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Weekly Legislative Digest

Weekly highlights from plenary sittings of the Senate and the House of Representatives

Week of 3–5 November 2026 | 10th National Assembly · Fourth Session

THE WEEK IN BRIEF

The President asked the Senate to approve $7.7 billion in external borrowing for the 2026 budget, a request the Senate President said appears to supersede last week's $20.5 billion plan. The Senate paused bills for new tertiary institutions and the House passed five bills. Neither chamber sat on Thursday.

$7.7bn
new external borrowing sought for the 2026 budget, about ₦10.79 trillion

30
state assemblies have approved the state police amendment, the Senate was told; 24 were needed

4
bills cleared both chambers this week

9
House bills for new colleges and universities taken in Committee of the Whole

SPOTLIGHT

President seeks $7.7 billion in new external loans

On Wednesday 4 November, the Senate President read a letter from President Tinubu seeking approval to borrow $7,707,404,882.49 abroad, about ₦10.79 trillion at ₦1,400 to the dollar, to finance the 2026 budget deficit, strengthen reserves and support the naira.

The money would come mainly from Eurobonds, with multilateral, bilateral and syndicated loans. The Finance Minister and the DMO would carry out the plan.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

The request went to the Local and Foreign Debts and Appropriations committees, with no fixed deadline. The Senate President said it appears to supersede the $20.5 billion and €1.05 billion plan received on 27 October, whose one-week deadline passed without a report.

TOP STORIES

Senate pauses bills for new universities and other tertiary institutions
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State police: last six states given until 15 November
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House passes EFCC amendment and EFCC Institute bills
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House orders probe of CBN pension arrears
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Senate: Bills, Letters and Motions

The Senate sat on Tuesday and Wednesday and adjourned to Tuesday 10 November. Two House bills passed, two bills went through second reading and five were read the first time.

Passed in concurrence

Tuesday

Federal University of Medical and Health Sciences, Item, Bende (Amendment) · HB. 2775 and **Federal College of Education, Bende (Amendment) · HB. 2776.** Both clarify the host communities of the two Abia institutions. Read the first time on 27 October, they have now passed both chambers.

Second readings

Wednesday

- **Agricultural Revolution Bill · SB. 1082** (Deputy Senate President Barau Jibrin). A legal framework to modernise farming: food security, mechanisation, irrigation, finance, agro-industry, rural development and climate-resilient farming. Carried over from Tuesday. To Agricultural Production Services and Rural Development.
- **National Health Act (Amendment) · SB. 759** (Sen. Abdulaziz Musa Yar'adua, Katsina Central). Emergency treatment standards and referral protocols in healthcare facilities. To Health (Secondary and Tertiary). The House took a similar bill the same day.

First readings

Tuesday · Wednesday

Federal Institute of Mining and Geosciences, Umuahia	HB. 1659 · Tue
Multi-Skill Development Centre, Ubiaja, Edo	SB. 1088 · Tue
National Orientation Agency (Amendment)	HB. 2503 · Wed
Federal University, Wukari (Establishment)	HB. 1382 · Wed
Debt Management Office (Amendment)	SB. 1089 · Wed

Sen. Joseph Ikpea (Edo Central) presented SB. 1088 and Sen. Pam Mwadkon Dachung (Plateau North) SB. 1089; the HB bills came from the House. HB. 2503 would set up a framework for the Global Initiative for Harmony Corps.

Letter from the President

Wednesday

External borrowing of $7.7 billion for the 2026 budget, mainly through Eurobonds. Referred to Local and Foreign Debts and Appropriations (page 1).

Motion

Tuesday

Nigeria–China air services agreement (Sen. Mohammed Tahir Monguno, Borno North). The Senate urged:

- the Aviation Ministry to renegotiate the agreement's commercial terms and flight schedules;
- the Foreign Affairs Ministry to open talks with China on business visas for Nigerian traders and reciprocal slots at Chinese airports.

The Aviation and Foreign Affairs committees report in four weeks. In debate, the Senate President ruled out reviving the Nigeria Air arrangements.

Announcements

Wednesday

- **State police.** The Senate Leader said 30 state assemblies had approved the constitutional amendment, above the 24 required. The remaining six have until 15 November; any that do not respond will be recorded as withholding consent, and the bill will then go to the President for assent.
- **New tertiary institutions.** The Senate Leader asked committees not to present bills for new universities and other tertiary institutions, and the Senate President told the Clerk to stop listing them, citing the President's opposition to new institutions for five to seven years (page 4).

House: Bills and Reports

Two sittings, on Tuesday and Wednesday: five bills passed at third reading, eight went through second reading and eleven were taken in Committee of the Whole.

Passed

Tue · Wed

EFCC (Establishment) Act (Amendment)	HB. 2493 · Tue
Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Institute	HB. 2396 · Tue
Nigeria Employees' Compensation Trust Fund Agency	SB. 557 · Tue
Federal Medical Centre, Obi, Benue	HB. 163 · Tue
Federal Medical Centre, Iyamho, Edo	SB. 717 · Wed

All in the name of House Leader Julius Ihonvbere. The EFCC Institute would train, research and develop policy on financial crimes. SB. 557, which repeals the NSITF and Employees' Compensation Acts, and SB. 717 are Senate bills and have now passed both chambers; the three House bills go to the Senate.

Second readings

Tue · Wed

- **Tuesday.** National School of Government, replacing the Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (HB. 2834; to Public Service Matters); the Senate's oil spill bill, with fines and criminal penalties (SB. 74); Federal College of Agriculture, Shani, Borno (SB. 829). The two Senate bills went to Committee of the Whole.
- **Wednesday.** Federal University of Technology, Odukpani (SB. 836); emergency treatment under the National Health Act (HB. 2739; Hon. Akintunde Rotimi); SSS pensions (HB. 2831; Hon. Hussaini Jallo); FCT rent (HB. 2839; Hon. Paul Nnamchi); Federal College of Forestry and Resources Management, Marte, Borno (HB. 2835; Hon. Bukar Talba).

FCT RENT BILL · HB. 2839

Would bar compulsory multi-year rent demands, regulate agents, agency fees and rent increases, and set up a digital register of housing agents in the FCT. To the FCT Committee.

Committee of the Whole

Tue · Wed

- **Tuesday.** Six reports of the Agricultural Colleges and Institutions Committee: specialised colleges (HB. 1481); Federal Universities of Agriculture at Ishiagu (HB. 2052), Akure (HB. 1375) and Igboora (HB. 1172); Federal Colleges of Agriculture at Ogbia (HB. 1192) and Igbeti (HB. 1385).
- **Wednesday.** Federal College of Agriculture, Shani (SB. 829); Federal University of Technology, Odukpani (SB. 836); Federal College of Nursing Sciences, Nkpa Bende (HB. 2808) and Federal Medical Centre, Bende (HB. 2807), both reported the same day; National Safety Regulatory Board (HB. 1377).

Reports laid

Tue · Wed

- **Tuesday.** National Bamboo Research and Entrepreneurship Development Institute, Umuogba-Omuma, Rivers (HB. 1222); National Systems Resilience Bill (HB. 2806), on money laundering, terrorist financing, fintech and tax administration.
- **Wednesday.** National Institute for Public Health and Infectious Diseases, Zaria (HB. 2629); teaching hospital boards (HB. 2687); and the two Bende bills above.

First readings

Tue · Wed

Eight bills, four from Hon. Mohammed Bello El-Rufai: FCCPC Act (Amendment) (HB. 2850), Prohibition of Lynching, Mob Action and Extrajudicial Executions (HB. 2851), Weights and Measures (Amendment) (HB. 2852) and a disability rights amendment (HB. 2853). Also a Federal College of Animal Health, Briyel Bayo, Borno (HB. 2848), the National Hospital for Women and Children (HB. 2849) and SBs. 829 and 836.

House: Motions

Six motions on pensions, flooding, health, roads and small businesses.

Pensions, health and flooding Tue · Wed

- **CBN pensions** (Hon. Hussaini Jallo; Tue). The Pensions Committee is to investigate the CBN's alleged breach of pension agreements with retirees, the stalled Harmonisation Policy and the exclusion of some pensioners from pension increases; the Governor is invited. Report in four weeks.
- **Flooding in Abi, Cross River** (urgent motion; Tue). Relief and agricultural recovery support for affected households.
- **Kidney disease in Maiduguri** (Hon. Abdulkadir Rahis; Wed). A federal intervention programme with Borno State, and a review of the need for nephrology services and dialysis centres. Report in four weeks.

Roads and small business Wednesday

- **Benin–Okene highway** (Hon. Anamero Dekeri). A state of emergency on the Agbede and Okpella sections, contractors mobilised and safe alternative routes for cut-off communities. Report in four weeks.
- **Abakaliki–Ikwo–Oferekpe–Obubra road** (Hon. Chinedu Ogah). Settle the contractor's verified payment certificates so work can resume; the Works, Appropriations and Finance committees to review funding.
- **Support for small businesses** (Hon. Billy Osawaru). The SME Committee to review federal MSME programmes since 2023: funding, spending, beneficiaries and results. Report in four weeks.

BOTH CHAMBERS

Procedure and Practice Watch

- **Two borrowing requests in eight days.** The $20.5 billion and €1.05 billion plan of 27 October had a one-week deadline that passed on 3 November without a report. On 4 November a $7.7 billion request arrived, which the Senate President said appears to supersede it.
- **A pause in one chamber.** The Senate stopped listing bills for new universities and other tertiary institutions. The same week the House took nine such bills in Committee of the Whole, including the Senate's own bill for a Federal University of Technology at Odukpani.
- **State police: the count and the cut-off.** The Clerk counted 28 approvals on Tuesday and noted that section 9 does not expressly require a third reading; on Wednesday the House was told 29 and the Senate 30. Assemblies silent by 15 November will count as withholding consent.
- **A returned bill, second chamber.** On a motion by Hon. Francis Waive (Tue), the House rescinded clauses 2 to 6 of the Raw Materials Research and Development Council (Amendment) Bill, returned by the President after a Justice Ministry review, and recommitted them. The Senate re-passed the bill on 20 October.
- **Reviving a lapsed bill.** The Sickle Cell Disease bill (HB. 2774), passed by the 9th Assembly with no word on assent before its term ended, went straight to Committee of the Whole under Order Twelve, Rule 16(d) (Hon. Francis Waive; Wed).
- **Several stages in a day.** On Wednesday the House took SB. 836 through first and second reading and Committee of the Whole, and laid and considered the two Bende health bills. Both chambers read emergency-care amendments to the National Health Act a second time that day.

Bills on the Move

Bills that moved this week and where they stand.

BILL	THIS WEEK	STAGE, END OF WEEK
Nigeria Employees' Compensation Trust Fund Agency · SB. 557	House · third reading · Tue	Passed both chambers
Federal Medical Centre, Iyamho · SB. 717	House · third reading · Wed	Passed both chambers
Medical university and college of education, Bende (Amendments) · HBs. 2775, 2776	Senate · concurrence · Tue	Passed both chambers
EFCC (Amendment); EFCC Institute; FMC Obi · HBs. 2493, 2396, 163	House · third reading · Tue; to the Senate for concurrence	Passed House
College of Agriculture, Shani; University of Technology, Odukpani · SBs. 829, 836	House · first and second reading and Committee of the Whole · Tue–Wed	Awaiting third reading
National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (Amendment) · SB. 74	House · second reading · Tue	Committee of the Whole
Raw Materials Research and Development Council (Amendment)	House · clauses 2 to 6 rescinded and recommitted · Tue	Committee of the Whole
National Health Act (Amendment), emergency care · HB. 2739, SB. 759	Second reading in both chambers · Wed	In committee, both
FCT rent · HB. 2839; **Agricultural Revolution** · SB. 1082	House and Senate · second reading · Wed	In committee

DATES TO WATCH

Looking Ahead

10 Nov	Both chambers resume. Senate committees are due to report on the NAFDAC and suicide prevention bills; House committees on Delta flooding and SME credit.
12–17 Nov	INEC chairman due before the House Committee on Electoral Matters (seven legislative days from 28 October); the committee reports on Njiriv and Yonov.
15 Nov	Deadline for the last six state assemblies on the state police amendment; the bill then goes to the President for assent.
17–19 Nov	House committees report on the OSGF circular, fake food and drinks, Odi erosion, Eko Bridge, POS agents and Anambra erosion; Senate committees on Ayetoro.
24–26 Nov	House committees report on EV and CNG imports, research findings, road concessions and toll gates, Biology, and phone device checks.
1–2 Dec	Senate committees report on the Nigeria–China air agreement; House committees on CBN pensions, kidney disease, MSMEs and the Benin–Okene highway.
No date set	The $7.7 billion borrowing request, before the Senate Local and Foreign Debts and Appropriations committees.

By the Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)