

LEAD DEBATE ON THE NATIONAL SENIOR SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMISSION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2026 (SB. 1075)

Sponsor: Sen. Bamidele, Michael Opeyemi (*Ekiti Central-Senate Leader*)

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, I rise to lead the debate on the National Senior Secondary Education Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

This Bill was read for the First Time in this Hallowed Chamber on Wednesday, 14th October, 2026

The Bill seeks to Amend the National Senior Secondary Education Commission Act, No. 45, 2023, with a view to strengthening the administration, coordination, funding and delivery of public senior secondary education across the Federation, including the Federal Capital Territory, Federal Unity Colleges and Armed Forces Senior Secondary Schools.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, the importance of senior secondary education in our national development cannot be overstated. This level of education provides the foundation for higher education, technical and vocational training, skills acquisition and the preparation of young Nigerians for productive participation in society. It is also a critical stage in the development of the human capital required to drive national economic growth, innovation and technological advancement.

However, the effective delivery of senior secondary education in Nigeria continues to face significant challenges, including inadequate physical infrastructure, insufficient instructional materials, poorly equipped laboratories and disparities in the quality of educational facilities across states and institutions.

These challenges call for a more effective institutional framework that promotes coordinated interventions, transparent allocation of resources and stronger collaboration between the Federal Government, State Governments and the relevant education authorities.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, the National Senior Secondary Education Commission Act, 2023, established an institutional framework for addressing the challenges confronting senior secondary education in Nigeria. The

present Bill seeks to strengthen that framework by introducing targeted amendments to improve the administration and implementation of the Act.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, the significance of this Bill lies in its recognition that improving senior secondary education requires more than the establishment of a national commission. It requires effective institutional arrangements at the State and FCT levels, transparent funding mechanisms, appropriate infrastructure, qualified administrators and sustained coordination among the different levels of government.

By providing for State and FCT Education Boards, the Bill seeks to bring the administration of intervention programmes closer to the institutions and communities they are intended to serve.

By identifying Federal Unity Colleges and Armed Forces Senior Secondary Schools for direct intervention, it also seeks to address the infrastructure and learning-resource needs of these institutions within the proposed statutory framework.

Nevertheless, the successful implementation of the proposed amendments will depend on clear operational guidelines, transparent allocation criteria, effective monitoring, proper financial accountability and coordination between the Commission and the relevant authorities.

It is therefore important that the Commission exercises its responsibilities in a manner that promotes fairness, measurable outcomes and the prudent utilisation of public funds.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, the future of Nigeria depends substantially on the quality of education available to our young people. We cannot aspire to national development, technological advancement and global competitiveness without investing in the institutions that prepare our children for the responsibilities and opportunities of the future.

This Bill represents an important step towards strengthening the legal and administrative framework for public senior secondary education in Nigeria. Its proposed amendments seek to improve access to educational infrastructure,

enhance institutional coordination, strengthen accountability and promote a more structured approach to Federal Government interventions.

It is, therefore, in the collective interest of this Senate to support measures that will improve the quality of senior secondary education and create a more conducive environment for teaching and learning across the Federation.

Mr. President, Distinguished Colleagues, it is on this note that I respectfully urge this Distinguished Senate to support the National Senior Secondary Education Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2026, and allow it to proceed to the next legislative stage for further consideration.

Thank you, Mr. President.