



BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION BIRNIWA, JIGAWA STATE AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, permit me to lead the debate on the general principles of A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College, Birniwa. You would recall that the Bill was read for the first time in this hallowed Chamber.

My respected Colleagues, this is a very straight forward piece of legislation that seeks to establish the College of Education Birniwa, Jigawa State to ensure equity and access to tertiary education in the Country, make Comprehensive Provision for its Management and Administration with restricted programmes and limited and focused Departments to aid the educational development and improvement of technical manpower in Jigawa State.

The objectives of the College shall be to encourage the advancement of learning and to hold out all persons without distinction of race, creed, sex or political conviction the opportunity of acquiring a higher liberal education.

Provide technical courses of instruction and other facilities for the pursuit of learning in all its branches, and to make those facilities available on proper terms to such persons as are equipped to benefit from them;

Encourage and promote scholarship and conduct research in all fields of learning with emphasis on technical education, and

Undertake any other activities appropriate for a College of the highest standard, provide courses of instruction and other facilities for the pursuit of learning in all its branches, and to make those facilities available on proper terms to such persons as are equipped to benefit from them.

The College when established shall have powers to –

- (i.) establish such campuses, departments, institutes, schools, extra-mural departments and other teaching and research units within the College as may, from time to time, seem necessary or desirable, subject to the approval of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE);
- (ii) institute Chief Lectureships, readerships and associate Chief Lectureships, lectureships and other posts and offices and to make appointments thereto;



and award fellowships, scholarships, exhibitions, bursaries, medals, prizes and other titles, distinctions, awards and forms of assistance;

- (iii) provide for the residence, discipline and welfare of members of the College and hold public lectures and undertake printing, publishing and book selling;
- (iv) hold examinations and award degrees, diplomas, certificates and other distinctions to persons who have pursued a course of study approved by the College and have satisfied such other requirements as the College may lay down; and also award honorary degrees, fellowships or academic titles ;
- (v) demand and receive from any student or any other person attending the College for the purpose of instruction such fees as the College may, from time to time determine, subject to the overall directives of the appropriate authority;
- (vi) accept gifts, legacies and donations, but without obligation to accept the same for a particular purpose unless it approves the terms and conditions attaching thereto;
- (vii) erect, provide, equip and maintain libraries, laboratories, lecture halls, halls of residence, refectories, sports grounds, playing fields and other buildings or things necessary, suitable or convenient for any of the objects of the College;
- (viii) make gifts for any charitable purpose;
- (ix) do all such acts or things, whether or not incidental to the foregoing powers, as may advance the objects of the College.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, my respected Colleagues, In view of the efforts currently being made by the Federal Government of Nigeria to diversify the Nigerian economy, the need to encourage technical education cannot be overemphasized, hence the much needed move to a Federal College established ^{at Ibadan} ~~in the ancient city~~ in line with the Federal Government policy on education. I therefore urge my respected colleagues to support that the bill be read the second time and referred to the relevant committee for further legislative action.