

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL UNITY CORPS TO EMPOWER, DEVELOP AND PROVIDE ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT FOR THE YOUTHS, TO FACILITATE PEACE, VOLUNTEERISM, COMMUNITY SERVICE, NATION-BUILDING AND FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS, 2020

*Sponsored by Senator Istifanus Gyang*

[ ] Commencement

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

1 PART I - ESTABLISHMENT, FUNCTIONS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE

2 NATIONAL UNITY CORPS

3 1.-(a) There is established a body to be known as the National  
4 Unity Corps (in this bill referred to as: Unity Corps) and shall be a corporate  
5 body with perpetual succession with a Common Seal and may sue and be  
6 sued in its corporate name;

Establishment  
and Objectives  
of the National  
Unity Corps

7 (b) The Headquarters of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall be  
8 located in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), and shall have offices in all  
9 the States, Local Government areas and Educational Institutions;

10 (c) Without prejudice to the generality of the provisions relating to  
11 the general duties of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS set out in the Act, the  
12 Objectives of the Unity Corps shall be to Train, Educate and Re-orientate the  
13 Youth of this Nation, particularly Students, on their future leadership roles  
14 in the society, the Art of Nation-Building, as well as to become good citizens  
15 of the Country with due respect for Constituted Authorities, Democratic  
16 Norms and the Rule of Laws, and to re-direct the productive energies of the  
17 youths towards the Socio-Economic and Political Advancements of the  
18 Nation.

Functions of the  
National Unity  
Corps

- 1                    2. Functions of NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall include:
- 2                    (a) Mediation among warring parties thereabout bringing and
- 3                    establishing Peaceful coexistence and stability among peoples and
- 4                    communities. Empower, develop and provide gainful employment for the
- 5                    youths to facilitate peace volunteerism, community services, neighbourhood
- 6                    watch and Nation Building;
- 7                    (b) Promote Social and Economic Development by involving
- 8                    Members and Volunteers in the scheme through working with Government,
- 9                    Schools, Non-Profit Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, etc. in
- 10                    order to pre-occupy the youths;
- 11                    (c) Enlist, Provide distinct training and orientation of unemployed
- 12                    youths of diverse qualifications as permanent staff and place them in a
- 13                    reservoir to serve as a spring board for easy accessibility of manpower
- 14                    whenever the Nation needs their services for either permanent employment or
- 15                    ad-hoc staff for National OR International programs such as emergency relief
- 16                    services, voters registration, census, Immunization sanitation;
- 17                    (d) Prevention of Conflict eruption that may lead to Violence Crisis,
- 18                    loss live and destruction of properties;
- 19                    (e) Training the youth to advance the course of Peace-Building and
- 20                    Conflict transformation through Peace education;
- 21                    (f) Building the capacity the youths in the area of critical thinking,
- 22                    creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship and skill acquisition;
- 23                    (g) Serves as Orderlies to National Personalities such as members of
- 24                    the Executives, Parliament, Judiciary and Traditional Rulers etc.
- 25                    (h) Engage members as Tourist Assistants to Nigerians and
- 26                    Foreigners on visit on the Country's Tourist Sites and other National and State
- 27                    Monuments and Heritage;
- 28                    (i) To empower and pre-occupy the Nigerian Youths through job
- 29                    creation and provision of alternative employment;
- 30                    (j) Training Nigerian youths with good virtues, strong passion and

1 commitment to the art of patriotism, volunteerism, community services and  
2 Nation-building;

3 (k) To train and equip the youths with knowledge for Peace  
4 Education, Conflict Resolution, Mediation, Reconciliation and Confidence  
5 Building;

6 (l) To give distinct orientation and training to the members of the  
7 NATIONAL UNITY CORPS and engage them in the provision of Essential  
8 Services such as; Community Services such as Immunization, Census and  
9 Sanitation Exercises, especially in Urban Cities, States and Local  
10 Government Capitals;

11 (m) Reactivation, enforcement and implementation of the of the  
12 abandoned "War Against Indiscipline" in our institutions and public places  
13 by Providing Refuse Bins, Waste Baskets and handy waste bags in Public  
14 Buildings, Buses and Schools in order to obliterate littered materials;

15 (n) Assist in planting and nursing of economic trees and all forms  
16 of environmental conservations; and

17 (o) Involve members and volunteers of the NATIONAL UNITY  
18 CORPS in crowd control during public functions and in neighborhood  
19 watch in order to curb insecurity within the community;

20 (p) Monitoring, control and enforcement of street begging/trading  
21 Laws/Regulation in our institutions and public places

22 (q) Animal Monitoring, Control and Safety for harmonious and  
23 Peaceful Coexistence and safety of lives and properties among Nigerians;

24 (r) Participatory Collaboration/Synergy in Humanitarian Services  
25 and deliveries among destitute and IDPs including the construction and  
26 maintenance of shelters alongside the appropriate Humanitarian service  
27 delivery agency/organizations;

28 (s) Participatory/Synergy in emergency and rescue services  
29 alongside the appropriate designated agencies/organizations;

30 (t) Participatory Collaboration/Synergy in the enforcement of

1 Environmental Law/Regulations alongside the appropriate and designated  
2 agencies/organizations for a serene and healthy Society;

3 (u) Provide security for all Educational Institutions and check all  
4 forms of examination malpractices and other negative vices such as drugs  
5 abuse/addiction and prostitution, prevalent in Schools and Colleges in order to  
6 create a conducive atmosphere for learning the following means:

7 (a) Maintain surveillance on students organizing secret societies;  
8 identify their members, associates, modus operandi and to make such  
9 discoveries known to the appropriate authorities;

10 (b) Assist the School Authorities in the maintenance and enforcement  
11 of School Rules and Regulations;

12 (c) Organise Holiday camps, for students where they would be  
13 involved in less academic work but more of Games, Creative Work, Martial  
14 Art, Citizenship and Leadership Training, as well as other extra-curricular  
15 programs;

16 (d) Set up anti-students loitering Squad periodically to check students  
17 loitering within the School premises and in town during school hours, in school  
18 uniform; and

19 (e) Organize special Conference, Seminars and Workshop in order to  
20 equip the Nigerian youths in Leadership Building Mechanism. so as to prepare  
21 them mentally, morally and physically for their future leadership roles;

22 (f) To check all forms of examination malpractices as may be  
23 perpetuated by students, invigilators, teachers, lecturers and other educational  
24 staff.

25 (g) To carry out any other function that may be prescribed by an act of  
26 the National assembly or by any bye-law.

27 3. Discharge such other functions that will facilitate the  
28 accomplishment of its objectives.

## 1 PART II - GOVERNING BOARD COMPOSITION AND POWERS GOVERNING

## 2 BOARD OF THE NATIONAL UNITY CORPS

3 4. There is established for the management of the NATIONAL Establishment  
4 UNITY CORPS a Governing Board (in this Act referred to as "the Board"). of the National  
Governing Board

5 5. The Board shall consist of:

6 (a) A Chairman;

7 (b) A representative each of the following:

8 (i) Ministry of Interior;

9 (ii) Ministry of Youth Development;

10 (iii) Ministry of Employment, Labour and Productivity;

11 (iv) Ministry of Education;

12 (v) Ministry of Environment;

13 (vi) Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution;

14 (vii) National Orientation Agency;

15 (viii) National Population Commission;

16 (ix) Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation;

17 (x) National Directorate of Employment;

18 (xi) Ministry of Finance;

19 (xii) Ministry of Justice;

20 (c) The Commandant General to serve as Secretary.

21 6.-(a) The Chairman shall be a person having cognate experience Qualification of  
22 and proven capacity in discharging his responsibilities to facilitate the the Chairman and  
23 accomplishment of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS Objectives; other Members of  
the National Unity  
Corps

24 (b) A member referred to in Section 5(2) shall not be below the rank  
25 of Director or its equivalent in the force;

26 (c) A member referred to in Section 5(2) shall be a person having  
27 cognate experience and proven capacity to discharge his duties.

28 7.-(a) The Chairman and members of the Board shall be appointed Appointment of  
29 by the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria on the recommendation of the the Chairman and  
30 Minister. Members of the  
Board of the National  
Unity Corps

1 (b) Without prejudice to the provisions of this Act, the Minister shall  
2 perform the functions of the Board where:

3 (i) The Board has not been constituted;

4 (ii) The Board has been dissolved; and

5 The provisions of the schedule to this Act shall have effect with respect to the  
6 proceedings of the Board and other matters contained therein.

Tenure of Office,  
etc.

7 8. The Chairman and other members of the Board, other than ex-  
8 officio members:

9 (a) Shall hold office for a period of Four (4) Years on such terms and  
10 conditions as contained in their letters of appointment; and

11 (b) May be re-appointed for one further period of Four (4) Years and  
12 no more.

Removal from  
Office

13 9.-(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 5 of this Act, a  
14 member may at any time be removed from office by the President of the  
15 Federal Republic of Nigeria if:

16 (i) He is unable to discharge the functions of his office whether arising  
17 from infirmity of the body or mind;

18 (ii) He is convicted by a Court of Law of a felony, fraud or any serious  
19 act of misconduct; and

20 (iii) He without permission of the Board is absent for more than three  
21 consecutive meetings of the Board without such permission is absent from the  
22 country for a period exceeding one year.

23 (b) The Chairman or member may resign by a notice addressed  
24 through the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to the President and  
25 such notice of resignation shall become effective from the date of acceptance of  
26 the resignation by the President.

Allowances

27 10. A member shall be paid such allowances as may be determined by  
28 the National Wages and Salaries Commission.

Powers of the  
Board

29 11. The Board shall be responsible for:

30 (a) Providing the general policies and guidelines relating to major

1 expansion programs of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS;

2 (b) The supervision of management and general administration of  
3 the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS;

4 (c) Recruiting regular Members of the NATIONAL UNITY  
5 CORPS;

6 (d) Organizing basic developments and refresher courses for  
7 members of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS;

8 (e) Fixing, with the approval of the Minister the terms and  
9 conditions of service of members and employees of the NATIONAL  
10 UNITY CORPS, including their remuneration; and

11 (t) Do such other things, which in the opinion of the Board are  
12 necessary to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of the  
13 NATIONAL UNITY CORPS.

14 PART III - STAFF AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITY CORPS

15 COMMANDANT GENERAL OF THE UNITY CORPS

16 12.-(a) There shall be for the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS a  
17 National Commandant who shall be appointed by the President and  
18 Commander-in-Chief on the recommendation of the Minister;

Appointment of  
National  
Commandant

19 (b) The Commandant General shall:

20 (i) Hold office in the first instance for a period of Five (5) years and  
21 shall be eligible for reappointment for a further period of Five (5) years and  
22 no more;

23 (ii) On such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of  
24 appointment;

25 (iii) The Commandant General shall be the Chief Executive and  
26 Accounting Officer of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS;

27 (iv) The Commandant General shall in the performance of his  
28 function be directly responsible to the President and Commander-in-Chief  
29 of the Armed Forces, but shall regularly consult with Minister and the  
30 Board;

1 (v) The Commandant General shall be responsible for the execution  
 2 of the policies of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS and its day-to-day  
 3 administration; and

4 (vi) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Commandant General  
 5 shall hold office on such terms and emolument as may be specified in his letter  
 6 of appointment, and as may from time to time, be approved by the President.

Deputy  
 Commandant  
 Generals, National  
 Corps Secretary,  
 Assistant  
 Commandant  
 Generals, etc and  
 other employees  
 of the National  
 Unity Corps

7 13.-(a) The Commandant General shall recommend for appointment  
 8 to the Board such number of Deputy Commandant General, National Corps  
 9 Secretary, Assistant Commandant Generals, Commandants and such Officers  
 10 from Level Eight (8) and above as it may, from time to time, deem necessary for  
 11 the purposes of the effective administration of the NATIONAL UNITY  
 12 CORPS;

13 (b) The terms and conditions of service (including remunerations,  
 14 allowances, benefits and pensions) of regular members and employees of the  
 15 NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall be determined by the Board using same  
 16 criteria as may be applied to other similar Agencies with the approval of the  
 17 Minister;

18 (c) The Volunteers of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall, for any  
 19 period they are on duty for the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS be paid such  
 20 allowances and other benefits as may be approved by the Commandant  
 21 General in consultation with the Minister;

22 (d) The Commandant General, after due consultations with the  
 23 Minister shall appoint for the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS such number of  
 24 officers, other ranks and employees below Level Eight (L8) as it may, from  
 25 time to time, deem necessary for the purposes of the effective administration of  
 26 the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS.

Members of the  
 National Unity  
 Corps

27 14. Membership/Personnel of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall  
 28 consist of:

29 (a) Regular members and volunteers;

30 (b) Officers and other Ranks;



1 (c) Members of the Corps shall be Nigerians within the ages of 18-  
2 35 years as at the time of enlistment; and

3 (d) Regular members and other staff shall be recruited by the Board  
4 periodically to meet the personnel requirements of the NATIONAL UNITY  
5 CORPS. While that of the volunteers will be handled by the Commandant  
6 General as the need arises.

7 15.-(a) The service in the UNITY CORPS shall be approved Pensions  
8 service for the purposes of the Pensions Act and, accordingly, regular  
9 members and employees of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall be  
10 entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement benefits as prescribed  
11 under the Pensions Act;

12 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of Sub-Section (a) of this  
13 Section, nothing in this Act shall prevent the appointment of a person to any  
14 office on such terms, which preclude the grant of pension, gratuity or other  
15 retirement benefit in respect of that office;

16 (c) For the purposes of the application of the provisions of the  
17 Pensions Act, any power exercisable by the Minister or other authority of the  
18 Federal Government, other than the power to make regulations under  
19 Section 23 of the Act, is hereby vested in and shall be exercisable by the  
20 NATIONAL UNITY CORPS and not by any other person or authority;

21 (d) Service in the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall be approved  
22 service for the purpose of the Pensions Reform Act 2004 and, accordingly,  
23 officers and the other persons employed in the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS  
24 shall be entitled to pensions, gratuities and other benefits as are prescribed  
25 here under; and

26 (e) For the purpose of the application of the provisions of the  
27 Pension Reform Act, 2004 any power exercisable there under by a Secretary  
28 to the Government of the Federation or other authority of the Government of  
29 the Federation, other than the power to make regulations under Sections 23  
30 thereof is hereby vested in and shall be exercisable by the NATIONAL

1 UNITY CORPS and not by any other persons or authority.

2 PART IV - APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION, OFFENSES AND DISCIPLINE OF  
3 STAFF APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION OF STAFF OF THE  
4 NATIONAL UNITY CORPS

5 16.-(a) The Senior Staff of the Rank of Commandant and above shall  
6 be appointed by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces  
7 upon nomination by the Commandant General and on the recommendation of  
8 the Board;

9 (b) Commandant shall be vested with the Board on the  
10 recommendation of the Commandant General;

11 (c) The post of the Deputy Commandant General shall be a terminal  
12 post on which the holder shall retire from NATIONAL UNITY COPS as may  
13 be determined by the President, and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed  
14 Forces;

15 (d) The Commandant General shall, in consultation with the Board,  
16 establish such number of offices/units in the Headquarters and recruit officers  
17 to discharge responsibilities;

18 (e) If for any reason, the Commandant General is unable to perform  
19 his functions and there exist a vacancy in the office of the Commandant  
20 General, the officer who is next in rank to the National Commandant is to act  
21 for the period of his inability or vacancy, until a Commandant General is  
22 appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Act and the Officer shall,  
23 while so acting have all the powers to perform the functions of the  
24 Commandant General.

25 17.-a) The appointment of Staff of the UNITY CORPS shall be  
26 governed, mutatis mutandis, by the general terms and conditions of service as  
27 the Board may, after consultation with the Federal Civil Service Commission  
28 or related organizations determine;

29 (b) The Board may, subject to the provisions of this Act, make Staff  
30 Regulations relating generally to the Conditions of Service of the Staff of the

1 UNITY CORPS; and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing.

2 Such regulations may provide for:

3 (i) The appointment, promotion, termination, dismissal and  
4 disciplinary control of the Staff of the UNITY CORPS; and

5 (ii) Appeals by such Staff against wrongful dismissal or other  
6 disciplinary measures, and until such regulations are made any instrument  
7 relating to the conditions of Service of Officers in the Civil Service of the  
8 Federation or related organization shall be applicable with such  
9 modifications as may be necessary, to the staff of the NATIONAL UNITY  
10 CORPS.

11 (c) The Staff of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall be public  
12 officers as defined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria  
13 1999 (as amended);

14 (d) Staff Regulations made under Sub-Section 17(b) of this Section  
15 shall not have effect until it has been approved by the Board, and when so  
16 approved, the Board shall cause them to be brought to the notice of all  
17 affected persons.

18 18.-(a) The Commandant General may delegate his powers in  
19 respect of discipline of junior staff to Deputy or Assistant Commandant  
20 Generals in the Headquarters and State Command who shall discipline such  
21 staff in their Departments and Commands respectively in accordance with  
22 NATIONAL UNITY CORPS regulations;

23 (b) The power of appointment, promotion and discipline of the  
24 junior staff of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS is vested in the  
25 Commandant General;

26 (c) Appeal against all decisions concerning the discipline of such  
27 staff shall be with the senior Staff Disciplinary Committee;

28 (d) The power to discipline the Senior Staff is vested with the  
29 disciplinary committee hereby established; and

30 (e) The Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee shall comprise the

Discipline of  
the staff of the  
Corps

1 following members:

2 (i) A Deputy Commandant General and Assistant Commandant  
3 General(s) with the Deputy Commandant General serving as Chairman, while  
4 in the absence of a Deputy Commandant General, the most Senior Assistant  
5 Commandant General shall serve as Chairman;

6 (ii) The Provost Marshal;

7 (iii) The Head of Legal Matters;

8 (iv) National Corps Secretary

9 (v) In addition to function specified in sub-Section 19

10 (e) of this Section, the Senior Staff Disciplinary Committee shall  
11 consider and determine appeals emanating from decisions of the Junior Staff  
12 Disciplinary Committee of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS. The decisions of  
13 such appeals shall be final;

14 (vi) Appeal against the decisions of the Senior Staff Disciplinary  
15 Committee shall lie with the Board and NATIONAL UNITY CORPS ensure:

16 (i) Probity and Accountability;

17 (ii) Maintenance of a system of screening and vetting at the  
18 recruitment stages and which shall be a continuous exercise throughout the  
19 career of personnel in the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS;

20 (iii) Maintenance of a policy of continuous staff assessment.

21 (viii) The Commandant General shall promulgate and distribute a  
22 code of conduct to staff of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS, the breach of  
23 which shall attract the appropriate penalty stipulated therein and

24 (ix) For the purpose of proper Legal Guidance and accountability, the  
25 Heads of the Legal and Audit Unit shall report directly to the Commandant  
26 General.

27 PART V - ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURES AND ZONAL COMMANDS

28 OF THE NATIONAL UNITY CORPS

29 19.-(a) The UNITY CORPS Headquarters shall be in the Federal  
30 Capital Territory and Headed by the Commandant General;

1 (b) There shall be established in National Headquarters of the  
 2 NATIONAL UNITY CORPS various Departments each of which shall be  
 3 Headed by an Officer not below the Rank of a Deputy Commandant  
 4 General. The Departments are:

- 5 (i) Administration;  
 6 (ii) Finance and accounts;  
 7 (iii) Training and Operations;  
 8 (iv) Intelligence and Security;  
 9 (v) Peace Building and Conflict Resolution;  
 10 (vi) Monitoring and Evaluation;  
 11 (vii) Personnel, Records and Welfare; and  
 12 (viii) Logistics and Supply.

13 (c) Each of these Departments shall be established at the various  
 14 Command Structure of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS as provided in sub-  
 15 Sections 21 (a) above and shall be headed by an officer not below the Rank  
 16 of Assistant Commandant.

17 20.-(A) The Board shall:

18 (i) divide Nigeria into such number of zones as it may, from time to  
 19 time determine for the effective operations of the NATIONAL UNITY  
 20 CORPS; and

21 (ii) Establish, in each Zone, a Zonal Command, which shall be  
 22 headed by an officer not below the Rank of Assistant Commandant General.

23 (b) The Zonal Command shall, subject to the direction and overall  
 24 command of NATIONAL UNITY CORPS, be responsible for coordinating  
 25 the activities of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS in the Zone.

26 21.-(a) The NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall have a State  
 27 Command in each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory.  
 28 Abuja and

29 (b) The State Command shall, subject to the directive and overall  
 30 command of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS Headquarters and Zonal

Zones and Zonal  
 Commands of the  
 National Unity  
 Corps

State Command

1 Command, be responsible for carrying out the functions of the NATIONAL  
2 UNITY CORPS in the State and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja,  
Local Government 3 22.-(a) The NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall have a Command in  
Command 4 each Local Government Area of the Federation and the Federal Capital  
5 Territory, Abuja; and

6 (b) The Local Government Command shall subject to the directive  
7 -and overall Command of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS and State  
8 Command, be responsible for carrying out the functions of the NATIONAL  
9 UNITY CORPS in each of the Local Government Areas or the Area Councils  
10 of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

11 23.-(a) The NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall establish a Squadron  
Squadron 12 Command in each Educational Institution in the Federation, which shall be  
Command 13 headed by a Squadron Commander, and

14 (b) The Squadron Command shall, subject to the direction and overall  
15 Command of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS State Command, be  
16 responsible for carrying out the functions of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS  
17 in Educational Institutions.

18 PART VI - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

19 24. The NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall establish and maintain a  
Funds of the 20 fund, into which shall be paid:  
National Unity  
Corps

21 (a) All subventions and budgetary allocations from the Federal  
22 Government;

23 (b) All sums accruing to NATIONAL UNITY CORPS from donations  
24 made by Local or International Donor Agencies;

25 (c) Statutory Allocations from Federal Government;

26 (d) Gifts from the three (3) tiers of Government, Ministries/Agencies  
27 and Private Corporations;

28 (e) Loans, grants and Aid; and

29 (f) Bequests.

1           25. The NATIONAL UNITY CORPS may, from time to time, Expenditure of  
2 apply the proceeds of the fund established in Section 25 of this Act: the National Unity  
Corps

3           (a) To the cost of administration of the NATIONAL UNITY  
4 CORPS; and

5           (b) To the payment of salaries, fees or other remuneration or  
6 allowances, gratuities payable to the officers and other employees of the  
7 NATIONAL UNITY CORPS, so that no payment of any kind under this  
8 paragraph (except such as may be expressly authorized) shall be made to any  
9 person who is in receipt of emoluments from the Government;

10           (c) For the maintenance of any property vested in the NATIONAL  
11 UNITY CORPS;

12           (d) For and in connection with all or any of its functions under this  
13 Act;

14           (e) The accounts of the UNITY CORPS shall be audited by an  
15 external Auditor.

16           26.-(a) The NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall, not later than 30th Annual Estimates  
17 September in each year submit to the Minister an estimate of its expenditure and Accounts  
18 and income (including payments to the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS Fund)  
19 during the next succeeding year after approval by the Board; and

20           (b) The NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall keep proper accounts in  
21 relation to those accounts and shall cause its accounts to be audited within  
22 six months after the end of each year by auditors appointed from the list and  
23 in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the  
24 Federation.

25           27. The Council shall provide and maintain a library at the Provision of  
26 headquarters and State Branch Commands of the Peace Corps comprising Library facilities  
27 such books and publications as may be provided, for the advancement of the  
28 knowledge and skills of members of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS, for  
29 research purposes, and for other purposes connected with the objects and  
30 functions of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS.

Annual Report	1	28. The NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall prepare and submit to the
	2	Federal Executive Council through the Minister after approval by the
	3	Governing Board, not later than six months after the end of each year, a report
	4	in such form as he may direct on the activities of the NATIONAL UNITY
	5	CORPS during the immediate preceding year, and shall include in such report a
	6	copy of the audited accounts of the Peace Corps for that year and the auditor's
	7	report on the accounts.
Power to accept gift	8	29.-(a) The NATIONAL UNITY CORPS may accept gifts of land,
	9	money or other property on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be
	10	specified by the person or organization making the gift; and
	11	(b) The NATIONAL UNITY CORPS SHALL not accept any gift if
	12	the conditions attached by the person or organization offering the gift are
	13	inconsistent with the functions or objectives of the NATIONAL UNITY
	14	CORPS.
Power to borrow	15	30.-(a) The NATIONAL UNITY CORPS may, from time to time,
	16	borrow by overdraft or otherwise such sums as it may require for the
	17	performance of its functions under this Act;
	18	(b) The NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall not, without the approval
	19	of the Board, borrow money, which exceeds, at any time, the amount set by the
	20	Board; and
	21	(c) Notwithstanding Sub-Section 30(a) of this Section, where the sum
	22	to be borrowed is in foreign currency, the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall
	23	not borrow the sum without the prior approval of the Board.
Investment	24	31. The NATIONAL UNITY CORPS may, subject to the provisions
	25	of this Act and the conditions of any trust created in respect of any property,
	26	invest all or any of its funds in any security prescribed by the Trustee
	27	Investments Act in such other securities as may, from time to time, be approved
	28	by the Minister.



## PART VII - LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

1  
2           32.-(a) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the provisions of the  
3 Public Officers Protection Act shall apply in relation to any suit instituted  
4 against any officer or employee of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS; and

Limitation of  
suits against the  
National Unity  
Corps

5           (b) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other enactment  
6 no suit against any member of the Board or the Commandant General or any  
7 other officer or employee of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS for any act  
8 done in pursuance or execution or in respect of any alleged enactment or law,  
9 or of any public duty or authority or in respect of any alleged neglect or  
10 default in the execution of this Act or any other enactment or law, duty or  
11 authority, shall lie or be instituted in any court unless it is commenced:

12           (i) Within three months after the act, neglect or default complained  
13 of and/or

14           (ii) In the case of a continuation of damage or injury, within six  
15 months after the teasing thereof.

16           (c) No suit shall be commenced against a member of the Board or  
17 the Commandant General or any other officer or employee of the  
18 NATIONAL UNITY CORPS before expiration of a period of one month  
19 after written notice of intention to commence the suit shall have been served  
20 on NATIONAL UNITY CORPS by the intending plaintiff or his agent;

21           (d) The notice referred to in Sub-Section (i)(c) of this section shall  
22 clearly and explicitly state:

23           (i) The cause of action;

24           (ii) The particulars of claim;

25           (iii) The name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff; and

26           (iv) The relief, which the plaintiff claims

27           33. A notice, summons or other document required or authorized  
28 to be served on the Corps under the provisions of this Act or any other  
29 enactment or law may be served by delivering it to the Commandant General  
30 or by sending it by registered post and addressed to the Commandant

Service of  
Documents

1 General at the Principal Office of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS.

Restriction on  
execution against  
property of the  
Unity Corps

2           34.-(a) In any action or suit against the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS,  
3 no execution or attachment of process in the nature thereof shall be issued  
4 against the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS unless a notice of not less than three  
5 months of the intention to execute or attach has been given to the NATIONAL  
6 UNITY CORPS; and

7           (b) Any sum of money, which may, by the judgment of any court, be  
8 awarded against the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall, subject to any  
9 directions given by the court where notice of appeal against the judgment has  
10 been given, be paid from the general reserve fund of the NATIONAL UNITY  
11 CORPS.

Indemnity of  
Officers

12           35. A member of the Board or the Commandant General or any  
13 officer or employee of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall be indemnified  
14 out of the assets of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS against any liability  
15 incurred by him in defending any proceeding, whether civil or criminal, if the  
16 proceeding is brought against him in his capacity as a member, Commandant  
17 General, officer or other employee of the Peace Corps.

Secrecy

18           36. A member of the Board or the Commandant General or any other  
19 officer or the employee of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall:

20           (a) Not, for his personal gain, make use of any information, which has  
21 come to his knowledge in the exercise of his powers or is obtained by him in the  
22 ordinary course of his duty as a member of the Board, as the Commandant  
23 General or officer or employee of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS;

24           (b) Treat as confidential any information which has come to his  
25 knowledge in the exercise of his powers or is obtained by him in the  
26 performance of his duties under this Act;

27           (c) Not to disclose any information referred to under paragraph (b) of  
28 this Sub-Section except when required to do so by any court or in such other  
29 circumstances as may be prescribed by the Board, from time to time; and

30           (d) A person who contravenes the provisions of Sub-Section 37(a) of

1 this Section commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of not  
2 less than One Hundred Thousand Naira (N100,000) only or imprisonment  
3 for a term not exceeding two (2) years.

4 37.-(a) For the purpose of carrying out the functions conferred on  
5 the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS under this Act, the Commandant General  
6 or any other officer or employee of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS  
7 authorized in that behalf:

Power to obtain  
information

8 (i) Shall have a right of access to all the records of any person or  
9 authority affected by this Act for the specific purpose of discharging his  
10 duties under this Act; and

11 (ii) May by notice in writing served on any person or premises  
12 require that person or authority to furnish information on such matters as  
13 may be specified by notice.

14 (b) The person or authority served with the notice under Section 34  
15 shall furnish information as required under Sub- Section 38(a) of this  
16 Section and comply with the notice within a reasonable time.

17 PART VIII - DISSOLUTION OF THE EXISTING NATIONAL UNITY AND  
18 PEACE CORPS AND SAVINGS

19 38.-(a) The body known as the National Unity and Peace Corps (in  
20 this section referred to as the "National Unity and Peace Corps") existing  
21 before the commencement of this Act is dissolved;

Dissolution of  
the existing National  
Unity and Peace  
Corps

22 (b) Accordingly, there shall be vested in the NATIONAL UNITY  
23 CORPS immediately at the commencement of this Act and without further  
24 assurance, all assets, funds, resources and other movable or immovable  
25 property which immediately before the commencement of this Act were in  
26 the Dissolved Peace Corps;

27 (c) As from the commencement of this Act:

28 (i) All rights, interest, obligations and liabilities of the Dissolved  
29 Peace Corps existing immediately before the commencement of this Act  
30 under any contract or instrument, or at law or in equity, shall by virtue of this

1 Act be assigned to and vested in NATIONAL UNITY CORPS;

2 (ii) Any contract or instrument as mentioned in paragraph C of this  
3 Sub-Section shall have the same force and effect against or in favour of the  
4 NATIONAL UNITY CORPS and shall be enforceable as fully and effectively  
5 as if, instead of being a party thereto; and

6 (iii) The NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall be subject to all  
7 obligations and liabilities to which the Dissolved National Unity and Peace  
8 Corps was subjected immediately before the commencement of this Act, and  
9 all other persons shall, as from the commencement of this Act have the same  
10 right, powers and remedies against the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS as they  
11 had against the Dissolved Peace Corps immediately before the commencement  
12 of this Act;

13 (d) Notwithstanding or cause of action pending or existing  
14 immediately before the commencement of this Act by or against the Dissolved  
15 Peace Corps in respect of any right, interest, obligations or liability of the  
16 Dissolved Peace Corps may be commenced, continued or enforced by or  
17 against NATIONAL UNITY CORPS as if this Act has not been made;

18 (e) Notwithstanding the provision of this Act, but subject to such  
19 directions as may be issued by Peace Corps a person who immediately before  
20 the commencement of this Act was a volunteer or a regular member of or held  
21 office in the Dissolved Peace Corps shall be deemed to have been transferred to  
22 NATIONAL UNITY CORPS on terms and condition not less favourable than  
23 those obtaining immediately before commencement of this Act, and service in  
24 the Dissolved Peace Corps shall be deemed to be service in Peace Corps for  
25 purpose of pension; and

26 (f) Notwithstanding the provision of this Act or any other existing law  
27 in force, apart from all Regular and Volunteer Members and Officers of the  
28 dissolved Peace Corps, any individual(s), group, association or body absorbed  
29 as a member of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS either by transfer, enlistment  
30 or by whatsoever legal means shall not as at the time of commencement of this

1 Act be less than 18 years of age and not above the biological age of 45 years  
2 old;

3 (g) That individual(s), group, association, body that have shown or  
4 demonstrated interest to be absorbed as members of the NATIONAL  
5 UNITY CORPS other than the Regular and Volunteer Members of the  
6 hitherto Dissolved Peace Corps of Nigeria shall be subject to the Mandatory  
7 Statutory four weeks initial training and orientation program upon the  
8 commencement of this Act;

9 (h) Notwithstanding the provision of paragraph (g) above, the four  
10 weeks initial training and orientation program of the NATIONAL UNITY  
11 CORPS may be subject to periodic review from time to time after the  
12 commencement of this Act as the Board may so deem;

13 (i) Notwithstanding any provision in this Act, an individual who  
14 has served in any capacity in the public service at any level (Federal, State,  
15 Local Government) and is entitled to gratuity and pension benefit shall not  
16 be eligible for consideration as a staff of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS.

17 PART IX - MISCELLANEOUS

18 39.-(a) The Minister may give to the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS,  
19 the Board or Commandant General such directives:

Directives by  
the Minister

20 (i) of a general nature or relating generally to matters or policy with  
21 regards to the exercise of its functions; and

22 (ii) With respect to the maintenance and securing of public safety  
23 and order, as he may consider necessary and the NATIONAL UNITY  
24 CORPS, the Board or the Commandant General shall complied with the  
25 directives or cause them to be complied with;

26 (b) Subject to the provisions of Sub-Section 44(a) of this Section, a  
27 Governor of a State may give to a State Commandant such directives with  
28 respect to the maintenance and securing of public safety and order in the  
29 State as he may consider necessary and it shall be the duty of the State

1 Commandant to comply with the directives or cause them to be complied with.  
 Regulations of  
 the National Unity  
 Corps 2 40. The NATIONAL UNITY CORPS or the Board may, with the  
 3 approval of the Minister, make such regulations as in its opinion are necessary  
 4 or expedient for giving full effects to the provisions of this act and for the due  
 5 administrations of its provisions which regulations shall be laid before the  
 6 National Assembly and published in the official gazette.

Interpretation

7 41. In this Act;  
 8 "The NATIONAL UNITY CORPS" means the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS  
 9 established under section I of this Act;  
 10 "Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for matters relating  
 11 to Internal Security;  
 12 "The Board" Means the Governing Board of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS.  
 13 "Regular Staff Officers" These are the main core staff or the Corps on full  
 14 remuneration;  
 15 "NATIONAL UNITY CORPS Volunteers" These are accredited youth within  
 16 the age range of 18-29years who are not on full remuneration but are on  
 17 monthly stipend to be determined by the Governing Board. They are to serve as  
 18 reservoirs for the Corps and other security agencies;  
 19 "Student Membership" This is open to all Nigerian students studying in  
 20 Nigeria institutions and schools on voluntary basis and non-remunerated.

Citation

21 42. This Bill may be cited as the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS  
 22 (Establishment) Bill, 2020.

#### 23 SCHEDULE

#### 24 SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD, ETC

#### 25 *Proceedings*

26 (a) The Board shall, for the purpose of this Act meet not less than 4  
 27 times in each year;

28 (b) The Board shall meet whenever it is summoned by the Chairman  
 29 and if the Chairman is required to do so by a notice given to him by not less than  
 30 five other members, he shall summon a meeting of the Board to be held within

1 14days from the date on which the notice is given; and

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

7 *Committees*

8 (a) The Board may appoint one or more Committees to carry out,  
9 on behalf of the Board, its functions under this Act as the Board may  
10 determine;

11 (b) A Committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of  
12 such number of persons (not necessarily members of the Board as may be  
13 determined by the Board) and a person other than a member of the Board  
14 shall hold office in the Committee in accordance with the terms of his  
15 appointment; and

16 (c) A decision of the Committee of the Board shall be of no effect  
17 until it is confirmed by the Board.

18 *Seal*

19 (a) The fixing of the Seal of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS shall  
20 be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or any other person  
21 authorized generally or specifically to act for that purpose by the Board and  
22 the Commandant General;

23 (b) Any contract or instrument, which if made or executed by a  
24 person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under Seal,  
25 may be made or executed on behalf of the Board by the Commandant  
26 General or any person generally or specially authorized to act for the  
27 purpose by the Board; and

28 (c) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed  
29 under the Seal of the Board shall be received in evidence and shall, unless  
30 and until the contrary is proved, be presumed, to be executed.

## EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to provide a statutory existence of the NATIONAL UNITY CORPS (NUCO), which shall be a body charged with the responsibility to Empower, Develop and Provide Alternative Employment for the Youth, to Facilitate Peace, Volunteerism, Community Services and for other Related Matters, 2020.