

ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION PROMOTION BILL, 2020

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A BILL

FOR

AN ACT FOR MANDATORY ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN NIGERIA AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Unyime Idem

[] Commencement

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

1 1.-(a) There shall be established a council for this programme to be
2 known as Entrepreneurship Education Promotion Council, (EEPC);

Establishment
and Membership
of Entrepreneurship
Education Promotion
Council

3 (b) The Council shall be a body corporate with perpetual
4 succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate
5 name;

6 (c) The Committee shall be responsible for the development of
7 policies, programmes, rules and regulations as well as setting standards and
8 determining places to be categorized as public. The Committee shall also be
9 responsible for ensuring success in implementation of the programme and
10 advise government accordingly.

11 2.-(1) There shall be a governing board of the Council (in this Act
12 referred to as "the Board").

Composition of
the Council

13 (2) The Board shall consist of a chairman to be appointed by the
14 President on the recommendation of the Minister and the fo' owing
15 members:

16 (a) Minister of State for Education;

17 (b) Director General of NABTE;

18 (c) Representative of Federal Ministry of Science and Technology;

19 (d) Representative of federal Ministry of Commerce, Trade and
20 Industry;

21 (e) Representative of SMEDAN;

1 (f) Two professionals from the Private Sector with requisite
2 knowledge in entrepreneurship;

3 (g) Representative of Bank of Industry;

4 (h) The Committee may co-opt when necessary any suitable Nigerian
5 whose contributions may be needed.

Tenure of Office

6 3.-1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, a person appointed to be a
7 member of the Commission, not being a public officer, shall hold office for a
8 period of four years from the date of his appointment and shall be eligible for
9 reappointment for such other period as may be specified in his instrument of
10 appointment.

11 (2) Any member, not being a public officer, may resign his
12 appointment, by a letter addressed to the President.

13 (3) Members of the Commission, not being public officers, shall be
14 paid such remuneration and allowances as the President may determine.

Functions of
the Council

15 4. For purposes of administering provisions of the ACT, the Council
16 shall:

17 (a) Within one year of the commencement of this Act, develop a
18 national comprehensive plan for timely and effective implementation and
19 propagation of this programme;

20 (b) Liaise with federal, state and local government areas, other
21 relevant agencies, private sector and concerned organizations to ensure that the
22 comprehensive plan is integrated with the plans and budgets of all agencies
23 mandated to provide entrepreneurship education under this programme;

24 (c) Prescribe policies, regulations and coordinate the timely and
25 effective implementation of this Act;

26 (d) Enter into contract to undertake the implementation of this Act
27 subject to existing laws and regulations;

28 (e) Arrange funding for the programme from any source whether
29 private, government, foreign or domestic including official development

1 assistance, bilateral and multilateral loans subject to existing laws and
2 regulations;

3 (f) Undertake the creation, establishment, installation,
4 maintenance and operation of infrastructure, platforms, and such other
5 programme requirements necessary, to effectively provide entrepreneurship
6 education throughout the country;

7 (g) Study and standardize all current programs of schools and
8 institutions;

9 (h) Research current government efforts in foreign countries with
10 the end view of applying relevant practices in our education system;

11 (i) Conduct constant oversight on schools to ensure compliance
12 with the ACT and prescribe sanctions for defaulters;

13 (j) Encourage and sponsor research in any area of study that
14 promotes entrepreneurship;

15 (k) Provide assistance, training, and support to ensure coherence
16 and clear progression of the objectives of this Act.

17 3. The Council shall have power to:

Powers of the
Council

18 (1) Develop mentoring and coaching programs for young
19 entrepreneurs in coordination with eligible entities to facilitate sharing of
20 technical knowledge and skills/technology transfer;

21 (2) Set up enterprise Incubation laboratories and creative spaces in
22 schools and communities in coordination with eligible entities to encourage
23 enterprise creation and development; and

24 (3) Provide information on available government and non-
25 governmental assistance and training programmes to promote
26 entrepreneurship;

27 (4) solicit for funds from sources other than its budgetary
28 allocation and invest all or any of such funds;

29 (5) exercise disciplinary control (including dismissal) over its
30 employees.

Declaration of
Policy

1 (6) Exercise such other powers as may be necessary to carry out the
2 purposes of this Act;

3 6. The Country hereby recognizes the vital role of entrepreneurship
4 education in nation-building and declares its policy to promote the
5 development of structures that would ensure easy access to entrepreneurship
6 studies, suitable to the needs and aspirations of Nigerians.

7 There shall be created an Entrepreneurship Education Promotion Programme
8 hereinafter referred to as the Programme:

9 (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other law or enactments in
10 Nigeria, it is now compulsory for educational institutions to offer and promote
11 entrepreneurship studies;

12 (b) Each educational institution shall develop a curriculum for
13 entrepreneurship studies;

14 (c) One year upon commencement of the Act, all educational
15 institutions shall submit report not later than the first quarter of every year to
16 the National Assembly through the Ministry of Education containing details of
17 entrepreneurship studies offered and progress;

18 (d) Any person or institution that performs any act, or does anything
19 contrary or refuses, neglects and or fails to carry out lawful duties but rather
20 intend to frustrate the implementation of the provisions of this Act, is said to
21 have committed an offence and upon conviction shall be liable to 2 years
22 imprisonment or pay a fine of 1 million naira or both.

Objectives of
the Bill

23 7. The Objectives of this Bill are:

24 (a) To promote and make it compulsory, the study of entrepreneurship
25 in Nigeria educational institutions;

26 (b) To compel Federal Ministry of Education, Nigerian Universities
27 Commission (NUC); National Board for Technical Education (NABTE) and
28 other relevant agencies to redesign the educational curriculum in Nigeria, to
29 accommodate entrepreneurship education;

30 (c) To ensure that Nigerian students beginning from secondary school

are provided with entrepreneurship education that will assist them:

- (i) Develop positive attitudes towards entrepreneurship;
- (ii) Develop skills -and knowledge to start and manage a business;
- (iii) Develop skills and innovations for self-reliance;
- (iv) Develop graduates that will become job and wealth creators.
- (d) To ensure that Nigerian graduates are not only suitable for white collar-jobs but entrepreneurial prowess to help stimulate economic growth;

(e) To assist students, develop competencies, know-how, experiences, attitudes, resources, and networks required in pursuit of different entrepreneurial opportunities.

8. Educational institutions to be covered by this ACT shall include the following institution:

Coverage of the Programme

- (a) Federal and State Universities;
- (b) Federal and State Polytechnics;
- (c) Private Universities .and Private Polytechnics;
- (d) Government and Private Colleges;
- (e) Public and Private Secondary Schools.

9. The Entrepreneurship Education Promotion Council in conjunction with the Federal and State Ministries of Education, Nigerian Universities Commission, and National Board for Technical Education shall be lead implementing agencies that will oversee the effective and efficient implementation of this ACT.

Lead implementing Agencies

10.-(1) There shall be appointed by the President, on the recommendation of the Council, an Executive Director of the Council.

Appointment of Executive Director and other employees of the Council

(2) The Executive Director shall be the Chief Executive of the Council and be responsible for the execution of the policy of the Council and the day-to-day running of the affairs of the Council.

(3) The Council may appoint such other persons as it may determine to be employees of the Council to assist the executive director in

1 the performance of his functions under this Act.

2 (4) The Council may, subject to such conditions as it may think fit,
3 delegate any of its powers relating to the appointment of or exercise of
4 disciplinary control (including dismissal) over its employees to the executive
5 director or to any other employees of the Council,

6 (5) There shall be appointed by the Board a Secretary who shall be a
7 legal practitioner with not less than ten years' post-qualification experience,

Staff Regulations

8 11. The Council may make staff regulations relating generally to the
9 conditions of service of the employees of the Council and without prejudice to
10 the generality of the foregoing, such regulations may provide for:

11 (a) the appointment, promotion and disciplinary control of all
12 employees of the Council; and

13 (b) appeal by such employees against dismissal or other disciplinary
14 measures, and until such regulations are made, the regulations relating to the
15 conditions of service of officers in the civil service of the Federation and the
16 provisions of the Pensions Act shall be applicable with such modifications as
17 may be necessary to the staff of the Council.

Establishment
of Entrepreneurship
Education Trust
Fund

18 12. By reason of this ACT, there is hereby established a Trust Fund to
19 be known as Entrepreneurship Education Trust fund (EETF).

20 The funds shall be utilized to:

21 (i) Promote, provide and, encourage entrepreneurship education in
22 Nigerian schools;

23 (ii) Provide specialized trainings and skills acquisition for students;

24 (iii) Set training standards, evaluate and certify vocational skills
25 acquired by students;

26 (iv) Assist Nigerian schools' recruit and train teachers in
27 entrepreneurship, set up cottage industries in schools.

Liabilities to
the Fund

28 13. The following shall make contributions to the Entrepreneurship
29 Education Trust Fund:

30 (a) The Federal Government shall devote and contribute 1 % of the

1 annual budget to the Fund;

2 (b) The State government shall devote and contribute 0.05% of its
3 annual budget to the fund;

4 (c) Every Employer with 100 or more employees in its employ
5 shall in respect of each calendar year contribute to the fund 0.0025% of its
6 annual profit to the fund;

7 (d) Any other source to be identified by the Federal Ministry of
8 Education and other implementing Agencies.

9 14. The Council may, from time to time, apply the proceeds of the
10 fund established pursuant to section 12 of this Act to:

Expenditure of
the Council

11 (a) meet the cost of administration of the Council and any research
12 work carried out by or on behalf of the Council with its approval;

13 (b) provide such training for the employees of the Council;

14 (c) pay the salaries and other allowances and benefits of its
15 employees;

16 (d) reimburse members of the Council and committees of the
17 Council as the Council may deem necessary;

18 (e) meet other expenses in connection with its functions and this
19 Act.

20 15.-(1) The Council shall cause to be prepared not later than 30
21 June in each year, an estimate of the expenditure and income of the Council
22 during the next succeeding year and when prepared they shall be submitted
23 to the Minister.

Annual Estimates,
Accounts and Audit

24 (2) The Council shall cause to be kept proper accounts and proper
25 records in relation thereto and when certified by the Board such accounts
26 shall be audited as provided in subsection (3) of this section.

27 (3) The accounts of the Council shall be audited within six months
28 after the end of the year by an external auditor appointed from the list and in
29 accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General for the
30 Federation.

Annual Report	1	16. The Entrepreneurship Education Promotion Council shall liaise
	2	with relevant bodies and stakeholders to prepare an annual report on the status
	3	of the implementation of the programme and recommend necessary policies
	4	for the effective implementation of this Act.
	5	The Report shall be submitted to the Coordinating Minister of Education,
	6	Commerce and Industry for upward movement to the President of the Federal
	7	Republic of Nigeria.
Regulations	8	17. The Council may make regulations for carrying into effect the
	9	provisions of this Act.
Interpretation	10	18. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:
	11	"Chairman" means the chairman of the Council;
	12	"Council" means the Entrepreneurship Education Promotion Council
	13	established under section 1 of this Act;
	14	"EECP" means Entrepreneurship Education Promotion Council;
	15	"Member" means any member of the Council and includes the chairman;
	16	"Entrepreneurship Education" means education that enable a Nigerian
	17	becomes self-reliant, self-employed, and provides gateway for job
	18	opportunities and wealth creation;
	19	"Minister" means the Minister charged with the responsibility for matters
	20	relating to Education, Commerce and Industry,
Short title	21	19. This Bill may be cited as the Entrepreneurship Education
	22	Promotion Council Bill, 2020.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to put in place a Legal Framework for mandatory entrepreneurship education for educational institutions in Nigeria to teach and promote entrepreneurship studies.