



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

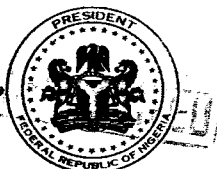
FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 10 March, 2020

1. The House met at 11.37 p.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 Thursday, 5 March, 2020.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

4. **Message**
Mr Speaker read a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria:



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

6th March, 2020

Rt. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear Rt Hon. Speaker,

**TRANSMISSION OF THE FINANCE ACT (AMENDMENT)
BILL FOR CONSIDERATION AND PASSAGE INTO LAW**

Pursuant to Sections 58 and 59 of Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended), I formally request that the Finance Act, 2019 (Amendment) Bill, be considered by the House of Representatives, for passage into law.

2. *This Bill seeks to amend the Finance Act, 2019, as recently passed by the National Assembly, by clarifying:*

- (i) *That the administrative effective date for the increase in Value Added Tax from 5% to 7.5% is the 1st of February, 2020;*
- (ii) *That "Animal Feeds" are included in the list of Basic Food Items that are exempt from Value Added Tax; and*
- (iii) *Aspects of the tax holiday incentive for agriculture, by targeting this incentive to small and medium sized companies that invest in primary crop, livestock, forestry and fishing agricultural production. This incentive is also to be administered by Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission pursuant to the Industrial Development (Income Tax Relief) Act.*

3. *While I trust that this Bill will be favourably considered for passage into law by the National Assembly, so as to support the implementation of the 2020 Federal Budget. Please accept, Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.*

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

5. **Announcement**

Visitors in the Gallery:

Mr Speaker recognised the presence of Staff and Students of **Maranatha Grace Secondary School**, Keffi, Nasarawa State.

6. **Petitions**

- (i) A petition from Madubuike Chijioke (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of the Association of International Traders on alleged refusal by the Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority to refund them the sum of Nine Hundred and Forty Million Naira (₦940,000,000.00) administrative charge, was presented and laid by Hon. Ossy Prestige (*Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*).
- (ii) A petition from the South East Elites, on behalf of the aggrieved South-East citizens, on the proposed borrowing plan of \$22.7 billion by the Federal Government of Nigeria, was presented and laid by Hon. Henry Nwawuba (*Mbaitolu/Ikeduru Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) Warning Strike by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU):

Hon. Iaching Musa Bagos (*Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and placed 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.

Warning Strike by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU):

The House:

Notes that on Monday, 9 March, 2020, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), following its recent National Executive Council (NEC) meeting held in Enugu State, resolved to proceed on a two-week warning strike;

Also notes that the Federal Universities in Nigeria have barely resumed academic session, before the recent warning strike action was embarked upon;

Aware that if the strike is not called off, the cost on parents, students and the entire country will be enormous, including spending extra academic sessions by the students;

Worried that the frequency of strike actions by ASUU and other academic bodies is one too many, and constitutes a national embarrassment;

Also Worried that the continued strike action by ASUU has further hampered the standard of education in the country and encourage our youths to travel overseas in search of knowledge;

Resolves to:

Urge the Leadership of the House to intervene in the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) strike (*Hon. Dachung Musa Bagos — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

Leave out the Prayer and *insert* the following Prayers:

- (i) “Urge the Leadership of the House to urgently intervene by inviting the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Federal Ministries of Education, Labour and Employment, and Salary and Wages Commission so as to avert the warning strike” (*Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) “mandate the Committees on Tertiary Education and Services, and Labour, Employment and Productivity to ensure compliance” (*Hon. Ndudi Elumelu — Aniocha/Oshimili Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on Monday, 9 March, 2020, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), following its recent National Executive Council (NEC) meeting held in Enugu State, resolved to proceed on a two-week warning strike;

Also noted that the Federal Universities in Nigeria have barely resumed academic session before the recent warning strike action was embarked upon;

Aware that if the strike is not called off, the cost on parents, students and the entire country will be enormous, including spending extra academic sessions by the students;

Worried that the frequency of strike actions by ASUU and other academic bodies is one too many, and constitutes a national embarrassment;

Also Worried that the continued strike action by ASUU has further hampered the standard of education in the country and encourage our youths to travel overseas in search of knowledge;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Leadership of the House to urgently intervene by inviting the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), Federal Ministries of Education, Labour and Employment, and Salary and Wages Commission so as to avert the warning strike; and
 - (ii) mandate the Committees on Tertiary Education and Services, and Labour, Employment and Productivity to ensure compliance (H.R. 91/03/2020).
- (ii) ***Impact of the Recent Global Crash in the Price of Crude Oil on the Appropriation Act, 2020:***
Hon. Faleke James Abiodun (Ikeja 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.

Impact of the Recent Global Crash in the Price of Crude Oil on the Appropriation Act, 2020:

The House:

Notes the recent unprecedented global crash in the price of crude oil as a result of outbreak of Coronavirus (Covid-19) and its effects on the global economy;

Notes that the global oil price has gone as low as \$30 per barrel from over \$60 per barrel;

Aware that Nigeria as a mono-product economy is largely dependent on oil with the benchmark for the Appropriation Act, 2020 projected at \$57 per barrel;

Worried that the crash in the price of oil has a direct consequence on the Appropriation Act, 2020.

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to look into the matter and report back within two (2) weeks (Hon. Faleke James Abiodun — Ikeja Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recent unprecedented global crash in the price of crude oil as a result of outbreak of Coronavirus (Covid-19) and its effects on the global economy;

Also noted that the global oil price has gone as low as \$30 per barrel from over \$60 per barrel;

Aware that Nigeria as a mono-product economy is largely dependent on oil with the bench mark for the Appropriation Act, 2020 projected at \$57 per barrel;

Worried that the crash in the price of oil has a direct consequence on the Appropriation Act, 2020.

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to look into the matter and report back within two (2) weeks (HR. 92/03/2020).

Ad-hoc Committee on the Recent Global Crash in the Price of Crude Oil on the Appropriation Act, 2020:

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Faleke James Abiodun	—	Chairman
(2)	Hon. Musa Sarkin Adar	—	Deputy Chairman
(3)	Hon. Mohammad Umar Jega	—	Member
(4)	Hon. Seidu Yusuf	—	Member
(5)	Hon. Uchechukwu Obi	—	Member
(6)	Hon. Nkole Uko	—	Member
(7)	Hon. Dennis Amadi	—	Member
(8)	Hon. Samson Okwu	—	Member
(9)	Hon. Yusuf Ayo Tajudeen	—	Member
(10)	Hon. Pondi Julius	—	Member
(11)	Hon. Obanikoro Ibrahim	—	Member
(12)	Hon. Ali Lawan Shettima	—	Member
(13)	Hon. Jiba Yohanna Micah	—	Member
(14)	Hon. Yakubu Abubakar	—	Member

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it take more than 2 matters of urgent public importance" (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

(iii) ***Need to Commend the Men of 25 Taskforce Brigade of the Nigerian Army and Other Security Personnel Operating in Damboa Local Government Area of Borno State on the Recent Successes Recorded in the fight against Insurgents:***

Hon. Jaha Ahmadu Usman (Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok 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 Commend the Men of 25 Taskforce Brigade of the Nigerian Army and Other Security Personnel Operating in Damboa Local Government Area of Borno State on the Recent Successes Recorded in the fight against Insurgents:

The House:

Notes that recently, the activities of Boko Haram insurgents have increased the number of casualties in Chibok, Damboa and Gwoza Federal Constituency thereby questioning the rationale behind the establishment of Super Camp by the military authorities;

Concerned that several Nigerian political commentators have demanded an increase in the security personnel through recruitment, considering their strength vis-a-vis the population of Nigeria and the recent escalation of criminality in the country;

Worried that experts and non experts alike have commented on the need for the Army to, not only repel the Boko Haram insurgents, but take the war to the insurgents as a sure way to end the menace of Boko Haram;

Aware that the recent attack by the insurgents in Damboa LGA which was a coordinated ambush, was met with a very strong resistance by the combined efforts of the Army, the Air Force, the Police, the Civilian JTF and local hunters; coordinated effort between ground troops and air support which led to the killing of scores of the insurgents, a feat achieved for taking the war to the door step of the insurgents;

Also aware that apart from the casualties recorded by the insurgents, about 19 of their operational vehicles were destroyed while many other vehicles were recovered from them;

Regrets that some Soldiers and Policemen were injured during the encounter and two volunteers of Civilian JTF and a local hunter lost their lives;

Resolves to:

- (i) commend the leadership of the 25 Taskforce Brigade, Damboa and its Airforce counterpart in recalibrating the narrative by taking the war to the insurgents;
- (ii) call on the Army and Airforce to consolidate on the gains by not giving the insurgents any breathing space;
- (iii) commiserate with the Government and people of Borno State, especially Damboa LGA for the loss of lives of the two volunteers and those wounded in the encounter;

- (iv) also call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and the North East Development Commission (NEDC) to provide relief materials to alleviate the sufferings of the victims of the attack; and
- (v) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased volunteers and other citizens who lost their lives as a result of the attack (*Hon. Ahmadu Usman Jaha -- Damboa/Gwoza/Chibok Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that recently, the activities of Boko Haram insurgents have increased the number of casualties in Chibok, Damboa and Gwoza Federal Constituency thereby questioning the rationale behind the establishment of Super Camp by the military authorities;

Concerned that several Nigerian political commentators have demanded an increase in the security personnel through recruitment, considering their strength vis-a-vis the population of Nigeria and the recent escalation of criminality in the country;

Worried that experts and non experts alike have commented on the need for the Army to, not only repel the Boko Haram insurgents, but take the war to the insurgents as a sure way to end the menace of Boko Haram;

Aware that the recent attack by the insurgents in Damboa LGA which was a coordinated ambush, was met with a very strong resistance by the combined efforts of the Army, the Air Force, the Police, the Civilian JTF and local hunters; coordinated effort between ground troops and air support which led to the killing of scores of the insurgents, a feat achieved for taking the war to the door step of the insurgents;

Also aware that apart from the casualties recorded by the insurgents, about 19 of their operational vehicles were destroyed while many other vehicles were recovered from them;

Regretted that some Soldiers and Policemen were injured during the encounter and two volunteers of Civilian JTF and a local hunter lost their lives;

Resolved to:

- (i) commend the leadership of the 25 Taskforce Brigade, Damboa and its Airforce counterpart in recalibrating the narrative by taking the war to the insurgents;
- (ii) call on the Army and Airforce to consolidate on the gains by not giving the insurgents any breathing space;
- (iii) commiserate with the Government and people of Borno State, especially Damboa LGA for the loss of lives of the two volunteers and those wounded in the encounter;
- (iv) also call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and the North East Development Commission (NEDC) to provide relief materials to alleviate the sufferings of the victims of the attack; and
- (v) observe a minute silence in honour of the deceased volunteers and other citizens who lost their lives as a result of the attack (**HR. 93/03/2020**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

8. **Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Chartered Institute of Forensic and Investigative Professionals of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 791).
- (2) Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill, 2020 (HB. 792).
- (3) Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 793).
- (4) Compulsory Universal Basic Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 794).
- (5) Women's Representation in Legislative Houses Bill, 2020 (HB. 795).
- (6) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2020 (HB. 796).
- (7) Price Control Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 797).
- (8) Federal University of Land and Air Transport Zaria (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 798).
- (9) Education (National Minimum Standards and Establishment of Institutions) (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 799).
- (10) National Forestry Trust Fund (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 800).
- (11) Forestry Profession of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 801).

9. **Consolidation of Bills**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Pension Reform Act, 2014; and for Related Matters (HB.208, HB. 386 and HB.392), a Bill for an Act to Amend the Pension Reform Act, 2014; and for Related Matters (HB. 562) , and a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Pension Reform Act, 2014 and Enact the Pension Reform Bill, 2020 to Provide for punctual funding of Employees Retirement Savings Account as first line charge by Employers in the Federal Republic of Nigeria and grant Employees Unfettered Access to their Retirement Savings Account during and after Service (HB.620) be further consolidated" (*Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*)

Agreed to.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal Polytechnic, Orogun, Delta State; and for Related Matters (HB.642) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal Polytechnic, Orogun, Delta State; and for Related Matters (HB.642) be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Institute for Brackish Water Fisheries Research, Ngo-Andoni for Fishery Research, Education and Cooperative Training in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.417) — Third Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed. "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Institute for Brackish Water Fisheries Research, Ngo-Andoni for Fishery Research, Education and Cooperative Training in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB.417) be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, Cap. C15, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters; (HB.420) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Medical Centre, Billiri, Gombe State; and for Related Matters (HB. 677) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed. "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal Medical Centre, Billiri, Gombe State; and for Related Matters (HB. 677) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Victor Danzaria Mela — Balanga/Biliri 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 Health Institutions.

14. **A Bill for and Act to Establish the Federal College of Education (Technical), Katsina-Ala; and for Related Matters (HB. 650) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Births, Deaths, etc. (Compulsory Registration) Act; and for Related Matters (HB. 74 and HB. 385) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed. "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Births, Deaths, Etc. (Compulsory Registration) Act; and for Related Matters (HB. 74 and HB. 385) be read a Second Time" (*Hon. Sergius Oseasochie Ogun — Esan Northeast/Esan Southeast Federal Constituency and 1 other*).

Debate.

Debate adjourned.

Ordered: *Hon. Uzoma Nkem Abonta, Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata, Hon. Faleke James Abiodun, Hon. Sergius Oseasochie Ogun and Hon. Toby Okechukwu to examine the provisions of the Bill vis-a-vis the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) and report back.*

16. Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that pursuant to Order Twelve (12), Rule 16 of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, Bills passed by the preceding Assembly and forwarded to the Senate for concurrence for which no concurrence was made or negatived or passed by the Senate and forwarded to the House for which no concurrence was made or negatived or which were passed by the National 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 Assembly, the House may resolve that such Bills, upon being re-gazetted or clean copies circulated, be re-considered in the Committee of the Whole without being commenced *de-novo*;

Also notes that the under-listed 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;

(i) Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 599),

(ii) Federal University of Agriculture, Jalingo (Establishment) Bill, 2020 (HB. 750), and

(iii) Federal University of Agriculture, Kabba (Establishment, Etc.) Bill, 2020 (HB.789);

Aware that the Bills were re-gazetted as HBs. 599, 750 and 789 respectively and read the first time;

Resolves to:

Commit the Bills to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

17. Need to Rehabilitate Lafia-Shedam-Obi Road

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

18. Need to Equip Federal Medical Centres with Modern Laboratories and Diagnostic Equipment

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

19. Need to Investigate the Clean-Up of Oil Spills and Remediation in the Oil Producing Areas of Nigeria in the last Five years

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes with concern the sufferings in the Niger-Delta region as a result of over 50 years of oil spill and subsequent pollution of the freshwater system, degradation of water quality, and lowering of food web productivity;

Aware that life expectancy in the country stands at 55 years whereas in the Niger-Delta it is 40 years lower due to pollution.

Concerned that the Annual Report of the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) indicated that 569 incidents of oil spills were conveyed with 9718.22 barrels spilled and only 800.55 barrels were recovered while thousands of barrels of oil were lost to the environment;

Also notes that the oil-producing communities continue to complain of belated joint investigative visits (JIV), inadequate oil spill clean-up and remediation, thus exacerbating the woes of the polluted communities;

Cognizant that quick detection of oil spill, visits to the oil spill sites and prompt clean-up are necessary to avoid its impact on the environment, pollution of potable water sources which makes it become a major threat and a clog to the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Also aware that the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan and the Environmental Guidelines and Standards for Petroleum Industry in Nigeria (EGASPIN) have provided an adequate framework to contain oil-spill incidences;

Worried that despite the institutional framework, oil spill clean-up and remediation continue to generate concern and the affected communities continue to live in the polluted environment that are endangering their vulnerable lives;

Believes that an increase in oil revenue to the nation is contingent on the peace and harmony that reigns in the oil-producing communities;

Also worried that with the current drift in global oil prices, the failure to clean up of the impacted sites is creating palpable tension across the communities which may impact on the national oil production;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate Oil-Spill clean-ups and remediation in the Oil Producing States in the last 5 years and the activities of the National Oil Spill Detection, and Response Agency in the Joint Investigative Visits and the extent of compliance with the EGASPIN and report back within eight (8) weeks (*Hon. Abubakar Hassan Fulata — Birniwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasamma Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Notes with concern the sufferings in the Niger-Delta region as a result of over 50 years of oil spill and subsequent pollution of the freshwater system, degradation of water quality, and lowering of food web productivity;

Aware that life expectancy in the country stands at 55 years whereas in the Niger-Delta it is 10 years lower due to pollution;

Concerned that the Annual Report of the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) indicated that 569 incidents of oil spills were conveyed with 9718.22 barrels spilled and only 800.55 barrels were recovered while thousands of barrels of oil were lost to the environment;

Also notes that the oil-producing communities continue to complain of belated joint investigative visits (JIV), inadequate oil spill clean-up and remediation, thus exacerbating the woes of the polluted communities;

Cognizant that quick detection of oil spill, visits to the oil spill sites and prompt clean-up are necessary to avoid its impact on the environment, pollution of potable water sources which makes it become a major threat and a clog on to the attainment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Also aware that the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan and the Environmental Guidelines and Standards for Petroleum Industry in Nigeria (EGASPIN) have provided an adequate framework to contain oil-spill incidences;

Worried that despite the institutional framework, oil spill clean-up and remediation continue to generate concern and the affected communities continue to live in the polluted environment that are endangering their vulnerable lives;

Believes that an increase in oil revenue to the nation is contingent on the peace and harmony that reigns in the oil-producing communities;

Also worried that with the current drift in global oil prices, the failure to clean up of the impacted sites is creating palpable tension across the communities which may impact on the national oil production;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad hoc* Committee to investigate Oil-Spill clean-ups and remediation in the Oil Producing States in the last 5 years and the activities of the National Oil Spill Detection, and Response Agency in the Joint Investigative Visits and the extent of compliance with the EGASPIN and report back within eight (8) weeks (**HR. 94/03/2020**).

Ad-hoc Committee to investigate Oil-Spill clean-ups and remediation in the Oil Producing States:

Mr Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Amiru Tukur Idris	—	<i>Chairman</i>
(2)	Hon. Henry Nwawuba	—	<i>Deputy Chairman</i>
(3)	Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma	—	<i>Member</i>
(4)	Hon. Livinus Makwe	—	<i>Member</i>
(5)	Hon. Chinyere Igwe	—	<i>Member</i>
(6)	Hon. Ben Igbakpa	—	<i>Member</i>
(7)	Hon. Simon Mwadkon	—	<i>Member</i>
(8)	Hon. Ugonna Ozuruigbo	—	<i>Member</i>
(9)	Hon. Shehu Balarabe Kakale	—	<i>Member</i>
(10)	Hon. Lawal Rabiu Lere	—	<i>Member</i>
(11)	Hon. Zakariya Tijani Zannah	—	<i>Member</i>
(12)	Hon. Jafaru Ribadu	—	<i>Member</i>
(13)	Hon. Sani Ado Kiri	—	<i>Member</i>
(14)	Hon. Fatoḡa Steve Olusola	—	<i>Member</i>
(15)	Hon. Hassan Abubakar Fulata	—	<i>Member</i>
(16)	Hon. Ojerinde Olumide Abiodun	—	<i>Member</i>
(17)	Hon. Ari Abdulmumin Mohammed	—	<i>Member</i>

20. Need to Investigate the Non-compliance with the Federal Government Transparency and Open Treasury Policies

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

21. **Call on the Federal Government to Connect Gashaka/Kurmi/Sardauna Federal Constituency to the National Grid**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the presence of Kashimbila Hydropower Plant in Taraba State makes it easy for the Federal Government through the Yola Distribution Company to link Gashaka, Kurmi and Sardauna Federal Constituency to the National Grid in view of the robust power sector reforms of the Federal Government;

Aware that Distribution Companies (DISCOs), pursuant to the provisions of the Electric Power Sector Reform Act of 2005, have the obligations of distributing electricity to customers through the construction, operation and maintenance of distribution systems and facilities;

Also aware that the Kashimbila Hydropower Plant, among other power projects in the Federation was awarded in order to meet the country's power generation needs;

Worried that despite the completion of the project and the various transmission stations and sub-transmission stations across Taraba State, Sardauna, Gashaka and Kurmi Local Government Areas of Taraba State are yet to be connected to the National Grid which has left the people of the areas to be in perpetual darkness, hence, making life difficult for them;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government through the Ministry of Power to ensure that Gashaka/Kurmi/Sardauna Federal Constituency of Taraba State is linked to the National Grid to ameliorate the suffering of the people;
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Power to ensure compliance (*Hon. David Abel Fuoh — Gashaka/Kurmi/Sardauna Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the presence of Kashimbila Hydropower Plant in Taraba State makes it easy for the Federal Government through the Yola Distribution Company to link Gashaka, Kurmi and Sardauna Federal Constituency to the National Grid in view of the robust power sector reforms of the Federal Government;

Aware that Distribution Companies (DISCOs), pursuant to the provisions of the Electric Power Sector Reform Act of 2005, have the obligations of distributing electricity to customers through the construction, operation and maintenance of distribution systems and facilities;

Also aware that the Kashimbila Hydropower Plant, among other power projects in the Federation was awarded in order to meet the country's power generation needs;

Worried that despite the completion of the project and the various transmission stations and sub-transmission stations across Taraba State, Sardauna, Gashaka and Kurmi Local Government Areas of Taraba State are yet to be connected to the National Grid which has left the people of the areas to be in perpetual darkness, hence, making life difficult for them;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government through the Ministry of Power to ensure that Gashaka/Kurmi/Sardauna Federal Constituency of Taraba State is linked to the National Grid to ameliorate the suffering of the people; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Power to ensure compliance (HR. 95/03/2020).

22. Need to Address the Menace of Baby Factories in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that in 2006, the United Nations Report on Nigeria drew attention to the existence of baby factories in the country and this nefarious practice has continued unabated to an alarming proportion in different parts of the country, especially in the southern part, with babies being sold as ordinary wares;

Also notes that the term "baby factories" also referred to as "baby farms or baby harvesting", is a new form of human trafficking with the factories located in secret places where young girls and ladies are lured into and encouraged or coerced to get pregnant and deliver babies for sale with or without their consent;

Recalls that the 2011 Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) stated that human trafficking is the third most common heinous crime ravaging Nigeria after financial fraud and drug trafficking and like most other organized crimes, baby factories operate as a powerful cartel involving prominent people backing the nefarious trade;

Aware that baby factories operate under the guise of orphanage homes, prayer homes, social welfare homes or maternity homes and clinics, thereby luring unsuspecting teenage girls and ladies with all sorts of bait; and those victims find the hostels as safe havens for secretly dropping their unwanted babies for a token without the glare of the public and thereafter continue with their normal lives as though nothing happened;

Also aware that extremely poor and vulnerable teen girls and ladies see such homes as veritable opportunities for redressing their economic misfortunes by selling their babies for peanuts and according to a Report by the United Nations, at least ten (10) babies are illegally sold every day in Nigeria, a development that is worrisome and poses a great threat to national security, especially with the global rise in human organs trafficking;

Desirous of putting an end to the operations of those baby factories in order to save those helpless teen girls and ladies from the risks involved in their indulgences;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to work in close synergy with other law enforcement agencies in order to forestall the activities of baby factories through effective intelligence gathering and dissemination of information;
- (ii) also call the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to closely monitor orphanages and maternity homes to prevent them from being used for nefarious activities;
- (iii) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to ensure that all maternity homes and orphanages are duly registered and issued licences to operate within their scope;

- (iv) also urge various State Governments to initiate the process of domesticating the Child's Rights Act to ensure adequate protection of children;
- (v) mandate the Committees on Human Rights, and Healthcare Services to ensure compliance (*Hon. Ossi Prestige — Aba North/Aba South Federal*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (v), immediately after the words "Healthcare Services", insert the words " and Women Affairs and Social Development" (*Hon. Adewunmi Oriyomi Onanuga — Ikenne/Shagamu Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Notes that in 2006, the United Nations Report on Nigeria drew attention to the existence of baby factories in the country and this nefarious practice has continued unabated to an alarming proportion in different parts of the country, especially in the southern part, with babies being sold as ordinary wares;

Also notes that the term "baby factories" also referred to as "baby farms or baby harvesting", is a new form of human trafficking with the factories located in secret places where young girls and ladies are lured into and encouraged or coerced to get pregnant and deliver babies for sale with or without their consent;

Recalls that the 2011 Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) stated that human trafficking is the third most common heinous crime ravaging Nigeria after financial fraud and drug trafficking and like most other organized crimes, baby factories operate as a powerful cartel involving prominent people backing the nefarious trade;

Aware that baby factories operate under the guise of orphanage homes, prayer homes, social welfare homes or maternity homes and clinics, thereby luring unsuspecting teenage girls and ladies with all sorts of bait; and those victims find the hostels as safe havens for secretly dropping their unwanted babies for a token without the glare of the public and thereafter continue with their normal lives as though nothing happened;

Also aware that extremely poor and vulnerable teen girls and ladies see such homes as veritable opportunities for redressing their economic misfortunes by selling their babies for peanuts and according to a Report by the United Nations, at least ten (10) babies are illegally sold every day in Nigeria, a development that is worrisome and poses a great threat to national security, especially with the global rise in human organs trafficking;

Desirous of putting an end to the operations of those baby factories in order to save those helpless teen girls and ladies from the risks involved in their indulgences;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to work in close synergy with other law enforcement agencies in order to forestall the activities of baby factories through effective intelligence gathering and dissemination of information;

- (ii) also call the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) to closely monitor orphanages and maternity homes to prevent them from being used for nefarious activities;
- (iii) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to ensure that all maternity homes and orphanages are duly registered and issued licences to operate within their scope;
- (iv) also urge various State Governments to initiate the process of domesticating the Child's Rights Act to ensure adequate protection of children; and
- (v) mandate the Committees on Human Rights, and Healthcare Services to ensure compliance (HR. 96/03/2020).

23. Call to Investigate the Usage of the Recovered Abacha Loots in Order to Restore Confidence of Partner Countries in Nigeria

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

24. Commemoration of the 2020 International Women's Day: Generation of Equality, Realizing Women's Rights

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the frightening trend in parts of the country where women are abused, traded, mutilated, deprived of education, impacted mostly by internal conflicts, turned into child brides and ravaged by poor public service provision;

Also notes that from recent statistics, 73% of Nigerian women with no formal education are married before 18 years of age compared to only 9% who had completed higher education, a situation that makes further education an almost impossible task for some girls who have little choice but to depend on their husbands for the rest of their lives;

Aware that even though basic education is free, parents are still burdened with paying high fees for school registration, books and other sundry levies by Parent Teacher Associations hence, as a consequence, they are often driven to prioritize the educations of their sons over their daughters;

Concerned that with more than 25 million adolescent girls, a figure that will double by 2050, the country will need to ramp up its health and education services and be able to equip the youth especially "the girl child" with the right skills and provide enough jobs for the next generations;

Worried about the intractable threat of insecurity which involves children engaged in the informal economy, street begging, drug abuse and other forms of criminality which constitutes a significant deterioration in the quality of life of citizens which creates a volatile mix;

Cognizant that women and children constitute the most vulnerable groups in the society today, and investing in their well-being should be of utmost priority;

Recalls that President Muhammadu Buhari while inaugurating the new headquarters complex of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs in January 2020 in Abuja, declared that the Federal Government would sustain on-going efforts to end child marriage and improve girl-child education in the country;

Also cognizant of the need for a shift in behaviours by transcending gender bias in order to achieve the goal of the President which was the reason for setting aside a day for women and having power brokers, elites and like minds take cognizance of those issues and contemplate the strategies to most likely to bring about sustained change.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the State Houses of Assembly to domesticate the Child's Rights Act in the States of the Federation;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Women Affairs, Basic Education and Services to engage relevant stakeholders with a view to addressing those issues; streamlining action plans and frameworks that target girl child education; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Adewunmi Onanuga — Ikenne/Shagamu Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.**Agreed to.**The House:*

Noted the frightening trend in parts of the country where women are abused, traded, mutilated, deprived of education, impacted mostly by internal conflicts, turned into child brides and ravaged by poor public service provision;

Also noted that from recent statistics, 73% of Nigerian women with no formal education are married before 18 years of age compared to only 9% who had completed higher education, a situation that makes further education an almost impossible task for some girls who have little choice but to depend on their husbands for the rest of their lives;

Aware that even though basic education is free, parents are still burdened with paying high fees for school registration, books and other sundry levies by Parent Teacher Associations hence, as a consequence, they are often driven to prioritize the educations of their sons over their daughters;

Concerned that with more than 25 million adolescent girls, a figure that will double by 2050, the country will need to ramp up its health and education services and be able to equip the youth especially "the girl child" with the right skills and provide enough jobs for the next generations;

Worried about the intractable threat of insecurity which involves children engaged in the informal economy, street begging, drug abuse and other forms of criminality which constitutes a significant deterioration in the quality of life of citizens which creates a volatile mix;

Cognizant that women and children constitute the most vulnerable groups in the society today, and investing in their well-being should be of utmost priority;

Recalled that President Muhammadu Buhari while inaugurating the new headquarters complex of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs in January 2020 in Abuja, declared that the Federal Government would sustain on-going efforts to end child marriage and improve girl-child education in the country;

Also cognizant of the need for a shift in behaviours by transcending gender bias in order to achieve the goal of the President which was the reason for setting aside a day for women and having power brokers, elites and like minds take cognizance of those issues and contemplate the strategies to most likely to bring about sustained change.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the State Houses of Assembly to domesticate the Child's Rights Act in the States of the Federation;

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Women Affairs, Basic Education and Services to engage relevant stakeholders with a view to addressing those issues; streamlining action plans and frameworks that target girl child education; and
- (iii) also mandate the Committee on Legislative compliance to ensure compliance (HR. 97/03/2020).

25. Order of the Day

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do set down items 17 and 18 on the Order Paper to another legislative day" (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birninwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasama Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

27. Adjournment of First Sitting

That the House do adjourn the First Sitting till 2.40 p.m. (Hon. Fulata Abubakar Hassan — Birninwa/Guri/Kiri-Kasama Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.25 p.m.

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 27 February, 2020, item 4 (c), number (3) *Deputy Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs*, leave out the name "Hon. Agunsoye Oluwarotimi", and insert the name "Hon. Adelegbe Oluwatimilehin"

Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila
Speaker