SENATE OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 18th November, 2026

1. The Senate met at 11:09 a.m; recited the National Anthem and thereafter, the Deputy President of the Senate read prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings:**
The Senate examined the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 17th November, 2026.

Question was put and the Votes and Proceedings were approved.

3. **Announcement:**
The Deputy President of the Senate read a letter from Senator Plang, Diket Satso *(Plateau Central)* as follows:

SENATOR DIKET PLANG
PLATEAU CENTRAL SENATORIAL DISTRICT
CHAIRMAN, SENATE COMMITTEE ON EMPLOYMENT, LABOUR AND PRODUCTIVITY
VICE-CHAIRMAN, SENATE COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL CHARACTER & INTER-GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

18th November, 2026

His Excellency,
Sen. Godswill Obot Akpabio, GCON,
President of the Senate,
Federal Republic of Nigeria,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone, Abuja.

Through: The Clerk of the Senate

Dear Mr. President and Distinguished Colleagues,

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

I write with a heart full of gratitude to say thank you to you, Mr. President, and to all my Distinguished Colleagues in the 10th Senate.

Last Friday in Jos, God gave me a day I will never forget. Three events in one: my 60th birthday, the presentation of a book written by my late wife, Late Prof. Janet Plang before her demise, and the send-forth for the wedding of my daughter, Nandes.

What touched my soul most was not the programme itself, but the people who came. In this busy political period, with daily campaign rallies everywhere, I did not expect such a turnout. Yet Senators came. Staff came. Dignitaries came.

I am particularly grateful that our elder, Senator Yahaya Abdullahi, led the large delegation on your behalf, Mr. President. That gesture spoke volumes about the genuine kind interest you and my colleagues have for me and my family in every strata of my life events.

I was also deeply honoured that the Honourable Minister of Women Affairs was present, representing our dear President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. That singular gesture elevated the occasion and showed that this family matter was also a national matter.

Distinguished Colleagues, for a man, to see the wives of his colleagues gather to celebrate his late wife's book — that is healing. For a father, to see Senators and their wives bless his daughter Nandes Plang — that is a father's greatest joy and pride.

What will remain fresh in my memory is this: The 10th Senate is a careful collection of great, loving, patriotic, humane and supportive colleagues.

You have proven that beyond party, beyond politics, beyond campaigns, beyond constituencies and beyond religion, we are one family. That is what it should be, just as in our National Anthem, "though tribes and tongues may differ, in brotherhood we stand."

My late wife, Prof. Janet Plang, would have been so proud. My daughter Nandes is grateful. The entire Plang family and the people of Plateau Central are grateful. I pray God will reward you all. When it is your turn to celebrate, we will be there. When it is your turn to host an event, we will be there.

From my heart, thank you. Thank you for coming to Jos. Thank you for standing with me.

God bless the 10th Senate. God bless Plateau State. God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Yours in service,
(Signed)
Sen. Diket Plang
Plateau Central
Chairman Senate Committee on Labor, Employment and Productivity & Vice Chairman Federal Character and Intergovernmental Affairs

(PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE IN CHAIR)

4. **Matter of Urgent Public Importance:**
Rising on Orders 41 and 51, Senator Bamidele, Opeyemi Michael *(Ekiti Central)* drew the attention of the Senate to the Passage of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2026. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

recalls that pursuant to Section 9(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, the National Assembly, processed an Executive Bill seeking to alter the provisions of the Constitution to establish State Police as part of the national policing structure;

also recalls that the Senate and the House of Representatives on June 24th and July, 23rd 2026 respectively, overwhelmingly supported the Bill with over 2/3 majority votes, thereby meeting the Constitutional threshold for the passage of the Bill by the National Assembly;

aware that the National Assembly transmitted the Bill to the 36 State Houses of Assembly for the mandatory approval by resolution of not less than 2/3 majority of the State Houses of Assembly as provided by Section 9(2) of the Constitution before the Bill can be passed;

also aware that the 36 State Houses of Assembly have transmitted their resolution on the Bill to the National Assembly, namely: Abia, Adamawa, Anambra, Akwa-Ibom, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Benue, Borno, Cross-River, Delta, Ebonyi, Edo, Ekiti, Enugu, Gombe, Imo, Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Kogi, Kwara, Lagos, Nasarawa, Niger, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Oyo, Plateau, Rivers, Sokoto, Taraba, Yobe and Zamfara; and

convinced that the Bill has fulfilled the conditions set out in Sections 9(1) and (2) of the Constitution for a constitutional amendment of this nature to be passed:

Accordingly resolves to:

(i) Mandate the Clerk to the National Assembly, to transmit "A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, to Provide for the Establishment of State Police Services, and for Related Matters (Sixth Alteration) 2026, to the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, for his assent, in line with the Acts Authentication Act, 2004;

(ii) Thank Mr. President for taking ownership and boldly supporting the Bill throughout the process; and also urge him to forward the National Policing Bill that will enable the operationalization of subnational policing, for legislative scrutiny and expeditious passage by the National Assembly.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do mandate the Clerk to the National Assembly, to transmit "A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, to Provide for the Establishment of State Police Services, and for Related Matters (Sixth Alteration) 2026", to the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, for his assent, in line with the Acts Authentication Act, 2004 — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do thank Mr. President for taking ownership and boldly supporting the Bill throughout the process; and also urge him to forward the National Policing Bill that will enable the operationalization of subnational policing, for legislative scrutiny and expeditious passage by the National Assembly — *Agreed to.*

Resolved:
That the Senate do:

(i) Mandate the Clerk to the National Assembly, to transmit "A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, to Provide for the Establishment of State Police Services, and for Related Matters (Sixth Alteration) 2026", to the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation, for his assent, in line with the Acts Authentication Act, 2004; and

(ii) Thank Mr. President for taking ownership and boldly supporting the Bill throughout the process; and also urge him to forward the National Policing Bill that will enable the operationalization of subnational policing, for legislative scrutiny and expeditious passage by the National Assembly **(S/Res/49/04/2026).**

5. Matter of Urgent Public Importance:

Rising on Orders 41 and 51, Senator Musa, Mohammed Sani *(Niger East)* drew the attention of the Senate to the Unfortunate Death of 37 Young Artisanal Miners in the Custody of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), Niger State Command, and the Need for Expeditious Implementation of the Recommendations of the Federal Government's Investigative Committee. He sought and obtained the leave of the Senate to present the matter forthwith:

The Senate:

notes with profound sadness and deep concern the tragic death of 37 young artisanal miners who lost their lives on September 17, 2026, while in the custody of the Niger State Command of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), in Minna, Niger State;

recalls that the deceased persons were reportedly arrested during operations against suspected illegal mining activities and subsequently died under circumstances that raised serious concerns about their conditions of detention, the protection of their fundamental human rights and the responsibility of government institutions to safeguard lives;

observes that the unfortunate incident represents a painful loss of human lives, leaving families, relatives and communities devastated, and underscores the urgent need to strengthen institutional accountability, respect for human dignity and adherence to established laws and procedures in the treatment of persons in custody;

acknowledges the establishment of a ten-member Independent Investigative Committee by the Federal Government, chaired by Mr Jonathan Kure, to investigate the incident, establish the circumstances surrounding the deaths, determine responsibility and recommend appropriate disciplinary, administrative and remedial measures;

further notes that the investigative committee has submitted its report, identifying serious lapses and recommending appropriate sanctions, institutional reforms and financial compensation for the families of the deceased and other affected persons;

recognises the commitment expressed by the Federal Government to ensure justice for the victims and their families and considers the implementation of the committee's recommendations essential to demonstrating that the lives and fundamental rights of every Nigerian are valued and protected;

concerned that any delay in implementing the recommendations, particularly the payment of compensation to the bereaved families, would prolong their suffering and undermine public confidence in the government's commitment to justice and accountability;

worried that the tragedy highlights the urgent need for comprehensive reforms in the management of detention facilities, enforcement of human rights standards and operational procedures of security agencies to prevent a recurrence of such an avoidable tragedy; and

mindful of the Senate's constitutional responsibility to protect the interests and welfare of Nigerians, uphold the rule of law and provide institutional oversight on matters affecting the safety, dignity and fundamental-rights of citizens.

Accordingly resolves to:

(i) Observe a minute silence in honour of the 37 deceased young miners;

(ii) Commend and appreciate President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, the Federal Government, the Governor, Mohammed Umar Bago and the Niger State Government for the timely establishment of the Independent Investigative Committee and the steps taken to investigate the unfortunate incident;

(iii) Urge the Federal Government to expedite action on the implementation of all the recommendations contained in the investigative committee's report, particularly those relating to accountability, appropriate sanctions against officers found culpable and institutional reforms within the NSCDC;

(iv) Constitute a delegation of the Senate, to be led by the President of the Senate or his nominee, comprising relevant Senators, particularly Senators from Niger State and the North Central geopolitical zone, to pay a condolence visit to the bereaved families, commiserate with them and formally convey the condolences and solidarity of the Nigerian Senate; and

(v) Mandate its Committees on Interior; Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters; and Police Affairs to exercise appropriate oversight on the implementation of the committee's recommendations and report to the Senate on progress made.

Debate:

Proposed Resolution (i):
Question: That the Senate do observe a minute silence in honour of the 37 deceased young miners — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (ii):
Question: That the Senate do commend and appreciate President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, and the Federal Government for the timely establishment of the Independent Investigative Committee and the steps taken to investigate the unfortunate incident — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iii):
Question: That the Senate do urge the Federal Government to expedite action on the implementation of all the recommendations contained in the investigative committee's report, particularly those relating to accountability, appropriate sanctions against officers found culpable and institutional reforms within the NSCDC — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (iv):
Question: That the Senate do constitute a delegation of the Senate, to be led by the President of the Senate or his nominee, comprising relevant Senators, particularly Senators from Niger State and the North Central geopolitical zone, to pay a condolence visit to the bereaved families, commiserate with them and formally convey the condolences and solidarity of the Nigerian Senate — *Agreed to.*

Proposed Resolution (v):
Question: That the Senate do mandate its Committees on Interior; Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters; and Police Affairs to exercise appropriate oversight on the implementation of the committee's recommendations and report to the Senate on progress made.

Amendment Proposed:
Immediately after the word, "Interior;"in line 1, *insert* the words, "Solid Minerals" *(Senator Plang, Diket Satso — Plateau Central).*

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Additional Proposed Resolution:
Insert Additional Proposed Resolution as follows:
"That the Senate do condemn in strongest terms, acts of illegal mining of either solid or illegal bunkering of oil, and urge traditional Rulers, State Governments and Opinion Leaders to sensitize the people about the illegality of illegal mining of Solid and Liquid minerals which leads to huge loss of revenue into the Federation Accounts for the good of the Nigeria nation" *(Senator Oshiomole, Adams Aliyu — Edo North).*

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Resolved:
That the Senate do:

(i) Observe a minute silence in honour of the 37 deceased young miners;

(ii) Commend and appreciate President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, and the Federal Government for the timely establishment of the Independent Investigative Committee and the steps taken to investigate the unfortunate incident;

(iii) Urge the Federal Government to expedite action on the implementation of all the recommendations contained in the investigative committee's report, particularly those relating to accountability, appropriate sanctions against officers found culpable and institutional reforms within the NSCDC;

(iv) Constitute a delegation of the Senate, to be led by the President of the Senate or his nominee, comprising relevant Senators, particularly Senators from Niger State and the North Central geopolitical zone, to pay a condolence visit to the bereaved families, commiserate with them and formally convey the condolences and solidarity of the Nigerian Senate;

(v) Mandate its Committees on Interior; Solid Minerals; Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters; and Police Affairs, to exercise appropriate oversight on the implementation of the committee's recommendations and report to the Senate on progress made; and

(vi) Condemn in strongest terms, acts of illegal mining of either solid or illegal bunkering of oil, and urge traditional Rulers, State Governments and Opinion Leaders to sensitize the people about the illegality of illegal mining of Solid and Liquid minerals which leads to huge loss of revenue into the Federation Accounts for the good of the Nigeria nation **(S/Res/50/04/2026).**

One minute silence accordingly observed in honour of the victims.

6. Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND:
Reports on:

a. National Research and Innovation Development Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2026 (SB. 1069); and

b. National Postgraduate Medical College Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (SB. 1068).

Motion made: That the Senate do Receive and Consider the Reports of the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND *(Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South).*

Question put and agreed to.

Reports Laid and thereafter, presented.

Motion made: That the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Reports *(Senate Leader).*

Question put and agreed to.

a. National Research and Innovation Development Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2026 (SB. 1069)

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AND TETFUND ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON RESEARCH AND INNOVATION TO PROMOTE, COORDINATE, FUND AND SUPPORT RESEARCH, INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIALISATION IN NIGERIA; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2026.

PART I - OBJECTIVES AND APPLICATION

Clause 1: **Objectives.**

The objectives of this Bill are to —

(a) establish a National Research and Innovation Development Fund and a National Council on Research and Innovation for the promotion, coordination, and funding of research, development, and innovation across relevant sectors of the economy;

(b) provide a legal and institutional framework to support research, development, innovation, commercialisation and utilisation of research outcomes; and

(c) align national research, development and innovation activities with the National Development Plan.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**

That the provisions in Clause 1 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 1 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 2: **Application.**

This Bill shall apply —

(a) across the research, development and innovation ecosystem and other relevant sectors of the economy in accordance with the National Development Plan; and

(b) to all public and private institutions, agencies, organisations and persons engaged in or benefiting from —

(i) research, development, and innovation activities, and

(ii) the commercialisation and utilisation of research outcomes.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**

That the provisions in Clause 2 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 2 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

PART II — ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT FUND, ETC.

Clause 3: **Establishment of the National Research and Innovation Development Fund.**

(1) There is established, the National Research and Innovation Development Fund ("the Fund").

(2) The Fund —

(a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;

(b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and

(c) may acquire, hold, and dispose of any property, moveable or immoveable for the purpose of carrying out its functions under this Bill.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 3 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 3 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 4: **Functions of the Fund**

The Fund shall -

(a) promote, coordinate, fund and support research, innovation and development across relevant sectors of the economy;

(b) facilitate the communication of research, innovation and development projects, programmes, and outputs to relevant end-users;

(c) ensure that relevant research, innovation and development outputs and projects are ultimately translated into goods and services, and promote the commercialisation of such viable outputs and projects;

(d) promote partnership, synergy, and cross-sectoral collaboration amongst government, industry, the academia and the community;

(e) support the development and maintenance of national research, innovation and development infrastructure in line with national development priorities;

(f) promote and support research proposals -

(i) seeking solutions to identified peculiar local challenges, and

(ii) in the field of indigenous and emerging technologies;

(g) support mechanisms to harness, promote, and commercialise locally developed technologies;

(h) facilitate national involvement in regional, continental and international research, innovation and development activities;

(i) promote activities that harness the technological potentials of youth and enhance the development of research talents and human capital;

(j) provide and maintain a reliable database of Nigeria's Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) resources and viable research outputs from other sectors of the economy;

(k) monitor trends and developments in research and innovation and facilitate international research partnerships and cooperation;

(l) engender strong and sustained private sector participation in Nigeria's research, development and innovation ecosystem;

(m) monitor, evaluate and carry out impact assessments of the funded projects and programmes;

(n) promote exchange programmes in research, innovation and development activities and support intramural and extramural research in institutes, universities, polytechnics and colleges of education;

(o) attract investment in research, development and innovation activities to enhance Nigeria's international competitiveness and facilitate strategic bilateral and multilateral co-operations in RDI activities across all sectors of the economy;

(p) create platforms to harvest diaspora's knowledge and skills to build-up and promote national research, development and innovation ecosystem; and

(q) perform such other functions as may be necessary for the attainment of the objectives of the Fund.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 4 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 4 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 5: **Powers of the Fund**
The Fund shall -

(a) source and attract funds for research, development and innovation and enterprise;

(b) receive, manage, make grants, provide facilities or other resources to persons or research institutions for research, development, innovation and enterprise;

(c) develop standards and protocols to assure quality in research, innovation and development;

(d) co-operate or enter into agreements with any person, institution, government or administration for the advancement of its objectives; and

(e) do everything necessary to achieve the objectives of the Bill.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provisions in Clause 1 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 5 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 6: **Establishment and composition of the National Council on Research and Innovation.**

(1) There is established the National Council on Research and Innovation ("the Council").

(2) The Council shall comprise -

(a) a chairman, who shall be the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

(b) two co vice-chairmen, who shall be the Minister responsible for Innovation, Science and Technology, and the Minister responsible for Education;

(c) the Ministers responsible for -

(i) Agriculture and Food Security,

(ii) Environment,

(iii) Health,

(iv) Livestock Development, and

(v) Industry, Trade and Investment;

(d) the Chairmen of the -

(i) Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities (CVCNU),

(ii) Committee of Directors of Research Institutes of Nigeria (CODRI), and

(iii) Nigerian National Merit Award (NNMA);

(e) a representative each, from the-

(i) Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), and

(ii) Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN);

(f) a representative each from the following, except as provided in (iii) -

(i) Academic Staff Union of Research Institutions (ASURI),

(ii) Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU),

(iii) two representatives from National Academies in rotation;

(g) three other persons with cognate experience in research and innovation to represent the public interest of whom, one shall be drawn from the diaspora and at least one shall be a woman;

(h) the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Fund, who shall also serve as the Secretary to the Council;

(3) The Fund shall be the executive secretariat of the Council.

(4) The non-ex-officio members of the Council shall -
(a) be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister; and

(b) serve on a part-time basis.

(5) The appointment of members under subsection 2 (f) and (g) shall -
(a) reflect diversities in the various representative bodies or persons; and
(b) be on a rotational basis.

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

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 6 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 6 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 7: Functions and powers of the Council
The Council shall -
(a) provide strategic direction and be responsible for the overall policy and general supervision of the affairs of the Fund;

(b) formulate cross-sectoral policies integrating research, development, innovation and enterprise into national socio-economic development processes;

(c) approve operational plans, programmes and budgets of the Fund;

(d) evolve sustainable funding mechanisms for research, development, innovation and enterprise;

(e) approve the constitution of technical committees and expert panels;

(f) approve and submit audited annual reports and financial statements of the Fund in line with extant Financial Regulations;
(g) approve the staff regulations as well as terms and conditions of service of employees of the Fund;

(h) consider and approve such number of offices, directorates, divisions, departments, units or such other structures as may be necessary for the efficient performance of the functions of the Fund under this Bill;

(i) approve rules, guidelines, circulars, and regulations for attaining the objectives of the Fund under this Bill;

(j) ensure accountability and transparency in the administration of the Fund; and

(k) perform such other functions as may be necessary for the effective implementation of this Bill.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 7 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 7 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 8: **Tenure of office**
Members of the Council, other than ex-officio members, shall hold office -
(a) for a single term of five years and shall not be eligible for re-appointment; and

(b) on such terms and conditions as may be specified in their letter of appointment.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 8 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 8 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 9: **Remuneration of members of the Council**
A member of the Council shall be paid remuneration, allowances and such other benefits as the Federal Government may approve.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 9 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 9 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 10: **Cessation of membership of the Council**
A member of the Council shall cease to hold office where -
(a) the term of office expires;

(b) the member resigns from office by a notice in writing to the President;

(c) in case of an ex officio member, the person ceases to hold the office on the basis of which the person became a member;

(d) the member is removed from office; or

(e) the member dies.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 10 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 10 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 11: **Removal of member of the Council**

(1) A person shall be removed as a member of the Council where the person -

(a) becomes bankrupt;

(b) is convicted of a felony or any offence involving dishonesty or fraud;

(c) becomes of unsound mind or is incapable of performing the functions of the office either arising from an infirmity of mind or body or any other cause;

(d) fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Council without notice of any cogent reason addressed to the Chairman; or

(e) is disqualified or suspended by an order of a competent authority from practicing the profession on the basis of which the person was appointed.

(2) The President may remove a member of the Council from office where the President is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the Fund or of the public for the member to continue in office.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 11 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 11 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 12: **Filling of vacancy**

Where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Council, it shall be filled by the appointment of a successor who shall represent the same interest for the remainder of the term of office of the predecessor.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 12 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 12 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

PART III — MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND AND APPOINTMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS, GENERAL COUNSEL AND STAFF OF THE FUND

Clause 13: **Administrative structure of the Fund**

There shall be for the Fund -

(a) a Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer;

(b) three Executive Directors;

(c) a General Counsel; and

(d) such other officers and employees as may be necessary for the effective discharge of the functions of the Fund.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 13 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 13 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 14: Appointment of the Chief Executive Officer of the Fund

(1) The Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer shall be -

(a) appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister;

(b) the Chief Executive and Accounting Officer of the Fund; and

(c) responsible for the day-to-day administration and the execution of the policies formulated by the Council.

(2) The Chief Executive Officer shall -

(a) have not less than fifteen years cognate experience, five of which shall have been in research, innovation, or related developmental activity; and

(b) hold office for a single term of five years, and on such terms and conditions as may be specified in the letter of appointment.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 14 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 14 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 15: Appointment of Executive Directors of the Fund.

(1) The President shall. on the recommendation of the Minister. appoint three Executive Directors for the Fund.

(2) The Executive Directors shall:

(a) have not less than twelve years cognate working experience three of which shall have been in research. innovation. or related developmental activity;

(b) be responsible for the day-to-day administration of a Directorate in the Fund as may be assigned to them by the Council;

(c) perform such duties or functions as may be required by the Council or the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer;

(d) hold office:

(i) for a term of four years and may be re-appointed for a further term of four years and no more; and

(ii) on such terms and conditions as may be specified in the letter of appointment.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2) (d)(i), an Executive Director shall cease to hold office, where the:

(a) person resigns by a notice. under his hand. and addressed to the President through the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer;

(b) person becomes incapable of carrying on the functions of the office either arising from an infirmity of body or mind;

(c) person is convicted of a felony or any offence involving dishonesty or fraud; or

(d) President is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the Fund or in the interest of the public for the person to continue in office. and the Council removes such person from office.

(4) For the purpose of this section, "Directorate" means a group of departments, divisions or units functionally related and aligned with the aim of performing a given function or set of functions relevant to the realisation of the goals of the Fund.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 15 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 15 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 16: Appointment of General Counsel

(1) There shall be for the Fund a General Counsel who shall be -

(a) appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister; and

(b) a legal practitioner qualified to practice in Nigeria with not less than ten years post-call experience.

(2) The General Counsel shall be the chief legal adviser to the Fund and shall -

(a) provide legal advisory services to the Fund;

(b) supervise all legal matters involving the Fund;

(c) ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations and governance standards;

(d) draft, review and advise on contracts, regulations, agreements and other legal instruments of the Fund;

(e) represent or coordinate the representation of the Fund in legal proceedings; and

(f) perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Council or the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer.

(3) The General Counsel shall hold office on such terms and conditions as may be specified in the letter of appointment and in accordance with applicable Service rules.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provisions in Clause 16 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 16 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 17: Appointment of directors and other staff of the Fund

(1) The Council shall approve for appointment for the Fund, such number of General Managers and approve the appointment of other staff of the Fund as may be necessary for the efficient performance of the functions of the Fund.

(2) The staff of the Fund appointed under subsection (1) of this section shall be appointed on such terms and conditions of service as the Fund may determine in accordance with the approved Government Policy.

(3) The staff of the Fund shall be public officers as defined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

(4) The Fund may make staff regulations relating generally to the conditions of service of its employees providing for -

(a) appointment, promotion and discipline;

(b) remuneration, allowances and fringe benefits;

(c) appeals by employees against disciplinary measures; and

(d) such other matters, as may be considered necessary, to ensure the efficient performance of the functions of the Fund under this Bill.

(5) Staff Regulations and Conditions of Service made under subsection (4) of this section shall not have effect until they are approved by the Council

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provisions in Clause 17 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 17 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 18: Pension

(1) Service in the Fund shall be approved service for the purpose of the Pension Reform Act, and accordingly, staff of the Fund shall be entitled to pensions and other retirement benefits as are prescribed under the Pension Reform Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, nothing in this Bill shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on conditions which preclude the grant of pension, gratuity or other retirement benefits in respect of that office.

(3) For the application of the provisions of the Pension Reform Act, any power exercisable by a minister or other authority of the Federal Government other than the power to make regulations under the Pension Reform Act is vested in and shall be exercisable by the Council and not by any other person or authority.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 18 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 18 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

PART IV - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

Clause 19: **Sources of funds to the Fund**
The funds of the Fund shall consist of -

(a) an annual contribution of twenty percent (20%) of the Nigerian Content Development Fund (NCDF);

(b) appropriations by the National Assembly;

(c) grants, donations and endowments;

(d) sale of patents, commercialisation of research outcomes and exhibition;

(e) monies derived from investments made by the Fund; and

(f) such other monies as may accrue to the Fund from any lawful source.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 19 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 19 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 20: **Application of the funds**
The funds of the Fund shall be applied for the purpose of research, development, innovation and enterprise activities, including -

(a) the administration of the Fund;

(b) research grants and innovation support;

(c) development of research infrastructure;

(d) product development and prototyping;

(e) development of indigenous and emerging technologies;

(f) commercialisation of research and development outcome;

(g) intellectual property acquisition support;

(h) support technology acquisition and transfer;

(i) capacity building and talent development; and

(j) any other expenditure necessary for the attainment of the objectives of the Fund.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 20 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 20 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 21: Administrative expenditure
The Fund shall not utilise more than two-point-five percent (2.5) of the annual contribution from the NCDF for administrative expenditure.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 21 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 21 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 22: Joint Ministerial Committee for budget approvals

(1) There shall be a Joint Ministerial Committee for the review and approval of the budget of the Fund.

(2) The Committee shall comprise the Ministers responsible for -
(a) Innovation, Science and Technology; and

(b) Education

(3) The Committee shall ensure that the annual budgets of the Fund are adequately applied for the purposes of research, development, innovation and enterprise activities outlined under section 20 of this Bill.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 22 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 22 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 23: Annual estimates and accounts

(1) The Fund shall not later than 31st October in each financial year or any such time as may be required under the Financial Regulations, prepare and submit to the Council through the Joint Ministerial Committee, an estimate of its income and expenditure for the next financial year.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1) of this section, the Fund may, in any financial year, submit supplementary or adjusted statements of estimated income and expenditure to the Council through the Joint Ministerial Committee.

(3) The Fund shall keep proper accounts in respect of each year and proper records in relation to those accounts and shall cause its accounts to be audited within two months after the end of each year by auditors appointed from the list and in accordance with the guidelines supplied by the Auditor-General for the Federation.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 23 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 23 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 24: **Annual report**
The Fund shall not later than six months after the end of its financial year, prepare and submit to the Council through the Joint Ministerial Committee, an annual report of its activities for the preceding financial year, and shall include its audited accounts for the year under review together with the auditor's report.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 24 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 24 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 25: **Power to accept gifts**
(1) The Fund may accept gift of land, money or other property on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the person or organisation making the gift.

(2) The Fund shall not accept any gift if the conditions attached by the person or organisation making the gift are inconsistent with the functions and objectives of the Fund under this Bill.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 25 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 25 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 26: **Borrowing powers**
The Fund may, with the approval of the President, borrow by way of loan, overdraft or otherwise from any source such sums as it may require for the performance of its functions and meeting its obligations under this Bill.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 26 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 26 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART V — OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Clause 27: Misapplication or diversion of grants by a beneficiary

(1) A beneficiary who -

(a) misapplies, diverts or converts any grant, financial support or monies received under this Bill for purposes other than those for which the grant was approved; or

(b) knowingly permits the misuse, diversion, or unauthorised expenditure of funds granted under this Bill,commits an offence.

(2) A person convicted under subsection (1) of this section is liable -

(a) in the case of an individual, to imprisonment for a term of not less than five years or to a fine of not less than ₦10,000,000 or to both; and

(b) in the case of a body corporate or institution, to a fine of not less than ₦50,000,000 in addition to -

(i) refund of the diverted or misapplied funds,

(ii) suspension or termination of further funding under this Bill, or

(iii) disqualification from benefiting from the Fund for a period of not less than ten years.

(3) Where an offence under this section is committed by a body corporate, every director, principal officer or person responsible for the management of the institution who knowingly authorised, permitted or failed to prevent the commission of the offence shall be deemed to have committed the offence and is liable on conviction accordingly.

(4) The institution of criminal proceedings under this section shall not preclude the Fund from recovering any diverted or misapplied funds through civil proceedings.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 27 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 27 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 28: Unauthorised disclosure of information.

(1) A person who —

(a) communicates or reveals any information, thing or matter connected with or related to any discovery, invention or improvement having been or being carried out by the Fund or a beneficiary, to a person to whom he is not authorised to communicate or reveal it;

(b) communicates or reveals any information, thing or matter which the Fund has received from any person, to any other person to whom he is not authorised to communicate or reveal it;

(c) communicates or reveals any information, advice or opinion given by the Fund, to any person to whom he is not authorised to communicate or reveal it; or

(d) obtains, reproduces, has in his possession or retains any information, matter, thing, advice or opinion referred to in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) which he is not authorised to obtain, reproduce, have in his possession or retain, as the case may be, commits an offence.

(2) A person convicted under subsection (1) is liable to imprisonment for a term of two years or a fine of ₦5,000,000 or both.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provisions in Clause 28 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 28 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 29: Failure to Submit Reports or Account for Grants.

(1) A beneficiary that fails to submit reports, financial statements or utilisation records as required under this Bill or regulations or guidelines made pursuant to this Bill commits an offence.

(2) A person convicted under subsection (1) is liable to —
(a) suspension of funding;

(b) repayment of unaccounted funds; and

(c) a fine of not less than ₦2,000,000.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provisions in Clause 29 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 29 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 30: False Information or Misrepresentation.

(1) A person who knowingly submits false information, forged documents or misleading data for the purpose of obtaining funding, grants or benefits under this Bill commits an offence.

(2) A person convicted under this section is liable to imprisonment for a term of three years or to a fine of not less than ₦2,000,000 or to both.

(3) In addition to the penalties under subsection (2), the Fund may —
(a) withdraw the grant or funding; and

(b) disqualify the person or institution from future funding for a period not less than five years.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 30 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 30 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 31: Obstruction of Officials
A person who obstructs, assaults, intimidates or interferes with any officer, staff or authorised agent of the Fund in the performance of duties under this Bill commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of two years or to a fine of not less than ₦2,000,000 or to both.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 31 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 31 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 32: Conflict of Interest and Abuse of Office.

(1) A member of the Council, Technical Committee, Expert Panel or staff of the Fund who participates in any decision in which he has a direct or indirect personal interest without disclosure commits an offence.

(2) A person convicted under this section is liable to —

(a) removal from office;

(b) disqualification from holding office under the Fund for a period of five years; and

(c) imprisonment for a term of three years or a fine of ₦5,000,000 or both.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 32 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 32 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 33: Penalty for Offences for which no Penalty is Provided.
A person who commits an offence for which no specific penalty is provided is liable on conviction —

(a) for a first offence, to imprisonment for a term of 6 months or to a fine of up to ₦1,000,000 or both;

(b) for a subsequent offence to imprisonment for a term of 12 months or to a fine of up to ₦2,000,000 or both; and

(c) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine of ₦10,000,000.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provisions in Clause 33 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 33 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

PART VI — MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Clause 34: Award of Research or Innovation Grant.

(1) The award of research or innovation grant under this Act shall be on a competitive basis.

(2) In awarding a grant, the Fund shall, amongst other things consider —
(a) scientific or socio-economic merit;

(b) viability and feasibility of the research or innovation;

(c) national relevance and alignment with national research priorities;

(d) recommendations of any technical committee or panel on a research or project proposal; and

(e) expected impact of the proposed project.

(3) The award types that under this Bill may include the following categories —
(a) early career researchers;

(b) postdoctoral researchers;

(c) individual researchers/research teams;

(d) SME firms;

(e) large industry;

(f) special grants to address research and innovation topics of urgent/immediate national importance e.g epidemic response;

(g) special international joint calls that address specific cooperation agreements in research and innovation projects of national socio-economic importance; and

(h) special grants for commercialisation of existing or newly developed products.

(4) The award for research or innovation grant under this Bill shall primarily target —
(a) researchers/research teams/groups who are affiliated with institutions operating in Nigeria;

(b) enterprise (micro, small, and medium-sized) operating in Nigeria;

(c) large industries;

(d) researchers/research teams under specialised international agreement that serve the purpose of 4 (g) above; and

(e) collaborative research efforts between research teams and companies.

(5) The Research Grant life cycle under this Bill shall follow a structured timeline consisting of —

(a) proposal submission, defining the timelines and criteria for selection of successful proposal;

(b) a review process involving a transparer.t and science-driven multi-stage peer-review by a technical committee of subject experts and industry experts outlining —

(i) the factors to be evaluated,

(ii) scientific merit,

(iii) feasibility,

(iv) institutional support and relevance to call goal, and

(v) national relevance.

(c) evaluation of the technical committee review results and finalisation of funding decisions by the Council.

(6) An award or grant made under this Bill shall be run for a period between 12 and 60 months or as may be specified in the call for submission.

(7) A grant exceeding 12 months period may be subject to annual certificate of compliance, issued after the relevant technical committee has verified given milestones.

(8) A grant may be renewed or extended by the Fund subject to fulfilment of conditions prescribed by the Fund.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 34 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 34 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 35: Mandatory Reports on Operations, Funded Research or Innovation Grants.
The Fund shall prepare and submit annual reports of its operations, funded research or innovation grants and their outcomes to the —

(a) Council; and

(b) Ministers responsible for —

(i) Agriculture and Food Security,

(ii) Education, and

(iii) Innovation, Science and Technology.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 35 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 35 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 36: Technical Committees and Expert Panels.

(1) The Fund may, with the approval of the Council, constitute such technical committees or expert panels as it may consider necessary for the effective discharge of its functions under this Bill.

(2) The committee or panel shall comprise persons with proven expertise, competence and experience in research, innovation, science, technology, or related disciplines drawn from —
(a) universities and research institutions;

(b) professional bodies and academies;

(c) industry and the organised private sector;

(d) government agencies;

(e) civil society organisations; and

(f) such other relevant fields or institutions as the Fund may determine.

(3) A committee or panel constituted under this Bill may, subject to its terms of reference —
(a) advise the Council on national research and innovation priorities;

(b) provide expert advice to the Council or the Fund on strategies to accomplish its mandate;

(c) conduct technical assessments and peer reviews;

(d) review and recommend for approval the —
(i) operational guidelines, annual work plans and Standard Operating Procedures of the Fund; or

(ii) research or project proposals that meet the stipulated requirements for funding;

(e) monitor and evaluate funded projects;

(f) advise on standards, ethics, quality assurance and compliance; and

(g) perform such other functions as may be assigned by the Council or the Fund.

(4) A member of a committee or panel constituted under this Bill shall serve on such terms and conditions as may be determined by the Council.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 36 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 36 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 37: Intellectual Property Rights and Commercialisation.

(1) Subject to the provisions of any applicable law relating to intellectual property, patents, copyrights, trademarks or industrial designs, any intellectual property arising from research, innovation or projects funded wholly or partly under this Bill shall, vest in the beneficiary institution, organisation or researcher, subject to the terms and conditions of the funding agreement.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1), where any research, innovation, or project funded under this Bill relates to matters of national security, all intellectual property arising therefrom shall vest in the Fund, subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the rights in respect of any invention, discovery, or improvement by a person in the course of studies or research in respect of which the person received any financial support from the Fund, shall be determined by agreement between the Fund and that —

(a) person;

(b) person's employer; or

(c) person and the employer.

(4) A researcher shall not enter into a research agreement with a third party on behalf of the Fund except with the approval of the Fund.

(5) All rights in copyrighted works shall be owned by the creator regardless of the use of the resources of the Fund except where a copyrighted work —

(a) is commissioned by the Council;

(b) is developed in the performance of a sponsored research; or

(c) relates to national security.

(6) Where a copyrighted work was developed in the performance of a third-party agreement, the provisions of such agreement shall be taken into account in determining the ownership of the copyrighted work.

(7) The Fund shall have a non-exclusive, royalty-free right to use, reproduce, publish or apply the research outputs, findings or innovations funded under this Bill for public interest, policy development, educational or governmental purposes.

(8) Every beneficiary of funding under this Bill shall —

(a) comply with guidelines and regulations issued by the Fund relating to intellectual property management and commercialisation;

(b) disclose to the Fund any patent able invention, innovation or commercially valuable research outcome arising from the funding received; and

(c) take reasonable steps to protect and commercialise intellectual property generated from funded research.

(9) The Fund may develop frameworks, guidelines and incentives for —

(a) technology transfer;

(b) licensing and commercialisation of research outputs;

(c) collaboration between research institutions and industry; and

(d) equitable sharing of benefits arising from publicly funded research and innovation.

(10) Nothing in this Bill shall be construed as limiting the rights of inventors, researchers or institutions under any existing intellectual property law in force in Nigeria.

(11) In determining ownership, licensing or commercialisation rights under this section, regard shall be had to —

(a) national interest considerations;

(b) the extent of funding provided by the Fund;

(c) the contribution of the beneficiary institution or collaborating parties; and

(d) applicable contractual agreements.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 37 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 37 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 38: **Power to Make Regulations.**
The Fund may, with the approval of the Council, make regulations or issue guidelines as may be necessary or expedient to give effect to the provisions of this Bill.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 38 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 38 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 39: Legal Proceedings.

(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law or enactment, a suit shall not be instituted in any court against the Fund, a member of the Council, the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, or any other officer or employee of the Fund for any act done or omission in the execution of this Bill or any other law, or of any public duty or authority, unless it is commenced —

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

(b) in the case of a continuation of damage or injury, within three months after the ceasing of the damage or injury.

(2) A suit shall not commence against the Fund, a member of the Council, the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, or any other officer or employee of the Fund before the expiration of a period of thirty days after written notice of the intention to commence the suit shall have been served on the Fund by the intending plaintiff or their agent.

(3) The notice referred to in subsection (2) of this section shall clearly state the —

(a) cause of action;

(b) particulars of the claim;

(c) name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff; and

(d) relief which he claims.

(4) Subject to the provisions of this Bill, the provisions of the Public Officers Protection Act shall apply in relation to any suit instituted against any member, officer or employee of the Fund.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 39 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 39 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 40: Service of Documents.

A notice, summons or other document required or authorised to be served on the Fund under the provisions of this Bill or any other law may be served by delivering it to the Fund or by sending it by registered post addressed to the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Fund.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 40 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 40 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 41: **Restriction on Execution Against the Property of the Fund.**

(1) In any action or suit against the Fund, no execution or process of attachment shall be issued against the Fund unless not less than three months' notice of the intention to execute or attach has been given to the Fund.

(2) Any sum of money which by the judgment of any court has been awarded against the Fund shall, subject to any direction given by the court, where no notice of appeal against the judgment has been given, be paid from the funds of the Fund.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 41 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 41 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 42: **Indemnity of Officers.**
A member of the Council, the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, or any other officer or employee of the Fund shall be indemnified out of the assets of the Fund against any liability incurred in defending any proceeding, whether civil or criminal, if the proceeding is brought against the Fund.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 42 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 42 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 43: **Jurisdiction.**
The Federal High Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all matters, suits and cases arising from this Bill or any regulations made under this Bill.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 43 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 43 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 44: **Interpretation.**
In this Bill —
"Act" means the National Research and Innovation Development Fund (Establishment) Act, 2026:

"Council" means the National Council on Research and Innovation established under section 6 of this Bill;

"development'' means systematic utilisation of knowledge or understanding gained from research towards the production of materials, devices, systems, or methods and includes design and development of prototypes and processes;

"Fund" means the National Research and Innovation Development Fund established under section 3 of this Bill;

"innovation'' means the act or process of innovating or introducing a new product, technology or method;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for Innovation, Science and Technology;

"NCDF" means the Nigerian Content Development Fund established under section 104 of the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010;

"person" includes institutions and corporate entities;

"President" means the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

"professional academy" includes Nigeria Academy of Science, Nigeria Academy of Engineering, Nigeria Academy of Medicine, Nigeria Academy of Letters, Social Science Academy of Nigeria, and any other recognised academy;

"research'' means a process intended to create new or improved technology that can provide competitive advantage at business, development, national or global level;

"research institution" includes any organisation practising research as recognised by this Bill or any Act of the National Assembly; and

"science'' includes any system of knowledge attained by verifiable means and the organised body of knowledge humans have gained by research.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 44 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 44 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 45: **Short Title.**
This Bill may be cited as the National Research and Innovation Development Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2026.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 45 be retained (*Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South*).

Question that Clause 45 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SCHEDULE

[Section 6 (6)]

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE COUNCIL

Proceedings of the Council

1. Subject to this Act and section 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 those of its committees, notices to be given, the keeping of minutes of its proceedings, the custody and production for inspection of such minutes and such other matters as the Council may from time to time determine.

Meetings of the Council

2. (1) There shall be not more than four statutory meetings of the Council in every calendar year.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of sub-paragraph (1), the Council shall meet—

(a) whenever it is convened by the Chairman; or

(b) within 21 days from the date of a notice given to the Chairman by not less than 5 other members.

(3) A meeting of the Council shall be presided over by the Chairman and if the Chairman is unable to attend a particular meeting, either of the Co-Vice Chairmen.

(4) Where the Chairman and the Vice Chairmen are absent, the members present at the meeting shall elect a member among them to preside at the meeting.

Quorum

3. The quorum of the Council shall be 7 members and the quorum of any committee of the Council shall be determined by the Council.

Venue of meeting of Council

4. The Council shall meet for the conduct of its business at its executive secretariat, or at such places and on such days as the Chairman may appoint.

Determination of issues before the Council

5. 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 the members present and voting.

Chairman's casting vote

6. The Chairman, in the case of an equality of votes, shall have a casting vote.

Participation by non-members of the Council

7. Where the Council desires to obtain the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Council may co-opt the person to the Council for such period as it deems fit, but the person who is in attendance by virtue of this paragraph shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Council and shall not count towards the required quorum as contemplated by paragraph 3 of this Schedule.

Committees

8. (1) The Council may appoint one or more committees to carry out on its behalf, such functions as it may determine.

(2) A committee appointed under this paragraph shall consist of such number of persons as may be determined by the Council, and a person 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 until it is approved by the Council.

Execution of documents

9. (1) The fixing of the seal of the Fund shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman (or any of the co-vice chairmen in the absence of the Chairman) and the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer.

(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 Fund by the Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer or any person authorised by the Council to act for that purpose.

(3) A document purporting to be a contract, an instrument or other document signed or sealed on behalf of the Fund may be received in evidence and unless the contrary is proved, be presumed to have been properly signed or sealed.

Validity of proceedings

10. The validity of any proceedings of the Council or its committees shall not be affected by —

(a) any vacancy in the membership of the Council or its committees;

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

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

Disclosure of conflict of interests

11. (1) A member of the Council, and any person holding office on a committee of the Council, who has a personal interest in any contract or arrangement entered into or proposed to be considered by the Council or its committee, shall immediately disclose the nature of the interest to the Council and shall not vote on any question relating to the contract or arrangement.

(2) A disclosure under subparagraph (1) of this paragraph shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the Council.

Question that the provision in this Schedule stand part of the bill agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The President of the Senate reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND on a Bill for An Act to Establish the National Research and Innovation Development Fund and the National Council on Research and Innovation to Promote, Coordinate, Fund and Support Research, Innovation, Development and Commercialisation in Nigeria; and for Related Matters, 2026 and approved as follows:

Clauses 1 - 45	—	As Recommended
Schedule	—	As Recommended

Question: That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Motion made: That the Bill be now Read the Third Time *(Senate Leader).*

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly Read the Third Time and Passed.

b. National Postgraduate Medical College Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (SB. 1068).

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AND TETFUND ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL MEDICAL COLLEGE ACT, CAP N59, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA 2004, TO REFLECT THE CHANGE OF THE INSTITUTIONAL NAME, EXPAND THE MANDATE OF THE COLLEGE TO INCLUDE THE AWARD OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D) DEGREES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE, DENTISTRY AND RELATED FIELDS AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2026

Clause 1: **Amendment of the National Medical College Act, Cap N59, LFN 2004**
The National Medical College Act, Cap N59, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN) 2004 (the "Principal Act"), is amended as set out in this Bill.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 1 be retained *(Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 1 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 2: **Amendment of section 1**
Section 1 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting the existing section with a new section 1 -

"Establishment of the National Postgraduate Medical College

1. (1) There is established the National Postgraduate Medical College "the College".

(2) The College -

(a) shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal; and

(b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name."

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 2 be retained *(Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 2 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 3: **Amendment of section 2**
Section 2 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting the existing section with a new section 2 -

"Functions of the College
2. The College shall -
(a) conduct professional post-graduate examination of candidates in the various specialised branches of medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynaecology and dental surgery and make awards in relation to such examinations; and

(b) establish academic programmes and award Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) degrees in clinical fields of medicine, dentistry, basic medical sciences, Pharmacology and related fields, subject to accreditation and regulation by the National Universities Commission."

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 3 be retained *(Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 3 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 4: **Amendment of section 7**
Section 7 of the Principal Act is amended by substituting the existing section with a new section 7 -

"Functions of the Senate
7. The Senate shall run the academic affairs of the College including the-
(a) organisation and control of courses of study at the College and examinations held in connection with such courses;

(b) award of degrees, diplomas and such other qualifications as may be prescribed in connection with such courses; and

(c) development and implementation of doctoral programmes in clinical fields of medicine, dentistry, basic medical sciences, pharmacology and related fields, subject to accreditation and regulation by the National Universities Commission."

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 4 be retained *(Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 4 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 5: **Short title**
This Bill may be cited as the National Postgraduate Medical College (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 5 be retained *(Senator Mohammed, Dandutse Muntari — Katsina South) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 5 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The President of the Senate reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Tertiary Institutions and TETFUND on a Bill for An Act to Amend the National Medical College Act, Cap N59, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, to Reflect the Change of the Institutional Name, Expand the Mandate of the College to Include the Award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) Degrees in Clinical Medicine, Dentistry and Related Fields and for Related Matters, 2026 and approved as follows:

Clauses 1 - 5 — As Recommended

Question: That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Motion made: That the Bill be now Read the Third Time *(Senate Leader).*

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly Read the Third Time and Passed.

7. **National Library of Nigeria (Establishment) Act (Repeal & Enactment) Bill, 2026 (HB.89) — Concurrence:**
Motion made: That a Bill for An Act to Repeal the National Library Act, Cap. N56, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the National Library Bill to Establish and Maintain the National Library of Nigeria, Strengthen its Statutory Functions; and for Related Matters, 2026 be read the Second Time *(Senate Leader).*

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee of the Whole to Report forthwith.

Motion made: Pursuant to Order 78(3) that the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report *(Senate Leader).*

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL THE NATIONAL LIBRARY ACT, CAP. N56, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 AND ENACT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BILL, TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA, STRENGTHEN ITS STATUTORY FUNCTIONS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2026.

Clause 1: Establishment of the National Library

(1) There is established the National Library of Nigeria (in this Bill referred to as "the National Library").

(2) The National Library -

(a) is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal;

(b) may sue and be sued in its corporate name; and

(c) may acquire, hold and dispose of property moveable and immoveable in the performance of its functions under this Bill.

(3) The headquarters of the National Library is situated in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory.

(4) The National Library shall have branches in each state capital of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 1 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 1 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 2: **Objectives of the Bill**

The objectives of this Bill are to -

(a) strengthen the legal deposit drive in conformity with International best practices;

(b) embrace e-government policy, incorporate digital system and national repository;

(c) confer research status on the National Library of Nigeria; and

(d) reflect the title of chief executive officer of National Librarian in line with International best practices.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 2 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 2 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 3: **Establishment and membership of the Governing Board of the National Library**

(1) There is established for the National Library a Governing Board (in this Bill referred to as "the Board") which shall direct the affairs of the National Library.

(2) The Board shall consist of -

(a) a chairman;

(b) one representative of the Federal Ministry of Education;

(c) one representative of the Nigerian Association of University Librarians;

(d) one representative of the Nigerian Library Association;

(e) one representative' of the Nigerian Authors and Publishers Association established in Nigeria;

(f) one representative of each geopolitical zone of Nigeria as prescribed in the Second Schedule to this Bill;

(g) one representative of the National Archives of Nigeria; and

(h) the National Librarian.

(3) The Chairman and other members of the Board shall be appointed by the President on the recommendation of the Minister.

(4) Subject to subsection (1) (a) of this Bill, a person appointed as a member of the Board, who is not an ex-officio member, shall hold office for four years and no more.

(5) The supplementary provisions contained in the First Schedule to this Bill shall have effect with respect to the proceedings of the Board, and other matters mentioned in it.

(6) There shall be paid to every member of the Board such allowances and expenses as the Federal Government may direct.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 3 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 3 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 4: Cessation of office

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 3 (4) of this Bill, a person shall cease to hold office as a member of the Board where -

(a) his term of office expires;

(b) he resigns his office by a notice in writing under his hand addressed to the President through the Minister;

(c) he dies;

(d) he is incapable of carrying out his duties due to physical or mental illness;

(e) he is declared bankrupt;

(f) he is convicted of a felony or any offence involving dishonesty;

(g) he is found guilty of gross misconduct relating to his duties;

(h) in the case of a person possessed of professional qualification, he is disqualified or suspended from practicing his profession in any part of the world by an order of a competent authority; or

(i) in the case of an ex-officio member, he ceases to hold the office on the basis of which he is a member of the Board.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (1), a member of the Board may be suspended or removed from office by the President if the President is satisfied that it is not in the interest of the National Library or the public that the member continues in office.

(3) Where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, it shall be filled by the appointment of a successor representing the same interest to hold office for the remainder of the term of office of his predecessor.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 4 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 4 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 5: **Functions and powers of the Board**
The Board shall -

(a) formulate policy and superintend over the policy, finance and property of the National Library including its public relations;

(b) set out the economic, financial, operational and administrative policies, programmes and targets of the National Library in line with the overall objective of setting up the organisation, and take into cognisance of the policy directives of the Government as provided by the Minister;

(c) measure performance against targets, introduce broad policy measures and supervise management to ensure that the targets are achieved; and

(d) approve procedures for collection, preservation and use of the National Library collections.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 5 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 5 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 6: **Functions of the National Library**
The National Library shall -

(a) act as a national depository institution for books and any other literary output in Nigeria including digital publications;

(b) digitise and upload collected legal deposit materials to its virtual library without compromising the copyright of authors and publishers;

(c) act as the focal institution and advisory body to individual, corporate and Government institutions on library and information matters;

(d) acquire, process, organise, disseminate as well as provide links to information resources to Nigerians and non-Nigerians, for their educational pursuit and for informed decision making;

(e) assemble and maintain a collection of all books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, gazettes, laws, bye-laws, notices, orders and other government publications which are published in and about Nigeria;

(f) assemble and maintain a collection of all musical recordings and films produced in and about Nigeria;

(g) develop networks and linkages with other libraries in Nigeria and anywhere in the world;

(h) prepare catalogues, indexes and similar research aids;

(i) register and represent international standard publishing agencies in Nigeria, such as International Standard Book Number (ISBN), International Standard Serial Number (ISSN), International Standard Music Number (ISMN) and any other international standard publishing agency;

(j) prescribe the rules and procedures for granting applications and issuance of ISBN, ISSN, ISMN or as may be applicable;

(k) allocate ISBN to publications that emanate from Nigeria, assign ISSN to new serial titles and ISMN to music publications;

(l) make the facilities of the National Library available to members of the public and others on proper terms, which may include provision for-

(i) registration of persons admitted to use the library facilities, and

(ii) safe-guard of the property' of the National Library;

(m) impose fees or administrative charges for services rendered to the public, subject to approval of the Board;

(n) provide consultancy services to individuals, communities, corporate bodies, agencies and other government bodies as it relates to library matters;

(o) develop and publish the National Bibliography of Nigeria and national bibliographical services, either in nine national bibliographical centres or elsewhere;

(p) engage in research on any subject of national interest relating to library affairs and publish its findings for public use;

(q) provide and encourage staff to undertake capacity-building and skill acquisition programmes to enhance their skills in the performance of their duties to the National Library;

(r) engage in readership promotion campaign with a view to encourage reading culture and awareness among Nigerians;

(s) provide leadership initiative in the area of resource sharing and library co-operation;

(t) audit the sources of unrecorded information such as indigenous knowledge which are required for continued research into national heritage of Nigerian history and culture;

(u) develop Information and Communication Technology (ICT) facilities to ensure that the services of the National Library are offered in real time, more widely and efficiently;

(v) develop and provide virtual and other ICT related library services;

(w) provide, in accordance with this Bill, the services provided by the national libraries of highest standing as the Board may deem;

(x) establish a Centre for Advanced Library and Information Management (CALIM) and other capacity building centres that may be responsible for short and long term capacity building of librarians and other information personnel;

(y) subject to extant laws, grant open access in print or electronic form to research publications sponsored by Government and international agencies;

(z) be an educational research institution;

(aa) act as the Bibliographic body of Nigeria;

(bb) act as Registrar of all other libraries in Nigeria;

(cc) index and keep the list of all public library in a data base in Nigeria and cause a certificate of registration to be issued; and

(dd) facilitate collaboration and linkages with related organisations.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 6 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 6 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 7: Appointment of the National Librarian

(1) There is appointed for the National Library a National Librarian ("National Librarian"), by the President on the recommendation of the Minister.

(2) The National Librarian shall -

(a) be subject to the general direction and supervision of the Board;

(b) be a person who has capacity in the organisation of library and its services;

(c) be the chief executive and accounting officer of the National Library;

(d) be a degree holder with at least 18 years cognate experience on matters which relates to library and information management;

(e) execute the policies of the Board and be responsible for the administration of the National Library; and

(f) discharge other duties as the Board may direct.

(3) The National Librarian shall hold office for a term of four years and is eligible for another term of four years and no more.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 7 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 7 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 8: **Staff of the National Library**
The National Library may, subject to the approval of the Board, appoint such staff as it deems necessary and expedient -

(a) for the proper and efficient performance of its functions; and

(b) on such terms and conditions, with remunerations, allowances and benefits as may be determined by the Board, in consultation with the National Salaries Incomes and Wages Commission.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 8 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 8 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 9: **Service in the National Library**

(1) Service in the National Library shall be approved service for the purposes of the Pension Reform Act, and accordingly, staff of the National Library are entitled to pensions and other retirement benefits as are prescribed under the Pension Reform Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of subsection (1), nothing in this Bill shall prevent the appointment of a person to any office on conditions which preclude the grant of a pension, gratuity or other retirement benefits in respect of the office.

(3) For the application of the provisions of the Pension Reform Act, any power exercisable by a Minister or other authority of the Government other than the power to make regulations under the Pension Reform Act is vested in and shall be exercised by the Board.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 9 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 9 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 10: Deposit obligations

(1) An author or publisher of a published work in Nigeria shall within one month after the publication, deposit with the National Library perfect copies in print and electronic form (the published work) for permanent preservation and public use at their own expense.

(2) Where the publication is by or on behalf of any department of the Federal Government, State Government or an individual, the number of copies to deposit shall be 37 for Federal, 18 for States and four for individuals; which shall be delivered to the National Library for permanent preservation and public use at their own expense.

(3) Publications in digital and print forms sponsored by Government and inter government agencies, deposited with the National Library shall be made available freely without copyright restrictions.

(4) Collection of electronic publications by Nigerians for and about Nigeria domiciled in other databases and repositories shall be harvested for free and access given in perpetuity to the National Library.

(5) Where an author or publisher fails to deposit the requisite number of copies of the published work at the National Library as provided in subsection (1), the National Library shall -

(a) seize the published work; and

(b) impose a fine of five times the cover price of the publication.

(6) An author or publisher who fails to comply with the provision of subsection (1), the author or publisher commits an offence and is liable upon conviction -

(a) in the case of an individual to a fine 10 times the cover price of the publication; or

(b) in the case of a body corporate, to a fine 20 times the cover price of the publication.

(7) Without prejudice to subsection (6), the court shall order the person in default to deliver to the National Library the mandatory number of copies of the publications.

(8) Any person who refuses to grant free access for the collection of electronic publications, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a minimum fine of ₦500,000.

(9) A book, periodical or any other publication shall not be launched publicly anywhere in Nigeria unless the author or publisher has obtained a certificate of clearance of depositing the publication with the National Library.

(10) Any person who fails to present the certificate of clearance, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a minimum fine of ₦500,000.

(11) The President may, by order in the Federal Government Gazette exclude any publisher or book from the operation of subsections (1) and (2).

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 10 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 10 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 11: International standard publishing obligations

(1) A book, periodical or publication, including digital materials published in Nigeria which meets international standard publishing format shall be assigned an appropriate international standard number by the National Library.

(2) An author or publisher who fails to obtain international standard number for his publication, commits an offence and is liable upon conviction to a fine of at least ₦100,000.

(3) An author or publisher who obtains an international standard number from an unauthorised source, commits an offence and is liable upon conviction to a fine of at least ₦100,000.

(4) A staff or director of an organisation who issues unauthorised international standard number, commits an offence and is liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term of two years without an option of fine.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 11 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 11 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 12: Fund of the National Library.

There is established a fund for the National Library (in this Bill referred to as "the Fund") which shall consist of -

(a) all subventions and budgetary allocations from the Federal Government;

(b) foreign aid assistance from international, regional or sub-regional bodies, provided that the foreign aid assistance is not inconsistent with the objectives of the National Library;

(c) all sums which accrue to the National Library by way of gifts, endowments or testamentary depositions; and

(d) any other fund as may accrue to the National Library from its investments or from the disposal of its assets.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 12 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 12 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 13: **Expenditure of the National Library**

The National Library shall apply the proceeds of the Fund to -

(a) meet its administrative and operating costs;

(b) pay salaries, wages, fees, allowances, retirement benefits including pensions and any other remuneration payable to the staff of the National Library;

(c) publicise and promote the activities, of the National Library;

(d) purchase or acquire property, develop, or maintain any property vested in or owned by the National Library; and

(e) undertake any other expenditure in connection with its functions under this Bill.

Committee's Recommendation:

That the provision in Clause 13 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 13 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 14: **Accounts and audit**

(1) The National Library shall keep proper accounts and other records relating to the National Library and shall prepare, in respect of each financial year, a statement of accounts and present it to the Board.

(2) The accounts of the National Library shall be audited by auditors appointed by the Board from the list of auditors and in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the Auditor-General for the Federation.

Committee's Recommendation:

That the provision in Clause 14 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 14 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 15: **Annual report**

The National Librarian shall prepare and submit to the Board, not later than 30 May in each financial year, a report in such form as the Board may direct, on the activities of the National Library during the last preceding financial year, and shall include in the report a copy of the audited accounts of the National Library for the last preceding financial year and of the auditors' report on the accounts.

Committee's Recommendation:

That the provision in Clause 15 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 15 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 16: **Power to accept gifts**

The National Library may accept gifts on such terms and conditions, if any, as may be specified by the donor of the gift, provided that the terms and conditions are not contrary to the objectives and functions of the National Library.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 16 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 16 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 17: Power to make regulations

The National Librarian may make such regulations -

(a) as in his opinion are necessary or expedient to give effect to the provisions of this Bill; and

(b) to vary the number of copies of publication to be deposited by an author or publisher.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 17 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 17 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 18: Legal proceedings, service of documents

(1) A suit against the National Library or any member, officer or staff of the National Library in his capacity as such, shall not lie or be instituted unless it is commenced within 12 months following the act, neglect or default complained of or, in the case of a continuance of damage or injury, within the 12 months following the cessation.

(2) A suit shall not be commenced against the National Library or any member, officer or staff of the National Library in his capacity as such, unless at least one month written notice of intention to commence the suit is served on the National Library by or on behalf of the intending plaintiff, which states the -

(a) cause of action;

(b) particulars of the claim; and

(c) name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff and the relief claimed.

(3) The notice referred to in subsection (2) and any summons, notice or other documents required or authorised to be served on the Board or National Library may, except where there is express provision to the contrary, be served by -

(a) delivering it to the National Librarian; or

(b) sending it by registered post, addressed to the National Librarian, at the principal office of the National Library.

(4) The National Library shall, without prejudice to any other right of representation, be represented at any stage of the proceedings by any member, officer or staff of the National Library who is duly authorised in writing by the National Librarian in that behalf.

(5) In any suit against the National Library, no execution, attachment or process shall be issued against the National Library, except any sum of money which may, by the judgment of the court, be awarded

against the National Library and shall subject to any direction given by the court where notice of appeal has been given by the National Library in respect of the judgment, be paid by the National Librarian from the funds of the National Library.

(6) In this section "suit" means any civil proceeding however commenced.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 18 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 18 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 19: Repeal and savings provisions

(1) The National Library Act, Cap. N56, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 is repealed.

(2) From the commencement of this Bill, all assets, funds, resources and other movable or immovable property which, immediately before the commencement of this Bill is vested on the National Library, is vested in the National Library established under this Bill.

(3) From the commencement of this Bill -

(a) the rights, interests, obligations and liabilities of the former Board existing immediately before the commencement of this Bill under any contract or instrument shall under this Bill be assigned and vest in the Board established in this Bill;

(b) anything made, done or having effect under the repealed Act and having any resulting or continuing effect shall be treated from the commencement of this Bill, as if it were made or done by the National Library established under this Bill; and

(c) any person who before the commencement of this Bill, is appointed or employed by the National Library established under the repealed Act shall continue in office and is deemed appointed or employed by the National Library established under this Bill.

(4) All assets, rights, liabilities and obligations of the National Library under the repealed Act are, under this Bill, deemed to be that of the National Library established under this Bill.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 19 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 19 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 20: Interpretation

In this Bill -

"Bibliographic services" means management and processing of publications by the National Library for ease of access;

"Board" means the National Library Board, established under section 2 of this Bill;

"Chairman" means the Chairman of the Board;

"competent authority" includes a court and professional bodies;

"Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for education;

"National Library" means the apex library of Nigeria established under section 1 of this Bill;

"National Librarian" means the Chief Executive Officer of the National Library; and;

"State" means a State of the Federation.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 20 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 20 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 21: **Citation**
This Bill may be cited as the National Library of Nigeria (Establishment) Act (Repeal & Enactment) Bill, 2026.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 21 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 21 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

SCHEDULES

FIRST SCHEDULE

Section 3 (5)

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD

Proceedings of the Board

1. (1) Subject to this Bill and section 3 of the Interpretation Act, Cap. I23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 the Board may make standing orders to regulate the proceedings of the Board or any of its committee.

(2) The quorum of the Board shall be four and the quorum of any committee of the Board shall be determined by the Board.

(3) The Board shall elect a member of the Board to be the Deputy Chairman of the Board for such period as the Board may determine, however a Deputy Chairman who ceases to be a member shall cease to be the Deputy Chairman.

(4) Where the office of the Chairman is vacant or the Chairman is, in the opinion of the Board, unable to perform the functions of his office, the Deputy Chairman shall perform those functions, and the references in this Bill to the Chairman shall be construed accordingly.

(5) The Board shall meet not more than four times in each calendar year.

(6) Subject to subparagraph (5) and standing orders of the Board, the Board shall meet where it is summoned for emergency meeting by the Chairman and if the Chairman is required to do so by notice given to him by at least seven other members, he shall summon an emergency meeting of the Board to be held within seven days from the date on which the notice is given.

(7) At any meeting of the Board the Chairman, in his absence the Deputy Chairman, shall preside, but if both are absent, the members present at the meeting shall elect one of their member to preside at the meeting.

(8) Where the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on a particular matter, the Board may co-opt the person as a member for such period as it deems fit, but a person who is a member under this paragraph, is not entitled to vote at any meeting of the Board and shall not count towards a quorum.

(9) The Board shall appoint three standing committees which are the Finance and General Purpose, the Establishment and Planning Committee and the Development Committee to which the Board shall delegate its functions.

(10) The Board shall appoint a Secretary to the Board, who shall -

(a) be an officer of the National Library but not a member of the Board; and

(b) discharge such duties as the Board or the National Librarian may determine.

(11) Without prejudice to the generality of the powers conferred by this Bill, the Board has power to make staff regulations, to regulate the conditions of service of the staff of the National Library to provide for -

(a) the appointments, promotions, dismissals, disciplines, leave of absence, sabbatical and study leave of senior staff; and

(b) appeals by staff against dismissal or other disciplinary measures and until the regulations are made, an instrument relating to conditions of service in the Public Service of the Federation shall be applicable, with modifications as may be necessary, to the staff of the National, Library.

Miscellaneous

2. (1) The affixing of the seal of the National Library shall be authenticated by the signature of the National Librarian or any authorised officer.

(2) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a person who is not a body corporate, is not required to be under seal, may be made or executed on behalf of the National Library by any person generally or specially authorised by the National Librarian to act for that purpose.

(3) Any document which purports to be a document duly executed under the seal of the National Library shall be received in evidence and is, unless the contrary is proved, presumed to be so executed.

(4) The validity of any proceedings of the Board or its committee is not affected by any -

(a) vacancy in the membership of the Board or committee;

(b) defect in the appointment of a member of the Board; or

(c) reason that a person not entitled to do so took part in the proceedings.

Question that the Provision in the First Schedule stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

SECOND SCHEDULE

Section 3 (2) (f)

The States in each zone referred to in section 3 (2) (f) of this Bill are -
Zone A - North East:
Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe;

Zone B - North West:
Jigawa, Kaduna, Kano, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto, and Zamfara;

Zones C - North Central:
Benue, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, Kwara, Kogi, Niger, Nasarawa and Plateau;

Zone D - South West:
Ekiti, Ondo, Lagos, Ogun, Osun, Oyo;

Zone E - South East:
Abia, Anambra, Ebonyi, Enugu, Imo;

Zone F - South South:
Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Edo and Rivers

Question that the Provision in the Second Schedule stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The President of the Senate reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for An Act to Repeal the National Library Act, Cap. N56, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the National Library Bill, to Establish and Maintain the National Library of Nigeria, Strengthen its Statutory Functions; and for Related Matters, 2026 and approved as follows:

Clauses 1 - 21	—	As Recommended
Schedules 1&2	—	As Recommended

Question: That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Motion made: That the Bill be now Read the Third Time *(Senate Leader).*

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly Read the Third Time and Passed.

8. **Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (HB. 1471) — Concurrence:**
Motion made: That a Bill for An Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Provide a Legal Framework for the Establishment of the Federal Medical Centre Zuru, Kebbi State; and for Related Matters, 2026 be read the Second Time *(Senate Leader)*.

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee of the Whole to Report forthwith.

Motion made: Pursuant to Order 78(3) that the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report *(Senate Leader)*.

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRES ACT, 2022 TO PROVIDE A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE ZURU, KEBBI STATE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2026.

Clause 1: **Amendment of the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022**
The Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 (in this Bill referred to as the "Principal Act'') is amended as set out in this Bill.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 1 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 1 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 2: **Amendment of the Second Schedule**
The Second Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting new item-

"(45) Federal Medical Centre Zuru, Kebbi"

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 2 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 2 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 3: **Citation**
This Bill may be cited as the Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 3 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 3 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The President of the Senate reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for An Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Provide a Legal Framework for the Establishment of the Federal Medical Centre Zuru, Kebbi State; and for Related Matters, 2026 and approved as follows:

Clauses 1 - 3 — As Recommended

Question: That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Motion made: That the Bill be now Read the Third Time *(Senate Leader).*

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly Read the Third Time and Passed.

9. **Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (HB. 1706) — Concurrence:**
Motion made: That a Bill for An Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Provide a Legal Framework for the Establishment of the Federal Medical Centre Gumel, Jigawa State; and for Related Matters, 2026 be read the Second Time *(Senate Leader).*

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee of the Whole to Report forthwith.

Motion made: Pursuant to Order 78(3) that the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report *(Senate Leader).*

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRES ACT, 2022 TO PROVIDE A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE GUMEL, JIGAWA STATE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2026.

Clause 1: **Amendment of the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022**
The Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 (in this Bill referred to as the "Principal Act") is amended as set out in this Bill.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 1 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 1 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 2: **Amendment of the Second Schedule**
The Second Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting new item-

"(46) Federal Medical Centre Gumel, Jigawa"

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 2 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 2 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 3: **Citation**
This Bill may be cited as the Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 3 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 3 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The President of the Senate reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for An Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Provide a Legal Framework for the Establishment of the Federal Medical Centre Gumel, Jigawa State; and for Related Matters, 2026 and approved as follows:

Clauses 1 - 3 — As Recommended

Question: That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Motion made: That the Bill be now Read the Third Time *(Senate Leader).*

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly Read the Third Time and Passed.

10. **Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (HB. 2652) — Concurrence:**
Motion made: That a Bill for An Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Provide a Legal Framework for the Establishment of the Federal Medical Centre Monguno, Borno State; and for Related Matters, 2026 be read the Second Time (*Senate Leader).*

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee of the Whole to Report forthwith.

Motion made: Pursuant to Order 78(3) that the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report (*Senate Leader).*

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRES ACT, 2022 TO PROVIDE A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE MONGUNO, BORNO STATE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2026.

Clause 1: **Amendment of the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022**
The Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 (in this Bill referred to as the "Principal Act'') is amended as set out in this Bill.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 1 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 1 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 2: **Amendment of the Second Schedule**
The Second Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting new item-

"(47) Federal Medical Centre Monguno, Borno"

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 2 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 2 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 3: **Citation**
This Bill may be cited as the Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 3 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 3 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The President of the Senate reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for An Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Provide A Legal Framework for the Establishment of the Federal Medical Centre Monguno, Borno State; and for Related Matters, 2026 and approved as follows:

Clauses 1 - 3 — As Recommended

Question: That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Motion made: That the Bill be now Read the Third Time *(Senate Leader).*

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly Read the Third Time and Passed.

11. Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (HB. 633) — Concurrence:
Motion made: That a Bill for An Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Provide a Legal Framework for the Establishment of the Federal Medical Centre Uluoke, Edo State; and for Related Matters, 2026 be read the Second Time *(Senate Leader)*.

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee of the Whole to Report forthwith.

Motion made: Pursuant to Order 78(3) that the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report *(Senate Leader)*.

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRES ACT, 2022 TO PROVIDE A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE ULUOKE, EDO STATE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2026.

Clause 1: **Amendment of the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022**
The Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 (in this Bill referred to as the "Principal Act'') is amended as set out in this Bill.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 1 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 1 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 2: **Amendment of the Second Schedule**
The Second Schedule to the Principal Act is amended by inserting new item-

"(48) Federal Medical Centre Uluoke, Edo"

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 2 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 2 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Clause 3: **Citation**
This Bill may be cited as the Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

Committee's Recommendation:
That the provision in Clause 3 be retained *(Senate Leader) — Agreed to.*

Question that Clause 3 do stand part of the Bill, put and agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The President of the Senate reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for An Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act, 2022 to Provide a Legal Framework for the Establishment of the Federal Medical Centre Uluoke, Edo State; and for Related Matters, 2026 and approved as follows:

Clauses 1 - 3 — As Recommended

Question: That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Motion made: That the Bill be now Read the Third Time *(Senate Leader).*

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly Read the Third Time and Passed.

12. **National Sugar Development Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026 (HBs. 2022 & 2030) — Concurrence:**
Motion made: That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Sugar Development Council Act to Provide for the Functions and Powers of the Council; and for Related Matters, 2026 be read the Second Time *(Senate Leader).*

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly read the Second Time and referred to the Committee of the Whole to Report forthwith.

Motion made: Pursuant to Order 78(3) that the Senate do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report *(Senate Leader).*

Question put and agreed to.

(SENATE IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL SUGAR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE COUNCIL; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2026

Clause 1: **Amendment of Cap. N78 LFN, 2004.**
The National Sugar Development Council Act, Cap. N78, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (in this Bill referred to as "the Principal Act") is amended as set out in this Bill.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 1 be retained *(Senate Leader).*

Question that Clause 1 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 2: **Amendment of section 3.**
Function of the Council.
Section 3 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting subsection (1), and renumbering the existing section 3 as follows:

"3. (1) The functions of the Council shall be to —

(a) draw-up policy guidelines and action programmes on sugar development;

(b) provide guidelines on the development of sugar estates and the organization of the sugar cane out grower scheme to enhance the viability of sugar plants;

(c) facilitate the availability of credit for sugar cane out growers for land preparation and farm inputs in liaison with Federal, State and local government institutions and bodies corporate, whose objectives relate to the objectives of the sugar cane out grower scheme;

(d) establish, maintain and supervise the Sugar Research Institute to develop new and improved sugar cane technology and sugar cane varieties;

(e) advise on the adaptation of machinery and other processes for sugar development;

(f) set targets and measure the performance of local sugar producers;

(g) set benchmark and regulate sugar imports and exports based on local sugar production and consumption projection, and grant license for the establishment of new sugar industries, including refineries, and sugarcane cultivation and processing facilities, and set standards for the establishment of sugarcane facilities, mills and refineries;

(h) advise, based on improvements in local sugar production, the Government of the Federation on the rate of tariff to be charged on imported sugar; and

(i) conduct annual inspections and assessments of existing raw and refined sugar facilities to ensure compliance with the set standards.

(2) The Council shall, in consultation with the minister responsible for sugar development, set the Annual Import Quota Allocation at a volume net of proven local production capacity for raw and refined sugar in the prior year.

(3) All sugar imports into Nigeria shall be based on the Annual Import Quota Allocation determined by the Council and approved by the President:

Provided that the Council shall only undertake importation of raw and refined sugar, where there is shortage of sugar in the domestic market, and or where the importation of sugar is necessary to stabilize the price of sugar in the domestic market.

(4) The Annual Import Quota Allocation of the preceding year shall be in force until the President's approval of the current year allocation.

(5) The importation of raw and refined sugar into Nigeria shall be based on the NSMP Tariff Regime and as approved in the Annual Raw Sugar Import Quota Allocation determined by the Council, irrespective of their origin

(6) Any person or organization that contravenes this provision shall be liable to a penalty of ten times the Common External Tariff application to non - participants in the sugar Backward Integration Program in addition to any other penalty that may be prescribed under any other law."

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 2 be retained (*Senate Leader*).

Question that Clause 2 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 3: **Funds of the Council**
Amendment of section 6
Section 6 of the Principal Act is amended in subsection (2) (a), by substituting for the existing paragraph (a) with a new paragraph (a) (i-iii) as follows:
"(a) a surcharge of at least ten percent of the CIF value of raw and refined sugar imports; to be paid by the importer of the raw and refined sugar at the point of importation, and shall be used to fund the NSDC, including:
(i) research and development in the sugar industry development of infrastructure for sugar production and processing;

(ii) training and capacity-building programs for Stakeholders in the Sugar Industry;

(iii) support for local sugar producers."

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 3 be retained (*Senate Leader*).

Question that Clause 3 *do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.*

Clause 4: **Amendment of section 13**
Section 13 of the Principal Act is amended by renumbering section 13 as section 13(1), and introducing a new section 13(2) as follows:

"13 (2) No suit should be commenced against the Council before the expiration of a period of one month, after a written notice of intention to commence the suit shall have been served on the Council by the intending plaintiff or his agent.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 4 be retained (*Senate Leader*).

Question that Clause 4 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Clause 5: **Citation**
This Bill may be cited as the National Sugar Development Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

***Committee's Recommendation*:**
That the provisions in Clause 5 be retained (*Senate Leader*).

Question that Clause 5 do stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(SENATE IN PLENARY)

The President of the Senate reported that the Senate in the Committee of the Whole considered a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Sugar Development Council Act to Provide for the Functions and Powers of the Council; and for Related Matters, 2026 and approved as follows:

Clauses 1 - 5 — As Recommended

Question: That the Senate do approve the Report of the Committee of the Whole — *Resolved in the Affirmative.*

Motion made: That the Bill be now Read the Third Time *(Senate Leader).*

Question put and agreed to.

Bill accordingly Read the Third Time and Passed.

13. **State Security Service Research and Development Bureau (Establishment) Bill, 2026 (HB.2716) — Concurrence:**
Motion made: That a Bill for An Act to Establish the State Security Service Research and Development Bureau to Conduct and Coordinate Robust Research and Development in the State Security Service; and for Related Matters, 2026 be read the Second Time (*Senate Leader).*

Debate:

Bill accordingly stood down and referred to the Ad Hoc Committee on Concurrence.

14. **Adjournment:**
Motion made: That the Senate do adjourn till Tuesday, 24th November, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. *(Senate Leader).*

Question put and agreed to.

Senate adjourned accordingly at 2:24 p.m.

Godswill Obot Akpabio, *GCON*
President,
Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.