



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 3 July, 2019

1. The House met at 11.29 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings**

Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 2 July, 2019.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership**

The following Members-elect took and subscribed the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as prescribed by law:

- (1) Nasiru Abduwa (*Gezawa/Gabasawa Federal Constituency*).
- (2) Kasimu Bello Maigari (*Jalingo/Yerro/Zina Federal Constituency*).
- (3) Zayyad Ibrahim (*Igabi Federal Constituency*).
- (4) Peter O. Akpatason (*Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

4. **Announcement**

(a) **Visitors in the Gallery:**

Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the following:

- (i) Staff and Students of *Supreme Authority International School*, Bwari, Abuja;
- (ii) Staff and Students of *Redeemer Teap International School*, Garki, Abuja; and
- (ii) Staff and Students of *ECWA Yepwi Memorial College (EYMC)*, New-Karu, Nasarawa State.

(b) Ad-hoc Committee on Media:

Mr Speaker announced an additional membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:
 Hon. Abubakar Yunusa Ahmad — Member

5. Privilege (Order Six, Rule 2)

Hon. Déderi Haruna Isa (*Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to the easy access of strangers and visitors to the National Assembly especially the lobby thereby obstructing free movement of Members into the Chamber. He noted that such obstruction offends Section 8 of the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, 2017, and the Standing Orders of the House. He considered the matter as a breach of his privilege and that of the House and therefore called on relevant authorities of the House to quickly resolve the problem to enable him and other Members discharge their duties without hindrance.

Mr Speaker noted the observation and stated that adequate measures are being taken to address the challenges of internal security within the precinct of the National Assembly.

6. Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)***Increasing Rate of Attack, Killings, Banditry, Kidnapping and other forms of Insecurity Ravaging most Parts of Zamfara State:***

Hon. Bello Hassan Shinkafi (*Shinkafi/Zurmi Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Increasing Rate of Attacks, Killings, Banditry, Kidnapping and Other Forms of Insecurity Ravaging Most Parts of Zamfara State:

The House:

Notes that Zamfara State, which used to be one of the most peaceful States in the country, has suddenly turned into a killing and kidnapping field where many lives and property are being lost every day to armed bandits and other criminal elements;

Also notes that on Friday, 14 June, 2019, 49 persons were killed, over 100 people were injured and then hospitalized, food reserves destroyed, 240 cows rustled while an entire settlement was displaced in an attack that occurred at Tungur Kolo and Tungur Makama in Shinkafi Local Government Area of the State;

Disturbed that this terrible state of events has destroyed the means of livelihood of Zamfara inhabitants, scared away credible businessmen and potential investors and halted the hitherto agricultural activities in the State as people no longer go to the farms to grow food thereby resulting into acute hunger, poverty and mal-nutrition;

Observes that aside the negative economic consequences of depriving the State the capacity to make its due contribution to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and worsening food shortage across the country, the heightened insecurity, if left unchecked could gradually extend to the neighbouring States;

Concerned that the situation has persisted, growing from bad to worse for almost 5 years now in spite of the routine effort of security agencies to quell the menace, thus requiring a change of strategy by those agencies;

Cognizant that Section 14 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the welfare and security of the people shall be the primary responsibility of Government, it therefore behoves on the Federal Government to ensure that it does not fail in this primary responsibility;

Also cognizant that the people of Zamfara State no longer seem to have the constitutionally guaranteed freedom to move around safely in their home to the extent that major roads that traverse Zamfara into neighbouring States, like the road connecting Zurumi Local Government Area to Katsina State and the one linking Shinkafi Local Government Area to Sokoto State among others are now dens of bandits who make them impassable from 4.00 p.m. daily;

Resolves to:

- (i) invite the Inspector-General of Police (IGP), the Director-General of Department of State Services (DSS), and the Service Chiefs to brief the House on the root causes and possible solution to the insecurity in Zamfara State;
- (ii) urge the Nigerian Army, the Nigeria Police Force, the Department of State Services (DSS), the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to increase their presence and elevate their operational strategies and surveillance in all the affected areas;
- (iii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide relief materials for the victims of those attacks and as a matter of responsibility, set up Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps in the affected areas to ameliorate the sufferings of victims of those attacks pending the return of normalcy; and
- (iv) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to discretely conduct investigation into the troubling situation in Zamfara State and come up with a workable solution and report back within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Bello Hassan Shinkafi — Shinkafi/Zurmi Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* Prayers (i) and (iv) and *insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
“Constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee to interface with the Inspector-General of Police and other security agencies as it relates to security situation in Zamfara State and report back within two weeks” (*Hon. Nassir Ahmed Ali — Nasarawa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
“further urge the Federal Government to consider the issue of state and community policing” (*Hon. Egberongbe Mufutau Adewale — Apapa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
“again urge the Executive to urgently address the issue of insecurity nation wide” (*Hon. Tolulope Akande Sadipe — Oluyole Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Zamfara State, which used to be one of the most peaceful States in the country, has suddenly turned into a killing and kidnapping field where many lives and property are being lost every day to armed bandits and other criminal elements;

Also noted that on Friday, 14 June, 2019, 49 persons were killed, over 100 people were injured and then hospitalized, food reserves destroyed, 240 cows rustled while an entire settlement was displaced in an attack that occurred at Tungur Kolo and Tungur Makama in Shinkafi Local Government Area of the State;

Disturbed that this terrible state of events has destroyed the means of livelihood of Zamfara inhabitants, scared away credible businessmen and potential investors and halted the hitherto agricultural activities in the State as people no longer go to the farms to grow food thereby resulting into acute hunger, poverty and mal-nutrition;

Observed that aside the negative economic consequences of depriving the State the capacity to make its due contribution to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and worsening food shortage across the country, the heightened insecurity, if left unchecked could gradually extend to the neighbouring States;

Concerned that the situation has persisted, growing from bad to worse for almost 5 years now in spite of the routine effort of security agencies to quell the menace, thus requiring a change of strategy by those agencies;

Cognizant that Section 14 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the welfare and security of the people shall be the primary responsibility of Government, it therefore behoves on the Federal Government to ensure that it does not fail in this primary responsibility;

Also cognizant that the people of Zamfara State no longer seem to have the constitutionally guaranteed freedom to move around safely in their home to the extent that major roads that traverse Zamfara into neighbouring States, like the road connecting Zurumi Local Government Area to Katsina State and the one linking Shinkafi Local Government Area to Sokoto State among others are now dens of bandits who make them impassable from 4.00 p.m. daily;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Army, the Nigeria Police Force, the Department of State Services (DSS), and the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) to increase their presence and elevate their operational strategies and surveillance in all the affected areas;
- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide relief materials for the victims of those attacks and as a matter of responsibility, set up Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps in the affected areas to ameliorate the sufferings of victims of those attacks pending the return of normalcy;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Government to consider the issue of state and community policing;
- (iv) again urge the Executive to urgently address the issue of insecurity nation wide; and
- (v) constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee to interface with the Inspector-General of Police and other security agencies as it relates to security situation in Zamfara State and report back within two weeks (HR. 5/07/2019).

7. Privilege (Order Six, Rule 2)

Hon. Beni Lar (*Langtang North/Langtang South Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to the recent video clip circulating in the social media over an alleged assault on a lady in a shop on Tuesday, 2 July, 2019, by Senator Ishaku Elisha Abbo, Adamawa North Senatorial District. She viewed the incident as a breach of her privilege as a legislator and therefore prayed the House to condemn the incident. She also requested the House to urge the Senate to investigate the matter.

Mr Speaker noted the issue and ruled that the Senate be allowed to lead action on the matter.

8. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Electric Power Sector Reform Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 01).
- (2) Physically Challenged (Empowerment) Bill, 2019(HB. 02).
- (3) Presidential (Transition) Bill, 2019 (HB. 03).
- (4) Economic Stimulus Bill, 2019 (HB. 04).
- (5) Labour Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019(HB. 05).
- (6) Students Loan (Access to Higher Education) Bill, 2019 (HB. 06).
- (7) Employees (Unpaid Wages Prohibition) Bill, 2019 (HB. 07).
- (8) Federal Highways Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 08).
- (9) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2019 (HB. 09).
- (10) National Commission against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons Bill, 2019 (HB.10).
- (11) National Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 16).
- (12) Nigerian Peace Corps (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 17).
- (13) Acts Authentication Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 18).
- (14) Nigerian Meteorological Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 19).
- (15) Nigerian Communications Commissions Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 20).
- (16) Federal Capital Territory Education Resource Centre (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 21).
- (17) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2019 (HB. 22).

9. Need to Investigate the Circumstances that Led to the Arrest of Zainab Aliyu and Ibrahim Abubakar by the Saudi Arabian Authorities for Alleged Drug Trafficking and ways to avert future occurrence

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Federal Government, after series of diplomatic negotiations, in April 2019, secured the release of Zainab Aliyu and Ibrahim Abubakar from the Saudi Arabian authorities after establishing their innocence on alleged drug trafficking case against them, which would have led to their execution;

Aware that Saudi Arabia has zero tolerance for drug trafficking as the crime is a violation of Sharia law and that some Nigerians have been executed over the crime, the latest, being Kudirat Afolabi, a widow and mother of two;

Also aware that the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) established that Zainab Aliyu, a student of Yusuf Maitama Sule University Kano, was a victim of a drug cartel that specializes in placing hard drugs in bags of travelers;

Cognizant that NDLEA launched an investigation that led to the arrest of 10 suspects, and after interrogation, six of them confessed their level of involvement in the nefarious act and the investigation led to the following findings and recommendations:

- (i) NDLEA asserted that the Departure Hall was always overcrowded with the possibilities of members of the public gaining access to restricted areas,
- (ii) NDLEA in an effort to curb a future re-occurrence, recommended that passengers will now be allowed into the Departure Hall for screening in batches for proper security checks,
- (iii) Airline Operators are now to provide a form where each passenger will indicate the number of luggages he or she was travelling with and the form will be duplicated with the passenger having one, while the airline operator will keep the duplicate,
- (iv) more NDLEA officers are to be posted to man the screening points at the Airports,
- (v) the absence of modernized luggage scanning machines that can detect narcotic and psychopathic drugs in the airports is still a big challenge to the Agency, and
- (vi) the numerous lock-up shops in the airport building should be properly manned by Airport Security Personnel;

Believes that the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and the NDLEA have failed to carry-out their statutory duties in ensuring that passengers are well screened before departure and given necessary security checks and clearance in line with best international practice;

Also believes that necessary measures should be put in place to avert Nigerians being made to face embarrassing security checks in their destination countries or being roped in on phantom allegations;

Resolves to:

Constitute an Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the circumstances that led to the arrest of Zainab Aliyu and Ibrahim Abubakar by the Saudi Arabia Authorities for alleged drug trafficking and report back within six (6) week (*Hon. Muraina Saubana Ajibola — Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Federal Government, after series of diplomatic negotiations, in April 2019, secured the release of Zainab Aliyu and Ibrahim Abubakar from the Saudi Arabian authorities after establishing their innocence on alleged drug trafficking case against them, which would have led to their execution;

Aware that Saudi Arabia has zero tolerance for drug trafficking as the crime is a violation of Sharia law and that some Nigerians have been executed over the crime, the latest, being Kudirat Afolabi, a widow and mother of two;

Also aware that the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) established that Zainab Aliyu, a student of Yusuf Maitama Sule University Kano, was a victim of a drug cartel that specializes in placing hard drugs in bags of travelers;

Cognizant that NDLEA launched an investigation that led to the arrest of 10 suspects, and after interrogation, six of them confessed their level of involvement in the nefarious act and the investigation led to the following findings and recommendations:

- (i) NDLEA asserted that the Departure Hall was always overcrowded with the possibilities of members of the public gaining access to restricted areas,
- (ii) NDLEA in an effort to curb a future re-occurrence, recommended that passengers will now be allowed into the Departure Hall for screening in batches for proper security checks,
- (iii) Airline Operators are now to provide a form where each passenger will indicate the number of luggages he or she was travelling with and the form will be duplicated with the passenger having one, while the airline operator will keep the duplicate,
- (iv) more NDLEA officers are to be posted to man the screening points at the Airports,
- (v) the absence of modernized luggage scanning machines that can detect narcotic and psychopathic drugs in the airports is still a big challenge to the Agency, and
- (vi) the numerous lock-up shops in the airport building should be properly manned by Airport Security Personnel;

Believed that the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and the NDLEA have failed to carry-out their statutory duties in ensuring that passengers are well screened before departure and given necessary security checks and clearance in line with best international practice;

Also believed that necessary measures should be put in place to avert Nigerians being made to face embarrassing security checks in their destination countries or being roped in on phantom allegations;

Resolved to:

Constitute an Ad-hoc Committee to investigate the circumstances that led to the arrest of Zainab Aliyu and Ibrahim Abubakar by the Saudi Arabia Authorities for alleged drug trafficking and report back within six (6) week (HR. 6/07/2019).

10. Need for a Welfare Framework by the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) for the Nation's Soccer Teams

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the game of Football is one of the most unifying and important Sports played and enjoyed by Nigerians irrespective of creed, age, or social standing;

Also notes that the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) is the highest International Football Competition among African Nations, and the latest edition is currently going on in some cities of the North African country of Egypt, with Nigeria as one of the 24 participating nations;

Cognizant that Nigeria had hosted the tournament twice, and won it three times;

Aware that Nigeria has qualified for the round of 16 stage of the current edition, having beaten her first two opponents, garnering six points in the process;

Concerned that the news filtering out of the Nigerian Camp in Egypt on the issue of non-payment of bonuses and allowances to the Super Eagles team will sow a seed of discord between the players and officials of the Nigerian Football Federation, and could end up affecting the morale of the players;

Also aware that this is not the first time that the National team is experiencing this kind of ugly situation which ends up ridiculing the nation before the International Media, as same scenario played out with the Female National team, the Super Falcons at the ongoing Female World Cup in France;

Further aware that the intervention of President Muhammadu Buhari led to the payment of the bonuses and allowances, which only provided a temporary relief, as the main systemic problem within the Nigerian Football Federation that regularly leads to embarrassing situations like these have not been addressed;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports to ensure the payment of bonuses and allowances to the players as and when due;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Nigerian Football Federation and other stakeholders in the administration of football in Nigeria, to put in place a systematic and an all-encompassing management program for sports, especially football;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Sports (when constituted) to ensure compliance (Hon. Ayika Valentine Ogbonne — Njikoka/Dunukofia/Anaocha Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* Prayer (i) and *insert* a new Prayer (i) as follows:
 “Urge the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) to create a mechanism where funds meant for bonuses or activities are warehoused in a special account to ensure prompt payment” (Hon. Namdas Abdulrazak — Mayo Belwa/Ganye/Jada/Toungo Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (ii), line 3, immediately after the words “management program for sports”, *leave out* all other words and *insert* as follows:
“and Sport in general” (Hon. Igwe Chinyere Emmanuel — Port Harcourt II Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
“Commend the players for playing in the tournament without the payment of their allowances”
(Hon. Umeoji Chukwuma — Aguata Federal Constituency)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the game of Football is one of the most unifying and important Sports played and enjoyed by Nigerians irrespective of creed, age, or social standing;

Also noted that the Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) is the highest International Football Competition among African Nations, and the latest edition is currently going on in some cities of the North African country of Egypt, with Nigeria as one of the 24 participating nations;

Cognizant that Nigeria had hosted the tournament twice, and won it three times;

Aware that Nigeria has qualified for the round of 16 stage of the current edition, having beaten her first two opponents, garnering six points in the process;

Concerned that the news filtering out of the Nigerian Camp in Egypt on the issue of non-payment of bonuses and allowances to the Super Eagles team will sow a seed of discord between the players and officials of the Nigerian Football Federation, and could end up affecting the morale of the players;

Also aware that this is not the first time that the National team is experiencing this kind of ugly situation which ends up ridiculing the nation before the International Media, as same scenario played out with the Female National team, the Super Falcons at the ongoing Female World Cup in France;

Further aware that the intervention of President Muhammadu Buhari led to the payment of the bonuses and allowances, which only provided a temporary relief, as the main systemic problem within the Nigerian Football Federation that regularly leads to embarrassing situations like these have not been addressed;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Football Federation (NFF) to create a mechanism where funds meant for bonuses or activities are warehoused in a special account to ensure prompt payment;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Nigerian Football Federation and other stakeholders in the administration of football in Nigeria, to put in place a systematic and an all-encompassing management program for sports, and Sport in general;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Sports (when constituted) to ensure compliance;
- (iv) commend the players for playing in the tournament without the payment of their allowances (HR. 7/07/2019).

11. Need to Incorporate June 12 Struggle in History Curriculum of Schools in Nigeria

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. Minority Leadership

Mr Speaker announced that he had received a communication signed by about 90 Members from the Minority Parties informing the House of names of the Minority Leadership.

Privilege (Order Six, Rule 2)

Hon. Chinda Kingsley (*Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*), referred the House to the letter from the Minority Caucus announcing the appointments of the Minority Leaders of the House and stated that the list does not have the input of the Peoples Democratic Party which is the largest minority party of the House to which the PDP registered its protests in official communication to the Speaker. He considered the announcement of any Minority Leadership without considering the position of the PDP as a breach of his privilege and prayed the Speaker to set down the announcement and to allow for an amicable resolution of the matter.

Mr Speaker acknowledged the Point of Order and observed that there was no breach of either the Rules or any Member's privilege in the action of the minority parties for nominating their leaders, as it complied with the provisions of the Standing Orders of the House. He therefore ruled Hon. Chinda Kingsley out of order and proceeded to announce the Principal Officers of the Minority Parties as follows:

(1)	Hon. Ndudi Godwin Elumelu	—	Minority Leader
(2)	Hon. Toby Okechukwu	—	Deputy Minority Leader
(3)	Hon. Gideon Gwani Lucas	—	Minority Whip
(4)	Hon. Adesegun Adekoya Abdul-Majid	—	Deputy Minority Whip

13. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 4 July, 2019 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Namdas Abdulrazak — Mayo Belwa/Ganye/Jada/Toungo Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.25 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker