

**LEAD DEBATE ON CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION BILL,
2021 (SB. 610).**

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

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, Permit me to lead the debate on the general principles of the Bill for an Act to establish the Critical Infrastructure Protection Coordinating Committee and the Critical Infrastructure Protection Task Force with the primary responsibility for the protection of Critical Infrastructures in Nigeria.

You will recall that the Bill was read for the first time in this Chamber on Thursday, 11th February, 2021.

Critical infrastructure protection (CIP) is a concept that relates to the preparedness and response to serious incidents that involve the critical infrastructure of a nation.

The very essence of this Bill is to provide coordination for the protection of critical infrastructures in the past infrastructure elements were physically and logically independent and separate. They had little interaction or connection with each other or other sectors of the infrastructure.

This Bill when passed into law will empower the Coordinating Committee and the Task Force to perform the following functions:-

Coordinating Committee.

(a) produce a detailed schedule for addressing the objectives of critical infrastructure protection.

(b) identify Critical Infrastructures and consult with owners and operators;

(c) access scope and nature of vulnerability of and treats to critical infrastructures;

(d) determine what legal and policy issues are raised by efforts to protect critical infrastructures and access how these issues should be addressed;

(e) recommend a comprehensive national policy and implementation strategy for protecting critical infrastructure from physical and cyber threats and

assuring their continued operation;

(f) propose any statutory or regulatory changes necessary to improve critical infrastructure protection;

(g) produce reports and recommendations to the Steering Committee as they become available;

(h) submit and periodically review the Critical Infrastructure List.

Task Force.

(i) provide, facilitate and coordinate the provision of expert guidance to critical Infrastructure to detect, prevent, halt or confine an attack and to recover and restore service;

(ii) issue threat and warning notices in the event advance information is obtained about a threat;

(iii) provide training and education on methods reducing vulnerabilities and responding to attacks on critical infrastructure;

(iv) conduct after action analysis to determine possible future threats or methods of attacks;

(v) coordinate with the all law enforcement agencies and authorities during and after an attack to facilitate any resulting criminal investigation.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, protecting critical infrastructures against disruption of any kind is increasingly crucial in maintaining both domestic stability and national security. The systems and facilities that make up the infrastructure of society are often taken for granted, yet a disruption to just one of those systems can have dire consequences across other sectors. CIP is a challenge within each nation's own responsibility that should be supported by legislation.

Every government in every nation has a responsibility to protect these essential critical infrastructure against natural disasters, terrorist activities and now cyber threats. From energy organizations to transportation companies, it is paramount that security in all critical infrastructure sectors is of the highest

standard and that disaster preparedness, response and recovery are top priorities.

The world is changing, and digital and physical systems are converging. Systems that once stood alone managing critical infrastructure operations are connecting to the internet and sharing sensitive data. This new world structure brings with it new security problems. Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) organizations must be prepared for and respond to serious incidents involving critical infrastructure environments and to protect against an ever-growing number of threats.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, the establishment of the commission, its committees and the Critical Infrastructure Protection Task Force shall have minimal financial implication on the finances of government as members of the commission and its committees are on secondment from other government bodies and are proposed 'to serve without compensation but shall be entitled to travel expenses and per diem as authorized by law.

The Ministry of defence shall provide the Commission and its committees with administrative services, staffs and other support services and such funds as may be necessary for the performance of the functions of the commission. The Ministry shall further reimburse executive branch components that provide representatives to the commission for travel expenses and per diem as authorized by law. Budgeting for Critical Infrastructure Protection shall be subsumed under the budget of the Presidency.

Therefore, I urge you all to support the expeditious passage of this Bill.

Thank you.