

LEAD DEBATE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE AND DEMOCRATIC STUDIES ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2019

Sponsor: Sen. Baba Kaka Bashir Garbai (*Borno Central*)

Co-Sponsors: Sen. Peter Nwaoboshi (*Delta North*)

Sen. Ahmad Lawan (*Yobe North-Senate Leader*).

PROTOCOL

Mr. President, Distinguish Colleagues, permit me to lead the debate of this very important Bill which seeks to amend the National Institute for Legislative Studies Act No. 13 of 2011, to provide for the naming of the Institute's permanent site located at Plot COO 307 Piwoyi, Abuja, as the National Centre of Excellence for Democratic Governance and establish a management committee for the effective utilization and maintenance of the Centre. The Bill was read for the First Time in this Hallowed Chamber on Wednesday, 17TH April, 2019.

Mr. President, my respected Colleagues. Let me use this opportunity to highlight the background of the Bill which I believe will not only provide a justification for this laudable legislative initiative but will also motivate the National Assembly to accelerate the legislative process in passing this Bill into law.

The NILDS permanent site, which is located at Plot COO 307 Piwoyi Abuja, is an international edifice and first of its kind on legislative and democratic studies. Given the size and cost implications of the construction and provision of required facilities, there is the need to put in place a mechanism that will ensure adequate maintenance culture and effective utilization of the facilities that will enhance sustainable revenue generation.

Against this background, it is pertinent to amend the NILDS Act to name the building as 'National Centre of Excellence for Democratic Governance' which shall be written immediately below the 'National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies' and to establish a management committee that comprises of members from all arms of government to ensure effective maintenance of the Centre.

OBJECTIVES OF THE BILL

The Bill seeks to—

- (i) provide for the naming of the Institute's permanent site located at Plot COO 307 Piwoyi, Abuja, as the National Centre of Excellence for Democratic Governance;
- (ii) establish a management committee that comprises of membership to be drawn from relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies and the National Assembly to ensure effective management and maintenance of the Centre; and
- (iii) open utilization of the Centre to the relevant stake holders which cut across all the arms and tiers of governments.

The Bill is structured into 4 clauses inserting new Clauses 11A to D and amending Section 24 of the Principal Act.

Mr. President, Distinguish Colleagues, I humbly urge you to support this Bill and give it an accelerated passage.

Thank you all for your attention.