

## **LEAD DEBATE ON THE BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR COUNTER-TERRORISM STUDIES AND ANCILIARY MATTERS, 2018.**

**Sponsor: Senator Shehu Sani (Kaduna Central)**

Mr. President of the Senate and distinguished colleagues of the upper chamber of the Nigerian legislature, it is with total concern and sadness to what is happening in the country and the sincere desire to have an ever-lasting solution to curb terrorism and violent crimes in Nigeria, sub-Saharan Africa and the world at large that I stand before my humble colleagues to lead the debate on the Bill For An Act to Establish the National Institute for Counter-terrorism Studies.

It is no longer arguable that terrorism and violent crimes have caused unquantifiable damages to the social and economic spheres of lives. Successive administrations have proffered military solutions to end the horrible attacks on innocent Nigerians but no much success has been achieved.

Recall that at the inception of the present administration, President Muhammadu Buhari undertook visits to neighboring countries in a bid to seek collaborative efforts from such countries to end terrorism. As at today, significant achievements have been made but we have to take pro-active measures contemporaneously to end the scourge.

You will all believe me that all the measures taken so far to nip the ugly trend in the bud are from the executive arm of government and I feel as representatives of the people, we must commence a legislative process of curbing insurgency and violent crimes in the country.

It is indubitable that the "fire for fire " approach adopted in fighting the current insurgency only yields temporary reprieve and it is very expensive. It is important to state, at this juncture that, in our attempt to give the executive arm the needed support in the fight against terrorism, the legislature has indefatigably labored to accelerate the

passage of any budgetary proposal meant to fight terrorism, yet, it is some battles that are being won with terrifying outcome in some circumstances. Despite our ambivalence, there is no concrete strategy to end terrorism in the nearest future.

A pro-active solution has the capability of neutralizing any calculated attack that can be unleashed on innocent Nigerians at any given time and situation. In our bid to add legislative flavor to the fight against terrorism, a democratic art in the nature of the National Institute for Counter-terrorism Studies is sure bet to end the scourge.

**John Mortimer said –**

**“A war against terrorism is an impracticable conception if it means fighting terrorism with terrorism”**

A pro-active solution has the capability of neutralizing any calculated attack that can be unleashed on innocent Nigerians at any given time. A democratic art in the nature of the National Institute for Counter-terrorism Studies is a sure bet to ending terrorism and violent crimes in Nigeria. You will recall and agree with me that the recent violent attacks by unknown gunmen in some parts of the country on some innocent citizens has further complicated the nation's security woes.

The systematic approach outlined by this Bill will help in no small measure in proffering a lasting solution to the dreaded terrorism and violent crimes in the country.

Mr. president of the Senate and distinguished colleagues, it is my believe that as legislatures who do not want to be judged by posterity as on-lookers, this is the only way we can contribute our quota to extricate our people from being hunted by the ghost of terrorism and violent crimes.

I therefore urge all of you to support the second reading of this Bill and its eventual passage.

God bless Nigeria and thank you.