

REPORT ON COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS (CAMA) ACT CAP C20 (REPEAL AND RE-ENACTMENT) BILL, 2020 (SB. 251).

Sen. Abdullahi, Yahaya Abubakar (*Kebbi North-Senate Leader*).

Mr President, my respected Colleagues, recall that the Senate at its sitting on Thursday, 5th March 2020 referred the CAMA Bill to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, the Bill coming from the Executives seeks to provide for the incorporation of companies, registration of business names together with incorporation of Trustees of certain communities, bodies, associations and incidental matters. The Bill also seeks to provide an efficient means of regulating businesses, minimize the compliance burden of small and medium enterprises (SMEs), enhance transparency and shareholder engagement and promote a friendly business climate in Nigeria.

The Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) is the statute that regulates the operations of Companies in Nigeria. This Law has been in force for about 28 years without any amendment or alteration whatsoever despite the myriads of development in the global business climate.

In a bid to tackle the seeming stagnancy and primitive methods of doing business in Nigeria as a result of the outdated enabling law which had hitherto impeded business advancement, hence the introduction of the CAMA Bill 2020 which objectives are essentially to meet up with the present international best practice as well as promote ease of doing business.

This Bill was a product of the 8th Senate, it went through all the legislative process in both Chambers of the National Assembly. The President declined assent on the Bill as a result of Section 26 which withdraws the power of the Attorney General to approve companies by guarantee.

This Bill has been amended in that section preserving the powers of the Attorney General to approve companies limited by guarantees.

The passage of this Bill will have the overall effect of making the Nigerian corporate law more in tune with today's business realities, improve the business environment, as well as mitigate direct compliance costs for businesses in Nigeria.

I therefore recommend its Clause by Clause consideration and passage.

Thank you.