

CHAPTER 67 - ILLITERATES PROTECTION
A LAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE PROTECTION OF ILLITERATE PERSON

[Part I – 15 December 1915]

[Part II – 25 March 1920]

1. This Law may be cited as the Illiterates Protection Law.

PART I

2. Any person who shall write any letter or document at the request, on behalf, or in the name of any illiterate person shall also write on such letter or other document his own name as the writer thereof and his address; and his so doing shall be equivalent to a statement:-

(a) that he was instructed to write such letter or document by the person for whom it purports to have been written and that the letter or document fully and correctly represents his instructions; and

(b) if the letter or document purports to be signed with the signature or mark of the illiterate person, that prior to its being so signed it was read over and explained to the illiterate person, and that the signature or mark was made by such person.

3. If the writer of any such letter or document shall fail to write thereon his name and address, or if, having done so, any statement which under section 2 is in consequence implied shall be found to be untrue, the writer shall be liable to a fine of five hundred naira or in default of payment to imprisonment for six months.

4. This Law shall not apply to the writing of any letter or other document written in the course of his business by or at the direction of any person practising as a legal practitioner

PART II

5. This Part shall apply to such part or parts of the State as may be ordered by the Governor.

6. A "writer" means any person who shall write any letter or document at the request on behalf, or in the name of any illiterate person, except as provided in section 4.

7. In addition to the obligation imposed upon him by section 2, every writer shall state in writing on the letter or document, and on each copy thereof:-

(a) whether or not any fee or reward has been or is to be charged or taken by him for writing such letter or document; and

(b) the nature or amount of such fee or reward, if any; and

(c) the total number of copies of such letter or document written by him, including the original.

Penalty for omission or false statement: a fine of five hundred naira or in default of payment imprisonment for six months.

8. Every writer shall give a receipt for the full amount of every fee or reward, whether in money or kind, taken by him for or in connection with the writing of any letter or document.

Penalty: a fine of two hundred naira or in default of payment imprisonment for three months.

9. A writer may not charge or take any fee or reward exceeding the rates specified in the Schedule to this Law.

Penalty: a fine of five hundred naira or in default of payment imprisonment for six months.

SCHEDULE

Naira

For every original letter or document, per hundred words or part thereof
5

For the first copy (if any), per hundred words or part thereof
2

For second and subsequent copies, per hundred words or part thereof
1 or the reasonable equivalent in kind of such sums respectively. For the purposes of such fee or reward no such letter or document shall be deemed to contain more than one thousand words. Such fee or reward shall be deemed to include payment for all reasonable materials and stationery. Any sum charged or taken by way of travelling expenses or lodging allowance shall be subject to the approval of the secretary to the local government of the area.