



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 19 January, 2017

1. The House met at 10.09 a.m. Mr Deputy Speaker read the Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Deputy Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 18 January, 2017.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.
3. **Message**
Mr Deputy Speaker read a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:



PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

18 January, 2017

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

Dear Rt Hon. Y. Dogara,

VACATION

In compliance with Section 145 (1) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), I wish to inform the Honourable House that I will be away on a Ten (10) working day short vacation as part of my 2017 annual leave, from Monday, 23rd January to Monday, 6th February, 2017 and while I am away, the Vice President will perform the functions of my office.

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

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

4. Announcements

(a) Visitors in the Gallery:

Mr Deputy Speaker recognized the presence of members of the Albino Foundation, led by Dr Jake Ekpele, President of the Association.

(b) Bereavement:

Mr Deputy Speaker read a communication from Hon. Golu Timothy Simon (*Pankshin/Kanke/Kanan Federal Constituency*), informing the House of the demise of His Royal Highness, Da Cyril Adams, Acting Ngollong Ngas in Fier District of Pankshin Local Government Area of Plateau State, at the age of 86.

A minute silence observed in honour of the departed monarch.

5. Petitions

- (i) A petition from Maurice Fangnon (Centre for the Defence of Human Rights & Democracy in Africa), on behalf of Emmanuel Anthony Ossai, on his retirement from the service of the Nigeria Police Force, was presented and laid by Hon. Rita Orji (*Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Ballason Gloria Mabelam (P.P. Mive Legals), on behalf of Haruna Solomon Gajere, on the refusal of the Nigeria Police Force to pay the medical bills incurred as a result of an injury he sustained during a shooting incident, was presented and laid by Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba (*Kachia/Kagarko Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Okere Kingdom (B. C. O. Ezeagu & Associates), on behalf of Save Nigeria Group, on the alleged corruption and diversion of funds budgeted and allocated for road maintenance under the Subsidy and Re-Investment Program (SURE-P) Funds, by Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA), was presented and laid by Hon. Onyenwife Gabriel (*Ayamelum/Oyi Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from Eke Okwukwe Favour and Anigu Francisca, on the refusal of the Nursing Council/Federal Ministry of Health, to allow them participate in the mandatory one year National Midwifery Service Scheme, was presented and laid by Hon. Anayo Nnebe (*Awka North/Awka South Federal Constituency*);
- (v) A petition from Col. Osita Nwankwo, on his retirement from the service of the Nigerian Army, was presented and laid by Hon. Chukwuka Onyema Wilfred (*Ogbaru Federal Constituency*);
- (vi) A petition from Victor S. O. J. Noah James, on the non-settlement of his claims and ejection from his business premises by Federal Airport Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), was presented and laid by Hon. Akinwunmi Nurudeen Olaitan (*Ifako/Ijayi Federal Constituency*);
- (vii) A petition from Barr. Okere Kingdom N. (Kingdom Human Rights Foundation), on behalf of Nigerian Workers, on the inability of the Nigeria Social Insurance Trust Fund and Trust Fund Pension Plc. to access their benefits under the employee compensation scheme, was presented and laid by Hon. Henry Nwabuwa (*Mbaitoli/Ikeduru Federal Constituency*);

- (viii) A petition from Ahmed Tijani Yusuf of A. J. Yusuf Chambers, on the alleged operation of fraudulent account by the Federal Road Safety Commission, was presented and laid by Hon. Zakariyau M. Galadima (*Bade/Jakusko Federal Constituency*); and
- (ix) A petition from China Africa Investment FZC, on its alleged occupation and claim of ownership of Ogun Guangdong Free Trade Zone by Zhongfu International Investment (Nig) FZE, was presented and laid by Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakubu (*Gombi/Hong Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

Need for the Federal Executive to Release to the National Judicial Council all Outstanding Amounts Approved for the Judiciary in the Appropriation Act, 2016:

Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari (*Yabo/Shagari 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.

Need for the Federal Executive to Release to the National Judicial Council All Outstanding Amounts Approved for the Judiciary in the Appropriation Act, 2016:

The House:

Notes that a total sum of ₦70 billion was approved for the Judiciary in the Appropriation Act, 2016;

Also notes that by virtue of section 81 (3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) this sum is charged on the consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation; and for that reason the release of this sum to the National Judicial Council should be given priority, subject to the provisions of the Constitution, over and above any other public expenditures;

Concerned that contrary to this clear intendment of the drafters of our Constitution, the Federal Executive picks and selects when to and how much to release to the National Judicial Council;

Also concerned that the National Judicial Council which is responsible for the disbursement of funds approved for the Judiciary which includes Federal and States Courts listed under section 6 of the Constitution, have not received any allocations for the months of November and December 2016;

Worried that the failure or refusal of the Federal Executive to release the budgetary allocation to the Judiciary as and when due is an infraction of section 81 (3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) which if persists may lead to the grounding of the entire Judiciary;

Also worried that any threat to the proper functioning of the Judiciary is equally a threat to National Peace and Security;

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn the failure or refusal of the Federal Executive to release funds approved for Judiciary as and when due;
- (ii) urge the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct the relevant Government Agencies to release to the National Judicial Council all outstanding funds approved for the Judiciary in the Appropriation Act, 2016, forthwith; and
- (iii) direct the Committees on Federal Judiciary, FCT Judiciary, and Finance to liaise with the relevant Federal Agencies to ensure compliance (*Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari — Yabo/Shagari Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.**Agreed to.*

The House:

Noted that a total sum of ₦70 billion was approved for the Judiciary in the Appropriation Act, 2016;

Also noted that by virtue of section 81 (3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) this sum is charged on the consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation; and for that reason the release of this sum to the National Judicial Council should be given priority, subject to the provisions of the Constitution, over and above any other public expenditures;

Concerned that contrary to this clear intendment of the drafters of our Constitution, the Federal Executive picks and selects when to and how much to release to the National Judicial Council;

Also concerned that the National Judicial Council which is responsible for the disbursement of funds approved for the Judiciary which includes Federal and States Courts listed under section 6 of the Constitution, have not received any allocations for the months of November and December 2016;

Worried that the failure or refusal of the Federal Executive to release the budgetary allocation to the Judiciary as and when due is an infraction of section 81 (3) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) which if persists may lead to the grounding of the entire Judiciary;

Also worried that any threat to the proper functioning of the Judiciary is equally a threat to National Peace and Security;

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn the failure or refusal of the Federal Executive to release funds approved for Judiciary as and when due;
- (ii) urge the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct the relevant Government Agencies to release to the National Judicial Council all outstanding funds approved for the Judiciary in the Appropriation Act, 2016, forthwith; and
- (iii) direct the Committees on Federal Judiciary, FCT Judiciary, and Finance to liaise with the relevant Federal Agencies to ensure compliance (**HR. 19/2017**).

7. Consolidation of Bills

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act, Cap. E1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Quick Recovery Procedures for Stolen Assets, Implement Active Pursuit of Cases, Build Capacity and Improve Trust and Co-operation with Foreign Counterparts, Ensure Adequate Funding of the Commission, Establish the Economic and Financial Crimes Court, a Bill for an Act to Amend the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act to make the Commission more Independent and Effective in the Enforcement of Economic and Financial Crimes, and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act and for Other Related Matters (HBs. 393, 326 and 617), be further consolidated with a Bill for an Act to Amend the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Act, Cap. E1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Enhance Effectiveness of the Act and for Other Related Matters (HB. 871)" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

8. A Bill for an Act to make it Mandatory for Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies to Give Priority to Local Manufacturers and Indigenous Companies in the Procurement of Goods, Works and Services and to Prohibit the Exclusion of Locally Produced Goods in the Procurement Process and for Other Related Matters (HB. 828) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to make it Mandatory for Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies to Give Priority to Local Manufacturers and Indigenous Companies in the Procurement of Goods, Works and Services and to Prohibit the Exclusion of Locally Produced Goods in the Procurement Process and for Other Related Matters (HB. 828) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Umar Buba Jibril — Lokoja/Koton-Karfi/Kogi 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 Public Procurement.

9. A Bill for Act to Amend the Piers Act, Cap. P17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Increase some Penalties and for Other Related Matters (HB. 678) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for Act to Amend the Piers Act, Cap. P17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Increase some Penalties and for Other Related Matters (HB. 678) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Osysy Prestige Chinedu — Aba North/Aba South 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 Ports, Harbour and Waterways.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make more Stringent the Offence of Failure to Attend Investigative Hearings of Legislative Houses and for Other Related Matters (HB. 413) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Legislative Houses (Powers and Privileges) Act, Cap. L12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make more Stringent the Offence of Failure to Attend Investigative Hearings of Legislative Houses and for Other Related Matters (HB. 413) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Karimi Steve Sunday — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro 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 Justice.

11. **A Bill for an Act to provide for the Adequate Parking Spaces for Buildings meant for Public Use and for Other Related Matters (HB. 783) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to provide for the Adequate Parking Spaces for Buildings meant for Public Use and for Other Related Matters (HB. 783) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Olufemi Fakeye — Boluwaduro/Ifedayo/Ila 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 Committees on Housing, and Urban Development and Regional Planning.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the National Agency for Albinism and Hypo-Pigmentation (NAAH) and for Other Related Matters (HB. 837) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the National Agency for Albinism and Hypo-Pigmentation (NAAH) and for Other Related Matters (HB. 837) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Linus Okorie — Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha 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 Health Institutions, and Healthcare Services.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Business and Technical Education Board Act, Cap. N12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to Establish a Steering Committee to be Vested with the Responsibility of Centralizing the Management of the National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB), the Senior School Certificate Examinations (SSCE) and the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examinations (UTME) under a Single ICT Platform to Reduce the Costs of taking the Examinations and for Other Related Matters (HB. 850) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Business and Technical Education Board Act, Cap. N12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to Establish

a Steering Committee to be Vested with the Responsibility of Centralizing the Management of the National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB), the Senior School Certificate Examinations (SSCE) and the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examinations (UTME) under a Single ICT Platform to Reduce the Costs of taking the Examinations and for Other Related Matters (HB. 850) be now read a Second Time (Hon. Mohammed Abdulkadir Mahmud — Agate/Lapai Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Basic Education and Services.

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

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. Receipt and Adoption of the Conference Committee Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Peace Corps (NPC) to Empower, Develop and Provide Alternative Empowerment for the Youths, to Facilitate Peace, Community Service, Nation Building and for Other Related Matters

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Peace Corps (NPC) to Empower, Develop and Provide Alternative Empowerment for the Youths, to Facilitate Peace, Community Service, Nation Building 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, December 8, 2016 and harmonized the two versions of the Bill;

In view of the importance of the Bill in providing alternative empowerment for Nigerian youths and facilitating peace and community service;

Resolves to;

Receive and Adopt the Report of the Conference Committee on the Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerian Peace Corps (NPC) to Empower, Develop and Provide Alternative Empowerment for the Youths and Facilitate Peace, Community Service, Nation Building and for Other Related Matters (Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba — Kachia/Kagarko Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

16. **Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly (Standing Order Twelve, Rule 16)**
Passport (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 638):

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

17. **Devastating Landslides at Okoloba Community in Kolokuma/Opokuma LGA of Bayelsa State**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that three devastating landslides occurred at Okoloba community on January 9, 2017 at the hours of 8.00 a.m., 1.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. respectively, destroying houses, farm produce and other properties worth millions of Naira;

Aware that farming is the only source of livelihood for the inhabitants of Okoloba community, given that oil pollution has made fishing business no longer attractive save for subsistence;

Observes that this is the third time over the years that the community would be experiencing landslides resulting in destruction of properties and farm produce of the people;

Concerned that if urgent steps are not taken to assist the people to alleviate their sufferings which was caused by landslides, there could be hunger and social crisis within the community;

Cognizant of the need to take measures to forestall a re-occurrence of the landslides and thus protect the community from being completely washed away;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Environment to, as a matter of urgency, include the construction of shore protection in Okoloba community in particular and other landslide-prone communities in the 2017 budget;
- (ii) call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to urgently provide relief materials for the affected victims; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Environment and Habitat, Appropriations, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure implementation and report to the House within two (2) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Diri Douye — Yenagoa/Kolokuma/Opokuma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 20/2017).

Motion referred to the Committees on Environment and Habitat, Appropriations, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

18. **Need to Encourage the Establishment of Creche Facilities in Government Offices**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the importance of a mother's love and attention to a new born baby cannot be over emphasized and a plethora of scientific studies have confirmed this fact, including those which advocate that babies be fed only with breast milk for the first few months after delivery;

Also notes that no nation can strive to really develop if it fails to take into cognizance the importance of its female workforce and the physical/mental development of infants and children;

Informed that very few government agencies have made provisions for crèche facilities for babies in their offices which greatly hampers the ability of female staff who are nursing mothers to juggle both their professional and maternal responsibilities;

Cognizant of the need to correct this anomalous situation by ensuring that various Ministries, Departments and Agencies are directed to establish crèche facilities in their offices to enable nursing mothers in their workforce to take proper care of their newly born babies during the work period in order to avert the adverse impact of lack of attention to the newly born babies in their growth processes;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Executive Arm of the Federal Government to provide crèche facilities in all government buildings with a view to supporting nursing mothers in its employment and by so doing, set a proper example for the private sector employers to emulate; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Governmental Affairs to ensure implementation and report to the House within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Sergious Oseasochie Ogun — Esan Northeast/Esan Southeast Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 21/2017).

Motion referred to the Committees on Public Service Matters, and Governmental Affairs, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

19. **Need to Investigate the ₦100 Billion Naira (USD 625 Million Dollars) Released by the Central Bank of Nigeria for the Construction of Modern Mini Ranches across the Nation**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes the recurring conflicts, attacks and counter attacks and killings between herdsmen and local farmers all over the country in the last five years over the grazing of cattle and other ruminants on farmlands;

Aware of a Committee set up by the Federal Government in 2014 on Grazing Reserves under the Chairmanship of the former Governor of Benue State, Mr Gabriel Suswan which identified issues causing the conflicts between herdsmen and farmers to include struggle for land and water and uncontrolled influx of nomadic herdsmen, and thus noted that grazing reserves and cattle routes already gazetted had been encroached upon and such routes should be recovered and improved upon, taking into consideration present day realities;

Also aware that as a result of the above findings, the Committee recommended the release of ₦100 billion through the Central Bank of Nigeria as seed funding to all the States for the construction of ranches;

Recalls that the National Economic Council approved the release of the ₦100 billion to various States of the Federation for the construction of modern mini ranches in a bid to boost agricultural yields and put an end to the conflicts arising from the traditional method of grazing;

Believes that the approval for the release of the money is a contravention of section 80 (4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 which provides that no moneys shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Revenue Fund or any other Public Fund of the Federation except in the manner prescribed by the National Assembly;

Concerned that despite the release of the money without parliamentary approval, there has not been any ranch constructed anywhere in the country to account for the expenditure of the money, and as a result, the conflicts they were intended to cure have exacerbated, leading to more killings which are scaring farmers in most parts of the country from going to the farms for fear of their lives;

Cognizant that sections 88 and 89 of the 1999 Constitution empowers the National Assembly to investigate the utilization of public funds in order to curb waste;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the disbursement and utilization of the ₦100 billion released for the construction of mini ranches across the country and report to the House within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Karimi S. Sunday — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recurring conflicts, attacks and counter attacks and killings between herdsmen and local farmers all over the country in the last five years over the grazing of cattle and other ruminants on farmlands;

Aware of a Committee set up by the Federal Government in 2014 on Grazing Reserves under the Chairmanship of the former Governor of Benue State, Mr Gabriel Suswan which identified issues causing the conflicts between herdsmen and farmers to include struggle for land and water and uncontrolled influx of nomadic herdsmen, and thus noted that grazing reserves and cattle routes already gazetted had been encroached upon and such routes should be recovered and improved upon, taking into consideration present day realities;

Also aware that as a result of the above findings, the Committee recommended the release of ₦100 billion through the Central Bank of Nigeria as seed funding to all the States for the construction of ranches;

Recalled that the National Economic Council approved the release of the ₦100 billion to various States of the Federation for the construction of modern mini ranches in a bid to boost agricultural yields and put an end to the conflicts arising from the traditional method of grazing;

Believed that the approval for the release of the money is a contravention of section 80 (4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 which provides that no moneys shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Revenue Fund or any other Public Fund of the Federation except in the manner prescribed by the National Assembly;

Concerned that despite the release of the money without parliamentary approval, there has not been any ranch constructed anywhere in the country to account for the expenditure of the money, and as a result, the conflicts they were intended to cure have exacerbated, leading to more killings which are scaring farmers in most parts of the country from going to the farms for fear of their lives;

Cognizant that sections 88 and 89 of the 1999 Constitution empowers the National Assembly to investigate the utilization of public funds in order to curb waste;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the disbursement and utilization of the ₦100 billion released for the construction of mini ranches across the country and report to the House within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 22/2017**).

20. Call on the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to submit a Report on the Total amount Collected as Stamp Duty Charges in 2016

Order read: deferred by leave of the House.

21. Appeal for Intensification of Search and Unconditional Release of Teachers, Workers and Students Kidnapped from the Nigerian Turkish International College, Isheri, Ogun State

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House

Notes with shock the news that a group of armed men, at about 9:30 pm on January 13, 2017 broke into the premises of the Nigerian Turkish International College (NTIC) Isheri and kidnaped three female supervisors, a female cook, a Turkish female teacher and three students whom they took away through a very dangerous route and have held hostage ever since;

Worried that this unfortunate incident, happening barely few days after the resumption of schools from holidays, has left the parents, guardians, relatives and indeed the entire nation anguished, not to imagine the trauma that the kidnaped people must be suffering;

Concerned about the developing trend of the kidnaping of school children and their teachers given the recent incident of a similar action at the Lagos Model College, Epe about three months ago where gunmen kidnaped four students, the Vice Principal and a teacher;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Security Agencies to intensify the search for the rescue of the abducted students and their teachers;
- (ii) call on the Federal Government to adopt a holistic approach of engagement to tackle the menace being unleashed on vulnerable School Children by involving local vigilance men and Community Development Association, in intelligence gathering and crime fighting; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Interior, Army, Navy and Police Affairs, to advise on required Parliamentary intervention to tackle the menace of kidnapping in the country and report to the House within three (3) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

“Mandate the House to invite the Inspector-General of Police, National Security Adviser, and the Director General, Department of State Services to brief the House on efforts being made to bring the incessant cases of kidnaping across the country to an end” (*Hon. Abdussamad Dasuki — Kebbe/Tambinwal Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with shock the news that a group of armed men, at about 9:30 pm on January 13, 2017 broke into the premises of the Nigerian Turkish International College (NTIC) Isheri and kidnaped three female supervisors, a female cook, a Turkish female teacher and three students whom they took away through a very dangerous route and have held hostage ever since;

Worried that this unfortunate incident, happening barely few days after the resumption of schools from holidays, has left the parents, guardians, relatives and indeed the entire nation anguished, not to imagine the trauma that the kidnaped people must be suffering;

Concerned about the developing trend of the kidnaping of school children and their teachers given the recent incident of a similar action at the Lagos Model College, Ibe about three months ago where gunmen kidnaped four students, the Vice Principal and a teacher;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Security Agencies to intensify the search for the rescue of the abducted students and their teachers;
- (ii) call on the Federal Government to adopt a holistic approach of engagement to tackle the menace being unleashed on vulnerable School Children by involving local vigilance men and Community Development Association, in intelligence gathering and crime fighting;
- (iii) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Interior, Army, Navy and Police Affairs, to advise on required Parliamentary intervention to tackle the menace of kidnaping in the country and report to the House within three (3) weeks for further legislative action; and
- (iv) Mandate the House to invite the Inspector-General of Police, National Security Adviser, and the Director General, Department of State Services to brief the House on efforts being made to bring the incessant cases of kidnaping across the country to an end (**IIIR. 23/2017**).

22. Need to Intervene in the Imminent Nationwide Strike Action by the Non-Academic Staff Unions of Universities

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

23. Consideration of Reports

(i) Committee on Privatization and Commercialization:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Privatization and Commercialization on the Investigation into the Sale of Eleme Petrochemical Company to Indorama Corporation by the Bureau of Public Enterprises and approve the recommendations therein (**IIIR. 62/2016**)" (*Hon. Ahmed Yerima — Misau/Damban 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):

“The House do commend the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) for enforcing due process, transparency and adopting international best practices during the entire sale process of EPCL and also urge the BPE to adopt and apply such procedures in further privatization exercises” *(Hon. Ahmed Yerima — Misau/Damban Federal Constituency).*

Agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

“The House do commend INDORAMA, the core investor in EPCL for successful turnaround and revitalization of EPCL and further completion of a world class fertilizer plant as part of their expansion strategy with a total investment of 1.5 billion USD” *(Hon. Ahmed Yerima — Misau/Damban Federal Constituency).*

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iii):

“Based on the request by EPCL for the release of the additional land as part of their future expansion plan, a further investigation with the Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) should be carried out to find out the reason for NNPC withholding assent as it was not part of the terms of reference” *(Hon. Ahmed Yerima — Misau/Damban Federal Constituency).*

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iv):

“The EPCL should be removed from the Post Privatization Monitoring by BPE as approved by NCP immediately” *(Hon. Ahmed Yerima — Misau/Damban Federal Constituency).*

Agreed to.

Recommendation (v):

“The BPE post-acquisition function be carried out in line with efficacy and efficiency to encourage the core investors” *(Hon. Ahmed Yerima — Misau/Damban Federal Constituency).*

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Privatization and Commercialization on the Investigation into the Sale of Eleme Petrochemical Company to Indorama Corporation by the Bureau of Public Enterprises and approved Recommendations (i) - (v) of the Report.

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

(ii) **Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity:**

Motion made and Question proposed. "That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity, on the Urgent Need to Curb the Unwholesome Practices of Foreign Companies in Nigeria and approve the recommendations therein" (Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West 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):

"The Relationship between the host country and investing countries should be mutually symbiotic; no country will accept foreign investments that leave its citizens at disadvantage. Relevant Regulatory and Monitoring MDAs should ensure that they effectively carry out their statutory functions without fear or favour and also ensure strict compliance by all parties involved" (Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

"Every foreign party willing to invest in Nigeria should henceforth be ready to abide by all existing Labour Laws and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) signed" (Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (iii):

"The Executive, Legislature and Judiciary as well as all their organs should ensure that their hands remain on deck in order to enforce and maintain best practices by foreign investors to Nigerian employees in their folds" (Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Recommendation (iii) (Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari — Yabo/Shagari Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Recommendation (iv):

"Strict adherence to the stipulated ten (10) years for knowledge transfer from expatriate workers to Nigerians in their employment mentioned in the submission of the Federal Ministry of Interior be maintained. This is pertinent not just for the advantage of the Nigerian worker, but so that rule of law is maintained by respecting and adhering to afore signed contractual agreements and MOUs" (Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (v):

"Labour Laws need to be strengthened to ensure that any proven violation of the rights of a Nigerian worker by a foreign employer will be met with the full weight of the laws. It is regrettable that some of these erring foreign companies do not even have relevant permits and licenses to do business in Nigeria, as well as to cover some or indeed all their foreign members of staff" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Recommendation (v) (Hon. Bangbose Joseph II. — Badagry Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Recommendation (vi):

"Foreign investment is aimed at, among other things, providing employment and wealth creating opportunities for Nigerians but the situation is unfortunately not so currently, instead they are faced with demeaning working conditions in the hands of those foreign employers. This has to be squarely addressed" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Recommendation (vi) (Hon. Bangbose Joseph II. — Badagry Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Recommendation (vii):

"The Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment should be better funded and adequately staffed to ensure it effectively carries out its supervisory and inspectorate functions, especially towards foreign owned factories where these ills are most prevalent" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (viii):

"The process of procuring expatriate work permits should be more thorough and the terms strictly effected, especially for Asian company owners who were fingered most as being the worst violators by public participants at the Hearing" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in Recommendation (viii) and insert the following instead thereof:

"The process of procuring expatriate work permits should be more thorough and urge the Nigerian Immigration Service to sight the Local Content Management Board (LCMB) approval before issuing work permit to foreigners; Asian company owners were especially fingered as being the worst violators by public participants at the Hearing" (Hon. Jones Onyereri — Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

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

Recommendation (ix):

"The Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment should ensure open and transparent public employment exchange' in order to promote the right quota of local content employments in foreign organizations" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (x):

"The enforcement of the expatriate quota should have government interagency cooperation and enforcement to check all emanating lapses" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xi):

"Labour disputes are always emanating, hardly has one perceived set of injustice been settled when another set springs up. Resolutions and agreements need to be binding on all firms with the same kind of issues. There do not have to be deliberations on the same kinds of issues for different cases and organizations as this tends towards wastage of manpower, resources, time and energy" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Recommendation (xi) (Hon. Azodo Eucharika — Aguata Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made —Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity, on the Urgent Need to Curb the Unwholesome Practices of Foreign Companies in Nigeria and approved Recommendations (i) - (ii), rejected Recommendation (iii), approved Recommendation (iv), rejected Recommendations (v) - (vi), approved Recommendation (vii), approved Recommendation (viii) as amended, approved Recommendations (ix) - (x), and rejected Recommendation (xi) of the Report.

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

(iii) Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity:

Motion made and Question proposed, "hat the House do consider 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 and approve the recommendations therein" (Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West 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):**

"MDAs and private organizations need to be alive to their corporate social responsibilities that they need to ensure that the resources at their disposal are employed to ensure they contribute their quota in fixing the crisis" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.***Amendment Proposed:**

Leave out Recommendation (i) (Hon. Rita Orji — Ajeromi Ifelodun Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Recommendation (ii):

"The Committee promised effective oversight to ensure no one is found culpable" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.***Amendment Proposed:**

Leave out Recommendation (ii) (Hon. Rita Orji — Ajeromi Ifelodun Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Recommendation (iii):

"Those in the labour markets should shift their interests to entrepreneurial and self-employment options with the mentality of helping themselves and creating jobs for others" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.***Recommendation (iv):**

"Sectors of the economy with the capacity of employing large numbers of individuals such as agricultural sector, extractive industries and the textile sector have to be expanded into all encompassing sectors in order to fulfill their potentials" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.***Recommendation (v):**

"All Government institutions as a point of necessity need to ensure they do not renege on their principal functions of providing decent means of existence for the citizenry" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.***Recommendation (vi):**

"The best way to create the much needed jobs is to accelerate Government policies in order to encourage existing businesses and social responsibility of the corporate organisations" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (vii):

"To reduce unemployment, crimes and social unrest in the country, Government must fix and reform the power sector and provide other critical infrastructure" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In line 1, immediately after the word "fix", *leave out* the words "and reform" (*Hon. Chris Azobogu — Nnewi North/Nnewi South Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

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

Recommendation (viii):

"Government should make provisions for bailout fund for distressed public and private sectors" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Recommendation (viii) (*Hon. Chukwuka Onyema — Ogbaru Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Recommendation (ix):

"Government should plan comprehensive programmes on social security so that it can integrate the unemployed" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (x):

"The relevant agencies of Government with statutory responsibility in the area of employment should have their capacity boosted to effectively lead the effort of creating employment" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Recommendation (x) (*Hon. Sande, Steve Karimi — Yagba East/Yagba West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Recommendation (xi):

"Serious attention should be placed on industrial sectors with mass employment capacity. Also a programme of industrial restructuring and investment should be put in place" (*Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Recommendation (xi) (Hon. Henry Nwabuwa — Mbaitoli/Ikeduru Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Recommendation (xii):

"A Bill on vocation be structured in a manner that it evolves to reform our school curriculum system to encourage vocational and technical skills. The Bill should also incorporate apprenticeship system that is supported by entrepreneurs and business" (Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Recommendation (xii) (Hon. Leo Ogor — Isoko North/Isoko South Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Recommendation (xiii):

"Existing vocational centres be properly equipped and made functional in tune with curriculum and programmes" (Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Recommendation (xiv):

"Policies of government have to begin to portray the direction of creating mass employment through the means of manufacturing and industrialization and to desist from the nature of importation and dependency for which the country has become known for" (Hon. Ezenwa Francis Onyewuchi — Owerri Municipal/Owerri North/Owerri West Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report proceedings.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the House in Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity, on the Call for a State of Emergency and Legislative Intervention in the Unemployment Crisis in Nigeria and rejected Recommendations (i) - (ii), approved Recommendations (iii) - (vi), approved Recommendation (vii) as amended, rejected Recommendation (viii), approved Recommendation (ix), rejected Recommendations (x) - (xii), and approved Recommendations (xiii) - (xiv) of the Report.

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

24. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 24 January, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Baba Umar Jibril Deputy Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.40 p.m.

Yussuff Sulaimon Lasun
Deputy Speaker