



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 30 May, 2017

1. The House met at 11.23 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Second Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, 25 May, 2017.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.
3. **Announcements**
Visitors in the Gallery:
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following visitors:
 - (i) Staff and Students of *Dynamic Academy*, Kubwa, Abuja;
 - (ii) Members of *National Association of Political Science Students (NAPSS)*, Nasarawa State University, Keffi; and
 - (iii) Staff and Students of *Intelligence Quotient Academy*, Garki, Area 3, Abuja.
4. **Petitions**
 - (i) A petition from the family of Late CSP Onwutalu, on the erection of a Petroleum Refill Station near their house by Chief Mba of Oceanic Resources Oil and Gas Ltd, was presented and laid by Hon. Chukwuka Onyema (*Ogbaru Federal Constituency*);
 - (ii) A petition from Ezinne Anyanwu on the termination of her appointment and abuse of fundamental rights by the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), was presented and laid by Hon. Henry Nwawuba (*Mbaitoli/Ikeduru Federal Constituency*); and
 - (iii) A petition from Okere Ethelbert against the Comptroller-General of the Nigerian Prisons Service, and the Prisons Board on the non-compliance with the Recommendations of the House of Representatives dated 24 November, 2016, was presented and laid by Hon. Bede Eke (*Aboh Mbaise/Ngor-Okpala Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**
- (i) ***Destruction of Property and Displacement of Households by a Rainstorm at Sambak, Riyom Local Government Area, Plateau State;***
Hon. Istifanus Dung Gyang (*Barikinladi/Riyom 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.

Destruction of Property and Displacement of Households by a Rainstorm at Sambak, Riyom Local Government Area, Plateau State:

The House:

Notes that on the night of Friday, 26 May, 2017, 48 houses and business premises were blown off, damaged and some completely demolished by a rain storm accompanied by a wild wind at Sambak in Riyom Local Area of Plateau State;

Concerned that the unfortunate disaster has rendered the affected families and households homeless and helpless;

Also notes that some persons sustained injuries of varying degrees and are receiving medical attention including children;

Disturbed that the plight affected persons is compounded by the season when they are supposed to be actively engaged on their farms, being the major economic activity in the community;

Aware that immediate intervention by way of assistance will bring relief and succor to the victims;

Resolves to:

Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to avail the affected persons relief in terms of food and household items, cement and roofing materials to enable them rebuild their blown off houses (*Hon. Istifanus Dung Gyang — Barikinladi/Riyom Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that on the night of Friday, 26 May, 2017, 48 houses and business premises were blown off, damaged and some completely demolished by a rain storm accompanied by a wild wind at Sambak in Riyom Local Area of Plateau State;

Concerned that the unfortunate disaster has rendered the affected families and households homeless and helpless;

Also noted that some persons sustained injuries of varying degrees and are receiving medical attention including children;

Disturbed that the plight affected persons is compounded by the season when they are supposed to be actively engaged on their farms, being the major economic activity in the community;

Aware that immediate intervention by way of assistance will bring relief and succor to the victims;

Resolved to:

Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to avail the affected persons relief in terms of food and household items, cement and roofing materials to enable them rebuild their blown off houses (HR. 226/2017).

(ii) ***Need for Caution by the Nigerian Military and All Security Agencies in the Face of the Sit-at-Home Order Declared by Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in South East States, Parts of Rivers and Delta States:***

Hon. Obinna Chidoka (*Idemili North/Idemili South 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 Caution by the Nigerian Military and All Security Agencies in the Face of the Sit-at-Home Order Declared by Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in South East States, Parts of Rivers and Delta States:

The House:

Aware that today marks the anniversary of the unfortunate killings at the popular Nkpor Junction in Idemili North Local Government Area, near the commercial city of Onitsha in Anambra State, an event which occurred on Monday, May 30, 2016 and a sit-at-home directive issued by IPOB in the South-East and certain communities in some adjoining States in connection with this event is now creating tension in the area;

Concerned that a deployment of the Nigerian Military has been mobilized as well as other security agencies in order to control and prevent a breakdown of law and order;

Also aware that this was the second major blood spill at Nkpor Junction which is an intersection of roads linking Onitsha, Obosi, Umuoji, Ogidi and the expressway leading to Awka and Enugu;

Notes the need to exercise maximum caution and discipline even in the face of provocation;

Resolves to:

Urge the Nigerian Military and all other security agencies to restrain from using force even in face of provocation to avoid a repeat bloodshed (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North and South Federal Constituency*).

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

Aware that today marks the anniversary of the unfortunate killings at the popular Nkpor Junction in Idemili North Local Government Area, near the commercial city of Onitsha in Anambra State, an event which occurred on Monday, May 30, 2016 and a sit-at-home directive issued by IPOB in the South-East and certain communities in some adjoining States in connection with this event is now creating tension in the area;

Concerned that a deployment of the Nigerian Military has been mobilized as well as other security agencies in order to control and prevent a breakdown of law and order;

Also aware that this was the second major blood spill at Nkpor Junction which is an intersection of roads linking Onitsha, Obosi, Umuoji, Ogidi and the expressway leading to Awka and Enugu;

Noted the need to exercise maximum caution and discipline even in the face of provocation;

Resolved to:

Urge the Nigerian Military and all other security agencies to restrain from using force even in face of provocation to avoid a repeat bloodshed (HR. 227/2017).

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it consider more than 2 motions on Matters of Urgent Public Importance" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

*Agreed to.**(iii) Celebration of Nigeria's Democracy Day:*

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

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

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

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

*Celebration of Nigeria's Democracy Day:**The House:*

Notes that the present democratic administration came into being on 29 May, 1999 and a new crop of leaders were inaugurated after several years of military dictatorship;

Also notes that May 29 has been set aside as Democracy Day in Nigeria;

Aware that in 2015, an opposition Party won a presidential election for the first time in the history of Nigeria;

Also aware that Monday, 29 May, 2017 marked the second anniversary of the present administration under the President Muhammadu Buhari of the All Progressives Congress (APC);

Resolves to:

- (i) re-assert the faith of the House in the present democracy in spite of the current challenges; and
- (ii) re-affirm the belief of the House in the unity of Nigeria even at this trying period of national development (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the present democratic administration came into being on 29 May, 1999 and a new crop of leaders were inaugurated after several years of military dictatorship;

Also noted that May 29 has been set aside as Democracy Day in Nigeria;

Aware that in 2015, an opposition Party won a presidential election for the first time in the history of Nigeria;

Also aware that Monday, 29 May, 2017 marked the second anniversary of the present administration under the President Muhammadu Buhari of the All Progressives Congress (APC);

Resolved to:

- (i) re-assert the faith of the House in the present democracy in spite of the current challenges; and
- (ii) re-affirm the belief of the House in the unity of Nigeria even at this trying period of national development (**IIIR. 228/2017**).

6. Consolidation of Bills:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Raw Materials Research and Development Council Act, Cap. R3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for Reduction in the Membership of the Council and for Other Related Matters (H.B. 650) and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Raw Materials Research and Development Council Act, Cap. R3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Payment of all Monies Received by the Council into the Federation Account in Accordance with Section 162 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and Other Related Matters (H.B. 948) be now consolidated" (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

7. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Minimum Wage Act, Cap. N61, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provisions for Periodic Review of the National Minimum Wage every 5 Years and for Other Related Matters (HB. 1028) — *Second Reading*
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Minimum Wage Act, Cap. N61, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Provisions for Periodic Review of the National Minimum Wage every 5 Years and for Other Related Matters (HB. 1028) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila - Surulere I Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Labour, Employment and Productivity.

8. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Public Enterprises Regulatory Commission Act, Cap. P39, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Other Related Matters (HB. 223) — *Second Reading*
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Public Enterprises Regulatory Commission Act, Cap. P39, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and for Other Related Matters (HB. 223) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwu East/Ukwu 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 Privatization and Commercialization.

9. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Public Enterprises (Privatization and Commercialization) Act, Cap. P38, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Payment of all Monies Received by the Bureau of Public Enterprises into the Federation Account in Accordance with Section 162 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and for Other Related Matters (HB. 949) — *Second Reading*.

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization Act, Cap. C6, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Review the Membership of the Board and Improve its Mandate and for Other Related Matters (HB. 996) — *Second Reading*
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Centre for Black and African Arts and Civilization Act, Cap. C6, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Review the Membership of the Board and Improve its Mandate and for Other Related Matters (HB. 996) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Lovette Idisi — Ethiopia East/Ethiopia 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 Culture and Tourism.

11. **Call for Completion of the International Airport at Mosan Village, Wasimi in Ewekoro Local Government Area of Ogun State**

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes the importance of conventional airports for delivery of cargo and international travels and also a means of creating direct and indirect jobs, stimulating economic activities, development of the locality and raising its international profile and standard of living of the people;

Aware of the conception of a conventional airport in 2005 to be located at Mosan Village for importation of consumer goods, machinery and industrial raw products, export of agricultural products and perishable goods, mail and courier services, a pilot training school, an aircraft maintenance facility and general aviation facilities, including helicopter and air taxi services;

Concerned about the abandonment of the muki billion Naira project which caused the displacement of about thirty five (35) communities whose farmlands that used to produce agricultural products like Ofada rice and high yield cassava were taken over for the airport project which site is now becoming a haven for criminals as a perimeter fencing of 5 kilometers by 5 kilometers is the only visible infrastructure in place, thus raising concerns about the sudden stall in the progress of the project;

Also aware that Nigeria is almost losing out on the Hull Blyth, a Shipping and Cargo Services Company that had long ago concluded arrangements to locate a \$50 million dry port at Wasimi which would have been completed within a year of commencement of construction works;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to urgently pay compensation to the displaced villagers whose farmlands were acquired for the Airport project, as contained in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Aviation to ascertain the reason for the abandonment of the project with a view to recommending how to ensure its completion and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka — Ifo/Ewekoro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

(HR. 229/2017).

Motion referred to the Committee on Aviation, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5)

12. **Need to Provide Tents for Combatant Soldiers**

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes the remarkable role being played by soldiers in winning the war against Boko Haram insurgents and the need to commend the Military Authorities for the onerous tasks which they are discharging to secure the country;

Aware that the Government has committed much resources into waging the war against insurgents, which is taking a toll on human and material resources in the light of reported conditions in which combatant soldiers are sheltered, while in combat operations;

Concerned that many of these soldiers are not provided with conducive tents to enable them rest and recuperate when they retreat and are therefore compelled to provide make-shift shelters for themselves under trees;

Convinced that there is a need to boost the morale of the fighting soldiers by providing them with conducive tents for shelter to enable them complete the war against the insurgency;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Chief of Defence Staff and the Chief of Army Staff to urgently provide tents for combatant soldiers at the various theatres of operations; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Defence; Army; Air Force; and National Security and Intelligence to liaise with the Military Authorities to ensure compliance and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Hassan A. Saleh — Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (i) immediately after the word “for”, *leave out* the word “combatant” (*Hon. Aminu Shagari — Yabo/Shagari Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the remarkable role being played by soldiers in winning the war against Boko Haram insurgents and the need to commend the Military Authorities for the onerous tasks which they are discharging to secure the country;

Aware that the Government has committed much resources into waging the war against insurgents, which is taking a toll on human and material resources in the light of reported conditions in which combatant soldiers are sheltered, while in combat operations;

Concerned that many of these soldiers are not provided with conducive tents to enable them rest and recuperate when they retreat and are therefore compelled to provide make-shift shelters for themselves under trees;

Convinced that there is a need to boost the morale of the fighting soldiers by providing them with conducive tents for shelter to enable them complete the war against the insurgency;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Chief of Defence Staff and the Chief of Army Staff to urgently provide tents for soldiers at the various theatres of operations; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Defence; Army; Air Force; and National Security and Intelligence to liaise with the Military Authorities to ensure compliance and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 230/2017**).

13. **Call for Transparency in the Investigation of Illegal Importation of Firearms into Nigeria**
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Recalls that on 22 January, 2017, operatives of the Nigeria Customs Service intercepted a trailer along Mile 2 - Apapa Road, Lagos conveying a container of 661 illegally imported pump action rifles;

Also recalls that following the interception of the firearms, three people were arrested in connection with the conveyance of the intercepted firearms and about 4 Customs Officers involved in clearing the container were also detained;

Notes that since the arrests were made, no further information has been disclosed on whether anyone was charged to court in connection with the matter about four (4) months after the incident;

Aware that on 23 May, 2017, another container filled with about 440 pump action rifles was intercepted at the Tin Can Island, Apapa, Lagos allegedly imported from Turkey;

Cognizant that the frequent illicit importation of firearms into the country contributes in fueling the different shades of crimes such as armed robbery, kidnaping, cultism, herdsmen invasion, cattle rustling, militancy, political violence, communal clashes, etc. that are ravaging the nation;

Concerned that the apparent lack of transparency in the handling of the earlier incidence of importation of 661 rifles may have emboldened the perpetrators of the recent 440 pump action rifles into believing that they too can get away with the crime;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct the National Security Adviser (NSA), the Director-General of the Department of State Service, the Inspector-General of Police, the Comptroller-General of Customs and other Security Agencies to carry out a thorough investigation into the spate of illegal importation of firearms into the country and prosecute all those behind the evil act; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Customs and Excise, and Police Affairs to interface with the National Security Adviser, the Comptroller-General of Customs, the Director-General of the Department of State Service and the Inspector-General of Police on the state of investigations into the matter and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Nkeiruka C. Onyejeocha - Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:

"Urge the National Security Adviser (NSA), the Director General, Department of State Security Services, the Comptroller General of Customs and concerned Security Agencies adhere to International Best Practices in ensuring transparency and appropriate information management systems to keep the citizens and concerned stakeholders well informed of the various stages of the investigations up to prosecution according to the laws of the land" (Hon. Muhammed Sani Abdu — Alkaleri/Kirfi Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Recalled that on 22 January, 2017, operatives of the Nigeria Customs Service intercepted a trailer along Mile 2 - Apapa Road, Lagos conveying a container of 661 illegally imported pump action rifles;

Also recalled that following the interception of the firearms, three people were arrested in connection with the conveyance of the intercepted firearms and about 4 Customs Officers involved in clearing the container were also detained;

Noted that since the arrests were made, no further information has been disclosed on whether anyone was charged to court in connection with the matter about four (4) months after the incident;

Aware that on 23 May, 2017, another container filled with about 440 pump action rifles was intercepted at the Tin Can Island, Apapa, Lagos allegedly imported from Turkey;

Cognizant that the frequent illicit importation of firearms into the country contributes in fueling the different shades of crimes such as armed robbery, kidnaping, cultism, herdsmen invasion, cattle rustling, militancy, political violence, communal clashes, etc. that are ravaging the nation;

Concerned that the apparent lack of transparency in the handling of the earlier incidence of importation of 661 rifles may have emboldened the perpetrators of the recent 440 pump action rifles into believing that they too can get away with the crime;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct the National Security Adviser (NSA), the Director-General of the Department of State Service, the Inspector-General of Police, the Comptroller-General of Customs and other Security Agencies to carry out a thorough investigation into the spate of illegal importation of firearms into the country and prosecute all those behind the evil act; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Customs and Excise, and Police Affairs to interface with the National Security Adviser, the Comptroller-General of Customs, the Director-General of the Department of State Service and the Inspector-General of Police on the state of investigations into the matter and report back **within** four (4) weeks for further legislative action; and
- (iii) urge the National Security Adviser (NSA), the Director General, Department of State Security Services, the Comptroller General of Customs and concerned Security Agencies to adhere to International Best Practices in ensuring transparency and appropriate information management systems to keep the citizens and concerned stakeholders well informed of the various stages of the investigations up to prosecution according to the laws of the land (**IIR. 231/2017**).

14. Need to Investigate the Rusting Away of Thirty-Three (33) Silos worth ₦280 Billion
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that for close to eight (8) years now, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) has been constructing 33 grain silos spread across the country, which cost so far was put at two hundred and eighty billion Naira (₦280 billion), with only 3 reported to have been completed while others are nearing 85% completion;

Aware that the silos which are located in Abuja, Ado Ekiti, Ilesha, Akure, Okigwe, Igbariam, Saki, Dankande, and Ikenne, comprised 10 silos with 100,000 metric tons storage capacity each and 25 with a storage capacity of 23 metric tons each, out of which 30 are now in very deplorable state of rusting and decaying;

Concerned that this laudable idea that was conceived by the Late President Musa Yar'Adua, in 2009 to serve as strategic grain reserve where excess harvest of grains like rice, beans, maize, millet, soya and sorghum, etc. would be stored, so as to reduce post-harvest wastes and preserve surplus harvest, so as to help farmers earn more income and bolster the nation's food security, appears to have been abandoned and the silos are now being inhabited by reptiles;

Also concerned that after huge and scarce resources had been spent on the project, it is being alleged that there are plans to concession out the silos to private operators who will in turn pay rent to the government, but to allow this will amount to a clear sign that the country is far from being serious with the touted quest for self-sufficiency in food production and storage;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to suspend forthwith the alleged plans to concession out those silos to private operators; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services to carry out an assessment of all the silos that are under construction in a bid to determine their states and come up with workable plans on how they can be completed and put into immediate use and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Solomon U. Ahwinahwi — Ughelli North/Ughelli South/Udu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Prayer (i), and *insert* a new Prayer (i) as follows:

"Urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to immediately look into the best way to effectively and efficiently use the silos and all other facilities Audited by the report of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture in 2012" (*Hon. Munir B. Danagundi - Kumbotso Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that for close to eight (8) years now, the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) has been constructing 33 grain silos spread across the country, which cost so far was put at two hundred and eighty billion Naira (₦280 billion), with only 3 reported to have been completed while others are nearing 85% completion;

Aware that the silos which are located in Abuja, Ado Ekiti, Ilesha, Akure, Okigwe, Igbariam, Saki, Dankande, and Ikenne, comprised 10 silos with 100,000 metric tons storage capacity each and 25 with a storage capacity of 23 metric tons each, out of which 30 are now in very deplorable state of rusting and decaying;

Concerned that this laudable idea that was conceived by the Late President Musa Yar'Adua, in 2009 to serve as strategic grain reserve where excess harvest of grains like rice, beans, maize, millet, soya and sorghum, etc. would be stored, so as to reduce post-harvest wastes and preserve surplus harvest, so as to help farmers earn more income and bolster the nation's food security, appears to have been abandoned and the silos are now being inhabited by reptiles;

Also concerned that after huge and scarce resources had been spent on the project, it is being alleged that there are plans to concession out the silos to private operators who will in turn pay rent to the government, but to allow this will amount to a clear sign that the country is far from being serious with the touted quest for self-sufficiency in food production and storage;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Agriculture to immediately look into the best way to effectively and efficiently use the silos and all other facilities Audited by the report of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture in 2012; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services to carry out an assessment of all the silos that are under construction in a bid to determine their states and come up with workable plans on how they can be completed and put into immediate use and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (HR. 232/2017).

15. Call for Protection of Nigeria's Indigenous Language Film Makers

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that Nigeria has a thriving film industry which, over the last two decades, has grown into a globally recognized phenomenon that has seen the creativity of Nigerian film makers explode on cinema and online platforms leading to accolades from the Toronto International Film Festival and local artists receiving awards on the international stage;

Also notes that the industry attracts positive international media coverage for the country and due to its dynamism and content, it is rated as highly as Hollywood and Bollywood, in addition to its contributing about \$3.3 Billion to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

Aware that the sector employs over 1 million people, directly and indirectly, promotes and drives local and regional tourism as well as attracting interests in the rural areas and cities, such that as far back as 2008, the industry had consistently produced 2000 titles every year in Nigeria's three major languages;

Also aware that as a consequence of its indigenous content, it serves as a channel to promote our rich cultural heritage, diversity and nuances; recreates socio-political storylines/cultural practices that are relevant to everyday situations and this high level of productivity has birthed a pool of creative talents and broad skills base, while creating high demand for Nigeria's films in Africa, Europe and the Americas;

Further notes that during the last Festival of Indigenous African Language Films held in Akure, Ondo State, it was concluded that Nigeria's motion picture industry will give our indigenous languages a boost by way of preserving our rich cultural and linguistic diversity thereby saving them from extinction;

Equally notes that the importance of entertainment industry to the economy on its export of services platform is evident in Government's \$200 million Entertainment Industry Fund also known as the Activating Creativity and Technology in Nollywood (Project ACT) which was created as a cash grant for the development of creative arts in Nigeria;

Concerned about the rising trend of foreign language films being dubbed/re-voiced into Nigerian languages, especially Yoruba and Hausa which portends danger for our cultural values and heritage and undermines the domestic creative arts industry vision to document and express Nigerian cultural values and tell our stories to the world through films and TV drama series and also takes jobs away from the youths, discourages attempts to ensure the survival and productivity of indigenous film makers, devalues our mother tongue, skills and erodes the vision to transform Nigeria's Film industry from a creative industry to a creative economy;

- *Also concerned* about the recent outcry of the Theatre Arts and Movie Practitioners Association of Nigeria and the Conference of Indigenous Language Films Practitioners on the onslaught of this trend utilising the Direct-to-Home Pay-TV Scheme;

Further concerned that producers, marketers and film makers will be faced with the decline of their creative work in indigenous languages leading to the undermining of the instrumentality of language as a preserver of cultural heritage, and that Nigeria should not overlook the importance of its indigenous languages as a unifying factor for mobility and inter-cultural understanding, more so as this preserves our native rural harmony.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge Federal Ministry of Information and Culture to:
 - (a) direct relevant agencies of government to put in place monitoring mechanisms to determine the extent of the problem with a view to mitigating these extraneous influences for the protection of the industry and preservation of our indigenous languages and culture,
 - (b) ensure formulation of policies that will keep our languages and heritage alive in the creative and intellectual sphere through the medium of indigenous language films,
 - (c) ensure that adequate protection is given to the Sector as a means of promoting rural dwelling as often, the film location is set in the rural areas, thereby providing income and recreation; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values to ensure implementation and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Oladipupo O. Adebute — Ikenne/Sagamu/Remo North Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Nigeria has a thriving film industry which, over the last two decades, has grown into a globally recognized phenomenon that has seen the creativity of Nigerian film makers explode on cinema and online platforms leading to accolades from the Toronto International Film Festival and local artists receiving awards on the international stage;

Also noted that the industry attracts positive international media coverage for the country and due to its dynamism and content, it is rated as highly as Hollywood and Bollywood, in addition to its contributing about \$3.3 Billion to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP);

Aware that the sector employs over 1 million people, directly and indirectly, promotes and drives local and regional tourism as well as attracting interests in the rural areas and cities, such that as far back as 2008, the industry had consistently produced 2000 titles every year in Nigeria's three major languages;

Also aware that as a consequence of its indigenous content, it serves as a channel to promote our rich cultural heritage, diversity and nuances; recreates socio-political storylines/cultural practices that are relevant to everyday situations and this high level of productivity has birthed a pool of creative talents and broad skills base, while creating high demand for Nigeria's films in Africa, Europe and the Americas;

Further noted that during the last Festival of Indigenous African Language Films held in Akure, Ondo State, it was concluded that Nigeria's motion picture industry will give our indigenous languages a boost by way of preserving our rich cultural and linguistic diversity thereby saving them from extinction;

Equally noted that the importance of entertainment industry to the economy on its export of services platform is evident in Government's \$200 million Entertainment Industry Fund also known as the Activating Creativity and Technology in Nollywood (Project ACT) which was created as a cash grant for the development of creative arts in Nigeria;

Concerned about the rising trend of foreign language films being dubbed/re-voiced into Nigerian languages, especially Yoruba and Hausa which portends danger for our cultural values and heritage and undermines the domestic creative arts industry vision to document and express Nigerian cultural values and tell our stories to the world through films and TV drama series and also takes jobs away from the youths, discourages attempts to ensure the survival and productivity of indigenous film makers, devalues our mother tongue, skills and erodes the vision to transform Nigeria's Film industry from a creative industry to a creative economy;

Also concerned about the recent outcry of the Theatre Arts and Movie Practitioners Association of Nigeria and the Conference of Indigenous Language Films Practitioners on the onslaught of this trend utilising the Direct-to-Home Pay-TV Scheme;

Further concerned that producers, marketers and film makers will be faced with the decline of their creative work in indigenous languages leading to the undermining of the instrumentality of language as a preserver of cultural heritage, and that Nigeria should not overlook the importance of its indigenous languages as a unifying factor for mobility and inter-cultural understanding, more so as this preserves our native rural harmony.

Resolved to:

(i) urge Federal Ministry of Information and Culture to:

- (a) direct relevant agencies of government to put in place monitoring mechanisms to determine the extent of the problem with a view to mitigating these extraneous influences for the protection of the industry and preservation of our indigenous languages and culture;
- (b) ensure formulation of policies that will keep our languages and heritage alive in the creative and intellectual sphere through the medium of indigenous language films;
- (c) ensure that adequate protection is given to the Sector as a means of promoting rural dwelling as often, the film location is set in the rural areas, thereby providing income and recreation; and

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values to ensure implementation and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (HR. 233/2017).

16. **Consideration of Report**

Committee on FCT Judiciary:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do consider 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) and approve the recommendations therein" (Hon. Muntari Dandutse — Dandume/Funtua Federal Constituency).

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)

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FCT 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)

PART I — CIVIL CAUSES, LIMIT OF JURISDICTION AND POWERS

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 1: Amendment of the Principal Act.

The Provisions of items 3 and 5, Part 1 of the Schedule to the FCT Customary Court Act, Cap. F39, LFN, 2007 herein referred to as ("the Principal Act") is amended as set hereunder (Hon. Muntari Dandutse — Dandume/Funtua Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 1 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 2: (1) Civil Causes and matters including bye-laws where debt demand, including dowry, bride price or damages do not exceed the amounts specified in the respective columns hereof (Hon. Muntari Dandutse — Dandume/Funtua Federal Constituency).

(5) Civil Causes and matters under any law (other than Customary law) including bye-laws, where the amount of debt, demand or damages does not exceed the amount indicated in the column hereof (Hon. Muntari Dandutse — Dandume/Funtua Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 2 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Committee Recommendation:**Clause 3: Short Title.**

This Bill may be cited as the FCT Customary Court Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (Hon. Muntari Dandutse — Dandume/Funtua Federal Constituency).

Question that Clause 3 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Explanatory Note.

This Bill seeks to amend the Provisions of items 3 and 5, part 1 of the schedule to the FCT Customary Court Act, Cap F39, LFN, 2007 to remove Civil matters of unlimited jurisdiction (i.e, laws of Tort, Contract, Crime, Trust, Commercial Transactions etc and bye-laws from the powers/causes of the FCT Customary Court do adjudicate essentially on Customary law ranging from marriage under Customary law, Custody of Children and guardianship of Children under Customary law, succession to property and administration of estate under Customary law, etc. (Hon. Muntari Dandutse — Dandume/Funtua Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Long Title:

A Bill for an Act to Amend the FCT 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. Muntari Dandutse — Dandume/Funtua Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Chairman to report P

(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 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) and approved Clauses 1 - 3, the Explanatory Memorandum, and the Long Title of the Bill.

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

17. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 31 May, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Mohammed Tahir Munguno — Munguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 4.50 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker