



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

ORDER PAPER

Wednesday, 21 November, 2007

1. Prayers
2. **Approval of the Votes and Proceedings**
3. **Oaths**
4. **Announcements** (*if any*)
5. **Petitions** (*if any*)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

BILL

1. A Bill for an Act to Authorize the issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the total sum of Two Trillion, Four Hundred and Fifty-Three Billion, Six Hundred and Thirty Eight Million, One Hundred and Ninety-Six Thousand, Nine Hundred and Seventy-Nine Naira (N2,453,638,196,979) only of which the sum of One Hundred and Eighty-Seven Billion, Six Hundred Million (N187,600,000,000) only is for Statutory Transfer and the sum of Three Hundred and Seventy-Two Billion, Two Hundred Million Naira (N372,200,000,000) only is for Debt Service, while the sum of One Trillion, Two Hundred and Fifty-Nine Billion, Three Hundred and Sixty-Five Million, Five Hundred and Seventeen Thousand, Twenty-One Naira (N 1,259,365,517,021) only is for Recurrent (Non-Debt) Expenditure and the balance of Six Hundred and Thirty Four Billion, Seven Hundred and Seventeen Million, Six Hundred and Seventy-Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred and Fifty-Nine Naira (N634,717,679,959) only is for Capital Expenditure for the Year Ending 31st December 2008 — *Second Reading (Second Allotted day)*.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

2. **Ad-Hoc Committee on the Operation of GSM Networks:**
Hon. Leo Ogor:
"That this House do consider the Report of the *Ad-Hoc* Committee on the Investigation into the decay of sendees provided by the Global System Mobile Telecommunication (GSM) Networks and approve the Recommendations therein" (*Laid: 16/10/2007*).

Recommendations:

(i) In order to ensure quality service at all times, so that a regime of lower tariffs is enjoyed in Nigeria, collocation facilities, must be adopted by the industry now;

- (ii) The role of interconnect exchange houses in reducing congestion on the network operators cannot be overemphasized. The NCC should immediately issue a directive to all network operators specifying interconnect exchanges as the approved path for handling inter-network traffic and compelling them to make use of existing licensed interconnect exchange houses. This will check call barring, by network operators and allow for concentration by network operators on intra network traffic;
- (iii) The regulatory authority in the telecommunications industry, that is the NCC must ensure that international call termination rates are not lower than local call termination rate to avoid restriction of local traffic on the network of GSM operators and to eliminate the loss to the national economy inherent in such a pricing structure;
- (iv) Convinced that the Universal Service Provision Fund (USP fund) can positively improve quality of service and the provisions of telecommunications to the rural, unserved and underserved areas, if the fund is properly applied, armed with competent knowledge that the USP fund has been shrouded in secrecy between 2001 to first half of 2006 where the USP fund Board never existed, we recommend that the USP fund be properly probed by the House Committee on Communications. GSM companies that have not paid their Annual Operation Levy (AOL) as stipulated by the NCC Act of 2003 must be sanctioned and made to pay their Annual Operation Levy (AOL) with interest at the prevailing lending rate;
- (v) As a matter of respect for the highest constituted authority in Nigeria that is, the office of the President and to demonstrate patriotism and commitment to the concern of the House of Representatives and other stakeholders to finding a lasting solution to the problem of poor quality of service, we recommend that the NCC should issue the 3G spectrum license to NIGCOMSAT as directed by the former president, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo and Federal Executive Council to enable the company provide last miles services. This, we hope would give room for competition, bringing down high tariff in line with the government deregulations policy;
- (vi) Telecom is a major technical and engineering profession and only trained and experienced professionals can make optimum decisions. Problems being experienced today originated from poor planning and lack of proper control mechanism put in place from inception when license were issued to the GSM companies. It is important to note that the GSM companies are selling services they do not have. The poor quality of telecom services cannot be corrected by incompetent planners. They would only exacerbate an already bad situation because of lack of know how;
- (vii) The Nigerian Communications Commission as presently constituted, lacks the competent personnel, will and capacity to enforce the provisions of the Act that sets it up and has shown in glaring terms its inability to provide adequate regulatory oversight for the industry. The non adherence to budgetary provisions as stipulated by section 19 of the NCC Act of 2003 and the violation of Section 81 of the 1999 constitution is unacceptable. Accordingly, we recommend an immediate reorganization of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and the prosecution of the management by the office of the Attorney General of the Federation, for spending money that are supposed to be credited to the Federation Account without the approval of the National Assembly, as stipulated by Section 162 and section 81 of the 1999 Constitution;
- (viii) We also recommend a ban of 12 months on the sale of SIM Cards and organized promotions of all networks pending when quality of service improves;
- (ix) A review of the 2003 Communications Act. with immediate amendment is hereby recommended;
- (x) The committee recommends the immediate hand over of the 1st phase of the rural telephone project to NIGCOMSAT that will hook all the rural network to their satellite and connect them to the interconnect houses for connections to other networks for effective operations. The details could be worked out between the ministry of communications and that of Science and Technology;
- (xi) All the Government officials from the ministry of communications and the Due process office that were involved in the unauthorized release of the sum of N5,376,753,692.21 (Five billion, three hundred and seventy-six million, Seven hundred and fifty-three thousand, six hundred and ninety-two Naira, twenty one Kobo) to ZTE, Alcatel, Shanghai Bell and Messrs Hauwei Technologies company Nig. Ltd without the approval of the National Assembly, which is a clear violation of section 81 of the 1999 Constitution should be prosecuted by the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice. This will serve as a deterrent to others;

(xii) The service providers must try and adopt the habit of out-sourcing of their working requirement, rather than **the** spirit of do it alone, the out-sourced providers will see **themselves** as partners in progress and will do everything possible to protect **the** equipment.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

	<i>Committee Rules and Business</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>
1.		Wednesday, 21 November, 2007	10.00 a.m.	Committee Room 06 Assembly Complex
2.	Agriculture	Wednesday, 21 November, 2007	10.00 a.m.	Committee Room 03 Assembly Complex
3.	Cooperation and Integration in Africa (<i>Inauguration</i>)	Wednesday, 21 November, 2007	10.00 a.m.	Hearing Room 02 Assembly Complex
4.	Pensions	Wednesday, 21 November, 2007	10.00 a.m.	Room 2.04 New Building Assembly Complex
5.	Governmental Affairs (<i>Budget defence</i>)	Wednesday, 21 November, 2007	10.00 a.m.	Committee Room 05 Assembly Complex
6.	Navy (<i>Budget defence</i>)	Wednesday, 21 November, 2007	10.00 a.m.	Committee Room 14 Assembly Complex
7.	Petroleum Resources (Downstream) (<i>Interactive Session with PEF and PPPRA</i>)	Wednesday, 21 November, 2007	11.00 a.m.	Committee Room 17 Assembly Complex
	Gas Resources	Wednesday, 21 November, 2007	12.00 p.m.	Committee Room 08 Assembly Complex
9.	Housing and Habitat	Wednesday, 21 November, 2007	11.00 a.m.	Committee Room 21 Assembly Complex
10.	Aid, Loans and Debt Management	Wednesday, 21 November, 2007	12.00 p.m.	Hearing Room 01 Assembly Complex
11.	Niger Delta Development	Wednesday, 21 November, 2007	10.00 a.m.	
	{Interactive Session with the Minister of Finance, Accountant-General of the Federation, Auditor-General and some oil companies)			