

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, ASABA, DELTA STATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING QUALITY TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND FOR RELATED MATTERS.

SPONSOR: RT. HON. NDUDI GODWIN ELUMELU.

PROTOCOL

Mr. Speaker, Honourable colleagues, it's a great pleasure to lead the debate on the general Principles of this very important Bill, which seeks to establish the Federal University of Technology in Asaba, Delta State. and repeal paragraph (m) of the first schedule to the Federal College of education Act. Cap. F8, laws of Federation of Nigeria 2004 which established the college of education (Technical) Asaba, Delta State.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable Members, there is no gainsaying that education is the bedrock upon which great nations build their economy. Most developed nations channel substantial amount of their earnings into funding education in line with the recommendations of the United Nations Educational Scientific and cultural organization (UNESCO) which says that a minimum of 26 percent of the a country's annual budget and 6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) should be invested in funding education.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable colleagues, this is a straight forward bill that seeks to establish a University of Technology at Asaba and repeal paragraph (m) of the first schedule to the Federal College of education Act. Cap. F8, laws of Federation of Nigeria 2004 which established the college of education (Technical) Asaba, Delta State. The desire to create this University through Legislation stems from the need to provide more opportunities and level playing ground for all to gain admission in Nigerian Universities to specialize in technology related courses.

STRUCTURE OF THE BILL

Mr. Speaker, Honourable colleagues, the bill which composes of 29 clauses and divided into five (6) parts seeks to establish the Federal University of Technology Asaba, Delta State. Which will be charged with the responsibility to, inter alia implement training for the development of technologist in the country, measure, evaluate students and make comprehensive provisions for its management and administration and to repeal the college of education (Technical) Asaba, Delta State.

Part I of the bill provides for the establishment, composition, functions etc. of the Federal University of Technology Asaba.

Part II of the bill provides the powers, functions of Chancellor and Pro-chancellor, composition, tenure and powers of the governing council of the University.

Part III provides for the statutes of the university, mode of exercising power to make statutes and proof of statutes.

Part IV provides for supervision and discipline, while part V provides for miscellaneous and General, and part VI provides for retiring age of academic staff, repeal, savings transitional provisions etc.

JUSTIFICATION

Mr. Speaker, Honourable colleagues, it might interest you to note that Asaba is one of the few state capitals in Nigeria without the presence of a Federal University, even though it is highly populated and strategically located.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable colleagues, the college of education (Technical) has facilities that can meet the standard of a University, hence the need for the upgrade. Some of the facilities includes:

1. School of vocational studies
2. Standard and well equipped functional Library
3. Administrative block
4. Staff quarter
5. Lecture theatre
6. Shuttle buses
7. Multipurpose hall
8. Health centre
9. Technical works building etc.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable colleagues, with the consideration of the above its my desire to present this bill for the establishment of a Federal University of Technology and to repeal paragraph (m) of the first schedule to the Federal College of education Act. Cap.F8, laws of Federation of Nigeria 2004 which established the college of education (Technical) Asaba.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable colleagues, my reason for coming up with this bill is to open up the frontier for the people of Delta State to key in and address their technological disadvantaged situation that is rampant in this part of the country.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable colleagues, I believe that this is a very straight forward piece of legislation and therefore appeal for your overwhelming support that the bill be read for the second time and refer to the relevant committee of the House for further legislative action please.