HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

ORDER PAPER

Tuesday, 28 July, 2015

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
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PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. Federal Competition Commission (Establishment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 01) (*Hon. Yakubu Dogara*) — *First Reading*.

2. Data Protection Bill, 2015 (HB. 02) (*Hon. Yakubu Dogara*) — *First Reading*.

3. Public Interest Disclosure Bill, 2015 (HB. 03) (*Hon. Yakubu Dogara*) — *First Reading*.

4. Subsidiary Legislation (Regulation) Bill, 2015 (HB. 04) (*Hon. Yakubu Dogara*) — *First Reading*.

5. Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Alteration) Bill, 2015 (HB. 05) (*Hon. Ossai N. Ossai*) — *First Reading*.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

1. Need for Intervention of the Federal Government in the Closure of the Federal Medical Centre, Owerri:
Hon. Raphael Nnanna Igbokwe:

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The House:

Notes that the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Owerri is a public health institution established to take care of the health needs of the people, especially those living in Imo State and its environs;

Concerned that the Centre has been shut down for over three months now due to a strike action by aggrieved workers;

Worried that both the striking workers and the Management of the Centre have failed to reach a truce and have also refused to heed appeals by stakeholders, including the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), the Federal and State Government Authorities, as well as the Board of the said institution, to resolve the matter and call off the strike;

Also worried that the strike action could adversely affect the health care delivery system of the Federal Government and has been causing untold hardship to indigenes of the State and other Nigerians who use the Centre;

Also concerned that the continued closure of the Centre has contributed to the dilapidation of state-of-the-art health care facilities procured with huge public funds;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to intervene in the matter with a view to finding a lasting solution to the problem and report back to the House within one (1) month.

2. **Urgent Need for the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to better Protect the Nigerian Public from Certain Unwholesome Practices of Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOs) in Nigeria:**
Hon. Phillip Shaibu:

The House:

Aware that item 13 (*a*), Part II of the Second Schedule to the Constitution of Nigeria empowers the National Assembly to make laws for the Federation or any part thereof with respect to generation, transmission and distribution of electricity;

Also aware that section 32 (2) (*f*) of the Electric Power Sector Reform Act, Cap. E7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 empowers the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to monitor and regulate the electricity industry in Nigeria;

Further aware that the NERC, in the exercise of its powers, licensed a number of Companies as Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOs) in the Nigerian Electricity Industry;

Disturbed by the avalanche of complaints by electricity consumers about the unwholesome practices of the DISCOs which fall short of standards established by the National Electricity Regulatory Commission and do not also meet up to global best practices, thereby failing in the discharge of their contractual obligations to the Nigerian public;

Conscious of the responsibility of the House to ensure that electricity consumers are protected by NERC from the unwholesome practices of the Electricity Distribution Companies.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) to immediately enforce the abolishment of fixed charges being collected from electricity consumers across the nation;

(*ii*) also urge NERC to direct the Electricity Distribution Companies (DISCOs) to discontinue the practice of compulsory bulk metering of villages and communities in the rural areas as a consumer should have the right to elect to be part of bulk metering scheme or not;

(*iii*) further urge NERC to ensure that until twenty-four (24) hours electricity supply is guaranteed, DISCOs should give consumers an advance monthly schedule of distribution of electricity which will include the precise time and duration of availability of electricity to enable consumers plan their affairs and NERC must ensure that the notice is regarded as an enforceable component of the supply contract existing between the DISCOs and the consumers, except in the event of a *force majeure*;

(*iv*) call on National Electricity Regulatory Commission to sensitize electricity consumers on the remedies available to them in the event of inefficient services by the Distribution Companies;

(*v*) also call on NERC to strive to break the monopoly of Distribution Companies by putting in place Electricity Distribution Open Access Regulation, thereby creating an opportunity for consumers to have the right to choose the company to supply their electric power, wherein the current (primary) Distribution Companies should be mandated to allow new DISCOs access (at a regulated fee per maintenance), to poles and wires connected to premises and all other electricity distribution assets of the primary DISCOs;

(*vi*) further call on NERC to make a regulation to mandate the DISCOs to discontinue the practice of making consumers pay for meters, poles and transformers which by law, are properties of the DISCOs; but where the consumers purchase those items, they should give notice of the purchase to the DISCOs and should be entitled to recover their expenses from subsequent consumption of electricity;

(*vii*) equally call on NERC to bring an end to the monopoly of DISCOs on the sales of energy meters to enable consumers purchase them either from the DISCOs or from any other supplier, subject to the regulation and specification of the NERC;

(*viii*) request NERC to ensure that consumers are granted the right to have their meters tested for accuracy upon payment of necessary fees to the Distribution Companies or at any other independent facility approved for that purpose by the National Electricity Regulatory Commission and to receive the report of the test within eight (8) weeks so as to eliminate the issue of inaccurate billings; and

(*ix*) also request NERC to set up an electricity Ombudsman which shall have offices in the thirty-six (36) States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and also to maintain an online interactive electronic platform for consumers to interface with the Distribution Companies under the supervision of the Ombudsman.

3. **Urgent Need for the Federal Government to Devise a Rescue Plan to Bail out the Twenty-Two (22) State Governments that are Owing Salaries to Workers:**
Hon. Oluwole Oke:

The House:

Notes with sadness that over Twenty-Two (22) State Governments have not paid salaries to their workers for various reasons and for periods ranging from two (2) to eight (8) months, or even more;

Aware of the huge debts being owed to some State Governments by the Federal Government as a result of those State Governments having used their own resources to rehabilitate Federal Roads in their States;

Also aware of recurring complaints by States Governments of underpayment of their due monthly allocations by the Federation Accounts Allocation Committee (FAAC);

Further aware of the slide in the allocations due to State Governments following shortfall in revenue owing to the drastic drop in the price of crude oil in the international market and the declining demand for Nigeria's light crude;

Recalls that the failure to pay workers' salaries has caused untold hardship to many Nigerians and has grounded the delivery of public service in some of those States, resulting in huge losses to the economy of those States and to the national economy;

Believing that for this ugly trend to be checked, steps must be taken to encourage the Federal Government to initiate all necessary measures to address this national calamity;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Empathize with the workers in the various States of the Federation who have not been paid salaries for various months;

(*ii*) constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the allegation of underpayment of allocations to States and the unpaid debts owed by the Federal Government to the State Governments.

4. **Need for Publication of the Handover Note of the Administration of Former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, in the Official Gazette of the Federation:**
Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta:

The House:

Notes that on the expiration of the tenure of former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, on 29 May, 2015, he presented a Handover Note of the stewardship of his Administration to President Muhammadu Buhari;

Also notes that the Handover Note would expectedly have captured the activities, projects, programmes, achievements and constraints of the last Administration, including counsel to the new Administration on the way forward;

Aware that the Handover Note is a public document and that some extant laws may place restrictions on the publication of some contents of the document;

Realizes that notwithstanding any such legal restrictions, it is apparent that only officials of the Presidency have access to the Handover Note, at the moment;

Worried that Members of the National Assembly, most of whom are new to the legislative business, require authentic information to ascertain the actual state of the nation, without which they may not be able to perform their legislative functions effectively;

Desirous of encouraging and empowering ordinary Nigerians to actively monitor the activities of government;

Also desirous of the need to maintain the integrity of the Handover Note for reference purposes and to enable interested individuals or group of persons to verify the authenticity or otherwise of the contents of the document;

Resolves to urge the Executive Arm of Government to:

(*i*) Publish, in the official gazette of the Federation, save for information restricted by law, the Handover Note and the accompanying documents of the Administration of former President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, to enable interested Nigerians and other residents access it for information and record purposes;

(*ii*) provide copies of the Handover Note to all Members of the National Assembly to enable them determine, individually or collectively, the state of the Nation as at 29 May, 2015.

DEBATE ON THE DRAFT LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK/AGENDA

5. **Hon. Yussuff Sulaimon Lasun:**
"That the House do resume debate on the Draft Legislative Framework/Agenda of the House of Representatives of the 8th National Assembly" (*Adjourned Debate*: 24/6/2015).