

Issue 006. November 2024

...front row insights on legislative governance

GREEN CHANBER

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON MEDIA & PUBLIC AFFAIRS, NIGERIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Status: All petitions have been referred to the House Committee on Public Petitions

HOUSE ABSOLVES BANK OF LIABILITY TOWARDS 167 SACKED WORKERS

By Chooks Oko



he House Committee on Public Petitions on Wednesday absolved the management of Ecobank of any liability towards one hundred and sixty seven (167) staff members laid off in 2023.

This decision followed the Committee's ruling on a petition filed by the affected staff, who sought a directive for the bank to pay them money they claimed was owed. The sacked employees argued that some statutory entitlements had not been paid, citing a proposed agreement they believed the bank had entered into with the bank workers' union.

In response, Kenneth Okere, the bank's representative, stated that Ecobank had fulfilled all its obligations to the affected staff and had even extended additional benefits beyond what was legally required.

"The proposed agreement was a one-off document that clearly addressed a specific situation and does not apply to *them,*" Okere explained. He highlighted a section of the agreement that specified its limited duration.

Okere also pointed out that the affected workers had been provided with one year of medical insurance, one month's salary in lieu of notice, four months' salary, and their gratuities.

"My client certainly deserves commendation for going above and beyond in ensuring the comfort of our former colleagues," Okere remarked. He further noted that the bank had also deposited 10% of each petitioner's basic salary, housing, and transport allowances into their respective retirement savings accounts with their individual pension administrators.

Committee Chairman, **Rep. Mike Etaba** (APC, Cross River) asked the petitioners whether they had received all the entitlements enumerated by the bank's counsel. The petitioners confirmed they had received the benefits.

"So, what is the issue then? Your petition is based on a faulty document and cannot stand. The petition is hereby dismissed for lack of merit," Rep. Etaba ruled. He also commended Ecobank for the extra measures taken for the welfare of the sacked workers, noting, "This is the People's House. We are here to ensure that no Nigerian suffers injustice, whether you are the petitioner or the respondent."



Wednesday, 20th November, 2024

INVESTIGATIVE HEARING ON INTRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS (GMOS) IN NIGERIA

House Joint Committee on Agricultural Production and Services; Privatisation and Commercialisation; Special Duties; Science, Engineering, and Public Assets



Photo Credit: Office of Rep. Muktar Tolani Shagaya

TAX REFORM: HOUSE PLEDGES CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF EXECUTIVE BILLS

By Musa Abdullahi Krishi



he House of Representatives has pledged to carefully examine the four Tax Reform Bills presented to the National Assembly by the Executive arm, ensuring that the consideration is in the best interest of Nigerians.

This commitment was made by the Speaker of the House, **Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, PhD, GCON,** on Monday in Abuja, at 'The People's House Interactive Session on Tax Reform Bills' organised by the House.

The session, which saw the participation of key stakeholders from both the public and private sectors, was held to provide members of the House with a comprehensive understanding of the proposed bills. It aimed to identify areas needing amendments, clarification, or improvement, and to evaluate the compatibility of the bills with the 1999 Constitution (as amended) and other relevant laws. Describing the debates surrounding the bills as "a reflection of their importance," Speaker Abbas emphasised that such discussions are "healthy and necessary in a democracy." He stated that the session's purpose was to channel those debates into productive outcomes, highlighting the importance of the House listening to diverse perspectives, asking probing questions, and seeking clarity on any unclear provisions.

"The House has not yet taken a definitive position on these bills. Our role is to scrutinize them thoroughly, ensuring they align with the best interests of our constituents and the nation at large. We owe this duty to Nigerians," the Speaker stated.

He further noted that tax reforms are a central aspect of the 10th House's Legislative Agenda (2023 - 2027) due to their critical role in achieving sustainable economic growth and development. Speaker Abbas explained that the bills

are key proposals from the Executive aimed at expanding Nigeria's tax base, improving compliance, and establishing sustainable revenue streams for national development.

"Nigeria, despite being Africa's largest economy, struggles with a tax-to-GDP ratio of just 6 percent—far below the global average and the World Bank's minimum benchmark of 15 percent for sustainable development. This is a challenge we must address if we are to reduce our reliance on debt financing, ensure fiscal stability, and secure our future as a nation," he said.

He added that the Tax Reform Bills aim to diversify the country's revenue base, promote equity, and foster an enabling environment for investment and innovation.

"However, as representatives of the people, we must approach these reforms thoughtfully, understanding their potential implications for every segment of society. Taxes should be fair, transparent, and justifiable, balancing the need for public revenue with the burdens they impose on individuals and businesses," the Speaker stated.

Stakeholders present at the forum included **Mr. Taiwo Oyedele**, Chairman of the Presidential Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms Committee; **Mr. Zach Adedeji**, Executive Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS); **Mr. Tanimu Yakubu**, Director General of the Budget Office; and several others.

Oyedele, who provided an overview of the four tax reform bills, assured that there was nothing to fear in the proposals, as they are designed to be in the best interest of Nigeria, particularly for states and local governments. future as a nation," he said.

He added that the Tax Reform Bills aim to diversify the country's revenue base, promote equity, and foster an enabling environment for investment and innovation.





Monday, 18th November, 2024

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES INTERACTIVE SESSION ON TAX REFORM BILLS



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TACKLING UNEMPLOYMENT: HOUSE PUSHES FOR REVITALISATION OF VOCATIONAL CENTRES NATIONWIDE

By Temidayo Taiwo-Sidiq

he House of Representatives has taken crucial steps towards the revitalisation of vocational centres managed by the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) nationwide, as part of efforts to reduce unemployment and promote entrepreneurship.

The House observed that many of these centres, located in the six geo-political zones, are nonfunctional, primarily due to dilapidated buildings, vandalism, and lack of maintenance. Essential tools and resources for training are often missing or outdated, further hindering their ability to deliver effective vocational skills training.

This decision came on Tuesday during plenary, following the adoption of a Motion of Urgent National Importance, presented by **Rep. Harrison Nwadike** (APC, Imo) and seconded by **Rep. Olamijunwonlo Alao Akala** (APC, Oyo).

Leading the debate on the motion, Rep. Nwadike emphasized President Bola Ahmed Tinubu's administration's commitment to promoting vocational skills acquisition and entrepreneurship as key drivers of economic growth and social development.

The lawmaker noted that there are currently 87 NDE-managed skill acquisition centres across the six geo-political zones of the country, revealing that 54 of them are barely functional, while 33 remain entirely non-functional. This

raises concerns about the overall effectiveness of the initiative. He stressed the importance of ensuring these centres are fully operational to maximize their impact.

Rep. Nwadike also pointed out the increasing number of non-functional skills acquisition centres in Imo State, which has left many young people without access to opportunities for skill development. This, in turn, exacerbates the already high unemployment rate among youth in the state.

"Cognisant that these centres, designed to offer crucial skill sets such as hairdressing, ICT, GSM repairs, soap making, radio and TV repairs, plumbing, carpentry, automobile fabrication, satellite installation and maintenance, shoe and bag making, electrical installation, welding, and computer operation, are vital for reducing unemployment and fostering entrepreneurship, their deteriorating conditions have significantly limited their impact.

Immediate intervention is required to restore functionality and ensure these centres fulfil their potential in equipping Nigerians for present and future economic viability through skills acquisition, particularly for the youth," he added.

Rep. Nwadike highlighted the broad reach of NDE's vocational training initiatives, noting that these centres are located in various states, including Imo, Bauchi, Kebbi, Katsina, Gombe, Rivers, Anambra, Kaduna, Niger, Yobe, Osun, Edo, and Enugu. Other states with these centres include Ekiti, Adamawa, Oyo, Borno, Sokoto, Ondo, Ebonyi, FCT, Delta, Cross River, Abia, Akwa Ibom, Ogun, Jigawa, Benue, and Kwara.

He therefore expressed concern that with 33 currently non-functional, centres the intended goal of equipping the nation's youth with essential vocational skills crucial for self-employment and economic empowerment is being undermined. He noted that Nigeria is increasingly relying on foreign nationals from countries like Togo, Republic, and Cameroon to fill Benin medium-skilled labor gaps.

"...The prolonged non-functional state of many of the skills acquisition centres has left our youths feeling disillusioned and frustrated. These centres were established to provide essential vocational training, offering pathway to self-empowerment and economic independence. However, with 33 centres non-functional, many young people are left without access to these critical deepening their resources, sense of hopelessness in an already saturated job market," the lawmaker lamented.

Rep. Nwadike emphasised that the non-operational status of the centres

symbolizes broken promises and missed opportunities, leading to rising disaffection and discontent. He stressed the urgent need to revitalise these centres to unlock their potential and provide much-needed training for thousands of unemployed Nigerians, fostering entrepreneurship and reducing dependency on limited job opportunities.

"The situation risks further alienating the younger generation who see these centres as potential avenues to escape unemployment and poverty, as well as steering them away from the path of crime and violence. Immediate action to restore and revitalise these centres is not only essential for the economic future but also for restoring their confidence in governmental initiatives aimed at youth employment," Rep. Nwadike added.

In response, the House adopted the resolutions of the motion and referred them to the House Committee on Labour, Employment, and Productivity. The committee was tasked with liaising with the NDE to conduct a comprehensive survey of the requirements needed to reactivate the 33 non-functional centres and the 54 barely functional centres, with a view to ensuring all 87 centres operate optimally within the 2025 budget cycle.

The Committee was also directed to collaborate with the Committees on National Planning and Economic Development and Appropriation to ensure that adequate budgetary provisions are made in the 2025 Appropriation Bill to support the revitalisation of the NDE Skills Acquisition Centres nationwide.

The House further mandated the Committee on Labour, Employment, and Productivity to take any additional measures deemed necessary to support and advance the objectives of the motion and to report back within two weeks.



CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



Conference Committee is one constituted by the House to deliberate on areas of disagreement between the House and the Senate, with respect to a proposed legislation or bill.

This typically follows the passage of a bill which originated in the Senate and forwarded to the House for concurrence, for which the House consider some of the provisions not acceptable.

• MEMBERSHIP

The Conference Committee comprises selected Members of the House, including some Members of the Committee that considered the Bill. (Rule 12b)

JURISDICTION

In accordance with Rule 12(c) of the House Standing Orders, the Conference Committee is, however, limited to deliberate only on areas of disagreement between the House and the Senate, and is allowed to insert in its report a matter not committed to it by either the House or the Senate.

MEETINGS

The sitting of the Conference Committee may be open or closed to the public, depending on the subject matter under discussion and the majority view of the Members. (Rule 12d)

Source: Order Twelve, Rule 12, Standing Orders of the House of Representatives (Eleventh Edition)

When the Bill has been passed by the House and the Senate without amendment or with such amendments as may have been agreed to by both Houses, a clean copy, certified by the Clerk to the National Assembly shall, as soon as possible, be presented to the President for his assent.

HOUSE RECEIVES MEDIUM-TERM EXPENDITURE FRAMEWORK (2025-2027) FROM EXECUTIVE

By Temidayo Taiwo-Sidiq



- Approves N1.7trn External Borrowing in 2024 Appropriation Act to part finance budget deficit

The House of Representatives on Tuesday, received the 2025-2027 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework and Fiscal Strategy Paper (MTEF & FSP) from the Executive for consideration and approval.

Speaker of the House, **Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, PhD, GCON,** made the announcement during plenary, reading a communication from *President Bola Ahmed Tinubu titled 'Submission of FGN* 2025-2027 Medium-Term Expenditure *Framework and Fiscal Strategy Paper* (MTEF & FSP).' Emphasising the need for the National Assembly to take expeditious legislative action on the document, President Tinubu highlighted that the 2025 Budget of the Federal Government will be prepared based on the fiscal assumptions and parameters outlined in the approved 2025-2027 MTEF & FSP.

The President in his letter, also informed the House that the submitted framework had been approved by the Federal Executive Council (FEC) on November 10, 2024. In response, the House referred the request to the Committees on Finance and on National Planning and Economic Development for further consideration. In a related development, the House has approved the request of the President to implement the New External Borrowing of N1,767,610,321,779.00 (equivalent of USD 2,209,512,902,22 at the Budget Exchange Rate of USD1.00/N800) to part finance the budget deficit of N9,179 trillion.

The House also approved, based on availability and costs, to issue EuroBonds in the sum of USD1.70 billion or more, but not more than N2, 209,12, 902.22 approved as New External Borrowing in the 2024 Appropriation Act.

This followed the consideration of a report by the House Committee of Supply on Thursday during plenary, which was earlier presented by Rep. Hassan Abubakar Nalaraba (APC, Nasarawa), Chairman of the House Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management.

Tinubu President had in а communication on Tuesday, made this accordance with request the in provisions of Sections 21(1) and 27 (1) of the Debt Management Office (DMO) (Establishment, etc.) Act, 2003, and the approval Federal Executive of the Council (FEC).

As contained in the request, the total new borrowings of N7,828 trillion is subdivided into New Domestic Borrowing of N6,061 trillion and New External Borrowing of N1,767 trillion,

The President had noted in his letter, that the funds are needed to give more impetus to the ongoing implementation of the projects and programmes in the 2024 Appropriation Act, which were designed to stabilise the economy and put it on the path of sustainable growth and development. Key projects to which the proceeds will be deployed from the priority sectors of the economy include power, transport, agriculture, defence and security.

The amount is to be raised from one or commercial sources namely: more Issuance of Eurobonds, issuance of Sukuk the Sovereign debut in International Capital Market (ICM) and Bridge Finance/Syndicated Loans. Also, the proceeds are expected to increase the accretions to the external reserves as the proceeds will be received into the Central Bank of Nigeria's account, and thereby support the Naira exchange rate.

Importantly also, the Honourable Minister of Finance and Coordinating Minister of Economy working with the Debt Management Office are authorised to take all relevant and necessary actions required to give effect to the resolution of the National Assembly.

The Federal Ministry of Finance and the Debt Management Office, working with the Transaction Advisers appointed by the Federal Government through Competitive Bidding, is to ensure that Nigeria secures the best Terms and Conditions within the context of the market.

BILL ON VOTING RIGHTS FOR NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA PASSES SECOND READING

By Temidayo Taiwo-Sidiq

n Thursday, the House of Representatives passed for a second reading a bill aimed at providing voting rights for Nigerians in the diaspora.

The bill, titled "A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Cap. C23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 to Provide Voting Rights for Nigerians in the Diaspora and for Related Matters (HB. 1530)", is sponsored by Rep. Abbas Tajudeen (APC, Kaduna) and Rep. Sadiq Ango Abdullahi (PDP, Kaduna).

The constitution amendment bill was first introduced on Thursday, July 18, 2024, and after gaining overwhelming support from Members of the Green Chamber during its second reading, was referred to the House Committee on Constitution Review.

With Nigeria's diaspora population estimated at approximately 17 million—making it one of the largest sources of migrants globally—the need to extend voting rights to Nigerians abroad has become a growing issue. This diaspora includes Nigerians living abroad for various reasons, including education, work, and asylum. The population estimate is based on reports from international migration organizations, including the World Bank and the Nigerian government, which regularly track migration trends.

The concept of diaspora voting has gained significant traction in many modern democracies worldwide, with over 100 countries having adopted it. However, Nigeria has not yet implemented this system, despite persistent calls from its diaspora community to enable them to exercise their universal right to vote since 1999.

Over the years, several legislative efforts have been made to address this issue. Similarly, the 10th House of Representatives, upon its inauguration, committed to amending the Electoral Act 2022 to include provisions for diaspora voting in Article 6.7 (Electoral Reform) of its Legislative Agenda on Law Reform (Agenda 4).

The successful passage of the bill for second reading marks a significant step towards removing the legal barriers preventing diaspora voting in Nigeria, as it sets the stage for establishing a legal framework for its implementation.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION, NATIONAL ORIENTATION, ETHICS AND VALUE VISITS NATIONAL ORIENTATION AGENCY (NOA)



HOUSE CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMITTEE STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIPS WITH GOVERNORS, STATE LEGISLATORS TO DRIVE CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS

By 'Tosin Adaraniwon



he House Committee on Constitution Review has this week held consultations with the Nigeria Governors Forum and the Speakers and Principal Officers of the State Houses of Assembly from the South West region, strengthening partnerships and securing support for the ongoing review of the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

This move is in line with the Committee's mandate, as outlined in the House Standing Orders, to create a platform for relevant stakeholders to contribute their inputs to the Constitution review process, aimed at enacting laws that will improve the well-being and aspirations of the Nigerian people. Led by the Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives and Chairman of the House Committee on Constitution Review, **Rt. Hon. Benjamin Kalu**, the Committee met with the Nigeria Governors Forum in Abuja on Wednesday, accompanied by Principal Officers of the House.

Rep. Kalu emphasized the importance of engaging governors as key stakeholders of sub-national and leaders stressing that their governments, involvement is crucial to ensuring an inclusive and effective amendment process. "I thank the governors for their support of the review process and their openness to discussions on key issues,

prioritizing national progress over specific thematic concerns," he stated.

On Friday, the Committee moved to Ekiti State, where it engaged the Speakers and Principal Officers of the State Houses of Assembly (South West region) at a retreat held at the Ikogosi Warm Springs Resort and Conference Centre.

In his opening remarks, Rep. Kalu highlighted the Committee's progress so far, particularly the 161 proposed constitutional amendment bills covering key issues such as devolution of power, judicial processes, electoral matters, state policing, gender issues, human rights, local government reform, and political economy.

"I commend the South West State Legislators for their partnership on this journey toward a revised constitution. Together, through the collaborative efforts of the federal legislature and state assemblies, we will champion reforms that promote economic growth, education, healthcare, and environmental sustainability, ultimately *reflecting a more people-centered constitution,*" he added.

The House Committee on Constitution Review had set a December 2025 deadline to finalize the Sixth Alteration to the 1999 Constitution (as amended).

Since its inauguration, the Committee intensified efforts to address has pressing issues and align the nation's laws with the needs of the public. As of July 2024, it had received approximately 305 memoranda from the public and 150 Constitution Alteration Bills from Honourable Members, reflecting significant public engagement and concern.

These consultations align with the Committee's commitment to Strengthening Good Governance (Agenda One) and Law Reform (Agenda Three) as outlined in the Legislative Agenda (2023–2027). The House remains determined to deliver a new, comprehensive Constitution that truly reflects the sentiment of "We, the people..."





Wednesday, 20th November, 2024

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION REVIEW MEETS NIGERIA GOVERNORS FORUM (NGF) IN ABUJA



Photo Credit: Office of the Deputy Speaker



Friday, 22nd November, 2024

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION REVIEW MEETS SPEAKERS AND PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF STATE HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY (SOUTH WEST REGION) IN EKITI



REPS MOVE TO END DISCO IMPUNITY, SAFEGUARD CONSUMERS' RIGHTS

By Temidayo Taiwo-Sidiq



he House of Representatives has called on the Federal Ministry of Power to take immediate action to address what it described as the reckless activities of Distribution Companies (DISCOs), which are threatening the country's economy.

The House also mandated its Committee on Power to investigate the operations of these companies, with the intent to hold them accountable and safeguard consumer rights.

This move followed the adoption on Wednesday of a motion by **Rep. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka** (APC, Ogun), who highlighted the damaging impact of DISCOs' actions on the economic stability and welfare of Nigerians.

Rep. Isiaka noted that Nigerian consumers are required to pay for electricity meter installations, yet DISCOs continue to demand additional payments for meter replacements under dubious pretenses, further eroding consumer trust and exacerbating financial burdens. He expressed concern that consumers are being coerced into paying for meters they have already financed, placing unnecessary financial strain on households and businesses already grappling with economic difficulties.

The lawmaker also emphasised the damaging impact of DISCOs' actions on Nigeria's economic development, saying they are using essential services to exploit citizens rather than serve them, thus stifling growth and progress.

"...despite constant regulatory oversight and calls for accountability by the Committee on Power, these companies remain recalcitrant, operating with impunity and showing a blatant disregard for consumer rights," Rep. Isiaka stated.

In response, the House urged the recapitalisation of DISCOs to the tune of no less than 500 billion naira, allowing only those with the necessary financial strength to meet consumer expectations to continue operating.

Additionally, the House mandated the Committee on Power to examine the implementation of stricter regulations to ensure transparency and fairness in the operations of DISCOs.

The Committee was also tasked with launching public awareness campaigns to educate consumers on their rights and the proper channels for addressing grievances related to electricity services. The Committee is expected to report back within four weeks.

REPS VOTE AGAINST BILL SEEKING POWER ROTATION, 6-YEAR SINGLE TERM FOR PRESIDENTS, GOVERNORS

By Temidayo Taiwo-Sidiq



his week, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly voted against a bill proposing power rotation in Nigeria's Presidency between the Northern and Southern regions, along with a single six-year term for Presidents and Governors.

The bill, formally titled "A Bill for an Act the Provisions Alter of the to Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), to create a single term of six years for the office of President and State Governors, recognize the division of Nigeria into the six Geopolitical Zones, provide for the rotation of the office of President. State Governors, and Chairman of Local Government Councils among the regions and zones, and provide that all elections be held on a single day, and for Related Matters (HB. 1511)," was presented for its second reading on Thursday.

Read for the first time on July 17, 2024, the bill was sponsored by Rep. Ikeagwuonu Ugochinyere (PDP, Imo) and 33 co-sponsors. It aimed to amend Sections 76, 116, 132, 136, and other sections of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), with the goal "to ensure inclusive governance and to curb the wastage caused by four-year periodic elections," according to its sponsors.

The bill's proposed amendments to the Constitution included a proposal for Section 132, which would mandate that the seat of president rotate every six years between the North and South regions, with further rotation among the three geopolitical zones within each region. Additionally, it proposed that all elections for President, Governors, Assembly members, National State Assembly, Houses of and Local Councils Government be held simultaneously on a date determined by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in consultation with National Assembly and in the accordance with the Electoral Act.

Further amendments included that if an elected President dies or is unable to be sworn in, the First Vice President would assume the presidency and appoint a new Vice President with the approval of a simple majority of the National Assembly.

bill In regard to Governors, the proposed the addition of a new Section 188, stating that a person who serves as Governor to complete another's term cannot be re-elected for another term. It also proposed that Governors present a mid-term performance report to the State House of Assembly at the end of the third year of their six-year term. Based on the report, the State House of could determine, Assembly by a two-thirds majority, whether the Governor should remain in office. If the

Assembly was dissatisfied with the Governor's performance, they could pass a vote of no confidence and initiate impeachment proceedings.

After a motion for the second reading was moved by the lead sponsor and seconded, Speaker Abbas Tajudeen put the bill to a voice vote. The bill was overwhelmingly rejected by the members, failing to pass the second reading.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

Date of Announcement: Thursday November 21, 2024



Rep. James Abiodun Faleke

Chairman Conference Committee on South-West Development Commission Bill



Rep. Frederick Agbedi

Chairman Conference Committee on South-South Development Commission Bill



Tuesday, 19th - Thursday 21st November, 2024





DEPUTY SPEAKER KALU TO TRANSMIT CALDEV CHILDREN PARLIAMENT'S RESOLUTION TO PRESIDENT TINUBU

By Temidayo Taiwo-Sidiq

eputy Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Benjamin Kalu, has assured Members of the CALDEV Children's Parliament that their resolutions passed will be transmitted to President Bola Tinubu for implementation. The Deputy Speaker gave the assurance in Abuja during the Early Achievers' Awards/Dinner organised by the Children Leadership and Values of African Initiative Development (CALDEV), founded by Rep. Bamidele Salam (PDP, Osun).

Rep. Kalu, who expressed excitement over the life-impacting initiative, noted that children are not only the leaders of tomorrow but influencers of today, shaping conversations, challenging norms, and standing as beacons of possibility.

"I am impressed with what I am seeing tonight, and I want to assure you that on the motion that you raised and presented to me, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate President, as well as Mr President, will hear your motion. You raised a topical, very important issue, and Nigeria is going to hear you," he stated.

He also described children as the symbol of hope for Nigeria whose energy, dreams, and potential are the foundation on which our nation's progress rests. He noted that they are not just the leaders of tomorrow but influencers of today,. shaping conversations, challenging norms, and standing as beacons of possibility. "As I look into this room, I see more than faces; I see dreamers, doers, and decision-makers. But leadership, dear young ones, is not just about standing out it's about standing for what is right, even when it is difficult. It's about having the bravery to speak up for truth, fairness, and justice. Leadership is not about leading alone; it's about working with others, building teams, and finding strength in unity.

"Nigeria's destiny lies in the hands of young leaders like you. You have the power to transform our country, to heal divisions, and to inspire unity. You are not just the hope of our future you are the architects of it.

"Let the lessons you've learnt here guide you. Let your passion drive you. And let your actions remind us all that the future of Nigeria is bright because it rests in capable, compassionate, and courageous hands."

Amongst resolutions adopted during the mock plenary session of the CALDEV African Children Parliament, the lawmakers expressed urgent need for the federal government to reinvest savings from the removal of petroleum subsidy into the education, health, and welfare of children for sustainable development. "The Parliament is conscious that Nigeria's educational and health sectors are in urgent need of substantial improvements in infrastructure, human resources, and funding to address gaps in service delivery, enhance quality, and provide equitable access to all citizens.

"The Parliament is concerned about the over 58 million vulnerable Nigerian children, who continue to face challenges including malnutrition, food insecurity, lack of access to quality healthcare and education, insurgency, child labour, and other welfare issues."

They also urged the Federal and State governments to urgently ensure that functional Children's Parliaments are established at all levels of government and that the Federal Government and United Nations should adopt the CALDEV Africa National Children's Leadership Conference as a model policy innovation program for children's leadership development.



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Executive

 National Social Investment Programme Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1917)

 National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1935) Rep. Abdussamad Dasuki (PDP, Sokoto)





Rep. Afam Ogene (LP, Anambra)

 National Agricultural Programme Coordination Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1201)

 National Institute for Vocational and Technical Education, Makera, Kaduna South, Kaduna State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1203)

Rep. Abdulkarim Hussain Ahmed (PDP, Kaduna)



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Rep. Nnamdi Ezechi (PDP, Delta)

- National Institute for Construction Technology and Management, Eziohnum, Delta State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1332)
- Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skills Acquisition, Ossisa, Ndokwa East LGA, Delta State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1333)
- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024 (Creation of Additional Local Government Council in Lagos State) (HB.1866)

Rep. Dolapo-Badru Enitan (APC, Lagos) and 19 Others



Rep. Olusoji Abidemi Adetunji (PDP, Osun)

Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1870)

 Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1871) Rep. Emmanuel Omirin (PDP, Osun)



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Rep. Adamu Ibrahim Gamawa (APC, Bauchi)

- Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skills Acquisition, Gamawa, Bauchi State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1872)
- Essential Drugs, Therapeutic Medical Devices and Hospital Consumables Provision, Management and Utilisation Bill, 2024 (HB.1873)
- National Grassland and Forage/Fodder Production Research Institute, Guma–Gamawa, Bauchi State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1875)

 Federal Vocational and Skills Acquisition College Ilaro, Ogun State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1827) Rep. Abiodun Isiaq Akinlade (APC, Ogun)





Rep. Mark B. Useni (APC, Taraba)

National Mathematical Centre Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1833)

Monday, 18th November, 2024 - Friday, 22nd November, 2024

Rep. Isah Bello Ambarura (APC, Sokoto) • Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1894)

 Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1861) Rep. Adebayo Balogun (APC, Lagos)



Rep. Abbas Tajudeen (APC, Kaduna)

- Federal University of Technology, Enugu (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1909)
- Federal University of Technology, Yaba (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1910)

 Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Scholarship Board (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1844) Rep. Abdulrahaman Ajiya (APC, FCT)



Monday, 18th November, 2024 - Friday, 22nd November, 2024



Senate

- South East Development Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (SB.568)
- North West Development Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (SB.561)
- Federal University of Applied Sciences, Kachia, Kaduna State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (SB.13)
- Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (SB. 277)

 Nigerian Research Institutes Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1845) Rep. Sunday Ojo Makanjuola (PDP, Oyo)





Rep. Aliyu Mustapha Abdullahi (PDP, Kaduna)

 Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1849)

Monday, 18th November, 2024 - Friday, 22nd November, 2024



Rep. Adegboyega Nasiru Isiaka (APC, Ogun)

a • Scholarship Regulation Bill, 2024 (HB.1843)

- Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Sixth Alteration) Bill, 2024(Political Affiliation, Physical Appearance, Race, Skin Colour) (HB.1857)
- Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1858)
- Child's Rights Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1859)
- Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1860)

Rep. Ghali Mustapha Tijjani (NNPP, Kano)





Rep. Billy Famous Osawaru (APC, Edo)

• Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1864)

Monday, 18th November, 2024 - Friday, 22nd November, 2024

Rep. Akintunde Rotimi (APC, Ekiti)

- Whistle Blowing Bill, 2024 (HB.1563)
- Advanced Healthcare Development Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1813)

• National Guards Bill, 2024. (HB.1828)

Rep. Bashir Zubairu Usman (APC, Kaduna)





Rep. Cyril Hart Godwin (PDP, Rivers) & one other

 State Internally Generated Revenue (Disbursement) Bill, 2024. (HB.1854)

 Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1911)

Rep. Fatima Talba (APC, Yobe)



Monday, 18th November, 2024 - Friday, 22nd November, 2024

Rep. Sadiq Ango Abdullahi (PDP, Kaduna)

- Federal Universities of Agriculture Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1912)
- Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1913)

 Electoral Act (Amendment) (Off Season Legislative Elections) Bill (HB.1914) Rep. Paul Sunday Nnamchi (LP, Enugu)





Rep. Mark B. Useni (APC, Taraba)

 National Senior Secondary Education Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1834)

 FCT Displaced Original Inhabitants Resettlement and Integrated Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1707) Rep. Joshua Chinedu Obika (LP, FCT) & 18 others



Monday, 18th November, 2024 - Friday, 22nd November, 2024



Rep. Ali Isa JC (PDP, Gombe)

- National Assembly Financial Management (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1926)
- Headquarter Situation and Relocation (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1927)

 Federal College of Animal husbandry, Kaoje, Kebbi State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1929) Rep. Bello A. Kaoje (APC, Kebbi)





CONSOLIDATION OF BILLS

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

(a) A Bill for an Act to amend the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) Act to change the use of the word National Interest to Public Benefit and to increase the period provided for a term of contract as prerequisite for registration of the document under this Act from 10 years to 20 years and for Related Matters (HB 1788)

(b) A Bill for an Act to amend the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) Act. Cap N62, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to strengthen the capacity of the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion to monitor, on a continual basis, the transfer of foreign technology in Nigeria, to encourage, regulate and commercialise inventions, innovations and research and development results more effectively and ensure enhanced and diversified representation in its governance for broader sectoral coverage and for Related Matters (HB 1846)

Presented by: Rep. Francis E. Waive (APC, Delta)

Thursday, November 21, 2024

(a) A Bill for an Act to Amend the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, Cap. C 15 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2024 to insulate Judicial Officers from Prosecution before being Lawfully removed from Office and for Related Matters (HB. 1178)

- Rep. Solomon T. Bob (PDP, Rivers)

(b) A Bill for an Act to Amend the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act 2004 to Enable Public Officers maintain foreign Bank Account outside Nigeria for the Purpose of Accessing Funds while on Official Duties to facilitate Transactions for pressing family needs and auxiliary expenses and for Related Matters (HB.1894)

- Rep. Bello Isa Ambarura (APC, Sokoto)





Monday, November 18 - Friday, November 22, 2024

Wednesday, November 20, 2024



A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Cap. C23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 to Provide Voting Rights for Nigerians in Diaspora and for Related Matters (HB. 1530)

Bill Sponsor: Rep. Abbas Tajudeen (APC, Kaduna) and Rep. Sadiq Ango Abdullahi (PDP, Kaduna)

First Reading: Thursday, July 18, 2024.

Bill Status: Referred to the House Committee on Constitution Review

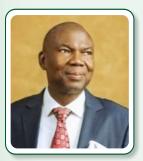
A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Nursing and Midwifery, Kaugama, Jigawa State to provide Training and Research in General Nursing Midwifery and other Specialties of Nursing and for Related Matters (HB. 1792)



Bill Sponsor: Rep. Abubakar Makki Yalleman (APC, Jigawa)

First Reading: Thursday, October 10. 2024.

Bill Status: Referred to the House Committee on Health Institutions



A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal College of Education Act, No. 43, 2023 to Establish Federal College of Education (Technical) Ogute–Okpella, Edo State and for Related Matters (HB.912)

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Dekeri Sunday Anamero (APC, Edo)

First Reading: Thursday, November 16. 2023.

Bill Status: Referred to the House Committee on Federal Colleges of Education



PRESENTATION OF BILLS (SECOND READING)

Wednesday, November 20, 2024



A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Entrepreneurship and Skills Acquisition, Illela, Sokoto State, to Provide Full-Time Courses, Teaching Instruction and Training in Technology, Applied Science, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management; and for Related Matters (HB. 927)

Bill Sponsor: Rep. Isah Bello Ambarura (APC, Sokoto)

First Reading: Thursday, November 16. 2023.

Bill Status: Referred to the House Committee on Federal Polytechnics and Higher Technical Education

A Bill for an Act to Assure Adequate Funding for Mineral Resources Exploration and Extraction through Public Private Partnership (PPP) and for Related Matters (HB. 289)

Bill Sponsor: Rep. Lanre Okunlola (APC, Lagos)

First Reading: Wednesday, July 26, 2023



Key Objective: To ensure adequate funding and strategic public-private partnerships for the effective exploration and extraction of Nigeria's mineral resources, fostering economic growth, job creation, and reducing dependence on oil. This legislation aims to establish a sustainable, internationally competitive mining sector for national prosperity.

Bill Status: Referred to the House Committee on Solid Minerals Development

PLENARY RECAP

PRESENTATION OF BILLS (SECOND READING)

Thursday, November 21, 2024

A Bill for an Act to Amend the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja (Number Of Judges) Cap H6, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Increase in the Number of Judges in the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and for Related Matters (HB.1635)



Bill Sponsor: Rep. Benjamin Okezie Kalu (APC, Abia) and seven others

First Reading: Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Bill Status: Referred to the House Committees on FCT Judiciary and Constitution Review



A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Colleges of Education Act, No. 43 to Establish the Federal College of Education, (Technical) Uzebba-Iuleha, Edo State and for Related Matters (HB 1852)

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Julius Ihonvbere (APC, Edo)

First Reading: Wednesday, October 30, 2024

Bill Status: Referred to the House Committee on Federal Colleges of Education

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Act and Provide for Establishment of Federal Medical Centre, Danbatta, Kano State and for Related Matters (HB.495)

Bill Sponsor: Rep. Abdullahi Ibrahim Ali (APC, Kogi)

First Reading: Wednesday, October 30, 2024



Bill Status: Referred to the House Committee on Health Institutions



PRESENTATION OF BILLS (SECOND READING)

Thursday, November 21, 2024



A Bill for an Act to Alter the provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) to create a single term of six years for the office of President and State Governors, recognise the division of Nigeria into the six Geopolitical zones, provide for the rotation of the office of President, State Governor and chairman of a Local Government Council among the Inherent regions and zones, and provide that all elections be held on a single day and for Related Matters

(HB. 1511)

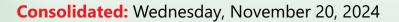
Bill Sponsors: Rep. Ikeagwuonu Ugochinyere (PDP, Imo) and thirty –three others

First Reading: Wednesday, July 17, 2024,

Bill Status: Negatived

A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) Act to Change the Use of the Word National Interest to Public Benefit and to Increase the Period Provided for a term of Contract as Prerequisite to Registration of the Document under this Act from 10 years to 20 years and strengthen the capacity of the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion to Monitor, on a continual basis, the transfer of Foreign Technology to Nigeria, to encourage, regulate, and Commercialise Inventions, Innovations and Research and Development Results more effectively and enhanced diversified Representation in its governance for broader sectoral coverage and for Related Matters (HBS.1788 & 1846)

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Ngozi Okolie (LP, Delta) and Rep. Tijjani Zanna Zakariya



Bill Status: Referred to the House Committee on Science and Technology







PRESENTATION OF BILLS (SECOND READING)

Thursday, November 21, 2024



A Bill for an Act to Alter the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and for Related Matters (HB.1138)

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Olamijuwonlo Ayodeji Alao-Akala (APC, Oyo)

First Reading: Thursday, February 27, 2024

Key Objective: Proposes the creation of a new Ibadan State from the existing Oyo State, with Ogbomosho designated as the capital of the remaining Oyo State. It aims to address various socio-economic and political challenges by ensuring equitable distribution of resources, promoting local governance, and fostering sustainable development. The Bill also seeks to establish the necessary infrastructure, administrative frameworks, and governance structures to enable the new state to thrive and meet the needs of its citizens.

Bill Status: Referred to the House Committee on Constitution Review

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Highways Act to empower the Minister of Works to direct, authorise and instruct every Agency, Ministry, Parastatals and Department of the Federal Government involved in the design and Construction of Federal Roads to include the Construction of Public Utilities on the shoulder/side of all Federal Roads across the Federation and for Related Matters (HB. 779)



Bill Sponsors: Rep. Sesi Olusegun Whinghan (APC, Lagos)

First Reading: Wednesday, October 31, 2024

Bill Status: Referred to the House Committee on Works

PRESENTATION OF REPORTS



Wednesday, 20th November, 2024

• Report of the Committee on Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Act No. 2, 2010 and Enact the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Act and for Related Matters (HB.1039)

- Referred: 8/2/2024

• Report of the Committee on Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring on a Bill for an Act to Enact the Nigerian Content (Non - Oil and Gas Sector) Development Bill, to Establish Nigerian Content (Non-Oil and Gas Sector) Development Council and for Related Matters (HB. 59)

- Referred: 2/11/2024

Presented by: House Committee on Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring

• Report of the Committee on Specialty Healthcare on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Orthopaedic Hospitals Management Board Act, Cap. O10, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Establishment of Orthopaedic Hospital, Billiri, Gombe State to be Affiliated to Federal Teaching Hospital Gombe and for Related Matters (HB.1277)

- (Referred: 17/7/2024)

Presented by: Rep. Alex Egbona, Chairman, House Committee on Specialty Healthcare

• Report of the Committees on Solid Minerals Development, National Security and Intelligence, Army, Police Affairs, Interior and Legislative Compliance on the Need to Investigate the Arbitrary Increase in the Price of Cement by Manufacturers of Cement in Nigeria

- (Referred: 14/3/2024)

• Report of the Committees on Solid Minerals Development, National Security and Intelligence, Army, Police Affairs, Interior and Legislative Compliance to Investigate Illegal Mining in Nigeria (HR.342/11/2023)

- Referred: 8/11/2024)

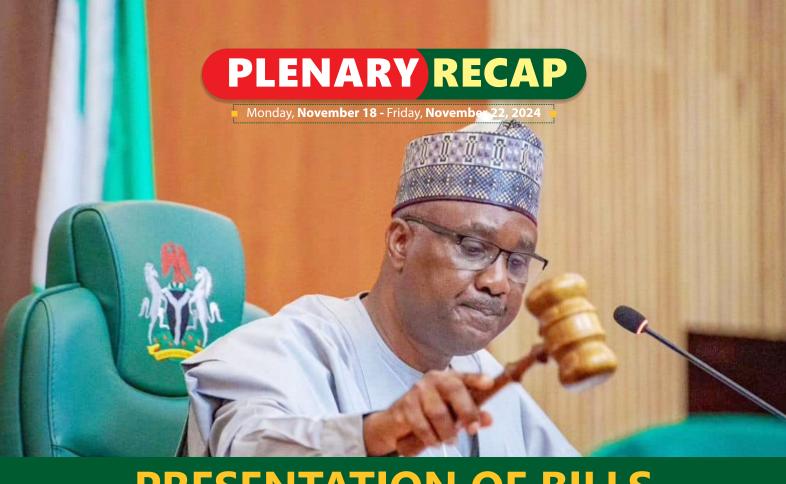
Presented by: Rep. Gaza Jonathan Gbefwi; Chairman, House Committees on Solid Minerals Development

Thursday, 21st November, 2024

 Report on Request for Approval for the Implementation of New External Borrowing of ₩1,767,610,321,779.00 (USD2.209B Equivalent) in the 2024 Appropriation Act through the Issuance of Eurobonds and other Sources

- Referred:19/11/2024)

Presented by: Rep. Abubakar Hassan Nalaraba, Chairman, Committee on Aids, Loans and Debt Management



PRESENTATION OF BILLS Third Reading

Monday, November 18 - Friday, November 22, 2024

Wednesday, November 20, 2024

BILLS

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Agricultural Research Council of Nigeria Act, 2021 (As Amended) to make Provisions for Establishment of Federal College of Agricultural Technology, Opialu–Ojapo, Benue State to contribute to the Development of Nigeria through Training of Qualitative Manpower in Agriculture by adequate exposure to Sound Theoretical Background, Practical Farm and field Demonstration and for Related Matters (SB.212) (Senate)

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Universities of Agriculture Act, Cap. F22, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, House
2024 and Establish Federal University of Agricultural, Kabba,

STATUS

Passed by the House



BILLS	STATUS
Kogi State and for Related Matters (HB. 1520)	
A Bill for an Act to Amend the University Teaching Hospitals (Reconstitution of Boards, etc.) Act, Cap. U15, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Related Matters (HB.962)	-
A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Medical Centres Acts and Establish Federal Medical Centre, Kwale, Delta State and for Related Matters (HB. 680)	•
Rep. Julius Ihonvbere, House Leader, (APC, Edo)	

RECOMMITAL OF BILLS

The following Outstanding Bills from Preceding Assembly were recommitted by the Chairman of the House Committee on Rules and Business, **Rep. Francis E. Waive** (APC, Delta)

(i) Merchant Shipping Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1592)

(ii) Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1593)

(iii) Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency Bill, 2024 (HB.1594)

(iv) Federal Medical Centres Act (Amendment) Bill, 2024 (HB.1855); and (v) Federal University, Birinin Kebbi, Kebbi State (Establishment) Bill, 2024 (HB. 1780)

This development is pursuant to Order Twelve, Rule 17 of the Standing Orders, the House may, upon being re-gazetted or circulated, reconsider in the Committee of the Whole, without commencing de-novo.

Bill Status: Re-committed to the Committee of the Whole for consideration.

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