HB.2873

LEAD DEBATE

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITIES OF TECHNOLOGY ACT, CAP. F23. LAWS OF THE FEDERATION OF NIGERIA, 2004 TO PROVIDE FOR THE INCLUSION OF FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND VOCATIONAL STUDIES, ISU, EBONYI STATE, IN THE ACT; AND FOR RELATED MATTERS

Sponsor
Hon. Kama Nkemkanma

Mr. Speaker,
Honourable Colleagues,

INTRODUCTION
The strength of a nation is measured not only by the resources beneath its soil, but by the knowledge, skills and productive capacity of its people. In an age defined by innovation, industrial transformation and the changing demands of work, Nigeria must continually strengthen institutions that prepare its citizens not merely to obtain qualifications, but to create, build, solve problems and contribute meaningfully to national development.

2. It is in this spirit that I rise to lead the debate on the general principles of a Bill for Act to Amend the Federal Universities of Technology Act, Cap. F23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to expressly include the Federal University of Technology and Vocational Studies, Isu, Ebonyi State, within the framework of the Principal Act, and to provide for related transitional matters.

RATIONALE
3. The case for this amendment rests, first, on the need for coherence in our federal higher-education laws. Where an institution is intended to operate as a Federal University of Technology and Vocational Studies, its place within the legislation governing federal universities of technology should be clear and unambiguous. Express statutory recognition provides that clarity and ensures that the institution is reflected in the legal framework established for this category of federal universities.

4. The inclusion of vocational studies in the institution's identity speaks to an important national development imperative. Nigeria requires a workforce equipped with practical competence, technical knowledge and the capacity to translate learning into productive enterprise. Universities with a technological and vocational orientation can contribute to bridging the gap between academic

learning and the skills required by industry, public institutions and communities. The Bill does not prescribe a new academic programme or funding structure; rather, it takes the necessary legislative step of bringing the named institution within the Principal Act.

5. The Bill addresses the legal consequences of the proposed statutory transition. The consequential deletion of paragraph (u) of the First Schedule to the Federal Colleges of Education Act, No. 43 of 2023, is accompanied by transitional provisions intended to prevent a legal or administrative vacuum. Existing Acts and subsidiary legislation are preserved, while rights, assets, obligations and liabilities are transferred to the Federal University of Technology and Vocational Studies, Isu, Ebonyi State. This is essential to continuity, institutional stability and the protection of accrued interests.

KEY PROVISIONS

6. The Bill which seeks to provide for the upgrade of the existing Federal College of Education (Technical) Isu, Ebonyi State to Federal University of Technology and Vocational Studies, is divided into five clauses which –

- provides for the amendment of the Federal Universities of Technology Act, Cap. F23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.
- amends section 1 of the Principal Act by inserting the Federal University of Technology and Vocational Studies, Isu, Ebonyi State, among the institutions listed under the Act.
- deletes paragraph (u) of the First Schedule to the Federal Colleges of Education Act, No. 43 of 2023, as a consequential amendment.
- inserts a new section 24A to preserve the validity of acts already done, continue applicable subsidiary legislation with necessary modifications, and vest the relevant rights, assets, obligations and liabilities in the Federal University of Technology and Vocational Studies, Isu, Ebonyi State.
- provides the short title by which the legislation may be cited as the Federal Universities of Technology Act (Amendment) Bill, 2026.

CONCLUSION

7. Mr. Speaker, Honourable Colleagues, this Bill is measured in its scope, but meaningful in its purpose. It seeks to ensure that the Federal University of Technology and Vocational Studies, Isu, Ebonyi State, is expressly accommodated within the statutory framework governing Federal Universities of Technology, while providing the transitional protections necessary to preserve continuity and certainty and ensure the contemplated upgrade.

8. I therefore urge this Honourable House to support this important Bill. Thank you for listening.