

LEAD DEBATE FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE REGULATION AND SUPERVISION OF ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY (ART) AND MATTERS CONNECTED THEREWITH, 2017

Sponsored by: Senator Olanrewaju Tejuoso (Ogun Central).

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, I am most delighted for the opportunity to lead the debate on the general principles of this very important Bill for an Act to establish the National Framework For The Regulation And Supervision of Reproductive Technology And Matters Connected Therewith. This Bill was read for the first time in this hallowed Chamber on the 3rd day of December, 2016.

The primary objective of this Bill is to establish a National Advisory Board and State Boards which shall exercise the jurisdiction, powers, discharge functions and duties, recommend modification from time to time and provide a legal framework for Assisted Reproductive Technology.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, the intendment of this bill is to address the major short comings associated with Assisted Reproductive Technology in Nigeria and to keep up with the changing technological trends in globalization which has been on the fast lane.

The Objective of this bill is to:

1. ensure a legal framework for clarity and a broad outline on the general control to vest updates on the operations of the regulations at the National and State Level
2. provide minimum requirements related to staff and physical infrastructure for the various categories of assisted reproductive technology clinics
3. ensure permissible assisted reproductive technology procedures
4. regulate the selection of patients for assisted reproductive technology procedures
5. encourage and promote training and research in the field of assisted reproductive technology
6. Encourage the establishment and maintenance of a national database in respect of infertility

7. Provide guidelines for counseling and providing patients with all necessary information and advice on various aspects of assisted reproductive technology procedures.
8. Provide regulations in respect of research on human embryos
9. Provide the criteria for obtaining information from donors of gametes and surrogate mothers
10. Provide policies from time to time on assisted reproductive technology

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, as technology continues to evolve, Nigeria needs a mechanism to protect, guide, regulate, control and address issues relating to Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART).

The Bill for an Act to Provide for a National Framework for the Regulation and Supervision of Assisted Reproductive Technology (Art) consists of nine (IX) chapters:

Chapter I - Preliminary

Chapter II –Constitution of Authorities to Regulate Assisted Reproductive Technology

Chapter III – Procedures For Registrations And Complaints

Chapter IV – Duties of An Assisted Reproductive Technology Clinic

Chapter V – Sourcing, Storage, Handling And Record Keeping For Gametes, Embryos and Surrogates

Chapter VI – Gulation of Research on Embryos

Chapter VII – Rights and Duties of Patients, Donors, Surrogates and Children

Chapter VIII – Offences and Penalties

Chapter IX - Miscellaneous

Financial Requirement

Mr. President, Distinguished colleagues, in line with Order 77(3) of the Senate Standing Order 2015 as amended, the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Bill has no financial implication.

Conclusion:

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, I therefore call on my respected colleagues to give this Bill the support it deserves in evolving a legal framework for Assisted Reproductive Technology in Nigeria.

I so move.

Senator Olanrewaju Tejuoso
Ogun Central