

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Tuesday, 26th April, 2016

The House met at 11.13 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: I have examined and approved the second Votes and Proceedings of Thursday 21st April, 2016.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

The Speaker: Any Member who has a petition to present to the House should please rise to do so.

Wrongful Termination

Hon. Gbilla Mark Terseer (Gwer East/Gwer West): I have a Petition from a member of my constituency, Mr. John Iorember Anger. His petition is about his wrongful termination by the Nigerian Open University, because of some money that was collected by the Director of the Centre.

I crave the indulgence of this Hon. House to lay this Petition.

The Petition laid and referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Invasion and Senseless Slaughter of Persons in Ukpabi, Nimbo Community by Unknown Herdsmen

Hon. Ujam Chukwuemeka (Nkanu East/Nkanu West): I come under Order VIII Rule 46 and 49 to seek your permission to raise this public importance matter of the senseless killing of Enugu State indigenes over the weekend. I so move.

Hon. Onyejeocha Nkeiruka (Isuikwuato/Umunneochi): I second the Motion as moved by Hon. Ujam.

Question put and agreed to.

Hon. Golu Timothy (Paskshin/Kanke/Kanam): I second the second leg of the Motion that this honourable

House should suspend the relevant Rule and consider the matter as presented by Hon. Ujam.

Question put and agreed to.

Hon. Ujam Chukwuemeka: Mr. Speaker, hon. Members, I beg to move:

The House:

Notes that Thursday, 21st April, 2016, the people of Ukpabi, Nimbo Community in Uzo-Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State witnessed colossal attacks by some unknown herdsmen, leaving scores of Nigerian citizens dead and property worth of millions of Naira destroyed including their place of worship;

Also notes that preliminary findings reveals that quite a number of persons have been declared missing and no significant information as to their whereabouts has been established by the law enforcement agents;

Disturbed that eyewitness account indicates that this mayhem was perpetuated by an army of masked herdsmen emerging from the bushes and attacking their victims with careless abandon;

Also disturbed that these merchants of death were armed with guns, bows and arrows, swords and engaged in sporadic shooting for a lengthy period of time, sending shivers into the inhabitants of this community and hacking any person within sight to death, even as persons ran for their lives;

Cognizant of the fact that this incidence of herdsmen invasions is no longer news in Nigeria. from the recent sad event at Agatu; Benue State, to Taraba, Ondo and now Enugu. It is now becoming a recurring event that threatens the peace and security of this great nation, depriving citizens of their right to life and safety of their property guaranteed by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Worried that these attacks are beginning to gain momentum and has the potential of escalating into an existential crisis as farmers are compelled to resorting to self-help in a bid to stay alive;

Also worried that if drastic measures are not employed a repeat of this dastardly incident is likely to reoccur in other parts of this country;

There is saying in my place that when a corpse of somebody not yours is being carried it is regarded as firewood. Right now it is coming closer and closer to our respective constituencies.

Resolves to:

- (i) Mandate the Inspector-General of Police to swing into action with other relevant Law Enforcement Agencies to conduct a thorough investigation with a bid to bringing to justice the perpetrators and providing succour to the victims and their families and to stop this dastardly act from reoccurring anywhere else.
- (ii) Urge *the Hon. Members* to observe one minute silence in honour of those that have lost their lives.

Hon. Karimi Steve Sunday (Yagba East/Yagba West/ Mopamuro): I hereby second the Motion as moved by Hon. Ujam.

The Speaker: Hon. Emeka you have just two minutes to round up your presentation and I will put the question.

Hon. Ujam Chukwuemeka: There are issues that these killings have brought to bear but one thing that I want to stress is this: do we really need another IDP Camp in Enugu now? How many IDP Camps do we set up because this also is causing displacement of people?

I really want to understand the plan of the Security Agencies on how to bring this act to a stop. There are also areas where people are accusing other parts of the country of silence. These acts are going on and we are truly unhappy.

In addition to the issues that I have raised, Enugu State has always been known to be a peaceful lovable area in the South Eastern part of this country. Now to wake up to this act is a painful circumstance that we found ourselves in. I pray that you join in this call and cry for action to stop these incessant killings in various areas of this country. I so submit.

Hon. Asadu Patrick Oziokoja (Nsukka/Igboeze South): I support the *Save Our Soul* Motion moved by Hon. Ujam Chukwuemeka.

I actually think that what Nigeria is facing is more than herdsmen against crop farmers. It reminds us that when Boko Haram was starting Nigerian had this same attitude of playing the ostrich, pretending that it will all pass over. Uzo-Uwani Nimbo where this massacre happened had lived with the cattle Fulani as long as I can remember. They are neighbouring community to my Constituency and they have been living in peace. Suddenly like it has been happening in other parts of the country, a tendency is developing where criminals and actual terrorist pretending to be cattle herdsmen mixed with these people and unleashed mayhem on unsuspecting and sleeping villagers. My concern is that, we as a people are talking about herdsmen against farmers and the Government seems to be reacting in the same perspective that there is a misunderstanding between herdsmen and farmers.

We need the cattle meat and we need the cattle rearers around us just as the cattle rearers need us around them. Where we have the problem is that some terrorists who actually are losing out in the North-East and other parts of the country where they have been waging war against this country seems to be systematically moving into the hinterland, pretending to be cattle rearers and unleashing untold mayhem on the citizenry. I think that this House do identify what is going on in this country appropriately. Terrorism is spreading from one part of this country to the rest and anybody who can wage war against the defenceless citizen who has not in any way disturbed your own source of income and livelihood who is actually hosting strangers that person is a terrorist.

It is our duty as a Parliament; it is also the challenge before the Executive, especially the security agencies to identify those who unleashed this mayhem. What they are trying to set up which they claim is Boko Haram is to engineer one part of Nigeria against the other. If it goes down to our psyche and our children that a particular section is killing the other section because of their own farmland, that is not going to engender more peace in this country. I am pleading that this House should not in any way be deceived by the so-called herdsmen attacking crop farmers; we should identify terrorists who pretend to be cattle rearers.

If you saw the pictures of the young men and women armless and totally defenceless in their sleep and they were killed in hundreds, and the Government is waiting to react; we would not expect anything than getting the assurances that people should go about doing their normal business and that Government is on top of this game.

I plead that this House should not just resolve that anybody waging war against a legitimate citizen going about his business is a terrorist and all the peripheral used in fighting Boko Haram must be trailed on those who pretend to be herdsmen and killing our citizens for nothing. I also plead that we get our Security Agencies to stop this reactionary measures. The Council Chairman assured me that he led his Security Agencies to know about the imminent attack and until it happened, nothing serious was done.

Even in other parts of Enugu from where reports came the citizens wanted to mobilise, the Security Agencies went and discharged the people where they were meeting. I think that in this way we are again playing with fire because if we are allowed something that is starting as a small thing to spread around the countryside the rest of the country must rise up to condemn this terrorist act, and act in the same unison that we use in fighting Boko Haram to stop the terrorists that are pretending to be herdsmen.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari (Yabo/Shagari): I give my view on this incessant problem. I am a Fulani man and I rear cattle when I was young. I lived on the cattle

ranch, and I have stayed in grazing reserves. So, I know very well the problems that the Fulani people are going through today.

What we are having in our country is a situation where foreigners have invaded our country in disguise of Fulani herdsmen. I am a Fulani man and if I see a Fulani man from another part of Africa I know, just like if you are a Hausa man. If a Kano man speaks Hausa you will know from his dialect that he is from Kano; if he speaks you will know he is from Katsina or from Adamawa. So also a Fulani man from Sokoto can identify a Fulani man from Adamawa and Kano States. Those wild and crazy Fulanis you are seeing are not Nigerians, Nigerian Fulani's are very peace loving and law abiding people and every person here that has Fulani people living near him can attest to that, because over the years they have lived peacefully with them.

All they want to do is to come in, sell their milk or cows and go back to their cattle ranches but now due to the porous nature of our borders and general laxity and insecurity in West African countries, these had led to the influx of these *dangerous and wild cattle rearers*, as I will call them, to Nigeria. The responsibility is on the Security Agencies to come up with ways and means of checking our borders and identifying these foreign elements within us and doing the needful. If this is not done, it will result in wanton killings, and generally, those affected will be putting the blame on poor, innocent and peace loving people. This is a very serious problem.

Another problem that the Fulanis are facing is armed robbery. They are there in the bush with no cover whatsoever and people come in, kill them, rape them and pack their cattle. Some of them escape and they have no means of livelihood. They have no land to farm on and they have no means of livelihood. So what you have is a Rambo on your hand, if I may call it that because he does not have any other thing to do, he results to kidnappings, armed robbery and what have you.

If cattle rearers are travelling maybe from the North to the South, if they are genuine cattle rearers our security agencies would know. The travelling cattle would not have babies among them; you see a lot of cows instead of bulls. Fulanis sell bulls that are well fed and you will need a trailer to carry bulls that are well fed and are supposed to be sold for meat. But they will not sell a very young calf or the one that they milk. So security agencies should bear this in mind that when you see cows that have been stolen, you should be able to know. These are the responsibilities that our security agencies and they should rise up to save us from imminent ugly situations.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/ Isoko South): Let me first and foremost sympathise with the people of Enugu State and the Nigerian people in general in respect of this sad development that has befallen our great nation. I believe that this is the beginning of another

crisis which needed to be properly managed, if not, we may find ourselves in a very terrible and tribal warfare.

This crisis has been on-going and it is getting to a peak because when you take the statistics you will clearly see that most of the rural areas are being attacked by this so-called group of *cattle-rearer terrorists*, which what I would want to call them. I am not probably specifying whether they are Fulanis or a specific tribe, but there is the main issue, which is what they normally do. What they normally do is to rape, slaughter their victims and before you know it they have vanished overnight.

A clear example has been shown in Enugu State and as a citizen who believes in the respect of the Rule of Law, mindful of the provision of Section 33 that provides for the right to life, our security agents must wake up to their responsibilities. Also, as lawmakers, we must be prepared also to play our own roles by looking at some level of modernisation where the concept or ideology of moving cattle from states to state or from zones to zones or for whatever they might call some grazing routes should be discouraged.

I believe that things develop on a continuous basis. We must be having some level of grazing reserves where animals will be properly fed and looked after without moving them from farmland to farmland, and that should be encouraged. This is an opportunity that we must take, as I know that in every disadvantage; there is an advantage. It is important that we address this issue once and for all by making it a very illegal concept, that is, allowing people to move cattle from one town to another town. Everybody who wants to rear cattle should be able to have his own farm or his own reserve where he/she can feed his cattle. The government is working in line with that direction.

It therefore means that as a Parliament, we must also play our major role in making sure that the concept or the ideology of moving cattle in line with the Bill which is called the Grazing Bill is totally discouraged and the total idea is totally killed so that we can come out with some level of modernisation. To a very large extent, this will solve some level of these challenges that are rearing its head. I support the Motion and hope that everybody will support it.

Hon. Adamu Abubakar Chika (Shiroro/Rafi/Munya): Mr. Speaker, honestly this issue of Fulani herdsmen has been something that is very worrisome to every Nigerian. It baffles me; are these people really Fulani? What usually happens even when there is a crisis between herdsmen and Fulani, you still identify the Fulani and their cattle. We are in a quagmire where we only hear a Fulani man has undertaken an attack in a foreign place and he cannot be identified and his cattle could not be seen. Are these jinni or the Fulanis that we know?

I believe there should be a holistic investigation as regards to this crisis. The House must lead a process that would unveil this mask called Fulani herdsmen. The truth of the matter is that we have seen so many crises within the North and beyond the North that affect Fulani and non-Fulani, but at the very point in time that these crises took place, you will find the cattle of these Fulanis there and you will find the Fulanis around the community. I believe some people must have been using the name Fulani to attack so as to cause confusion in this nation. I therefore call for an investigation to be instituted right now so that we can unveil this mask and put this issue to rest in this nation.

The Speaker: There is an amendment here from Hon. Kingsley Chinda. His amendment is that the prayers be amended by inserting one prayer to read as follows:

To invite the Director General State Security Services to brief the House on the menace of alleged unidentified herdsmen attack across the country and measures put in place by the agency to avoid an escalation of same.

Hon. Agbonayinman Johnson Ehiozwa (Egor/Ikpoba/Okha): I second the amendment as moved by Hon. Chinda.

Amendment put and agreed to

Main Question as amended put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Mandate the Inspector-General of Police to swing into action with other relevant Law Enforcement Agencies to conduct a thorough investigation with a bid to bringing to justice the perpetrators and providing succour to the victims and their families and to stop this dastardly act from reoccurring anywhere else.
- (ii) Invite the Director General State Security Services to brief the House on the menace of alleged unidentified herdsmen attack across the country and measures put in place by the agency to avoid an escalation of same.
- (iii) Urge the Hon. Members to observe one minute silence in honour of those that have lost their lives.

Motion accordingly referred to the House Committees on Police Affairs, National Intelligence and Public Safety.

The Speaker: May we in line with the prayer of the Motion rise now to observe a minute silence in honour of those who lost their lives?

A minute silence accordingly observed.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

Report of the Committee on Interior the Alleged Criminal Act of Assault and Battery visited on Hon. Joan Mrakpor

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the first Business of the day is presentation of the Report of the Committee on Interior on the alleged criminal act of the assault and battery visited upon Hon. Onyeamaechi Joan Mrakpor.

Hon. Members will recall that the matter was referred to the Committee on Thursday 21st April, 2016 and the Report is ready for presentation. I now invite Hon. Jagaba to lay the Report.

Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba (Kachia/Kagarko): I want to crave your indulgence to lay the Report of the criminal act of battery and assault visited upon Hon. Onyeamaechi Joan Mrakpor by men and officers of the Nigerian Prisons Service.

Hon. Igbokwe Raphael Nnanna (Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezinihitte): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Jagaba.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid on the Table.

The Speaker: I am directing that copies of the Report to be circulated to Members today and should be slated for consideration tomorrow. Chairman Rules and Business please take note.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Consolidation of Bills

Electoral Act, 2010 (Amendment) Bills, 2016

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the first Order of the day is the consolidation of four Bills. Hon. Members may wish to know that the Bills are on the same subject matter.

I now invite the Chairman Committee on Rules and Business to move that the Bills be now consolidated.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa (Buruku): Hon. Colleagues, I move that the following Bills be consolidated:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Electoral Act of 2010 to Empower Election Tribunals and Courts to declare Candidates who scored the Second Highest Votes as Winners of Elections when the Tribunal or Court finds or

holds that the Winner of the Election is Unqualified for the Election *ab initio*; a Bill for an Act to ensure that all Political Parties are Gender Sensitive and to eliminate all forms of Discrimination in all Political Parties; and a Bill for an Act to include the Use of Card Readers as Part of the Act and clearly specify the Tenure of Office of the Secretary, Independent National Electoral Commission; and for Other Related Matters;

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Electoral Act of 2010 to make Provisions to cover the Lacuna in the event of Death of a Governorship Candidate any time before the Conclusion of the Election and for Other Related Matters;

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Electoral Act of 2010 to increase the amounts permitted as maximum Election Expenses to be incurred by candidates standing for Elections and for Other Related Matters; and

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Electoral Act of 2010 on Nullification of Election by Tribunals or Courts; and for Other Related Matters be consolidated as one Bill.

I so move.

Hon. Kayode Oladele (Egbado North/Imeko Afon): I second the Motion ably moved by the Chairman Rules and Business.

Question put and agreed to.

Bills accordingly consolidated.

The Speaker: Committee on Rules and Business please schedule a date for the commencement of debates on the general principles of the Bills.

National Judicial Institute Act, Cap. N55 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Judicial Institute Act, Cap. N55 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, to specify the tenure of office of the Administrator and for Other Matters Related Thereto –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: The second Order of the day is commencement of debates on the general principles of Bill for an Act to Amend the National Judicial Institute Act, Cap. N55 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, to specify the tenure of office of the Administrator and for Other Matters Related Thereto.

Hon. Members would recall that the Bill was read the first time on Thursday 10th December, 2015. I now invite Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari to move that the Bill be now read the second time.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari: I move that the Bill for an Act to Amend the National Judicial Institute Act, Cap. N55 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, to specify the tenure of office of the Administrator and for Other Matters Related Thereto be read the Second Time.

Hon. Dasuki Abdussamad (Kebbe/Tambuwal): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Shagari that the Bill be read the second time.

Question proposed.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari: All this Bill seeks to do is to amend Section 5(4) of the principal Act, creating the National Judiciary Institute Act. It is to substitute subsection (4) with the following;

That the administration shall hold office for a term of four years in the first instance and may be re-appointed for another term of four years and no more.

This is necessary because Section 4 which we seek to amend formally had the following:

That the administration shall hold office on such terms and conditions as may be specified in his letter of appointment and on such other terms and conditions as may be determined from time to time by the board.

You will all agree with me that this is an omnibus provision giving the board the latitude to appoint an administrator for National Judicial Institute for any period they wish. They could appoint him for seven days or seven years even seventy years.

With this, you are giving the board the power to appoint but the tenure should be specified; four years and another term of four years. This would be in tandem with the national best practices and in most of the judicial arms we have such four years and another four years.

I am sure that even this honourable House knows that four years is enough for anybody to prove his worth and if he merits it he can be appointed for another four years. That is all this Bill seeks to amend. I urge you to please support this Bill and give it the speedy passage it deserves.

Hon. Pwajok Edward Gyang (Jos South/Jos East): Mr. Speaker, I support this Bill moved by Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari who happens to be the Chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary. It is a well-intentioned Bill and I am sure it emanated as a result of his work as Chairman of the Committee on Judiciary.

This is a lacuna that may also exists in other laws and I commend the sponsor of this Bill for citing this particular lacuna and for bringing it up before the House

for us to do something about it. The state of the laws regulating the appointment of Judicial Officers states that those who are, for instance, Judges of High Court or other judicial courts or Chief Judges retired at the age of 65, while those for the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court retire at the age of 70.

So, for the appointment of the administrator of the National Judicial Institute, for instance; if the present Administrators retire as Chief Judge in Bayelsa State, and the Chief Judge retires at 65 and he is found worthy of appointment, the way the law is now, the person may remain there for ten years, or twenty years depending on the discretion of the position of the Board of the Institute. But by this amendment, the administrator can only be there in the first instant for four years. So, if the administrator retires as Chief Judge at 65 years he would serve until 69 and if he is still fit or perform excellently, he can be reappointed to serve until he is about 73 years.

It is a very good Bill but at the Committee stage, we may need to do some fine-tuning because I pointed out the age of our Judges upon retirement so that we know. For instance if somebody is retiring at 70 years and he is appointed as an administrator, what if salinity sets in or the person becomes mentally unfit, what happens?

Let us find a way of determining the mental fitness and alertness of such officers before they are re-appointed. All those things can be handled at Committee stage. This is a very good Bill and it is straightforward and should be given expeditious clearance by this House.

The Speaker: Any contributor before I put the question? .

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

**Public Officers Protection Act Cap P41, LFN 2004
(Repeal) Bill, 2016**

A Bill for an Act to Repeal Public Officers Protection Act Cap P41 LFN 2004 and for Other Matters Related Thereto –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: The third Order of the day hon. Members is the commencement of debate on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to Repeal Public Officers Protection Act Cap P41 LFN 2004 and for Other Matters Related Thereto.

Hon. Members would recall that the Bill was read the First Time on Thursday 10th December, 2015. I will now

invite Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari to move that the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari: Mr. Speaker, I crave the indulgence of this honourable House to step this Bill down to enable me consult with my Colleagues.

I seek to repeal this Act and I am being told that I should consider other options rather than total repeal. I want to consult with my Colleagues on this matter. So, I urge this honourable House to please step this Bill down for more consultations.

Bill by the leave of the House stood down.

**Federal Character Commission Act, Cap. F7, LFN,
2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016**

Consolidated Bills (HBs 53, 176, 272 and 338) for an Act to Amend the Federal Character Commission Act, Cap. F7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the fourth Order of the day is commencement of debate on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to amend the Federal Character Commission Act, Cap 87, LFN, 2004.

Hon. Members would recall that the four Bills, HBs 53, 176, 272 and 338, were consolidated on Wednesday 13th April, 2016. I will now invite Hon. Musa Sarkin Adar to move that the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Hon. Musa Sarkin Adar (Goronyo/Gada): Mr. Speaker, I move that a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Character Commission Act, Cap. F7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to, among other things, empower the Commission to ensure that existing Vacancies above Grade Level 10 or its equivalent in Ministries, Departments and Agencies are not filled with persons from outside the affected Ministries, Departments and Agencies except where there are no qualified persons, in order to avoid stagnation, redundancy and to encourage effective service delivery; a Bill for an Act to Provide for a more Comprehensive guideline and procedure for Recruitment in Order to ensure Transparency; a Bill for an Act to give the Commission additional Powers to enable it discharge its functions more effectively; a Bill for an Act to strengthen the Act, Prosecute Violators, remove it from the direction of the President and provide stiffer punishment for Offenders; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HBs 53, 176, 272 and 338)

The Speaker: One of the sponsors of the Motions is Hon. Idris Wase, please second the Motion.

Hon. Ahmed Idris (Wase): Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion as moved by my Hon. Colleague.

Question proposed.

Hon. Musa Sarkin Adar: Mr. Speaker, may I crave the indulgence of the House that I allow my good Friend, Hon. Ahmed Idris, to lead the debate. He is the Chairman of the Federal Character, and I believe he has gathered vast experience and in a better position to lead the debate. I so suggest.

Hon. Ahmed Idris: Mr. Speaker, this Bill seeks to amend Sections 2 to 9 of the Federal Character Act. The purpose of this Bill is, one, to bring efficiency to the system, two, to bring additional powers to the Commission through empowering them to utilize the judicial processes toward the enforcement of their mandate in terms of varying the rules or regulations set by the House; and three, to amend and correct the position of the law before the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Section 3(1) and (3) of 1999 Constitution has made it very clear as to the role of our laws: It says that the Constitution is very supreme. So any other law that is inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, to the extent of that inconsistency, is null and void. Third Schedule, particularly, allows the National Assembly to approve the distribution of cadres of all posts in the Public Service of the Federation as enshrined in Sections 14(3) and (4) of 1999 Constitution, as amended.

So in line with the position of the Constitution, the law needs to be amended in tandem with the provision of the Constitution. Therefore, additional departments were created to enable the agency to function more effectively, these include: Investigation and Prosecution units, Monitoring and Research and Analysis, Education and Public Enlightenment, Personnel and Administration, and Finance and Supplies.

I would like to read to you some provisions that are contained in 1999 Constitution as earlier on stated. Section 1(1):

The Constitution is supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on all authorities and persons throughout the Federal republic of Nigeria;

Section 1(3):

If any other law is inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail, and that other law shall to the extent of the inconsistency be void.

Like I did mention, part of this section is meant to go in tandem with the provisions of the Constitution and I referred you to Third Schedule of the Constitution. The

Federal Character is anchored on the provision of section 14(3) and (4) of the 1999 Constitution and it says:

The composition of the Government of the Federation or any of its agencies and the conduct of its affairs shall be carried out in such a manner as to reflect the federal character of Nigeria and the need to promote national unity, and also to command national loyalty, thereby ensuring that there shall be no predominance of persons from a few States or from a few ethnic or other sectional groups in that Government or in any of its agencies.

In order to get that particular provision enforced, from the Third Schedule, we have the Federal Character and section 8 (1) says:

In giving effect to the provisions of section 14(3) and (4) of this Constitution, the Commission shall have the power to (a) work out an equitable formula subject to the approval of the National Assembly for the distribution of all cadres of posts in the public service of the Federation and of the State.

It is very clear from the Constitutional provision and what is obtains in the law is very much contrary to the provision of the Constitution. This amendment will seek to cure the lacuna in the Act, which is not supposed to be obeyed.

Secondly, like I did mention, that other departments had been created to enable them function effectively. These departments are enforcement. The Constitution is very clear; it gives the Commission the power to prosecute but the prosecution aspect has been lacking. The amendment is seeking to put in an investigative Unit so that they can have more teeth to bite in terms of enforcing their own regulations sent to agencies and ministries.

I want to believe that the amendments are very clear and straightforward. I seek the indulgence of my hon. Colleagues to allow the Bill to pass the Second Reading.

The Speaker: Hon. Pwajok, please comment on the Motion as one of the sponsors.

Hon Pwajok Edward Gyang: I also have my own version of the Bill and in my own version; the highlights are that in the existing legislation, in Section 1(3), gives the President awesome powers to control the Federal Character Commission. For instance Section 1(3) reads:

The Commission shall not be subject to the direction, control or superintendence of

any other Authority or person in the performance of its functions under this Act, other than the President.

This detracts from the independence of the Commission. So we have substituted Mr. President with the National Assembly; otherwise we may have a situation whereby the President through his Ministers, direct the Commission to do skewed appointment of personnel and the Federal Character Commission may be powerless to assert their authority. We therefore sought to amend that so that the Commission would be more independent in the discharge of their lofty responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, section 5 is on the issue of prosecution of suspects. Though the earlier amendment by my Colleagues, Hon. Musa Addar and Hon. Ahmed Idris, talk about setting up an investigation unit, which also complements the question: if they can prosecute, in what way and through which means can they prosecute? So this Bill seeks to give them the power to prosecute either by their own internal solicitors or hired external solicitors. They can have the services of either the Attorney General's Office or the Office of any of the State Attorney-General, if they so feel.

So I urge my hon. Colleagues to consider this Bill favourably in the interest of our dear nation. I so support.

Hon. Onyejeocha Nkeiruka: I agree with the amendment of this particular Bill without wasting time.

I think all that this Bill seeks to achieve in general term is to cure the ills that we have been experiencing over these years, where some agencies or a particular state would be having as much as maybe 50 staff, while, some would have zero; some would have three and when you ask them why, they would give you all kinds of reasons.

So, what we are trying to do is to make sure that every State of this country is represented in appointments. Like we have seen over the years, if you appoint a DG from Abia State, all the staffers of that agency would come from Abia. After a period, you appoint somebody from Lagos State, within that period all the placements will come from Lagos. So it keeps going back and forth. There are no due diligences; they do not consider whether somebody is qualified and the positions are not advertised; nobody says anything, except when you call them. If they employ up to 100, a particular state would be presenting 80 and when Federal Character Committee calls them, they would say all right, bring one or two. Out of a100, you share 20 to 30 to other states and one is having 70 to 80.

It has gone on and on and we are lawmakers representing the people. As members of the Federal Character Committee, we have seen a lot of ills, people doing something that they are not supposed to do. They

have violated the Constitution and the mandate given to them because they have positions.

When we amend this particular section, it would assist people who are in position of authority to uphold the tenets of the Constitution which they have sworn to protect. They should not fear nor favour anybody. Federal Character Commission should work in earnest position to make sure that people are not side-lined because one person is at the helm of affairs.

I believe that this Bill would go a long way to cure all the ills we have seen in the past where people appoint their relatives because of the position they hold. We have seen somebody who appointed the wife, the cousin, the senior brother and even the sister that is married in another state. These things are not good. You cannot be doing that. There is serious lopsidedness in the appointments of staffers in this nation, and I believe that this amendment would stop these ills. I support the Bill to be read the Second Time. I so submit.

The Speaker: Hon. Akpatason is one of the sponsors.

Hon. Akpatason Peter Ohiozogh (Akoko-Edo): Mr. Speaker, my contribution seeks to introduce comprehensive guidelines and procedures for recruitment in order to ensure transparency in the process of recruitment. To do that, it seeks to amend section 4 by including just after subsections (4), (5), (6) and (7). Section 5 says:

The Commission shall ensure that all ministries, extra-ministerial departments, agencies and other bodies affected by this Act have clear criteria, comprehensive guidelines and procedures for determining eligibility and procedure for recruitments.

Section 6 says that the criteria and procedures are clearly stated by every MDA, which includes (1):

All MDAs shall compile all existing vacancies and submit same to the appropriate Commissioner.

Presently what they do is that they just come up with whatever figures, they advertise, recruit whatever they like in public and they go under the table to complete the other portion of it.

Secondly, they must advertise the declared vacancies in at least two national daily newspapers and the organisation's website.

Thirdly, they have to place the existing vacancies in conspicuous places in the relevant establishment at least two months before the recruitment exercise.

Fourthly, they are to prevent replacement as a means of recruitment.

Mr. Speaker, you would agree with me that one of the most contentious issues in recruitment today is the idea of replacement. A lot of agencies of government recruit hundreds of people in the name of replacement without following any known laid down procedure or rules for recruitment. No advertisement or publicity of any kind, still they go ahead to recruit people who do not necessarily have to pass through clearly defined examination procedures. In some cases, they tell us, it is replacement. You would see them bringing up to 500 to 1000 in some cases. What that means is that many Nigerians are deprived of the opportunity to participate in that recruitment. We feel that this is not fair, it is unjust and it has to stop. Therefore, this amendment seeks to prohibit the use of replacement as a means of recruiting people into Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government anywhere in the country.

This amendment will ensure that recruitment is based strictly on merit and in line with the provisions of this Act. It will eradicate all forms of recruitment racketeering like the ones that we all know about. We want to use this to prevent the recurrence of the kind of thing that happened in Immigration and some other agencies of government last year.

My amendment finally prescribes some sanctions for any violator. In the case of an individual, their penalty would be ₦500,000.00 or two years imprisonment or both. For corporate violators, their penalty would be a minimum of ₦5,000,000.00 or two years imprisonment or both.

Mr. Speaker, those are the amendments I am contributing. I therefore seek the support of our Colleagues to ensure that this Bill is read for the Second Time.

The Speaker: Hon. Ogene, then Musa Sarkin Adar would round it off.

Hon. Ogene Emma Ego (Amuwo Odofin): Mr. Speaker, thank you for giving me an opportunity to contribute to this Bill. This amendment is a very bad amendment and it is an amendment that is going to prevent a lot of states from having people in key positions in the ministries. This amendment is a selfish amendment and I want to appeal to my Colleagues to throw it away because it does not have any value.

Mr. Speaker, what I am talking about is that this is an amendment that is saying that if there is a vacancy, it should not be advertised, it should only be people from that Ministry. In other words if all the people from that Ministry are from Edo, Yobe State or from one particular State, it shows that it is only people from that State that would take over. I want to say that this amendment is

anti-Nigeria. It is an amendment that is not in consonance with the Federal Character Commission policy.

Let me tell you that what Hon. Akpatason has said is not the true position of things. For instance, if there is a vacancy, it is usually advertised. It is not that when there is a vacancy then the people in that department would just employ another person. No! Due process is being followed.

I want to appeal to all hon. Colleagues here that if we put hand on this amendment, we would have a lot of complaints, and we would not be able to solve them. Any head of department who knows that the people from his State are very many in a particular position would amass them and then continue to put his people. I want to say that it is not in the interest of the nation.

I appeal to my hon. Colleagues that this is one very bad piece of legislation. I appeal to everybody to throw it away. If we do not throw it away, it would destroy the Federal Character Commission policy and this nation would not be able to move forward as far as Civil Service is concerned. I so submit.

Hon. Sarkin Adar Musa: I am really saddened by the opposition of our respected Colleagues over there. The Federal Character Commission, as everybody knows, was established to ensure equity and justice in the distribution of Federal appointments. From the time it was established till date, it has not yet achieved even 50 *per cent* of its mandate. The reason has been that most of the head of agencies personalise any vacancies that exist in their domain.

Like it was just said by our Sister, Hon. Nkeiruka, those of us who are Members of the Committee on Federal Character, know that most times when we call the head of agencies to defend any recruitment they have made, we would realise that if there are hundred vacancies, more than 60 *per cent* of such vacancies go to the people from the State of the person who heads that agencies, and if anybody from another State comes to succeed him, the person would also follow the same line.

It is in line with this that we are now saying that Federal Character Commission should be empowered to regulate and to also give guidelines of every appointment to be made, especially appointment of people that are above Grade Levels: 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15. Many times you will find out that when recruitment is coming up on such cadre there are people who are competent enough to fill such vacancies but the Heads of Agencies would go out of their way to bring people from outside, thereby causing redundancy and stagnation for the existing staff.

Let me give you an example, about five days ago we were in the Nigerian Railway Corporation. There was a vacancy for the Managing Director, there were very competent people from that agency, people who have

served over thirty years and there are professionals of highest score, they have not been found wanting, they have not been queried in their folders; but somebody else from somewhere was brought and he was appointed above them and that person in the place he worked earlier, was not more than Grade 12 officer.

Now in the National Assembly for example, how shall we feel even as Members if the Clerk of National Assembly or Clerk of House of Representatives is appointed from outside and not from within? So, my hon. Colleagues, what we are doing is trying to create justice and equity for Civil Servants so that there would be no stagnation, no redundancy; we are trying to minimise favouritism and nepotism.

I so submit and I urge everybody to support our amendment and allow the Bill to pass for Second Reading.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill referred to the Committee on Federal Character.

STANDING ORDERS/RULES OF THE HOUSE

Breach of Decorum during Debate

Hon. Phillip Shaibu (Etsako East/West/Central): Point of Order Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. Philip Shuaibu, what is your point of Order?

Hon. Phillip Shaibu: My point of Order is Order IX Rule 60(9): with your kind permission I read:

During a Sitting, all Members shall be silent or shall confer only in undertones.

Obviously we are breaching this rule, the noise is becoming much and I think we should abide by the Rules.

The Speaker: Point of Order sustained.

Energy Commission of Nigeria Act, Cap. E10, LFN 2014 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Consolidated Bills for an Act to amend the Energy Commission of Nigeria Act, Cap. E10 –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the fifth Order of the day is the commencement of debate on the general principles of the Consolidated Bills for an Act to amend the Energy Commission of Nigeria Act, Cap. E10.

Hon. Members would recall that the Bills were consolidated on Thursday, 21st April, 2016. I now invited Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta to move that the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma (Ukwa East/West): I move that a Bill for an Act to amend the Energy Commission of Nigeria Act, Cap. E10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2014 to provide for the establishment of Solar Energy Development and Utilization Fund; and a Bill for an Act to Update the Commission and make the Minister of Science and Technology directly responsible for the business activities of the Commission; and for other related matters.

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai (Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani): I second the Motion as moved from my Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta.

Question proposed.

Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma: I crave your indulgence and that of my Colleagues to allow Hon. Ossai to lead the debate. My amendment on this area is actually a single line amendment but he has more comprehensive detailed amendments. Therefore I will concede to him to lead the debate.

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai: Distinguished hon. Colleagues I also need to thank my Senior Colleague, a third timer, for allowing me to lead this debate.

This Bill tends to amend the decrees, which are part of the Act of National Assembly, establishing the Energy Commission. We have the Heads of State sitting as Chairmen of most parastatals and Commissions in Nigeria but over time parliaments have been able to infuse democracies in most of our Bills.

Conventionally, a Minister that is in charge of a particular Commission consequentially is the Chairman of such Commission. A case in point is petroleum and another one is education, conventionally, this is what we do in this House. It is in that line that three key issues ought to be amended in the first Bill. T

The second Bill has five issues that are very germane to it. What are these two Bills (now one) talking about? This Bill wants to bring in private investment in the solar energy issues. All over the world today, solar energy is used to control climate change and because of the climate change, the issue of solar energy is very important to the world.

The United States of America has pushed this technology and virtually all the world is embracing it and it is coming to Nigeria which is what the HB 72 tends to amend. HB 72 tends to open up the space for private investment to go into the energy supplying, distributing of

solar energy in Nigeria and to make some charges as they distribute this solar energy to different communities in Nigeria. I think that would help the energy issue and deficiency in energy in our country. That is what this Bill HB 72 tends to achieve and cure completely.

The HB 446 Bill tends to cure about three key issues and they are: Firstly, we have NEPA and today NEPA is not in existence. From NEPA to Power Holding which is not in existence too because I am part and Board Member of this Commission. We changed it to Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission, which is currently on board and a consequential amendment which this Bill tends to cure.

Secondly, what this Bill tends to cure is that the Ministers today are the drive policy force in this Commission. It is in that line that the decree that established it made the Head of State the Chairman of the Commission. Now we are regularising it by bringing the Minister in charge of such places who drives the policy direction of such Commission to be the Chairman of that Commission. That is what this Bill tends to achieve which is consequential amendment in this issue.

Thirdly, we have the issue of trade. It is proper to introduce, interpret and define the Minister in charge of the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology to be the Chairman of that Commission which is consequential amendment.

It is in this light that this Bill tends to cure these key areas and I urge Hon. Members to support this Bill with the speed of light since it is Energy Commission that supplies energy which is light. I know that the speed of light is so wonderful that nothing is comparable to it. It is on this ground that I again urge you to support this Bill with the speed of light it requires.

Hon. Isiaka Ayokunle Ibrahim (Ifọ/Ewekoro): Let me first of all appreciate the men behind this Bill so far. I have only two contributions to make, if possible, on the nature of the Bill. I would want us to limit the Bill to solar; since we have many other alternative sources of energies.

I want to make my contribution by saying that we should make it as Alternative Energy Development Fund, so that it would accommodate other energies, such as wind energy which is being proposed in other parts of the country. The solar, atomic energy and others should be included so that it would not be done in bits. By the time it gets to the Committee it can be accommodated.

I want to appeal to the Floor that the Bill be supported as heavily moved and debated by the hon. Members.

Hon. Kayode Oladele: As you rightly said, this is a curative Bill. There are two germane things there that we need to look into, which I think are very commendable.

First of all we all know that NEPA had been unbundled several years ago and to include NEPA in the Bill is wrong without amending it. I think that is very unfortunate.

I want to commend the sponsors of this Bill. It is something that we need to do from time to time: look at our laws and see those areas that we need to improve. If Energy Commission, for example, would be sued to court and you are talking about NEPA, the question is, is NEPA still in existence? There is nothing like NEPA any longer. It is very imperative for this Assembly to pass this Bill into law.

We should pay attention to the areas where reference is made to the President. Most of the activities of our laws are sent to the President and the President, at the end of the day, is overburdened. Meanwhile, there are certain things that need day to day supervision such as this Commission. To suggest that it should be the responsibility of the Minister in charge instead of the President would make the Commission more proactive and efficient. They do not have to go and sit down at the Villa and be waiting for the President to take an action. If they can just immediately see the Minister in charge, who can also take a decision, it would be better.

I want to lend my voice to this Bill and I want to urge the Hon. Members to do so.

Hon. Shaibu Phillip: I want to support this Bill and I have two major issues and the third one is a must. One, is to energise the Ministry for effective management and to avoid bureaucracy. The other one obviously, the Executive, should also be grateful to the National Assembly or House of Representatives for bringing the Parliament's attention to the need to amend the National Electricity Regulatory Commission.

Obviously the work of the Executive, especially in all the reviewed Commission, is to look at most of these laws that have been overtaken by events. Obviously for lack of efficiency from that angle, the proactive House of the 8th Assembly in its wisdom is considering amending these issues.

I want to thank the prime mover and the leadership that you have provided, Mr. Speaker, for us to amend these laws. Though in our heart, Nigerians still call the Regulatory Commission *NEPA*, when there is no light, everybody shouted unconsciously *NEPA*! Truly there is no *NEPA*, what we have today is National Electricity Regulatory Commission.

I am of the opinion that we all support that this amendment should be taken and by the grace of God we would see an effective and energised Ministry that is supposed to drag the process of energising Nigeria to a better height.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Committee on Power.

Advertising Practitioners (Registration, etc.) Act, Cap. A7 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Advertising Practitioners (Registration, etc.) Act, Cap. A7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to increase the Prescribed Penalties, Transfer Appellate Jurisdiction in matters under the Act from the Court of Appeal to the High Court; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 303) –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: The sixth Order of the day is A Bill for an Act to Amend the Advertising Practitioners (Registration, etc.) Act, Cap. A7.

Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was read the first time on Thursday, 10th December, 2015. I now invite Hon. Abdulrazak Saád Namdas to move that the Bill be read for the Second Time.

Hon. Namdas Abdulrazak Sa'ad (Mayo Belwa/Ganye/Jada/Toungo): I move that A Bill for an Act to Amend the Advertising Practitioners (Registration, etc.) Act, Cap. A7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to increase the Prescribed Penalties, Transfer Appellate Jurisdiction in matters under the Act from the Court of Appeal to the High Court; and for Other Related Matters, be read the second time.

Hon. Adewale Elijah Oluwatayo (Ifako Ijaiye Ifako Ijaiye): I second the Bill as moved by Hon. Namdas Abdulrazak Sa'ad.

Question proposed.

Hon. Namdas Abdulrazak Sa'ad: Mr. Speaker and hon. Colleagues, the Advertising Practitioner Act was passed solely with the aim of determining the actual advertising practitioners in Nigeria. Unlike Journalism where it has become an all comers' game, the Advertising Practitioners have made it a duty to prescribe criteria for membership into the Advertising Practitioners. In fact they have set down skills and knowledge for people who want to be advertising practitioners.

However, the Bill was passed about a decade ago and in view of that, the penalties that have been booked for offenders are too meagre. In view of that, I propose an amendment to the principal Act. Section 18 of the principal Act, which deals specially with people who falsely profess that they are registered members of Advertising Practitioners when they are not, makes it that,

on conviction for first offenders, a fine of only ₦1,000 is always imposed.

I propose that in Section 18(a) the word: "A maximum fine of ₦1,000 be substituted with a fine of ₦500,000". In case of second or subsequent convictions, imprisonment according to the Act is for a period of not less than one year and or more than three years. I propose that in Section 18(b)(7) the words *not less than one year or more than three years* be substituted with the words *three years* so that it would be very specific.

In Section 20 of the principal Act when a statement is falsely made or conviction, the offender is to pay the sum of ₦500. I hereby amend in Section 20(a) the words *not exceeding ₦500* be replaced with the words *₦100,000*; that is if he is convicted by a Court of superior jurisdiction. When it is a Higher Court or Federal High Court, the principal act says in Section 20 (3)(b) that imprisonment should made, *not exceeding ₦1,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding more than two years*. I propose that the fine of, *not exceeding ₦1,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years* be replaced with the words *₦500,000 or a term of imprisonment of two years*".

Lastly, the Jurisdiction of this matter is in the Appeal Court. When somebody is convicted or he is being investigated, 28 days should be given to the person to take his case to the Court of Appeal without going to the High Court. I propose that it should be revert back to High Court before going to the Appeal Court. In view of this, we are substituting the marginal note. The words *Court of Appeal* be replaced with the word *High Court*, and in Section 28 line 9, the words *Court of Appeal* should be replaced with the word *High Court*. Also in line one of Section 28(c) the words *Court of Appeal* be replaced by the word, *High Court*. I so move.

The Speaker: This is a straight forward amendment and I will put the question.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Nigerian Air Force Institute of Technology (Establishment) Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Air Force Institute of Technology to provide Technical Training to personnel of the Nigeria Air Force and other services of the Nigerian Armed Forces; and for Other Connected therewith –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: The seventh Order of the day is commencement of Debate on the general principle of a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Air Force Institute of Technology to provide Technical Training to personnel of the Nigeria Air Force and other services of the Nigerian Armed Forces; and for Other Connected therewith.

Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was read the first time on Thursday, 10th December, 2015. I now invite Hon. Samson Okwu to move that the Bill be read for the Second Time.

Hon. Okwu Samson (Obi/Oju): I move that a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Air Force Institute of Technology to provide Technical Training to personnel of the Nigeria Air Force and other services of the Nigerian Armed Forces; and for Other Connected Purposes (HB. 313) - Read the Second Time.

Hon. Elendu-Ukeje Nnenna Ijeoma (Bende): Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion as moved by Hon. Samson Okwu.

Question proposed.

Hon. Okwu Samson: This Bill seeks to establish a body to be known as *Air Force Institute of Technology* with the corporate body and official possession and common seal.

The objective of the Institute is to expose each of its students to a broad and balanced curriculum in order to meet high level maintenance and capability locally for aviation and aerospace speciality for Nigerian Air Force, and other services of Nigerian Armed Forces Government Agencies and Related Organisation in Nigerian, as well as African countries and people of other nationality. It is also to expand the horizon of indigenous research and development of Air Force through the provisions of conducive atmosphere and infrastructure that would promote cooperation and collaboration with similar institutions within and outside Nigeria.

This Bill again seeks to prepare Nigerian Air Force personnel, those of the other sister services of the Nigerian Armed Forces, Nigerian and military personnel from African countries for a brighter post-services employment as a means of enhancing their integration into a civil society, and unbundling the technical manpower of the aviation industry. It is to create a world class centre of excellence in Aerospace and Aeronautical Engineering through the innovation of high-class facilities and multi-discipline research approach.

The Bill seeks to enhance the performance of the Nigerian Air Force to confront the on-going fight against terrorism in the country and to reduce the huge foreign exchange that is spent for foreign trainings. In Nigeria

right now, most of the trainings that Air Force personnel undertake always take place outside the country, and we need to establish an institute that would encourage other countries to come and do research in our country.

I wish to state at this juncture that this Bill is very critical in our efforts to enhance the performance of Nigerian Air Force. It is instructive to know that the need to build the capacity of Nigerian Air Force cannot be over-emphasised. I therefore call on every hon. Member in this Chamber to support the passage of this Bill with the speed of light.

Hon. Elendu-Ukeje Nnenna Ijeoma: I speak in support of this Bill for the simple reason that it is my belief that Nigeria being the giant of Africa, as we are called, must have a strong military base to support that reputation.

A lot of people say and it is widely believed that Foreign Policy without force is no foreign policy at all. As we seek to protect our homeland and expand our frontiers around the world, we must have the military that gives us that backing. If we do not have the military that is up to par then it means our aspirations to be a strong nation in the comity of nations and expand Nigeria's ideals and her policies across our borders would be just a pipedream.

What the Bill seeks to do is to strengthen the Nigerian Air Force. Today it is often said that the problem with the Aviation sector, both in the civil and the military sector, is the fact that we have an ageing workforce. In the past when the Naira was stronger and many Nigerians were trained abroad, we had some of the best aeronautical engineers; best ground staff; best air traffic controllers. As it has gotten more and more expensive to train them, we find that not only can we not afford to train them properly any more but that that workforce is dwindling considerably.

What does it seek to do? It is to create a situation where and when the Nigerian Air Force needs to train and retrain its pilots. Like medical people, pilots and all people who are affiliated to air services must be trained and retrained so that when the need to go for simulator courses, for instance, to move them from aircraft series to another series, that it can be done in Nigeria at minimal cost to the country. This kind of training overseas is a drain on Nigeria's foreign exchange and now we have very little foreign exchange. As I said, a lot of all these technical services will be a drain on Nigeria's foreign exchange.

I also believe that foreign exchange makes it very expensive for younger Nigerians who aspire to this technical knowhow, because they cannot afford to go abroad to do that. What it seeks to do ultimately is to strengthen the truly indigenous Nigerian Air Force, trained by Nigerians, that is, the Nigerian Air Force, to

protect the integrity of our country, protect the integrity of our skies and export the Air Force - Nigerian style.

I would therefore ask my Colleagues that as Nigeria seeks to strengthen, protect and defend the territorial integrity of our country, both on land and in the skies. We must support this Bill to strengthen the Nigerian Air Force so that they are not only people who are properly trained but also as the future generations of Nigerians who may seek to join the Nigerian Air Force be properly trained in the way that helps them compete with their counterparts around the world.

Hon. Saleh Hassan Anthony (Ado /Ogbadibo/ Okpokwu): Mr. Speaker, I lend my support to this Bill and would also love to congratulate my Brother and countryman for deeming it fit to come up with a very solid Bill that would enhance the capacity of the Nigerian Air Force. Like Hon. Ukeje has succinctly put, we should also begin to look at the issue of training and retraining of our military personnel to happen within the confines of this country.

Let us also look at the economic side of this institution when it is established. By the time you continue to send your people abroad for training, you need to spend foreign exchange and we all know the pressure that is on our foreign exchange today. Therefore, if we support this Bill and it passes for the Second Reading, definitely with an institution like this, our young entrants in the Nigerian Air Force and other aviation sectors would benefit very strongly from this. It would enhance training and retraining like he said. There is no way that you train once and you think that as a pilot training that is sufficient.

The world is very dynamic; the aircrafts are being upgraded by the year. Therefore we need an institution that would be keyed into the dynamism of the aviation sector as well as our Air Force personnel to also be properly trained to meet the challenges of the security situation that we have in this country. I want to appeal to all our Colleagues to support this Bill to pass for the Second Reading.

Hon. Oke Busayo Oluwole (Obokun/Oriade): One of the pillars on which a virile people democracy rests is a very strong, self-sufficient and proactive armed forces.

I have been privileged to chair House Committee on Defence for two terms and in 2003, we contemplated this particular Bill and I am surprised that this Bill has not been passed into law. Nigeria, being a member of Commonwealth Nations sends its personnel for training in Commonwealth Nations like India, United States, United Kingdom and of recent, we send them to Belarus and even South Africa - a nation that Nigeria helped out of apartheid - and we are still at this stage.

We have so much to benefit from this institute. This institute would be able to train its personnel that can

produce and manufacture aircrafts. The institute would be able to produce personnel in all sectors avionics, electronics. I want to plead with the entire Members of this House, without further delay, to support this Bill for Second Reading.

Hon. Agbo Dennis Nnamdi (Igbo-eze North/Udenu): I join my Colleagues to support this important Bill because of its consolidated value chain to our Aviation, and Air Force personnel in general.

Presently we have a lot of issues with our Air Force in tackling insecurity in the country, with regards to the technology we are using at the moment. The establishment of this Institution would in no little means optimise the core competence of our Air Force personnel. It would enable them to cope with the modern issues that lead to aircraft sensors and management, and evolve technological dynamics that are involved in that industry.

Our aviation industry for a population of over one hundred and eighty million people cannot do well without an institution that would be able to bring services that are much less than see-check in an aircraft. Therefore I join my Colleagues to support this Bill because it would help our population, industry in aviation, and security, especially now that we have challenges.

Hon Ossai Nicholas Ossai: I support this Bill and in supporting it, I will say that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has already favoured this Bill. The Concurrent List Item 21 and in the Exclusive List Item 38 gave this Bill a legal strength that it deserves. I very much thank Hon. Okwu for bringing in this Bill. The issue of this Bill has been in existence and it is just to put a legal frame work to make sure this Institute is strengthen, that is what the Bill intend to achieve.

I agree with the submission of the hon. Member representing Bende, Hon. Ukeje, and I align with her submissions as if they were mine. Secondly, strengthening capacity building is a thing that this country has to encourage. Introducing new technology into our Air force research base is a thing the National Assembly should be proud to support.

It is on these two key grounds - but the submission has already been made - that I stand to support this Bill with the speed of light it requires because it has the solid foundation to go into the Third Reading immediately.

Hon. Agbedi Fredrick Y. (Ekeremor/Sagbama): I support this Bill because of its importance. This Bill has to do with education though we are talking about the Air Force. No knowledge is a waste. Education is knowledge, and we are talking about invention and discovery when you talk about education.

This Bill intends to open up the Nigerian Air Force technologically by creating opportunity for us to train our people better, and improve on our technological involvement in the air force industry, and also attract foreign direct investment in terms of training of other officers who may come from other countries. No knowledge acquired through education is a waste and we all know how the Armed Forces, the world over, is embarking on different technologies to fight new crimes, new war strategies that is evolving daily across the world.

The mover of this Motion has brought it at a right time to further develop the education industry concerning the Nigerian Military, and in particular this case as it relates to technological development in the Air Force.

It is because of its importance that I lend my voice strongly in support of this Bill and pray that my Colleagues would rally round our Colleague, Hon. Samson, to ensure that this Bill is passed.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Air force.

MOTIONS

Reconsideration of Bill from the Preceding Assembly

Federal Capital Territory Hospitals Management Board (Establishment) Bill, 2016

The Speaker: The eighth Order of the day is a Motion pursuant to Order XII Rule 94 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives on the Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly Federal Capital Territory Hospitals Management Board (Establishment) Etc., Bill 2016, standing in the name of Hon Uzoma Nkem Abonta.

Hon Abonta is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma: I move that:

The House:

Notes that pursuant to Order XII, Rule 94 of the Standing Orders of the House, Bills passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence were made or negatived, or passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence were made or negatived or which were passed by the National Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the Assembly, the House may resolve that such Bills, upon being re-gazetted and clean copies

circulated, be re-considered in the Committee of the Whole without being commenced *de-novo*;

Also notes that the aforementioned Bill was passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the 7th Assembly;

Aware that the Bill has been re-gazetted as HB. 441 and read the first time on Thursday, 21 April, 2016.

Resolves to:

Commit the Bill to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

I so move.

Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga (Abakaliki/Izzi): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon Abonta.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

Commit the Bill to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

The Speaker: The ninth Order of the day is a Motion on the need to tackle the devastating gully erosion in Njikoka/Anaocha/Dunukofia Federal Constituency, standing in the name of Hon. Ferdinand Dozie Nwankwo. Hon. Dozie is now invited to move the Motion. .

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Hon Nwankwo is not on the floor, I therefore apply to withdraw the Motion.

Motion by leave of the House withdrawn.

Urgent Need to Curb the Daily Incident of Armed Robbery attacks along Okene-Lokoja Road, Kogi State

The Speaker: The tenth Order of the day is a Motion on *Urgent Need to Curb the Daily Incidents of Armed Robbery Attacks along Okene-Lokoja Road, Kogi State*, standing in the name of Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai. Hon. Ossai is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move:

The House:

Notes the current security challenges in the country being manifested in part in the almost daily incidents of

armed robbery attacks, killings and kidnappings of innocent Nigerians along the Okpella/Okene/Lokoja road;

Worried that these waves of gruesome killings, robberies and kidnappings, have exacerbated the fears and apprehension of Nigerians over their security while travelling along that road;

Recalls that section 14(2)(b) of the 1999 Constitution provides that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government;

Resolves to:

Call on the Inspector General of Police as a matter of urgency, to crack down on the activities of these criminals operating along the Okpella/Okene-Lokoja road and deploy more personnel for surveillance purposes, in order to ensure the safety of travellers.

Hon. Alabi Mojeed Olujimi A. (Ede North/Ede South/Egbedore/Ejigbo): Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion as moved by Rt. Hon. Nicholas Ossai.

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai: Mr. Speaker, you would recall recently that four days ago, the Permanent Secretary from Osun State and a Director from the Ministry were kidnapped between Okene and Lokoja, this is just of recent.

For the past four or five weeks the dangerous access of Okene/Okpella and Lokoja Road is in alarming state. You would agree with me that on a daily basis, travellers that need protection of the law are killed. Travellers need the protection of police and protection of government of Nigeria.

You would agree that this road between Okene, Okpella and Lokoja is one the biggest roads because it connects North and South; the Eastern part is connected, the South-South is connected, and the South-West is connected. On a daily basis people are kidnapped recklessly, that means people are not safe; for business activities people are robbed and household incomes are robbed. Our people need protection in line with Section 14.

I listened to the Inspector-General of Police three days ago in a chat on Channel television, and he was saying that the rescue of those Permanent Secretary and the Director was through a crack team that he has. Are we to wait only for the crack team; that anywhere these things happen, a crack thing will go?

There is a saying in English that *prevention is better than cure*. It is better to prevent an illness than administering drug when the illness has manifested. The issue that this Motion tries to cure is to be proactive, whereby the Inspector-General of Police would be

proactive along the Nigerian roads, most especially, this road that is connecting business between North and South.

Our commerce is not growing, distributions of produce are not moving from North to South, and that causes inflation by way of increase in prices of goods. To be able to pass through those channels to take my goods, driver has to charge me more and this money has to be included in these commodities; at the end of the day Nigerians suffer because of the negligence of an institution of government that ought to address the situation. So, what this Motion tends to achieve is to make the Nigeria Inspector-General of Police proactive in making sure that these roads are safe. Police too are killed along Okpella because that is where the devil is manifesting itself.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and hon. Members to support this Motion. You know that on this road, many people have been robbed, many drivers have been killed, and innocent people have been killed. Some of us that have phobia for travelling by air pass through these roads with fear.

On a daily basis people are killed because they do not have the kind of security that we have when passing this road. It is not everybody that has this privilege of having security to pass through that road. So what happen to ordinary Nigerians who do not have security to pass this road? It then means they would carry their hearts in their hands, and this is not what governance is all about. Therefore this Motion tends to cure this issue and address the plight of Nigerians passing through that road, in other to bring succour to many of them and put distribution of goods from North to South in a state of equilibrium.

On this above grounds, I urge all hon. Members to support the Bill with a speed of light it requires, I rest my case.

Hon. Shaibu Phillips: Mr. Speaker, I support this Motion and it is timely. Just like the prime mover of the Motion said, it is better to be proactive than to start looking for cure. Without mentioning names, I can say that most of the people that have been kidnapped, especially along Okene/Okpella axis and have been released, made mention of a particular place where they kept over seven of them. They were kidnapped at different times and different months yet they made mention of a particular area where they were kept, so what is police doing about that particular area?

Within four months people were kidnapped and the same place where they were kept is mentioned within four months and nothing has been done about that particular area where they are being kidnapped and kept. It then shows that the security outfit are not active. They are not active, as far as I am concerned, because you are kidnapped and you made a mention of where you are

being kept; the first one, second, third fourth, fifth, sixth, severally; and that particular place remains the hideout where kidnappers are kept until ransoms are paid.

However, I want to join my Colleagues to say that the security and the police should be proactive; they should go into that area to dismantle those kidnappers. The Police and the Department of State Security should be very active, get into this area and battle this hideout where these people are kept. If that is done it shows sign of protection.

Truly speaking, beyond the lack of infrastructure along Lokoja-Okene-Okpella road you would see some police officers along the road where kidnapping is taking place hundred meters from where the police is mounting its road block, and consistently a particular spot is being used to kidnap. Those bad spot where the roads are bad are being used to kidnap Nigerians and nothing has been done about it. Both the ministry that is supposed to fix the road and the security outfit that is supposed to protect property and lives should wake up.

I urge my Colleagues that it is a matter of necessity and urgency for the Police and the State Security Service quickly come to the rescue in line with the Constitution of the Federal Republic to protect lives and properties along this axis.

Hon. Karimi Sunday Steve: I thank my Colleague for bringing this Motion. In fact, Kogi State is known for peace and it is a Confluence State, linking the North to the South, and you can access FCT easily through Kogi State. Some criminals that are not from Kogi would come to situate themselves in Kogi State and in fact they are making life difficult for our people. Most of these criminals are not from Kogi State and at the state level a lot has been done to fish out these criminals but the State Government seems not to be making any headway.

Therefore, we are calling on the Federal Government, through the Inspector General of Police, to help us root out these criminals within Kogi State because they have constituted themselves as nuisance to our people.

Hon. Agboola Emmanuel Kehinde (Ikole/Oye North): I just want to add my voice to the Motion on ground being one of the beneficiaries of that road. You can hardly pass to Ekiti State from here without going through that road and we do not have airport yet. But the point remains that the whole crises are because the roads are bad. Virtually all the roads that traverse that State are terribly bad.

If we are talking about the criminal nature that is happening on that road and calling on the Inspector General of Police alone much may not be achieved. Several Motions have been passed by this House about attending to the poor state of that road. If we can find a way around these bad roads and there are no bad spots

where you can cage people up; then it would be difficult for criminals to have a safe landing in such environment. But in a situation where the roads are bad, and of course, you have no alternative than to slow down your speed, the hoodlums would capitalise on that and capture our innocent Nigerians and take them away inside the bush.

I believe that the cost of repairing the road permanently would be much cheaper and the road would be safer for us and the emotional travail that both the victims and the nation itself are passing through would be a thing of the past. I want to support the Motion that the IG should ensure more surveillance but not only for those places but for all other areas that there have been reports of such evil occurrence before. They should regularly comb the environment to be sure that there is no such occurrence. In the course of that exercise they may even discover areas that are still hidden from us. He should also use his good office to collaborate with the Legislators in making sure that the road is safe, dully rehabilitated and also dualise.

Hon. Egwu Emmanuel M. (Idah/Igalamela/Ibaji/Ofu): I thank the mover of this Motion. It is a very patriotic Motion in the sense that every Nigerian that use the road to move from North to South definitely would one day or the other pass through Kogi State.

The level of killings, kidnapping, and criminality are very high there, it is high time we call on the Federal Government, and of course, the Federal Security Agencies, the Police, the SSS and the military to take urgent step to energise the security of Kogi State.

It is not only the route that passes from Lokoja to Okene; there are equally other routes to the East. If you are going to Enugu, Port Harcourt and Aba, and you decide to use Kogi State that road again is a security risk and this has affected a lot of economic transactions. Goods are moved from the East down to the North, from North down to the South-West, unfortunately these criminals who we do not know where they are coming from have taken over the roads and this affects the economic activities of this country.

It is not only the social, moral, and of course, the psychological trauma that Nigerians face on that road at any time that disturbs us but also many killings that are taking place in Kogi State; recorded killings, based on the account of criminality or whatever. So I really support the mover of this Motion for this gallant and noble Motion that he has raised on this Floor and I ask all hon. Members to support this Motion.

Hon. Ezekiel Adaji Awalu (Ohimini/Otukpo): I thank the Mover of this Motion. Benue State and Kogi have a very common boundary and we must take special interest in whatever happens there. The rate of kidnapping and armed robbery in Kogi State is actually getting out of hand. Even the States that are known for kidnapping I do

not think they have recorded the kind of numbers of kidnapping that is going on in Kogi now. The Inspector-General of Police should, as a matter of urgency, put up a crack team like the mover of the Motion has suggested.

Again, I would urge the major stakeholders of that State to also put their heads together because it is not possible for any criminal to come from elsewhere to a particular community reside there, know the terrain very well and begin to take up criminal operations as they are doing. So if the senior citizens of that place would actually come together and give security agents the needed information, it would be quicker and easier for them to fish out those criminals.

I support this Motion and urge my Colleagues to please support the Motion with the speed of light as always canvassed by Hon. Ossai N. Ossai.

Hon. Karimi Sunday Steve: Point of Order, Mr. Speaker!

The Deputy Speaker: Let us have your Point of Order please.

Hon. Karimi Sunday Steve: I want to comment on his language because it is as if the act is synonymous with Kogi, *the major stakeholder from Kogi*.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Karimi, please take your seat. You did not listen to him very well. He said, even those States that were known for kidnapping are even playing second fiddle so there is no Point of Order in it. We are trying to help you here.

Hon. Onyenwufe Gabriel (Ayamelum/Oyi): Mr. Speaker, Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai has moved a Motion that should be of concern not only to hon. Members but to all Nigerians.

The Motion need not be begged to be supported because it is a constitutional call as he had argued and which I concur with. If we look at the express provisions of section 14 (2) (b) of the 1999 Constitution, as amended, one sees clearly that it is a constitutional mandate on government as it is clearly spelt out:

*The security and welfare of the people
shall be the primary function of
government.*

It is therefore imperative that the Inspector General of Police should not wait only when there is an occurrence of kidnapping or armed robbery before he will tell the crack team to go. He has to be proactive about it.

The worst aspect of it is that is in the language of the Motion that some people have been killed. If you look at chapter 4 of the Constitution as actually provided, once

somebody's life is taken away he has no other right to enjoy. That was what informed section 33 as number one fundamental right of every citizen.

Like he always says, I agree particularly in this one that this Motion should be passed with the speed of light. I so support.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. I have one amendment here before I put the question. The amendment is from Hon. Diri.

Hon. Diri Douye (Yenagoa/K/Opokuma): Mr. Speaker, this issue -

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Diri, you sent an amendment for the prayer. Go straight to your amendment, please.

Hon. Diri Douye: Mr. Speaker, the amendment is that the issue under debate today has to do with some proactive measures and not when the incident has occurred. To that extent, we should also call on the Director General of State Security Services, the same way we are calling on the Inspector General of Police to be proactive in averting kidnap cases.

The Deputy Speaker: The amendment is to call on the Inspector General of Police and Director General of State Security Services to be proactive.

Hon. Adamu Abubakar Chika: Mr. Speaker, I wish to second the amendment ably presented by my Colleague, Hon. Diri.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Main Question as amended put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Call on the Inspector General of Police to as a matter of urgency, crack down on the activities of these criminals operating along the Okpella/Okene-Lokoja road and deploy more personnel for surveillance purposes, in order to ensure the safety of travellers.
- (ii) Also call on the Director General of State Security Services to be proactive in averting kidnap cases.

Urgent Need to Transform the Ihunekwagu Cave to a Tourist Destination

The Deputy Speaker: The eleventh Order of the day is a Motion *on Urgent Need to Transform the Ihunekwagu Cave to a Tourist Destination*, standing in the name of

Hon. Chukwuemeka Ujam. Hon. Ujam is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Ujam Chukwuemeka: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move.

The House:

Notes that the famous Ihunekwagu Cave is situated in an area of tropical vegetation, set amidst the natives of Akpugo community of Nkanu West Local Government Area of Enugu State;

Aware that the Cave houses a natural spring, consisting of tunnels, which are filled with streams and small pools, and a main chamber;

Also aware that the Cave has retained some elements of biodiversity for hundreds of years and is like a glimpse in another world, with adjoining, slippery rocks and the nests which are high above the Cave floor;

Further aware that the manifest potentials of the Cave have remained untapped, and considering the present economic downturn and the need to diversify the nation's earnings, it has become imperative to harness the tourism potentials abounding in the local communities;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Federal Ministry of Information, Culture, Tourism and National Orientation to conduct an assessment of the Cave with a view to ascertaining its viability as a tourist destination.

I so move.

Hon. Adedapo Lam-Adesina (Ibadan North-East/Ibadan South-East): Mr. Speaker, I rise to second the Motion as ably moved by Hon. Ujam.

Hon. Ujam Chukwuemeka: Mr. Speaker, there is nothing much to add to the body of my main element except the fact that we are now looking for alternatives sources of revenue. This cave now presents itself as a veritable means of boosting the economy of the Ihunekwagu people in Nkanu West Local Government Area Enugu State itself and Nigeria at large.

It is my hope and desire that it becomes a tourist destination and placed on the map of the world where people would stream to. Even if it is for just historical reasons, our kids would be able to go there and play within the caves to understand rock formations.

Mr. Speaker, mine is just to stress that this amongst others is a tourist destination. That the Federal Government should pay attention to this area ploughing in

money that is needed to transform that region so that it becomes an additional source of revenue for the country. I so submit.

The Deputy Speaker: This is a Motion that borders on infrastructure because it is a cave. I have one amendment here and it is from Hon. Archibong

Hon. Archibong Henry Okon (Itu/Ibiono Ibom): Mr. Speaker, considering the nature and biodiversity that is associated with such sites, I wish to also add that we should add: "*also declare the environment around the cave a reserved area*".

The Deputy Speaker: His amendment is to urge the Federal Government to declare the environment around the cave a forest reserve or reserved area.

Hon. Rita Orji (Ajeromi/Ifelodun): I second the amendment as moved by Hon. Henry Archibong.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Main Question as amended put and agreed to.

Motion referred to the Committee on Culture and Tourism and Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORT

Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

The Deputy Speaker: The twelfth Order of the day is consideration of the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010 and for Other Matters Connected therewith.

Hon. Members will recall that on Tuesday, 12th April, 2016, the House in the Committee of the Whole deferred the consideration of the Bill and ordered that the Report should be restructured in line with the tradition of report writing in the House.

Hon. Emmanuel Ekon, Daniel Reyenieju will brief the House on the matter and thereafter move for its consideration. I now call on Hon. Daniel Reyenieju to move the Motion.

Hon. Emmanuel Ekon (Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika): I move for the consideration of a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010 and for other matters connected therewith.

Hon. Daniel Reyenieju: I second the Motion as ably moved by Hon. Emmanuel Ekon.

Question put and agreed to.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila (Surulere I): I move that the House do resolve to the Committee of the Whole.

Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba Doguwa (Doguwa/Tundun Wada): I second the Motion as moved by the Leader of the House.

Question put and agreed to.

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Report of the House Committee on Petroleum on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010 and for Other Matters connected therewith – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The Chairman: The Report is on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010 and for Other Matters Connected therewith. I will now invite the Chairman of the Committee on Local Content, Hon. Emmanuel Ekon, to give a brief insight into the Report.

Hon. Emmanuel Ekon: The Chairman, this is a Bill that we are currently over-sighting and implementing in the Oil and Gas Industry. This Bill is divided into five Clauses.

Clause 1 is the formula of the legislative draft for amendment.

Clause 2 deals with amendment of Section 11 of the Principal Act.

Clause 3 deals with the amendment of Section 52 of the Principal Act.

Clause 4 deals with the amendment of Section 91 of the Principal Act.

Clause 5 is the citation.

The general one also deals with some amendments on Section 11 of the Principal Act that deals with the meaning and specification of the Nigerian content.

Section 52 of the Principal Act deals with financial services.

Section 91 of the Principal Act deals with budgetary and estimates report.

However, for the clause-by-clause consideration, the Committee also feels that it is necessary for us to make

amendment in Sections 3, 4, 7, 36 which is just a typographical error. Amendments in Sections 37 and 38, 39, 48 and 56, 57, 58, 59, 69, and 70, are typographical error; so also are sections 73, 75, 91. Furthermore Sections 103,104,105,106 are typographical errors and were also amended.

In summary, this is a straightforward amendment on the Nigeria Oil and Gas Bill. I will urge my hon. Colleagues that what this Bill seeks to achieve is to extend the waiver window, removing difficulties of access to funds and creating an obvious heading errors.

I want to urge my Colleagues to support the Amendment of these Sections of the Bill so that we would remove some ambiguity that is impeding the implementation of the Act. I so submit.

The Chairman: We now go into the Clause by Clause consideration of the Report.

PART 1 – NIGERIAN OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY CONTENT DEVELOPMENT ACT 2010

Clause 3 – (FIRST CONSIDERATION TO BE GIVEN TO THE NIGERIAN OPERATORS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 – (ROLE OF NIGERIAN CONTENT MONITORING BOARD) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5 – (PROMOTION OF MEASURABLE GROWTH OF NIGERIAN CONTENT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6 – (CONFORMITY OF PETROLEUM ARRANGEMENTS AND OTHER AGREEMENTS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 7 – (SUBMISSION OF NIGERIAN CONTENT PLAN FOR ALL PROJECTS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 8 – (CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 11 – (MINIMUM AND SPECIFICATION OF NIGERIAN CONTENT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 36 – (RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 37 – (PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 38 – (SUBMISSION AND CONTENT OF R AND D PLAN) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 39 – (REPORT ON R AND D PLAN) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 56 – (FUNCTIONS OF THE JOINT QUALIFICATION SYSTEM) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 57 – (SETTING UP OF THE NIGERIAN CONTENT CONSULTATIVE FORUM) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 58 – (COMPOSITION OF THE NIGERIAN CONTENT CONSULTATIVE FORUM) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 59 – (POWERS OF THE BOARD TO MONITOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 69 – (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIGERIAN CONTENT DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING BOARD) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 70 – (FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 75 – (POWERS OF THE COUNCIL) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 91 – (BUDGETARY ESTIMATES AND AUDIT REPORT) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 92 – (GIFT TO THE BOARD) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 103 – (SAVINGS AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 104 – (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NIGERIAN CONTENT DEVELOPMENT FUND) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 105 – (ENFORCEMENT OF COMPLIANCE ACT NO. 5 2003) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 106 – (INTERPRETATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Hon. Simon Yakubu Arabo (Kauru): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just drew the attention of the Sponsor to the Citation.

It is an amendment but it is not reflected anywhere in the Citation. Since we are amending the Act, there is no how the Citation would be the same with the existing Act.

The Chairman: Hon. Simon what is the amendment that you are trying to make?

Hon. Simon Arabo: It supposed to be:

This Act may be cited as the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (Amendment) Act, 2016.

Hon. Karimi Steve Sunday: I second the amendment as proposed by Hon. Simon.

Question on amendment put and agreed to.

(EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Hon. Emmanuel Ekon: I want to amend the title of the Bill to read, *Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (Amendment) Act, 2016.*

Hon. Reyenieju Daniel Oritsegbubemi (Warri South/Warri West): I second the amendment of the title as moved by Hon. Ekon.

Question on amendment put and agreed to.

Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba: I move that the House do revert back to the Plenary and report progress. I so move.

Hon. Ahmed Idris: I second the Motion that the House do revert back to Plenary.

Resolved: That the House do revert back to Plenary.

(The Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair)

Report and Adoption

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the House in the Committee of the Whole considered a Bill for an Act to amend the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010 and approved Clauses 1 – 106, approved Clause 107 as amended, the Explanatory Memorandum and the Long Title of the Bill.

Is this a true reflection of what transpired in the Committee of the Whole?

Hon. Members: Yes.

Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba: I move that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole.

National Assembly Debates (House of Representatives)
Tuesday, 26th April, 2016

Hon. Ahmed Idris: I second the Motion as moved by the Chief Whip. I so second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba: I move that the House do adjourn Plenary till Wednesday, 27th April, 2016 at 11 am. I so move.

Hon. Ashiru Aminu Mani (Bindawa/Mani): I second the Motion ably moved by the Chief Whip. I so second.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till Wednesday, 27th April, 2016.

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.18 pm