



Hon. Adekoya Adesegun Abdel-Majid

Deputy Chairman, House Committee on Land Transport



LEAD DEBATE ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISIONS FOR THE RETIREMENT AGE FOR TEACHERS IN NIGERIA AND FOR RELATED MATTERS, 2018.

Sponsor: Hon. Adekoya Adesegun Abdel-Majid

Mr. Speaker and Honourable Colleagues, this Bill seeks to make provisions for raising from 60 years to 65 years, the retirement age of Teachers in Nigeria whose inevitable profession does not only lay a good foundation for the development of a Nation but also for its continuous and steady progress in technological, economic and social emancipation.

Over the years teachers of primary and secondary schools have demanded for their retirement age be raised from 60 years to 65 years as it was done to their counterparts in the Colleges of Education, Polytechnics, and Universities as well as other professionals such as Judges. This we believe is important as the school system will not only further benefit from the experience of these Teachers but it will help to address the acute shortage of Teachers, given the high rate of retirement without corresponding recruitment of Teachers to fill the resultant vacancies.

Mr Speaker, the Honourable Members of the House, we will by raising the compulsory retirement age of Teachers in the Primary and Secondary School to 65 years to achieve, among others, the following benefits:

1. Every education system needs appropriate number of teachers to function properly. Therefore for functionality, optimum service delivery and achievement of set goals, the primary and secondary sub-sector of education require adequate knowledge, skills and values to the children.

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2. That shortage of teachers is a major challenge confronting primary and secondary schools across the country, ostensibly due to high rate of retirement without corresponding recruitment of teachers to fill the resultant vacancies. More so, many young people come into the teaching profession as a stepping stone and leave for greener pastures once the opportunity comes their way, thereby depleting the already precarious Teachers rate.
3. That most of these experienced teachers who retire from service still have the mental capacity and strength to contribute more to the public education system. In furtherance to this, many of them thereafter are engaged by owners of private schools in the country, to harvest their wealth of experiences and development gathered over the years from their-tenure in the public school system.
4. That the more years a teacher spends on the job, the better he delivers his service to the learners, given the benefit of experience garnered over the years and the wisdom of age. The older and more experienced the teacher, the more caring and tolerant he is to his pupils/students with improved dexterity in the pedagogy of teaching acquired over time.
5. That the present retirement of Primary and Secondary School Teachers at Sixty (60) years of age, based on the Public Service Rules, be reviewed upward to Sixty-five (65) years as it has been done for Lecturers of Polytechnics, Colleges of Education and Universities, who are invariably Teachers.
6. That the granting of 65 years retirement age to Teachers of Primary and Secondary Schools will be a viable means of curbing the rate at which the government loses a great chunk of her investment in the professional development of this calibre of teachers. Also in no small measure, will it help to address the manpower needs in the school system, and will provide the public school system the opportunity to further benefit from the experience and wisdom of these categories of teachers.

In view of the numerous benefits that will be derived from the increase of the compulsory retirement age of the Primary and Secondary School Teachers to 65 years, I humbly urge my Honourable colleagues to allow the Bill to be read the second time.