

LEAD DEBATE ON THE NIGERIAN ARMY UNIVERSITY BIU (SB. 332)

Sponsor: Sen. Ndume, Mohammed Ali (*Borno South*).

Mr. President, My Distinguished Colleagues, permit me to lead the debate on this very important Bill for establishment of the Nigerian Army University in Biu.

The Bill was read for the First Time in this Hallowed Chamber on Tuesday, 18th February, 2020

The takeoff of the Nigerian Army University Biu was approved by the Federal Executive Council in April, 2018.

The University to date, have matriculated 2,776 Students. 1,760 Part One and 1,016 in Part Two.

The University is currently running Thirty Nine (39) Academic programs in Five (5) Faculties.

The University was established to encourage and promote scholarship and conduct research on restricted fields including entrepreneurship skills. It will also secure the diffusion of knowledge throughout Nigeria in general and the Nigerian Army in particular.

It is also aimed at promoting research and other means of advancement of knowledge and its practical application to military hardware and software, social, cultural, economic, scientific and technological situations.

It would ensure quality compliance and provide funds for academic and research programs, infrastructures, remunerations of employees and employment opportunities.

The University shall be a training institution for the development of middle and high-level manpower in the areas of technological empowerment for civilians, appreciation for military policies, logistics and strategies.

The University shall be supervised by the Federal Ministry of Education and the National Universities Commission will be responsible for approving and

regulating all academic programs run by the University.

Objectives of the University among others include: -

- To provide facilities for learning and give instruction and training in such branches of knowledge as the University may desire in order to ensure that students obtain the advantage of a liberal education.
- To promote research and other means of advancement of knowledge and its practical application to military hardware and software, social, cultural, economic, scientific and technological situations.
- To stimulate, particularly through teaching and research, interest in and appreciation of military policy, logistics and strategy.
- To encourage and promote scholarship and conduct research in restricted fields of learning and human endeavor including entrepreneurship skills.
- To secure the diffusion of knowledge throughout Nigeria in general and the Nigerian Army in particular; and
- To offer courses of instruction, training and research in the advancement of knowledge to produce middle and high-level manpower and other skilled personnel required in further development of Nigeria and the world at large.

Mr. President, my Distinguished Colleagues, some of the unique features of the University distinct from conventional University includes:

- The removal of catchment area syndrome being adopted by conventional universities.
- The elimination of other criteria such as race, including ethnic grouping, sex, place of birth, State of origin, religious or political persuasion, as a condition for becoming or to continue to be a student in the university; and
- Other measures to ensure that no person shall be subjected to any disadvantage or accorded any advantage in relation to the university.

Mr. President, My Distinguished Colleagues, it is certainly true that a centralized Army University will offer better academic excellence in terms of quality of

instruction or academic outcomes. Soldiers transitioning from the military will enter the civilian workforce and compete against people with civilian academic credentials from accredited institutions.

In line with Order 77(3) of the Senate Standing Order 2015 as amended, the compendium of the financial implication of the establishment of the University is already captured and approved in the Appropriations Act 2020 passed by the National Assembly.

I therefore, crave your support and indulgence for the passage of this important Bill.

Thank you.