

LEAD DEBATE

INSTALLATION OF CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS IN MOTOR VEHICLES, HOUSES, DWELLING PLACES, OFFICES, WORKSHOPS AND FACTORIES (EST. ETC) BILL, 2019 (SB 739).

Sponsor: Senator Gbolahan Dada (Ogun West)

Mr President, Distinguished Colleagues, permit me to lead the debate on the general principles of this important Bill with a short title: *Carbon Monoxide Detectors Bill, 2019*.

This Bill was read for the first time in this hallowed Chamber on Wednesday, 24th April 2019.

Distinguished Colleagues. I wish to report that Carbon Monoxide is a silent killer. It has no smell, no taste and no sound. It is also difficult for persons inhaling it to know what was coming into their system. When inhaled, some of the signs are dizziness, nausea, headache, confusion and ultimately, death. Carbon Monoxide is a by product of combustion. Exposure to this danger occurs through gas fires, oil burning furnaces, portable generators, charcoal grills etc.

According to a report published by Global Burden of Disease 2015 Update, it was stated as follows: "86,353 people died from unintentional poisonings worldwide in 2015 with 78,054 (90%) deaths occurring in low and middle income countries. However, if the global estimates of the numbers of intentional poisonings were freely accessible, the poisoning mortality numbers would be higher".

In the United States, statistics shows that between 1999-2010, a total of 5,149 deaths occurred from carbon monoxide poisoning.

I am convinced that in Nigeria, we recorded a high fatality figure of carbon monoxide poisoning during the period in question if adequate records are kept by the authorities. For instance, it was reported in This Day newspaper edition of 6th September 2018 that a family of six in Igboetche community, Etche Local Government Area of Rivers State lost their lives to Generator fumes (a component of carbon monoxide poisoning).

Distinguished Colleagues, we cannot fold our hands and do nothing to address this ugly threat to the good health and wellbeing of Nigerians.

Consequently, I chose to sponsor this Bill with a view of encouraging Nigerians to use carbon monoxide detectors (alarms) in motor vehicles, houses, dwelling places, offices, workshops and factories for preservation of lives and good health of Nigerians.

I am persuaded that installation of carbon monoxide detectors (alarms) in homes, vehicles and dwelling places as aforesaid will assist greatly in prevention of deaths associated with carbon monoxide poisonings as the detectors (alarms) would trigger up upon detecting carbon monoxide in such environment.

In view of the foregoing and for many other reasons, I urge all my distinguished colleagues to support the second reading of this Bill and ensure its passage.

Thank you, Mr President.

Thank you, my Distinguished Colleagues.