**A BILL**

**FOR**

**A LAW TO ESTABLISH THE PLATEAU STATE VOCATIONAL AND RELEVANT TECHNOLOGY BOARD AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2025.**

**SPONSOR:**

**HON. DICKSON Y. CHOLLOM**

**Member Representing Barkin Ladi State Constituency**

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM**

This Bill seeks to establish the Plateau State Vocational and Relevant Technology Board for efficiency in technological advancement in the State. In line with the Renewed Hope Agenda of the Federal Government aimed at placing Nigeria on the world map and two of the seven pillar policies of the Plateau State Government centered on Infrastructure and industrialization, the time is ripe for an intervention in revamping the dying tech hub in the State.

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SCHEDULE

**A BILL**

**FOR**

**A LAW TO ESTABLISH THE PLATEAU STATE VOCATIONAL AND RELEVANT TECHNOLOGY BOARD AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2025.**

**Enacted by the Plateau State House of Assembly as follows:**

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| Citation and commencement | 1 | This Bill may be cited as the Plateau State Vocational and Relevant Technology Board Bill, 2025 and shall come into operation on the \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2025. |
| Interpretation | 2 | In this Bill:  “attorney-general” means the Attorney-General of Plateau State and Commissioner for Justice;  “auditor” means the Auditor General of Plateau State or his representative; |
|  |  | “board” means the Plateau State Vocational and Relevant Technology Board established under section 3 of this Bill; |
|  |  | “chairman” means the Chairman appointed under sub-clause (2) of Clause 4 of this bill; |
|  |  | “ financial year” means twelve months ending on the 31st day of December in any year; |
|  |  | “government” means the Government of Plateau State; |
|  |  | “local government” means any of the 17 Local Government Areas in the State; |
|  |  | “governor” means the Governor of Plateau State; |
|  |  | “state” means the Plateau State of Nigeria; |

**PART II**

**ESTABLISHMENT CONSTITUTION AND POWERS**

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| Establishment of the Board | 3 | There is hereby established for the State a body called the Plateau State Vocational and Relevant Technology Board which shall be corporate with perpetual succession an a common seal, with power to sue and be sued in its corporate name and to acquire, hold and dispose of movable and immovable property. |
| Composition of the Board | 4(1) | The Board shall consist of a Chairman and such number of suitable persons as the Governor may deem fit |
|  | (2) | The Chairman and other members shall be appointed by the Governor. |
|  | (3) | No act or other proceedings of the Board shall be invalid by reason of any vacancy among its members or by reason of any defect in the appointment of any member. |
|  | (4) | The shall be paid out of the funds of the Board to each member, being in the public service of the State or an officer in a Local Government, such enumeration, if any, whether by the way of salary, fees or allowances as the Governor may determine. |
|  | (5) | A member shall not be personally liable for any act or omission to do any act or any default of the Board, so long as such act, omission or default is in the course of the operations of the Board. |

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| Delegation of functions. | 5(1) | The Board may delegate to the chairman or any officer of the Board the routine administration of the affairs of the Board. |
|  | (2) | Nothing in this section shall authorize the delegation of any power to make major decisions of policy in connection with the functions of the Board, to make standing orders or to time be fixed by the Board. |
| Supplementary provisions. | 6 | The supplementary provisions contained in the schedule shall have effect with respect to the constitutions and proceedings of the Board |
| Duties and powers of the Board. | 7 | It shall be the duty of the Board to: |
|  |  | 1. inculcate discipline; |
|  |  | 1. create a strong sense of national awareness; |
|  |  | 1. enhance the dignity of labour and pride in achievements; |
|  |  | 1. encourage awareness of the environment and the dangers of pollution in all its forms; |
|  |  | 1. encourage the individual to develop his/her own talents and provide self –reliance and self-respect; |
|  |  | 1. teach new skills and improve those already acquired and in so doing to emphasize innovation and creativity; |
|  |  | 1. reduce unemployment and increase the earning capacity among school leavers and to encourage self-employment; |
|  |  | 1. minimize rural-urban migration; |
|  |  | 1. preserve and promote local traditions of good craftsmanship and culture; and |
|  |  | 1. investigate and implement ways and means to integrate ex-trainees into their communities utilizing the skills acquired in training. |
| Power of Governor to give directions. | 8.(1) | The Governor may give to the Board such General directions as to the discharge by the Board of its Functions under this Bill as appears to him to be necessary to ensure conformity by the Board with the policy of the Government and the Board shall give effect to any such directions. |
|  | (2) | The Governor may after consolation with the Board give to the Board specific directions for the purposes of remedying any defect which may be disclosed in the arrangements of the Board for the discharge of its functions under this Bill and the Board shall give effect to any such directions. |
|  | (3) | The power conferred by sub-clause (2) of this clause on the Governor shall include power to give directions prohibiting or limiting any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the Board which appears to the Governor to be excessive or unnecessary. |
|  | (4) | The Board shall afford to the Governor facilities for obtaining information relation to the assets and liabilities and functions of the Board, and shall furnish him with returns, accounts and other information relating to it, and afford to him facilities for the verification of information furnished in such manner and at such times as the Governor may require. |
|  |  | **PART III**  **FINANCIAL PROVISIONS** |
| Funds and resources of the Board. | 9. | The funds and resources of the Board shall consist of: |
|  |  | 1. such sums, or other property whatsoever as may from time to time be advanced by way of loan or grant to the Board by the Government; |
|  |  | 1. such sums or other property whatever as may from time to time be advanced by way of loan or grant to the Board by any organization, Local Government, Statutory corporation, or any other Government in Nigeria or any agency or institution of private foundation or any person whatsoever; |
|  |  | 1. any investment or other property whatsoever acquired by or vested in the Board and all money earned or arising from it; |
|  |  | 1. all sums earned in respect of any service provided by the Board; and |
|  |  | 1. all sums received by or failing due to the Board in respect of the repayment of any loan made by the Board or the interest payable to our vested in the Board. |

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| Loans and Grants by the Government and advance account for working capital. | 10. | 1. It shall be lawful for the Government to make to the Board: 2. grants of any sums or property as the Government may deem fit; and 3. loans upon such terms as to repayment of interest or otherwise as the Government may determine. |
|  |  | 1. The Governor may, if he deems it expedient so to do waive in favour of the Board any right or liability to the Government in respect of any property vested in the Board. |
|  |  | 1. The Board shall in respect of any moneys (other than grants) advanced by the Government to provide working capital for the Board create an amount equal to the total sum of money so advanced. |
|  |  | 1. The advanced account referred to in sub-clause (3) of this clause shall be subject to such conditions as interest and repayment as the Governor may from time to time determine. |
| Power to borrow money | 11(1). | Subject to the provisions of this clause, the Board may by issuing debentures, stocks or other securities or in any other manner borrow sums required by it for meeting any of its obligations or discharging any of its functions under this Bill. |
|  | (2) | The power of the Board to borrow shall be exercisable only with the approval of the Governor as to the amount of the loan the sources of the borrowing may be affected, and the approval given for the purposes of this sub-clause may be either general or limited to a particular borrowing; |
|  | (3) | The approval of the Governor for the purpose of this sub-clause may be subject to such conditions, as he may specify. |
|  | (4) | A person lending money to the Board shall not be bound to enquire whether the borrowing of the money is within the power of the Board. |
| Debentures to the Government | 12 (1) | If the Government makes any loan to the Board at any time in accordance with the provisions of this Bill, the Board shall, if so required by the Governor, issue to the Government a debentures of a nominal value equivalent to the sum loaned. |
|  | (2) | Debentures issued in accordance with the provisions of sub-clause (1) of this clause shall bear interest at such rate, if any, and from such date as the Governor may specify. |

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| Investment of moneys | 13. | The Board may invest money standing to its credit and not for the time being required for the purposes of its functions in stocks, shares, debentures, or any other securities whatsoever and the Board may sell dispose off or otherwise deal with or any of such securities. |
|  |  | **PART IV**  **ACCOUNTS AND REPORTS** |
| Accounts and Audit. | 14.(1) | The Board shall:   1. cause to be kept paper accounts in respect of its functions under this bill and other records in relation thereto, and 2. prepare in respect of each financial year a statement of accounts in such form as may be approved by the Governor |
|  | (2) | The said annual statement of accounts shall be a fair and accurate statement of the financial position, and of the results of the operations of the Board for the financial year to which it relates. |
|  | (3) | The said annual statement of accounts shall be audited by the Auditor |
|  | (4) | As soon as the said annual statement of accounts has been audited as aforesaid the Board shall forward to the Governor a copy of the said statement of accounts together with a copy of the report made by the auditors. |
|  | (5) | Before the commencement of each financial year the Board shall prepare an estimate of its revenue and expenditure for that financial year and submit the same to the Governor for his approval, and he shall have power to disallowed or reduce the provision under any item in the estimates he may consider necessary. |
| Annual Report. | 15.(1) | The Board shall, within six months after the end of each financial year, make to the Governor a report, in such form and containing such particulars as he may from time to time direct, dealing with the activities of the Board during that financial year. |
|  | (2) | Every annual report made by the Board under sub-clause (1) of this clause shall contain particulars of all directions given under this Bill by the Governor to the Board during that financial year. |
|  |  | **PART V**  **STAFF OF THE BOARD** |
| Executive Secretary to the Board. | 16. | The Governor shall appoint by name or office an Executive Secretary to the Board and the Executive Secretary shall be the Chief Executive but not a member of the Board. |
| Other Staff etc of the Board. | 17.(1) | Subject to the provisions of clause 19, the Board shall have power to appoint and exercise disciplinary control over such officers, servants and agents as it may think necessary for the discharge f its function under this Bill and to determine their terms and conditions of service as to remuneration or otherwise. |
|  | (2) | The exercise of the powers vested in the Board under sub-clause (1) of this clause shall be subject to the provisions of any regulations or rules that may be made under clause 20 or 21 respectively. |

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| Secondment of  Employees | 18. | The Board may employ on secondment or transfer such officers of the public service or the State or local Government as may with agreement of such officers be seconded or transferred to the service of Board in accordance with the procedure applicable to the secondment or transfer of such officers. |
| Power to make regulations relating to employees of the Board | 19. | The Board may, with the approval of the Governor, and subject to the provisions of this Bill, make regulations with respect to the appointment, promotion transfer and dismissal of, an exercise of disciplinary control over its employees, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provisions, may regulations for any of the following matters: |
|  | (a) | The qualifications to be required for appointment: |
|  | (b) | The method of appointment (Including probation and confirmation) |
|  | (c) | The Form of any agreement to be entered into between the board, and its employees |
|  | (d) | The terms and conditions of service (including with prejudice to the generality of that expression, the salaries and allowances, the grant of advances, the provision of quarters, leave medical and dental treatment); |
|  | (e) | The procedure and requirement for promotion; |
|  | (f) | The maintenance of discipline including dismissal and the termination of appointments; |
|  | (g) | The transfer of employees between the Board and the Government of the State, Local Government or any statutory cooperation, and |
|  | (h) | Such other matters relating to departmental procedure and duties and responsibilities of employees as the Board consideration can be best provided for by regulations. |
| Power to  make rules relating  to retirement benefits | 20. | The board may, with the approval of the Governor make rules, with respect to its employees, for: |
|  |  | (a) the pensions gratuities and retirement allowances to be granted to pensionable employees of the Board and dependants; |
|  |  | (b) the gratuities and retirement allowances to be granted to non- pensionable employees of the Board and their dependants; |
|  |  | (c) all maters ancillary to the matter mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b). |
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**PART VI**

**MISCELLANEOUS**

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| Signification of documents | 12(1) | Any contract or instrument which if entered into or executed by ta person not being a body corporate would not require t be under seal may be entered into or executed on behalf of the Board by the Executive Secretary or by any person generally or specially authorized by the Board for that purpose. |
|  | (2) | Any document purporting to be document duly executed or issued under the seal of the Board or on behalf of the Board shall unless the contrary is proved be deemed to be a document so executed or issued, as the base may be. |
| Service of notice | 22 | Service upon the Bard of any notice, order or any other document may be affected by delivering it or sending it registered post addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Board at its head office. |
| Notice of  Intention  to sue. | 23. | No suit shall be commenced against the Board until one month at least after written notice of intention to commence the same shall have been served on the Board by the intending plaintiff or his agent and such notice clearly and explicitly state the cause of action, the particulars of the claims the name and place of abode of the intending plaintiff and the relief which he claims. |
| Representation  in court. | 24(1) | In any suit by or against the Board, the Board shall be represented by; |
|  |  | 1. the Attorney –General, or any legal officer in the State Ministry of Justice |
|  |  | 1. a servant of the Board authorized in writing in that behalf by the Executive Secretary. |
|  |  | 1. In this clause “suit” includes action or civil proceeding commenced by writ of summons or in such other manner as may be prescribed by rules of Court, but does not include criminal proceedings. |
| Regulations | 25 | The Governor may make regulations for carrying into effect the provisions of this Bill. |

**SCHEDULE**

**CONSTITUTION AND THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD**

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| **TENURE OF OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS**  1. The Chairman and members shall hold office, subject to the provisions of this schedule, for such a period as the Governor may deem fit. |
| **Vacation of Office** |
| 2. If the Governor, is satisfied that a member of the Board; |
| 1. Has been absent from three consecutive meetings of the Board without the permission of the Governor in the case of the Chairman or of the Chairman in the case of any of other members |
| 1. Has become bankrupt or made an arrangement with his creditors; |
| 1. Has been convicted of an offence involving or necessarily implying fraud or dishonesty and has undergone a sentence of imprisonment thereof; |
| 1. Is incapacitated by physical or mental illness from performing his functions as a member; |
| 1. Has such financial or other interest in the operations of the Board or otherwise as in the opinion of the Governor is likely to affect prejudicially the discharge by him of his functions as a member or |
| 1. Is otherwise unable or unfit to discharge the functions of a member; |
| The Governor may revoke the appointment of such member. |
| (2) A member may resign his office as a member by notice in  writing to the Governor and upon receipt of such  resignation by the Governor the appointment of such  member shall cease to be effective |
| 1. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) the Governor may at any time remove any member from his office. |
| 1. Where any member of the board is temporally incapacitated by illness from performing the functions of his office or its temporarily absent from Nigeria, the Governor may appoint any person to hold temporarily the office held by such incapacitate or absent member during the period of incapacity or absence and all the functions of such member under this Bill shall devolve upon the person so temporarily appointed. |
| **Co-option of persons.**   1. Where upon any special occasion the Board desires to obtain the advice of any person on any particulars matters the Board may Copt such person to be a member for such meeting or meetings as may be required and such person whilst so co-opted shall have all the rights and privileges of a member save that he shall not be entitled to vote on any questions |
| **Meetings and procedure** |
| 1. (1) the Board shall hold such and so many meetings as may be necessary for the fulfillment of its functions so, however that it shall hold at least four meetings every year. |
| (2) At a meeting of the Board: |
| 1. The Chairman shall, if present, be Chairman of the Meeting’ |
| 1. If and so long as the chairman is not present or if the office of Chairman is vacant, the members of the Board who are present shall choose one of their members to be chairman of the Meeting. |
| 1. Every question at a meeting of the Board shall be determined by a majority of the vote of the members present and voting on the question, and in the case of any equal division of votes, the Chairman of meeting shall have a second or casting vote. |
| 1. Any half of the number of members of the Board may notice writing signed by them request the chairman to call a special meeting of the Board for the purposes set out in such notice and the Chairman shall thereupon call a special meeting. |
| **Quorum.** |
| 1. (1) Two-thirds of the number of members (including the chairman or other member presiding), shall form a quorum at any meeting of the Board; |
| (2) A fraction of a number shall be seemed to be a whole number. |
| **Common seal** |
| 1. (1) The Board shall as soon as may be after its establishment provide itself with a common seal. |
| 1. The common seal of the Board shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairman or some other member authorized by the Board to act in that behalf and the signature of the Executive Secretary of the Board |
| 1. Judicial notice shall be taken of the common seal (purporting to be authenticated in accordance with this Paragraph) of the Board shall be received in evidence and be deemed to such instrument without further proof unless the contrary is shown. |