

# A BILL

## FOR

ACT TO REPEAL THE DEFENCE INDUSTRY CORPORATION OF NIGERIA ACT  
CAP D4 LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004, AND ENACTS THE  
NEW DEFENCE INDUSTRY CORPORATION OF NIGERIA BILL, 2019 AND FOR  
RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by Hon. Oluwole Oke*

[ ] Commencement

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

- 1           **1.** This Bill may be cited as the Defence Industry Corporation of  
2 Nigeria Bill and comes into operation on the date assented to by the  
3 President. Establishment  
of the Corporation
- 4           **2.**-(1) There is established a body to be known as the Defence  
5 Industry Corporation of Nigeria (in this Bill referred to as "DICON or the  
6 Corporation").
- 7           (2) The Corporation-
- 8           (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a  
9 common seal;
- 10           (b) may sue or be sued in its corporate name; and (may acquire,  
11 hold or dispose any property, movable or immovable for the purpose of  
12 carrying out any of its functions under this Bill.
- 13           **3.** The Corporation shall have powers and duties as are  
14 conferred on it by this Bill or any other enactment of the National  
15 Assembly.
- 16           **4.** -(1) The object of the Corporation shall be to meet and satisfy: Objectives of  
the Corporation
- 17           (a) in an efficient and cost effective manner the material needs of  
18 the Armed Forces of Nigeria and other security agencies;
- 19           (b) the technological, research and development and applied

Functions of the  
Corporation

- 1 scientific needs of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and other security agencies;
- 2 (c) develop, utilize, market and export normal and advanced military
- 3 technologies;
- 4 (d) satisfy the civil non-defence technological needs of Nigeria where
- 5 possible.
- 6 (2) The Corporation must adhere to accepted corporate governance
- 7 principles, best business practices and generally accepted accounting practices
- 8 within a framework of established norms and standards that reflect fairness,
- 9 equity, transparency, economy, efficiency, accountability and lawfulness.
- 10 **5.** The Corporation shall be responsible to carry out the following:
- 11 (i) operate, maintain and control factories for the manufacture,
- 12 storage and disposal of ordnance and ancillary stores and materiel;
- 13 (ii) to provide for alteration in any such manufacture, storage and
- 14 disposal at any time;
- 15 (iii) to acquire such Defence items on behalf of any other body
- 16 permitted to acquire such defence materiel;
- 17 (iv) conduct research and development for the Nigerian defence
- 18 sector and apply the findings of the research in promoting and protecting the
- 19 national interest of Nigeria;
- 20 (v) initiate and manage technological projects required in actualizing
- 21 other objectives or responsibilities of the Corporation;
- 22 (vi) dispose defence materiel in consultation with the person who
- 23 originally manufactured the materiel;
- 24 (vii) support and maintain any defence industrial capabilities,
- 25 resources and technologies designated by the Ministry as strategic and
- 26 essential for the national defence needs of Nigeria;
- 27 (viii) develop, manufacture, produce, sell and export Defence items
- 28 and advanced military hardware;
- 29 (ix) collaborate with other entities involved in manufacture,
- 30 technology, research, applied research, mass production among others;

1 (x) operate as a platform for both the industrialization and  
2 technological advancement of Nigeria.

3 **6.** The Corporation may, with the approval of the Minister-

4 (i) carry out or exploit commercial activities which may arise in the  
5 course of carrying out the Corporation's statutory mandate;

6 (ii) procure commercial material on behalf of any agency of the  
7 Federal or a State Government;

8 (iii) form partnership or joint venture with a private company;

9 (iv) perform any other function which the Corporation may be  
10 directed to perform pursuant to any Regulation made by the Minister under  
11 this Bill.

12 **7.** There is established for the Corporation a Board, which shall be  
13 responsible for:

The Board and  
Employees of  
the Corporation

14 (a) attainment of the objects of the Corporation;

15 (b) the policy direction of the Corporation;

16 (c) such other functions conferred upon it by any other provision of  
17 this Bill.

18 **8.-(1)** The Board shall consist of the following members to be  
19 appointed by the President, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, on  
20 the recommendation of the Minister, with the approval of the National  
21 Assembly:

22 (a) the Director General of the Corporation;

23 (b) The Secretary of the Corporation;

24 (c) six members with relevant qualifications and experience from  
25 each of the geo-political zones;

26 (d) one representative of the Federal Ministry of Defence;

27 (e) one representative of the Federal Ministry of Science and  
28 Technology;

29 (f) one representative of the Federal Ministry of Industry;

30 (g) one representatives each from the Nigerian Army, Nigerian Air-

- 1 force, Nigerian Navy, Nigerian Police and the Department of State Security;
- 2 (h) 2 representatives of civil society.
- 3 (2) A member of the Board appointed pursuant to this section:
- 4 (a) shall hold office for a term of four years;
- 5 (b) on such terms and conditions as may be specified in the letter of
- 6 appointment; and
- 7 (c) shall be eligible for re-appointment for another term off our years
- 8 and no more.
- 9 **9.**(1) The Director General appointed by the President shall be a
- 10 serving or retired military officer of the equivalent of the rank of Brigadier or
- 11 above.
- 12 (2) The Director-General shall be the chief executive of the
- 13 Corporation, and as and when directed, he shall give to the Corporation
- 14 information as to the activities of the Corporation as the President, Minister or
- 15 the National Assembly may reasonably require.
- 16 (3) The Director-General shall co-ordinate, harmonise and supervise
- 17 the general planning of defence and allied industries which are set up to
- 18 produce specifically or mainly for the armed forces in addition to encouraging
- 19 other industries within the economy to produce for the general consumer as
- 20 well as for the armed forces.
- 21 (4) The Corporation may delegate to the Director-General all or any
- 22 of the powers mentioned in this section and subject thereto the Director-
- 23 General may authorise programmes and plans for giving effect to any policy
- 24 approved by the Minister or to any direction or recommendation of the
- 25 Corporation as to any ordnance factory in Nigeria or as to staff training therein.
- 26 (5) The fact that any such powers have been delegated to the Director-
- 27 General shall not preclude the Corporation itself from exercising them in any
- 28 special case.
- 29 (6) The powers mentioned in this section are-
- 30 (a) the executive control over other servants of the Corporation;

1 (b) the supervision of accounts and records;

2 (c) the preparation for approval of sectional programmes and plans  
3 necessary to carry into effect approved policy or any directions of the  
4 Corporation.

5 (7) The salaries, fees, wages or other remuneration or allowances  
6 including pension and other allowances payable to the Director General and  
7 to the Secretary of the Board shall be as stipulated from time to time by the  
8 Board subject to the approval of the President.

9 (8) The Director General shall cease to hold office in the  
10 Corporation if he:

11 (a) becomes of unsound mind or, owing to ill health, is incapable of  
12 carrying out his duties;

13 (b) is convicted of any criminal offence by a court of competent  
14 jurisdiction except for traffic offences or contempt proceedings arising in  
15 connection with the execution or intended execution of any power or duty  
16 conferred under this Act or any other law;

17 (c) is guilty of a serious misconduct in relation to his duties under  
18 this Act;

19 (d) becomes bankrupt;

20 (e) is removed by the President: Provided that the removal of the  
21 Director General shall be supported by two-thirds majority of the National  
22 Assembly praying that he be so removed.

23 **10.-(1)** Subject to the provisions of this section, the Corporation  
24 may appoint such persons as members of its staff as it considers necessary  
25 and may approve conditions of service, including provisions for the  
26 payment of pensions in line with the Pension Reform Act 2014:

27 (2) The Secretary of the Corporation shall be appointed subject to  
28 the approval of the Minister, and shall keep the records and conduct  
29 correspondence and perform such other duties as the Corporation may from  
30 time to time direct;

Employees of  
the Corporation

1 (3) An employee of the Corporation or a member of the Board shall-  
2 (a) disclose to the Board any direct or indirect interest that such  
3 employee or Board member, or his or her spouse, partner or family member  
4 may have in any matter relating to the acquisition or procurement activities of  
5 the Corporation; and

6 (b) withdraw from participation in the activity in question unless the  
7 Board decides that the interest is trivial or irrelevant.

8 (4) Any employee or member of the Board of the Corporation who  
9 fails to make disclosure in accordance with section 10(3) of this Bill shall be  
10 guilty of an offence and on conviction be liable on conviction to a fine or to  
11 imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years or to both fine and  
12 imprisonment.

Operation of  
Ordnance  
Factories and  
other Ancillary  
Factories

13 **11.** The Corporation shall be entitled to carry out the following:

14 (1) The Corporation shall operate any ordnance or ancillary factory  
15 under its control on a sound commercial basis and so as to fill the normal  
16 defence requirements of the armed forces; and shall plan its activities so far as  
17 may be necessary to meet other needs, from time to time.

18 (2) If there is any surplus capacity in the operation of an ordnance or  
19 ancillary factory, the Director General shall so advise the Minister through the  
20 Corporation and the Minister, with the approval of the President, may direct  
21 that any such surplus capacity may be adapted where necessary and be used  
22 towards meeting the civilian needs of Nigeria.

23 (3) Where the Corporation undertakes the inspection and testing of  
24 ordnance and material for use by the armed forces, it shall recommend  
25 adoption or rejection, as the case may be, to the Minister, and the Minister shall  
26 give the directions necessary in the circumstances.

27 (4) The Corporation may, on behalf of any of the governments of  
28 Nigeria, test and inspect any substance, material, machine or other thing  
29 whatsoever intended for or capable of being used by the armed forces, whether  
30 or not it is thereafter so used, or is rejected.

1 (5) For all or any of the purposes of this section, the Corporation  
2 may, in its discretion, institute a system of technical standards of classes of  
3 materials, structures and machines.

4 (6) The Corporation shall be entitled to establish or acquire any  
5 factory or manufacturing industry which shall be used as an ordnance  
6 factory or ancillary factory including vehicle factory, small arms factory,  
7 rifle factory, opto electronic factory, ordnance equipment factory, ordnance  
8 clothing factory, heavy vehicle factory, ammunition factory, ammunition  
9 factory, cordite factory, field gun factory, gun carriage factory, grey iron  
10 factory, gun and shell factory, heavy alloy penetrator factory, heavy vehicle  
11 factory, machine tool prototype factory, metal and steel factory, aviation  
12 factory and any other factories the Corporation considers necessary.

13 (7) The location of any factory of the Corporation shall take into  
14 account the Federal Character principles, suitability of the site and the  
15 strategic defence needs of Nigeria.

16 **12.-(I)** The Funds of the Corporation shall consist of-

- 17 (a) such sums as may be required for the completion of any  
18 building erected as an ordnance factory and taken over on the appointed day;  
19 (b) moneys from time to time voted by the National Assembly;  
20 (c) moneys received from the process of any sale or hire.  
21 (d) revenue, including interest derived from its investments;  
22 (e) money obtained from such other source as may be consistent  
23 with the objectives and functions of the Corporation.

24 (2) The Corporation shall establish a reserve for such purposes as it  
25 may deem fit if they are consistent with its objectives and functions, and may  
26 invest that portion of the money which it does not immediately require into a  
27 reserve fund in any manner which will benefit the Corporation.

28 (3) The Corporation and its wholly-owned subsidiaries and  
29 affiliates shall be exempt from the provisions of any and all taxes, fees,  
30 imposts or similar fiscal laws or regulation of the Federal, State, Local

Funds of the  
Corporation and  
Exemption from  
Tax

1 Governments of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, including without limitation,  
2 the Companies Income Tax Act Cap. C21 LFN 2004, the Capital Gains Tax Act  
3 Cap. C I LFN 2004, the Stamp Duties Act Cap. S8 LFN 2004, the Value Added  
4 Tax Act Cap. VI LFN 2004 or other impost, taxes 0 interest and dividends or  
5 any similar law or regulation.

Accounts and  
Records to be  
kept

6 **13.**-(1) The Corporation shall keep proper accounts and other records  
7 and shall not later than the thirtieth day of September in each year prepare  
8 estimates of receipts and expenditure of the Corporation for the next ensuing  
9 financial year and shall submit the estimates for the approval of the Minister.

10 (2) If the estimated expenditure approved for a financial year is  
11 exceeded without the prior approval in writing of the Minister, members of the  
12 Corporation shall be liable to a surcharge on salary or allowances as the case  
13 may be, at the investigation of the Auditor-General for the Federation.

14 (3) Separate accounts shall be kept in relation to moneys received and  
15 expended by the Corporation in connection with the manufacture, production,  
16 sale and letting on hire of any equipment authorised for release under this Bill.

17 (4) The accounts of the Corporation shall be audited annually by  
18 auditors to be appointed annually by the Corporation from among the list of  
19 auditors and in accordance with guidelines prepared by the Auditor-General  
20 for the Federation.

Safeguarding of  
information, records,  
property and  
premises

21 **14.**-(1) The Corporation must take such measures as are necessary for  
22 the safeguarding and protecting of-

23 (a) information, records and property belonging to or under the  
24 control of the Corporation; or

25 (b) any premises where the activities of the Corporation is being  
26 performed.

27 (2) If the Corporation takes any measures contemplated in subsection  
28 (1), it must cause such notices to be published or such warnings to be erected as  
29 may in each particular case be necessary to warn the public of any danger or  
30 harm which may be caused by such measures.



1                   (3) The Corporation is empowered to include a duty of  
2                   confidentiality in its contracts, agreements and conditions of service to bind  
3                   its employees, members of its Board and third parties.

4                   **15.** The Corporation may subject to the approval of the Minister  
5                   form a wholly or partly owned subsidiary through which it can undertake  
6                   commercial activities.

Subsidiaries,  
Acquisition,  
Partnership and  
Joint Ventures

7                   **16.** Subject to the approval of the Minister, the Corporation shall  
8                   be empowered to form a joint venture or special purpose company to  
9                   undertake research or for commercial purpose or to promote a technological  
10                  process/project.

11                  **17.** The Corporation shall subject to approval from the Minister,  
12                  be entitled to enter into partnerships and joint ventures with private entities  
13                  in order to meet any of the objectives and functions of the Corporation.

14                  **18.** Subject to the consent of the President and notwithstanding the  
15                  provision of any law, the Corporation shall be entitled to compulsorily  
16                  acquire moribund industries, properties, machineries or facilities to be  
17                  adapted or converted in promoting and actualizing its objectives and  
18                  functions.

19                  **19.** Where the Corporation exercises its powers under section 18,  
20                  the Board shall pay adequate compensation to the holders of the interest in  
21                  that property.

22                  **20.** The Corporation shall subject to the approval of the Minister,  
23                  collaborate with commercial entities and research institutions in promoting  
24                  and actualizing its statutory objectives and functions and shall be entitled to  
25                  provide seed capital, funding or counter-part funding for such  
26                  collaborations.

27                  **21.** Where the Corporation is involved in a project wholly or  
28                  through a joint venture or partnership entity, it shall be entitle to obtain  
29                  funding from the Bank of Industry or any other domestic financial  
30                  institution.

Restricted  
application of  
Firearms Act

1                   **22.**-(1) Nothing in the Firearms Act shall be construed to preclude the  
2 importation by the Corporation of any firearm as therein defined or  
3 ammunition, or the manufacture, assembly, repair, or disposal of any such  
4 firearm or ammunition in an ordnance factory.

5                   (2) Nothing in the Firearms Act shall be construed to preclude the  
6 manufacture, assembly, repair, or disposal of any such firearm or ammunition  
7 in an ordnance factory by a company licenced under this Bill.

8                   (3) Every ordnance factory under the control of the Corporation or a  
9 company licenced under this Bill shall, for the purposes of the Firearms Act, be  
10 deemed to have been recognised as a public armory without further authority  
11 than this Bill; but firearms and ammunition therein may be held by the  
12 Corporation for such period as it thinks fit, anything in the Firearms Act to the  
13 contrary notwithstanding.

Regulation and  
Licensing of  
Manufacturers  
of Defence  
Articles

14                   **23.** Notwithstanding the provisions of the Firearms Act, the  
15 Corporation shall be responsible for issuing licences to manufacturers,  
16 distributors, sellers and persons involved in leasing of defence articles in  
17 Nigeria.

18                   **24.** The licencing and regulation of the manufacture, distribution, sale  
19 and lease of defence articles shall be based on a Regulation issued by the  
20 Corporation and approved by the Minister.

21                   **25.** Defence items shall be items included in a list issued by the  
22 Minister and the provisions of the Firearms Act shall not apply to the items.

23                   **26.** The Regulations made under section 24 shall stipulate the  
24 licencing fees and other fees and levies to be charged by the Corporation.

25                   **27.** Items produced by private manufacturers under this Act shall be  
26 offered first to the Corporation for purchase and where it issues a Notice of  
27 Non-Purchase, the manufacturer shall be entitled to sell the items domestically  
28 or export the Defence items based on the provisions of any applicable  
29 Regulation.

1	<b>28.</b> The Armed Forces, Police and other security agencies	Sale of Defence items manufactured by the Corporation
2	authorized to possess and use weapons or other items categorized as	
3	Defence Items must purchase weapons or Defence Items from the	
4	Corporation or where the Corporation declines, from other manufacturers or	
5	distributors licenced under this Bill.	
6	<b>29.</b> The Armed Forces, Police and other security agencies	
7	authorized to possess and use weapons or other items categorized as Defence	
8	Items shall be entitled to purchase weapons or Defence items from	
9	manufacturers or distributors other than those specified in section 28 in any	
10	of the following circumstances:	
11	(a) where the Corporation or the licenced manufacturer is unable to	
12	meet the demand needs of the purchaser; and	
13	(b) the Corporation issues a letter of no objection.	
14	<b>30.</b> The Corporation or other licenced manufacturers shall not	
15	export any item contained in the list of Defence items, except after obtaining	
16	an export permit issued by the Minister.	
17	<b>31.</b> The Corporation shall where necessary, apply for and obtain	Intellectual Property
18	intellectual property protection for all of its works, inventions and property.	
19	<b>32.</b> The Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria Act 1964 is	Repeal of Law and Saving Provisions
20	hereby repealed.	
21	<b>33.</b> In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires-	Interpretation
22	"Armed forces" means the Army, Navy and Air force of Nigeria;	
23	"Building" includes fixtures, and any plant, machinery and office furniture	
24	supplied or to be supplied under any contract, and whether or not affixed or	
25	intended to be affixed to the land; Defence item means any item included in a	
26	list issued by the Minister;	
27	"The Corporation" means the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria	
28	established under this Bill;	
29	"Materiel" includes any armament, ammunition and equipment;	

1 "The Minister" means the Federal minister charged with responsibility for  
2 Defence;

3 "Ordnance Factory" subject to the Defence Industries Corporation of Nigeria  
4 (Exclusion of Armed Forces Armament Depot) Bill means any public  
5 establishment for the manufacture, storage and disposal of ordnance and  
6 ancillary stores and materiel intended for or capable of being used by the armed  
7 forces, and includes the manufacture of any other thing that may be approved  
8 under this Bill.

Short title

9 **34.** This Bill may be cited as the Defence Industries Corporation of  
10 Nigeria Bill, 2019.

#### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to repeal the Defence Industry Corporation of Nigeria Act Cap D4 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, and enacts the new Defence Industry Corporation of Nigeria Bill, 2020.