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Hon. Ado Dogo Audu (Jema'a/Sanga): I rise to second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Festus Adegoke.

Question put and agreed to.

(Report laid on the Table)

ORDER OF THE DAY

MOTION

Recent Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) Industrial Action vis-à-vis the On-Going Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) Strike

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the only issue on the Order Paper is a Motion on the recent Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and Trade Union Congress (TUC) Industrial Action vis-à-vis the On-Going Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) Strike, standing in the name of Hon. Abubakar Garba Shehu Matazu and nine others.

I now invite him to move his Motion.

Hon. Abubakar Garba Shehu Matazu (Musawa/Matazu): Madam Speaker, hon. Colleagues, if you could recall, the Labour Unions went on an Industrial Strike Action which lasted for four days. It is based on this that this respected House, as it is known, is always participating and showing concern whenever there is a problem like the Labour crisis that the country witnessed in the last four days.

May I, therefore, move that this House:

Notes that the four days industrial action embarked upon by the NLC and the TUC has brought social, political and economic activities in the country to a standstill;

Is concerned that Nigerians experienced untold hardship, discomfort and suffering while the strike lasted;

Recognises the roles played by prominent Nigerians, including the respected Leadership of the National Assembly in mediating between Government and Labour Union.

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Appreciates the fatherly roles played by Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, the Federal Government Negotiating Team as well as the patriotism demonstrated by the Labour Leaders;

Resolves to:

(i) commend Mr. President, the Leadership of the National Assembly, the Federal Government Negotiating Team, the Labour Leaders and other distinguished Nigerians who played prominent roles in ending the industrial strike action.

(ii) applaud Nigerians for their patience and understanding as a result of the untold hardship, discomfort and suffering while the strike lasted;

(iii) urge the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) to follow the laudable example of the NLC and TUC and immediately, without further delay, call-off their three months old industrial action and resume negotiations with the Government Negotiating Team.

(iv) further urge the Federal Government to employ pro-active measures that would forestall the re-occurrence of future disagreement with organised Labour Unions.

I so move.

Hon. Ike Chinwo (Obio/Akpor): Madam Speaker, hon. Colleagues, it is my pleasure to second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Abubakar Garba Shehu Matazu.

Hon. Abubakar Garba Shehu Matazu: Madam Speaker, hon. Colleagues, it will be an under-statement to say that the four days' Industrial Action that the organised Labour embarked upon has brought serious social, political and economic activities in the country to a stand-still. As I earlier said, Nigerians suffered and experienced untold hardship, discomfort and suffering during the four days' strike.

The suspension of the strike, however, showed a commitment by both the Government and the NLC to end the plight of Nigerians who were devastated by the four days' long strike. It is imperative for the Government and Labour to always exhaust negotiation,

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which has more potential to settle dispute, rather than confrontation. It is also a well known fact that the economy has suffered very seriously during the four days' strike. It should also be noted that the immediate resolution of the crisis is a credit to both the Federal Government and the Labour Unions.

This House should, therefore, call on all meaningful Nigerians to always intervene in a situation of dispute between the Government and Labour Unions. This is because coming together on a round table to understand and reach an agreement is far better than going on an Industrial Action which, at any given time, it is the economy and Nigerians that suffer the consequences.

As a House, we should commend the leadership and the patriotic concern shown by Mr. President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, the Leadership of both the Senate and this respected House, especially Madam Speaker, who showed not only that she is a mother to all Nigerians but also a unique Leader who is willing and ready to lead by example.

I could remember vividly that on Tuesday last week, she invited the President and the Vice President of the Academic Staff Union of Universities and had informal and far-reaching discussions with them. She appealed to them as a mother that they should see reasons to call off the three or four months' old strike. I have no doubt in my mind that they will call off the three months' old strike in due course, based on the intervention of Madam Speaker.

As Nigeria's Representatives, we are here not only to make good laws for the good governance of Nigeria and Nigerians but also to intervene in any kind of crisis that will put this country in danger.

The role played by the Leaderships of the Senate and the House of Representatives as well as distinguished Senators and hon. Members in their personal capacities is commendable. Some of them even travelled to their constituencies and committed the issue to God in prayer so that a lasting solution could be found. We thank God for answering the prayers of our hon. Colleagues and distinguished Senators. Today, it is history because the strike has been called off and normal social, political and economic activities have resumed without any problem in Nigeria.

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In conclusion, I am appealing to my respected hon. Colleagues to, please, in the name of God, support this Motion so that Nigerians will know that yes, the 6th House of Representatives of the 4th National Assembly is really a House that is ever ready to intervene to save this country from any problem like the last industrial labour action.

Madam Speaker, hon. Colleagues, I so submit.

Hon. Solomon Umoru Agidani (Apa/Agatu): Madam Speaker, hon. Colleagues, I would like to join the rest of my Colleagues in supporting this timely Motion ably presented by my good Friend, Hon. Matazu. I want to lend my support to this Motion because being the past Chairman, Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity of this House, I came to terms with the fact that strike is an ill wind that blows nobody any good.

Even the members of organised labour themselves would agree that it is just when it becomes inevitable that labour contemplates to go on strike or engages government with strike action. This is because, as stakeholders in the economy, they also have their losses to be declared at the end of every strike.

Suffice it to say that men have lived in crises all their lives; so, this is a hallmark here and elsewhere in the world that even as we know that strikes in themselves do not solve all the problems that we believe that they can solve, we have come to terms with them because we have not been able to resolve all the issues at the round table.

As the out-going Chairman on Labour, I would like to advise that instead of allowing the Unions and organised labour to go on strike before negotiations are arrived at, there are laid down procedures under our Labour Laws that guarantee arbitration to the extent that if one party unnecessarily goes into taking the other one for granted, the Industrial Arbitration Panel is there for each of the parties to go and resolve the issues of disagreement arising from labour or employment disputes.

Now, there are disputes of rights and disputes of interests and these have been separated very well in the Trade Union Act (Amendment) 2004, as passed by this House. I also want to advise the Executive arm to proactively nip some of these strikes in the bud because for most of them, before they are contemplated, there is a wide period of not less than two weeks' notice.

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Madam Speaker, I want to lend my support to this Motion and I urge all our Members to support this

Motion and ensure that in the life of this administration we do not experience what we experienced last week.

Hon. Abdullahi Umar Farouk (Bunza/B/ Kebbi/Kalgo): Madam Speaker, initially, I thought that this Motion was rather belated. However, having gone through the Prayers, I took to the wisdom of my able Doctor of Philosophy, the *Sardauna*, and felt that really it is worth contributing to.

What we went through in the last four days is something that every leader would not want us to have a repeat of. As such, I see the third and fourth Prayers as something that we need to support, particularly the issue on ASSU. We know that Nigeria, like most of the third world countries, is battling with the issue of illiteracy and really ours is not something to cheer up. We are battling with about 35 to 40 per cent illiteracy level, which is not good for our development quest.

So, I really support this. However, rather than calling on only ASUU, I think in this issue we should have respect for ASUU because, definitely, they must have some reasons why they embarked on that strike. I will rather want, if we can, to amend that particular Prayer to add the following words: *both ASUU and Federal Government*, and at the end of it, it should read: *to immediately resolve their differences so as to call off the three months' old industrial action*.

Also, I see the last prayer where the Mover of the Motion is trying to say that we should ask the Federal Government to develop a proactive measure that would forestall future reoccurrence. This is definitely not possible because life is dynamic and there is no way we can do something which would forestall disagreement between two people, not to talk of a system.

So, I would rather want us to amend that one also to read: *to employ prompt measures that would lead to early resolution of future disagreement of organised labour unions*.

With this little contribution, Madam Speaker, I would like to rest my case.

The Speaker: Hon. Abdullahi Umar, why do you not stand and propose your Amendment and put it in writing after you must have proposed it?

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Hon. Abdullahi Umar Farouk: Madam Speaker, I want to propose an Amendment to Prayer 3 to read as

follows: urge both the Federal Government and ASUU to follow the laudable example of NLC, TUC/Federal Government and immediately resolve their differences so as to resolve the three months' old industrial action.

The second Amendment is on Prayer 4 which should read as follows: *further urge the Federal Government to employ prompt measures that will lead to early resolution of future disagreement with organised Labour Unions.*

With this, I move that we accept these Amendments.

The Speaker: Please put your proposal in writing.

Hon. Habeeb A. B. Fasinro (Eti-Osa): Madam Speaker, I thought that the procedure is that normally, we sit and debate a Motion thoroughly and then seek for Amendment after all debates have been taken, rather than taking Amendments midway to debates, since we have not closed debates.

I thought that is the procedure.

The Speaker: Along his presentation, he made some Amendments and we should just allow him to present them.

Hon. Moruf Akinderu Fatai (Oshodi/Isolo 1): Madam Speaker, I am looking at this issue from the point of view that the situation we found ourselves recently has been re-occurring. While I want to acknowledge the intervention of this House, and even the Trade Unions respecting the views of the Leadership of this House during the period of strike, I want to say that the situation where we found ourselves bringing out policy that the people do not necessarily appreciate or understand should stop.

The situation should be such that if you have to add ₦5 to the price of a product, the people must understand why it should be added to the price of a product such as petrol that is very fundamental. For instance, there is virtually no electricity anywhere in Nigeria now. If I am operating as a hairdresser, I would need petrol to operate my generator; so, that ₦5 is fundamental.

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I would want to say that this House should be more proactive. This is because we must appreciate the fact that people are really suffering. For people to stay

at home was not really about Labour, but people supporting the issue from the side of Labour.

I want this House to urge the Executive that at all times whenever there would be any policy, whether on the issue of petrol or any other thing, we should make sure that it is debated and people are made to understand why there should be a change in that policy.

Hon. C. I. D. Maduabum (Nnewi North/South/Ekwusigo): Madam Speaker, my intervention is more on why the strike was allowed to take place at all. The Federal Government conveyed substantially the same position that was accepted finally by Labour on Tuesday night. The ₦5 reduction was conveyed to Labour Tuesday night and the strike started on Wednesday morning. At the end of the day, the same issues as were agreed by the Government on Tuesday were adopted four days later, and about ₦200 billion went down the drain. I would not blame Labour totally, but if Government had engaged Labour early enough with those suggestions and concessions, maybe the strike would not have taken place.

So, in the life of the current administration, we hope that early dispute resolution mechanism would be adopted to avoid this colossal waste of material resources.

The issue of fuel pricing has been recurrent and I think it is time that it should be addressed squarely. Government had earlier given private licences to people to build refineries and that has failed. It is clearly a national scandal that a country that produces crude oil imports virtually 100 per cent of its refined fuel products. People say that privatisation is the answer. It may well be; but just like in the power sector where the government has to intervene to build power stations, it may well be the solution for government to also intervene this time around and build new refineries in every State of the Federation. We can thereafter give concession or return it to private hands even immediately after building it. We should act at catalyst in this field because it has become a crucial issue of national importance. Government should intervene and build refineries, that is, mini/micro refineries all over the States and privatise them. People are more likely to buy already made refineries than building new ones. That is what we have seen from the history of

privatisation in this country. A more serious approach should be adopted in this field.

Lastly, I want to speak on the issue of VAT. For instance, Government brought a Bill to this House to increase VAT from 5 per cent to 10 per cent and it was turned down by both Chambers of the National Assembly. During the 2007 Budget preparations, the same 10 per cent was put in the Budget, but both Chambers turned it down. Therefore, why would Government, by the stroke of pen and without Legislative approval, increase VAT? Section 59(1)(b) of the Constitution is clear. It is taxation and you cannot do it without Parliamentary support and approval.

It is time we in the National Assembly rise up to the challenges of our own responsibilities and duties. The Executive must, this time around, in a new atmosphere and cooperation, realise that the role of each arm of Government is clear and distinct and assigned by the framers of the Constitution to each body. And when the respective interests and rights of each organ of Government is respected, there would be less friction in the land and the masses will get better dividends of democracy that we have all sworn to by Oath of Office to protect and represent.

Hon. Samson Osagie (Orhionmwon/Uhunnmwose): Madam Speaker, I want to join my Colleagues in supporting this Motion and to thank all those who participated in the early resolution of the crisis that engulfed this nation last week. Enough has been said, especially with respect to Mr. President who was actually not party to the policies that became the subject matter of the industrial action embarked upon by the Labour Unions across the country.

I also would want to align myself with the two Members who spoke last to the effect that as a Parliament, our responsibility should be beyond praise-singing and commending efforts of those who are statutorily supposed to tackle crises in the country, but to look at issues that have arisen which have made Labour and, of course, the entire country to be thrown into crisis the way we found ourselves last week. These are the issues that have been adumbrated by the last speakers; that is, the issues of the refineries that have been sold, the VAT and all the rest.

More importantly is the issue of privatised refineries. We are not denying the fact that

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Privatisation is an integral part of the reform process. It is necessary for our economy to grow.

It is also important to ensure that the Parliament acts as check and balance on the powers of the Executive to ensure that due processes are followed. We cannot at all times, as the hon. Member who spoke last said, condone executive recklessness whereby actions that ought to have parliamentary support are treated as if only one organ of government exists. These are the issues.

I believe that beyond the Motion that we are currently debating, this House and, of course, our various constituencies must know what transpired and how it happened - that the two major refineries we have had been sold out. At least, our people will be in a position to know why and what gains the sale will bring to our great nation.

It is disturbing that a country regarded as one of the largest producers of crude oil would also be one of the highest importer of refined products. These are the real issues that we must address as an arm of government. We must ensure that we seriously tackle it very well with the Executive so that we can have a lasting solution. I am quite impressed by the position of Mr. President, which appears to have captured the entire problems of the Nation. He said that fuel importation is unacceptable. I agree with him and it is our duty to work assiduously to ensure that this trend is reversed so that we can have abundance of the products that God has blessed us with and not scarcity, which is unimaginable!

I also want to speak on the issue of ASUU. I agree with the Motion that ASUU should call off their three months' strike. We are all their products. Even the President and Vice President are products of the academia and they have demonstrated that by extending the olive branch to ASUU and, of course, the Leadership of the National Assembly did that also. I believe very seriously that Mr. President will do everything within his powers to ensure that the problems of ASUU become a thing of the past. To that extent, they should first of all congratulate two of their products for emerging as President and Vice President of this Nation and allow reason to prevail so that our children and brothers can go back to school.

Hon. Saudatu Sani (Lere): Madam Speaker, I want to align myself with all my Colleagues that have spoken. I only want to emphasise on prayer three - the

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issue of ASUU and our children staying at home. The emphasis now is that the children at home are at risk. We cannot have our educational institutions closed for three months and yet Nigerians are not saying anything. This is bad for this country.

The action, zeal and concern Nigerians showed when Labour closed our offices and markets should exactly be the same as we should show when our children are at home. As we are in the offices and markets to seek for our livelihood, we do not know what our children are doing because they are not engaged. When children are not engaged, we have a problem. We do not know the kind of people they mix with when we are not at home and when they are left alone.

We need to emphasise in this country that our children need our attention. The ASUU strike is doing a lot of harm to our nation. While the educational system is flourishing in other parts of the world, Nigeria has closed its doors. When their children are on holidays, our own children are going back to school. The academic calendar of Nigeria and that of other nations are not the same. This is not good for Nigeria.

So, I want to call on this House to invite ASUU members to discuss with Mr. President who is a pure democrat. We need the Union to sit with Mr. President to discuss and agree so that our children could go back to school.

Madam Speaker, I want to recommend another Prayer that this House do review the Labour Act. This is because it is not fair that when the Union calls for strike, the whole country is closed down. I do not think it is correct. We agree that there are strikes and people are always demonstrating in other nations, but the country is not closed down. I plead that this House do review the Labour Act.

The Speaker: Let us listen to the voice of the brand new Opposition Leader.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Dambo/Agwazo/Chibok): As you rightly pointed out, Madam Speaker, I want to speak against the Motion.

The Speaker: If you are going to be against the Motion, you have to wait. Let us listen to those in favour of the Motion first.

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Hon. Emmanuel Jime (Makurdi/Guma): Madam Speaker, I am totally and completely in support of this Motion and all the Prayers that came with the Motion. I also share entirely all the sentiments expressed by my Colleagues who spoke earlier. I believe that where we are at this present time is in the realm of exploring ways and means of seeing how best to tackle these problems when they do occur in future. As one of our Colleagues mentioned, we cannot have a one-stop solution to all our problems, but, certainly, if we are able to evolve mechanisms that will ensure that solutions are provided as problems arise, then we are the better for it.

I think one of the issues we need to tackle as we go forward is how to look and situate these arguments in the realm of law and legality. There are legal issues that were raised in the course of this strike; one of which is the fact that people had questioned whether or not government could rise up one early morning and unilaterally inflict price increases on our country without following due process. In other words, questions of due process were raised.

We are a government that prides itself as being governed by the rule of law and due process. I think that it is, therefore, imperative that we begin to ask these questions now. The price increases that we are talking about, were they properly rooted in the rule of law? If they were not properly rooted in the rule of law, that might very well be the beginning of the problems that led to the strike that had eventually been called off.

My view, therefore, is that this House should now be in a position to examine even the questions that were raised as regards the matter of legality. I think we are actually in a very good position to do that. It is one of the essential functions of the Legislative House.

Therefore, I want to recommend that, in addition to all that has been said, we need a holistic approach. Unfortunately, we do not have Standing Committees in place, but we can constitute an Ad-hoc Committee that will be charged with the responsibility of examining whether or not, indeed, government had done the right thing in the first place. I am sure that when we make those examinations, we may be able to come with results that will provide a way and means of providing solutions in future when this kind of problem confronts us.

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The Speaker: You proposed an Amendment as to whether we should set up an Ad-hoc Committee or not. Kindly forward the proposal to the Clerk.

Hon. Ihiabe Samson Positive (Bassa/Dekina): Madam Speaker, my attention is drawn to the hon. Member who spoke first, Hon. Matazu, who moved the Motion and was seconded by one of our Colleagues. On his presentation he limited us to four simple Prayers and it is on the basis of those Prayers that these discussions came up. I discovered that the discussions are being staggered. Some hon. Members are talking about VAT, how it came up and how it was increased; others are talking about building refineries, petroleum prices, *et cetera*. If we begin to look at these issues generally and stagger them without looking at the presentation where these things are limited to, we would get down to a no-solution point.

I am of the opinion that we should look at what has been presented to the House. We should discuss them one after the other and get the issues resolved so that we can move forward. If there is any other thing, the hon. Member who introduced it should be able to put up his Motion and we would go along to discuss it.

The Speaker: Now, we will listen to the Opposition.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume (Damboa/Gwazo/Chibok): Madam Speaker, I am constrained because my name has been announced as the Opposition Leader. I do not want to create an impression of being on the opposing side from the beginning.

The Speaker: That is what you are known for.

Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Secondly, the Motion was moved by my hon. Friend, Hon. Matazu, and he further went ahead to say: *in the name of God*. I want to start by begging him, *in the name of God*, to oppose this Motion.

Thirdly, I do not know whether this is deliberate or just by coincidence. For me to play an effective opposition role, I do not know whether or not I can do that with this line-up of heavy *PDP commanders* behind me.

The Speaker: You should not be intimidated. We are fully ready for the action.

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Hon. Mohammed Ali Ndume: Now that you have given me the assurance, I want you to keep an eye on them since you know their antecedents. Be that as it may, I seriously feel that this Motion is belated, considering the effort that Madam Speaker and the

Leadership of the House made during our Recess on this subject matter.

You will recall that you met with the NLC and we talked extensively and openly in an Executive Session as to the need for them to consider not even going on the strike and, unfortunately, that did not work. I am further constrained by the fact that you have made effort to get across to ASUU and that the ASUU leadership graciously obliged your invitation, and I was there when you had a very fruitful discussion.

I feel that considering this fact and looking at the agreement reached between the Federal Government and Labour, which is very comprehensive, we should not as a House act belatedly. This is because Nigerians were expecting that we would do something before and during the strike. Unfortunately, we were on Recess. Now that the events have come and gone, we should concentrate more on looking forward than looking backward just to praise ourselves.

With this little contribution, I hope that Members would not only look at this Motion emotionally but let us look at it frantically so that we do not give the impression that this House is going to look like what we had before, as we were sometimes forced to be more or less of praise singers. With this I am of the view that Members should not support this Motion but instead ask Madam Speaker to continue with her talk with ASUU. I feel that will be more effective than for us coming to the Floor of the House to praise ourselves.

The Speaker: The opposition Whip, I hope I am not going to be intimidated like your Colleagues?

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila (Surulere 1): Madam Speaker, you have known me for quite some time and I do not look forward to such intimidation. The same characters behind me are the same good characters; I mean that in every good sense of the word. They are my Friends; we fall in and fall out, as the case may be, at different times. In any case, my contribution is short and straight to the point. I have often said in different forums that I am not concerned so much on that.

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Hon. John Halims O. Agoda (Ethiopo East/Ethiopo West): Madam Speaker, point of Order!

The Speaker: Order what?

Hon. John Agoda: Madam Speaker, it is Order IX 1(7) which reads thus: *It shall be out of order to use offensive and insulting language on members of the House.* While he was arguing, he said *those characters*. We should not allow that; it is very unparliamentary.

The Speaker: Thank you very much for your notice. May I call on the Minority Whip to tender an apology before we go further?

Hon. Olufemi Gbajabiamila: Even before that exercise, I had already withdrawn the characterisation.

Like I said, I am more concerned not with the morality of the strike, the increase in fuel prices, *et cetera*, but more with the legality. I am convinced beyond doubt that some people have acted *ultra vires*. Like the hon. Member who spoke last said, it is important for this House to set up an Ad-hoc Committee to look at the legality or otherwise of what had transpired. It is not a negotiation on whether it is right or not. Negotiation has to be based on legality. One cannot negotiate on illegality. I believe on the three relevant laws cited here, that is, the PPPRA, the tax law passed by this House and the Constitution.

The PPPRA, in Section 7, talks about increases and says that before any increase in fuel price, there has to be consultation with all the stakeholders. That is written in black and white. It is not written by the PPPRA; it was passed by this House. I am yet to be shown any minutes of any meeting by members of the PPPRA, the Board, including the Labour, or any other relevant bodies that constitute the Board of PPPRA. I do not believe that there was a meeting because I am yet to see the minutes of that meeting wherein it was decided or discussed that they would increase fuel prices. Therefore, that is a breach of the PPPRA Act.

Like Hon. C.I.D. Maduabum said in his submission, Section 59(1)(b) of our Constitution is very clear. It talks about appropriation and it talks about Money Bills. Increase in fuel price is a form of taxation. There should not be any decrease or increase, for that matter, by way of Amendment through this House. In the process of budgeting, we ask for revenue profiles before we pass an appropriation. That is what

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will allow us to determine what we are appropriating. If, in the course of the year, there is a distortion, either an increase or decrease, there would be a budget surplus or budget deficit. It is important that appropriate law to effect any change comes by way of Amendment to this House. That has not been done.

It is very important that we set up this Ad hoc Committee, because the agreement that has been reached is for twelve months. This time next year, it is possible that we will find ourselves in this situation where the government by presidential fiat will just arbitrarily increase fuel prices. The recent comment by the Chairman of PPRA has not given any succor or comfort in terms of whether or not there would be further increases in the course of the year. I think it is very important that we set up a Committee to look at the processes leading to the price increases to ascertain whether or not the increase went through due process. I think that would go a long way in preventing the situation such as we found ourselves last week.

I also want to point out that the negotiation between the Presidency and NLC ought to have been between the Legislature and the Executive.

Hon. Abike Dabiri (Ikorodu): Madam Speaker, I am not against the morality of this Motion or the reason for it, but I am looking at what we intend to achieve. After almost a week of cold decision on the average Nigerians, I wonder what it is going to look like if you see on the newspaper headlines tomorrow the Prayer: *that the House commends Federal Government or commends Nigerians for their patience* - and all that. It appears funny to me.

We have talked about the PPPRA Act many times on the Floor of this House. Twelve times in the last four years, fuel prices had been increased. We talked and at the end of the day, nothing happened to our Motions. We must take a concrete step to amend the PPPRA Act. They cannot just wake up any day and tell us that fuel price has gone up. We should really be determined to put a stop to this. We know the role both the Leadership of the House and Senate played in all this, but as a Parliament I think we need to do much more than just this Motion. Something concrete must come out of this, maybe by amending the PPRA Act so that there will be no cause for anybody just waking up tomorrow and moving a Motion praising or condemning. I do not think it is good enough.

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The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, we have listened to one another carefully. Before I put the Question, let me read out the Amendment by Hon. Emmanuel Jime. It says as follows:

That the House should establish an Ad hoc Committee to examine whether or not due process was followed before the price increase in petroleum product and also in the sale of the refineries.

Question put and negatived.

I will further read out the Motion, inserting other Amendments made.

The House;

Notes that the four-day industrial action embarked upon by NLC and TUC has brought social, political and economic activities in the country to a standstill.

Concerned that Nigerians experienced untold hardship, discomfort and suffering while the strike lasted.

Recognises the role played by prominent Nigerians, including the Leadership of the National Assembly in mediating between the government and Labour Union.

Appreciates the fatherly roles played by Mr. President, the Federal Government Negotiating Team and the patriotism demonstrated by the Labour Leaders.

Disturbed that the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) is yet to call off its three months' old industrial action.

Resolves to:

commend the President, the Leadership of the National Assembly, the Federal Government Negotiating Team, the Labour Leaders and other distinguished Nigerians who played prominent roles in ending the industrial action;

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applaud Nigerians for their patience and understanding as a result of the untold hardship, discomfort and suffering while the strike lasted;

urge both the ASUU and the Federal Government to follow the laudable example of the NLC, TUC and the Federal Government and immediately resolve their differences so as to end the three months' industrial action.

further urge the Federal Government to employ prompt measures that will lead to an early resolution and forestall future disagreement with organised Labour Unions.

Main Motion, as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved:

That the House do:

commend the President, the Leadership of the National Assembly, the Federal Government Negotiating Team, the Labour Leaders and other distinguished Nigerians who played prominent roles in ending the industrial action;

applaud Nigerians for their patience and understanding as a result of the untold hardship, discomfort and suffering while the strike lasted;

urge both the ASUU and the Federal Government to follow the laudable example of the NLC, TUC and the Federal Government and immediately resolve their differences so as to end the three months industrial action;

further urge the Federal Government to employ prompt measures that will lead to an early resolution and forestall future disagreement with organised Labour Unions.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Visit by the Students and Teachers of Regina Pacis Girls' College

The Speaker: Hon. Members, please be informed that the students and teachers of the Regina Pacis Girls'

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College, Abuja are in the Gallery to watch today's proceedings. May I call on them to rise for recognition, please.

(The Students and Teachers stood for recognition.)

Thank you for coming.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Speaker: Hon. Members, may I call on the Leader of the House to move that the House do resolve into an Executive Session.

Hon. Tunde Akogun (Akoko Edo): Madam Speaker, I move that the Gallery be cleared while the House resolves into an Executive Session.

I so move.

Hon. Baba Shehu Agaie (Agaie/Lapai): Madam Speaker, I wish to second the Motion, as moved by the House Leader.

Sitting suspended: 11.52 am.

Sitting resumed: 2.00 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meetings and Hotel Accommodation

The Speaker: Hon. Members, please listen to these announcements:

Meeting of the South-West Caucus

There would be a meeting of the South West Caucus to discuss vital issues immediately after the sitting.

The venue shall be in the Chamber.

Thank you.

(Signed)

*Hon. Dave Salako
South-West Caucus Leader.*

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Meeting of ANPP Members

There will be a meeting of the ANPP Members immediately after this sitting.

Venue: House Hearing Room 1

(Signed)
Mohammed Ali Ndume
ANPP Majority Leader.

PDP Caucus Meeting

There will be a meeting of PDP Caucus on Wednesday, 27th June, 2007 at 1.00 p.m.

Venue: House Hearing Room 1

Please attend punctually.

(Signed)
House Leader.

Meeting of AC Members

There will be a Meeting of AC Members on Wednesday, 27th June, 2007 at 11.00 a.m. at House Hearing Room 1.

(Signed)
Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila
(AC Leader).

Hotel Accommodation

This is to inform all hon. Members that need information on Hotel Accommodation, Housing Arrangements, and anything relating to Committees' work to please go to Committee Room 15, First Floor, White House Complex.

Thank you.

(Signed)
Hon. F. A Adegoke
Chairman, Welfare Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Tunde Akogun: Madam Speaker, I wish to move that this House do stand adjourned till Wednesday, 27th June, 2007 by 2.00 p.m.

Hon Baba Shehu Agaie (Agaie/Lapai): Madam Speaker, I wish to second the Motion, as moved by the House Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till tomorrow, Wednesday, 27th June, 2007 at 2.00 p.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.05 p.m.