

LEAD DEBATE ON THE FCT BORDERLINE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (ESTABLISHMENT) BILL, 2021 (SB. 584).

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

Mr. President, I wish to lead the debate on the Federal Capital Territory Borderline Development Commission, Establishment Bill, 2021. Permit me to express my appreciation for the opportunity to lead the debate on the general principles of the Federal Capital Territory Borderline Development Commission, Establishment Bill, 2021.

The Bill was read for the First Time in this Hallowed Chamber on Wednesday, 2nd December, 2020.

It should be emphasised that the proposal for the establishment of the FCT Borderline Community Development Commission is a fallout of the creation of the FCT and its effects on communities and States are contiguous to the FCT. It was recommended in the Abuja Master Plan that a special Joint Planning Body be established to address the socio-economic and security impact of the rapid urbanisation of the FCT on border areas which areas were clearly identified in the master plan.

Indeed, while the absence of an appropriate legal and institutional framework has hampered attempts by previous administrations to establish a joint development zone comprising of five States of Nasarawa, Niger, Kogi, Kaduna and Plateau, only the National Assembly and not the State Houses of Assembly has the constitutional legislative competence to resolve this institutional and legal conundrum in the interest of the less privileged Nigerian living in FCT boarder communities such as Suleja, Mararaba, Tafa, Dakwa, Sabon Wuse, Karu, One Man Villge, Autabalefi, Uke, Gurara, Karu, Keffi, Madalla, Masaka, etc.

Objectives of the Bill:

The objectives of the Bill are as follows:

- Provide the legal and institutional framework for the planning, development, implementation and coordinator of infrastructural projects in the FCT Borderline communities such as Suleja, Mararaba, Tafa, Dakwa,

Sabon Wuse, Karu, One Man Villge, Autabalefi, Uke, Gurara, Karu, Keffi, Madalla, Masaka, etc.

- Provide alternative sources of funding for infrastructural development projects for FCT Borderline communities by allowing the Federal Government and the affected States and private companies to contribute to the fund established under the Bill for such projects.
- Provide an alternative template for the decongestion of the Federal Capital Territory and reduce the security burden of congested borderline communities, and
- Complement the work of the Department of Satellite Towns Infrastructure (DSTI), whose mandate is limited to the development of infrastructure around Bwari, Kuje, Gosa and satellite towns within the FCT.

The passage of this Bill is justified for a number of reasons:

Firstly, it will address the problem of exponential population explosion *vis-à-vis* housing and infrastructural deficit in Abuja. Indeed, while the Abuja Master Plan projected the total population of residents in phases 1-4 of the FCT would be three million, the population of Abuja as at today has exceeded 10 million inhabitants. The proposed Commission will, therefore, execute a comprehensive programme of actions for housing development, elimination of slums, and promotion of diversity through spatial decongestion of housing opportunities for persons of lower income and generally improve social infrastructure in FCT border communities as well address the mounting security challenges.

Secondly, since the Department of Satellite Towns Infrastructure (DSTI) established by the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) has its mandate restricted to infrastructural development in Bwari, Kubwa, Kuje, Gosa, Anagada and other designated satellites towns within the FCT, the passage of this Bill is appropriate as it would cate for communities on the border of the FCT which now offers alternative housing to thousands of workers including our Legislative Aides and also serving a repository for the overflowing population from the FCT.

The overriding principle behind the introduction of this Bill is to provide the legal and institutional framework that would bridge the infrastructural gap between the FCT Borderline Communities and the FCT in order to help decongest the Federal Capital Territory.

COMPENDIUM OF FCT BORDERLINE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (ESTABLISHMENT) BILL, 2021 (SB. 584).

In compliance with Order 77(3) of the Standing Order of the Senate 2015 (as amended) with respect to the procedure on Bill, Compendium and Consolidation, which state inter-alia that *On the introduction of a Bill, a compendium on background information and financial implications of such Bills if passed into law shall be delivered to all Senators*, the following compilation with regard to the aforementioned Bill is herewith presented for the general information of Senators.

It is worthy of note that the compilation shown below is a summary of the contemplated Overhead Costs, Recurrent and Capital Expenditure for the take-off the foundation.

TOTAL:	1,126,529,588
TOTAL ALLOCATION:	1,126,529,588.
PERSONNEL COST	737,640,699
SALARY:	655,680,621
SALARIES AND WAGES	655,680,621
CONSOLIDATED SALARY	655,680,621
ALLOWANCES AND SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION:	81,960,078
ALLOWANCES:	81,960,078
NON REGULAR ALLOWANCES:	32,784,031
FOREIGN SERVICE ALLOWANCE:	49,176,047
TOTAL GOODS AND NON-PERSONAL SERVICES GENERAL	111,111,111
OVERHEAD COST:	111,111,111
TRAVEL& TRANSPORT GENERAL:	111,111,111
LOCAL TRAVEL & TRANSPORT: TRAINING:	111,111,111
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE:	277,777,778
CONSTRUCTION / PROVISION:	277,777,778
CONSTRUCTION / PROVISION OF FIXED ASSETS - GENERAL:	277,777,778
CONSTRUCTION / PROVISION OF INFRASTRUCTURE:	277,777,778
TOTAL PERSONNEL:	737,640,699
TOTAL OVERHEAD:	111,111,111
TOTAL RECURRENT:	848,751,810
TOTAL CAPITAL:	277,777,778
TOTAL ALLOCATION':	1,126.529,588

Summaries:

The foregoing compilation proffers a fair approximation of the financial implication for the establishment of the Foundation. To all intents and purposes, the financial outlay estimated and projected is a modest one appropriate for the effective discharge and performance of the duties contemplated in this Bill.