

LEAD DEBATE ON A BILL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SCIENCES SULEJA, NIGER STATE.

Sponsor: Sen. Musa, Mohammed Sani (*Niger East*)

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, permit me to lead the debate of this very important Bill for the establishment of the National University of Health and Medical Sciences Suleja.

The Bill was read for the First Time in this Hallowed Chamber on Wednesday, 17th February, 2021.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, this Bill seeks to establish the National University of Health and Medical Sciences Suleja and make comprehensive provisions for its due management and administration.

The establishment of this Institution is informed by the imperative to create more access to higher health and medical studies in view of the large number of qualified candidates who are annually stranded in their failed attempt in gaining admission into higher institutions in the state.

The objects of the University shall be to –

- (a) To encourage the advancement of learning and to hold out to all persons without distinction of race, creed, sex or political conviction, the opportunity of acquiring a higher education in Medicine and other Health Sciences;
- (b) To develop and offer academic and professional programs leading to the award of diplomas, first degrees, postgraduate research and higher degrees with emphasis on planning, adaptive, technical, maintenance, developmental and productive skills in the field of Medicine, biomedical engineering, scientific, and allied professional disciplines relating to health resources with the aim of producing socially mature persons with capacity not only to understand, use and adapt existing technologies in the health industry, but also to improve on those disciplines and develop new ones, and to contribute to the scientific transformation of medical and other health practices in Nigeria;

- (c) To act as agents and catalysts, through postgraduate training, research and innovation for the effective and economic utilization, exploitation and conservation of Nigeria's natural, economic and human resources;
- (d) To offer to the general population, as a form of public service, the results of training and research in medicine and allied disciplines and to foster the practical application of those results;
- (e) To establish appropriate relationships with other national institutions involved in training, research and development of health care;
- (f) To identify medical needs of Nigeria and to find solutions to them within the context of overall national development;
- (g) To provide and promote sound basic scientific training as a foundation for the development of medicine and allied disciplines, taking into account indigenous culture, the need to enhance national unity, the need to vastly increase the practical content of student training, and adequate preparation of graduates for self-employment in medicine and allied professions; and
- (i) To offer academic programs in relation to the training of manpower for medicine and allied profession in Nigeria.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, the health sector has a very high potentials, and requires high level medical, scientific and administrative skills to drive it. The establishment of this University will go a long way into achieving these targets.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, this Bill is well organized for its very own purpose of a modern academic and research institution. The objectives of the University as articulated above are supportive of its mission and broad vision of a modern institution that will develop world-class medical personnel that can sustainably manage our nation's Health sector by providing medical expertise at the highest level.

The University is therefore to further advance knowledge through research and nurture unique innovations, entrepreneurship and wealth management in its core area of interest.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, the enactment of this Bill will help in transforming the health and educational fortunes in Nigeria in producing the desired medical manpower and expertise that Nigeria is yearning for. And this university when established will compliment University of Abuja the only other Federal Government higher institution in and around the FCT.

Mr. President, Distinguished colleagues, let me also stress the fact that the location of the University site, Suleja an ancient and historic city that is a host city to half of the civil servants that works in Abuja is instructive, What this means is that the place has a clear crying need for Federal Government presence, and the University would be one way to restoring and re-strengthening the citizens' sense of belonging to this nation. Suleja is more of a cosmopolitan city that has contributed immensely to the growth and development of the Federal Capital hence deserving a National presence with the establishment of an institution of higher education.

Mr. President, my Distinguished Colleagues it may interest you to know that the Niger State Government is ready to part with over 1000 acres of land with structures ready at the present IBB University Field Base Suleja in support of the establishment of this institution. It is keen to know that Field Base was the first administrative headquarter of the FCT Administration.

Mr. President, my highly respected Colleagues, in line with order 77(3) of our Standing Rules, the financial compendium is hereby attached.

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

Thank you.