FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
SECOND SESSION
NO. 112

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

ORDER PAPER

Thursday, 7 March, 2013

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**

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

1. **Need to Translate the National Anthem and the Pledge into Nigerian Indigenous Languages: Hon. Rotimi Makinde**

The House:

Notes that patriotism which entails love and devotion to one's country is an essential ingredient for the unity and progress of any Nation;

Further notes that the current National Anthem was written in English language and adopted in 1978 to replace the colonial Nigeria National Anthem "Nigeria We Hail Thee". The lyrics are a combination of words and phrases taken from five (5) of the best entries in a national contest by John A. Ikechukwu, Eme Etim Akpan, B. A. Ogunnaike, Sota Omoigui and P. O. Aderibigbe. The words were put to music by the Nigeria Police Band under the directorship of Benedict E. Odiase;

Aware that in every public function, whether at Federal, State or Local Government level, the National Anthem is performed usually at the opening and closing part of such occasions. The National Anthem and the Pledge are meant to instil sense of patriotism in the citizenry, a clarion call for them to show love, commitment, respect, dedication and loyalty to the country and also to extol the virtues of past heroes;

Further aware that Nigeria is one of the Commonwealth countries whose official language is English, the National Anthem and the Pledge are written in English language and can therefore only be recited, or sung in English language by a select few literates in the country who are educated;

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Concerned that the National Anthem or the Pledge has little or no meaning at all to about 57 million out of an estimated population of 160 million people in Nigeria who are illiterates and dwell mainly in rural areas and as such, the intended message is neither comprehended nor appreciated by them.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Director-General of the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to take necessary steps to have the National Anthem and the Pledge translated into some major indigenous languages for the benefit of those Nigerians who can neither read nor write English language, while ensuring that the original lyrics/words and B. E. Odiase's musical note/rhyme are not altered but fully synchronised;

(*ii*) further urge the Director-General of the National Orientation Agency (NOA) to carry-out public enlightenment campaigns and sensitisation on the significance of the National Anthem, the Pledge and other National symbols with a view to instilling the spirit of patriotism in the citizens especially the youths.

BILLS

2. **Consolidation of Bills:**

(*a*) A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as Amended) by providing Immunity for the Members of the Legislature in respect of the words spoken or written at the Plenary Session or at Committee Proceedings, to Guarantee that Freedom of Speech, Debates and Proceedings in Legislative Houses are not impeached or questioned in any Court or place out of Parliament and for Related Matters (HB. 432) — *Second Reading*.

(*b*) A Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Guarantee Freedom of Speech and Legislative actions of Members of the National Assembly (HB. 457) — *Second Reading*.

3. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Nigeria National Commission against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons to coordinate and Implement activities to combat the problem of the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Nigeria in line with the Economic Community of West African States Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons and for Related Matters (HB. 461) — *Second Reading*.

4. A Bill for Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Abolish the State Independent Electoral Commissions to Ensure Free and Fair Conduct of all Elections to Local Government Councils in the Federation and for Matters Related Thereto (HB. 387) and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as Amended) to Abolish State Independent Electoral Commissions and to Provide for Matters Related Thereto (HB. 426) — *Second Reading*.

5. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Emergency Management Agency (Establishment, etc.) Act, Cap. N34, LFN, 2004 and for Other Connected Purposes (HB. 376) — *Second Reading*.

6. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Institute of Environmental Practitioners of Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 450) — *Second Reading*.

7. A Bill for an Act to Promote Voluntary Blood Donation, Providing for an Adequate Supply of Safe Blood, Regulating Blood Banks and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 159) — *Second Reading*.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

	Committee	*Date*	*Time*	*Venue*
1.	Rules and Business	Thursday, 7 March, 2013	2.00 p.m.	Committee Room 06 Assembly Complex
2.	Niger Delta Development	Thursday, 7 March, 2013	2.00 p.m.	Committee Room 107 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
3.	Local Content (*with Chevron, Stat Oil Nig. Ltd*)	Thursday, 7 March, 2013	1.00 p.m.	Committee Room 459 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
4.	Local Content (*with MRS Nig. Ltd*)	Thursday, 7 March, 2013	3.00 p.m.	Committee Room 459 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
5.	Public Petitions	Thursday, 7 March, 2013	1.00 p.m.	Committee Room 429 New Building (House) Assembly Complex