

The following Bills, which will in due course be presented to Parliament for enactment, are published for general information.

## ACTS AUTHENTICATION

### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The present mode of authenticating legislation is cumbersome and to some extent out of date, and should be replaced. The object of this Bill is to provide for the replacement by a simpler method known as assent by commission.

By this procedure, Bill will as they pass Parliament be listed in a schedule which, when approved, is to be signed by His Excellency the Governor-General and then sealed. The Bills will thereafter be published as Acts, and if endorsed as published by authority shall have effect as if the assent in Her Majesty's name duly appeared on the face of the Act. Likewise the certificate by the Clerk of the Parliaments will no longer be required.

*Clauses 2 and 3* provide for assent to Bills and *clause 6* provides for the recognition of Acts under the procedure proposed.

T. O. ELIAS,  
*Attorney-General of the Federation  
and Minister of Justice*

## ACTS AUTHENTICATION

### ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

#### *Clause*

1. Short title, etc.
2. Authentication of Bills for assent.
3. Presentation of Bills for assent.
4. Classification and numbering of Acts.
5. Printing of Acts.
6. Evidence of Acts.
7. Repeal.

# A BILL FOR

AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE AUTHENTICATION AND RECORDING  
OF ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.

[1st January, 1962]

Commence-  
ment.

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislature of the Federation of Nigeria in this present Parliament assembled and by the authority of the same as follows :—

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the Acts Authentication Act, 1961, and shall come into operation on the first day of January, 1962.

Short title,  
etc.

(2) This Act shall apply to all laws passed as Acts by the Parliament of the Federation after the coming into operation of this Act.

2. (1) The Clerk of the Parliaments shall forthwith after enactment, prepare a copy of each Bill as passed by both Houses of Parliament or by the House of Representatives as the case may be, embodying all amendments agreed to, and shall endorse on the Bill and sign a certificate that the copy has been prepared as prescribed by this section and is a true copy of that Bill.

Authentica-  
tion of Bills  
for assent.

(2) The Clerk of the Parliaments shall as from time to time directed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives prepare a schedule of Bills passed at any time during a session and intended to be presented for assent; and shall certify on the schedule that it is a true and correct record. The schedule shall set forth the long title of a Bill and a summary of its contents and the respective dates on which each Bill passed each House of Parliament; and subject to the provisions of this section, when signed by the Clerk of the Parliaments the certificate shall be conclusive for all purposes. If a Bill in the schedule is one to which section 59 of the Constitution of the Federation applies, the schedule shall, in addition, be endorsed with the prescribed certificate of the Speaker of the House of Representatives in respect of that Bill.

(3) Nothing in this section shall abrogate any special requirements prescribed for the entrenched sections of the Constitution Order or the Constitution of the Federation, and any other certificate shall be endorsed and signed by the Clerk of the Parliaments as directed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, on the Bill before the preparation of the schedule. 5

Presentations  
of Bills for  
assent.

3. (1) The schedule and copies of the Bills shall be presented to the Governor-General in duplicate. If the Governor-General is satisfied, he shall cause the schedule to be passed under the public seal of the Federation after affixing his signature to the schedule; and unless otherwise prescribed an Act shall come into operation on the date when the schedule was assented to by the Governor-General. 10

(2) A duplicate of the schedule when passed and signed shall be returned to the Clerk of the Parliaments who shall cause a copy to be published in the Gazette; and the production of a copy of the Gazette containing the schedule as published shall be conclusive evidence for all purposes. 15

Classifica-  
tion and  
numbering  
of Acts.

4. (1) The Clerk of the Parliaments shall in each year distinguish between Acts having application throughout the Federation and Acts having application only within the Federal Territory by assigning to them numbers consecutive in each series beginning in each year with the number one, and shall insert the date of commencement or, if the date of commencement is deferred, a reference to the section. 20

(2) The numbers shall be assigned by the Clerk of the Parliaments forthwith upon the return to him of the duplicate schedule as approved. Where necessary in any year the numbers already assigned in printed copies of Acts may be altered under the authority of this subsection on certificate by the Clerk of the Parliaments, and if altered, a notice thereof shall be published in the Gazette. 25

Printing of  
Acts.

5. (1) Every Act when numbered shall immediately be set up in fair and legible type by the Government Printer and have endorsed on the back that it is published by authority; and an impression in triplicate from the type set up shall be struck off by the Government Printer on vellum or on paper of an enduring quality. 30

(2) The Clerk of the Parliaments shall retain one copy for his records and deliver one copy to the Governor-General and the other copy to the Chief Justice of the Federation to be enrolled in the Federal Supreme Court. 35

(3) All other copies of the Act shall in the first instance be impressions from the same form. 40

Evidence of  
Acts.

6. Every Act which purports to be published by authority and bears a number and reference to a year and a date of commencement or reference to a section shall be received in all Courts and by all persons as sufficient evidence that it has been assented to in Her Majesty's name.

Repeal.  
Cap. 18.

7. The Ordinances Authentication Ordinance is repealed. 45

(Bills 777)