FOURTH REPUBLIC
8TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
FIRST SESSION
NO. 65

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

ORDER PAPER

Thursday, 5 November, 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
9. Personal Explanation

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. National University Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 56) (*Hon. Musa Sarkin Adar*) — *First Reading*.

2. Agricultural Produce Hoarding (Prohibition) Bill, 2015 (HB. 57) (*Hon. Musa Sarkin Adar*) — *First Reading*.

3. River Basin Development Authorities Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 58) (*Hon. Musa Sarkin Adar*) — *First Reading*.

4. Public Service Institute Bill, 2015 (HB. 59) (*Hon. Jacobson E. Nbina*) — *First Reading*.

5. Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Commission Bill, 2015 (HB. 60) (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta*) — *First Reading*.

6. National Fertilizer Quality (Control) Bill, 2015 (HB. 61) (*Hon. Gyang Istifanus Dung*) — *First Reading*.

7. Education (National Minimum Standards and Establishment of Institutions) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 62) (*Hon. Gyang Istifanus Dung*) — *First Reading*.

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ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

1. Business Continued from Assembly to Assembly:
Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill, 2015 (HB. 86):

Hon. Nkem Uzoma-Abonta	Hon. Binta Bello	Hon. Magaji Dau Aliyu
Hon. Nnenna Ijeoma Elendu-Ukeje	Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha	Hon. Beni Lar
Hon. Oboro Evelyn Omavowan	Hon. Betty O. Apiafi	Hon. Eucharia Azodo
Hon. Ngwu Stela Uchenwa Obiageli	Hon. Aishatu Jibril Duku	Hon. Lynda Chuba-Ikpeazu
Hon. Joan Onyemaechi Mrakpor	Hon. Blessing Ibiba Nsiegbe	Hon. Rita Orji
Hon. Omosede Gabriella Igbinedion	Hon. Owoidighe Ekpoattai	Hon. Asabe Vilita Bashir
Hon. Sodaguwo A. Festus Omoni	Hon. Boma Goodhead	Hon. Olufunke Adedoyin:

The House:

Notes that pursuant to Order XII, Rule 96 of the Standing Orders of the House, the legislative business of the House which, though completed and laid in the House by a Committee of the House which remain undetermined at the end of the Assembly shall be resumed and proceeded with, in the next Assembly in the same manner as if the tenure of the Assembly had not come to an end, if the House resolves in affirmative that such Bills, upon being re-gazetted, be reconsidered in the Committee of the Whole without being commenced *de-novo*.

Also notes that the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill, 2015 was awaiting consideration in the Committee of the Whole before the last Assembly ended;

Aware that the said Bill has been regazetted as HB. 86 and read the first time on Tuesday, 21st October, 2015;

Resolves to:
Commit the Bill to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

2. **Need to Build Dasin Hausa Dam:**

Hon. Igariwey Iduma Enwo **Hon. Sadiq Ibrahim:**

The House:

Notes that whenever the Cameroonian Authorities open the flood gates of the Lagdo Dam for release of excess water, low land communities in Niger, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Anambra, Taraba, Nasarawa, Kebbi, Sokoto, Adamawa, Kogi and Benue States, and riverine parts of Ebonyi State such as Afikpo and Edda, are threatened with flooding;

Recalls that when excess water was released from the Dam in 2012, the resultant flooding led to the death of over fifty-three (53) people in eleven (11) States of the Federation, the displacement of over one hundred thousand, four hundred and twenty (100,420) others, disruption of lives, paralysis in economic activities and losses of properties estimated at around ₦2.6 trillion;

Also recalls that when Cameroon built the Lagdo Dam in 1982, the Government of Nigeria was advised to build a buffer Dam downstream which would serve as a shock-absorber to the devastating effects of yearly release of water and a suitable site for the construction of the buffer dam was chosen in Dasin Village in Fufore LGA of Adamawa State;

Aware that the multi-purpose dam was also expected to generate some 300mw of electricity, irrigate about 150,000 hectares of land, and provide employment opportunities for 40,000 families;

Further observes that since Cameroonian authorities insist that they would continue to release excess water to avoid the collapse of Lagdo Dam, the construction of the Dasin Hausa Dam therefor remains urgent and an unavoidable venture;

Resolves to:

Urge the Federal Ministries of Water Resources and the Environment to revisit and update the original design and feasibility of Dasin Hausa Dam done in 1982, and take necessary measures to ensure the award of contract for construction of the Dam without further delay to save Nigeria from further avoidable disasters.

3. **Need to Reconstruct the Road Linking Jalingo-Mayo-Lope-Numan to Yola and Jalingo through Mararraban Zing-Zing-Mayo-Belwa to Yola:**
Hon. Danladi BaidoTijos **Hon. Malle Aminu Ibrahim**
Hon. Laori Kwamoti Bitrus **Hon. Namdas Abdulrazak Sa'ad:**

The House:

Notes with concern the deplorable condition of the Roads linking Jalingo-Mayo-Lope-Numan to Yola and from Jalingo through Mararraban Zing-Zing-Mayo-Belwa to Yola which is causing a lot of anguish to commuters;

Concerned that the deplorable condition of the Road has not only affected the economy of the area but has also made the Road to become a death traps for motorists and a beehive for bandits who rob commuters at will on those routes;

Worried that the poor state of the Road has caused motorists to abandon it for other routes, causing hardships on residents along that axis;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to immediately rehabilitate the Road as a temporary measure; and

(*ii*) also urge the Committee on Works to liaise with the Ministry of Works for inclusion of the fund in 2016 budget for reconstruction of the Road.

4. **Alleged Plan to Remove Fuel Subsidy:**
Hon. Albert Abiodun Adeogun:

The House:

Notes that subsidy on Petroleum Products was introduced in Nigeria as a palliative measure to ease the sufferings of Nigerians whose livelihood are largely dependent on the use of petroleum products;

Also notes that plans are allegedly on going by the Federal Government to remove petroleum subsidy;

Concerned that removal of subsidy will lead to scarcity of petroleum products, trigger a rise in transportation costs, and generally cause untold hardships to Nigerians who will be at the mercy of petroleum marketers with regard to fuel pump price increase;

Also concerned that subsidy removal will ultimately result in inflation and increase in goods and services, thereby aggravating poverty across the country;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to exercise restraint in removing fuel subsidy and rather introduce less restrictive and stringent conditions for the setting up of refineries in Nigeria so as to stimulate investments in the oil industry;

(*ii*) also urge the Federal Government to fast-track the repairs of the refineries to enhance local production of petroleum products as this will, in the long run, eliminate the need for subsidy or reduce it to the barest minimum; and

(*iii*) mandate the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream) to investigate, amongst other things, the quantum of petroleum products imported into the Country, the consumption pattern, distribution, exportation and smuggling of fuel to neighboring countries through the borders, and make recommendations to the House within four (4) weeks.

5. Urgent Need to Investigate Land Grabbing in Nigeria by Multinational Companies: Hon. Ahmed Abu:

The House:

Notes that in the last few years, successive Federal Governments have been prioritizing attracting foreign investments in the agricultural sector;

Also notes that the massive project with Multinational Companies which was backed by the Federal Government and G8's New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa, was meant to ensure food security by enhancing the output of small farmers in Nigeria and Africa at large;

Disturbed that farmers in Niger, Taraba, Edo and some other States are being forced off the lands they have farmed for generations to make way for these foreign companies to establish rice and other plantations;

Concerned that large acres of land containing plots held by thousands of farmers and a publicly funded irrigation system were simply handed over to foreign companies by the local government councils without adequate consultation with local farmers or payment of compensation either in cash or job offers;

Also concerned that the only investments of these foreign companies in Nigeria are just some of those pledged as part of the G8's New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition launched in 2012 and they have failed to provide evidence of their impact on food security, poverty reduction and job creation;

Regrets that these deals between transnationals companies and governments taking place in many States of the Federation, which laudable objectives are only being realized on paper, have left small-scale farmers displaced, vulnerable, marginalized and impoverished;

Aware that allowing local populations to keep control over their lands and seeds is a means towards sustainable development and avoids profits being syphoned off by large multinational corporations;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge concerned State Governments to insert in the land agreements relevant provisions of the Unfair Contract Terms Act, 1977, to make the purchase contract voidable at the instance of the villagers and or their heirs, should those foreign companies fail to fulfil their own part of the contract; and

(*ii*) urge the Committees on Housing, and Agricultural Production and Services to investigate the matter with a view to uncovering the real owners and collaborators of these multinational companies, their financial standings and market reputations, level of commitments to corporate social responsibilities and transfer of technology to Nigerians and report back to the House within four (4) weeks for further legislative action.

6. Call for Introduction of Micro Irrigation (Drip Irrigation) For Farmers in Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency in Adamawa State and in Other Parts of Nigeria: Hon. Yusuf Buba Yakubu.

The House:

Notes that many people in Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency are subsistence farmers who have limited funds and rely basically on rainfall for their water supply, as a result of which they are unable to cultivate all year round as they cannot afford the traditional irrigation methods which are expensive;

Aware that the Micro Irrigation (Drip Irrigation) is a low cost drip irrigation system tailored for the needs of poor farmers which can solve the irrigation problems of the farmers as it can be as cheap as ₦25,000.00 and can be used on a farm land as small as 1,500 square meters; and a kit drip system costing ₦55,000.00-₦60,000.00 will cover a farm with 1,500 plants of pepper which can yield 180,000 fruits at 12 fruits per stand and has a net sale of ₦360,000;

Concerned that despite the availability of this low cost irrigation system, many farmers do not have knowledge about it owing mainly to the failure of the relevant government agencies to create awareness about it, rather emphasis is placed on large dam irrigation system;

Worried that owing to reduced rainfall, many farmers have abandoned their small farms due to unavailability of water to irrigate them but the introduction of micro irrigation system will revive the farms, boost production, thereby solving the double-digit prices of food products, and also prevent growth of weeds and reduce labour in farm work;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to introduce the micro drip irrigation methods (Drip Irrigation) to small scale farmers in Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency and in other parts of the country and also create awareness amongst small scale farmers about the Micro Irrigation methods (Drip Irrigation);

(*ii*) also urge the Agricultural and Commercial Banks to provide loans at single digit interest rates to small scale farmers to enable them purchase the Drip Irrigation Kits.

7. **Call on Governments at all Levels to make Adequate Security arrangements for the Protection of Students in Primary and Secondary Schools:**
Hon. Yakubu A. Balogun:

The House:

Recalls the unfortunate incident of the abduction of about two hundred and seventy-six (276) school girls by the Boko Haram insurgents from the Federal Government Girls Secondary School, Chibok, Borno State on the 15 April, 2014 with about fifty-seven (57) of the girls having, at different times, escaped, thereby leaving two hundred and nineteen (219) of them still in captivity;

Notes that efforts being made by the Nigerian Military and other Security Apparatus to locate and free the girls from captivity have so far not yielded positive results;

Aware that the abduction of the girls occurred due to lack of adequate or absence of security measures to protect the school children from such dastardly act;

Also aware that following the unfortunate incident, many private schools have taken the issue of security and safety of students and their school environments more seriously than ever before, but no concrete steps appear to have been taken to provide security measures in the public primary and secondary schools to forestall a reoccurrence of such unfortunate incident;

Resolves to:

Urge the Military High Command and the Joint Special Military Task Force to work with the Federal Ministry of Education and the National Parents Teachers Association of Nigeria to develop and put in place a comprehensive and effective security surveillance and strategy in the public primary and secondary schools at the Federal, States and Local Government levels, especially those operating boarding system.

8. **Call for a New Revenue Allocation Formula (RAF) for the Federation:**
Hon. Rotimi Agunsoye:

The House:

Aware that the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) is the body saddled with the responsibility of fixing the Revenue Allocation Formula for the distribution of funds to the three tiers of government and recalls that the Formula currently in use for the allocation of funds from the Federation Accounts to the three tiers of government, was enacted in 1982 and amended in 1992, much before the coming into force of the 1999 Constitution;

Aware that Section 6 (1) (*b*) of the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act, Cap. R7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 prescribes for a certain committee within the Agency to review the Revenue Allocation Formula from time to time, to reflect current and contemporary realities;

Worried that the effectiveness of the current applicable Formula, which is over thirty years old, would appear doubtful to reflect the realities facing the financial needs of the three tiers of government;

Observes that the provision in the 1992 Act which prescribes for the deduction of various percentages totaling about 7.5%, which fund altogether is referred to as "Special Fund" has been adjudged unconstitutional by the Supreme Court;

Also aware that Section 162 (2) of the Constitution requires the President, on the recommendation of the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission, to submit a proposal for a new Revenue Allocation Formula to the National Assembly for consideration and passage into law.

Concerned that the failure to review the Revenue Allocation Formula, in line with contemporary realities, poses frequent financial threats and hardships in the fiscal relationship between the three tiers of government, creating imbalance and loopholes of uncertainty in the federal structure;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission to review the current Revenue Allocation Formula to reflect contemporary realities; and

(*ii*) also urge the President to, as a matter of urgency, submit to the National Assembly proposals for a new Revenue Allocation Formula, for further legislative action.

9. **Need to Checkmate Illegal Fishing activities by Chinese Vessels off the Coast of Nigeria and West Africa:**
Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso:

The House:

Notes recent report by Green Peace which highlighted the alarming rate at which Chinese vessels have been fishing off the coast of Nigeria and other West Africa countries in contravention of the Convention on Fishing and Conservation of Living Resources of the High Seas of 1958 (effective 1966);

Aware that the Convention, to which Nigeria is a signatory, empowers the country to act to protect or conserve living resources of the high seas within its coast to prevent them from over-exploitation;

Worried by further reports by Green Peace which suggest that some of the Chinese vessels have been exceeding the fishing limits authorized under International Conventions by 61%, and concerned about the impact of over-exploitation of these marine resources on the marine ecology of West Africa;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to use its influence in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to mobilize, the various member States towards checkmating illegal fishing within their maritime boundaries;

(*ii*) also urge the Federal Government to direct the Nigerian Navy and other security agencies to effectively patrol the nation's maritime boundaries to check illegal fishing activities; and

(*iii*) mandate the Committees on Marine Safety, Education and Administration, Environment and Habitat to liaise with all relevant Agencies to ensure compliance with prayers (1) and (2) and report to the House within four (4) weeks.

10. **Non-Compliance by the State Governments, Federal Capital Territory Administration, and Local Government Councils with the Prohibition of the use of Consultants, Contractors, Taskforces or Non-Revenue Officials in the Assessment and Collection of Taxes and Levies across the Federation:**
Hon. Anayo Edwin:

The House:

Notes that Section 2 (1) of the Taxes and Levies (Approved List for Collection) Act, Cap. T2, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 prohibits and criminalizes the use of non-revenue officials popularly referred to as consultants, contractors or taskforces in revenue assessment and collection across, the Federation;

Aware that the use of consultants, where it is permissible, should not exceed the confines of their advising the government on possible legal ways of encouraging tax compliance, while the duty of assessing, demanding and collection of taxes and levies are the exclusive preserve of officials of government employed for that purpose;

Amazed that while the Acting Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Mr Babatunde Fowler showed good leadership by publicly announcing the ban of consultants from assessing and collecting revenues for the FIRS at the 132nd Meeting of the Joint Tax Board (JTB) which held in Abuja on 14 September, 2015, Commissioners of Finance of some states were bold to announce the resolve of their respective States Executive Councils to engage consultants for the same purpose that had been prohibited;

Observes that the consultants now use their company's letterheads which, in some cases, contain the name of the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of the Federal, States or Local Governments that engaged their services, to write demand letters to taxable entities in the country, and in most cases, the account numbers that will be indicated on the demand letters would be private accounts of the consultants;

Also notes that it is the duty of the staff of the Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS) and the Board of Internal Revenue (BIR) to collect taxes for the Federal and State Governments respectively, within the confines of the Taxes and Levies (Approved List for Collection) Act, and the duty of the Joint Tax Board (JTB) to monitor compliance with extant laws by the collecting authority to avoid abuse of any tax regime;

Worried that the use of these non-revenue officials generally increases the tax burden of the ordinary Nigerian taxable entity by creating tax burdens that are not supported by any law, encourages the abuse of citizens' economic rights, renders the revenue officials redundant, and encourages wastages and leakages;

Resolves to:

(*i*) Express displeasure at the practice of using consultants, contractors, taskforces or non-revenue officials in the assessment and collection of taxes and levies across the Federation and urge the State Governments, Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), and Local Government Councils to discontinue the practice; and

(*ii*) also urge the Joint Tax Board (JTB) to monitor the situation and then mandate the Committee on Finance to liaise with the Board with a view to reporting back to the House the level of compliance

BILLS

11. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Freedom of Information Act, 2011 to Strengthen Institutions in Administration of the Act and for Other Connected Purposes (HB. 40) (*Hon. Davematics D. E. Ombugadu*) — *Second Reading*.

12. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Security Services Welfare Infrastructure Development Commission to provide, among other things, Management and Review the State of Welfare Infrastructure of the Security Services; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 83) (*Hon. Joan Onyemaechi Mrakpor*) — *Second Reading*.

13. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Standard Organization of Nigeria Act, Cap. S9, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Mandate the Organization to Compile and Publish Quarterly an Inventory of Substandard Products in Circulation and Impose Stiffer Penalties on Defaulters and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 47) (*Hon. Oghene Emma Egoh*) — *Second Reading*.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

	Committee	*Date*	*Time*	*Venue*
1.	*Ad-hoc* Committee on the Alleged Fraudulent Practices in the Collection and Management of Non-Oil Revenue Remittances	Thursday, 5 November, 2015	2.00 p.m.	Committee Room 456 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
2.	*Ad-hoc* Committee on Looming Disputes in the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment	Thursday, 5 November, 2015	2.00 p.m.	Committee Room 345 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
3.	*Ad-hoc* Committee on the Request for Special Approval of Lagos State Development Policy Operation II under the Federal Government External Borrowing Rolling Plan with the Relevant Stakeholders	Thursday, 5 November, 2015	2.00 p.m.	Committee Room 107 New Building (House) Assembly Complex
4.	*Ad-hoc* Committee on the Request for an Increase in the Amount Raised through the Diaspora Bond from the International Capital Market with Relevant Stakeholders Remittances	Thursday, 5 November, 2015	3.00 p.m.	Committee Room 107 New Building (House) Assembly Complex