



THE SENATE  
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**NIGERIA FRENCH LANGUAGE VILLAGE BILL, 2017**

**(SB. 387)**

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

FIRST READING

WEDNESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2016

SECOND READING

TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2017

THIRD READING AND PASSAGE

TUESDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2017

# NIGERIA FRENCH LANGUAGE VILLAGE BILL, 2017



## *Arrangement of Clauses*

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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

{ } Commencement.

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

PART I - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIGERIA FRENCH LANGUAGE VILLAGE

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | <p>(1) There is hereby established a Language Centre to be known as the Nigeria French Language Village (in this Act referred to as "the French Village").</p> <p>(2) The French Village shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and may sue and be sued in its corporate name.</p>   | <p>Establishment of the Nigerian French Village.</p>           |
| 2. | <p>The objects of the French Village shall be to-</p> <p>(a) promote the study and use of the French language in Nigeria;</p> <p>(b) explore all relevant and available avenues, potentials and Resources to make the French Village-</p> <p>(i) an active teaching and learning Centre for the study of French;</p> <p>(ii) a resource Centre for specialized professional services to the public and private sectors of the Nigerian economy; and</p> <p>(iii) a Nigerian Inter-University Centre for French studies.</p>   | <p>Objectives of the French Village</p>                        |
| 3. | <p>(1) There is established for the Village a governing body which shall be known as the Council of the Nigeria French Language Village (in this Act referred to as the "the Council").</p> <p>(2) The Council shall consist of-</p> <p>(a) a Chairman;</p> <p>(b) one representative of Federal Ministry of Education;</p> <p>(c) one person to represent the National University Commission;</p> <p>(d) one person to represent the National Commission for Colleges of Education;</p> <p>(e) two persons with relevant knowledge and experience selected on individual merit to represent public interest;</p> <p>(f) the Executive Director of the Village;</p> <p>(g) the Deputy Executive Director of the Village;</p> <p>(h) the Registrar of the Village who shall also serve as Secretary to the Council;</p> <p>(i) one representative of the French Village Congregation for one term of two years at a time;</p> <p>(j) one representative of the French Village Academic Board for one term of two years at a time.</p> <p>(3) The Chairman and members of the council, other than ex-officio shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister.</p> | <p>Establishment and Composition of the Governing Council.</p> |

(4) The President, during a long absence or temporary incapacity by illness of the Chairman, may appoint a person to act in the place of the Chairman and that person while so acting may exercise the functions of the Chairman.

(5) If any other member is incapacitated by illness or long absence from performing his official duties, a temporary member may be appointed, in the same manner and in accordance with the same procedure under which the Incapacitated member was appointed, and while the appointment subsists, he may exercise all the functions of a member.

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

4. (1) The Chairman shall hold office for a single term of 4 years only. Tenure of office.  
(2) A member of the Council, other than *ex-officio*, shall hold office for 4 years only.  
(3) A member of the Council shall not appoint another person to represent him at a meeting.
5. (1) The Chairman shall be paid such emolument as may be specified in his letter of appointment. Remuneration of Members.  
(2) The allowances payable to members shall be in accordance with such rates as may be approved by the Government, from time to time.
6. (1) If it appears to the Council that the Chairman or any other member other than *ex-officio* should be removed from office on grounds of misconduct or inability to perform the functions of his office, the Council shall make a recommendation to the President through the Minister. Removal from Office.  
(2) If the President after making such inquiries as he considers necessary, approves the recommendation, the Minister shall, in writing, declare the Office of the Chairman or of such a member vacant.  
(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, the President, may remove a member if he is satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so.

## PART II - FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

7. The Village shall-
- (a) encourage the learning of the French Language in an environment that will prepare the students in the Village to-
- (i) Speak French fluently;
- (ii) acquire proficiency in French;
- (iii) acquire competence in the writing of the French Language;
- (iv) translate to and from the French Language with reference to the English languages; and
- (v) interpret simultaneously and consequently to and from French language with reference to the English and Nigerian languages.
- (b) hold out to all persons without distinction to race, creed, sex or political conviction the opportunity of acquiring proficiency in the use of French Language;
- (c) provide courses of instructions and other facilities for the pursuit of learning French Language;
- (d) develop appropriate curricular to suit the needs of the various users of the Village;
- Functions of the Village.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(iv) Government and non-Governmental personnel;

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

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

(j) encourage the development and publication of materials, including books, journals and teaching aids for proficiency programmes and for secondary and tertiary institutions;

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

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

8. The Council shall-

Functions of the Council.

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

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

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

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

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

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

9. The Village shall have power to-

Powers of the Village.

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

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

Village conditions of service;

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

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

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

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

(g) grant fellowships or titles to deserving individuals;

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

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

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

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

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

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

(n) subject to the provisions of this Act-

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

(ii) deposit any money, for the time being uninvested, with a bank approved by the Federal Government, on deposit or current account;

(o) to make gifts for any charitable purposes;

(p) to do anything which it is authorized or required by this Act or any other law to do; and

(q) to do all such acts or things, whether or not incidental to the foregoing powers as may advance the objects of the Village.

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

Power of the  
President to give  
directives.

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

Power of the  
Minister to give  
directives.

PART III - STAFF OF THE VILLAGE

12. (1) The Village shall have the following officers-
- (a) the Executive-Director of the Village;
- (b) the Deputy Executive Director of the Village;
- (c) the Registrar of the Village;
- (d) the Bursar of the Village; and
- (e) the Village Librarian;
- (2) The principal officers, other than the Executive-Director, shall-
- (a) be appointed by the Council; and
- (b) subject to section 14 of this Act, hold office for such period and on such terms, as to emoluments of their offices and otherwise as may be specified in their letter of appointment.
13. (1) The President shall, on the recommendation of the Minister, appoint a Executive Director who shall be the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Academic Officer of the Village.
- (2) The Executive Director shall-
- (a) a Ph.d Degree holder in French Language from a recognized university as well as haven been a full professor of French for at least 8 years;
- (b) hold office for a term of five years only and no more; and
- (c) be paid such emoluments as may be specified in his letter of appointment.
14. (1) There shall be a Deputy Executive Director of the Village who shall assist the Executive Director in his duties and act in the place of the Executive Director when the office of Executive Director is vacant or the Executive Director is for any reason absent or otherwise unable to perform his functions as Executive Director.
- (2) The Deputy Executive Director-
- (a) appointed pursuant to sub-section 2 of this section shall be a Ph.d Degree holder in relevant area French from recognized university and must spent a minimum of 8 years as a senior lecturer;
- (b) shall be appointed by the Council on the recommendation of the Executive Director;
- (c) shall hold office for a period of two years beginning with the date of his appointment, and on such terms as to the emolument of his office and otherwise as maybe specified in his instrument of appointment; and
- (d) may be eligible for re-appointment for a further term of two years only.
- (3) A person who had held office as Deputy Executive Director for a continuous period of four years or longer, or would so have held office but for his resignation, shall not be eligible for appointment as Deputy Executive Director during the two years immediately following the end of that period.
15. (1) There shall be a Registrar who shall be the Chief Administrative Officer of the Village and shall be responsible to the Director-General for the day-to-day administrative work of the Village except as

Appointment of  
Principal Officers.

Appointment of  
the Executive  
Director.

Deputy Executive  
Director.

Registrar.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8. A question arising as to the scope of the responsibilities of the principal officers, shall be determined by the Council. Scope of responsibilities.

9. (1) The Council may appoint such other persons as employees of the Village, as the Council may determine, to assist the Director-General in the discharge of his functions. Appointment of other employees.

(2) The remuneration and tenure of office of employees of the Village other than the Director-General shall be determined by the Council and in consonance with what obtains in similar institutions in Nigeria.

10. The Village shall operate under the ambit of the National Universities Commission and the salary structures and conditions of service of the employees of the Village shall be similar to those obtainable in the Federal University. Conditions of Service.

#### PART IV- DISCIPLINE

11. If it appears to the Council that the Executive Director should be removed from office, the Council shall make a recommendation to the Minister and if the Minister, after making such inquiries as considered necessary, approves the recommendation, the Minister may, with the written approval of the President in writing declare the office of the Executive Director vacant. Removal from office of the Executive Director.

12. (1) If it appears to the Council that there are reasons for believing that a person employed as a Removal and

senior staff, other than the Director-General, should be removed from office on grounds of misconduct or inability to perform the functions of his office, the Council, through its appropriate committee shall — discipline of Senior Staff.

- (a) give notice of those reasons to the person concerned;
- (b) afford him an opportunity of making representations on the matter to the Council in person;
- (c) if the person concerned or any three members of the Council so request, within the period of one month beginning with the date of the notice, make arrangements-
  - (i) for the Appointments and Promotion Committee of the Council or an ad-hoc Committee of Council, to investigate the matter and to report on it to the Council; and
  - (ii) for the person in question to be afforded an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the investigating committee on the matter.
- (2) If the Council, after considering the report of the Investigating Committee is satisfied that the person in question should be removed as aforesaid, the Council may remove the person concerned by an instrument in writing signed by the Chairman of the Council, in the case of a principal officer and the Registrar in the case of other staff.
- (3) The Executive Director may, in a case of conduct by a member of the staff which in the opinion of the Executive Director is prejudicial to the interest of the Village, suspend that member, and suspension shall forthwith be reported to the Council for ratification.
- (4) For good cause, an employee may be suspended from office or his appointment may be terminated by the Council and for the purpose of this subsection "good cause" means-
  - (a) physical or mental incapacity which the Council, after obtaining medical advice, considers to be such as render the person concerned unfit for the discharge of the functions of his office; or
  - (b) conduct of a scandalous or other disgraceful nature which the Council considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold his office; or
  - (c) conduct which the Council considers to be such as to constitute failure or inability of the person concerned to discharge the functions of his office or to comply with the terms and conditions of his service.
- (5) A person suspended pursuant to subsection(3) and or (4) of this section shall not be entitled to any salary or emolument, while the person interdicted shall only be entitled to half of his/her salary and the Council shall before the expiration of a period of three months after the date of interdiction or suspension consider the case against that person and come to decision as to-
  - (a) whether to continue that person's interdiction or suspension and if so on what terms (including the proportion of his emoluments to be paid to him);
  - (b) whether to re-instate that a person to his office, in which case the Council shall restore his full emoluments to him with effect from the date of the interdiction;
  - (c) whether to terminate that person's appointment, in which case the person shall not be entitled to the proportion of his emolument withheld during the period of the interdiction; and
  - (d) whether to take such lesser disciplinary action against that person (including the restoration of the proportion of his emoluments that might have been withheld) as the Council may, determine.
- (6) In any case where the Council, pursuant to this section, decides to continue a person's suspension or decides to take further disciplinary action against a person, the Council shall, before the expiration of a period of three months from that decision, come to a final determination in respect of the case concerning the person as to whether to dismiss, terminate, retire or downgrade

the officer concerned.

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

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

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

(a) to consider the case; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(2) Where a direction is given under subsection (1) (c) or (d) of this section in respect of any student, the student may, within the prescribed period and in the prescribed manner, appeal from the direction to the council and where such as appeal is brought, the Council shall, after causing such inquiry to be made in the matter as the council considers just, either confirm or set aside the direction or modify it in such manner as the Council thinks fit.

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

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

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

(6) It is declared that a direction under subsection (1) (a) of this section may be combined with a

direction under subsection (1) (b) of this section.

#### PART V - ACADEMIC BOARD OF THE VILLAGE

5. (1) There is established for the Village an Academic Board which shall consist of-

Establishment of  
the Academic  
Board.

(a) the Executive Director as Chairman;

(b) the Deputy Executive Director;

(c) the Registrar;

(d) all deans;

(e) all heads of departments;

(f) heads of academic units;

(g) all professors;

(h) the Librarian;

(i) two members of the congregation;

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

(2) The Executive Director shall preside over the meeting of the Academic Board and in his absence the Deputy Executive Director shall preside.

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

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

26. The French Village Academic Board-

Functions of the  
Academic Board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### PART VI - COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL

27. The Council shall establish the following Committees-

(a) Finance and General Purposes Committee;

(b) Appointments and Promotion Committee; and

(c) Tenders Committee.

Establishment of the Finance, General Purpose, Tenders and the Appointment and Promotion Committees.

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

(a) the Chairman of the Council as Chairman;

(b) the Executive Director of the Village;

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

(d) the Registrar as Secretary;

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

(f) the Bursar;

(g) one National Universities Commission representative; and

(h) one representative of Federal Ministry of Education

Composition and functions of the Finance and General Purpose Committee.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Composition and functions of the Appointment and Promotion Committee.

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

(b) the Deputy Executive Director;

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

(d) the Head of the Department concerned;

(e) the Bursar; and

(f) the Registrar as Secretary.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tenders Board and Procurement Planning Committee.

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

Appointment of other Committees.

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

#### PART VII- CONGREGATION

32. (1) Congregation shall consist of:

Congregation.

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

- (b) the Deputy Executive Director
- (c) the Registrar who shall be the Secretary
- (d) the Bursar;
- (e) the Librarian
- (f) Members of the academic Board; and
- (g) every member of staff who holds a Bachelor degree of any university recognized for the purpose of this Act nor being a honorary degree

(2) The Executive Director shall be the Chairman at all meetings of congregation when he is present and in his absence the Deputy Executive Director, and in the absence of both officers, such other member of the congregation present at the meeting as congregation may appoint for that meeting, shall be the chairman at the meeting.

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

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

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

#### PART VIII - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

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

Fund of the Village.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34. (1) The Village may, from time to time, apply the funds at its disposal —

Expenditure of the Village.

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

- (b) for reimbursing a member of any Committee set up by the Village for expenses expressly authorized by the Village;
- (c) to the provision of scholarship and other awards for the training of staff of the Village.
- (d) to the payment of salaries, fees or other remuneration, allowances, pensions and gratuities or superannuation payable to the employees of the Village (including the Executive Director);
- (e) for the maintenance of any property vested in the Village; and
- (f) for in connection with all or any of the functions of the Village under this Act or any other enactment.

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

35. (1) The Council shall cause to be prepared, not later than 30th September in each year, an estimate of the expenditure and income of the Village during the next succeeding year and when prepared, shall be submitted to the Minister. Annual Estimates, Accounts and Audit.
- (2) The Council shall cause to be kept proper accounts of the Village in respect of each year and proper records in relation thereto and shall cause its accounts to be audited not less than six months after the end of each year.
- (3) The Council shall appoint auditors from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the Federation.
36. The Council shall, not later than 31st July in each year, submit to the Minister a report, in such form as the President may, from time to time, direct, on the activities of the Village during the preceding year and shall include in the report the audited accounts of the Village. Audited Accounts.

#### PART IX- LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

37. (1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the provisions of the Public Officers Protection Act shall apply in relation to any suit instituted against an officer or employee of the French Village. Limitation of suit against the French Village.
- (2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other enactment, no suit against a member of the Council or the Registrar or any other officer or employee of the French Village done in pursuance or execution of this Act or any enactment or law, or of any public duty authority in respect of any other enactment or law, duty or authority, shall lie or be instituted in any court unless it is commenced-
- (a) within three months next after the act, neglect or default complained of; or
  - (b) in the case of continuation of damage or injury, within six months next after ceasing thereof.
38. (1) No suit shall be commenced against a member of the Council or the Registrar or any other officer or employee of the French Village before the expiration of a period of one month after written notice of the intention to commence the suit shall have been served on the French Village by the intending plaintiff or his agent. Pre-Action Notice.
- (2) The notice referred to in subsection (1) of this section shall clearly and explicitly state the cause of action, the particulars of the claim, the name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff and the relief which he claims.
39. A notice, summons or other document required or authorized to be served on the French Village under the provisions of the Act or any other enactment or law may be served by delivering it to the Registrar or by sending it by registered post addressed to the Registrar at the principal office of the French Village. Service of documents.

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| 40. | In any action or suit against the French Village, no execution or attachment of process in the nature therefore shall be issued against the French Village unless not less than three months' notice of the intention to execute or attach has been given to the French Village.   | Restriction on execution against property of the French Village. |
| 41. | A member of the Council or the Registrar or any officer or employee of the French Village shall be indemnified out of the assets of the French Village against any liability incurred by him in defending any proceeding, whether civil or criminal, if the proceeding is brought against him in his capacity as a member of Council, Registrar or other officer or employees of the French Village. | Indemnity of Members, Registrar, Officers, etc.                  |
| 42. | In action or suit against the French Village, no execution or attachment or process in the nature thereof shall be issued against the French Village, but any sums of money which may, by the judgment of the court, be awarded against the French Village shall, subject to any directives given by the French Village, be paid from the general reserve of the French Village.                     | Payment of Judgment debt.  |

PART X - MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

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| 43. | No person shall be required to satisfy requirements as to any of the following matter that is to say, race (including ethnic grouping), sex, place of birth or of family origin, or religious or political persuasion, as a condition of becoming or continuing to be a student at the Village, the holder of any certificate or degree of the Village or of any appointment or employment at the Village and no person shall be subject to any disadvantage or accorded any advantage in relation to the Village by reference to any of those matters- | Exclusion of discrimination on account of race, religion, etc. |
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PROVIDED that nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the Village from imposing any disability or restriction on any of the aforementioned persons. Where such person willfully refuses or fails on grounds of religious belief to undertake any duty generally and uniformly imposed on all such persons or any group of them which duty having regard to its nature and the special circumstances pertaining thereto, is in the opinion of the Village reasonably justified in the national interest.

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| 44. | For the purposes of the Land Use Act (which provided for the compulsory acquisition of land for public purposes) the purposes of the Village shall be public purposes of the federation and where an estate or interest in any land is acquired by the Government in pursuance to this section, the Government may by a certificate under hand and seal of the registrar of Deeds, transfer it to the Village. | Compulsory acquisition of land. |
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| 45. | (1) For the purpose of providing offices and premises necessary for the performance of its functions, the Village may subject to the Land Use Act- | Offices and premises. |
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(a) purchase or take on lease any interest in land, building or property;

(b) build, equip and maintain offices and premises.

(2) The Village may, subject to the Land Use Act, sell or lease out any land, office or premises held by it, which is no longer required for the performance of its functions under this Act.

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| 46. | (1) The Village may, with the approval of the Minister from time to time, borrow by overdraft or otherwise such sums as may require for the performance of its functions under this Act. | Power to borrow. |
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(2) The Village shall not, without the approval of the Minister borrow money which exceeds, at any time, the limit set by the Minister.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, where the sum to be borrowed is in foreign currency, the Village shall not borrow the sum without the prior approval of the Minister.

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| 47. | The Village may accept gift of land, money or other property, upon such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organization making the gift, provided that such gift is not | Power to accept gifts. |
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inconsistent with the objectives and functions of the Village.

8. (1) The Council may, make regulations relating to internal domestic matters placed by this Act under its control and superintendence other than matters for which provision is to be made by standing orders under paragraph 1 of the Schedule to this Act. Power to make bye-laws.

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

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

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

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

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

49. (a) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Pensions Reform Act, the compulsory retiring age of an academic staff shall be 65 years; and Retirement age of French Village Staff.

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

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

50. In this Act- Interpretation.  
"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Council of the Village;

"Council" means the Governing Council of the Village;

"Fund" means the fund of the Village established under section 32 of this Act;

"Government" means Federal Government of Nigeria;

"Member" means a member of the Council and includes the Chairman;

"Principal officers" means the principal officers of the Village appointed under Part III of this Act; and

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

51. This Bill may be cited as the Nigeria French Language Village Bill, 2017. Citation.

## 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.

6. 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 members present and voting.

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

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

#### *Committees*

10. Ex-officio members of committee

By ex-officio members is meant

- a) The Bursar;
- b) The Librarian;
- c) The Director of Works;
- d) The Dean of Studies.

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

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

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

#### *Miscellaneous*

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

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

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

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

- (a) a vacancy in the membership of the Council or of the Committee; or
- (b) reason that the a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings; or
- (c) a defect in the appointment of a member.

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

- (a) forthwith disclose his interest to the Council or committee, as the case may be; and
- (b) not vote on any question relating to the contract or arrangement.

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

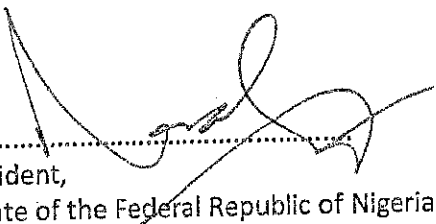
20. Any Language immersion programme certificate not issued by Nigeria French Language Village must be validated by the Village. The Nigeria Village Language Certificate or any other equivalent certificate validated by the Village shall be required for further studies in French in Nigeria Institutions of Higher education, for the National Youth Service Scheme (NYSC) or for employment of a graduate of French in the Nigeria Public Service.

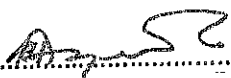
#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

This Act 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.

**THIS BILL WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE ON TUESDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER, 2017**

  
.....  
President,  
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

  
.....  
Clerk,  
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria