

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH-EAST YOUTH SKILLS DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE FOR THE PROMOTION OF DIGITAL SKILLS TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT FOR YOUTHS IN THE NORTH-EAST GEO-POLITICAL ZONE; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by Hon. Jafaru Gambo Leko

Co-Sponsors:

Hon. Mansur Manusoro

Hon. Zacharia Dauda Nyampa

Hon. Fatima Talba

[] Commencement

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

PART I - OBJECTIVES

- 1 **1.** The objectives of this Bill are to;
- 2 (a) Provide structured digital skills training to youths in the North-
- 3 East;
- 4 (b) Promote youth employment through remote work, digital
- 5 entrepreneurship, and innovation;
- 6 (c) Establish and maintain Digital Skills Centres across the region;
- 7 (d) Enhance gender inclusion by mandating a minimum of 40%
- 8 female participation;
- 9 (e) Encourage public-private partnerships in digital skills training
- 10 and job creation.

Objectives of the Bill

PART II - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INITIATIVE

- 11 **2.**-(1) There is established the North-East Youth Skills
- 12 Development Initiative (in this Bill referred to as "the Initiative").
- 13
- 14 (2) The Initiative shall be a body corporate with perpetual

Establishment of the Initiative

	1	succession and a common seal, and may sue and be sued in its corporate name.
Legal Personality of the Initiative	2	3. The Initiative shall have power to;
	3	(a) Acquire, hold, and dispose of movable and immovable property;
	4	(b) Enter into contracts;
	5	(c) Establish partnerships and receive grants.
Headquarters and Operational Offices	6	4.-(1) The headquarters of the Initiative shall be located in Bauchi
	7	State.
	8	(2) There shall be established a Digital Skills Centre in each of the six
	9	participating states.
	10	PART III - GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE
Establishment of Governing Council	11	5. There is established for the Initiative a Governing Council which
	12	shall be responsible for its strategic policy direction and oversight.
Composition of the Governing Council	13	6. The Council shall consist of;
	14	(a) A Chairperson to be appointed by the President;
	15	(b) The Minister of Youth Development or a representative;
	16	(c) The Minister of Communications, Innovation and Digital
	17	Economy or a representative;
	18	(d) One nominee from each participating state;
	19	(e) Two representatives of the private sector (tech and innovation);
	20	(f) One representative of the National Youth Council of Nigeria; and
	21	(g) The Executive Director of the Initiative (ex officio).
Functions and Powers of the Governing Council	22	7. The Council shall:
	23	(a) Approve programmes, curricula, and policy frameworks;
	24	(b) Oversee financial administration and implementation processes;
	25	(c) Approve partnership agreements and performance targets.
Tenure and Cessation of Office	26	8. Members of the Council, other than ex-officio members, shall hold
	27	office for a term of four years, renewable once.
Removal from Office	28	9. A member may be removed by the President on grounds of:
	29	(a) Misconduct;
	30	(b) Inability to perform duties;

1	(c) Conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or fraud.	
2	10. -(1) The Council may establish committees for the performance	Committees of
3	of its functions.	the Council
4	(2) Each committee shall report to the Council quarterly.	
5	PART IV - MANDATE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE INITIATIVE	
6	11. The Initiative shall:	Mandate and
7	(a) Design and implement digital skills training programmes;	Functions of the
8	(b) Facilitate internships, mentorship, and employment	Initiative
9	opportunities;	
10	(c) Provide grants or tools to exceptional trainees.	
11	12. The Initiative shall have powers to:	Powers of the
12	(a) Enter into agreements with development partners;	Initiative
13	(b) Establish scholarship programmes;	
14	(c) Receive technical support from government and non-	
15	government institutions.	
16	PART V - IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK	
17	13. -(1) The Initiative shall establish at least one Digital Skills	Establishment
18	Centre in each participating state.	of Digital Skills
19	(2) The flagship Centre shall be situated in Bauchi State.	Centres
20	14. The Initiative shall develop a unified digital skills curriculum,	Development
21	covering;	of Curriculum
22	(a) Digital literacy;	
23	(b) Programming and Artificial Intelligence;	
24	(c) Remote work tools and communication.	
25	15. -(1) Training shall include:	Training
26	(a) Short-term certificate courses (3-6 months);	Programmes
27	(b) Advanced diploma programmes (up to 12 months);	
28	(c) Internships and apprenticeships.	
29	(2) Training shall be free for indigent participants; subsidized rates	
30	shall apply to others.	

Certification and Accreditation	1	16. -(1) Certificates shall be issued and accredited by relevant bodies
	2	including NITDA.
	3	(2) The Initiative shall collaborate with global certification providers.
Collaboration and Public-Private Partnerships	4	17. The Initiative shall engage in partnerships with:
	5	(a) Technology companies;
	6	(b) Tertiary institutions;
	7	(c) Donor agencies.
	8	All partnerships shall be governed by a Memorandum of Understanding.
	9	PART VI - FUNDING AND FINANCIAL PROVISIONS
Establishment of the Fund	10	18. There is established the North-East Youth Skills Development
	11	Fund (in this Bill referred to as "the Fund").
Sources of Funds	12	19. The Fund shall be sourced from:
	13	(a) Federal and State Government allocations;
	14	(b) Grants from development partners;
	15	(c) Contributions from the private sector.
Administration and Management of the Fund	16	20. -(1) The Fund shall be managed by a Finance Committee
	17	constituted by the Council.
	18	(2) Members shall include representatives from the Federal Ministry
	19	of Finance, Central Bank of Nigeria, and the private sector.
Budget Estimates and Reporting	20	21. -(1) The Council shall prepare and submit an annual budget to the
	21	National Assembly.
	22	(2) Quarterly expenditure and performance reports shall be published
	23	online.
	24	PART VII - MONITORING, EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY
Reporting Obligations	25	22. The Council shall submit annual reports to the National Assembly
	26	detailing progress and challenges.
Independence Performance Audit	27	23. A performance audit shall be conducted by an independent body
	28	every three years.
Periodic Programme Review	29	24. A Technical Review Committee shall review the Initiative every
	30	three years and recommend adjustments.

1	PART VIII - MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS	
2	25. The Minister may, upon the recommendation of the Council,	Power to make Regulations
3	make regulations for the effective implementation of this Bill.	
4	26. The provisions of any existing legislation inconsistent with this	Repeal and Savings
5	Bill, particularly the National Directorate of Employment Act, are hereby	
6	repealed to the extent of the inconsistency. Existing lawful programmes	
7	shall continue.	
8	27. -(1) The National Youth Policy Act, 2019 is amended to include	Consequential Amendments
9	digital skills development as part of national youth empowerment	
10	strategies.	
11	(2) The Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act, 2011 is amended to	
12	allow funding for digital skills programmes certified under this Initiative.	
13	28. In this Bill, unless the context otherwise requires;	Interpretation
14	"Council" means the Governing Council established under Section 8 of this	
15	Bill;	
16	"Digital Skills Centre" means a training and capacity development facility	
17	established under Section 16 of this Bill;	
18	"Initiative" means the North-East Youth Skills Development Initiative	
19	established under Section 5;	
20	"Minister" means the Minister charged with responsibility for youth	
21	development;	
22	"Participating States" means the six states within the North-East	
23	geopolitical zone: Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe.	
24	29. This Bill may be cited as the North-East Youth Skills	Citation
25	Development and Digital Jobs Bill, 2025.	

1 SCHEDULES

2 FIRST SCHEDULE

3 SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE COUNCIL

4 1. The Council shall meet at least once every quarter.

5 2. A quorum shall be two-thirds of the members, including either the
6 Chairperson or a Ministerial representative.

7 SECOND SCHEDULE

8 TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

9 1. Existing federal and state training schemes shall be integrated into
10 this Initiative within 12 months of its commencement.11 2. Staff of relevant agencies may be seconded to the Initiative on
12 terms and conditions approved by the Council.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to establish a framework for the development of digital skills among youths in the North-East geopolitical zone of Nigeria as a tool to combat unemployment, support innovation, and align with national digital economy strategies and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).