

**BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE A LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR CODE OF ETHICS
FOR MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS IN NIGERIA**
LEAD DEBATE

Sponsor – Hon. Ali Isa J.C

Background.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, once again thank you for the privilege to lead this debate on the code of medical ethics in Nigeria, Act Cap 221 Law of the Federal republic of Nigeria 1990. Decree No 33 of 1988, which was last reviewed in January 1995, titled Rules of Professional Conduct for Medical and Dental Practitioners in Nigeria.

This Bill is to seek the amendment of part E on page 60 of the code of ethics of Medical Practitioners Act in relation to private practice to stop medical doctors in full public service engaged in any act of private practice which is distracting them from their statutory duty.

At the moment, the public is not getting the best medical attention. Like the practice in Nigeria, other professions such as law, where a full employed lawyer with a government institution does not open a chamber nor stand for a private client in a competent court of law should be adopted.

Honourable Speaker, colleagues, it is alarming to note that the health institution are in serious decay, because of lack of proper medical care by our Doctors. A consultant trained with tax payers' money, after getting that prefix consultant, consult patients only once in a week, while he is busy going from one hospital to another or busy in his private hospital, which is not affordable by the common man. People are there dying in public hospitals either due to lack of medical attention or unaffordability of medical services. If you want to see a Doctor you either have to go to his private Hospital or where he is consulting, which most of Nigerians cannot afford to pay.

In 1995, a man brought his wife in labor from Kagoro to General Hospital Kafanchan in Kaduna State. The Doctor was in his private Hospital and no body attended to the woman, she was later taken to the private Hospital and was asked to deposit N4, 000 the man went back to look for the money the woman died there unattended to at the reception.

On Wednesday 12th of October 2016, page 16 Leadership Newspapers reported that Abia state Government sanctioned Doctors over private practice. They abandoned their statutory duties for private practice. Instead of working for the public they spend more time in their clinic and the Government is paying them. This is the case all over the country, the masses are being exploited.

Similarly on Wednesday 20/10/2016 the prominent and respected Emir in this country Emir of Shonga, Dr. Haliru Ndanusa Yahaya reported in Daily Trust Newspaper page 4 that 300 women are suffering from maternal mortality weekly, this should be unacceptable in a country like Nigeria with immense agriculture, minerals, man power and oil wealth. All this is because of unethical practice; more so when a Doctor works in a public Hospital for 8 hours then goes to his clinic / Hospital work for another 6-8 hours day in day out, you cannot get the best services from that Doctor because he is not having enough time to rest as advised by the Doctor's.

In Daily Trust of 26th October, 2016 a man 57 years old Paul Dibba used plier to cut off his toe after getting frustrated of going to the hospital several times.

Masses are dying because of lack of proper attention in our hospital. in line with the code of conduct for public officers in Nigeria;

1. A public office **shall not put himself in a position where his personal interests conflict with his duties and responsibilities.**
2. Except where he is not employed on a full basis like participating in management or running any private business profession or trade except engaging in farming.

Objective of the bill

- The Medical Doctors to concentrate on their Primary Assignment in Public hospitals to enable the common man get good and affordable healthcare services from Public Hospitals.
- To preserve the lives of Nigerians by reducing pre maternal death
- To discourage and avoid compelling people to go to private hospitals.

Honourable Speaker, colleagues, I urge this Honourable House to support this bill to save the lives of citizens in our country and to adhere to strict compliance to code and ethical conduct of medical personnel.