

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Thursday, 19th May, 2016

The House met at 11.11 a.m.

PRAYER

(The Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: Hon. Members, because the Votes and Proceedings is so bulky today, it has not been completed and it will soon be circulated. I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 18th May, 2016.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors at the Gallery:

Student of Astute Montessori Schools, LEA and Primary Education, Kusako District, Kuje, Abuja

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, we have in the Gallery, students of Astute Montessori Schools, LEA and Primary Education, all the way from Kusako District, Besides Union Homes Estate, Kuje, Abuja. Could you please, give them a round of applause? *(Applause)*

(Student rose for recognition).

Student of St. Philips Academy (Philiplans), Mararaba, Nassarawa State

The Speaker: Also in the Gallery are students of St. Philips Academy, from Mararaba. Could you rise up for recognition? *(Student rose for recognition).*

Thank you for coming and kindly take your seats.

Students of Oak High School, Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Primary Schools, Sabon-Lugbe, FCT, Abuja

The Speaker: Also in the Gallery, are students of Oak High School, Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Primary Schools, from Sabon-Lugbe, FCT, Abuja.

Could you please, rise for recognition? They are there; a round of applause for them. *(Applause)*
(Student rose for recognition).

Thank you for coming. Kindly take your seats.

Reminder of Final Funeral: Chief Mrs. Comfort Omowumi Fakeye

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, on a sad note, there is a request for announcement in Plenary of the final funeral arrangements of the mother of Hon. Femi Fakeye. It reads thus:

This is to request that you use your good offices to announce a reminder to our honourable Colleagues that the final funeral rites for my late mother, Chief (Mrs) Comfort Omowumi Fakeye would come up on Saturday, May 28th, 2016 at her home town in Ila, Osun State.

It will be appreciated if Members could signify at the signing Desk, their intention to attend the ceremony, so that adequate preparations are put in place to facilitate the logistics associated with their travel arrangements.

Announcer
Hon. Femi Fakeye

Notice of the Demise of Hajiya Hadiza Murtala Matauzu

The Speaker: There is communication from our Colleague, Hon. Ibrahim Danmazari Murtala, which reads thus:

With gratitude to Almighty God, I formally announce to you the demise of my beloved mother, Hajiya Adisa Murtala Matauzu, who passed away on the 17th of May, 2016.

She was buried according to Islamic rites yesterday in Matauzu, Katsina State. The Fidau prayers will Insha Allah take place on the 20th May, 2016 at the same venue. The event of your inability to attend the Fidau prayers, I will appreciate your prayers for her soul.

Thank you.

Announcer
Hon. Ibrahim Danmazari Murtala

The Speaker: As the custom of the House; could you please, rise for a minute silence in honour of our Colleague's late mother?

(A minute silence accordingly observed).

May her gentle soul rest in perfect peace! Amen.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

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

Neglect of Mr. Adeleke Kehinde by Power Holdings Company (PHCN)

Hon. Agunsoye Oluwarotimi Ojo (Kosofe): Mr. Speaker, I have a Petition from Mr. Adeleke Kehinde of 442 Ikorodu Road, Ojota, who is a member of my constituency. He is a staff of PHCN, Ikeja Distribution Company. He got electrocuted in 2013 and as he was promised by PHCN, that he would be given movable hands. His two hands were cut from the hospital. I have his photograph here; you can see the man without his two hands. He said in his Petition that PHCN has reneged on its agreement with him.

So, with the kind permission of the Speaker, I will like to lay the Petition before you.

The Speaker: Please, proceed and lay the Petition.

(Petition laid)

Breach of Trust

Hon. Oboro Evelyn Omavowan (Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie): Mr. Speaker, I have three Petitions to present to this honourable House. First among the three is a Petition from the Chambers of Barrister Victor E. Otomiewo & Co. Barristers and Solicitors to Mr. Wilson Nikoro, Mr. John Omini Ofugara, Mr. Johnson Aruruje, Chief Alfred Orugbo, Chief Julius Onijamoni, Chief Isaac Itike and also a Counsel to the Uvwie Traditional Council of Chiefs.

The title of this Petition is a breach of trust with a brazen on illegal conversion of land of the Uvwie people purportedly acquired for public purposes into private property by some soldiers through the instrument of the Nigerian Army Properties Limited.

This Petition is telling this House that this land was acquired from Uvwie communities some years ago. The reason why the land was acquired is not what they are using it for right now. They have converted this land into a private property and they are selling it to private individuals.

So, they want this House to look into the Petition and assist in ensuring justice.

Wrongful Termination of Appointment

The second Petition is from one Mr. Fredrick A. Itaro. The title of the Petition is Petition against wrongful termination of appointment of Fredrick A. Itaro by PC & M/PHCN. The Petitioner is asking this House assist him, to invite PHCN to explain why they terminated his appointment wrongfully and up till this moment, he has tried several means, but they have not attended to him.

Non-compliance of the Local Content Law by IDMON Engineering and Construction Company Limited and Sea Track Group

The third Petition is about companies that are operating in Uvwie Local Government in default of the Local Content Law. The Petition is from the Effurun Community Development Committee and signed by the Chairman, Hon. Efe Okonado, that a company by name Hyundai, which has operated in Uvwie Local Government for more than 10 years, but up till this moment, it does not and deliberately have refused to do business with the people of the Local Government, up to the extent where they went to seek a court Order restraining indigenes of the Local Government from having anything to do with the company.

They want this honourable House to look into their Petition and assist the indigenes of the community. I seek to lay these Petitions, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Please, proceed and lay the Petitions.

(Petitions laid)

Non-Payment of Severance Benefits by the Bureau of Public Enterprises and Office of the Accountant General of the Federation

Hon. Aina Thadeus Akinola (Moba/Ilejemeje/Ido Osi): Mr. Speaker, I have a Petition here titled "Save my soul from untimely death", written by one Mr. Olajide Olabode, who he is a member of my constituency from Moba, in Ekiti State.

Mr. Olabode is a praying that this House should come to his aid in respect of his unpaid severance allowance. He is begging the honourable House to intercede and intervene and use her good office to liberate him from further oppression of his former employer.

Mr. Speaker, may I please, lay the Petition on the Table.

The Speaker: Please, proceed and lay the

Petition.

(Petition laid)

**Petition against the conduct of the Men and
Officers of the Nigerian Customs
Services against lawful business**

Hon. Sani Umar Bala (Tsanyawa/Kunchi): I received a Petition from Leather Shoes and Bags Sellers Multi-Purpose Co-operative Society Limited based at Mohammed Abubakar Rimi Sabon Gari Market, Kano.

The title of the Petition is against the conduct of the men and officers of the Nigerian Customs Service against the lawful interests of their business. They went on to say that the Members of the Association are predominately small scale traders who hitherto used to pool resources and order for leather shoes and bags from various sources around the world, mainly from Italy, Spain and China.

They stated that the prevailing economic situation in the country has however made it difficult for them to continue to afford to place orders for these goods directly from abroad. They have consequently been forced to result to pool their products from Balogun and Trade Fair Market in Lagos.

Their complaint therefore borders on the fact that these trucks are usually laden with goods and have been brought into the market from Lagos are often intercepted by Men and Officers of the Nigerian Customs Service between Ibadan and Ilorin axis while on route to Kano. They went on to say that this interception and confiscation of their goods are bought from local market and are made from local goods.

Their prayer is that the House should intervene and forestall further confiscation of their goods by the Men and Officers of the Nigerian Customs as they patronize locally made goods from Nigeria that is the prayer.

I want to move to lay the Petition.

The Speaker: Please, proceed and lay the Petition.

(Petition Laid)

**Refusal of Hon. Minister of Health to obey
Subsisting Court Order**

Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga (Abakaliki/Izzi): Mr. Speaker, I have eight Petitions here from well-

meaning Nigerians and with your permission, I will take eight of them before I lay them.

The Speaker: Go ahead, please.

Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga: The first is a Petition by Chinedu Ezech, Esq on behalf of Prof. Anthony O. Emeribe on the refusal by the Hon. Minister of Health to obey the subsisting Court Order.

Unlawful Transfer of Money by Keystone Bank

The second Petition is from C. Austin Nwabufu (Barrister & Solicitors) on behalf of Anadu Ogechukwu Adaku and 2 others. The Petition is against the Keystone Bank on unlawful transfer of the sum of One Hundred and Eighty Thousand United State Dollars (\$180,000USD) against timely stop order (Red Flag) - a sleaze from Keystone Bank officials.

**Undue Delay in the Payment of the Benefits of
Deceased Officer**

The third Petition is against Sahab Insurance Company and Stanbic IBTC Pension Fund Administrators for undue delays in the payment of the benefits of deceased officer, Late Hassan M. Yerwa of the Office of the Secretary of the Government of the Federation. It is by Kennedy Banabas.

**Appeal for Intervention on the Improper
Placement and Lopsided Appointment**

The fourth Petition is from Josiah C. Ogbuka. It is an appeal for intervention in the case of deliberate improper placement and lopsided appointment of officers in the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency.

**Contravention of the 8 Years Tenure Policy for
Permanent Secretaries, Directors-
General and Directors**

The fifth Petition is from Mr. M. A. Adeyinka. The Petition is on the contravention of the 8 Years Tenure Policy for Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General and Directors, falsification of staff records in the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA).

**Petition against Power Holding Company of
Nigeria (PHCN)**

The sixth Petition is from Mr. C.O. Agbikimi. It is against the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) on the total disregard for the public service

rules, constituted authorities and abuse of office at the detriment of Mr. C.O. Agbikimi.

Appeal for downward review of his indebtedness to Imo State University

The seventh Petition is an appeal by Mr. Uchenna Simeon for downward review of his indebtedness to Imo State University and request for progress report on the state of his Master's degree programme. He is calling for intervention and investigation.

Intervention in the prohibition of Rice imports

The eighth Petition is an appeal by Ali Ibrahim Koki for intervention in the prohibition of Rice importation through land borders by the Nigeria Customs Service.

With your kind permission Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay all the Petitions.

The Speaker: Please, proceed and lay the Petitions.

(Petitions laid)

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

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa (Buruku): Mr. Speaker, the Secretariat is complaining that some Members forget to introduce themselves and it is making their work difficult. I just want to remind that anybody that stands up should not forget to introduce himself for the purpose of taking the down the records. Please, this is very important. Thank you.

MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Need to Intervene in Visa Application of Rio 2016 Olympic Team

The Speaker: Hon. Henry, your Point of Order, please.

Hon. Daniel Ofongo Henry (Southern/Ijaw): Mr. Speaker, I come under Order VIII Rules 46 (3) to present a Matter of Urgent Public Importance on the need for this House to intervene in the Visa Application Processes of our Olympic Federations going for the real 2016 Olympics. This is because it has been found out that some of these Federations suffer from having Visas to go into qualifying competitions and other competitions ahead of the real

Olympics. I move that this matter be considered as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

I also move that relevant Rules be suspended to enable the House consider the matter immediately, so that we can do justices to it.

The Speaker: Seconded will be Hon. Hassan Saleh. Hon. Hassan, I thought you are seconding?

Hon. Saleh Hassan Anthony (Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu): I did not hear my name in full. Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion as moved by Hon. Daniel Ofongo Henry.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do consider the Motion on the need to intervene in Visa Application of RIO 2016 Olympic Team moved by Hon. Henry Ofongo as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

Hon. Kayode Oladele (Egbado North/Imeko Afon): I second the second leg of the Motion that relevant Rules of the House be suspended for the Motion to be taken today.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) be suspended to enable the House consider the matter immediately.

The Speaker: Hon. Henry, please proceed and move your Motion.

Hon. Daniel Ofongo Henry: Mr. Speaker, my Motion is on the need to intervene in Visa Application of RIO 2016 Olympic Team.

The House:

Notes The Olympic games which originated in ancient Greek as many as 3,000 years ago, were received in the late 19th Century and have become the World's preeminent sporting competition which idealize physical fitness and mental discipline, and emphasizes the need to unit all Nations in the World by living in peace and harmony;

Aware that the Olympic qualification processes for the 2016 Rio Olympic in Wrestling involved three phases:

- a) The top six placed Wrestlers at the World Championships in Las Vegas USA in September 2015;

- b) The two finalists at the Continental qualifiers in Algeria in April 2016 (Africa Oceania qualifiers);
- c) The two finalists at the final Olympic qualifying tournament in Istanbul 6th to 8th May, 2016;

Also aware that the Nigerian Wrestling Team for Rio Olympic 2016 applied for Visas and was issued same by the USA Embassy to attend the first Olympic Tournament with one athlete (Miss Odunayo Adekoroya Medal at the world Championship, hence she qualified for the 2016 Olympics. The team also applied for Visa a week before the second Olympic Continental Qualifying Tournament in Algiers, and was issued Visas to attend the tournament, where the team also qualified 5 more athletes;

Sadly notes that the Wrestling Federation Technical Crew deemed it necessary to attend the third qualifying tournament in Istanbul, Turkey, in order to increase the number of wrestlers to qualify, so as to increase the number of possible medals in the Rio Olympic Games, unfortunately they were denied Visas. The technical crew is made up of Hon. Daniel Igali – President Nigerian Wrestling Federation, Mr. Victor Kodei – Coaching the Wrestling Federation and Miss Onyebuchi Blessing 75kg Female Wrestler who is one of the possible medalists in her category. Hence, denying the young lady her chances of participating in the tournament as well as the Rio games;

Aware that there are several competitions and qualifying tournaments the Nigerian Olympic team which is made up of other Athletes in other Federations need to attend other competitions and qualifying tournaments ahead of the Rio games. If the same sad and unfortunate situation like that of Turkey re-occurs, it will certainly deny Nigerian Athletes chances of participating in the Rio Olympic Games.

Resolves to:

- (i) Mandate the Committees on Sports, and Foreign Affairs to investigate the reasons why our athletes were denied Visa by the Turkish Embassy and report back within seven days; (only to the closeness of the Olympic games); and

- (ii) Invite the Nigerian Olympic Committee to ascertain if some other Federations are facing the same problems encountered by the Nigerian Wrestling Federation, with a view of resolving them on time.

I so move

Hon. Igbokwe Raphael N. (Ahiazu Mbaize/Ezinihitte): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Ofongo.

The Speaker: This is a very straightforward Motion and was comprehensively argued in the course of moving it by the Mover. I will then put the question.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Mandate the Committees on Sports, and Foreign Affairs to investigate the reasons why our athletes were denied Visa by the Turkish Embassy and report back within seven days; (only to the closeness of the Olympic games); and
- (ii) Invite the Nigerian Olympic Committee to ascertain if some other Federations are facing the same problems encountered by the Nigerian Wrestling Federation, with a view of resolving them on time.

(Motion referred to the Committees on Sports, and Foreign Affairs).

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the First Business of the day is Presentation of Seven Reports of the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services, standing in the name of Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno. Hon. Monguno is now invited to present the Reports.

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno (Monguno/Marte/Nganzai): Hon. Speaker and Members, I have seven Reports to present and so I am craving the indulgence of the Speaker and Members to move the Motion and then present them collectively.

Report on National Agricultural Land Development Authority Act Cap. N4

LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno: I move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services on a Bill for an Act to amend the National Agricultural Land Development Authority Act Cap N4 laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and for Other Related Matters (HB.237).

Report on Produce (Enforcement of Export Standards) Act Cap. P32, LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Agricultural production and Services on a Bill for an Act to amend the Produce (Enforcement of Export Standards) Act, Cap. P32, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by Reviewing the Penalties Imposed under the Act; and for Other Related Matters (HB.219).

Report on National Crop Varieties and Livestock Breeds (Registration etc.) Act Cap N27, LFN, 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno: I move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Agricultural production and services on a Bill for an Act to amend the National Crop Varieties and Livestock Breeds (Registration etc.) Act Cap N27, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by Reviewing Penalties Imposed under the Act; and for Other Related Matter (HB.219).

Report on Fertilizer in Nigeria (Regulations, Control, etc) Bill & National Fertilizer Board Act Cap N39, LFN, 2004 (Repeal) Bill, 2016

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno: I also move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services on a Bill for an Act to regulate the manufacture, importation, distribution and quality control of fertilizer in Nigeria and for other matters related thereto. HB.61 and a Bill for an Act to repeal the National Fertilizer Board Act Cap N39 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB.240).

Report on Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund Act, Cap. A11, LFN, 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Agricultural Production and

Services on a Bill for an Act to amend the Agricultural Credit Scheme Fund Act Cap A11, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to expand the Membership of the Board of the Fund, to Cover the Interest of Farmers, increase the amount to be paid into the Fund, Raise the Commitment of the Federal Government and Central Bank of Nigeria and Increase the Maximum Amount to attract a Waiver of Security Requirement for a Credit Granted; and for other Related Matters (HB.239).

Report on Veterinary Surgeons Act, Cap. V3 LFN, 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno: I move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services on a Bill for an Act to amend the Veterinary Surgeons Act, Cap. V3 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Reduce the Membership of the Veterinary Council; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 294).

Report on Bees (Import Control and Management) Act, Cap. B6 LFN, 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno: That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Bees (Import Control and Management) Act, Cap. B6, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Review the Penalty Provisions and Compensation in Order to Make the Act more Effective; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 238).

Hon. Sani Umar Bala: I second the Motion as moved by Hon. Monguno.

Question put and agreed to.

(Reports laid on the Table).

The Speaker: We should thank the Committee on Agriculture Production and Services and the Chairman and commend them as a model for other Committees to emulate for presenting seven Reports on seven Bills in one day. That was very commendable. Other Committees' Chairmen, you can borrow a leaf from the House Committee on Agricultural Production and Services.

Thank you, Chairman and Members of the Committee on Agriculture Production and Services.
(Applause)

Report of the Committee on Federal Judiciary on Pensions Rights of Judges Act, Cap. P5, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004

(Amendment) Bill, 2016

The Speaker: The second Business of the Day is presentation of two Reports of the Committee on Federal Judiciary, standing in the name of Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari.

Hon. Shagari is now invited to present the Reports.

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari (Yabo/Shagari): Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do receive two Reports on two Bills.

First, I move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Federal Judiciary on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Pensions Rights of Judges Act, Cap. P5, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 06).

Report of the Committee on Federal Judiciary on District Courts for the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (Establishment) Bill, 2016

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari: I also move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Federal Judiciary on a Bill for an Act for the Establishment of District Courts for the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja; Appointment of District Court Judges and Other Court Officers; and for Other Purposes Relating to the Administration of Civil Justice (HB. 07).

Hon. Samaila Mu'azu Hassan (Akko): I second the Motion as moved by Hon. Shagari.

Question put and agreed to

(Report laid on the Table).

Report of the Committee on Federal Road Safety Commission on the Investigation of the Introduction of Outdated Speed Limiter Technology By the Federal Road Safety Commission

The Speaker: The third Business of the Day is Presentation of Report of the Committee on Federal Road Safety Commission on the Investigation of the Introduction of Outdated Speed Limiter Technology by the Federal Road Safety Commission, standing in the name of Hon. Yunusa Ahmad Abubakar.

Hon. Members will recall that the matter was referred to the Committee on Thursday, 25th February, 2016. I now invite Hon. Yunusa to present the Report.

Hon. Yunusa Ahmad Abubakar (Yamaltu/Deba): I hereby move that the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Federal Road Safety Commission on the Investigation of the Introduction of Outdated Speed Limiter Technology by the Federal Road Safety Commission.

Hon. Mohammed Danlami Kurfi (Dutsin-Ma/Kurfi): I second the Motion as moved by Hon. Yunusa.

Question put and agreed to

(Report laid on the Table).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Federal Capital Territory Abuja (Number of Judges) Act, No.15, 2003 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to Amend the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja (Number of Judges) Act, No.15, 2003 to make Provision for the Increase in the Number of Judges from Thirty Seven (37) to Seventy Five; and for Other Related Matters, 2016 (HB. 457) –

Order for Third Reading.

The Speaker: The first Order of the day is the Third Reading of a Bill for an Act to Amend the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja (Number of Judges) Act, No.15, 2003 to make Provision for the Increase in the Number of Judges from Thirty Seven (37) to Seventy Five (75); and for Other Related Matters, 2016 (HB. 457).

Hon. Members will recall that the House adopted the Report of the Committee of the Whole on the Bill on Tuesday, 17th May, 2016. I therefore call on the Acting Leader of the House to move that the Bill be now read the Third Time.

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno: I hereby move that a Bill for an Act to Amend the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja (Number of Judges) Act, No.15, 2003 to make Provision for the Increase in the Number of Judges from Thirty Seven (37) to Seventy Five (75); and for Other Related Matters, 2016 (HB. 457), be read the Third Time.

Hon. Iriase Pally Isumafe Obokhuame (Owan East/West): I second the Motion ably moved by the Acting Leader of the House.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

**Federal University of Petroleum Resources,
Effurun (Establishment) Bill, 2016**

A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun and for Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2016 (HB. 381) –

Order for Third Reading.

The Speaker: The second Order of the Day is the Third Reading of a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun and for Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2016 (HB. 381). Hon. Members will recall that the House adopted the Report of the Committee of the Whole on the Bill on Tuesday, 17th May, 2016.

I therefore call on the Acting Leader of the House to move that the Bill be now read the Third Time.

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno: I move that a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun and for Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2016 (HB. 381), be read the Third Time.

Hon. Yakubu Umar Barde (Kajuru/Chikun): I second the Motion as moved by the Acting Leader of the House.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

**Legislative Powers Delegated to the Executive
(Abrogation) Bill, 2016**

A Bill for an Act to Abrogate the Legislative Powers Delegated to the Executive, Administrative, Judicial and Other Offices, Officers, Agencies and Authorities for the Determination, Imposition, Increase, Cancellation, Withdrawal or Reduction of Taxes, Duties, Tariffs and Fees and to Prohibit the exercise of such Powers without the Approval of the National Assembly, pursuant to Section 59 (1) b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999; and for Other Related Matters –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the third Order of the day is commencement of debate on the general

principles of a Bill for an Act to Abrogate the Legislative Powers Delegated to the Executive, Administrative, Judicial and Other Offices, Officers, Agencies and Authorities for the Determination, Imposition, Increase, Cancellation, Withdrawal or Reduction of Taxes, Duties, Tariffs and Fees and to Prohibit the exercise of such Powers without the Approval of the National Assembly, pursuant to Section 59 (1) b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended); and for Other Related Matters.

Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was read the First Time on Wednesday, 27th April, 2016. I now invite Hon. Garba Datti Muhammed to move that the Bill be now read the Second Time.

Hon. Garba Datti Muhammed (Sabon Gari): Mr. Speaker, I move that a Bill for an Act to Abrogate the Legislative Powers Delegated to the Executive, Administrative, Judicial and Other Offices, Officers, Agencies and Authorities for the Determination, Imposition, Increase, Cancellation, Withdrawal or Reduction of Taxes, Duties, Tariffs and Fees and to Prohibit the exercise of such Powers without the Approval of the National Assembly, pursuant to Section 59 (1) b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999; and for Other Related Matters be read a Second Time.

Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim Dutse (Dutse/Kigawa): I second the Motion as moved by Hon. Garba Muhammed.

The Speaker: Hon. Garba, you may now lead the debate.

Hon. Garba Datti Muhammed: Mr. Speaker, this very important Bill was taken in the last House, during which it has passed the Second Reading but either by commission or omission it was not referred to any Committee. So, we are taking it *de novo* this time around.

The intendment of this Bill is to retrieve the powers of the National Assembly given to us in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, but delegated. The Act of the National Assembly particularly contains a lot of provisions, delegating all manners of powers to the Executive, Legislature, Judicial, Authorities and Officials to introduce, increase, decrease or withdraw all the kinds of taxes, like duty, fee, tariff and charges.

Mr. Speaker, as my very close friend and neighbour Hon. Ossai will say, that these increases are just coming with speed of light. These increases affect Electricity Tariffs, Water Rates, Licenses, Drivers' License, Motor Vehicle Third Party

Insurance Premium, Custom Duty, School fees, Examination fees, Hostage Fees, Court Fees and many other charges in government institutions.

What we find out is that most of these powers that have been delegated have been abused in the past. For instance, in 1999 when Nigeria hosted Under-20 World Cup, the government forcefully made Nigerians to pay for that competition by deducting money from subscription in NITEL, which was illegal. If you could remember, only recently, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) authority introduced revenue drive of *Park and Pay* and some citizens that know their rights in this country went to the Court and what the Court said was that there was no approval of the National Assembly.

Equally, it happened in the case of Vehicle Plate Numbers. After obtaining Plate Numbers, within a short time, again, the Federal Road Safety decided to change the numbers, which meant that even if you have the old one you have to buy the new one - a double jeopardy. And only recently too, the Federal Inland Revenue decreased taxes for mortgages, without bringing it here for approval. So, it is not only the issue of increase; even if you have to decrease, it has to come to the National Assembly for legislation.

Let us take a brief excursion into history. How does these Laws creep in and become part of our Laws? There are three sources. The first is inherited colonial legislature, which was done by colonial authorities to impose taxes on the people and this pursuant to Section 315 of the Nigerian Constitution (as amended) has become part of existing law.

The second aspect is the Decrees as a result of prolonged Military rule in this country where there is no clear dichotomy between the Executive and Legislature. It was one body that made the law and executes. A lot of Laws have been enacted to delegate most of these powers. Also, just like the other one pursuant to Section 315 of the Nigeria Constitution, this is also part of our existing law.

The third source is the precedence that has been laid, which the National Assembly local draftsmen continue to give out, to delegate powers to most of these offices and authorities. So, what is the imperative of this Bill? The imperative is that for anybody to introduce taxes, tariffs and fees and to either alter or withdraw without the approval of the National Assembly becomes a nullity.

Mr. Speaker, let us look at Section 59 (1) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended. With the permission of Mr. Speaker, it

reads thus:

The provision of this Section shall apply to a Bill for the imposition of or increase in any tax, duty or pin or any reduction, withdrawal or cancellation thereof.

In these provisions, there are two operative words, and they are '*shall*' and '*any*'. The word '*shall*' by many judicial pronouncement; the statutory interpretation of *shall* connotes mandatory order or command. The second operative word here is '*any*'. In the context of this provision, the word '*any*' means '*all*'.

Since this has become mandatory on the House, it is just like Section 59 (1) (a), which has to do with the presentation of budget; it also covers Section 59 (1) (b) of this Constitution. Therefore, the sphere of Money Bills become non-delegable; that is this power can never be delegated to anybody. The Constitution says, the National Assembly must do its duty. We have to do it ourselves; nobody has to do it for us. This type of power is virtually what happens in all advanced democracies of the world. Particularly, if you look at the American Constitution Section 8 of Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution clearly states that.

Therefore, this Bill is so important that even this House has created a Committee that is saddled with such responsibility to bring out all delegated powers that had been given out. If this Bill has been in existence, I am sure that what happened on Monday would not have happened. We are not saying that agencies will not increase any tax or fees, but it has to come through National Assembly, either through the budget or through a Bill to the National Assembly, so that we can do justice to it here.

Let me conclude by saying that all powers that are residing in other places and being delegated have to come back to the National Assembly.

The Speaker: Minority Leader, remember that you are going to Port-Harcourt, if you can hasten your contribution it will help us.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/Isoko South): Mr. Speaker, let me thank Hon. Datti for introducing a major Bill that will address on very serious fundamental issues. Let me with emphasis state further that tax or taxes are the major source of government revenue worldwide. It therefore means that when tax or taxes are imposed, it becomes a major source for review to know that people and the government's interest at any given time is well protected.

In view of the position adopted by my colleague, let me try and remind this House of the provision by starting from Section 1 (3) of the Constitution, which states that; *if any law is inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, the Constitution shall prevail and that other law shall to that extent of inconsistency be null and void.*

The most important aspect of this Bill, which our colleague has introduced, is to point out clearly the modality and methodology of making laws and where a law has to be made, it must follow clearly the procedure of a Bill. Where it has to follow the procedure of a Bill, it must go through the First, Second and Third Reading.

Look at what the Section says, it says that:

A Bill for the imposition of increase in any tax, duty or fees or any reduction, withdrawal or cancellation thereof.

Clearly as this Section stipulates, you will realize that this modality or methodology of increasing or reducing tax by any government agency, it does not come through the forms of a Bill. They just sit on their own and just introduce, add or subtract. That is not the intent of the provisions of the Constitution. The Constitution has stated very clearly that before taxes can be imposed, it must be subjected to legislative fireworks. This actually has been lacking and our colleague is trying to draw our attention to the powers clearly imposed under the provision of Sections 58, 59 (b) of the Constitution.

My appeal is that no matter how cumbersome you might probably see this provision, it has placed a major responsibility on Parliament, for there to be some levels of checks and balances. You must be mindful of the clear provisions of Sections 6, 5 and 4 of the Constitution that bring clearly the principles of separation of powers. This is the essence of this particular provision; so that government does not just stand up and impose tax without actually it being subject to proper review.

There are some Sections of the Bill, which when it gets to the Committee level, it will be properly looked at, specifically Sections 236, and 248 that are purely enshrined in the Constitution. I believe no matter how those provisions are, they are clearly constitutional provisions, and they cannot in any way be amended, except probably you must also follow the constitutional provision, where the National Assembly has not provided for.

This is one Bill that we must give all the necessary support so that when it gets to the

Committee levels, the 'i's will be dotted and the 't's crossed. I support this Bill and appeal that everybody should give it the necessary support.

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno: Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, I wish to commend the vision of the Sponsor of this Bill because it came at a very right and apt time, especially against the backdrop of the fact that we are in the democratic dispensation.

In the course of arguing the Bill, the Sponsor of the Bill alluded to the fact that most of these laws were made during the military dispensation. We know that during military dispensation, we have what we call fusion of powers, as opposed to separation of powers. Both legislative and executive powers were given to a Military junta, either called Armed Forces Ruling Council, Supreme Military Council or whatever. As a result, these powers were concentrated in a single body and were arbitrarily donated to other Executive bodies because the National Assembly is not in existence in their democratic dispensation.

Now that we are in democratic dispensation and the National Assembly is fully constituted under the Constitution to discharge its functions, we have no business to donate these powers to other Executive bodies to be exercising on our behalf. We are not Father Christmas to be donating our powers left, right and centre to the Executive bodies to perform on our behalf. It is the right time for us now to reclaim all these powers that have been arbitrarily donated to other Executive bodies by a Military Junta to exercise on our behalf.

As rightly pointed out by the sponsor of the Bill, in the course of exercise of these powers, most of these powers were abused, whereby the body that delegated that power, would sub-delegate that power to another body to perform on its behalf, in clear contradiction to the maxim of *delegatus nonpetus delegare*, meaning you cannot delegate a power that has been sub-delegated to you.

Against the backdrop of this argument, I am urging my Colleagues to support the Second Reading of this Bill.

The Speaker: Please, let us introduce new dimension to the debates. If there are matters that have been covered, we should not repeat them, please.

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai (Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani): I commend the effort of Hon. Datti who brought this issue before the Floor of the House. Overtime, usurpation of power of the

functions of the National Assembly or the Legislative arm has been done by the Executive recklessly. Section 4 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, if I am to remind this House reads thus:

The legislative powers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be vested in the National Assembly of the Federation, which consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives.

(2) *The National Assembly shall have power to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Federation ... that translates to raising of these taxes and what have you, in line with Section 59 (1) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.*

I support this Bill wholeheartedly because first, delegated legislation is archaic. Delegated functions mean that we are relinquishing the functions of legislators of doing laws for peace, good governance and what have you. What is good governance? When you over tax the citizens through the Executive arm without recourse to the House for checks and balances, it breached that covenant. It is a covenant given to us by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Nigerian masses to make law for good governance and making sure that at any particular point in time, anything that would breach that trust is well contended. That is the essence of this Bill. I have to commend the mover of this Bill and ask this hon. House to pass it with the speed of light it requires without hesitation.

Hon. Simon Yakubu Arabo (Kauru): I commend the Sponsor of this Bill. This Parliament has created over 400 agencies by Law. Also, in most of the legislations, you will discover that Parliament has donated the power on the Executive to make certain regulations. We are busy compiling the list of the Laws and the regulations. The regulations are actually very enlightened and you would discover that most of the agencies have actually gone beyond the powers conferred on them.

On this basis, I believe that this Bill would afford the country an opportunity, so that we can actually check some of these excesses. This is because in most cases, some of the leaders of these agencies have actually gone beyond the powers conferred on them or donated to them by the Legislature. You will also discover that most of these agencies were created during the Military era and if you look at some of their provisions are very outlandish.

On this basis, I support this Bill and urge my Colleagues to do so.

The Speaker: I think we have taken a lot of time debating this Bill. We have other Bills to consider before we adjourn. So, let me put the question.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Justice.

National Agency for Ethics and Values (Establishment) Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Agency for Ethics and Values to Provide for the Functions and Powers of the Agency, the Qualifications and Procedures for Appointment of the Chairman and Members; and for Other Related Matters –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: The fourth Order of the day is commencement of debates on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Agency for Ethics and Values to Provide for the Functions and Powers of the Agency, the Qualifications and Procedures for Appointment of the Chairman and Members; and for Other Related Matters (HB.519).

Hon. Members would recall that the Bill was read the First Time on Wednesday, 4th May, 2016. I now invite Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai to move that the Bill be now read the Second Time.

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai: I hereby move that a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Agency for Ethics and Values to Provide for the Functions and Powers of the Agency, the Qualifications and Procedures for Appointment of the Chairman and Members; and for Other Related Matters, be read a Second Time. I so move.

Hon. Onyenwufe Gabriel (Ayamelum/Oyi): I second the Motion as moved by Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai that the Bill be read a Second Time.

The Speaker: Hon. Ossai, you may now lead the debate but your Party has requested that we adjourn early because you want to travel; I will give you two commands. First, thou shall not multiply your words. Secondly, thou shall argue with the speed of light.

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai: I must oblige Mr. Speaker. If I am to borrow the word of Hon. Hassan

Saleh in the year 2013 when he brought a few of issues about his people on the violence that escalated in his ward, he said that the majority of conflicts among the various ethnic groups in Nigeria stem from the perspective view of their individual ethics, beliefs and values. It is in this light that I lay this foundation to bring this Bill on Ethics and Values.

Section 23 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended, recognises the observance of National Ethics as part of our daily life. The Section provides thus: *that the National Ethics shall be integrity, dignity of labour, social justice, religious tolerance, self-reliance and patriotism*. It is on this ground that I introduced this Bill to improve one thing. The enactment of ethics, standards and values in a country brings about strong nation building.

Nation building that will be connected to the committee of nations. Nation building that will stop corruption because of the values, integrity and dignity of labour. Nation building that we will value all over the world. Unethical nation can be damaging to the society. The essence of leading to a failed state; that is what unethical value can do to a nation because nothing can be seen as right. It then comes with chaos. In the Public Administration, there is what we call cognitive mellow-drama. A cognitive mellow-drama is where the ranks and files have got no information spread from any angle, for those of them from the school of thought of the Public Administration.

Mr. Speaker, this Bill has all the quality it takes to bring about sanity, patriotism, and dignity of labour in line with Section 23 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

I so submit and urge all hon. Members to support this Bill with the speed of light.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Committee on Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values.

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

A Bill for an Act to Alter Sections 262 and 277 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended to increase the jurisdiction of the Sharia Court of Appeal in the Federal Capital Territory, the Sharia Court of Appeal of a State by including Criminal Matters of Hudud and Qisas; and for Other Related Matters (HB.530) –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: The fifth Order of the day is the commencement of debate on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to Alter Sections 262 and 277 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended to increase the Jurisdiction of the Sharia Court of Appeal in the Federal Capital Territory, and the Sharia Court of Appeal of a State by including Criminal Matters of Hudud and Qisas; and for other Related Matters (HB.530).

Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was read the First Time on Wednesday, 4th May, 2016. I now invite Hon. Abdullahi Balarabe Salame to move that the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Hon. Abdullahi Balarabe Salame (Illela/Gwadabawa): I move that a Bill for an Act to Alter Sections 262 and 277 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to increase the Jurisdiction of the Sharia Court of Appeal in the Federal Capital Territory, and the Sharia Court of Appeal of a State by including Criminal Matters of Hudud and Qisas (that is punishment and retaliation); and for Other Related Matters be read a Second Time.

Hon. Ayuba Mohammed Bello (Jere): I second that this Bill be read a Second Time.

The Speaker: This Bill is just asking us to refer the Bill to the Special *Ad-hoc* Committee on Constitutional Review where it will be subjected to legislative fireworks. So, it is far from the normal Second Reading of a Bill. We have the Committee of In-house Experts of the Constitution Review Committee.

It is just a mere reference to the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Constitutional Review who will subject it to the usual legislative fireworks before recommendation is made to the House. So, I will put the question without allowing much debate on it.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Special Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of 1999 Constitution.

**National Marine Insurance Bureau
(Establishment) Bill, 2016**

A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Marine Insurance Bureau to take charge of and collect Insurance Levies on all charges of Crude Oil or Gas leaving the Shores of the Country and to check the

Billions of Dollars Capital Flight which Nigeria loses to Foreign Insurance Companies who Monopolize and Specialize in Marine Insurance in the Country; and for Other Related Matters (HB.515) –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: The sixth Order of the day is commencement of debates on the general principle of a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Marine Insurance Bureau to take charge of and collect Insurance Levies on all charges of Crude Oil or Gas leaving the Shores of the Country and to check the Billions of Dollars Capital Flight which Nigeria loses to foreign Insurance Companies who Monopolize and Specialize in Marine Insurance in the Country; and for Other Related Matters.

Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was read the First Time on Wednesday, 14th May, 2016. I now invite Hon. Mohammed Garba Gololo to move that the Bill be now read a Second Time.

Hon. Mohammed Garba Gololo (Gamawa): I move that a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Marine Insurance Bureau to take charge of and collect Insurance Levies on all charges of Crude Oil or Gas leaving the Shores of the Country and to check the Billions of Dollars Capital Flight which Nigeria loses to foreign Insurance Companies who Monopolize and Specialize in Marine Insurance in the Country; and for Other Related Matters be read a Second Time.

Hon. Obinna Chidoka (Idemili North/Idemili South): Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion as moved by Hon. Garba Gololo that the Bill be read a Second Time.

The Speaker: Hon. Gololo; you may now lead the debate.

Hon. Mohammed Garba Gololo: Mr. Speaker, as we all know at this era, this Bill is timely. This is because at this present time that we are thinking of diversifying our economy, the Marine Transport is essential to the world economy as over 90 *per cent* of the world trade is carried by sea and it is by far the most effective way to move huge volumes of goods and raw materials around the world.

From a very broad perspective, maritime activities have a key role to play in the alleviation of poverty and creating wealth. This is because they constitute an important source of income and employment for many people in the maritime nations of the developing world, including Nigeria, in the form of supply of sea going of personnel, labour for

Ship recycling; Ship owning and operating, building and repair, as well as port services and among others.

Therefore, if maritime transport or marine related activities are threatened or become terribly insecure, it can have serious impact on the nation economic growth. Nigeria requires a practical and holistic plan to address a number of issues challenging the maritime industry and to harness the potentials for the benefit of the nation. It is an employment driven industry and can over run oil and gas contribution to domestic products for this country. These opportunities are wasting and challenging; they are enormous and multifaceted; one of which is lack of comprehensive insurance policy for the maritime sector. Therefore, there is an urgent need for the establishment of the National Maritime Insurance Bureau.

What this Bill seeks to establish is to take charge of collecting Insurance levies on all cargoes of crude levy in the shores of the country. It is a well-known fact that the poor technical skills and knowledge gaps are major factors why foreign nationals dominate and monopolize the marine insurance sector. The shortfall can be addressed by training and retraining of Nigerian insurance experts and professionals, as well as through Seminars, Workshops, Conferences and tailored made programmes in order to acquire new skills and knowledge for the sector and to checkmate the activities and monopolization of the foreign insurance companies.

In my conclusion Sir, I believe that this is a very straightforward Bill that seeks to harness the economic growth through the Maritime Sector. Hon. Colleagues, if this is in place, the system will help to check Billions of Dollars capital flight, which Nigeria losses to foreign insurance companies, who monopolize and specialize in Marine Insurance in the country. This Bill will also create new jobs and make up the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) significantly.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor: Mr. Speaker, let me once again thank my Colleague for finding time within his busy schedule to reintroduce the Bill that is of utmost important to our economy at this particular time. Like I said, here we are in very challenging hours and let me draw the attention of our Colleagues that Nigeria is a mono-cultural economy that depends solely or mostly on oil.

The level of capital flight that goes to most of these foreign insurance companies is amazing. These are resources that we can keep inward because the capacity and understanding are already with us. The ability to warehouse this arrangement of making sure that vessels coming in and going out taking our

products is extremely important. This is because a stitch in time saves nine, and you can imagine the Billions of Naira or rather Dollar that we can save in this particular sector.

I believe that for the challenges that we have today, every law maker should be able to contribute his or her own input into making sure that this great country that has been blessed with so much resources generates some high levels of revenue and how do we do this. We must be able to enact good laws that will block some of these loopholes that are all over the place and this is one of those laws.

I appeal to everybody that please, because this law seeks some high level of specialization, which will give us some levels of control over our resources, rather than these funds getting into some of these foreign companies; that it becomes a Bill that we should give all the necessary support. I will appeal that we give this Bill all the necessary support so that it can pass through the Second Reading.

Hon. Jimoh Abdulraheem Olajide (Lagos Mainland): Mr. Speaker, I want to salute the courage of Hon. Mohammed Garba Gololo for this wonderful Bill. As he has rightly pointed out by him, and in addition to what he has said, the principle behind this Bill apart from taking out the monopoly from the sector itself, is a very good initiative. It will create additional jobs and this is also one way or the other where NIMASA can come in.

This will improve the technology and technical aspect of competence within our system. This Bill is also good for revenue generation and it will create more employment. Therefore, I support it.

Hon. Lovette Idisi (Ethiopia East/Ethiopia West): Mr. Speaker, I just want to add one or two things to this all important Bill. This all important Bill needs to be supported with all its entirety, with particular emphasis on the fact that these monies that are being paid to foreign insurance companies will be repatriated back into the country to support our IGR. There are practical examples where most of these documents are disputed by foreign insurance companies. I was particularly involved in a case involving the Prime Minister's wife in Great Britain, Tony Blair in the UK, whereby insurance claims were highly disputed.

So, if this policy is put in place to protect some of our users of these services, I am sure that this will enhance our business and also support our IGR in this country. I remain guided, Mr. Speaker, and thank you so much.

Hon. Adekunle Abdulkabir Akinlade (Egbado

South/Ipokia): Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe that this Bill is coming at a right time. As a Member of the House Committee on Insurance, this is one of the challenges that we have been having in that Committee.

The Marine Insurance is one that we have looked at and when I got in and went through this, I concluded that this is something that every Member of this House should support. The challenge that we have seen is that, at present, the Nigerian Customs Service does not in any way have infrastructure in place to verify the authenticity of the present set of Insurance Certificates, and Marine Insurance documents that are being circulated by importer or exporters.

I also believe that if this Bill is supported by this House, it will guide the processes of issuance of such Marine Insurance Documents or Certificates and they are even going to guide the country and the system to make sure that those trying to export goods out of this country or import would be guided aright.

It is important that this Bill has to be given all the necessary support it deserves. Thank you, Sir.

Hon. Reyenieju Daniel Oritsegbubemi (Warri South/Warri West): Mr. Speaker, let me add my voice to thank the mover of this Bill. It is timely, necessary and it is going to among others generate revenue for this great country. It is equally going to help generate employment.

It is always very surprising to me that our great country has not been able to harness the great potentials of its maritime resources. The Maritime resources of this country are under-utilised, not even up to ten *per cent* of what the Marine Sector of this country can generate for this country is being tapped into.

With this particular aspect, which has to do with Insurance of the Marine Sector, it would in no way help to generate a lot of revenue and also generate employment like I have said earlier for this country. It is part of our responsibility to ensuring that most other aspects of the Maritime Industry should also be looked into, most especially the Insurance aspect of it and that is why some of us are clamouring that the Maritime University in Okerekojok is made to stay. This is because these are some of the Professional Marine courses that would be taken where Nigerians can also learn the arts of Marine Insurance. Thank you.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Committee on Insurance and Actuarial Matters.

MOTIONS

Business Continued from Assembly to Assembly Order XII, Rule 96 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives:

National Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science Bill, 2015

The Speaker: The seventh Order of the day is a Motion in Pursuant Order XII, Rule 96 Business Continued from Assembly to Assembly, Order XII, Rule 96 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives: National Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science Bill, 2015 (HB. 405); standing in the name of Hon. Gyang Istifanus Dung.

Hon. Dung is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Gyang Istifanus Dung (Barikin Ladi/Riyom): Mr. Speaker, I move this Motion on Business Continued from Assembly to Assembly in line with Order XII, Rule 96 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives on a National Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science Bill, 2015.

The House:

Notes that pursuant to Order XII, Rule 96 of the Standing Orders of the House, the legislative business of the House which, though completed and laid in the House by a Committee of the House remain undetermined at the end of the Assembly shall be resumed and proceeded with in the next Assembly in the same manner as if the tenure of the Assembly had not come to an end, if the House resolves in the affirmative that such Bills, upon being re-gazetted, be reconsidered in the Committee of the Whole, without being commenced *de-novo*;

Also notes that the National Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science Bill, 2015 was awaiting consideration in the Committee of the Whole before the last Assembly ended;

Aware that the Bill has been re-gazetted as HB.405 and read the first time on Wednesday, 2 March, 2016.

Resolves to:

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

I so move.

Hon. Jisalo Bitrus Zaphaniah (Abuja Municipal/Bwari): Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion as moved by Hon. Gyang.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

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

(Bill accordingly referred to the Committee of the Whole).

Need to Assess the Level of Export Promotion in Nigeria

The Speaker: The eighth Order of the day is a Motion on the Need to Assess the Level of Export Promotion in Nigeria, standing in the name of Hon. Abdullahi Umar Faruk.

Hon. Faruk is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Abdullahi Umar Faruk (Birnin Kebbi/Kalgo/Bunza): Mr. Speaker, it is a Need to Assess the Level of Export Promotion in Nigeria.

The House:

Notes that in order to ensure that Nigeria does not depend solely on oil production for its income, the Nigerian Export Promotion Council was established in 1976 to be the leading Agency for promoting non-oil exports from Nigeria;

Concerned that despite the establishment of the Council, Nigeria has continued to rely on the exportation of crude oil which accounts for more than 70% of our total revenue to sustain the nation's economy;

Worried that agricultural products, which used to be the mainstay of Nigeria's economy before the discovery of oil, have been relegated to the background, thereby resulting in the inability of the citizens to produce enough food for local consumption and export;

Also concerned that massive importation of foreign goods over the years and the fall in the price of crude oil in the international market have adversely affected our economy as it has led to a serious depletion of our foreign reserves and scarcity of foreign exchange for international transactions;

Convinced that as the government is making efforts to diversify our economy from oil production to non-oil exports, there is a need to vigorously promote the exportation of Nigerian goods, especially the ones in which the country has a comparative advantage, in order to increase our foreign exchange earnings;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Commerce to assess the level of export promotion in Nigeria and the activities of Nigerian Export Promotion Council in recent years and report back to the House within six (6) weeks, for further legislative action.

I so move.

Hon. Saidu Yusuf Miga (Jahun/Miga): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Abdullahi Umar Faruk.

The Speaker: Hon. Farouk, please lead the debate.

Hon. Abdullahi Umar Faruk: I thank you, Mr. Speaker for graciously allowing me to move this Motion. As we are all aware, this country is currently facing some financial challenges and in order to find a way out we have been discussing severally on how to diversify our economy and one of which is to ensure that areas where we have very comparative advantages are promoted so that we can improve our effort regime.

Currently, the ratio of our import and export is so lopsided negatively to our advantage. We import very heavily and export very lowly, and as such, we have to find a way to optimize a fifty-fifty ratio the way we export our commodities. God has already given this country abundance of natural resources and advantages in Agriculture, but we are not really utilizing them. One of the agencies we decided to create to ensure that we promote non-oil efforts is the Nigerian Export Promotion Council through Decree No. 26 of 1976 which is now Cap 108 of the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and with your permission I will read the core mandate of that Council. It reads thus:

1. To promote the development and diversification of Nigeria Export trade;
2. To assist in promoting the development of Export related industries in Nigeria;
3. To collate and disseminate information on products available for export; and

4. To undertake studies of the current economic conditions with special attention to the export sector, with the aim of advising government on necessary policies and measures to take.

I am not sure whether this Council actually is performing as much as we desire because if they have been up and doing, by now, we would not have had this financial problem and low export regime. That is the reason I bring up this Motion for us to know what the challenges are before the Export Promotion Council. If we can know their challenges then, we will know exactly how to jack them up, so as to wake them from their slumber.

As the Speaker has said, it is time we work our talk. We have been talking about how to diversify our economy. This is the sure way of diversifying the economy; by gingering the citizenry on what they could do and how much we can produce and export. We have the capability, capacity and abundance of arable land.

I urge my hon. Colleagues to consider this Motion for us to invite the Export Promotion Council to tell us their problems and how we can assist them. I so submit.

Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga: Let me thank the Sponsor of this Motion for his quest to know what is happening at this agency - Nigerian Export Promotion Council in their rules to promote export in Nigeria. At this time when Nigeria is strongly pursuing issues that will help in diversification of our economy, the role of this agency is very critical in the promotion of non-oil Export.

In view of this call, it is also good to note that the House Committee on Commerce, pursuant to Order XVI, Rule 109 (b) of the House, feels that the activities of this agency are not felt and decided to investigate some of the funds given to them. This will be a widened scope and look at it as timely and important; that we should have a clear definition of the activities of the agency at this moment. It is within the scope of the Committee and outside the Committee's investigation, there is a lot of petitions on the activities of the agency pending in the House Committee on Public Petitions, which one may not say much not to be judgmental as we are also going to investigate further in their activities.

I call on the Members to support this Motion so that we can give a lead count to this agency for them to play their roles and promote the non-oil export and other activities they are designated to do.

Hon. Saleh Hassan Anthony: I lend my support to the mover of this Motion and as well adopt the position of the Chairman, House Committee on Commerce. The time has come for us to take non-oil export very seriously.

The activities of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council like the mover of the Motion has enumerated, needs to be investigated because there has been a lot of exhibitions around the world. They do have exhibitions around the world and I have had the privilege of attending a couple of those exhibitions, where Nigeria has not been represented. I had cause to also reach out to the Director-General of the Export promotion Council where he was full of complaints that the government has neglected the agency.

It is very important for us to take this matter seriously because as we are aware, to execute the budget as it stands today is about a big task for the government. Therefore, we do not have an option other than to look into non-oil export and without a proper co-ordination by a government agency the policy of government to encourage export promotion will not see the light of the day.

I call on my Colleagues to support this Motion in its entirety, so that the Committee of Commerce can get to the root of the matter and if possible advise the Government on the best way out, so that we can move forward from depending on oil and look elsewhere to generate revenue.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Commerce to assess the level of export promotion in Nigeria and the activities of Nigerian Export Promotion Council in recent years and report back to the House within six (6) weeks, for further legislative action.

Motion accordingly referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Need to Sustain the Newly Established Federal Universities of Education in Nigeria

The Speaker: The ninth Order of the day is a Motion on Need to Sustain the Newly Established Federal Universities of Education in Nigeria, standing in the name of Hon. Abbas Tajudeen and 29 others. Hon. Tajudeen is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Abbas Tajudeen (Zaria): Mr. Speaker,

pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 55, I would like to withdraw this Motion. This is because I have been made to understand that a similar Motion within this legislative year has already been brought before this House. But I would however want to say that this Motion that is being presented before us today has been fully endorsed by Mr. Speaker as far back as July, 2015. It is only today, almost a year after that this Motion has been allowed to see the light of the day.

I was also made to understand that the Motion that has already been brought and passed before this House, was only brought some few months ago, which goes to say that there are issues that need to be really sorted out at Rules and Business Committee.

I cannot imagine a Motion that has been approved as far back as July, 2015 before we went on Recess is only brought today, whereas a Motion that was brought much later was actually considered before this House.

I beg that this Motion be stepped down, but I hope my concern and grievances that I have mentioned will be noted.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: Mr. Speaker, just like Hon. Tajudeen has said, the Motion here is already covered by a Resolution of the House, which took place on the 27th day of October last year. So, it is not true that the Motion was brought a few months back. The Resolution of the House took place on the 27th day of October, 2015.

I just wanted to clear that. So, that is the position.

Motion withdrawn by leave of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT

PDP Members' Trip to Port Harcourt for National Convention

The Speaker: There has been an official plea from Members of the opposition especially PDP that they intend to travel to Port Harcourt for their National Convention. So, we will be taking a leave from here.

I now invite the permanent Acting Leader to move that the House do adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno: I hereby move that this House do adjourn Plenary till Tuesday, 24th May, 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba (Doguwa/Tudun Wada): I second the Motion as moved by Hon. Monguno.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till Tuesday, 24th May, 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.15 p.m.