

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Wednesday, 9th March, 2016

The House met at 11.05 am

PRAYERS

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, I have observed and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 8th March, 2016.

VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

Students of Lordwill Academy

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, we have in the Gallery Students of Lordwill Academy.

The students stood for recognition.

You are welcome.

Students of Handmaids Girls Secondary

Also in the Gallery are students of Handmaids Girls Secondary School, Sauka Extension, Kuje, Abuja.

The students stood for recognition.

**Students of Madonna International Nursery
Primary School**

We also have in the Gallery students of Madonna International Nursery Primary School, Phase III, Gwagwalada, Abuja.

The students stood for recognition.

Students of Titsall Global Schools

Also in the Gallery are students of Titsall Global Schools, Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja.

The Students stood for recognition.

You are welcome, kindly take your seats.

Students of Oasis International College Abuja

Hon. Members, finally, we have students of Oasis International College Abuja, also in the Gallery.

The Students stood for recognition.

You are all welcome, kindly take your seats.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Outstanding Zonal Intervention Projects

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, it has been brought to my attention that the issue of Zonal Intervention Project is still outstanding because many hon. Members are yet to submit their details. All Members are therefore enjoined to submit the details of the Zonal Intervention Projects to the House Committee on Constituency Outreach for collation and submission to the Appropriation Committee. This should not be later than Friday, 11th March, 2016. It is very important that these details are submitted latest by Friday, which is just a day away.

We have a notification from Hon. Patrick Asadu, it reads:

9th March, 2016,

*The Speaker,
Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara,
House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Your Excellency,

Death of Madam Mary Orifi Asadu

My mother, Mary Orifi Asadu, passed on to eternal glory on the night of Monday, 15th February, 2016 at St. Leo Hospital, Enugu, Enugu State. She was 85 years old.

Her interment will take place at Amaja Village Ovokum Ibo Ezelok South LGA of Enugu State on Friday, March 18, 2016 after a Christian Wake keep at her Ovoko residence on Thursday, March 17, 2016.

I, on behalf of the entire Asadu family, wish to notify the Leadership, my Dear Colleagues, and the management staff of the House of Representatives, of our mother's transition and humbly invite all to her interment.

Accept the best regards of the entire Asadu family and may God grant you abiding journey mercies as you join us to bid Mama a final farewell.

Hon. Patrick Asadu
For the Family

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

The Speaker: Any Member who has a Petition to present to the House may please, rise to do so. (*No Response*).

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

Report on Non-Enforcement of the Conditions for the Establishment, Registration, and Operation of Driving Schools

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the first Business of the Day is presentation of report by the Committee on Federal Road Safety Commission on Non-Enforcement of the Conditions for the Establishment, Registration, Operation of Driving Schools by the Federal Road Safety Commission, standing in the name of Hon. Abubakar Ahmed Yunusa.

Hon. Members will recall that on Tuesday, 29th September, 2015 the House by Resolution mandated the Committee to investigate the matter and report back to the House. The report is ready for presentation, and Hon. Yunusa is now invited to present the Report.

Hon. Yunusa Ahmed Abubakar (Yamaitu/Deba): I move for the presentation of the Report of House of Representative Committee on Federal Road Safety Commission on a Motion on Non-Enforcement of the Conditions for the Establishment, Registration, Operation of Driving Schools by the Federal Road Safety Commission (HR 17/2015, February, 2016)

Hon. Solomon Bulus Maren (Mangu/Bokkos): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Yunusa Abubakar.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid on the Table.

Reports of the Committee on Public Petitions

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the second Business of the Day is presentation of five reports of the Committee on Public Petitions, standing in the name of Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma. Hon. Abonta is now invited to present them.

Report on the Petition by Mr. Abraham Ebhoaye

Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma (Ukwa East/West): I move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Mr. Abraham Ebhoaye against the National Pension Commission's calculation of his Pension Entitlement on the New Pension Scheme rather than the Old Scheme.

Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku (Nafada/ Dukku): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Uzoma Abonta.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid on the Table.

Report on the Petition by Mrs. Elizabeth Awan

Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma: I move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Mrs. Elizabeth Awan against Diamond Bank PLC on the termination of her appointment.

Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku: I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Uzoma Abonta.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid on the Table.

Report on the Petition by Mr. Tajudeen Anthony Alade

Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma: I move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Mr. Tajudeen Anthony Alade against the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria (FRCN) on alleged discrimination in the Promotion Interview concluded by the Corporation to fill the vacant post of a Deputy Director.

Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku: I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Uzoma Abonta.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid on the Table.

Report on the Petition by Owanemi Theophilus

Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma: I move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Owanemi Theophilus against Nigerian AGIP Oil Company

(NAOC) over alleged negligence which resulted in the death of fourteen people

Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku: I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Uzoma Abonta.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid on the Table.

Report on the Petition by Miss Nkechi Okeugo

Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma: I move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Miss Nkechi Okeugo against the Nigerian Customs Service on alleged dismissal from Service.

Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku: I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Uzoma Abonta.

Question put and agreed to.

Report laid on the Table

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

Chartered Institute of Management Accountants of Nigeria Bill 2016 (HB. 375)

The Speaker: The first Order of the day is a Motion Pursuant to Order XII, Rule 94 of the standing Orders of the House, Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly; Chartered Institute of Management Accountants of Nigeria Bill, 2016, standing in the name of Hon. Yusuf Ayo Tajudeen. He is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Yusuf Ayo Tajudeen (Ijumu/Kabba-Bunu): I move a Motion on the Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly Order XII, Rule 94: Chartered Institute of Management Accountants of Nigeria Bill, 2016 (HB 375) as follows:

The House

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

Assembly, the House may resolve that such Bills, upon being re-gazetted and clean copies circulated, be re-considered in the Committee of the Whole without being commenced *de-novo*;

Also notes that the aforementioned Bill was passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but 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. 375 and read the first time on Wednesday, 27th February, 2016.

Resolves to:

- (i) Commit the Bill to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

Hon. Asuquo Daniel Effiong (Akamkpa/Biase): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Yusuf Tajudeen.

Question put and agreed to.

By the provision of Order XII, Rule 94 of the Standing Order of the House, Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Urgent Need for Completion of the Northern Ishan Water Supply Scheme

The Speaker: Hon Colleagues, the second Order of the day is a Motion on the *Urgent Need to complete the Northern Ishan Water Supply Scheme*, standing in the name of Hon. Sergius Ose Ogun. He is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Sergius Ose Ogun (Esan North East/South East): I crave your indulgence to say that this Motion was submitted long before the Budget was presented. In my Prayers, I hope you will not wonder why I am making those Prayers.

I hereby move a Motion on the *Urgent need for Completion of the Northern Ishan Water Supply Scheme*.

The House:

Notes that the Northern Ishan Water Supply Scheme designed to supply potable water to the people of Esan North/South East Federal Constituency of Edo State was first awarded in 2005 for the sum of ₦2.2 billion and later reviewed upwards in 2009 to ₦2.4 billion only;

Aware that the water scheme was scheduled to be commissioned in 2012 but this was aborted due

to the protest over the insufficient water reticulation in the community hosting the water in-take plant, which led the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to appropriate the sum of ₦170 million through the Owena River Basin Development Authority to DADIM Integrated Concepts Limited for the reticulation, though the money was never released;

Also aware that the non-release of the sum of ₦80 million by Owena River Basin Development Authority to DADIM for the reticulation, ₦130million as outstanding payment, compensation and revitalization of equipment by the Ministry to the main contractors, CGC has hindered the commissioning of the project over which the Federal Government has spent a whopping sum of ₦2.4 billion, thus leading to degradation of the pipes while the people of Esan North East/South East still remain in dire need of pipe borne water.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Water Resources and Appropriations to include the sum of ₦300 million only in the 2016 Budget for the completion, commissioning and utilization of the project.

Hon. Uduyok Francis Charles (Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Sergius.

The Speaker: In line with the provision of our Rule, this is a Motion that borders on infrastructure.

Question put and agreed to.

By the Provision of Order VIII, Rule 51(5) of the Standing Orders of the House, Motion referred to the Committee on Water Resources.

Need to Call for Investigation of Revenue Leakages and Operational Deficiencies in the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA)

The Speaker: Hon Colleagues, the third Order of the day is a Motion on the Need to Call for Investigation of Revenue Leakages and Operational Deficiencies in the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), standing in the name of Hon. Chukwudi Jones Onyereri. He is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Onyereri Chukwudi Jones (Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba): The Motion is on the *Need to Call for Investigation of Revenue Leakages and Operational Deficiencies in the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA)*.

The House:

Notes that the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) has the responsibility of ensuring cleaner and safer shipping, capacity building and superintending the maritime safety, administration and security in Nigeria;

Observes that over the years, NIMASA has been very ineffective in the execution of its mandate, a situation that has resulted in financial leakages, maritime insecurity and operational decline of the agency;

Aware of cases of revenue losses arising from leakages in 3% levy on wet and dry cargoes, 2% surcharge and other revenue sources conservatively put at US\$10 billion, over a period of eight years;

Further aware that export lifting of crude oil by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and IOCs which are based on the Free on Board (FOB) instead of Cost, Insurance and Freight (CIF) charges are carried out without interface with NIMASA for the purpose of enforcing the payments of the 3% levy;

Concerned about unauthorized midstream discharges of cargoes by IOCs and oil servicing companies, which enables the evasion of the payment of levies to thrive, thereby depriving the country of revenues;

Further aware of benchmark approach to the 3% levy payment for both dry and wet cargoes which has further contributed to under-billing of the 3% levy due to lack of disclosure of the actual earnings by shipping companies;

Observes that the Cabotage Act of 2003 aimed at promoting indigenous participation in coastal trade is being threatened by the activities of vessels on temporary importation license;

Concerned that the 2% Cabotage Surcharge and Cabotage Waiver fees meant to fund the Cabotage Vessel Finance Fund (CVFF) for indigenous capacity building are being evaded by the IOCs and other major foreign shipping Companies operating in the Country;

Further concerned that the nefarious activities of oil drilling and dredging companies have escaped compliance due to frivolous waivers granted them by NIMASA, which have led to willful default, neglect and outright revenue evasion;

Worried that lack of disclosure by NIMASA of the marine spread of the IOCs contracts with their oil servicing contractors also contributed to the revenue leakages;

Resolves to:

- (i) Mandate the Committees on Maritime Safety, Administration and Education to Investigate the claim of non-remittance and under-remittance of 3% levy, 2% surcharge and other revenues due and collectible by NIMASA, which is in excess of US\$10 billion over an eight year period.
- (ii) Obtain inputs from maritime stakeholders on the matter for the purpose of recovery and improvement of operational efficiency, Cleaner Ocean And Safer Shipping as stipulated in the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) charter and the NIMASA Act.
- (iii) Consider *and track various* implementations and compliance by both NIMASA and various stakeholders with the NIMASA Act of 2007 and the Cabotage Act of 2003, and other related matters, and report back to the House within six (6) weeks for further legislative action.

Hon. Mohammed Garba Gololo (Gamawa): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Jones Oyereri.

Hon. Onyereri Chukwudi Jones: This is a very simple Motion with well-articulated legislative agenda for the Eighth Session of the House of Representatives. Our legislative agenda spelt out the need for all Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government to pay every kobo generated by them into government coffer, specifically, the Consolidated Revenue Fund. Let me be quick in reminding this House that Section 15 of the NIMASA Act authorizes the agency to collect 3% of the gross freight earnings of all international inbound and outbound cargoes from shipping companies operating in Nigeria.

Over the past eight years, NIMASA has failed to pay in 3% of this levy amounting to well over ten billion dollars into the Nigerian Government coffers. You will recall that the Minister of Finance was once reported as stating that NIMASA had failed to remit revenue generated by them and also went further to state that even revenue generated by NIMASA in dollars had been paid back in Naira into the government coffer.

This House is also reminded of the extant provision of Fiscal Responsibility Act which mandates all government corporations and agencies to pay in money generated by them into the

government coffers, more so, 80% of their operating surplus. The Inefficiency of NIMASA has now made the country to have this huge loss amounting to over ten billion dollars.

In addition, the FOB (Free on Board) Trade Policy regime on trade policy allows us to have these foreign companies carry our cargoes with their own ships, thereby, making us lose huge resources. This is against our CIF (Cost Insurance and Freight Policy) which many stakeholders have come up to say that that is the best policy for us to follow.

By this policy, what that means is that we will not only get revenue on our crude but we will also get revenue from the shipping side of the transaction. It is important for us to also know that the government has also banned midstream discharge of our cargoes. Unfortunately, because of ineffectiveness in the matter, they have not been able to monitor this, thereby accruing huge losses amounting to even over 2.5 billion naira yearly for the country.

It has also become important for us to note at this instance that the 2% Cabotage fee that naturally would have generated as stipulated in the Cabotage Act has also deprived us of huge resources. It has not only deprived us of the huge resources; the whole import of having this Cabotage Act is for us to have our own indigenous capacity building, which the non-monitoring by NIMASA has also deprived us of this huge advantage.

We have Prayer before you and urge our Colleagues to support this Motion so that we would continue to generate funds that we need to fund our projects.

The Speaker: This is an investigative Motion.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Mandate the Committees on Maritime Safety, Administration and Education to investigate the claim of non-remittance and under-remittance of 3% levy, 2% surcharge and other revenues due and collectible by NIMASA which is in excess of US\$10 billion over an eight year period.
- (ii) Obtain inputs from maritime stakeholders on the matter for the purpose of recovery and improvement of operational efficiency, Cleaner Ocean and safer shipping as stipulated in the International

Maritime Organisation (IMO) charter and the NIMASA Act.

- (iii) Consider *and track* various implementations and compliance by both NIMASA and various stakeholders with the NIMASA Act of 2007 and the Cabotage Act of 2003, and other related matters, and report back to the House within six (6) weeks for further legislative action.

Motion referred to the Committee on Maritime Safety, Education and Administration.

Establishment War against Indiscipline Brigade (WAI Brigade)

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the fourth Order of the day is a Motion calling on the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to establish a National Orientation Brigade to be known as War Against Indiscipline Brigade (WAI Brigade), standing in the name of Hon. Ali Mohammed Wudil. He is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: Mr. Speaker, before I apply to withdraw this Motion, let me quickly remind us that every week we send Notice Paper on-line according to the e-mails that you gave us. So hon. Members should make it a habit to check their e-mail because several people appeared to be surprised when they see their article on the Notice-Paper. Please always check your e-mails and for those who have not given us their e-mail, we are over 300 but over 50 are yet to give us their e-mails. That will afford you the opportunity of knowing before-hand what is going to be on the Notice Paper.

Having said, I apply to withdraw the fourth Order of the day since Hon. Wudil is not on the Floor.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Need to Strengthen the Educational System to Accommodate the Financially Less Privileged Citizens Living in the FCT

The Speaker: The fifth Order of the day is a Motion on the need to strengthen the educational system in the Federal Capital Territory to accommodate the financially less privileged citizens living in the Federal Capital (FCT), standing in the name of Hon. Sunday Adegboju. He is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Sunday Adegboju (Ibarapa East/Ido): I move a Motion on *The Need To*

Strengthen The Educational System In The Federal Capital Territory To Accommodate The Financially Less Privileged Citizens Living In The FCT.

The House:

Notes that the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) is one of the privileged cities of Nigeria which accommodates all cadres of citizens, both the financially buoyant and otherwise, with majority of the latter category residing in the Area Councils of the Federal Capital Territory;

Further notes that public primary and secondary schools were established across the FCT to enable children of the residents acquire education but concerned that the schools are either not enough to cater for the residents or are far from some of the residents, thereby denying majority of children the opportunity of going to schools;

Concerned that public schools are grossly short of infrastructure, staff (both teaching and non-teaching) and are choked up to the extent that the minimum number of students in a class in some of the schools are more than one hundred, which is antithetical to conducive learning, thereby lowering the quality of education being imparted to the students;

Cognizant that the void created by the fewness of public schools and their dilapidation were filled by the establishment of private schools across the FCT, but greatly concerned about the very high fees they charge which cannot be afforded by majority of the residents, a state of affairs that is detrimental to national development.

Resolves to:

- (i) Call on the Federal Government to strengthen the educational system in the FCT and the nation at large, for the betterment of all.
- (ii) Mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory, FCT Area Councils and Ancillary Matters, and Basic Education and Services to investigate the matter and report back to the House within three weeks.

Hon. Mohammed Usman (Makarfi/Kudan): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Sunday Adegboju.

Hon. Sunday Adegboju: It is a known fact that education is the bedrock of development in a nation, and we are all aware that FCT accommodates everybody in this country both the

rich and poor. But the standard of education that is being bequeathed to our children is not what is expected of them. If you go to all the schools in FCT, you will see that the number of the children that we have in the school is not what a teacher can cope with. If you look at the quality of the infrastructure in those schools you will see that many of us here will not be willing to send our children to those schools.

Be that as it may, the children of the poor, the Okada riders, corn sellers and some others need to send their children to the school so that they will be in good places tomorrow. If we fail to do that, those of us who have the money and means to send our children to private schools, our children may not be able to live what we want because the children of the poor of today may turn out to be terrorists, armed robbers or any social vices of tomorrow. That is why there is need to have more schools in FCT.

It is not only that, the amount some of these private schools they are charging is beyond the reach of many of us. The House, being the one legislating for the FCT, should do something that is very important and urgent so that the children of the poor will not be deprived of the opportunity of going to school.

I, Hon. Sunday Adepolu, come from a family in a village called Idiatu and I had the opportunity of going to Public School. Here I am today debating for the less privileged and I know many of us had the same experience, including Mr. Speaker. I believe he will like the children of the poor to go to school because among them we are likely to have President, Governor and Minister of this Nation tomorrow.

On the basis of this, I appeal to every hon. Member of this House to kindly support this Motion so that the educational system in FCT will have the required standard and monitoring so that our children or unborn children will not suffer the deprivation some of them are suffering today.

Hon. Elendu-Ukeje Nnenna Ijeoma (Bende): I lend my voice to this Motion and the reason that I do that is I realise that we all know in the words of Mahatma Gandhi: if you want to build a nation you must build from the children. The educational standards in our country have been the subject of all sorts of debates, and discourses on the print and electronic Media and even source of Bills on the Floor of the House.

What my dear Colleague seeks is the barest indivisible minimum standard that our children must aspire to in education. Of course, there are many people who can afford to give their children more

expensive education but what he is seeking - and that is what we all want to seek - is the barest indivisible minimum standard so that the Nigerian children are educated across board in such a way that they can compete with their colleagues across the world. Growing up as children, I knew there were State and Community Schools, and the Federal Government Colleges. Across board these schools had children from all social strata.

You would find out that the kind of education that we all came out with at those levels is education that has carried us through today. I did not go to any private school; I went to Government Girls College, Owerri. It was a public school and at a time it was one of the best Colleges. The Command Secondary School, Military School, Victory High School and many other turned out the people who lead our country today. If there is a sharp demarcation between people who go to private schools and public schools, it means we are sinking the very fabric of the future of this country. We should ensure that the children across board either poor or rich are given sound education; there should be no strata or demarcation. If you want a more expensive education, it should not necessarily equate worse education at the less expensive public schools.

I urge my Colleagues to lend our voices to this Motion so that we can, at least, give our children the education that is required for us to move this country to the direction that we hope it would go in the future.

Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun Dokun (Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere): I lend my voice in support of this important Motion, and intentionally, I will add one leg investigation prayer. I do not want us to limit the investigation of the problem facing the education in FCT to the career officers and workers in the education sector. We should carry the parents and traditional leaders within the city along.

The problem is beyond what we can even see here. I am aware that even those people who are not privileged are, sometimes, requested to pay certain amount of money. We should ask if education is really free? If it is not, then we should let everybody know. There is need for us to support the children of the masses to attain standard educational level, because of the future of this nation. Anytime this investigation is coming up, I urge the Committee to carry the chiefs and parents' association within the suburb of the FCT along so that we would get to the root of this matter.

Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba (Kachia/Kagarko): It only beats my imagination when society treats the issue of education with kid's glove. In the Federal

Capital, a lot of things have been bastardised to the level that it has affected the education of our children.

I believe this Motion is going to be passed by this honourable House, so I will urge the Committee or Committees that would handle this matter to check the things that I am about to say. Firstly, the key problem is the land allocation for schools; they do not give this land to the people that have the intention to build school. Land is being given to vendors and the power that be. At the end of the day, they re-sell these lands to Estate Developers and sell the plots in that same land that are supposed to serve as school. These are key areas that must be looked into. We must make sure that lands meant for schools should go to the people that are ready to build schools. The proprietors of schools that have gotten land for school and yet to build, those lands should be seized and be given to people who are ready to build the schools.

Another problem is the existing schools; instead of the owners of these schools focusing on qualitative education, they are busy competing with school fee charges without corresponding effect on the children. These are the issues militating against education in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Another issue is quack teachers, people that are not trained to be teachers. The system is porous to the extent that these kinds of people are recruited into the system as teachers. What would quack teachers teach? Of course, it is nothing but quack because they are not qualified teachers.

The educational system in the FCT, and to some extent, other parts of this country is that the teachers we have in our schools today are not trained to be teachers. What is the repercussion? It is just like your car has an engine problem and you are bringing a carpenter to fix it. It cannot work. We need to put a round peg in a round hole so that the educational sector, particularly in FCT, could grow.

I support this Motion and urge my hon. Colleagues to support it so that our children can smile when they become Members of the National Assembly or Presidents.

Hon. Emmanuel Yisa Orker-Jev: I do not think anybody would stand up on this Floor and speak against this Motion. Everybody wants their children or society to have decent education. That is what this Motion is all about.

Hon. Jagaba has made a point about quack teachers and all and when I saw this Motion my mind went back to two weeks ago. That day a Member raised a Motion on a Matter of Urgent Public Importance on *Planned Closure of About 500*

Schools. That Motion, in my opinion, was self-defeating and I was against it; but I was overruled by the majority.

The mover of the Motion said the schools were being closed down because they were of low quality and illegal. This House went ahead and passed the Motion in the guise of keeping employment. Today we are coming with another Motion complaining about the lack of quality. We are issuing contradictory signals with the authorities out there. This is a beautiful Motion. Now, they will say out there that this is the same House that stopped us from implementing policies that will bring the standard of education up. Today they are asking us to bring up the standard of education.

While I go along with those that are saying that we should pass this Motion, I advise we should be very careful in future.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Call on the Federal Government to strengthen the educational system in the FCT and the nation at large, for the betterment of all.
- (ii) Mandate the Committee on Federal Capital Territory, FCT Area Councils and Ancillary Matters, and Basic Education and Services to investigate the matter and report back to the House within three weeks.

Motion referred to the Committees on Federal Capital Territory Area (FCTA) Councils and Ancillary Matters, Basic Education and Services.

Mandatory Use of Life-Jackets and other Safety Gadgets in Maritime Travels

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the sixth Order of the day is a Motion on a *Call for Mandatory Use of Life-Jackets and other Safety Gadgets in Maritime Travels on Nigeria's Waterways*, standing in the name of Hon. Julius G. Pondi. He is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Pondi Julius G. (Burutu): I do move a Motion on a *Call for Mandatory Use of Life-Jackets and other Safety Gadgets in Maritime Travels on Nigeria's Waterways*.

The House:

Notes that in large part, maritime transportation within Nigeria has remained rudimentary and highly

indigenized with its attendant imperfections, risks and other challenges that bordered on safety and rescue in times of emergencies;

Concerned that the imperfections have lately been manifesting in frequent boat accidents on the waterways in the creeks of the Niger-Delta, the Lagos waters and on Rivers in the hinterlands;

Further notes that the casualties being recorded in maritime accidents are mainly as a result of those who travel on the waterways not wearing life jackets, even when it is generally acknowledged that the use of such jackets save lives when boats capsize.

Resolves to:

- (i) Call on the Federal Government to evolve a national policy on the use of life-jackets and other safety gadgets in maritime transportation in the country.
- (ii) Mandate the Committee on Maritime Safety, Education and Administration to conduct an investigative hearing on the frequency of maritime accidents in the country's waterways, and make recommendations on how to stem the tide with a view to improving on safety.
- (iii) Urge the Nigerian Navy, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the State Emergency Management Agencies to improve on their responses and rescue activities on the waterways during emergencies.
- (iv) Mandate the Committee on Justice to examine all extant laws guiding the maritime sector with a view to updating the legislations in order to improve on maritime security and safety.

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

Hon. Pondi Julius G: This is a very harmless Motion. What it tends to cure is the safety of travellers on our waterways. I was born in the riverine area and I know what it is like to travel on the waterways. It is just like our roads where the Road Safety Agency had successfully educated the people on the use of seatbelts. This also is what I am aligning with in this Motion. It should be a mandatory thing for everybody that is travelling in boat to put on lifejacket.

We have in recent times a lot of very sad stories of people who are travelling by river. With your kind permission, let me quickly run through some of those accidents that have claimed lives, particularly young people:

1. In November 2nd 2014, five persons got drowned in Ekeremor Local Government Area in Bayelsa State on their way back from PDP Congress.
2. November 25th, 2013, in Ayama in Ogba Local Government Area at least ten persons died in a boat mishap; four out of this number were undergraduates.
3. November 15th, 2015, eleven persons including the driver died in a boat mishap in Escravos River in Delta State.
4. 26th September, 2015 a nursing mother, her four-year old baby and two daughters all died in a boat mishap in Isoko Local Government Area in Delta State.
5. January 31st, 2016, seven persons were confirmed dead while eight others were missing in Lagos.
6. It also happened in Ijede, Ikorodu and Badagry area on the 29th of January and 6th of February 2016 respectively where nine persons lost their lives.
7. The nation also woke up in the early hours of 11th February this year to learn the death of seven school girls in a boat mishap in Jigawa State.
8. Also seventeen children, pupils of St. Mary's Nursery and Primary School and two women perished in Shibiri Ekonpa River in Lagos.

This Motion is calling on the operators of the marine sector, particularly as it concerns the use of speed boats and wooden boats, that the use of life-jackets should be mandatory so as to save lives. While this will not hundred per cent eradicate accident and loss of lives; it will go a very long way - more than eighty-five to ninety per cent - in reducing accidents on our waterways. In fact, when there are accidents, and the life-jacket is worn, the survival rate is about ninety-five per cent.

I urge us to support this important Motion at this point in time as it saves lives of our people in Nigeria.

Hon. Nnam-Obi Uchechukwu: I thank the Mover of this Motion. It is about boat mishaps; safety and lives of people, especially those who live around the riverine areas. We cannot overstate the importance of this. We know, like he rightly pointed out, that going through the roads meant three stages. Our waterways are under-developed and as such this Motion is timely. I support this Motion and its Prayers should be looked into, and urge my Colleagues to do the same thing.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: My dear Colleagues, Buruku is the name of a River and my Constituency is named after it; the river has no bridge over it. Year-in-year-out, we have many souls perished there because they are conveyed in boats to cross over on makeshifts arrangements. I understand entirely what this Motion is all about.

We take a lot of things for granted in this country. Lives are lost and nothing is done about it. I have had more than one occasion in the past to draw attention to the fact that we need a bridge over this river. While we wait for the bridge to come, I hope it will come one day; it is important as the Motion seeks that we make arrangements for people who are crossing rivers of this nature to have life-jackets. It is what should be taken as a matter of priority.

The other time it was a Senator whose boat capsized, and it attracted some publicity because of the personality involved; but after that everything went quite. I thank the mover of the Motion for drawing attention to this problem which I personally identify with because of the involvement of my area. I urge my Colleagues to support the Motion so that we will pass and do something about this problem.

Hon. Sunday Adeyemi Adepoju: Mine is in favour of the Motion on use of life jacket and other safety gadgets in maritime travelling in Nigeria water ways. This Motion is timely. We know that in Nigeria transportation by water is one of the fastest, faster than the road apart from that of the air. We are encouraging our people to use water ways; we have area that motor cannot pass because of lack of road and other things.

Like I said, water way is one of the fastest but we have lost a lot of lives in Lagos and some other areas. Why? This is because boats will continue to capsize, and there is nothing we can do against that. But how do we prevent the loss of lives and properties from the river accident? The only thing we can do is to encourage and make a law that will make it mandatory for everybody using that means of transportation to wear life jacket so as to save the life of innocent soul.

Many of our people are not aware of the importance of life jackets. It is like the issue of helmet that was made compulsory for everybody riding motorcycle (*Okada*, and that has saved a lot of lives in Lagos and other parts of Nigeria. The same thing will apply to this one, if we make it compulsory for everybody plying our waterways to use life jackets and some other gadgets. That way many lives would be saved. So, in order to save that situation from re-occurring, it is better to pass a law making it mandatory that anybody who wants to use this means of transportation should wear a lifejacket. I support the passage of this Motion.

Hon. Sergius Ose Ogun: I appreciate the Mover of this Motion, this is timely. Like Hon. Sunday just said, water transport is one of the fastest means of transportation and it is even much safer than travelling by road or air. We have complained about the need to fix our roads, and as it is today, we are talking about diversification of the economy; this is another way to generate income and employ people.

There is a need for the regulatory body to ensure that whoever is going to embark on the boat ride or vessel should wear life-vest. The example here is the oil companies, they insist you wear your jacket before you show up in any jetty and there are no records of accidents in this sector. We can do this in the public sector and I am sure besides the generating income and employing people, we are also going to save lives.

I am in support of this Motion and encourage everyone to support it too.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Call on the Federal Government to evolve a national policy on the use of life-jackets and other safety gadgets in maritime transportation in the country.
- (ii) Mandate the Committee on Maritime Safety, Education and Administration to conduct an investigative hearing on the frequency of maritime accidents in the country's waterways, and make recommendations on how to stem the tide with a view to improving on safety.
- (iii) Urge the Nigerian Navy, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the State Emergency Management Agencies to improve on their responses and rescue activities on the waterways during emergencies.

- (iv) Mandate the Committee on Justice to examine all extant laws guarding the maritime sector with a view to updating the legislations in order to improve on maritime security and safety.

Motion referred to the Committees on Maritime Safety, Education and Administration.

MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Improvement of Living Conditions of Babies Born and Living with their Mothers in Prisons

The Speaker: Dear Colleagues, since we are still on Motions, we will take this Matters of Urgent Public Importance first before we proceed with others. We have got two of them and the first one is from Hon. Omosede Igbinedion.

Hon. Igbinedion Omosede Gabriella (Ovia North East/South West): I come under VIII, Rule 46 on Matters of Urgent Public Importance. It is Call for the Improvement of Living Condition of Babies Born and Living with their Mothers in Prisons throughout the Federation. I pray we take it as matter of urgent public importance. I also pray we suspend the relevant Rules of the House to enable us take it now.

Hon. Onyereri Jones Victor Chukwudi: I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Omosede Igbinedion.

Question put and agreed to.

Hon. Timothy Samuel Golu (Paskshin/Kanke/Kanam): I second the Motion that the relevant Rules of the House be suspended to enable the matter be taken immediately.

Question put and agreed to.

Hon. Igbinedion Omosede Gabriella (Ovia North East/South-West): I move the Motion on A Call For Improvement of The Living Condition of Babies Born and Living with their Mothers in Prisons Throughout the Federation thus:

The House:

Notes that according to a report by the African Union on the Rights and Welfare of the Nigerian Child for 2013, a large number of children live in Nigerian prisons and detention centres throughout the Federation along with their imprisoned mothers;

Aware that doing time and nursing a baby can be emotionally stressful both for the mothers and the

babies, since many of the prisons lack basic facilities to cater for the female prisoners with their babies behind bars;

Disturbed that toddlers have become a common sight in Nigerian prisons because relations of many female inmates hardly bother to show up to check on them, as some female prisoners go to jail with their children if they are too young to be left alone and if there is nobody willing to take care of the child;

Further aware that many female persons in Nigeria are allowed to carry their pregnancy in jail and nurse their babies in the prisons while some of the women have their babies as young as two weeks old clutched to their chests when they are incarcerated – situation now often described as cradle injustice;

Concerned that the deplorable conditions of the prisons put the nursing mother in distress while a distressed mother-to-be impacts negatively on the unborn baby and threatens the survival and the physical and emotional development of the child;

Worried that many of the babies behind bars look unkempt and poorly fed while many are said to have died in jail for lack of adequate medical care;

Further concerned that the sight of unkempt looking babies in our prisons shames our sense of decency and strips us off our dignity as a nation.

Resolves to:

- (i) Call on the Prison authorities and the Ministry of Women Affairs to ensure that provisions are made for the feeding and welfare of babies born and living in prisons with their incarcerated mothers throughout the Federation.
- (ii) Call on the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria to help ensure the speedy trial of pregnant women and nursing mothers who are in jail awaiting trial.
- (iii) Mandate the House Committees on Interior and Women Affairs and Social Development to monitor compliance and report back to the House for further legislative action.

Hon. Oboro Evelyn Omavowan (Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Omosede Igbinedion.

Hon. Igbinedion Omosede Gabriella: As we are all aware, yesterday the global community

commemorated the International Women's Day. It is a day that was set aside by the United Nations to focus on respect and appreciation, justice and love towards the women. Nigeria being a member nation of the United Nations must, of course, not be left out as we duly celebrated International Women's Day just yesterday. I am by this Motion calling on all Nigerians to re-affirm our commitment to respect for the dignity of all Nigerian women with special focus on the most neglected yet delicate aspect of human life; babies born and living in prisons with their imprisoned mothers.

According to a report by the African Union and Welfare of the Nigerian Child, hundreds of children are in the Nigerian prisons and detention Centres throughout the Federation with their incarcerated mothers. It is noteworthy, whatever the numbers are, whether 50 or 20 or 1, that it is an anomaly for children to be in an unhygienic condition of detention facilities in Nigerian prisons. Many of these children are denied the chance of having a normal childhood, while others have even died in prisons due to lack of adequate medical care. Although it is generally argued that most infants accompany their mothers to the prisons because it is not advisable to separate a suckling child from his mother. The same reason is adopted for babies born in prisons by female detainees. The fact remains that this special class of inmates, pregnant detainees, nursing mothers and their children, must be given special consideration.

I urge the Nigerian government to begin to consider specific institutional strategies in handling these special classes of inmates who are vulnerable due to their special circumstance. The practice of allowing a female detainee to keep her baby up to 18 months gives room for bonding between mother and child. The infants are arguably exposed to medical risk due to unhygienic and unhealthy prison environment which negatively affects the child's health as well as that of the adult let alone the babies in prisons.

We all know how Nigerian prisons have acquired notoriety for infrastructural decay, overcrowding, poor sanitary conditions that the detainees are forced to live in. We recall that in August 2015, it was reported that a non-governmental organisation raised alarm about fifteen babies that were languishing in Imuahia Federal Prison in Abia State, South-East of Nigeria. We must come together to address this cradle injustice because a child born in prison is denied infancy attention and he is given, from day one, an opportunity to learn to hate, violate and other vices. I wonder what kind of future is expected of such a child!

It is heart-breaking to see an innocent in prison let alone an innocent mother and her child. These babies and their mothers are at the mercy of irregular visitors with donations to the prisons because there are no facilities, no toys, and no playgrounds for these babies. The babies are left with dull and despondent faces of their mothers who are depressed over the loss in their lives.

Finally, I urge all Nigerians to look at a whole week of International Women's Day and to do all we can to ameliorate the situation that these women find themselves in. The Ministry of Interior and Women Affairs and Social Development, the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria and other valuable authorities must come together for us to address this cradle injustice.

I urge this Hon. House to adopt the Prayers of this Motion.

Hon. Onyereri Chukwudi Victor Jones: I salute the courage of Hon. Omosede Igbinedion for bringing up this matter to the fore; it could only come from compassionate person. We are all aware, especially somebody like me who had cause to visit prisons. I have seen the deplorable state of our prisons and it is a cause for worry. I plead the indulgence of our Members to close their eyes for one second and imagine the deplorable state of our prisons and then imagine having these prisons to accommodate new born babies. This is very appalling! The situation remind us quickly that the major bone of contention is lack of funding to improve the living conditions of our prisons. The Comptroller-General of Prisons has said it severally that they have been compelled to deal with meagre resources, which impact little or nothing to improve the conditions of our prisons.

I thank God that Hon. Omosede has brought this up today and I implore all hon. Members to support this Motion and bring it to the attention of the Federal Government so that they would do the needful.

Hon. Agunsoye Oluwarotimi Ojo (Kosofe): I support the Motion that we should do something about the situation in our prisons. The reason is this; nobody knows what may happen to anybody tomorrow because no condition is permanent. If the laws of the land must be followed well, almost every Nigerian would have that place as a place of abode. It is very important that we support this Motion in all seriousness. If you compare the situation in our prison to that of advanced countries, you would know that it is not well taken care of at all. I appeal to you to please support the Motion.

Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma: I lend my voice to the Motion as it affects the true position of it. If I understand the Mover of the Motion, she is seeking a better improvement of the conditions of our prisons. I agree with Hon. Onyereri who had the benefit of visiting prisons, and sharing experience on the condition therein. The prison condition is not good and it is not a place to nurture kids.

The Mover of the Motion talked about children living in prisons for no fault of theirs. My worry is; were the mothers got into prison with pregnancy or got impregnated while in prisons? If they got pregnant while in prison, it also gives us the need to investigate how come; is that the level of indiscipline in prison? This is because prison supposed to be that you are in your cell; and female and male cells are separated. If an inmate would get pregnant and have twins while in prison, it means there are super activities going on between the inmate and warders or inmate and inmate. These are things that we need to understand.

We should have holistic approach to the fact that when we find children born in prison, they should be separated and taking good care of, while the mothers still serve their term. In line with the international standards, I agree with the Mover of the Motion that internationally prisoners do not get pregnant while they are in prison or police custody as the case may be. We need to ascertain this and do a holistic check.

I suggest that this House do thorough prison analysis and come up with proper reformation conditions. The in-thing now is prison-decongestion and justice-reforms of which prison is an integral part, and if we do not get the prison right we may not be running anything.

I support the Motion and we should take it as very important aspect of our reformation.

Hon. Adekunle Abdulkabir Akinlade (Egbado South/Ipokia): I support this Motion because I strongly believe that life, regardless where it is, it is life. I propose that any female convicted should be made to go through pregnancy test. We all know that our prisons are not what they should be; and for someone to have a delivery of child in prison, this is not ideal. If what we are trying to do is to use these facilities to keep people who have committed offences with hope that someday they would be rehabilitated back into the society; the female inmates who have infants are made to live in that environment, I wonder what kind of life these children would grow up to live!

In support of this position, I suggest that any female found guilty of an offence to be sent to

prison should be tested for pregnancy; if this does not affect their fundamental human rights because they might have a choice to go through the test or not. In order to avoid people having children in prisons, they should be compelled to go through pregnancy test which would confirm if the individual is pregnant or not. I believe that it is the person who committed the offence, not the life inside the person that is being imprisoned. If we do not carry out the test and that individual is sent to prison with a foetus growing up inside that person, it would have been misplaced of justice because we will be sending two individuals to prison rather than one.

In support of this Motion, I suggest any female person convicted should be made to go through pregnancy test. If that person is found to be pregnant, there should be a special facility created for the pregnant women not a normal prison. If nothing can be done about the crime the person has committed, a pregnant woman convicted can be put aside till delivery of her child and they should look for their relatives to take care of the child or take the child to any of the homes. After which the woman can be made to face full wrath of the law. We should not say because someone is pregnant and has committed an offence and she should escape justice. What we are saying is that we should consider the child inside that person and make sure that we put in place the right facilities. This is to make sure that females who committed an offence are put in prison but made to go through pregnancy test to confirm whether they are pregnant or not.

Hon. Toby Okechukwu (Aninri/Agwu/Oji-Uzo): My interest to speak on this Motion is further motivated by the fact it should be anchored on law. As a matter of fact, the Constitution of the Federal Government of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) states clearly in Section 42(2) that:

No citizen of Nigeria shall be subjected to any disability or deprivation merely by reason of the circumstances of his birth. Furthermore, in Chapter 2 of the Constitution, it states that every citizen shall have equality of rights, obligations and opportunities before the law.

Mr. Speaker, as we are all aware, no child is responsible for the circumstances of his birth. If for any reason you are given birth to by somebody who has offended under any section of our laws, you should not be punished advertently or inadvertently for it. I believe strongly that the argument for special facilities is further enhanced by the fact that

in so doing, we shall be aspiring and aiming to ensure that we do not offend our Constitution.

If for any reason a child comes into the world because any of his parents particularly the mother has committed a crime, we should not by our actions inadvertently or advertently punish the child. I believe that while passing this Motion and asking my Colleagues to support it, it is to avoid the situation where a child is punished unduly; and to avoid offending the provisions of our Constitution.

Hon. Anayo Nnebe (Awka North/Awka South): I support this Motion because of its value and impact it will make in the society. It is very clear that prison term is meant for both punitive and corrective measures. If a person is convicted and sent to prison, the person is on the one hand punished for the offence he or she must have committed and on the other hand made to be corrected to change his behavioural pattern.

A situation where a child that, on record, has never committed any offence is being punished is unfair, inhuman, and it should be condemned by everybody. The greatest problem we have here is inefficiency of the Social Welfare Departments in different States of the Federation. The ideal thing for the Social Welfare Department is to take care of children born within the prison custody yards. They ought to make arrangements for them to be kept in motherless babies' homes so that at the end of the jail term being served by the convict, the woman takes back her child and goes home, instead of leaving the children within the prison and then making them by extension prisoners.

My Colleague who mooted this idea has done a good job but we should try as much as possible to use this opportunity to call on the Federal Government to increase the living standard of prisoners; they are Nigerians and human beings. Like Hon. Jones rightly pointed out, having visited some prisons - not as a prisoner, he was able to see the deplorable condition of prison yards.

It is good and necessary that government should improve on the welfare of those prisoners because they are Nigerians. We have seen instances where people that have risen close to the highest point in the country ended up in prison. The prison is not meant only for the common thieves.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Call on the Prison authorities and the Ministry of Women Affairs to ensure that provisions are made for the feeding and

welfare of babies born and living in prisons with their incarcerated mothers throughout the Federation.

- (ii) Call on the Legal Aid Council of Nigeria to help ensure the speedy trial of pregnant women and nursing mothers who are in jail awaiting trial.

- (iii) Mandate the House Committees on Interior and Women Affairs and Social Development to monitor compliance and report back to the House for further legislative action.

Motion referred to the Committees on Interior, Justice and Women Affairs.

Urgent Need to Compel Distribution Companies Known as DISCOs to Install Prepaid Metering System

The Speaker: The next Matter of Urgent Public Importance is from Hon. Yunusa.

Hon. Yunusa Ahmad Abubakar: My Point of Order is Order VIII, Rule 46. I crave the indulgence of the House to take it as Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

The issue borders on exorbitant charges by the DISCOs popularly known as Distribution Companies all over the nation, charging electricity consumers exorbitantly without being served. I pray also that the relevant Rules of the House be suspended to enable me take it now.

Hon. Zubairu Abdulmalik Bungudu (Bungudu/Maru): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Yunusa Abubakar that the matter is urgent.

Question put and agreed to.

Hon. Nwokolo Victor Onyemaechi (Ika North East/Ika South): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Yunusa Abubakar that the matter be taken immediately.

Question put and agreed to.

The Speaker: Hon. Yunusa, please move your Motion.

Hon. Yunusa Ahmad Abubakar: The Motion is on the Urgent Need for Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to compel the Distribution Companies known as DISCOs to install prepaid metering system to all electricity consumers.

The House:

Notes that the issue of Pre-paid meters has remained a mere lip service by the authorities concerned;

Further notes that average electricity consumers are frequently complaining of high charges as far as the billing system is concerned;

Observes that the NERC has remained adamant and refused to pay attention to the complaints of electricity consumers by not addressing the issue as it is supposed to be;

Aware that the DISCOs are targeting high revenue by charging consumers through a system of estimating billing and it is erroneous;

Further aware that these Pre-paid meters were procured by some DISCOs but they refused to install them as promised sometimes last year for mischief purpose;

Worried again that an average electricity consumer has to pay exorbitant cost for these meters: Single Phase – ₦23,000 earlier, Now ₦49,000; Three Phase – ₦49,000 earlier, Now ₦69,000;

Disturbed by the claims of the DISCOs that the pre-paid meters are not the property of the consumers;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the NERC to compel and direct DISCOs to install these meters immediately and free of charge.
- (ii) Mandate the House Committee on Power to ensure compliance and report back to this honourable House in four weeks.

If I am permitted by the leave of the House to lead the debate, I will throw more light.

Hon. Ayuba Mohammed Bello (Jere): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Yunusa Ahmad Abubakar.

The Speaker: Hon. Yunusa, please lead the debate but you are busy debating with some Members there. Hon. Rotimi, you have the Floor.

Hon. Agunsoye Oluwarotimi Ojo: The job of government is to ensure that life is meaningful to the masses. I could recollect that there was a time in the history of this country, not too far away, when meter was given to individuals free of charge because meters belong to Federal Government. I see no reason for consumers to pay for meter because it is

still the government that owns the meter. We are supposed to alleviate the problems of the masses and not elevate it.

I am supporting this Motion that, they should bring the amount they are charging now down to what they were charging before. It is not only that; there was a time the DISCOs were told not to raise the tariff, I still wonder why they are still talking about raising the tariff. We are in government to please the masses and not to please ourselves. We should know that the masses we are serving are the people suffering and not the people in government.

If you go out there, there are houses where Power Holding Company of Nigeria is not able to collect their money; if they move round and collect all these monies that people owed, they will be able to do the needful. I am supporting the Motion and I appeal that we should all support it.

Hon. Solomon Bulus Maren: I support this Motion and call on all hon. Colleagues to support it. This is due to the fact that it will go a long way to elevate the lives of our people back home.

The Nigerian Electricity Regulation Commission is fond of allowing the distribution companies to do whatever they like. You are buying a meter that still belongs to the companies, people who have bought transformers are paying for transformers; and people who have gotten meters for many years do not know how their charges are being made, most especially the analogue meters. In many areas, the analogue meters are still the ones they are using.

There is a need for us, as a House, to ensure that our Committee on Legislative Compliance go out there and ensure compliance. We have moved many Motions on the Floor of this House pertaining to these electricity Distribution Companies and the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission. If we do not do something very urgent, definitely our people back home will continue to suffer because of these irregularities that are happening.

Once more, I appeal that hon. Members should support this Motion in full force so that we can have it as Nigerians would want it.

Hon. Namdas Abdulrazak Sa'ad (Mayo Belwa/Ganye/Jada/Toungo): I support this Motion. First and foremost, last year, this House had a Motion asking NERC not to increase the electricity tariff. In fact some few months ago, the Senate urged NERC not to increase the tariff but NERC blatantly went ahead and increased it. We know that NERC is also in business having been privatized so also are the DISCOs.

The Parliament said they needed to consult with the relevant stakeholders before this tariff would be increased. The problem we are facing right now is that, tariff has increased but electricity is not seen. Our people are really complaining that even the infrastructure, sometimes it is the customers that even buy the infrastructure, get the poles to their houses, yet they become properties of the DISCOs and not the individuals’.

Although we are made to understand that customers can seek for claims and be refunded but these are not done. Therefore it is very important that NERC reviews downward the tariff so that people can afford to pay for the service. There is no need paying for what you do not get. Truly speaking, if Nigerians keep paying for the electricity tariff increase and yet they do not see light, some may even vandalize their properties and they are in business to make money too. It is very important that they realise that we can only pay for the services given to us. It is important that they review downward the tariff so that Nigerians can be able to afford it.

Hon. Isiaka Ayokunle Ibrahim (Ifọ/Ewekoro):
It is very unfortunate and most inexplicable that people who were not ready to put in their money and invest in the Nigerian electricity were allowed to purchase PHCN/NEPA across the country. I have had privilege to interview some of the staff; all that they are doing currently is just on how to recoup their investment by way of using the helpless Nigerians to reinvest indirectly in the same property they had purchased. It is not that they are putting in extra money. As I speak publicly, the very town I was born, after two years, I have had cause to purchase transformer by myself for that community because they have been in blackout for two years. I am sure the same applies to many of the hon. Members in this Chamber.

We cannot have excuse for those who are already metered, those they have given their metering system. What about the helpless Nigerians that do not have meters and are charged exorbitantly? At times in a month, they may not have light and at the end of the month, they are still billed exorbitantly.

I appeal not only with this contribution but to contribute to what the hon. Member said with due respect, that they should be invited to explain to this honourable House their investment portfolio. They are also to tell us what they have reinvested into what they had purchased in this country. I believe all they are doing is recouping or profiteering and taking advantage of helpless Nigerians, especially those who are not commercialised in their activities.

This is part of what is crippling the economy of this country because without energy, our helpless youths, those who are barbers, hairdressers cannot do their businesses. These people are not reinvesting into the portfolio they had purchased, instead they are after recouping their money at the expense of hopeless and helpless Nigerians as far as energy consumption is concerned. I wholeheartedly support the Motion.

I seek your support to see how we can help our helpless Nigerians, especially the youths; how we can stimulate this economy and Government too can help us. I do not know why that sector is not regulated up till now. We have gas available everywhere. The gas they are flaring every day is more than 300 standard cubic feet. They can allow the IOCs to take advantage of this and give, through their respective turbines, energy to the States in their environment. The remaining ones, those of hydro, can now be injected into the national grid. We should not concentrate everything in the hands of the Federal Government, it will not work. Private investors should be encouraged to come to this country and invest heavily with the utilisation of alternative energies.

We have that of gas and at the same time, we also have the other ones. We should disintegrate from national grid and allow private investors to come and help us out. This will help us to ensure that those who have purchased these companies will be in highly competitive advantage with other investors and then we can have electricity in all nooks and crannies of the country.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Urge the NERC to compel and direct DISCOs to install these meters immediately and free of charge.
- (ii) Mandate the House Committee on Power to ensure compliance and report back to this honourable House in four weeks.

Motion referred to the Committee on Power.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Report on the Illegal Removal of the Speaker, Kogi State House of Assembly

The Speaker: The seventh Order of the day is the consideration of Report of the House Delegation to Kogi State on the Illegal Removal of the Speaker, Kogi State House of Assembly.

Hon. Members will recall that the Report was laid on Thursday, 3rd March, 2016. Hon Pally Iriase will move its consideration.

Hon. Iriase Pally Isumafe Obokhuiame (Owan East/West): I move that the House do consider the Report of the House of Delegation to Kogi State on the Illegal Removal of the Speaker, Kogi State House of Assembly and approve the Recommendations therein.

Hon. Ashiru Aminu Mani (Bindawa/Mani): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Iriase Pally.

Question put and agreed to.

**Report on Federal Audit Service Commission
Act 2004 (Repeal/Re-enact) Bill, 2015**

The Speaker: The eight Order of the day is the consideration of a Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation, Provide for Additional Powers and Functions to the Office, Establish the Federal Audit Service Commission; Repeal the Audit Act of 1956, the Public Accounts Committees Act, Cap. P35, LFN, 2004 and Re-enact the Federal Audit Service Bill, 2015; and for Other Matters Related Thereto. Honourable Members would recall that the Bill was committed to the Committee of Whole on Tuesday 15th December, (HB. 107) 2015. Hon. Orker-Jev would move for its consideration.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I move for the consideration of a Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation, Provide for Additional Powers and Functions to the Office, Establish the Federal Audit Service Commission; Repeal the Audit Act of 1956, the Public Accounts Committees Act, Cap. P35, LFN, 2004 and Re-enact the Federal Audit Service Bill, 2015; and for Other Matters Related Thereto.

Hon. Zakari Mohammed (Baruten/Kaima): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Orker-Jev.

Question put and agreed to.

**Report of the Chartered Institute of Public
Management of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill,
2016**

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the 9th Order of the day is consideration of a Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Public Management of Nigeria, to provide for the Control of its Membership and to promote the Practice of Public Management in Nigeria and for Other matters Connected Therewith (HB. 78) 2016. Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was committed to

the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, 16th February, 2016. Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga will move for its consideration.

Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga (Abakaliki/Izzi): I move for the consideration of a Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Public Management of Nigeria, to provide for the Control of its Membership and to promote the Practice of Public Management in Nigeria and for other matters Connected Therewith (HB. 78) 2016.

Hon. Edionwele Joseph E. (Esan Central/ Esan West/Igubeben): I second the Motion as moved by Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga.

Question put and agreed to.

Hon. Jibril Umar Buba (Lokoja/Kogi (KK)): I move that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the reports.

Hon. Iriase Pally Isumafe Obokhuiame: I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Jibril Buba.

Question put and agreed to.

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

**Report of the House Delegation to Kogi State
on the Illegal Removal of the Speaker, Kogi State
House of Assembly - CONSIDERED IN THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

The Chairman: Hon. Colleagues, the first Report to be considered is on Kogi State House of Assembly. I now call on the leader of that high-powered delegation, Hon. Pally Iriase, to give us insight into the report.

Hon. Iriase Pally Isumafe Obokhuiame: Our respected Chairman will recall that this report arises from the visitation of the House delegation to Kogi State. This is sequel to the Motion that was moved by Hon. Karimi Steve Sunday on the alleged illegal removal of the Speaker of Kogi State House of Assembly. This is with a view to ascertaining the purported removal of the Speaker and looking into the affairs of the Kogi State House of Assembly; all aimed at restoring normalcy in the House and to ensure adherence to the Rule of Law and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Findings:

We visited Kogi State and had interface with all the stakeholders except the Group of 5 that also prevented the Clerk of the House from appearing before us. Their claim then was that they were in court. Indeed they told us that they had an injunction

preventing this House of Representatives from carrying out the resolution that was passed.

We gave them the opportunity because I sent a text message to their leader to please come and avail us of the injunction but rather they chose to absent themselves from the interactive session that we had with the Governor, the security agencies and the Group of 15. Now, it became clear in the course of our fact-findings that Kogi State House of Assembly has been unable to sit lawfully since the 16th of February, 2016.

Mr. Speaker, to digress a little by saying that even though the press had been agog with stories that certain members of the House are sitting today, you and I know that Parliament is not well constituted when you have to bring armoured tanks and surround them with the security agents, preventing Members who have the mandate of their people to represent them. Also what has kept the place peaceful is the timely Motion and resolution of this House. What happened was that all other stakeholders, particularly the majority Members of the House had kept their gunpowder dry, waiting respectfully for what the House of Representatives would do. That is why so far we have not heard of a blowout and not heard of people being injured and that is why we are here today.

The other issue we must report to you is that it is incontrovertible that there was no sitting on the day that the Speaker of the House was purportedly removed. What simply happened was that the Group of 5 under heavy escort of security men went to the premises of the House of Assembly met in an hon Member's office, then came out and invited the press, telling the world that they had changed leadership.

According to our findings, Kogi State is quite volatile because there are lots of factors playing out right there. Due to the current situation with the Executive – Governor; a situation has arisen where both the Governor and the Speaker are from the same local government; and all of them are in agreement quietly that there would be a re-shuffle but never expected that this thing will be done without allowing the members among themselves to carry out whatever changes that are necessary. This is the reason for this crisis.

We have indicated in our findings that the Speaker that was purportedly removed needed to have behaved like a true parliamentarian, his action led to some of the aspects of this crisis that we are talking about. What we gathered from him has been documented.

We have equally condemned the action of the Group 5 Members because we owe it a duty to preserve the integrity of the institution of the legislature at whatever level. No amount of self-interest should make anybody bring the institution of legislature to odium.

Recommendation:

Following all that we have gathered from oral and written pieces of evidence, we came up with one recommendation which looks like a second recommendation; it is an advice that could have come in the body of our findings. The only thing that will make us prevent Kogi State from bloodshed on this matter is to invoke the provisions of Section 11(4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

That is why we have recommended that in view of the fact that Kogi State House of Assembly cannot perform its legislative functions due to the intractable crisis and the volatile security situation in the State, the National Assembly should invoke the powers conferred on it by Section 11(4) of the Constitution the Federal Republic of Nigeria to take over the legislative functions of the State House of Assembly, pending the restoration of normalcy in the Assembly. That is our submission.

The Chairman: There are two recommendations but the leader of the delegation has informed us that the second recommendation is already deleted.

Recommendation (1):

That in view of the fact that Kogi State House of Assembly cannot perform its legislative functions due to the intractable crisis and the volatile security situation in the State, the National Assembly should invoke the powers conferred on it by Section 11 (4) of the Constitution the Federal Republic of Nigeria to take over the legislative functions of the State House of Assembly pending the restoration of normalcy in the Assembly – *agreed to*.

Amendment proposed

The Speaker: Hon. Ayo Omidiran, you can now propose your amendment to the recommendation. There is one recommendation for this Report.

Hon. Ayo Omidiran (Ayedaade/Irewole /Isokan): In view of the report and explanation of the leader of the delegation, I believe that there should be an addition to the Recommendation thus:

The delegation after considering the circumstances of the purported impeachment

declares the impeachment of the Speaker null and void.

This is because they went there and got all the information, even though they said there was a breach of peace; but at least the institution of legislature must be protected wherever. If they have seen that what transpired till that day did not constitute an impeachment, it should be stated clearly in their report.

Hon. Azodo Eucharía (Aguata): I second the amendment proposed by Hon. Ayo Omidiran.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Amendment proposed

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/Isoko South): I believe what is worth doing, is worth doing well. My recommendation is very straightforward:

Condemn the embarrassing action of the Group 5 in clear violation of Section 92(c) of the 1999 Constitution as amended.

Section 92(c):

- If he is removed from office by a resolution of the House of Assembly by the votes of not less than two-thirds majority of all the members of the House.

In line with the action taken by the honourable Members, the word *honourable*; for five people to impeach the Speaker in line with the findings of that recommendation is absurd. It negates the clear spirit and intent Section 92 of the Constitution; and offends the essence of legislating. Such a dirty or unacceptable action should be first and foremost be condemned.

My additional Prayer here, if the House will accept, is to:

Condemn the embarrassing action of the five Members in clear violation of Section 92 (c) of the 1999 Constitution as amended.

Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga: I second the amendment proposed by Hon. Leonard

Amendment put and agreed to.

Hon. Elendu-Ukeje Nnenna Ijeoma: I want a clarification that borders me on this matter. I agree whole heartedly with my Leader but with reference to numbers 6 and 7. It is not contained in one of the

resolutions but it is contained within the body. With your permission, I read:

No. 6 says:

It is unacceptable for five Members to have attempted to remove the Speaker in the House currently constituted of twenty members and the five Members did not sit in the Chambers of the House of Assembly to perform their legislative functions.

No. 7 says:

It is condemnable that the group of five led by Hon. Umaru Imam could rely on a non-existence injunction to attempt to scuttle the constitutional functions of the House of Assembly when they were fully aware of the visit of House of Representatives.

While it is not a recommendation but was captured within the body; I do not disagree with my Leader in any way but because he said what is worth doing, is worth doing well. I agree it was not captured but was within the body.

The Chairman: It is part of the narrative of the report and so to make it a recommendation has potency. What the Leader has done is more appropriate than the part of the report that we are considering and thank you for the observation. There is additional recommendation by Hon. Bode Ayorinde.

Amendment proposed

Hon. Olabode O. Ayorinde (Owo/Ose): My own additional recommendation is on the role played by the Police. If you will look at page 8 of the report, paragraph 4.4; and with the permission of Mr. Chairman I read:

The Assistant Commissioner of Police, David Dantata Dangiwa, ACP, OPS, the Chief Security Officer attached to the State House of Assembly presented as follows:

That some Members approached him in the premises of State House of Assembly with an unsigned paper that the Speaker has been impeached, which he reported to the former State Commissioner of Police. He was ordered to tow the Speaker's official vehicle to the Government House and withdraw the policemen attached to him, which he complied with.

In all the times, whether Oyo or Ekiti State or in this instance, the Police has always played a role which appears subverting the position of the Constitution. When a few Members of the House will have the command of the police, when they know the law; police officers are supposed to uphold the Constitution, to protect the law and to protect those who are obeying the law. Rather, for whatever reason, the Police will always be found wanting at situations like this.

The Chairman: What is your additional recommendation?

Hon. Olabode Ayorinde: The additional recommendation being proposed is that:

The House condemns the role played by the Nigerian Police Force in subverting the provisions of the Constitution; by providing cover for only five Members of the 20 Members House of Assembly to comment illegality.

Hon. Oker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: It is just to correct the fact that inadvertently presented. This is because five out of twenty forms a quorum. What I understand is that Kogi State House of Assembly has 25 Members.

Several honourable Members: They cannot form a quorum.

Hon. Oker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: You are not getting me; he said that five out of twenty, what I am saying is that Kogi State House of Assembly has twenty five (25) Members, if you do not state that correctly, it means that what they did was correct.

The Chairman: The Chairman Rules and Business was trying to achieve two things. Firstly, to let the public know that Kogi State House of Assembly has 25 Members, that should be corrected. Secondly, he wants to take the issue of quorum, five (5) out of twenty (20) does not form a quorum, it should be 6 that is one third (1/3), 1/3 of that should be about 7, so he is trying to cure those ills.

Hon. Kayode Oladele (Egbado North/Imeko Afon): I second the amendment proposed as amended by Hon. Ayorinde.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Amendment proposed

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor: In view of the fact that we have taken over the House, it becomes important to make further recommendation,

knowing clearly that they might decide to violate the laws again:

Direct the Inspector-General of Police to seal up the Assembly until we decide that there is peace in the place so that we can handover to that particular State.

The Inspector-General of Police needs to seal up the place and put in police from Abuja here to make sure that place is properly guided, then we can now carry on with the legislative business of Kogi State.

The Chairman: Before we second that Amendment, I want us to get it clarified that the Minority Leader said: *in view of the fact that we have taken over* - if that is not emphasized, people can misquote us in future and go to legislative houses and begin to seal it up. So in view of the fact that we have sealed up the Kogi House of Assembly, then that action is now required.

Hon. Obinna Chidoka (Idemili North/Idemili South): I second the amendment proposed by the Minority Leader that we so direct the Inspector-General of Police.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Amendment proposed

The Chairman: Additional recommendation is coming from Hon. Rotimi Agunsoye

Hon. Agunsoye Oluwarotimi Ojo: I am recommending that if there is a way the Clerk of the House can be punished, he should be punished to serve as deterrent for others because without the Clerk, the five Members would not have been able to sit; that is my recommendation.

The Chairman: Hon. Agunsoye, if you listen to your Colleagues, your recommendation borders on administrative sanction. Will you like to withdraw it or we put it to vote.

Hon. Agunsoye Oluwarotimi Ojo: That is why I said, if there is a way the Clerk can be punished. I hereby withdraw it.

Amendment with leave of the House withdrawn

The Chairman: We are done with the recommendations I have. Hon. Pondi, do you have additional recommendation? It is not here with me. You can propose it.

Amendment proposed

Hon. Pondi Julius: Yes, Mr. Chairman. My recommendation is from paragraph 4.4 which states that –

Some honourable Members approached him in the premises of the State House of Assembly with an unsigned paper that the Speaker had been impeached.

He ordered to tow the Speaker's official vehicle, also to withdraw the policemen attached to the Speaker.

Mr. Chairman, if we have agreed here, that the impeachment is uncalled for, it is void and invalid. Then the Speaker remains the Speaker. I do recommend that this House reinstate the security attached to the Speaker.

The Chairman: Honestly, we do not have to belabour this report. The additional recommendations that have been made are sufficient and we have taken over the House. We can do whatever we like in the course of administering that House, particularly in making laws for them. Let us stop at that in order not to water down those recommendations we have made. The recommendations are sufficient, the report is good and we do not have to belabor issues.

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation, Provide for Additional Powers and Functions to the Office, Establish the Federal Audit Service Commission; Repeal the Audit Act of 1956, the Public Accounts Committees Act, Cap, P35, LFN 2004 and Re-enact the Federal Audit Service Bill, 2015, and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 107) – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE

The Chairman: The next is a Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation.

I now call on the Chairman of the Committee Rules and Business who is the Sponsor of the Bill to give us insight into the Report.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: This Bill was sponsored in the Seventh Assembly by Senator Uche Ekwunife. It was passed during the dying days of the Seventh Assembly, unfortunately it was not assented to by the then President. Due to the importance of the subject matter, I was approached and asked to take over and see to it that the beautiful work that was done in respect to this Bill do not go to waste.

In pursuant to Order XII, Rule 94, this Bill was passed to Committee of the Whole. There are lots of benefits, Section 85(6) gives autonomy to the Auditor-General of the Federation in a general way but unlike other African countries, including Ghana, South Africa and even the youngest country in the world that is South Sudan, their Parliament has given enabling laws to the office of the Auditor-General. Nigeria does not have such enabling law, hence the need for this Bill to be passed into law.

What are the benefits? Nigeria is always and consistently rated very high on the list of corrupt countries and one of the reasons given is that there is no enabling law given sufficient autonomy to the Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation who is seen as an anti-corruption body. Therefore, Nigeria is seen as a country without accountability and transparency in the conduct of government business. There is no investors' confidence in our economy largely because people believe that investing in an economy and in a country like ours where there is no accountability will go to waste.

Therefore the Bill is meant to facilitate the independence of the Auditor-General for the Federation, and gives him larger powers. Section 85(6) gives the omnibus powers but this Bill goes to the specifics and gives specifics powers to make sure that the Auditor-General recruits, promotes and disciplines its staff as practised in other jurisdiction. What is happening here is that the Federal Civil Service Commission does the recruiting, promotion and discipline. As things stand today, the Auditor-General cannot restructure his office except with the approval of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation.

If we pass this Bill into law, it will reposition the Office of the Auditor-General for efficient service delivery. This will be achieved through recruitment of competent hands as at when needed. If we pass this Bill, the Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation will be rated by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institution as one of the Supreme Audit Institutions that are truly independent.

It will then enable the Office to be graded to level three. We are currently seen as between levels one and two. With this rating, the Office will be recognised by international bodies like the United Nations, African Union, Economic Community of West African Countries, European Union, and others. That is already happening with countries like Ghana and South Africa. It will also pave ways for the Audit of Nigerian's contribution to supranational institutions like ECOWAS, and others. Ghana and South Africa are already doing

that and Nigeria does not have an enabling law to carry out such an audit.

The Bill brings about auditing the finances of office the Office of the Auditor-General itself, therefore it is not immune to being audited. It is a demonstration of genuine commitment of the Office of the Auditor-General to fight against corruption in Nigeria. Donor agencies will be ready more than ever before to assist the Office of Auditor-General.

Those are the highlights of the benefits that will accrue to Nigerians if we pass this Bill into law. Like I have said, this House had already sat and passed it into law and we have brought it back without any amendment. I therefore urge my Hon. Members to look dispassionately at this and once again pass it into law for submission to the Executive arm of Government for approval.

The Chairman: I thank you very much Chairman Rules and Business. So let us begin to consider the Bill Clause by Clause.

Clause 1 – (OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL FOR THE FEDERATION) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 2 – (QUALIFICATION OF AUDITOR-GENERAL AND DEPUTY AUDITOR-GENERAL) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 3 – (PROCEDURE FOR APPOINTMENT FOR AUDITOR-GENERAL) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 4 – (SALARY) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 5 – (TENURE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 6 – (CESSATION OF OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 7 – (REMOVAL OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON GROUNDS OF MISCONDUCT) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 8 – (ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE OF THE OFFICE) - ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 9 – (FUNCTIONS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL) –

Question proposed

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: When this Bill went to the Public Hearing, the experts told us the benefit that was in line with the international best practices; that is why it is included as one of the recommendations and we should allow it. The benefit of having Public Hearing is to have inputs from experts on that field. I am not the one but that is what they have said.

The Chairman: You do not give information. You can only come on Point of Order. Chairman Rules and Business, what I would have expected you to say is that the Sponsor of this Bill in the 7th Assembly was the Chairman of Committee on Environment, as she was coming from that background. I would not even see what environment has to do with financial matters. Hon. Shehu Garba is right. You are now formally recognised to move that particular item be deleted.

Amendment proposed

Hon. Shehu Nicholas Garba (Jemaa/Sanga): I move that recommendation 9(e) be expunged from this Report so that recommendation (f) and the subsequent recommendations are adjusted accordingly.

Hon. Sunday Adeyemi Adepoju: I second the amendment as moved by Hon. Shehu Garba.

Hon. Shuaibu Abdulrahman Abubakar (Miaha/Mubi North/Mubi South): Mr. Chairman, I have a Point of Order.

The Chairman: When a question is seconded or about to be seconded you cannot put a Point of Order. We have to decide on this question first before you raise a Point of Order. Is it on this same issue?

Hon. Shuaibu Abdulrahman Abubakar: Yes.

The Chairman: All right, let me have it, if it is on the same issue.

Hon. Shuaibu Abdulrahman Abubakar: I am coming under Order VIII, Rule 47, Matter on Personal Explanation. It is just information. The office of Auditor-General recently carried out environmental audit on Lake Chad. This is very important for us to know. You can take decision whether to expunge or allow it but they have done audit of Lake Chad recently.

The Chairman: Who did the audit?

Hon. Shuaibu Abdulrahman Abubakar: It is the Office of the Auditor-General.

Hon. Iriase Pally Isumafe Obokhuame: Hon. Shuaibu Abubakar is mixing up audit of Lake Chad Commission with environmental audit.

Hon. Shuaibu Abdulrahman Abubakar: It is not audit of Lake Chad Commission. It is Environmental Audit of Lake Chad.

Hon. Munir Babba Dan'Agundi (Kumbotso): The audit they carried out was on the five million Dollars Nigeria gave for the visibility studies.

Hon. Shuaibu Abdulrahman Abubakar: It is not financial audit, it was environmental audit. You can call the office of the Auditor-General to confirm. They did the environmental audit of Lake Chad.

The Chairman: We have all agreed that what we are considering here is the office of the Auditor-General and we saw an input that was not appropriate. Motion on it has been moved and seconded to be deleted; it is now left for the House to take a decision on it.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Clause 9 (e) – (CARRYING OUT ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT) - deleted

Clause 10 – (POWERS OF AUDITOR-GENERAL) - ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 11 – (ISSUANCE OF SUMMONS AND WARRANT OF ARREST) – ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 12 – (INDEPENDENCE OF AUDITOR-GENERAL) – ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 13 – (INTERNAL AUDIT REPORTS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 14 – (OPERATIONS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill

Clause 15 – (PROCEDURE) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 16 – (AUDITING STANDARDS AND CODE OF ETHICS) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 17 – (SPECIFIC ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN AUDIT OF MDAs ETC. ACCOUNT) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 18 – (AUDIT OF PUBLIC MONEY IN PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS AND BODIES) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 19 – (REPORTING OF FRAUD) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

Clause 20 – (REFERENCE TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY) – ordered to stand part of the Bill.

The Chairman: In view of the fact that some people do not have this Report, because of its sensitivity, also being bulky in nature, I suspend consideration of this Report till other legislative day so that we can consider the one we have.

Chairman Rules and Business, I have not recognised you, this Report has been approved up to Clause 20, and you will make provision for it on the Order Paper tomorrow to enable us continue its consideration.

Further Consideration of the Report Suspended till next legislative day.

A Bill for an Act to establish the Chartered Institute of Public Management of Nigeria to provide for the control of its Membership and to promote the practice of public Management in Nigeria and for other purposes connected therewith (HB. 78) 2016– CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE.

The Chairman: The next Report is on a Bill for an Act to establish the Chartered Institute of Public Management of Nigeria to provide for the control of its Membership and to promote the practice of public Management in Nigeria.

Several Hon. Members: We do not have the Report.

The Chairman: Dear Colleagues, in order to make sure a good job is done, this Report too is going to be slated for another legislative day. Also in view of the fact that members do not have the Report and those who have are just getting the report now.

Further Consideration of the Report Suspended, till next legislative day.

Hon. Jibril Umar Buba: I move that we do revert to Plenary to report progress.

Hon. Iriase Pally Isumafe Obokhuame: I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Jibril Umar Buba.

Question put and agreed to.

(The Deputy Speaker resumed the Chair)

Report and Adoption

The Deputy Speaker: The House in the Committee of Whole considered the Report of House Delegation to Kogi State on the Illegal Removal of Kogi State Speaker House Assembly and approved *Recommendation (i) and four Additional Recommendations.*

The House in the Committee of Whole considered the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Office of Auditor-General for the Federation, provides for additional powers and functions of the office, establish Federal Audit Service Commission, Repeal the Audit Act of 1956 the Public Accounts Committee Act Chapter B35 LFN 2004 and Re-Enact the Federal Audit Service Bill 2015 and other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 78) 2016: *Approved Clause 6 (1) to (8); Deleted Clause 9 (1) (e); and Approved Clauses 10 to 20.*

Further Consideration of the Report deferred.

The House in the Committee of the Whole suspended the Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Public Management of Nigeria to provide for the Control of its Membership and to promote the Practice of Public Management in Nigeria and for other Purposes Connected Therewith and deferred consideration of the Report.

Hon. Jibril Umar Buba: I move that House do adopt the Report of the House in the Committee of the Whole.

Hon. Iriase Pally Isumafe Obokhuiame: I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Jibril Umar Buba.

Question put and agreed to.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Jibril Umar Buba: I move that the House do adjourn Plenary till tomorrow Thursday 10th March 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

Hon. Iriase Pally Isumafe Obokhuiame: I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Jibril Umar Buba.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till tomorrow Thursday 10th March 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.10 p.m.