

LEAD DEBATE: A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMMEND THE FEDERAL HIGHWAYS ACT CAP 13 LFN 2004, TO AMONG OTHER THINGS HARMONISE THE ACT WITH OTHER RELATED STATUTES

**Mr. Speaker,
Distinguished Colleagues,**

The value and ratings of a society partly rest on the quality as well as functionality of its infrastructure and other services.

Highway infrastructure is therefore given a quantum of attention as relates to its planning, construction, maintenance as well as control and supervision through appropriate legislation: a feature this step is seeking to amend.

However, to successfully manage our highways, adequate regulation of traffic thereon cannot be over-emphasized.

Modestly, every society demands this form of functional set of rules for it to prosper and survive. Notably, the leading components in societies and critical indicators that act as the foundation of its success remain its laws as well as the enforcement.

Unequivocally, the beauty of this Principal Act, being amended, is the inclusive provision of protecting and preserving the safety of road users/motorists through the supervision of users as well as regulations of traffic thereon.

Mr. Speaker, as beautiful and well-conceived this Act is, it is clear that the economic slides have rendered it toothless as the provisions of the penalties can almost pass for alms in most instances therefore making it easier to break than to be obeyed.

This is the trend that this amendments seek to revert mostly; save the plea for clarity of expressions in the long title and few other sections.

In brief, this bill seeks to amend the following:

-The words “and housing” in the long title to be deleted,

-Also in section 1(1) the phrase “control of the ministers to be replaced with “control of the Minister for Works” and deleting the words “charged with the responsibility for roads.”

-Section 6(2) of the Principal act is also being proposed that the words “section 4” be amended for “section 5” in order to make congruent reference.

-Other sections of 2(7d),4(5),6(1),7(1),8(1),10(3),11(a&b),12,13,14,15,17 and 27(2) all proposed a review of stipulated fines so as to make the law in tandem with socio-economic realities; while

-Section 28(1) is amended be inserting new provisions in its interpretations.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues for lending your important support to these amendments.

HON. (ENGR) AKINTOLA TAIWO MICHAEL