

**LEAD DEBATE ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE NATIONAL  
BOUNDARY COMMISSION (ESTABLISHMENT) ACT CAP N10 LFN**

Sponsor- Sen. Gershom Bassey

Mr. President, it is with immense delight that I commence this debate on A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Boundary Commission (Establishment) Act Cap 10 LFN, which was read for the first time in this Chamber on the 23rd day of May, 2018 .

My Distinguished Colleagues, boundaries serve a fundamental purpose inherent to the very existence of a state or a community, they clearly define the territory under the exclusive control and authority of a community.

We are all witnesses to the numerous communal clashes that emanate from boundary disputes between communities. These disputes which lead to loss of lives and property most times arise from non-delineation or improper delineation of communal and state boundaries.

Unfortunately, it is after the loss of lives that the National Boundary Commission intervene and demarcate the disputed area in an attempt to help resolve the crisis.

Sadly Mr. President, these disputes become intensified during farming seasons. We loose so many lives and properties worth billions of naira to boundary disputes which would have been averted by a simple and clear demarcation of our internal boundaries.

The Ikot Offiong and Itu dispute(Cross River/Akwa Ibom), Yala and Izzi(Cross River/Ebonyi) and the Kogi/Anambra boundary disputes are just a few.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, this amendment seeks to make the National Boundary Commission proactive by providing that the Commission shall periodically carry out the delineation of our internal boundaries to forestall boundary disputes that may result in wanton loss of lives and to clearly point out and notify the communities of the extent of their title.

Mr. President, today's technological development in boundary survey and delineation allows a level of precision that will enable the Boundary Commission carry out regular survey of our internal boundaries, not with an intention to change the boundary, but rather to improve its geographic description and its clarity to all concerned.

Distinguished Colleagues, the International Boundary Commission and Boundary agencies in the Uk, Australia and other developed nations do publish and submit annual reports to their parliaments. The report includes result of boundary inspection, maintenance and repair reports, future maintenance schedules and an overview of the Commission's field activities.

This is what is lacking in the Nigeria Boundary Commission. The Commission does not maintain the boundaries, they don't make reports because they wait for too long before any visit, and by then, the local

communities must have visited a lot of harm on themselves

It is based on these concerns that I propose this amendment and I enjoin this Senate to support my amendment.

I thank You.