

**A BILL TO REPEAL THE EXPORT (PROHIBITION) ACT CAP E22 LAWS OF THE
FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 TO REMOVE THE RESTRICTIONS PLACED
ON THE EXPORT OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE FROM NIGERIA; AND FOR
RELATED MATTERS.**

SPONSORED BY

HON. FRANCIS CHARLES UDUYOK

LEAD DEBATE

The Rt. Hon Speaker, Hon. Members, this Bill is simple, it calls for the Repeal of the Prohibition Act of 16th February 1989 It is a Law that Has become Obsolete in the face of our dwindling economy. .

The ACT prohibits the large export of agricultural produce like Beans, Maize, Cassava Tuber, Yam Tuber and Rice, from being exported out of the country. The penalty specified under this act when it is defiled includes, years of imprisonments, seizure of vehicles and Aircrafts, involved in conveying such agricultural produce outside the country.

This Bill was passed at that time the economy was good and the sole economic booster oil, was sold at a good price. However this is not the case in 2017, thus the agenda for the current government includes diversification of the Nigerian economy into other sectors which includes agriculture.

The continuous existence of this Act discourages farmers and investors who would wish to go into agriculture at the commercial level and with the hope of exporting some of this farm produce outside this country.

In the light of the diversification campaign, strongly upheld by the current government, Mr Speaker, my fellow Colleagues, you must agree with me that the current export prohibition Act CAP E22 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria has become obsolete and is in dire need of repeal, if we must break the monotonous economic system that we find ourselves in and move the

economy forward through the agricultural sector, we need to make laws that will enhance this agenda.

Furthermore, Exporting Agricultural produce is a gold mine for Nigeria if we look into it critically. There are millions of Africans in America, Australia many countries in Asia and in Europe there is a ready market for Nigeria to exploit. Most of our neighboring countries like Ghana export more in the agricultural products than we do in Nigeria. If we look at the number of Nigerians or Africans as a whole in Diaspora we will see that that there is a large market out there for agricultural business.

We must understand that it is essential to look inwards or go to the drawing board to see how we can make laws that will improve the business environment and assist the farmers to increase their strength in commercial agriculture. We need to take our own food to the world. We need to investigate on how to go about meeting international regulations on food export and move fast to create an international market for Nigerian food. There is nothing stopping us from being the best in exportation of agricultural produce. We have the land, good seed and good weather.

More so, if we repeal this law we will be attracting more investors in this sector, more agricultural processing industries will rise. We will be creating more jobs for the youths of this country; many people will be willing to go into farming if it is seen to be lucrative.

My fellow colleagues I urge you to support the repeal of this Bill.

Thank you.

EXPORT (PROHIBITION) ACT

An Act to provide for the exportation of certain foodstuff from Nigeria and the trial of offenders by the Federal High Court.

[16th February, 1989] [Commencement.]

1. Prohibition of exportation of certain goods

Notwithstanding anything contained in the Customs Excise Tariff, etc. (Consolidation) Act or in any Act or other enactment (including any statutory instrument or order), the goods specified in the Schedule to this Act shall be absolutely prohibited from being exported out of Nigeria.

2. Offences, penalty, etc.

- (1) Any person who takes, causes to be taken, induces any other person to take or attempts to take out of Nigeria any of the goods specified in the Schedule to this Act shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to imprisonment for life.
- (2) In addition to the penalty specified in subsection (1) of this section-
 - (a) the goods, as well as any vehicle, vessel, aircraft or other thing whatsoever used in connection with the exportation; and
 - (b) all the assets, movable or immovable, including motor vehicles, of any person convicted of the offence, shall be forfeited to the Federal Government.
- (3) Any customs officer or other person who aids, counsels, procures, or conspires with any person to commit an offence under this section, shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to the same punishment as prescribed for the offence under subsection (1) of this section.
- (4) Any offence committed under this Act shall be triable by the Federal High Court.

3. Short title

This Act may be cited as the Export (Prohibition) Act.

SCHEDULE

Goods the exportation of which is absolutely prohibited absolute prohibition (Trade) [Section 1.]

1. Beans.
 2. Cassava tuber.
 3. Maize.
 4. Rice.
 5. Yam tuber.
 6. All products or derivatives of items 1 to 5.
 7. All imported food items.
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