



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 26 February, 2020

1. The House met at 11.41 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. The House recited the National Pledge
3. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 25 February, 2020.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Announcements**

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

Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the following:

- (i) Staff and Students of *Amid Primary and Secondary Academy*, Keffi, Nasarawa State;
- (ii) Staff and Students of *Crest International Schools*, Mararaba, Nasarawa State;
- (iii) Staff and Students of *KDM Islamic Academy*, Suleja, Niger State;
- (iv) Staff and Students of *Raudah Quba Kings Academy*, Kubwa, Abuja; and
- (v) Staff and Students of *God's Heritage School Praise Assembly*, Karu Site, Abuja.

(b) **Election as the President of the African Region of the League of Parliamentarians for Al-Quds:**

Mr Speaker read a communication from the League of Parliamentarians for Al-Quds, notifying the House on the election of Hon. Abubakar Yunusa Ahmad as the President of the African Region of the League of Parliamentarians for Al-Quds.

(c) **Special Session on the Plight of Al-majiri Child:**

Mr Speaker announced that the Plenary Session of Thursday, 12 March, 2020, would be dedicated to discussions on the plight of the Al-majiri child in Nigeria.

5.121 Petitions

- (i) A petition from Maryam Booth, on alleged infringement of her Fundamental Human Rights by Ibrahim Ahmad Rufai, was presented and laid by Hon. Haruna Isa Dederi (Karaye/Rogo Federal Constituency); and
- (ii) A petition from Forum of Former Presidents, Markunkel Youth Development Association of Niger State, on the relocation of Model Primary School project from Bosso Local Government Area to Chanchaga Local Government Area by Chairman, State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) was presented and laid by Hon. Shehu Barwa Beji (Bosso/Paikoro Federal Constituency).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) **Need to Investigate Excess and Illegal Charges on the Accounts of Individuals and Public Institutions at Various Banks in Nigeria:**

Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi (Kanke/Paskshin/Kanam 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.**

Need to Investigate Excess and Illegal Charges on the Accounts of Individuals and Public Institutions at Various Banks in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that the role of banks and the banking sector when properly managed and run in accordance with banking ethics while adhering to international best practices, arguably opens up the economy as it galvanizes the critical factors of production and wealth creation thereby making the banking sector very pivotal to economic growth and national development;

Also notes that as pivotal as the banking industry is to economic development, coupled with its tremendous growth in Nigeria over the years, to support the Federal Government policy on ease of doing business, the experiences of individuals, public institutions and corporate customers of banks have been that of mixed feelings as excess and illegal debits on accounts of customers in the name of bank charges have been very disturbing as various charges ranging from ATM charges, account maintenance fee, card maintenance charges, SMS charges, etc., have been sources of worries to customers across the country;

Mr Speaker read a communication from the League of Parliamentarians for Africa (LPA) dated 11/2/2020, in which the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has intervened on this issue on countless occasions, many of these illegal charges have continued unabated for a number of reasons, which includes but not limited to size of the amount, logistics and cost of following the matter through the courts and the banks are aware that customers are not likely to abandon their jobs and businesses to chase what is considered insignificant amount of money.

Aware that while the banking industry is supposed to be a catalyst for economic growth and wealth creation, lack of transparency in the industry has made investment by local and foreign investors unattractive due to the illegal dealings and meddling with depositors' accounts by Nigerian banks;

Saddened that the National Assembly and other government institutions and agencies saddled with the responsibility of regulating the industry and protecting the interests of the general public, are also victims of these excess and illegal charges by the banks;

Worried that the actions of these banks constitute outright stealing of customers' deposits, there is need for every hand to be on deck to seek redress and protect depositors funds;

Cognizant that the Legislature, being a public institution and one of the three Arms of Government charged with the responsibility for ensuring accountability in the use of public funds, should be interested in investigating its own accounts held in various banks to determine the extent of excess and illegal charges, by its bankers with a view to recovering same.

Resolves to:
(05/02/2020) (HR. 27/02/2020)

Mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to liaise with professional financial consultants to investigate and determine the extent of excess charges on the accounts of the House of Representatives, individuals and other public institutions in various banks in the last eight (8) years, and report back within four (4) weeks (Hon. Yusuf Adamu Gagdi -- Kanke/Paskshi/Kanam Federal Constituency)

Debate.

Agreed to:

The House:

Noted that the role of banks and the banking sector when properly managed and run in accordance with banking ethics while adhering to international best practices, arguably opens up the economy as it galvanizes the critical factors of production and wealth creation thereby making the banking sector very pivotal to economic growth and national development;

Also noted that as pivotal as the banking industry is to economic development, coupled with its tremendous growth in Nigeria over the years, to support the Federal Government policy on ease of doing business, the experiences of individuals, public institutions and corporate customers of banks have been that of mixed feelings as excess and illegal debits on accounts of customers in the name of bank charges have been very disturbing as various charges ranging from ATM charges, account maintenance fee, card maintenance charges, SMS notification charges, token maintenance fees to stamp duty fees, etc. have been sources of worries to customers across the country.

Further noted that although the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has intervened on this issue on countless occasions, many of these illegal charges have continued unabated for a number of reasons, which includes but not limited to size of the amount, logistics and cost of following the matter through to conclusion since the banks are aware that customers are not likely to abandon their jobs and businesses to chase what is considered insignificant amount of money;

Aware that while the banking industry is supposed to be a catalyst for economic growth and wealth creation, lack of transparency in the industry has made investment by local and foreign investors unattractive due to the illegal dealings and meddling with depositors' accounts by Nigerian banks;

Saddened that the National Assembly and other government institutions and agencies saddled with the responsibility of regulating the industry and protecting the interests of the general public, are also victims of these excess and illegal charges by the banks;

Worried that the actions of these banks constitute outright stealing of customers' deposits, there is need for every hand to be on deck to seek redress and protect depositors funds;

Cognizant that the Legislature, being a public institution and one of the three Arms of Government charged with the responsibility for ensuring accountability in the use of public funds, should be interested in investigating its own accounts held in various banks to determine the extent of excess and illegal charges, by its bankers with a view to recovering same;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Banking and Currency to liaise with professional financial consultants to investigate and determine the extent of excess charges on the accounts of the House of Representatives, individuals and other public institutions in various banks in the last eight (8) years, and report back within four (4) weeks (HR. 57/02/2020).

(ii) ***Serious Impediments in the Concerted and Rapid Response Efforts of the Federal Government to Contain and Deal with the Greivous Threats of LASSA Fever and Coronavirus and Other Related Matters:***

Hon. Shehu Bakarabe Kakale (*Dange-Shuni/Bodinga/Tureta 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.

Serious Impediments in the Concerted and Rapid Response Efforts of the Federal Government to Contain and Deal with the Greivous Threats of LASSA Fever and Coronavirus and Other Related Matters:

The House:

Notes the inability of the Federal Ministry of Health to procure equipment, protective personnel gadgets and other laboratory and logistical equipment/services, reagents and drugs is seriously hampering the genuine efforts of the Federal Government to fight and contain the Lassa fever epidemics and the eventuality of the dreaded coronavirus disease;

Also notes that the Federal government has proactively provided or released huge sums of money amounting to about ₦386 million for this massive effort;

Concerned that even basic protective equipment like face masks, thermal scanners and gloves rapidly deplete and going out of stock in the Ministry;

Worried that the Federal Government has stripped the Ministry of Health of its Procurement powers and transferred same to the Ministry of Agriculture since the last quarter of last year in violation of the Procurement Act;

Also worried that this scenario seriously causes inefficiency, delays and corrupt practices in the system, putting millions of Nigerian lives and the economy in grave danger;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal government to urgently restore the procurement powers of the Ministry of Health;
- (ii) urge the Ministry of Agriculture to concentrate on its mandate of Zoonotic Disease Control, Animal, public health and veterinary services, etc. in its collaborative efforts with relevant MDAs to contain these highly infectious and other diseases;
- (iii) also urge all relevant MDAs to redouble efforts and support the Federal Government in protecting the precious lives of Nigerians in the face of these unprecedented health challenges; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, Agricultural Production and Services, and Finance to investigate the violation of the Procurement Act by the Federal Ministries of Agriculture, Finance, and Health; and
- (v) also mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, Agricultural Production and Services, and Finance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Shehu Balarabe Kakale - Dange-Shuni/Tureta Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the inability of the Federal Ministry of Health to procure equipment, protective personnel gadgets and other laboratory and logistical equipment/services, reagents and drugs is seriously hampering the genuine efforts of the Federal Government to fight and contain the Lassa fever epidemics and the eventuality of the dreaded coronavirus disease;

Also noted that the Federal government has proactively provided or released huge sums of money amounting to about ₦386 million for this massive effort;

Concerned that even basic protective equipment like face masks, thermal scanners and gloves rapidly deplete and going out of stock in the Ministry;

Worried that the Federal Government has stripped the Ministry of Health of its Procurement powers and transferred same to the Ministry of Agriculture since the last quarter of last year, in violation of the Procurement Act;

Also worried that this scenario seriously causes inefficiency, delays and corrupt practices in the system, putting millions of Nigerian lives and the economy in grave danger;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal government to urgently restore the procurement powers of the Ministry of Health;
- (ii) urge the Ministry of Agriculture to concentrate on its mandate of Zoonotic Disease Control, Animal, public health and veterinary services, etc. in its collaborative efforts with relevant MDAs to contain these highly infectious and other diseases;

- (iii) also urge all relevant MDAs to redouble efforts and support the Federal Government in protecting the precious lives of Nigerians in the face of these unprecedented health challenges; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, Agricultural Production and Services, and Finance to investigate the violation of the Procurement Act by the Federal Ministries of Agriculture, Finance, and Health; and
- (v) also mandate the Committees on Healthcare Services, Agricultural Production and Services, and Finance to ensure compliance (HR. 58/02/2020).

7. Presentation of Reports

(i) **Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC):**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Niger Delta Development Commission on the issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), the Total Sum of ₦346,388,900,000.00 (Three Hundred and Forty-Six Billion, Three Hundred and Eighty-Eight Million, Nine Hundred Thousand Naira) only, of which the Sum of ₦22,338,900,000 (Twenty-Two Billion, Three Hundred and Thirty-Eight Million, Nine Hundred Thousand Naira) only, is for Personnel Expenditure, while the Sum of ₦13,466,810,000 (Thirteen Billion, Four Hundred and Sixty-Six Million, Eight Hundred and Ten Thousand Naira) only, is for Overhead Expenditure, while the sum of ₦4,083,000,007 (Four Billion, and Eighty-Three Million Naira, Seven Kobo) only, is for Internal Capital Expenditure and the sum of ₦306,500,899,992 (Three Hundred and Six Billion, Five Hundred Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Two Naira) only, is for Development Projects for the Service of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) for the Financial Year Ending on 31 May, 2020" (Hon. Olubunmi Tunji Ojo — Akoko Northeast/Akoko West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) **House Delegation on Parliamentary Union Conference of the OIC Member States:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the House Delegation on the Parliamentary Union Conference of the OIC Member States, 15th Edition held at Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso from 27-30 January, 2020" (Hon. Mohammed Tahir Mougouno — Mougouno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Public Administration of Nigeria and to make Provisions, among other things, for Membership and Control of the Profession of Public Administration; and for Related Matters (HB.329) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Public Administration of Nigeria and to make Provisions, among other things, for Membership and Control of the Profession of Public Administration; and for Related Matters (HB.329) be now read the Third Time" (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

9. A Bill for an Act to Establish the South West Development Commission charged with Responsibility, among others, to Receive and Manage Funds from Allocation of the Federation Account, including Donations and Gifts, for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Roads, Houses and other Infrastructural damages suffered by the Region and the Need to tackle the Ecological Problems and any other Related Environmental or Developmental Challenges in the South West States; and for Related Matters (HB.597) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the South West Development Commission charged with Responsibility, among others, to Receive and Manage Funds from Allocation of the Federation Account, including Donations and Gifts, for the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Roads, Houses and other Infrastructural damages suffered by the Region and the Need to tackle the Ecological Problems and any other Related Environmental or Developmental Challenges in the South West States; and for Related Matters (HB.597) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Olufemi Fakeye — Boluwaduro/Ifedayo/Ila Federal Constituency and 80 Others).

Debate.

Question that the Bill be now read a Second Time — Agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Justice.

10. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Education (Technical) Ikirun, Osun State to Provide for Full-Time Courses, Teaching, Instruction and Training in Technology Applied Science, Arts, Social Science, Humanities and Management; and for Related Matters (HB. 532) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Education (Technical) Ikirun, Osun State to Provide for Full-Time Courses, Teaching, Instruction and Training in Technology Applied Science, Arts, Social Science, Humanities and Management; and for Related Matters (HB. 532) be read a Second Time" (Hon. Rasheed Afolabi Olalekan — Odo Otin/Ifelodun/Boripe Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Question that the Bill be now read a Second Time — Agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Tertiary Education and Services.

11. **Suspension of Plenary**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do take 15 minutes recess" (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader).

Agreed to.

House on Recess — 1.02 p.m.

House in Plenary — 1.20 p.m.

12. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Police Act, Cap. P19, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigeria Police Bill to provide the Framework for the Nigeria Police Force, ensure Cooperation and Partnership between the Police and Host Communities in Maintaining Peace and Combating Crimes; and for Related Matters (HB. 684) — *Second Reading*
- Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Police Act, Cap. P19, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Enact the Nigeria Police Bill to provide the Framework

for the Nigeria Police Force, ensure Cooperation and Partnership between the Police and Host Communities in Maintaining Peace and Combating Crimes; and for Related Matters (HB. 684) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Gagdi Adamu Yusuf — Kanke/Paskshin/Kanam Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question that the Bill be now read a Second Time — Agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Police Affairs.

13. Need to Assess the Quality of Work on the Abuja-Lokoja Dual Carriageway

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14. Need to Support the Victims of Fire Disaster at Aghoro Market, Ekeremor Local Government Area of Bayelsa State

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. Need to Construct a Flyover or Roundabout at Jama'are/Itas/Gadau Junction on the Kano-Maiduguri Expressway

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House

Notes that the welfare and security of the people is the primary purpose of government, and it is in realization of the above that the Federal Government awarded the contract for the dualization of the 600 km road linking Kano, Jigawa, Bauchi, Yobe and Maiduguri at the cost of (₦50,000,000,000) Fifty Billion Naira in 2006 to ease the free movement of people and goods;

Also notes that the road passes through several communities, towns and cities, including Jama'are/Itas/Gadau Junction, where citizens of the area live along the federal high way which intersects Jama'are/Itas/Gadau road, a State Road in Bauchi State;

Concerned that the intersection has become very dangerous since commuters on the highway are usually on top speed and there is no overhead bridge or roundabout to allow free movement of travellers, vehicles or residents from communities along Jama'are/Itas Gadau State Road;

Also concerned that the absence of a flyover or roundabout at the intersection has become a death trap as residents attempting to cross the federal highway are being knocked down by vehicles on a daily basis, hence the need for construction of a flyover or roundabout in Jama'are along the Kano-Maiduguri express way;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing to immediately construct a flyover or at least a roundabout to ease vehicle movement and reduce accident on the highway; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Works to ensure compliance (*Hon. Bashir Uba Mashema — Jama'are/Itas/Gadau Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 59/02/2020).

Motion referred to the Committee on Works, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

16. Need to Construct Multipurpose Mini Stadiums in Shira and Giade Local Government Areas of Bauchi State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that sports is a powerful tool in strengthening social ties and networks and has been proven to be an effective catalyst for promoting peaceful, locally-driven development;

Also notes that sports is a tool for job creation and revenue generation as individuals who are actively engaged in sporting could derive their livelihoods from games and when sports facilities are leased out, revenues are also derived from them;

Aware that active engagement of the youths in sports will greatly reduce negative influences such as drugs and alcohol addiction, gang affiliation, criminality and myriad forms of anti-social activities to an appreciable extent, thus fostering nation building and economic development;

Also aware that the youths of Shira and Giade Local Government Areas are actively engaged in sporting activities with an estimated 126 registered football teams, 6 volleyball teams, 3 hockey teams, 11, langa teams, 7 badminton teams and 5 table tennis teams and have over 25,000 sports fans and supporters across the two Local Government Areas;

Concerned that the youths of the Local Governments are unable to reach their full potentials in sports development due to inadequate sporting facilities and stadiums, hence, many of them have become discouraged and resorted to anti-social behaviour for want of better ways to keep their idle minds occupied;

Cognizant that the construction of a mini stadium in each of the Local Government Areas would generate huge revenue and create employment opportunities in the communities of Shira/Giade Federal Constituency;

Also cognizant that the construction of multipurpose mini stadiums in Shira and Giade Local Government Areas will not only be cost effective, but will also open avenues for participation in more variety of sporting activities while providing opportunities for supporters to come together and encourage the youths to strive to be better as well as attract investors to the communities of Shira/Giade Federal Constituency and Bauchi State in general;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to make provision in the 2021 budget estimates for the construction of multipurpose mini stadiums at Shira and Giade Local Government Areas of Bauchi State in order to encourage sports and youth development; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Sports, Youth Development, and Appropriations to ensure implementation (*Hon. Kani Abubakar Faggo — Shira/Giade Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 60/02/2020).

Motion referred to the Committees on Sports, Youth Development, and Appropriations, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

17. **Need to Investigate the Privatization of Afam Power Plc and the New Afam III 240MW Power Plants by the Bureau of Public Enterprises**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

18. **Call on the Federal Government to Partner with Indigenous Inventors to Facilitate Growth of Inventors in Nigeria**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the need to facilitate growth of indigenous inventions and inventors to be at par with their counterparts worldwide cannot be over emphasized as the global economic landscape is experiencing rapid changes;

Aware that Globalization, among others is creating considerable new opportunities and new challenges by plethora of break throughs, thus making significant progress in driving the economy;

Also notes that notable inventors of Nigerian extraction with remarkable inventions are making waves in the Science and Technology world, among whom are Philip Emeagwali, Adepoju Saheed, Jelani Aliyu, Ndubuisi Ekekwe, Col. Ovieno Ovadje (*retd*), Emeka Nchekwube, Erino Gilbert, Olu Atanda, Dr Osatohamem Osewengie and Silas Adekunle;

Also aware that in 2011 in Birnin Kebbi, former President Goodluck Jonathan said that Nigeria was going to run its economy based on science and technology, because Nigeria cannot move its economy forward without science and technology and that emphasis will be placed more on science and technology without which, Nigeria was just dreaming;

Further aware that 8 years after, President Muhammadu Buhari urged Nigerian Universities to intensify efforts at making discoveries and inventions that can assist the development of the country stating that over 53 years after independence, Nigerian Universities were slow in making discoveries and inventions;

Equally aware that from verifiable statistics, most of the Nigerian inventors are working alone without government or corporate support and the lack of investments in this area has hindered research and development in strategic industries;

Believes that over 60% of Nigeria's population is below 30 years and are in touch with the changing world and the advancement in technology and therefore, the right time for more government participation in supporting inventions and discoveries is now;

Cognizant that the key to greatness among the comity of nations is the full utilization of the potentials of Nigeria's youth force in areas of technological advancement;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to support indigenous inventors and invention companies;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Science and Technology to interface with the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology on the state of implementation of the National Policy on Science and Technology especially on policy incentives to Nigerian youths for career development in Science and Technology fields and report back within 4 weeks for further legislative action; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Dennis Idahosa — Ovia North East/Ovia South West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the need to facilitate growth of indigenous inventions and inventors to be at par with their counterparts worldwide cannot be over emphasized as the global economic landscape is experiencing rapid changes;

Aware that Globalization, among others is creating considerable new opportunities and new challenges by plethora of break throughs, thus making significant progress in driving the economy;

Also noted that notable inventors of Nigerian extraction with remarkable inventions are making waves in the Science and Technology world, among whom are Philip Emeagwali, Adepoju Saheed, Jelani Aliyu Ndubuisi Ekekwe, Col. Ovieno Ovadje (*rtd*), Emeka Nchekwube, Erino Gilbert, Olu Atanda, Dr. Osatohamem Osewengie and Silas Adekunle;

Also aware that in 2011 in Birnin Kebbi, former President Goodluck Jonathan said that Nigeria was going to run its economy based on science and technology, because Nigeria cannot move its economy forward without science and technology and that emphasis will be placed more on science and technology without which, Nigeria was just dreaming;

Further aware that 8 years after, President Muhammadu Buhari urged Nigerian Universities to intensify efforts at making discoveries and inventions that can assist the development of the country stating that over 53 years after independence, Nigerian Universities were slow in making discoveries and inventions;

Equally aware that from verifiable statistics, most of the Nigerian inventors are working alone without government or corporate support and the lack of investments in this area has hindered research and development in strategic industries;

Believed that over 60% of Nigeria's population is below 30 years and are in touch with the changing world and the advancement in technology and therefore, the right time for more government participation in supporting inventions and discoveries is now;

Cognizant that the key to greatness among the comity of nations is the full utilization of the potentials of Nigeria's youth force in areas of technological advancement;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to support indigenous inventors and invention companies;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Science and Technology to interface with the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology on the state of implementation of the National Policy on Science and Technology" especially on policy incentives to Nigerian youths for career development in Science and Technology fields and report back within 4 weeks for further legislative action; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (HR. 61/02/2020).

19. **Need to Investigate the Degrading Sex Slavery Nigerian Women are Subjected to**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the assurances given by President Muhammadu Buhari in Sochi, Russia recently to the effect that the Nigerian Government would stretch its reach and capacity to protect all Nigerians all over the world;

Also notes that presently, there are several tens of thousands of Nigerian women who have been turned into sex slaves around the world and reports in the media show that Nigerian women and even underage girls, have been turned into sex slaves in European and several Middle East countries;

Concerned that even the neighbouring West African states which depend on Nigeria for their wellbeing and security have become notorious in maltreating Nigerian women, keeping them as sex slaves and providing safe haven for perpetrators of human trafficking;

Aware that the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) has conducted several investigations and discovered that:

- (i) between 20,000-30,000 Nigerian girls are sex slaves with fifty additional girls being added to the list every day, in Mali,
- (ii) because of increased efforts of the Security Agencies, traffickers no longer accompany their victims to Mali but now "waybill" the girls through Cotonou,
- (iii) many of the victims were deceived by friends and relatives to leave Nigeria for greener pastures (mostly domestic work, hair dressing or sales) in 'Malaysia' only to discover later that they are being used for sex trade,
- (iv) Nigerian girls are trafficked mainly to the mining areas in the South and Central part of Mali, but a substantial number are trafficked to rebel held areas in the North of Mali, where they stand the risk of being radicalized,
- (v) some of the victims were taken away from Nigeria, some in school uniforms and are being treated like slaves and less than second class citizens by Malians and their law enforcement agencies collect taxes from the Nigerian women on a weekly basis and force them to use condoms,
- (vi) Nigerian women are forced by their 'Madams' to sleep with numerous men, without using any protection, hence the high incidence of sexually transmitted diseases and other ailments,
- (vii) the border point between Nigeria and Benin Republic at Seme-Krake is notoriously porous and in spite of numerous reports and pictures of notorious trafficking sent to Nigerian security agencies at the border, no action has been taken to curb the practice;

Also aware that recently, the Nigerian Ambassador to Burkina Faso, Ramatu Ahmed alerted that no fewer than 10,000 Nigerian women, mainly under-aged girls are forced into prostitution in Ouagadougou and other mining camps across West Africa;

Worried that the continuation of this activity dents the image of the country and provides room for other West African countries to disrespect, not just Nigerian women, but all Nigerians;

Also concerned that several of the girls tricked into travelling out of the country have been brutally tortured for insisting that they would not prostitute. For instance in some cases, according to Kevin Hyland, Britain's anti-slavery commissioner, women who insist they will not work as prostitutes are tied up in a position called crocodile, where their hands are tied to their feet, and are left for days without food or water and some are left to die as an example to others;

Informed that in 2019 alone, fifteen young Nigerian women were killed in Mali to instil fear in the other women who may have had the intention of escaping;

Aware that Section 14(2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the government has the responsibility to provide for the security and welfare of Nigerians;

Observes that current efforts to combat the menace are commendable though not far reaching and comprehensive and have not been adequately funded;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge personnel of the Nigerian Immigration Service at the ports and borders of Nigeria to permit trained NAPTIP officials to operate, to spot, identify and prevent the illicit emigration of potential victims and in the long term, given the low budget of NAPTIP, to make it mandatory for all border officials of all security agencies to be trained by NAPTIP;
- (ii) also urge the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to begin to shame the traffickers in their homes, including the widespread publication of the names and pictures of convicted traffickers;
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Human Rights to conduct investigation into all aspects of sex slavery and recommend appropriate budgeting and legislative measures including sanctions and cooperation with fellow African countries to stem the tide (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum — Donga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency and 7 others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the assurances given by President Muhammadu Buhari in Sochi, Russia recently to the effect that the Nigerian Government would stretch its reach and capacity to protect all Nigerians all over the world;

Also noted that presently, there are several tens of thousands of Nigerian women who have been turned into sex slaves around the world and reports in the media show that Nigerian women and even underage girls, have been turned into sex slaves in European and several Middle East countries;

Concerned that even the neighbouring West African states which depend on Nigeria for their wellbeing and security have become notorious in maltreating Nigerian women, keeping them as sex slaves and providing safe haven for perpetrators of human trafficking;

Aware that the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) has conducted several investigations and discovered that:

- (i) between 20,000-30,000 Nigerian girls are sex slaves with fifty additional girls being added to the list every day, in Mali,

- (ii) because of increased efforts of the Security Agencies, traffickers no longer accompany their victims to Mali but now "waybill" the girls through Cotonou,
- (iii) many of the victims were deceived by friends and relatives to leave Nigeria for greener pastures (mostly domestic work, hair dressing or sales) in 'Malaysia' only to discover later that they are being used for sex trade,
- (iv) Nigerian girls are trafficked mainly to the mining areas in the South and Central part of Mali, but a substantial number are trafficked to rebel held areas in the North of Mali, where they stand the risk of being radicalized,
- (v) some of the victims were taken away from Nigeria, some in school uniforms and are being treated like slaves and less than second class citizens by Malians and their law enforcement agencies collect taxes from the Nigerian women on a weekly basis and force them to use condoms,
- (vi) Nigerian women are forced by their 'Madams' to sleep with numerous men, without using any protection, hence the high incidence of sexually transmitted diseases and other ailments,
- (vii) the border point between Nigeria and Benin Republic at Seme-Krake is notoriously porous and in spite of numerous reports and pictures of notorious trafficking sent to Nigerian security agencies at the border, no action has been taken to curb the practice;

Also aware that recently, the Nigerian Ambassador to Burkina Faso, Ramatu Ahmed alerted that no fewer than 10,000 Nigerian women, mainly under-aged girls are forced into prostitution in Ouagadougou and other mining camps across West Africa;

Worried that the continuation of this activity dents the image of the country and provides room for other West African countries to disrespect, not just Nigerian women, but all Nigerians;

Also concerned that several of the girls tricked into travelling out of the country have been brutally tortured for insisting that they would not prostitute. For instance in some cases, according to Kevin Hyland, Britain's anti-slavery commissioner, women who insist they will not work as prostitutes are tied up in a position called crocodile, where their hands are tied to their feet, and are left for days without food or water and some are left to die as an example to others;

Informed that in 2019 alone, fifteen young Nigerian women were killed in Mali to instil fear in the other women who may have had the intention of escaping;

Aware that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) provides that the government has the responsibility to provide for the security and welfare of Nigerians;

Observed that current efforts to combat the menace are commendable though not far reaching and comprehensive and have not been adequately funded;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge personnel of the Nigerian Immigration Service at the ports and borders of Nigeria to permit trained NAPTIP officials to operate, to spot, identify and prevent the illicit emigration of potential victims and in the long term, given the low budget of NAPTIP, to make it mandatory for all border officials of all security agencies to be trained by NAPTIP;
- (ii) also urge the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to begin to shame the traffickers in their homes, including the widespread publication of the names and pictures of convicted traffickers; and

- (iii) mandate the Committee on Human Rights to conduct investigation into all aspects of sex slavery and recommend appropriate budgeting and legislative measures including sanctions and cooperation with fellow African countries to stem the tide (HR. 62/02/2020).

20. Orders of the Day

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do set down items 12 - 14 on the Order Paper to another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3)" (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan -- Birninwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasama Federal Constituency)

Agreed to.

21. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 27 February, 2019 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.46 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker