

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIGERIA ARABIC LANGUAGE VILLAGE, AS AN INTER-UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR ARABIC STUDIES AND FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Senator Kashim Shettima

[] Commencement

ENACTED by National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

1 PART I - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIGERIA ARABIC

2 LANGUAGE VILLAGE

3 **1.-(1)** There is hereby established a Language Centre to be known
4 as the Nigeria Arabic Language Village (in this Act referred to as "the Arabic
5 Village").

Establishment
of the Nigerian
Arabic Village

6 (2) The Arabic Village shall be a body corporate with perpetual
7 succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate
8 name.

9 **2.** The objects of the Arabic Village shall be to:

Objectives of
the Arabic Village

10 (a) to promote the study and use of the Arabic language in Nigeria;

11 (b) explore all relevant and available avenues, potentials and
12 Resources to make the Arabic Village:

13 (i) an active teaching and learning Centre for the study of Arabic;

14 (ii) a resource Centre for specialized professional services to the
15 public and private sectors of the Nigerian economy;

16 (iii) a Nigerian Inter-University Centre for Arabic studies.

17 **3.** There is hereby established for the Arabic Village a governing
18 body, which shall be known as the Council of the Nigeria Arabic Language
19 Village (in this Act referred to as "the Council"), which shall consist of-

Establishment
and composition
of the Governing
Council

20 (a) a Chairman;

1 (b) one person to represent each of the following institutions in
2 rotation, for one term of two years at a time:

3 (i) the Universities;

4 (ii) the Colleges of Education;

5 (c) one person to represent the University Arabic Teachers'
6 Association of Nigeria;

7 (d) one person to represent the Inter Colleges of Education Arabic
8 Teachers' Association;

9 (e) four persons with relevant knowledge and experience in Language
10 studies selected on individual merit, to represent public interest;

11 (f) a representative of the Federal Ministry of Education;

12 (g) a representative of the National Universities Commission;

13 (h) the Executive Director of the Arabic Village;

14 (i) the Deputy Executive Director of the Arabic Village;

15 (j) the Registrar of the Arabic Village shall serve as Secretary to the
16 Council;

17 (k) one representative of the Arabic Village Congregation for one
18 term of two years at a time;

19 (l) one representative of the Arabic Village Academic Board for one
20 term of two years at a time.

21 (2) The Chairman and members of the Council, other than ex-officio
22 shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister.

23 (3) The President, on the recommendation of the Minister, shall
24 appoint a person to act in place of the Chairman during a long absence or
25 temporary incapacity by illness of the Chairman and that person while so
26 acting may exercise the functions of the Chairman.

27 (4) Subject to subsection (2) of this section if any other member is
28 incapacitated by illness or long absence in the performance of his official
29 duties, a temporary member may be appointed, in the same manner and in
30 accordance with the same procedure under which the incapacitated member

1 was appointed, and while the appointment subsists, he may exercise all the
2 functions of the member under this Act.

3 (5) The supplementary provisions set out in the schedule to this Act
4 shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Council and other
5 matters contained therein.

6 4.-(1) The Chairman shall hold office for a period of 4 years only. Tenure of Office
of members of
the Council
7 (2) A member of the Council, other than ex-officio, shall hold
8 office for four years only.

9 (3) A member of the Council shall not appoint another person to
10 represent him at a meeting.

11 5. The Chairman and other external members shall be paid Remuneration
of a members of
the Council
12 allowances in accordance with such rate as may be approved by the Federal
13 Government in line with extant rules.

14 6.-(1) If it appears to the Council that the Chairman or any member Removal from
office of the
members of the
Council
15 other than internal members should be removed from office on grounds of
16 misconduct or inability to perform the functions of his office, the Council
17 shall make a recommendation to the President through the Minister.

18 (2) If the President, after making such inquiries, as he considers
19 necessary, approves the recommendation, the Minister shall, in writing,
20 declare the office of the Chairman or of such a member vacant.

21 (3) Notwithstanding the provision of subsection (1) of this section,
22 the President, may remove a member of the Council if he is satisfied that it is
23 in the public interest to do so.

24 PART II - POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ARABIC VILLAGE

25 7. The functions of the Arabic Village shall be to: Functions of the
Arabic Village

26 (a) encourage the learning of the Arabic Language in an
27 environment that will prepare the students in the Arabic Village to:

28 (i) speak Arabic fluently;

29 (ii) acquire proficiency in Arabic;

30 (iii) acquire competence in the writing of the Arabic language;

- 1 (iv) translate to and from the Arabic Language with reference to
2 English and Nigeria languages; and
- 3 (v) interpret simultaneously to and from Arabic language with
4 reference to English and Nigerian languages.
- 5 (b) hold out to all persons without distinction of race, creed, sex, age
6 or political conviction the opportunity of acquiring proficiency in the use of
7 Arabic language;
- 8 (c) provide courses of instructions and other facilities for the pursuit
9 of learning Arabic language;
- 10 (d) develop appropriate curricular to suit the needs of the various
11 users of the Arabic Village;
- 12 (e) award Testimonials, Certificates, and Diplomas to persons who
13 complete the courses of study undertaken in the Village;
- 14 (f) provide an environment, having all the socio-cultural, physical
15 and psychological facilities that will facilitate the learning of Arabic
16 Language;
- 17 (g) to promote sub-regional integration through linguistic and
18 cultural exchange with neighboring Francophone countries;
- 19 (h) operate with the multi-dimensional and Omni-directional strategy
20 of language acquisition for the benefit of:
- 21 (i) University undergraduates, for their statutory Arabic language
22 immersion program;
- 23 (ii) students of Colleges of Education, for their compulsory Arabic
24 language acculturation program;
- 25 (iii) secondary school teachers and students;
- 26 (iv) primary school teachers and pupils; and
- 27 (v) Government and non - Governmental personnel.
- 28 (i) serve as a Centre of Excellence for the teaching and learning of
29 Arabic;
- 30 (j) encourage research into problems of learning and teaching of

1 Arabic as a foreign language in Nigeria;
2 (k) encourage the development and publication of materials,
3 including books, journals and teaching aids for proficiency programmes and
4 for primary, secondary and tertiary institutions;

5 (l) compile, assemble and publish the results of researches in
6 Arabic studies in Nigeria and popularize those findings where their general
7 recognition, in the opinion of the Arabic Village, is of importance to Nigeria
8 and to Arabic studies in Nigeria; and

9 (m) in affiliation with any recognized University in Nigeria award
10 Degree to person who complete the courses of study undertaken in the
11 Village;

12 (n) carry out other activities as are necessary or expedient for the
13 performance of its functions under this Act.

14 **8.** Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Council shall:

Functions of the
Council

15 (a) be charged with the general control and superintendence of the
16 policies, finances and property of the Arabic Village;

17 (b) ensure that the Arabic Village is staffed by persons with high
18 communicative competence in Arabic;

19 (c) ensure that proper accounts of the Arabic Village are kept and
20 that those accounts are audited annually as specified in this Act;

21 (d) organize and control the course of study at the Arabic Village
22 and the examinations held in conjunction with those courses;

23 (e) organize and control the halls of residence and other facilities
24 provided by the Arabic Village; and

25 (f) perform such other duties as the President, may, from time to
26 time, assign to it.

27 **9.** Subject to the approval of the Council, the Arabic Village shall
28 have power to-

Power of the
Arabic Village

29 (a) establish such Academic Departments and other Departments

1 and units within the Village as may, from time to time, be necessary or
2 desirable;

3 (b) recruit and engage competent and qualified teaching and non-
4 teaching staff needed for the smooth running of the Arabic Village at all times
5 in-line with extant government regulations and the Village conditions of
6 service;

7 (c) institute and grant professorships, readerships and other posts and
8 offices and to make appointments thereto;

9 (d) institute and award fellowships, scholarships, bursaries, medals,
10 prizes and other titles, distinctions, awards and other forms of recognitions;

11 (e) provide for the residence, discipline and welfare of members of
12 staff and students of the Arabic Village;

13 (f) hold examinations and award diplomas, certificates and other
14 distinctions to persons who have pursued courses of study approved by the
15 Arabic Village and have satisfied such other requirements as the Village may
16 lay down;

17 (g) in affiliation with any recognized University in Nigeria award
18 degrees to persons who have pursued courses of study approved by the Arabic
19 Village and have satisfied such other requirements as the Village may lay
20 down;

21 (h) grant fellowships or titles to deserving individuals;

22 (i) demand and receive from any student or any other person attending
23 the Arabic Village for the purpose of instruction such fees as the Village may,
24 from time to time determine;

25 (j) acquire, hold, grant, charge or otherwise deal with or dispose of
26 moveable and immovable property wherever situated;

27 (k) accept gifts, legacies and donations, but without obligation to
28 accept them for a particular purpose unless it approves the terms and conditions
29 attached thereto;

30 (l) enter into contracts, establish trusts, act as trustee solely or jointly

- 1 with any other person(s) and employ and act through agents;
- 2 (m) erect, provide, equip and maintain libraries, laboratories,
- 3 lecture halls, halls of residence, refectories, sports ground, playing fields
- 4 and other building or things necessary or suitable or convenient for the
- 5 objectives of the Arabic Village;
- 6 (n) hold public lectures and undertake publishing and bookselling;
- 7 (o) subject to the provisions of this Act:
- 8 (i) Invest any money accruing to the Arabic Village by way of
- 9 endowment, whether for general or special purposes, and such other money
- 10 as may not be immediately required for current expenditure, in investments
- 11 or securities or in the purchase or improvement of land, with power from
- 12 time to time to vary any such investments; and
- 13 (ii) deposit any money, for the time being un-invested, with a bank
- 14 approved by the Federal Government, in deposit or current account;
- 15 (p) make gifts for any charitable purposes;
- 16 (q) do anything which is authorized or required by this Act or any
- 17 other law to do; and
- 18 (r) to do all such acts or things, whether or not incidental to the
- 19 foregoing powers as may advance the objects of the Village.
- 20 **10.** Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Council shall:
- 21 (a) exercise on behalf of the Arabic Village, the powers conferred
- 22 on it under this Act; and
- 23 (b) do such other things as are necessary for the successful
- 24 performance of its functions and those of the Arabic Village.
- 25 **11.** The President may give to the Village or to the Council
- 26 directives of a general nature or relating generally to matters of policy with
- 27 regards to the performance of the Village or the Council of its functions
- 28 under this Act and it shall be the duty of the Village or the Council to comply
- 29 with these directives.

Power of the
Council

Power of the
President to give
directives

	1	PART III - STAFF OF THE ARABIC VILLAGE
Appointment of Principal Officers of the Arabic Village	2	12. -(1) The principal officers of the Arabic Village shall consist of:
	3	(a) the Executive Director of the Arabic Village;
	4	(b) the Deputy Executive Director;
	5	(c) the Registrar;
	6	(d) the Bursar;
	7	(e) the Librarian;
	8	(2) The Principal officers, other than the Executive Director, shall:
	9	(a) be appointed by the Council; and
	10	(b) subject to section 11 of this Act, hold office for such period and on
	11	such terms, and emoluments of their offices as may be specified in their letters
	12	of appointment.
Appointment of the Executive Director of the Arabic Village	13	13. -(1) The President shall, on the recommendation of the Minister,
	14	appoint an Executive Director who shall be the Chief Executive and Chief
	15	Academic Officer of the Arabic Village.
	16	(2) The Executive Director shall be a Ph.D. degree holder in Arabic
	17	Language from a recognized University as well as having been a full Professor
	18	of Arabic in a recognized University for at least eight (8) years.
	19	(3) The Executive Director shall:
	20	(a) hold office for one term of five years only and no more; and
	21	(b) be paid such emoluments as may be specified in his letter of
	22	appointment.
Appointment of a Deputy Executive Director of the Arabic Village	23	14. -(1) There shall be a Deputy Executive Director of the Arabic
	24	Village who shall assist the Executive Director in his duties and act in the place
	25	of the Executive Director when the office of the Executive Director is vacant or
	26	the Executive Director is for any reason absent or otherwise unable to perform
	27	his functions as Executive Director.
	28	(2) The Deputy Executive Director shall:
	29	(a) be appointed by the Council on the recommendation of the
	30	Executive Director;

1 (b) hold office for a period of two years beginning with the date of
2 his appointment, and on such terms as to the emolument of his office and
3 otherwise as may be specified in his instrument of appointment; and may

4 (c) be eligible for re-appointment for a further term of two years
5 only.

6 (3) A Deputy Executive Director appointed pursuant to subsection
7 (2) of this section shall be a Ph.D degree holder in relevant area of Arabic
8 Language from a recognized University and must have spent a minimum of
9 (8) eight years as senior lecturer.

10 (4) A person who had held office as Deputy Executive Director for
11 a continuous period of four years or longer, or so would have held office but
12 for his resignation, shall not be eligible for appointment as Deputy
13 Executive Director during the two years immediately following the end of
14 that period.

15 **15.**-(1) There shall be a Registrar, who shall be the Chief
16 Administrative Officer of the Arabic Village and shall be responsible to the
17 Executive Director for the day-to-day administrative work of the Arabic
18 Village except as regards financial matters for which the Bursar is
19 responsible in accordance with the terms specified below.

Registrar of the
Arabic Village

20 (2) The Registrar shall be the Secretary to the Council.

21 (3) The Registrar shall be a graduate of Arabic.

22 (4) The Registrar shall hold the office for a term of five years
23 beginning from the effective date of his Appointment and on such terms and
24 condition as may be specified in his letter of appointment.

25 Notwithstanding, the Council may upon satisfactory performance, extend
26 the tenure for a further period of one year only and thereafter the Registrar
27 shall relinquish his post and be assigned to other duties in the Village.

28 **16.**-(1) The Bursar shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the
29 Arabic Village and shall be responsible to the Executive Director for the

Bursar of the
Arabic Village

	1	day-to-day administrative control of the financial affairs of the Arabic Village.
	2	(2) The Bursar must possess a good honour degree in Accounting,
	3	Finance or Economics from a recognized institution of higher learning.
	4	(3) The Bursar shall hold office for a term of five years beginning
	5	from the effective date of his appointment and on such terms and condition as
	6	may be specified in his letter of appointment. Notwithstanding the Council
	7	may upon satisfactory performance, extend the tenure for a further period of
	8	one year only and thereafter the Bursar shall relinquish his post and be assigned
	9	to other duties in the Village.
Librarian of the Arabic Village	10	17.-(1) The Arabic Village Librarian shall be responsible to the
	11	Executive Director for the administration of the Arabic Village Library and the
	12	co-ordination of the Library services of the Arabic Village.
	13	(2) The Librarian of the Arabic Village shall be very proficient in
	14	Arabic language with not less than ten years working experience (and shall be a
	15	Ph.D. degree holder in Library science).
	16	(3) The Librarian shall hold the office for a term of five years
	17	beginning from the effective date of his appointment and on such terms and
	18	condition as may be specified in his letter of appointment. Notwithstanding the
	19	Council may upon satisfactory performance, extend the tenure for a period of
	20	one year only and thereafter the Librarian shall relinquish his post and be
	21	assigned to other duties in the Village.
Scope of responsibility	22	18. A question arising as to the scope of the responsibilities of the
	23	principal officers shall be determined by the Council.
Appointment of other employees	24	19. The Council may appoint such other persons as employees of the
	25	Arabic Village, as the Council may determine, to assist the Executive Director
	26	in the discharge of his functions.
Condition of service	27	20. The Arabic Village shall operate under the ambit of the National
	28	Universities Commission and the salary structures and conditions of service of
	29	the employees of the Arabic Village shall be similar to those obtainable in the
	30	Universities.

- 1 **21.** If it appears to the Council that the Executive Director should
2 be removed from office, the Council shall make a recommendation to the
3 Minister and if the Minister, after making such inquiries as may be
4 considered necessary, approves the recommendation, the Minister may,
5 with the written approval of the President, declare the office of the Executive
6 Director vacant.
- 7 **22.**-(1) If it appears to the Council that there are reasons for
8 believing that a person employed as a senior staff, other than the Executive
9 Director, should be removed from office on grounds of misconduct or
10 inability to perform the functions of his office, the Council, through its
11 appropriate committee shall:
- 12 (a) give notice of those reasons to the person concerned;
- 13 (b) afford him an opportunity of making representations on the
14 matter to the Council in person;
- 15 (c) if the person concerned or any three members of the Council so
16 request, within the period of one month beginning with the date of the
17 notice, make arrangements:
- 18 (i) for the Appointment and Promotion Committee of the
19 Council or an ad hoc committee of Council to investigate the matter and to
20 report on it to the Council; and
- 21 (ii) for the person in question to be afforded an opportunity of
22 appearing before and being heard by the investigating committee on the
23 matter.
- 24 (2) If the Council, after considering the report of the investigating
25 Committee is satisfied that the person in question should be removed as
26 aforesaid, the Council may remove the person concerned by an instrument
27 in writing signed by the Chairman of the Council in the case of a Principal
28 Officer, or the Registrar in case of other members of staff.
- 29 (3) The Executive Director may in a case of misconduct by a
30 member of the staff other than principal officers which in the opinion of the

Removal from
office of the
Executive Director

Removal and
discipline of
Senior Staff

1 Executive Director is prejudicial to the interest of the Arabic Village, interdict
2 or suspend that member, and interdiction or suspension shall forthwith be
3 reported to the Council for ratification.

4 (4) For good cause, an employee may be interdicted or suspended
5 from office or his appointment may be terminated by the Council and for the
6 purpose of this subsection 'good cause' means:

7 (a) physical or mental incapacity which the Council, after obtaining
8 medical advice, considers to be such as render the person concerned unfit for
9 the discharge of the functions of his office;

10 (b) conduct of a scandalous or other disgraceful nature which the
11 Council considers to be such as render the person concerned unfit to continue
12 to hold his office; or

13 (c) conduct which the Council considers to be such as to constitute
14 failure or inability of the person concerned to discharge the functions of his
15 office or to comply with the terms and conditions of his service.

16

17 (5) A person suspended pursuant to subsection (3) and or (4) of this
18 section shall not be entitled to any salary or emolument while the person
19 interdicted shall only be entitled to half of his/her salary and the Council shall
20 before the expiration of a period of three months after the date of interdiction or
21 suspension consider the case against that person and come to decision as to:

22 (a) whether to continue that person's interdiction or suspension and if
23 so, on what terms;

24 (b) whether to re-instate that person to his office if exculpated in
25 which case the Council shall restore his full emoluments to him with effect
26 from the date of the interdiction;

27 (c) whether to terminate that person's appointment, in which case the
28 person shall not be entitled to the proportion of his emolument withheld during
29 the period of the interdiction;

30 (d) whether to take such lesser disciplinary action against that

1 person(including the restoration of the proportion of his emoluments that
2 might have been withheld) as Council may determine.

3 (6) In any case where the Council, pursuant to this section, decides
4 to continue person's suspension or decides to take further disciplinary action
5 against that person, the Council shall, before the expiration of the period of
6 three months from that decision, come to a final determination in respect of
7 the case concerning the person as to whether to dismiss, terminate, retire or
8 downgrade the officer concerned.

9 (7) It shall be the duty of the person who signed the instrument of
10 removal by virtue of subsection (2) of this section to serve or cause it to be
11 served on the person concerned, a copy of the instrument.

12 (8) Nothing in this section shall prevent the Council from making
13 such regulation for the discipline of other categories of employees and
14 workers of that Arabic Village as it may think fit.

Discipline of
Junior Staff

15 **23.**-(1) If a junior staff is accused of misconduct or inefficiency, the
16 Executive Director may suspend him for not more than 14 days and
17 forthwith shall refer the matter to the Junior Staff Disciplinary Committee:

18 (a) to consider the case; and

19 (b) to make recommendations as to the appropriate action to be
20 taken by the Executive Director.

21 (2) In all cases under this section, the junior member of staff shall
22 be informed in writing of the charges against him and be given reasonable
23 opportunity to defend himself.

24 (3) the Executive Director may, after considering the
25 recommendation made pursuant to subsection (1) (b) of this section,
26 dismiss, terminate, retire or downgrade the junior officer concerned.

27 (4) A person aggrieved by the decision of the Executive Director
28 under subsection (3) of this section may within a period of 21 days from the
29 date of the receipt of the letter communicating the decision to him, address a
30 petition to the Council to reconsider his case. The Council's decision therein

	1	shall be final.
Establishment of the Academic Board of the Arabic Village	2	PART IV - ACADEMIC BOARD OF THE ARABIC VILLAGE
	3	24. -(1) There is hereby established for the Arabic Village an
	4	Academic Board which shall consist of:
	5	(a) the Executive Director as Chairman;
	6	(b) the Deputy Executive Director;
	7	(c) the Registrar shall be the Secretary to the Academic Board.
	8	(d) all Deans;
	9	(e) all Heads of Departments;
	10	(f) heads of Academic Units;
	11	(g) Professors;
	12	(h) the Librarian;
	13	(i) 2 members of Congregation;
	14	(j) the Head of the Academic Affairs Unit.
Functions of the Academic Board	15	(2) The Executive Director shall preside over the meeting of the
	16	Academic Board and in his absence the Deputy Executive Director shall
	17	preside but in the absence of both, the members present at the meeting shall
	18	select one of them to preside at the meeting.
	19	(3) The Academic Board shall meet at least once in a semester.
	20	(4) Subject to subsection (2) and (3) of this section, the Academic
	21	Board shall regulate its own procedure.
	22	25. -(1) The Academic Board shall:
	23	(a) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, formulate, regulate and
	24	continuously evaluate the academic programmes of the Arabic Village;
	25	(b) perform such other functions as are traditional to such bodies, as
	26	the Council may, from time to time, assign to it.
	27	(2) The Academic Board shall ensure that, where the Arabic Village
	28	wishes to provide programmes aimed at specific categories of students from
	29	certain institutions, the particulars of those programmes are first sent:
	30	(a) in the case of undergraduate programmes, to the National

- 1 Universities Commission;
- 2 (b) in case of National certificate of Education programmes, to the
- 3 National Commission for Colleges of Education;
- 4 (c) in the case of professional programmes, to the relevant
- 5 professional bodies;
- 6 (d) in the case of any other programmes, to the recognized body
- 7 responsible for supervising the institution, for information and input and
- 8 output.

9 PART V - COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

10 **26.** The Council shall establish the following committees:

- 11 (a) Finance and General Purpose Committee;
- 12 (b) Appointments and Promotion Committee;
- 13 © Tenders Committee.

Establishment
of the Finance,
General Purpose
and Tenders
Committee and
Appointment and
Promotion
Committee

14 **27.-(1)** The Finance and General Purpose Committee shall consist

15 of:

Composition and
functions of the
Finance and
General Purposes
Committee

- 16 (a) the Chairman of the Council as Chairman;
- 17 (b) the Executive Director;
- 18 (c) the Deputy Executive Director;
- 19 (d) FME representative;
- 20 (e) two external members of the Council to be selected by the
- 21 Council;
- 22 (f) one member of Arabic Village Academic Board (VAB)
- 23 representing the Board in Council;
- 24 (g) the Bursar;
- 25 (h) the Registrar as Secretary.

26 (2) The Finance and General Purposes Committee shall subject to

27 the direction of the Council:

- 28 (a) exercise control over the property and expenditure of the Arabic
- 29 Village;
- 30 (b) be responsible for elaborating the general plans of the Arabic

Composition
and function of
the Appointment
and Promotion
Committee

1 Village and coordinating the work of such other Committees of the Council as
2 the Council may direct;

3 (c) perform such other functions of the Council as the Council may,
4 from time to time, delegate to it.

5 (3) The Finance and General Purposes Committee shall meet as and
6 when necessary for the performance of its functions under this Act.

7 (4) The Finance and General Purposes Committee shall regulate its
8 own procedure.

9 **28.-(1)** The Appointment and Promotions Committee shall consist of-

10 (a) the Executive Director of the Arabic Village as Chairman;

11 (b) the Deputy Executive Director;

12 (c) the Registrar who shall also serve as Secretary;

13 (d) two (2) external members of Council to be selected by the
14 Council;

15 (e) One (1) Representative of the Federal Ministry of Education
16 (FME);

17 (f) Dean of Studies;

18 (g) the Bursar;

19 (h) the Librarian;

20 (i) the Director of Works;

21 (j) and Heads of the Department concerned.

22 (2) Subject to such policies as may be laid down, from time to time, by
23 the Council, the Appointments and Promotions Committee shall:

24 (a) co-ordinate and regulate the appointment and promotion of
25 members of staff of the Arabic Village;

26 (b) Consider applications for special training and sabbatical leaves,
27 leave of absence and for fellowships;

28 (c) perform such other functions ancillary to those in paragraphs (a)
29 and (d) of this subsection as the Council may, from time to time, assign to it.

30 (3) The Appointments and Promotions Committee shall meet as and

1 when necessary for the performance of its functions under this Act and shall
2 regulate its own procedure.

Tenders Board
and Procurement
Planning Committee

3 **29.** The Tenders Board and Procurement Planning Committee
4 (PPE) shall be constituted as provided for in Appropriate Acts, Regulation
5 and Rules.

Appointment of
other Committees

6 **30.-(1)** The Council may, subject to its standing orders, appoint
7 such other standing and ad-hoc committees as the Council may think fit to
8 consider and report on any matter with which the Arabic Village is
9 concerned.

10 (2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, a
11 committee, appointed shall be presided over by a member of the Council,
12 and shall consist of such number of persons, not necessarily members of the
13 Council, as the Council may determine.

14 **PART VI - CONGREGATION**

Congregation

15 **31.-(1)** Congregation shall consist of:

- 16 (a) the Executive Director of the Arabic Village as the Chairman;
17 (b) the Deputy Executive Director;
18 (c) the Registrar who shall be the secretary;
19 (d) the Bursar;
20 (e) the Librarian;
21 (f) members of the Academic Board; and
22 (g) every member of the administrative staff who holds a bachelor
23 degree of any University recognized for the purpose of this Act not being
24 honorary degree.

25 (2) The Executive Director shall be the chairman at all meetings of
26 Congregation when he is present and in his absence the Deputy Executive
27 Director and in the absence of both officers, such other member of
28 Congregation present at the meeting as Congregation may appoint for that
29 meeting, shall be the chairman at the meeting,

30 (3) The quorum of the Congregation shall be one-third (or the

1 whole number nearest to one-third) of the total number of members of the
2 Congregation whichever less.

3 (4) Subject to the foregoing provisions of this Act, Congregation may
4 regulate its own procedure.

5 (5) Congregation shall be entitled to express by resolution or
6 otherwise its opinion on all matters affecting the interest and welfare of the
7 Arabic Village and shall have such other functions in addition to the function of
8 electing a member of the Council.

Fund of the
Arabic Village

9 PART VII - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

10 **32.-(1)** The Arabic Village shall establish and maintain a fund from
11 which shall be defrayed all expenditure incurred by the Arabic Village.

12 (2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund established pursuant to
13 subsection (1) of this section:

14 (a) such moneys as may, from time to time, be lent or granted to the
15 Arabic Village by the Government of the Federation or of a State or any of their
16 agencies;

17 (b) all moneys raised for the purposes of the Arabic Village by way of
18 gift, grant in- aid, testamentary disposition or otherwise;

19 (c) all subscriptions or fees and charges for services rendered by the
20 Arabic Village;

21 (d) all interest received in respect of moneys invested by the Arabic
22 Village; and

23 (e) all other assets, from time to time, accruing to the Arabic Village.

24 (3) The fund shall be managed in accordance with guidelines given by
25 the Minister through the National Universities Commission, and without
26 prejudice to the generality of the power to give guidelines under this
27 subsection, the guidelines shall in particular contain provisions specifying the
28 manner in which the assets of the Arabic Village are to be held, and regulating
29 the making of payments into and out of the fund.

Expenditure of
the Arabic Village

30 **33.-(1)** With Council approval and mindful of the Executive

1 Director's approval limits, the Arabic Village may from time to time, apply
2 the funds at its disposal:

3 (a) to the cost of the administration of the Arabic Village and of any
4 research institute under the Arabic Village's administration;

5 (b) for reimbursing a member of any Committee set up by the
6 Arabic Village for expenses expressly authorized by the Arabic Village;

7 (c) to the provision of scholarship and other awards for the training
8 of staff of the Arabic Village;

9 (d) to the payment of salaries, fees, or other remuneration,
10 allowances, pensions and gratuities or superannuation payable to the
11 employees of the Arabic Village (including the Executive Director);

12 (e) for the maintenance of any property vested in the Arabic
13 Village; and

14 (f) in connection with all or any of the functions of the Arabic
15 Village under this Act or any other enactment.

16 (2) Except as provided for in subsection (1) of this section, no other
17 remuneration shall be paid to any member of any Committee appointed by
18 the Arabic Village pursuant to this Act.

Annual estimates,
account and audit

19 **34.**-(1) The Council shall cause to be prepared, not later than 30"
20 September in each Year, an estimate of the expenditure and income of the
21 Arabic Village during the next succeeding year and when prepared, shall be
22 submitted to the Minister.

23 (2) The Council shall cause to be kept, proper accounts of the
24 Arabic Village in respect of each year and proper records in relation thereto
25 and shall cause its accounts to be audited not less than six months after the
26 end of each year.

27 (3) The Council shall appoint auditors from the list and in
28 accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the
29 Federation.

30 (4) The Council shall, not later than 31st July in each year, submit

1 to the Minister a report, in such form as the President, may, from time to time,
2 direct, on the activities of the Arabic Village during the preceding year and
3 shall include in the report the audited accounts of the Arabic Village.

Limitation of
suit against the
Arabic Village

4 PART VIII - LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

5 **35.**-(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the provisions of the
6 Public Officers Protection Act shall apply in relation to any suit instituted
7 against an officer or employee of the Arabic Village.

8 (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other enactment, no
9 suit against a member of the Council or the Registrar or any other officer or
10 employee of the Arabic Village done in pursuance or execution of this Act or
11 any enactment or law, or of any public duty authority in respect of any other
12 enactment or law, duty or authority, shall lie or be instituted in any court unless
13 it is commenced:

14 (a) within three months next after the act, neglect or default
15 complained of; or

Pre-Action Notice

16 (b) in the case of continuation of damage or injury, within six months
17 next after ceasing thereof.

18 **36.**-(1) No suit shall be commenced against a member of the
19 Council or the Registrar or any other officer or employee of the Arabic Village
20 before the expiration of a period of one month after written notice of the
21 intention to commence the suit shall have been served on the Arabic Village by
22 the intending plaintiff or his agent.

Service of
documents

23 (2) The notice referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall clearly
24 and explicitly state the cause of action, the particulars of the claim, the name
25 and place of abode of the intending plaintiff and the relief which he claims.

26 **37.** A notice, summons or other document required or authorized to
27 be served on the Arabic Village under the provisions of the Act or any other
28 enactment or law may be served by delivering it to the Registrar or by sending it
29 by registered post addressed to the Registrar at the principal office of the Arabic

Restriction on
execution against
property of the
Arabic Village

Indemnity of
Members, Registrar,
Officers, etc.

Payment of
judgment debt

Payment of
judgment debt

Exclusion of
discrimination on
account of race,
religion, etc.

Exclusion of
discrimination on
account of race,
religion, etc.

26 PROVIDED that nothing in this section shall be construed as
27 preventing the Arabic Village from imposing any disability or restriction on
28 any of the aforementioned persons, where such persons willfully refuse or
29 fails on ground of religious belief to undertake any duty generally and
30 uniformly imposed on all such persons or any group of them which duty

	1	having regard to its nature and the special circumstances pertaining thereto, is
	2	in the opinion of the Arabic Village reasonably justified in the national interest.
Compulsory acquisition of land	3	42. For the purposes of the Land Use Act (which provided for the
	4	compulsory acquisition of land for public purposes) the purposes of the Arabic
	5	Village shall be public purposes of the federation and where an estate or
	6	interest in any land is acquired by the Government in pursuance to this section,
	7	the Government may by a certificate under hand and seal of the Registrar of
	8	Deeds, transfer it to the Arabic Village.
Offices and premises	9	43. -(1) For the purpose of providing offices and premises necessary
	10	for the performance of its functions, the Arabic Village may subject to the Land
	11	use Act:
	12	(a) purchase or take on lease any interest in land, building or property;
	13	(b) build, equip and maintain offices and premises.
	14	(2) The Arabic Village may, subject to the land Use Act, sell or lease
	15	out any Land, office or premises held by it, which is no longer required for the
	16	performance of its functions under this Act.
Power to borrow	17	44. -(1) The Arabic Village may, from time to time, borrow by
	18	overdraft or otherwise such sums as may be required for the performance of its
	19	functions under this Act.
	20	(2) The Arabic Village shall not, without approval of the Minister
	21	borrow money which exceeds, at any time, the limit set by the Minister.
Power to accept gifts	22	45. The Arabic Village may accept gift of land, money or other
	23	property, upon such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the
	24	person or organization making the gift, provided that such gift is not
	25	inconsistent with the objectives and functions of the Arabic Village.
Power to make bye-law	26	46. -(1) The Council may, make regulations relating to internal
	27	domestic power to make matters placed by this Act under its control and
	28	superintendence other than bye-law matters for which provision is to be made
	29	by standing orders under paragraph 10 of the schedule to this Act.
	30	(2) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section shall make it obligatory

1 for the Council to publish regulation in the Gazette.

2 (3) The Council may, with the approval of the Minister make
3 regulations for giving effect to the provisions of this Act and without
4 prejudice to the foregoing, regulation shall provide for:

5 (a) the entry into and the type of courses and programmes approved
6 for the Arabic Village;

7 (b) the duration of the courses and programmes; and

8 (c) the certificates, if any, to be awarded by the Arabic Village.

9 **47.**-(1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Pensions Retiring age of
10 Reform Act, the compulsory retirement age of a staff of the Arabic Village Arabic Village
11 shall be 65 years; and

12 (2) For academics on Professorial cadre the retirement age shall be
13 70.

14 (3) A law or rule requiring a person to retire from the public service
15 after serving for thirty five ears shall not a I to an academic staff of the Arabic
16 Village.

17 **48.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires: Interpretation

18 'Chairman' means the Chairman of Council of the Arabic Village;

19 'Council' means the Governing Council of the Arabic Village;

20 'Fund' means the fund of the Arabic Village established under section 32 of
21 this Act;

22 'Government' means Federal Government of Nigeria;

23 'Member' means a member of the Council and includes the Chairman;

24 'Principal officers' means the principal officers of the Arabic Village
25 appointed under Part III of this Act;

26 'Arabic Village' means the Nigeria Arabic language Village established by
27 section I of this Act;

28 'Minister' means the Minister charged with the responsibility for Education.

29 **49.** This Bill may be cited as the Nigeria Arabic Language Village Citation
30 Bill, 2020.

1 SCHEDULE

2 SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE COUNCIL, ETC.

3 *Proceedings of the Council*

4 1.-(1) Subject to the provisions of the Act and section 27 of the
5 Interpretation Act, the Council shall have power to regulate its proceedings and
6 may make standing orders with respect to the holding of its meetings and those
7 of its committees, the notice to be given of the proceedings thereat, the keeping
8 of minutes of those proceedings and the custody and production for inspection
9 of the minutes.

10 (2) The quorum of the Council shall be seven and the quorum of a
11 committee of the Council shall be determined by the Council.

12 (3) At a meeting of the Council, the Chairman or person appointed by
13 the Council to act in that behalf shall preside but if neither of them is present the
14 members present, at the meeting shall elect one of their number to preside at the
15 meeting.

16 (4) The Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Education and
17 the Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission may attend a
18 meeting of the Council and may take part in the deliberations of the Council but
19 shall not be entitled to vote and shall not count towards a quorum.

20 (5) The Council shall meet at least once in a quarter and in line with
21 extant rule, the council shall meet for a minimum of 4 times and maximum of 8
22 times in a year for the performance of its functions under this Act.

23 (6) Any five members of the Council which must include three
24 external members may by notice in writing signed by them request the
25 Chairman to convene a special meeting of the Council. The request shall
26 specify the business to be considered at the meeting and matters not so
27 specified shall not be considered at the meeting

28 (7) Any question put before the Council at a meeting shall be decided
29 by consensus; and where this is not possible, by a majority of the votes of
30 members present and voting.

1 (8) The Chairman shall in the case of an equality of votes have a
2 casting vote in addition to this deliberative vote.

3 (9) Where the Council desires to seek the advice of any person on a
4 particular matter, the Council may co-opt the person as a member of the
5 Council for such period as it thinks fit; but a person who is a member by
6 virtue of this paragraph shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the
7 Council and shall not count towards the quorum.

8 *Committees*

9 (10) Ex-officio members of committees;

10 By ex-officio members mean:

11 (a) The Bursar;

12 (b) The Librarian;

13 (c) The Director of Works;

14 (d) The Dean of Studies.

15 (11) The Council may appoint one or more committees to carry out
16 on behalf of the Council such of its functions as the Council may determine.

17 (12) A Committee of the Council shall consist of such number of
18 persons (not necessarily all members of the Council) as may be determined
19 by the Council; and a person other than a member of the Council shall hold
20 office on the Committee in accordance with the terms of his appointment.

21 (13) A decision of a Committee of the Council shall be of no effect
22 unless it is confirmed by the Council.

23 *Miscellaneous*

24 (14) The fixing of the seal of the Arabic Village shall be
25 authenticated by the signature of the Executive Director or of some other
26 persons authorized generally to act for that purpose.

27 (15) Any document purporting to be a document executed under
28 the seal of the Arabic Village shall be received in evidence and shall, unless
29 the contrary is proved be deemed executed.

30 (16) A contract or an instrument which, if made or executed by a

1 person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal, may
2 be made or executed on behalf of the Arabic Village by the Executive Director
3 and a person generally or specifically authorized to act for that purpose by the
4 Council.

5 (17) The validity of a proceeding of the Council or its committee shall
6 not be affected by:

7 (a) a vacancy in the membership of the Council or of the committee;

8 (b) reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the
9 proceedings; or

10 (c) a defect in the appointment of a member.

11 (18) A member of the Council and a person holding office on a
12 Committee of the Council, who has a personal interest in any contract or
13 arrangement entered into proposed to be considered by the Council or a
14 Committee shall:

15 (a) forthwith disclose his interest to the Council or Committee, as the
16 case may be; and

17 (b) not vote on any question relating to the contract or arrangement.

18 (19) The Certificate issued by the Arabic Village to a 300 level
19 University undergraduate or College of Education student shall be evidence of
20 satisfactory completion of the requisite mandatory language immersion
21 programme.

22 (20) Such certificate or its equivalent from other centres endorsed by
23 the Arabic Village shall, in addition to other statutory requirements, be required
24 for further studies in Arabic in a Nigerian institution of higher education or for
25 employment of a graduate of Arabic in the Nigerian Public service.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note does not form part of the above Act but is intended to
explain its purpose)*

This Bill seeks to establish the Nigeria Arabic Language Village in order to promote the study and use of the Arabic Language in Nigeria by exploring all relevant and available avenues, potentials and resources.