

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE FEDERAL CHARACTER COMMISSION (ESTABLISHMENT) ACT, CAP. F7, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION, 2004 TO STRENGTHEN THE ACT, PROSECUTE VIOLATORS, REMOVING IT FROM THE DIRECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND TO STIFFEN THE PUNISHMENT OF OFFENDERS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu

[] Commencement

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

- 1 **1.** The Federal Character Commission (Est.) Act, Cap. F7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (herein referred to as the "Principal Act") is amended as set out in this Bill. Amendment of Cap. F7, LFN, 2004
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- 4 **2.** Section 1 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (3) by deleting the word "President" and inserting the words "National Assembly" instead thereof. Amendment of Section 1
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- 7 **3.** Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended by: Amendment of Section 3
- 8 (a) deleting the existing subsections (1), (2) and (5); and
- 9 (b) re-numbering the existing subsections (3) and (4) as subsections (1) and (2) respectively.
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- 11 **4.** Section 4 of the Principal Act is amended by deleting the word "President" as appearing in paragraphs (a), (d) (i), (d) (ii), (e) and (j) and inserting the words "National Assembly" instead thereof. Amendment of Section 4
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- 14 **5.** Section 5 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting the following as new subsection (3) thereof- Amendment of Section 5
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- 16 "(3) The duty of the Commission pursuant to the provisions of subsection (2) of this section shall be exercised through:
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- 18 (a) legal practitioners employed by the Commission;

1 (b) external legal practitioners; and
2 (c) Attorney-General of the Federation or Attorney-General of a State
3 or any of their counsels.

Amendment of
Section 13

4 **6.** Section 13 of the Principal Act is amended by:
5 (a) deleting the word "President" and inserting the words "National
6 Assembly" instead thereof; and
7 (b) by inserting immediately after the word "activities" the words
8 "including the level of compliance by all authorities with the provisions of this
9 Act".

Amendment of
Section 14

10 **7.** Section 14 of the Principal Act is amended by:
11 (a) deleting the existing subsection (1) and (2) thereof; and
12 (b) re-numbering the existing subsections (3) and (4) as subsections
13 (1) and (2) respectively.

Amendment of
Section 15

14 **8.** Section 15 of the Principal Act is amended:
15 (a) in subsection (1) by:
16 (i) deleting the figure "N50,000" and inserting the words and figure
17 "not less than N100,000" instead thereof, and
18 (ii) inserting the word "not less than" immediately before the words
19 "six months";
20 (b) in subsection (2) by:
21 (i) deleting the figure "N100,000" and inserting the words and figure
22 "not less than N500,000" instead thereof, and
23 (ii) deleting the figure "N50,000" and inserting the words and figure
24 "not less than N250,000" instead thereof; and
25 (c) in subsection (3) by deleting the figure "N100,000" and inserting
26 the figure "N500,000" instead thereof.

Short title

27 **9.** This Bill may be cited as the Federal Character Commission (Est.)
28 Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend Federal Character Commission (Est.) Act, Cap. F7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by strengthening it to among other things prosecute violators of the Act removing it from the direction of the President and stiffening the punishment of offenders.