

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL EYE CENTRE, JIMETA, ADAMAWA STATE FOR THE PREVENTION AND CURE OF EYE DEFECTS AND DISEASES AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (SB. 524)

Provisions of the Bill	Committee of the Whole Recommendations
Enacted by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria	
Establishment, etc. of the National Eye Centre 1. (1) There is established the National Eye Centre, Jimeta, Adamawa State (in this Bill referred to as "the Centre"). (2) The Centre – (a) shall be a body corporate; (b) with perpetual succession and a common seal; and (c) may sue and be sued in its corporate name. (3) The Centre shall be a hospital, specialising in ophthalmology, with facilities for the training of ophthalmic personnel at all levels.	Retained
Functions of the Centre 2. (1) The functions of the Centre shall be to provide as part of the hospital and specialist services, services in connection with the diagnosis and treatment of diseases or defects of the eye, supply of optical appliances and other supplementary ophthalmic services. (2) The Centre shall have power: (a) to provide diagnostic, curative, promotive and rehabilitative ophthalmic services; (b) to provide ambulatory and domiciliary ophthalmic treatment, employing the services of ophthalmologists and other medical practitioners; (c) to provide facilities for the clinical training of ophthalmologists; (d) to provide facilities for the training of ophthalmic and dispensing opticians, ophthalmic nurses, orthoptists and ophthalmic technicians;	Retained

(e) to create facilities for research into all aspects of ophthalmology; that is to say, visual, clinical and experimental; (f) to develop new diagnostic and therapeutic ophthalmic instruments and appliances better suited to the practice of ophthalmology in Nigeria. (g) to provide facilities for the post graduate training of Pharmacists and other health professionals as the need arises. (3) For the purposes of the discharge of its functions under the foregoing provisions of this clause, the Centre may: (a) arrange periodic conferences, seminars, study groups and like activities in ophthalmology; (b) advise the Government of the Federation or of a State on all matters relating to defects and diseases of the eye and the prevention of blindness; (c) offer such assistance to ophthalmic hospitals or units in various parts of the Federation, as the Board may deem necessary; (d) do anything in connection with or incidental to the functions conferred on it by this Bill.	
Structure of the Centre 3. The Centre shall be constituted as follows – (a) a management board; (b) an education committee; (c) the clinical and other departments of the Centre; (d) all members of the administrative, clinical and technical staff; and (e) all students of the Centre.	Retained
The Management Board 4. (1) (1) There is established for the Centre, a Board to be known as the National Eye Centre Management Board (in this Bill referred to as "the Board"), which shall have general responsibility for the government of the Centre and shall consist of- (a) the Chairman; (b) the Medical Director;	Retained

(c) four persons, broadly representative of the whole Federation and representing a variety of interests, who shall be appointed by the President; (d) two persons appointed by the consultant staff of the hospital from among their number; (e) Representative of Nigeria Medical Association who shall be an Opthamologist; (f) Representative of the Federal Ministry of Health not below the rank of a Director; and (g) Representative of Optometrists Association. (2) The Chairman and other members who are non-ex-officio shall be appointed by the President. (3) The Chairman shall be a person of proven integrity, coupled with experience and outstanding ability in administration and professional or technical education. (4) The members specified in paragraphs (b),(d), (e) and (f) of sub- clause (1) of this clause, are hereafter referred to as "ex-officio members". (5) The supplementary provisions in the Schedule to this Bill, shall have effect with respect to the constitution and proceedings of the Board and the education committee and the other matters therein mentioned.	
Tenure of office of the Chairman and Members of the Board 5. (1) The Chairman and any other member of the Board (not being an exofficio member), except the Medical Director shall hold office for a period of four years and shall be eligible for re-appointment for a further period of four years: Provided that members of the Board appointed under paragraph (d) of clause 4 (1) of this Bill, shall hold office for two years and shall not be eligible for reappointment. (2) A member of the Board, other than an ex-officio member, shall be paid out of monies at the disposal of the Board such remuneration and allowances in accordance with scales approved from time to time by the President. (3) In the event of the death or incapacity of the Chairman of the Board, or if for any reason other than effluxion of time, the office	Retained

of the Chairman is vacant, the President shall, on the recommendation of the Minister, appoint another person as chairman for the residue of the term of the Chairman of the Board. (4) The office of a member of the Board shall become vacant if: (a) he previously resigns his office by notice in writing given to the Minister; (b) the period of his appointment has expired; or (c) there is passed by the Board, a resolution declaring: (i) that he has become unfit for membership of the Board, by reason of the fact that he has become incapable by reason of mental or bodily infirmity of discharging his duties; or (ii) that he has been absent from three consecutive meetings of the Board without leave of the Board; or (iii) he has been convicted of an offence which involves moral turpitude. (5) Soon after the office of a member becomes vacant, the authority by which he was appointed shall appoint another person in his place in accordance with the provisions of this Bill. (6) Any member of the Board other than an ex-officio member may, by notice to the Board, resign his appointment.	
General duty of the Board 6. (1) The Board shall be the governing body of the Centre and shall be charged with the general control and superintendence of the policy, finances and property of the Centre, including its public relations. (2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, it shall be the duty of the Board to- (a) construct, equip, maintain and operate the hospital, which is to provide comprehensive services, teaching and clinical research in ophthalmology; (b) construct, equip, maintain and operate such training schools and similar institutions as the Board considers necessary, for providing the Centre at all times with adequate and sufficiently qualified staff, including ophthalmologists, ophthalmic technicians, nurses and members of other allied professions and calling, relevant to the practice of ophthalmology; and (c) construct, equip, maintain and operate such clinics, units, out-patient departments, laboratories, research or experimental stations and other like institutions, as the Board	Retained

may consider necessary for the efficient functioning of the Centre. (3) The duty of running the Centre imposed by the foregoing subclause shall include, without prejudice to the extent of that duty apart from this subclause, the duty of providing proper courses of instruction for students; but the Board shall not have power to award degrees, so however that the Board shall not be prevented from arranging for students to attend courses at or take higher qualifications awarded by other institutions not controlled by the Board. (4) The Board shall ensure that the standards of treatment and care for patients provided at all establishments controlled by the Board and the standards of training at those establishments, do not fall below those usually provided by similar establishments of internationally high repute. (5) Subject to this Bill, the Board shall have power to do anything, which in its opinion, is calculated to facilitate the carrying out of its functions under this Bill.	
Powers of the Board in relation to management, etc. of the Centre 7. The Board shall be responsible for laying down general policies and guidelines relating to the management of the affairs of the Centre, including the management of the hospital and the provision of facilities relating to the training of all categories of ophthalmic personnel and it shall be the duty of the Medical Director to execute such policies and to keep within such guidelines.	Retained
Appointment and removal of the Director 8. (1) Subject to the provisions of this clause, the President shall appoint for the Centre a Chief Executive Officer with cognate managerial and administrative experience of not less than 15 years in health who shall be the Medical Director. The Medical Director shall – (a) direct the day-to-day activities of the Centre and perform any other function conferred on him by this Bill. (b) be appointed or removed from his office by the President.	Retained

(2) The Medical Director shall hold office for four years in the first instance and shall be eligible for reappointment for a term not exceeding four years. (3) The Medical Director shall hold office on such terms as to emoluments and otherwise as may be specified in his letter of appointment. (4) The Medical Director shall, in relation to the Board, take precedence before all other members of the Centre, except the Chairman of the Board and any person for the time being acting as Chairman of the Board.	
Appointment, etc. of other staff 9. (1) The senior members of the clinical, administrative and technical staff of the Centre shall be appointed by the Board on the recommendation of a committee, to be known as the Appointments and Promotions Committee, set up under the provisions of paragraph 4 (3) of the Schedule to this Bill. (2) The Board shall from among the officers appointed pursuant to subclause (1) of this clause select, on the recommendation of the Medical Director, a person to act both as the secretary to the Board and to the education committee. (3) The power to appoint all other categories of staff to hold or act in offices in the Centre (including power to make appointments on promotion and transfer and to confirm, dismiss or exercise other disciplinary control over persons holding or acting in such offices), shall be exercised by the Medical Director acting on the recommendation of the Junior Staff Appointments and Promotions Committee, constituted under paragraph 4 (4) of the Schedule to this Bill.	Retained
Composition of the Education Committee 10. The Education Committee shall consist of: (a) the Director, who shall be the chairman; (b) the heads of the departments of the Centre, responsible for training; and (c) the persons for the time being holding such offices in the Centre, as the Director may specify.	Retained

Functions of the Education Committee 11. The education committee shall have responsibility for the running of the academic affairs of the Centre including: (a) the organisation and control of courses of study at the Centre and of the examinations held in connection with those courses; (b) determining the requisite qualifications for admission into any of the courses offered by the Centre; (c) determining the duration of the training period; and (d) effecting the affiliation of the Centre with universities and institutions, for the award of degrees, diplomas or fellowship to students, on the successful completion of the relevant courses.	Retained
Candidacy for admission 12. Where a candidate offers himself for admission as a postgraduate medical student under this Bill, he shall satisfy the Board that he is a registered medical practitioner or that he is on the temporary or provisional register of medical practitioners of the Nigeria Medical Council.	Retained
Powers of the Minister to give Directions 13. The Minister may give to the Board directions of a general character or relating generally to particular matters (but not to any individual person or case), with regard to the exercise by the Board of its functions under this Bill, and it shall be the duty of the Board to comply with the directions, but no direction shall be given which is inconsistent with the duties of the Board under this Bill.	Retained
Financial provisions 14. (1) The Board shall establish a fund into which it shall pay: (a) such sums as may be provided, from time to time, by the Government of the Federation or of a State for the Centre; and (b) all sums accruing to the Centre by way of fees, gifts, testamentary disposition, contributions from philanthropic persons or organisations or otherwise howsoever. (2) Except with the approval of the Minister, the Centre shall not have power to borrow money.	Retained

(3) The Board shall prepare and submit to the Minister, not later than 31st December in each financial year, an estimate of the income and expenditure of the Centre during the next succeeding financial year. (4) The Centre shall keep proper accounts in respect of each financial year and proper records in relation to those accounts and shall cause its accounts to be audited as soon as may be, after the end of the financial year to which the accounts relate by a firm of auditors appointed, as respects that year, by the Board from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General of the Federation.	
Fees for Services 15. The Board may, with the approval of the Minister, prescribe the scale of fees for Services chargeable for hospital services provided by the Centre.	Retained
Power to accept gifts 16. (1) The Centre may accept gifts of land, money or other property upon such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organisation making the gift. (2) The Board shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by the person making the gift are inconsistent with the functions of the Board under this Bill.	Retained
Discipline of students 17. (1) Subject to the provisions of this clause, where it appears to the Medical Director that any student of the Centre has been guilty of misconduct, the Medical Director may, without prejudice to any other disciplinary powers conferred on him by regulations, direct that – (a) the student shall not, during such period as may be specified in the direction, participate in such activities of the Centre or make use of such facilities of the Centre as may be so specified; or (b) the activities of the student shall, during such period as may be specified in the direction, be restricted in such manner as may be so specified; or (c) the student be rusticated for such period as may be specified in the direction; or (d) the student be expelled from the Centre.	Retained

(2) Where a direction is given under sub-clause (1) (c) or (d) of this clause in respect of any student, the student may, within the prescribed period and in the prescribed manner, appeal from the direction to the Board; and where such an appeal is brought, the Board shall, after causing inquiry to be made in the matter as the Board considers appropriate, either confirm or set aside the direction or modify it in such manner as the Board thinks fit. (3) The fact that an appeal from a direction is brought in pursuance of the last foregoing sub-clause, shall not affect the operation of the direction while the appeal is pending. (4) The Medical Director may delegate his powers under this clause to a disciplinary committee consisting of such members of the Centre as he may nominate. (5) Nothing in this clause shall be construed as preventing the restriction or termination of a student's activities at the Centre otherwise than on the ground of misconduct. (6) It is hereby declared that a direction under sub-clause (1) (a) of this clause may be combined with a direction under sub-clause (1) (b) of this clause. (7) Nothing in this clause shall affect the provisions of any enactment relating to the discipline of medical practitioners, pharmacists, nurses or members of any other profession or calling.	
Removal and Discipline of Clinical, Administrative and Technical Staff 18. (1) If it appears to the Board that there are reasons for believing that any person employed as a member of the clinical, administrative or technical staff of the Centre, other than the Medical Director, should be removed from his office or employment, the Board shall require the Medical Director to- (a) give notice of those reasons to the person in question; (b) afford him an opportunity of making representations in person on the matter to the Board; and (c) if the person in question so requests within the period of one month beginning with the date of the notice, make arrangements:	Retained

- (i) for a committee to investigate the matter and to report on it to the Board; and
- (ii) for the person in question to be afforded an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the investigating committee with respect to the matter, and if the Board, after considering the report of the investigating committee, is satisfied that the person in question should be removed as aforesaid, the Board may so remove him by a letter signed on the direction of the Board.

Retained

(2) The Medical Director may, in a case of misconduct by a member of staff, which in the opinion of the Medical Director is prejudicial to the interest of the Centre, suspend any such member and any such suspension shall forthwith be reported to the Board.

(3) For good cause, any member of the staff may be suspended from his duties or his appointment may be terminated by the Board; and for the purposes of this clause, "good cause" means:

- (a) a conviction for any offence which the Board considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit for the discharge of the functions of his office; or
- (b) any physical or mental incapacity which the Board, after obtaining medical advice, considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold his office; or
- (c) conduct of a scandalous or other disgraceful nature which the Board considers to be such as to render the person concerned unfit to continue to hold his office; or
- (d) conduct which the Board 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.

(4) Any person suspended shall, subject to sub-clause (2) and (3) of this clause, be on half pay and the Board shall before the expiration of a period of three months after the date of such suspension, consider the case against that person and come to a decision as to:

(a) whether to continue such person's suspension and if so, on what terms (including the proportion of his emoluments to be paid to him); or (b) whether to reinstate such person, in which case the Board shall restore his full emoluments to him with effect from the date of suspension; or (c) whether to terminate the appointment of the person concerned, in which case such person will not be entitled to the proportion of his emoluments withheld during the period of suspension; or (d) whether to take such lesser disciplinary action against such person (including the restoration of his emoluments that might have been withheld), as the Board may determine, and in any case where the Board, pursuant to this clause, decides to continue a person's suspension or decides to take further disciplinary action against a person, the Board shall, before the expiration of a period of three months from such decision, come to a final determination in respect of the case concerning any such person. (5) It shall be the duty of the person by whom a letter of removal is signed in pursuance of sub-clause (1) of this clause, to use his best endeavours to cause a copy of the letter to be served as soon as reasonably practicable on the person to whom it relates. (6) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this clause shall prevent the Board from making regulations for the discipline of students and all other categories of employees of the Centre, as the Board may prescribe. (7) Regulations made under sub-clause (6) of this clause, need not be published in the Federal Gazette, but the Board shall bring them to the notice of all affected persons in such manner as it may, from time to time, determine.	Retained
Discipline of Junior Staff 19. (1) If any junior staff is accused of misconduct or inefficiency, the Medical Director may suspend him for no more than three months and forthwith shall direct the Junior Staff Appointments	Retained

and Promotion Committee appointed under the provisions of paragraph 4 (3)(b) of the Schedule to this Bill: (a) to consider the case; and (b) to make recommendations as to the appropriate action to be taken by the Medical Director. (2) In all cases under this clause the officer shall be informed of the charge against him and shall be given reasonable opportunity to defend himself. (3) The Medical Director may, after considering the recommendation made pursuant to sub-clause (1) (b) of this clause, dismiss, terminate, retire or down-grade the officer concerned. (4) Any person aggrieved by the Medical Director's decision under sub-clause (3) of this clause may, within a period of 21 days from the date of the letter communicating the decision to him, address a petition to the Board to reconsider his case, and the Board's decision thereon shall be final.	
Exclusion or discrimination on account of race, religion, etc. 20. No person shall be required to satisfy requirements as to any of the following matters, that is to say, race (including ethnic grouping), sex, place of birth or of family origin, or religious or political persuasion, as a condition to becoming or continuing to be a student at the Centre, the holder of any appointment or employment at the Centre or a member of anybody established by virtue of this Bill; and no person shall be subjected to any disadvantage or accorded any advantage in relation to the Centre, by reference to any of those matters: Provided that nothing in this clause shall be construed as preventing the Centre 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 Centre reasonably justifiable in the national interest.	Retained
Annual Reports 21. The Board shall prepare and submit to the President, through the Minister, not later than 30th June in each year, a report in such	Retained

form as the Minister may direct on the activities of the Board during the immediately preceding year and shall include in such report a copy of the audited accounts of the Centre for that year and of the Auditors' report thereon.	
Interpretation 22. In this Bill – "Board" means the Governing Board for the Centre, appointed under clause 4 (1) of this Bill; "the Centre" means the National Eye Centre, established under clause 1 of this Bill; "Medical Director" means Chief Executive Officer of the Centre; "Functions" include powers and duties; "Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for Health; "Student" means a person enrolled at an institution controlled by the Board, for the purpose of pursuing a course of instruction at the institution.	Retained
Citation 23. This Bill is cited as the National Eye Centre, Jimeta, Adamawa State (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2026.	Retained
SCHEDULE Clause 4 (5) Supplementary provisions relating to the Board, the Education Committee. etc. Proceedings of the Board 1. Subject to the provisions of this Bill and section 27 of the Interpretation Act (which provides for the decisions of a statutory body to be taken by a majority of the members of the body and for the person presiding to have a second or casting vote), the Board may make standing orders regulating the proceedings of the Board or any committee thereof. 2. The quorum of the Board shall be five, which shall include the Chairman and at least one other member, who is not an ex-officio member; and the quorum of any committee of the Board shall be determined by the Board. 3. (1) Subject to the provisions of any standing orders of the Board, the Board shall meet whenever it is summoned by the Chairman; and if the Chairman is required so to do by notice given to him by not less than five other members, he shall summon a	Retained

meeting of the Board to be held within fourteen days of the date of the receipt by him of the notice.

(2) At any meeting of the Board, the Chairman of the Board shall preside and if the Chairman is absent, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside at the meeting.

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

(4) Notwithstanding anything in the foregoing provisions of this paragraph, the first meeting of the Board shall be summoned by the Minister, who may give such directions as he thinks fit as to the procedure which shall be followed at that meeting.

Committees of the Board and Education Committee

4. (1) The Board may appoint one or more committees to carry out on behalf of the Board such of its functions as the Board may determine, but a decision of a committee shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the Board.

(2) The education committee may appoint one or more committees to carry out on behalf of the education committee such of its functions as the education committee may determine, but a decision of a committee shall be of no effect until it is confirmed by the education committee.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Schedule, the Board shall appoint the following committees that is:

(a) the Appointments and Promotions Committee, which shall-

- (i) consist of not less than five members, including the Medical Director, who shall be the Chairman of the Committee;
- (ii) be charged with the responsibility for making recommendations to the Board on the appointment and promotion of the clinical, administrative and technical staff of the Centre and have a quorum of three members;

(b) the Junior Staff Appointments and Promotions Committee, which shall have the powers set out in clause 19 of this Bill.

Retained

Employees of the Centre 5. Subject to this Bill, the Board shall have power:

(a) to pay the employees of the Centre such remuneration and allowances as the Board may with the approval of the Minister determine;

(b) to pay any person appointed to a committee of the Board such remuneration (whether by way of fees or otherwise), in respect of the performance of his functions under this Bill and such travelling and subsistence allowances while on the business of the Board, as the Board may determine;

(c) to establish for the employees of the Centre such superannuation scheme (whether contributory or not), as the Board may determine; and

(d) to give loans to its employees for purposes approved by the Board.

Miscellaneous 6.

(1) The fixing of the seal of the Board shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or of some other member, authorised generally or specially by the Board for that purpose.

(2) Any contract or 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 Centre by any person generally or specially authorised to act for that purpose by the Board or a committee of the Board. (3) Any document purporting to be a document duly executed under the seal of the Centre shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is proved, be presumed to be so executed.

7. The validity of any proceedings of the Board or a committee thereof, shall not be affected by any vacancy in the membership of the Board or committee, or by any defect in the appointment of a member of the Board or of any other person on the committee.

8. Any member, and any person holding office on a committee of the Board, who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Board, shall forthwith disclose his interest to the Board and shall

Retained

not vote on any question relating to the contract or arrangement. Education Committee 9. The provisions of this Schedule shall apply mutatis mutandis to the education committee; so however that in relation to the quorum thereof, it shall be as may be determined by the education committee.	
EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM This Bill seeks to establish the National Eye Centre Jimeta, Adamawa State for the prevention and cure of eye defects and eye diseases among others.	