FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD SESSION
NO. 75

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

ORDER PAPER

Thursday, 12 December, 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

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS

1. **Committee on Commerce:**
   Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga:
   "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Commerce on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Regulation of Franchising in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 140)" (*Referred*: 6/3/2013).

2. **Committee on Commerce:**
   Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga:
   "That this House do receive the Report of the Committee on Commerce on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 519)" (*Referred*: 3/7/2013).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

1. **Need to Investigate the Implementation of the Cashless Banking Policy of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN):**
   Hon. Mohammed Ogoshi Onawo:

   The House:

   Notes that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) introduced a Cashless Banking Policy with effect from June 2012 which is aimed at reducing the amount of physical cash circulating in the economy;

   Further notes that the policy limits the daily cash withdrawal or deposit by an individual to ₦500,000 while that of corporate bodies is [illegible];

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Aware that the Deputy Governor, Operations, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Mr Tunde Lemo, while briefing newsmen at the end of the Special Forum on financing the Power Sector Reforms for Economic Development, stated that individuals would be charged 3 percent of the excess amount of withdrawal and 2 percent of the excess amount of deposit; while Corporate bodies would be charged 3 percent of the excess amount of deposit and 5 percent of the excess amount of withdrawal with effect from October 2, 2013, at the expiration of the three months moratorium given by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN);

Further aware that according to a 2010 Survey by Enhancing Financial Innovation and Access, a nonprofit organization that promotes financial sector development and financial inclusion in Nigeria, roughly 65 percent of adult males, 77 percent of adult females and 80 percent of Nigeria's rural population do not utilize the services of banks, which makes a successful implementation of the policy very difficult, given its reliance on the use of technologies that depend on power stability;

Concerned that while charges on account of withdrawal may not necessarily be queried, it is absurd and a calculated act of injustice to subject a customer to pay charges for deposit transactions, despite persisting challenges on connectivity of Point of Sales (POS) and the inefficiency of Automated Teller Machines (ATM's), especially in rural areas;

Worried that the policy is unjust, unpopular, arbitrary and capable of demoralizing bank customers from depositing their money for fear of exorbitant charges;

Disturbed that the new policy creates "bank phobia" in customers, especially the high profile ones who make deposits in millions of Naira daily;

Amazed at the claim by Mr Lemo, the Deputy Governor, Operations of the high increase of electronic retail transactions from 2 percent before the introduction of the policy to 20 percent after the introduction of the policy;

Regrets that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) is bent on implementing the policy despite apparent challenges associated with infrastructure deficit, power instability, prevalence of "e-fraud", poor consumer protection, high illiteracy rate, inadequate public sensitization and real data that drive the process, unreliable communication networks, lack of legislative framework, anticipated rise in money laundering and job losses to mention but a few;

Further regrets that despite manifest injustice inherent in imposing charges on deposits and increasing complaints as a result of financial hardship imposed on customers, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has refused to provide any solution that will modify the policy to meet the current economic realities;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Banking and Currency, Finance, and Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes to investigate the implementation of the cashless policy by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and report back to the House within 4 weeks.

2. **Urgent Need to Suspend the Increase in Import Duty Payable on Used and New Vehicles:**
Hon. Nathaniel Agunbiade:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government, through the Minister of Finance, recently announced an imposition of a new tariff regime on imported used and new vehicles and tyres;

Aware that the percentage increase of the new tariff by 70% would have a multiplier effect of 250% increase on the value of the affected items which will definitely lead to higher prices of vehicles and their components;

Further aware that the reason proffered by the Ministry of Finance for the increase in the import duty is to create an environment that would support existing Assembly plants and attract other manufacturers of original equipment who have expressed interest in investing in Nigeria;

Conscious of the fact that the reasons advanced to justify the increase are noble and appear good, if well implemented;

Also aware that even though January 2014 has been set as the commencement date of the policy, so far, none of the Assembly Plants and equipment manufacturers sought to be protected by the policy would have started production or operations in the country by that date;

Desirous of the need to ensure that the implementation of the policy does not bring too much pain to Nigerians, and also curb resort to dealing in smuggled vehicles through the land borders, thereby boosting the economy of our neighbouring countries, with the attendant loss of revenues to Nigeria;

Resolves to:

Urge the Ministry of Finance to suspend the implementation of the programme till such a time the Assembly Plants and equipment manufacturers would have first started the production of Nigerian made vehicles

BILLS

3. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Assembly Services Commission Act, Cap. N7 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and Re-Enact a National Assembly Service Administrative Structure Bill for improved Service delivery, and for Other Related Matters (HB. 425) — *Third Reading*.

4. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Limitation Act, Cap. L 522 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 in Relation to Litigations and Arbitrations that are instituted within the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 551) — *Second Reading*.

5. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Miscellaneous Offences Act, Cap. M17 LFN, 2004 to make Comprehensive Provisions for Miscellaneous Offences, Abolish life Sentence for Miscellaneous Offences and for Other Related Matters (HB. 330) and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Miscellaneous Offences Act and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 532) — *Second Reading*.

6. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Official Secrets Act, No. 29 of 1962 to Review Penalties and Fines Provided Therein and for Other Related Matters (HB. 538) — *Second Reading*.

7. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Management of Biosafety and for Other Related Matters (HB. 579) — *Second Reading*.

8. A Bill for an Act to Amend the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja (Number of Judges) Act, No.15 of 2003 to make Provisions for increase in the number of Judges from Thirty-Seven (37) to Sixty-Nine (69) and for Other Related Matters (HB. 600) — *Second Reading*.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

9. **Committee on Health:**
Hon. Ndudi Elumelu:
"That this House do consider the Report of the Committee on Health on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Protection, Promotion and Maintenance of Health in Matters Relating to Housing, Food and Generally for the Protection of the Environment and for the Control of Services, Activities and Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 20) and approve the Recommendations therein" (*Laid*: 12/11/2013).

10. **Committees on Commerce and Justice:**
Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga:
"That this House do consider the Report of the Committees on Commerce and Justice on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Financial and Investment Analysts of Nigeria to Regulate and Control the Practice of Financial and Investment Analysis in the country and requiring that every Financial and Investment Analyst practicing in Nigeria Registers with the Institute and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 295) and approve the Recommendations therein" (*Laid*: 24/10/2013).

11. **Committees on Steel, Privatization and Commercialization, and Justice:**
Hon. Asema Mohammed:
"That this House do consider the Report of the Committees on Steel, Privatization and Commercialization and Justice on the Re-concession of the National Iron-Ore Mining Company (NIOMCO), Itakpe and the sale of Delta Steel Company (DSC), Aladja to Global Infrastructure Nigeria Limited (GINL) and approve the Recommendations therein (**HR. 31/2013**)" (*Laid*: 3/12/2013):

(*i*) That the Accountant General of the Federation (AGF) is urged to further collate and submit to the Committees the breakdown of total claims arising from National Iron-Ore Mining Company (NIOMCO) and Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited (ASCL) transactions against the Federal Government of Nigeria;

(*ii*) that due to the important nature of steel to the development of a nation, the Federal Government of Nigeria should reconsider its policy to privatize the National Iron-Ore Mining Company (NIOMCO) and Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited (ASCL) by handing them over to the original builders/erectors that understand the technology of the plants;

(*iii*) that the Federal Government should approve the grants of 1billion USD for the immediate rehabilitation, completion, commissioning and operation of Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited and National Iron-Ore Mining Company (NIOMCO) since it is cheaper for Nigeria to pay damages being claimed by Global Infrastructure Nigeria Limited (GINL), on a worst case scenario than concede to the Re-concession of National Iron-Ore Mining Company (NIOMCO) which is worth over $100 billion and Delta Steel Company (DSC), and Warri Port which worth over ₦70 billion to Global Infrastructure Nigeria Limited (GINL);

(*iv*) local content principle should be seriously considered in any new agreement;

(*v*) urged the President to consider paying a working visit to Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited (ASCL), National Iron-Ore Mining Company (NIOMCO) and Delta Steel Company (DSC) for an on the spot assessment of the Plants;

(*vi*) that Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) should proceed to recover its debt of over ₦30 billion from Global Infrastructure Nigeria Limited (GINL) relating to the Delta Steel Company (DSC) in accordance with its enabling Law;

(*vii*) that the Federal Government should direct the Bureau of Public Enterprise (BPE) to offset the ₦5.2 billion outstanding terminal benefits of Delta Steel Company (DSC) staff through the Budget process;

(*viii*) that the concession, if necessary, of the Railway Lines from Itakpe - Delta Steel Company (DSC) to Warri Port and Warri Old Port Terminal should be done according to the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, i.e. Bureau of Public Enterprise (BPE) and Infrastructural Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) Acts;

(*ix*) that since Global Infrastructure Nigeria Limited (GINL) lacks financial, technical and managerial competence, it should not be allowed to further take over any steel plant in Nigeria.

(*x*) that the Federal Government of Nigeria should pursue the case in London Arbitration Tribunal to its logical conclusion, more so, that the Federal Government of Nigeria is making counter claim in the same Tribunal;

(*xi*) that it is wiser to pay minimum damages, if found liable, than throwing away the nation's huge resources on National Iron-Ore Mining Company (NIOMCO), Itakpe and DSC (Aladja), just for fear of paying token damages;

(*xii*) that the Committee could not find any evidence that Global Infrastructure Nigeria Limited (GINL) has become competent technically, financially and managerially as opposed to when the said concession was terminated.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

	Committee	*Date*	*Time*	*Venue*
1.	Rules and Business	Thursday, 12 December, 2013	2.00 p.m.	Committee Room 06 Assembly Complex
2.	Power	Thursday, 12 December, 2013	2.00 p.m.	Committee Room 107 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
3.	Constituency Outreach	Thursday, 12 December, 2013	2.30 p.m.	Committee Room 327 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
4.	Petroleum Resources (Downstream)	Thursday, 12 December, 2013	2.00 p.m.	Committee Room 019 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
5.	Public Petitions (*Investigative Hearing*)	Thursday, 12 December, 2013	1.00 p.m.	Committee Room 429 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
6.	Federal Character (*with NASANI, Nigeria Atomic Energy Commission, and Adeyemi College of Education, Ondo*)	Thursday, 12 December, 2013	1.30 p.m.	Committee Room 247 New Building (House) Assembly Complex