

LEAD DEBATE

ON

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MARITIME UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, LOKOJA TO PROVIDE FOR ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES IN THE ENGINEERING, SCIENTIFIC AND ALLIED PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINES RELATING TO MARITIME RESOURCES AND FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS, 2019.

Sponsor:

SEN. ISAAC M. ALFA
(KOGI EAST)

PREAMBLE

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, thank you for giving me the honor of leading the debate on the general principles of this bill which seeks to establish a Maritime University in Lokoja. This Bill which would develop the capacity of Nigerians to quickly and effectively take control of the maritime activities across the African continent was read the first time on Tuesday, 9th April, 2019.

BACKGROUND:

Maritime education, which is the crux of this bill is the field of studies and training connected with the marine domain and industries such as fisheries, pharmaceuticals and aquaculture, off-shore energy, mining, shipping logistics, marine technologies, marine business services, marine security and regulations, as well as naval defense. This education can be obtained from for major sources such as shipping companies, private providers, other public institutions and specialized Maritime Universities.

Mr. President, Distinguished colleagues, as you are aware, African nations including Nigeria depend on the sea and sea resources for most of their energy needs, food supplies and commercial transportation activities, with over 70 per cent of Nigeria's imports and exports conducted by sea. That implies that the ability of our Country to really unlock the potentials in this sector, dominate and exploit the resources and potentials of the over 26,000 nautical miles of vast coastal line of Africa and over 10,000 kilometers of Nigeria's navigable waterways, will depend on the skill of the Nigerian maritime professionals.

Nigeria, a country of over 180m people can boast of only 2 Maritime Universities, One in Oron in Akwa Ibom State and the other in Okerenkoko in Delta State. The 2 certainly cannot

adequately cater for the aspirations of our youths who are daily becoming determined in playing major roles in the maritime sector especially as more and more waterways are becoming navigable in our hinterlands.

INTENDMENT OF THE BILL

Mr. President, Distinguished colleagues, this Bill seeks to establish and provide a legal framework for the Maritime University of Nigeria, Lokoja in order to build and develop local content in the sector.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BILL:

- i. Clause 1 of the Bill, provides that the University shall be sited in Lokoja;
- ii. Clause 2 provides for the functions of the University which shall be to:
 1. Provides academic and professional programmes leading to award of first degrees, post-graduate research and higher degrees in engineering, scientific and allied professional disciplines relating to maritime resources;
 2. Provide to all persons of diverse race, creed, sex or political conviction, equal opportunity for learning;
 3. To provide effective economic utilization, exploitation and conservation of the Country's maritime resources through its post graduate training;
 4. Identify and find solutions to the technological problems and needs of the maritime industry;
 5. Provide for the maritime Industry, the result of training and research and engender the practical applications of these results in the maritime industry;
 6. Liaise with institutions involved in training, research and development of technologies in the maritime sector; and
 7. Engage in any other activity appropriate for a maritime university of the highest standard.

LOKOJA AS A CHOICE LOCATION

You may recall, dear colleagues that Nigeria has the second largest length of waterways in Africa and an extensive coastland of about 852km. These waterways center on its longest rivers- Rivers Niger and Benue. These two rivers ultimately run into each other at Lokoja, the Kogi State capital. Lokoja lies about 7.8023° north of the equator and 6.7333° east of the Meridian. It is a trade center and close to the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Near Lokoja, in Ajaokuta are metallurgical facilities and iron ore mines.

Kogi State is contiguous to nine (9) states in Nigeria -Benue, Niger, FCT, Kwara, Enugu, Anambra, Edo, Ondo, Ekiti and is essentially a transit route to sixteen other states including the FCT. Lokoja on the other hand also saddles some strategic roads to at least, five geo political zones out of the six in Nigeria. Therefore, Mr. President and my Distinguished colleagues, the central location of this proposed University will encourage participation from far north and other locations that are distant to the proposed Maritime Universities at Oron and Okerenkoko in Akwa Ibom and Delta States respectively.

SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS OF THE BILL

Please permit me, my Distinguished colleagues to outline herein, a few of the important benefits that Nigeria stands to gain when we establish this University:-

1. Increased skill and capacity will enable local companies to effectively demand participation right in lifting of crude oil, which currently forms over 90% of the nation's external trade, but totally excludes indigenous maritime operators;
2. It will enable Nigerians to, quickly and effectively, take control of the maritime activities along the West African and African regions, so they can become maritime authorities;

3. Consequent increase in effective participation of Nigerian owned vessels will also help to reduce foreign companies' influence, exorbitant charges and price fixing of freight rates which have inflationary tendencies;
4. Improve our level of maritime technology and know-how;
5. As Nigerians acquire more clout and confidence, more joint venture partnership will be formed with foreign companies to create synergy, leading to exchange of technology, increased competition and efficiency; and
6. Overall economic growth and development.

CONCLUSION

Mr. President, Distinguished colleagues, many of the existing maritime educational providers in Nigeria only offer training targeted at meeting some selected needs. Many players in the industries therefore train their personnel on the job and some of these training programs are not certified.

Furthermore, public institutions that offer maritime education have for many years been restricted to only post-secondary educational delivery by offering Diplomas and Certificates in some fields of marine services. These have put many learners at risk in terms of the quality and contents of trainings.

Mr. President, Distinguished colleagues, this Bill seeks to cure the above two scenarios.

Let me emphasize that the maritime sector of our economy has enormous potentials which requires high level scientific, technical and administrative skills to drive and for Nigeria to attain a very significant level, it requires a minimum of six Maritime Universities.

The proposal to upgrade the Maritime Academy, Oron to a Maritime University and the recent passage of Maritime University of Nigeria, Okerenkoko on May 4, 2017 are right steps taken to plug the dearth of Maritime Universities in Nigeria.

Mr. President, Distinguished colleagues, the maritime sector of our economy as we speak is unfortunately dominated by foreign interests because of low level indigenous capacity and I urge us to do all we can to reverse this trend. The enactment of this Bill into law will turn around the fortunes of Nigeria as a Country. I therefore passionately urge you to give your support to this Bill.

In line with Order 77(3), the compendium of financial implication is attached as Annex 11.

I urge you once again, Mr. President and my Distinguished colleagues to support the second reading of this Bill.

Thank you and God bless.

ANNEX II

FINANCIAL ESTIMATES

DISPLAYING A SYNOPSIS OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MARITIME UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, LOKOJA AND FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS

SPONSORED BY: SENATOR ISAAC M. ALFA

IN COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER 77 (3) OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA WITH RESPECT TO THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF BILLS, THE FOLLOWING COMPILATION IS PRESENTED FOR THE GENERAL INFORMATION OF SENATORS.

TOTAL CAPITAL COSTS

S/NO	ITEM	AMOUNT (N)
1.	CONSTRUCTION OF OFFICE BUILDINGS AND LECTURE THEATRES	5.8 BILLION
2.	CONSTRUCTION OF STAFF QUARTERS	3.2 BILLION
3.	PURCHASE OF DIVING TOOLS AND TANKS	20 MILLION
4.	PURCHASE OF WATER PROVISION UNITS	13 MILLION
5.	PURCHASE OF PURIFICATION UNITS	15 MILLION
6.	PURCHASE OF PLANT AND GENERATORS	41 MILLION
7.	PROCUREMENT OF DIVING TOOLS	8.3 MILLION
8.	PURCHASE OF COMPUTERS AND IT EQUIPMENTS	5.6 MILLION
9.	PURCHASE OF OFFICE FUNITURE	30 MILLION
10.	PURCHASE OF SUNDRY BOATS AND MARINE EQUIPMENT	50.5 MILLION
	TOTAL	8,193,400,000.00

TOTAL RECURRENT COST

S/NO	ITEM	AMOUNT (N)
1.	OFFICE STATIONARIES AND COMPUTER CONSUMABLES	3.8 MILLION
2.	MAGAZINES AND PERIODICALS	482,351.00
3.	DRUGS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES	655,610.00
4.	TEACHING AIDS / INSTRUCTION MATERIALS	949,594.00
5.	DIRECT TEACHING AND LAB. COST	54,191,026.00
6.	REFRESHMENTS AND MEALS	2.5 MILLION
7.	HONORARIUM AND SITTING ALLOWANCE	3.2 MILLION
8.	POSTAGES AND COURIER SERVICES	151,102.21
9.	ANNUAL BUDGET EXPENSES AND ADMINISTRATION	550,509.00
	TOTAL	12,341,000,000.00

TOTAL OVERHEAD COST

S/NO	ITEM	AMOUNT (₦)
1.	LOCAL TRAVEL ALLOWANCES	3,022,420.00
2.	FOREIGN TRAVEL ALLOWANCES	4,531,063.00
3.	ELECTRICITY TARRIFS	755,000.00
4.	TELEPHONE AND ALLIED TARIFFS	355,927.00
5.	TRAINING AND SEMINARS	2,451,531.00
6.	MAINTENANCE OF MOTOR VEHICLES/TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT	2,266,755.00
7.	MAINTENANCE OF FURNITURE	1,888,661.00
8.	MAINTENANCE OF IT EQUIPMENT	1,151,272.00
9.	CLEANING AND FUMIGATIONS	101,626.00
10.	MOTORS VEHICLES FUEL COST	2,166,531.00
11.	GENERATOR FUEL COST	5,022,042.00
12.	BANK CHARGES (OTHER THAN INTEREST)	501,102.00
13.	MISCELLANEOUS	59,974,887.00
14.	MAINTENANCE OF BOATS AND MARINE EQUIPMENT	3,229,551.00
	TOTAL	87,417,768.00

TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS

S/NO	ITEM	AMOUNT (₦)
1.	SALARIES AND WAGES AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION	1,319,795,000.00
2.	ALLOWANCES	155,085,300.00
3.	SECURITY SERVICES	4,890,280.00
4.	DIVING INSTRUCTORS	209,355,098.00
5.	CONSULTANTS	155,308,255.00
6.	CONTRIBUTORY PENTION	85,984,644.00
7.	NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME	51,980,764.00
	TOTAL	1,982,399,341.00