

UPDATES FROM THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, 8 June 2021

1. Executive Communication:

- President Muhammadu informs the House of Representatives through a letter of his decision to transmit the Harmonized Retirement Age for Teachers in Nigeria Bill, 2021 for consideration and passage
- President Muhammadu Buhari seeks the approval of the House of Representatives to confirm Major General Farouk Yahaya for appointment as Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) of the Armed Forces.

2. Highlights from the Opening Remarks of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila on Resumption of Plenary

- The House of Representatives Committees on Communication; Justice; Information and Culture; National Security and Intelligence mandated to immediately commence an investigation to determine:
 - a. The circumstances of the decision by the Federal Government of Nigeria to suspend the operations of Twitter in Nigeria; and
 - b. The legal authority for the ban on the operations of Twitter in Nigeria.
- The Committees on Communications; Justice; Information and Culture; National Security and Intelligence mandated to invite the Minister of Information and Culture, Lai Mohammed for a briefing session on the objectives, intent and duration of the suspension on the Twitter operations in Nigeria.
- That the House of Representatives recognizes that Twitter, like other social media networks is an important tool for communication and commerce in Nigeria, particularly among the younger generation.
- That the House of Representatives will commence the consideration of Bills intended to reform Nigeria's national security statutory framework.
- That the final report of the Security Summit, including the recommendations for legislative action will be presented to the President, Muhammadu Buhari.

3. Presentation of Bills for First Reading:

The following Bills were presented in the House of Representatives for First Reading:

- 1999 Constitution (Alteration) Bill, 2021 (HB 1375)
- Specialized National Dermatology Hospital (Est) Bill, 2021 (HB 1382)

- Federal University of Technology, Yaba (Est) Bill, 2021 (HB 1383)
- Federal University Birnin-Kebbi (Est) Bill, 2021 (HB 1384)
- National Agency for the Production, Management and Control of Sugarcane, Makarfi (Establishment) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1385)
- Federal Universities of Agriculture and Technology (Establishment. Etc.) Bill, 2021 (HB. 1290)

4. Presentation of Reports

- The House of Representatives received the reports of its Committee on Basic Education and Services on:
 - a. The Bill to provide for the Compulsory Teaching of Safety, Security and Intelligence Studies (HB 238)
 - b. The Bill to amend the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council Act, 2004 (HB 84)
 - c. The Need to proffer lasting solution on the millions of Out of School Children in Nigeria”
- The House of Representatives received the report of its Committee on Public Accounts on the *“Deliberate and Reckless Refusal by Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government to render Audited Accounts for the period 2014–2018 to the Auditor-General for the Federation”*

5. Third Reading and Passage of Bills

The following Bills were read for the Third Time and Passed by the House of Representatives:

- Mandatory Inclusion of Agricultural Science in Secondary Schools Curriculum in Nigeria Bill, 2019 (HB 244)
- Nigerian Council for Management Development Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill, 2020 (HB 1119)
- Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB 69)
- Nigeria Infrastructure Development Bank (Establishment Etc.) Bill, 2020 (HB 908)
- National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB 168)

6. Consolidation of Bills

The House of Representatives consolidated 2 Bills seeking to establish a national commission for Polytechnics (HBs 659 and 1287) as it borders on similar subject matters.

7. Consideration of Bills

The following Bills were read for the Second Time in the House of Representatives and referred to the relevant Committees:

- A Bill to alter the 1999 Constitution (as amended) to strengthen political parties structures in Nigeria (HB 1109) and referred to the Ad-hoc Committee on Constitution Review.
- A Bill to alter the 1999 Constitution (as amended) to change the names “Egbado South” and “Egbado North” to “Yewa North” and Yewa South” and referred to the Ad-hoc Committee on Constitution Review.

8. Consideration of Motions

The House of Representatives resolved to:

- a. Grant its Committee on Tertiary Education and Services an extension of four (4) weeks to enable it conclude the assignments.
- b. Mandate its Committees on Basic Education and Services, Tertiary Education and Services and Legislative Compliance to ensure that appropriate modalities for the provision of basic security and safety measures to protect schools in Nigeria is implemented.
- c. Urge the Federal Ministry of Health to formulate a tax policy on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages in Nigeria.

9. Consideration of Reports

The House of Representatives in the Committee of the Whole approved the reports on the following Bills:

- a. The Bill to establish the Federal University of Technology, Saapenwa, Ogoni (HB 1219)
- b. The Bill to establish the National Institute of Credit Administration (HB 1018).

