

**CHAPTER 368**

**PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES (ABOLITION AND PROHIBITION) ACT**

**ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS**

SECTION

1. Abolition of all existing private universities.
2. Prohibition of establishment of private universities by persons.
3. Closure of all private universities and similar institutions, etc.
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**CHAPTER 368**

**PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES (ABOLITION AND PROHIBITION) ACT**

**An Act to make provision for the abolition of private Universities and to prohibit the establishment of new ones by private persons including corporate bodies and prescribes penalties for its contravention.**

1984 No. 19.

[9th February, 1984]

Commencement.

1. As from the commencement of this Act, all private universities and similar institutions in existence in any part of Nigeria are hereby abolished and no such private university or similar institution shall henceforth be established.

Abolition of all existing private universities.

2. As from the commencement of this Act, it shall be unlawful for any person or group of persons (whether corporate or unincorporate) to establish any private university or similar institution of higher learning in any part of Nigeria.

Prohibition of establishment of private universities by persons.

Closure of all private universities and similar institutions, etc.

3. All existing private universities and similar institutions are hereby, as from the commencement of this Act, closed down and all students' registration and matriculation prior to the coming into effect of this Act are hereby cancelled.

Return and forfeiture of all documents.

4. (1) Registers, forms, emblems, syllabuses or other documents of the private universities abolished pursuant to section 1 of the Act shall be forwarded to the Ministry of Education of the State where the private university is located or to the Federal Ministry of Education.

(2) All such documents shall be forfeited to the Government of the State or to the Federal Government, as the case may be.

Offences and penalties.

5. (1) Any person who contravenes any provision of this Act shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to imprisonment for a term not less than three years or not more than five years.

Corporate firms and associations.

(2) Where an offence under this section is committed by a body corporate, it shall be liable on conviction to a fine of not less than ₦10,000.

(3) Where in subsection (2) above it is proved that the commission of the offence is attributable to any officer in authority or control of the corporate body he as well as the body corporate shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished as provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

Interpretation.

6. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—  
 "closure of institution" includes closure of such places as the bookshops, library, students hostels, lecture halls, administrative blocks and workshops of the universities or institutions abolished pursuant to this Act;  
 "documents" include incorporation papers, certificates, registers, account books, and all such documents in use in a private university;  
 "private university" means any university or similar institution which is privately financed and managed and which is not established by law of a State or the Federation;

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“university” means any institution established for the purpose of awarding a degree or its equivalent.

7. This Act may be cited as the Private Universities (Abolition and Prohibition) Act. Short title.

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