

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PROMOTE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ACROSS NIGERIA'S SIX GEOPOLITICAL ZONES WITH ATISBO AS THE HUB FOR THE SOUTHWEST ZONE AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Kareem Tajudeen Abisodun

[] Commencement

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

1 1.-(1) The Federal Government, in collaboration with local
2 stakeholders in each geopolitical zone, shall establish IT empowerment
3 programs aimed at training and equipping youth with valuable IT skills.

Establishment
of IT Empowerment
Programs

4 (2) These programs shall include but not be limited to:

5 (a) Comprehensive IT training courses covering software
6 development, web design, digital marketing, data analysis, cyber security,
7 and other relevant skills;

8 (b) Entrepreneurship support initiatives to nurture aspiring tech
9 entrepreneurs and facilitate the establishment of tech startups within each
10 geopolitical zone;

11 (c) Infrastructure development projects to establish IT hubs and
12 provide access to high-speed internet, computers, and training facilities in
13 strategic locations within each zone;

14 (d) Mentorship, internship, and job placement opportunities in
15 collaboration with local IT companies, startups, and academic institutions.

16 2.-(1) The Federal Government shall allocate funds from the
17 national budget to support the implementation of IT empowerment
18 programs within each geopolitical zone.

Funding and
Resource
Allocation

19 (2) Additional funding may be sourced through public-private

1 partnerships, grants, and other avenues to supplement government funding and
2 ensure the sustainability of the initiatives.

3 (3) The Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, in coordination
4 with relevant ministries and agencies, shall oversee the disbursement and
5 utilization of funds allocated for IT empowerment programs, ensuring
6 transparency and accountability.

Promotion of
IT Sector Growth

7 3.-(1) The Federal Government shall implement policies and
8 incentives to promote the growth of the IT sector within each geopolitical zone,
9 including tax incentives for IT businesses, regulatory reforms to facilitate
10 entrepreneurship, and initiatives to attract investment in technology
11 infrastructure.

12 (2) The Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy, in
13 collaboration with relevant stakeholders, shall develop strategies to enhance
14 the competitiveness of the IT sector in each zone and position them as canters
15 for technology and innovation in Nigeria.

Monitoring and
Evaluation

16 4.-(1) The Federal Government shall establish mechanisms for
17 monitoring and evaluating the progress and impact of IT empowerment
18 programs within each geopolitical zone.

19 (2) Regular reports shall be submitted to the National Assembly
20 detailing the implementation status, achievements, challenges, and
21 recommendations for improvement of the initiatives outlined in this bill.

Commencement
and repeal

22 5.-(1) This bill shall come into effect upon its passage by the National
23 Assembly and assent by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

24 (2) All laws, regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the
25 provisions of this bill are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Citation

26 6. This Bill may be cited as the Information Technology and
27 Innovation Bill, 2024.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to harness the transformative power of Information Technology to empower youth, foster innovation, and drive economic development across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones. By supporting IT education, entrepreneurship, and infrastructure, we aim to create conducive environments for growth and prosperity in each zone and contribute to the overall development of Nigeria's technology sector. Atisbo's designation as the hub for the Southwest Zone will serve as a model for IT development and innovation, inspiring similar initiatives in other regions of the country.