

LEAD DEBATE ON A BILL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND MEDICAL SCIENCES (SB.684)

Sponsor: Sen Olarewaju Tejuoso (Ogun Central)

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, permit me to lead the debate of this very important Bill for the establishment of the Federal University of Medicine and Medical Sciences Abeokuta.

The Bill was read for the First Time in this Hallowed Chamber on Thursday, 1st June, 2018.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, this Bill seeks to establish the Federal University of Medicine and Medical Sciences Abeokuta and make comprehensive provisions for its due management and administration.

The establishment of this Institution is informed by the imperative to create more access to higher medical studies in view of the large number of qualified candidates who are annually stranded in their failed attempt in gaining admission into higher institutions in the state.

A survey conducted by the Daily Trust newspaper of July 10, 2017 edition showed that only about 3,000 out of nearly 160,000 that applied can be admitted to study medicine in all the universities in Nigeria.

- *Adequate funding, effective monitoring and development: At the moment, the discipline of Medicine and its allied sciences is 'swallowed' up in the general pool of the conventional universities with the result that it does not receive the needed attention, development and budgetary provisions.*

Developing an international reputation for excellence in the field of medicine and related fields requires a University that is focused and committed to teaching and research in medical sciences and health-related disciplines. The University, like its counterparts in other parts of the world, is envisioned as a multidisciplinary space for education, research, harnessing science and innovation to tackle health challenges bedeviling the nation.

- *To meet the challenges of inadequate health professionals in the country:* Statistics show that the Doctor-patient ratio in Nigeria falls far short of the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations.

The WHO standard stipulates the ratio of one Doctor to six hundred patients (1:600). This contrasts with the current one Doctor to about five thousand patients (1:5,000) in Nigeria. At the moment, Nigeria has only about 35,000 practicing Medical Doctors serving a population of about 180 million people. In other words, Nigeria needs no fewer than 300,000 Medical Doctors to meet the WHO requirement. Based on the existing system and statistics, it will take Nigeria about 100 years to have the number of Doctors she needs and that is if none of the Doctors and new graduates leaves the country and none of those practicing now dies.

Additionally, the quality of training, competence and skills needed in the medical profession remains problematic in Nigeria because the professionals are being trained in scarce, inadequate and quite often obsolete facilities. More often than not, the existing faculties of medicine are competing with other faculties for funding in the conventional universities.

- *To curb and reverse the menace of overseas medical tourism with attendant capital flight:* In the last few years, Nigerians have turned to India, South Africa, America, Israel, United Kingdom, Germany and other countries in Europe for medical tourism. A report published in Leadership newspaper of November 21, 2015 edition showed that Nigeria loses about Three Billion Naira to medical tourism annually.

Nigeria alone accounts for 42.4 percent of the medical tourism list of Africans going to India for medical attention. According to a report published in Punch newspaper (3/3/2012), India attracts more than 25, 000 Nigerian medical tourists every year. In monetary terms, Nigerians spend about \$260 million annually in search of medical attention in India alone. If our health sector facilities improve, we could become the Medical tourism destination for Africa.

- *Contribution to national economy:* The specialized University of Health Sciences commands potential economic benefits. With the current mantra to diversify the nation's economy from the hitherto oil-based economy, the health industry offers a great potential as a revenue earner.

For instance, a recent survey showed that the health care industry in India earns revenues accounting for about 5.2 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and

employs as many as four million people. India's earnings from the health sector could reach \$73 billion by 2020. India's pharmaceutical exports to Africa increased from \$247.64 million in 2000, to \$3.5 billion in 2014.

There is therefore the need for the Nigerian government to invest heavily in the health-related educational sector, drawing from the experiences of other countries like India in order to earn revenue, produce quality manpower in the health-sector and ultimately create employment to address the yawning gap of unemployment. The anecdote of Specialized Universities of Medical Sciences in other climes clearly demonstrates that there is high hope that the Federal University of Medicine and medical Sciences, Abeokuta, would revolutionize the health sector in Nigeria and bring to an end the endless search for medical attention (medical tourism) in other parts of the world, with its attendant capital flights from the nation's distressed treasury.

In all modesty, may I submit that the establishment of this University is therefore a giant step in the right direction?

Mr. President, my highly respected Colleagues, in line with order 77(3) of our Standing Rules, the financial compendium is hereby attached.

This Bill is a major milestone in the history of legislation in Nigeria. It is in view of this and many more valid points that cannot be exhausted in this short debate that I urge you, Mr. President, distinguished colleagues, to please support this bill and recommend its accelerated passage.

Thank you all.

COMPENDIUM ON A BILL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND MEDICAL SCIENCES (SB.684)

Sponsor: Sen Olarewaju Tejuoso (*Ogun Central*)

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 this Act.

TOTAL: FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE AND MEDICAL SCIENCES

	1,126,529,588
TOTAL ALLOCATION:	1,126,529,588.
PERSONNEL COST	737,640,699
SALARY:	655,680,621
SALARIES AND WAGES	655,680,621
CONSOLIDATED SALARY	655,680,621
ALLOWANCES AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION:	81,960,078
ALLOWANCES:	81,960,078
NON REGULAR ALLOWANCES:	32,784,031
FOREIGN SERVICE ALLOWANCE:	49,176,047
TOTAL GOODS AND NON-PERSONAL SERVICES GENERAL	111,111,111
OVERHEAD COST:	111,111,111
TRAVEL & TRANSPORT GENERAL:	111,111,111
LOCAL TRAVEL & TRANSPORT: TRAINING:	111,111,111
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE:	277,777,778
CONSTRUCTION / PROVISION:	277,777,778
CONSTRUCTION / PROVISION OF FIXED ASSETS - GENERAL:	277,777,778
CONSTRUCTION / PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE:	277,777,778
TOTAL PERSONNEL:	737,640,699
TOTAL OVERHEAD:	111,111,111
TOTAL RECURRENT:	848,751,810
TOTAL CAPITAL:	277,777,778
TOTAL ALLOCATION':	1,126,529,588