



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 13 October, 2016

1. The House met at 11.11 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 Wednesday, 12 October, 2016.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Announcements**

(a) **Visitors in the Gallery:**

Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following visitors:

(i) Staff and Students of *The Incubators Secondary Academy*, Mararaban Rido, Kaduna State; and

(ii) Staff and Students of *Fama Islamic International School*, Gwarimpa Estate, Abuja.

(b) **Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate all cases of Invasion of property and arrest of persons for reasons outside the General Duties of the State Security Services (SSS) as Prescribed by the National Securities Act, since 29 May, 2015 (HR.112/2016):**

Mr Speaker named Members of the *Ad-hoc Committee* as follows:

- | | | | |
|------|---|---|-----------------|
| (1) | Hon. Garba Datti Mohammed | — | Chairman |
| (2) | Hon. Anayo Edwin | — | Member |
| (3) | Hon. Ibrahim Abdullahi Kyamba | — | Member |
| (4) | Hon. Oluwole Oke | — | Member |
| (5) | Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok | — | Member |
| (6) | Hon. Chinda Kingsley | — | Member |
| (7) | Hon. Yakubu Sidi | — | Member |
| | (Chairman, Committee on Justice) | | |
| (8) | Hon. Razak Olatunde Atunwa | — | Member |
| (9) | Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari | — | Member |
| | (Chairman, Committee on Federal Judiciary) | | |
| (10) | Hon. Sani Jaji | — | Member |
| | (Chairman, Committee on Public Safety and Intelligence) | | |

(11) Hon. Oladele Kayode — Member
 (Chairman, Committee on Financial Crimes)

4. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Nworie Desmond Unara on his retrenchment from the service of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), was presented and laid by Hon. Anayø Edwin (Ezza North/Ishielu Federal Constituency);
- (ii) A petition from Kunle, Senior, Sulyman & Co. (Solicitors & Advocates) on behalf of Luka Markus, on his dismissal from the service of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, was presented and laid by Hon. Istifanus Gyang (Barinkiladi/Riyom Federal Constituency);
- (iii) A petition from CPL Emmanuel Damaap, on his retirement from the service of the Nigeria Police, was presented and laid by Hon. Johnbull Shekarau (Shendam/Mikang/Qua'an/Pan Federal Constituency); and
- (iv) A petition from Larry Ovwromoh & Associates (Legal Practitioners, Notaries Public & Chartered Arbitrators) on behalf of Pax Ezebri and 3 others, on the murder of Sampson Appeal Ezebri while on board the Mv Green Guatamera Vessel, was presented and laid by Hon. Julius Pondi (Burutu Federal Constituency).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) **Rehabilitation of the Dilapidated Abuja - Kano Federal Highway:**
 Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki (Dala 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.

Rehabilitation of the Dilapidated Abuja - Kano Federal Highway:

The House:

Notes that the Abuja-Kano Federal high way is a dual carriageway constructed about two decades ago but has not received the due maintenance it requires;

Also notes that the highway constructed, to ease the volume of traffic due to the rate of economic activities being undertaken on that road, which necessitated the dualization of the carriageway;

Aware that the most dilapidated portions of the highwa is the Abuja - Kano lane which has become a major source of concern as commuters are often frustrated or stranded;

Also aware that the Kano-Kaduna portions of the highway has become impassable, noting that the Kaduna-Abuja lane is relatively motorable, thus causing untold frustrations to motorists;

Disturbed that the state of the highway is deplorable with very deep potholes, which often lead to ghastly or fatal accidents and severe damage to vehicles;

Worried that the volume of traffic on the road on a daily basis is so much that it requires regular maintenance to avoid a total collapse;

Cognizant that unless urgent measures are taken to rehabilitate the failed portions of the Abuja-Kano Federal highway, the rate of accidents and deaths would continue to rise and invariably affect the nation's economy at large;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to commence urgent repairs on the dilapidated portions of the Abuja-Kano Federal Highway;
- (ii) also urge FERMA to make provisions in the 2017 budget estimates to provide for a complete overhauling of the road; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on FERMA to ensure compliance (*Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki — Dala Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

(HR. 119/2016).

- (ii) ***Recurrent Devastating Flood in Isheri North, Ikosi-Isheri, Lagos State and its Environs - Urgent Need for Intervention by the Federal Government:***

Hon. Rotimi Agunsoye (*Kosofe 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.

Recurrent Devastating Flood in Isheri North, Ikosi-Isheri LCDA, Lagos State and its Environs — Urgent Need for a Federal Government Intervention:

The House:

Recalls the recurrent overflow of Ogun River and flooding in and around Isheri-North, Ikosi Isheri Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Lagos and its environs;

Worried that recently the Ogun-Osun River Basin Development Authority (OORBDA) again started releasing water from the Oyan Dam, as a result of increasing accumulation of water in the dam and letting huge amount of water into the Ogun River;

Concerned that the steady rainfall in recent times has caused a rapid increase in the water level in the Oyan Dam, which by operational rule should gradually be released to a tolerable level to avoid a massive disaster;

Aware that weather forecasts have also indicated there would be a persistent down pour of rains making further release of the Oyan Dam inevitable;

Also concerned that thousands of residents of over 10 communities in Isheri North, Ikosi Isheri LCDA, Lagos have been adversely affected and rendered homeless by overflowing water. The said affected areas are Ikosi Ketu, Owode Onirin, Mile 12, Agboyi, Thomas Laniyan Estate, Ajilete, among others;

Also worried that residents and house owners in the affected areas have had their houses and properties run over and destroyed by flood and murky waters, with damages running into hundreds of millions of Naira;

Further concerned that since the surge by the flood on the affected communities from Tuesday, 4 October, 2016, the flood has not abated, instead residents have been further warned to expect more water to be released in coming days;

Also aware that the socio-economic impact of the flood are so enormous as several schools, companies, market places and other establishments have been forced to quit their operations;

Further worried that there are indications that the recent flood is likely to cause an outbreak of cholera and other water-borne diseases;

Notes that flood experts have considered and concluded that the flooding is likely to be a perennial occurrence and resolved that the dredging of Ogun River and the construction of an artificial lake would stem the continual effect of flood from the release of water from the Oyan Dam;

Further aware about the unending sufferings of residents and property owners around withing the flood-ridden communities, most of whom have now resorted to using canoes to take their children to school and to move goods and properties from the areas;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to urgently intervene in the issue of flood caused by the release of water from the Oyan Dam;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to deploy a mechanism to consider dredging the Ogun River and constructing artificial lakes to remove the impact of flood causing water from the Oyan Dam;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Ministry of Environment as well as the Federal Ministry of Water resources to immediately assess the impact of the flood and map out short term and long term solutions to the prevailing menace;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Environment, and Water Resources to engage the Federal Ministry of Environment as well as the Federal Ministry of Water resources to ensure a lasting solution to the flooding; and
- (v) equally urge the Federal Government of Nigeria to immediately send relief materials and offer palliative measures to the victims and residents of the affected areas (*Hon. Rotimi Agunsoye — Kosofe Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question agreed to.

(HR. 120/2016).

6. Consolidation of Bills

- (i) *Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Law Reform Commission Act, Cap. N118, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 to remove the Bottlenecks to the Commission's Reform Initiatives, Ensure its Autonomy and bring the Act in Conformity with the Provisions of the 1999 Constitution and for Other Related Matters (HB. 460), and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Law Reform Commission Act, Cap. N118, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to, among Others, Empower the Commission to Establish Zonal Offices and Subject Appointments of the Board to the Confirmation of the Senate and for Other Related Matters (HB. 655) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

- (ii) *Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Highways Act, Cap. F13, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 to Enhance the Fines Prescribed under the Act and for Other Related Matters (HB. 684), and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Highways Act, Cap. F13, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Prohibit the Blockage of Highways in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 722) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

- (iii) *Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Child's Rights Act, 2003 to Provide for the Eligibility of Foreigners, whether Resident or Non-Resident in Nigeria as well as Nigerian Citizens not Resident in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 456), and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Child's Rights Act, Cap. C50, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Include the Prohibition of Sale of Alcohol by or to a Minor, Prohibit the Purchase of Alcohol for a Minor, Grant the Police the Right to Confiscate Alcohol found in Possession of a Minor and for Other Related Matters (HB. 604) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

- (iv) *Motion made and Question proposed*, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Explosives Act, Cap. E18, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 Relating to their Regulations, Penalties for Defaulters; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 379), a Bill for an Act to make Provisions for the Control of Importation, Manufacturing, Distribution, Storage, Possession and use of Firecrackers, Explosives and other Pyrotechnic Substances and for Other Related Matters (HB. 498), a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Explosives Act, Cap. E18, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-Enact the Explosives Act, 2016 to make Comprehensive Provisions for the Use and Control of Explosives in Nigeria; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 552), and a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Explosives Act, Cap. E18, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (HB. 670) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

7. A Bill for an Act to Alter Section 292 (1) (a) and (i) - (ii) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to include the National Judicial Council in the Procedure for the Removal of Heads of Courts Established by Section 6 (5) of the 1999 Constitution; and for Other Related Matters (HB.714) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Alter Section 292 (1) (a) and (i) - (ii) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to include the National Judicial Council in the Procedure for the Removal of Heads of Courts Established by Section 6 (5) of the 1999 Constitution; and for Other Related Matters (HB.714) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Garba Datti Muhammad — Sabon Gari Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Special Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of a National Centre for the Research, Management and Control of Autism, Down Syndrome; and for Other Related Matters (IIB. 322) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of a National Centre for the Research, Management and Control of Autism, Down Syndrome; and for Other Related Matters (IIB. 322) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Jerry Alagbaoso — Orlu/Orsu/Oru East 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 Health Institutions.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Supreme Court (Additional Original Jurisdiction) Act, Cap. S16, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Increase the Original Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to include Interpretation of Novel Constitutional Questions; and for Other Related Matters (IIB. 496) — Second Reading**

Bill withdrawn by leave of the House.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Free Advice and Treatment of Breast Cancer Centre to, among Other Things, Provide Specialized Free Medical Advice and Treatment of Breast Cancer to Indigent Patients in Order to Address the Menace of the Killer Disease in Nigeria; and for Other Related Matters (IIB. 616) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish Free Advice and Treatment of Breast Cancer Centre to, among Other Things, Provide Specialized Free Medical Advice and Treatment of Breast Cancer to Indigent Patients in Order to Address the Menace of the Killer Disease in Nigeria; and for Other Related Matters (IIB. 616) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Sergius Ogun Oseasochie — Esan Northeast/Esan Southeast 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 Healthcare Services.

Ordered: *Committee on Healthcare Services should utilize its oversight mechanism to determine the status of cancer treatment centers in the country and present a report to the House, preparatory to the consideration of 2017 Appropriation Bill.*

11. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Identity Management Commission Act, No. 23 of 2007 to, among Other Things, Review the Composition of the Board and Allow the National Salaries, Income and Wages Commission to Determine Allowances and Other Remunerations of the Chairman and Members of the Board; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 248) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Identity Management Commission Act, No. 23 of 2007 to, among Other Things, Review the Composition of the Board and Allow the National Salaries, Income and Wages Commission to Determine Allowances and Other Remunerations of the Chairman and Members of the Board; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 248) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Mark Terseer Gbilah — Gwer East/Gwer 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 Provide for the Establishment of the Federal Capital Territory Wider Area Planning and Development Commission; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 112) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Federal Capital Territory Wider Area Planning and Development Commission; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 112) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Gaza Jonathan Gbefwi — Karu/Keffi/Kokona 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 Federal Capital Territory, and Federal Capital Territory Area Councils and Auxiliary Matters.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Ahmadu Bello University (Transitional Provisions) Act, Cap. A14, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 260) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Ahmadu Bello University (Transitional Provisions) Act, Cap. A14, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 260) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe — Ogoja/Yala 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.

14. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Institute for Labour Studies Act, Cap. N49, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide for Appointment and Functions of the Registrar; and for Other Related Matters (H.B. 299) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. **Need to Address the Flood/Coastal Erosion Ravaging Ogbaru Federal Constituency of Anambra State**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that Ogbaru Federal Constituency in Anambra State has about fifteen communities living along the bank of River Niger as their ancestral homes;

Also notes that the dredging of the River Niger did not reach those areas, consequently, they have been exposed to the acute and devastating effects of flood and coastal erosion;

Worried that school children were sacked from their schools and socio economic activities practically shut down in communities such as Okpokò, Odekpe, Ohita, Atani, Ogbakuba, Akili Ozizor, Ochuche, Umuzu, Amiyi, Mputu, Ossomala, Obeagwe, Akili Ogidi, Ogwu Aniocha and Ogwu Ikpele by flood as a result of torrential rainfall and overflow of River Niger;

Concerned that agricultural produce, farm lands, houses and wares, including household items worth millions of Naira were destroyed by the flood which also traumatized the villagers who witnessed graveyards washed away, thereby exposing relics of their dead beloved ones;

Also concerned that both the Federal and the State Governments have not lived up to their responsibilities of protecting lives and properties of the people;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the victims;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Environment to visit the affected communities for an on the spot environmental impact assessment, ascertain the extent of damage and thereafter, ensure inclusion in the 2017 Budget Estimates for reclamation of the affected areas; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Environment and Habitat to ensure compliance (*Hon. Chukwuka Wilfred Onyema — Ogbaru Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 121/2016).

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

16. **Ravaging Floods in Ijaw Communities of Delta State**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes recent reports in the nation's media and the outcries of communities in Burutu Federal Constituency on the devastation wrecked on them by heavy floods from River Niger and the surging waves from the Atlantic Ocean;

Observes that following the floods which had been happening intermittently in the past six months, a number of valuable public and private properties have been destroyed, hundreds of people displaced and economic activities disrupted;

Also notes that the flooding of this year would not have been as severe as it was if the government had taken steps to construct suitable shoreline protection levees, as had been advocated severally in the past by professional environmentalists;

Concerned that the people of the affected communities now live in fear of the likelihood of more floods, with the accompanying displacement of yet more people, and the outbreak of communicable diseases;

Resolves to:

- (i) Call on the Executive branch of government to provide funds in the 2017 budget estimates for the construction of shoreline protection levees in the coastland, especially in Delta State that appears to bear the brunt of the annual fury of the River Niger and the ocean waves;
- (ii) urge the Federal Ministries of Environment, Works, Power and Housing and Niger Delta and the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to consider joint actions to re-construct the damaged public buildings such as hospitals and schools, and also assist residents to rebuild their damaged homes;
- (iii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and other related institutions at the State level to provide relief materials and drugs for the people of the affected communities; and
- (iv) mandate the Committee on Environment and Habitat to undertake an assessment visit to the communities and make recommendations on remedial measures that can be taken to obviate future occurrences of flooding in the communities, and report back to the House within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Julius G. Pondi — Burutu Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 122/2016).

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

17. Urgent Need for the Federal Government to Comply with the Federal Character Principles in Appointments/Recruitments into Public Offices

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes with concern the failure of the federal government to comply with the federal character principles in appointments/recruitments into public offices and government agencies;

Also notes the concern and commentaries in the recent time about an apparent lopsidedness and imbalance in appointments and sharing of posts into public offices by the federal government and some of its agencies in favour of certain zones;

Aware of the clear provision of Section 14 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 that "the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a state based on the principles of democracy and social justice";

Also aware of Section 14 (3) of the Constitution that "the composition of the Government of the Federation or any of its agencies and the conduct of its affairs shall be carried out in such a manner as to reflect the federal character of Nigeria and the need to promote national unity and also to command national loyalty, thereby ensuring that there shall be no predominance of persons from a few States or from a few ethnic or other sectional groups in that government or in any of its agencies";

Further aware that it was in order to achieve the above objectives that the Federal Character Commission (FCC) was established under the Federal Character Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act, Cap. F7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 "with responsibility to promote, monitor and enforce compliance with the principles of the proportional sharing of all bureaucratic, economic and political posts at all levels of government";

Worried that the Federal Government and the Federal Character Commission (FCC) have not lived up to the above mandate as there exists numerous cases of lopsidedness and imbalance in appointments and sharing of posts/offices, including the recent recruitments by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) appointments into boards and parastatals and more recently the nomination of Ambassadors, to mention but a few;

Concerned that unless urgent and positive steps are taken to check the prevailing imbalance in the appointments and sharing of Federal Government posts, people would continue to be discontented and despondent, and this could lead to dis-unity and disloyalty, and heighten ethnic agitations and national insecurity;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to comply with the Federal Character Principles in Section 14 (3) of the Constitution in all appointments/recruitments into public offices in the country; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Character to undertake a comprehensive overview of all public appointments/recruitments made so far and report back to the House within four (4) weeks on the level of compliance or otherwise with Section 14 (3) of the Constitution (*Hon. Kingsley O. Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to:

The House:

Noted with concern the failure of the federal government to comply with the federal character principles in appointments/recruitments into public offices and government agencies;

Also noted the concern and commentaries in the recent time about an apparent lopsidedness and imbalance in appointments and sharing of posts into public offices by the federal government and some of its agencies in favour of certain zones;

Aware of the clear provision of Section 14 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 that "the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be a state based on the principles of democracy and social justice";

Also aware of Section 14 (3) of the Constitution that "the composition of the Government of the Federation or any of its agencies and the conduct of its affairs shall be carried out in such a manner as to reflect the federal character of Nigeria and the need to promote national unity and also to command national loyalty, thereby ensuring that there shall be no predominance of persons from a few States or from a few ethnic or other sectional groups in that government or in any of its agencies";

Further aware that it was in order to achieve the above objectives that the Federal Character Commission (FCC) was established under the Federal Character Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act, Cap. F7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 "with responsibility to promote, monitor and enforce compliance with the principles of the proportional sharing of all bureaucratic, economic and political posts at all levels of government";

Worried that the Federal Government and the Federal Character Commission (FCC) have not lived up to the above mandate as there exists numerous cases of lopsidedness and imbalance in appointments and sharing of posts/offices, including the recent recruitments by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) appointments into boards and parastatals and more recently the nomination of Ambassadors, to mention but a few;

Concerned that unless urgent and positive steps are taken to check the prevailing imbalance in the appointments and sharing of Federal Government posts, people would continue to be discontented and despondent, and this could lead to dis-unity and disloyalty, and heighten ethnic agitations and national insecurity;

Resolved to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Government to comply with the Federal Character Principles in Section 14 (3) of the Constitution in all appointments/recruitments into public offices in the country; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Character to undertake a comprehensive overview of all public appointments/recruitments made so far and report back to the House within four (4) weeks on the level of compliance or otherwise with Section 14 (3) of the Constitution (HR. 123/2016).

18. Need to Modify the Ban on Sale of Petrol in Jerry Cans

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

19. Curtailing the Activities of Union Members on the Highways and Motor Parks Across the Country

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

20. Call for Enforcement of Regulations against Collection of Revenues on Major Highways

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

21. Call for a Reversal of Hike in Schools Fees and the Outlandish Payments by New Intakes into Unity Schools

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

22. Consideration of Report

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 consider 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) and approve the recommendations therein" (Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South 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):

"That there is need to put a strong regulatory supervision and monitoring framework in place regarding AMCON's activities to moderate the potential huge losses hanging on the national economy"" (Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Recommendation (i) and re-number (Hon. Simon Y. Arabo — Kuru Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

"That the regulatory effort should be a combination of the establishment of an expanded Executive Inter-agencies Committee to oversee the activities of the Corporation and periodic regulatory audit examination mechanism to be carried out by independent government regulatory bodies like Joint CBN/NDIC Examiners and SEC" (Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Recommendation (ii) and re-number (Hon. Simon Y. Arabo — Kuru Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — agreed to.

Recommendation (iii):

"That amendment of the AMCON Act to make express provision for:

- (a) upper ceiling for the volume of bad loans it can acquire from the banks (Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency).*

Agreed to.

- (b) defined role for the Debt Management Office regarding the Corporation's huge debt profile particularly in the areas of national debt data capturing and monitoring (*Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

- (c) additional regulatory, supervisory and monitoring framework for AMCON's activities (*Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Recommendation (iii) (d) as follows:

"A penalty Clause to punish any operative of AMCON exceeding the statutory provision of the debt ceiling for the corporation" (Hon. Muhammad Sani Abdu — Alkaleri/Kirfi Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that Recommendation (iii) as amended, stand part of the Report — Agreed to.

Recommendation (iv):

"That AMCON should be advised against such self-serving hastiness in the sale of other subsidiaries like Keystone Bank" (Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (v):

"That the Efficiency Units of the Federal Ministry of Finance and the CBN should exercise strict supervision of AMCON in order to hold it accountable with regard to disposal of assets so as to comply with due process at all times" (Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (vi):

"That the CBN should ensure that the sacrosanct nature of extant rules and law of the CBN are adhered to at all times by the Financial Institutions and any infraction should be penalized" (Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (vii):

"That the CBN, being AMCON's main creditor should reduce the interest rate on the loan granted AMCON to 2% annually so that the activities of AMCON can be terminated in 2025 as proposed by the Management of AMCON since it was established as a stop-gap and not a permanent Institution" (Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (viii):

"That there is need for legislative intervention through law making to ensure that once a Non Performing Loan (NPL) is acquired, the acquiring authority should also simultaneously acquire and take possession of all the assets attached to the acquired Non Performing Loan (NPL) without delay, interference or injunction from a Court of Law as practiced in other jurisdictions" (*Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (ix):

"That properties not encumbered with litigation shall be disposed of forthwith, provided the sale is transparent with due process followed; this is to avoid wear and tear and degeneration, which can cause the properties to lose their values" (*Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (x):

"That the National Assembly should introduce a legislation that once AMCON intervenes in an entity, all the assets of the entity shall be transferred to AMCON immediately and all interests, legal and beneficial in such entities shall vest in AMCON" (*Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xi):

"That government agencies with third party payment obligations should be made to get clearance from AMCON before making such payments to the AMCONs obligors. Quite a lot of AMCON's obligors surreptitiously collect proceeds of obligations from government agencies like PPPRA, NNPC, DMO, NIPP, MDAs etc. without recourse to their debt obligations with AMCON. This will positively improve on AMCON's collections if it is institutionalized" (*Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xii):

"That the National Assembly should introduce legislation that upon AMCON intervening in an entity, all debts due to or owed to such entity shall be payable to AMCON" (*Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xiii):

"That government agencies like the Judiciary, Police and EFCC shall equally help AMCON in its recovery efforts" (*Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xiv):

"That Banks must be compelled to accept claw-backs in inappropriately sold debts/loans identified after verification by the CBN" (*Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xv):

"That AMCON should exercise restraint in further acquiring non-performing loans except it is in consonance with Section 5 (b) of the AMCON Act, 2010" (*Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xvi):

"That AMCON should be strictly guided in all its procurements by the provisions of the Public Procurement Act, 2007" (*Hon. Albert A. Adeogun — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Additional Recommendation:

Insert a new Recommendation as follows:

"That the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) be condemned for issuing a letter of no objection after observing a breach in the procedure of sales of Mainstreet Bank by AMCON and further cautioned against reoccurrence of such acts in future sales of public assets" (*Hon. Raphael Nnanna Igbokwe — Abiazu/Ezinikite Mbaise Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question that the Additional Recommendation stand part of the Report — 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 Ad-hoc Committee on Undue Accumulation of Debts and Alleged Fraudulent Sale of Banks by the Assets Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) and rejected Recommendations (i) and (ii), approved Recommendation (iii) as amended, approved Recommendations (iv), (v), (vi), (vii), (viii), (ix), (x), (xi), (xii), (xiii), (xiv), (xv), (xvi), and approved an additional Recommendation.

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

23. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 18 October, 2016 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Jibril Umar Buba — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.46 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker