

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RESUMES PLENARY SESSIONS



Both chambers resumed plenary sessions on Tuesday February 17, 2015. The Senate President, David Mark addressed the Hallowed Chamber, touching on the issues of forthcoming general elections in Nigeria, its postponement and the much speculated Interim National Government as well as the role played by some stakeholders in the coming elections. In his welcome speech, the Speaker of the House, Rt. Hon. Aminu Waziri Tambuwal promised special consideration would be given to the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the three States of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. He also cautioned against unguided utterances by politicians that are inimical to the peace and unity of Nigeria. Sen. Mark categorically stated that the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria currently in operation did not recognize Interim National Government saying it is alien to the Constitution, as such the National Assembly will not support it.

On the postponement of the nation's general elections from February 14 and 28 to March 28 and April 11, 2015, the Senate has summoned the Chairman of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Attahiru Jega and Military Service Chiefs to appear before the Chamber to brief it on the recently postponed elections, the forthcoming ones and the security situation in the country. Chairman of INEC appeared on Wednesday the 18th of February before the Senate to brief it on the state of preparedness of the Electoral Umpire to conduct the 2015 forthcoming general elections. He explained that the postponement of elections as earlier scheduled was

predicated on the advice of National Security Adviser in a letter dated February 8, 2015 seeking six weeks extension of the election to allow the Armed Forces address the menace of Insurgency in the North-East of the country.

Prof. Jega disclosed that INEC has achieved 78 per cent distribution of Permanent Voter's Card and the Commission will convene a consultative meeting with stakeholders on the February 24, 2015, conduct a mock test of the electronic card reader for the accreditation of voters in selected strategic polling units in the six geo-political zones of the country, as well as intensify voter education and public awareness and finalize arrangement for the conduct of the election.

Meanwhile in the House Wednesday 19th February, the Federal Government (FG) was called, for the purposes of accountability and in compliance with the freedom of Information Act, to brief the House as well as make public the content of the forensic audit report submitted to President Goodluck Janathan by the reputable Pricewater House Cooper. The audit was ordered by Nigeria's Minister of Finance Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala after a former governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi disclosed that over \$60 billion was stolen by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) officials in collusion with some local oil companies. The resolution was at the instance of a motion moved by Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila who was worried that several weeks after the audit report has been submitted the content of the report has not been disclosed to the public.

Both chambers moved the motion for the "Passage of the Constitution (Fourth Alteration) Bill, 2015", the Chairman of the Constitution Review Committee, the Deputy Senate President, Ike Ekweremadu stated that he is elated by the cooperation of the members of the Committee both Senate, the House of Representatives and the State Legislatures for signing and approving the Amendments, securing the much needed two/ third majority. He added that a clean copy of the Amended Bill would be sent to the President for assent.

(See page 2 for the sections and schedules altered)

NEW BILLS & ACTS

House

Border Communities Development Agency (Establishment, etc.) (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 767) (*Senate*) - *First Reading*.

Companies and Allied Matters Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015 (HB. 768) – (*Hon. Chukwuemeka E. Nwogbo*) - *First Reading*.

Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) Statutory appropriation Bill, 2015 (HB 766) was Presented and read the *First time*

Senate

Nigerian Merchant Navy Security and Safety Corp (est. etc.) Bill 2015 - *First Reading*
Sen. Joshua Lidani (Gombe South).

Altered Sections and Schedules of the 1999 Constitution (Fourth Amendment)

Observes that from the 71 Sections and Schedules of the Constitution altered by the National Assembly in the Bill, the following have been approved by the State Houses of Assembly in accordance with the provisions of Section 9 (2) of the Constitution as required for their passage- Sections: 4, 8, 9, Chapter III, Sections 25, 26, 34, 35, 39, 42, New Sections 45A - 45D, New Section 50A, Sections 58, 59, 65, 66, 67, 68, 81, 82, 84, New Sections 84A - 84F, Section 89, New Section 92A, Sections 100, 106, 107, 109, 121, 122, 124 (b), 129, 131, 134, 150, 153, 155, 174, New Sections 174A - 174L, Sections 177, 179, 195, New Sections 211A-211H, Sections 214, 215, 216, New Section 225A, Sections 228, 233, 241, 251, 285, 306, 315, 318, Part I of the First Schedule, Part II of the First Schedule, Part I of the Second Schedule, Part II of the Second Schedule, Part I of the Third Schedule, Part III of the Third Schedule, Part I of the Fifth Schedule and Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the Seventh Schedule;

Resolves that the provisions of the Bill that have satisfied the requirement of Section 9 (2) of the Constitution be processed in line with the Acts Authentication Act and transmitted to the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his assent, to enable institutions of government prepare for immediate implementation of policies and programmes pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution (*Hon. Chukwuemeka Nkem Ihedioha — Deputy Speaker and 53 Others*) .

Mr Speaker noted the following typographical errors in the Report and directed the Clerk to effect changes accordingly:

- (i) *Include Section 306 as having been passed;*
- (ii) *In Clause 60, page 47, Column 5 of the Report, leave out the words “Rejected” and insert the word “Accepted” instead thereof.*

Question put and agreed to.

Report adopted accordingly.

NEW MOTIONS

House

Adoption of the Constitution (Fourth Alteration) Bill, 2014:

Motion made and Question proposed:

Need to salute the Bravery and Patriotism of Wing Commander Chimda Hedima and his Colleague:

Hon. Emmanuel Jime:

The House:

Notes a video that was posted on the internet by the Boko Haram Sect which showed the charred debris of a plane and the scene of the beheading of a man who was later identified as Wing Commander Chimda Hedima, a pilot with the Nigerian Air Force;

Receipt and Adoption of the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to repeal the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act, 2003 (as amended) and to enact the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act to Provide Measures against Trafficking and for Other Related Matters (HB.474):

Hon. Beni Lar:

Unconstitutional deployment of Military Personnel for Election Purposes:

Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila:

Devastating Rainstorm at Afijio, Atiba, Oyo East and Oyo West in Oyo Federal Constituency of Oyo State:

Hon. Kamil Akinlabi Mudashiru:

Increasing Rate of Motor Accidents on the Nation's Highways:

Hon. Stella Dorgu:

Urgent Need for the Federal Government to send immediate aid and relief materials to Onicha Olo'na and other Communities in Aniocha North Local Government Area of Delta State that were ravaged by rainstorm:

Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elumelu:

Senate

Passage of Constitution (Fourth Alteration) Bill, 2015

Sen. Ike Ekweremadu CFR (Enugu West)

	Co-sponsors	
	Sen. Victor Ndoma-Egba, CON, SAN	Sen. Bello Hayatu Gwarzo
Sen. Abdul Ahmed Ningi, CON	Sen. Solomon Ganiyu	Sen. George Akume
Sen. Abu Ibrahim	Sen. Ahmed Rufai Sani	Sen. Ayoola H. Agboola
Sen. Umaru Dahiru, OON	Sen. James E. Manager, CON	Sen. Heineken Lokpobiri
Sen. Odion Ugbesia	Sen. Chris Anyanwu MFR	Sen. Ahmed Makarfi CON
Sen. Smart Adeyemi, CON	Sen. Nkechi Nwaogu CON	Sen. Zaynab Ktire CON
Sen. Ayogu Eze CON	Sen. Suleiman Adokwe	Sen. Ita Solomon J Enang
Sen. Phillip Tanimu Aduda MFR	Sen. Chris Ngige OON	Sen. Barnabas Gemade, OFR
Sen. Ahmed Zannah	Sen. Joshua Lidani	Sen. Christopher Nwankwo, OFR