



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

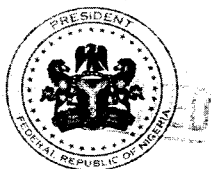
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 18 October, 2016

1. The House met at 11.28 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 13 October, 2016.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Message**
Mr Deputy Speaker read a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

12 October, 2016

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

Dear Rt Hon. Speaker Y. Dogara,

ADDENDUM: BUDGET OF UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND

Further to my letter dated June 30, 2016 forwarding the budget of 38 Federal Government Agencies in accordance with the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007, I hereby present the 2016 Budget of the Universal Service Provision Fund pursuant to section 114 (1) and (2) (a) of the Nigerian Communications Act, 2003, Cap. N97, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, for your consideration and passage, please.

Please accept, Mr Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

Mr Deputy Speaker referred the Budget of Universal Service Provision Fund to the Committee on Telecommunications.

4. Announcements

(a) Visitors in the Gallery:

Mr Deputy Speaker recognized the presence of the following visitors:

- (i) Students of the *Star Ville School*, Gwarimpa, Abuja;
- (ii) Members of the *Nigerian Association of Psychology Students (NAPS)*, University of Ibadan, Oyo State.

(b) Bereavement:

By leave of the House, Hon. Chukwuka Onyema (*Ogbaru Federal Constituency*), informed the House on the death of Garuba Obumada Louis, a youth corps member with State Code AN/16 A/3487, serving at Ogwu Ikpele, Anambra State, who drowned on Friday, 14 October, 2016. He prayed the House to observe a minute silence in his honour.

A minute silence observed in honour of the deceased.

5. Petition

A petition from Tomatoes Pub and Grill Restaurant, Gwarimpa, Abuja on the closure of their business premises by Federal Housing Authority and the Development Control Department of the Abuja Metropolitan Management Council, was presented and laid by Hon. Chukwuka Onyema (*Ogbaru Federal Constituency*).

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) The Need to Address Food Insecurity in Nigeria:

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa (*Buruku Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

The Need to Address Food Insecurity in Nigeria:

The House:

Notes that October 16th was World Food Day as declared by the United Nations to draw attention to and committed for eradication of hunger;

Aware that the United Nations considers hunger to be the most basic of human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

Also notes that in September of 2000, world leaders signed a commitment to achieve 8 Million Development Goals by 2015 and number one was to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;

Also aware that the cost of neglect is high as the country loses a lot when people do not have enough to eat;

Observes that Nigeria does not have a sustained policy on food security and thus exposing our country to needless food importation;

Resolves to:

Urge the Executive Arm of Government to come up with a sustainable food policy to feed our population and submit same to the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services (Hon. Emmanuel Y. Orker-Jev — Buruku Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Agreed to.

(HR. 124/2016).

(ii) *The Need to Strengthen the Fight Against Poverty as the World Commemorates 2016 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty:*

Hon. Ali Wudil Muhammed (Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

The Need to Strengthen the Fight against Poverty as the World Commemorates 2016 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty:

The House:

Notes that poverty has become endemic and over 50 million of Nigerians are living in poverty;

Aware that the United Nation has declared every October 17 as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty as a wake up call on all governments to rise up to its constitutional responsibilities of providing basic necessities of life for its citizenry;

Also notes the efforts of various governments in collaboration with the National Assembly to eradicate poverty in Nigeria especially with the recent passage of 500 billion Naira intervention fund in 2016 Appropriation Act;

Worried that such measures have not yielded much expected results as there is continued high rise of poverty in the country;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency in the fight against poverty; and
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to put in place effective structure for the implementation of poverty reduction programmes (*Hon. Muhammed Ali Wudil — Wudil/Garko Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

(HR. 125/2016).

Motion made and Question, “That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4), to enable it take more than two Matter of Urgent Public Importance” (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

- (iii) ***Call to Investigate Uranium Radiation at Nkala, Michika Local Government Area, Adamawa State:***

Hon. Adamu Kamale Dali Usman (*Madagali/Michika Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Call for the House of Representatives to Investigate Uranium Radiation at Nkala, Michika Local Government Area, Adamawa State:

The House:

Notes that Uranium Ore Mineral radiation is reported at Nkala, Garta in Michika Local Government of Adamawa State;

Also notes that Uranium exploration has been carried out in Michika Local Government by the defunct Nigerian Uranium Mining Company (NUMCO) in the year 1980-1983;

Aware that the defunct Nigerian Uranium Mining Company was jointly owned by the Federal Government of Nigeria and a French company, Total Compagnie Miniere of France to which Nigeria had 60% and huge resources of the country spent before the liquidation of the company;

Worried that the operation of the company was done with high secrecy and most of the records and drilling samples were not disclosed to the Nigerian Government before the France Company pulled out from the partnership with Nigerian in 1989;

Also worried that the radiation from the Uranium deposit has been fatal to the host communities namely, Nkala, Futudou, Himikles, Sino/Kwande, Ghnimchi, Mbororo in Michika Local Government. As a result of the radiation, the communities have witnessed several mysterious deaths, still born babies, deformed babies, degraded environment, etc.;

Regrets that the Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals and the Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Agency lack adequate information on the existence of the Uranium deposit;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on solid mineral to:

- (i) investigate the Uranium radiation in Michika Local Government as reported and determine its effects on the host communities; and
- (ii) investigate the records of the defunct Nigerian Uranium Mining Company (NUMCO) to ascertain the resources of government expended on the project and its outcome and report back to the House within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Adamu D. U. Kamale — Michika/Madagali Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

(HR. 126/2016).

Motion referred to the Committees on Science and Technology, and Solid Minerals.

- (iv) ***Alleged Abduction and Forceful Marriage of 14 Years Old Miss Habiba Isa:***
Hon. Nnanna Raphael Igbokwe (*Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezinihitte Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
 - (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Alleged Abduction and Forceful Marriage of 14 Years Old Miss Habiba Isa:

The House:

Notes with great concern the report of the recent case of abduction and marriage of a 14years old Nigerian Miss Habiba Isa from Warkaza Community in Kudun Kankara Local Government Area of Katsina State;

Also notes that Nigeria is a secular State and signatory to both the UN and African Charter on Rights and Welfare of the child;

Aware that section 21 of the Child Rights Act prohibits the marriage of a minor and any marriage so contracted is null and void and of no effect whatsoever;

Also aware that section 27 of the Child Rights act stipulates that “No person shall remove or take a child out of the custody or protection of his father or mother or guardian against the will of the father, mother or guardian”;

Concerned that the alleged marriage was without the consent of her parents, who have been reported to be under threat and harassment over their request for the release of their daughter;

Worried that the situation has caused untold psychological pain to members of her family who are hopeless and crying for help;

Disturbed that if nothing is done this trend may continue to pose potential threat to peace and unity of our dear country;

Resolves to:

Mandate its Committees on Women Affairs, and Human Rights to investigate the matter and report to the House within four (4) weeks (*Hon. Raphael N. Igbokwe — Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezinihitte Federal Constituency and 1 other*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

(HR. 127/2016).

Motion referred to the Committees on Human Rights, and Women Affairs.

7. Presentation of Reports

(i) Committee on Commerce:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Commerce on a Bill for an Act to Authorize the issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Corporate Affairs Commission, the Total Sum of ₦15,019,469,986.00 (Fifteen Billion, Nineteen Million, Four Hundred and Sixty-Nine Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Six Naira) only; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 763)” (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) Committee on Commerce:

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Commerce on a Bill for an Act to Authorize the issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Oil and Gas Free Zones Authority the Total sum of ₦1,509,090,000.00 (One Billion, Five Hundred and Nine Million, Ninety Thousand Naira) only; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 765)” (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) **Committee on Housing:**

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Housing on Investigation of Lack of Functional Infrastructure in the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) Estates Across the Country (HR. 90/2015) and the Looming Epidemic in FESTAC and Satellite Towns (HR. 47/2015).

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

(iv) **Committee on Housing:**

That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Housing on the Call for Measures to Stop the Incessant Collapse of Buildings in Nigeria (HR. 138/2015).

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Bankruptcy Act, Cap. B2, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-enact the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, 2016 to make Provisions for Corporate and Individual Insolvency, to Provide for the Rehabilitation of the Insolvent Debtor and to Create the Office of the Supervisor of Insolvency; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 700) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Bankruptcy Act, Cap. B2, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-enact the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act, 2016 to make Provisions for Corporate and Individual Insolvency, to Provide for the Rehabilitation of the Insolvent Debtor and to Create the Office of the Supervisor of Insolvency; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 700) be now read a Second Time” (Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader).

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 Provide a Regulatory Framework for the Agriculture Credit Fund which shall Promote Commercial Agriculture in Nigeria, Ensure Credit Support for Production, Storage and Processing of Target Commodities, Develop Markets and Agricultural Enterprise; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 701) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide a Regulatory Framework for the Agriculture Credit Fund which shall Promote Commercial Agriculture in Nigeria, Ensure Credit Support for Production, Storage and Processing of Target Commodities, Develop Markets and Agricultural Enterprise; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 701) be now read a Second Time” (Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader).

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.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute for Training and Development of Nigeria, a Body Charged with Responsibility to Regulate the Practice and Profession of Training and Development; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 401) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute for Training and Development of Nigeria, a Body Charged with Responsibility to Regulate the Practice and Profession of Training and Development; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 401) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Gideon Lucas Gwani — Kaura Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on Industry, and Commerce.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Mathematical Centre Act, Cap. N58, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide for Additional Appointments and other Conditions of Service and Establish Zonal Offices in the Six Geopolitical Zones; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 355) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Mathematical Centre Act, Cap. N58, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide for Additional Appointments and other Conditions of Service and Establish Zonal Offices in the Six Geopolitical Zones; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 355) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Enitan Dolapo Badru — Lagos Island I 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 Basic Education and Services.

12. **Call for Rehabilitation of the Lower Anambra Irrigation Project of Anambra/Imo River Basin Development Authority**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Lower Anambra Irrigation Project (LAIP), Omor, is a rice irrigation project under the Anambra -Imo River Basin Development Authority which is a creation of River Basins Development Authority Act, Cap. R9, LFN, 2004;

Also notes that the LAIP, Omor, was established in 1987 with full irrigation facilities for cultivation of rice two (2) times in a year and has a farmland of 3,850 hectares on an average yield of 5 metric tonnes of rice per hectare;

Observes that the pumping station has broken down, the irrigation channel made up of unlined trapezoidal earth canals and drainage with attendant siltation and subsidence have collapsed since 2001;

Aware that farm roads have become extremely deplorable and almost impassable even with tractors, as there are no maintenance equipment such as bulldozers, graders, pay loaders, tippers, etc.;

Convinced that the rehabilitation of the Lower Anambra Irrigation Project will add value to the people of the area and contribute to the diversification of the economy;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Ministry of Water Resources to include the rehabilitation of the Lower Anambra Irrigation Project, Omor, in the 2017 budget; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Water Resources to ensure compliance (*Hon. Gabriel Onyenwifere — Ayamelum/Oyi Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

(HR. 128/2016).

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

13. Call for Reconstruction of Mbulu, Musini Double Bridges along Gamboru-Ngala Local Government Area, Borno State
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Mbulu, Musini double bridges, along Gamboru, Ngala Local Government Area of Borno State, offer access route to Maiduguri, Ngala, Dikwa and Mafa Local Government Areas and the Republic of Cameroon and Chad Republic;

Also notes that the Boko Haram insurgents occupied Ngala Local Government Area from August, 2014 to August 2015 and destroyed all the bridges that linked the Local Government Area and the neighboring towns;

Aware that the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from Ngala Local Government Area are now returning to their communities, given the return of normalcy to the area in recent time;

Concerned that the destruction of the bridges is causing untold hardship to commuters and the returning Internally Displaced Persons who want to return to their normal lives after facing so much atrocities and trauma at the hands of the insurgents;

Also concerned that if the bridges are not urgently reconstructed, the economic potentials of the area, which makes it the North-East Zone's commercial center, that used to attract local, national and international investors to the communities will continue to dwindle and they will be cut off from the rest of the State, which will exacerbate their hardship;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works, and Housing and the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to urgently reconstruct the bridges; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works, FERMA, and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Mohammed Nur Sheriff — Bama/Ngala/Kalabalge Federal Constituency*).

Question agreed to.

(HR. 129/2016).

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

14. Urgent Need to Complete Work on the Abandoned Buni-Gari Gulani/Dadinkowa Highway Connecting Yobe, Borno and Gombe States

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. Need to Investigate the Shutting Down and Planned Relocation of Agricultural Value Chain Industries from the Country Owing to Difficulties in Sourcing Foreign Exchange

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the recent Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) policy that Banks should allocate 60 per cent of their total foreign exchange purchases from all sources (interbank inclusive) to manufacturers and 40 per cent to other users for the purpose of trade and other obligations;

Aware of the recent decision of Erisco Foods Ltd to shut down its \$150m plant in Lagos owing to scarcity of foreign exchange from the CBN, as a result of which about one thousand, five hundred (1,500) employees are set to lose their jobs;

Also aware of the assertion by the Chief Executive of the Company that at the end of 30 days, if the situation does not improve, he will move his manufacturing firm out of Nigeria given that he cannot run a big factory while having to source foreign exchange from the parallel market at the rate of ₦450/dollar;

Concerned that the matter may herald the exodus of other agricultural value chain companies, including non-agricultural related ones, from Nigeria if not reversed, a situation which will further dampen the hope of economic recovery, since unemployment and low consumer spending are factors that continuously perpetuate recession;

Desirous to complement the efforts of the Federal Government towards revitalizing the agricultural sector and its diversification policy, by investigating actions that attempt to scuttle this policy of government with a view to redressing them;

Resolves to:

- (i) Mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, and Banking and Currency to investigate the inability of agricultural value chain industries and others to access foreign exchange from the Central Bank of Nigeria, with a view to averting their shutting down of operations in view of the adverse consequences;
- (ii) also mandate the Committees to encourage collaborative efforts by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Bank of Industry and the Bank of Agriculture that will stimulate the sustainability of agricultural process companies in Nigeria; and
- (iii) hold sectoral debate with relevant stakeholders in the manufacturing and agro-allied industries on the state of manufacturing and contemporary challenges, so as to serve as inputs for legislative output to support the sector and the economy (*Hon. Abubakar Amuda-Kannike G. — Ilorin East/Ilorin South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (i), immediately after the words "Banking and Currency", *insert* the words "and Industry" (*Hon. Okechukwu Toby — Aninri/Agwu/Oji-River Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recent Central Bank of Nigeria's (CBN) policy that Banks should allocate 60 per cent of their total foreign exchange purchases from all sources (interbank inclusive) to manufacturers and 40 per cent to other users for the purpose of trade and other obligations;

Aware of the recent decision of Erisco Foods Ltd to shut down its \$150m plant in Lagos owing to scarcity of foreign exchange from the CBN, as a result of which about one thousand, five hundred (1,500) employees are set to lose their jobs;

Also aware of the assertion by the Chief Executive of the Company that at the end of 30 days, if the situation does not improve, he will move his manufacturing firm out of Nigeria given that he cannot run a big factory while having to source foreign exchange from the parallel market at the rate of ₦450/dollar;

Concerned that the matter may herald the exodus of other agricultural value chain companies, including non-agricultural related ones, from Nigeria if not reversed, a situation which will further dampen the hope of economic recovery, since unemployment and low consumer spending are factors that continuously perpetuate recession;

Desirous to complement the efforts of the Federal Government towards revitalizing the agricultural sector and its diversification policy, by investigating actions that attempt to scuttle this policy of government with a view to redressing them;

Resolved to:

- (i) Mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, Banking and Currency, and Industry to investigate the inability of agricultural value chain industries and others to access foreign exchange from the Central Bank of Nigeria, with a view to averting their shutting down of operations in view of the adverse consequences;
- (ii) also mandate the Committees to encourage collaborative efforts by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Bank of Industry and the Bank of Agriculture that will stimulate the sustainability of agricultural process companies in Nigeria; and
- (iii) hold sectoral debate with relevant stakeholders in the manufacturing and agro-allied industries on the state of manufacturing and contemporary challenges, so as to serve as inputs for legislative output to support the sector and the economy (HR. 130/2016).

16. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 19 October, 2016 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.15 p.m.

Yussuff Sulaimon Lasun
Deputy Speaker