

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIGERIA FRENCH LANGUAGE VILLAGE AS AN INTER-UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR FRENCH STUDIES AND OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH

Sponsored by Senator Olamilekan Adeola Solomon

[] Commencement

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

1 PART I - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIGERIA FRENCH

2 LANGUAGE VILLAGE

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

6 (2) The French 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 French Village shall be to- Objectives of
10 the French Village

(a) promote the study and use of the French language in Nigeria;

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

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

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

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

17 3.-(1) There is established for the Village a governing body which Establishment
18 shall be known as the Council of the Nigeria French Language Village (in and Composition
19 this Act referred to as the "the Council"). of the Governing
Council

20 (2) The Council shall consist of-

- 1 (a) a Chairman;
- 2 (b) one representative of Federal Ministry of Education;
- 3 (c) one person to represent the National University Commission;
- 4 (d) one person to represent the National Commission for Colleges of
5 Education;
- 6 (e) two persons with relevant knowledge and experience selected on
7 individual merit to represent public interest;
- 8 (f) the Executive Director of the Village;
- 9 (g) the Deputy Executive Director of the Village;
- 10 (h) the Registrar of the Village who shall also serve as Secretary to the
11 Council;
- 12 (i) one representative of the French Village Congregation for one
13 term of two years at a time;
- 14 (j) one representative of the French Village Academic Board for one
15 term of two years at a time.
- 16 (3) The Chairman and members of the council, other than ex-officio
17 shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister.
- 18 (4) The President, during a long absence or temporary incapacity by
19 illness of the Chairman, may appoint a person to act in the place of the
20 Chairman and that person while so acting may exercise the functions of the
21 Chairman.
- 22 (5) If any other member is incapacitated by illness or long absence
23 from performing his official duties, a temporary member may be appointed, in
24 the same manner and in accordance with the same procedure under which the
25 incapacitated member was appointed, and while the appointment subsists, he
26 may exercise all the functions of a member.
- 27 (6) The supplementary provisions set out in the schedule to this Act
28 shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Council and other
29 matters contained therein.

1	4.-(1) The Chairman shall hold office for a single term of 4 years	Tenure of office
2	only.	
3	(2) A member of the Council, other than ex-officio, shall hold	
4	office for 4 years only.	
5	(3) A member of the Council shall not appoint another person to	
6	represent him at a meeting.	
7	5.-(1) The Chairman shall be paid such emolument as may be	Remuneration
8	specified in his letter of appointment.	of Members
9	(2) The allowances payable to members shall be in accordance	
10	with such rates as may be approved by the Government, from time to time.	
11	6.-(1) If it appears to the Council that the Chairman or any other	Removal from
12	member other than ex-officio should be removed from office on grounds of	Office
13	misconduct or inability to perform the functions of his office, the Council	
14	shall make a recommendation to the President through the Minister.	
15	(2) If the President after making such inquiries as he considers	
16	necessary, approves the recommendation, the Minister shall, in writing,	
17	declare the Office of the Chairman or of such a member vacant.	
18	(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the President,	
19	may remove a member if he is satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so.	
20	PART II - FUNCTIONS AND POWERS	
21	7. The Village shall-	Functions of the
22	(a) encourage the learning of the French Language in an	Village
23	environment that will prepare the students in the Village to-	
24	(i) Speak French fluently;	
25	(ii) acquire proficiency in French;	
26	(iii) acquire competence in the writing of the French Language;	
27	(iv) translate to and from the French Language with reference to	
28	the English languages; and	
29	(v) interpret simultaneously and consequently to and from French	
30	language with reference to the English and Nigerian languages.	

1 (b) hold out to all persons without distinction to race, creed, sex or
2 political conviction the opportunity of acquiring proficiency in the use of
3 French Language;

4 (c) provide courses of instructions and other facilities for the pursuit
5 of learning French Language;

6 (d) develop appropriate curricular to suit the needs of the various
7 users of the Village;

8 (e) award Testimonials, Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees to
9 persons who complete the courses of study undertaken in the Village;

10 (f) provide an environment, having all the socio-cultural, physical
11 and psychological facilities, that will facilitate the learning of French
12 language, through a coordinated stimulated process that allows the learner to
13 achieve the linguistic and cultural immersion that is indispensable for
14 communicative competence in French;

15 (g) operate with the multi-dimensional and omni-directional strategy
16 of language acquisition for the benefit of-

17 (i) University undergraduates, for the their statutory French
18 Language Immersion Programme;

19 (ii) students of Colleges of Education, for their compulsory Summer
20 French Language Immersion Programme;

21 (iii) secondary school teachers and students, primary school teachers
22 and pupils; and

23 (iv) Government and non-Governmental personnel;

24 (h) serve as a centre for the exchange of information of French studies
25 and of sourcing researches in the area of French studies;

26 (i) encourage research into problems of learning and teaching of
27 French as a foreign language in Nigeria, with a view to carrying out research
28 into those problems and finding solutions to them;

29 (j) encourage the development and publication of materials,
30 including books, journals and teaching aids for proficiency programmes and

1 for secondary and tertiary institutions;

2 (k) compile, assemble and publish the results of researches in
3 French studies in Nigeria and popularize those findings where their general
4 recognition, in the opinion of the Village, is of importance to Nigeria and to
5 French studies in Nigeria; and

6 (l) carry out other activities as are necessary or expedient for the
7 performance of its functions under this Act.

8 **8.** The Council shall-

9 (a) subject to the provisions of this Act, be charged with the general
10 control and superintendence of the policies, finances and property of the
11 Village;

12 (b) ensure that the Village is staffed by persons with high
13 communicative competence in French;

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

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

18 (e) organize and control the halls of residence and the other
19 facilities provided by the Village; and

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

22 **9.** The Village shall have power to-

23 (a) establish such units within the Village as may, from time to
24 time, be necessary or desirable;

25 (b) recruit and engage competent and qualified teaching and non-
26 teaching staff needed for the smooth running of the French Village at all
27 times in line with extant government regulations and the Village conditions
28 of service;

29 (c) institute and grant professorships, readerships, lectureship and
30 other posts and offices and to make appointment thereto;

Functions of the
Council

Powers of the
Village

1 (d) institute and award fellowships, scholarships, bursaries, medals,
2 prizes and other titles distinctions, award and other forms of assistance;

3 (e) provide for the residence, discipline and welfare of members of
4 staff of the Village;

5 (f) hold examinations and grant diplomas, certificates and other
6 distinctions to persons who have pursued course of study approved by the
7 Village and have satisfied such other requirements as the Village lay down;

8 (g) grant fellowships or titles to deserving individuals;

9 (h) demand and receive from any student or any other person
10 attending the Village for the purpose of instruction such fees as the Village may,
11 from time to time, determine;

12 (i) acquire, hold, grant, charge or otherwise deal with or dispose of
13 moveable and immovable property wherever situate;

14 (j) accept gifts, legacies and donations, but without obligation to
15 accept them for a particular purpose unless it approves the terms and conditions
16 attaching thereto;

17 (k) enter into contracts, establish trusts, act as trustee solely or jointly
18 with any other persons, and employ and act through agents;

19 (l) erect, provide, equip and maintain libraries, laboratories, lecture
20 halls, halls of residence, refectories, sports ground, playing fields and other
21 building or things necessary or suitable or convenient for the objectives of the
22 Village;

23 (m) hold public lectures and to undertake publishing and bookselling;

24 (n) subject to the provisions of this Act-

25 (i) invest any money accruing to the Village by way of endowment,
26 whether for general or special purposes, and such other money may not be
27 immediately required for current expenditure, in investments or securities or in
28 the purchase or improvement of land, with power from time to time to vary any
29 such investments, and

30 (ii) deposit any money, for the time being uninvested, with a bank

1 approved by the Federal Government, on deposit or current account;
 2 (o) to make gifts for any charitable purposes;
 3 (p) to do anything which it is authorized or required by this Act or
 4 any other law to do; and
 5 (q) to do all such acts or things, whether or not incidental to the
 6 foregoing powers as may advance the objects of the Village.

7 **10.** The President, may give to the Village or to the Council
 8 directives of a general nature or relating generally to matters of policy with
 9 regard to the performance by the Village or the Council of its functions under
 10 this Act and it shall be the duty of the Village or the Council to comply with
 11 these directives.

Power of the
President to
give directives

12 **11.** Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Minister may give to
 13 the Council such directives of a general nature with regard to the exercise by
 14 the Council of its functions under this Act and it shall be the duty of the
 15 Council to comply with such directives.

Power of the
Minister to give
directives

16 **PART III - STAFF OF THE VILLAGE**

17 **12.**-(1) The Village shall have the following officers-

Appointment of
Principal Officers

18 (a) the Executive-Director of the Village;
 19 (b) the Deputy Executive Director of the Village;
 20 (c) the Registrar of the Village;
 21 (d) the Bursar of the Village; and
 22 (e) the Village Librarian;
 23 (2) The principal officers, other than the Executive-Director, shall-
 24 (a) be appointed by the Council; and
 25 (b) subject to section 14 of this Act, hold office for such period and
 26 on such terms, as to emoluments of their offices and otherwise as may be
 27 specified in their letter of appointment.

28 **13.**-(1) The President shall, on the recommendation of the
 29 Minister, appoint a Executive Director who shall be the Chief Executive
 30 Officer and Chief Academic Officer of the Village.

Appointment
of the Executive
Director

1 (2) The Executive Director shall-
2 (a) a Ph.d Degree holder in French Language from a recognized
3 university as well as have been a full professor of French for at least 8 years;
4 (b) hold office for a term of five years only and no more; and
5 (c) be paid such emoluments as may be specified in his letter of
6 appointment.

Deputy Executive
Director

7 **14.**-(1) There shall be a Deputy Executive Director of the Village who
8 shall assist the Executive Director in his duties and act in the place of the
9 Executive Director when the office of Executive Director is vacant or the
10 Executive Director is for any reason absent or otherwise unable to perform his
11 functions as Executive Director.

12 (2) The Deputy Executive Director-
13 (a) appointed pursuant to sub-section 2 of this section shall be a Ph.d
14 Degree holder in relevant area French from recognized university and must
15 spent a minimum of 8 years as a senior lecturer;
16 (b) shall be appointed by the Council on the recommendation of the
17 Executive Director;
18 (c) shall hold office for a period of two years beginning with the date
19 of his appointment, and on such terms as to the emolument of his office and
20 otherwise as may be specified in his instrument of appointment; and
21 (d) may be eligible for re-appointment for a further term of two years
22 only.

23 (3) A person who had held office as Deputy Executive Director for a
24 continuous period of four years or longer, or would so have held office but for
25 his resignation, shall not be eligible for appointment as Deputy Executive
26 Director during the two years immediately following the end of that period.

Registrar

27 **15.**-(1) There shall be a Registrar who shall be the Chief
28 Administrative Officer of the Village and shall be responsible to the Director-
29 General for the day-to-day administrative work of the Village except as regard

1 matters for which the bursar is responsible in accordance with the terms
2 specified below.

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

4 (3) The Registrar shall be a graduate of French.

5 (4) The Registrar shall hold office for a term of 5 years beginning
6 from the effective date of his appointment and on such terms and conditions
7 as may be specified in his letter of appointment. Notwithstanding the
8 Council may on satisfactory performance extend the tenure for a further
9 period of one year only and thereafter the Registrar shall relinquish his post
10 and be assigned to other duties.

11 16.-(1) The Bursar shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the The Bursar
12 Village and shall be responsible to the Executive Director for the-day-to-day
13 administration and control of the financial affairs of the Village.

14 (2) The Bursar must possess a good honours degree in Accounting,
15 Finance or Economics from a recognized institution of higher learning.

16 (3) The Bursar shall hold office for a term of 5 years beginning
17 from the effective date of his appointment and on such terms and conditions
18 as may be specified in his letter of appointment. Notwithstanding the
19 Council may on satisfactory performance extend the tenure for a further
20 period of one year only and thereafter the Bursar shall relinquish his post and
21 be assigned to other duties.

22 17.-(1) The Village Librarian shall be responsible to the Executive The Village
Librarian
23 Director for the administration of the Village Library and the co-ordination
24 of the Library services of the Village.

25 (2) The Librarian of the French Language shall be very proficient
26 in French Language and shall be a Ph.d Degree holder in Library Science.

27 (3) The Librarian shall hold office for a term of 5 years beginning
28 from the effective date of his appointment and on such terms and conditions
29 as may be specified in his letter of appointment. Notwithstanding the
30 Council may on satisfactory performance extend the tenure for a further

	1	period of one year only and thereafter the Librarian shall relinquish his post and
	2	be assigned to other duties.
Scope of responsibilities	3	18. A question arising as to the scope of the responsibilities of the
	4	principal officers, shall be determined by the Council.
Appointment of other employees	5	19. (1) The Council may appoint such other persons as employees of
	6	the Village, as the Council may determine, to assist the Director-General in the
	7	discharge of his functions.
	8	(2) The remuneration and tenure of office of employees of the Village
	9	other than the Director-General shall be determined by the Council and in
	10	consonance with what obtains in similar institutions in Nigeria.
Conditions of Service	11	20. The Village shall operate under the ambit of the National
	12	Universities Commission and the salary structures and conditions of service of
	13	the employees of the Village shall be similar to those obtainable in the Federal
	14	University.
	15	PART IV - DISCIPLINE
Removal from office of the Executive Director	16	21. If it appears to the Council that the Executive Director should be
	17	removed from office, the Council shall make a recommendation to the Minister
	18	and if the Minister, after making such inquiries as considered necessary,
	19	approves the recommendation, the Minister may, with the written approval of
	20	the President in writing declare the office of the Executive Director vacant.
Removal and discipline of Senior Staff	21	22. (1) If it appears to the Council that there are reasons for believing
	22	that a person employed as a senior staff, other than the Director-General,
	23	should be removed from office on grounds of misconduct or inability to
	24	perform the functions of his office, the Council, through it's appropriate
	25	committee shall-
	26	(a) give notice of those reasons to the person concerned;
	27	(b) afford him an opportunity of making representations on the matter
	28	to the Council in person;
	29	(c) if the person concerned or any three members of the Council so
	30	request, within the period of one month beginning with the date of the notice,

1 make arrangements-

2 (i) for the Appointments and Promotion Committee of the Council
3 or an ad-hoc Committee of Council, to investigate the matter and to report on
4 it to the Council; and

5 (ii) for the person in question to be afforded an opportunity of
6 appearing before and being heard by the investigating committee on the
7 matter.

8 (2) If the Council, after considering the report of the Investigating
9 Committee is satisfied that the person in question should be removed as
10 aforesaid, the Council may remove the person concerned by an instrument
11 in writing signed by the Chairman of the Council, in the case of a principal
12 officer and the Registrar in the case of other staff.

13 (3) The Executive Director may, in a case of conduct by a member
14 of the staff which in the opinion of the Executive Director is prejudicial to
15 the interest of the Village, suspend that member, and suspension shall
16 forthwith be reported to the Council for ratification.

17 (4) For good cause, an employee may be suspended from office or
18 his appointment may be terminated by the Council and for the purpose of
19 this subsection "good cause" means-

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

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

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

29 (5) A person suspended pursuant to subsection(3) and or (4) of this
30 section shall not be entitled to any salary or emolument, while the person

1 interdicted shall only be entitled to half of his/her salary and the Council shall
2 before the expiration of a period of three months after the date of interdiction or
3 suspension consider the case against that person and come to decision as to-

4 (a) whether to continue that person's interdiction or suspension and if
5 so on what terms (including the proportion of his emoluments to be paid to
6 him);

7 (b) whether to re-instate that a person to his office, in which case the
8 Council shall restore his full emoluments to him with effect from the date of the
9 interdiction;

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

13 (d) whether to take such lesser disciplinary action against that person
14 (including the restoration of the proportion of his emoluments that might have
15 been withheld) as the Council may, determine.

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

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

25 (8) Nothing in this section shall prevent the Council from making
26 such regulation for the discipline of other categories of employees and workers
27 of the Village as it may think fit.

Discipline of
Junior Staff

28 **23.**-(1) If a junior staff is accused of misconduct or inefficiency, the
29 Executive Director may suspend him for not more than three months and
30 forthwith shall refer the matter to the Junior Staff Disciplinary Committee-

1 (a) to consider the case; and
2 (b) to make recommendations as to the appropriate action to be
3 taken by the Executive Director.

4 (2) In all case under this section, the junior member of staff shall be
5 informed in writing of the charges against him and be given reasonable
6 opportunity to defend himself.

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

10 (4) A person aggrieved by the decision of the Executive Director
11 under subsection (3) of this section may within a period of 21 days from the
12 date of the receipt of the letter communicating the decision to him, address a
13 petition to the Council to reconsider his case and the Council's decision
14 therein shall be final.

15 **24.-(1)** Subject to the provisions of this section, where it appears to
16 the Executive Director that any student of the Village has been guilty of
17 misconduct, the Executive Director may without prejudice to any other
18 disciplinary powers conferred on him by regulations or by law, direct-

Discipline of
Students

19 (a) that the student shall not, during such period as may be specified
20 in the direction, participate in such activities of the Village, or make use of
21 such facilities of the Village, as may be so specified; or

22 (b) that the activities of the student shall, during such period as may
23 be specified; or

24 (c) that the student be rusticated for such period as may be specified
25 in the direction; or

26 (d) that the student be expelled from the Village.

27 (2) Where a direction is given under subsection (1) (c) or (d) of this
28 section in respect of any student, the student may, within the prescribed
29 period and in the prescribed manner, appeal from the direction to the council
30 and where such as appeal is brought, the Council shall, after causing such

1 inquiry to be made in the matter as the council considers just, either confirm or
2 set aside the direction or modify it in such manner as the Council thinks fit.

3 (3) The fact that an appeal from a direction is brought in pursuance of
4 the last foregoing subsection shall not affect the question of the direction while
5 the appeal is pending.

6 (4) The Executive Director may delegate his powers under this
7 section to a student disciplinary committee consisting of such members of the
8 Village as may be appointed by the Executive Director.

9 (5) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the
10 restriction or termination of a student's activities at the Village otherwise than
11 on ground of misconduct.

12 (6) It is declared that a direction under subsection (1) (a) of this
13 section may be combined with a direction under subsection (1) (b) of this
14 section.

15 PART V - ACADEMIC BOARD OF THE VILLAGE

Establishment
of the Academic
Board

16 **25.**-(1) There is established for the Village an Academic Board which
17 shall consist of-

18 (a) the Executive Director as Chairman;

19 (b) the Deputy Executive Director;

20 (c) the Registrar;

21 (d) all deans;

22 (e) all heads of departments;

23 (f) heads of academic units;

24 (g) all professors;

25 (h) the Librarian;

26 (i) two members of the congregation;

27 (j) the head of academic affairs unit who shall be Secretary to the
28 Board.

29 (2) The Executive Director shall preside over the meeting of the

1 Academic Board and in his absence the Deputy Executive Director shall
2 preside.

3 (3) The Academic Board shall meet at least once in a semester.

4 (4) Subject to subsection (2) and (3) of this section, the Academic
5 Board shall regulate its own procedure.

6 **26.** The French Village Academic Board-

Functions of the
Academic Board

7 (1) Subject to section 7 of this Bill and subsections (2) of this
8 section and the provisions of this Bill relating to the Function of the French
9 Village, it shall be the general function of the French Village Academic
10 Board to organize and control the teaching, the admission of student where
11 no other enactment provides to the contrary and the discipline of students;
12 and to promote research at the French Village.

13 (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (9) of this
14 section and subject as therein mentioned, it shall in particular be the function
15 of the French Village Academic Board to make provision for:

16 (a) the establishment, organization and control of French Village
17 and other teaching and research activities of the French Village and the
18 allocation of responsibilities for different branches of learning;

19 (b) the organization and control of courses of study in the French
20 Village and of the examinations held in conjunction with those courses,
21 including the appointment of examiners, both internal and external;

22 (c) the award of Diploma and certificates, and such other
23 qualifications as may be prescribed in connection with examinations held as
24 aforesaid;

25 (d) the establishment, organization and control of halls of
26 residence and similar hostels facilities of the French Village;

27 (e) the supervision of the welfare of students in the French Village
28 and the regulation of their conduct;

29 (f) the granting of scholarships, prizes and similar awards in so far
30 as the awards are within the control of the French Village; and

1 (g) determining what descriptions of dress shall be academic dress for
2 the purposes of the French Village, and regulating the use of academic dress.

3 (3) Subject to this Bill and the statutes, the French Village Academic
4 Board may make regulations for the purpose of exercising any function
5 conferred on it either by the foregoing provisions of this section or otherwise or
6 for the purpose of making provision for any matter for which provision by
7 regulations is authorized or required by this Bill or by statute.

8 (4) Regulations shall provide that at least one of the persons appointed
9 as the examiners at each final or professional examination held in conjunction
10 with any course of study in the French Village is not a teacher in the French
11 Village but is a teacher of the branch of learning to which the course relates at
12 some other recognized institutions or a person engaged in practicing the
13 profession in a reputable organization or institution.

14 (5) Subject to right of appeal to the Council from a decision of the
15 French Village Academic Board under this sub-section, the French Village
16 Academic Board may deprive any person of any diploma, certificate or other
17 award of the French Village which has been conferred upon him if after due
18 enquiry he is shown to have been guilty of dishonourable or scandalous
19 conduct in gaining admission into the French Village or obtaining that
20 award.

21 PART VI - COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

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

22 **27.** The Council shall establish the following Committees-

- 23 (a) Finance and General Purposes Committee;
24 (b) Appointments and Promotion Committee; and
25 (c) Tenders Committee.

Composition
and functions
of the Finance
and General
Purpose Committee

26 **28.**-(1) The Finance and General Purpose Committee shall consist of-

- 27 (a) the Chairman of the Council as Chairman;
28 (b) the Executive Director of the Village;
29 (c) two members of the Council to be selected by the Council;
30 (d) the Registrar as Secretary;

1 (e) one member of the Village academic board to be elected by the
2 Board;

3 (f) the Bursar;

4 (g) one National Universities Commission representative; and

5 (h) one representative of Federal Ministry of Education

6 (2) The Finance and General Purpose Committee shall, subject to
7 the direction of the Council-

8 (a) exercise control over the property and expenditure of the
9 Village;

10 (b) be responsible for elaborating the general plans of the Village
11 and co-coordinating the work of such other Committee of the Council as the
12 Council may direct;

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

15 (3) The Finance and General Purpose Committee shall meet as and
16 when necessary for the performance of this functions under this Act and
17 shall regulate its own procedure.

18 (4) The Finance and General purpose Committee shall regulate its
19 procedure.

20 **29.**-(1) The Appointment and Promotions Committee shall consist
21 of-

22 (a) the Executive Director of the Village as Chairman;

23 (b) the Deputy Executive Director;

24 (c) three members of the Council to be selected by the Council;

25 (d) the Head of the Department concerned;

26 (e) the Bursar; and

27 (f) the Registrar as Secretary.

28 (2) Subject to such policies as may be laid down, from time to time,
29 by the Council, the Appointment and Promotions Committee shall-

30 (a) co-ordinate and regulate the appointment and promotion of

Composition
and functions of
the Appointment
and Promotion
Committee

1 members of staff of the Village;

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

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

6 (4) The Appointment and Promotion Committee shall meet as and
7 when necessary for the performance of its functions under this Act and shall
8 regulate its own procedure.

Tenders Board
and Procurement
Planning Committee

9 **30.**-(1) The Tenders Board and Procurement Committee shall be
10 constituted as provided for in the appropriate Act, regulations and rules.

Appointment
of other Committees

11 **31.**-(1) The Council may, subject to its standing orders, appoint such
12 other standing and ad-hoc committees as the Council may think fit to consider
13 and report on any matter with which the Village is concerned.

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

18 PART VII - CONGREGATION

Congregation

19 **32.**-(1) Congregation shall consist of:

20 (a) the Executive Director of the Village as the Chairman;

21 (b) the Deputy Executive Director

22 (c) the Registrar who shall be the Secretary

23 (d) the Bursar;

24 (e) the Librarian;

25 (f) Members of the academic Board; and

26 (g) every member of staff who holds a Bachelor degree of any
27 university recognized for the purpose of this Act nor being a honorary degree

28 (2) The Executive Director shall be the Chairman at all meetings of
29 congregation when he is present and in his absence the Deputy Executive
30 Director, and in the absence of both officers, such other member of the

1 congregation present at the meeting as congregation may appoint for that
2 meeting, shall be the chairman at the meeting.

3 (3) The quorum of the congregation shall be one-third (or the
4 whole number nearest to one-third) of the total number of members of the
5 congregation whichever less.

6 (4) Subject to the foregoing provisions of this Act congregation
7 may regulate its own procedure.

8 (5) Congregation shall be entitle to express by resolution or
9 otherwise its opinions on all matters affecting the interest and welfare of the
10 French Village and shall have such other functions in addition to the
11 function of electing a member of the council.

12 PART VIII - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

13 33.-(1) The Village shall establish and maintain a fund from which Fund of the
14 shall be defrayed all expenditure incurred by the Village. Village

15 (2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund established
16 pursuant to subsection (1) of this section-

17 (a) such moneys as may, from time to time, be lent or granted to the
18 Village by the Government of the Federation or of a State or any of their
19 agencies or foreign intervention;

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

22 (c) all subscription or fees and charges for services rendered by the
23 Village;

24 (d) all interest received in respect of moneys invested by the
25 Village; and

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

27 (3) The fund shall be managed in accordance with guidelines given
28 by the Minister through the National Universities Commission, and without
29 prejudice to the generality of the power to give guidelines under this
30 subsection, the guidelines shall in particular contain provisions specifying

	1	the manner in which the assets of the fund are to be held, and regulating the
	2	making of payments into and out of the fund.
Expenditure of the Village	3	34. -(1) The Village may, from time to time, apply the funds at its
	4	disposal-
	5	(a) to the cost of the administration of the Village and of any research
	6	institute under the village's administration;
	7	(b) for reimbursing a member of any Committee set up by the Village
	8	for expenses expressly authorized by the Village;
	9	(c) to the provision of scholarship and other awards for the training of
	10	staff of the Village;
	11	(d) to the payment of salaries, fees or other remuneration, allowances,
	12	pensions and gratuities or superannuation payable to the employees of the
	13	Village (including the Executive Director);
	14	(e) for the maintenance of any property vested in the Village; and
	15	(f) for in connection with all or any of the functions of the Village
	16	under this Act or any other enactment.
	17	(2) Except as provided for in subsection (1) of this section, no other
	18	remuneration shall be paid to any member of any Committee appointed by the
	19	Village pursuant to this Act.
Annual Estimates, Accounts and Audit	20	35. -(1) The Council shall cause to be prepared, not later than 30th
	21	September in each year, an estimate of the expenditure and income of the
	22	Village during the next succeeding year and when prepared, shall be submitted
	23	to the Minister.
	24	(2) The Council shall cause to be kept proper accounts of the Village
	25	in respect of each year and proper records in relation thereto and shall cause its
	26	accounts to be audited not less than six months after the end of each year.
	27	(3) The Council shall appoint auditors from the list and in accordance
	28	with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the Federation.
Audited Accounts	29	36. The Council shall, not later than 31st July in each year, submit to
	30	the Minister a report, in such form as the President may, from time to time,

1 direct, on the activities of the Village during the preceding year and shall
2 include in the report the audited accounts of the Village.

3 PART IX- LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

4 37.-(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the provisions of the
5 Public Officers Protection Act shall apply in relation to any suit instituted
6 against an officer or employee of the French Village.

Limitation of
suit against the
French Village

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

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

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

17 38.-(1) No suit shall be commenced against a member of the
18 Council or the Registrar or any other officer or employee of the French
19 Village before the expiration of a period of one month after written notice of
20 the intention to commence the suit shall have been served on the French
21 Village by the intending plaintiff or his agent.

Pre-Action
Notice

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

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

Service of
documents

Restriction on execution against property of the Village 1 **40.** In any action or suit against the French Village, no execution or
2 attachment of process in the nature thereof shall be issued against the French
3 Village unless not less than three months' notice of the intention to execute or
4 attach has been given to the French Village.

Indemnity of Members, Registrar, Officers, etc. 5 **41.** A member of the Council or the Registrar or any officer or
6 employee of the French Village shall be indemnified out of the assets of the
7 French Village against any liability incurred by him in defending any
8 proceeding, whether civil or criminal, if the proceeding is brought against him
9 in his capacity as a member of Council, Registrar or other officer or employees
10 of the French Village.

Payment of judgment debt 11 **42.** In action or suit against the French Village, no execution or
12 attachment or process in the nature thereof shall be issued against the French
13 Village, but any sums of money which may, by the judgment of the court, be
14 awarded against the French Village shall, subject to any directives given by the
15 French Village, be paid from the general reserve of the French Village.

16 PART X - MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

Exclusion of discrimination on account of race, religion, etc. 17 **43.** No person shall be required to satisfy requirements as to any of
18 the following matter that is to say, race (including ethnic grouping), sex, place
19 of birth or of family origin, or religious or political persuasion, as a condition of
20 becoming or continuing to be a student at the Village, the holder of any
21 certificate or degree of the Village or of any appointment or employment at the
22 Village and no person shall be subject to any disadvantage or accorded any
23 advantage in relation to the Village by reference to any of those matters-

24 PROVIDED that nothing in this section shall be construed as
25 preventing the Village from imposing any disability or restriction on any of the
26 aforementioned persons. Where such person willfully refuses or fails on
27 grounds of religious belief to undertake any duty generally and uniformly
28 imposed on all such persons or any group of them which duty having regard to
29 its nature and the special circumstances pertaining thereto, is in the opinion of
30 the Village reasonably justified in the national interest.

1	44. For the purposes of the Land Use Act (which provided for the	Compulsory acquisition of land
2	compulsory acquisition of land for public purposes) the purposes of the	
3	Village shall be public purposes of the federation and where an estate or	
4	interest in any land is acquired by the Government in pursuance to this	
5	section, the Government may by a certificate under hand and seal of the	
6	registrar of Deeds, transfer it to the Village.	
7	45. -(1) For the purpose of providing offices and premises	Offices and premises
8	necessary for the performance of its functions, the Village may subject to the	
9	Land Use Act-	
10	(a) purchase or take on lease any interest in land, building or	
11	property;	
12	(b) build, equip and maintain offices and premises.	
13	(2) The Village may, subject to the Land Use Act, sell or lease out	
14	any land, office or premises held by it, which is no longer required for the	
15	performance of its functions under this Act.	
16	46. -(1) The Village may, with the approval of the Minister from	Power to borrow
17	time to time, borrow by overdraft or otherwise such sums as may require for	
18	the performance of its functions under this Act.	
19	(2) The Village shall not, without the approval of the Minister	
20	borrow money which exceeds, at any time, the limit set by the Minister.	
21	(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, where the sum	
22	to be borrowed is in foreign currency, the Village shall not borrow the sum	
23	without the prior approval of the Minister.	
24	47. The Village may accept gift of land, money or other property,	Power to accept gifts
25	upon such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or	
26	organization making the gift, provided that such gift is not inconsistent with	
27	the objectives and functions of the Village.	
28	48. -(1) The Council may, make regulations relating to internal	Power to make bye-laws
29	domestic matters placed by this Act under its control and superintendence	
30	other than matters for which provision is to be made by standing orders	

1 under paragraph 1 of the Schedule to this Act.

2 (2) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section shall make it obligatory
3 for the Council to publish regulation in the Gazette.

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

7 (a) the entry into and the type of courses and programmes approved
8 for the Village;

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

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

Retirement age
of French Village
Staff

11 **49.**-(a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Pensions
12 Reform Act, the compulsory retiring age of an academic staff shall be 65 years;
13 and

14 (b) any law or rule requiring a person to retire from the public service
15 after serving for 35 years shall not apply to an academic staff of the Village.

16 (2) For academics on Professorial cadre or its equivalent, the
17 retirement age shall be 70.

Interpretation

18 **50.** In this Act-

19 "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Council of the Village;

20 "Council" means the Governing Council of the Village;

21 "Fund" means the fund of the Village established under section 32 of 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 Village appointed under
25 Part III of this Act; and

26 "Village" means the Nigeria French Language Village established by section 1
27 of this Act.

Citation

28 **51.** This Bill may be cited as the Nigeria French Language Village
29 Bill, 2020.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30

SCHEDULE

Section 3 (6)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE COUNCIL, ETC.

Proceedings of the Council

1. Subject to the provision of the Act and section of 27 of the Interpretation Act, the Council shall have power to regulate its proceedings and may make standing Orders with respect to the holding of its meetings and of those of its committee, the notice to be given the proceedings thereat, the keeping of minutes of those proceedings and the custody and production for inspection of the minutes.

2. The quorum of the Council shall be five and the quorum of a Committee of the Council shall be determined by the Council.

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

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

5. The Council shall meet at least once in a quarter and as and when necessary for the performance of its functions under this Act.

6. Any three members of the Council which must include one external member may by notice in writing signed by them request the Chairman to convene a special meeting of the Council. The request shall specify the business to be considered at the meeting and matters not so specified shall not be considered at the meeting.

7. A question put before the Council at a meeting shall be decided by consensus; and where this is not possible, by a majority of the votes of

1 members present and voting.

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

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

9 *Committees*

10 10. Ex-officio members of committee

11 By ex-officio members is meant:

12 (a) The Bursar;

13 (b) The Librarian;

14 (c) The Director of Works;

15 (d) The Dean of Studies.

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

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

22 13. A decision of a committee of the Council shall be of no effect
23 unless it is confirmed by the Council.

24 *Miscellaneous*

25 14. The fixing of the seal of the Village shall be authenticated by the
26 signature if the Chairman or of some other persons authorized generally to act
27 for that purpose.

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

1 16. A contract or an instrument which, if under or executed by a
2 person not being a body corporate, would not be required to be under seal,
3 may be made or executed on behalf of the Village by the Director-General
4 and a person generally or specially authorized to act for that purpose by the
5 Council.

6 17. The validity of a proceeding of the Council or its Committee
7 shall not be affected by-

8 (a) a vacancy in the membership of the Council or of the
9 Committee; or

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

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

13 18. A member of the Council and a person holding office on a
14 Committee of the Council, who has a personal interest in any contract or
15 arrangement entered into proposed to be considered by the Council or a
16 Committee shall-

17 (a) forthwith disclose his interest to the Council or committee, as
18 the case may be; and

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

20 19. The certificate issued by the French Village to a 300 level
21 University undergraduate or College of Education student shall be evidence
22 of satisfactory completion of the requisite mandatory language immersion
23 programme.

24 20. Any Language immersion programme certificate not issued by
25 Nigeria French Language Village must be validated by the Village. The
26 Nigeria Village Language Certificate or any other equivalent certificate
27 validated by the Village shall be required for further studies in French in
28 Nigeria Institutions of Higher education, for the National Youth Service
29 Scheme (NYSC) or for employment of a graduate of French in the Nigeria
30 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 French Language Village in order to promote the study and use of the French Language in Nigeria by exploring all relevant and available avenues, potentials and resources.