

# A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO AMEND THE FEDERAL CHARACTER COMMISSION (ESTABLISHMENT) ACT, CAP. F7, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION, 2004 TO STRENGTHEN THE ACT, PROSECUTE VIOLATORS, AND STIFFEN THE PUNISHMENT FOR OFFENDERS; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

### *Sponsors:*

Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu	Hon. Ahmed Yusuf Badau
Hon. Joseph Bassey	Hon. Usman Bello Kumo
Hon. Ikeagwuonu Ugochinyere	Hon. Afolabi Afuape
Hon. Aluko Yinka Ahmed	

[ ] Commencement

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

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|----|--|--------------|
| 1  | 1. The Federal Character Commission (Est.) Act, Cap. F7, Laws of               | Amendment of |
| 2  | the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (herein referred to as the "Principal Act") is | Cap. F7 LFN, |
| 3  | amended as set out in this Bill.   | 2004         |
| 4  | 2. Section 5 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting the                  | Amendment of |
| 5  | following as new subsection (3) thereof-                                       | Section 5    |
| 6  | "(3) The duty of the Commission pursuant to the provisions of                  |              |
| 7  | subsection (2) of this section shall be exercised through-                     |              |
| 8  | (a) legal practitioners employed by the Commission;                            |              |
| 9  | (b) external legal practitioners; and  |              |
| 10 | (c) Attorney-General of the Federation or Attorney-General of a                |              |
| 11 | State or any of their counsels.  |              |
| 12 | 3. Section 13 of the Principal Act is amended by inserting                     | Amendment of |
| 13 | immediately after the word-  | Section 13   |
| 14 | (a) "President" the words "National Assembly"; and                             |              |
| 15 | (b) "activities" the words "including the level of compliance by all           |              |

	1	authorities with the provisions of this Act".
Amendment of Section 14	2	<b>4.</b> Section 14 of the Principal Act is amended by-
	3	(a) deleting the existing subsection (1) and (2) thereof; and
	4	(b) re-numbering the existing subsections (3) and (4) as subsections
	5	(1) and (2) respectively.
Amendment of Section 15	6	<b>5.</b> Section 15 of the Principal Act is amended-
	7	(a) in subsection (1) by-
	8	(i) deleting the figure "N50,000" and inserting the words and figure
	9	"not less than N100,000" instead thereof, and
	10	(ii) inserting the word "not less than" immediately before the words
	11	months"; six months.
	12	(b) in subsection (2) by-
	13	(i) deleting the figure "N100,000" and inserting the words and figure
	14	"not less than N500,000" instead thereof, and
	15	(ii) deleting the figure "N50,000" and inserting the words and figure
	16	"not less than N250,000" instead thereof; and
	17	(c) in subsection (3) by deleting the figure "N100,000" and inserting
	18	the figure "N5500,000" instead thereof.
Short title	19	<b>6.</b> This Bill may be cited as the Federal Character Commission (Est.,
	20	etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

#### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to amend Federal Character Commission (Est., etc.) Act, Cap. F7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by strengthening it to among other things prosecute violators of the Act, and to stiffen the punishment for offenders.