COMPENDIUM ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS OF NIGERIA, TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR DIRECTORS TO ENHANCE EFFICIENT SERVICES AND PRODUCTIVITY OF PUBLIC SECTORS IN NIGERIA AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (H.B. 1352)

Sponsors: Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai and 20 others

The Bill seeks the establishment of Chartered Institute of Directors of Nigeria. Presently, the organization is known as Institute of Directors of Nigeria, which was established in 1993 exactly 35 years ago. It was incorporated by Corporate Affairs Commission as a non-profit making public Company limited by Guarantee. The Institute has its corporate headquarters in Lagos with branches at Abuja, Port Harcourt and Abeokuta. The Institute offers over 170 Professional Development Courses and runs its courses in the headquarters and the branches.

The Institute's major objective is to among others provide professional training to directors in the public and private sector to facilitate effective governance, public accountability and professional efficiency in administering the public and private sectors in Nigeria. In discharging this enormous role, the institute needs to secure membership of Global Network of Directors Institute (GNDI), the umbrella body of Institutes of Directors in the world with headquarters in Canada, and European Confederation of Directors. The institute should have been affiliated to these and other related international organizations with specialty or mandate in provision of capacity development services to directors worldwide. Unfortunately the institute is currently not a member of the two world most famous bodies, on the ground that it is not established by law in Nigeria.

This failure has affected the development of the institute despite its long functional existence. It has also limited its capacity to participate in international conferences, sent its students on exchange programmes and experience visits and a number of other benefits.

The Bill has 39 clauses divided into 9 (nine) parts:-

Part I, deals with scope and establishment of the institute which covers the application, establishment, objectives, composition and powers of the Institute Governing Council.

Part II deals with staff of the Institute which covers appointment and duties of the Registrar, Legal Adviser, Treasurer etc.

Part III deals with the structures of the institute which covers Departments, Divisions, Units and Management Committee.

Part IV deals with the functions of the Institute.

Part V deals with Membership of the institute.

Part VI deals with Register of Members.

Part VII deals with financial Provisions.

Part VIII deals with Establishment, Powers and Procedure of Investigating Panel and Disciplinary Tribunal which covers penalties for unprofessional conduct and offences.

Part IX deals with miscellaneous provisions which cover provision for library, pre-action notice, indemnity insurance, regulation and interpretations.

OBJECTIVES OF THE BILL:

a. Promote the practice of directorship in public and private sectors in a challenging and supportive environment;
b. Provide well educated directors' specialist with critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills;
c. Prepare knowledgeable skilled, culturally competent, compassionate and reflective specialist corporate governance practitioners;
d. Strengthen the Institute to collaborate with individuals, organizations, and agencies whose interest is in building the human capacity of Nigeria's directors and corporate governance with the aim of developing professional and technical know-how and improving productivity;
e. Promote high level of ethical standards in the practice of the profession and skills that shall be attained by persons seeking to qualify as members of the institute;

f. Ensure that its members maintain reputable and high standard of conducts expected of any professional practice;
g. Provide for the training and examination of persons desiring to become members of the institute and to promote and protect the interests of its members;
h. Arranging conferences, seminars, symposia and meetings for discussion and practice related to the profession;
i. Arrange the establishment and maintenance of a register of its members as well as the publication of their lists from time to time;
j. Establish a library that will enhance the study of the profession in Nigeria and beyond; and
k. Perform such functions as are incidental to the objects or as the Council may deem necessary for the attainment of all or any of its functions under this Bill.

COST IMPLICATIONS

The Bill does not have any cost implication on the Federal Government. The Institute has been in existence for many years on self-funding, and will remain self-funded in perpetuity.

The Bill is proposed to make the Institute to acquire all the recognitions, benefits and technical support needed for effective provision of capacity development services for directors in the private and public sectors in Nigeria and the rest of the world.

This Bill is imperative, timely and desirable to strengthen the Institute to function more effectively both locally and internationally with the aim of building human capacity for company directors in Nigeria and enhance corporate governance with the aim of developing professionalism and improving productivity in our larger economy.

May I therefore, humbly invite you to support this all important Bill.