

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Wednesday, 8th June, 2016

The House met at 11.26 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday 7th June, 2016.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors in the Gallery

**Members of South-South Students Assembly
University of Abuja Chapter**

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, we have in the Gallery Members of South-South Students Assembly, University of Abuja who are here to observe our proceedings. You may please rise for recognition. *(Students rose for recognition)* You are welcome; please, kindly take your seats.

Some Students in the Gallery

Also, I can see some students in Uniform in the Gallery; I do not have your paper here but wherever you are from to observe our proceedings, you are welcome.

You may please rise for recognition.

(Students rose for recognition)

Thanks for coming. Kindly take your seats.

Invitation to Breaking of Fast (Ramadan Iftar)

The Speaker: This announcement is from me:

Hon. Colleagues, following the commencement of the Muslim Holy Month of Ramadan, kindly join me in the ceremonial event of *Ramadan Iftar*, which signifies the breaking of Fast after abstinence from food and drinks as well as other desires from sunrise to sunset.

This symbolic event is intended to support our Muslim brothers and sisters in solemnly reflecting our challenges of nationhood and taking advantage of the period to seek divine significance intervention, providing guidance and solutions to these challenges.

Event is as follows:

North-West and South-South Members:

Date: Thursday, 9th June, 2016.

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Meeting Room 028, New Building, House of Representatives.

North-East and South-East Members:

Date: Tuesday, 14th June, 2016.

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Meeting Room 028, New Building, House of Representatives

North-Central and South-West Members:

Date: Wednesday, 15th June, 2016.

Time: 6.30 p.m.

Venue: Meeting Room 028, New Building, House of Representatives

Kindly endeavour to attend please.

There is another announcement, and I recognise Hon. Joan Mrakpor to make it on my behalf.

Demise of Stephen Keshi

Hon. Onyeamaechi Joan Mrakpor (Aniocha North/South/ Oshimili North/ South): I am coming under Personal Explanation and with your kind permission I want to announce the untimely death of Mr. Stephen Keshi from Oshimili North, one of my constituents.

It is a very painful one, considering that this young man lost his wife to cancer some months back. He left behind four children at that very tender age. He was born in 1962. We remember that this man has brought honour not just to Delta State, but to Nigeria at different times.

I indulge the House to please observe a minute silence in honour of this great Nigerian who departed at this very time he is so needed.

(A minute silence was observed in honour of departed national here)

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

The Speaker: Any Member who has a Petition to present to the House may please, rise to do so.

Non-Payment of Entitlements

Hon. Yakub Abiodun Akanni Balogun (Lagos Island II): I have a Petition from one Mr. Sikiru Iyanda who is a Next of Kin to his late brother, Lance Corporal Azeez Ayeleru Iyanda who died on active service. Until his death, he was in the Nigerian Army Formation in Makurdi and since November 2011 that he met his untimely death nothing has been done to the family in terms of payment of his entitlements to enable the Next of Kin take care of the children.

It is on this note that he has written to the House to intervene in getting the necessary entitlements of the deceased.

With your kind permission, I like to lay the Petition

The Speaker: Please lay the Petition.

(Petition laid).

(Petition accordingly referred to the Committee on Public Petitions).

The Speaker: There is a Point of Order from Hon. Bungudu. I now invite him to please move his Point of Order.

MATTER OF URGENT OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Urgent Need to provide Relief Materials for the Internally Displaced Persons at IDPs Camp in Zamfara State

Hon. Zubairu Abdulmalik Bungudu (Bungudu/Maru): I move a Motion pursuant to Order VIII, Rules 46 and 49 on a Matter of Urgent Public Importance. The matter is on the Urgent Need to provide Relief Materials for the internally displaced persons at Dansadau IDPs Camp at Maru Local Government in Zamfara State.

I also move that relevant Rules be suspended for it to be considered by the House immediately.

Hon. Kwewum Rimamnde Shawulu (Donga/Ussa/Takum): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon Bungudu.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do consider the matter on the Urgent Need to provide Relief Materials for the Internally Displaced Persons at Dansadau IDPs Camp in Maru Local Government in Zamfara State as one of urgent public importance.

Hon. Agbonyinma Johnson Ehiozwa (Egor/Ikpoba/Okha): I second the Motion that relevant Rules be suspended for the matter to be considered immediately.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) be suspended for the matter to be taken immediately.

The Speaker: Hon. Bungudu, you can now move your Motion.

Hon. Zubairu Abdulmalik Bungudu: My Motion is on the Urgent Need to Provide Relief Materials for Internally Displaced Persons at Dansadau IDPs Camp in Maru Local Government of Zamfara State.

The House:

Notes the incessant attacks on the people of Bungudu/Maru Federal Constituency of Zamfara State by Fulani herdsmen that led to the creation of IDPs Camp at Dansadau in Maru Local Government Area;

Also notes that people from over 10 villages of Madana, Fatar Doka, Sabuwar Kasuwa, Katoge, Kukar Magi, Dangurgu, Saulawa, Jesa and Guru have deserted their homes and are currently taking refuge at the IDPs Camp;

Worried that the people taking refuge at the IDPs Camp are presently undergoing hardship due to non-availability of food, medical facilities and none presence of Security Agencies;

Also worried that constant attacks on villages at home and on their farmlands by gun men and abductions of villagers and gang rape on women and

girls by armed Fulani robbers are the major problems affecting the communities;

Aware that Sections 33 (1) and 34 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended guarantees the right to life and dignity of human person;

Resolves to:

- (i) Mandate the Committees on IDPs, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness as a matter of urgency to provide relief materials to the victims at Dansadau IDPs Camp; and
- (ii) Urge the Chief of Defence Staff, the Inspector General of Police and other relevant security agencies to provide adequate security at the IDPs Camp at Dansadau and border towns between Kaduna, Katsina and Niger States and make everything possible to restore peace in the affected communities for them to go back to their various destinations.

Hon. Ngwu Stella Uchenwa Obiageli (Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Zubairu Abdulmalik Bungudu.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Mandate the Committees on IDPs, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness as a matter of urgency to provide relief materials to the victims at Dansadau IDPs Camp; and
- (ii) Urge the Chief of Defence Staff, the Inspector General of Police and other relevant security agencies to provide adequate security at the IDPs Camp at Dansadau and border towns between Kaduna, Katsina and Niger States and make everything possible to restore peace in the affected communities for them to go back to their various destinations.

(Motion referred to the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Defence, Police Affairs, and IDPs)

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

The Speaker: The first business of the day is presentation of one hundred (100) Bills. I now invite the Clerk to read their Short Titles.

When we do First Reading, it is just First Reading, so that the report does not come out from the House of Representatives that we have passed one hundred (100) Bills in a day. The Bills are just due for mention. It means that they are beginning their journey through the legislative mail today.

Fisheries Society of Nigeria Bill, 2016

Fisheries Society of Nigeria Bill, 2016 (HB. 595) – presented by Hon. Abubakar S. Abdulrahman (Maiha/Mubi North/Mubi South) - *read the First Time.*

Traffic Warden Service Bill, 2016

Traffic Warden Service Bill, 2016 (HB. 596) – presented by Hon. Bassey Eko Ewa (Yakurr/Abi) – *read the First Time.*

FCT College of Nursing and Midwifery Bill, 2016

FCT College of Nursing and Midwifery Bill, 2016 (HB. 597) – presented by Hon. Gaza Jonathan G. (Karu/Keffi/Kokona) – *read the First Time.*

Chartered Institute of Facilities Management of Nigeria Bill, 2016

Chartered Institute of Facilities Management of Nigeria Bill, 2016 (HB. 598) – presented by Hon. Austine Chukwukere I. (Ideato North/Ideato South) – *read the First Time.*

Chartered Institute of Auctioneers of Nigeria Bill, 2016

Chartered Institute of Auctioneers of Nigeria Bill, 2016 (HB. 599) – presented by Hon. Austine Chukwukere I. (Ideato North/Ideato South) - *read the First Time.*

Nigeria Sports Bill, 2016

Nigeria Sports Bill, 2016 (HB. 600) –presented by Hon. Abubakar Kannike Amuda (Ilorin East/Ilorin South) - *read the First Time.*

Good Citizens Bill, 2016

Good Citizens Bill, 2016 (HB. 601) – presented by Hon. Abubakar Kannike Amuda (Ilorin East/Ilorin South) - *read the First Time.*

Elderly Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016

Elderly Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill, 2016 (HB. 602) – presented by Hon. Abubakar Kannike Amuda (Ilorin East/Ilorin South) - *read the First Time.*

National Commission for Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and Migrants Bill, 2016

National Commission for Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and Migrants Bill, 2016 (HB. 603) – presented by Hon. Sani Zoro Mohammed (Gumel/Maigatari/S/Tankar/ Gagarawa) - *read the First Time.*

Child's Rights Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Child's Rights Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 604) – presented by Hon. Omoregie Ogbeide-Ihama (Oredo) - *read the First Time.*

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2016

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2016 (HB. 605) – presented by Hon. Omoregie Ogbeide-Ihama (Oredo) - *read the First Time.*

Nigerian Gas Processing and Marketing Regulatory Board Bill, 2016

Nigerian Gas Processing and Marketing Regulatory Board Bill, 2016 (HB. 606) – – presented by Hon. Frederick Y. Agbedi (Ekeremor/Sagbama) - *read the First Time.*

National Gas Resources Development Agency Bill, 2016

National Gas Resources Development Agency Bill, 2016 (HB. 607) — presented by Hon. Frederick Y. Agbedi (Ekeremor/Sagbama) - *read the First Time.*

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 608) - presented by Hon. Gyang Istifanus D. (Barikinladi/Riyom) - *read the First Time.*

National Library Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

National Library Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 609) – presented by Hon. Oladipupo Olatunde Adebutu (Ikenne/Sagamu/Remo North) - *read the First Time.*

National Health Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

National Health Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 610) – presented by Hon. Segun Adekola (Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise/Orun) - *read the First Time.*

Electric Power Sector Reform Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Electric Power Sector Reform Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 611) – presented by Hon. Muhammad Usman (Makarfi/Kudan) - *read the First Time.*

Energy Commission of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Energy Commission of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 612) – presented by Hon. Muhammad Usman (Makarfi/Kudan) - *read the First Time.*

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2016

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2016 (HB. 613) – presented by Hon. Enitan Dolapo Badru (Lagos Island I) - *read the First Time.*

Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 614) – presented by Hon. Enitan Dolapo Badru (Lagos Island I) - *read the First Time.*

Annual Budget Conception, Preparation and Presentation Procedure Bill, 2016

Annual Budget Conception, Preparation and Presentation Procedure Bill, 2016 (HB. 615) – presented by Hon. Adamu Kamale (Madagali/Michika) - *read the First Time.*

Free Advice and Treatment of Breast Cancer Centre Bill, 2016

Free Advice and Treatment of Breast Cancer Centre Bill, 2016 (HB. 616) – presented by Hon.

Sergius Ogun (Esan North East/South East) – *read the First Time.*

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 617) – presented by Hon. Oladipupo Olatunde Adebute (Ikenne/Sagamu/Remo North) - *read the First Time.*

Police Service Commission (Establishment) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Police Service Commission (Establishment) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 618) – presented by Hon. Salisu Zakari Ningi (Ningi/Warji) - *read the First Time.*

Nigerian Constitution Studies (Inclusion in Schools Curriculum) Bill, 2016

Nigerian Constitution Studies (Inclusion in Schools Curriculum) Bill, 2016 (HB. 619) – presented by Hon. Owoidighe Ime Ekpoattai (Eket/Onna/Esit Eket/Ibendo) - *read the First Time.*

Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 620) – presented by Hon. Ahmed Abu (Edati/Lavun/Mokwa) - *read the First Time.*

National Erosion and Desertification Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2016

National Erosion and Desertification Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 621) – presented by Hon. Sopuluchukwu Ezeonwuka (Orumba North/South) - *read the First Time.*

National Endowment for Arts and Literature (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016

National Endowment for Arts and Literature (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (HB. 622) – presented by Hon. Ayeola Abayomi Abdul Kabir (Ibeju/Lekki) - *read the First Time.*

Institute of Transport Administration of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2016

Institute of Transport Administration of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 623) – presented

Hon. Oghene Emma Egoh (Amuwo Odofin) - *read the First Time.*

Institute of Debt Recovery Practitioners of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2016

Institute of Debt Recovery Practitioners of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 624) – presented Hon. Oghene Emma Egoh (Amuwo Odofin) - *read the First Time.*

Federal Road Safety Commission (Establishment) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Federal Road Safety Commission (Establishment) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 625) – presented by Hon. Ehiozuwa Johnson Agbonayinma (Egor/Ikpoba/Okha) - *read the First Time.*

Subsidiary Legislation (Monitoring and Control) Bill, 2016

Subsidiary Legislation (Monitoring and Control) Bill, 2016 (HB. 626) – presented by Hon. Fredrick Y. Agbedi (Ekeremor/Sagbama) - *read the First Time.*

Federal Road Maintenance Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Federal Road Maintenance Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 627) – presented by Hon. Ibrahim Isiaka (Ifo/Ewekoro) - *read the First Time.*

Treaties (Making Procedure etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Treaties (Making Procedure etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 628) – presented by Hon. Yakub Abiodun Balogun (Lagos Island II) - *read the First Time.*

Weights and Measures Council for Retail Commodities Bill, 2016

Weights and Measures Council for Retail Commodities Bill, 2016 (HB. 629) – presented by Hon. Abdulraheem Olajide Jimoh (Lagos Mainland) - *read the First Time.*

National Welfare Board for the Aged Bill, 2016

National Welfare Board for the Aged Bill, 2016 (HB. 630) – presented by Hon. Mutiu Shadimu (Oshodi-Isolo I) - *read the First Time.*

**Customs and Excise Management Act
(Amendment) Bill, 2016**

Customs and Excise Management Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 631) – presented by Hon. Akpatason Ohiozogh Peter (Akoko-Edo) - *read the First Time.*

**Public Accounts Implementation Tribunal Bill,
2016**

Public Accounts Implementation Tribunal Bill, 2016 (HB. 632) – sponsored by Hon. Oni Olamide Johnson (Ijero/Ekiti West/Efon) - *read the First Time.*

**National Farm Settlements and Youth
Empowerment Agency (Establishment,
etc.) Bill, 2016**

National Farm Settlements and Youth Empowerment Agency (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (HB. 633) – presented by Hon. Henry Okon Archibong (Itu/Ibiono Ibom) - *read the First Time.*

Pension Reform Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Pension Reform Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 634) – presented by Hon. Amadi Dennis Oguerinwa (Ezeagu/Udi) - *read the First Time.*

**Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,
1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2016**

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2016 (HB. 636) – presented by Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok (Jos South/Jos East) - *read the First Time.*

**Maritime University, Okerenkoko
(Establishment) Bill, 2016**

Maritime University, Okerenkoko (Establishment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 637) – presented by Hon. Daniel Reyenieju (Warri South/Warri West) - *read the First Time.*

**Passport (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act
(Amendment) Bill, 2016**

Passport (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 638) – presented by Hon. Solomon Ahwinahwi (Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu) - *read the First Time.*

**Abuja Geographic Information Systems
Agency Bill, 2016**

Abuja Geographic Information Systems Agency Bill, 2016 (HB. 639) – presented by Hon. Gaza Jonathan G. (Karu/Keffi/Kokona) - *read the First Time.*

**Industrial Property Commission of Nigeria
Bill, 2016**

Industrial Property Commission of Nigeria Bill, 2016 (HB. 640) – presented by Hon. Chime Oji (Enugu North/Enugu South) - *read the First Time.*

Industrial Waste Disposal Control Bill, 2016

Industrial Waste Disposal Control Bill, 2016 (HB. 641) – presented by Hon. Bassey Eko Ewa (Yakurr/Abi) - *read the First Time.*

**Courts and Tribunals Fines and Financial
Penalties Bill, 2016**

Courts and Tribunals Fines and Financial Penalties Bill, 2016 (HB. 642) – presented by Hon. Razak Atunwa (Ilorin West/Asa) - *read the First Time.*

**FCT Integration and Development Commission
(Establishment) Bill, 2016**

FCT Integration and Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 643) – presented by Hon. Zaphaniah Jisalo (Abuja Municipal/Bwari) - *read the First Time.*

**Nigerian Communications Satellite Corporation
Bill, 2016**

Nigerian Communications Satellite Corporation Bill, 2016 (HB. 644) – presented by Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta (Ukwa East/West) - *read the First Time.*

**Teaching of Nigerian History in Nigerian
Schools Bill, 2016**

Teaching of Nigerian History in Nigerian Schools Bill, 2016 (HB. 645) – presented by Hon. Ayodele Oladimeji (Ado Ekiti/Irepodun/Ifelodun) - *read the First Time.*

Acts Authentication (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Acts Authentication (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 646) – presented by Hon. Abubakar Lawal (Yola-North/Yola South/Girei) - *read the First Time*.

Council of Ministers (Evidence) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Council of Ministers (Evidence) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 647) – presented by Hon. Gideon Gwani (Kauru) - *read the First Time*.

National Drug Formulary and Essential Drugs List Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

National Drug Formulary and Essential Drugs List Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 648) – presented by Hon. Betty Apiafi (Ahoada East/Abua/Odual) - *read the First Time*.

National Shipping Policy Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

National Shipping Policy Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 649) – presented by Hon. Solomon Ahwinahwi (Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu) - *read the First Time*.

Raw Materials Research and Development Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Raw Materials Research and Development Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 650) – presented by Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso (Orlu/Orsu/Oru East) — *read the First Time*.

Statutory Corporations (Modification, etc.) Act (Repeal) Bill, 2016

Statutory Corporations (Modification, etc.) Act (Repeal) Bill, 2016 (HB. 651) – Presented by Hon. Lawal Muhammadu Idrisu (Ajaokuta) - *read the First Time*.

Administration of Justice Commission Act (Repeal) Bill, 2016

Administration of Justice Commission Act (Repeal) Bill, 2016 (HB. 652) – presented by Hon. Iorember Wayo (Kwande/Oshongo) — *read the First Time*.

Monitoring of Revenue Allocation to the Federal Capital Territory Area Councils Bill, 2016

Monitoring of Revenue Allocation to the Federal Capital Territory Area Councils Bill, 2016 (HB. 653) – Presented by Hon. Dennis J. Agbo (Igbo-Eze North/Udenu) - *read the First Time*.

National Honours Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

National Honours Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 654) – presented by Hon. Orker-Jev E. Y. (Buruku) - *read the First Time*.

Nigerian Law Reform Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Nigerian Law Reform Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 655) – presented by Hon. Bode Ayorinde (Owo/Ose) — *read the First Time*.

Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016

Pharmacy Council of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (HB. 656) – presented by Hon. Betty Apiafi (Ahoada East/Obua/Odual) — *read the First Time*.

Pre-Shipment Inspection of Imports Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Pre-Shipment Inspection of Imports Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 657) – Presented by Hon. Lawal Garba (Yola North/Yola South/Gire) - *read the First Time*.

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Ratification and Enforcement) Bill, 2016

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (Ratification and Enforcement) Bill, 2016 (HB. 658) – presented by Hon. Gyang Istifanus Dung (Barikinladi/ Riyo) — *read the First Time*.

Federal Commissions (Privileges and Immunities) (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Federal Commissions (Privileges and Immunities) (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 659) – presented by Hon. Idris Ahmed Wase (Wase) — *read the First Time*.

Miscellaneous Offences Act (Repeal) Bill, 2016

Miscellaneous Offences Act (Repeal) Bill, 2016 (HB. 660) – presented by Hon. Idris Ahmed Wase (Wase) — *read the First Time.*

Motor Vehicles (Prohibition of Tinted Glass) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Motor Vehicles (Prohibition of Tinted Glass) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 661) – presented by Hon. Jerry Alagbaosu (Orlu/Orsu/Oru East) — *read the First Time.*

Ministers' Statutory Powers and Duties (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Ministers' Statutory Powers and Duties (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 662) – presented by Hon. BubaJibril Usman (Lokoja/Kogi/KK) — *read the First Time.*

The WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPT) (Ratification and Enforcement) Bill, 2016

The WIPO Copyright Treaty (WCT) and the WIPO Performances and Phonograms Treaty (WPT) (Ratification and Enforcement) Bill, 2016 (HB. 663) – presented by Hon. Muhammed Sani Abdu (Alkaleri/Kirfi) — *read the First Time.*

Trade Marks Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Trade Marks Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 664) – presented by Hon. Onawo Mohammed Ogoshi (Awe/Doma/Keana) — *read the First Time.*

Nigerian Institute for Trypanosomiasis and Onchocerciasis Research Bill, 2016

Nigerian Institute for Trypanosomiasis and Onchocerciasis Research Bill, 2016 (HB. 665) – presented by Hon. Dasuki Abdussamad (Kebbe/Tambunwai) — *read the First Time.*

Administrative Staff College of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Administrative Staff College of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 666) – presented by Hon. Asabe Vilita Bashir (Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok) — *read the First Time.*

Armed Forces Comfort Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Armed Forces Comfort Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 667) – presented by Hon. Rufai Ahmed Chanchangi (Kaduna South) — *read the First Time.*

Coins Act (Repeal) Bill, 2016

Coins Act (Repeal) Bill, 2016 (HB. 668) – presented by Hon. Danasabe Charles Hosea (Gashaka/Kurmi/Sarduna) — *read the First Time.*

Corporate Bodies (Members Emolument) Act (Repeal) Bill, 2016

Corporate Bodies (Members Emolument) Act (Repeal) Bill, 2016 (HB. 669) – presented by Hon. Mohammed Umar Jega (Alieru/Gwandu/Jega) — *read the First Time.*

Explosives Act (Repeal) Bill, 2016

Explosives Act (Repeal) Bill, 2016 (HB. 670) – presented by Hon. Saidu Yusuf Miga (Jahun/Miga) — *read the First Time.*

Export (Prohibition) Act (Repeal) Bill, 2016

Export (Prohibition) Act (Repeal) Bill, 2016 (HB. 671) – presented by Hon. Francis Charles Uduyok (Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo) — *read the First Time.*

Gaming Machines (Prohibition) Act (Repeal) Bill, 2016

Gaming Machines (Prohibition) Act (Repeal) Bill, 2016 (HB. 672) – presented by Hon. Philip Shaibu (Etsako East/West/Central) — *read the First Time.*

Import (Prohibition) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Import (Prohibition) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 673) – presented by Hon. Bukar Lawan Goni (Bursari/Geidam/Yunusari) — *read the First Time.*

Prohibition against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (Enforcement) Bill, 2016

Prohibition Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and

Components and Ammunition (Enforcement) Bill, 2016 (HB. 674) – presented by Hon. Orker-Jev E. Y. (Buruku) — *read the First Time.*

Official Secrets Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Official Secrets Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 675) – presented by Hon. Aminu Suleiman (Fagge) — *read the First Time.*

Radiographers (Registration, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Radiographers (Registration, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 676) – presented by Hon. Bamgbose Hontonyou (Badagry) — *read the First Time.*

Scientific and Industrial Research Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Scientific and Industrial Research Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 677) – presented by Hon. Stella Ngwu (Igbo-Etiti/Uzo Uwani) — *read the First Time.*

Piers Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Piers Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 678) – presented by Hon. Prestige Ossy (Aba North/South) — *read the First Time.*

Produce (Enforcement of Export Standards) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Produce (Enforcement of Export Standards) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 679) – presented by Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku (*Dukku/Nafada*) — *read the First Time.*

Land (Title Vesting, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 680)

Land (Title Vesting, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 680) – presented by Hon. Bode Ayorinde (Owo/Ose) — *read the First Time.*

Law Officers Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Law Officers Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 681) – presented by Hon. Bode Ayorinde (Owo/Ose) — *read the First Time.*

Animal Diseases (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Animal Diseases (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 682) – Presented by Hon. Ahmed B. Kaita (Kankia/Ingawa/Kusada) — *read the First Time.*

Counterfeit and Fake drugs and Unwholesome Processed Foods (Miscellaneous Provision) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Counterfeit and Fake drugs and Unwholesome Processed Foods (Miscellaneous Provision) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 683) – presented by Hon. Nasiru Zagon Daura (Baure/Zango) — *read the First Time.*

Federal Highways Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Federal Highways Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 684) – presented by Hon. Taiwo Akintola (Egbeda/Ona-Ara) — *read the First Time.*

Federal Road Maintenance Agency (Establishment, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Federal Road Maintenance Agency (Establishment, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 685) – presented by Hon. Taiwo Akintola (Egbeda/Ona-Ara) — *read the First Time.*

International Centre for Settlement of Investment Dispute (Enforcement of Awards) Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2016

International Centre for Settlement of Investment Dispute (Enforcement of Awards) Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 686) – presented by Hon. Emmanuel Udende (Katsina-Ala/Logo/Ukum) — *read the First Time.*

Army Colour (Prohibition of Use) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Army Colour (Prohibition of Use) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 687) – presented by Hon. Sadiq Ibrahim (Fufore/Song) — *read the First Time.*

Firearms Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Firearms Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 688) – presented by Hon. Herman Hembe (Konshisha/Vandekiya) — *read the First Time.*

**Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act
(Amendment) Bill, 2016**

Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 689)- presented by Hon. Dennis J. Agbo (Igbo-Eze North/Udenu) — *read the First Time.*

**Niger Delta Development Commission Act
(Amendment) Bill, 2016**

Niger Delta Development Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 690) – presented by Hon. Nicholas Mutu Ebomo (Bomadi/Patani) — *read the First Time.*

**Statutory Corporations Pensionable Officers
(Retiring Age Limit) Act (Amendment)
Bill, 2016**

Statutory Corporations Pensionable Officers (Retiring Age Limit) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 691) – presented by Hon. Mohammed Umaru Bago (Chanchaga) - *read the First Time.*

**Insurgency or Militancy Victim Stigmatization
(Prohibition) Bill, 2016**

Insurgency or Militancy Victim Stigmatization (Prohibition) Bill, 2016 (HB. 691) – presented by Hon. Ahmed Yerima (Misau/Dambam) — *read the First Time.*

Special Secrets Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Special Secrets Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 692) - presented by Hon. Razak Atunwa (Ilorin West/Asa) — *read the First Time.*

Statutory Instruments Bill, 2016

Statutory Instruments Bill, 2016 (HB. 693) – presented by Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari (Yabo/Shagari) — *read the First Time.*

**Traditional Medicine Council of Nigeria
(Establishment) Bill, 2016**

Traditional Medicine Council of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 694) – Presented by Hon. Hassan A. Omale (Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro) and Hon. Abdulraheem O. Jimoh (Lagos Mainland) — *read the First Time.*

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

**Report of the Committee on Sports on the Urgent
Need to Intervene in the Lingering Crises Rocking
Nigeria Football Federation (NFF)**

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the next business of the day is presentation of Report of the Committee on Sports on the Urgent Need to intervene in the Lingering Crises Rocking Nigeria Football Federation, standing in the name of Hon. Bukar Lawan.

Hon. Members will recall that the matter was referred to the Committee on Tuesday, 17th May, 2016. The Report is now ready for presentation and Hon. Goni Bukar Lawal is invited to present it.

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan (Bursari/Geidam/Yunusari): I move that this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Sports on the Urgent Need to intervene in the Lingering Crisis Rocking the Nigeria Football Federation.

Hon. Chris Emeka Azubogu (Nnewi North/South/Ekwusigo): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Goni Lawan.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid on the Table.

**Report of the Nigeria Extractive Industries
Transparency Initiative on the Highlight of the
2013 Oil and Gas Audit Reports Pursuant to
Order 16 Rule 105 (c) of the Standing Orders of
the House of Representatives**

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the second business of the day is the presentation of two Report of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative on the Highlight of the 2013 Oil and Gas Audit Reports, pursuant to Order 16 Rule 105 (c) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, standing in the name of Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila. The Deputy Leader, Hon. Buba Jibril is now invited to present the Report.

**Report on Nigeria Extractive Industries
Transparency Initiative on the Highlights of the
2013 Oil and Gas Audit Report**

Hon. Jibril Umar Buba (Lokoja/Kogi KK): Mr. Speaker, I have two Reports to present. First, I move that the House, pursuant to Order 16 Rule 105 (c) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, do receive the Report of the Nigeria Extractive

Industries Transparency Initiative on the Highlights of the 2013 Oil and Gas Audit Report.

Report on the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative on the Highlights of the 2013 Solid Minerals Industry Audit Reports

Secondly, I move that the House, pursuant to Order 16 Rule 105 (c) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, do receive the Report of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative on the Highlights of the 2013 Solid Minerals Industry Audit Reports.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa (Buruku): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Buba Jibril.

Question put and agreed to.

Reports laid on the Table.

Report of the Committee on Interior on the Torture Act of Assault and Battering allegedly visited upon Hon. Mrakpor Onyemachi Joan By men and Officers of the Nigeria Prisons Services

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the third Business of the day is presentation of the Report of the Committee on Interior on the Torture Act of Assault and Battering allegedly visited upon Hon. Mrakpor Onyemachi Joan by men and Officers of the Nigeria Prisons Services, standing in the name of Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba.

Hon. Members will recall that on Thursday, 28th April, 2016, the House in the Committee of the Whole deferred consideration of the Report and committed the matter to the Committee for a re-work. The Report is ready for presentation and Hon. Jagaba is now invited to present the Report.

Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba (Kachia/Kagarko): I move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Interior on the Torture Act of Assault and Battering allegedly visited upon Hon. Mrakpor Onyemachi Joan by men and Officers of the Nigeria Prisons Services.

Hon. Yakub Abiodun Akanni Balogun: I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Jagaba.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid on the Table.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshots (Provision) Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to make Provision for Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshots; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB.119) 2016 –

Order for Third Reading.

The Speaker: The first Order of the day is the Third Reading of a Bill for an Act to make Provision for Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshots; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB.119).

Hon. Members will recall that the House adopted the Report of the Committee of the Whole on the Bill on Tuesday, 7th June, 2016. I therefore call on the Leader of the House to move that the Bill be now read the Third Time.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila (Surulere I): I move that a Bill for an Act to make Provision for Compulsory Treatment and Care for Victims of Gunshots; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB.119) 2016 be read the Third Time.

Hon. Jibril Umar Buba: I second the Motion as moved by the Leader of the House.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

Corporate Manslaughter (Establishment) Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to Provide for Corporate Manslaughter to make Corporate Organizations Criminally liable for death of Employees arising from their Acts of Omission; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 273) 2016 –

Order for Third Reading.

The Speaker: The second Order of the day is the Third Reading of a Bill for an Act to Provide for Corporate Manslaughter to make Corporate Organizations Criminally liable for death of Employees arising from their Acts of Omission; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 273) 2016.

Hon. Members will recall that the House adopted the Report of the Committee of the Whole on the Bill on Tuesday 7th June, 2016. I call on the Leader of the House to move that the Bill be now read the Third Time.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: I move that a Bill for an Act to Provide for Corporate Manslaughter to make Corporate Organizations Criminally liable for death of Employees arising from their Acts of Omission; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 273) 2016 be read the Third Time.

Hon. Sani Mohammed Aliyu (Rano/Bunkure/Kibiya): I second the Motion moved by the Leader for the Bill to be read the Third Time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

Railway Loan (International Bank) Act 2004 (Repeal) Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Railway Loan (International Bank) Act, Cap. R2, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Connected Purposes (HB. 300) 2016 -

Order for Third Reading.

The Speaker: The third Order of the day is the Third Reading of a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Railway Loan (International Bank) Act, Cap. R2, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Connected Purposes (HB. 300) 2016.

Hon. Members will recall that the House adopted the Report of the Committee of the Whole on the Bill on Tuesday, 7th June, 2016. I call on the Leader of the House to move that the Bill be now read the Third Time.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: I move that a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Railway Loan (International Bank) Act, Cap. R2, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Connected Purposes (HB. 300) 2016 be read the Third Time.

Hon. Olabode O. Ayorinde (Owo/Ose): I second the Motion as moved by the Leader for the Bill to be read the Third Time.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

Nigerian National Heroes Register Act, 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian National Heroes Register Act, Cap. N121, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide for the Recognition and Registration of all Qualified Persons as National Heroes and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 130) 2016 –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: The fourth Order of the day is commencement of debates on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian National Heroes Register Act, Cap. N121, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide for the Recognition and Registration of all Qualified Persons as National Heroes and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 130) 2016.

Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was read the First Time on Wednesday, 24th November, 2015. I now invite Hon. Chukwuka Onyema to move that the Bill be now read the Second Time.

Hon. Chukwuka Onyema Wilfred (Ogbaru): I move that a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian National Heroes Register Act, Cap. N121, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide for the Recognition and Registration of all Qualified Persons as National Heroes and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 130) 2016 be read a Second Time.

Hon. Onwubuariri Kingsley Obinna (Onuimo/Okigwe/Isiala Mbano): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Chukwuka Onyema.

Question proposed.

Hon. Chukwuka Onyema Wilfred: This is another straightforward Bill that should pass through with the speed of light. This Bill seeks to remove the restriction placed on the number of persons to be registered as national heroes at any given time and to ensure that all persons adjudged qualified, are duly recognised, registered and published as national heroes. I am of the opinion that we do not just remember the labour of our heroes past, like we have in our National Anthem where we say ...*the labour of our heroes past*, or present but we should as well duly recognise them.

This Bill is different from the Nigerian National Merit Award Act Cap N 122; as such it cannot be inter-changed. That Bill was brought up by the Leader of the House. As a matter of fact, not all who receive National Merit Award are national heroes. It

may interest you to note that not much is known about our national heroes.

The Principal Act commenced on the 10th August, 1979 with only four persons declared as National Heroes; these are Alvan Ikoko, Alhaji Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, Herbert Macaulay and General Murtala Ramat Mohammed.

Fellow Colleagues, you will agree with me that since this time, we have people that we can say that they are our national heroes. They cannot be recognised if we do not amend this law. A clear example is the one we have mentioned today that died early hours of this morning, Mr. Stephen Keshi. I call him a national hero and feel that he deserves such recognition. This is because in the whole of Africa and this world, Stephen Keshi is the second person in the entire Africa to win the Nation's Cup both as a Player and as a Coach. This is a wonderful feat. He is a hero to Nigeria and Nigerians, as such he should be recognised, but we cannot do this legally if we do not amend this Act.

We also have several other people who have achieved greatness in Nigeria that have not been recognised. I plead with my fellow Colleagues that this Bill be passed with the speed of light.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/Isoko South): I thank my Colleague for proposing an amendment that would be one way or the other add value to the service that we render to our great nation. I believe that the major difference between this Bill, which is the National Hero Bill vis-à-vis the National Merit Award Bill borders on major services that some of our brothers and sisters have rendered for this great nation.

I give clear example about our Military and some young officers of the Nigerian Air Force that sacrificed their lives for this great nation. These are men and women that stood very firm at those trial hours fighting insurgents and mindful of the fact that their lives were at risk, their families had all the necessary challenges, but they put in their best even with death scaring them at the face. They gave us the great comfort and the opportunity of sleeping in our houses while they were there fighting a battle.

I remember vividly a young man that was slaughtered like a ram because he was arrested in the whole process. I considered that man as a wonderful hero; he stood, fought and died for this nation. I believe that men and women of this nature should be recognised by our great nation. It would motivate other Nigerians and give them the impetus of knowing fully well that when you put in your best for

your country, your country at every given time would appreciate you.

It is on the basis of this that I support this amendment that our Colleague is proposing. This is because in every field of your endeavour, try as much as you can to think of your great nation. It is an amendment Bill that probably puts Nigeria first before every other thing, knowing fully well that if you serve and put in your best for your great country, no matter how it is, the nation at any given time would recognise you. It is the recognition for the services that people offer that this Bill intends bringing before the public. I see it as a patriotic Bill and I appeal that we should give it all the necessary support.

Hon. Elendu-Ukeje Nnenna Ijeoma (Bende): I lend my voice to this Bill. Primarily in this House of Representatives, there were lots of Bills attempting to amend the Bill of the National Honours. We have spoken to the fact in this House of Representatives, after a few Nigerians had rejected the National Honours, that people reverend too little what they know too much of. We spoke to the proliferation of those national honours and the fact that the reasons behind giving people and singling them out as heroes of our dear country had been abused by the process.

As *Ad-Hoc* Committee of the House of Representatives, we sat down and played round with all sort of ways to remedy the abuse that we had seen in the process at the outcome of that particular exercise and this is one panacea to what it is that we have been concerned about. If you look at the people who are on National Heroes list, it dates back to the people who helped Nigeria wrest herself from Colonial rule, find and seek her independence. The only other person, who is there, is the General Murtala Mohammed who died in the service of this country.

All those things happened about 50 years ago and our country has grown since then with people excelling in different areas of human endeavour. The time has come for us to start to look at the people and put them in this very exclusive group of people who had affected our country positively since the days of Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa and Alvan Ikoko. What this Bill seeks to do is to form a very exclusive club of Nigerians that we can all aspire to. If anybody were to be recognised, the people who had actually built and nationalised our country into democracy that we have today should be on that list.

Like the Minority of the House said, there are certain people who had excelled in human endeavour such as Armed Forces, Education and even in our race towards strengthening our democracy. I

therefore ask that we all support this Bill, and as my dear brother would say, with the speed of light let it move to Second Reading. This is because this country is definitely in need of another club of people who had affected our country in a way. This will continue to inspire the next generation to know that when indeed you stand out, you would be recognised by your country.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: To the extent that this Bill promotes and celebrates our heroes, I am in full support of it. Indeed our National Anthem says; *the labours of our heroes past, shall never be in vain*. So kudos to our leaders for making sure that they bring light into that line of our National Anthem. When it gets to the Committee level, it is important that we look at the definition of who is a hero. What are the qualifications? What makes you a hero? This is because we are all aware of our culture and psyche as Nigerians. Everybody considers himself a leader and a hero.

When you remove the ceiling of the number of people that can receive such awards; then you open the flood gate. It becomes open seismic for everybody; you might in one year get 400 heroes; and that is exactly what is happening to the National Honours; and that is why you find people rejecting them.

When it gets to the Committee level, not only do we give a strict definition, but we must also raise the standard and the bar for who can qualify as a Nigerian hero. It should be easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for you to be considered a national hero under this Bill.

I commend Hon. Chukwuka once again for identifying this. Honestly, I was not even aware that there was a Bill like this and I thank him for identifying and making sure that the labours of our heroes past shall never be in vain.

Question put and agreed to.

(Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Inter-Government Affairs).

ANNOUNCEMENT

Sectorial Debate Proper on the Diversification of the Nigerian Economy

The Speaker: Hon. Members, it is necessary to bring to our attention the fact that the Sectorial Debate proper on the diversification of the Nigerian economy will commence tomorrow, Thursday, 9th June, 2016. Having listened to the presentation of

the Honourable Ministers of Information, Culture and Tourism, Industry, Trade and Investment, Communications, Agriculture, Solid Minerals Development and Finance on the diversification of the economy, it is now time for hon. Members to make their own contributions on the subject.

Please, Members who wish to speak on the topic should subscribe their names to the Clerk of the House. We will recognize Members in the order in which their names appear on the Register by tomorrow. There is an analysis Report of all the presentations that were made here by NILS, which I have directed that the Clerk should circulate to Members, so that we can have the raw materials with which to present, enlighten and convincing arguments when the debate gets under the way tomorrow.

Once again, please, all Members should note that the debate will start tomorrow and you are supposed to put your name on the Register for Members who are willing to contribute in the course of the debate.

Advisory Council on Religious Affairs Act 2004 (Repeal/Re-enactment) Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Advisory Council on Religious Affairs Act, Cap. A8 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-enact the National Peace council to Promote Peace and religious Harmony in the Country; and a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the National Commission for Peace, Reconciliation and Mediation, to identify Conflicts, and for the Supervision, coordination and Monitoring of all Peaceful Resolutions between Government; Organizations, etc. in Nigeria; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 74) 2016 –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the fifth Order of the day is the commencement of debate on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Advisory Council on Religious Affairs Act, Cap. A3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-enact the National Peace Council to Promote Peace and Religious Harmony in the Country; and for Other Related Matters; and a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment for the National Commission for Peace, Reconciliation and Mediation to identify Conflicts and for the Supervision, Co-ordination and Monitoring of all Peaceful Resolutions between Government; Organizations, etc. in Nigeria; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 74) 2016.

Hon. Members will recall that the Bills were consolidated on Thursday, 21st April, 2016. I now

invite Hon. Umar Buba Jibril to move that the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Hon. Jibril Umar Buba: Earlier in the day, some issues were raised about this Consolidated Bill and references were made to certain provisions of our Standing laws. We have some issues to resolve before we can proceed with this debate. Therefore, I seek the leave of the House to step down this Bill for now.

Bill by leave of the House stood down.

**Federal Infrastructure Management Agency
(Establishment) Bill, 2016**

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Infrastructure Management Agency; and for Other Connected Purposes (HB. 335) 2016 –

Order for Second Reading

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the sixth Order of the day is the commencement of debate on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Infrastructure Management Agency and for Other Connected Purposes (HB. 335) 2016.

Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was read for the First Time on Wednesday, 16th December, 2015. I now invite Hon. Rotimi Agunsoye to move that the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Hon. Agunsoye Oluwarotimi Ojo (Kosofe): I move that a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Infrastructure Management Agency and for Other Connected Purposes (HB. 335) 2016 be read a Second Time.

Hon. Ashiru Aminu Mani (Bindawa/Mani): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Agunsoye that the Bill be read a Second Time.

Question proposed.

Hon. Agunsoye Oluwarotimi Ojo: This Bill seeks to establish a body to be known as Federal Infrastructure Management Agency. The primary aim of this Bill is to have an agency in place for an effective preservation and maintenance of assets owned and controlled by the Federal Government.

In a situation where we have a road or an asset that we have spent trillions of the payers' money and not being maintained is an effort in futility, and that is the reason why we are having this Bill at this time and at the time of change. The Agency shall be saddled with the responsibility of ensuring efficiency,

sustainability and accountability in the use and management of all Federal Assets.

This is an important Bill that we must listen to and see how we can move the country forward by having this Agency in place. The Agency shall ensure the Federal Government Assets and put to effective use and operate at its optimum at all times. The acquisition of superfluous assets shall be discouraged by the Agency and it shall be the responsibility of the Agency to draw up a Short, Medium and Long Term National Policy on the maintenance and guidelines applicable to all Federal Government owned or controlled Assets.

This Agency would maintain a Register of all Assets of the Federal Government in all Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The Agency shall have a Calendar of maintenance; to maintain, be it road or whatever infrastructure from time to time. If this Bill is allowed to pass through Second Reading, it will really help the nation to move forward.

I appeal to every Member to support this Bill for Second Reading because what is worth doing at all is worth doing well. There is no point having an asset and constructing a road that we cannot maintain. I appeal to you to support this Bill for Second Reading.

Hon. Joseph Ayodeji Adebayo (Apapa): I support the Bill as proposed by Hon. Rotimi Agunsoye. One of our major problems in Nigeria is that of maintenance and at the end of the day we end up spending more than we ought not. The perfect examples are our National Stadium, Surulere and the National Theatre, Iganmu, Lagos. If there will be another World Cup in Nigeria now, we will start running helter-skelter to build another Stadium, meanwhile if we have been maintaining the ones that we have, we would not have to spend so much.

This is a very important Bill, because once we start doing that, we would be spending less on all these things. If there are little cracks on roads, let people quickly move in and fix those roads and not until everything breaks down. I appeal to all Members to support this Bill.

Hon. Adamu Abubakar Chika (Shiroro/Rafi/Munya): This Bill is timely. Honestly, I have subscribed and adopted all the submissions made by both the Sponsor of the Bill and the contributors. The Bill should go beyond all assets of the Federal Government; it must ensure that the law exists; that all Federal Government Assets come to play. We have large assets as a nation, but with time these assets are being disposed without due diligence.

You may recall that Ministries/Departments/Agencies will come every year putting up one structure or the other, but in the next ten years, you will not hear about that structure again. I believe in addition to this Bill, I feel that we must secure as a nation that every Ministry/Department/Agency that is bringing its Budget to the National Assembly must list all the various assets they have. With that at every point in time when we are appropriating, we would be able to know what you have done with the previous assets and how many assets they have added some years ago. By this at every point, we will be able to know the value of Nigeria or the value of the Federal Government of Nigeria.

The asset that we have tells much about our value and it gives credit worthiness to the International Monitoring Agencies. With that, I wholly support this Bill and call on my Colleagues to please put everything aside and ensure that this Bill scales through today.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor: I appreciate the patriotic zeal of author and mover of this Bill, which is a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Infrastructure Management Agency and other connected purposes.

I accept the fact that as a Government and people, it is important that we maintain our infrastructure and here we are trying to set up an Infrastructure Management Agency. I sincerely appreciate the work, but I see this Bill more like a duplication of almost all the responsibilities that are being carried out by various agencies. I say this with all due respect to my Colleague who authored this Bill and I give clear examples of the Road Sector which is probably under FERMA, Housing Sector which is under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, and Petroleum Sector that controls all those various infrastructures. I really see this as a mere duplication.

I believe that we have a Bill that borders on the Infrastructure, Concession and Regulatory Commission. I believe that Bill in line with the job that my Colleague is seeking is saddled with that particular Commission, which is the Infrastructure Concession and Regulatory Commission. When you bring the management of all the Infrastructures in our country under one agency, it will create a major problem that will end up intervening in various agencies.

Like I said, when you say Infrastructure Management Agency, which of the Infrastructure are they going to manage? Are they going to manage road, electricity or they are probably going to manage the water sector?

I appeal that my Colleagues should take another look at it. No matter how good the intent or purpose is we need to look at the Bill again and ask what actually are the mischiefs that this Bill intends correcting because that is the essence of law making. I am with him in the spirit; my heart is actually with him, but my head has refused to go along with him.

I sympathise with him, but I see this Bill as a major duplication that will run foul of all the other functions of various agencies and on the basis of that, I seek that he takes a second look at it.

Hon. Emmanuel Egwu (Idah/Igalamela/Ibaji/Ofu): I lend my voice to this value added Bill that shall create an enabling environment whereby our assets are properly maintained and protected. Our major problem in the country is that we fix a lot of assets, but years after, they are dilapidated and not maintained. This is because there is no deliberate attempt of making enabling law to centralise the control of our assets. That is why at the point of maybe disposing the assets, the values of the asset will be very small. This is because we have not protected those assets.

An example is that of NITEL. The value was low at which it was sold, and this was because we did not maintain those assets very well. The idea behind this Bill is to centralise the policy at ensuring that there is an oversight on all the assets of the government, so that at the end of the day, the value of our assets is high even at the point of disposal or even if they are retained at any given time, they have a value that can be reckoned with.

I wholeheartedly support this Bill because it is not duplication *per se* but a value added Bill that will centralise the policy at controlling and ensuring that our assets are highly valued.

Hon. Babatunde Gabriel Kolawole (Akoko East/Akoko West): Few years back, I attended a Workshop and in that very Workshop we were taught the need to maintain our facilities. After this very Workshop, I came into a conclusion that in this country we lack what I refer to as facilities maintenance culture. What is the essence of sinking a borehole somewhere and in another few months, it stops working? What is the essence of having a street light, and a few months after, it has gone bad?

There is need for us to have an agency that will be saddled with the responsibility of ensuring that these facilities are maintained. In doing that, we cannot divorce the role of the community from all of this. We also need community efforts because I have seen situation for instance in my constituency; when we put up a project, thieves come in and get most of

these things stolen away. The government will not be there to protect it. There is need for us to also enlighten our people on the need not to see it as government project alone, but to see it as their own project and to tell them that there is need for them to also protect all these projects.

I support this very Bill in totality and I am appealing to my Colleagues too to throw their weight behind it and ensure that it sees the light of the day.

Hon. Razak Olatunde Atunwa (Ilorin West/Asa): I support this very laudable Bill on the ground that it is a facility management agency because it is not a maintenance agency. It is being alluded to particularly by the Minority Leader that there are other agencies that manage various infrastructures. The essence of this Bill is a management agency.

There is need to have a central coordination, a central Register where all assets of the Federal Government will be registered and accordingly managed to the tune of being able to ascertain the value of each of those assets. What are the things required to ensure those values that have lost? Also, what are the things that will ensure that we have a proper record of the diverse infrastructure that we have?

The essence of this Bill is to ensure that we as a nation know at a glance what we own, what we need to manage, and how to ensure that it keeps its value? To that extent, it is a laudable Bill and I urge all my Colleagues to support it.

Hon. Olabode Ayorinde: I have listened to the contributors on this infrastructure agency. While I commend Hon. Rotimi for thinking about our infrastructure but I wonder how many maintenance agencies we would have and what the definition of infrastructure is. Currently, we have the Federal Road Maintenance Agency and perhaps we still have the Federal Hospital Maintenance Agency, Federal Asset Maintenance Agency or House Wives Maintenance Agency or Husbands Maintenance Agency or whatever maintenance agency.

However, to construct or put in place any infrastructure we should have a statutory duty or common sense duty to maintain such thing. In the present situation that we have found ourselves in this country, we should be thinking of reducing the number of Parastatals, rather than continue to increase the number of agencies, except we want to deceive ourselves.

First and foremost, we have to be thinking of how to look for the Headquarter of the agency, provide for running the agency before we now think about the

capital with which they are going to work to maintain; except we see the details and know the definition of infrastructure. I believe the Federal Ministry of Works, Power and the Federal Road Maintenance Agency should cover whatever infrastructure we have now instead of increasing the number of agencies.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Wudil (Wudil/Garko): When I looked at this Bill, I tend to align myself with the immediate past speaker of the duplication. A greater part of Nigeria infrastructure is mainly road, and power. When you look at the road infrastructure like the Minority Leader and previous speaker said we have Federal Road Maintenance Agency. When you look at Power, almost all the assets of Power are privatized, except transmission. Though, I may tend to agree with the Mover if it is facility like building, but when you put it in a way that will look at infrastructure generally, like the previous speaker said, it is duplication and it is a law; that agency will be so cumbersome.

We have many building infrastructure that the law which we are trying to establish may look at it in a way that that agency can clash with so many agencies and organisations in terms of infrastructure. We should look at this Bill to ensure that if it is facility like building, I am not bothered but to say infrastructure generally. We need to look at this Bill again, like the Minority Leader said, he should go and re-write the Bill. I am not in support of it; and maybe the Bill should be only on facility like building and not general infrastructure.

The Speaker: The Leader of the House, Hon Gbajabiamila will round-up the debate.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: If I should give it a thought for one moment that this Bill was about maintenance of roads, power, infrastructure and all such other maintenances, I will be the first to oppose it. However, it is important that when we debate we do not always just look at the title of a Bill, but should look at the intent and contents of it. The intent and contents are more important than the title because that can be amended at any stage of the process. We must not undermine or underplay the importance of our maintenance culture, in fact there is no maintenance culture in Nigeria and that is why this Bill is so important.

We appropriate money yearly under the Sub-Heads of Overheads for maintenance of government facilities. As for me, I do not know of any central agency or body that is charged with the responsibility of maintaining government assets and facilities. The name *Infrastructure Maintenance Agency* is clearly a

misnomer. This is about the maintenance of facility and assets such as this place where we sit.

We are all aware of several buildings. For many years, the elevators in the Federal Secretariat that is right across from us here were not working. You have to climb fourteen flights to get to your office. When we got here, many of us were allocated offices at the Federal Secretariat, but I never for once went to that office because you would have to climb every day from the ground floor to the fourteenth floor; that is the maintenance we are talking about.

There are several Federal government facilities in Lagos that are called an eyesore; when you see them, it is an embarrassment and disgrace to say this is a Federal government facility and I see them in Lagos every day. Even the Airport, which is your first point of call when you enter into this country, if you walk in, you will find dilapidated roofs, air-condition is not working, and so on and so forth. Those are the things that we are talking about for maintenance. We are not talking about road or power, but about assets; and assets become money at a time.

When your assets have no value, we will then hear government trying to sell up asset for scraps because they have not been maintained. Somebody said it is duplication and that we should trim down some of the government agencies. Yes, I agree with the trimming of government agencies, but in this particular regard, we cannot be penny wise and pound foolish. If you do not maintain your buildings now, how are you going to get value for those buildings?

I want us to look at this Bill from what it is. It is not an infrastructure agency which acts clearly a misnomer. It is a facility maintenance agency. If you do not maintain the house where you live, it will catch up with you on the long run, and you will end up renovating for several thousands of naira more than what you would have allocated every year to maintain it. Whatever problem there is with this Bill, we should look at it at the Committee level.

Question put and agreed to.

(Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Committee on Works)

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to Alter Sections 65, 106, 131 and 177 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to reduce the Age Qualification for the Office of the President and Governor and

Membership of the Senate and House of Representatives; and for Other Related Matters (HB.544) 2016 –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: The seventh Order of the day is commencement of debates on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to Alter Sections 65, 106, 131 and 177 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to reduce the Age Qualification for the Office of the President and Governor and Membership of the Senate and House of Representatives and for Other Related Matters (HB.544) 2016.

Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was read the First Time on Wednesday, 25th May, 2016. I now invite Hon. Tony Nwulu to move that the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Hon. Nwulu Tony Chinedu (Oshodi-Isolo II): I move that a Bill for an Act to Alter Sections 65, 106, 131 and 177 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to reduce the Age Qualification for the Office of the President and Governor and Membership of the Senate and House of Representatives and for Other Related Matters (HB.544) 2016 be read a Second Time.

Hon. Igbokwe Raphael Nnanna (Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezinihitte): I second the Motion that the Bill be read a Second Time.

Question proposed.

Hon. Nwulu Tony Chinedu: This Bill as Mr. Speaker has already endorsed, seeks to lower the age of candidate who is contesting for the State House of Assembly and House of Representatives to 25 years; and 30 years of age for the Senate, Governor and President. I crave your indulgence to read a bit from what I have written down.

Throughout the history, young people have been at the forefront of promoting democratic development and nation building. Nigeria's pre-independence struggle was championed by young nationalists like Dr. Herbert Macaulay, Ernest Okoli, Chief H.O. Davies, J.C. Vaughan, Oba Samuel Akinsanya, Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe, Chief Obafemi Awolowo and Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa. These nationalists were reported to be in their youthful age when they led the independence struggle for this country.

For example, Anthony Enahoro was 30 years when he moved the Motion for Nigeria's

independence in 1953; late Aminu Kano was 30 years when he co-founded NEPU, a group that played a vital role in the struggle for our independence.

We have case studies. In South Africa the voting age is 18. With a population of 54 million, voting population is 34 million. The South Africa's constitution aligns voting age with eligibility age, meaning that if you can vote you can also be voted for.

In Ghana, the voting age is 18 years. With 24 million population, voting population is 13 million. The age requirement for their parliament is 21 years.

In Uganda, voting age is 18. They have a population of 38 million with 17 million voting population. The age requirement for their President is 35 years, and parliament is 18 years.

In Rwanda, voting age is 18, with population of 12 million, and voting population is five million. Age requirements: President is 35; Senate is 40 and the Chambers of Deputies is 21 years.

In Kenya, voting age is 18, population is 43 million, and voting population is 22 million. Their voting age is also aligned with eligibility. Meaning that if you can vote you can also be voted for.

It is the same way across the globe; in India, United Kingdom and United States. The recent facts in 2014, Yusuf Kasim of Democratic Alliance became the youngest member of the South African Parliament at the age of 24. The youngest member of the Kenyan Parliament is Mr. Boniface Kinoti Gatobu, who is 27 years. He represents Buri in the Parliament.

In 2012, Miss Proscovia Alengot Oromait was elected into the Ugandan parliament at the age of 19 years.

In 2015, Egyptian/Spaniard, Nagua Alba, 25, was voted into the Spanish parliament, making him the youngest parliamentarian in Spain.

In 2015, Mira Black of the pro-independence Scottish National Party was elected Member of the parliament at the age of 20, making her the youngest member of the parliament in the United Kingdom.

In 2014, Saira Blair from West Virginia became the US youngest State legislator at the age of 18.

In 2015, Rt. Hon. Aliyu Sabiu Ibrahim, 32, was elected Speaker of the Katsina State House of

Assembly, making him the youngest Speaker of a state legislator in Nigeria.

In similar vein, Cross River has the youngest Commissioner, Asuquo Ekpenyong, who was appointed the Commissioner of Finance at the age of 30.

I believe that it is the right time that we do the right thing.

In other matters here related, we are also seeking for independent candidacy. We have come to find out that in most cases, in most advanced climes, to allow for political inclusiveness and mainstreaming our democracy and the youths, it is believed that independent candidacy will also help them.

Most of the youths are somehow technically independent inasmuch as they run under some parties that do not exist. A lot of them are strong enough in their constituencies to win elections. I believe this will further strengthen our parties and make them more credible and the individuals involved. Let us throw it to the public so that the masses can vote according to their conscience.

The Speaker: Should we put a question on this Bill? This is a Constitutional Amendment Bill, so it is going to the Committee. As it is, technically there is no Bill before the House; the only Bill can come from the *Ad-Hoc* Committee on Constitutional Review, and they will debate it there.

Hon. Jagaba, raise your objections and send it to the Deputy Speaker who is the Chairman of the *Ad-Hoc* Committee, but for us we are young people. The only person I was going to allow to speak on this Bill is the Deputy Minority Leader. I have a lot of respect for him because he has fought against time and succeeded. He has remained ever young. In his absence, if he is not contributing, I will put the question.

Question put and agreed to.

(Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Special Ad-Hoc Committee on the Review of 1999 Constitution)

Office of Accountant-General of the Federation (Establishment) Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation and for Other Related Matters (HB. 505) 2016 –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: The eighth Order of the day is commencement of debates on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to Establish the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation and for Other Related matters. Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was read the First Time on Wednesday, 27th April, 2016. I now invite Hon. Edward Pwajok to move that the Bill be read a Second Time.

Hon. Pwajok Edward Gyang (Jos South/Jos East): I am constrained to apply to step down this Bill for the reason that seems to have been a mix-up. First of all, there are two Bills on the similar subject matter, which ought to be consolidated. Secondly, the Bill is also co-sponsored. I apply to step down this Bill so that we can do the needful.

The Speaker: Hon. Pwajok, are you applying to stand down the Bill?

Hon. Pwajok Edward Gyang: I apply to step it down because there are two Bills on the same matter and they ought to come together. Secondly, they are also co-sponsored. I am not sure about which Bill they are referring to.

Bill stood down by the leave of the House.

National Building Code (Establishment) Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to Provide for Enforcement of the National Building Code within the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Provide for Punishment for non-Compliance with the Code and for Other Related Matters (HB. 306) 2016 –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the ninth Order of the day is commencement of debates on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to Provide for Enforcement of the National Building Code within the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Provide for Punishment for non-Compliance with the Code and for Other Related Matters (HB. 306) 2016.

Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was read the First Time on Thursday, 10th December, 2015. I now invite Hon. Solomon B. Maren to move that the Bill be read a Second Time.

Hon. Solomon Bulus Maren (Mangus/Bokkos): I move that a Bill for an Act to Provide for Enforcement of the National Building Code within the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Provide for Punishment for non-Compliance with the Code and for Other Related Matters be read a Second Time.

Hon. Rita Orji (Ajeromi Ifelodun): I second the Motion that the Bill be read a Second Time.

Question proposed.

Hon. Solomon Bulus Maren: This Bill is not intending to seek for the establishment of an agency of government. It is harmless. It is only going to serve as deterrent to many problems that we have in the country in the building industry. The Bill seeks to enforce the National Building Code, of which a comprehensive document developed over the year in Nigeria by professionals, academicians, private sector and indeed regulatory agencies of government in the building environment.

All over the world, a Code exists as guide - conditions and criteria to be made before the design and development of infrastructure is carried out, whether it is private or a public building. In many countries, Codes are actually enforced by law, contrary in Nigeria where the document remains only advisory; this has discouraged its adaptability in the various States of Nigeria and even at the local government level.

The advent of Building Code can be traced back to 1790 BC when the Building Code of Humarabi came into existence. The Code traced then that the safety of occupants should be put into consideration during and after the construction of such building, otherwise, heavy penalty awaits the builder of such building if the building eventually collapse.

In this Humarabi Code of the 1790 BC, it also provided that if a builder builds a house and the house collapses on the owner and kills the owner, that the builder should also be killed. It also went further to say that if a builder builds a house and the house collapses and kills the Son of the owner, that the Son of the builder should be killed. It also says that if a builder builds a house and the house collapses without killing anybody, that the builder will replace the same building for the owner; this is as far back as 1790 BC.

We are in the 21st Century, and till today, Nigeria does not have a Building Code that can be enforced by law. And if laws can be enforced on building in 1790 BC, I think we should also have in Nigeria.

In Nigeria today, Building Code came into being in 1987 when the then defunct National Council on Works and Housing directed that he be involved, and all professionals in building industry were contacted for input. The document has since then been represented and widely circulated by all stakeholders for inputs, which led to the development of accepted Building Code for use in Nigeria.

The Building Code therefore is just a set of rules that specified the minimum standards for constructed objects, such as buildings and non-building structures. The main purpose of Building Codes is to protect public health and general welfare as it relates to construction and occupancy of building or structures. The Code is made up of parts – administration, classification, enforcement and schedules. All these contain the activities of each professional in the Building environment and what it is supposed to do.

The Bill has various Sections that are contained therein. It defines who a Developer is; it defines the punishment that should be meted on any professional who has participated in building a structure that has collapsed or has shown great defect that it cannot be occupied. If this Bill is passed into law, it would go a long way in reducing even the spate of incessant collapse of buildings in our society.

The Bill also seeks to provide clear explanation of terms that are used in the Act and that the Developer in the Act will mean an architect, an engineer, a builder, a surveyor, a town planner, and includes an owner or any person representing him. A license means a practice license that is granted by relevant professional body, authorised by an Act of the National Assembly. Section 5 of the Bill; it deals with the Citation of the Bill.

The Bill seeks to provide for the enforcement of the provisions of the National Building Code and also cites punishment for non-compliance with the provisions of the Code. Consequently, if the Bill is passed into Law, it will serve as a regulatory mechanism to the activities of building and construction industry workers through the provision of guidelines and sanctions. It also seeks to address the rising occurrences of building collapse, fire disasters and hazards, rampant use of sub-standard materials in building construction; the dangers associated with the new waves of flood due to climate change, endemic and improper housing maintenance culture, as well as unhealthy construction practices, which have impacted negatively on our economy and the lives of our people.

I humbly submit and passionately appeal to honourable Colleagues to look into this Bill and the need arising from its proclamation. We should consider the disaster frequently experienced in our country due to lack of compliance to the Code and the economic losses that we suffer as a result of lack of compliance. Let us also look at the environmental degradation that is happening as a result of slum development and its attendant health hazards in our society. We should also see the urgent need to enact

this Law considering derivable benefits that will be achieved from it.

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai (Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani): I wholeheartedly adopt the submission by the Mover of this Bill as presented. You will recall that in the Seventh Assembly the Committee on Housing and Habitat brought same, but could not pass the stages of Third Reading.

When you go to a neighbouring country like Ghana; it is one of the countries that maintain Building Code – Certified Building Code passed by its Parliament. In Ghana you have standard, unlike our country that you cannot pin-point that this is a standard of a building code in Nigeria. I support this Bill because it is going to relieve us of a lot of issues as enumerated in the submission of the Mover of this Bill.

Firstly, there must be standard both in materials and construction. For you to build, you must test the soil to know the nature of the soil and the kind of building that can enter that soil. This is what this Bill is trying to achieve and cure. You must be a Certified Engineer that knows the implication as enshrined in the Building Code as proposed, for you to build in our country. No engineer in this country that is certified will build without the Building Code if it is passed.

Recent occurrence has shown that places like Lagos State, and Abuja here, different houses have collapsed and killed a lot of Nigerians. If we do not adopt this Building Code, that means we do not value life. For us to value life, a Building Code must be passed by this honourable House. The stages as enshrined in the Bill and as follows:

First, is Pre-design Stage: It must be done by professionals and not by people who are not professionally inclined in that area.

Construction Stage: There are different stages of construction. A lot of buildings have collapsed because we have waived all these things, and it is because there are no penalties for those that are constructing these buildings, even to the extent that corporate organisations do manage resources, and reduce its standard of building in our country.

You will recall that some of us have travelled wide to the United States of America where a building has lasted for two hundred years, but in Nigeria, how many buildings have lasted for a hundred years or fifty year? This is because we lack Building Code. In fact, I praise the Mover of this Motion for bringing this Bill. This is because he is

an engineer who knows the importance of Building Code.

I urge all honourable Members to support this Bill as he has said with the speed of light that it requires.

Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakubu (Gombi/Hong): One of the necessities of life is shelter and it is very important that every responsible and responsive government should make sure that this shelter is provided based on standards to avoid the killings and the loss of lives of its citizens. On a daily bases, both commercial building and offices are collapsing on Nigeria citizens and this is because our builders or developers do not adhere to Building Codes. You would see quacks coming to build five to ten-storey buildings. They are not engineers, with no proper designs and these buildings at the end of the day end up killing Nigerians.

I am in full support of the Mover of this Bill that Building Code should not just be there but should be enforced. Anybody who fails to abide by this Code should face the law and punishment should be meted on people who refuse to abide by the Building Codes.

Hon. Abdullahi Umaru Faruk (Bunza/Birnin Kebbi/Kalgo): I join others who commend the Mover of this Bill. Actually, we are professional colleagues working together in the same office. So, as Hon. Ossai said, being an engineer, one definitely knows the importance of the Building Code to our national life. Not quite long in Lagos and other highbrow areas, we have had series of building collapse and other disaster of such, and this kind of Bill actually is what we need to ensure at least reduction of such building collapses and other disasters.

Basically, the Building Code is trying to ensure that there is safety with our building culture. We know that there are natural disasters, but majority of what we are witnessing in Nigeria are man-made errors. Right from design up to the construction time, there should be some specifications to observe, but being that there is absence of law in Nigeria, then, we have quackery; every *Dick and Jack* now presenting himself as an Engineer, and because people want to cut corners, they get involved with quackery and at the end of the day, we have this menace of building collapse.

I believe we ought to safeguard ourselves with this law so that at least we would ensure that we have standards and specifications in our building culture. I submit that this is the right time to have this kind of law in Nigeria.

Hon. Nkole Uko Ndukwe (Arochukwu/Ohafia): I commend the Mover of this Motion. Building Code is primarily meant to checkmate building collapse and planlessness. What this Bill seeks to achieve is to give a legal tips to the Code. We already have the existing Code as it is but the issue is that is it enforceable? The provisions in such Codes are not enforceable in States, thereby making them handicapped when you have issues of building collapse.

You can agree with me, like what happened in Lagos on the issue of collapse of Synagogue building, up till today even the Developer has absconded, defied court summons because the Building Code did not specify what should be done to him. It is a very simple and straightforward Bill. I support this Bill, its intents, the spirit and everything and urge every member in this Eighth Assembly to please give it a speedy passage.

Question put and agreed to.

(Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee of the Whole)

MOTIONS

Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly Order XII, Rule 94:

National Health Insurance Scheme Bill, 2016

The Speaker: The tenth Order of the day is a Motion pursuant to Order XII, Rule 94, on Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly: National Health Insurance Scheme Bill, 2016 standing in the name of Hon. Betty Apiafi. She is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Apiafi Betty Okagua Jocelyn (Ahoada East/Abua/Odual): I come under Order XII, Rule 94 - Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly and present the National Health Insurance Scheme Bill, 2016 (HB. 534).

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 was made or negatived, or passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence was 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 National Health Insurance Scheme Bill, 2016 was passed by the preceding 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 last Assembly;

Aware that the Bill has been re-gazetted as HB. 534 and read the First Time on Wednesday, 25th May, 2016.

Resolves to:

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

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai: I second the Motion as moved by Hon. Apiafi.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

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

(Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole)

Devastating Erosion at Ifo Communities in Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency of Ogun State

The Speaker: The eleventh Order of the day is a Motion on Devastating Erosion at Ifo Communities in Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency of Ogun State, standing in the name of Hon. Isiaka A. Ibrahim. He is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Isiaka Ayokunle Ibrahim (Ifo/Ewekoro): I move that a Motion on Devastating Erosion at Ifo Communities in Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency of Ogun State.

The House:

Notes the seemingly intractable devastation caused by uncontrolled erosion and flooding in the entire Ifo Township with attendant displacement of about 5,000 households and destruction of lives and properties as a result of lack of drainage structures in place to take care of the heavy run-off whenever it rains;

Worried about distortion in the movement of agricultural produce into the large Ifo market from adjoining villages, farm settlements and the attendant difficulties that marketers and other buyers from Lagos State and other cosmopolitan areas experience in getting to the town, thereby slowing down economic activities each time there is rainfall;

Aware that a Trapezoidal Drain Project at Arigbajo Level Crossing, Olomu, Adenrele, Alaja, Odo-Eran, Oluomo, Orile-Ifo along the corridor of Abeokuta-Sango dual carriageway is required to serve the communities inhabited by numerous dwellers.

Resolves to:

Urge the Ecological Fund Office to urgently carry out intervention project for the control of the incessant flooding and erosion in the affected parts of Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency.

Hon. Shuaibu Abdulrahman Abubakar (Miaha/Mubi North/Mubi South): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Isiaka Shuaibu.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

Urge the Ecological Fund Office to urgently carry out intervention project for the control of the incessant flooding and erosion in the affected parts of Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency.

(Pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5), the Motion referred to the Committees on Environment and Habitat, Disaster and Emergency Preparedness)

Urgent Need for the Federal Government to Initiate Diplomacy over Falling Global Crude Oil Price

The Speaker: The twelfth Order of the day is a Motion on the Urgent Need for the Federal Government to Initiate Diplomacy over Falling Global Crude Oil Price, standing in the name of Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai. Hon. Ossai is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai: I feel that after wise consultations and good counsels, I apply to step down this Motion.

Motion stood down by the leave of the House.

Need to Revisit the Revised Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) for School Recently Launched by the National Education Research Development Council (NERDC)

The Speaker: The thirteenth Order of the day is a Motion on the Need to Revisit the Revised Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) for School Recently Launched by the National Education Research and Development Council (NERDC), standing in the name of Hon. Rita Orji. She is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Orji Rita: The Motion is on the Need to Revisit the Revised Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) for School Recently Launched by the National Education Research and Development Council (NERDC).

The House:

Notes that the Nigeria Education Research Development Council (NERDC) recently launched the Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) which is already being implemented by schools across the country;

Also notes that the BEC currently comprises twenty subjects, including computer Studies/IT, Religion and National Values (RVN) comprises the following subjects:

- (i) Christian Religious Studies,
- (ii) Islamic Studies,
- (iii) Social Studies,
- (iv) Civic Education, and
- (v) Security Education;

Aware that under the basic Education Scheme developed by the National Education Research and Development Council (NERDC) Separate classes should be run for Christian Religious Studies (CRS) theme and Islamic Studies (IS) theme;

Also aware that the curriculum is being implemented on the contrary by some schools, as is the case in Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal Constituency of Lagos State, where Christian Religious Studies (CRS) and Islamic Studies (IS) under RNV are now merge and Christians are compelled to memorize and recite the Qur'an;

Further aware that the Child's Rights Act, 2003 preserves the right of the child not to be exposed to any religion contrary to that of his parents or guardians;

Concerned that the imposition of either Christianity or Islam on either side has grave consequences that could impair the stability of Nigeria.

Resolves to:

- (i) Mandate the Committee on Basic Education and Services to interface with the Nigeria Education Research and Development Council (NERDC), stakeholder and relevant schools for proper explanation on the implementation of the subject, Religion and National Values (RNV); and
- (ii) Call on the Nigeria Education Research and Development Council (NERDC) to liaise with National Orientation agency (NOA) to disseminate information on the subject, Religion and National Values (RNV).

Hon. Nnam-Obi Uchechukwu (Ogba/Ebgbema/Ndoni/Ahoada West): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Rita Orji.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Mandate the Committee on Basic Education and Services to interface with the Nigeria Education Research and Development Council (NERDC), stakeholder and relevant schools for proper explanation on the implementation of the subject, Religion and National Values (RNV); and
- (ii) Call on the Nigeria Education Research and Development Council (NERDC) to liaise with National Orientation agency (NOA) to disseminate information on the subject, Religion and National Values (RNV).

(Motion referred to the Committee on Basic Education and Services)

Need to Include Nigeria's Indigenous Languages as Admission Requirement into Tertiary Institutions

The Speaker: The fourteenth Order of the day is a Motion on the Need to Include Nigeria's Indigenous Languages as Admission Requirement into Tertiary Institutions, standing in the name of

Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson. He is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson (Ikorodu): The title of the Motion is the Need to Include Nigeria's Indigenous Languages as Admission Requirement into Tertiary Institutions.

The House:

Notes that the National Policy on Education recognizes the importance of indigenous languages to promote social integration, national cohesion and preserving of cultures in Nigeria, thus, if provides that every child must learn one of the three Nigerian languages, Hausa, Igbo, or Yoruba;

Concerned that despite the requirement of the National Policy on Education, the Government has done very little to encourage the teaching and learning of indigenous languages in our schools, as implementation of the said National Policy on Education has not been encouraging;

Aware that the International Mother Language Day (IMLD) annual observance day was held on 21st February to promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism by UNESCO as a means to protect and promote mother tongues and the theme for this year was "Quality Education, Language(s) of Instruction and Learning Outcomes";

Also aware that the teaching of indigenous languages remains crucial for national integration and is vital tool to enable children keep in tune with their culture, if they must be truly Nigerians;

Further aware that Language represents an integral part of a nation's identity and cultural heritage and can become endangered, moribund and extinct when it is no longer spoken by the people;

Worried that many schools cannot offer these indigenous language due to lack of teachers as well as preference for the teaching of English Languages, a further attestation to the poor implementation of the National Policy on Education as it relates to indigenous languages;

Alarmed that Nigeria's indigenous languages are facing serious risk of extinction with very few of the new generation being able to constructively communicate in their mother tongues;

Also alarmed that the Igbo language adjudged to be the third most spoken language in Nigeria will according to the United Nation's Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO's)

prediction of 2012 go extinct in the next 50 years if strategic actions are not taken to stem the tide;

Strongly believes that indigenous languages can do wonders not only in halting the massive failure in Senior Secondary examinations when used as instructional material in classes but also in solving some of the ethno-religious crisis bedevilling Nigeria.

Resolves to:

- (i) Call on the Federal Ministry of Education to develop a comprehensive plan of action to make indigenous languages compulsory as a prerequisite for gaining admissions into Tertiary institutions in Nigeria and also design format for the teaching of the languages;
- (ii) Urge the National Universities Commission and the National Board for Technical Education to compulsorily elevate indigenous languages subjects to credit level required for gaining admission for any course of study in any tertiary institution in Nigeria;
- (iii) Also urge the National Institute of Cultural Orientation to spearhead the compulsory teaching of local languages as part of the curriculum from primary to senior secondary schools;
- (iv) Also call on the Ministry of Education, Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council, (NERDC) and National Institute for Nigerian Languages (NINLAN) to initiate a deliberate policy to encourage the speaking, reading and writing of our indigenous languages;
- (v) Further urge Curriculum developers to begin to broaden research into developing the languages of even smaller ethnic groups with a view to making them study-friendly, since they are far more prone to quicker extinction;
- (vi) Mandate the Committees on Basic Education and Services, Tertiary Education and Services, Youth Development, and Legislative Compliance to ensure implementation.

Hon. Onuigbo Samuel Ifeanyi (Ikwunano/Umuahia North/South): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Babajimi Benson.

The Speaker: Hon. Babajimi has roundly argued the Motion because it is a very lengthy one. So, in the absence of anyone who wants to contribute, I will just put the question.

Hon. Diri Douye (Yenagoa/Kolokuma/Opokuma): I am representing an avenging people of Yenagoa Kolokuma/Opokuma Federal Constituency. (*Lighter mood*) In one breath, I do not agree with my Colleague where he said the House: “*Notes that the National Policy on Education recognizes the importance of indigenous languages to promote social integration, national cohesion and preserving of cultures in Nigeria*”... If it provides that every child must learn one of the three Nigerian languages - Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba, the problem here is that, my children who do not belong to Yoruba, Hausa and Igbo cannot be forced to learn those languages.

These are the basic foundations that have gone wrong in this country, leading to so many other multiplier problems. If we must address it, this Motion should be talking about our languages going extinct. Yes, none of us would want our languages to go extinct, and that is why even when the colonial masters came, they came with the policy of assimilation, and assimilated a lot of African culture and languages, then Africans stood up and rose against it.

In the same way in our country, we are having an internal assimilation policy. A policy of assimilation against the minority languages, and I think it is right time we sit up and do what is right and give the same level of recognition to other minority ethnic groups.

The Speaker: Hon. Diri Douye, honestly, I do not want it to go into our archives that you did say in the course of introducing yourself that you are representing the avengers. I like you to cancel that because that is not proper legislative language. I guess it is important for you to withdraw that; just that bit.

Hon. Diri Douye: Thank you Mr. Speaker, that was on a lighter note. I hereby withdraw it.

The Speaker: The Verbatim Reporter should capture that as a joke.

An improper legislative language accordingly withdrawn.

Main Question put and negatived.

Need to Expand Higher Education Curriculum to Include Compulsory Learning of French Language in the Tertiary Institution in Nigeria

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the fifteenth Order of the day is a Motion on the Need to Expand Higher Education Curriculum to include compulsory Learning of French Language in the Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria, standing in the name of Hon. Mojeed Alabi. Hon. He is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Alabi Mojeed Olujinmi A. (Ede North/Ede South/Egbedore/Ejigbo): I move a Motion and by the time I tell my story as well as losses that have attended Nigeria in consequence of this, my Colleagues will be lenient enough to listen to the story. The Motion is anchored on four key points.

The Speaker: Please, Professor, you are protected and do not allow yourself to be intimidated by anyone. If you want to move your Motion, just go ahead and move it.

Hon. Alabi Mojeed Olujinmi A: I move a Motion on the Need to Expand Higher Education Curriculum to include compulsory Learning of French Language in the Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria.

The House:

Notes the significance of international languages in the promotion of bilateral and multilateral relations among nations;

Also notes that French is a major international language, with 77 French speaking countries in the world, and is one of the official working languages of many international organizations, such as the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), each of which Nigeria is a member;

Aware of the potentials of job opportunities in strategic sectors within and outside the country that await Nigerians who could speak both English and French languages, particularly in the West African sub-region where French is widely spoken and has become a lingua franca in official and unofficial circles;

Concerned that the Nigerian elites, particularly in the academic and diplomatic circles, are often confronted with embarrassing situations at international conferences due to their inability to communicate in French ,unlike their French

counterparts who are mostly proficient in both English and French languages;

Aware of the existing educational policy, that makes learning of French language compulsory at the middle and upper levels of basic education in the country;

Also aware that here are in existence such institutions as the French village in Badagry, the Alliance Francaise in Lagos and the Institute Francaise in Abuja, among others that are dedicated to the teaching, training and practical interaction in the French language;

Worried that the aforementioned previous policy initiatives on the French language in this regard have not produced the desired effect making the use of the language unpopular among Nigerians;

Conscious of the inadequate number of trained teachers of the French language at both the basic and tertiary educational level in the country, making the learning of language difficult;

Believes that the Federal Government's desire to recruit 500,000 teachers could assist to moderate the problem of inadequate teachers of the French language of a sizeable number are recruited;

Convinced that the assurance given by the immediate past French Ambassador to Nigeria, Jacques Champagne de Labriolle, during the French education fair in Abuja in 2015 which was reinforced by the current Ambassador, Denys Gaver, on the preparedness of France to meet Nigeria's training needs in the teaching of the language could serve as additional impetus for the Federal Government to pursue the policy of compulsory offering of French language at tertiary institutions in the country with greater commitment;

Also convinced that Nigeria's Francophone neighbouring countries like Togo, Benin Republic, Cote D'Ivoire, Niger, Chad, Cameroon, Guinea, Burkina Faso and Mali will be ready source of French teachers at the actual implementation stage of the policy, having enjoyed similar support in the 1980s in many Nigerian secondary schools, particularly with the current level of sub-regional cooperation among the ECOWAS nations;

Further convinced that the policy is capable of preparing Nigerians for greater roles in the international bodies like the United Nations where multilingualism is a major consideration for gaining popular support for such important positions as that of the secretary-general;

Equally convinced that expanding the current educational policy of the country to include compulsory offering of French language in tertiary institutions will open greater employment opportunities for Nigerian graduates across Francophone West African countries which constitute more than 70% of the total membership of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS);

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Ministry of Education to review the current National Policy on Education to include provision for compulsory offering of French language by students in all tertiary institutions, regardless of courses of study, as applicable to general studies;
- (ii) Mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services to liaise with the Federal Ministry of Education and the National Universities Commission (NUC) to facilitate immediate implementation of this policy, including appropriate budgetary provisions for recruitment and training of lecturers and teachers of the French language across the relevant educational institutions in Nigeria; and
- (iii) Urge the Federal Ministries of Education, and Labour and Employment to ensure that graduates of French language are given significant share of the 500,000 teachers expected to be employed under the provisions of the Appropriation Act, 2016.

Hon. Akinade-Fijabi Saheed (Ibadan South West/Ibadan North West): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Mojeed Alabi.

The Speaker: Hon. Mojeed, you have already argued your Motion; it is a very lengthy one and its with all the ingredients that you needed. In fact, it was like what we refer to as (*Dafa Duka in Hausa*) which means like *Jollof* rice. You have put everything into the Motion. I do not think there is anything left for you to argue again.

Please in order to understand this, I sincerely believe that Hon. Mojeed is speaking to the future in this Motion. If you look at it critically, Nigeria is almost surrounded by all French Speaking Countries, almost 360 degrees, the rest is water. As smart as we are, we are supposed to understand what our neighbours do because in the time of conflict for instance when you intercept intelligence, do you go to Paris to look for somebody who can interpret

them? And in the future as we expand our economy, the immediate markets with French speaking countries, when your son, grand-son or granddaughter is going to transact business, he would be carrying an interpreter (*Laughter*), he would have to pay for the interpreter. So, I believe that Professor is speaking more to the future. We will recognise few members to contribute and then whatever we decide that is all.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: (*Je M'appelle Femi Gbajabimila, je une se pal com prone le Motion avec mon ami Professor tres bien Motion*)

The Speaker: Leader, I rule you out of order.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: I take it that the Speaker does not understand French, now I revert to English. I like this Motion but my only problem with it as you have rightly pointed out, is that it is a Motion for the future. We are now in one global village, what affects one affects the other in terms of economic ramifications, political and social. It is important that people from Nigeria can understand people from neighbouring and far-flung countries.

My only reservation really about this Motion is that some of us is at the benefit of understanding and learning French language, but I wish it had come perhaps tomorrow, I would have loved if it had been stood down; only because not the optics, but the way it appears, it comes across. We have just rejected a Motion that asked that Domestic Local Language be inculcated into our curriculum and all of a sudden, on the heels of it, immediately after, we now say a French Language. Even though I agree with the Motion, it is smart of some kinds of complex, when you put it side by side, we are saying no to local language but we want foreign language. I support the Motion; I just wish it comes up tomorrow.

Hon. Agbedi Fredrick (Ekeremor/Sagbama): I wanted to speak French but since my Leader has spoken French I think I should speak the one I know. I am aware that we have first language and we have second language. I also know of many people who in this nation studied French on their own; they write, speak, and also teach French. All these people acquire this knowledge without it being made compulsory.

It will be very surprising like the leader said for us to stand here and say our native indigenous languages are not compulsory, but a foreign language is compulsory. It is not all the people in the world that speak English, yet they do business wherever they find themselves. Take for example, you go to China they do not speak English, majority of them

even in the shops that the whole world goes to shop, they speak French and people still transact business and come back. How about the French travelling round the whole world? They do their businesses and go back.

I do not think that the peoples' House of Representatives will reject making our indigenous language compulsory in a Motion and take a foreign language to make it compulsory for Nigerians to study. I do not think it is right in the day for this Assembly to do. I stand to oppose this Motion and urge all our Colleagues to oppose this Motion in its totality.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I take a hint from the advice given by Hon. Fredrick to oppose this Motion. There is a need to encourage our kids and any other person to study foreign languages, French inclusive. Before I read Law, I went to Nsukka to read Mass Communication and French was a compulsory Course. I did and passed very well but I could not speak French, I could not even greet in French. I crammed the theory and I was able to make it.

Even if you are going to make it compulsory, we should have started with the children, not in higher institutions. We should start with the children and catch them young. Like Speaker said, we prepare for our children and grand-children to learn and catch up with the time, but for now, I think this Motion is premature and we should reject it.

Hon. Gabriel Africa Onyenwufe (Ayamelum/Oyi): The Motion that has been moved and argued creditably by Hon. Mojeed is one that does not deserve waste of time to be thrown away. In all ramifications, we have to go through history. What is the history of English language and the usage in Nigeria vis-à-vis the non-usage of French in this country? When we go through memory lane, through colonialism to the usage of English language vis-à-vis the usage of French, one will just say that this is a mere academic invitation to an exile.

Argument has been canvassed by the Mover of the Motion on when we go to Conferences and Nigeria is the only country that uses English language as official language. What disadvantage have we suffered from the usage of English language to the non-usage of French language? The implications of the Motion, if voted and supported are very enormous.

How many Universities or tertiary institutions in Nigeria have lecturers that teach French language? How many graduates of French language that have majored in education? Hon. Mojeed Alabi is a

Professor, how many of them have read French Education to so impact knowledge and teach French? From where do we get the money to pay? When we are talking of making French language compulsory for tertiary education, this includes private tertiary institutions, how many Colleges of Education, Polytechnics, private and public Universities do we have in Nigeria and what is the population implication in employing teachers that will impact this knowledge?

If I may ask the question, somebody that has gone to the University to read Medicine, what business has he got to do in a class of French? This Motion is an invitation just to waste our time and it deserves the dustbin, I so negative it.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, before I recognise the next speaker, it is said that English is the language of business, French for diplomacy and for those who are romantic, Spanish is the language. I want us to speak to the future really, and not looking at what is the problem now. The future and the fact that we are surrounded almost 360 degrees by French Speaking nations; what does that portend for us in the future?

Hon. Anayo Nnebe (Awka North/Awka South): I align myself with the earlier speakers that have brought reasons why this Motion should be thrown away. In line with your last question, the implication of Nigeria staying around French speaking countries without speaking French has made it compulsory. I say clearly that what we are doing if we go into allowing this Motion to succeed, we are going into second colonization.

We have been colonized by British, we are now making ourselves colonisation by the French and that will be voluntary colonisation. The other one, the British forced us, but now we are forcing ourselves to be colonised. If we are speaking to the future, we will not have any excuse to give to our children and children yet to come. We would not have any reason for calling on the French to come and colonize us for the second time. I plead with the House for what you can call assimilation, but it is colonisation.

As far as we are concerned, Hon. Mojeed, a Professor; he is somebody that is very knowledgeable, he is at the peak of intellectual excellence, but a Professor is not infallible. This Motion is on the wrong side of the divide. It is moving against tornado and it will easily be crashed and crushed. I move and plead with Members to place this Motion where it belongs, which is the dustbin of history.

The Speaker: The last on this row will be Hon. Shuaibu. I wish French was compulsory in my days in school. I missed it.

Hon. Shuaibu Abdulrahman Abubakar: I have a Border with Cameroun, a French speaking country. I would have supported this Motion if it were to be at the basic educational level. This is because those of us that went to Unity Schools knew it used to be compulsory from Form one to three and those who are interested in French go with it to Form four and five.

At the Tertiary Institution it is very difficult, like somebody said, for somebody studying Medicine how will he learn French? We have French Departments in those Universities. I know one of my seniors in Secondary School who is heading a Department in the University of Maiduguri – Professor Bassey Antia. French used to be a very good language, but we need to learn it at the basic level not at the tertiary level.

We need to learn French because of our inter-marriages with those neighbours, but not at that Tertiary Level. If we are amending this Motion, it will be at the basic educational level. Recently, we were in Addis Ababa for African Union Conference and what happened there was that the Foreign Affairs Minister from Cameroun was speaking both in French and English when presenting his reports and it was very interesting to listen to him speak both in English and French and listening to our own Minister speaking only in English. It is good if it can be at the basic level and not tertiary level because at that level, I do not think you can comprehend a new language. It will be very difficult.

The Speaker: All-right. Hon. Dukku has an amendment here that French should be at the basic level and not Tertiary.

Hon. Adekola Segun Alexander (Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise/Orun): This is a very good Motion and I commend Hon. Mojeed that brought it. This is a good Motion because we are being surrounded by francophone countries. It is a very good development if French can be introduced at the basic educational level because pupils learn fast. I am even regretting it, if I have my way or opportuned, I will learn six different languages.

It is very good to be multi-lingual and not bi-lingual because I remembered some time ago when I travelled to the Republic of Benin, immediately I became an illiterate because I could not even read the signpost and the signboard. I could not understand or transact and as at that time nobody to interpret. In order to prevent all these sort of things we need to

introduce this French Language and make it compulsory at the basic educational level. I support this Motion with all my heart.

Hon. Pwajok Edward Gyang: I have reasons to support this Motion not because he is my Deputy Chairman. If you look at the previous Motion starting from the Leader of the House, I will say that if the Mover or the Sponsor of the last Motion had not introduced Hausa, Igbo and Yoruba in the first paragraph of that Motion, it would have passed. If we look at the entire six Prayers he did not mention all the majority languages, but by now introducing fear, it kills a very good Motion. I am saying this because we should not out of fear kill something that is very good for all of us.

In our Legislative Agenda, we are encouraging Tourism as a means of diversifying the economy. When the tourists come and see that we are multilingual and have trained tourist guards, and if training the guards, they must be multi-lingual. If for economic reasons, it makes good sense for our children to be taught another foreign language. Maybe what we ought to do is to remove the word *compulsory* in the first Prayer so that this very good Motion is not killed. If we remove the word *compulsory*, this is a very good Motion.

It is very good for the entire country and it takes cares of all the fear whether it is from basic education or up to tertiary education. I support this Motion with the amendment that we remove the word *compulsory*.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari (Yabo/Shagari): My take on this Motion which has been said by the last speaker is that it should not be compulsory. I know that French can benefit us if we learn it, but making it compulsory is what I am quarrelling with. If we remove the word *compulsory* then, what is the need for the Motion? It means that if you want to learn French go and take classes in it.

As far as I am concerned, these days, if you do not know how to speak another foreign language, it is not a loss to you because there are applications now for everything. We went to Brazil with the former Deputy Speaker and we could not speak Portuguese, but on my I-pad we were communicating with our Colleagues in their Parliament by just typing what you want to say and it automatically translates into Portuguese and then he types and vice versa and we are communicating.

Then, I do not think we have to go the whole hog of making it compulsory for people in our tertiary Institution because they are already thinking of how to make ends meet, get married and get a House

settling down and not to learn French. I was forced to learn it for three years in my Secondary school from Form 1 to 3 and till date, I cannot make two good sentences in French. Really, this Motion should be thrown out and if there is any amendment to it, I wonder how it will go. I do not support it and urge my Colleagues to please not support it.

The Speaker: Hon Aminu, thank you for telling us that you are a poor student. How could you have learnt French for three years and not be able to speak it. (*Lighter mood*)

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai: I am very surprised that we are discussing issue of French in our Parliament. If you look at the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Section 15(3) (d) and (4) – *promote or encourage the formation of association that cut across ethnic linguistics, religious or other sectional barriers;*

(4) - *the state shall foster a feeling of belonging and of involvement among the various people in the federation and to the end that loyalty to the nation shall override Sectional loyalties.*

Why I have to read this area is because of the motion of indigenous language that was brought on the Floor. If we had adopted one indigenous language in our country, it will foster peace and relationship. Today, Swahili is one language that was adopted in Kenya. It is one language that the entire ethnic groups design to foster togetherness in Kenya as a country and that language has brought about the economy of Kenya to be very strong and has brought peace and unity.

What we should be discussing in our country is how we can device a means in bringing in one single language and not to discuss French. I adopt the submission of my fellow honourable member from Anambra State, Hon. Gabriel Africa Onyenwufe as mine.

The only language that I have to remove from there is *dumping the Motion into the dustbin of history* because I praise Hon. Mojeed for having drafted the Motion to that extent and to be discussed. It shows commendation.

On the other hand, French language as a compulsory will not do this nation any good. What the parliament of Nigeria ought to be discussing is either we adopt Hausa language or any other as a general language for this country, depending on the population. It is a question of adopting one Nigerian language even if it is one that is made up of 20,000 people in this country. We can decide to adopt Idoma

language and we can also decide to adopt Ukwani language or Isoko language.

Hon. Raji Tasir Olawale: I will start by commending the mover of this Motion. Just like Mr. Speaker recognised, he is preparing us for the future. He is a man that sees the future. I therefore support the Motion but with some amendments. First is that rather than making it compulsory, the teaching and learning should be encouraged. Secondly, it should be at basic education level and not at tertiary level.

I therefore urge my Colleagues not to throw the baby with the bath water away. This Motion has its good side and we should look at that part of it. I therefore support the Motion with the suggested amendments.

Hon. Agunsoye Oluwarotimi Ojo: I support this Motion considering where we are in this country today. Over 50 years in this journey we have failed and what we are trying to do now is to rebuild. Hon. Mojeed is just being futuristic. We should not despise our little beginning. We have to think big but start small. Yes, we should take this to basic education where we can encourage the little ones to learn this language. We can also go further to add *margarine* to it because like the President of the country said that we will be dealing with the Chinese. So, there is nothing bad in it. I appeal to my Colleagues to support this Motion.

Hon. Elendu-Ukeje Nnenna Ijeoma: I need a bit of clarification before I lend my voice to this Motion and it starts from what the Leader of the House has said and what other people have said, including Hon. Ossai Ossai.

The reason that there was some kind of resistance to the Motion before this one was that the argument of the person who spoke against it was that that Motion did not adequately capture the right of the minority people in Nigeria and his opposition to it was that it was relegated to three languages - Ibo, Yoruba and Hausa. Therefore, he spoke up for it and that was the major opposition to that Motion, and not the fact that there was any concern about it being an indigenous language.

I agree in principle to what Hon. Mojeed has said. Mr. Speaker has made the point and from purely diplomatic standpoint, Nigeria constantly goes to multilateral fora and we lose elections because we simply cannot communicate. Today, there is opposition coming up on the ECOWAS Parliament. We are surrounded by French-speaking countries and we do not speak French. The Foreign Ministry is constantly searching for people who are fluent in French and we cannot find them.

Secondly, the African Union comes up, Nigeria by commission or omission is completely surrounded by French speaking countries. Here we are with foreign policies that speak to trade, security, etc. This is necessary if we constantly want to lead like Mr. President said it in his inaugural speech that Nigeria will work in any leadership position that she finds herself in the sub-region, in the region and in the world. If we cannot be the true leaders of our environment which is surrounded by the French, then we can never be true leaders we want to be.

My one point of the fact however is that I believe that in learning of foreign language, it is always better when we start with children. I believe as Hon. Aisha Dukku has said that it should be at the primary school level, not at the tertiary institution because from them we can understand. The rest of the world in industrialisation, the United States, England and so on and so forth have actually encouraged their citizens and in some cases make Chinese compulsory because the rest of the world has started to realise that China is the next destination.

If you turn on your television to CNN channel, you will see that what is happening is that they are looking at India as the next *big thing*. That is what it has been called. While Nigeria seeks to diversify, there are certain languages that I believe must be encouraged and be made compulsory at that level. Hindu is one of them, Chinese is one of them and definitely for diplomatic reasons, French should be one of them.

Like Hon. Ossai Ossai has said that we do not want to be re-colonised. It is not by our power but our number of 180 million people, we are the strongest country in the sub-region. We must stand up to our responsibility and take charge of this play. We must learn to engage with the people in their languages, and we must learn to engage with the people as far as our military strength is concerned. We must learn to engage and subjugate the people as far as trading is concerned. Only then we can as a country claim that we are indeed the giant of Africa and therefore a country to be reckoned with in the rest of the world.

Therefore, I lend my voice to this Motion and adopt the amendment of Hon. Aisha Dukku that it should be made compulsory at the learning formative stages of our children. We may choose to kill it. Hon. Ossai Ossai, I see what you are doing, but let us look to the future.

Hon. Lynda Ikpeazu (Onitsha North/Onitsha South): I am actually opposed to this Motion. First of all, where do we stop? We have many languages. We could do Portuguese and Hon. Nnenna has

alluded to the example in ECOWAS. Of course in ECOWAS, they have Francophone, Anglophone and Lusophone. They do not understand us and we do not understand them. The point that you want to conquer does not actually support the fact that you have to learn French. Why must we learn French? Why can we not learn Portuguese? People are free to learn whatever language they so choose.

If schools offer various languages, then it gives people choices to decide if they want to learn Portuguese or German, but to say that it should be compulsory does not make sense at all. Why should it be compulsory? English is not foreign language that is compulsory in our schools. Where do we stop? We need to stop it right here. This Motion should not even come to the Floor of the House. They can offer French but it should not be made compulsory under any circumstance.

Hon. Sunday Karimi Steve (Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro): This Motion seeks to make French a compulsory thing in tertiary institutions in Nigeria and that is the Motion we have before us. It is not about basic education but about tertiary institutions in Nigeria. You are talking of Colleges of Education, Polytechnics, Colleges of Agriculture and the Universities.

If I send my child to go and study engineering, medicine or any other thing in any University you are saying that before he can graduate French is compulsory, that could be injustice. We should not discuss what is not in the content of this Motion. The basic education is not the content of this Motion; you cannot amend it to change it to another topic. We are supposed to vote on this subject. I am rejecting this Motion because it is going to lead Nigeria into chaos, so we do not even need to waste our time.

Hon. Olowookere Ajisafe (Akure North/South): I support this Motion with the amendment proposed that it should be at the basic level. Really, it is not easy to make it a compulsory Course at the higher level. The Mover of this Motion as enunciated by Mr. Speaker himself is speaking to the future.

We have to appreciate what we stand to gain if we make the study of French language compulsory at basic level where our children will be exposed and have the opportunity to be multi-lingua. Also, it stands the country at best and we have more opportunities internationally. I am in support of this Motion with the amendment that the study of French language should begin at the basic level.

Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku (Dukku/Nafada): Please, I need to be supported, I am just pleading. This is a very good Motion and I want us not to be

myopic, let us know that Nigeria is losing a lot. Right now at UNESCO, Nigeria is under-represented because we are not speaking French. We cannot change our neighbours, all our neighbours are French speaking and so it will be so myopic for us not to make effort to communicate with them.

Can you imagine if Mr. President could have been speaking French to Niger President or Togolese President? Our late President - Abacha already made French to be our second official language and we have already signed MOU with all our neighbours. With this, we cannot be competing globally and be monolingual; it will never be to our advantage.

In Europe now it is compulsory for students to be at least bi-lingual if not multilingual. French is a language of international diplomacy and business. Imagine if we can speak French with our French counterparts, our businesses will grow.

It is important to note that speaking French gives us opportunity to French market at a very low price. Our student can go to schools in France, earn their scholarship and also get a reduction. This is because the Frenchman opens up to you once you can speak to him and he pretends not to understand any other language except French. If we want to give opportunity to our children, let us not kill this Motion.

It is a working language; an official language of the United Nations, the European Union, UNESCO, NATO, the Olympic Committee, the International Red Cross and the International Court of Justice; it is an official language. Proficiency in French is essential for anyone considering a career in any international organization.

It is not a difficult language to learn. It uses the same alphabet with English language and it does not take you so long to achieve precision; that is, for you to achieve proficiency in French. It is a softy language. It is a very simple language that leads you to understand Spanish, Italia, Portuguese and even the Romanian language. It is also a romantic language (*Laughter*) Do not be afraid because scientists had proved that any child exposed to five different languages can learn those languages, speak fluently without mixing the two or mixing any of the five.

The ability to understand French offers an alternative view of the world through communication. How can you be myopic and just speak English without looking the other way. It opens up an opportunity for you to communicate to the world. You cannot be talking about tourism just as Hon. Pwajok said that he wants Plateau to be a

tourist State, without employing people that can speak French fluently because we want to attract our neighbours to visit Plateau State.

It is our responsibility as law makers here to strengthen our efforts to use French language as Nigeria second official language. It is not today, it is already stated that French is our second official language. I plead and say *mosur leo presido*, as you are addressed in French; *mosur leo Presido chomo choputosoni lamoso, pulefe sio detcha espre de merci beau coup* (Laughter)

The Speaker: That was adding drama to her presentation. The last part of her presentation is not part of our record. So, many Members want to speak for or against this Motion. Sorry you will have time to move your Point of Order, Hon. Nnam Obi. Hon. Funke wants to speak, so also Hon. Balarabe Salami, Hon. Farouk, Hon. Jagaba and Hon. Saheed.

In addition, I have so many proposals for amendment and we do not have time because we have Reports to take. I am going to halt this debate. I direct the Rules and Business Committee to list against next week Tuesday, 14th June, 2016. I want to listen to all opinions on this but really we do not have time. Hon. Mojeed and the Members who have not spoken should prepare against next week Tuesday.

Continuation on Debate suspended till Tuesday, 14th June, 2016

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Committee on Sports on the Urgent Need to Intervene in the Lingerin Crisis rocking the Nigeria Football Federation

The Speaker: The sixteenth Order of the day is consideration of Report and seven Bills of the Committee of the Whole. Hon. E. Y. Oker-Jeve will move for its consideration, please.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: Permit me before I move for the consideration of the Report, that we set aside the relevant Rules of the House to allow the Report of the Committee on Sport that was slated for today to be included for consideration.

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan: I second the Motion ably moved by the Chairman Business and Rules Committee.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do set aside relevant Rules of the House in order to allow the Report of the Committee on Sports that was slated for today be included for consideration.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I move for the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Sports on the Urgent Need to intervene in the Lingerin Crisis rocking the Nigerian Football Federation.

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan: I second the Motion ably moved by the Chairman Business and Rules Committee that the House do consider the Report.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Sports on the Urgent Need to Intervene in the Lingerin Crisis rocking the Nigeria Football Federation and approve the recommendations therein.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Independent National Assembly Budget and Research Office (Establishment) Bill, 2016

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I move for the consideration of a Bill for an Act to Establish an Independent National Assembly Budget and Research Office, which shall provide the National Assembly with Objective, Timely and Non-partisan Analysis Needed for Economic and Budget Decisions; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 377) 2016.

Environmental Managers Registration Council (Establishment) Bill, 2016

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I move for the consideration of a Bill for an Act to Establish the Environmental Managers Registration Council of Nigeria as a body Corporate and to empower the Council, inter alia to determine Persons, What Standard of Knowledge and Skill to be attained by such Persons; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 17) 2016.

United Nations Convention on Elimination (Incorporate/Enforcement) Bill, 2016

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I move for the consideration of a Bill for an Act to Incorporate and Enforce Certain Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on

the Rights of Women in Africa; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 86) 2016.

Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, 2004 (Repeal/Enact) Bill, 2016

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I move for the consideration of a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Legislative Powers and Privileges Act, 2016 to give the Legislature the desired Powers and Immunity to be able to carry out its Legislative Responsibility; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 382) 2016.

Official Secrets Act 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I move for the consideration of a Bill for an Act to Amend the Official Secrets Act, Cap. O3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Related Matters (HBs 317 and 426) 2016.

River Basin Development Authorities Act 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I move for the consideration of a Bill for an Act to Amend the River Basin Development Authorities Act, Cap. R9, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to make Provisions for Proper Utilization of Nigerian Dams under the Control of a given River Basin Development Authority; a Bill for an Act to Amend the First Schedule to the River Basin Development Authorities; and a Bill for an Act to Amend the River Basin Development Authorities (Establishment, etc.) Act, Cap. R9, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to provide for the Establishment of the Lower Anambra and Upper Niger River Basin Development Authorities and list them in the first Schedule to the Act; and for Other Matters Related Therein (HBs 58, 235 and 350) 2016.

Integration of Nigerians with Disability (Establishment) Bill, 2016

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I move for the consideration of a Bill for an Act to ensure full Integration of Nigerians with Disability into the Society and eliminate all forms of Discrimination against them; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 476) 2016.

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan: I second the Motion ably moved by the Chairman, Committee on Rules and Business that the seven Bills be considered.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do consider the above listed seven Bills and approve the recommendations therein.

Report of the Committee on Federal Judiciary on Federal Capital Territory District Courts Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

The Speaker: The seventeenth Order of the day is consideration of two Reports of the Committee on Federal Judiciary. Hon. Members, you would recall that the Reports were laid on Thursday, 19th May, 2016. Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari would move for their consideration.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari: First of all, this is just to notify the House that there is misnomer on the Title of the Bill and the correct heading is as contained in the Report, which I would read.

I move that the House do consider the Report of the House Committee on Federal Judiciary on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Capital Territory District Courts Act and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB.07).

Hon. Asuquo Daniel Effiong (Akamkpa/Biase): I second the Motion as moved by Hon. Shehu Shagari.

Resolved: That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Federal Judiciary on Amendment to the Federal Capital Territory District Courts and approve the recommendations therein.

Report of the Committee on Federal Judiciary on Pensions Rights of Judges Act, 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari: I also move that this House do consider the Report of the Committee on Federal Judiciary on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Pensions Rights of Judges Act, Cap. P5, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 06) and approve the recommendations therein. I so move.

Hon. Asuquo Daniel Effiong: I second the Motion as moved by Hon. Shehu Shagari.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Federal Judiciary on Amendment to the Pensions Rights of Judges Act 2004 and approve the recommendations therein.

**Report of the Committee on Interior on
Nigerian Peace Corps (NPC)**

The Speaker: The eighteenth Order of the day is consideration of Report of the Committee on Interior on a Bill for an act to Establish the Nigerian Peace Corps (NPC) to Empower, Develop and Provide Alternative Empowerment for the Youths, to Facilitate Peace, Community Service, Nation Building; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 89) 2016 and approve the recommendations therein. Hon. Members will recall that the Report was laid on Tuesday, 7th June, 2016. Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba will move for its consideration.

Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba: I move that the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Interior on a Bill for an act to Establish the Nigerian Peace Corps (NPC) to Empower, Develop and Provide Alternative Empowerment for the Youths, to Facilitate Peace, Community Service, Nation Building; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 89) and approve the recommendations therein.

Hon. Akinade-Fijabi Saheed: I second the Motion that the Report be considered.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Interior on Nigerian Peace Corps (NPC) and approve the recommendations therein.

**Report of the Committee on Power on the Need to
Halt the Planned Payment of ₦2.7 Billion by the
Board of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory
Commission**

The Speaker: The nineteenth Order of the day is consideration of the Report of the Committee on Power on the Need to Halt the Planned Payment of ₦2.7 Billion by the Board of the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission to its Members.

Hon. Members will recall the Report was laid on Tuesday, 17th May, 2016. Hon. Dan Asuquo will move for its consideration.

Hon. Asuquo Daniel Effiong: I apply by the leave of the House to step down this Report for obvious reasons and take it on another legislative day.

Report stood down by leave of the House.

The Speaker: I now invite the Leader to move that the House do resolve into Committee of the Whole to consider the Reports and the Bills.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: I move that this House do resolve into Committee of the Whole for the consideration of Reports and the Bills.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I second the Motion as moved by Leader of the House.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do resolve into the Committee of Whole to consider the Reports and the Bills.

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Report on Bill for an Act to Establish an Independent National Assembly Budget and Research Office which shall provide the National Assembly with Objective, Timely and Non-partisan Analysis Needed for Economic and Budget Decisions and for Other Related Matters (HB. 377) - CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The Chairman: The first Report to be considered is on a Bill for an Act to Establish an Independent National Assembly Budget and Research Office, which shall provide the National Assembly with Objective, Timely and Non-partisan Analysis Needed for Economic and Budget Decisions; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 377). I now invite Chairman, Rules and Business Committee to speak to this Report.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: The Report has twenty Clauses. This is not my Report but I have taken a look at it. It is straightforward. The provisions of the Bill are on the left side of the column, while the recommendations are on the right side. I therefore request and ask that you lead us through the voting.

The Chairman: Chairman, Rules and Business Committee, you are well aware that you are probably the only person who has the opportunity to speak to Reports at this level, particularly in the absence of the Chairman of the respective Committees. So, you do not need to always add that this is not your Report; it is your Report. Let us take it Clause by Clause.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 1 - (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2 - (FUNCTIONS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3 - (POWER OF THE OFFICE) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 - (GOVERNING BOARD) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5 - (QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6 - (REMOVAL FROM OFFICE) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 7 - (ALLOWANCES AND REMUNERATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 8 - (POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE GOVERNING BOARD) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 9 - (ESTABLISHMENT AND FUNCTIONS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 10 - (APPOINTMENT, DUTIES, TENURE AND REMOVAL OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 11 - (APPOINTMENT, DUTIES, TENURE AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 12 - (OTHER STAFF) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 13 - (REMUNERATION OF DIRECTORS, PROFESSIONAL ANALYSTS AND PROFESSIONAL STAFF) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 14 - (REMUNERATION OF OTHER STAFF PENSION CAP 4 LFN 17) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 15 - (REGULATIONS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 16 - (FUNDS, ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE, ETC) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 17 - (OBTAINING OF DATA BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 18 - (OBTAINING OF DATA FROM PUBLIC BODIES) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 19 - (INTERPRETATION) - agreed to.

Clause 20 - (CITATION) - agreed to.

Schedule - agreed to.

Long Title - agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Environmental Managers Registration Council of Nigeria as a body Corporate and to Empower the Council, inter alia to determine Persons, What Standard of Knowledge and Skill to be attained by such Persons; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 17) 2016 – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE.

The Chairman: The next Report to be considered is on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Environmental Managers Registration Council of Nigeria as a body Corporate and to empower the Council, inter alia to determine Persons, What Standard of Knowledge and Skill to be attained by such Persons; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 17). I now invite the Chairman, Rules and Business to speak to this Report.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: The Long Title of this Bill as read out by Mr. Chairman clearly indicates the direction that the contents and the Clauses are going. As usual, the provisions of the Bill are laid out on the left side and the recommendations of the Committee on the right. We therefore ask Mr. Chairman to lead us through the voting of the eleven Clauses of this Bill.

The Chairman: Let us take it Clause by Clause now.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 1 - (ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF NIGERIA) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2 - (FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3 - (MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 - (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5 - (APPOINTMENT OF REGISTER, PREPARATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A REGISTER) - *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 6 - (PUBLICATION OF THE REGISTER AND LIST OF CORRECTIONS) - *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 7 - (REGISTRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGERS) - *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 8 - (APPROVAL OF INSTITUTIONS, COURSES OF TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS BY COUNCIL) - *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 9 - (SUPERVISION OF INSTRUCTIONS AND EXAMINATIONS LEADING TO APPROVED QUALIFICATIONS) - *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 10 - (CERTIFICATE OF PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE) - *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 11 - (REGISTRAR TO NOTIFY INSTITUTIONS OF ENTRIES IN THE REGISTER) - *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 12 - (DISCIPLINARY POWER OF THE COUNCIL) - *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 13 - (PENALTIES FOR UNPROFESSIONAL CONDUCT, ETC.) - *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 14 - (TEMPORARY REGISTRATION OF PERSONS NOT CITIZENS OF NIGERIA) - *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 15 - (OFFENCE) - *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 16 - (SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS) - *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 17 - (CONTROL OF COUNCIL BY MINISTER) - *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 18 - (REGULATIONS, RULES AND OTHERS) -

Amendment proposed.

Hon. Yakubu Dogara (Bogoro/Dass/Tafawa Balewa): I want us to align this with the

determination that we set out in our Legislative Agenda. When it comes to regulation, we should be a bit careful. This is because there are so many Executive bodies exercising legislative functions and in most cases it is through this power that we conferred on them by a way of power to make regulations.

We may wish to circumscribe the provision of Clause 18 (1), that says *the Council shall have power to make regulations, as may in its opinion, be necessary or expedient for giving full effect to the provisions of this Bill and for the administration thereof.*

If you look at so many regulations, some are even out of too-know with even the law itself. I believe that was why we set up in the House, Committee on Delegated Legislation so that they can have a look at this gamut of legislations that are made by the Executive.

I want us to circumscribe it by adding this Clause to say; *which resolution shall be laid before the National Assembly and published in the official gazette*, so that if it is laid before the National Assembly and we look at it and say no, that this cannot serve the objective of the Act, that it is even illegal, the resolution cannot take effect. This is better rather than giving them a whole scale power to make regulations which in their opinion or whatever, very subjective. That is the amendment I am proposing.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: This particular provision would even offend that Bill, even though that Bill is still in the process. Yes, I think we should be very careful to guard our powers jealously and not give the Executive authority to make laws; which at the end of the day would even be against the Bill itself.

The Chairman: We are expanding the scope now. The initial Motion moved by the Speaker is to add that such set of regulations be brought to the National Assembly but from what the Leader of the House has just said, there is already a Bill that is going to cure this.

In my opinion and if it is agreed to by everybody, if such Bill exists and is being processed, what it means is that Clause 18 (1) would have to go out completely, because the Bill is going to take care of it. Is that what the Leader is saying?

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: No. It is that on two levels, that provision is not a law yet, but it is in the process. In anticipation of it becoming law, it would violate that law. But at the same time,

on another level, before it becomes law, we know how long the process takes before the President sign.

I am in support of Hon. Dogara's observation. Not the Speaker, because while he is seated here with us, he is Hon. Dogara. (*Laughter*)

Amendment put and agreed to.

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai: The Speaker of the House remains Mr. Speaker at all-times even when he is sitting at the seat designated for Mr. Speaker. There is no way you can delete it; asking Mr. Speaker to answer ordinary name, he remains Mr. Speaker. But the rules confer to the Deputy Speaker to be the Presiding Officer at the Committee of the Whole House. It does not remove the title of Mr. Speaker to be Speaker even when he moves such Motions.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: As long as the Speaker speaks, he speaks from that Chair. Here he is a Member who is also occupying the Office of the Speaker.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari : A Speaker is a Speaker who is an umpire and he should not have his opinion on a debate. If he has opinion, then, he expresses it as Hon. Dogara from this seat.

The Chairman: I do not know the fault base on this argument. It is the same argument so many people have advanced and it has made it difficult for me on many occasions to contribute to debates. They say I am hovering opinions when I am one of the Presiding officers. But in actual fact, I agree with two sides, you are first of all a honourable Member, then later you are a Speaker or Deputy Speaker. In this case, I refer to my Speaker as Speaker whether he is hovering his opinion as Hon. Yakubu Dogara or the Speaker of the House. The Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara is the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 18 – (REGULATIONS, RULES AND OTHERS) – as amended ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 19 – (INTERPRETATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 20 – (CITATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

First Schedule – agreed to.

Second Schedule – agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum – agreed to.

Long Title – agreed to.

A Bill for an Act to Incorporate and Enforce Certain Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in African; National Gender Policy, and Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 86) 2016 - CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE.

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, the next Report we will consider is a Bill for an Act to Incorporate and Enforce Certain Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in African; National Gender Policy, and Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 86) 2016. I now invite the Chairman, Rules and Business Committee to speak to this Report.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: Like the last one, this Long Title also is self-explanatory and gives the indication of the content of this Bill. It has 29 Clauses. Therefore Mr. Chairman, I request that you put us through. The provisions of the Bill are on the left hand side of the column, while the Committee's recommendations are on the right hand side.

The Chairman: Thank you Chairman, Rules and Business Committee, incidentally, there are just three women who are honourable Members on the Floor.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: Actually, I do not know how it got to the stage, I just want us to be mindful of the fact that there is Supreme Court decision that says that when something is already provided for in the Constitution, that you do not repeat it in a legislation.

It is clear and it is a Supreme Court decision and the discrimination against women is already provided for in Section 42 or there about of our Constitution. In fact, the Bill talks about it, the Bill quotes the Constitution. If we are to go by what the Supreme Court had said, that this becomes redundant and it really should not have gotten to this stage. I owe it a duty to bring the Supreme Court decision to the knowledge of the House.

Hon. Olufunke Adedoyin: I believe that the Majority Leader is just splitting hairs in this case, with all due respect. The purpose of the Bill is to give effect to a number of provisions in the

Constitution, in the International Convention on Human Rights and a certain provisions of the Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women. The purpose of the Bill is to bring together all of these provisions into one Bill. So, I do not see how this is a repetition of the Constitution.

Hon. Lynda Ikpeazu: This does not actually duplicate or conflict with any other existing legislation right now. This is a Treaty that Nigeria signed onto and usually, what happens is that when you sign onto a Treaty or to a Convention, you come down and domesticate it. What this Bill is seeking to do basically, is to lift some of the provisions from the Convention that Nigeria had already signed up to and when you signed onto this Convention or Treaty; first of all, you are required as a member State to go down and domesticate it.

Secondly, to have a legal framework that will address these issues and to report to the UN once or twice a year, so by signing it, we have the responsibility as a member State to domesticate this. Therefore, what we are doing is basically just re-affirming what Nigeria as a State has already signed onto.

The Chairman: Thank you very much, her explanation is comprehensive enough. The person who has spoken is a Lawyer too. Hon. Ossai, I will repeat for the often time, this House is governed by Rules, and you are not in a town hall meeting, please. I will take the Leader first, because he signified me first.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: I want to make it abundantly clear that I am not against anything that seems to protect the rights of women. I am just trying to follow the law and the Supreme Court. I am not the one splitting the hair, if they are talking about splitting hair, then maybe, it is the Supreme Court that is splitting hair but because this is very important. If we were aware that there is a Supreme Court decision, it will be wrong for us to go ahead in the face of that. I suggest that we step this down and let us provide the Committee on the Supreme Court decision and then we will take it from there.

This is a rule of law and separation of powers, the Supreme Court cannot say one thing and we say the other. This is just to make it very clear. The process of domestication is a different thing. There is a difference between domestication and affirmation, it is completely different, and that is number one.

Secondly, on the issue of Treaties, no Treaty is superior to the grand norm of the Constitution. It is

very important to clarify that, that we operate under a Constitution which guides us and I will bring the Supreme decision to the House and to the Business and Rules Committee to have a look at it and then make a determination whether what we are trying to do contravenes what the Supreme Court has said or not. Supreme Court is the highest Court of the land.

Hon. Alabi Mojeed Olujinmi A: Ordinarily, I have no objection to the principles of this Bill but it is wrong the way it was brought. I am saying this because if the intendment is to domesticate, we have to take each of the Conventions and domesticate them separately. You cannot pick and choose from different Conventions and put them together, that will be against the Convention itself. This is because when you are domesticating a Convention, for example, the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, the Banjul Charter of 1981 is captured in our own law, it says, "*the African Charter and Human and People's Rights (Ratification) Law*". So, you cannot bring provisions of different Bills and propose to domesticate them here, the procedure is wrong. Although, the spirit behind it may be all right but the procedure is definitely wrong in law.

The Chairman: Legal opinion, Hon. Ossai?

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai: Section 17 of the Constitution supports whatever that is happening now. Section 17 says:

The state social order is founded on ideals of Freedom, equality and Justice and Sub-Section (3) says:

State shall direct its policy towards ensuring that all citizens without discrimination on any group whatsoever, have the opportunity for securing adequate means of livelihood as well as adequate opportunity to secure suitable employment, Sub-Section (d) there is equal pay for equal work without discrimination on account of sex, or on any other ground whatsoever.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the Bill being proposed is in order completely - Discrimination against Women. The Constitution frowns at discrimination and that is what this Bill is all about.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I agree with the principles that the Leader brought that any law that is covered by the Constitution should not be replicated; it is known as covering the field. But what I see saving this Bill is the fact that this Bill tends to criminalize discrimination against women. If you look at Clause 18, it prescribes punishment, which is something the Constitution does not do. For me, that alone takes it away from the ambit of

what the Leader brought out and therefore it could be saved.

If you go by the Constitution, when somebody is discriminated upon, you can only take a Civil Course in the law court but here, the person can be punished and you can even go to jail for it. I think this Bill should be saved.

Hon. Okwu Samson (Obi/Oju): I want to come under the constitutional order that Hon. Ossai cited and the Leader of the House explicitly said that any matter that is in the Constitution, we should not make law on it. If you find out that the Constitutional issue on Gender Inequality and Discrimination, already our Constitution has mentioned that. There is no way we are going to bring it as a Bill to be passed by this House. This is because any Convention from outside to the extent that it is against our Constitution, we cannot even domesticate it.

My advice is that we can refer this Bill to the Committee on Judiciary to look into those things and in future we will bring it back.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari: I have Constitutional Point of Order!

The Chairman: Point of Order supersedes any contribution, please. Hon. Shagari, you have the Floor.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari: Point of Constitutional Order Section 42 (1). It says:

A citizen of Nigeria of a particular community, ethnic group, place of origin, sex, religion or political opinion shall not, by reason only that he is such a person-

(a) be subjected either expressly by, or in the practical application of, any law in force in Nigeria or any executive or administrative action of the government, to disabilities or restrictions to which citizens of Nigeria of other communities, ethnic groups, places of origin, sex, religion or political opinions are not made subject to.

Now the applicable law here is, be accorded either expressly on practical application of any law in force in Nigeria or any such executive or administrative actions, any privilege or advantage that is not accorded to citizens of Nigeria of other

communities, ethnic groups, places of origin, sex, religion or political opinions.

Then, if you look at this Bill, it seeks to give women extra advantages which is against this Constitution. Let us look at Section 14 (11), which says:

Eliminate discrimination and social economic ground, (12) right to choose the indigene ship and identity (13) right to confer citizenship all on women.

These are special privileges and rights, which this Constitution has envisaged. I therefore suggest that we suspend this Debate and look at this thing critically. That is my submission.

Hon. Yakubu Dogara: I thought that the Leader of the House and Hon. Aminu Shagari were friends to the female gender but they have proved not to be. Let us try and understand the issues here; he talked about the fact that if we confer more powers on women; they would be discriminating against men. Every law seeks to cure a mischief and the fact that we are talking about breaching the gap, and we are talking about affirmative action here. It means that there is a mischief in the society, which dovetails into discrimination and violence against women that we want to address.

By addressing this, the thinking of the drafters of this Bill is that they are elevating them to the same status as men, not that they are conferring additional privileges or advantages on the women folk. Now to talk about the point raised by the Leader, that if a matter is covered by the Constitution you cannot replicate that in another law, it is true, but you cannot find the provisions of this Bill in the Constitution. I do not know where they are.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: It is there in Chapter 42 - a word *Discrimination*.

Hon. Yakubu Dogara: Discrimination; you know that it is in Chapter 2, and that is the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy. They are non-justiciable, but what this Bill seeks to do now is to criminalise a certain aspect of discrimination which is not criminalised by the Constitution, so we cannot say that it is the same provisions in this Bill that is in the Constitution, I distinguish from that.

If we escalate the discussions in law, the Leader knows very well that it is stated in one of the canon of laws that whatever that is not expressly excluded

is included. There is no part of the Constitution that said the National Assembly cannot Legislate on this, so it means the Constitution includes the fact that, we can Legislate on this. We are not providing something that is against the provisions of the Constitution. Even if it is against the provisions of the Constitution, that is entirely within the domain of the Judiciary to hold that the law itself is null and void on ground of the conflict with the Constitution, but I do not see that. It is like we are deepening right conferred by the Constitution through this enactment that is before us. I do not see anything wrong with it if we are to pass this Bill.

The Chairman: The Rule of Debate is that you do not have right to contribute more than once and that it is only the person that is moving it that has the Right to Reply and the Leader has spoken on this about two or three times.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: I have a Point of Order!

The Chairman: Let us hear your Point of Order.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: I do admire and appreciate the Speaker's spirited defence for the women but I am going strictly by the Constitution. I was not referring to Chapter 2 which is non-justiciable. I was referring to Section 42 which is justiciable and the Sub-Head said *right to freedom from discrimination*. That is the Title. Section 45 of the Constitution goes further to tell you where you can deviate from the fundamental human right. It says:

Nothing in Sections 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41 of this Constitution shall invalidate any law that is reasonably justifiable in a democratic society in the interest of defence Public safety, Order, morality or Public health on for the purposes of protecting the right and freedom of other persons.

The point here is that Section 45 enumerates the only Sections where you can deviate and make a law and that does not include Section 42 of discrimination.

In other word, going by what the Speaker has already said the canon rule, because Section 45 talks about Sections 37, 38, 39, 40 and 41 and leaves out 42; it means Section 42 is sacrosanct and you cannot make any law departing or violating Section 42.

Also, more than that, the Supreme Court which is the highest Court of the Land has made a

pronouncement on this. We have separation of powers and once the Supreme Court has made a decision that you cannot do this, I think it is wrong for another arm of government to say; Yes, we are aware of what the Supreme Court has said but we can do it and would go back to the supreme court or to the Court for interpretation, which I think is wrong.

All I am saying is this, and I may be wrong, that we should tread very carefully and tarry awhile. There is obviously a debate on this right now and that is why we are going back and fore; because there is debate on it. Let us tarry a while and get the Supreme Court ruling and look at it expressly and determine whether or not on this. By saying that it criminalises discrimination, we have opened another Pandora box and determine whether or not we can actually criminalise my right of association. This is because inside that Constitution, it is also my right of Association - free Assembly and if I decide that I do not want to hang-out with a woman, it is my right. Will you now criminalise that?

There are many issues here and I think it is important that we tarry awhile. It does not cost us anything; maybe we bring it back on Tuesday or just a few days.

The Chairman: Hon Linda, if you just open our gate and allow Members to want to satisfy themselves on the debate going on, we will not be able to have full control of the House. We are not going to lose anything by briefly asking some relevant Committees to look at this all over again. This House is a continuous one. I rule that Committees on Rules and Business and Justice should further examine this Bill.

(Bill referred to the Committee on Rules and Business and Justice to further examine the Bill)

Report on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Legislative Powers and Privileges Act, 2014 to give the Legislature the desired Powers and Immunity to be able to carry out its Legislative Responsibility and for Other Related Matters (HB. 382) 2016 – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE.

The Chairman: The Next Report to be considered is on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Legislative Powers and Privileges Act, 2014 to give the Legislature the desired Powers and Immunity to be able to carry out its Legislative Responsibility and for Other Related Matters (HB.

382) 2016. I now invite Chairman Rules and Business Committee to speak to this Bill.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: This is a twenty-six-Clause Report. The provisions of the Bill are on the left side of the column with recommendations at the right side. I employ you to take us through the Clauses so as to take our decisions.

The Chairman: Hon Linda, I do not know why you are outsmarting from this. It is not a defeat. We only make a referral to relevant Committees and it will be brought back. It is not a defeat.

Hon. Lynda Ikpeazu: Mr. Chairman, I am upset.

The Chairman: This Bill that we are about taking concerns you. It is the powers and privileges of Legislation and so you have to pay attention to it.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 1 - (IMMUNITY FROM LITIGATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2 - (POWER TO SUMMON A WITNESS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill. Clause 3 - (ISSUE AND SERVICE OF SUMMONS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 - (POWER TO ISSUE WARRANT TO COMPEL ATTENDANCE) – Ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5 - (WITNESS MAY BE EXAMINED ON OATH) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6 - (PRIVILEGE OF A WITNESS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 7 - (FALSE EVIDENCE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 8 - (OBSTRUCTION OF MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE HOUSE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 9 - (ANSWERS IN COMMITTEE NOT TO BE ADMISSIBLE IN PROCEEDINGS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 10 - (POWER OF ARREST) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 11 - (EJECTION OF A PERSON FROM CHAMBER OR ITS PRECINCTS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 12 - (INFLUENCE MEMBERS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 13 - (ACCEPTANCE OF BRIBE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 14 - (CONTEMPT OF A LEGISLATIVE HOUSE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 15 - (RESTRICTION ON SUSPENDED MEMBER) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 16 - (RESTRICTION ON EVIDENCE AS TO CERTAIN MATTERS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 17 - (PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN STATEMENTS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 18 - (PRINTING FALSE COPIES OF LAWS OR PROCEEDINGS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 19 - (PROTECTION OF PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR PUBLICATION AUTHORISED BY A LEGISLATIVE HOUSE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 20 - (POWERS OF PRESIDENT, SPEAKER OR CHAIRMAN TO BE SUPPLEMENTARY TO POWERS OTHERWISE CONFERRED) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 21 - (PRO-ACTION NOTICE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 22 - (NOTIFICATION OF ARREST OF MEMBERS OF LEGISLATIVE HOUSE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 23 - (CIVIL PROCESS NOT TO BE SERVED IN CHAMBER OR PRECINCTS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 24 - (REPEAL) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 25 - (INTERPRETATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 26 - (CITATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

First Scheduled – *agreed to.*

Second Scheduled – *agreed to.*

Long Title – *agreed to.*

A Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Official Secrets Act, Cap. O3 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and for Other Related Matters (HBs. 317 and 426) 2016 – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE

The Chairman: The Next Report to be considered is on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Official Secrets Act, Cap. O3 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and for Other Related Matters (HBs. 317 and 426) 2016. I now invite Chairman Rules and Business Committee to speak to the Bill.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: The Bill contains eight Clauses with three columns. The provisions of the principal Act are on the left and in the middle the provisions of the Bill and the recommendations of the Committee of the whole on the right side. I therefore employ Mr. Chairman to take us through the Clauses for our voting.

The Chairman: Thank you. We are about considering the Report on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Official Secrets Act, Cap. O3 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and for related matters. What we are considering is the second column on the paper.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 1 - (AMENDMENT OF OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2 - (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 4) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3 - (SECTION 4) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 - (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 6 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5 - (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 7 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT) –

Amendment proposed.

Hon. Akinade-Fijabi Saheed: In all these Clauses; we are trying to amend the fines and considering the sensitivity of this Act which deals

with how to restore the official secret matters, most of these fines with the leave of the House, should be increased rather than ₦100,000 or ₦50,000, maybe Section 5 should be increased to ₦1 million.

Let me give you an example of Edward Snowden of America, this is what he did by stealing America's information and he ran to Russia for asylum. Basically this is what the Secret Act is trying to take care of.

The Chairman: Hon. Saheed Fijabi is proposing that the fine of ₦100,000 in Clause 5 should be raised to ₦1 million.

Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba: I second the amendment as moved by Hon. Fijabi.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 5 – (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 7 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT) – as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6 – (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 7 (2) OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT) -

Amendment proposed

Hon. Akinade-Fijabi Saheed: Mr. Chairman, what applies to Clause 5 must apply to Clause 6. If you are increasing that one to ₦1 million, this one should be increased to ₦500,000.

Hon. Ossy Prestige Chinedu Ehiriodu (Aba North/South): I second the amendment as moved by Hon. Fijabi.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 6 – (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 7 (2) OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT) – as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 7 – (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 9 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT) -

Amendment proposed.

Hon. Alabi Mojeed Olujinmi A.: Mr. Chairman, I move that we replace Minister of Police Affairs with Minister in charge of Police Affairs.

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai: I second the amendment proposed by Hon. Mojeed.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 7 – (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 9 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT) – as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 8 – (CITATION) – agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum – agreed to.

Long Title – agreed to.

A Report on a Bill for an Act to amend the River Basin Development Authorities Act Cap. R9 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and other Related Matters Connected Therewith, (HB. 58,235 & 350) 2016 – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The Chairman: The next Report to be considered is on a Bill for an Act to amend the River Basin Development Authorities Act Cap. R9 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and other Related Matters Connected Therewith, (HB. 58,235 & 350) 2016. I now invite the Chairman, Rules and Business Committee to speak to this Report.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: This is a Report on a Bill of 11 Clauses and the amendments proposed in the Bill are in the centre column of this Report. The provisions of the Principal Act are on the left side with the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Chairman, I implore you to take us through the 11 Clauses of the Bill.

The Chairman: Like I said, the left hand column is the provisions of the original Act. The centre which is the second column is the one that is about to be passed.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 1 – (AMENDMENT OF THE RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES (ESTABLISHMENT, ETC.) ACT) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2 – (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 1 (1) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3 – (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 2 (1) (b)) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 – (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 3 (1)) – ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 5 – (INSERTION OF NEW SECTION 4) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6 – (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 4 (1)) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 7 – (CITATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 8 – (AMENDMENT OF THE FIRST SCHEDULE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Long Title – agreed to.

A Report on a Bill for an Act to Ensure Full Integration of Nigerians with Disability into the Society and Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against them and for Other Related Matters (HB 476) 2016 – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

The Chairman: The next Report to be considered is on a Bill for an Act to Ensure Full Integration of Nigerians with Disability into the Society and Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination against them and for Other Related Matters (HB 476) 2016. I now invite Chairman Rules and Business to speak to this Bill.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: This is a Bill against discrimination. It is a new Bill and not an amendment. The provisions of the Bill are on the left side of the column while the recommendations of the Committee of the Whole are on the right. It has 78 Clauses. I implore Mr. Chairman to take us through the Clauses.

The Chairman: Let us take it Clause by Clause.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 1 – (PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION PENALTY) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2 – (PROHIBITION OF HARMFUL TREATMENT PENALTY) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3 – (AWARENESS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 – (PRIVATE HOUSES RIGHT TO ACCESS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5 – (ACCESSIBILITY AIDS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6 – (PRIVATE HOUSE) -

Amendment proposed.

Hon. Okwu Samson: Clause 6 says; *a private house owner shall allow a person with disability lawfully occupying the private owner's house as a tenant.* If we should pass this such law a lot of people with disability will just come and occupy your house.

The Chairman: What is your Motion?

Hon. Okwu Samson: It should be deleted completely.

The Chairman: Hon. Samson Okwu has made a Motion that Clause 6 should be deleted.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari: I want to speak on what he is raising. I am very passionate about this Bill because it was brought in the Sixth Assembly. It was brought by Hon. Abike, now it has been with the Chairman, House Committee on Human Rights Assembly. We worked on this Bill extensively only that it was not assented to by Mr. President, so I have my peculiar knowledge on this Bill.

This provision is saying that if disable person or persons with disability as they preferred to be called is renting an apartment or a house; that they should allow him reasonable leeway to modify in such a way that he can access it. Maybe, put a ramp where he can use his wheel chair to enter the premises not that you say all right you rent my house but you cannot make necessary modification to live comfortably within the premises. That is what this Clause is trying to do. I do not see any harm in that. So, I urge my Colleagues to allow it to go through.

The Chairman: It has not been seconded. Hon. Shagari, I am not trying to contribute to the debate but I do not know if this Clause is part of this Bill. You are even making it hostile for landlord to have peoples with disability to rent because they know there is a law that will support them after renting the premises to make modification. So, by even allowing for this, it makes it more hostile for landlord to allow them.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila : I am not sure about this provision, I align with the provision because the provision says access related. If you are disabled, as it stands today, and you go to your landlord and you say I want to modify so that I can gain access, I need a ramp I need to do it, and he says no, he has discriminated against you. So, if this Bill is to avoid discriminaton, you are actually removing

the major part. It says access to, it did not say modify the whole building. It is just for you to be able to allow.

What about you become disabled after you have rented the house? How do you enter the house? You rented the house, you paid for three years, you have an accident thereafter, how do you now get entrance to this house?

The Chairman: Clause 6 – A Private House Owner shall allow a person with disability lawfully occupy the private owner's house as a tenant to make such access related modifications to the building as to allow him access his apartment, provided he is acting in good faith and has given adequate notice to the private house owner.

Anyway, there is a Motion for amendment (*Interruptions*) nobody has seconded it. Yes, Hon. Ezekiel.

Hon. Ezekiel: I second the amendment proposed by the Leader that Clause 6 be retained as provided for in the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 6 – (PRIVATE HOUSE) – *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 7 – (ACCESSIBILITY ROADS AND SIDEWALK) – *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 8 – (TRANSITORY PERIOD) – *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 9 – (BUILDING PLAN) –

Amendment proposed.

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai: My amendment is predicated upon a Bill that we passed today on the Building Code. We want the Building Code as enshrined in that Bill. What is the building plan here? It is not there at all in the Building Code of Nigeria as approved by the Executive and proposed to this honourable House.

The Building Code is telling you that before erecting any public building this plan shall be scrutinized by the relevant authority in conjunction with the Commission to ensure that the plan conform with the Building Code provided for in Section 93 which is contrary to the Nigerian Building Code.

The Chairman: Hon. Ossai, you will recall that on the Bill, the Leader and myself were discussing it. The Bill was enforcement, it is there in an existing Act of Building Code; it is a question that is difficult to answer. What the Speaker has just said is that once it is surely passed, we have to undergo a lot of rework when it gets to the Committee itself. This is because what we passed is reinforcement of public Building Code and the Building Code does not exist as an Act. In the introduction, what do you want to delete?

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 9 – (BUILDING PLAN) – *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

The Chairman Amendment, no explanation.

Hon. Alabi Mojeed Olujinmi A: We cannot amend what is not in existence. The Building Code has no existence of its own under the Nigerian law. It is just something that is in COREN Book, it cannot be a basis for amendment.

The Chairman: Hon. Mojeed, you can take your seat now. I am happy that you are speaking at this point. While we were considering that Bill, I came up to the Sponsor of that Bill. Listen very well, do not be academic in this case, you are a culprit in what I want to say. I spoke to the Sponsor of the Bill in your presence that the Building Code is not existing and so you cannot pass a law to enforce something that is not in existence. That time, I would have respected you, now that you want to be academic to have advised the man to withdraw that Bill so that we will come and consider the Building Code. Whoever wants to make any Motion now, what is your amendment, is it to delete 9 (1)?

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai: It is to delete Clause 9 (1) because it does not exist. This is because if the Building Code has been enacted, I am just following the good counsel of Mr. Chairman because the Building Code is not in existence as far as our Federal Republic of Nigeria is concerned, it cannot be quoted. I feel that it should be deleted.

The Chairman: It is because Hon. Farouk is an Engineer, and Leader is a Lawyer, if your argument is the same as that of Hon. Jimi, you are giving your younger brother the opportunity to take the Floor.

Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson: My interjection is geared towards the Building Code. There is a Supreme Court decision that gives unfettered an hundred *per cent* powers to the State to determine physical planning, Building Codes and

such incidental matters, it is their sole discretion. I do not think a National Building Code can ever exist anymore because that Supreme Court decision is still in operation.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: Permit me to say something. The Attorney-General of Lagos State and the Supreme Court made unequivocal terms that jurisdiction on matters of Building Permit, Building Codes on environment belong to the State. It is something that we need to look at. In line but not completely with what Hon. Ossai said, we can put a full stop at *Commission*, not the whole paragraph. The whole thing will read and full stop at *in conjunction with the Commission*. That is in the issue of Building Code even what we did earlier today might be an issue.

Amendment proposed.

Hon. Abdullahi Umaru Farouk (B/Kebbi Kalgo/Bunza): Actually what I want to add is that instead of being specific on the Building Code as provided for in Section 93, we can remove that specific referral. We would just stop at '*Commission to ensure that plans conforms with the relevant Building Code*'. So that for any State, the relevant Building Code actually applies. So we should just stop there.

The Chairman: There is an amendment on ground; let us take the amendment first. What Hon. Farouk is saying is that we should remove the words from *Building Code provided for in Section 93(c)* and replace with the words *relevant Building Code*. That is open; no amendment can be more open than that.

Hon. Lynda Ikpeazu: I second the amendment proposed by Hon. Farouk.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 9 – (BUILDING PLAN) – *as amended ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 10 – (COMPLAIN OF INACCESSIBILITY) – *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 11– (RAMPS IN VEHICLES) – *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 12 – (WAIVER OF CHARGES ON ASSISTIVE DEVICES) – *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 13 – (LOADING OF ASSISTIVE DEVICES) – *ordered to stand part of the Bill.*

Clause 14 – (RIGHT TO DRIVE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 15 – (RESERVATIONS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 16 – (SEAPORTS AND RAILWAY) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 17 – (TRANSITORY PERIOD FOR RAILWAYS AND SEAPORT) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 18 – (ASSISTIVE SERVICE AND AIRLINE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 19 – (RETURN OF LOADED WHEELCHAIRS TO OWNERS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 20 – (WAIVER OF CARRIAGE CHARGES ON ASSISTIVE DEVICES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 21 – (SEATING OF AIDES OF PERSON WITH DISABILITY) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 22 – (TRAVELLING ALONE OF PERSON WITH DISABILITY) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 23 – (PERIODITY IN LOADING OF ASSISTIVE DEVICES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 24 – (CONVENIENCE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ON BOARD) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 25 – (APPLICATION OF PROVISION OF SECTIONS 21 TO 28 TO OTHER MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 26 – (OBLIGATION OF TECHNOLOGY RELATED COMPANIES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 27 – (CLOSE CAPTION IN VIDEO PRESENTATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 28 – (OBLIGATION OF TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 29 – (TRANSITORY PERIOD AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 30 – (DUTIES OF PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND GOVERNMENT) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 31 – (CHILDREN RIGHT TO EDUCATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 32 – (RIGHT TO EQUAL TREATMENT) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 33 – (CONTRAVENTION OF SECTION 32) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 34 – (INFORMATION AND SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 35 – (PROHIBITION OF SEPARATION OF CHILDREN FROM PARENTS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 36 – (ALTERNATIVE TO FAMILY CARE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 37 – (CHILDREN FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 38 – (BEST INTEREST OF THE CHILD) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 39 – (RIGHT TO LIFE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 40 – (SITUATION OF RISK AND HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCIES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 41 – (SERVICE AT QUEUES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 42 – (LIBERTY) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 43 – (PROHIBITION OF UNLAWFUL EXPERIMENTATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 44 – (PROHIBITION OF USE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 45 – (PROTECTION OF INTEGRITY) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 46 – (FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 47 – (LIVING INDEPENDENTLY OF OTHERS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 48– (PROHIBITION OF SEGREGATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 49 – (GOVERNMENT PROVISION OF ASSISTIVE DEVICES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 50 – (FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND OPINION, AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 51 – (RESPECT FOR PRIVACY) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 52 – (RIGHT TO FREE EDUCATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 53 – (FACILITIES FOR EFFECTIVE EDUCATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 54 – (ESTABLISHMENT OF VOCATIONAL CENTRES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 55 – (FREE EDUCATION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION PERSONNEL) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 56 – (APPROPRIATE MODE OF EDUCATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 57 – (FREE HEALTH CARE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 58 – (CERTIFICATES OF DISABILITY) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 59 – (PROVISION OF SPECIAL COMMUNICATION AT HOSPITALS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 60 – (WAIVER OF CHARGES ON ASSISTED DEVICES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 61 – (EQUAL RIGHT TO WORK) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 62 – (PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 63– (PROHIBITION OF FORCED OR COMPULSORY LABOUR) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 64 – (SELF RELIANCE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 65– (JOB SECURITY) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 66– (GOOD STANDARD OF LIVING) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 67 – (SPECIAL CONSIDERATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 68 – (ACCOMMODATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 69 – (PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 70 – (ELECTORAL PROCEDURES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 71 – (ASSISTANCE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SEEKING ELECTIVE OFFICES BY POLITICS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 72 – (RIGHT TO CULTURAL LIFE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 73 – (OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP POTENTIAL) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 74 – (ACCESS TO CULTURAL MATERIAL) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 75 – (RECOGNITION OF LINGUISTIC IDENTITIES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 76 – (DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIAL SPORTS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 77 – (INTERPRETATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Schedule – agreed to.

Long Title – agreed to.

The Chairman: This Bill now has seventy-seven (77) Clauses.

The Report of the Committee on Federal Judiciary on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Capital Territory District Courts Act and for other Matters Connected Therewith, 2015 (HB. 07) 2016 – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE

The Chairman: The next Report to be consider is Report of the Committee on Federal Judiciary on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Capital Territory District Courts Act and for other Matters Connected Therewith, 2015 (HB. 07). I now invite the Chairman Rules and Business to speak to this Report.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: Hon. Shagari actually moved for the consideration of this Report. I therefore yield the Floor to him to give us insights if you allow.

The Chairman: The Chairman of Judiciary Committee is now invited to speak to this Report.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari: The House will recall that on Thursday, 8th October, 2015, debate was concluded on the general principles of this Bill under review and referred same to our Committee for further legislative action.

The Bill provides for an Act to amend the Federal Capital Territory District Court Act. It strips the President of the power to increase jurisdiction of District Courts in Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and confer the National Assembly the power to increase jurisdiction of District Court Judges in Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

In a nutshell, this Act is an old Act; that of former Northern Nigeria, which was just adopted by the Federal Capital Territory being part of the former Northern Nigeria. So, we find it expedient to change the laws to reflect modern times and reflect division of powers to confer only the Legislature the powers to make laws. Hitherto, it was the President by recommendation from the Federal Capital Territory High Court Judge that can increase powers of District Court. District Courts are actually Magistrate Courts. We feel it is a misnomer and it should be corrected and that is what this Bill seeks to do.

As such if we pass this Bill, we are removing the powers from Mr. President and conferring it on this House. If the Federal Capital Territory High Court Judge wants to increase jurisdiction of Magistrate Courts, he has to refer to this honourable House by way of a Bill and that is what we have done.

We held a Public Hearing which was well-attended and we made consequential amendments. Time is well spent and I have a lot of explanations to do but if you look at it basically, they are very harmless amendments which go with the intendment of the Bill.

Wherever the name *Mr. President* appears, we remove it and put *to the National Assembly*; and wherever the *jurisdiction of the Magistrate Court* appears we put the new jurisdiction which we proposed to them.

In a nutshell, the Chief Magistrate Court will increase jurisdiction from One Thousand Naira to Ten Million Naira. Then Magistrate Grade 1, we increased its jurisdiction from Four Hundred Naira to Eight Million Naira; and Grade 2 from Two Hundred Naira to Six Million Naira; and Grade 3 from Fifty Naira to Five Million Naira.

These basically are the amendments that we have made to this Bill. I urge my Colleagues to look at it and consider it and pass.

The Chairman: Thank you Chairman, Committee on Judiciary. The Committee recommendations are on third column; so we are going to start considering the Bill from the third column.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 1 - (AMENDMENT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY DISTRICT COURT ACT, CAP 495, LAWS OF THE FEDERATION, 1990) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2 - (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 13 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3 - (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 14 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 - (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 15 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5 - (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 17 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6 - (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 17(3) OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 7 - (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 28 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 8 - (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 53 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 9 - (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 89 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Citation - agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum - agreed to.

Long Title - agreed to.

Report of the Committee on Federal Judiciary on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Pensions Rights of Judges Act, Cap. P5, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 06) 2016 – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE.

The Chairman: The next Report to be considered is the Report of the Committee on Federal Judiciary on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Pensions Rights of Judges Act, Cap. P5, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 06). I now invite the Chairman, Committee on Judiciary to speak to this Report.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari: The House may recall that on Tuesday, 6th October, 2015, debate was concluded on this Bill and it was referred to my humble Committee. The object of the Bill is to add the President and Judges of the National Industrial Court and President and Judges of the Customary Court of Appeal, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja as judicial officers as explained in the Act.

Actually, we found out that what this Bill seeks to do had already been done by the Constitution. If you look at the explanation that the Bill gave to the judicial officers by the time this Act was promulgated, the Customary Court of Appeal, Sharia Court of Appeal and the National Industrial Court were not promulgated then. After the amendment to the Constitution, these Courts were added.

So, we chose the description of judicial officers as contained in the Constitution particularly it says; *judicial officers shall be a Grand Khadi or Khadi of the Sharia or Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, a President or Judge of Customary Court of Appeal of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, a Grand Khadi or a Khadi of Sharia Court of*

Appeal of a State or President or a Judge of the Customary Court of Appeal of a State, and a reference to a "judicial officer" is a reference to the holder of any such office. This is among other things which I just cut short.

That is basically what this Bill seeks to do and we have done that adequately. We urge this honourable House to consider this Report and pass it.

The Chairman: The Committee's recommendations are on the third column and we will now start to consider the Bill.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 1 - (AMENDMENT OF PENSION RIGHTS ACT CAP P5, LFN 2004) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2 - (AMENDMENT OF SECTION 4 OF THE PRINCIPAL ACT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Citation - agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum - agreed to.

Long Title - agreed to.

Report of the Committee on Interior on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Peace Corps (NPC) to Empower, Develop and Provide Alternative Empowerment for the Youths, to Facilitate Peace, Community Service and Nation Building; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 89) 2015 – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE.

The Chairman: The next Report to be considered is the Report of the Committee on Interior on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Peace Corps (NPC) to Empower, Develop and Provide Alternative Empowerment for the Youths, to Facilitate Peace, Community Service and Nation Building; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 89) 2015. Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba is invited to speak to this Bill.

Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba: First and foremost, on this Bill before we arrived at this decision, we have invited over 150 stakeholders. They came and out of this number only the Police and Civil Defence spoke against it, but the National Orientation Agency, including EFCC and others supported it. State Governments and traditional rulers said they have been using these Peace Corps.

We have also discovered in the course of this investigation that over 150 countries have this Peace Corps. All we did as a Committee is to remove all areas of conflict with Police mandate, Civil Defence mandate or mandate that has to do with all other things covered by them.

This is going to provide employment and is for peace purposes. They are not going to carry ammunitions. We did a good job on this and I plead on behalf of the Committee that this honourable House should pass these recommendations except Clause 40, which should be amended in line with what the Speaker said. Once again, I urge my Colleagues to pass this..

Clause 1 – (ESTABLISHMENT, OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NIGERIAN PEACE CORPS) –

Question proposed.

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai: Judging from the diminishing return that has set in, in terms of looking at this Bill Clause by Clause as proposed by Hon. Jagaba, I believe that we can defer this consideration till tomorrow to consider it.

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, let us take it Clause by Clause.

Question put and agreed to.

Clause 1 – (ESTABLISHMENT, OBJECTIVES AND FUNCTIONS OF THE NIGERIAN PEACE CORPS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2 – (FUNCTIONS OF THE NIGERIAN PEACE CORPS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3 – (GOVERNING BOARD, COMPOSITION AND POWERS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 – (GOVERNING BOARD OF THE NIGERIAN PEACE CORPS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5 – (COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF THE PEACE CORPS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6 – (QUALIFICATION OF THE CHAIRMAN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PEACE CORPS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 7 – (APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF THE PEACE CORPS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 8 – (TENURE OF OFFICE ETC.) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 9 – (REMOVAL FROM OFFICE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 10 – (ALLOWANCES) –

Question proposed.

Hon. Akinade-Fijabi Saheed: I like the Chairman Committee on Interior to explain to us how the allowances would be paid and where the money would be coming in from. It is very important because we have Civil Defence and most of them are not being paid. We have Police also not being paid. If we pass this Peace Corps now, very soon there would be Vigilante Group of Nigerian coming in again.

Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba: If you look at it, it is carefully designed in such a way that we do not pin it down to situation where the Federal Government particularly in time of recession cannot afford. The allowances can be reviewed depending on the strength of the government of the day. They can review the allowances downward or upward. For instance, if they cannot afford ₦10,000 per diem, that is why we restricted it to the economic realities of the time.

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai: Judging from the lean purse of the Federal Government for change situation which Nigeria is going through and because of the entire workforce Nigeria has today; we are unable including States to pay salaries even though Federal Government has bailed out States, yet the situation has not changed. Also judging from the price of oil, which has fallen and it has not augment any issue, even this House is suffering from issues of fund, we cannot subject Nigeria to another situation where we are going to fund an organisation. On this ground, I move that the entire Clause be deleted.

The Chairman: This is a tricky one; I want all hon. Members to look at it very well because Hon. Adams has not succeeded in answering the question asked by Hon. Akande Fijabi. What Hon. Ossai provided for is not even the solution. Let us look at it and think of what to do to it. This is very important because it has to do with the financial implication of this Bill. Let us participate in recommending what is appropriate for this particular Clause.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari: What this Clause seeks to do is when you mop up these youths from our Streets, engage them and get them gainfully employed; with regards to having peace, this cannot be overemphasised. What they have done is to make an omnibus position that the Federal Government shall pay them and it shall be reviewed from time to time on what is appropriate.

You are giving the Board the power to look at what is appropriate as allowances. I think it is all right. If we start suggesting amount, except if we would just say they should be given nothing less than the minimum wage. It should be retained anyway.

Amendment proposed.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: This is a proper place where we should allow the Salaries and Wages Commission to come in. They have their yardstick for determining wages. When we find ourselves in this kind of fix, this is the right time they should be asked to come in. I suggest that the amendment should be to ask the Salaries and Wages Commission to take over in this instance.

The Chairman: His amendment is that *a member shall be paid such allowances as may be determined by the National Salaries and Wages Commission.*

Hon. Alabi Mojeed Olujinmi A: I second the amendment proposed by Hon. Orker-Jev.

Amendment put and agreed to.

The Chairman: Chairman, Rules and Business Committee. Move your Motion proper.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I move that Clause 10 be amended to read that the National Salaries and Wages Commission should determine the wages and allowances of the Peace Corps.

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan: I second the Motion on the amendment made by the Chairman, Rules and Business Committee.

Amendment put and agreed.

Clause 10 - (ALLOWANCES) – as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 11 - (POWERS OF THE BOARD) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 12 - (NATIONAL COMMANDANT OF THE PEACE CORPS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 13 - (DEPUTY NATIONAL COMMANDANTS, NATIONAL CORPS SECRETARY, ASSISTANT NATIONAL COMMANDANTS ETC AND OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE PEACE CORPS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 14 - (MEMBERSHIP OF THE PEACE CORPS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 15 - (PENSIONS) - order to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 16 - (APPOINTMENT AND PROMOTION OF STAFF OF THE PEACE CORPS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 17 - (APPOINTMENT OF OTHER STAFF OF THE PEACE CORPS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 18 - (DISCIPLINE OF THE STAFF OF THE PEACE CORPS) - order to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 19 - (ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF THE PEACE CORPS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 20 - (ZONES AND ZONAL COMMANDS OF THE PEACE CORPS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 21 - (STAFF COMMAND) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 22 - (LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMAND) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 23 - (SQUADRON COMMAND) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 24 - (FUNDS OF THE PEACE CORPS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 25 - (EXPENDITURE OF THE PEACE CORPS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 26 - (ANNUAL ESTIMATES AND ACCOUNTS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 27 - (ANNUAL REPORT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 28 - (POWER TO ACCEPT GIFT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 29 - (POWER TO BORROW) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 30 - (INVESTMENT) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 31- (EXEMPTION FROM TAX) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 32 - (LIMITATION OF SUITS AGAINST THE PEACE CORPS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 33 - (SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS) - order to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 34 - (RESTRICTION ON EXECUTION AGAINST PROPERTY OF THE PEACE CORPS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 35 - (INDEMNITY OF OFFICERS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 36 - (SECRECY) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 37 - (POWER TO OBTAIN INFORMATION) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 38 - (DISSOLUTION OF THE EXISTING PEACE CORPS OF NIGERIA) - order to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 39 - (DIRECTIVES BY THE MINISTER) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Question proposed.

Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba: Mr. Chairman; “the Peace Corps or the Board may, with the approval of the Minister, make such regulations as in its opinions are necessary or expedient for giving full effects to the provision of this Act and for the due administration of its provisions”. We can equally subject it to the National Assembly; whatever they have must be subjected here; that is the issue of delegated legislation. That is on page 24 on Regulations.

The Chairman: It is all right, since it was the Chairman of the Committee that actually spoke, it is not like an amendment.

Clause 40 - (REGULATIONS) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 41 - (INTERPRETATION) –

Amendment proposed.

Hon. Abdullahi Umar Faruok: On Clause 41, the operational word there, if we can use within the security parlance, what should be used instead of “permanent staff officers”, I think it should be “regular staff officers”. This is because within the previous one we have approved, they used “regular staff officer”; so, instead of “permanent staff officers”, we can maintain that “regular staff officers” nomenclature.

The Chairman: His Motion is that the word “permanent” be replaced with “regular”.

Hon. Ismail Ahmed Gadaka (Fika/Fune): I second the amendment proposed that the word “permanent” be replaced with “regular staff”.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 41 - (INTERPRETATION) – as amended, ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 42 - (LONG TITLE) – agreed to.

Clause 43 - (SCHEDULE) – agreed to.

Clause 44 - (COMMITTEES) - agreed to.

Clause 45 - (SEAL) – agreed to.

Explanatory Memorandum - agreed to.

Report of the Committee on Sports on the Urgent Need to Intervene in the Lingering Crisis Rocking the Nigerian Football Federation – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE.

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, the next Report to be considered is based on referral from the Resolution of the House to the Committee on Sport on the Urgent Need to intervene in the Lingering Crisis Rocking the Nigerian Football Federation and the Report has four recommendations.

This Report is not paginated, but please, go to the inside of the back page. The Report has four recommendations, instead of Resolution, put the word *recommendation*. I invite the Chairman, Committee on Sport of the House of Representatives,

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan to speak to this Report briefly because time is far spent.

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan: First of all, I commend the Mover of the Motion, Hon. Prestige for drawing our attention to the crisis in the Nigerian Football Federation. I also commend the House of Representatives for supporting the Report.

Hon. Colleagues, before we arrived at the recommendations, we invited the Minister of Sport and the Legal Department. It is very simple, our own is to intervene and we invited all the stakeholders before we arrived at these recommendations. I urge my honourable Colleagues to approve our recommendations.

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, Like I said, there are four recommendations.

Question put and agreed to.

Recommendation (i) - (The Minister of Youths and Sports Development and the Federal Government Of Nigeria shall continue to recognize, work and support the NFF under Mr. Amaju Pinnick's Presidency) – *agreed to.*

Recommendation (ii) – (The Inspector General of Police and other security agencies shall give full security/protection to the NFF under the Presidency of Mr. Amaju Pinnick) – *agreed to.*

Recommendation (iii) – (Both the Federal Government and the security operatives shall call Mr. Chris Giwa and his group to order to ensure that Nigerian Football does not continue to suffer and or incur the wrath of FIFA) – *agreed to.*

Recommendation (iv) - (The Inspector General of police and all other security agencies shall ensure that whosoever creates problem in NFF or Nigeria's Football shall be apprehended and prosecuted accordingly) – *agreed to.*

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan: I move that this House do revert to Plenary.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I second the Motion moved by the Acting Whip of the House.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do revert to Plenary.

(The Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair)

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the House in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish an Independent National Assembly Budget and Research Office, which shall provide the National Assembly with Objective, Timely and Non-partisan Analysis Needed for Economic and Budget Decisions; and for Other Related Matters (HB 377); and approved Clauses 1-20; Schedule; and the Long Title of the Bill.

The House also in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Environmental Managers Registration Council of Nigeria as a body Corporate and to Empower the Council, inter alia to determine Persons, What Standard of Knowledge and Skill to be attained by such Persons; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 17) and approved Clauses 1-17; amended Clauses 18 (1); approved Clauses 19 -20; Schedule; and the Long Title of the Bill.

The House in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Incorporate and Enforce Certain Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 86) and deferred consideration.

The House in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Legislative Powers and Privileges Act, 2016 to give the Legislature the desired Powers and Immunity to be able to carry out its Legislative Responsibility; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 382) and approved Clauses 1 -26; Schedules; and the Long Title of the Bill.

The House also in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report a Bill for an Act to Amend the Official Secrets Act, Cap. O3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Related Matters (HBs 317 and 426) and approved Clauses 1 - 4; amended Clauses 5 - 7; approved Clause 8; and the Long Title of the Bill.

The House in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report a Bill for an Act to Amend the River Basin Development Authorities Act, Cap. R9, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to make Provisions for Proper Utilization of Nigerian Dams under the Control of a given River Basin Development Authority; a Bill for an Act to Amend the First Schedule to the River Basin Development

Authorities; and a Bill for an Act to Amend the River Basin Development Authorities (Establishment, etc.) Act, Cap. R9, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to provide for the Establishment of the Lower Anambra and Upper Niger River Basin Development Authorities and list them in the first Schedule to the Act; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HBs 58, 235 and 350) and approved Clauses 1-8; and the Long Title of the Bill.

The House in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report a Bill for an Act to ensure full Integration of Nigerians with Disability into the Society and Eliminate all forms of Discrimination against them; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 476) and; approved Clauses 1- 8; amended Clauses 9; approved Clauses 10 – 77; Schedule; and the Long Title of the Bill.

The House in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Federal Judiciary on a Bill for an Act to amend the Federal Capital Territory, District Act and for Other Matters Connected Therewith and; approved Clauses 1-11; and approved the Long Title of the Bill.

The House in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Federal Judiciary on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Pensions Rights of Judges Act, Cap. P5, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 06) and; approved Clauses 1- 3 and; the Long Title of the Bill.

The House in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Interior on a Bill for an act to Establish the Nigerian Peace Corps (NPC) to Empower, Develop and Provide Alternative Empowerment for the Youths, to Facilitate Peace, Community Service, Nation Building; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 89) and; approved Clause 1; amended Clause 10; approved Clauses 11 – 40; amended Clause 41; approved Clauses 42 – 45; Schedules; and the Long Title of the Bill.

The House in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Sports on the Urgent Need to Intervene in the Lingering Crisis Rocking the Nigeria Football Federation and; approved Recommendations (i) – (iv) of the Report.

Adoption of Report

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan: I move that the House do adopt the Report as approved.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I second the Motion as moved by the Acting Whip of the House.

Question put and agreed to.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan: I move that this House do adjourn till Thursday, 9th June, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I second the Motion as moved by the Acting Whip of the House.

Notice of One Year Inauguration of Eighth Assembly

The Deputy Speaker: Incidentally tomorrow 9th June, 2016 would be exactly one year when this House was inaugurated, particularly the 8th Assembly. We thank Members for the support and this gratitude is coming ahead. Tomorrow we have to read our thanksgiving service message.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till Thursday, 9th June, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 5.10 p.m.