, if he has been found, after due enquiry, to have conducted himself in a manner that renders him unsuitable as a member of the Council, or is mentally or physically incapable of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of his office under this Act;

(b) resign his appointment by writing under his hand a letter or resignation to the President, and his membership of the Council shall cease on the date of the receipt of the letter by the President.

8.-(1) The Council shall be charged with the responsibility for the policy making, organization and administration of the Corps established under this Act, and without prejudice to the foregoing directions of this subsection, the Council shall-

Responsibilities and duties of the Council

(a) determine and approve, from time to time, the scope, tenor and extent of the functions and powers of the Corps established under this Act;

(b) approve policies and procedure to be followed by the Corps to uphold and impart to the citizenry the virtues of tile national ethics of discipline, integrity, dignity of labour, social justice, religious tolerance, self-reliance and patriotism;

(c) set out guidelines and mode of operation of the Corps with regard to carrying out such national services aimed at prompting the citizenry to collectively enhance the power, prestige and good name of Nigeria;

(d) draw up and approve programmes and other strategies for the Corps to mobilize and guide citizens at the grassroots level to understand, imbibe and abide by the precepts and overall purport or the Constitution, so

1 as to enable them to accord respect and belief in its ideals, and to appreciate all
2 the democratic institutions established by the nation's supreme law;

3 (e) set up an agenda for tile Corps to address and minimize prevalent
4 anti-social and criminal tendencies of certain category of persons, especially
5 the youth, with regard to cultism, prostitution, examination malpractices, drug-
6 abuse and other related vices;

7 (f) determine and approve the procedure to be followed by members
8 of the Corps for assisting the appropriate authorities in the management and
9 preservation of Nigeria's ecosystem, to wit, the conservation of natural
10 resources, the protection of animals and the endangered species, anti-pollution
11 and environmental degradation projects carried out ill the Federation or any
12 pall: thereof;

13 (g) define the scope and extent of the programmes and curriculum to
14 be applied for the training and education of the members of the Corps within
15 and outside Nigeria, tor the purposes of enhancing their skills, broadening their
16 knowledge and strengthening their fortitude for the implementation of the
17 functions, and exercise of the powers, conferred under this Act;

18 (h) appoint suitable persons to positions of authority in the corps, and
19 approve the ranks to be bestowed on any member of the corps and the code of
20 conduct to be observed by all;

21 (i) approve the annual budgets and expenditure for the Council and
22 the Corps;

23 (j) receive and consider, for approval, the audited accounts of the
24 Corps and submit to the President and the National Assembly, through the
25 Minister, in each year a report on the activities of the Council and the corps;

26 (k) receive regular and periodic reports from the Corps on the extent
27 of the performance of the functions and exercise of the powers conferred under
28 this Act; and

29 (l) perform such other duties as may, from time to time, be necessary
30 to achieve its objectives.

1 (2) The Council may, subject to such conditions as it may think fit
2 delegate any of its responsibilities and duties under this Act to the
3 Commandant-General or any of its members.

4 (3) The Minister shall have power to make regulations generally
5 for enabling the effective discharge of the duties and responsibilities of the
6 Council under this Act.

7 PART III - COMMAND STRUCTURES, ORGANIZATION, OFFICERS AND
8 OTHER RANKS OF THE UNITY CORPS

9 9.-(1) There shall be a Commandant-General of the Unity Corps
10 who shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the
11 Minister, and who shall be a person possessing sound knowledge of and
12 ability in the organization and administration of matters relating to the Unity
13 Corps. Commandant-
General of the
Unity Corps

14 (2) The Commandant-General shall be the Chief Executive of the
15 Unity Corps and shall be exclusively responsible for the execution of the
16 policies and decisions of the Council, and for carrying into effect the day-to-
17 day activities of the Unity Corps.

18 (3) Without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (2) of this
19 section, the Commandant-General shall-

20 (a) exercise general supervision and control over members of the
21 Unity Corps, the Zonal and State Commands of the Unity Corps, and the
22 other staff of the Council;

23 (b) direct the activities of members of the Unity Corps including
24 the course of their training and education, and of the officers and servants of
25 the Council;

26 (c) manage the Council's financial affairs; and

27 (d) be free to deploy the human and material resources of the
28 Council in accordance with this Act in order to achieve results and ensure the
29 attainment of the objects of this Act, and in this regard, the Council shall not

1 interfere with his methods or with the manner in which he performs the
2 foregoing duties.

Deputy Commandant-
General, Zonal
Commandants,
etc.

3 10.-(1) There shall be for the Unity Corps a Deputy Commandant-
4 General who shall be appointed by the Council, and who shall be directly
5 responsible to the Commandant-General and who shall perform such
6 administrative and organizational duties as may be
7 assigned to him by the Commandant-general of the Unity Corps.

8 (2) For the purposes articulating and attending the national spread of
9 the Unity Corps there shall be-

10 (a) six Zonal Commands for the Unity Corps which shall be under the
11 supervision of the Assistant Commandant-General, and each of the Zonal
12 Commands shall be headed by a Commandant;

13 (b) State Branch Commands in each of the States of the Federation
14 each of which shall be headed by a Deputy Commandant; and

15 (c) such other number of Council Commands as the Commandant-
16 General may determine to ensure the national spread of the activities of the
17 Unity Corps.

18 (3) The Commandant-General may deploy to each Zonal, State or
19 Council Commands such number and category of members of the Unity Corps
20 as he may deem sufficient for attaining the objects of this Act.

21 (4) Subject to this Act, it shall be the duty of the heads of the
22 Commands mentioned in subsection (2) of this section to file a weekly and
23 monthly report of their activities to the office of the Commandant-General.

Establishment
of administrative
and operations
departments

24 11.-(1) In order to facilitate the proper discharge of its functions and
25 the exercise of the powers conferred on the Unity Corps, there shall be
26 established for the Unity Corps the following administrative and operations
27 departments, namely-

28 (a) the Department of State Coordination Services;

29 (b) the Department of Intelligence Services;

30 (c) the Department of Administration Services;

- 1 (d) the Department of Finance Services;
- 2 (e) the Legal Department;
- 3 (f) the Department of Unity Corps Field Operations;
- 4 (g) the Department of Training and Research;
- 5 (h) the Department of Local Government Affairs;
- 6 (i) the Department of Public Affairs and Welfare Services;
- 7 (j) the Department of Animal and Environmental Matters.

8 (2) The composition, duties and powers of the administrative and
9 operations department established pursuant to subsection (1) of this section
10 shall be as may be determined by the Commandant-General, subject to
11 approval by the Council.

12 12.-(1) The Council shall have responsibility for drawing up
13 programmes for the appointment, recruitment and training of members of
14 the Unity Corps in order to enhance their knowledge, diligence and
15 efficiency in the performance of their functions under this Act.

Appointment,
recruitment, etc.
of officers and
other ranks of the
Unity Corps

16 (2) In particular, the Council shall appoint suitable persons as
17 Deputy Commandant-General, Assistant Commandant-General,
18 Commandants, Deputy Commandants, Assistant Commandants, Assistant
19 Commandants, Chief Superintendent, Deputy Superintendent, Assistant
20 Superintendent I, Assistant Superintendent II, Inspector I, II and III, and
21 other ranks and servants of the Unity Corps as would in the opinion of the
22 Council enable it to achieve the objects of this Act and exercise disciplinary
23 control over persons so appointed.

24 (3) Members of the Unity Corps appointed and recruited in terms
25 of the foregoing provisions of this section of this Act, shall bear such
26 insignia as may be assigned to them by the Council, and without prejudice to
27 this subsection, the ranks and insignia thereof for members of the Unity
28 Corps for the time being shall be as specified in the Second Schedule to this
29 Act

30 (4) The qualification for the appointment and recruitment of the

1 officers and other members of the Unity Corps and the procedure for their
2 promotion to various ranks shall be in accordance with the rules made by the
3 Council for that purpose.

Accouterments,
immunity, and
protection of
members of the
Unity Corps

4 13.-(1) The Council shall provide for every serving member of the
5 Unity Corps such accouterments as it may consider necessary for the proper
6 discharge of the functions conferred under this Act, and without prejudice to
7 the foregoing provisions of this subsection, such accouterments shall include
8 uniforms, identification cards, raincoats, high-powered motor-cycles, motor
9 cars, two-way mobile radio, telephone sets and other necessary equipment.

10 (2) A uniformed member of the Unity Corps and a non-uniformed
11 regular or special Unity Corps officer shall not, when on duty, be liable for any
12 act validly done by him in the exercise of his duties and within the powers
13 conferred on him by this Act or any rules or regulations made thereunder.

14 (3) Any person who obstructs or assaults a member of the Unity Corps
15 in the performance of his duties under this act shall be liable on conviction to a
16 fine of one hundred and fifty thousand Naira or to imprisonment for a period
17 not exceeding two years or to both such fine and imprisonment.

Service numbers
and Public Service
status of members
of the Unity Corps

18 14.-(1) There shall be allocated to each member of the Unity Corps a
19 Service number, which shall be prefixed against his name in the register of
20 members of the Unity Corps to be kept by the Council.

21 (2) The Service number allocated pursuant to subsection (1) of this
22 section shall be the identity number of the member of the Unity Corps, and
23 shall be affixed with his name, in the case of a uniformed officer or other rank of
24 the Unity Corps, on the chest or other conspicuous part of his uniform as the
25 Council may decide.

26 (3) Service by members of the Unity Corps shall be deemed to be
27 public service of the Federation within the meaning of the relevant
28 interpretation contained in section 318(1) of the Constitution.

29 (4) For the avoidance of any doubt, service of members of the Unity
30 Corps in the Council shall be approved service for the purpose of the

Contributory Pensions Act, and accordingly, every member of the Unity Corps and staff of the Council shall be entitled to pension and other retirement benefits in respect to that office.

(5) Subject to this Act, the Council may require any member of the Unity Corps to undergo such courses of training related to the functions of the Unity Corps under this Act, and at such institutions or organizations as the Council may, from time to time, decide.

PART IV - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

15.-(1) There shall be established and maintained by the Council a fund into which shall be paid and credited -

Establishment
of fund and
expenditure

(a) the take-off grant for the Council and Unity Corps;

(b) the annual subvention received from the Government of the Federation;

(c) such monies as may, from time to time, be lent, deposited with or granted to the Council and Unity Corps by the Government of the Federation, State or Local Council, or any other department, agency, etc. of government and otherwise howsoever;

(d) all fees and charges for services rendered by the Council and the Unity Corps; and

(e) all other sums which may, from time, accrue to the Council and the Unity Corps.

(2) The Council may, from time to time, apply the proceeds of the fund at its disposal-

(a) to the cost of administration and operations of the Council and the Unity Corps and other activities undertaken thereof;

(b) to the payment of fees, allowances and expenses of the members of the Council and of any committee set up by the Council;

(c) to the payment of salaries, allowances and benefits of officers, staff and other members of the Unity Corps;

(d) for the maintenance of any property vested in the Council or

1 under its administration;
2 (e) for the training of members of the Unity Corps within and outside
3 Nigeria, and other research programmes carried on by the Unity Corps; and
4 (f) for and in connection with all or any of the functions of the Unity
5 Corps under this Act.

6 (3) The proceeds of the funds established pursuant to subsection (1) of
7 this section shall be disbursed by the Chairman of the Council with the
8 approval of other members of the Council.

Power to accept
gifts, etc.

9 16.-(1) The Council may accept gifts of land, money, donations or
10 other property and testamentary dispositions by persons, bodies corporate or
11 non-governmental organizations within or outside Nigeria, upon such terms
12 and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organization
13 making the gift.

14 (2) The Council shall not accept any gift if the condition attached by
15 the person or organization making the gift are inconsistent with the functions of
16 the Council and the Unity Corps under this Act.

Borrowing and
investment power

17 17.-(1) The Council may, with the consent of its members or in
18 accordance with the general guidelines or authority given by the Government
19 of the Federation, borrow by way of loan or overdraft from any source, any
20 moneys required by the Council or Unity Corps to meet its obligations and its
21 functions under this Act, so however, that such consent or authority shall be
22 required where the sum or aggregate of the sums involved at any time does not
23 exceed such amount as is for the time being specified in relation to the Council
24 and the Unity Corps by the Government of the Federation.

25 (2) The Council may, subject to the provisions of this Act and
26 conditions of trust in respect of funds held or property owned, invest any
27 surplus of its funds with the same consent or general authority described in
28 subsection (1) of this section.

Annual estimates,
account and audit

29 18.-(1) The Chairman of the Council shall cause to be prepared, not
30 later than six months before the end of each financial year, estimates of

1 recurrent and capital expenditure and income of the Council during the next
2 succeeding financial year, which shall be acceded to by other members of
3 the Council, and presented to the President, through the Minister.

4 (2.) The Chairman of the Council shall keep proper accounts and
5 proper records in relation thereto, and shall prepare in respect of each
6 financial year, a statement of accounts in such form as the Council may
7 direct.

8 (3) The Council shall, as soon as may be after the end of the
9 financial year to which the accounts relate, cause the accounts to be audited
10 by qualified auditors appointed from the list of auditors in accordance with
11 the guidelines laid down by the Auditor-General of the Federation.

12 (4) The auditors shall on completion of the audit of the accounts of
13 the Council and the Unity Corps for each financial year, prepare and submit
14 to the Council the following two reports, that is to say-

15 (a) a general report setting out the observations and
16 recommendations of the auditors on the financial affairs of the Council and
17 Unity Corps generally for that year, and on any important matters which the
18 auditors may consider necessary to bring to the notice of the Council; and

19 (b) a detailed report containing the observations and
20 recommendations of the auditors on all aspects of the operations of the
21 Council and the Unity Corps for that year

22 19. The Council shall prepare and submit to the President and the
23 National Assembly, not later than the end of June of each financial year, a
24 report on the activities of the Council and the Unity Corps during the
25 immediately preceding financial year and shall include in such report a
26 copy of the audited accounts of the Council and Unity Corps for that year,
27 and the auditors report thereon.

Annual report

Establishment
of the national
Unity Corps
Disciplinary
Committee

1 PART V - DISCIPLINE OF OFFICERS AND OTHER RANI(S OF
2 THE UNITY CORPS

3 20.-(1) Without prejudice to the powers of the Council to set up
4 committees for the conduct of its affairs under this Act, there shall be
5 established a committee to be known as the National Unity Corps Disciplinary
6 Committee (in this Act referred to as "the Disciplinary Committee") which
7 shall be charged with the duty of the maintenance of discipline among
8 members of the Unity Corps, and considering and determining any report of
9 gross indiscipline by any member of the Unity Corps referred to it by the Panel
10 established pursuant to section 21 of this Act and any other matter for which the
11 Disciplinary Committee has authority under this Act.

12 (2) The Disciplinary Committee shall consist of a Chairman and four
13 other members of the Council.

14 (3) The Disciplinary Committee shall have a Secretary and such other
15 number of staff as the Chairman of the Council may determine.

16 (4) The Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee shall have power to
17 summon a meeting of the Committee, at any time to consider and determine
18 any report of indiscipline by any member of the Unity Corps.

19 (5) The Disciplinary Committee may make standing rules for its
20 proceedings not contained in this Act.

Establishment
of the National
Unity Corps
Investigating
Panel

21 21.-(1) There shall be a body to be known as the National Unity Corps
22 Investigating Panel (in this Act, referred to as "the Panel") which shall be
23 charged with the duty of-

24 (a) conducting a preliminary investigation into any matter brought
25 before it where it is alleged that a member of the Unity Corps has misbehaved
26 or breached any of the Codes of conduct in his capacity as an officer or other
27 rank of the Unity Corps;

28 (b) deciding whether the matter should be referred to the Disciplinary
29 Committee; and

30 (c) present a report containing its recommendations to the

1 Disciplinary Committee in respect of any matter brought before it.

2 (2) The Panel shall be appointed by the Council, and shall consist
3 of three members of the Council and two other persons who are members of
4 the Unity Corps, but who are not members of the Council at the time of their
5 appointment.

6 (3) The Panel may make rules, not contained in this Act, as to its
7 procedure for carrying on an investigation into any matter brought before it.

8 22.-(1) The Council shall have responsibility for setting out the
9 Codes of Conduct for members of the Unity Corps which may not be
10 published in the Federal Government Gazette, but the Council shall cause
11 them to be brought to the notice of all the members of the Unity Corps in
12 such a manner as it may, from time to time, determine.

Codes of conduct
for members of
the Unity Corps.

13 (2) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, the
14 Codes of Conduct set out by the Council shall take cognizance of matters
15 relating to the conduct and comportment of members of the Unity Corps in
16 public places, their dealings with members of the society and attitude to the
17 performance of their duties.

18 23.-(1) Where a member of the Unity Corps breaches, contravenes
19 or violates any of the Codes of Conduct of the Unity Corps or any other law
20 in force in the Federation, the Disciplinary Committee shall have power to
21 recommend-

Offences and
punishment

22 (a) the imposition of a fine of an amount on that member of the
23 Unity Corps;

24 (b) suspension of the member of the Unity Corps from duty without
25 pay for a specified period;

26 (c) demotion in rank of the member of the Unity Corps, or
27 deferment of promotion for a specified period;

28 (d) dismissal from the Unity Corps; or

29 (e) any combination of the foregoing punishments.

30 (2) In the case of the contravention or violation of any law in force

1 in the Federation by a Unity Corps member, the Disciplinary Committee shall,
2 in addition to issuing a recommendation for his dismissal, recommend that the
3 offender be handed over to the appropriate authority for prosecution,

4 (3) Every recommendation of the Disciplinary Committee under this
5 section of this act shall not have force unless approved by the Council.

6 PART VI - MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY

Directives by
the Minister, etc.

7 24. The Minister may give to the Council such directives of a general
8 nature or relating generally to matters of policy with regard to the exercise by
9 the Council of its functions under this Act, and it shall be the duty of the Council
10 to comply with the directives or cause them to be complied with.

Secrecy

11 25.-(1) A member of the Council or the Commandant-General or any
12 other officer or other ranks or employee of the Unity Corps shall-

13 (a) not, for his personal gain, make use of any information which has
14 come to his knowledge in the exercise of his powers or is obtained by him in the
15 ordinary course of his duty as a member of the Council or as Commandant-
16 General, officer, other rank or employee for the Unity Corps;

17 (b) treat as confidential any information which has come to his
18 knowledge in the exercise of his powers or is obtained by him in the
19 performance of his duties under this Act;

20 (c) not disclose any information referred to under paragraph (b) of this
21 subsection, except when required to do so by a Court or in such other
22 circumstances as may be prescribed by the Council, from time to time.

23 (2) Any person who contravenes the provisions of subsection (1) of
24 this section commits an offence and is liable to a fine of fifty thousand Naira or
25 imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or- to both such fine and
26 imprisonment.

Provision of
library facilities

27 26. The Council shall provide and maintain a library at the
28 headquarters and State Branch Commands of the Unity Corps comprising such
29 books and publications as may be provided, for the advancement of the
30 knowledge and skills of members of the Unity Corps, for research purposes,

1 and for other purposes connected with the objects and functions of the Unity
2 Corps.

3 27.-(1) On the commencement of this Act-

Transfer to the
Council of certain
property, etc.

4 (a) all property held immediately before that day by or on behalf of
5 the former Council shall, by virtue of this subsection and without further
6 assurance, vest in the Council established under this Act and held by it for
7 the purposes of the Council and Unity Corps;

8 (b) the former Council shall cease to exist; and

9 (c) subject to subsection (2) of this section, any act, matter or thing
10 made or done by the former Council shall continue to have effect.

11 (2.) The provisions of the Third Schedule to this Act shall have
12 effect with respect to matters arising from the transfer by this section to the
13 Council established under this Act, the property of the former Council, and
14 with respect to other matters therein mentioned.

15 28.-(1) The Council may, with the approval of the Minister, make
16 such rules and regulations as in its opinion are necessary or expedient for
17 giving full effect to the provisions of this Act and for the due execution of its
18 provisions.

Rules and
regulations

19 (2) Without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (1) of this
20 section, the Council shall have powers to make regulations generally for
21 carrying out the objects of this Act and, in particular, shall make regulations
22 relating to-

23 (a) the rank, pay and allowances of members of the Unity Corps;

24 (b) the hours of duty, schedule of work and leave of members of the
25 Unity Corps;

26 (c) the procedure and terms of appointment and recruitment of
27 members of the Unity Corps;

28 (d) subject to the provisions of this Act, the qualification for
29 appointment of members of the Unity Corps or any ranks, and the procedure
30 for promotion to any such rank;

1 (e) the maintenance of discipline among members of the Unity Corps;
2 and

3 (f) any other matter for which the Council has powers or which is
4 incidental or supplementary to the foregoing provisions of this subsection.

Interpretation,
etc.

5 29.-(1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the
6 following words and expressions have the meaning respectively assigned to
7 them, that is to say-

8 "Chairman" means the Chairman of the National Unity Corps Council
9 appointed pursuant to section 1 (1)(a) of this Act;

10 "Codes of Conduct" means the Codes of Conduct authorized to be set out by the
11 Council for members of the Unity Corps pursuant to section 22 of this Act;

12 "Constitution" means the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
13 1999;

14 "Commandant-General" means the Commandant-General of the National
15 Unity Corps appointed in terms of section 9 of this Act;

16 "Council" means the National Unity Corps Council established under section 1
17 (1) of this Act;

18 "Disciplinary Committee" means the National Unity Corps Disciplinary
19 Committee established pursuant to section 20 (1) of this Act;

20 "functions" includes power and duty;

21 "member" means the members of the National Unity Corps Council
22 established pursuant to section 2 of this Act, and includes the Chairman;

23 "member of the Unity Corps" means the members of the National Unity Corps
24 established in terms of section 6 (1) of this Act;

25 "Minister" means the Minister of the Government of the Federation charged
26 with responsibility on matters relating to interior affairs, and "Ministry" shall
27 be construed, accordingly;

28 "national ethics" means the national ethics prescribed by section 23 of the
29 Constitution; "Unity Corps" means the National Unity Corps established
30 pursuant to section 6 (1) of this Act; and

1 "President" means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

2 (2) The Interpretation Act shall apply for the purposes of
3 interpreting the provisions of this Act.

4 30.-(1) This Act may be cited as the National Unity Corps Citation
5 (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2021.

6 (2) The provisions of this Act are in addition to and not in
7 derogation of any other law appertaining to the duties of the Unity Corps
8 established under this Act.

9 SCHEDULES

10 FIRST SCHEDULE

11 (Section 3)

12 *Proceedings of the Council*

13 1. The Council shall have powers to regulate its proceedings at any
14 meeting and may make standing orders for that purpose, and subject to such
15 standing orders and paragraph (2) of this Schedule, may function
16 notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership or the absence of any
17 member.

18 2. The quorum at a meeting of the Council shall consist of the
19 chairman or, in an appropriate case, the person presiding pursuant to
20 paragraph 4 (2) of this Schedule, and five other members.

21 3. At any time while the office of the chairman is vacant or the
22 chairman is, in the opinion of the Council, temporarily unable to perform the
23 functions of his office, a member of the Council duly appointed by the
24 Council shall perform those functions and references in this Schedule to the
25 chairman shall be construed accordingly.

26 4.-(1) Subject to the provisions of its standing orders, the Council
27 shall meet whenever summoned by the chairman; and if the chairman is
28 required to do so by notice given to him by not less than six other members,
29 he shall summon a meeting of the Council to be held within 21 days from the
30 date on which the notice is given.

1 (2) At any meeting of the Council, the chairman or, in his absence, any
2 member duly appointed by the Council, shall preside at that meeting.

3 (3) Where the Council wishes to obtain the advice of any person on a
4 particular matter, the Council may co-opt him as a member for such period as it
5 thinks fit, but a person who is a member by virtue of this subparagraph shall not
6 be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Council and shall not count towards a
7 quorum.

8 5.-(1) The Council may appoint one or more committees to carry out,
9 on behalf of the Council, such of its functions as the Council may determine.

10 (2) A committee appointed under this paragraph shall consists of the
11 number of persons determined by the Council, and not more than one-third of
12 such persons may be persons who aloe not members of the Council; and a
13 person other than a member of the Council shall hold office on the Committee
14 in accordance with the terms of the instrument by which he is appointed.

15 (3) A decision of a Committee of the Council shall be of no effect until
16 it is confirmed or approved by the Council.

17 6. The fixing of the seal of the Council shall be authenticated by the
18 signature of the Chairman or of some other member authorised generally or
19 specially by the Council to act for that purpose.

20 SECOND SCHEDULE

21 (Section 12 (3))

22 RANKS AND INSIGNIA OF MEMBERS OF THE UNITY CORPS

23 The following diagrammatic impressions represent the ranks and insignia of
24 the members of the Unity Corps.

25 THIRD SCHEDULE

26 (Section 27 (2))

27 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS AS TO RIGHTS, VESTING OF PROPERTY, ETC.

28 1. Accordingly, the statutory functions, rights, interests, obligations
29 and liabilities of the former Council, existing before the commencement of this
30 Act under any contract or instrument, or law or in equity shall by virtue of this

1 Act be deemed to have been assigned to and vested in the Council
2 established by this Act.

3 2. Any such contract or instrument as is mentioned in paragraph 1
4 of this Schedule shall be of the same force and effect against or in favour of
5 the Council established by this Act and shall be enforceable as fully and
6 effectively as if instead of the conditions existing before the commencement
7 of this Act, the Council established by this Act had been named therein or
8 had been a party thereto.

9 *Obligations and liabilities*

10 3. The Council established by this Act shall be subject to all the
11 obligations and liabilities to which the former Council existing before the
12 commencement of this Act was subject to immediately before the
13 commencement of this Act, and all other persons shall have the same rights,
14 powers and remedies against the Council established by this Act as they had
15 against the former Council existing before the commencement of this Act.

16 *Pending or existing proceedings or cause of action*

17 4. Any proceeding or cause of action pending or existing
18 immediately before the commencement of this Act by or against the former
19 Council in respect of any right, interest, obligation or liability of the former
20 Council may be continued or as the case may be commenced, and any
21 determination of the Court of law, tribunal or other authority or person may
22 be enforced by or against the Council established by this Act to the same
23 extent that such proceeding or cause of action or determination might have
24 been continued, commenced or enforced by or against the former Council
25 existing before the commencement of this Act.

26 *Vesting of Assets*

27 5. All assets, funds, resources and other moveable or immoveable
28 property which immediately before the commencement of this Act were
29 vested in the former Council existing before the commencement of this Act
30 shall by virtue of this Act and without further assurance be vested in the

1 Council established by this Act.

2 *Holders of office*

3 6. Any person who immediately before the coming into force of this
4 Act is the holder of any office in the former Council existing before the
5 commencement of this Act shall on the commencement of this Act continue in
6 office and be deemed to have been appointed to his office by the Council
7 established by this Act, unless the authority by which the person was appointed
8 terminates the appointment.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish the National Unity Corps and confer it with the duties of upholding and imparting the virtues of the national ethics specified under the Constitution in order to reconstitute diligence and industry into the citizenry, and to render such other social services that would assist in enhancing the power, ideals, prestige and good name of Nigeria.

The Bill further seeks to, among other things, deepen and enrich the concept of family values, societal integration and national unity for the purposes of encouraging the promotion of peace, harmony and progress in the affairs of the nation.