



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 8 December, 2016

1. The House met at 11.07 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, 7 December, 2016.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Oaths of Allegiance and Membership**
A Member-elect Akinwunmi Nurudeen Olaitan (*Ifako/Ijaye Federal Constituency*) took and subscribed to the Oaths as prescribed by law.
4. **Announcement**
 - (a) **Visitors in the Gallery:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of Staff and Students of *First Age Private Schools*, Kubwa, Abuja.
 - (b) **Notification of Vacancy in the Seat of Etsako East/West/Central:**
Mr Speaker read the following notification:

Honourable Members,

I wish to notify Honourable Members of the House of Representatives, pursuant to Section 68 (1) (d) and 68 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, that the Seat of Etsako East/West/Central Federal Constituency of Edo State held by Hon. Philip Shaibu has become vacant.

2. *This vacancy is as a result of his election as Deputy Governor of Edo State. He has since taken the Oath of Office as the Deputy Governor of Edo State. By virtue of this, he has fulfilled the conditions of Section 68 (1) (d) of the Constitution, requiring me, therefore, to give effect to the vacation of his seat as Honourable Member.*

3. *This notification is in fulfillment of Section 68 (3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, and for the records.*

- (c) *Abandonment of the Multi-Billion Naira Kaduna Petroleum College* (HR. 223/2016):
Mr Speaker recalled that on Tuesday, 6 December, 2016, the above motion was considered and referred to the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Downstream), and ordered that the motion be referred to the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) which has jurisdiction over the matter.

5. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Oghojafor Godspower, on the termination of his appointment by the Nigeria Customs Service, was presented and laid by Hon. Idisi Lovette (*Ethiopo East/Ethiopo West Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from A. Adamu, on the termination of his appointment by the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), was presented and laid by Hon. Ahmed Abu (*Edati/Lavun/Mokwa Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from the Non-Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions (Research and Project Trade Group), on misappropriation of fund and abuse of office by the Executive Director, National Root Crops Research Institute, Umudike, Abia State, was presented and laid by Hon. Edward Pwajok Gyang (*Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) Petitions from the following persons were presented and laid by Hon. Rita Orji (*Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*):
- (a) Emmanuel U. Oparaocha and 1 other, on behalf of Nigerians living in Greece, on the challenges in the process of authentication of their documents
- (b) Akasan Sylvester and 1 other, on behalf of BUA Flour and Pasta' Workers Forum, on the non-payment of their entitlements by the management of the company; and
- (v) A petition from Mohammed Sani Umar, on the denial of promotions from 2008 to 2015 as a result of the misinterpretation of the Corporate Policy by Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), was presented and laid by Hon. Muhammad Musa Soba (*Soba Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) *Need to Investigate the Non-Compliance with Due Process in the Issuance of Off-Shore Safety Permits by the DPR in Connivance with a Limited Liability Company:*
Hon. Onyewife Gabriel (*Ayemelum/Oyi Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance.

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

Matter to stand over till next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 4 (3).

- (ii) *The Unsavoury Treatment of the Super Falcons of Nigeria and Officials after Winning the Africa Women Cup of Nations Championship for the Eight Time:*
Hon. Ayo Omidiran (*Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance

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

Matter to stand over till next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 4 (3).

7. **Presentation of Reports**

(i) ***Committee on Insurance and Actuarial Matters:***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Insurance and Actuarial Matters on a Bill for an Act to Authorize the Issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the National Insurance Commission the Total Sum of ₦26,371,000,000.00 (Twenty-Six Billion, Three Hundred and Seventy-One Million Naira) only for the National Insurance Commission (HB. 744)" (*Hon. Olufemi Fakeye — Boluwaduro/Ifedayo/Ila Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) ***Committee on Insurance and Actuarial Matters:***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Insurance and Actuarial Matters on a Bill for an Act to Authorize the Issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation the Total Sum of ₦6,212,417,439.00 (Six Billion, Two Hundred and Twelve Million, Four Hundred and Seventeen Thousand, Four Hundred and Thirty-Nine Naira) only, for the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (HB. 748)" (*Hon. Olufemi Fakeye — Boluwaduro/Ifedayo/Ila Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) ***Committees on Public Service Matters, Finance, Legislative Compliance and Special Duties:***

That the House do receive the Report of the Committees on Public Service Matters, Finance, Legislative Compliance and Special Duties on a Call for Lifting of Embargo on Foreign Training and International Travels by Public Servants (HR. 56/2016).

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

(iv) ***Committees on Public Service Matters and Governmental Affairs:***

That the House do receive the Report of the Committees on Public Service Matters and Governmental Affairs on the Need to Investigate the Multiple Appointments being held by some Nigerians and the Unlawful Payment of Emoluments to them in Those Capacities (HR. 69/2016).

Order deferred by leave of the House.

(v) ***Committee on Justice:***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Justice on the High Rate of Failure in the Bar Examinations (HR. 66/2015)" (*Hon. Razak Anunwa Olatunde — Ilorin West/Asa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(vi) **Committee on FCT Judiciary:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on FCT Judiciary on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Capital Territory Customary Court Act, Cap. F39, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Remove Civil Matters from the Jurisdiction of the Court Leaving it Essentially with Customary Matters and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 190)" (*Hon. Muktari Dandutse Dandume/Funtua Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(vii) **Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA):**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) on the Investigation into the Unilateral, Arbitrary and Unauthorized Creation of Positions of Acting Executive Directors in FERMA and the Operational Activities of FERMA from 2015 till date (HR. 131/2016)" (*Hon. Agbedi Frederick — Ekeremor/Sagbama Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(viii) **Committee on Banking and Currency:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Banking and Currency on a Bill for an Act to Authorise the Issue from the Statutory Revenue Fund of the Central Bank of Nigeria the Total sum of ₦420,787,000,000.70 (Four Hundred and Twenty Billion, Seven Hundred and Eighty-Seven Million Naira and Seventy Kobo) only (HB. 753)" (*Hon. Jones Onyineri — Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ix) **Committee on Public Procurement:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Public Procurement on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Public Procurement Act, 2007, by Adding a New Member to the Council, Amending the Procedure for Appointing the Director General of the Bureau and extending the Application of the Act to Defence Procurement and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 475)" (*Hon. Busayo Oluwole Oke — Obokun/Oriade Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Alter Sections 237 (2) (b), 244 (1), 245 (1), 262 (1), 267, 277, 282 and 287 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to give Additional Jurisdiction to the Sharia and Customary Courts of Appeal and for Other Related Matters (HB. 867) — Second Reading**

Order read, deferred by leave of the House.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Intelligence Agency Pensions Board to Handle Pensions Matters for Personnel of the Agency and for Other Related Matters (HB. 842) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Intelligence Agency Pensions Board to Handle Pensions Matters for Personnel of the Agency and for Other Related Matters (HB. 842) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Oluwale Oke — Obokun/Oriade 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 Pensions.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Alter Section 3, Part 1 of the First Schedule to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Allow for the Change of Egbado North, Egbado South to Yewa North, Yewa South and for Other Related Matters (HB. 869) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Alter Section 3, Part 1 of the First Schedule to the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Allow for the Change of Egbado North, Egbado South to Yewa North, Yewa South and for Other Related Matters (HB. 869) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Kayode Oladele — Egbado North/Imeko Afon Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

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

11. **A Bill for an Act to Alter Section 308 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to Restrict Legal Proceedings against the Chief Justice of Nigeria and Justices of the Supreme Court of Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 870) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Pension Practitioners of Nigeria, and a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Pension Practitioners of Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HBs 726 and 727) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Pension Practitioners of Nigeria, and a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Pension Practitioners of Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HBs 726 and 727) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Hassan Adamu Shekarau — Birnin/Gwari/Giwa 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 on Pensions.

13. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of a Palm Oil Development Fund which shall be Responsible for the Development, Coordination and Encouragement of the Exportation and Utilization of Palm Oil in Nigeria; and for Other Connected Purposes (HB. 45) — *Second Reading*

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14. A Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, to Provide for a Legal Framework that will Allow Investigations over Agencies that may be Outside the Recognised Security Agencies and may include Private Investigators and for Other Related Matters (HB. 424) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, to Provide for a Legal Framework that will Allow Investigations over Agencies that may be Outside the Recognised Security Agencies and may include Private Investigators and for Other Related Matters (HB. 424) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

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

15. A Bill for an Act to Alter Sections 233 (2) (e) and 246 (3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Cap. C23, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Extend the Appellate Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court to Elections into the National Assembly and State Houses of Assembly and their Tenures of Office and for Other Related Matters (HB. 780) — *Second Reading*

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

16. A Bill for an Act to Alter Section 233 (2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, to Expand the Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 430) — *Second Reading*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Alter Section 233(2) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, to Expand the Jurisdiction of the Supreme Court of Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 430) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

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

17. A Bill for an Act to Alter Section 308 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, to Extend Immunity to Cover Presiding Officers of Legislative Institutions and for Other Related Matters (HB. 467) — *Second Reading*

Order read; withdrawn by leave of the House.

18. **A Bill for an Act to Alter Section 68 (1) (g) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to further Provide a Proviso on the Vacation of Seats by Legislators and for Other Related Matters (H.B. 431) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Alter Section 68 (1) (g) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 to further Provide a Proviso on the Vacation of Seats by Legislators and for Other Related Matters (H.B. 431) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Edward Gyang Pwajok — Jos South/Jos East Federal Constituency*)

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

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

19. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Information Technology Development Agency Act, 2007, to Vest in the Agency more Functions to Enhance Internet Security and More Powers to Set, Coordinate and Regulate Minimum E-Governance Standards in all Federal Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and for Other Related Matters (H.B. 840) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

20. **A Bill for an Act to Alter Sections 147 and 192 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, to Provide that the Nomination for appointment of Ministers and Commissioners shall be made not later than thirty days from the Date the President or Governor takes Oaths of Office and Allegiance and for Other Related Matters (H.B. 696) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Alter Sections 147 and 192 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, to Provide that the Nomination for appointment of Ministers and Commissioners shall be made not later than thirty days from the Date the President or Governor takes Oaths of Office and Allegiance and for Other Related Matters (H.B. 696) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Solomon Adaelu — Obingwa/Osisioma/Ugunagbo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

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

21. **Receipt and Adoption of the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun and for Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2016**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun and for Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2016 was passed by both the Senate and the House of Representatives with differences;

Aware that a Conference Committee was constituted by both chambers to harmonize the areas of differences in the Bill as passed;

Also aware that the Committee met in conference on Thursday, November 3, 2016 and harmonized the two versions of the Bill;

In view of the importance of the Bill in providing specialized training and high level of Personnel required to drive the Federal Government's Local Content Policy in the Oil and Gas Industry:

Resolves to:

Receive and Adopt the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Federal University of Petroleum Resources, Effurun and for Other Matters Connected Thereto, 2016 (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

22. Need to Investigate the Compliance Rate of Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) to the NHIS Contributions and Utilization of Funds by the Healthcare Providers and Inhumane Treatment of Enrollees

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) was set up to provide healthcare for all Nigerians at an affordable cost through various pre-payment systems and also to ensure the availability of funds to the health sector for improved service delivery;

Also notes that globally, health is regarded as a social security measure that guarantees the provision of healthcare services to persons on the payment of a token at regular intervals;

Further notes that one of the cardinal responsibilities of the Scheme is maintenance of the highest standards with regard to the quality of care that is accorded beneficiaries;

Equally notes that the Federal Government pays 3.5% while its employee pays 1.7%, amounting to 5.25% of the monthly salary of a Federal Government worker, while the State Government, the Local Government and the organized private sector employers pay 10% and the employees pay 5%, amounting to 15% of their monthly salary and these monies are deducted directly from their salaries even when the services for which the premium deductions are made, are not rendered satisfactorily;

Aware that the enrollees are being short changed and used as conduit pipes to funnel revenues to the HMOs and Healthcare Providers as the enrollees are treated like leprous people while trying to access the services, given that many strategies have been adopted by the Healthcare Providers and the HMOs to deprive the enrollees of their rights to qualitative treatment and attention;

Also aware that the HMOs have received over three hundred and fifty-one billion Naira (N351,000,000,000) from the scheme since inception in 2005, and it is regrettable to realize that the services cover less than 4% of Nigerians which is the current coverage of the scheme, and there are reports of alleged diversion of contributions amounting to billions of Naira;

Further aware that the scheme pays the HMOs three months upfront to enable them provide timely, standard and qualitative healthcare services to the enrollees through timely and regular payment to the health providers but the reverse is the case;

Cognizant that the scheme's benefit packages have many mouth watering provisions from the primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare levels, but eleven years since its establishment, there have not been much difference because the beneficiaries/enrollees are being shortchanged, services denied, confidence in the scheme eroded and above all, the core mandate of the scheme has not been achieved;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Health Insurance Scheme to put on hold further quarterly release of funds to the Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) pending the outcome of investigation by the House; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to conduct an investigation on the activities of the (HMOs) and Healthcare Providers for the past eight (8) years with a view to identifying the Health Maintenance Organizations, their level of compliance with the relevant provisions of the Act and determine the reasons for the poor state of services to the enrollees and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Chike John Okafor — Ehime Mbano/Ihitel Uboma/Obowo Federal Constituency and 1 other*).

*Debate.**Agreed to.*

The House:

Noted that the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) was set up to provide healthcare for all Nigerians at an affordable cost through various pre-payment systems and also to ensure the availability of funds to the health sector for improved service delivery;

Also noted that globally, health is regarded as a social security measure that guarantees the provision of healthcare services to persons on the payment of a token at regular intervals;

Further noted that one of the cardinal responsibilities of the Scheme is maintenance of the highest standards with regard to the quality of care that is accorded beneficiaries;

Equally noted that the Federal Government pays 3.5% while its employee pays 1.7%, amounting to 5.25% of the monthly salary of a Federal Government worker, while the State Government, the Local Government and the organized private sector employers pay 10% and the employees pay 5%, amounting to 15% of their monthly salary and these monies are deducted directly from their salaries even when the services for which the premium deductions are made, are not rendered satisfactorily;

Aware that the enrollees are being short changed and used as conduit pipes to funnel revenues to the HMOs and Healthcare Providers as the enrollees are treated like leprous people while trying to access the services, given that many strategies have been adopted by the Healthcare Providers and the HMOs to deprive the enrollees of their rights to qualitative treatment and attention;

Also aware that the HMOs have received over three hundred and fifty-one billion Naira (N351,000,000,000) from the scheme since inception in 2005, and it is regrettable to realize that the services cover less than 4% of Nigerians which is the current coverage of the scheme, and there are reports of alleged diversion of contributions amounting to billions of Naira;

Further aware that the scheme pays the HMOs three months upfront to enable them provide timely, standard and qualitative healthcare services to the enrollees through timely and regular payment to the health providers but the reverse is the case;

Cognizant that the scheme's benefit packages have many mouth watering provisions from the primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare levels, but eleven years since its establishment, there have not been much difference because the beneficiaries/enrollees are being shortchanged, services denied, confidence in the scheme eroded and above all, the core mandate of the scheme has not been achieved;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the National Health Insurance Scheme to put on hold further quarterly release of funds to the Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) pending the outcome of investigation by the House; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to conduct an investigation on the activities of the (HMOs) and Healthcare Providers for the past eight (8) years with a view to identifying the Health Maintenance Organizations, their level of compliance with the relevant provisions of the Act and determine the reasons for the poor state of services to the enrollees and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 231/2016**).

23. Call for Investigation of Nigeria's Lost Artefacts

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the exploits of slave traders who came to Nigeria's shores and forcibly carted away millions of people across the Atlantic Ocean to slave trading ports, and onward transportation to plantations in the Americas and elsewhere, are well-documented;

Also notes that by the time Slave Trade was abolished, another kind of plunder was taking place during colonial expeditions whereby thousands of valuable pieces of artwork, sculptures, pottery and antiques were carted away and ended up in museums, art galleries and the homes of private collectors in the West;

Aware that many of those masterpieces that were carted away have been located in the Schools, Institutions and Museums in the United States of America and Europe, including the Musee du quai Branly, Paris, France; Musee Barbier-Mueller, Geneva, Switzerland; Department of Arts, History and Archaeology, University of Maryland, U.S.A; British Museum, London, UK; Ethnologisches Museum, Berlin, Germany; Volkerunde Museum, Vienna, Austria, among others;

Concerned that Nigerians, especially the coming generations, are being deprived of the opportunity to experience major artistic works which reflect our rich historical culture and heritage and are also denied the benefits of an important part of our national life while the USA, France, Switzerland and Germany display Nigeria's famous arts and antiques in order to attract tourists and earn revenues for their governments' coffers whereas Nigeria has lost her cultural goods to foreign land;

Also concerned that valuable national antique pieces like Nok Terracottas, Baker (Eagan) monoliths, Lower Niger bronzes, Calibre Terracotta's, Igbo-Ukwu bronzes, Ife Terracotta's and bronzes, Benin bronzes and Ivory, Nok Sculptures including the three famous looted pieces, are seated in Musee du Quai Branly, Paris, in the full knowledge that they were carted away from Nigeria;

Cognizant that history beckons on the House to initiate measures that would lead to the return of these masterpieces of Nigerian art to the country to aid the nation's cultural renaissance and attract tourists to earn revenues for the country;

Resolves to:

Constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee to carry out investigation on the approach for reparations and repatriation of historical artefacts carted away from Nigeria and report back within twelve (12) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the exploits of slave traders who came to Nigeria's shores and forcibly carted away millions of people across the Atlantic Ocean to slave trading ports, and onward transportation to plantations in the Americas and elsewhere, are well-documented;

Also noted that by the time Slave Trade was abolished, another kind of plunder was taking place during colonial expeditions whereby thousands of valuable pieces of artwork, sculptures, pottery and antiques were carted away and ended up in museums, art galleries and the homes of private collectors in the West;

Aware that many of those masterpieces that were carted away have been located in the Schools, Institutions and Museums in the United States of America and Europe, including the Musee du quai Branly, Paris, France; Musee Barbier-Mueller, Geneva, Switzerland; Department of Arts, History and Archaeology, University of Maryland, U.S.A; British Museum, London, UK; Ethnologisches Museum, Berlin, Germany; Volkerunde Museum, Vienna, Austria, among others;

Concerned that Nigerians, especially the coming generations, are being deprived of the opportunity to experience major artistic works which reflect our rich historical culture and heritage and are also denied the benefits of an important part of our national life while the USA, France, Switzerland and Germany display Nigeria's famous arts and antiques in order to attract tourists and earn revenues for their governments' coffers whereas Nigeria has lost her cultural goods to foreign land;

Also concerned that valuable national antique pieces like Nok Terracottas, Baker (Eagan) monoliths, Lower Niger bronzes, Calibre Terracotta's, Igbo-Ukwu bronzes, Ife Terracotta's and bronzes, Benin bronzes and Ivory, Nok Sculptures including the three famous looted pieces, are seated in Musee du Quai Branly, Paris, in the full knowledge that they were carted away from Nigeria;

Cognizant that history beckons on the House to initiate measures that would lead to the return of these masterpieces of Nigerian art to the country to aid the nation's cultural renaissance and attract tourists to earn revenues for the country;

Resolved to:

Constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee to carry out investigation on the approach for reparations and repatriation of historical artefacts carted away from Nigeria and report back within twelve (12) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 232/2016**).

24. Need to Investigate the Non-Functional State of Scanners at Destination Inspection Points of the Nigeria Customs Service

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that as part of reforms in the Nigeria Customs Service aimed at reducing the time taken to clear goods and cargoes and to sustain a twenty four (24) hours clearing period, the destination inspection scheme was introduced for the use of Scanners to profile and examine cargoes at the rate of 450-500 containers a day;

Aware that to effectively implement reforms in the Service in order to bring about responsiveness to the demands of a rapidly globalizing economy in terms of human capacity, information and communications technology infrastructure and effectiveness of trade facilitation, the Service put in place a policy to ensure clearance of cargoes within a forty-eight (48) hours time frame;

Also notes that inspection tours to Zonal Offices and entry points of the Customs Service revealed that there are non-functional scanners at inspection points, a situation that gravely jeopardizes the reforms and the destination inspection scheme;

Informed that the Nigeria Customs Service took over the function of destination inspection from contractors and ended up inheriting obsolete and non-functioning scanners at most of the points of entry;

Concerned about information that personnel of the Customs Service can only carry out two out of the three levels of maintenance of the scanners, leaving the other level to the manufacturer which, when contacted for the maintenance schedule argues that its agreement was with the service providers and not with the Customs Service;

Desirous of ensuring that the vision of the Nigeria Customs Service to uphold its reforms by reducing delays in the clearing of cargoes at destination entry points is achieved;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Customs and Excise, to investigate the contractual agreement between the Nigeria Customs Service and the Contractors responsible for Destination Inspection prior to the take-over of the scheme by the Nigeria Customs Service, and also to investigate the cause of the non-functioning of the scanners at the destination inspection points and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Abubakar A. Yumusa — Yamaltu /Deba Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that as part of reforms in the Nigeria Customs Service aimed at reducing the time taken to clear goods and cargoes and to sustain a twenty four (24) hours clearing period, the destination inspection scheme was introduced for the use of Scanners to profile and examine cargoes at the rate of 450-500 containers a day;

Aware that to effectively implement reforms in the Service in order to bring about responsiveness to the demands of a rapidly globalizing economy in terms of human capacity, information and communications technology infrastructure and effectiveness of trade facilitation, the Service put in place a policy to ensure clearance of cargoes within a forty-eight (48) hours time frame;

Also noted that inspection tours to Zonal Offices and entry points of the Customs Service revealed that there are non-functional scanners at inspection points, a situation that gravely jeopardizes the reforms and the destination inspection scheme;

Informed that the Nigeria Customs Service took over the function of destination inspection from contractors and ended up inheriting obsolete and non-functioning scanners at most of the points of entry;

Concerned about information that personnel of the Customs Service can only carry out two out of the three levels of maintenance of the scanners, leaving the other level to the manufacturer which, when contacted for the maintenance schedule argues that its agreement was with the service providers and not with the Customs Service;

Desirous of ensuring that the vision of the Nigeria Customs Service to uphold its reforms by reducing delays in the clearing of cargoes at destination entry points is achieved;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Customs and Excise, to investigate the contractual agreement between the Nigeria Customs Service and the Contractors responsible for Destination Inspection prior to the take-over of the scheme by the Nigeria Customs Service, and also to investigate the cause of the non-functioning of the scanners at the destination inspection points and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (HR. 233/2016).

25. Need to Suspend the Ban on Importation of Vehicles through the Land Borders

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Nigerian Customs Service issued a statement on Monday, 5 December, 2016, prohibiting the importation of new and used vehicles through the land borders with effect from January 1, 2017, thereby limiting such importation only through the sea ports;

Also notes that the percentage of Nigerians who can afford cars has declined drastically following the decline in the value of Naira, inflation, unemployment and high cost of living that has bedeviled Nigeria where over 80% of Nigerians live below 200 US dollars a day;

Aware that the Federal Government has powers under section 18 of the Customs and Excise Management Act to restrict the movement of goods into and out of Nigeria by land or inland waters and to appoint customs stations, however, similar exercise of such powers on rice importation through the land borders in April 2016, has occasioned untold hardships on Nigerians as a bag of rice now sells for between ₦20,000 - ₦23,000 as against ₦8,000 few months ago;

Also aware that the government has not put in place alternative measures to ensure that Nigerians will have access to cars since it is cheaper to buy cars from neighboring countries and still generate revenue by ensuring that our borders are secured to prevent smuggling, and also that there will not be job losses;

Further aware that some of those making these policies have failed to patronize made-in-Nigeria goods, especially Nigerian Assembled vehicles which are, in any case unaffordable to over 80% of Nigerians who can only afford fairly used imported vehicles;

Concerned that despite the pitiable state of most Nigerians occasioned by unemployment, lack of funds for survival and high cost of living which has sent many to their early graves, the government is adopting a policy that will further increase the sufferings of the masses at this critical time the country is in recession;

Worried that the ban will cause more harm than good as it will certainly lead to increase in smuggling, deprive poor Nigerians of access to acquiring vehicles, skyrocket the prices of cars cleared at the wharf, increase inflation and further mount pressure on the already weak Naira, and lead to idleness, insecurity and criminality at the border points;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to immediately suspend the ban on Importation of Vehicles through the land borders;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to ensure that the law enforcement agencies, especially those working at the borders, are diligent in their duties by ensuring that import charges through the land borders are paid when due and remitted to the government;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Government to install border security and surveillance equipment for effective monitoring to address the recurring menace of smuggling and ensure a maximum revenue generation on all lawfully imported goods;
- (iv) equally urge the government to expand its plan on youths empowerment programmes by developing skills acquisition centers in border areas so as to enable the youths to acquire skills necessary for the type of businesses that are being carried out in the border areas and also employ more people from those areas into the border security agencies as they have relevant experiences on how goods are moved in and out of the country; and
- (v) mandate the Committees on Governmental Affairs, and Customs and Excise, to ensure implementation and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Abdullahi Balarabe Salame — Illela/Gwadabawa Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.**Agreed to.**The House:*

Noted that the Nigerian Customs Service issued a statement on Monday, 5 December, 2016, prohibiting the importation of new and used vehicles through the land borders with effect from January 1, 2017, thereby limiting such importation only through the sea ports;

Also noted that the percentage of Nigerians who can afford cars has declined drastically following the decline in the value of Naira, inflation, unemployment and high cost of living that has bedeviled Nigeria where over 80% of Nigerians live below 200 US dollars a day;

Aware that the Federal Government has powers under section 18 of the Customs and Excise Management Act to restrict the movement of goods into and out of Nigeria by land or inland waters and to appoint customs stations, however, similar exercise of such powers on rice importation through the land borders in April 2016, has occasioned untold hardships on Nigerians as a bag of rice now sells for between ₦20,000 - ₦23,000 as against ₦8,000 few months ago;

Also aware that the government has not put in place alternative measures to ensure that Nigerians will have access to cars since it is cheaper to buy cars from neighboring countries and still generate revenue by ensuring that our borders are secured to prevent smuggling, and also that there will not be job losses;

Further aware that some of those making these policies have failed to patronize made-in-Nigeria goods, especially Nigerian Assembled vehicles which are, in any case unaffordable to over 80% of Nigerians who can only afford fairly used imported vehicles;

Concerned that despite the pitiable state of most Nigerians occasioned by unemployment, lack of funds for survival and high cost of living which has sent many to their early graves, the government is adopting a policy that will further increase the sufferings of the masses at this critical time the country is in recession;

Worried that the ban will cause more harm than good as it will certainly lead to increase in smuggling, deprive poor Nigerians of access to acquiring vehicles, skyrocket the prices of cars cleared at the wharf, increase inflation and further mount pressure on the already weak Naira, and lead to idleness, insecurity and criminality at the border points;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to immediately suspend the ban on Importation of Vehicles through the land borders;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to ensure that the law enforcement agencies, especially those working at the borders, are diligent in their duties by ensuring that import charges through the land borders are paid when due and remitted to the government;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Government to install border security and surveillance equipment for effective monitoring to address the recurring menace of smuggling and ensure a maximum revenue generation on all lawfully imported goods;
- (iv) equally urge the government to expand its plan on youths empowerment programmes by developing skills acquisition centers in border areas so as to enable the youths to acquire skills necessary for the type of businesses that are being carried out in the border areas and also employ more people from those areas into the border security agencies as they have relevant experiences on how goods are moved in and out of the country; and
- (v) mandate the Committees on Governmental Affairs, and Customs and Excise, to ensure implementation and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (HR. 234/2016).

26. **Adjournment**

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 13 December, 2016 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Zakari Muhammed — Baruten/Kaima Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.23 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 22 November, 2016, item 15, page 884, in the Resolution, *leave out* the words "Governmental Affairs", and *insert* the words "Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)".