

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO REGULATE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES FOR WARDS AND CHILDREN OF NIGERIAN PUBLIC OFFICERS, TO STRENGTHEN INDIGENOUS INSTITUTIONS TO PROVIDE EFFICIENT EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Sergius Oseasochie Ogun

[] Commencement

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

1 1. The objectives of the Bill are: Objectives

2 (1) To regulate international studies for wards and children of
3 Nigerian public officers.

4 (2) Strengthen indigenous institutions for efficient service
5 delivery.

6 (3) Reduce over dependence on foreign certificate.

7 (4) Boost the economy through the educational sector.

8 (5) Minimize corruption by public officers.

9 2.-(1) The government shall ensure constant upgrading and
10 maintenance of public schools in Nigeria by: Upgrading and
maintenance of
public schools
in Nigeria

11 (a) employing qualified persons to teach in the schools;

12 (b) reviewing the salary of academic and non-academic staff in
13 accordance with international best practices to encourage Nigerian
14 academia in the Diaspora to come back and develop the educational sector;

15 (c) providing modern learning equipment equivalent to what is
16 obtainable in civilized countries;

17 (d) giving preference to certificate obtained in Nigeria over
18 certificate obtained abroad;

19 (e) conducting constant oversight on the activities of schools, to

1 ensure maintenance of standard; and

2 (f) meting out adequate sanction to the management of any school that
3 fails to ensure the maintenance and safekeeping of the equipment and facilities
4 at their disposal.

5 (2) The government shall encourage and sponsor research in any area
6 of study that will improve the educational sector.

Sensitization
of public officers

7 3. Every government department, ministry or agency may, from time
8 to time, organize seminars to sensitize public officers on dangers of sending
9 their children and ward abroad and its negative effect on the country's
10 educational sector.

International
studies to be
with leave

11 4. A public officer shall not send his ward or child overseas for studies
12 without declaration of interest subject to approval.

13 5. The declaration under sub clause 1 of this clause shall be in writing
14 addressed to the Minister.

Documents to
be exhibited in
the application

15 6. A public officer declaring interest in sending his ward or child
16 abroad for further studies shall submit the following documents for
17 consideration:

18 (a) A completed form stating the name and address of the public
19 officer, the name and age of the child or ward, his level of education, name of
20 intended school abroad, duration of study and number of children studying
21 abroad;

22 (b) Letter of appointment;

23 (c) Bank statement of account;

24 (d) Salary pay slip;

25 (e) Declaration of assets form; and

26 (f) Sworn affidavit stating that he is financially capable of sponsoring
27 his education.

28 7.-(1) The minister shall conduct an investigation to verify the
29 authenticity of the documents submitted for approval.

30 (2) If after the investigation under sub clause (1) the Minister is

1 satisfied that the public officer's income is capable of taking care of the ward
2 or child's school expenses, he may grant the application.

3 (3) If investigation reveals that the document is false or not
4 satisfactory, the minister shall refuse the application.

5 8. The Minister shall inform the applicant in writing of his
6 approval or refusal within 10 working days of submission declaration of
7 interest form.

8 9. A person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Bill
9 shall, upon conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding one million naira or a
10 term not exceeding three years, or to both.

Offences/penalties

11 10. In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires:
12 "Public Officer" means elected political office holders at all levels, political
13 appointees, civil servants and government officials;
14 "Minister" means the Minister for the time being responsible for education;
15 "Abroad" means any country outside Nigeria;
16 "Government" means the federal government of Nigeria;
17 "Diaspora" means any country outside Nigeria.

Interpretation

18 11. This Bill may be cited as International Studies (Regulation)
19 Bill, 2019.

Citation

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to regulate international trip for studies by wards and children of Nigerian public officers to strengthen the indigenous institutions to provide efficient educational services for national development.

