

## LEAD DEBATE ON THE NIGERIAN COLLEGE OF AVIATION TECHNOLOGY ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020 (SB. 193).

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

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, permit me to lead the debate on this important Bill which seeks to repeal the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology Act CAP N96 LFN 2004, and enact the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology 2020 to provide for the organization, control and operation of training programs related to the aviation sector and for other related matters. It also seeks to provide the skills that would be required for aircraft manufacturing, distribution, installation, maintenance and operation of technical equipment's to increase the margin of operational safety of civil aircraft services.

The Bill was read for the first time in this Hallow Chambers on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2019.

The Nigerian College of Aviation Technology is a higher education institute in Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria. It is funded by the Civil Aviation Department in the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Aviation. Formerly known as the Nigerian Civil Aviation Training Centre, the school was established in 1964. As of 2010, about 6,500 students had graduated from the college, which offers course in flying, aircraft maintenance, air traffic control and aeronautical telecommunications.

Nigerian College of Aviation Technology Act was enacted by Act No 31 of 1964 and has remained in existence for over 55 years without undergoing any review and amendment. Since the establishment of the College under the Act, significant changes and developments have taken place in the industry that necessitates the review and amendment of the Act so as to bring the provisions of Act up to date with the operational requirements of the College and dictates of the aviation industry

Under the Bill, the Nigerian College of Aviation Technology located in Zaria is required to provide full-time courses of instruction and training in civil aviation, standard or specially designed for use in flight training or in airport operation and management.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues the College retains its powers to hold or acquire property, whether movable or immovable but restricts the power to mortgage, charge or dispose any property held by the College. This requires the prior

written consent of the Minister of Aviation or an approving Authority as specified in the Financial Regulations of the Federal Government

In addition, the Bill establishes an Academic Board for the College, which will be responsible for the direction and management of academic matters of the College including the regulation of admission of students, the award of certificates, diplomas, degrees, scholarships, prizes and any other academic distinction.

Taking into Cognizance the existence of the College over the past 50 years, the developments in the industry and policy thrust of government, it is expedient to review the Act so as to harmonise the provisions of the Act to other aviation legislations and remove overlapping provisions and any ambiguities from the Act.

The proposed Bill when it becomes law projects the following advantages for the Nigerians:

- Provide a robust legal framework which will strengthen and reposition the College to effectively discharge its statutory responsibilities as a leading College in aviation training in the sub region;
- Civil Aviation courses for use in flight training or airport operations & management as may be prescribed from time to time; and
- Training of approved persons in the installation, maintenance and operation, as the case may be, of technical equipment, the use of which is calculated or likely to increase the margin of operational safety of civil aircraft.

The reform happening now in the Aviation Industry is long overdue and the College of Aviation Technology is in dire need for same in order to achieve the much desired growth and development.

The enactment of this Bill will have the overall effect of making the College more in tuned with today's aviation realities in providing human resource development in the aviation industry and to becoming a reputable global provider of aviation training.

I therefore urge you my respected colleagues to support this Bill for second reading.

Thank you