



**SENATE OF THE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
ORDER PAPER**

Wednesday, 23rd November, 2022

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1. Prayers
 2. Approval of the Votes and Proceedings
 3. Oaths
 4. Announcements (if any)
 5. Petitions
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BUSINESS OF THE DAY

PRESENTATION OF BILLS

1. Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act 2018 (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (SB. 1075) - *First Reading*
Sen. Gobir, Ibrahim Abdullahi (*Sokoto East-Senate Leader*).
 2. Extradition Act Cap E25 LFN 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (SB. 1076) - *First Reading*
Sen. Gobir, Ibrahim Abdullahi (*Sokoto East-Senate Leader*).
 3. Federal University of Agriculture and Technology, Orerokpe (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (HB. 663)
- *First Reading*
Sen. Gobir, Ibrahim Abdullahi (*Sokoto East-Senate Leader*).
 4. Chartered Institute of Development and Social Studies Bill, 2022 (HB. 1380) - *First Reading*
Sen. Gobir, Ibrahim Abdullahi (*Sokoto East-Senate Leader*).
 5. Federal Inland Revenue Act 2007 (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (SB. 1063) - *First Reading*
Sen. Abdullahi, Yahaya Abubakar (*Kebbi North*).
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ORDERS OF THE DAY

RE-COMMITTAL OF BILLS

1. Re-Committal of Bills to the Committee of the Whole.

The Senate:

Recalls that the following Bills were passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives and were transmitted to the Clerk of the National Assembly for onward transmission to the President C-in-C for Assent;

The Bills are:

1. Chartered Institute of Forensic Investigative Professionals of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2022;
2. Chartered Institute of Risk Management of Nigeria Bill, 2022;
3. Chartered Institute of Environmental Practitioners of Nigeria Bill, 2022; and

Observes that some fundamental issues which require fresh legislative action by both Chambers of the National Assembly emerged after a critical analysis of the Bills by Mr. President C - in - C;

Aware that a Technical Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives and Directorate of Legal Services met and worked on the Bills;

Relying on order 1(b) and order 52(6) of Senate Standing Order, 2022 as amended.

Accordingly resolves to:

Rescind its decision on the Bills as passed and re-commit same to the Committee of the Whole for re-consideration and passage.

PRESENTATION AND CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

1. Report of the Committee on Local and Foreign Debts

Promissory Note Programme and Bond Issuance as refund to Taraba and Yobe States Government for Projects executed on behalf of the Federal Government

Sen. Ordia, Akhimienmona Clifford (*Edo Central*).

-That the Senate do receive and consider the report of the Committee on Local and Foreign Debts on the Promissory Note Programme and Bond Issuance as refund to Taraba and Yobe States Government for Projects executed on behalf of the Federal Government.

2. Report of the Committee on FCT

2022 FCT Appropriation Bill, 2022 (SB. 1070)

Sen. Adeyemi, Smart (*Kogi West*)

-That the Senate do receive and consider the report of the Committee on FCT on the 2022 FCT Appropriation Bill, 2022 (SB. 1070).

3. Report of the Committee on Trade and Investment

Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria Act, 2011 (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (SB. 824)

Sen. Alkali, Saidu Ahmed (*Gombe North*)

-That the Senate do receive and consider the report of the Committee on Trade and Investment on the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria Act, 2011 (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (SB. 824).

4. Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service

Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN) Act No.76 of 1993 Cap A26 LFN (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (SB. 885)

Sen. Shekarau, Ibrahim (*Kano Central*)

-That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN) Act No.76 of 1993 Cap A26 LFN (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (SB. 885).

5. Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service

National Environmental Research and Training Institute (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (SB. 527)

Sen. Shekarau, Ibrahim (*Kano Central*)

-That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the National Environmental Research and Training Institute (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (SB. 527).

6. Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service

Microbiology Council of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (SB. 139)

Sen. Shekarau, Ibrahim (*Kano Central*)

-That the Senate do receive and consider the Report of the Committee on Establishment and Public Service on the Microbiology Council of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (SB. 139).

MOTIONS

1. Need for Senate intervention in the ongoing bid to concession the Zungeru Hydroelectric Power Plant in Niger State.

Sponsor: Senator Gabriel Torwua Suswam (*Benue North-East*).

Co-Sponsor: Sen. Abdullahi, Yahaya Abubakar (*Kebbi North*)

The Senate:

Notes that the Zungeru Hydroelectric Power Plant (ZHPP) located in Zungeru, Niger State is a 700MW capacity electricity generating plant, contract for which was originally awarded sometime in 2013 in the sum of \$1.3 billion. It is considered the second largest hydroelectric plant in Nigeria after the Kainji Hydropower Station, also in Niger State;

Notes also that apart from the huge loan secured by the Federal Government from the Exim bank of China to fund the construction of the ZHPP, the National Assembly has since the commencement of construction work on the plant approved billions of Naira annually through its budgetary appropriation powers towards the completion of the plant. Over N43billion was allocated to the ZHPP under the 2022 Appropriation Act and another N76.5 billion is being proposed by the executive in the 2023 Budget;

Observes that the ZHPP was expected to have been completed within 60 months from the date of execution of contract in 2013 but several factors have threatened the speedy completion of the project;

Observes further that the ZHPP is expected upon completion to inject about 2.64 KW/h annually to the National Grid apart from other benefits such as water supply schemes, dry season farming and irrigation, flood control, aqua -tourism opportunities and other economic activities that would emerge within and around the immediate communities where the project is sited;

Aware that National Council on Privatization (NCP) and its Secretariat, the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) in conjunction with the Federal Ministry of Power (FmOP) had in compliance with the provisions of the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) invited interested investors to participate in a Two-stage process that would lead to the selection of a concessionaire that would operate, maintain and manage the ZHPP for a Minimum of Thirty (30) years;

Aware also that the Invitation for Submission of Request for Qualification (RFQ) was published in the Business Day Newspaper of Thursday 27th October, 2022 and several mediums including a Road Show to further create awareness on the exercise;

Notes that while it is within the statutory powers of the NCP and its Secretariat, the BPE, to implement and superintend over the privatization of Federal Government assets, the strategic importance of the ZHPP in ameliorating Nigeria's current power challenges calls for the immediate intervention of the Senate in the exercise of its constitutional oversight responsibility to ascertain the implication of the proposed concession on government treasury and the Power Sector Recovery Programme in particular;

Notes also that Senate's intervention at this point is further underscored by the need to ensure accountability for the huge annual budgetary allocations made to the project over the years, the issue of managing unsettled external loans tied to the project, the fate of unsettled host communities where the project is sited and the need to generally establish whether the proposed concession of the ZHPP is an exercise that would ensure that government get the deserved value for funds expended on this project as well as ensure that community-related conflicts do not arise after take over by the prospective consignee; and

Recalls that in the recent past, the Federal Government had through the NCP and its Secretariat the, BPE, implemented an ambitious programme for the privatization of government owned power assets but several years since the completion of the privatization exercise in 2013, the performance of the private new owners still remains a subject of controversy and recrimination in public circles hence the need for government to be wary and take precautions in the proposed concession of the ZHPP.

Accordingly resolves to:

- (i) *Mandate* the Committee on Power to investigate the circumstances and conditions under which the 700MW Zungeru Hydroelectric Power Plant is being concessioned particularly as it relates to the utilization of annual budgetary allocations made to the project, completion level of the project, the management of external loans from the Chinese Exim Bank which are tied to the project, the fate of unsettled host communities where the project is sited, the adequacy or otherwise, of selection criteria for the concessionaire and to generally establish whether the proposed concession of the ZHPP is an exercise that would ensure that government get the deserved value for funds expended on this project, and to report back to the Senate within two weeks; and
- (ii) *Urge* the National Council on Privatization and its Secretariat, the Bureau of Public Enterprises and other MDAs concerned to suspend indefinitely, the proposed concession of the 700MW Zungeru Hydroelectric Power Plant in Niger State pending the conclusion of investigation by the Senate Committee on Power and the consequent adoption of the decision of the Senate based on the findings and recommendations of the Committee
2. Urging the Federal Government to promote the development of Classroom/Modern Libraries and a robust reading culture in Nigeria.

Sponsor: Sen. Ibezim, Frank Chukwuma (*Imo North*)

The Senate;

Notes with concern the recent decline in reading culture amongst most Nigerians which is even more visible in schools beginning from formative and basic years of primary school through secondary school and tertiary institutions;

Notes Further that a reading culture is knowledge-based and results to an enlightened and developed society. That is not the case any more in view of the poor reading culture among students of primary and secondary schools in Nigeria which has reached an alarming rate and needs to be addressed urgently before it worsens;

Aware that poor reading culture has arisen due to a flawed education system where emphasis is on memorizing texts and not practical training, lack of well-equipped library facilities with state of the art Information and Communication Technology gadgets and ridiculously low patronage by the students even where libraries are available and accessible;

Recalls that in the 1980s and 1990s, public libraries were fully equipped and accessible to the general public. The reading culture amongst Nigerians was rated high even amongst school age children. In schools, there were Reading Clubs and students read together and borrowed books to read at home;

Observes that Nigeria has one of the highest number of school-age children who are not enrolled in schools and some have dropped out of school in a statistic of about 20 million school age children worldwide as reported in the 2017 International Journal of Technology and Inclusive Education;

Further Observes that in a recent UNICEF report, it was stated that over ten million children in Nigeria are out of school which is the highest rate in the world and that one in five out-of-school children in the world is a Nigerian. Being out-of-school may most likely translate to inability to read fluently and it goes without saying that such out-of-school children cannot have a reading culture;

Concerned that today, quite a number of secondary school students in Nigeria cannot read simple sentences nor speak grammatically correct English Language which is Nigeria's *lingua franca*. There are some students in the universities, polytechnics and colleges of education who cannot read fluently;

Notes that a society without a good reading culture cannot boast of knowledgeable citizens that can contribute meaningfully to national development;

Further Concerned that a society with a poor reading culture such as Nigeria is bound to have leadership crisis because of a dearth of knowledgeable leaders and these school-age students in focus are the future leaders of our great country Nigeria. Lack of a good reading culture also affects the ability to tolerate one another as one who does not read has no knowledge of happenings in other diversified and technologically advanced countries;

Observes that at individual level, poor reading culture impedes personal development and success in life. Lack of reading has affected a good number of Nigerians. Most adults lack the capacity to read and understand simple instructions and warning signs such as 'use the pedestrian bridge' or 'do not cross major highways on foot'. Not surprisingly, lack of a reading culture is also a reason why some students are not performing well academically in school today as they fail to read and understand instructions;

Disturbed that the National Library project is struggling with no hope in sight. The Senate in 2019 had frowned at the fact that 57 years after independence and since 2006 when the project to build a befitting National Library began, it is yet challenged by dilapidated facilities, outdated books and no state of the art Information Communication tools. Also that the National Library of Nigeria is not expanding its branches across the country neither is it rehabilitating existing ones to encourage Nigerians to cultivate a good reading culture;

Further disturbed that the absence of modern library facilities in major cities and towns across the country is affecting negatively the reading culture of Nigerians. In the Federal Capital Territory, the public library even though is open to the general public has restrictive closing hours which are not favourable to most Nigerians who can only visit the library after the usual working hours to read. In addition, the library does not permit the borrowing-out of books;

Concerned that even private library facilities are not readily available and accessible to students and the generality of Nigerians. Only few of the private libraries are functional like the Bamanga Tukur Library located in Wuse II District of the Federal Capital Territory. These private libraries are meant to act as supplementary libraries supporting the public libraries. The private libraries have space constraints to accommodate a large number of Nigerians who desire to develop a reading culture;

Convinced that there is an urgent need for the Senate to act speedily and call for collaboration between relevant stakeholders in Nigeria's educational sector who can assist in making the issue of cultivating a reading culture a national issue and a front burner with a view to addressing the challenges that limit access to library facilities and to encourage reading culture among Nigerians; and

Further Convinced that the Federal government can work in synergy with Private Library owners by granting tax reliefs which will encourage them to offer ease of access to their library facilities and ultimately encourage students and the general public to take up reading and develop a reading culture.

Accordingly resolves;

- i. Mandate** the Committees on Education (Basic and Secondary) to interact with the Minister of Education with a view to receiving briefing from the Minister on what has been achieved so far regarding provision of Library facilities in schools across Nigeria, and to report back within two weeks;
- ii. Mandate** the Committee on Federal Capital Territory to interact with the Minister with a view to ascertaining the state of public library facilities across the Federal Capital Territory and arriving at a practicable solution to encourage the culture of reading among Nigerian students and the general public;
- iii. Direct** UBEC and other Relevant MDA's to implement IFON Classroom libraries in Primary 1 and 2 classrooms to improve reading culture and enhance foundational Education;
- iv. Urge** the general public to take seriously the issue of reading and imbibe a good reading culture which has the potential to assist the Government's efforts on integration and religious tolerance;
- v. Urge** the relevant education stakeholders to rise to the occasion and create awareness through campaigns on the necessity of cultivating a good reading culture; and
- vi. Urge** the Federal Ministry of Education in collaboration with Ministries of Education across the various states of the Federation to set aside a day as an Annual Reading Day to draw attention to the importance of a virile reading culture to national development.

BILLS FOR CONCURRENCE

1. **Veterinary Surgeons (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (HB. 70) – Concurrence**
Sen. Gobir, Ibrahim Abdullahi (*Sokoto East-Senate Leader*).
 2. **Federal University of Sports, Afuze, Edo State (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (HB. 628) – Concurrence**
Sen. Gobir, Ibrahim Abdullahi (*Sokoto East-Senate Leader*).
 3. **Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2022 (HBS. 250, 510 & 898) – Concurrence**
Sen. Gobir, Ibrahim Abdullahi (*Sokoto East-Senate Leader*).
 4. **Presidential (Transition) Bill, 2022 (HB. 3) – Concurrence**
Sen. Gobir, Ibrahim Abdullahi (*Sokoto East-Senate Leader*).
 5. **Satellite Town Development Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2022 (HB. 43) – Concurrence**
Sen. Gobir, Ibrahim Abdullahi (*Sokoto East-Senate Leader*).
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COMMITTEE MEETINGS

No.	Committee	Date	Time	Venue
1.	Ad-hoc Committee on Non-Compliance with the Petroleum Act and the Oil Mining Lease	Wednesday, 23 rd November, 2022	2.00pm	Committee Room 324 Senate New Building
2.	Review of the 1999 Constitution	Wednesday, 23 rd November, 2022	2.00pm	Committee Room 204 Senate New Building
3.	Public Accounts	Wed. 23 rd November - Tue. 13 th December, 2022 (Public Hearing)	2.00pm	Senate Hearing Room 4 White House Building
4.	Host Communities	Thursday, 24 th November, 2022	2.00pm	Committee Room 117 Senate New Building