

# LEAD DEBATE ON DENTAL AND MEDICAL COUNCIL ACT CAP M8 LFN 2004 (REPEAL AND RE-ENACTMENT) BILL, 2018.

Sponsor: Sen. Mohammed Adamu Aliero (*Kebbi Central*)

## 1.0 Introduction

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, thank you for the opportunity to lead the debate on the general principles of The Medical and Dental Council Act (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill, 2018. You will recall that this Bill was read for the first time on Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.

The Bill essentially seeks to repeal the Medical and Dental Practitioners Act Cap M8 LFN 2004 and enact the Medical and Dental Practitioners Bill 2018 for the effective regulation of the Medical and Dental practitioners in Nigeria

The objectives of the Bill are;

1. To ensure that the inherent flaws in the principal Act are eliminated to ensure a legal framework for the Council to effectively regulate the professions in line with global best practices.
2. Streamline the provisions of the principal Act which appears to be in conflict with other enactments.
3. To enable the Council in conjunction with law enforcement agencies regulate the conduct of all public and private health institutions in Nigeria.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, The medical council under this Bill is committed to carry out professional competence requirements as a key part of ensuring the maintenance of professional and ethical standards for all registered medical practitioners. In this regard, registration of medical and dental doctors is being carried out and issuing of practicing license linked to Central Monitory and Enforcement (CME) that would be introduced in a near future. It will help to ensure that all registered doctors maintain a level of knowledge and skills and further benefit from the knowledge and expertise of other health professionals.

The Bill is well structured to revolutionize Medical and Dental practice in Nigeria by establishing a general Fund account to cater for unforeseen circumstances which presently does not exist.

Mr. President, distinguished colleagues, under the Bill; the Council is empowered to the exclusion of any other body, perform the following functions:

- (1) determine the standard of knowledge and skill to be attained by a person seeking to become a member of the medical or dental profession;
- (2) review from time to time as the Council deems fit, the standard of knowledge and skill determined by the Council pursuant to subsection (1) of this Section;
- (3) subject to the provisions of this Bill, establish and maintain a register of persons entitled to practice as members of the medical or dental profession in Nigeria;
- (4) make rules with respect to the types of and the keeping of the register of persons and the making of entries therein.
- (5) specify from time to time, the fees to be paid by a person who possess the qualification(s) and has applied to be registered.
- (6) publishing from time to time with amendments and such modification the registers maintained by the Council pursuant to subsection (3) of this section;
- (7) prepare and issue from time to time, a code of conduct, which the Council considers desirable for the professions of Medicine and Dentistry in Nigeria;
- (8) control the practice of homeopathy and other forms of alternative medicine;

The Bill provides under clause 14 provides for the duties of the Registrar to include amongst others -

- (a) establish and maintained such number of Registers of medical Practitioners and dental Surgeons in accordance with the rules made by the Council;
- (b) record the names, address, qualification and such other particulars all persons qualified to practice a medical practitioners or dental surgeon in accordance with the provision of this Bill;
- (c) with the directive of the council, make corrections or alterations with respect to the record of any person whose name is in the relevant register;
- (d) remove from the relevant register the name of any person whose name and particulars is on any of the registers being maintained in accordance with provision of this Bill;

In compliance with Order 77(3) of the Senate Standing Orders 2015, as amended, I wish to state that this Bill has no financial obligation to the nation's treasury since the proposed institute is a professional regulatory body with its sources of funding specified under clause 26 of the Bill.

Mr. President Distinguished colleagues this bill is simply seeking to regularize the MDCN and remove all ambiguities in other laws therein. I therefore seek your support to pass this bill expeditiously.

Thank you