

LEAD DEBATE FOR AN ACT TO REPEAL THE NIGERIAN POSTAL SERVICE ACT, CAP N127, LFN 2004 AND TO ENACT THE NIGERIAN POSTAL COMMISSION, TO MAKE COMPREHENSIVE PROVISION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND REGULATION OF POSTAL SERVICES AND FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS, 2017.

Sponsored by: Senator Olugbenga Bareehu Ashafa (Lagos East)

Mr. President, my highly respected colleagues, permit me to lead the debate on this all important Bill before us today. This Bill was read the First Time on Thursday, 9th March, 2017.

The Bill seeks to repeal the Nigerian Postal Service Act, CAP N127, LFN 2004; and enact the Nigerian Postal Commission, the introduction of private sector participation in the provision of Postal Services and the regulation of the postal sector and for other related matters.

Mr. President, Distinguished colleagues, as you are all aware, the Nigerian Postal Service Act was an Act of Parliament of 1992. You may all agree that the current trends in globalisation, digital advancement in all facets of life has been on the fast lane. Thus, the need to keep up with the changing technological trend for the benefit of the Nation.

This Bill seeks to establish the Nigerian Postal Commission with the sole and exclusive responsibility for the regulation and supervision of the postal sector; facilitate investments in and entry into the Nigerian market; protect and promote the interest of consumers against unfair practices including but not limited to matters related to tariffs and charges for and availability and quality of postal services; promote fair competition in the postal industry and protection of postal services and facilities providers from mis-use of market power or anti-competitive and unfair practices by other

service or facilities providers or equipment suppliers; grant and renew licences; undertake general responsibility for economic and technical regulation of the postal industry amongst others.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, the Bill also seeks to establish a Public Postal Operator with the sole responsibility of providing Universal Postal Services in Nigeria. The Public Postal Operator shall be a limited liability company in accordance with the provisions of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 2004. The Post Master General shall be the Chief Executive of the Public Postal Operator.

Equally, the Bill seeks to establish a Universal Postal Service Fund (UPS F) which harnesses monies from contributions by licensees which shall be 2.5% of their annual turnover, gifts, loans, aides, etc.

The Fund shall be managed/administered by a Board in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The UPS F Board shall appoint an independent and competent investment management firm as Universal Postal Service Fund Manager to amongst other things maintain the UPS F's financial accounts and records; estimating the amount needed annually to sustain the rate of network expansion determined by the Commission as appropriate to meet policy objectives; disbursing monies upon approval by the UPS F Board; etc.

The Bill also seeks to vest the administration and planning of the National Post Code System in the Commission.

Also, the Bill provides for offences, penalties and trial of offences with the necessary sanctions.

The Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Postal Service Act and Enact the Nigerian Postal Services Commission consist of 30 parts:

Part I - Objectives and Application

Part II- Establishment of the Nigerian Postal Commission

Part III – Functions and Power of the Commission

Part IV – Staff of the Commission

Part V – Financial Provisions

Part VI – Responsibilities of the Minister and Formulation of Policy

Part VII - Licences

Part VIII – Licence Conditions

Part IX – Renewal and Revocation

Part X – Directions

Part XI – Inquiries and Investigations by the Commission

Part XII – Investigations for Purposes of Administration

Part XIII – Information Gathering by Commission

Part XIV – Register

Part XV – Regulations, Guidelines by Commission

Part XVI – Notification and Resolution of Disputes

Part XVII – Agreements and Undertakings

Part XVIII – Review of Decisions

Part XIX – Monitoring and Reporting

Part XX – General Competition Practices

Part XXI – Tariff Rate Regulation

Part XXII – Universal Service Obligation

Part XXIII – Public Postal Operator

Part XXIV – Service Delivery Condition

Part XXV – National Postcode System and Technical Standards

Part XXVI – Offences, Penalties and Trial of Offences

Part XXVII – Special Powers of Commission

Part XXVIII – Legal Proceedings

Part XXIX – National Interest Matters

Part XXX - Miscellaneous

First Schedule

Second Schedule

Explanatory Memorandum

Financial Requirements

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, the Nigerian Postal Bill has no direct consequential financial implication on government, as it will take over the assets and liabilities of the existing Nigerian Postal Service.

Conclusion:

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, I therefore call on my respected colleagues to give this Bill the support it deserves in evolving a vibrant Postal industry for the economic development of the nation.

I so move.

**Senator Olugbenga Bareehu Ashafa
(Lagos East)**