LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE SUPERVISION, CO-ORDINATION AND MONITORING OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS, ETC IN NIGERIA AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Sponsored by: Hon. Umar Buba Jibril

Motion moved and seconded.

The Rt. (Hon) Speaker, Hon. Members, the Bill seeks to among other things establish Non-Governmental Organisations Regulatory Commission for the proper supervision, monitoring and co-ordinations of Civil Society Organisations and Community Based Organisations in Nigeria.

The Rt. (Hon) Speaker, Hon. Members, it is a common knowledge that we have quite a number of Civil Society Organisations in Nigeria covering various fields of endeavor, and mostly funded from within and outside the country.

However, these organisations do not have a single legal framework that supervises the mode of their operations including their funding. What is only required of them is to register with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) and thereafter commences operation in
Nigeria. This is defective in terms of operational values of such organisations as they are left to operate within their constitutions and sometimes within the whims and caprices of their donors.

The Bill is apt in the circumstance to address or cure defects occasioned by the absence of a regulatory legal framework on the operations and activities of Civil Society Organisations in Nigeria.

Further, the Commission shall facilitate and co-ordinate the work of all National and International Civil Society Organisations (CSO’s) and equally to maintain a register of all National and International Civil Society Organisations (CSO’s) with the precise sectors affiliations and locations of their activities. The Commission also set some criteria for any Civil Society Organisations (CSO’s) to meet before its eventual registration and recognition.

The Rt. (Hon) Speaker, Hon. Members, the Commission when established will ensure transparency and accountability in the operation of Non-Governmental Organisations and Civil Society Organisations.

The intendment therefore is to check any likelihood abuse of the donations received by the Civil Society Organisations (CSO’s)
which if not properly utilized may adversely affect the image of this country, hence, these measures.

The Bill also seeks the establishment of a National Council of Voluntary Agencies as a collective forum of all voluntary agencies registered with the Commission.

The Council shall develop a Code of Conduct for the regulation of the Civil Society Organisations (CSO’s) on matter relating to their funding, foreign affiliation, national security etc.

This will assist in checking any likelihood of any Civil Society Organisations (CSO’s) being illegally sponsored against the interest of Nigeria.

The Bill consist of Seven Chapters divided into 58 clauses and a schedule to guide the operations of the Commission when established.

Based on the foregoing, I therefore implore my Hon. Colleagues to support that the Bill be read a Second Time.

Thank you.