

Supplement to Official Gazette Extraordinary, No. 76, Vol. 51, 23rd September,  
1964—Part C

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

## CASINO LICENSING BILL

### EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

This Bill seeks to provide for the licensing and control of Casino established in the Federal territory. Included in the Bill is a schedule which lays down, amongst other provisions, rules governing the conduct of a Club in which a Casino is established.

ALHAJI SHEHU SHAGARI,  
*Federal Minister of Internal Affairs*

### ARRANGEMENT OF CLAUSES

#### Clause

1. Power of Minister to license, etc., a casino.
2. Security for performance by licensee of obligations.
3. Notice of licensed premises to be displayed.
4. Power of Minister to require information.

5. Inspection of premises by police.
6. Offences.
7. Interpretation.
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SCHEDULE—Provisions applicable in respect of casino.

## A BILL

## FOR

AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR THE LICENSING AND CONTROL OF A CASINO  
IN THE FEDERAL TERRITORY AND FOR CONNECTED PURPOSES.

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:—

Commence-  
ment.

1.—(1) It shall be lawful for the Minister by licence under his  
5 hand and in such form as he may approve, to authorise any person  
approved by the Council of Ministers to establish in the Federal territory  
and operate therein a casino for such period or periods as may be pre-  
scribed, anything in any enactment to the contrary notwithstanding.

Power of  
Minister to  
license, etc.,  
a casino

(2) A casino licensed under the foregoing subsection shall be  
10 established in such locality as the Minister may approve and shall be  
operated only as a proprietary club of the licensee; and the provisions  
of the Schedule to this Act shall apply to such proprietary club, so  
however, that the Minister with the approval of the Council of Ministers  
may by order at any time add to, amend, vary, or revoke such provisions,  
15 or any of them.

(3) Regulations may prescribe—

(a) the terms and conditions under which the licence may be  
issued and the duration of the licence;

20 (b) the conditions subject to compliance with which the licence  
may be renewed, amended, varied, or transferred;

(c) the fees payable on application for and issue of the licence;

(d) the games to be played in the casino, and where applicable,  
the maximum percentage of commission to be taken by the licensee  
in respect of each game, and the maximum odds to be paid by the  
25 licensee;

(e) the minimum reserve fund in cash to be held on any one  
night by the licensee in the casino;

(f) the conditions subject to which persons may be admitted to  
the casino;

30 (g) the measures to be taken for the prevention of fraud on players  
or on the licensee;

(h) penalties for breach of the regulations not exceeding fifty  
pounds or imprisonment for three months, or both.

(4) Orders and regulations made under the foregoing provisions  
35 of this section shall be laid before both Houses of Parliament on any  
of the next twenty sitting days after they are made, and if then annulled  
shall cease to have effect on the day next following the annulment, but  
without prejudice to anything done or purported to have been done  
under any such orders or regulations.

40 (5) A licence under this section may be revoked—

(a) if upon complaint by the Inspector-General of Police to the  
Minister, the Council of Ministers are satisfied that it is a proper  
case for such action and direct accordingly.

(b) if the Council of Ministers are satisfied it is in the public interest to revoke the licence; or

(c) If the Minister is satisfied that a court of competent jurisdiction not lower than one presided over by a chief magistrate so recommends in the course of any criminal proceeding.

Security for  
performance  
by licensee  
of obliga-  
tions.

2.—(1) The Minister may require the licensee to deposit with him as security for the due performance of any obligation of the licensee under this or any other Act an amount as may be agreed between the licensee and the Minister not less in any event than two hundred pounds; and if default is made in such performance by the licensee, the Minister may in his discretion—

(a) if the obligation can be satisfied by the payment of money, notify the licensee that he intends to apply the money so held as security in satisfaction or part satisfaction, as the case may be, of such obligation; or

(b) arrange with the Council of Ministers for the licence to be revoked.

(2) Moneys used to satisfy an obligation under the foregoing subsection shall, if the Minister so directs, be replaced by the licensee to the extent necessary to bring the amount held on deposit up to the original sum.

Notice of  
licensed  
premises  
to be  
displayed.

3. The licensee shall cause to be prominently displayed in the casino a notice that the premises are so licensed; and the notice shall show the games authorised to be played, and as the case may be, the maximum percentage of commission to be deducted in play, and the odds payable.

Power of  
Minister to  
require  
information.

4. The licensee shall at intervals of not more than six months after the commencement of his licence supply to the Minister such information relating to the operation of the casino as may be reasonably necessary to ensure due compliance by the licensee with the requirements of the licence.

Inspection  
of premises  
by police.

5. A superior police officer, in uniform may, during the course of any play, enter upon the premises occupied by the licensee under this Act; and, if he has reasonable cause to suspect that they are not used or operated in the prescribed manner, he may search any part of the premises.

Offences.

6.—(1) If a licence is granted under this Act, no person other than the licensee shall be entitled to use the word "casino" in conjunction with his name; and the failure to comply with the requirement of this section shall be an offence punishable by conviction—

(a) in the case of a body corporate by a fine of not less than five hundred pounds;

(b) in any other case, by a fine of not less than one hundred pounds or more than two hundred pounds or by imprisonment of a term of one year, or both such fine and imprisonment; and the court convicting shall order the offending name to be changed forthwith.

(2) Any person not duly licensed under this Act, who falsely represents himself to be so licensed, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction—

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(a) in the case of a body corporate to a fine of not less than five hundred pounds or more than one thousand pounds;

(b) in any other case to a fine of not less than two hundred pounds or more than five hundred pounds, or imprisonment for a term of two years or both such fine and imprisonment.

7. In this Act unless the context otherwise requires—

Interpretation.

"casino" means any building or part of a building licensed under this Act to which members of the public authorised by the licensee have access for the purpose, among other things, of playing at prescribed games of chance;

"licence" means a licence issued under section one of this Act;

"the Minister" means the Minister of the Government of the Federation charged with responsibility for Internal Affairs;

"prescribed" means prescribed by this Act or by regulations made under this Act.

8.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Casino Licensing Act 1964 and shall apply to the Federal territory;

(2) This Act shall come into force on a day to be appointed by the Minister by notice in the gazette.

Short title, application and commencement.

## SCHEDULE

### Section 1

#### PROVISIONS APPLICABLE IN RESPECT OF A CASINO

1. The rules of the club may provide for permanent and temporary membership and they shall be approved by the Minister.

2. The licensee shall fix an amount to be known as the minimum income and persons resident in Nigeria other than those in the categories set in the next paragraph, who are desirous of membership of the club shall be admitted to such membership and to play subject to proof to the satisfaction of the licensee that any such applicant is in receipt of at least the minimum income in respect of any consecutive period of twelve months preceding the date of application for membership.

3. Persons of the following categories shall not while in the Federal territory be eligible for membership of the club, namely:—

(a) persons serving in the armed forces of the Federation;

(b) persons serving in the Nigeria Police Force or in any local government or native authority police force;

(c) members (including presidents) of any court of law in the Federation;

(d) officers of the public service of the Federation, or of any Region;

(e) officers or servants of any local government council, native authority, or body corporate directly established by any law enacted by any legislature, in the Federation.