

LEAD DEBATE ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE DEFENCE
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (DRDB) (SB. 623).

Sponsor: Senator Abubakar Kyari (*Borno North*)

Mr. President, my highly respected colleagues permit me to lead the debates on this very important Bill which seeks to establish the Defence Research and Development Bureau for, among other things, to propose a realistic Defence Policy for basic and applied research on defence items and equipment, to initiate and coordinate the scientific, technological and environmental research activities of the Armed Forces, to provide strategic direction for self-reliance in defence and security needs, to evaluate needs and liaise with private and government research institutions on defence related items and equipment.

The Bill was read for the first time in this chamber on Wednesday, 14th February, 2018.

The ability to wage war and win it or to deter potential adversaries depends on the degree of technological wealth in the country, which should be seen to be adequately developed and functional. The success of modern day military forces is measured by their ability to develop and use unique technologies to effectively confront unique security challenges.

The Nigerian Armed Forces (AFN) depends heavily on the importation of military technology both hardware and software. This overdependence on procurement of military equipment from foreign countries is detrimental to the development of the country, depriving it of the growth of Research and Development (R&D) and Military Industrial Complex. It constitutes a continuous drain on the nation's scarce foreign exchange and fundamentally compromises security. In fact, sometimes these nations conspire to deny the AFN the supply of these defence equipment thereby jeopardizing our National Security. Furthermore, the country loses the spin-off technologies from a vibrant military R&D that could be for civil use or spin-on from the civil technology development to the military sector. This situation also accounts for the absence of significant collaboration between the military and civil based research institutions thereby adversely affecting the development of military industrial complex as well as the development of unique solutions to address our unique defence and security needs.

There is therefore the need to establish the Defence Research and Development Bureau to initiate, collaborate and coordinate all the activities relating to

military research and development as well as to provide the strategic direction for the actualization of the military industrial complex, and by extension, the attainment of self-reliance in defence and security needs of the Armed Forces

The vision of the Bureau is to make Nigeria prosperous by establishing world class science and technology base and provide our Defence Services decisive edge by equipping them with internationally competitive systems and solutions while its mission amongst other things is to -

- Design, develop and lead to production state-of-the-art sensors, weapon systems, platforms and allied equipment for our Defence Services.
- Provide technological solutions to the Services to optimize combat effectiveness and to promote well-being of the troops.
- Develop infrastructure and committed quality manpower and build strong indigenous technology base thereby contributing to the nation building

Mr. President, my respected colleagues the Bureau when established will dedicatedly work towards enhancing self-reliance in Defence Systems and undertakes design & development leading to production of world class weapon systems and equipment in accordance with the expressed needs and the qualitative requirements laid down by the three services.

DRDB will work in various areas of military technology which include aeronautics, armaments, combat vehicles, electronics, instrumentation engineering systems, missiles, materials, naval systems, advanced computing, simulation and life sciences. DRDB will also strive to meet the Cutting edge weapons technology requirements provides ample spinoff benefits to the society at large especially in the fight against terrorism

In this era of global terrorism which has been heightened and intensified in Nigeria by Boko Haram insurgents given their condemnable wicked activities in the North Eastern part of Nigeria, we need highly skilled, combat-ready, operationally prepared and well-motivated Armed Forces to take up the battle efficiently against the insurgents. The Bureau when established will be a significant add-on to the process desirable for the effective preparation of the Armed Forces to win the war against the insurgents

Mr. President as a matter of priority many other countries of the world particularly the advanced nations have put in place a similar bodies to meet the professional and military technological needs of their Armed Services. For instance, the United States Defence Research Agency was established in the 40's while India founded its own in 1949, only two years after its independence in 1947.

Consequently Mr. President the establishment of the Bureau will have far-reaching impacts towards opening doors for us to enlist the support, co-operation and collaboration of similar bodies in advanced countries and other parts of the world. Through joint activities, exchange of programmes, shared experience,

Mr. President, respected colleagues, this bill when passed will strengthen the overall Nigeria security mechanism using the Nation's defence assets. It will also ensure that the gains on investment so far made by Nigeria on security are optimally harnessed. It will further place the Nigeria military on a sound footing to attain the leading edge among military of other African countries.

Mr. President distinguished Colleagues, in line with our Order 77(3) of the Senate Standing Rule the financial compendium on the establishment of the bureau is attached

Mr. President, Distinguished colleagues, with very high sense of humility, I solicit your support for the passage of this all important bill.

Once more, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to lead this debate.

COMPENDIUM ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BUREAU (DRDB) (SB. 623).

Sponsor: Senator Abubakar Kyari (*Borno North*)

In compliance with Order 77(3) of the Standing Rules of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with respect to the procedure of Bills, Compendium and Consolidation, which states inter alia that "On the introduction of a Bill, a Compendium of background information and financial implications of such Bills if passed into Law shall be delivered to all Senators", the following compilation with regard to the aforementioned Bill is herewith presented for the general information of Senators.

It is worthy of note that the compilation shown below is a summary of the anticipated recurrent and capital expenditure in the first twelve months immediately following the commencement of the Act.

TOTAL: DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BUREAU	2,095,281,398
TOTAL ALLOCATION:	2,095,281,398
PERSONNEL COST	737,640,699
SALARY:	
SALARIES AND WAGES	655,680,621
CONSOLIDATED SALARY	655,680,621
ALLOWANCES AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION:	655,680,621
ALLOWANCES:	81,960,078
	81,960,078
NON REGULAR ALLOWANCES:	
FOREIGN SERVICE ALLOWANCE:	32,784,031
TOTAL GOODS AND NON-PERSONAL SERVICES GENERAL	49,176,047
OVERHEAD COST:	131,111,111
TRAVEL & TRANSPORT GENERAL:	131,111,111
LOCAL TRAVEL & TRANSPORT: TRAINING:	131,111,111
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE:	131,111,111
CONSTRUCTION/PROVISION:	377,777,778
CONSTRUCTION/PROVISION OF FIXED ASSETS – GENERAL:	377,777,778
CONSTRUCTION/PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE	397,777,778
	397,777,778
TOTAL PERSONNEL:	
TOTAL OVERHEAD:	737,640,699
TOTAL RECURRENT:	131,111,111
TOTAL CAPITAL:	848,751,810
TOTAL ALLOCATION:	377,777,778
	2,095,281,398