

**LEAD DEBATE ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMMEND THE
BORDER COMMUNITIES DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
(ESTABLISHMENT) ACT 2017.**

Sponsor: Senator Abdullahi A. Gumel (Jigawa North-West Senatorial District)

Mr. President/Distinguished Colleagues, permit me to lead the debate on this very import amendment bill being read for the second time.

You will recall that the bill was read the first time on the 11th of July, 2017.

Mr. President and my Distinguished Colleagues, this bill seeks to make Border Communities Development Agency (BCDA) more functional in view of its importance to the well-being and security of our border Communities and the nation at large.

Whereas the governing Board in the principal Act of Border Communities Development Agency First Schedule, Section 2, sub-section a - j provides for the Board members as follows:

- The Vice President as the Board Chairman
- Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice
- Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Minister of Works and Housing
- Minister of Interior
- Minister of Defence

- Minister of Education
- Inspector General of Police etc.
- Minister of Mines and Steel Development. Etc.

It has been observed that having such heads of these institutions constituting membership of the Board, has practically been impossible to convene a meeting to provide for the policy guideline and direction for the day to day running of the agency due to the busy schedule of these listed board members.

1. The Bill therefore, seeks to amend the first Schedule of the Principal Act. Specifically Section 2 a – j. by providing for a regular board who shall be responsible for providing policy guidelines and direction for the day to day running of the Agency.

a. I therefore propose for a 13 member Board, made up of a Chairman and 12 other members who shall be nominated by the president, 2 from each Geopolitical Zones of Nigeria namely.

North central

North East

North west

South East

South South

South West

2. Secondly, the Bill seeks to make specific provision and expand the area coverage that Border Communities Development Agency can provide amenities for; from 15 km to 25 km from the international boundaries.

Mr. President and Distinguished Colleagues in compliance with order 77(3) senate standing order 2015 (as amended), the bill has no financial implication if supported and passed into law, and our border communities will derive tremendous benefits from it.

I thank you most sincerely for your kind attention.