



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 21 September, 2016

1. The House met at 11.09 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 20 September, 2016.
The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.
3. **Announcements**
 - (i) **Visitors in the Gallery:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of Students of Faculty of Law, Enugu State University of Science and Technology, Enugu.
 - (ii) **Appointment of Clerk, House of Representatives:**
Mr Speaker announced that the Deputy Clerk of the House of Representatives, Mr Basil Edhere has been appointed as the substantive Clerk of the House by the National Assembly Service Commission.
He congratulated the Clerk on the appointment, and wished him a successful tenure.
4. **Welcome address by the Hon. Speaker**
Mr Speaker presented the following address to welcome Hon. Members from recess:

WE SHALL NOT BE DISTRACTED

PROTOCOLS:

1. **INTRODUCTION:**
I am delighted to welcome us all back from the annual recess. I specially congratulate our Muslim colleagues for the successful celebration of Id el Kabir. May the Almighty God be praised for His divine protection over us during the recess and for bringing us back safely. I trust that we used the time to interact with our constituents and have returned rejuvenated both physically and mentally to face the arduous legislative tasks ahead.

2. **REVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS:**

The events of the recent weeks give cause for grave concern and pose existential threats to the corporate integrity and image of the House as a democratic institution designed by the Constitution to play a vital role in our nation's governmental system. Shortly after we adjourned for the recess, our colleague and erstwhile Chairman Appropriation Committee, embarked on a strange propaganda clearly aimed not only at the destruction of the image of some members but a systematic destruction of the institution of the House of Representatives and indeed the legislature by portraying it to the public as an irredeemably corrupt institution. The chiefest motivation for his actions, as he has said severally and repeatedly 'is to have the four principal officers removed from their positions and not that the truth should be known. It was TS Eliot who once said, "the last temptation is the greatest treason: to do the right deed for the wrong reasons". Unfortunately TS Elliot didn't tell us what it is when someone does the wrong deed for the wrong reasons. These wild allegations which were initially directed at four Members of the House Leadership progressively engulfed the entire membership of the House and then the institution.

We chose the part of maturity by maintaining great restraint in the face of all these, fully conscious of the fact that at the appropriate time, the truth will prevail. I have bad news for those who think they can pull down this Institution of the people. If history is any guide, no one, in a democracy has ever succeeded in destroying a democratic Institution such as the House of Representatives, although examples abound of such effort by people both within and outside the Institution. Ours cannot be different.

Let me assure all Nigerians that the House is fully conscious of its watchdog role in our democracy and will always strive to earn the trust and confidence of Nigerians. We are also patriotic enough to understand the mood of the nation and the critical and sensitive matters of urgent national importance deserving our immediate attention. We will therefore not be distracted by any insidious antics however well orchestrated, and falsehoods however cleverly propagated to confuse Nigerians. We remain accountable to Nigerians for our conduct as public servants.

This is not the appropriate venue to address allegations made against individual Honourable Members many of which are criminal in nature as there are constitutional avenues for that. This is more so that these matters are before all the security agencies and ridiculously before some Foreign Missions! It is however important to briefly say that nothing warrants the deliberate attempt at destructive public misinformation aimed at discrediting the House as an institution. These events have shown that we certainly need to engage more with the Nigerian public on the functions and modus operandi of the National Assembly, which is a democratic institution that relies on public support for its activities. I am sure we will emerge from all these stronger and more committed to attainment of national goals than before.

3. **THE ECONOMY:**

The state of our economy is of urgent and critical importance. That Nigeria has gone into recession is a very worrisome development that calls for emergency measures to be taken. **All hands must be on deck to tackle the myriads of problems facing us. This is not the time for partisanship. This is not the time to score political points. This is not the time for grandstanding. This is not the time for blame games. The situation and the times call for bold, courageous, enlightened and purposeful leadership.** This is a patriotic call to action from all stakeholders and indeed all Nigerians. We must unite as a people to rescue Nigeria from the shackles of poverty, social and economic underdevelopment.

To achieve the needed result, we must never shy away from telling our brothers and sisters that the change we seek can never be about what we are changing from but what we are changing to. That transformation has and will always be about what we embrace not what we have abandoned.

As leaders, we must take responsibility for the present economic situation although we are not directly responsible for it. We must admit that this is a difficult thing to do in the present generation that spurns responsibility. Everyone want to blame someone for something that goes wrong. Unfortunately, history teaches us that no one, no nation has ever achieved greatness except on account of the creative hunger that comes with accepting responsibility. It was Winston Churchill who summed up this lesson of history in six words, thus: "the price of greatness is responsibility". Every NIGERIAN must understand this so that together we will seize the opportunity this crisis presents to rebound and build a secure and prosperous future for our dear nation.

These are no times like any other, I therefore call on all of us and indeed the National Assembly to continue giving legislative support to the Executive on all well thought out and effective solutions to our economic problems. More than ever before, we must be prepared to listen more, think more and work more. We must also consult the abundant pool of experts both in Nigeria and abroad to fashion out short/medium and long term measures for dealing with the present crisis and setting our country on the path of sustained economic growth.

The recent retreat by Mr President with his cabinet and sundry statutory appointees is most commendable. It is in this regard, that I urge Mr President to consider holding a joint emergency session of the National Assembly to brief both the Legislature and indeed Nigerians of his plans to pull Nigeria out of recession. This will provide opportunity for all stakeholders to be on the same page and .to .act in concert for urgent national recovery. It will also further consolidate existing ongoing consultations between the Presidency and the National Assembly on the way forward. We must never miss the opportunity the present travails offers us to launch Nigeria into its rightful destiny and place among the comity of prosperous nations.

As representatives of the people we are well acquainted with the alarming state of the citizens penury. We will therefore collaborate with the Executive in fine tuning any observed limitations in policy formulation and implementation to ensure speedy delivery of services to our people. We need to immediately take a second look at the pace of budget execution; the spiraling rise of the dollar against the Naira and the multiple exchange rate regime; the impact of the Treasury Single Account on the economy, investment in infrastructure, tackling unemployment, among others.

4. BUDGET REFORMS:

Honourable Colleagues, there is no doubt that over the years the procedure for the making of the National budget has been generally unsatisfactory. There is not enough pre-budget consultations and interface between the Executive and the Legislature. The Appropriation Bill is often submitted very late by the Executive. There is no consistency with respect to the three year commitment on MTEF. There is no clear national development plan agreed to by all stakeholders, which the Legislature would be required to adhere to. The integrity and methodology for project selection is questionable, and often discretionary and whimsical. Governmental goals are not clear enough and the budget does not adequately reflect the priorities of government. It is in realization of this state of affairs that the issue of budget reform was conspicuously embedded in our Legislative Agenda unfolded for the Eight Assembly in July 2015. It provides in part as follows:

"The Budgetary process has remained one of the major challenges of Nigeria's democracy since 1999. Legislative measures will be introduced to support and implement a proper budgetary process that supports a strong and robust National Economy.

The review of the budgetary process will emphasize the following:

- *Promotion of an inclusive budgetary process that seeks the cooperation of the Executive in institutionalising pre-budget interface and consultations.*

- Adoption of an effective Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).
- Strict compliance with the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) 2007".

On project selection process we had earlier committed ourselves in our Legislative Agenda as follows:

"Integrity of project selection process

Our commitment to refer of the Budget Process should consider the integrity of the project selection process in the Annual Budget estimates submitted to the National Assembly by the President. A mechanism that makes, the process of Project selection more transparent, equitable, professional, accountable and needs based shall be put in place with the cooperation of the Executive. The budget process should include basis and justification for project selection".

It should be noted that these were commitments made in July 2015, and not because of any recent events or circumstances. Moreover, in the House legislative calendar, Budget reform process was scheduled for the Second session.

*Accordingly, as I promised before the recess, Leadership has already commenced consultations and a **Special Budget Reform Committee, made up of experts and some Hon. Members would soon be inaugurated.** We expect this Committee to lay the groundwork for a better budget process in 2017.*

In this regard, we will partner with the Senate and also consult the Executive to ensure that the budget process meets acceptable standards that conform to international best practices. By the design of our Constitution, budget process is not the sole prerogative of one Chamber but a collaborative process involving both Chambers and the Executive. The idea of a Committee Chairman or even a Committee of the National Assembly arrogating to itself the sole authority over the Budget is preposterous and must never be countenanced.

5. THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN THE BUDGET PROCESS:

Recently, controversy seems to have arisen as to the role and powers of the National Assembly on Budgetary matters. I therefore consider it appropriate to say a few words on this matter.

From the community construction of Sections 59, 80 and 81 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the role of the legislature on the "estimates of revenues and expenditure of the Federation for the following financial year" submitted by the President pursuant to Section 81 (1) and (2) of the Constitution is NOT CEREMONIAL. It is in the contemplation of the possibility of differing opinion of the legislature on the estimates so submitted that Section 59 (4) provides a resolution by way of veto override. For the avoidance of doubt, our constitution has created a budget Writing legislature. Section 80 (4) prescribes to the effect that no public funds shall be spent "except in the MANNER prescribed by the National Assembly". This means that the legislature must diligently scrutinize the estimates submitted "and cure all observed defects including imbalances in order to fashion a budget that meets the constitutional test of making laws "for peace, order and good government".

Indeed the ordinary lawmaking powers of the National Assembly guaranteed under Section 4 of the Constitution has not been ousted, even though the President initiates a financial Bill. It is therefore inconceivable that when the legislature performs this constitutional function lawfully, it will be construed otherwise. The budget process comes to an end when it is certified by the Clerk to the National Assembly, being the only authority so designated by the Acts Authentication Act, LFN, 2004 and signed into law by Mr President. The 2016 Appropriation Act followed this procedure, strictly.

6. 2016 BUDGET IMPLEMENTATION AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES:

An Appropriation Bill when signed by the President becomes a law of the Federation. All authorities and persons in the Federal Republic of Nigeria are bound to obey the dictates of law, especially in a constitutional democracy like Nigeria. The Budget is therefore not just a piece of paper to be treated with disdain. When revenue targets are not met, both the Executive and the legislature are enjoined to work in a cooperative manner to remove any issues arising therefrom. Indeed the 2016 Appropriation Act in Section 6, has given an indication on how it should be resolved. When a Budget is not effectively implemented by the Executive, and adequate reasons are not given, it undermines citizens' faith in governance, as the budget is perhaps the most effective tool for addressing poverty and underdevelopment. Government expenditure envisaged in effective budget implementation helps to put more money in the hands of citizens, puts more money in circulation and helps to refuel the economy.

We therefore welcome increased budgetary releases for Capital projects just announced and request for even more as provided by law.

In furtherance of the constitutional responsibility of the National Assembly to act as an effective check on the Executive on behalf of the Nigerian people, **I hereby direct various House Committees to conduct a fact finding exercise on the extent and level of budget implementation by various MDAs.** We must take our oversight responsibilities very seriously and report back to the House. It is the Report of the House Committees that will determine Appropriation to any MDA in 2017.

7. CONSTITUENCY OR ZONAL INTERVENTION PROJECTS:

Section 4 (2) of the Constitution mandates the National Assembly to "make laws for the peace, order and good government" of the Federation. Again under the Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy provisions in Chapter Two, which are binding on "all organs of government and all authorities and persons, exercising legislative, executive or judicial powers", more specifically the Economic Objectives in Section 16 thereof, government policy is mandatorily to ensure planned and balanced development devoid of concentrating wealth or the means of production and exchange in the hands of a few individuals or of a group.

The idea of Constituency or Zonal intervention projects is to remedy flaws in the estimates of revenues and expenditure where there is deviation from the fundamental objective of equitable spread of planned development. This legislative intervention is complementary rather than conflictive. The templates and project prototypes are designed by the Executive while the budgeting modalities are mutually agreed. **As we have repeatedly said, no member of the National Assembly is given cash or contracts for the projects. We all know that execution of projects is the prerogative of the Executive Branch.**

8. CONCLUSION:

I wish to once again assure Nigerians that we remain accountable and will strive to justify the mandate given to us to serve our people as we engineer positive solutions to rescuing the Nigerian economy from this unfortunate recession and rebuild a robust diversified economy. Nigerians should continue to repose confidence in the legislature as we assure that we will continue to work in partnership with Mr President and all arms of Government in order to deliver on national priorities for the Nigeria of our dreams to emerge.

God bless you all and may God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

5. Petitions

(i) Petitions from the following persons were presented and laid by Hon. Ikon Samuel Okon (*Etinan/Nsit Ibom/Nsit Ubium Federal Constituency*):

- (a) Say No Campaign, Nigeria on allegation of violations of the Civil Service Rules and abuse of privilege by the Permanent Secretary, State House;
- (b) Retrenched Staff of Diamond Bank Plc on the payment of redundancy allowance due to them by the management of the Bank;
- (c) Cosmic Chambers (Legal Practitioners) on behalf of Abraham Ebhoaye concerning his pension arrears;
- (d) Aba Landlords Protection and Development Association on the non-issuance of Prepaid Meters, the practice of arbitrary estimated billing, etc by the Enugu Electricity Distribution Company (EEDC);
- (e) F. M. Oduma & Co. (Solicitors & Advocates) on behalf of Gibson Ogu, on the termination of his employment by Unilever Nigeria Plc;

(ii) Petitions from the following persons were presented and laid by Hon. Rotimi Agunsoye (*Kosofe Federal Constituency*):

- (a) D. O. Amanoritsewo & Co., on behalf of Osibakoro D. Oluedon and 2 others for the Ugbolokposo people on the problem of the omission of their community in the official name of the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, despite the fact that a substantial part of the University is located in their land;
- (b) Chimezie L. Nwokolu & Associates on behalf of Adu Monday on his disengagement from the service of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), now Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC);
- (c) Chief B. C. Anyanwu, on the killing of Mrs Nwokoro Okwuchi (*Nee Anyanwu*) at the Federal Medical Centre, Owerri, Imo State;
- (d) C. O. C. Emeka - Izima & Co., on behalf of Mrs Eunice Israel on the arrest, detention and torture of her son, Mr Ifeanyi Israel, by the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA);
- (e) Deacon Mike Igbinigie - Aimufua on allegations of oppression, deprivation and fraud against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC);
- (f) Concerned Indigenes of Itsekiri Ethnic Extraction on the nomination of Engr Adjogbe Ajenakevwe for the position of Executive Director, Projects, on the Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC);

(iii) Petitions from the following persons were presented and laid by Hon. Bede Eke (*Aboh Mbaise/Ngor Okpala Federal Constituency*):

- (a) Comrade Emmanuel Abimbola Bankole and 2 others on behalf of Concerned Stakeholders of the Federal University of Technology, Abeokuta on their victimization and persecution by the institution;
- (b) Achike Umunna & Associates on behalf of former Members of Staff of First Bank of Nigeria on the breach of corporate governance and the withholding of the entitlements of 2015 retirees of the Bank;

- (c) Ije Ikenna Okemini Ije on the termination of his appointment by Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC);
- (d) Mr Young Enwereuzo on behalf of Abia Renaissance Forum on the violation of the Constitution in the recent recruitment exercise by the Chairman of Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

6. Privileges (Order Six, Rule 1)

- (i) Hon. Oker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa (*Buruku Federal Constituency*) noted that while the House was on recess, severe allegations were leveled against some Principal Officers and the entire Members of the House on issues bordering on integrity, and violation of laws and norms of the budgetary process. He underscored the gravity of the allegations and averred that they constituted a breach of his privilege and that of the House. He therefore sought leave of the House to move a motion on the matter forthwith.

Leave granted.

Breach of Privileges of the House of Representatives of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (the House); Breach of the Privileges of Members of the House of Representatives; Breach of the Practices, Precedents and Usages of the House of Representatives and Sundry Acts of Misconduct against the Members and Institution of the House of Representatives and National Assembly; Breach of the Provisions of the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12, LFN:

The House:

Notes that Hon. Abdulmumin Jibrin, a Member of the House was relieved of his appointment as Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriation on 21st July, 2016;

Also notes that following this action, Hon. Jibrin embarked on a campaign of calumny and denigration by making false and scandalous statements and publications in the print and electronic media and internet such as, Newspapers, Radio, Television, Video, Social media including Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, against the entire membership and the institution of the House of Representatives and National Assembly as institutions;

Hereby collates a few of Hon. Jibrin statement and publications made against the above mentioned persons and institutions as follows:

1. “As it stands today, these corrupt elements have infected the House, making the institutions a hub of systemic corruption. I repeat, there is massive individual and systemic corruption in the House of Representatives. And all Nigerians have a responsibility to avail themselves of this rare opportunity to flush out corruption in the House”;

This statement was made by Hon. Jibrin on August 9th, 2016;

2. “Money laundering in the House of Representatives. There is no better time than now for the EFCC to revisit the multi-billion naira money laundering allegations in the House of Representatives. The money laundering issues has become a pattern over the years in the House. It is time for anti-corruption agencies to move in decisively;

This statement was posted by Hon. Jibrin on his Facebook page on August 13, 2016:

3. "I repeat, there is massive individual and institutional corruption in the House of Representatives aided and abetted by Speaker Dogara";

Press statement by Hon. Jibrin on August 19, 2016;

4. It is a known fact that legislative investigation is used as an avenue to extort money in an organised crime aided and abetted by Mr Speaker;

Statement made by Hon. Jibrin on August 21, 2016;

5. I dare say corruption in the House of Representatives is more than that of the Executive and Judiciary combined";

Statement by Hon. Jibrin on August 21, 2016:

6. "We want the right people to be in the House, we are tired of Members who only come to the Chambers, lick Tom Tom, eat ground nuts and go back to their offices. I have to stop that. I want to see a situation where in 2019, if a Nigerian wakes up and says he wants to be a Member of the House of Representatives, he has to be someone that when he sits in the Chamber and you are seated in your living room, you should be able to say, I am proud that this is a member of the House of Representatives";

An interview on AIT (Focus Nigeria) on 4th August, 2016:

7. Hon. Jibrin published the above words and several others with the knowledge that the allegations therein were false and that they are libelous and defamatory of the members of the House of Representatives and the institution of the House;

The above stated words were written, made and published with reckless disregard as to whether or not they were true, thereby scandalising the House and its members;

The above statements and publication are contrary to sections 24 and 30 of the Legislative (Powers and Privileges) Act. They are in breach of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, particularly the provisions on privileges of the House and that of Members thereof touching or seizing the Mace, Order 10, Rule 5 (13) and (15);

The above statements are contemptuous of the House of Representatives as an institution;

Resolves to:

Refer the above matter and Hon. Abdulmumin Jibrin to the House Committee on Ethics and Privileges for proper investigation. The Committee shall report its findings and make appropriate recommendations to the House within one week (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

(HR. 71/2016).

Motion referred to the Committee on Ethics and Privileges.

- (ii) Hon. Aliyu Madaki (*Dala Federal Constituency*) also referred to allegations of impropriety leveled against four (4) Principal officers and the entire Members of the House by a Member during the recess. He viewed the allegations as a breach of his privilege and that of the entire House and thus called on the four (4) Principal officers concerned to step down in order to allow for an independent investigation into the matter. Hon. Madaki also noted that his privilege was also apparently breached by the motion of Hon. Oker-Jev on the same matter, which was considered without a seconder contrary to the rules of the House.

Mr Speaker noted that the motion by Hon. Oker-Jev was duly seconded, and that the demand for the resignation of the Principal officers is contrary to the procedure of the House on such matters. He therefore ruled Hon. Aliyu Madaki out of order.

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

- (i) ***Urgent intervention and investigation of the Tremors and Earthquake at Jaba Local Government Area of Kaduna State:***

Hon. Sunday Marshall Katung (*Zango Kataf/Jaba 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 (4) 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 (4) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Urgent Intervention and Investigation of the Tremors and Earthquake at Jaba Local Government Area of Kaduna State:

The House:

Notes as reported in major Nigerian Newspapers, the occurrence of tremors and earthquake on the 1st and 12th September, 2016, within Jaba Local Government Area of Kaduna State, which led to the destruction of several properties;

Also notes that on September 12, 2016, it was reported that the Governor of Kaduna State directed the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to provide relief materials to members of the community that were displaced as a result of the incident;

Aware that the Governor of Kaduna State also requested the National Geological Survey Agency to undertake a survey of the affected area to ascertain the cause of the tremor and earthquake;

Concerned that there is a likelihood of the re-occurrence of such incidence;

Also concerned that the National Geological Survey Agency is an institution of the Federal Government of Nigeria and does not hold any reporting relationship with the Kaduna State Government, making it difficult for the National Geological Survey Agency to effect the request of the Governor of Kaduna State;

Resolves to:

- (i) Invite the Director-General of the National Geological Survey Agency to appear before the House of Representatives to provide a seismic report on the magnitude of the tremor and/or earthquake that recently occurred within Jaba LGA of Kaduna State and any other area that is threatened by such occurrence;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to immediately provide relief materials-for-distribution to victims of the recent Tremor at Jaba LGA of Kaduna State;
- (iii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Environment be directed to ascertain the level of destruction and reclaim all damaged areas; and
- (iv) further urge the Federal government of Nigeria to carry out an in-depth investigation to determine the immediate and remote cause(s) of the tremor and/or earthquake in order to arrest future occurrence in the area in particular and the country in general (*Hon. Sunday Marshall Katung — Zangon-Kataf/Jaba federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

(HR. 72/2016).

(ii) *Need to Appreciate and Celebrate Team Nigeria's Performance at Rio 2016 Para-Olympic Games:*

Hon. Ayo Omidiran (*Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan 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 (4) 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 (4) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Need to Appreciate and Celebrate Team Nigeria's Performance at Rio 2016 Paralympic Games:

The House:

Notes that Nigeria participated at the Paralympic Games that took place in Rio from 7th to 18th September, 2016;

Aware that Team Nigeria won a total of 12 medals comprising of 8 Gold, 2 Silver and 2 Bronze;

Also aware that Team Nigeria was the best Team from Africa at the Games;

Resolves to:

- (i) Commend members of Team Nigeria delegation to Rio 2016 Paralympic Games for making us proud;

- (ii) invite them to the House of Representatives Chamber, as a mark of Honor, to celebrate their indomitable spirit; and
- (iii) contribute the sum of Fifty thousand Naira (₦50,000.00) per Member as a token of our appreciation of their superlative performance at Rio 2016 Paralympics (*Hon. Ayo Omidiran — Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (ii) and *insert* as follows:
“Urge the Ministry of Sports and Youth Development, to compensate the Para-Olympic team accordingly” (*Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun — Ogooluwa/Surulere Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (iv) as follows:
“Urge the Executive arm of Government to make budgetary provisions to reconstruct all public buildings to give easy access to people with disability” (*Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun — Ogooluwa/Surulere Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Nigeria participated at the Paralympic Games that took place in in Rio from 7th to 18th September, 2016;

Aware that Team Nigeria won a total of 12 medals comprising of 8 Gold, 2 Sliver and 2 Bronze;

Also aware that Team Nigeria was the best Team from Africa at the Games;

Resolved to:

- (i) Commend members of Team Nigeria delegation to Rio 2016 Paralympic Games for making us proud;
- (ii) urge the Ministry of Sports and Youth Development, to compensate the Para-Olympic team accordingly;
- (iii) contribute the sum of Fifty thousand Naira (₦50,000.00) per Member as a token of our appreciation of their superlative performance at Rio 2016 Paralympics; and
- (iv) also urge the Executive arm of Government to make budgetary provisions to reconstruct all public buildings to give easy access to people with disability (**HR. 73/2016**).

8. Presentation and First Reading of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Change of Name (Regulation) Bill, 2016 (HB. 767).
- (2) City Technical University, Kaduna Bill, 2016 (HB. 768).

- (3) Chartered Institute of Forensic Accountants of Nigeria Bill, 2016 (HB. 769).
- (4) Nigerian Institute of Mining and Geosciences, Jos (Establishment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 770).
- (5) National Farm Settlements and Youth Empowerment Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 771).
- (6) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2016 (HB. 772).
- (7) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2016 (HB. 773).
- (8) Nigeria Social Responsibility Agency (Establishment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 774)
- (9) Local Value Addition Bill, 2016 (HB. 775).

9. Presentation of Reports

(i) **Committee on Health Institutions:**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on the Public Hearing on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal College of Medical Laboratory Science, Jos and to Provide for Courses Leading to the Award of Degrees, Fellowships, Diplomas and Certificates in Medical Laboratory Science, Biomedical Science, Other Related Courses; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 39)” (*Hon. Betty Apiafi — Ahoada East/Abua/Odual Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) **Committee on Health Institutions:**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on the Public Hearing on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Medical and Dental Practitioners Act, Cap. M 8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004, to make Provisions for Compensation for Medical Malpractice and Negligence; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 141); and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Medical and Dental Practitioners Act, Cap. M8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 351)” (*Hon. Betty Apiafi — Ahoada East/Abua/Odual Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) **Committee on Health Institutions:**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on the Public Hearing on a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Postgraduate College of Physiotherapy to be charged with the Responsibility of Promoting Professional Physiotherapy Education, Providing Specialists in Physiotherapy with critical thinking and creative problem solving Skills and prepare Knowledgeable, Skilled, Culturally Competent, Compassionate and Reflective Physiotherapy Practitioners in the study and Practice of Physiotherapy in Nigeria; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 372)” (*Hon. Betty Apiafi — Ahoada East/Abua/Odual Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iv) **Committee on Health Institutions:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Health Institutions on the Public Hearing on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Psychiatric Hospitals Management Board Act, Cap. P34, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to give room for fair hearing in the disciplining of any student for misconduct; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 352)" (Hon. Betty Apiafi — Ahoada East/Abua/Odual Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(v) **Ad-hoc Committee on Undue Accumulation of Debts and Alleged Fraudulent Sale of Banks by the Assets Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON):**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Ad-hoc Committee on Undue Accumulation of Debts and Alleged Fraudulent Sale of Banks by the Assets Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) (HIR.98/2015)" (Hon. Albert Abiodun Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

10. **Consolidation of Bills**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Internal Loans Act, Cap. 118, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 188); a Bill for an Act to Amend the Internal Loans (Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Development) Act, Cap. 119, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 189) be now consolidated" (Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

11. **Urgent Need to Address the Economic Downturn in Nigeria**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that due to the crash of crude oil prices from over \$120 per barrel in the last quarter of 2014 to about \$45 presently, Nigeria has been witnessing a dramatic reduction in oil earnings, which has impacted negatively on revenues available to finance expenditure, as a result, the foreign reserves had been depleted to bridge the gap;

Also notes that the loss of confidence in the nation's economy has led to increase in the rate of outflow of businesses worth more than four trillion Naira following declining oil revenue and the devaluation of the Naira;

Further notes the unprecedented level of youth unemployment of about 70% which has continued to grow unabated as businesses keep folding up;

Concerned that bank lending rate of between 25-30% per annum and other hidden charges are discouraging borrowers, especially the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs) and is also counterproductive for meaningful economic growth;

Also concerned about the economic downturn that is looming in the country which was predicted in 2014 by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) based on the aforementioned events, coupled with declining foreign reserves and rising external debts which, according to the Debt Management Office (DMO) now hovers around \$10bn from \$3.5bn nine years ago;

Aware that the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) condemned the high interests charged by Banks and the CBN's foreign exchange policy has created more problems for the real sector since it made access to foreign exchange more difficult for importation of raw materials by genuine users and coupled with the weak Naira, the policy has fuelled cost production increases;

Further concerned that industries such as the steel rolling mills, paper mills, aviation and textile industries, etc. that are supposed to provide cushion for the aforementioned policies and conserve foreign exchange have become moribund;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to direct the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Federal Ministry of Finance and the National Planning Commission to review the existing monetary policy with a view to developing sustainable lending rates and right environment that will foster real sector growth to enhance economic development;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to take steps to resuscitate the comatose government owned industries which will generate employment, provide raw materials for local producers and preserve scarce foreign exchange;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Government to develop policies that will be attractive to private investment for the commercial exploration of solid minerals and also pay attention to non-oil sector such as tourism, automobile industry, information technology etc. in order to bring about the diversification of the nation's economy; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Banking and Currency, Finance, and National Planning and Economic Development to ensure compliance, and report back to the House within four weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Mukaila Olayiwola Kazzim — Abeokuta North/Obafemi-Owode/Odeda Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Debate adjourned till the next legislative day.

12. Adjournment:

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 22 September, 2016 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.27 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker