

The following Bill, which will in due course be presented to the House of Representatives for enactment, is published for general information.

A BILL

FOR

AN ORDINANCE TO DEFINE THE FUNCTIONS OF QUEEN'S COUNSEL

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislature of the Federation of Nigeria as follows :—

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Queen's Counsel Ordinance, 1958.

2. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other Ordinance or Law, no legal practitioner who has the rank of Queen's Counsel shall perform any of the functions which, in England, are performed by a Solicitor and are not performed by a barrister, but a legal practitioner who has the rank of Queen's Counsel shall not be precluded from continuing or engaging in partnership with another legal practitioner by reason only that such last-mentioned practitioner performs any functions as aforesaid.

Objects and Reasons

The Legal Practitioners' Ordinance enables a legal practitioner to perform the work which in England is performed by either a barrister or a solicitor. This prevents members of the Nigerian Bar from being eligible for appointment as Queen's Counsel since Queen's Counsel is a barrister's appointment and open only to persons practising as such.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to modify the provisions of the Legal Practitioners' Ordinance so as to provide that a Queen's Counsel shall practise as a barrister and shall not perform the work which is performed by a solicitor and not by a barrister. The legislation also contains a provision which will enable members of the Nigerian Bar practising as Queen's Counsel to engage in partnership with a solicitor.

The proposed legislation will enable members of the Nigerian Bar to be considered for appointment as Queen's Counsel.

Commence-
ment.
Enactment.

Short title.

Queen's
Counsel
to perform
the functions
of a barrister.