



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 16 July, 2019

1. The House met at 12.05 p.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 11 July, 2019.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.
3. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership**
A Member-elect Abdulsalam Gambo Mubarak (*Bali/Gassol Federal Constituency*) took and subscribed to the Oaths of Allegiance and Membership as prescribed by law.
4. **Announcement**
Visitors in the Gallery:
Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the following:
 - (i) Members of *Law Students' Association*, University of Nigeria, Enugu Campus;
 - (ii) Staff and Students of *DSC Technical High School*, Warri, Delta State.
 - (iii) Staff and Students of *ECWA Yepwi Memorial College (EYMC)*, New Karu, Nasarawa State.
5. **Petition**
A petition from Joint Community Development Association, Sidipon/Mile 6 Road, Abeokuta, Ogun State, on the hardship their communities were subjected to as a result of on going railway project from Lagos to Ibadan, by Chinese Civil Engineering Construction Company (CCECC), was presented and laid by Hon. Ibrahim Isiaka Ayokunle (*Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions (when constituted).
6. **Executive Session**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do resolve into Closed Session" (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*)

Executive (Closed) Session — 12.25 p.m.

Open Session — 1.07 p.m.

7. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**

(i). ***Need to Investigate the Killing of Mrs Olufunke Olakunrin along Benin-Ore Road:***
Hon. Omolafe Isaac Adedayo (*Akure North/Akure South Federal Constituency and 9 others*) 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.

Need to Investigate the Killing of Mrs Olufunke Olakunrin Along Benin-Ore Road:

The House:

Notes with dismay the brutal killing of 58 year old Mrs Olufunke Olakunrin, the daughter of Pa Reuben Fasoranti, leader of the Yoruba Socio-Political Group, Afenifere on Friday, 12 July, 2019, along Benin-Ore road;

Also notes that Mrs Olakunrin and her companions were heading to Lagos from Akure in the morning when yet to be identified gunmen attacked her vehicle, shooting sporadically at the occupants and when the driver tried to quickly turn back in an attempt to escape from the hoodlums, other gunmen in the bush by the other side of the road also shot at them;

Further notes that there were five people in the vehicle when the gunmen struck but sadly, she died from bullet wounds while being rushed to the hospital, but her companions survived the attack and were rushed to the hospital where they were treated for the injuries sustained and discharged;

Aware that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government, hence the need for the Federal Government to ensure that the perpetrators of the dastardly act are apprehended and made to face the full weight of the law;

Cognizant of the need to restructure the security architecture of the country to enable the security personnel effectively tackle the rising cases of banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery and cattle rustling currently ravaging the country;

Resolves to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of Late Mrs Olufunke Olakunrin;
- (ii) condemn her gruesome murder;
- (iii) pay a condolence visit to the family of Mrs Olufunke Olakunrin and the Government of Ondo State;

- (iv) urge the Inspector-General of Police and other security agencies to apprehend the perpetrators of this heinous crime and make them pay the penalty for their actions to serve as deterrent to others; and
- (v) also urge all security agencies to work together and come out with modality best suitable to tackle insecurity in the country (*Hon. Omolafe Isaac Adedayo — Akure North/South Federal Constituency and 9 Others*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert a new Prayer (vi) as follows:*
 “urge the Federal Government to provide CCTV Cameras on all the street lights across the country such that movements are monitored and crimes are nipped in the bud” (*Hon. Egbrongbe Mufutau Adewale — Apapa Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:*
 “ensure that all relevant laws are enforced to bring all criminals to book” (*Hon. Abdullahi Ibrahim — Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iv) *Insert a new Prayer (viii) as follows:*
 “Conduct a public hearing on the level of insecurity in Nigeria” (*Hon. Dachong Bagos Musa — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with dismay the brutal killing of 58 year old Mrs Olufunke Olakurin, the daughter of Pa Reuben Fasoranti, leader of the Yoruba Socio-Political Group, Afenifere on Friday, 12 July, 2019, along Benin-Ore road;

Also noted that Mrs Olakunrin and her companions were heading to Lagos from Akure in the morning when yet to be identified gunmen attacked her vehicle, shooting sporadically at the occupants and when the driver tried to quickly turn back in an attempt to escape from the hoodlums, other gunmen in the bush by the other side of the road also shot at them;

Further noted that there were five people in the vehicle when the gunmen struck but sadly, she died from bullet wounds while being rushed to the hospital, but her companions survived the attack and were rushed to the hospital where they were treated for the injuries sustained and discharged;

Aware that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government, hence the need for the Federal Government to ensure that the perpetrators of the dastardly act are apprehended and made to face the full weight of the law;

Cognizant of the need to restructure the security architecture of the country to enable the security personnel effectively tackle the rising cases of banditry, kidnapping, armed robbery and cattle rustling currently ravaging the country;

Resolved to:

- (i) observe a minute silence in honour of Late Mrs Olufunke Olakunrin;
- (ii) condemn her gruesome murder;
- (iii) pay a condolence visit to the family of Mrs Olufunke Olakunrin and the Government of Ondo State;
- (iv) urge the Inspector-General of Police and other security agencies to apprehend the perpetrators of this heinous crime and make them pay the penalty for their actions to serve as deterrent to others;
- (v) also urge all security agencies to work together and come out with modality best suitable to tackle insecurity in the country;
- (vi) urge the Federal Government to provide CCTV Cameras on all the street lights across the country such that movements are monitored and crimes are nip in the bud;
- (vii) ensure that all relevant laws are enforced to bring all criminals to book; and
- (viii) conduct a public hearing on the level of insecurity in Nigeria (HR. 28/07/2019).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

Delegation to pay a condolence visit to the family of Late Mrs Olufunke Olakunrin and the Government of Ondo State:

Mr Speaker announced the names of the Delegation as follows:

(1)	Hon. Odeunmi Olusegun Dokun	—	Chairman
(2)	Hon. Alli Adeyemi Taofeek	—	Member
(3)	Hon. Akande-Sadipe Tolulope	—	Member
(4)	Hon. Tijjani Kayode Ismail	—	Member
(5)	Hon. Igbakpa Ben Rollands	—	Member
(6)	Hon. Abejide Leke Joseph	—	Member
(7)	Hon. Ibrahim Hamza	—	Member
(8)	Hon. Shehu Koko	—	Member
(9)	Hon. Mai Sani Bala	—	Member
(10)	Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai	—	Member

- (ii) ***Need to Monitor the Execution and Implementation of the Zonal Intervention Projects and Sustainable Development Goal Projects by Ministries, Departments and Agencies in all Three Hundred and Sixty Federal Constituency:***

Hon. Momah Ifeanyi Chudy (*Ihiala Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance.

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

8. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Proceeds of Crime Management Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 64).
- (2) Abuja Metropolitan Management Council (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.65).
- (3) Abuja Broadcasting Corporation (Establishment etc.) Bill, 2019 (HB.66).
- (4) Whistle Blower Protection Bill, 2019 (HB.97).

- (5) Digital Rights and Freedom Bill, 2019 (HB.98).
- (6) Nigerian Customs Service Bill, 2019 (HB.99).
- (7) FCT University of Science and Technology, Abaji (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2019 (HB.100).
- (8) Firearms Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 101).
- (9) Dangerous Weapons Bill, 2019 (HB.102).
- (10) FCT Customary Courts Act (Amendment)Bill, 2019(HB. 103).
- (11) Nigerian Institute of Agriculturists Bill, 2019 (HB. 104).
- (12) Statutory Corporations (Modifications, etc.) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 105).
- (13) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria Act (Alteration) Bill, 2019 (HB.106).
- (14) Federal Land Registry (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019(HB.107).
- (15) Donkey Export and Killings (Prohibition) Bill, 2019 (HB. 108).
- (16) Nigerian Institute of Plant Protection (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.109).
- (17) Cancer Registry Bill, 2019 (HB.110).
- (18) Revenue Mobilization, Allocation and Fiscal Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.111).
- (19) Public Procurement Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.112).
- (20) National Youths Welfare Scheme Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.113).
- (21) Nigerian National Honours and Merit Award Commission Bill, 2019 (HB.114).
- (22) National Universities Commission Act(Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.115).
- (23) Tertiary Education Trust Fund Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.116).
- (24) Federal University of Technology, Kaduna (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.117).
- (25) Federal University of Technology, Lagos (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB.118).
- (26) Council of Ministers (Evidence) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.119).
- (27) Nigeria Police Service Bill, 2019 (HB.120).
- (28) National Center for Women Development Act(Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2019 (HB.121).
- (29) Nigerian Agency for Foreign Assistance Bill, 2019 (HB.122).
- (30) Institute of Healthcare Management of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill,2019 (HB.123).
- (31) Nigerian Technical Aid Corps Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB.124).
- (32) Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (Establishment) Bill 2019 (HB.125).

- (33) New Partnership for Africa's Development Commission Bill, 2019 (HB. 126).
- (34) Nigerian Tourism Development Authority Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 127).
- (35) Nigerian Institute of Management Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 128).
- (36) Federal Housing Authority Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 129).
- (37) Nigerian Iron and Steel Development Act (Repeal and Enactment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 130).
- (38) Federal College of Education, Omuo Aran (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 131).

9. Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly, Pursuant to Order Twelve, Rule 16 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives

- (i) *National Orientation Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 12)*
- (ii) *National Ear Care Centre, Kaduna (Establishment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 13)*
- (iii) *Nigerian Law Reform Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2019 (HB. 14)*

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that pursuant to Order Twelve, Rule 16 of the Standing Orders of the House, the aforementioned Bills were passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the President for assent but for which assent or withholding thereof was not communicated before the end of the tenure of the last Assembly;

Aware that the Bills were re-gazetted as (HB. 12, HB. 13, and HB. 14), and read the first time on Tuesday 2 July, 2019;

Resolves to:

Commit the Bills to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Naganzai Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

10. Need to Assess the African Continental Free Trade Agreement Signed by President Muhammadu Buhari

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that President Muhammadu Buhari, at the Extra-Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of States and Governments in Niamey, Niger Republic on Sunday, 7 July, 2019 signed a Pact to establish the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AFCFTA) on behalf of the government and people of Nigeria;

Also notes that the President, while signing the Agreement, stated that the Nigerian Government will seek to include terms that will engender the development of policies that will promote African production, among other policies, while reiterating that what Africa needs goes beyond trade policy but includes a manufacturing agenda as well as attracting investments and combating smuggling;

Believes that President Buhari deserves commendation for signing the Trade Agreement with significant caution on the need to prevent excessive prosperity for importing nations along the coasts while landlocked nations will continue to suffer;

Further notes that Nigeria, as the largest economy in Africa should, in line with the Agreement, define various ways to optimize benefits accruable from the Pact by ensuring that its exports to other African Markets surpass its imports in order for it to have positive effects on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Balance of Trade Payments and Employment generation objectives;

Also believes that if that is not done, the nation could be turned into a dumping ground for products from other African Countries, a development that will be adverse to the nation's macroeconomic objectives.

Resolves to:

- (i) Commend President Muhammadu Buhari for taking the step of placing Nigeria in the right place among her colleagues in the Continent of Africa through the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA);
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to set machineries in motion to ensure that Nigeria optimizes the expected benefits from the Agreement;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Special Duties, and Commerce (when constituted) to ensure implementation (*Hon. Odeunmi Olusegun Dokun — Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that President Muhammadu Buhari, at the Extra-Ordinary Session of the Assembly of African Union Heads of States and Governments in Niamey, Niger Republic on Sunday, 7 July, 2019 signed a Pact to establish the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AFCFTA) on behalf of the government and people of Nigeria;

Also noted that the President, while signing the Agreement, stated that the Nigerian Government will seek to include terms that will engender the development of policies that will promote African production, among other policies, while reiterating that what Africa needs goes beyond trade policy but includes a manufacturing agenda as well as attracting investments and combating smuggling;

Believed that President Buhari deserves commendation for signing the Trade Agreement with significant caution on the need to prevent excessive prosperity for importing nations along the coasts while landlocked nations will continue to suffer;

Further noted that Nigeria, as the largest economy in Africa should, in line with the Agreement, define various ways to optimize benefits accruable from the Pact by ensuring that its exports to other African Markets surpass its imports in order for it to have positive effects on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Balance of Trade Payments and Employment generation objectives;

Also believed that if that is not done, the nation could be turned into a dumping ground for products from other African Countries, a development that will be adverse to the nation's macroeconomic objectives.

Resolved to:

- (i) Commend President Muhammadu Buhari for taking the step of placing Nigeria in the right place among her colleagues in the Continent of Africa through the signing of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA);
- (ii) urge the Federal Government to set machineries in motion to ensure that Nigeria optimizes the expected benefits from the Agreement;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Special Duties, and Commerce (when constituted) to ensure implementation (**HR. 29/07/2019**).

11. Need for Mop-up of Grains through Mass Purchase to Sustain Agricultural Production during the Rainy Season

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. Need to Revamp the Nigerian Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) Abak Sub Station, OrukAnam in Ukanafun/OrukAnam Federal Constituency, Akwa Ibom State

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

13. Need to Restore the Delta (Warri), Port Harcourt, Onne, Calabar and Onitsha Inland Ports in Order to Decongest the Apapa and Tin Can Island Ports in Lagos State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that there are six (6) major Sea Ports in Nigeria namely, the Lagos Port Complex (Apapa) and Tin Can Island Port Complex, both in Lagos State, the Calabar Port Complex in Cross River State, the Delta Port in Warri, Delta State, the Rivers Ports Complexes (Port Harcourt and Onne), both in Rivers State and the Onitsha Inland Port in Anambra State, most of which have capacity to accommodate Ocean liners, but at the moment, only the Lagos Ports Complexes are operating at near full capacity for exportation and importation of goods, while the other Ports are almost lying fallow;

Aware that the Federal Government is committed to the diversification of the nation's economy and development of infrastructure in order to expand the revenue base of the nation;

Cognizant that it is not economically and socially expedient, and even in terms of the security of the nation, prudent or advisable to concentrate all Ports' activities of a nation as big and diverse as Nigeria, in only one area as any unforeseen event would practically shutdown importation and exportation of goods;

Also notes that the continued concentration of all Ports activities at the Apapa and Tin Can Island Port Complexes has resulted in congestion of the two Ports such that it now takes a truck with an Authority To Load (ATL) between seven to nine days to go in and out of the Ports with the loads, a process that used to take a maximum of three hours; and the situation is worsened by the dilapidation of the 20km Apapa Wharf road due to the numerous container-laden articulated vehicles that ply the road daily to evacuate containers of goods;

Concerned that the congestion at the Ports and the ensuing gridlock on the access roads cause untold hardships to importers and exporters, and indeed to Nigerians living and working in the adjoining areas, a development that is leading to loss of huge revenues by Nigeria to neighbouring countries like Benin Republic and Cameroon as a result of importers and exporters using the Ports of those countries to avoid the constraints of using the Lagos Ports;

Also concerned about the demurrages being incurred by importers while waiting for rather long periods of time to have their goods cleared, the increase in transportation charges and the attendant rise in the prices of the goods when they are eventually cleared, all of which increase the economic pains and add to the pressure on the common man:

Informed that many African countries that are by far smaller than Nigeria and have less coastal lines and population, utilize more Port facilities for importation and exportation of goods:

Convinced that reviving the existing Ports at Warri, Port Harcourt, Onne, Calabar and Onitsha Inland Port which are mainly along the coastal lines of the country and had fallen into disuse requires only political will and strong policy initiatives, and doing this will significantly increase government revenue profile, enhance export/import businesses and reduce the undue pressure on the Apapa and Tin Can Island Ports Complexes:

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to determine why the Warri, Port Harcourt, Onne, Calabar and Onitsha Inland Ports Complexes are not being put to maximal use and make recommendations on measures that would ensure their revival as a way of reducing the congestion at the Lagos Ports, and report back within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Ifeanyi Chukwu Ibezi — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 30/07/2019).

Motion referred to the Ad-hoc Committee, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

14. **Call on the Federal Government to intervene in the Ecological Disaster afflicting the people and land in Ilaje/Ese-Odo Local Government Area, Ondo State**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the recent devastating ocean surge which destroyed properties worth millions of naira and rendered hundreds of residents homeless in Awoye, Molutehin, Mese, Ayetoro, Abereke, Gbagira, Abereke and Oriokewamimo Communities, all in Ilaje/Ese-Odo Federal Constituency in Ondo State:

Also notes that the constant and unmitigated surge has led to the displacement of inhabitants of those communities thereby affecting their traditional livelihood which ultimately has caused them untold hardship with adverse implications on the education of their children and by extension the aged population whose lives are in peril;

Disturbed that many times the waves of the ocean surge come with devastating silting of the waterways with mud thereby changing the navigation of pattern of the people on the waterways by constantly studying the tides to be able to move from place to place;

Also disturbed that the constant siltation of this geographical belt due to sea ingression and expression has cumulatively made many of the fresh water route impassable for the people, thereby making life and economic activities acutely difficult for the riverine communities;

Aware that the affected geographical area is host to many oil companies whose oil exploration has attendant, unimaginable environmental, social and infrastructural consequences ranging from water and air pollution and contamination of water tables, leading to lack of potable water and electricity;

Appreciates the intervention of the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and the Ondo State Government, which, in the overall, is meager, compared to the volume of immediate and remote unattended challenges still confronting the people occupying the coastline of Ondo State, which is the largest in Nigeria;

Concerned that if urgent and adequate steps are not taken to reverse this disturbing environmental problems by providing basic infrastructure such as shoreline protection to the already threatened communities and dredging of canals and fresh waterways in the area, the incessant ocean surge may apart from its existential proclivities, further lead to more loss of lives and properties of devastating social consequences;

Conscious of the fact that if the determined efforts of the Federal Government are devoted to tackling those challenges a permanent solution can be achieved.

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Federal Government as a matter of urgency to intervene through its Ecological Fund Office (EFO) and other associated agencies, to evaluate, develop and fund a remediation plan and to curtail the environmental dangers already posed or where possible, resettle the people in a new location;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministries of Niger Delta Affairs, Environment and the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), to restructure that Projects Priority Plans for Ondo State in their subsequent budget proposals to accommodate and tackle the challenges facing the Communities;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Environment and Habitat, NDDC, and Niger Delta Affairs (when constituted) to take a tour of the affected areas to ascertain the level of damages done, liaise with relevant MDAs with a view to proffering informed and lasting solutions to the situation;
- (iv) also urge National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the affected victims and communities (*Hon. Kolade Victor Akinjo — Ilaje/Ese-Odo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 31/07/2019).

Motion referred to the Committees on Environment and Habitat, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), and Niger Delta Affairs (when constituted), pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

15. Need to Investigate the Recruitment Exercise into the Federal Fire Service Being Conducted by the Federal Ministry of Interior and the Civil Defence, Fire Service, Immigration and Prisons Services Board

Motion withdrawn by leave of the House.

16. Killing of Nigerians in Libya and the Bombing of Tajoura Detention Centre
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that many Nigerians have been killed in various detention centres across Libya, especially during the bombing of Tajoura detention centre;

Also notes that the United Nations (UN) report indicated that Libya guards shot at migrants trying to flee the Tajoura detention Centre after it had been hit by the bomb;

Concerned that the battle for control of Tripoli between the Libyan warlord, Gen. Khalifa and the United Nations backed Government of National Accord will further endanger the lives of Nigerian migrants in Libya;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Mission in Tripoli, Libya to assist by issuing emergency travel documents to stranded Nigerians to enable them return home;
- (ii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to visit Libya for an on the spot investigation of the state of Nigerians in various detention centers across Libya and what the Nigeria Mission is doing to assist them, and report back within four weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Chukwuma Umeoji — Aguata Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (ii), line 1, *leave out* the words “Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee” and *insert* the words “mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs (when constituted)” (*Hon. Isiaka Ibrahim — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
“Urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Nigerian Diaspora Commission to strategically intervene to ensure that lives of Nigerians are protected” (*Hon. Kolade Victor Akinjo — Ilaje/Ese Odo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Notes that many Nigerians have been killed in various detention centres across Libya, especially during the bombing of Tajoura detention centre;

Also notes that the United Nations (UN) report indicated that Libya guards shot at migrants trying to flee the Tajoura detention Centre after it had been hit by the bomb;

Concerned that the battle for control of Tripoli between the Libyan warlord, Gen. Khalifa and the United Nations backed Government of National Accord will further endanger the lives of Nigerian migrants in Libya;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Mission in Tripoli, Libya to assist by issuing emergency travel documents to stranded Nigerians to enable them return home;
- (ii) also urge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Nigerian Diaspora Commission to strategically intervene to ensure that lives of Nigerians are protected; and

- (iii) mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs (when constituted) to visit Libya for an on the spot investigation of the state of Nigerians in various detention centers across Libya and what the Nigeria Mission is doing to assist them, and report back within four (4) weeks (HR. 32/07/2019).

17. **Need to Address the Dearth of Manpower in the Nigeria Police Force**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that effective policing is the nation's most pressing challenge, hence the need to boost the capacity of Nigeria Police Force to enable it perform its core constitutional function of maintaining law and order and safeguarding the lives and property of ordinary citizens, thereby addressing the spate of insecurity in the country;

Aware that Nigeria has approximately 370,000 Police personnel to police an estimated 200 million people, which is glaringly inadequate and self-defeating, hence the need for recruitment of more personnel for the Force;

Conscious that the Nigeria Police Force is clearly overwhelmed by the numerous security challenges plaguing the country given that most activities of bandits, kidnappers, armed robbers and herdsmen are carried out in enclaves, jungles and forests located all over Nigeria, which were hitherto guarded by Forest Guards;

Cognizant that the Inspector-General of Police, Mr Mohammed Adamu, is making efforts to improve the performance of Police personnel and has recently ordered police formations across the country to revert to the eight- hours, three-shift work schedule from the present 12- hours, two-shift regime which will improve the performance of police personnel by reducing work-related stress and emotional conditions that negatively impact on their performance;

Also conscious that the Police Service Commission (PSC) is proposing having part-time constables, and has outlined the requisite qualifications of prospective constables and some operational details, and they will be drawn from the pool of already employed Nigerians in various professions who are physically fit and within the ages of 21 and 50 years and who, unlike their regular counterparts, will not be armed even when in uniform as their duties will be restricted to administrative matters, crowd control, alternative dispute resolutions, emergency management and other less risky or sensitive services;

Also aware that there are so many Nigerians with excellent professional qualifications roaming the streets daily seeking for employment who are suitable for recruitment and should therefore be the target of the Nigeria Police Force with regard to the proposed part time constables;

Concerned that the proposal to enlist between 15,000 to 25,000 part-time constables annually over a period of five years will not address the shortfall in the conventional Force, since it is glaring;

Further aware that the Police personnel are not well kitted as their counterparts in other countries as officers on duty ought to have a duty belt consisting of a handgun, a taser, an expandable baton, pepper spray, a set of handcuffs, ammunition magazines, gloves, touch and a two-way radio;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct the Police Service Commission (PSC) to put on hold the proposal for recruitment of part-time constables as the measure will not address the shortfall in police personnel in the country or ensure the needed security;

- (ii) also call on the Federal Government to commence the recruitment of Nigerians with requisite professional qualifications into the Nigeria Police Force to address the shortfall in the Force;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to ensure that the Forest Guards responsible for law enforcement in National Parks and forests have their operations streamlined to include enforcing poaching duties, safeguarding and protecting animals' species and patrolling the forests to keep off bandits and criminal elements and they should be incorporated into the security architecture of the country, being a para-military agency;
- (iv) also urge the National Security Adviser to put in place effective collaboration between the security agencies with a view to harmonizing their intelligence gathering and operations;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and National Security and Intelligence (when constituted) to ensure compliance and report back for further legislative action (*Hon. Saubana Ajibola Muraina — Ibarapa Central/Ibarapa North Federal Constituency*).

• *Debate.*

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that effective policing is the nation's most pressing challenge, hence the need to boost the capacity of Nigeria Police Force to enable it perform its core constitutional function of maintaining law and order and safeguarding the lives and property of ordinary citizens, thereby addressing the spate of insecurity in the country;

Aware that Nigeria has approximately 370,000 Police personnel to police an estimated 200 million people, which is glaringly inadequate and self-defeating, hence the need for recruitment of more personnel for the Force;

Conscious that the Nigeria Police Force is clearly overwhelmed by the numerous security challenges plaguing the country given that most activities of bandits, kidnappers, armed robbers and herdsmen are carried out in enclaves, jungles and forests located all over Nigeria, which were hitherto guarded by Forest Guards;

Cognizant that the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Mohammed Adamu, is making efforts to improve the performance of Police personnel and has recently ordered police formations across the country to revert to the eight- hours, three-shift work schedule from the present 12- hours, two-shift regime which will improve the performance of police personnel by reducing work-related stress and emotional conditions that negatively impact on their performance;

Also conscious that the Police Service Commission (PSC) is proposing having part-time constables, and has outlined the requisite qualifications of prospective constables and some operational details, and they will be drawn from the pool of already employed Nigerians in various professions who are physically fit and within the ages of 21 and 50 years and who, unlike their regular counterparts, will not be armed even when in uniform as their duties will be restricted to administrative matters, crowd control, alternative dispute resolutions, emergency management and other less risky or sensitive services;

Also aware that there are so many Nigerians with excellent professional qualifications roaming the streets daily seeking for employment who are suitable for recruitment and should therefore be the target of the Nigeria Police Force with regard to the proposed part time constables;

Concerned that the proposal to enlist between 15,000 to 25,000 part-time constables annually over a period of five years will not address the shortfall in the conventional Force, since it is glaring;

Further aware that the Police personnel are not well kitted as their counterparts in other countries as officers on duty ought to have a duty belt consisting of a handgun, a taser, an expandable baton, pepper spray, a set of handcuffs, ammunition magazines, gloves, touch and a two-way radio;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct the Police Service Commission (PSC) to put on hold the proposal for recruitment of part-time constables as the measure will not address the shortfall in police personnel in the country or ensure the needed security;
- (ii) also call on the Federal Government to commence the recruitment of Nigerians with requisite professional qualifications into the Nigeria Police Force to address the shortfall in the Force;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government to ensure that the Forest Guards responsible for law enforcement in National Parks and forests have their operations streamlined to include enforcing poaching duties, safeguarding and protecting animals' species and patrolling the forests to keep off bandits and criminal elements and they should be incorporated into the security architecture of the country, being a para-military agency;
- (iv) also urge the National Security Adviser to put in place effective collaboration between the security agencies with a view to harmonizing their intelligence gathering and operations;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and National Security and Intelligence (when constituted) to ensure compliance and report back (**HR. 33/07/2019**).

18. Need to Tackle the Scourge of Rape and Other Sexual Offences against Children in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that gender-based violence, such as rape and other forms of sexual abuses, has assumed serious dimensions globally and in Nigeria, the prevalence of rape cases is estimated at 80%, with the children and even babies not being spared the scourge, while the prevalence of incidents of rape among adolescent females is between 11 and 55%;

Also notes that the United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF) has observed that one in four Nigerian girls must have experienced sexual violence before the age of eighteen;

Recalls that the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act, 2015 is considered a milestone as it strives to protect women and girls from all forms of violence, including sexual violence such as rape, sexual assault, physical, psychological and domestic violence and even to harmful traditional practices;

Aware that one Idris Ebiloma was alleged to have raped a 4-year old child and is currently under trial for the said offence;

Further notes that Section 38 (1) of the Act entitles victims to comprehensive legal, medical, psychological and social assistance to be provided either by the Government or non-governmental organizations and further entitles victims to be informed of the assistance available and immediate access to such services, as well as to rehabilitation and the re-integration programmes available to them, at the expense of the State;

Concerned that the provisions of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act are not being implemented as the required legal, medical, psychological and social assistance are still not being provided for the vast majority of victims of sexual offences in Nigeria;

Also concerned that the absence of State sponsored support, rehabilitation and re-integration programmes for victims of sexual abuses hampers efforts towards the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, prevention and management of unwanted pregnancies, prevention of HIV infection through the provision of post-exposure prophylaxis and prevention of other diseases, such as Tetanus and Hepatitis B;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to Establish Rehabilitation and Re-integration Programmes for victims of rape and other sexual offences in every State of the Federation;
- (ii) call on the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice to prepare a National Policy Framework to guide the implementation of the Sexual Offences Act that will provide further certainty to the law regarding the age at which a person can consent to sexual activity;
- (iii) also urge Government of the States of the Federation to maintain sexual offenders registers in the States;
- (iv) further call on the Attorney-General of the Federation to ensure that Idris Ebiloma who was alleged to have raped a 4 years old child is diligently prosecuted for the offence he is accused of committing;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Justice, and Police Affairs (when constituted) to ensure compliance (*Hon. Abiola Peller Shina — Iseyin/Itesiwaju/Kajola/Iwajowa Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (vi) as follows:
“urge the Inspector-General of Police to direct the State Commissioners of Police to ensure investigation of cases of rape in their States with the purpose of bringing the culprits to book especially in Ondo State” (*Hon. Kolade Victor Akinjo — Itaje/Ese Odo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (vii) as follows:
“Call on the Nigeria Police to create a Special Unit to attend to cases of minors and infants, staffed with police personnel who have been recruited to understand and sympathies with the victims” (*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 gender-based violence, such as rape and other forms of sexual abuses, has assumed serious dimensions globally and in Nigeria, the prevalence of rape cases is estimated at 80%, with the children and even babies not being spared the scourge, while the prevalence of incidents of rape among adolescent females is between 11 and 55%;

Also noted that the United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF) has observed that one in four Nigerian girls must have experienced sexual violence before the age of eighteen;

Recalled that the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act, 2015 is considered a milestone as it strives to protect women and girls from all forms of violence, including sexual violence such as rape, sexual assault, physical, psychological and domestic violence and even to harmful traditional practices;

Aware that one Idris Ebiloma was alleged to have raped a 4-year old child and is currently under trial for the said offence;

Further noted that Section 38 (1) of the Act entitles victims to comprehensive legal, medical, psychological and social assistance to be provided either by the Government or non-governmental organizations and further entitles victims to be informed of the assistance available and immediate access to such services, as well as to rehabilitation and the re-integration programmes available to them, at the expense of the State;

Concerned that the provisions of the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act are not being implemented as the required legal, medical, psychological and social assistance are still not being provided for the vast majority of victims of sexual offences in Nigeria;

Also concerned that the absence of State sponsored support, rehabilitation and re-integration programmes for victims of sexual abuses hampers efforts towards the prevention of sexually transmitted infections, prevention and management of unwanted pregnancies, prevention of HIV infection through the provision of post-exposure prophylaxis and prevention of other diseases, such as Tetanus and Hepatitis B;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to Establish Rehabilitation and Re-integration Programmes for victims of rape and other sexual offences in every State of the Federation;
- (ii) call on the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice to prepare a National Policy Framework to guide the implementation of the Sexual Offences Act that will provide further certainty to the law regarding the age at which a person can consent to sexual activity;
- (iii) also urge Government of the States of the Federation to maintain sexual offenders registers in the States;
- (iv) also call on the Attorney-General of the Federation to ensure that Idris Ebiloma who was alleged to have raped a 4 years old child is diligently prosecuted for the offence he is accused of committing;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Justice, and Police Affairs (when constituted) to ensure compliance;
- (vi) further urge the Inspector-General of Police to direct the State Commissioners of Police to ensure investigation of cases of rape in their States with the purpose of bringing the culprits to book especially in Ondo State; and
- (vii) also call on the Nigeria Police to create a Special Unit to attend to cases of minors and infants, staffed with police personnel who have been recruited to understand and sympathies with the victims (**HR. 34/07/2019**).

19. **Adjournment**

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 17 July, 2019 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Chief Whip).

The House adjourned accordingly at 4.22 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabamila
Speaker