

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL
INSTITUTE FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ROBOTIC STUDIES
SOMOLU, LAGOS STATE AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Ademorin A. Kuye

[] Commencement

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

1 PART 1 - ESTABLISHMENT, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE INSTITUTE

2 1.-(1) There is hereby established an Institute to be known as the
3 National Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Robotic Studies, Somolu,
4 Lagos State (in this Act referred to as "the Institute") which shall have such
5 powers and exercise such functions as are conferred on it by this Act.

Establishment
of National Institute
for Artificial
Intelligence and
Robotic Studies,
Somolu, Lagos
State

6 (2) The Institute shall be a body corporate with perpetual
7 succession and a common seal and shall have power to acquire and dispose
8 of interests in movable and immovable property and may sue and be sued in
9 its corporate name.

10 (3) The object of the Institute shall be:

11 (a) to encourage the advancement of learning and to hold out to all
12 persons without distinction of race, creed, sex, political conviction, the
13 opportunity of acquiring a higher education in Artificial Intelligence and
14 Robotic Studies;

15 (b) to develop and offer academic and professional programmes
16 leading to the award of Professional Certificates, National Diplomas and
17 Higher National Diplomas which emphasize planning, adaptive, technical,
18 maintenance, developmental and productive skills in technology and to
19 contribute to the scientific transformation of digital learning in Nigeria;

20 (c) to act as agent and catalysts through training, research and

1 innovation for the effective utilization and exploitation of the global cutting
2 edge technology;

3 (d) to identify the technological deficiencies and needs of Nigeria and
4 to find solutions to them within the context of overall national development;

5 (e) to provide and promote sound basic scientific training as a
6 foundation for the development of Artificial Intelligence and allied disciplines,
7 taking into account indigenous culture, the need to enhance national unity, the
8 need to vastly increase the practical content of student training and adequate
9 preparation of graduates for self-employment in science and technology and
10 allied professions;

11 (f) to promote and emphasize teaching, research and other emerging
12 technologies aimed at transforming the Nigerian digital economy in line with
13 the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS);

14 (g) to create a thriving ecosystem for innovation driven technology,
15 job creation and national development; and

16 (h) to undertake any other activity appropriate for Institutions of
17 Technology.

Governing
Board of the
Institute

18 **2.-(1)** The affairs and running of the Institute shall vest in the
19 Governing Board of the Institute (in this Act referred to as "the Board).

20 (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) of this
21 section, it shall be the responsibility of the Board to consider and approve-

22 (a) the objectives and plan of activities of the Institute;

23 (b) the programme of studies, courses and research to be undertaken
24 by the Institute;

25 (c) the annual estimates of the Institute;

26 (d) the investment plan of the Institute.

27 (3) The Provisions of the First Schedule to this Act shall have effect
28 with respect to the Board as specified therein.

Membership
of the Board

29 **3.-(1)** The Board shall consist of a Chairman and the following other

1 members to be appointed by the Minister of Communications and Digital

2 Economy-

3 (a) a representative of the Federal Ministry responsible for
4 Education;

5 (b) a representative of the Federal Ministry responsible for
6 Communications' and Digital Economy;

7 (c) a representative of the National Board for Technical Education
8 (NBTE);

9 (d) a representative of the National Information Technology
10 Development Agency (NITDA);

11 (e) three persons appointed on individual merit on a nationwide
12 basis with wide experience of service in the public or private sector;

13 (f) two representatives of the Academic Board of the Institute;

14 (g) the Director-General of the Institute.

15 **4.-(1)** A member of the Board (other than an ex-officio member)
16 shall hold office for a term of four years and shall be eligible for
17 reappointment for a further period of three years and no more.

Tenure of office
of members of
the Board

18 (2) Any member of the Board other than an ex-officio member may
19 by notice to the Board resign his appointment.

20 (3) Any vacancy occurring in the membership of the Board shall be
21 filled by the appointment of a successor who shall represent the same
22 interest as his predecessor for the remainder of the term of the predecessor.

23 **5.-(1)** For the carrying out of its objects as specified in section 1 of
24 this Act, the Board shall have power to:

Powers of the
Board

25 (a) hold examinations and award diplomas, professional
26 certificates and other distinctions to persons who have pursued a course of
27 study approved and accredited by the National Board for Technical
28 Education (NBTE) and have satisfied such other requirements as the Board
29 may lay down;

30 (b) demand and receive from any student or any other person

1 attending the Institute for the purpose of instruction such fees as the Board may,
2 with the approval of the Minister, from time to time determine;

3 (c) to exercise disciplinary control over members of the staff of the
4 Institute;

5 (d) prescribe the terms and conditions of service including salaries,
6 allowances, pensions and other remunerations, for all members of the staff of
7 the Institute;

8 (e) encourage and make provisions for research in the Institute;

9 (f) erect, provide, equip and maintain libraries, lecture halls, hall of
10 residence, refectories, sports grounds, playing fields and such other buildings
11 or things as may be necessary, suitable or required;

12 (g) enter into such contracts as may be necessary or expedient for
13 carrying into effect the provisions of this Act;

14 (h) acquire and hold such movable or immovable property as may be
15 necessary or expedient for carrying into effect the provisions of this Act and for
16 the same purpose may sell, lease, mortgage or otherwise alienate or dispose of
17 any property acquired;

18 (i) do anything which in its opinion is calculated to facilitate the
19 carrying out of the objects of the Institute and to promote its best interest;

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

23 (k) institute and award fellowships, scholarships, medals, prizes and
24 other titles;

25 (l) borrow money within Nigeria in such manner and upon such
26 security as the Minister may from time to time authorize;

27 (m) invest the funds of the Institute in securities specified by law or in
28 such other securities in Nigeria as may be approved by the Minister; and

29 (n) do such acts and things whether or not incidental to the foregoing
30 powers as may advance the objects of the Institute.

1	6.-(1) The Minister shall be the Visitor of the Institute.	Visitation
2	(2) The Visitor shall, not less than once in every five years conduct	
3	a visitation of the Institute or appoint a visiting panel consisting of not less	
4	than five experts to conduct the visitation:	
5	(a) for the purpose of evaluating the academic and administrative	
6	performance of the Institute; or	
7	(b) for such other purpose or in respect of any other affairs of the	
8	Institute as the Visitor may deem fit.	
9	7. Subject to the provisions of this Act, the Minister may give to the	Power of the
10	Board directions of a general character or relating generally to matters of	Minister to give
11	policy with regard to the exercise by the Board of its functions under this Act	directions to the
12	and it shall be the duty of the Board to comply with such directions.	Board
13	8.-(1) There shall be established for the Institute the Academic	The Academic
14	Board which shall consist of the following members-	Board and its
15	(a) the Director-General of the Institute who shall be the Chairman;	functions
16	(b) the Deputy Director-General;	
17	(c) all Heads of Departments;	
18	(d) the Librarian;	
19	(e) not more than two members of the academic staff other than	
20	Heads of Departments to be appointed by the Board.	
21	(2) The Academic Board shall be responsible for-	
22	(a) the direction and management of academic matters of the	
23	Institute including the regulation of admission of students, the award of	
24	certificates, scholarships, prizes and other academic distinctions;	
25	(b) making periodic reports on such academic matters to the	
26	Academic Board as the Board may from time to time direct;	
27	(c) discharging any other functions which the Board may delegate	
28	to it.	
29	9.-(1) There shall be for the Institute a Director-General (in this Act	The Director-
30	referred to as "the Director-General) who shall be appointed by the Minister	General of the Institute

1 in accordance with the provisions of this section.

2 (2) Where a vacancy occurs in the post of Director-General, the Board
3 shall-

4 (a) advertise the vacancy in a reputable journal or a widely read
5 newspaper in Nigeria specifying:

6 (i) the qualities of the person who may apply for the post;

7 (ii) the terms and conditions of service applicable to the post;

8 and thereafter draw up a short list of suitable candidates for consideration;

9 (b) constitute a search team consisting of:

10 (i) a member of the Board not being a member of the Academic
11 Board, as Chairman;

12 (ii) two members of the Academic Board not below the rank of chief
13 lecturer;

14 (iii) two members of the Academic Community of the Institute not
15 below the rank of chief lecturer to be selected by the Board, to identify and
16 draw up a short list of suitable persons who are not likely to apply for the post
17 for any reason whatsoever,

18 (3) a Joint Board and Academic Selection Board consisting of:

19 (a) the Chairman of the Board;

20 (b) two members of the Board not being members of the Academic
21 Board;

22 (c) two members of the Academic Board not below the rank of chief
23 lecturer, who were not members of the search team, shall consider the
24 candidates and persons on the short lists drawn up under subsection (2) of this
25 section through an examination of their curriculum vitae and interaction with
26 them and recommend through the Board to the Minister, three candidates for
27 his consideration.

28 (4) The Minister shall appoint as Director one of the candidates
29 recommended to him under the provisions of subsection (3) of this section.

30 (5) Subject to this Act and the general control of the Council, the

1 Director shall be the chief executive of the Institute and shall be charged
2 with general responsibility for matters relating to the day to day
3 management operations of the Institute.

4 (6) The Director:

5 (a) shall hold office for a period of four years beginning with the
6 effective date of his appointment and on such terms and conditions as may
7 be specified in his letter of appointment; and

8 (b) may be reappointed for one further period of four years and no
9 more.

10 **10.-(1)** There shall be for the Institute a Deputy Director General.

Deputy Director
General

11 (2) The Board shall appoint the Deputy Director General from
12 among the chief lecturers in the Institute in one of the following ways, that
13 is:

14 (a) from a list of three candidates in order of preference, submitted
15 by the Director General;

16 (b) on the recommendation of a Selection Board constituted under
17 this section for that purpose; or

18 (c) on the nomination of the Director General.

19 (3) The Selection Board referred to in subsection (2) of this section
20 shall (a) consist of:

21 (i) the Chairman of the Board;

22 (ii) the Director General;

23 (iii) two members of the Board not being members of the Academic
24 Board;

25 (iv) two members of the Academic Board; and

26 (b) make such inquiries as it deems fit before making the
27 recommendation required under that subsection.

28 (4) The Deputy Director General shall:

29 (a) Assist the Director General in the performance of his functions;

30 (b) Act in the place of the Director General when the post of

1 Director General is vacant or if the Director General is, for any reason, absent
2 or unable to perform his functions as Director General; and

3 (c) Perform such other functions as the Director General or the Board
4 may from time to time, assign to him.

5 (5) The Deputy Director General:

6 (a) shall hold office for a period of two years beginning from the
7 effective date of his appointment and on such terms and conditions as may be
8 specified in his letter of appointment; and

9 (b) may be reappointed for further period of two years and no more.

The Registrar
and other staff
of the Institute

10 **11.-(1)** The Board shall appoint a Registrar to the Institute (hereinafter
11 referred to as "the Registrar) who shall keep the records and conduct the
12 correspondence of the Board and shall perform such other duties as the Board
13 and subject thereto as the Director may from time to time direct.

14 (2) The Registrar shall in addition to other duties conferred on him by
15 or under this Act, be the Secretary to the Board, the Academic Board and any
16 committee of the Board and in his absence, the Board or any such committee
17 may appoint some other person to act as the Secretary, and he shall not vote on
18 any question before the Board or count towards a quorum.

19 (3) The Registrar:

20 (a) shall hold office for a period of four years beginning from the
21 effective date of his appointment and on such terms and conditions as may be
22 specified in his letter of appointment; and

23 (b) may be reappointed for one further period of four years and no
24 more.

Other Principal
Officers of the
Institute

25 **12.-(1)** There shall be for the Institute the following principal officers
26 in addition to the Registrar, that is:

27 (a) the Bursar;

28 (b) the Librarian;

29 (c) the Head of Works; and

30 (d) the Head of Medical and Health Services, who shall be appointed

1 by the Board on the recommendation of the Selection Board constituted
2 under section 10(3) of this Act.

3 (2) The Bursar shall be the chief financial officer of the Institute
4 and be responsible to the Director General for the day to day administration
5 and control of the financial affairs of the Institute

6 (3) The Librarian shall be responsible to the Director General for
7 the administration of the Library and the coordination of the library services
8 in the teaching units of the Institute.

9 (4) The Head of Works shall be responsible to the Director General
10 for the maintenance of the Institute buildings, minor works, transport and
11 supervision of the construction projects.

12 (5) The Head of Medical and Health Services shall be responsible
13 to the Director General for the supervision of the medical and health
14 facilities of the Institute.

15 (6) The Principal Officers mentioned in subsection (1):

16 (a) shall hold office for a period of four years beginning from the
17 effective date of his appointment and on such terms and conditions as may
18 be specified in his letter of appointment; and

19 (b) may be reappointed for a further period of four years and no
20 more.

21 (7) Any question as to the scope of the responsibilities of the
22 Principal Officers shall be determined by the Director General.

23 13.-(1) A principal officer may resign his appointment:

24 (a) in the case of the Director General, by notice in writing to the
25 Visitor; and

26 (b) in any other case, by notice in writing to the Board.

27 14 -(1) The Board may appoint such other persons to be staff of the
28 Institute as the Board may determine, to assist the Director General and the
29 Principal Officers in the performance of their functions under this Act.

30 (2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the remuneration, tenure of

Resignation of
appointment of
Principal Officers

Other employees
of the Institute

	1	office and conditions of service of the employees of the Institute shall be
	2	determined by the Board.
Selection Board for other Principal Officers	3	15.-(1) There shall be for the Institute, Selection Board which shall
	4	consist of:
	5	(a) the Chairman of the Board;
	6	(b) the Director General;
	7	(c) four members of the Board who are not members of the Academic
	8	Board; and
	9	(d) two members of the Academic Board.
	10	(2) The functions, procedure and other matters relating to the
	11	Selection Board constituted under subsection (1) of this section shall be as the
	12	Board may from time to time determine.
Pensions	13	16.-(1) It is hereby declared that service in the Institute shall be
	14	approved service for the purposes of the Pensions Reform Act and accordingly,
	15	officers and other persons employed in the Institute shall in respect of the
	16	service in the Institute be entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement
	17	benefits as are prescribed there under, so however that nothing in this Act shall
	18	prevent the appointment of a person to any office on terms which preclude the
	19	grant of a pension and gratuity in respect of that office.
	20	(2) For the purposes of the application of the provisions of the
	21	Pensions Reform Act, any power exercisable there under by the Minister or
	22	other authority of the Government of the Federation (other than the power to
	23	make regulations) shall be exercisable by the College and not by any other
	24	person or authority.
	25	PART II - FINANCIAL PROVISIONS
Establishment of fund of the Institute	26	17.-(1) The Board shall establish and maintain a fund which shall be
	27	applied towards the promotion of the objectives specified in this Act.
	28	(2) There shall be paid and credited to the fund established under
	29	subsection (1) of this section:
	30	(a) such sums as may from time to time be granted to the Board by the

1 Federal Government through the National Board for Technical Education
2 (NBTE);

3 (b) all monies raised for the purposes of the Board by way of gifts,
4 grants-in-aid or testamentary disposition; and

5 (c) all subscriptions, fees and charges for services rendered by the
6 Board and all other sums that may accrue to the Board from any source.

7 (3) The Board shall submit to the Minister, through the National
8 Board for Technical Education (NBTE), not later than three months before
9 the end of each financial year or at such other time as he may direct, an
10 estimate of its revenue and expenditure for the next succeeding financial
11 year.

12 **18.** The Board shall keep proper accounts of its receipts, payments, Accounts and
audit
13 assets and liabilities and shall in respect of each year cause the accounts to be
14 audited.

15 **19.** The Board shall as soon as may be after the expiration of each Annual reports
16 financial year, prepare and submit to the Minister, a report of the activities of
17 the Institute during the immediately preceding year, and shall include in the
18 report a copy of the audited accounts of the Institute for that year and the
19 auditor's report on the accounts.

20 **PART III - MISCELLANEOUS AND SUPPLEMENTARY**

21 **20.-(1)** For the purpose of providing offices and premises Offices and
premises
22 necessary for the performance of its functions, the Board may:

23 (a) purchase any interest in or take on lease any land; and

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

25 (2) The Board may, with the approval of the Minister, sell any
26 interest in or lease any land, offices or premises held by it and no longer
27 required for the performance of its functions.

28 **21.-(1)** The Board may make rules providing for the Director to Discipline of
students
29 conduct enquiries into alleged acts of misconduct (including lack of
30 discipline) by students and such rules may make different provisions for

1 different circumstances.

2 (2) The rules shall provide for the procedure and rules of evidence to
3 be followed at enquiries under this section.

4 (3) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in any other
5 enactment, where it appears to the Board that any student of the Institute has
6 been guilty of misconduct, the Board may, without prejudice to any other
7 disciplinary powers conferred on it by regulations direct that-

8 (a) the student shall not during the period specified in the direction,
9 participate in the activities of the Institute or make use of the facilities of the
10 Institute as may be specified;

11 (b) the activities of the student shall during the period as may be
12 specified in the direction, be restricted in the manner specified;

13 (c) the student be suspended for such period as may be specified in the
14 direction;

15 (d) the student be expelled from the Institute.

16 (4) Where the post of the Director is vacant or where the Director
17 refuses to apply any disciplinary measures, the Board may either directly or
18 through some other staff apply such disciplinary actions as are specified in
19 subsection (1) to any student of the Institute who is considered guilty of
20 misconduct.

21 (5) Where a direction is given under subsection (3) (c) or (d) in respect
22 of any student, the student may, within a period of twenty one days from the
23 date of the letter communicating the decision to him appeal against the
24 direction to the Board, and where such appeal is brought, the Board shall, after
25 causing an inquiry to be made in the matter as the Board considers just, either
26 confirm or set aside the direction or modify it in the manner the Board may
27 deem fit.

28 (6) The fact that an appeal from a direction is pending under
29 subsection (5) shall not affect the operation of the direction while the appeal is
30 pending.

1 (7) The Director may delegate his powers under this section to a
2 disciplinary committee of such members of the Institute as he may
3 nominate.

4 (8) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing the
5 restriction or termination of a student's activity at the Institute otherwise
6 than on the grounds of misconduct.

7 (9) It is hereby declared that the direction under subsection (3) (a)
8 may be combined with a direction under subsection (3) (b).

9 (10) In all cases under this section, the decision of the Board shall
10 be final unless reversed by the Minister on appeal by the student.

11 **22.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

Interpretation

12 "Chairman" means chairman of the Board;

13 "Board" means the Governing Board of the Institute established by or
14 pursuant to section 2 of this Act;

15 "Director" means the Director of the Institute appointed under section 9 of
16 this Act;

17 "Powers" include functions and duties;

18 "Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for matters
19 relating to Communications and Digital Economy;

20 "Member" means a member of the Board including the chairman.

21 **23.** This Bill may be cited as the National Institute for Artificial
22 Intelligence and Robotic Studies (Establishment) Bill, 2023.

Short title

1 SCHEDULES

2 FIRST SCHEDULE

3 *[Section 2{3}.]*

4 SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE BOARD, ETC.

5 *Terms of service*

6 1. There may be paid to the members of the Board or any committee,
7 other than ex-officio members, such remuneration and allowances as may from
8 time to time be determined by the Minister.

9 2. The Board may act notwithstanding any vacancy in its membership
10 or any defect in the appointment of a member or the absence of a member.

11 *Proceedings*

12 3.-(1) The Board shall meet for the conduct of business at such times,
13 place and on such days as the chairman may appoint but shall meet not less than
14 once every four months.

15 (2) The Chairman may at any time and shall, at the request in writing
16 of not less than five members, convene a meeting of the Board.

17 (3) At any meeting of the Board, the Chairman shall preside but in his
18 absence, members present shall elect one of their members to preside at the
19 meeting.

20 (4) Where the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on any
21 particular matter, the Board may co-opt persons who are not members of the
22 Board but persons co-opted shall not be entitled to vote at a meeting of the
23 Board.

24 (5) The quorum of the Board shall be one half of the total members of
25 the Board, at least one of whom shall be a member appointed by the Minister.

26 (6) Decisions of the Board shall be made on approval by a simple
27 majority of members.

28 *Miscellaneous*

29 4.-(1) The fixing of the seal of the Institute shall be authenticated by
30 the signature of the Chairman, Director and of some other members of the

1 Board authorized generally or specially by the Board to act for that purpose.

2 (2) Any contract or instrument which, if made or executed by a
3 person other than a body corporate would not be required to be under seal
4 made or executed on behalf of the Institute by any person generally or
5 specially authorized to act for that purpose by the Board.

6 (3) Any document purporting to be duly executed under the seal of
7 the Institute shall be received in evidence and shall, unless the contrary is
8 proved, be presumed to be so executed.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to provide for the establishment of the National Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Robotic Studies, Somolu, Lagos State to identify the technology needs of Nigeria and to find solutions to them within the context of national development.