



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

ORDER PAPER

Thursday, 16 November, 2017

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1. Prayers
 2. Approval of the Votes and Proceedings
 3. Oaths
 4. Message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*if any*)
 5. Message from the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (*if any*)
 6. Other Announcements (*if any*)
 7. Petitions (*if any*)
 8. Matter(s) of Urgent Public Importance
 9. Personal Explanation
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ORDERS OF THE DAY

BILLS

1. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Red Cross Society Act, Cap. N130, LFN, 2004 to Clarify the Object of the Society and Increase Some Penalties; and for Related Matters. (HB.1135) (*Hon. Evelyn Omapowan Oboro*) — *Second Reading*.
 2. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Extradition Act, Cap. E25, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Render Illegally obtained Evidence Inadmissible, give Discretion to the Court with regard to Certification of Electronically Generated Documents; and for Related Matters (HB. 1187) (*Hon. Solomon Ahwinahwi*) — *Second Reading*.
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MOTIONS

3. Need to Investigate the Nature of the Contract and/or Concession Arrangement on the Second Niger Bridge and the Lagos - Ibadan Expressway:
Hon. Solomon Bulus Maren:

The House:

Notes that contracts for construction of the Second Niger bridge and reconstruction of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway have continued to feature in the annual budgets without any seeming signs of their completion or the amount required to do so;

Also notes the revelation by the Hon. Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Mr Babtunde Fashola, while commenting on the 2017 Appropriation Act that monies for the projects were reduced and they may become elephant projects as they are not under any concessional or Public Private Partnership (PPP) Arrangement;

Aware that the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority (NSIA) had spent about ₦18 billion on the projects as the financier during their early stages;

Cognizant that the completion of the projects is pivotal to national development as they have potentials to douse tension across the country, especially in the face of the widespread agitations for restructuring of the governance mode of the country and separation by some pressure groups;

Concerned that the manner of execution of the projects is not in accordance with defined methods for executing projects and /or contracting procedures;

Believes that unless proactive steps are taken to ensure early completion of the projects, the efforts that have been made to ease the transportation difficulties of the people would have been in vain, businesses would continue to suffer heavy losses and operational costs, while the originally intended aim of galvanizing the various interests of Nigerians through the execution of the projects will remain unfulfilled;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to include funds in the 2018 budget for the completion of the projects; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works to investigate the Nature of the Contracts and Concession Arrangements and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action.

4. Need to Investigate the Alleged Unlawful Elongation of the Tenure of the Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission by the Former Secretary to the Government of the Federation: Hon. Ebiozuwa Johnson Agbeniyemma:

The House:

Notes that section 2 of the Niger Delta Development Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act, Cap N86, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 provides, among others for the establishment of a Governing Board for the Commission which shall consist of a Chairman and one person who shall be an indigene of an oil producing area to represent each of the nine Oil producing member States;

Also notes that subject to the provisions of section 4 of the Act, a member of the Board, other than an *ex-officio* member, shall hold office for a fixed term of four (4) years at the first instance and may be re-appointed for a further term of four (4) years and no more;

Aware that where a vacancy occurs in the membership of the Board, it shall be filled by the appointment of a successor to hold office for the remainder of the term of office of his predecessor, so however that the successor shall represent the same interest and shall be appointed by the President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, subject to confirmation of the Senate, in consultation with the House of Representatives;

Also aware that the current Board was inaugurated in November 2016 to complete the unexpired term of the former Board which was sacked earlier than 15 December, 2017 date of the termination of its tenure;

Cognizant that the alleged elongation of the tenure of the Board is in contravention of section 4 of the NDDC Act and also at variance with laid down procedure for succession of member States on the Board of the Commission;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the alleged elongation of the tenure of the Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission by the former Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Babachir David Lawal and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action.

5. Non Release of National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) Assessment Intervention Fund and the Consequences on the Nation's Educational Development: Hon. Samuel Ikon.

The House:

Recalls that between December 2011-January 2012, academic activities at public universities were suspended owing to the non-implementation of the 2009 Agreement between the Federal Government and the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU);

Aware that in a bid to nip in the bud a re-occurrence, the Federal Government set up a Committee on National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) Assessment of Public Universities with a view to carefully considering specific and general needs of those Universities;

Also aware that upon completion of its assignment, the Committee submitted its report to the National Economic Council (NEC) on 1 November, 2012, leading to the constitution of Stakeholders Committee on National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) Assessment of Public Universities;

Notes that the Federal Government, at a meeting with the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), the Trade Union Congress (TUC) and the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) on the need to revitalize public Universities, resolved to release the sum of ₦1,300,000,000,000.00 (One Trillion, Three Hundred Billion Naira) only (aside annual budgetary allocations and regular Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND) intervention) to be disbursed as follows:

(i)	₦200,000,000,000.00	—	2013,
(ii)	₦220,000,000,000.00	—	2014,
(iii)	₦220,000,000,000.00	—	2015,
(iv)	₦220,000,000,000.00	—	2016,
(v)	₦220,000,000,000.00	—	2017,
(vi)	₦220,000,000,000.00	—	2018;

Also notes that the Federal Government also agreed to release the sum of ₦55,000,000,000.00 on quarterly basis into a Dedicated Account at the Central Bank of Nigeria for the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) Assessment projects;

Acknowledges that in 2013, the total sum of ₦200,000,000,000.00 (Two Hundred Billion Naira) only, was released which was domiciled in a Dedicated Account opened with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) titled "Revitalization of Public Universities Infrastructure" Account and under the management of the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Accountant General of the Federation;

Concerned that till date, only the initial payment of ₦200,000,000,000.00 (Two Hundred Billion Naira) only, had been paid into the account, leaving the outstanding balance of ₦1,100,000,000,000.00 yet to be released;

Cognizant that the failure to release the funds as at when due has hampered the infrastructural development of public universities and may further disrupt the smooth academic programmes at the universities if not quickly addressed;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services to investigate the non-release of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) Assessment Intervention Fund to public Universities and report back in four (4) weeks for further legislative action.

6. Need to Control the Proliferation of Universities in Nigeria:

Hon. Ayodele Oladimeji:

The House:

Notes that the strategic importance of education to the development of any nation cannot be overemphasized and tertiary education is the platform for developing human capital for social, economic and technological transformation of a nation;

Also notes that the National Universities Commission Act, Cap. N81, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 vests the Commission with powers to create and approve new universities and other degree awarding institutions;

Aware that there has been an exponential increase in the number of tertiary institutions, particularly universities, but there has not been a corresponding increase in facilities to cater for the needs of the many new universities being established;

Also aware that Nigeria currently has 153 Universities, comprising forty (40) federal universities, forty-five (45) State universities and sixty-eight (68) private universities, and a recent publication stated that 240 applications are pending with the NUC for approval for the establishment of new universities;

Further aware that learning environment in most of the universities are highly compromised as they are characterized by congested classrooms, overcrowded and ill equipped laboratories, inadequate halls of residence, etc. and annually, these universities produce thousands of largely unemployable graduates;

Informed that not a single Nigerian university made the rank of first one thousand universities in the world, according to the 2017 ranking system, while universities from Ghana, South Africa and Egypt made the list;

Believes that if the resources being split thinly in establishing and running many universities are put into expanding and equipping the existing universities, their standards would improve remarkably to rank among the best universities in the world;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Education, the Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning and the National Universities Commission (NUC) to work out a planned growth in the number of universities in consonance with the nation's population, economic growth, development and manpower requirements; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services to ensure implementation.

7. **Call to Halt the Proposed Plan to Stop Admission of Combatant Female Cadets into the Nigerian Defence Academy:**
Hon. Omosede G. Igbinedion:

The House:

Notes that Section 42(1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 prohibits discriminatory practices against any person on the basis of sex, etc;

Also notes that Nigeria is a signatory to the Beijing Declaration of 1995 and the Follow Up Summit on Strengthening the Institutional Arrangements for Support of Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, which also coincided with Agenda 113 of the 7th session of the United Nations General Assembly of 2012;

Further notes that Affirmative Action means positive steps be taken to increase the representation of women and minorities in areas of employment, education and all such other areas from which they have historically been excluded;

Informed that in 2011, the Nigerian Defence Academy admitted the first set of twenty (20) female Cadets into the Regular Combatant Commission which will afford the Cadets the opportunity to aspire to head any of the Armed Services in the future;

Aware of a report in the Punch Newspaper of Monday, 13 November, 2017, captioned "Military Stop Admission of Combatant Female Cadets" which, if true amounts to a major policy reversal of monumental proportion and a set back because scraping the course for women will deny them the opportunity of heading any Arm of the Nigerian Military;

Cognizant that institutions are usually established to promote the provisions of the Constitution and not to breach them as the move to end the admission of female Cadets seems to suggest;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Armed Forces Council and the Federal Ministry of Defence to halt the plan to stop admission of Combatant Female Cadets into the Nigerian Defence Academy; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Defence, Army, Navy and Air Force to investigate the matter and report back in four (4) weeks for further legislative action.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

9. A Bill for an Act to Provide for Establishment of the School of Mines and Geological Studies in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area; and for Related Matters (HB. 105) (*Committee of the Whole: 5/10/2017*).
9. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Agency as the Central Body in Nigeria Responsible for Receiving, Requesting, Analyzing and Disseminating Financial Intelligence Report and Other Information to Law Enforcement, Security and Intelligence Agencies and Other Relevant Authorities; and for Related Matters (HB.1082) (*Committee of the Whole: 27/7/2017*).
10. **Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate the Process of Digital (Broadcast) Switch Over in Nigeria:**
Hon. Sunday Marshall Katung:
"That the House do consider the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee to Investigate the Process of Digital (Broadcast) Switch Over in Nigeria and approve the recommendations therein" (*Laid: 9/11/2017*):
- (i) that there should be an enactment of a new broadcasting law to encompass elements of digitisation, define roles and responsibilities of the Federal, State, Local Governments and the Private Sector;

- (ii) that there should be amendments to existing legislations to incorporate Government Policy Recommendations on Digital Broadcasting in Nigeria and to legalise Digital Access Fee (DAF) and Conditional Access Fee (CAF);
- (iii) that there should be an amendment to the National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) Act to strengthen its regulatory responsibility and develop a standard regulatory documentation for digital broadcasting as contained in the White Paper Report;
- (iv) that there should be an effective collaboration between the Ministry of Information and the NBC on the Digital Switch Over Process. The NBC and the Ministry should develop the proposed National Media Content Policy for the Digital TV era, covering a media content master plan including Media Content Fund (MCF) to fund content production. Management of the Fund should be as proposed by the Ministry with necessary legal backing;
- (v) that the optimal management of Spectrum for the DSO should be ensured by the Ministry. It is equally important to confirm the total amount harvested from the sale of the spectrum by the NBC and how these monies were expended;
- (vi) that the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) should be involved in the activities of Set Top Box Manufacturers to ensure standard and avoid a situation where the Country is turned into a dumping ground for substandard and obsolete equipment;
- (vii) that the NBC should collaborate with Nigcomsat on the best way to use its facilities for the switch over to enable the country conserve foreign exchange;
- (viii) that the Government should offer more incentives to Set Top Box Manufacturers to encourage local manufacturing of STBs but not necessarily to provide a subsidy;
- (ix) that the licence issued to Set Top Box Manufacturers who have failed or neglected to establish manufacturing plants to engage the teeming unemployed youths and create other opportunities in pursuit of local content, should be withdrawn forthwith in accordance with the terms of the licence and consider licensing or replacing them with Nigerian companies which have capacity in accordance with the provisions of the White Paper;
- (x) that the Ministry and other key stakeholders should initiate effective public enlightenment programmes to create awareness on the process and expectations of the Digital Switch Over;
- (xi) that the ongoing Phase/State implementation of the DSO strategy should be thoroughly supervised and monitored by the Ministry, Signal Distributors must exhibit capacity to cover at least 80% of an assigned State before being allocated or proceeding to another State;
- (xii) that the issues surrounding the quality of equipment purchased by one of the licensed Signal Distributors as observed during the oversight tour of the Committee, should further be investigated in order to assure Nigerians and ensure standard in line with global best practices. The actual amount paid to ITS by NBC must be ascertained for the records;
- (xiii) that the NBC should coordinate the activities of STB Manufacturers and the Content Aggregators in the manner recommended by the White Paper;
- (xiv) that in view Technology development, the process should be further investigated on the public procurement infractions observed during the investigation as well as status of funds generated and utilized;
- (xv) that the Ministry and the NBC should ensure regional collaboration on DSO timelines/final switch off date;
- (xvi) that Analogue Broadcasting should not be switched off until 95 % DSO coverage is achieved in the Country;

- (xvii) that all parties that were not contemplated by the White Paper but were somewhat brought in, albeit inadvertently by the regulator in furtherance of this process, should be excised in the spirit of equity and integrity of the process as well as in the interest of the country in general.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

	<i>Committee</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Venue</i>
1.	Rules and Business	Thursday, 16 November, 2017	3.00 p.m.	Committee Room 06 (White House) Assembly Complex
2.	<i>Ad-hoc</i> Committee on Central Bank Intervention Funds	Thursday, 16 November, 2017	3.00 p.m.	Committee Room 357 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
3.	Works	Thursday, 16 November, 2017	3.00 p.m.	Committee Room 244 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
4.	Army	Thursday, 16 November, 2017	3.00 p.m.	Committee Room 348 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
5.	Public Petitions (<i>Investigative Hearing</i>)	Thursday, 16 November, 2017	3.00 p.m.	Committee Room 429 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
6.	Anti-Corruption (<i>Public Hearing</i>)	Thursday, 16 November, 2017	3.00 p.m.	Committee Room 028 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
7.	Power	Thursday, 16 November, 2017	3.00 p.m.	Committee Room 324 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
8.	Federal Character (<i>with Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Nigeria Postal Service, University of Calabar and Federal Medical Centre, Bida</i>)	Thursday, 16 November, 2017	3.00 p.m.	Committee Room 247 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
9.	Women in Parliament	Thursday, 16 November, 2017	3.00 p.m.	Committee Room 024 New Building (House) Assembly Complex