



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 14 December, 2016

1. The House met at 11.34 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 13 December, 2016.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Admittance into the Chamber**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do admit the President of the Senate, and Distinguished Senators into the Chamber, for a Joint Sitting of the National Assembly, to receive the 2017 Budget proposals, from the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria" (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

Agreed to.

4. **Presentation of Reports**
 - (i) **Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity on the Extortion of Employment Seekers by Government Agencies and Recruitment Firms (**HR. 52/2015**)" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (ii) **Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity on the Urgent Need to Curb the Unwholesome Practices of Foreign Companies in Nigeria (**HR. 67/2015**)" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity on the Call for a State of Emergency and Legislative Intervention in the Unemployment Crisis in Nigeria (HR. 144/2015)" (Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

5. A Bill for an Act to Provide for Free Zones in Nigeria, Establish the Nigeria Free Zones Authority and to Repeal the Nigeria Export Processing Zones Act and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 37) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Free Zones in Nigeria, Establish the Nigeria Free Zones Authority and to Repeal the Nigeria Export Processing Zones Act and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 37) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa 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 on Commerce.

6. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Commission for Refugees Act, Cap. N21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-enact the National Commission for Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and Migrants to Provide a Framework for the Management, Rehabilitation, Return, Reintegration and Resettlement of Victims of Displacement, Refuge, Migration and for Other Related Matters (HB. 603) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the National Commission for Refugees Act, Cap. N21, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-enact the National Commission for Internally Displaced Persons, Refugees and Migrants to Provide a Framework for the Management, Rehabilitation, Return, Reintegration and Resettlement of Victims of Displacement, Refuge, Migration and for Other Related Matters (HB. 603) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Mohammed Sani Zorro — Gumel/Maigatari/S/Tankar/Gagarawa 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 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Refugees and Initiatives of North-East.

7. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Regulation and Prohibition of Arbitrary Change of Name in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB.767) — Second Reading

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

8. **Receipt and Adoption of the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Assembly Budget and Research Office which shall Provide the National Assembly with Objective, Timely and Non-Partisan Analysis needed for Economic and Budget Decisions and for Other Related Matters**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Assembly Budget and Research Office which shall Provide the National Assembly with Objective, Timely and Non-Partisan Analysis Needed for Economic and Budget Decisions and for Other Related Matters 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, 8 December, 2016 and harmonized the two versions of the Bill;

In view of the importance of the Bill in providing the National Assembly with Objective, Timely and Non-Partisan Analysis needed for Economic and Budget Decisions:

Resolves to:

Receive and Adopt the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Assembly Budget and Research Office which shall provide the National Assembly with Objective, Timely and Non-Partisan Analysis Needed for Economic and Budget Decisions and for Other Related Matters (*Hon. Timothy Golu — Paskshin/Kanke/Kenam Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

9. **Call for Rehabilitation of Awe-Iwo Federal Road**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Awe-Iwo Federal Road connects many communities in Oyo and Osun States, but concerned that the road has been abandoned and is presently in a deplorable state;

Worried that the present condition of the road makes movements on it hazardous, slow and dangerous and affords men of the underworld an opportunity to carry out their nefarious activities;

Also worried that the present state of the road is hindering the movements of economic crops from one community to others;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to include the rehabilitation of the road in the 2017 budget proposal; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works and Appropriations to ensure implementation by including the Road in the 2017 Budget proposal (*Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi — Afijio/Atiba East/Oyo West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 241/2016).

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

10. Call for Reconstruction of Ilesha-Ado-Ekiti-Ifaki-Ekiti-Kabba Federal Highway

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the key to economic growth and development in any society is the provision of basic infrastructure and social amenities such as road network, potable water and power supply;

Also notes that the Federal roads in Ekiti State are in deplorable conditions which make it difficult for commuters to ply without hardships and are recording enormous damages to their vehicles;

Aware that the highway from Ilesha in Osun State, Efon-Alaaye Itawure to Ado-Ekiti was constructed in the 1970s by the Government of the old Western Region and since then, no major rehabilitation has been carried out on this link road;

Further notes that the highway from Ifaki-Ekiti to Omuo to Kabba in Kogi State which is the only road that links both Ekiti and Kogi States to the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, is at the verge of collapsing and cutting off Ekiti and Kogi States from the rest of Nigeria;

Concerned that if urgent measures are not taken to rehabilitate these roads in order to improve the economic and commercial activities of the people of Ekiti State, they would continue to wallow in abject poverty;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing to, as a matter of urgency, take positive steps to rehabilitate the federal highways in Ekiti State, reconstruct the Ifaki-Ekiti to Kabba Road and also the Ilesha, Efon to Ita-Awure-Ado-Ekiti Road; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Works and Appropriations to ensure compliance by including the reconstruction of the roads in the 2017 budget proposal (*Hon. Olamide Oni — Ijero/Ekiti West/Efon Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 242/2016).

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

11. Need to Rehabilitate the Federal Government Girls College, Ikot Obio Itong in Akwa Ibom State

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that Federal Government Colleges were created for the purpose of fostering unity and enabling young people from different parts of the country to attain high standard secondary education;

Also aware that these Unity schools or Colleges have a recommended infrastructural standards that must be put in place at all times in order to give high quality education to those young Nigerians;

Dismayed that the Federal Government Girls College, Ikot Obio Itong in Akwa Ibom State has been neglected for a very long time as a result of which the facilities have dilapidated, thus making the school environment look inferior to other Federal Government Colleges of equivalent status;

Notes that the School, which is experiencing growth in population, is currently in need of classrooms with solid roof, hostel accommodation, science laboratories, perimeter fencing, staff rooms, teachers quarters, good road network, generator etc;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Basic Education and Services to ensure that the renovation of the school is included in the 2017 budget (*Hon. Francis Charles Uduyok — Ikot Abasi/Mkpat Enin/Eastern Obolo Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 243/2016).

Motion referred to the Committee on Basic Education and Services, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

12. Need to Name the National Stadium, Abuja after M.K.O. Abiola and the Eagle Square after Shehu Musa Yar'Adua

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Recalls that in 1980 when the National Stadium, Abuja had not been built, M.K.O. Abiola originated the concept while Shehu Musa Yar'Adua fought for democracy in Nigeria under difficult circumstances, just like M.K.O. Abiola, for which they deserve to be immortalized;

Notes that M.K.O. Abiola did not stop at raising public awareness about the need for the stadium but started to raise funds, and was the single highest donor to the project while Shehu Musa Yar'Adua fought the military government of Gen. Sani Abacha to a standstill for the enthronement of democracy in Nigeria;

Observes that M.K.O. Abiola and Shehu Musa Yar'Aduawere two Nigerians who paid the supreme prize with their lives for democracy to gain ground in Nigeria;

Resolves to.

- (i) call on the Federal Government to name the National Stadium, Abuja after M.K.O. Abiola and the Eagle square after Shehu Musa Yar'Adua; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Governmental Affairs to ensure implementation and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Oghene Emma Egoh — Amuwo Odofin Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question put and Negatived.

13. Need for Intervention in the Payment of Local Vendors in the Oil and Gas Industry to Save the Local Contractors

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Local Content Act was primarily intended to promote local players in the Oil and Gas Industry and protect them against unfair practices tending to give their foreign counterparts dominance and advantage in the oil and gas sector of the Nigerian economy;

Also notes that all transactions and contracts between the Federal Government and the contractors on one hand and the contractors amongst themselves on the other hand are regulated by a policy of 60-40% ratio in payment, thus 60% payment in Dollars and 40% in Naira;

Concerned by the new policy that requires 100% payment in Naira to local contractors even when the government and foreign contractors still retained the practice of 60-40% payment in Dollars in their transactions;

Also concerned by the fact that the new policy stipulated exchange rate of ₦250 to a Dollar;

Aware that the local contractors, in many contracts and transactions, still procure and pay for items and services in dollars and now have to source for foreign currency at the parallel market;

Further concerned that if this policy is not reviewed, it will throw many local contractors out of business, thereby defeating the purpose of the Local Content Act;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), Petroleum Resources (Downstream), Gas Resources and Local Content to interface with the Agencies and Stakeholders in the Oil and Gas Industry on the Policy with a view to avoiding the concomitant losses and hardships the policy will visit on the Indigenous Companies and report back within six (6) weeks (*Hon. Henry Nwawuba Mbaitoli/Ikeduru Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Local Content Act was primarily intended to promote local players in the Oil and Gas Industry and protect them against unfair practices tending to give their foreign counterparts dominance and advantage in the oil and gas sector of the Nigerian economy;

Also noted that all transactions and contracts between the Federal Government and the contractors on one hand and the contractors amongst themselves on the other hand are regulated by a policy of 60-40% ratio in payment, thus 60% payment in Dollars and 40% in Naira;

Concerned by the new policy that requires 100% payment in Naira to local contractors even when the government and foreign contractors still retained the practice of 60-40% payment in Dollars in their transactions;

Also concerned by the fact that the new policy stipulated exchange rate of ₦250 to a Dollar;

Aware that the local contractors, in many contracts and transactions, still procure and pay for items and services in dollars and now have to source for foreign currency at the parallel market;

Further concerned that if this policy is not reviewed, it will throw many local contractors out of business, thereby defeating the purpose of the Local Content Act;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), Petroleum Resources (Downstream), Gas Resources, and Local Content to interface with the Agencies and Stakeholders in the Oil and Gas Industry on the Policy with a view to avoiding the concomitant losses and hardships the policy will visit on the Indigenous Companies and report back within six (6) weeks (**HR. 244/2016**).

14. **Sitting Suspended for Joint Session of the National Assembly for the Presentation of the 2017 Budget Proposals by the President, Federal Republic of Nigeria** — 12.58 p.m.
15. **Sitting Resumed** — 3.45 p.m.
16. **Adjournment**
That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 15 December, 2016 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.49 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker