

**LEAD DEBATE ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
NIGERIA POLICE ACADEMY AS A DEGREE AWARDING INSTITUTION
AND FOR RELATED MATTERS**

SPONSOR, SEN. JOHN OWAN ENOH

Mr. President and Distinguished Colleagues; it is my honour and privilege to lead the debate on the general principles of the Bill for an Act to provide for the establishment of the Nigeria Police Academy as a degree awarding Institution and for related matters.

2. The purpose of the Bill is to establish the Nigeria Police Academy with powers to train, nurture, equip and produce globally competitive police graduates with requisite knowledge, skills, values and attitudes suitable for leadership, scholarship, policing and rendering of community service and to award degrees, diplomas and certificates in accordance with the highest academic standards. The need to improve on the training and education of Police Officers in Nigeria cannot be over emphasized. With the recent revelations on the appalling condition of the various police colleges nation – wide, it has become imperative to establish a mechanism to nurture, equip and produce competitive police officers with requisite knowledge, skills and attitudes suitable for leadership and policing.

3. Mr. President and Distinguished Colleagues; the objectives of this Bill is to make provision for the establishment of the Nigeria Police Academy as a police institution with power to award degrees, diplomas and certificates in accordance with the highest academic standards as may be prescribed by the National Universities Commission. The objects of the Academy includes –

- (a) encourage the advancement of learning and avail the cadets of the Nigeria Police Force, without distinction of race, creed, sex, or political conviction or religious persuasion, the opportunity of acquiring a higher and liberal education;
- (b) provide courses of instruction and other facilities for the pursuit of teaching and learning in all the faculties and campuses of the Academy as may be established nationwide and make those facilities available on proper terms to members of the Nigeria Police as are qualified to benefit from them;
- (c) nurture, equip and produce globally competitive police officers with requisite knowledge, skills and attitudes suitable for leadership, scholarship, policing and community service;

- (d) align its activities to the security, social, political, cultural and economic needs of the people of Nigeria;
- (g) encourage and promote scholarship and conduct research in restricted fields of learning and human endeavour; and
- (h) undertake other activities appropriate for a college of the higher learning.

4. The Bill seeks to empower the Academy to establish such campuses, colleges, faculties, institutions, schools, facilities and extra-mural departments and other teaching and research units within the Academy as may be necessary from time to time or desirable, subject to the approval of the National Universities Commission, etc.

5. The Bill provides for the Nigeria Police Academy Council with the mandate to initiate or approve the policy of the Academy and to give the Academy directions on general or specific matters. Membership of the Council is made up of relevant persons and agencies. The Bill also makes provision for the appointment of the Commandant and Deputy Commandant of the Academy, the Provost, Registrar and other relevant Principal Officers.

6. Under Part IV of the Bill, provision is made for the funding of the Academy which include take – off grants, annual subventions and budgetary allocations received from the Government of the Federation, etc.

7. Some may argue that there are enough Universities in Nigeria (both Government and Private) where any citizen including Police Officers may apply for higher education. However, it is also true that there is no specialized institution of higher learning in Nigeria for the training of police officers as is the case for the military and in line with international best practices. The proposed Academy will no doubt fulfill this specialized need of the Police and encourage many more police officers to improve themselves with a view to give their best in the ever increasing complex work of policing.

8. More importantly, it has also been argued that the bane of policing in Nigeria stems from the fact that criminals are always ahead of policemen because modern ideas and ways of policing are not inculcated in our police officers. This Academy will certainly bridge that gap as it will be a resource based institution.

9. Mr. President and Distinguished Colleagues; it is pertinent to bring to your attention that even though, the Federal Government of Nigeria upgraded the Nigeria Police Academy, Wudil, Kano State, to a degree-awarding institution; coupled with the fact that academic activities

commenced in the Academy as far back as September 2012 with four Faculties, namely the Faculty of Science, Law, Social and Management Sciences and the Faculty of Humanities; the operations of the Academy is yet to be backed up by law. In the next couple of months, the Academy may be graduating its pioneer students with Certificates and Degrees which may not be recognized nationally and internationally as a result of the absence of an enabling legal framework.

10. Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, this Bill is aimed at improving the knowledge and skills of our police officers and to equip them with modern techniques in policing to enable them effectively deal with the security challenges of our time. It is for the above reasons that I urge you all to support the Bill and ensure its passage.

13. Thank you immensely for your attention