

## **LEAD DEBATE**

### **A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH NATIONAL POVERTY ALLEVIATION MANAGEMENT COMMISSION TO BE SADDLED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COORDINATING AND REGULATING ALL FORMS OF POVERTY ALLEVIATION FUNDS AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS, IN NIGERIA.**

**SPONSOR: Senator Kabir Abdullahi Barkiya, Representing Katsina Central Senatorial District.**

Existing Protocols Duly Observed:

#### **Background:**

Mr. President of the Senate and Distinguished Colleagues, it is with utmost gratitude and humility that I rise to present this important lead Debate on this most crucial bill, which was first read on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2022 on this hallowed Chamber and when passed into law, will have tremendous and vital impact on the reduction of Poverty level, ravaging the majority of Nigerian Citizens in the country. Especially, on the poor masses who find life extremely difficult to feed themselves including the members of their various families, but through the proper and efficient management of the poverty alleviation funds and its control mechanism and regulation by the statutory body will remedy the poverty rate in our dear Nation.

Mr. President of the Senate and Distinguished colleagues, it is imperative to note, that the passage of this Bill will effectively and efficiently regulate all forms of funds provided to alleviate poverty in the land, especially to remedy the suffering of our citizens. This aforementioned fund could be granted by

the government, or international donation and local donations in order to minimize the high level of hardship that people go through within the country; As this innovative trend through the passage of this Bill, will reflect the global best practice as the United State Social Security Welfare to its citizens including other countries practicing constitutional democracy.

### **Scientific contribution of the Bill/Content of the Bill**

*In nutshell, the Bill has four parts and one schedule*

Below is the summary of this Bill, as follows:

1. Part I, the Bill seeks to establish the National Poverty Alleviation Management Commission of Nigeria as a statutory corporation.
2. Part II, the Bill provides for the governing Board of the commission, its composition and functions.
3. Part III, the Bill provides effective and efficient regulation of all forms of Poverty Alleviation Funds, provided by the government, foreign and local donors and its proper management and distribution to reach the targeted poor masses in actualization of the core mandate.
4. Part IV, the Bill seeks to provide for an effective structure for the management of the commission, staffing and funding for the commission.
5. The Bill provides for effective monitoring, evaluation regulation and control of all poverty alleviation funds in Nigeria. Especially contains the miscellaneous provisions of the Bill, such as power to make regulations, offences and penalty, and power to give directive etc.

## **Objective of the Bill:**

- i. The bill will assist the court of law and other judicial bodies in ensuring all Poverty Alleviation funds from the government, local and International donation finally reached the targeted poor masses who desire to access the funds in order to alleviate their sufferings.
- ii. The Bill will effectively coordinate all the proper documentation, capturing of the beneficiaries as to curb manipulation.
- iii. The Bill will effectively step up the international standard for disbursing the funds as to eschew bribery and corruption on the process.
- iv. The Bill will effectively reduce the youth restiveness emanating from poverty and un-employment by accessing the fund through transparent manner in order to achieve the core objective.
- v. The bill will essentially and effectively address the over lapping conduct of poverty alleviation funds distribution as agitated by the poor masses in 2020 during Covid-19 Locked down palliative and 2021 who were unable to access the funds in excuse for not reflecting the Federal character principle.
- vi. The Bill will achieve comparative trend and international best practices in the management and total regulatory of poverty alleviation funds accruable to the commission for proper disbursement, capturing, contact and address to the concerned citizens.

The Bill presents the undeniable realities in the need to regulate all the funds donated, locally and internationally in order to speedy up the reduction of poverty rate in Nigeria as to cushion the effect of Covid-19 that increase up the poverty rate in Nigeria.

According to **UNICEF** report, on high poverty rate in Nigeria, it is important to note, that **in 2019, 50.3 million Nigerians were living in abject poverty, and in 2020 70.5 million Nigerian Citizens lived in poverty and in 2021 85.6 million people in Nigeria lived in poverty, While in 2022, as at June 97.9 million Nigerians, are ravaging in poverty.**

Mr. President of the senate, and the distinguished colleagues, you can attest to the fact that there is hardship in the land. And government effort could not be properly managed by few people to reach the poor and it seems not to be enough because there was no statutory institution charged with the responsibility to handle the poverty alleviation funds for proper disbursement in order to achieve the utmost desired result, which this bill will achieve through your distinguished collective support when passed into law.

**Conclusion:**

Mr. President of the senate, and distinguished colleagues I am very grateful for the opportunity given to me to lead the debate of this crucial bill.

Accordingly, I believe that all Distinguished senators of the 9<sup>th</sup> National Assembly will vigorously support and vote for the passage of this bill.

Thank you Mr. President and thank you my fellow distinguished senators as we join hands together to build this great Nation, Nigeria.