

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL ORIENTATION COMMISSION TO, AMONG OTHER THINGS, RE-ORIENTATE AND ENCOURAGE NIGERIANS TO TAKE PART ACTIVELY AND FREELY IN DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS AFFECTING THEIR GENERAL AND COLLECTIVE WELFARE, AND TO INCULCATE IN NIGERIANS THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF NATIONALISM AND NATION BUILDING IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

*Sponsored by Hon. Olajide Olatubosun*

[ ] Commencement

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

1           1.-(1) There is hereby established a body to be known as the  
2 National Orientation Commission (in this Bill referred to as "the  
3 Commission") which shall have the functions assigned to it by this Bill.

Establishment  
of National  
Orientation  
Commission

4           (2) The Commission:

5           (a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a  
6 common seal; and

7           (b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name.

8           (3) The Commission shall be organised as a Parastatal under the  
9 Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation.

10          2.-(1) The Commission shall have a Governing Board (in this Bill  
11 referred to as "the Board") which shall comprise the following:

Membership of  
the Governing  
Board of the  
Commission

12          (a) a chairman who shall be appointed by the President and who  
13 shall be a retired practitioner in education or law or media or general  
14 management and administration and be a person of proven integrity, ability  
15 and character;

16          (b) one representative each of the following bodies and Ministries,  
17 that is:

- 1 (i) the National Council of Women Societies;  
2 (ii) the Nigeria Labour Congress;  
3 (iii) the Nigerian Employers Consultative Association;  
4 (iv) the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industries,  
5 Mines and Agriculture;  
6 (v) the Nigerian Universities;  
7 (vi) the Christian Association of Nigeria;  
8 (vii) the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs;  
9 (viii) the Nigerian Bar Association;  
10 (ix) the Federal Ministry of Information and National Orientation;  
11 (x) the Federal Ministry of Education;  
12 (xi) the Broadcasting Organisation of Nigeria;  
13 (xii) the Nigeria Union of Journalist;  
14 (xiii) the Nigerian Institute for Cultural Orientation; and  
15 (c) the Director-General.

16 (2) The other members of the Board shall be appointed by the  
17 President on the recommendation of the Minister and shall be persons of  
18 proven integrity and with considerable experience in the private or public  
19 sector.

20 (3) The supplementary provisions contained in the Schedule to this  
21 Bill shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board and other  
22 matters contained therein. (Schedule)

Functions of  
the Commission

23 **3.-(1)** The Commission shall:

- 24 (a) enlighten the general public on Federal Government policies,  
25 programmes and activities;  
26 (b) mobilise favourable public opinion and support for Federal  
27 Government policies, programmes and activities;  
28 (c) collect, collate, analyse and provide a source of feedback from the  
29 public to the Federal Government on its policies, programmes and activities;  
30 (d) establish social institutions and framework for deliberate

1 exposure of Nigerians to democratic norms and values for virtue, peaceful,  
2 united, progressive and disciplined society;

3 (e) energise the conscience of all categories of Nigerians to their  
4 rights and privileges, responsibilities and obligations as citizens of Nigeria;

5 (f) propagate and promote the spirit of dignity of labour, honesty  
6 and commitment of qualitative production, promotion and consumption of  
7 home-produced commodities and services;

8 (g) re-orientate Nigerians to shed their general attitudes to wastage,  
9 variety and pretences of affluence in their lifestyles;

10 (h) orientate the populace about power, its use and the proper role  
11 of the Federal Government in serving the collective interest of Nigerians;

12 (i) propagate the need to eschew all vices in public life including  
13 corruption, dishonesty, electoral and census malpractice, ethnic, parochial  
14 and religious bigotry;

15 (j) propagate the virtue of hard work, honesty, loyalty, self-  
16 reliance, commitment to and the promotion of national integration;

17 (k) mobilise Nigerians for positive patriotic participation in and  
18 identification with national affairs and issues; and

19 (l) sensitise, induct and equip all Nigerians to fight against all  
20 forms of internal and external domination of resources by a few individuals  
21 or groups.

22 **4.** It shall be the objectives of the Commission to:

23 (a) ensure that Federal Government programmes and policies are  
24 better understood by the general public;

25 (b) mobilize favourable opinions for such programmes and  
26 policies;

27 (c) encourage informal education through public enlightenment  
28 activities and publication;

29 (d) establish a feedback channel to the Federal Government on all  
30 aspects of Nigerian national life;

Objectives of  
the Commission

1 (e) establish appropriate national framework for educating,  
2 orientating and indoctrinating Nigerians towards developing socially desirable  
3 attitudes, values and culture which will project individual national pride and  
4 position national image for Nigeria;

5 (f) develop among Nigerians of all ages and sex, social and cultural  
6 values and awareness which will inculcate the spirit of patriotism, nationalism,  
7 self-discipline and self-reliance;

8 (g) awaken the consciousness of Nigerians to their civic  
9 responsibilities to the promotion of national unity, citizen's commitment to  
10 their human rights to build a free, just and progressive society;

11 (h) encourage the people to take part actively and freely in discussions  
12 and decisions affecting their general welfare;

13 (i) promote new sets of attitudes and culture for the attainment of the  
14 goals and objectives of a united Nigerian State;

15 (j) restore and sustain discipline in Nigerians national life;

16 (k) instill in the populace a sense of absolute loyalty to their  
17 fatherland;

18 (l) ensure and uphold leadership by example; and

19 (m) foster respect for constituted authority.

Tenure of Office  
of Members, etc.

20 **5.-(1)** The chairman and members of the Board shall be part-time  
21 members and shall each hold office for a period of three years renewable for a  
22 further period of three years only.

23 (2) A member of the Board, who is not an ex-officio member, may  
24 resign his appointment at any time by notice in writing under his hand  
25 addressed to the President.

26 (3) The office of a member of the Board shall become vacant if:

27 (a) he dies; or

28 (b) he resigns his appointment on the Board; or

29 (c) he is removed from office by the President, if he is of the opinion  
30 that it is not in the interest of the Commission or the public that the member

1 should continue in office.

2 (4) Where a member shall be removed before the expiration of his  
3 tenure on the Board, the President may appoint such other member for the  
4 remainder of the term of office of that member in so far as the new member  
5 represents the same interest for which the first member was appointed.

6 **6.**-(1) There shall be appointed for the Commission, a Director-  
7 General who shall be responsible for the execution of the policies of the  
8 Commission and its day-to-day administration.

Appointment of  
the Director General

9 (2) The Director-General, who shall be an experienced and tested  
10 administrator, non-partisan and with a wide knowledge of Nigeria, her  
11 people and culture, to be appointed by the President on the recommendation  
12 of the Minister.

13 (3) The Director-General shall hold office in the first instance for a  
14 period of five years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for such further  
15 period as the President may, from time to time, determine.

16 (4) Subject to this clause, the Director-General shall hold office on  
17 such terms as to emolument and otherwise as may be specified in his letter of  
18 appointment and as may, from time to time, be approved by the President.

19 **7.**-(1) The Board may, subject to sub-clause (2) of this clause,  
20 appoint a secretary to the Board, who shall be a member of the Board, keep  
21 proper record of the Board, conduct the correspondence of the Board and  
22 perform such other duties of a similar nature as the Board or the Director-  
23 General may, from time to time, direct.

Appointment of  
the Staff of the  
Commission

24 (2) The Board may appoint such other employees to assist the  
25 Director-General in the exercise of his functions under this Bill.

26 **8.** The Board shall develop and submit to the President appropriate  
27 conditions of service covering remuneration, fringe benefits, pensions  
28 scheme and other benefits which would enable it attract and retain high  
29 quality manpower.

Conditions of  
Service

Service in the Commission to be pensionable	1	<b>9.-(1)</b> Notwithstanding the provisions of the Pension Reform Act,
	2	service in the Commission shall be approved services for the purpose of that
	3	Act and accordingly, officers and other persons employed in the Commission
	4	shall in respect of their service in the Commission be entitled to pensions,
	5	gratuities and other retirement benefits as are enjoyed by persons holding
	6	equivalent grades in the civil service of the Federation, so however that nothing
	7	in this Act shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on terms
	8	which preclude the grant of a pension or gratuity in respect of that office.
	9	(2) For the purposes of the application of the provisions of the Pension
	10	Reform Act, any power exercisable thereunder by the Minister or other
	11	authority of the Government of the Federation, other than the power to make
	12	regulations under clause 23 thereof, is hereby vested in and shall be exercisable
	13	by the Board and not by any other person or authority.
Power to establish National Orientation camps and brigade	14	<b>10.</b> The Commission shall have power to:
	15	(a) establish with the approval of the Minister, National Orientation
	16	camps as social institutions for orientating Nigerians towards developing
	17	socially desirable attitudes, behaviours, values and culture; and
	18	(b) establish for the purposes of carrying out its functions under this
	19	Bill, a National Orientation brigade.
Power of the Minister to give directives	20	<b>11.</b> Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the Minister may give the
	21	Board directives of a special or general character relating to particular matters
	22	with regard to the exercise by the Board of its functions under this Bill and it
	23	shall be the duty of the Board to comply with such directives.
Establishment of State Directorates, etc.	24	<b>12.</b> There is hereby established in each State of the Federation and the
	25	Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, a State Directorate of the Commission (in this
	26	Bill referred to as "the State Directorate") which shall be headed by a State
	27	\Director who shall be appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the
	28	Director-General and after due consultation and approval of the Minister.
Functions of State Directorates	29	<b>13.</b> Subject to this Bill, the State Directorates shall be responsible for:
	30	(a) the provision of operational guidelines and policies for

- 1 regularising implementation strategies in all the local government areas of  
2 the State;
- 3 (b) the development of effective and consistent strategies and  
4 tactics for implementing the Board's directives and plans;
- 5 (c) the review of operational performance results and devising  
6 plans and strategies for better performance;
- 7 (d) initiating and recommending to the Board through the Director-  
8 General desirable changes in policies, systems and procedures as well as  
9 major action plans;
- 10 (e) the monitoring of social and economic developments and  
11 trends in each local government area of the State and formulating a  
12 systematic approach for the survival and growth of the Commission in the  
13 State;
- 14 (f) the identification of common areas of programme needs,  
15 characteristics and development of economic and efficient strategies of  
16 implementing them in the State;
- 17 (g) the identification of development activities which can be  
18 jointly promoted, financed and organised to ensure maximum mobilisation  
19 of the citizens in the local government area;
- 20 (h) the promotion of cooperative and integrative activities which  
21 will sensitise positive mobilisation of the people in the State;
- 22 (i) the co-ordination, control and monitoring of on-going  
23 Commission programmes in the State and the field staff of the Commission;
- 24 (j) promoting and building of supportive relationships with  
25 relevant bodies and institutions which will ensure understanding and  
26 cooperation with the Commission;
- 27 (k) offering all kinds of liaison services with the Commission and  
28 local government formations to promote smooth, rapid and efficient  
29 communication;
- 30 (1) formulating appropriate policies, systems and procedures

1 consistent with national policies which will enhance smooth implementation  
2 of programmes and providing guidelines for this purpose; and

3 (m) planning and co-ordinating the training and development  
4 programmes of the Commission's staff and community leaders in the State.

Establishment  
of Local  
Government  
Formations

5 **14.** For the purposes of enhancing participation at grassroots levels  
6 through consultation with interest groups in the community, there is hereby  
7 established in each local government headquarters of the Federation, a Local  
8 Government Formation of the Commission (in this Bill referred to as "the  
9 Local Government Formation") which shall be manned by a Principal National  
10 Orientation Officer who shall be appointed by the State Director after  
11 consultation with the Director-General.

Functions of the  
Local Government  
Formations

12 **15.** Subject to this Bill, the Local Government Formation shall be  
13 responsible for:

14 (a) co-ordinating and consolidating the Commission's activities in the  
15 local government area;

16 (b) the provision of advisory and leadership services to interest  
17 groups;

18 (c) maintaining appropriate relationship with the local government  
19 agencies and interest groups to ensure local understanding and co-operation on  
20 orientation programmes;

21 (d) assisting the programme officers from the State Directorate to  
22 obtain valuable data and information on all matters which affect or infringe on  
23 orientation programmes at urban and rural level; and

24 (e) the provision of advice on major issues affecting or relevant to the  
25 implementation of the Commission's programmes at the grassroots level.

Fund of the  
Commission

26 **16.**-(1) The Board shall establish and maintain a fund from which  
27 shall be defrayed all expenditure incurred by the Commission.

28 (2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund established pursuant to  
29 sub-clause (1) of this clause:

30 (a) such sums as may, from time to time, be lent or granted to the



1 Commission by the Government of the Federation, a State or local  
2 government for the running expenses of the Commission and all other assets  
3 from time to time accruing to the Commission in the cause of discharging its  
4 functions under or pursuant to this Bill; and

5 (b) such sums as may be collected or received by the Commission  
6 from other sources, either in the execution of its functions or in respect of  
7 any property vested in the Commission or otherwise howsoever.

8 **17.** The Board may, from time to time, apply the proceeds of the  
9 fund established pursuant to clause 16 of this Bill:

Expenditure of  
the Commission

10 (a) to the cost of administration of the Commission;

11 (b) for reimbursing members of the Board or any committee set up  
12 by the Board for such expenses as may be authorised by the Board in  
13 accordance with the rates approved by the Federal Government;

14 (c) for the payment of salaries, fees or other remuneration or  
15 allowances, pensions, gratuities and other retiring benefits, payable to the  
16 employees of the Commission;

17 (d) for the maintenance of any property acquired or vested in the  
18 Commission; and

19 (e) for and in connection with all or any of the functions of the  
20 Commission under this Bill.

21 **18.-(1)** The Board may accept any gift, grant or donation from any  
22 person upon such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the  
23 person making the gift, grant or donation.

Power to accept  
gifts

24 (2) The Board shall not accept any gift, grant or donation under  
25 sub-clause (1) of this clause if the conditions attached thereto are  
26 inconsistent with the functions of the Board under this Bill.

27 **19.** The Board may, with the consent of the Minister, borrow on  
28 such terms and conditions as the Board may determine, such sums of money  
29 as the Board may require in the exercise of the functions conferred on it by  
30 this Bill.

Power to borrow

Annual estimate, accounts and audit	1	<b>20.</b> -(1) The Board shall not later than 31 October in each year submit
	2	to the Minister an estimate of its expenditure and income during the next
	3	succeeding year.
	4	(2) The Board shall keep proper accounts in respect of each year and
	5	proper records in relation thereto and shall cause its accounts to be audited not
	6	less than six months after the end of each year by auditors appointed by the
	7	Board from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the
	8	Auditor-General for the Federation.
Annual report	9	<b>21.</b> The Board shall prepare and submit to the Minister not later than
	10	30 June in each year, a report in such form as he may direct on the activities of
	11	the Commission during the immediate preceding year, and shall include in
	12	such report a copy of the audited accounts of the Commission for that year and
	13	the Auditor-General's report thereon.
Repeal of Cap. N48 LFN, 2004	14	<b>22.</b> The National Orientation Agency Act, Cap. N48, LFN.2004 is
	15	hereby repealed.
Savings and Transitional Provisions	16	<b>23.</b> -(1) The statutory functions, rights, interests, obligations and
	17	liabilities of the National Orientation Agency ("the Agency"), under the
	18	National Orientation Agency Act, Cap. N48 LFN. 2004, existing before the
	19	commencement of this Bill under any contract or instrument shall, by virtue of
	20	this Bill, be deemed to have been assigned to and vested in the Commission
	21	established by this Bill.
	22	(2) Any such contract or instrument as is mentioned in sub-clause (1)
	23	of this clause, shall be of the same force and effect against or in favour of the
	24	Commission established by this Bill and shall be enforceable as fully and
	25	effectively as if instead of the Directorate and Divisions existing before the
	26	commencement of this Bill, the Commission established by this Bill has been
	27	named therein or had been a party thereto.
	28	(3) The Commission established by this Bill shall be subject to all the
	29	obligations and liabilities to which the Agency existing before the
	30	commencement of this Bill was subject immediately before the

1 commencement of this Bill and all other persons shall have the same rights,  
2 powers and remedies against the Commission established by this Bill as  
3 they had against the Agency before the commencement of this Bill.

4 (4) Any proceeding or cause of action pending or existing  
5 immediately before the commencement of this Act by or against the Agency  
6 existing before the commencement of this Act in respect of any right,  
7 interest, obligation or liability of the Agency existing before the  
8 commencement of this Act may be continued or as the case may be  
9 commenced, and any determination of a court of law, tribunal or other  
10 authority or person may be enforced by or against the Commission  
11 established by this Act to the same extent that such proceeding or cause of  
12 action or determination might have been continued, commenced or enforced  
13 by or against the Directorate and Divisions existing before the  
14 commencement of this Act.

15 (5) All assets, funds, resources and other movable or immovable  
16 property which immediately before the commencement of this Act were  
17 vested in the Agency existing before the commencement of this Bill shall, by  
18 virtue of this Act and without further assurance, be vested in the  
19 Commission established by this Bill.

20 (6) Any person who immediately before the coming into effect of  
21 this Act is the holder of any office in Agency existing before commencement  
22 of this Act shall, on the commencement of this Act, continue in office and be  
23 deemed to have been appointed to his office by the Commission established  
24 by this Bill unless the authority by which the person was appointed  
25 terminates the appointment.

26 (7) The Minister may, if he thinks fit, within twelve months after  
27 the commencement of this Bill by order published in the Federal Gazette  
28 make additional transitional or savings provisions for better carrying out of  
29 the objectives of this clause.

Staff regulations	1	<b>24.</b> -(1) The Commission may, with the approval of the Minister, make
	2	staff regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of the
	3	employees of the Commission and without prejudice to the generality of the
	4	foregoing, such regulations may provide for:
	5	(a) the appointment, promotion and disciplinary control of all
	6	employees of the Commission; and
	7	(b) appeals by such employees against dismissal or other disciplinary
	8	measures, and until such regulations are made, any instrument relating to the
	9	conditions of service of employees of the Agency dissolved or affected by this
	10	Bill immediately before the making of this Bill, shall continue in force and
	11	have the same effect as if made under this Bill.
	12	(2) Regulations made under sub-clause(1) of this clause need not be
	13	published in the Federal Gazette but the Commission shall bring them to the
	14	notice of all affected persons in such manner as it may, from time to time,
	15	determine.
Interpretation	16	<b>25.</b> In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires:
	17	"Commission" means the National Orientation Commission established under
	18	clause 1 of this Bill;
	19	"Chairman" means the chairman of the Board;
	20	"Director-General" means the Director-General of the Commission appointed
	21	pursuant to clause 6 of this Bill;
	22	"Local Government Formation" means any of the local government offices of
	23	the Commission established in each local government area of the Federation by
	24	clause 14 of this Bill;
	25	"member" means a member of the Board and includes the chairman;
	26	"Minister" means the Minister charged with the responsibility for information
	27	and national orientation; "State Directorate" means any of the State offices of
	28	the Commission established in each State of the Federation and the Federal
	29	Capital Territory, Abuja by clause 12 of this Bill.

- 1                   **26.** This Bill may be cited as the National Orientation Commission    Citation  
2                    (Establishment) Bill, 2020.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish the National Orientation Commission to, among other things, re-orientate and encourage Nigerians to take part actively and freely in discussions and decisions affecting their general and collective welfare, and to inculcate in Nigerians the consciousness of Nationalism and Nation building in all aspects of life.