

LEAD DEBATE ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO MAKE
COMPREHENSIVE PROVISIONS FOR SEIZURE,
CONFISCATION, FORFEITURE, AND MANAGEMENT
OF PROPERTIES REASONABLY SUSPECTED TO HAVE
BEEN DERIVED FROM UNLAWFUL ACTIVITIES AND
FOR RELATED MATTERS.

Sponsor: Senator Suleiman Abdu Kwari

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, I thank you for this opportunity to lead the debate on this Bill which makes comprehensive provisions for the seizure, confiscation, forfeiture and management of properties reasonably suspected to have been derived from unlawful activities and for related matters.

This Bill was read on the 16th of March 2021.

It was also listed as a version among the bills of interest contained in the recent Executive Communication from President Muhammadu Buhari GCFR, which was read on the floor of this hallowed chamber on the 19th of January 2022.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, this bill is time sensitive and when passed, will enable us recover lost assets overseas

The main objective of this Bill is to provide for the establishment of a department in the relevant organizations to manage forfeited assets, as well as provide for an effective legal and institutional framework for the recovery

and management of the proceeds of crime, as well as civil forfeitures in Non-Conviction Based Sentencing.

This Bill further makes provisions for restraint, seizure, confiscation and forfeiture of property derived from unlawful activities; any instrumentality used or intended to be used in the commission of such unlawful activities; and for non-conviction based procedure for the recovery of proceeds of crime.

The Bill other objectives are to strengthen the criminal confiscation procedure by ensuring that the total benefit from a person's criminal activity is calculated and an equivalent amount, where recoverable, is confiscated on behalf of the Federal Government.

It also galvanizes collaborative efforts among the relevant government agencies to implement confiscation proceedings against a convicted person in tracing and forfeiting properties reasonably suspected to be proceeds of unlawful activity through non-conviction based forfeiture proceedings.

The proposed Bill has no additional financial burden on the treasury of the Federal Government, if passed into law.

Thank you and I so move.