

**LEAD DEBATE ON THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PEACE,
RECONCILIATION AND MEDIATION BILL, 2016**

SPONSORED BY: SENATOR SHEHU SANI (KADUNA CENTRAL)

Mr. President, my highly respected colleagues, permit me to lead the debate on this important Bill before us today. This bill was read the First Time on Thursday, 15th October, 2015.

The Bill seeks to provide for the establishment of the National Commission for Peace, Reconciliation and Mediation; to identify conflicts; and for the Supervision, Co-ordination and Monitoring of all peaceful resolutions of conflicts in Nigeria and for matters incidental.

Mr. President, my Distinguished Colleagues, the Bill before us today is of paramount importance in our country today. Conflict is an inevitable part of human condition and every society has its share of conflict and disorder. As a multi-ethnic and multi-religious State with a population of over 170 million people consisting of about 400 linguistic groups, Nigeria qualifies as one of the highly diverse societies in the world. Given this rich diversity of Nigeria's socio-political, linguistic and cultural landscapes, it is not entirely unexpected that there would be occasional tensions among groups that would sometimes lead to violent conflict.

Currently, the nation has been plagued with disputes, disagreements, conflicts, etc. between Individuals, Groups, Communities, Corporations, and Governments. Such avoidable conflicts have resulted into larger conflicts like the extreme and radicalized Boko Haram in the North-East; ethno-religious violence including indigene/settler dichotomy in the North Central; kidnapping, armed robberies and ethnic militancy in South East; militancy in the Niger Delta targeted at oil production which is the live wire of the Nigerian economy; cattle rustling, Fulani herdsmen and farmers' conflicts in most parts of the country.

As Dr. Paul Gitwaza has said "a healthy nation is measured by its level of Reconciliation, Reconciliation between people and God, and people among themselves"

Mr. President, my Distinguished Colleagues, currently, disputes between Employers and Employees, Individuals, Government Agencies, etc. are sometimes settled out of court; Thus the need for a body to identify, regulate, and administer dispute settlement mechanisms in all facets of the Nigerian nation.

South Africa had in 1995 established the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration to resolve problems of inequality and unfair labour practices that Characterized the apartheid era.

The objectives of the commission amongst others include:

- I. To identify, assess and mediate in all conflicts nationwide;
- II. To coordinate all intervention efforts;
- III. To coordinate and implement the National Peace Policy which provides a framework for building peace, preventing, managing and resolving dysfunctional conflicts in Nigeria; and
- IV. To supervise the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR).

The Bill for an Act to establish the National Commission for Peace, Reconciliation and Mediation, 2016 is divided into five parts. These include:

PART I- ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PEACE RECONCILIATION AND MEDIATION

PART II- OBJECTIVES, FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE COMMISSION

PART III- APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND OTHER STAFF OF THE COMMISSION

PART IV- FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

PART V- MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Schedule

Explanatory Memorandum

The financial compendium is hereby attached.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, I am convinced and confident, that the enactment of this Bill will reduce conflicts to the barest minimum, increase good relationships amongst our citizenry and the nation at large.

With high sense of humility, I solicit your maximum support for the accelerated passage of this all important Bill.

Thank you all

Senator Shehu Sani

(Kaduna Central)

COMPENDIUM AND CONSOLIDATION

ON THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATION OF A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND MEDIATION; TO IDENTIFY CONFLICTS; AND FOR THE SUPERVISION, COORDINATION AND MONITORING OF ALL PEACEFUL RESOLUTIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENTS, ORGANISATIONS, ETC. IN NIGERIA AND FOR MATTERS INCIDENTAL THERETO

Sponsored by Senator Shehu Sani
(*Kaduna Central Senatorial District*)

In compliance with Senate Standing Order (2015 As Amended) Rule 77(3) which states *inter alia* that: on the introduction of a Bill, "a Compendium of background information and financial implications shall accompany every Bill", the compilations set out hereunder offers concise information and data to satisfy the requirements of the Rule thereof.

1.	Projected recurrent Personnel costs in the first 12 months	— ₦76,675,258
2.	Projected Capital Expenditure in the First twelve months	— ₦887,000,000
3.	Estimated Overhead and Operational Costs for first 12 months	— ₦502,000,000
Total Projected and Estimated Costs for first 12 months		— ₦1,465,675,258