



HON. AHMED IDRIS
DEPUTY HOUSE LEADER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ABUJA

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

LONG TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ALVAN IKOKU FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, OWERRI; AND FOR OTHER MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH.

SHORT TITLE: ALVAN IKOKU FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, OWERRI (ESTABLISHMENT ETC.) BILL 2018.

SENATE BILL

BY HON. AHMED IDRIS

INTRODUCTION

This is a **Senate Bill that was passed on the 5th of July, 2018** at the Senate and forwarded to this Honorable House for concurrence.

The Bill seeks to provide for the establishment of the Alvan Ikoku Federal University of Education, Owerri by upgrading the Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education to a Federal University of Education. In so doing, it has laid out a detailed structure for its establishment, management, operation and funding.

Recall that in May 2015, the Federal Executive Council approved the upgrade of four (04) Federal Colleges of Education around the country to University Status. One of these colleges was the Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri.

The need for a University of Education whose sole objective would be to serve as a training institution for the development of teacher education in

the Country cannot be overemphasized. **While it may be acknowledged that the existing College of Education played this role to some extent, there is no doubt that the quality of product being churned out by Colleges of Education cannot be compared to those of Universities.** Considering the importance of Education and the need to develop more and more manpower to fill the gap in this sector, it is imperative to establish a university of education whose aim will be to **identify the educational needs of the society with a view to finding solutions to them within the context of our overall national development.**

It is in this light that, in May of 2015, the Federal Executive Council presided over former President Goodluck Jonathan, approved the upgrade of four (04) Federal Colleges of Education to University Status. These Colleges of Education are: **Alvan Ikoku College of Education, Owerri; Federal College of Education, Zaria; Federal College of Education, Kano; and Adeyemi Federal College of Education, Ondo.** This conversion or upgrade was done to ensure quality teacher education in the country.

THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES OF THE BILL

The fundamental objectives of the University bill are as follows:

- 1. To encourage the advancement of learning and to hold out to all persons without distinction of race , creed, sex or political conviction;**
- 2. To develop and offer academic and professional programmes leading to the award of various certificates with emphasis on planning, developmental and adaptive skills, technology, applied science, agriculture, commerce, arts, social science and applied professional discipline in Education.**
- 3. Bring quality change in education by focusing on teacher education through training and learning innovations;**

4. Identify educational needs and challenges of the country and set agenda towards tackling them;
5. Provide higher education and foster a systematic advancement of the science and art of teacher education;
6. Provide sufficient pool of trained and qualified educational professionals for schools all over the country.
7. To act as catalyst for effective educational systems.

OUTLAY OF THE BILL

The Bill consists of **5 parts, 29 Sections and 3 Schedules** containing Supplemental provisions on the Principal Officers and organs of the university with an explanatory memorandum.

Part I deals with the establishment, Constitution, Principal Officers of the University and their powers.

Part II deals with the general fund of the University, transfer of properties to the university as well as condition of service of employees.

Part III deals with the Statutes of the University and the power to make such statutes.

Part IV deals with matters relating to Supervision and Discipline of Academic, Administrative, and Professional staff as well as examiners and students.

Part V deals with miscellaneous and general provisions which include: restriction on disposal of Land by University, Quorum and procedure of Bodies established by the Bill, Appointment of Committees, retirement age of Academic staff, savings and Transitional provisions, interpretation, short title etc.

ADVANTAGES OF THE BILL

This Bill if passed into Law, will:

- *improve the quality of educational training received by teachers in Nigeria;*
- *improve funding for the training of education professionals*
- *bridge the manpower deficit being experienced in our education sector;*
- *have a rebound effect in increasing the amount of children being enrolled in schools and also improve the quality of education they receive.*
- *Provide employment accelerate socio-economic development to the host communities of these university.*

FINAL NOTES

It should be reiterated that this bill is an attempt to provide an enabling Act and legal framework for the implementation of the May 2015, the Federal Executive Council (FEC's) decision that approved the upgrade of four (04) Federal Colleges of Education to University status and one of these colleges being the Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri.

The need and importance of this upgrade has been explicitly enumerated above. I therefore urge this Honorable House to consider passing this Bill in view of the many benefits it will bring to our educational sector and ultimately enhance national development.