



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA NOTICE PAPER

House of Reps notice paper, Monday, 2 July, 2018

---

## NOTICE OF MOTIONS

1. **A Call to Investigate the Criteria for the Varied Cut- Off-Marks for Admission into Unity Schools by the National Common Entrance Examination Board (NCEEB):  
Hon. Randolph Iwo Oruene Brown.**

The House:

*Notes* that recently, the National Common Entrance Examination Board (NCEEB) published the cut-off marks for admission into Unity Schools for the 2017/2018 academic session;

*Further notes* that the published cut-off marks drastically varies from state to state;

*Cognizant* that the quality of education in Nigeria has dropped to an alarming rate and this portends great danger for the future of the country;

*Aware* that a falling standard in education in any country is like an epidemic and all relevant authorities must consciously work towards redeeming such a situation;

*Further aware* that *Section 15(1) (2) (a & b)* of the Child's Rights Act, 2003, places a duty on the government to provide free, compulsory and universal basic education for every Nigerian child, hence the importance of education should never be undermined;

*Concerned* that with the trend of putting varied cut-off marks for students who ought to study the same courses in the future and practice the same professions, this trend is dangerous for our already epileptic educational system and will no doubt affect the development of the country in the long run;

*Also concerned* that most of the compromised cut-off marks do not make up to 50% of the requisite 100%, while in some cases the marks do not make up to even 20% of the requisite percentage;

*Further concerned* that some students who have to meet a cut-off mark of 65% will be expected to end up in the same university, study the same courses as their contemporaries that had to meet up the cut-off mark of 14% for males and 12% for females respectively;

*Worried* that if this situation is not reversed, the Nigerian educational system would gradually shut down and the country will become largely underdeveloped;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committee on Basic Education and services to investigate the basis for the cut-off marks set by the NCEEB for admission of pupils into Nigerian Unity Schools and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action.

## **2. Need to Prevent Counterfeiting of Drugs in Nigeria through NAFDAC Mobile Authentication Service (MAS):**

**Hon. Babajimi Benson:**

The House:

*Notes* that fake drugs undermine every aspect of medical treatment and health care delivery and are a major cause of suffering and death;

*Concerned* that Drug adulteration and counterfeiting has contributed negatively to the wellbeing of Nigerians and the illicit trade has escalated within the Nigerian health care system in recent times;

*Aware* that in 2010, the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), in its effort to combat counterfeit drugs, initiated the Mobile Authentication Service (MAS), which allows consumers to send by text message, an authentication code to a designated number approved by NAFDAC to confirm the genuineness of purchased drugs;

*Also aware* that the MAS allowed consumers seeking to buy genuine drugs to scratch a coating on the packaging of the drug to reveal a unique 12 or 13 digit PIN that could be sent by SMS text to a short code 38353 and get a response within seconds indicating if the drug is genuine, or potentially fake or stolen;

*Observes* that in recent times, there has been a reduced campaign on this authentication process and most of the drugs over the counter and infant syrups do not have the unique 12 or 13 digit PIN;

*Worried* that the negligence on the part of the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) has led to the influx of fake and counterfeit drugs into Nigeria's drug markets in particular and the health sector in general;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) Urge the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) and the Consumer Protection Council

- (ii) (CPC) to ensure that the Mobile Authentication Service (MAS) is re-activated and applied to all drugs purchased in Nigeria;
- (iii) Also urge NAFDAC to, as a matter of urgency, begin a national wide publicity on MAS for the education and enlightenment of the public;
- (iv) Mandate the Committee on Health Care Services to ensure Compliance.

**3. Need to Check the Sale of certain Drugs and the Bulk Purchase of Noxious Drugs across the counter without Due Prescription:  
Hon. O.K. Chinda.**

The House

*Notes* with concern the practice, increase trend and unrestrained sale of certain drugs And the bulk purchase of certain noxious drugs and substances across the counter, without due prescription by doctors and other professional medical personnel;

*Also notes* that health is of utmost importance and one of the areas the Federal Government ought to pay attention to in order to enhance the welfare of the people as enshrined in S.17 (3) (c) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) which provides that the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring that the health, safety and welfare of all persons are safeguarded and not endangered or abused;

*Further notes* that there are certain drugs which directly and chemically affects person's mental state when used or administered without due authorization, such as anti-depressants; stimulants; anti-psychotics; mood stabilizers; anxiolytics; depressants, and also some common drugs such as codeine or those that have codeine in them, such as cough syrups, sleeping pills etc; which overdose could stimulate one's mental state;

*Concerned* of the effect of bulk purchase of these drugs across the counter without due prescription;

*Worried* that the use of these common drugs like cough syrups is rampant amongst youth and street urchins and it gives them 'Dutch courage' to commit crimes and other social vices.

*Aware* of the provisions of the Dangerous Drugs Act, Cap. D 1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 which regulates the import, export, manufacture, sale and use of opium and other dangerous drugs in Nigeria, however, it does not effectively cover the sale of psychoactive substances across the counter by pharmaceutical shops in Nigeria and is thus ineffectual and has little or no effect(s) in this respect;

*Also aware* that though psychoactive substances are used by humans for a number of different purposes to achieve specific ends, exposure to them can cause changes to the brain that counteracts their effects which may lead to physical dependent;

*Further aware* that whilst psychoactive drugs are prescribed for the management of mental and emotional disorders, some people in Nigeria now put them to abuse and illegal use;

*Commends* the recent ban by the Federal Government of the manufacture, importation and/or sale of codeine in Nigeria which is a show of concern and response to societal challenges;

*Further worried* that the current practice where certain harmful drugs and psychoactive substances, and the bulk purchase of certain noxious drugs across the counter without proper prescription are not immediately checked the health and several problems faced by teeming Nigerians, especially amongst the youth could further be worsen;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) Strongly condemn the current practice where pharmaceutical shops sell certain harmful drugs and psychoactive substances, and the bulk purchase of certain noxious drugs across the counter without proper prescription;
- (ii) Urge the Federal Ministry of Health, the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA); the Pharmacy Council of Nigeria and other relevant health agencies to forthwith ban the sale of certain harmful drugs and psychoactive substances, and the bulk purchase of certain noxious drugs across the counter without proper prescription by a medical professional;
- (iii) Mandate the Committees on Health Care Services and Drugs and Narcotics to urgently investigate the matter with a view of proffer a lasting solution and report back within 4weeks for further legislative action.

**4. Need to Account for the Funds Spent on Information Technology by Ministries, Departments and Agencies in the Federation:**

**Hon. Ibora Ekanem**

**The House:**

*Notes* that the National Information Technology Agency (NITDA) has reported that Ministries, Government Departments and Agencies (MDA) spend about \$2 billion on Information Technology (IT) projects annually without commensurate results;

*Note further* that it has been further reported that the demand for public funds to pursue IT projects has created and become a means to syphon public funds by corrupt individuals;

*Aware* that a recent investigation carried out by the National Information Technology Development Agency, showed that many IT projects were riddled with poor conceptualization without clear sustainability plans, thereby leading to duplication, waste, redundancies, and a conduit pipeline to syphon public funds;

*Worried* that a great of the country's financial resources is being hoarded to the benefit of a few individuals thereby damaging the country's economy and reputation;

*Disturb* that if no attention is given to this matter, it may pave way for corrupt practices to

increase among MDA's using ICT platform as a ground for official theft, breach of trust and misappropriations;

*Resolves to:*

Mandate the Committees on Public Account and Finance to investigate the matter and report back within four (4) weeks, with appropriate recommendation, for further legislative action.

5. **Need to Prevent Counterfeiting of Drugs in Nigeria through NAFDAC Mobile Authentication Service (MAS)**

**Hon. Babajimi Benson**

The House:

*Notes* that fake drugs undermine every aspect of medical treatment and health care delivery and are a major cause of suffering and death;

*Concerned* that fake, adulterated and Drug counterfeiting has contributed negatively to the wellbeing of Nigerians and its illicit trade has escalated within the Nigerian health care system in recent times;

*Aware* that the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) in 2010, in its effort to combat counterfeit drugs initiated the Mobile Authentication Service (MAS) by Pharmaceutical Companies nationwide, which allows consumers to send by text message an authentication code to a designated number approved by NAFDAC to confirm the genuineness of purchased drugs;

*Further* aware that the MAS allowed consumers seeking to buy genuine drugs to scratch a coating on the packaging of the drug to reveal a unique 12 or 13 digit PIN that could be sent by SMS text to a short code 38353 and get a response within seconds indicating if the drug is genuine, or potentially fake or stolen;

*Observes* that in recent times, there has been a reduced campaign on this authentication process and most of the drugs over the counter and infant syrups do not have the unique 12 or 13 digit PIN;

*Worried* that the negligence on the part of National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) and Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) have led to the influx of fake and counterfeit drugs into Nigeria's drug markets in particular and the health sector in general;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) Urge the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC), the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) and the Consumer Protection Council (CPC) to ensure that the Mobile Authentication Service (MAS) is re-activated and applied to all purchased drugs in Nigeria;
- (ii) Also urge NAFDAC to, as a matter of urgency, begin a national wide publicity on MAS for the education and enlightenment of the public;
- (iii) Mandate the Committee on Health Care Services to ensure compliance.

**6. Need for Urgent Intervention by the Federal Government of Nigeria in Completing the Armed Forces Physical and Health School, and Games Village, Esa-Oke, Osun State:  
Hon. Oluwole Oke.**

The House:

*Notes* that, the Federal Government through the Ministry of Defence conceived the idea for the development of an Armed Forces Physical and Health School and Games Village (the School) in Esa-Oke, Osun State;

*Further notes* that the idea behind the project was to develop a state of the art institution that will promote the physical fitness, agility and combat readiness of members of the Nigerian Armed Forces;

*Recalls* that the School was to be modelled after the United States Army Physical Training School in South Carolina, which focuses on all aspects of Army's Physical Readiness Training System in accordance with Army Doctrine and Regulations;

*Further recalls* that in the 2008 Budget, the National Assembly made provisions for funds for the establishment and development of the Armed Forces Physical and Health School and Games Village, Esa-Oke, Osun State;

*Notes* that despite the consistent support from the National Assembly towards the development and operationalization of the School, it has practically transformed into an abandoned project and no major progress has been done on the project site;

*Further notes* that this state of affairs is inimical to the physical conditions of our troops and service personnel and adversely affects their combat readiness and ability to deliver on the constitutional mandate of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, which includes to protect the territorial integrity of Nigeria and defend Nigeria from external aggression and internal insurrection;

*Concerned* that if urgent steps are not taken to complete the project, its absence will continue to affect the physical conditions of our troops and service personnel, especially when peer-reviewed with their contemporaries in other countries, and it will by extension affect our National Security;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) Urge the Ministry of Defence to complete the project; and
- (ii) Mandate the House Committees on Defence and Public Procurement to investigate the matter and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action.

**7. Need for Construction of More Pedestrian Bridges on Major Highways in the Federal Capital Territory.**

**Hon. James Abiodun Faleke:**

House:

*Notes* that Pedestrian bridges are a common feature in cities across the world, constructed to

reduce risk of accidents and save time that pedestrians waste by waiting for vehicles to clear in order to cross;

Also notes that the bridges are meant to provide safe means of crossing expressways and prevent the obstruction of free traffic flow;

*Aware* that pedestrian bridges have been built at some junctions in the past in the Federal Capital Territory, but with an unexpected increase in population of satellite towns such as Jahi and Kubwa, and others springing up along major Expressways in FCT, there is a rising need for construction of more bridges to ensure safety of pedestrians;

*Concerned* that with the construction of roads, more junctions and trouble spots emerge and since pedestrian bridges are not part of the original contracts, they often come up as an afterthought;

*Observes* that existing footbridges are built very far from each other, thereby forcing pedestrians to either trek long distances in order to cross them or just run across the expressways which further exposes them to danger;

*Also observes* that some of the trouble spots in the FCT include the Jahi expressway, Kubwa expressway and Airport Road;

*Also concerned* that the existing pedestrian bridges are not secured and lack maintenance as pedestrians have to deal with stench from refuse dumped at and around the bridges;

*Resolves to:*

- (i) Urge the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) to carry out a thorough inspection of trouble spots with a view to constructing more pedestrian bridges at the trouble spots and include the project in the 2019 Appropriation proposal;
- (ii) Also urge the FCDA and security agencies to provide cleaning services and security at the existing bridges.