FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD SESSION
NO. 161

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

ORDER PAPER

Thursday, 5 June, 2014

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 BILL

Niger Delta Development Commission Statutory Appropriation Bill, 2014 (HB. 722) (*Executive*) — *First Reading*.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT

***Ad-hoc* Committee on the Composition and Pigmentation of Cement (Cement Quality) in Nigeria:**
Hon. Yakubu Dogara:
"That the House do receive the Report of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on the Composition and Pigmentation of Cement (Cement Quality) in Nigeria (**HR. 27/2014**)" (*Referred*: 20/2/2014).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

1. **Urgent Need for Installation and Effective Management of Weigh-Bridges on the Nation's Highways:**
Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai:

The House:

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Notes that Section 27 (1) (*b*) (*iv*) of the Federal Highways Act, Cap. F13 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 empowers the Hon. Minister of Works to make regulations with respect to the maximum laden weight transmittable on the highways by motor vehicles and trailers to protect the highways from damage that would arise from undue pressure of weights on them;

Further notes that the Hon. Minister, in exercise of the Powers, enacted paragraphs 1 (*f*) and 2 (1) of the Federal Highways (Permissible Weights and Weigh-Bridges) Regulations, making it unlawful for any commercial vehicle or trailer to carry any freight or load of greater weight than that which the vehicle is constructed to carry or having a gross weight in excess of 32 tons or as was exempted;

Aware that paragraph 3 (1) of the Regulations empowers the Hon. Minister to install Weigh-Bridges at such locations on any Federal Highway as he may determine for the purpose of weighing vehicles passing through the highway;

Also aware that paragraph 3 (2) of the said Regulations requires an authorized officer to direct a vehicle, at any time, to be driven to a weigh-bridge location to have its net, gross or axle weight ascertained;

Further aware that the Regulations provide penalties for any violation, which includes requiring the owner or driver of a vehicle to remove, at his own expense and risk, any excess load on his vehicle;

Recalls that soon after the Regulations were made in 1983, many weigh-bridges were installed on strategic locations at several Highways, and they were effectively managed to generate revenues and extend the life span of the highways;

Disturbed that virtually all the weigh-bridges have broken down, thereby rendering the highways vulnerable to damages from over-weight of vehicles, not counting the associated loss of revenues from charges on over loaded vehicles;

Worried that if the situation is not urgently addressed, especially given the increase in the number of highways, the huge cost of constructing these highways would have been wasted with the passage of time;

Concerned that there is an urgent need for the government to make installation of weigh-bridges an integral component of highway designs and construction, and also the inherent duty to efficiently manage them;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Works to liaise with the Ministry of Works with a view to reviving the Weigh-Bridges and installing new ones at strategic locations on the highways and report back to the House within three (3) weeks.

2. The Need to Conduct an Investigation to Ascertain the True State of Nigeria's Economy: Hon. Ibrahim Tukur El-Sudi:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria presently, is not just the most populous nation in Africa, but it is also its biggest economy;

Also notes that recent macroeconomic indicators reveal that the Nigerian economy has been growing at an average of about 7% in the last ten years;

Further notes that the country's inflation rate has gone down to a single digit (7.7%) with a strong external reserve of about $40 billion, which has reportedly now made Nigeria the destination of choice for foreign direct investments;

Further aware that whilst a billion Euro bond was sold in 2013 by the Federal Ministry of Finance and Nigerians were informed of it's over subscription, there is no information on where or how that money was invested and if such investments option remains the best for the Nigerian economy;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the key revenue generating Agencies of Government, namely: the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), and the Budget Office of the Federation (Independent Revenue) to submit details of revenue performance from the fiscal year 2011 till date, to the Committee on Finance with immediate effect;

(*ii*) Mandate the Committee to conduct an investigative hearing to ascertain the true state of the nation's economy and report back to the House within 6 weeks.

3. **Urgent Need to Introduce Security and Intelligence Studies in both Public and Private Secondary Schools in Nigeria:**
Hon. Eddie Mbadiwe:

The House:

Notes the primacy of security as an essential requirement for economic development of any country as is clearly captured by Section 14 (2) (*b*) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 which states that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of Government;

Observes the current security challenges bedeviling the country as a result of debilitating attacks by insurgents, unlawful killings, acts of terrorism and other destabilizing incidents;

Aware that the curriculum of Secondary Schools in Nigeria does not have any provision for security and intelligence studies, unlike the practice in some other countries where the teaching of security and intelligence matters are a *sine qua non* in the curriculum of Secondary Schools;

Realizes that the introduction of security and intelligence studies in Secondary Schools will provide students with basic knowledge of security and intelligence issues, awareness and capacity to detect threats to the security of the nation;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Education to liaise with the Universal Basic Education (UBE) to ensure the introduction of security and intelligence studies in all Public and Private Secondary Schools in Nigeria and report back to the House within 6 weeks.

BILLS

4. A Bill for an Act to Further Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and for Other Matters Connected Therewith — *Third Reading*.

5. A Bill for an Act to Authorize the issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NNDC), the Total sum of ₦322,600,000,000 (Three Hundred and Twenty-Two Billion, Six Hundred Million Naira) only, of which the sum of ₦15,080,730,000.00 (Fifteen Billion, Eighty Million, Seven Hundred and Thirty Thousand Naira) only, is for Personnel Costs, the sum of ₦10,186,820,000.00 (Ten Billion, One Hundred and Eighty-Six Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty Thousand Naira) only, is for Overhead Expenditure and ₦2,281,280,000.00 (Two Billion, Two Hundred and Eighty One Million, Two Hundred and Eighty Thousand Naira) only, is for Capital Expenditure while ₦295,051,170,000.00 (Two Hundred and Ninety-Five Billion,

Concerned that notwithstanding the appreciable economic growth figures posted for the country, extreme poverty, high unemployment, and inequality persist in the land;

Also concerned that Nigeria's debt profile has gradually started rising with the country's current external debt (FGN +States) standing at $9.1 billion and Nigeria's total debt burden, including all domestic debts, rising to ₦10.32 trillion ($65.2 billion) according to the Debt Management Office (DMO);

Aware that not only is the debt over-hang on Nigeria increasing, the domestic debt and the excruciating cost of servicing same, is really hurting the economy and local businesses amidst viable options severally suggested by the House but ignored by the Ministry of Finance;

Worried that about ₦2 trillion had been spent between 2011-2013 in servicing domestic debt and a whooping sum of ₦712 billion budgeted to service same in 2014, at an interest rate said to be the highest in the world;

Further concerned that the share of recurrent expenditures in the budget was only marginally reduced from 74% in 2011 to 71% in 2012 and to 68% in 2013 and has now risen to 76.3% in 2014;

Disturbed that withdrawal from the Excess Crude Account (ECA) to pay for petroleum subsidy claims which increased sharply in recent years from ₦291 billion in 2007 to about ₦2.188 trillion in 2011 and the 2012 and 2013 subsidy claims have more or less averaged over ₦1 trillion;

Also disturbed that Nigeria piles up these unenviable statistics, notwithstanding the consistently high oil prices in the last few years;

Further disturbed that the government has made only limited progress in shaking off its dependence on oil with Nigeria's rebased GDP revealing that only a 5 percent of government revenues comes from taxes;

Worried that poverty, high unemployment and inequality will continue to have serious implications for foreign investments and the productive domestic population, as daily living for many of our compatriots has become very grueling;

Wonders why, in spite of the painstaking work that the House usually puts into the consideration and passage of Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF)/FSP every year, there is little to suggest that the approved MTEF/FSP document is ever adhered to, in order to bring about the effective management of the nation's economy in both the short and medium term;

Also worried that while all indications continue to reveal surpluses in Revenue inflow for the Federation, the Federal Ministry of Finance continues to give the impression to Nigerians that the parameters are otherwise;

Further worried that notwithstanding the huge revenue inflow year-in-year to the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) since 2011, Nigeria has persistently been running a deficit budget with its accompanying negative implications to the Nigerian economy despite there being an option of operating a surplus budget;

Realizes that because the actual balance in the Excess Crude Account continues to be a subject of controversy, month after month, without a clear understanding of the true state of this account;

Also realizes that a myriad of initiatives albeit well intended, are being carried out under the supervision of the Federal Ministry of Finance, i.e. the $400m Mortgage Finance Scheme, the You-Win programme, etc. it appears that the House and indeed Nigerians in general do not know the true essence of these programmes;

Fifty-One Million, One Hundred and Seventy Thousand Naira) only, is for Development Projects for the Service of the Niger Delta Development Commission for the fiscal Year Commencing on 1st April, 2014 and ending on 31st December, 2014 (HB. 722) (*Hon. Mulikat Akande-Adeola*) — *Second Reading*.

6. **Consolidation of Bills:**

(*a*) A Bill for an Act to Amend the Companies and Allied Matters Act Cap. C20 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to change the Membership of the Commission, to Transfer Shares of a Private Company without going through a Stockbroker and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 268) (*Hon. Ali Ahmad*) — *Second Reading*.

(*b*) A Bill for an Act to Amend the Companies and Allied Matters Act, Cap. C20 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by incapacitating and removing Infants and Other Persons of questionable Character from operating as Members of Boards of Companies; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 699) (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai*) — *Second Reading*.

7. A Bill for an Act to Establish Cardiothoracic Centers in each of the Six Geo-Political Zones, Abuja and Lagos and for Other Related Matters (HB. 632) (*Hon. Robinson Uwak*) — *Second Reading*.

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

8. A Bill for an Act to Provide a Framework for the Regulation, Development and Management of a National Health System and set Standards for rendering Health Services in the Federation and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB.301) (*Committee of the Whole*: 27/9/2013).

9. **Committee on Public Petitions:**
***Report on the Petition by Toluwase Abejirin*:**
Hon. Uzo Azubuike:
"That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Toluwase Abejirin against Dr Samuel John Agbogun (MD/CEO), Nigeria Electricity Liability Management Company Ltd (NELMCO) on alleged victimization in the work place and approve the Recommendation therein" (*Laid*: 29/10/2013):

That Toluwase Abejirin should submit his credentials to the management of NEMCO for proper documentation.

10. **Committee on Public Petitions:**
***Report on the Petition by Mr Douglas Uchekwu Idima*:**
Hon. Uzo Azubuike:
"That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Mr Douglas Uchekwu Idima (MD, Oriental Project Limited) against the Federal Fire Service on breach of contract and approve the Recommendation therein" (*Laid*: 29/10/2013):

That the House do commend the Federal Fire Service and uphold the agreement reached by the parties.

11. **Committee on Public Petitions:**
***Report on the Petition by Engr Nwafor Nwagbara*:**
Hon. Uzo Azubuike:
"That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Engr. Nwafor Nwagbara (Director) for Wabsan Investment Limited against the MD/CEO, Value Trust Investment Limited for non-payment of a contract sum and approve the Recommendation therein" (*Laid*: 29/10/2013):

That the House do urge Wabsan Investment Limited to seek redress in a Court.

12. Committee on Public Petitions:
***Report on the Petition by Mr Ebo Emmanuel Chiadikobi*:**
Hon. Uzo Azubuike:
"That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Mr Ebo Emmanuel Chiadikobi against the Governing Council of Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Uwana, Afikpo, Ebonyi State on alleged indefinite interdiction and approve the Recommendation therein" (*Laid*: 29/10/2013):

That the House do discountenance the petition for lack of merit, but urge the Rector and Management not to victimize the petitioner on the basis of the matter.

13. Committee on Public Petitions:
***Report on the Petition by Mr Bernard Agada and Mr Emen Kanico*:**
Hon. Uzo Azubuike:
"That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Mr Bernard Agada and Mr Emen Kanico against the National Centre for Women Development (NCWD) and Mrs Fatima L. Hassan Betara, Director-General/CEO of the Centre on alleged unjust and indefinite suspension without pay and abuse of authority and approve the Recommendation therein" (*Laid*: 22/5/2014):

That the House do direct the Management of the National Centre for Women Development to lift the indefinite suspension of the petitioners and pay/grant them all their entitlements, delayed promotions (if any), salaries and other allowances.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

	Committee	*Date*	*Time*	*Venue*
1.	Rules and Business	Thursday, 5 June, 2014	1.30 p.m.	Committee Room 06 Assembly Complex
2.	Education	Thursday, 5 June, 2014	2.00 p.m.	Committee Room 231 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
3.	Federal Character (*with Inland Revenue Service (FIRS)*)	Thursday, 5 June, 2014	2.00 p.m.	Committee Room 06 New Building (House) Assembly Complex