FG adopts laws on crimes against humanity, genocide by Olalekan Adetayo 31 May 2012

In its bid to tackle the current insecurity in the country, the Federal Government on Wednesday formally approved the Crimes against Humanity, War Crimes, Genocide and Related Offences Bill 2012.

The domestication of the Rome Statute is expected to contribute to tackling what the government described as impunity in the country.

The decision to approve the law was taken at the Federal Executive Council meeting presided over by President Goodluck Jonathan.

Minister of Information, Mr. Labaran Maku, and his Works counterpart, Mr. Mike Onolememen, briefed State House correspondents after the weekly meeting.

Maku said the approval was based on a memorandum presented to the council by the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Mr. Muhammed Adoke.

He said although Nigeria was a signatory to the law, the country had not been able to domesticate it before now.

He said, "The Federal Government was of the opinion that the domestication of the statute would contribute in addressing the security challenges currently being witnessed in some parts of the country."

He added that the step would demonstrate to the international community that the government was making concerted efforts to tackle the security challenges and restore sanity to the country.

Maku said a special bill would be sent to the National Assembly on the decision of the FEC on the law.

The minister added that the FEC also approved a concessional loan of \$89m from the African Development Fund window of the African Development Bank for Kaduna State in respect of the execution of Zaria Water Supply Expansion and Sanitation project.

He said the project would improve access to safe water supply in Zaria and its environs from the current 30 per cent level to 80 per cent by 2016, improve sanitation in schools, health centres and other public places.

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