

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL COOPERATIVE COLLEGES, UMUTU, UKWUANI LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, DELTA STATE, TO PROVIDE COURSES OF INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING IN DIFFERENT FIELDS OF STUDY; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2024

Sponsored by Hon. Nnamdi Ezechi

[] Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:

- 1 **1.**-(1) There shall be established Federal Co-operative Colleges, Establishment of Federal Cooperative Colleges
- 2 Umutu, Ukwuani Local Government Area, Delta State (in this Act referred
- 3 to as "the Colleges") as specified in the First Schedule.
- 4 **(2)** Each College:
- 5 (a) is a corporate body with perpetual succession and a common
- 6 seal;
- 7 (b) may sue or be sued in its corporate name; and
- 8 (c) may hold or dispose of a property immovable or immovable.
- 9 **2.** The Colleges shall: Function of the Colleges
- 10 (a) Provide courses of instruction and training to produce middle
- 11 and high-level manpower:
- 12 (i). in agriculture and rural development, applied commerce and
- 13 Management; accounting, banking finance and cooperative studies;
- 14 (ii). in such other fields of applied learning relevant to the needs of
- 15 the development of Nigeria in the areas of industrial and agricultural
- 16 production and distribution and for research in the development and
- 17 adaptation of techniques as the Council may from time to time determine;
- 18 Commencement Establishment of Federal Co-operative Colleges;

Functions of the Colleges	1	(iii). arrange conferences, seminars and study groups relative to the
	2	fields of learning specified earlier; AND
	3	(iv) perform such other functions as in the opinion of the Council may
	4	serve to promote the objectives of the Colleges.
Establishment of the Governing Council	5	3. There is an established for each College, Governing Council (This
	6	act is referred to as "the Council") which shall consist of:
	7	(a) a chairman who is a distinguished Co-operatives Manager or
	8	Educator with at least 15 years of experience;
	9	(b) the Federal Director of Co-operatives or his representative;
	10	(c) a representative each of:
	11	(i) The Ministry charged with responsibility for cooperative matters
	12	in the State in which the College is located,
	13	(ii) the Co-operative Federation of Nigeria Limited,
	14	(iii) the Nigeria Labour Congress,
	15	(iv) the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and
	16	(v) the Federal Ministry of Commerce;
	17	(d). two other persons to be appointed by the President on the
	18	recommendation of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
	19	Development; and
	20	(e) the Provost of the College who shall also serve as Secretary to the
	21	Council.
	22	(2) A member of the Council, other than an ex-officio member, shall
	23	be appointed by the President on such terms and conditions as may be specified
	24	in his letter of appointment.
	25	(3) A member of the Council, other than an ex-officio, shall hold
	26	office for four years from the date of his appointment and may be eligible for
	27	re-appointment for another four years and no more.
	28	(4) The provisions of the Second Schedule to this Act shall have effect
	29	in relation to the Council and other matters contained in the Schedule.

- 1 4.-(1) There shall be for each College an Academic Board This Act Establishment
2 is referred to as "the Board") which shall consist of: of an Academic
3 (a) the Provost of the College who shall be the Chairman; Board
4 (b) the Deputy Provost;
5 (c) all Heads of the Academic Departments of the College;
6 (d) the College Librarian; and
7 (e) the Registrar who shall be the Secretary.
8 (2) A member of the Board shall hold office for two years in the first
9 instance and may be eligible for re- appointment for another two years and
10 no more.
11 (3) The Board shall meet at least once every semester or any time at
12 the request of the Provost or any three members.
13 (4) The quorum for a meeting of the Board is a simple majority of
14 its members.
15 5. The functions of the Board are to: Functions of the
16 (a) supervise the training of candidates for the College; Board
17 (b) consider and approve courses and syllabuses of study for the
18 College;
19 (c) award or recommend to the Council the award of certificates
20 and distinctions;
21 (d) make arrangements for students to obtain practical experiences
22 of co-operative related matters;
23 (e) make regulations for the conduct of examinations of the
24 College;
25 (f) appoint examiners for the examinations of the College;
26 (g) appoint from its members or otherwise:
27 (i) examining boards,
28 (ii) boards of Studies, or
29 (iii) committees, as may be deemed expedient and delegate to any
30 such board or committee any of the functions of the Board; Establishment of

	1	Academic Board.
	2	(h) consider matters relating to the professional and academic work of
	3	the College;
	4	(i) deal with matters referred to the Board by the Council; and
	5	(j) furnish the Council with reports of the proceedings of the Board.
Appointment of Provost	6	6. There shall be appointed for each College by the President, on the
	7	recommendation of the Council, a Provost who shall be a person with wide
	8	experience in matters with which the College is concerned and shall be
	9	appointed in accordance with the regulations and conditions of service
	10	approved by the Council.
Functions of Provost	11	7. The Provost of the College shall:
	12	(a) be charged with the management of the affairs of the College, in
	13	accordance with such instructions as may be given to the Provost by the
	14	Council;
	15	(b) prepare annual estimates of the finances required by the College
	16	for submission to the Council through the Board;
	17	(c) prepare annual reports on the administrative programmes of the
	18	college at any time as the Council may request for submission to the
	19	appropriate authority; and
	20	(d) perform such other functions as may be assigned to him by the
	21	Board or Council.
Committee of Provosts	22	8.-(1) There shall be a Committee of Provosts of Federal Cooperative
	23	Colleges (in this Act referred to as the "Committee of Provosts").
	24	(2) The Chairmanship of the Committee of Provosts shall be rotated
	25	annually amongst the Provosts of the Colleges.
Functions of Committee of Provosts	26	9. The Committee of Provosts shall:
	27	(a) Co-ordinate the standard in the operation of the Colleges; and
	28	(b) Formulate and process a unified standard in the operation of the
	29	Colleges.

1 **10.** The Council may employ such other staff for the College as it
2 may deem necessary for the proper performance of its functions under this
3 Act Appointment of Provost Functions of Provost Committees of Provost
4 Functions of Committee of Provost other staff of the College and on such
5 remuneration and allowances as are applicable to officers of equivalent
6 grades in similar institutions.

Other Staff for
the College

7 **11.**-(1) Service in each College shall be approved service for the
8 purposes of the Pension Reform Act and, officers and other persons
9 employed in each College, except principal officers, are, in respect of their
10 service in the College, entitled to pensions, gratuities and other retirement
11 benefits as are prescribed in the Act, but nothing in this Act shall prevent the
12 appointment of a person to any office on terms which preclude the grant of a
13 pension and gratuity in respect of that office.

Pension of Officers
in the College

14 (2) For the purposes of the application of the provisions of the
15 Pension Reform Act, any power exercisable under the Act by a Minister or
16 other authority of the Government of the Federation shall be exercisable by
17 the College and not by any other person or authority.

18 **12.**-(1) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Pension
19 Reform Act, the compulsory retiring age of the staff of each of the Colleges
20 shall be 40 years in service or 65 years of age whichever comes first.

21 (2) Any law or rule requiring a person to retire from public service
22 after serving for 35 years shall not apply to any staff of each of the Federal
23 Colleges.

24 **13.**-(1) The College shall establish and maintain a Fund (in this Act
25 referred to as "the Fund") from which shall defray all expenditure incurred
26 by the College.

Funds of the
College

27 (2) There shall be paid into the Fund:

28 (a) such amounts of money as may be granted to the College by the
29 Federal Government; and

30 (b) all other assets as may accrue to the College.

1 (3) The Fund shall be managed in accordance with rules made by the
2 Minister responsible for matters relating to finance and, without prejudice to
3 the generality of the power to make rules under this subsection, the rules shall,
4 in particular, contain provisions:

5 (a) specifying the manner in which the assets or the Fund of the
6 College are to be held and to the making of payments to and from the Fund;

7 (b) requiring the keeping of proper accounts and records for purposes
8 of the Fund and in such form as may be specified in the rules;

9 (c) for ensuring that the accounts of the College are audited annually
10 by an auditor appointed by the Council from the list of auditors supplied by the
11 Auditor-General for the Federation; and

12 (d) requiring that copies of the accounts and the audit report on the
13 account be forwarded to the Council not later than 3 months from the end of the
14 period to which the accounts relate.

Borrowing
Power

15 **14.** The College shall not borrow money or lend money to anybody
16 except with the approval of the Council.

Annual Estimates,
Accounts and
Audit

17 **15.** The College shall cause to be prepared, not later than three months
18 before the end of each year, an estimate of its expenditure and income during
19 the next succeeding year and cause the estimates to be submitted for the
20 approval of the Council.

Interpretation

21 **16.** In this Act:

22 "Board" means the Academic Board established under section 4 (1) of this Act;

23 "College" means a College established under section 1 (1) of this Act;

24 "Council" means the Governing Council established for the College under
25 section 3 (1) of this Act;

26 "Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for matters relating
27 to co- operatives; and

28 "Provost" means the Provost of the College appointed under section 6 of this
29 Act.

1 17. This Bill may be cited as the Federal Co-operative Colleges Citation
2 (Establishment) Bill, 2024.

3 SCHEDULES

4 FIRST SCHEDULE

5 LIST OF FEDERAL CO-OPERATIVE COLLEGES

- 6 (a) Federal Co-operative College Ibadan, Oyo State;
7 (b) Federal Co-operative College Orji River, Enugu State;
8 (c) Federal Co-operative College Kaduna, Kaduna State.

9 SECOND SCHEDULE

10 SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE COUNCIL

11 *Proceedings of the College*

12 1.-(1) Subject to this Act and section 27 of the Interpretation Act
13 (which provides for decisions of a statutory body to be taken by a majority of
14 its members and or the person presiding at any meeting, when a vote is
15 ordered to have a second or casting vote), the Council may make standing
16 orders regulating its proceedings or that of any of its committees.

17 (2) At any meeting of the Council, the Chairman shall preside and
18 if the Chairman is absent, the members present may appoint one of them to
19 be the Chairman of the meeting.

20 2. The quorum at a meeting of the Council shall be the Chairman
21 (or in an appropriate case, the person presiding at the meeting under
22 paragraph 2 of this Schedule) and four other members.

23 3. Where on a special occasion, the Council desires to obtain the
24 advice of an expert on a particular matter, the Council may co-opt the expert
25 as a member for such period as the College may deem fit, but a person who is
26 a member by virtue of this paragraph is not entitled to vote at any meeting of
27 the Council or count towards a quorum.

28 *Committee*

29 4.-(1) The Council may set up one or more committees to advise it
30 on the performance of its functions under this Act or to perform, on behalf of

1 the College or Council, such functions as the College may determine.

2 (2) A Committee set up under this paragraph shall consist of the
3 number of persons determined by the Council.

4 (3) A decision of a committee of the College or Council is of no effect
5 until it is confirmed by the Council.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to provide for the establishment of Federal Cooperative Colleges, Umutu, Ukwuani Local Government Area, Delta State, to provide courses of instruction and training in different fields of study.