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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ABUJA**

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

LONG TITLE: **A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE FEDERAL INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH, TO CONDUCT INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF MICRO, SMALL, MEDIUM AND LARGE INDUSTRIES, AIMED AT RAPID INDUSTRIALIZATION AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NIGERIA AND FOR RELATED MATTERS**

SHORT TITLE: **FEDERAL INSTITUTE FOR INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH BILL 2017.**

EXECUTIVE BILL

BY HON. AHMED IDRIS

BACKGROUND

- ❖ The Federal Institute of Industrial Research, Oshodi (FIRO) is a parastatal under the agency of the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology.
- ❖ FIRO was the idea of an economic mission sent to Nigeria in 1953 by the World Bank. The mission's observation was that industrial research activities in Nigeria were diffused and uncoordinated with no definite direction. Consequently, a decision was reached to set the Institute in 1956.
- ❖ Since then, FIRO has been acting out its mandate of accelerating industrialization in Nigeria and has over the

years developed technologies that have promoted the ideals of entrepreneurship development.

- ❖ This bill is an attempt to provide a legal framework for FIRO to enable it carry out its mandate more efficiently.

It core activities include to:

- (i) Identify & Characterize local raw materials for use in industries;
- (ii) Develop appropriate technologies; upgrading indigenous technologies in the area of food and agro-allied processing and in various non-food us;
- (iii) Develop Pilot scale operations;
- (iv) Assists in the transfer, adaptation and utilization of these technologies by local enterprises;
- (v) Undertake economic evaluation of Projects and consultancy services

Its Current Areas of Focus include:

- ✓ Research and Development of Food and Agro – Allied Processing Technologies.
- ✓ Research and Development into Pulp and Paper Processing;
- ✓ Research and Development into Packaging and Product Design;
- ✓ Design and Fabrication of Equipment Prototype.

THE FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES OF THE BILL

The fundamental aim of the bill is to provide a legal entity and structure to the Federal Institute of Industrial Research whose objectives shall be to:

- (i) conduct industrial research up to pilot scale level and establish Catalytic Model Factories for the development of the micro, small, medium and large scale industries in Nigeria;
- (ii) assist in accelerating the industrialization of the Nigeria economy through research programmes and technology development;
- (iii) identify, characterize, develop and utilize available raw materials into forms suitable for utilization by Industries into forms suitable for utilization by industries;
- (iv) promote the establishment and growth of intermediate product industries;
- (v) identify indigenous technologies in the areas of foods, non-foods processing and develop them into modern technology;
- (vi) assists in the transfer, adaptation and utilization of technologies by industries through organized technology transfer and techno-entrepreneurship development programmes and other means that will ensure the end results of research carried out get to the relevant end users for rapid industrialization and socio-economic growth of Nigeria;
- (vii) conduct research and development into Foods and Agro-Allied processing technology;
- (viii) conduct research and development into Pulp and Paper technology;

- (ix) conduct research and development into product design and packaging;
- (x) conduct research and development in design and fabrication of processing equipment;
- (xi) render consultancy services to evaluate the technical and economic viability of technology based enterprises;

OUTLAY OF THE BILL

The Bill consists of **6 parts, 42 Sections and 1 Schedule** containing Supplementary provisions relating to proceedings of the Board.

Part I- deals with the establishment, Object and Composition of the Federal Institute of Industrial Research and Its Governing Board

Part II deals with the Power and Functions of the Board of the Institute.

Part III deals with Appointment of the Director General and other Staff of the Institute.

Part IV deals with the Structure and Constitution of Committee of the Institute.

Part V deals with financial provisions of the Institute, Annual estimates, Accounts and Audit and provisions relating to investment powers of the Institute.

Part VI deals with miscellaneous and general provisions which include: power to make regulations, limitation of suits against the Institute, Service of Notice, Exemption from Tax accruing from Investment, interpretation, short title etc.

ADAVANTAGES OF THE BILL

- ✓ The bill will give the Federal Institute for Industrial Research, Oshodi a legal framework to enable it deliver adequately on its mandate.
- ✓ The bill will enhance the rapid industrialization of our economy through developing micro, medium and large industries.
- ✓ Improve research into industrial technology models to assist our manufacturing sector
- ✓ Improve agricultural processing and yield through utilization of modern technological machinery.
- ✓ Create employment for young persons trained in industrial technology courses.
- ✓ Conserve foreign exchange through locally sourcing alternative raw materials for our industries.
- ✓ Will diversity our economy through making our manufacturing and industrial sectors viable streams of income for government.

CONCLUSION

This bill basically seeks to **provide a legal framework for the Federal Institute of Industrial Research for the development of micro, small, medium and large scale industries aimed at rapid industrialization and socio-economic development.** I therefore urge the House to allow it pass for second reading.