ISSN 0796 - 0298

REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

STUDENTS REVOLVING LOAN SCHEME ACT, 2025

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ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

THE GAMBIA

NO. 07 OF 2025

Assented to by The President,

this 11th day of August, 2025.

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Barrow

Adama Barrow

President

STUDENTS REVOLVING LOAN SCHEME ACT, 2025

AN ACT to establish the Students Revolving Loan Scheme and its governing Board, to provide for the appointment of its management and staff, and for connected matters.

ENACTED by the President and National Assembly.

PART I – PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the Students Revolving Loan Scheme Act, 2025.

2. Interpretation

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires –

"Board" means the Board established under section 5 to govern the Students Revolving Loan Scheme;

"Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Board of the Scheme;

"Executive Director" means the Executive Director of the Scheme appointed by the President under section 15;

"functions" includes powers and duties;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for higher education; and **"Ministry"** is construed accordingly; and

"the Fund" means the Students Revolving Loan Trust Fund;
"Scheme" means the Students Revolving Loan Scheme established under section 3.

PART II – ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STUDENTS REVOLVING LOAN SCHEME AND ITS GOVERNING BOARD

3. Establishment of the Students Revolving Loan Scheme

(1) There is established by this Act, the Students Revolving Loan Scheme.

(2) The Scheme is a body corporate with perpetual succession and a Common seal and may –

(a) sue or be sued in its corporate name;

(b) enter into contracts and acquire, hold and dispose of property; and

(c) in so far as is possible for a body corporate to do so, exercise the rights, powers and privileges and incur the liabilities and obligations of natural person of full age and capacity.

(3) The application of the common seal of the Scheme to a document is authenticated by the signature of –

(a) the Chairperson; or

(b) a person authorised by the Board in writing to sign on behalf of the Scheme.

(4) A document bearing the imprint of the seal of the Scheme is considered properly sealed unless the contrary is proved.

4. Functions of the Students Revolving Loan Scheme

The Scheme shall -

(a) assist students finance their education and training activities;

(b) promote and facilitate the national ideals enshrined in the Constitution;.

(c) make provision for the payment of tuition fees and related matters for post-secondary level students in accredited tertiary and higher educational institutions in The Gambia;

(d) provide funds to support students' academic research and learning in established and registered post-secondary institutions and accredited programmes in The Gambia; and

(e) perform any other activity which is ancillary to its functions.

5. The Board of the Scheme

(1) There is established by this Act, the Board of the Scheme, which consists of -

(a) a Chairperson who is a person with extensive knowledge and experience in administration, management or related field;

(b) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry;

(c) Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for basic and secondary education;

(d) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for finance;

(e) Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for public service, administrative reforms, policy coordination and delivery;

(f) the Executive Director;

(g) Solicitor General; and

(h) a representative of a recognised national student body,

(2) The President shall appoint the non-ex-officio members of the Board after consultation with the Public Service Commission.

(3) The Minister may give general directives in writing to the Board on matters of policy.

6. Tenure of office of Members of the Board

(1) A non-ex-officio member of the Board shall hold office for a term of three years, and is eligible for re-appointment for one further term.

(2) The President shall not appoint a person as a member of the Board or a member of the Board ceases to be a member if he or she –

(a) is adjudged to be of unsound mind;
(b) has been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty or fraud and not been granted a pardon; and

(c) in the case of a person with professional qualifications, is disqualified or suspended from practicing his or her profession, other than on his or her own request.

(3) A non-ex-officio member of the Board may resign by giving thirty days' notice in writing to the President.

7. Functions of the Board

The Board shall –

(a) efficiently and effectively manage the affairs of the Scheme.

(b) monitor and evaluate the operations and performance of the Scheme.

(c) ensure accountability of the Scheme by defining appropriate procedures for its management.

(d) determine procedures for the management of the Scheme.

(e) disburse funds from the

Scheme to effectively discharge its functions;.

(f) invest some of the funds of the Scheme in safe securities that are financially beneficial.

(g) establish systems to ensure the effective and efficient recovery of loans.

(h) put in place structures and guidelines that ensure fairness in the disbursement of the funds of the Scheme.

(i) formulate policies which include the determination of-

i. the terms under which funds from the Scheme are allocated to eligible students,

ii. the maximum amount of funds that may be granted to an applicant;

iii. the sectors of the economy in which the funds from the Scheme may be invested; and

(j) perform any other function that are incidental to the achievement of the functions of the Scheme.

8. Delegation of functions of the Board

(1) The Board may delegate any of its functions to the Executive Director to facilitate the efficient administration of the Scheme.

(2) The Board may at any time revoke the delegation to the Executive

Director of any of its functions.

(3) A change in the person of the holder of office of Executive Director does not revoke any delegation to the Executive Director.

9. Selection of Secretary to the Board

(1) The Board shall select as Secretary to the Board, a senior official of the Scheme with proven ability in administration.

(2) The Secretary shall be paid such allowances as the Board may determine.

(3) The Secretary shall not have voting right on the Board.

10. Functions of the Secretary

(1) The Secretary to the Board shall -

(a) keep the books and records of the meeting of the Board;

(b) conduct correspondence on behalf of the Board;

(c) prepare the agenda and record the minutes of meetings of the Board; and

(d) perform such other duties as may be assigned to him or her by the Board or the Executive Director.

(2) The Secretary is subject to the supervision and control of the Board and the Chairperson.

11. Meetings of the Board

(1) The Board shall meet at least once in every quarter at a place and time to be determined by the Chairperson.

(2) The Chairperson shall convene a meeting of the Board if requested to do so by the Executive Director or at least four members of the Board.

(3) The quorum at a meeting of the Board is four members.

(4) The Board shall take decisions by a simple majority of the votes of its members present and in the event of an equality of votes, the person presiding has a casting vote.

(5) The Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Board at which he or she is present and if the Chairperson is absent from a meeting, the members present shall select one of the members to preside.

(6) The Board may co-opt any individual to act as an adviser at its meeting, and the co-opted individual is not entitled to vote at any meeting and on any matter for decision by the Board.

(7) The validity of any proceeding of the Board is not affected by –

(a) a vacancy in its membership;

(b) a defect in the appointment of any of its members; or

(c) the fact that a person not entitled to do so, took part in the proceedings.

(8) The Board shall determine its own procedures.

12. Disclosure of interest

(1) A Board member who has an interest in a matter for consideration by the Board shall -

(a) disclose the nature of that interest and the disclosure forms part of the records of the consideration of the matter; and

(b) not participate in the deliberations of the Board and shall recuse himself or herself from the matter concerned.

(2) Where a member fails to make the disclosure referred to in sub-section (1), the Board shall nullify his or her vote in respect of that matter and suspend him or her from taking part in two consecutive meetings of the Board.

13. Allowance to Board Members

Board members shall be paid allowances as approved by the Minister in consultation with the Minister responsible for finance.

14. Committees of the Board

(1) The Board may constitute technical committees for the efficient and effective operation of the Scheme.

(2) Where the Board constitutes technical committees, the Board shall-

(a) select members of the technical committees;

(b) include at least two Board members in each technical committee; and

(c) determine the terms of reference of the technical committees.

(3) The Board may constitute ad-hoc committees to be assigned specific tasks.

PART III – MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE STUDENTS REVOLVING LOAN SCHEME

15. The Executive Director

(1) The President shall appoint the Executive Director of the Scheme after consultation with the Board and the Public Service Commission.

(2) The Executive Director is the Chief Executive of the Scheme and shall –

(a) execute and implement the policies of the Board;

(b) transact the day-to-day business of the Scheme; and

(c) ensure that the Scheme delivers its functions..

(3) The Executive Director, acting on the advice of the Board, may establish such departments in the Scheme as he or she may consider necessary or expedient for the effective management of the Scheme.

16. Other officers and employees of the Scheme

(1) The Board shall-

(a) appoint such officers and employees as it considers necessary for the discharge of the functions of the Scheme on terms and conditions determined by the Board;

(b) take charge of the discipline and removal of employees of the Scheme; and

(c) adopt suitable policies in respect of the conditions of service of the staff.

(2) The Board may institute schemes for the training of its employees in administration, management and other capacities with a view to securing the benefit of their knowledge, experience and expertise in the conduct of the operations of the Scheme.

PART IV – FINANCIAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

17. Establishment of the Students Revolving Loan Trust Fund

(1) There is established by this Act, the Students Revolving Loan Trust Fund.

(2) Monies from the Fund shall be used –

(a) to provide loans to qualified students;

(b) to pay for approved administrative expenses for the running of the Scheme; and

(c) to invest in any other facilitating programmes and projects to promote the Scheme as determined by the Ministry.

18. Sources of monies for the Fund

(1) The sources of monies for the Fund are –

(a) monies appropriated to it by the National Assembly;

(b) fees, gifts, charges, grants, loans, donations received by the Scheme for the performance of its functions;

(c) income from investment and research; and

(d) fund raising and other legitimate sources.

(2) Monies of the Fund shall vest in the Board and shall be paid into such bank accounts and shall be opened by the Ministry with the advice of the Accountant General and approved by the Minister responsible for finance.

19 Estimates, accounts, and audit

(1) The Executive Director shall, not later than three months before the end of the financial year, prepare and submit to the Board for approval, an estimate of its income and expenditure for the succeeding year.

(2) The Board shall submit a copy of the approved estimate of income and expenditure to the Minister.

(3) The Scheme shall keep proper records and books of accounts of its income and expenditure and prepare a statement of account in respect of each financial year.

(4) The Scheme shall within three months of the end of each financial year, submit its statement of accounts to the Auditor General for auditing.

(5) The audited accounts of the Scheme and the Auditor General's report on them form part of the Auditor General's overall annual report to the National Assembly.

(6) The Scheme is accountable to the National Assembly and it is accountable to the Minister on policy matters.

(7) The Scheme shall cause a management audit to be prepared, if requested to do so by the Minister.

20. Annual Report

(1) The Board shall, not later than three months after the end of each financial year, submit to the Minister in respect of the year, an annual report on the activities of the Scheme during the preceding year.

(2) The report referred to in sub-section (1) includes –

(a) information on the activities and policies of the Scheme;

(b) a copy of the audited accounts of the Scheme for the year and the Auditor General's report on them; and

(c) such other information as the Minister may request.

(3) The Minister shall cause the report to be laid before the National Assembly within three months of the end of the immediately preceding financial year.

(4) The Executive Director shall provide to the Minister such information in respect of the affairs of the Scheme as the Minister may request.

21. Regulations

The Minister may make regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

PASSED in the National Assembly this 11th day of July, in the year of Our Lord Twenty Twenty Five.

Mr. Kalipha M.M. Mbye
Clerk of the National Assembly.

THIS PRINTED IMPRESSION has been carefully compared by me with the Bill which has passed in the National Assembly, and found by me to be a true and correct copy of the said Bill.

Mr. Kalipha M.M. Mbye
Clerk of the National Assembly.