

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE DIETITIANS COUNCIL OF NIGERIA TO
REGULATE THE PROFESSION OF DIETETICS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun

[] Commencement

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

1 PART 1 - ESTABLISHMENT OF DIETITIANS COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

2 1.-(1) There is hereby established for Dietitians in Nigeria a body
3 to be known as the Dietitians Council of Nigeria (hereinafter referred to as
4 "The Council") which shall be charged with the duty to:

Establishment
of Dietitians
Council of Nigeria

5 (a) determine the standards of knowledge and competence to be
6 attained by persons seeking to become registered as Members or Associates
7 (herein referred to as Dietetic Practitioners) and reviewing those standards,
8 as circumstances may permit;

9 (b) regulate and control the professional training of Dietetic
10 Practitioners in all dietetics internship training centres in Nigeria and the
11 regular inspection and accreditation of such institutions;

12 (c) assess and evaluate professional education and registration of
13 foreign graduates of Nutrition and Dietetics;

14 (d) conduct National post-degree (Dietetic internship)
15 examination and awarding certificates as appropriate;

16 (e) ensure that Dietetics Practitioners in Nigeria uphold the Code
17 of ethics, Code of good conduct and practice of the profession and guarantee
18 the sustainability of high quality dietetic practice;

19 (f) Promote the adoption of healthy diets and lifestyle for all
20 Nigerians and collaborate with government Ministries, Parastatals,
21 International agencies and civil societies with similar mandate;

- 1 (g) Promote rapid sustainability of high quality diets for Nigerians
2 through scientific methods, and regulate all issues pertaining to Dietetics in
3 Nigeria;
- 4 (h) advance the education, science, technology and art of Nutrition
5 and Dietetics and collaborate with Nigerian Universities Commission in this
6 respect;
- 7 (i) advise and encourage the enactment and the enforcement of laws
8 that will guarantee good nutrition, quality diets and consistent supply of high
9 quality foods to Nigerians;
- 10 (j) educate the public on healthy diets for maintenance and prevention
11 of diseases through the practitioners;
- 12 (k) encourage the co-operation of the Council with any relevant
13 Council in Nutrition and Dietetics internationally;
- 14 (l) regulate and control the standards of Nutrition and Dietetics
15 professional training and practice in all approved Hospitals, Health institutions
16 and facilities, sports centres, camps, corporate welfare programmes,
17 community and public health settings, food and nutrition related business,
18 factories and industries, research institutions on food and nutrition,
19 Pharmaceutical Companies, other institutions and any public place etc.
- 20 (m) securing in accordance with the provisions of this Act, the
21 establishment and maintenance of a register of Dietitians necessary for the
22 purpose of recognizing persons entitled under this act to carry on as registered
23 Dietitians and Assistant Dietitians subdivided into two grades:
- 24 (i) Registered Dietitians;
- 25 (ii) Registered Assistant dietitians for the purpose of keeping record
26 of persons entitled under this Act to carry on as registered dietitians or
27 registered Assistant dietitians and the publication from time to time of a list of
28 persons so qualified;
- 29 (n) regulate and control the practice of Nutrition and Dietetics in all its
30 ramifications;

1 (o) perform any other functions as may necessary to the practice of
2 Dietetics and Nutrition.

3 2.-(a) The Council shall have a perpetual succession and may sue
4 and be sued in its corporate name and shall have a common seal, which shall
5 be kept in such custody as the Council may, from time to time, authorize;

6 (b) Fixing of the seal to any document shall be authenticated by the
7 signature of the Chairman or any other person as may be directed by the
8 Council.

9 3. The Council shall have power to:

10 (a) establish and promote all such professional certificate courses
11 in Dietetics;

12 (b) establish such offices, departments, units and branches of the
13 Council as may be required for the proper administration and operation of
14 the Council;

15 (c) subject to such terms and conditions as the Council may
16 approve, engage staff, agents and other workers as may be required by the
17 Council for the performance of its functions under this Bill;

18 (d) establish necessary organization for the proper and efficient
19 conduct of the affairs of the Council;

20 (e) provide regulations for all staff of the Council and provide
21 pension and welfare schemes for the staff; and

22 (f) do such other things as may be necessary for the performance of
23 the functions of the Council.

24 PART II - COMPOSITION OF COUNCIL

25 4.-(1) There shall be established for the Council a body to be
26 known as the Governing Council (in the Bill referred to as the "Council"),
27 which shall be charged with responsibility for the administration and
28 general management of the Council.

29 (2) The Council shall consist of the following:

30 (a) The chairman, who shall be a Registered Dietitian of not less

Power of the
Council

Establishment
of Governing
Council

1 than fifteen (15) years post registration experience to be appointed by the
2 President, on the recommendation of the Minister and in consultation with the
3 Professional Association for Dietitians, in this Act referred to as "Association
4 of Nigerian Dietitians";

5 (b) The Registrar;

6 (c) A representative of the Federal Ministry of Health;

7 (d) six registered Dietitians of not less than 10 years post registration
8 experience to be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the
9 Minister and in consultation with the Professional Association of Dietitians to
10 represent each of the six geo-political zones in Nigeria;

11 (e) two persons who shall be registered Dietitians of not less than 10
12 years post registration experience representing the Professional Association
13 for Dietitians;

14 (f) five persons at a ratio of 3 to 2 to represent the Universities and
15 Polytechnics offering degree and diploma programmes in Nutrition and
16 Dietetics on rotational basis to be appointed by the President on the
17 recommendation of the Minister of health and in consultation with the
18 Professional Association for Dietitians;

19 (g) one person to represent the Armed Forces who shall be a
20 Registered Dietitian of not less than 10 years post qualification.

21 5.-(1) (a) The Chairman shall hold office for a term of three years and
22 shall be eligible for re-appointment for one more term;

23 (b) the chairman shall preside over all meetings of the Council, and in
24 the event of death, incapacity or inability to perform the functions of his office,
25 a new chairman shall be appointed for the unexpired term of office of the
26 chairman.

27 (2) The provision of the first schedule to this Act shall have effect with
28 respect to the qualifications and tenure of office of members of the Council and
29 other matters therein mentioned.

30 (3) (a) The tenure of office of a member of the Council other than an

1 ex-officio member shall be three years but such member shall at the end of
2 that term be eligible for re-election, for one more term only;

3 (b) All members of Council shall be on part time basis except the
4 Registrar of the Council;

5 (c) The remuneration of the Registrar and other members of staff
6 shall be determined by the Council;

7 (d) Sitting allowances and other remunerations for other part time
8 staff of the council shall be determined by the governing Council based on
9 the prevailing economic realities;

10 (4) The office of a member of the Council shall become vacant if
11 he:

12 (a) resigns from his office, by notice under his hand, addressed to
13 the Council;

14 (b) is removed from office by the Council, by reason of
15 professional misconduct, physical or mental infirmity; or;

16 (c) without leave of the Council, absents himself for 3 consecutive
17 meetings of the Council;

18 (5) The functions of the Council shall be to:

19 (a) carry into effect the functions and powers of the Council;

20 (b) govern the affairs of the Council;

21 (c) effect proper management of the Council; and

22 (d) do other acts and things as the Council may consider necessary
23 for carrying out the functions and powers of the Council;

24 FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

25 6.-(1) The Council shall establish and maintain a fund for the
26 purpose of this Act.

Funds of the
Council

27 (2) There shall be paid into the fund established pursuant to
28 subsection (1) of this section:

29 (a) a take-off grant for the establishment of the fund and
30 sustainable funding interventions by the Federal government. or through

1 financial appropriation by the National Assembly;

2 (b) All fees and other monies payable to the Council in pursuance of
3 this Act; and

4 (c) Such monies as may be payable to the council, whether in the
5 course of the discharge of its functions or otherwise;

6 (3) The Council may apply the proceeds of the fund established under
7 sub-section 2 of this section for;

8 (a) The remuneration and allowances of the Registrar and other
9 employees of the Council;

10 (b) travelling and subsistence allowance of members of the Council in
11 respect of the time spent on the business of the Council as the Council may with
12 the approval of the Minister determine; and

13 (c) any other expenses incurred by the Council in the discharge of its
14 functions under this Act.

Power to invest

15 7. The Council may invest the fund in any security created or issued
16 by or on behalf of the Federal Government or in any other securities in Nigeria
17 as may be approved by the Council.

Power to borrow

18 8. The Council may borrow money up to a volume not above 50% of
19 the annual revenue of the immediate past year for the purpose of the Council's
20 activities.

Annual Estimates

21 9.-(1) The Council shall prepare and submit to the Minister not later
22 than the 30th day of September of each year an estimate of its expenditure and
23 income during the next succeeding year.

24 (2) The Minister may, out of the monies provided by the Federal
25 Government to the Council, either by way of grants or by way of loan, make
26 payments of such amounts as the Federal Government may from time to time
27 determine.

Accounts and
Audit

28 10. The Council shall keep proper accounts and Audit in respect of
29 each year and shall cause its accounts to be audited at the end of the year to
30 which the accounts relate by a firm of auditors appointed from the list and in

1 accordance with guidelines supplied by the Auditor -General for the
2 Federation.

3 PART III - APPOINTMENT OF REGISTRAR

4 **11.**-(1) The Council shall appoint a person as the Registrar of the
5 Council. (2) The Registrar shall:

6 (a) be a practicing registered Dietician and hold a minimum of
7 Bachelor Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics;

8 (b) have undergone a 12 months Dietetic internship with not less
9 than 15 years post experience in Nutrition and Dietetics;

10 (3) The Registrar shall be the secretary to the Council and to the
11 Disciplinary Tribunal.

12 (4) It shall be the duty of the Registrar to prepare and maintain in
13 accordance with rules made by the Council:

14 (a) register of names, addresses, telephone numbers, e-mails,
15 approved and of such other qualifications and particulars, as may be
16 specified in the rules, of all persons who are entitled to be enrolled as
17 associates and members and who in the manner prescribed by such rules,
18 apply to be so registered;

19 (b) register of the premises of members of the profession, who are
20 in private practice.

21 (5) The Register shall consist of three parts of which:

22 (a) the first part shall be in respect of full members;

23 (b) the second part shall be in respect of associate members;

24 (c) the third part shall be in respect of the premises of members:

25 (6) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Council shall make
26 rules with respect to the form and keeping of the register and the making of
27 entries therein, and in particular:

28 (a) regulating the applications for enrolment or registration, as the
29 case may be, and providing for the evidence to be produced in support of
30 such applications;

1 (b) providing for notification to the registrar, by the person to whom
2 any registered particulars relate, of any change in those particulars;

3 (c) authorizing a registered person to have any qualification which, in
4 relation to the profession, is an approved qualification for the purposes of this
5 Act registered in relation to his name in addition to or, as he may elect, in
6 substitution for any other qualification so registered;

7 (d) specifying the fees, including any annual subscription to be paid to
8 the Council in respect of the entry of names on the register, and authorizing the
9 Registrar to refuse to enter a name on the register until any fee specified for the
10 entry has been paid;

11 (e) specifying anything failing to be specified under the foregoing
12 provisions of this section, but rules made for the purpose of paragraph;

13 (d) of this subsection shall not come into force until they are
14 confirmed at the Annual General Meeting of the Professional Association for
15 Dietitians.

16 (7) It shall be the duty of the Registrar to:

17 (a) correct, in accordance with the Council's directions, any entry in
18 the register which the Council directs him to correct as being in the Council's
19 opinion was incorrectly made;

20 (b) make any necessary alteration to the registered particulars of
21 registered person and premises;

22 (c) remove from the register the name of any registered person who
23 died or whose temporary registration has ceased; and

24 (d) record the names of registered persons who are in default for more
25 than six months in payment of annual subscription, and to take such action in
26 relation thereto (including removal of names of defaulters from the register) as
27 the council may direct or require.

28 (8) If the Registrar:

29 (a) sends by post to any registered person a registered letter addressed
30 to him at his address on the register enquiring whether the registered particulars

1 relating to him are correct and receives no reply to the letter within a period
2 of six months from the date of posting it; and

3 (b) upon the expiration of that period sends in the like manner to the
4 person in question a second similar letter and receives no reply to the letter
5 between three months from the date of last posting the Registrar may
6 remove the particulars relating to the person in question from the register;

7 Provided that the Council may direct the Registrar to return to the
8 appropriate part of the register any particulars removed there from under this
9 subsection.

10 (9) When a person's name is entered on the register of members
11 maintained under this section, that person shall thereupon be taken to
12 become a member of the Dietitians Council of Nigeria and shall be entitled
13 to affix the suffix "RDN" meaning: "Registered Dietitian-Nutritionist" after
14 his name.

15 12.-(1) It shall be the duty of the Registrar to:

16 (a) to cause the register to be printed, published and put on sale to
17 members of the public not later than two years from the commencement of
18 this Bill and;

19 (b) thereafter in each year, cause to be printed, published and put on
20 sale as aforesaid, either a corrected edition of the register or a list of
21 corrections made to the register since it was last printed; and

22 (c) cause a print of each edition of the register and of each list of
23 correction to be deposited at the principal Offices of the Council; and

24 (d) keep the register and list so deposited open to members of the
25 public at all reasonable times for inspection.

26 (2) A document purporting to be a print of an edition of the register
27 published under this section by authority of the Registrar in the current year,
28 or documents purporting to be prints of an edition of the register so
29 published in the current year and of the list of correction to that edition so
30 published, shall (without prejudice to any other mode of proof) be

Publication of
Register and list
of Corrections

1 admissible in any proceedings as evidence that any person specified in the
2 document, or the documents read together, as being registered, was so
3 registered at the date of the edition or of the list of corrections, as the case may
4 be, and that any person not so specified was not so registered.

5 (3) Where in accordance with subsection (2) of this section a person
6 is, in any proceedings shown to have been or not to have been registered at a
7 particular date, he shall, unless the contrary is proved, be taken for the purpose
8 of those proceedings as having at all material times hereafter continued to be,
9 or not to be, so enrolled or registered.

10 PART IV - REGISTRATION

11 13.-(1) A person shall not hold an appointment or practice as a
12 Dietitian in Nigeria unless he is registered with the Council under the provision
13 of this Act.

14 (2) A Registered Dietitian shall be entitled to practice as such
15 throughout Nigeria.

16 (3) Subject to the provision of subsection (1) of this section and to
17 rules made under section 11 of this Act, a person shall be entitled to be fully
18 registered as a Dietitian under this Act if he:

19 (a) is a Nigeria citizen;

20 (b) is of good character and a fit and proper person;

21 (c) has attended a course of training approved by the Council under
22 this Act or the course was conducted at an institution approved by the Council;

23 (d) holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from
24 a University accredited by the National Universities Commission, or holds a
25 higher National Diploma in Nutrition and Dietetics from an institution
26 accredited by the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE);

27 (e) has completed a one year internship training at any institution
28 approved by the Council and successfully passed the requisite professional
29 registration examination for dietetic interns;

30 (f) holds a certificate of dietetic internship issued pursuant to

1 subsection (3)(c) of this section;

2 (g) has pay the prescribed fee.

3 14. A person is qualified to be registered as an associates member if
4 he:

Registration of
Associates

5 (1) has attained a course of training approved by the Council.

6 (2) holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition and Dietetics
7 from any University or a Higher National Diploma in Nutrition and
8 Dietetics from any Polytechnic accredited and approved by the Council.

9 (3) pays the prescribed fee.

10 (4) Subject to the provision of this section, a citizen of Nigeria who
11 qualified from an approved institution outside Nigeria shall be entitled to be
12 fully registered under this Act, if he satisfies the Council that he:

13 (a) holds a qualification granted outside Nigeria and for the time
14 being accepted by the Council for the purposes of this subsection as regards
15 the profession;

16 (b) in the country in which the qualification was granted he was
17 under no legal disability in the practice of Dietetics;

18 (c) holds a certificate of registration as a Dietitian acceptable to the
19 Council;

20 (d) pays the prescribed fee.

21 (3) A person aggrieved by a decision of the Council made under
22 this section may appeal to the Minister within one month after notification of
23 the refusal is communicated to him.

24 15.-(1) A person who is not a citizen of Nigeria may be registered as
25 Dietitian under this Act if the country of which he is a citizen grants
26 reciprocal registration facilities to Nigeria citizens and if he:

Registration of
Foreigner Trained
as a Dietitian

27 (a) holds a qualification approved by the Council;

28 (b) has passed all the Council's examinations governing the
29 practice of Dietetics in Nigeria and such other examinations as the Council
30 may prescribe and before being registered acquires the required experience

1 in accordance with subsection (3) (a) of section 13 of this Act;

2 (c) has been resident in Nigeria for not less than twelve calendar
3 months immediately preceding the date of his application for registration
4 during which he is expected to undergo the requisite training as may be
5 prescribed by the Council;

6 (2) An applicant for registration shall in addition to evidence of
7 qualification, satisfy the Council that he:

8 (a) is of good character;

9 (b) has attained the age of 21 years;

10 (c) has not been convicted in Nigeria or elsewhere of any offence
11 involving fraud or dishonesty; and

12 (d) has paid the prescribed fee.

13 (3) The Council may, in its discretion, provisionally accept a
14 qualification in respect of an application for registration under this section or
15 direct that the application be renewed within such period as may be specified in
16 the direction.

17 (4) Any entry directed to be made in the register under subsection (3)
18 of this section, shall show that such registration is provisional and no entry so
19 made shall be converted to full registration without the consent of the Council
20 in writing in that behalf.

Publication of
qualification
for Registration

21 16. The Council shall publish in the Gazette particulars of
22 qualifications for the time being accepted for registration under this Act.

23 PART V - PRACTISING FEES

24 17.-(1) No registered person shall practice as a Registered Dietitian in
25 any year unless he has paid to the Council in respect of that year, the
26 appropriate practicing fee which shall be due January of every year or as may
27 be prescribed by the Council:

28 (a) in the case of a Registered Dietitian above fifteen (15) years post
29 registration experience, N10,000;

30 (b) in the case of Dietitian of less than fifteen years but more than (10)

1 years post registration experience, N7,500;

2 (c) in the case of a Dietitian of ten years or below post registration
3 experience, N5,000;

4 (d) in the case of a Dietitian undergoing internship training
5 N2,500;

6 (e) in the case of a Dietitian undergoing the compulsory National
7 Service, N1,000.

8 (2) Without prejudice to being fully registered, any Registered
9 Dietitian with at least fifty years post registration experience shall not pay
10 practicing fee.

11 (3) Every fully Registered Dietitian who has paid his registration
12 fee as prescribed in subsection (1) of this section is exempted from payment
13 of registration fee as in subsection (2) of this section, shall be entitled to an
14 annual practicing license authorizing him, subject to any regulations in
15 force, to practice the profession of Nutrition and Dietetics.

16 (4) The Council may with the confirmation of the Minister vary the
17 practicing fees prescribed in subsection (1) of this section,

18 (5) The Council shall share the aggregate amount collected as
19 practicing fee as follows:

20 (a) 70% to the Professional Association for Dietitians;

21 (b) 20% to the Council;

22 (6) Any Registered Dietitian who in respect of any year fail to pay
23 his practicing fee is guilty of an offence and is liable on conviction:

24 (a) in the case of a first offence, to a fine twice the prescribed
25 practicing fee; and

26 (b) in the case of a second or subsequent offence, to a fine of not
27 less than ten times the prescribed practicing fee and if the Registered
28 Dietitian is in the employment of any person, the employer is also guilty of
29 an offence punishable in like manner as the Registered Dietitian if it is
30 proved that the failure to pay the practicing fee was with his knowledge,

Dietetics
Internship
Programme

1 consent and connivance.

2 **18.**-(1) Every tertiary or secondary Health facility where internship is
3 undertaken in Nigeria shall on demand by Council, submit to the Council
4 details of its dietetic internship curriculum, Staff strength, categories and
5 qualifications of Staff, therapeutic diet kitchen, outpatient and inpatient
6 facilities and availability of departments of medicine and surgery, pediatrics,
7 obstetrics and gynecology for consideration and approval of the Council.

8 (2) The Council shall thereupon, delegate to a committee of the
9 Council the power to evaluate the contents of such curriculum, courses and
10 facilities and ensure that such curriculum, courses and facilities will
11 sufficiently equip any person pursuing Dietetics internship at the hospital with
12 the requisite knowledge, skill and work experience for professional
13 registration and practice of the Dietetics profession;

14 (3) The Council shall where such a centre is approved, by instrument
15 accredit such programme and as the case may be, as a fit and proper Dietetic
16 internship training centre for the training of prospective registered Members:

17 (4) Subject to this Bill, a person who has not obtained his first degree
18 in Nutrition and Dietetics from an accredited institution shall not be eligible to
19 undergo dietetic internship;

20 (5) Subject to this Bill, a person who has not obtained his first degree
21 in Nutrition and Dietetics from an accredited institution, and who has not been
22 registered to practice, shall not be eligible to be employed as a dietitian or head
23 a department of Nutrition and Dietetics in any tertiary institution in Nigeria.

24 **19.**-(1) The Council may approve any institution for the purpose of
25 this Act and may for those purposes approve:

26 (a) any course of professional training in Nutrition and Dietetics in
27 any approved institution which is intended for persons seeking to become a
28 Dietitian and which in the opinion of the Council is designed to confer on
29 person completing it sufficient knowledge and competence for the practice of
30 the profession;

Approval of
institutions and
course for
professional
training and
qualifications
by Council

1 (b) any qualification which, as a result of an examination taken in
2 conjunction with a course of training approved by the Council under this
3 section, is granted to candidates reaching a standard at the examination
4 indicating in the opinion of the Council that the candidates have sufficient
5 knowledge and competence to practice as Registered Dietitians.

6 (2) The Council may, if it thinks fit, withdraw any approval given
7 under this section in respect of any course, qualification or institution, but
8 before withdrawing such an approval the Council shall:

9 (a) give notice that it proposes to do so to such person in Nigeria
10 appearing to the Council to be a person by who the course is conducted or the
11 qualification is granted or the institution is controlled, as the case may be;

12 (b) afford such a person an opportunity of making representation to
13 the Council with regard to the proposal; and

14 (c) take into consideration any representation made as regards the
15 proposal pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection.

16 (3) A course, qualification or institution shall not be treated as
17 approved during the period the approval is withdrawn under subsection (2)
18 of this section.

19 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (3) of this
20 section, the withdrawal of an approval under subsection (2) of this section
21 shall not prejudice the registration or eligibility for registration of any
22 person who by virtue of the approval was registered or was eligible for
23 registration (either unconditionally or subject to his obtaining a certificate of
24 experience) immediately before the approval was withdrawn.

25 (5) The giving or withdrawal of an approval under this section shall
26 have effect from such date, either before or after the execution of the
27 instrument signifying the giving, or withdrawal of the approval, as the
28 Council may specify in the instrument of the Council shall:

29 (a) publish a copy of every such instrument in the Gazette; and

30 (b) not later than seven days before its publication, send a copy of

Supervision of
instructions and
examinations etc.

1 the instrument to the Minister.

2 20.-(1) It shall be the duty of the Council to keep itself informed of the
3 nature of:

4 (a) the instruction given at approved institutions to persons attending
5 approved courses of training; and (the institution must send their curriculum to
6 the Council for approval and accredited every 3-5 years as the case may be);

7 (b) the examinations as a result of which approved qualifications are
8 granted and in the course of performing that duty the Council may appoint,
9 either from among its own members or otherwise, persons to visit the approved
10 institutions or to attend such examinations.

11 (2) it shall be the duty of a visitor under this section to report to the
12 Council on:

13 (a) the adequacy of the instruction given to persons attending
14 approved courses of training at institutions visited by him;

15 (b) the adequacy of the examination attended by him; and

16 (c) any other matters relating to the instruction or examination on
17 which the Council may, either generally or in a particular case, request him to
18 report, but no such person shall interfere with the giving of any instruction or
19 the holding of any examination.

20 (3) On receiving a report made in pursuant to this section, the Council
21 may, if it thinks fit, and shall, if so required by the institutions, send a copy of
22 the report to the person appearing to the Council to be in charge of the
23 instruction or responsible for the examination to which the report relates,
24 requesting that person to make observation on the report to the Council within
25 such period as may be specified in the request, not being less than one month
26 beginning with the date of the request.

Establishment
of Disciplinary
Tribunal and
Investigating
Panel

27 21.-(1) There shall be established a Tribunal to be known as the
28 Dietitians Council of Nigeria Disciplinary Tribunal (in this Act referred to as
29 "the Tribunal") which shall be charged with the duty of considering and
30 determining any case referred to it by the Investigating Panel established by

1 subsection (3) of this section and any other case of which the Tribunal has
2 taken cognizance under the following provisions of this Act.

3 (2) The Tribunal shall consist of the Chairman and six other
4 members appointed by the Council.

5 (3) There shall be a body to be known as the Dietitians Council of
6 Nigeria Investigating Panel (in this Act referred as "the Panel") which will
7 be charged with the duty of:

8 (a) conducting a preliminary investigation into any case where it is
9 alleged that a person registered has misbehaved in his capacity as a Dietitian
10 or any other person subject of proceedings before the Tribunal; and

11 (b) deciding whether the case should be referred to the Tribunal (4)
12 The Panel shall be appointed by the Council and shall consists of four
13 members of the Council and a member not being a member of the Council.

14 (5) The provisions of the First Schedule to this Act shall, so far as
15 applicable to the Tribunal and Panel respectively, have effect with respect to
16 those bodies.

17 (6) The rules to be applied by the Disciplinary Tribunal with
18 regards to Professional misconduct are as contained in the second schedule.

19 **22.-(1) Where:**

20 (a) a person registered under this Act is adjudged by the Tribunal to
21 be guilty of infamous conduct in any professional respect;

22 (b) a person registered under this Act is convicted by any court or
23 Tribunal in Nigeria or elsewhere having power to award imprisonment of an
24 offence (whether or not the offence is punishable with imprisonment) which
25 in the opinion of the Tribunal is incompatible with the status of a Dietitian;

26 (c) the Tribunal is satisfied that the name of any person has been
27 fraudulently registered; the Tribunal may, if it thinks fit, give a direction
28 reprimanding that person or ordering the Registrar to strike his name off the
29 relevant part of the register.

30 (2) The Tribunal may, if it thinks fit, defer its decision as to the

Penalties for
unprofessional
conduct

1 giving of a direction under subsection (1) of this section until a subsequent
2 meeting of the Tribunal; but:

3 (a) no decision shall be deferred under this subsection for period
4 exceeding two years in the aggregate; and

5 (b) no person shall be a member of the Tribunal for the purposes of
6 reaching a decision which has been deferred unless he was present as a member
7 of the Tribunal when the decision was deferred.

8 (3) For the purpose of subsection (1) (b) of this section, a person shall
9 not be treated as a convict, unless the conviction stands at a time when no
10 appeal is pending or may (without extension of time) be brought in connection
11 with the conviction.

12 (4) When the Tribunal gives a direction under subsection (1) of this
13 section, the Tribunal shall cause notice of the direction to be served on the
14 person to whom it relates.

15 (5) A person to whom a direction relates may, at any time within 28
16 days from the date of service on him, appeal against the direction to the Federal
17 High Court and the Tribunal may appear as respondent to the appeal and, for
18 the purpose of enabling direction to be given as to the costs of the appeal and of
19 proceedings before the Tribunal, the Tribunal shall be deemed to be a party
20 thereto whether or not it appears on the hearing of the appeal.

21 (6) A direction of the Tribunal under section (1) of this section shall
22 take effect:

23 (a) where no appeal under this section is brought against the direction
24 within the time limited for such appeal, or on the expiration of that time;

25 (b) where an appeal is brought and is withdrawn or struck out for want
26 of prosecution;

27 (c) where an appeal is brought and is not withdrawn or struck, but the
28 appeal is dismissed.

29 (7) A person whose name is struck off the register pursuant to a
30 direction of the Tribunal under this section shall not be entitled to be registered

1 in the register again except in pursuance of a direction in that behalf given by
2 the Tribunal on the application of that person.

3 (8) A direction under subsection (7) of this section for the striking
4 off of a person's name from the register, may prohibit an application under
5 this subsection by that person until after the expiration of such period from
6 the date of the direction (and where he has duly made such an application,
7 from the date of his last application) as may be specified in the direction.

8 PART VI

9 23. Any person not a registered Dietitian who but for this Act,
10 would have been qualified to apply to practice the profession of Dietetics
11 may, within, the period of one month beginning from the commencement of
12 this Act, apply for membership of the profession in such manner as may be
13 prescribed by rules made by the council; and if approved, he shall be
14 registered, according to his qualification. (This should be a one-off window
15 of opportunity).

Application of
this Act to
unregistered
persons

16 24.-(1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, a person shall be
17 deemed to practice as a dietitian if, in consideration of remuneration
18 received or to be received and whether by him or in partnership with any
19 other person:

When a person
is deemed to
practice as a
registered Dietitian

20 (a) engages in the practice of Dietetics or hold himself out to the
21 public as a Dietitian;

22 (b) renders professional service or assistance in or about matter of
23 principle or detail relating to Dietetics; or

24 (c) renders any other service which may by regulations be made by
25 the Council, with the approval of the Minister.

26 25.-(1) The Council may make rules:

Rules as to
practice, etc.

27 (a) for the training of suitable persons in Nutrition and Dietetics
28 practice; and

29 (b) for the supervision and regulation of the engagement, training
30 and transfer of such persons.

- 1 (2) The Council may also make rules:
- 2 (a) prescribing the form of license to be issued annually;
- 3 (b) restricting the right to practice as a dietitian in default of payment
- 4 of the amount of the annual subscription where the default continues for longer
- 5 than such as may be prescribed by the rules;
- 6 (c) restricting the right to practice as a Dietitian if the qualification
- 7 granted outside Nigeria does not entitle the holder to practice as dietitian;
- 8 (3) Rules made under this section shall if the chairman of the council
- 9 so directs, be published in the gazette.

Provision of
library facilities,
etc.

10 **26. The Council shall:**

11 (1) Provide and maintain a library comprising of books and

12 publishing same for the advancement of Knowledge in Nutrition and Dietetics

13 and such other books and publications as the Council may think necessary for

14 the purposes.

15 (2) encourage research into Nutrition and Dietetics disciplines and

16 allied subjects as may be considered necessary by the Council, from time to

17 time, by the Council.

Offences

18 **27.-(1) If any person for the purpose of procuring the registration of**

19 **any name, qualification or other matter:**

20 (a) makes a statement which he believes to be false in a material

21 particular;

22 (b) recklessly makes a statement which is false in a material particular

23 is guilty of an offence.

24 (2) If on or after the relevant date, any person who is not a member of

25 the profession practices or holds himself out to practice for or in expectation of

26 reward or takes or uses any name, title, addition or description implying that he

27 is authorized by the law to practice as a Dietitian and/or Nutritionist is guilty of

28 an offence.

29 (3) In the case of a person falling within subsection 1(i)(m) of this Act:

30 (a) The provision of subsection (2) of this section shall not apply in

1 respect of anything done by him during the period of three months
2 mentioned in that section; and

3 (b) If within that period he duly applied for membership of the
4 profession, unless within the period he is notified that his application has not
5 been approved, the provisions of subsection

6 (2) of this section shall not apply in respect of anything done by
7 him between the end of the period and the date on which he is registered or is
8 notified.

9 (4) If any other person employed by or on behalf of the Council
10 willfully makes any falsification in any matter relating to the register, he is
11 guilty of an offence.

12 (5) If any employer employs any person as a Dietitian that does not
13 possess the certificate of membership of the Council, he is guilty of an
14 offence.

15 (6) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable:

16 (a) On summary conviction, to a fine of an amount not exceeding
17 N20,000;

18 (b) On conviction on indictment, to a fine of an amount not
19 exceeding N20,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years,
20 or both.

21 (7) Where an offence under this section has been committed by a
22 body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or
23 connivance of or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of any director,
24 manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate of any
25 person purporting to act in any such capacity, shall be deemed to be guilty of
26 that offence and shall be liable to be prosecuted and punished accordingly.

27 28.-(1) Any regulations made under this Act, shall be published in
28 the Gazette as soon as they are made and a copy of such regulations shall be
29 sent to the Minister not later than seven days before they are published.

30 (2) Rules made for the purpose of this Act shall be subject to

1 convene an emergency Council meeting to transact the business Council
2 specified in the notice of that emergency Council meeting.

3 (2) The President shall preside at any meeting of the Council; and
4 in the absence of the President, the First Vice-President shall preside and in
5 the absence of both the President and the First Vice-President, the Second
6 Vice-President shall preside and where he is also not available, members of
7 the Council present shall elect one of their member to preside at such a
8 meeting.

9 (3) The proceedings of the Council shall not be affected by the
10 absence of any member of the Council or any defect in the election or
11 appointment of any member or by reason that a person not entitled to be part
12 of the Proceedings, has taken part in such proceedings.

13 (4) The Council may make standing orders to regulate its
14 proceedings and those of any of its committees.

15 (5) The Council shall hold an annual general meeting of all
16 Members every year.

17 (6) The President shall preside at any annual general meeting of the
18 Council; and in the absence of the President, the First Vice-President shall
19 preside, and in the absence of the First Vice-President, the Second Vice-
20 President shall preside and where both the President and the two Vice-
21 Presidents are absent, the members present shall elect one of their number to
22 preside at such meeting.

23 PART VIII - MISCELLANEOUS

24 31.-(1) The Council may make regulations to carry into effect any Regulations
25 of the provisions of this Bill.

26 (2) Without prejudice to Subsection (1), the Council may make
27 regulations to:

28 (a) prescribe the fees, dues and subscriptions payable by the
29 Members;

30 (b) prescribe the forms of the licenses and certificates, to be issued

- 1 to Dietitians;
- 2 (c) prescribe the date, procedure and agenda of the annual general
3 meeting of the Council; and
- 4 (d) specify the offices and duties of the officers of the Council.

Interpretation

- 5 **32.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:
- 6 "Complainant" means any person who makes an allegation of professional
7 misconduct against a registered Dietitian or associate;
- 8 "Council" means the Dietitians Council of Nigeria established under section 1
9 of this Act;
- 10 "Dietitian" means a person registered to practice as a Dietitian-Nutritionist by
11 the Council;
- 12 "Dietitian/ dietitian- nutritionist" means a professional who applies the science
13 of food and nutrition to promote health, prevent and treat disease
- 14 "Disciplinary Tribunal" Means the Dietitians Council of Nigeria Disciplinary
15 Tribunal Established under section 17 (3) of this Act:
- 16 "Fees" Includes annual practising fee;
- 17 "Members" means a Registered member or an Associate of the Council;
- 18 "Minister" means the Minister charged with the responsibility for matters
19 relating to health;
- 20 "Panel" means the Dietitians Council of Nigeria Investigation Panel;
- 21 "Profession" means Dietetics profession;
- 22 "Professional Association for Dietitians" means Association of Nigerian
23 Dietitians (AND);
- 24 "Register" means the Register maintained in pursuance of section 9 of this Act;
- 25 "RDN" means Registered Dietitian-Nutritionist;
- 26 "Secretary" means a person appointed to act as the Registrar of the Dietitians
27 Council of Nigeria.

Citation

- 28 **33.** This Bill may be cited as the Dietitians Council of Nigeria
29 (Establishment) Bill, 2019.

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SCHEDULES

FIRST SCHEDULE

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE DISCIPLINARY
TRIBUNAL AND INVESTIGATING PANEL

Disciplinary Tribunal

1. The quorum of the Disciplinary Tribunal shall be four members.

2.-(1) The Attorney General of the Federation shall make rules as to the selection of members of the Disciplinary Tribunal for the purpose of any proceeding, the procedure to be followed and the rule of evidence to be observed in proceedings before the Disciplinary Tribunal.

(2) The rules shall in particular provide:

(a) for securing that notice of the proceedings shall be given at such time and in such manner, as may be specified by the rules to the persons who is the subject of the proceedings;

(b) for determining who, in addition to the person aforesaid, shall be a party to the proceedings;

(c) for securing that any part of the proceeding shall, if he so requires, be entitled to be heard by the Disciplinary Tribunal;

(d) for securing that any part to the proceeding may be represented by a legal practitioner;

(e) subject to the provision of this Act, as to the costs of proceedings before the Disciplinary Tribunal;

(f) for requiring in a case where it is alleged that the person who is the subject of the proceedings is guilty of infamous conduct in any professional respect, that where the Disciplinary Tribunal adjudges that the allegation has not been proved it shall record a finding that the person is not guilty of such conduct in respect of the matters to which the allegation relates; and

(g) for publishing in the Gazette notice of any direction of the Disciplinary Tribunal which has taken effect providing that a person's name

1 shall be struck off a register.

2 3. For the purpose of any proceedings before the Disciplinary
3 Tribunal any member of the Disciplinary Tribunal may administer oaths and
4 any party to the proceedings may issue, out of the registry of the Federal High
5 Court writs of *subpoena ad testificandum* and *deciestecum* but no person
6 appearing before the Disciplinary Tribunal shall be compelled:

7 (a) to make any statement before the Disciplinary Tribunal tending to
8 incriminate himself; or

9 (b) to produce any document under such a writ which he could not be
10 compelled to produce at the trial of an action.

11 4.-(1) For the purpose of advising the Disciplinary Tribunal on
12 questions of law arising in proceedings before it, there shall in all such
13 proceedings be an assessor to the Disciplinary Tribunal who shall be appointed
14 by the Council on the nomination of the Attorney General of the Federation and
15 shall be a legal practitioners of not less than seven years post-call experience.

16 (2) The Attorney-General of the Federation shall make rules as to the
17 functions of assessors appointed under this paragraph and in particular such
18 rules shall contain provisions for securing:

19 (a) that where an assessor advises the Disciplinary Tribunal on any
20 questions of law as to evidence, procedure or any other matters specified by the
21 rules, he shall do so in the presence of every party or person representing a part
22 to the proceedings who appears thereat or, if the advice every such party or
23 person as aforesaid shall be informed what advice the assessors has tendered;
24 and

25 (b) that every such part or person as aforesaid shall be informed if in
26 any case the Disciplinary Tribunal does not accept the advice of the assessor on
27 such a question as aforesaid.

28 (3) An assessor may be appointed under this paragraph either
29 generally or for any particular proceedings or class of proceedings and shall

1 hold and vacate office in accordance with the terms of the letter by which he
2 is appointed.

3 *The Investigation Panel*

4 5. The quorum of the investigating panel shall be three, all of
5 whom shall be registered Dietitians

6 6.-(1) The Investigating Panel may, at any of its meetings attended
7 by the members of the Investigating Panel, make standing orders with
8 respect to the Investigating Panel (2) Subject to the provision of any such
9 standing orders, the investigating panel may regulate its own procedure.

10 *Miscellaneous*

11 7.-(1) A person ceasing to be a member of the Disciplinary Tribunal
12 or the Investigating Panel shall be eligible for appointment as a member of
13 that body.

14 (2) A person may, if otherwise eligible, be a member of both the
15 Disciplinary Tribunal and the Investigating Panel, but no person who acted
16 as a member of the Investigating Panel with respect to any case shall act as a
17 member of the Disciplinary Tribunal with respect to that case.

18 8. The Disciplinary Tribunal or the Investigating Panel may act
19 notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership and the proceedings of
20 either body shall not be invalidated by any irregularity in the appointment of
21 a member of that body or subject to paragraph 7 (2) of this schedule, by
22 reason of the fact that any person who was not entitled to do so took part in
23 the proceedings of that body.

24 9. Any document authorized or require by virtue of this act to be
25 served on the Disciplinary Tribunal or the investigation panel shall be served
26 on the Registrar.

27 10. Any expenses on the Disciplinary Tribunal or the investigating
28 panel shall be defrayed by the Council.

29 11. A person shall not by reason of his appointment as an assessor
30 to the Disciplinary Tribunal, be treated as holding an office in the public

1 service of the Federation.

2 SECOND SCHEDULE

3 DIETITIANS COUNCIL OF NIGERIA (DISCIPLINARY TRIBUNAL) RULES

4 *Reference to the tribunal*

5 1. In any case where in pursuance of section 21(3) of the Act the Panel
6 is of the Opinion that a prima facie case is shown against a Dietitian, the Panel
7 shall prepare a report of the case and formulate any appropriate charge or
8 charges and forward them to the secretary together with all the documents
9 considered by the Panel.

10 *Chairman to convene the Tribunal*

11 2. The secretary shall refer the report and the charges to the chairman of the
12 Dietitians, Council of Nigeria who shall convene a meeting of the Tribunal, as
13 set up in accordance with rule 3 of these Rules.

14 *Composition of the Tribunal*

15 3.-(1) Whenever any case of professional misconduct against a
16 registered Dietitian or registered dietetics or associate is referred to the
17 Tribunal by the Panel, such a case shall be heard by the chairman and six other
18 members of the Council appointed by the Council.

19 (2) The chairman of the Council, or in his absence, anyone appointed
20 in that behalf shall be chairman of the Tribunal.

21 (3) Four members of the Tribunal, including the chairman, shall form
22 a quorum.

23 (4) An assessor appointed by the Council on the nomination of the
24 Attorney-General of the Federation in accordance with paragraph 4(1) of
25 Schedule 2 to the Act shall sit with the Tribunal and it shall be the duty of such
26 assessor to advise the Tribunal on questions of law arising in proceedings
27 before it.

28 (5) Except where the Tribunal is deliberating in close session, the
29 advice of an assessor on questions of law as to evidence, procedure and as to
30 compliance with the Act shall be tendered in the presence of every party or his

1 representative.

2 (6) Where the advice of the assessor is tendered while the Tribunal
3 is deliberating in close session, the assessor shall personally, as soon as may
4 be, inform each party or his representative in writing of the question which
5 has been put to him by the Tribunal and of his advice thereon.

6 (7) Every party or his representative shall be informed whenever
7 the advice tendered by the assessor has not been accepted.

8 *Parties to the proceedings before the Tribunal*

9 4.-(1) the parties to the proceedings before the Tribunal shall be:

10 (a) The chairman of the panel;

11 (b) The registered Dietician or Associate whose conduct is the
12 subject matter of the proceedings;

13 (c) If the Tribunal so directs, the complainant, who may be
14 represented by a legal practitioner; and

15 (d) Such other person required by leave of the Tribunal to be joined.

16 (2) The registered Dietitian or associate whose conduct is the
17 subject matter of the proceedings may appear either in person or be
18 represented by a legal practitioner and the Tribunal may also employ the
19 services of a legal practitioner to present the case before it.

20 5.-(1) Fixing of hearing and service of notice, etc. thereof by the
21 secretary (1) On the direction of the Chairman of the Tribunal, the secretary
22 shall fix a day for the hearing of the case and shall serve notice thereof on
23 each party to the proceedings.

24 (2) The secretary shall serve on each party, other than the
25 complainant, copies of the report and all the charges prepared by the Panel
26 and all the documents considered by the Panel.

27 (3) Service of any document on the registered Dietitian or
28 Associate whose conduct is the subject matter of the proceedings may be
29 effected either by handing the documents to him personally or by sending it
30 by registered post to the address recorded in the register maintained in sub 4

1 of section 11 of the Act.

2 *Hearing in absence of parties*

3 6.-(1) If any party fails to appear at the hearing, the Tribunal may,
4 upon proof of service on such party proceed to hear and determine the case in
5 his absence.

6 (2) Any party to a proceeding before the Tribunal who fails to appear
7 at the hearing, may within one calendar month from the pronouncement of the
8 findings and directions of the Tribunal and upon giving notice to every other
9 party and to the secretary, apply to the Tribunal for a re-hearing.

10 (3) The Tribunal, if satisfied that it is just that the case should be re-
11 heard, may grant the application on such terms and costs or otherwise as it
12 thinks fit.

13 *Hearing of witnesses and reception of documents*

14 7. The Tribunal may, in the course of its proceedings, hear such
15 witnesses and receive such documentary evidence as in its opinion may assist it
16 in arriving at a conclusion as to the truth or otherwise of the allegations of
17 misconduct to it by the Panel.

18 *Amendment of charges before the Tribunal*

19 8. If in the course of the proceedings it appears to the Tribunal that the charges
20 forwarded to it by the Panel require to be amended or added to, the Tribunal
21 may permit such amendments or addition as it shall think fit.

22 *Holding of proceedings in public*

23 9. The proceedings of the Tribunal shall be held and its findings and
24 directions shall be pronounced in public.

25 *Adjournment*

26 10. The Tribunal may, of its own motion, or upon the application of
27 any party, adjourn the hearing on such terms as to costs or otherwise as the
28 Tribunal may think fit.

29 *Penalty for giving false evidence*

30 11. If any person willfully gives false evidence on oath before the

1 of section 11 of the Act.

2 *Hearing in absence of parties*

3 6.-(1) If any party fails to appear at the hearing, the Tribunal may,
4 upon proof of service on such party proceed to hear and determine the case in
5 his absence.

6 (2) Any party to a proceeding before the Tribunal who fails to appear
7 at the hearing, may within one calendar month from the pronouncement of the
8 findings and directions of the Tribunal and upon giving notice to every other
9 party and to the secretary, apply to the Tribunal for a re-hearing.

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27 any party, adjourn the hearing on such terms as to costs or otherwise as the
28 Tribunal may think fit.

29 *Penalty for giving false evidence*

30 11. If any person willfully gives false evidence on oath before the

1 representative.

2 (6) Where the advice of the assessor is tendered while the Tribunal
3 is deliberating in close session, the assessor shall personally, as soon as may
4 be, inform each party or his representative in writing of the question which
5 has been put to him by the Tribunal and of his advice thereon.

6 (7) Every party or his representative shall be informed whenever
7 the advice tendered by the assessor has not been accepted.

8 *Parties to the proceedings before the Tribunal*

9 4.-(1) the parties to the proceedings before the Tribunal shall be:

10 (a) The chairman of the panel;

11 (b) The registered Dietician or Associate whose conduct is the
12 subject matter of the proceedings;

13 (c) If the Tribunal so directs, the complainant, who may be
14 represented by a legal practitioner; and

15 (d) Such other person required by leave of the Tribunal to be joined.

16 (2) The registered Dietitian or associate whose conduct is the
17 subject matter of the proceedings may appear either in person or be
18 represented by a legal practitioner and the Tribunal may also employ the
19 services of a legal practitioner to present the case before it.

20 5.-(1) Fixing of hearing and service of notice, etc. thereof by the
21 secretary (1) On the direction of the Chairman of the Tribunal, the secretary
22 shall fix a day for the hearing of the case and shall serve notice thereof on
23 each party to the proceedings.

24 (2) The secretary shall serve on each party, other than the
25 complainant, copies of the report and all the charges prepared by the Panel
26 and all the documents considered by the Panel.

27 (3) Service of any document on the registered Dietitian or
28 Associate whose conduct is the subject matter of the proceedings may be
29 effected either by handing the documents to him personally or by sending it
30 by registered post to the address recorded in the register maintained in sub 4

1 Tribunal during the course of any proceedings, or willfully makes a false
2 statement in any affidavit sworn for the purpose of any such proceedings, the
3 Tribunal may refer the matter to the Attorney-General of the Federation for
4 necessary action.

5 *Findings of not guilty*

6 12. If, after the hearing, the Tribunal adjudges that the allegations
7 of infamous conduct in a professional respect have not been proved, the
8 Tribunal shall record a finding that the registered Dietitian or Associate is
9 not guilty of such conduct in respect of the matter to which the allegation
10 relates.

11 *Costs*

12 13. The Tribunal may, without finding any misconduct proved
13 against a Dietitian, nevertheless order any party to pay the costs of the
14 proceedings having regard to his conduct and to all circumstances of the
15 case the Tribunal shall think fit so to order.

16 *Publications of Directions of Tribunal*

17 14. Subject to the provisions of section 22 (5) of the Act (relating
18 to the lodging of an appeal against the direction of the Tribunal) any
19 direction given by the Tribunal in accordance with section 22 (1) of the Act,
20 shall be published in the Federal Gazette as soon as such direction takes
21 effect.

22 *Record of Proceedings*

23 15.-(1) Shorthand notes of proceedings may be taken by a person
24 appointed by the Tribunal and any part who appeared at the proceedings
25 shall be entitled to respect the transcript thereof.

26 (2) The secretary shall supply to any person entitle to be heard upon
27 an appeal against the direction of the Tribunal and to the Council, but to no
28 other person, a copy of the transcript of such notes on payment of such
29 charges as may be determined by the secretary.

30 (3) If no shorthand notes are taken, the chairman of the Tribunal

1 shall take a note of the proceedings and the provisions of these Rules as to
2 inspection and taking of copies shall apply to such notes accordingly.

3 *Dispensing with provision*

4 16. The Tribunal may dispense with any requirement of these Rules
5 respecting notices, affidavit, documents, service or time in any case where it
6 appears to the Tribunal to be just to do so.

7 *Extension of time*

8 17. The Tribunal may, in any given case, extend the time to do
9 anything under these Rules.

10 *Exhibits and books*

11 18. The Tribunal may order that any books or other exhibits,
12 produced or used at a hearing, be retained by the secretary until the time within
13 which an appeal may be entered has expired, and if notice of appeal is given,
14 until the appeal is heard or otherwise disposed of.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish Dietitian Council of Nigeria, to regulate the practice of the Profession of Dietetics and Nutrition and for other matters connected therewith to achieve a more wholesome Dietetics practice and maintain standards among Dietetic Practitioners.