



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 28 September, 2016

1. The House met at 11.17 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, 27 September, 2016.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Petitions**

- (i) Petitions from the following persons were presented and laid by Hon. Goodluck Opiah Nanah (*Ohaji/Egbema/Oguta/Oru West Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Asa Development Union on the nomination of Donatus Enyinnaya N. as Abia State representative on the Board of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC);
 - (b) Servanda Chambers (Chike Nwosu & Associates) on behalf of Abagana Welfare Union on the abuse of power, unlawful detention and continuous siege on Abagana community by Samuel Okaula, the Commissioner of Police, Anambra State Police Command;
 - (c) Oru Patriots on the nomination of Senator Osita Izunaso as Imo State representative on the Board of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC);
 - (d) Egbema Forum on the nomination of Senator Osita Izunaso as Imo State representative on the Board of Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC);
- (ii) A petition from Samuel Kaboshio Kusiya on the termination of his appointment by Zenith Bank Plc, was presented and laid by Hon. Gideon Gwani (*Kaura Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) ***Need to Rescue the Airline Industry from Imminent Collapse:***
Hon. Istifanus D. Gyang (*Barikinladi/Riyom 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 Rescue the Airline Industry from Imminent Collapse:

The House:

Notes that it is a truism that the Nigeria economy is in recession and while government is battling to restore the economic fortunes of the nation, all sectors of the economy are confronted with survival battles, the aviation sector inclusive, and in particular, private airline operators;

Also notes that private airlines are the only players in the nations aviation industry facilitating and making air travel possible following the collapse and non-resuscitation of the national airline;

Concerned that private airlines and indeed the aviation industry are at risk of imminent collapse as characterised by the sudden stoppage, discontinuance and suspension of operations by major players in the industry including Aero Contractors, First Nation Airways and Arik Airline;

Disturbed that domestic airlines whose services, maintenance and operational costs are denominated in hard currency, the current volatiling in exchange rate and the general economic down turn is threatening their very survival. This is further complicated by the numerous charges which the airlines pay to regulatory agencies including NCAA, FAAN, and NAMA;

Aware that air travel remains the only alternative to traveling by road and given the poor and dilapidated state of most Nigerian roads, the nation owes it a responsibility to ensure their survival;

Also aware that what is happening with the private Airlines is symptomatic of the fncr that the industry has been infected by the virus of economic recession, this House has a responsibility to address the matter given the role and impact of air travel on the economy and day to day activities of citizens, corporate bodies and Governmental Institutions;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Aviation to wade into the matter with a view to identifying best possible options in mitigating and proffering a durable solution and report back to the House within one week (*Hon. Istifanus D. Gyang — Barikinladi/Riyom Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in the Prayer and *insert* as follows:

“Mandate the Committee on Aviation to immediately organise a public hearing and invite all relevant stakeholders to investigate the suspension of operations by local airlines, increasing termination of operations by international airlines, licensing requirements and capacity of local airlines, allegations of corruption against local airlines, previous and current airport concession process and fees, the fate

of Nigerians employed in the industry and effect of prevailing issues in the sector on the Nigerian economy; with a view to proffering solutions to identified issues and report back to the House within four (4) weeks" (*Hon. Mark Gbillah — Gwer East/Gwer West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that it is a truism that the Nigeria economy is in recession and while government is battling to restore the economic fortunes of the nation, all sectors of the economy are confronted with survival battles, the aviation sector inclusive, and in particular, private airline operators;

Also noted that private airlines are the only players in the nations aviation industry facilitating and making air travel possible following the collapse and non-resuscitation of the national airline;

Concerned that private airlines and indeed the aviation industry are at risk of imminent collapse as characterised by the sudden stoppage, discontinuance and suspension of operations by major players in the industry including Aero Contractors, First Nation Airways and Arik Airline;

Disturbed that domestic airlines whose services, maintenance and operational costs are denominated in hard currency, the current volatiling in exchange rate and the general economic down turn is threatening their very survival. This is further complicated by the numerous charges which the airlines pay to regulatory agencies including NCAA, FAAN, and NAMA;

Aware that air travel remains the only alternative to traveling by road and given the poor and dilapidated state of most Nigerian roads, the nation owes it a responsibility to ensure their survival;

Also aware that what is happening with the private Airlines is symptomatic of the fact that the industry has been infected by the virus of economic recession, this House has a responsibility to address the matter given the role and impact of air travel on the economy and day to day activities of citizens, corporate bodies and Governmental Institutions;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Aviation to immediately organise a public hearing and invite all relevant stakeholders to investigate the suspension of operations by local airlines, increasing termination of operations by international airlines, licensing requirements and capacity of local airlines, allegations of corruption against local airlines, previous and current airport concession process and fees, the fate of Nigerians employed in the industry and effect of prevailing issues in the sector on the Nigerian economy; with a view to proffering solutions to identified issues and report back to the House within four (4) weeks (**HR. 84/2016**).

- (ii) ***Need to Address Rampant Cases of Kidnapping on the Abuja - Kaduna Federal High Way:***
Hon. Muhammad Usman (*Makarfi/Kudan 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 Address Rampant Cases of Kidnaping on the Abuja - Kaduna Federal Highway:

The House:

Notes that Abuja-Kaduna Federal High Way is a trunk 'A' Road which is very strategic in nature and is the major link connecting many States in the Northern Part of the country in particular the North-West Zone to not only the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja but the Southern Part of Nigeria;

Aware that the road is a very busy one being one of the major sources of transportation of goods and services from Northern to the Southern Part of our country;

Also notes that though the road is a dual carriage way, the volume of traffic on it cannot be quantified;

Disturbed that despite its very busy nature, criminals, gangsters and of recent kidnapers have developed the courage of carrying out criminal activities on persons plying the road on daily basis;

Concerned that apart from armed robbery attacks, killings and kidnaping of individuals have become the order of the day even in broad day light thus becoming a major security concern;

Also aware that the kidnaping is exposing travelers and commuters to the fear of uncertainties;

Worried that the rampant kidnaping of innocent Nigerians have terrible socio-political consequences in and outside Nigeria;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and Army to interface with the relevant security agencies, to as a matter of urgency, address decisively the rampant cases of kidnaping on the Abuja - Kaduna Federal Highway (*Hon. Muhammad Usman — Makarfi/Kudan Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

(HR. 85/2016).

5. Presentation and First Reading of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2016 (HB. 776).
- (2) Hire Purchase Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 777).
- (3) Desecration of Sanctity of Human Life and Dead Body (Prohibition) Bill, 2016 (HB. 778).

- (4) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2016 (HB. 779).
- (5) Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2016 (HB. 780).
- (6) Social Responsibility Bill, 2016 (HB. 781).
- (7) Pension Reform Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 782).
- (8) Adequate Parking Spaces for Buildings meant for Public Use Bill, 2016 (HB. 783).
- (9) Nigeria Institute of Leather Science and Technology Bill, 2016 (HB. 784).
- (10) Cerebrospinal Meningitis (Prevention, Control and Management) Bill, 2016 (HB. 785).

6. Presentation of Reports

(i) **Committee on Ethics and Privileges:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges on the allegations of sexual misconduct against Hon. Gbilla Mark Terseer, Hon. Mohammed Garba Gololo and Hon. Samuel Ikon by the United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr James F. Entwistle, while they were attending the International Visitors Leadership Program in Cleveland, Ohio, USA from 7-13 April, 2016" (Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) **Committee on Ethics and Privileges:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges on the 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; and Breach of the Provisions of the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12, LFN, 2004" (Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report of the Petition by the Ase-Omoku Community of Delta State:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by the Ase-Omoku Community of Delta State against Sterling Oil Exploration and Energy Production Company Limited (SEEPCO) on alleged breach of agreement, environmental degradation and oppressive tendencies" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwu East/West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iv) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report of the Petition by Mr Kenneth Nyikyor Aondohemba:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Mr Kenneth Nyikyor Aondohemba against the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria on alleged termination of appointment" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(v) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report of the Petition by Chris Uche:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Chris Uche on behalf of Mr Ugwunna on the continued seizure of his Toyota Highlander Vehicle" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(vi) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report of the Petition by Mr C. O Agbirikimi:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Mr C. O Agbirikimi against the Federal Ministry of Power, Works, and Housing on alleged disregard of public service rules, constituted authority and abuse of office" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(vii) **Committee on Public Petitions:**

Report of the Petition by Egwu Arua Okoro:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Egwu Arua Okoro against the Nigeria Customs Service" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

7. Consolidation of Bills

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Endowment for Arts and Literature to Provide Financial and Institutional Support for First Rate, Notable and Exceptionally Remarkable Works of Art and Literature and also Serve as an Established Fund and Permanent Pecuniary Provision for the Purpose; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 622); a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Nigerian Authors Trust Fund; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 721) be now consolidated" (Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Private Guards Companies Act, Cap. P30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Private Guards Companies Act, Cap. P30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 Relating to their Licensing, Regulation; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HBs 225 and 348) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Private Guards Companies Act, Cap. P30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Private Guards Companies Act, Cap. P30, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 Relating to their Licensing, Regulation; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HBs 225 and 348) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — *Ukwa East/West Federal Constituency and 1 other*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act No. 28 of 2005 to Prohibit Racketeering with Human Pregnancy or Operation of Baby Production Factories, Harbours of Pregnant Persons under the Age of 18 and Above or Selling or Attempting to Sell New Born Babies; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 614) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Law Enforcement and Administration Act No. 28 of 2005 to Prohibit Racketeering with Human Pregnancy or Operation of Baby Production Factories, Harbours of Pregnant Persons under the Age of 18 and Above or Selling or Attempting to Sell New Born Babies; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 614) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Enitan Dolapo Badru — *Lagos Island 1 Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Human Rights.

10. **A Bill for an Act to make it Compulsory for all Schools to Teach Morals, Nationalism, Leadership; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 561) — Second Reading**

Order read; withdrawn by leave of the House.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Manpower Board Act, Cap. N57, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 258) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Manpower Board Act, Cap. N57, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Matters Related Thereto (HB. 258) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — *Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Commission (Privileges and Immunities) Act, Cap. F9, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Immunities from Civil Proceedings for Members of the Commissions Established by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and for the Privilege of the Documents of such Commissions; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 659) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

13. **Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly; Order Twelve (12), Rule 16, Standing Orders of the House of Representatives**
Institute of Chartered Economists of Nigeria (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (HB. 710):

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14. **Urgent Need to Rehabilitate the Anyigba-Ankpa-Otukpa Road**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the deplorable condition of Anyigba-Ankpa-Otukpa Road which connects the South East/South-South Zones with the Northern part of the country is causing enormous and untold hardships to commuters and is also adversely affecting the economic and social lives of the people within the zones;

Concerned by the constant loss of lives through accidents caused by the large scale degradation of the Road;

Realizes that only a comprehensive reconstruction of the road will bring relief to the people of the area;

Resolves to:

- (i) Call on the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to carry out a comprehensive rehabilitation of Anyigba-Ankpa-Otukpa Road as an interim measure with a view to saving lives and avoiding its complete collapse;
- (ii) also call on the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to award the contract for the reconstruction of the road in order to end the hardships being encountered by motorists; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works and Appropriations to ensure that the reconstruction of the road is captured in the 2017 budget (*Hon. Hassan A. Omale — Ankpa/Omala/Olamaboro Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

(HR. 86/2016).

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

15. Call for Reconstruction of Mbaise Ring Road/Owerri-Aba Road and Okpala/Igwuruta Road in Imo State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Mbaise Ring Road, Owerri-Aba and Okpala-Igwuruta are federal roads stretching from different parts of Imo State to other neighbouring States;

Also notes that due to the deplorable condition of these roads, the Federal Government awarded contracts for their reconstruction some years ago but the contractors did not complete the reconstruction before abandoning the projects;

Concerned that the deplorable conditions of the roads are causing untold hardships to motorists and raising security concerns for residents of adjoining communities;

Convinced that there is a need to ensure the reconstruction of the roads to enhance commerce and transportation in the Eastern and South-South parts of the country;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to appropriate money in the 2017 budget estimates for the reconstruction of Owerri-Aba Road;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs to appropriate money in the 2017 budget estimates for the reconstruction of Okpala-Igwuruta and Mbaise Ring Roads; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Works, Niger Delta Ministry and Legislative Compliance to ensure adherence to the above prayers (*Hon. Bede Eke — Aboh Mbaise/Ngor Okpala Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

(HR. 87/2016).

Motion referred to the Committees on Works, Niger Delta Ministry, and Legislative Compliance, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5) .

16. Urgent Need to Tackle Erosion Problems in Lavun, Edati and Mokwa Local Government Areas of Niger State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the people of Lavun, Edati and Mokwa Local Government Areas are predominantly farmers who depend on produce from their farms as means of livelihood;

Also notes that soil erosion leads to the relocation of the topsoil, which is high in organic matter, fertility and soil life, elsewhere "on site" where it builds up over time or is carried "off-site" where it fills in drainage channels, in addition, soil erosion reduces crop land productivity and contributes to the pollution of adjacent water courses, wetland and lakes;

Disturbed that the one issue of great concern to the people and Government of those areas is the problem of erosion and flooding which cut across the entire local government area and the damages being done by these menace to the roads and farmlands are extensive;

Aware that the drainage construction contract awarded by the Federal Government was inexplicably diverted into the community at Mangorori Ungwan Asawa road and this singular error resulted in creation of three very dangerous gullies, one of which measures four (4) metres in depth;

Concerned that if an urgent step is not taken to stop the devastation caused by this phenomenon, the lives and livelihood of the people will continue to be eroded;

Cognizant that the financial requirements for finding a lasting solution to the problem is beyond the capacity of the State Government;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to complete the drainage along Kaduna-Lagos Road which was diverted into the community of Mangorori Ungwan Asawa Road;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to come to the aid of the State Government in finding a lasting solution to this endemic problem; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Environment and Habitat, FERMA, and Works to ensure compliance ~~and~~ **report** back to the House within six weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Ahmed Abu — Edati/Lavun/Mokwa Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

(HR. 88/2016).

Motion referred to the Committees on Environment and Habitat, FERMA, and Works, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5) .

17. Call for Reintroduction of Tollgates on Federal Roads to Enhance Road Maintenance and Construction

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the dilapidated conditions of Federal roads in Nigeria, thus giving rise to the need to re-introduce tollgates on the roads in order for the Federal Government to be able to meet up with the maintenance and construction of inter State roads;

Concerned that the fluctuation in oil prices no longer makes the current policy dependable and invariably makes the Government unable to meet up with the demand of continuous road maintenance and construction;

Convinced that if the option of generating money by re-introducing the tollgate system is not considered, many roads will remain impossible to travel on, more accidents will continue to occur leading to loss of lives, and the dilapidated state of the roads will continue to give advantages to robbers to waylay commuters on the highways;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to urgently consider the re-introduction of toll gates on Federal highways across the country to aid maintenance and construction of roads; and

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, and Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to monitor compliance and report back to the House within eight weeks, for further legislative action (*Hon. Francis Charle Uduyok — Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question negatived.

18. Call for Establishment of a National Anti-Doping Agency

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the first World Conference on Doping in Sports was held in Switzerland in 1999 which led to the creation of the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) that sets standards in the fight against doping in sports;

Aware that the Agency was founded with the aim of bringing consistency to anti-doping policies and regulations within sports organizations and Governments across the world;

Also notes that in 2013, the Agency drafted a new Code which was ratified in South Africa requiring each Government to put in place legislations, regulations, administrative practices and sharing of information among Anti-doping Organizations as provided in the Code;

Also aware that Nigeria, as a signatory to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Agreement against doping in Sports needs to have its own National Anti-doping Agency, along with a laboratory for Anti-doping activities;

Recalls that the National Sports Commission obtained the first presidential approval under former President Olusegun Obasanjo for the construction of the National Anti-doping Organisation (NADO) laboratory at the National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research Development in Idu-Karmo, Abuja;

Also recalls that in 2010, the said NADO laboratory received approval from former President Goodluck Jonathan to commence operations, and to avoid sanctions, the Government set up an Anti-Doping Committee to serve as the country's Anti-Doping Agency on a temporary basis, pending the establishment of the National Anti-doping Organisation (NADO);

Concerned that up till date, the country does not have an operational anti-doping laboratory and still relies on foreign laboratories for its anti-doping analyses, for example, in 2015 the National Sports Commission sent samples to South Africa in the run-up to the 11th All Africa Games in Congo;

Also concerned that in June 2015, the World Anti-doping Agency called on the Nigerian Government to take the lead in Africa by enacting the necessary legal instruments which would support and underscore the establishment of the National Anti-doping Organisation that would operate independently;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the National Sports Commission to urgently initiate measures towards the establishment of a National Anti-Doping Agency without further delay, in compliance with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Sports to investigate the earlier delays in setting up the Agency, monitor compliance and report back to the House within six weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Akinfolarin Mayowa — Ileoluji-Okeibo/Odigbo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

(HR. 89/2016).

19. Need for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to Conduct Proper Constituency Delimitation in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that constituency delimitation is the equitable and balanced segmentation of communities into units for electoral representation in a political leadership structure;

Also notes that section 73 of the 1999 Constitution vests the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) with the powers to review the constituencies' delimitation in the country at intervals of not less than (10) ten years or after any census conducted by the National Population Commission to address the imbalances or disparities in constituencies which may have been caused by changes in population growth and spatial distributions;

Aware that there are wide-ranging disparities in the current arrangement where some constituencies are as small as 122,000 and some as large as 1.3 million in population, and Nigeria's population has continued to grow to its present estimated figure of nearly 160 million people, such increase needs to be reflected in the new realignment;

Concerned that since the 1996 delimitation exercise, no such exercise has been carried out till date to reflect the current population distribution in the country despite several attempts by successive INEC administrations since 2008;

Also concerned that the previous exercises attracted so much condemnation from stakeholders following allegations of manipulation, marginalization, unfairness and perceived domination by different segments of the society which tend to undermine the credibility of the electoral process, composition of parliament and indeed the practice of democracy in the land;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to carry out a constituency delimitation exercise in the overall interest of the nation and sustenance of democracy; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Electoral Matters, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (Hon. Shehu Aliyu Musa — D/Shuni/Bodings/Tureta Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (i), line 2, immediately after the word "exercise", insert the words "to create additional constituencies" (Hon. Simon Arabo — Kauru Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that constituency delimitation is the equitable and balanced segmentation of communities into units for electoral representation in a political leadership structure;

Also noted that section 73 of the 1999 Constitution vests the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) with the powers to review the constituencies' delimitation in the country at intervals of not less than (10) ten years or after any census conducted by the National Population Commission to address the imbalances or disparities in constituencies which may have been caused by changes in population growth and spatial distributions;

Aware that there are wide-ranging disparities in the current arrangement where some constituencies are as small as 122,000 and some as large as 1.3 million in population, and Nigeria's population has continued to grow to its present estimated figure of nearly 160 million people, such increase needs to be reflected in the new realignment;

Concerned that since the 1996 delimitation exercise, no such exercise has been carried out till date to reflect the current population distribution in the country despite several attempts by successive INEC administrations since 2008;

Also concerned that the previous exercises attracted so much condemnation from stakeholders following allegations of manipulation, marginalization, unfairness and perceived domination by different segments of the society which tend to undermine the credibility of the electoral process, composition of parliament and indeed the practice of democracy in the land;

Resolved to:

- (i) Urge the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to carry out a constituency delimitation exercise to create additional constituencies in the overall interest of the nation and sustenance of democracy; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Electoral Matters, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (HR. 90/2016).

20. Consideration of Report

Committee on Ethics and Privileges:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges on the 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; and Breach of the Provisions of the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12, LFN, 2004 and approve the recommendations therein" (Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency).

Question agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report — Agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Recommendation (i):

"Reprimand Hon. Abdulmumin Jibrin, in accordance with Chapter 9 (1) of the Code of Conduct for Members of the House of Representatives" (Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

“That as provided in Order Six, Rule 1 (4) of the Standing Orders, and Chapter 9 (2) of the Code of Conduct for Members of the House, the House by this resolution further regulates its procedure and accordingly suspends Hon. Abdulmumin Jibrin for 180 Legislative sitting days in the first instance” (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iii):

“That further to Recommendation (ii) above, Hon. Abdulmumin Jibrin is required to tender a formal written apology to the House, prior to his future resumption of duties in the House” (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iv):

“That in accordance with Chapter 9 (3) of the Code of Conduct for Members of the House, Hon. Abdulmumin Jibrin should be barred from positions of responsibility in the House until the end of the 8th Assembly” (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwani Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Ethics and Privileges on the 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; and Breach of the Provisions of the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12, LFN, 2004 and approved Recommendations (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) of the Report.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole — Agreed to.

21. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 29 September, 2016 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.38 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 21 July, 2016, under Announcement, item 3 (c), (2) 3, leave out the name “Umar Aliyu Danladi” and insert the name “Aliyu Danladi”.