LEAD DEBATE ON A BILL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, YABA (SB. 85).

SPONSOR: Senator Adeola, Solomon Olamilekan (Lagos West)

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, permit me to lead the debate on this important Bill for the establishment of Federal University of Technology, Yaba, Lagos State through the upgrade of an existing tertiary institution namely The Yaba College of Technology, Yaba, Lagos State.

I recall that I presented this same Bill in the 8th Senate which was read for the first time in this Hallowed Chamber on Thursday 6th April, 2017. A similar Bill was presented by Senator Gbenga Ashafa in the 8th Senate but regrettably both could not be passed by the 8th Senate necessitating my re-presenting it again to the 9th Senate. It was read for the first time on 10th October 2019.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, this Bill seeks to upgrade the Yaba College of Technology, Yaba to Federal University of Technology Yaba, and make comprehensive provisions for its management and administration.

The imperative for the establishment of this technology university is informed mostly by historical imperatives as well as the expansion and development of the Yaba College of Technology since its establishment in 1947 as a successor to the Yaba Higher College way back in our colonial history. Indeed it is undisputable that Yaba College of Technology is the “cradle of higher education in Nigeria”. It attained autonomous status in 1969 through Decree 23 which granted it the mandate to provide full-time and part-time courses of instruction and training in technology, applied science, commerce, management and in such other fields of applied learning relevant to the needs of the development of Nigeria in the areas of industrial and agricultural production and distribution; and for research in the development and adaptation of techniques.

It is worthy of note that Yaba College of Technology over the decades since its autonomous status has developed many infrastructural facilities, which
many State and Privately-owned Universities as well as new Federal Universities cannot boast of. The irony is that these state and newly established Federal universities have today been granted National University Commission (NUC) accreditation and are running courses as full-fledged universities.

The objects of the University:

A. To encourage the advancement of learning and to hold out to all persons without distinction of race, creed, sex, or political conviction.

B. To develop and offer academic and professional programmes leading to the award of certificates, First Degrees, Post-Graduate Research, Diploma and Higher Degrees with emphasis on planning, developmental and adaptive skills in Technology, Applied Science and allied Professional Disciplines.

C. To produce matured Technologists of higher cadre with capacity not only to understand the Technological need of Nigeria as a nation but to exploit existing technological infrastructure and improve on it to develop new ones.

D. To collaborate with other national and international institutions involved in training and development of Technology with a view to promoting governance, leadership and management skills among Technologists.

E. To identify Technology needs of our society with a view to finding solutions to them within the context of overall national development.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, let me say that in our on-going development drive, our economy requires requisite high level of technical, scientific and technological skills for its effective operation. There is therefore the need for establishment of our own Technology Universities to produce adequate human resources if we are not to continue to rely on foreigners at huge cost.
It is also worthy of note that the establishment of this University will go a long way in further boosting the supply of human resources to the major industrial establishments of Nigeria which the Yaba College of Technology is noted for over the years.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, the establishment of this University will also go a long way in addressing the challenge of the huge demand for requisite educational institutions for the Mega City of Lagos State. From all estimates, projections and internationally backed statistics of population, Lagos State population of over 20 million will continue to grow and a mega city with mostly youthful population requires adequate and requisite educational institutions. The establishment of the Federal University of Technology, Yaba will address the huge demand for technology oriented tertiary education that a mega city will require to function optimally.

In other words, Mr. President and Distinguished Colleagues, in addition to advancement of learning and knowledge in Technological field, encouragement of innovations, entrepreneurship and application of Technology, the Bill seek to correct/ameliorate the imbalance in educational infrastructure in relation to huge population centre that Lagos State is acclaimed for.

I have no doubt that the enactment of this Bill will help in transforming Technological Education fortunes of Nigeria through building on the developed institution of Yaba College of Technology, Yaba instead of creating such institution from the scratch as was done in creation of new universities.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, in line with our Order 77 (3), the Compendium of Financial Implications of passage of this Bill is hereby attached.

I urge you all to support this Bill for Second Reading.

Thank You.
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 a 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 hereby presented along with a profile of the institution being sought to be upgraded. The following financials is premised on budgetary increases envisage for the upgrade base on the 2020 Appropriation Act allocation for the existing institution and is expected to cover the first 12 months after upgrade.

**TOTAL: FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, YABA — N6, 553,984,344**

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<th>Item</th>
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**TOTAL PERSONNEL:** 6,168,499,481

**TOTAL OVERHEAD:** 119,585,431

**TOTAL RECURRENT:** 6,288,084,912

**TOTAL CAPITAL:** 245,899,432

**TOTAL ALLOCATION:** 

N6, 553,984,344