



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA FIRST VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 15 June, 2017

1. The House met at 11.17 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings**

Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the **Votes and Proceedings** of Wednesday, 14 June, 2017.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Announcements**

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

Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following visitors:

- (i) Staff and Students of *Star Divine Heritage International School*, Kubwa, Abuja;
- (ii) Staff and Students of *Anglican Comprehensive Secondary School*, Kubwa, Abuja;
and
- (iii) Members of *National Association of Faculty of Administration Students (NAFAS)*,
Nasarawa State University Chapter, Keffi.

- (b) **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Co-operative Societies Act (Registration and Operation of Cooperative Societies throughout the Federation), Cap. N98, Law of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for stiffer penalties to meet contemporary realities and for Other Related Matters (HB. 887) — Second Reading**
Mr Speaker recalled that on Wednesday, 8 March, 2017, the above Bill was read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Commerce; and ordered that the Bill be referred to the *Committee on Agricultural Colleges and Institutions* which has jurisdiction over the matter.

- (c) **Ad-hoc Committee to interface with the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (HAHCON):**
Mr Speaker announced the membership of the *Ad-hoc* Committee as follows:

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|-----|---------------------------|---|----------|
| (1) | Hon. Mohammed Umaru Baggo | — | Chairman |
| (2) | Hon. Sani Zorro | — | Member |
| (3) | Hon. Rufai Chachangi | — | Member |
| (4) | Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki | — | Member |
| (5) | Hon. Bolaji Yusuf Ayinla | — | Member |

(6)	Hon. Gafar Amere	—	Member
(7)	Hon. Dahiru Abubakar Sarki	—	Member
(8)	Hon. Muktar Aliyu Betera	—	Member
(9)	Hon. Sadiq Ibrahim	—	Member
(10)	Hon. M. S. Abdu	—	Member
(11)	Hon. Ibrahim Abdullahi Dutse	—	Member

4. Petitions

- (i) A petition from the Agitating Dockworkers Forum, against the ENL Consortium Limited on the failure to fulfil its obligation to all disengaged Dockworkers under its supervision in “Shed 6/Terminal D & C”, was presented and laid by Hon. Ntufam Eta Mboru (*Calabar Municipal/Odukpan Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) Petitions from the following persons were presented and laid by Hon. Rita Orji (*Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) K. E. Okoro & Co., on behalf of Mr Abel Igbinoba, on the breach of his human rights by the Libyan Government;
 - (b) Obioha Family, on the torture to death of Mr Leonard Okoli Obioha, by the Luxembourg Police in Europe;
- (iii) A petition from Mrs Akinyemi Oluseun Abimbola, on the termination of her appointment by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), was presented and laid by Hon. Ajisafe Olowookere (*Akure South/Akure North Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from Ejike Ugwu & Associates (Legal Practitioners & Corporate Consultants) on behalf of Mr Ogbonwaya Akpuru on his demotion by the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), was presented and laid by Hon. Linus Okorie (*Ivo/Ohaozara/Onicha Federal Constituency*);
- (v) A petition from the Concerned Citizens of Oji-River Local Government Area, Enugu State, against Enugu Electricity Distribution Company (EEDC), on the persistent attempts to remove the only serving transformer from their Termal Power Station to an unknown location, was presented and laid by Hon. Toby Okechukwu (*Aninri/Agwu/Oji-River Federal Constituency*); and
- (vi) A petition from Association of Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Disengaged Casual Staff, Warri Zone, on the failure of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to re-engage 35 casual staff, was presented and laid by Hon. Leo Ogor (*Isoko North/Isoko South Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. Privilege (Order Six, Rule 4)

Hon. Lawal Abubakar (*Yola North/Yola South/Gire Federal Constituency*), drew the attention of the House to a recent Newspaper publications on a statement credited to the Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Yemi Osinbajo, with respect to the 2017 Appropriation Bill, that “the National Assembly has no right to increase or introduce new projects in Appropriation Bills”. Hon. Lawal considered the statement as a breach of his privilege and that of the House. He therefore urged the House to investigate the matter.

Mr Speaker noted the concerns of the Honourable Member. He stressed that the provisions of Sections 80 and 81 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) are unambiguous on the powers of the National Assembly over appropriations.

6. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1062).
- (2) National Commission for Colleges of Agriculture Bill, 2017 (HB. 1063).
- (3) Companies and Allied Matters Act (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1064).
- (4) Payment Systems Management Bill, 2017 (HB. 1065).
- (5) Foreign Exchange (Monitoring and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Repeal and Re-Enactment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1066).
- (6) Federal University of Education, Nsugbe (Establishment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1067).

7. Presentation of Reports**(i) Committee on Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values on a Bill for an Act to Establish a National Agency for Ethics and Values, to Provide for the Functions and Powers of the Agency, the Qualifications and Procedures for Appointment of the Chairman and Members and for Related Matters (HB. 519)" (*Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun — Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) Committee on Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Information, National Orientation, Ethics and Values on a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Nigerian Film Corporation Act, Cap. N109, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-enact the Nigerian Film Commission Act, 2017 to Regulate and Develop the Film Industry in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 583)" (*Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun — Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) Committee on Telecommunications:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Telecommunications on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Stamp Duties Act, Cap. S8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to ensure Compliance with Current Realities and for Related Matters (HB. 889)" (*Hon. Saheed Akinade-Fijabi — Ibadan Southwest/Ibadan Northwest Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (iv) ***Ad-hoc Committee on the Accidental Air Strike on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Site:***
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the *Ad-hoc Committee on the Accidental Air Strike on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Site at Rann, Kala Balge Local Government Area, Borno State (HR. 13/2017)*" (*Hon. Muhammed Sani Zorro — Gumel/Maigatari/Sule Tankar/Gagarawa Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

- (v) ***Committee on Local Content:***
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Local Content on the Investigation of Expatriate Quota Trafficking/Abuse and Unlawful Sacking and Replacement of Nigerians with Expatriates by Intels Nigeria Limited" (*Pursuant to Order Eighteen, Rule 65 (2) of the Standing Orders of the House*)" (*Hon. Emmanuel Ekon — Abak/Etim Ekpo/Ika Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Public Procurement Act, 2007 by Adding a New Member to the Council, Amending the Procedure for Appointing the Director General of the Bureau and Extending the Application of the Act to Defence Procurement and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 475) — Third Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Public Procurement Act, 2007 by Adding a New Member to the Council, Amending the Procedure for Appointing the Director General of the Bureau and Extending the Application of the Act to Defence Procurement and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 475) be now read the Third Time" (*Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Munguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Directors of Nigeria to serve as a Regulatory Body for Persons serving as Directors in both Public and Private Sectors, to Determine the Standards of Knowledge and Skills to be Attained by Persons seeking to become Directors, to make Provisions for continuous Training and Development of Directors, to ensure Professionalism and Promote Corporate Governance Values in Directors and for Other Related Matters (HB. 928) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do resume debate on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Directors of Nigeria to serve as a Regulatory Body for Persons serving as Directors in both Public and Private Sectors, to Determine the Standards of Knowledge and Skills to be Attained by Persons seeking to become Directors, to make Provisions for continuous Training and Development of Directors, to ensure Professionalism and Promote Corporate Governance Values in Directors and for Other Related Matters (HB. 928)" (*Hon. Garba Ibrahim Mohammed — Gwale Federal Constituency*).

Debate resumed.

Question that the Bill be read a Second Time — Negatived.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Governance and Institutional Framework for the Petroleum Industry and to Establish a Fiscal Framework that Encourages Further Investment in the Petroleum Industry Whilst Increasing Accruable Revenues to the Federal Government of Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 477, HB. 878 and HB. 1053) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Governance and Institutional Framework for the Petroleum Industry and to Establish a Fiscal Framework that Encourages Further Investment in the Petroleum Industry Whilst Increasing Accruable Revenues to the Federal Government of Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB. 477, HB. 878 and HB. 1053) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Munguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency and 12 others).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Ad-hoc Committee on Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), pursuant to Order Twelve Rule 5.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for a Framework Relating to Petroleum Producing Host Community's Participation, Cost and Benefit sharing among the Government, Petroleum Exploration Companies and Petroleum Host Communities and for Related Matters (HB. 879) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for a Framework Relating to Petroleum Producing Host Community's Participation, Cost and Benefit sharing among the Government, Petroleum Exploration Companies and Petroleum Host Communities and for Related Matters (HB. 879) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Akinlaja Joseph — Ondo East/Ondo West Federal Constituency).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Ad-hoc Committee on Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), pursuant to Order Twelve Rule 5.

12. **A Bill and Memorandum on Legal and Regulatory Framework, Institutions and Regulatory Authorities for the Nigerian Petroleum Industry, to Establish Guidelines for the Operations of the Upstream and Downstream Sectors and to Provide for the Establishment of the Legal and Regulatory Framework and Authorities as well as Guidelines for the Operation of the Upstream and Downstream Sectors of the Nigeria Petroleum Industry and for Connected Purposes (HB. 336 and HB. 877) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill and Memorandum on Legal and Regulatory Framework, Institutions and Regulatory Authorities for the Nigerian Petroleum Industry, to Establish Guidelines for the Operations of the Upstream and Downstream Sectors and to Provide for the Establishment of the Legal and Regulatory Framework and Authorities as well as Guidelines for the Operation of the Upstream and Downstream Sectors of the Nigeria Petroleum Industry and for Connected Purposes (HB. 336 and HB. 877) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Hon. Daniel Reyenieju — Warri South/Warri West Federal Constituency and 11 others).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Ad-hoc Committee on Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), pursuant to Order Twelve Rule 5.

Ad-hoc Committee on Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB):

Mr Speaker named the membership of the Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Alhassan Ado Doguwa	—	<i>Chairman</i>
(2)	Hon. Victor Nwokolo	—	<i>Deputy Chairman</i>
(3)	Hon. Joseph Akinlaja	—	<i>Member</i>
(4)	Hon. Frederick Agbedi	—	<i>Member</i>
(5)	Hon. Kehinde Odeleye	—	<i>Member</i>
(6)	Hon. Ahmed Diayyabu Safana	—	<i>Member</i>
(7)	Hon. Musa Sarkin Adar	—	<i>Member</i>
(8)	Hon. Blessing Nsiegbie	—	<i>Member</i>
(9)	Hon. Mohammed Nur Sheriff	—	<i>Member</i>
(10)	Hon. Olajide Olatubosun	—	<i>Member</i>
(11)	Hon. Pwajok Edward Gyang	—	<i>Member</i>
(12)	Hon. Shehu N. Garba	—	<i>Member</i>
(13)	Hon. Johnson Oghuma	—	<i>Member</i>
(14)	Hon. Henry Nwawuba	—	<i>Member</i>
(15)	Hon. Nnenna Elendu Ukeji	—	<i>Member</i>
(16)	Hon. Talatu Solomon	—	<i>Member</i>
(17)	Hon. Anayo Nnebe	—	<i>Member</i>
(18)	Hon. Sunday Karimi Steve	—	<i>Member</i>
(19)	Hon. Lawal Abubakar	—	<i>Member</i>
(20)	Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai	—	<i>Member</i>
(21)	Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa	—	<i>Member</i>

13. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Institute of Environmental Practitioners of Nigeria to be charged with the Responsibility of Regulating and Managing Environmental Practices of Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.1022) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Institute of Environmental Practitioners of Nigeria to be charged with the Responsibility of Regulating and Managing Environmental Practices of Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.1022) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili 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 Environment and Habitat.

14. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Project Continuity by Successive Governments at all Levels to make Provision for a New Government to Complete the Projects and Policies Initiated by its Predecessor before embarking on new ones to discourage Abandonment of Projects throughout the Country and to Provide for the Continuity of Government Projects to Provide for the Establishment of Government Infrastructural Projects both at States and Federal Levels to ensure Stability and Continuity in Economic Development to meet International Best Practices and for Related Matters (HB. 509 and HB. 907) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

15. Congratulatory Message to Some Notable Nigerians in the Diaspora

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that Oluwayemi Jenkins who has Nigerian heritage has worked for various government departments in the United Kingdom ranging from the Customs and Excise, UK Border Agency and Immigration Enforcement at both strategic and operational levels;

Also notes that she was awarded the Home Office Advisor of the year in 2014 and was named in the Queen's Honors list as a Member of the British Empire (MBE) for her work in securing the borders of the United Kingdom;

Aware that she is the immediate past President of the Association of British-Nigeria Law Enforcement (ABLE) Officers, a position she held from 2008-2016 during which she worked assiduously to change the negativity towards Nigeria and Nigerians in the United Kingdom, raised awareness and facilitated best practices between British and Nigerian Law Enforcement Officers and has continued to work with the Nigerian High Commission and Nigerians in Diaspora to raise awareness on issues of Immigration;

Also aware of Professor Elizabeth Nneka Aniwu, another notable Nigerian who has made landmark achievements in the field of Nursing as an emeritus Professor of Nursing at the University of West London and was earlier in 2011 honoured with the Commander of the most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Prince Charles and just recently in 2017, with the title of Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) during the New year's Honour's ceremony for her services to the Nursing profession;

Further aware that the tireless work of those notable Nigerians have touched the lives of thousands in the diaspora;

Recalls that at the end of the elections held on 8 June 2017 in the United Kingdom, Seven (7) Britons of Nigerian heritage were elected into the House of Commons, namely:

(i)	Chuka Umunna	—	<i>Streatham,</i>
(ii)	Bim Afolami	—	<i>Hitchin and Harpenden,</i>
(iii)	Fiona Onasanya	—	<i>Peterborough,</i>
(iv)	Chi Onwurah	—	<i>Newcastle Central,</i>
(v)	Kate Osamor	—	<i>Edmonton,</i>
(vi)	Kemi Badenock	—	<i>Saffron Walden,</i>
(vii)	Helen Grant	—	<i>Maidstone and the Weald;</i>

Resolves to:

- (i) congratulate those notable Nigerians with an ovation;
- (ii) invite them to be celebrated at Plenary for their laudable achievements; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Diaspora to send letters to congratulate them on behalf of the House (*Hon. Rita Orji — Ajeromi/Ifelodun Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments proposed:

- (i) *Leave out Prayer (ii) (Hon. Olabode Ayorinde — Owo/Ose Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (ii) In Prayer (iii), immediately after the word “them”, *insert* the words “including Nigerian born, British Boxer and World Heavyweight Champion, Anthony Joshua” (Hon. Onyema Chukwuka — Ogbaru Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Oluwayemi Jenkins who has Nigerian heritage has worked for various government departments in the United Kingdom ranging from the Customs and Excise, UK Border Agency and Immigration Enforcement at both strategic and operational levels;

Also noted that she was awarded the Home Office Advisor of the year in 2014 and was named in the Queen’s Honors list as a Member of the British Empire (MBE) for her work in securing the borders of the United Kingdom;

Aware that she is the immediate past President of the Association of British-Nigeria Law Enforcement (ABLE) Officers, a position she held from 2008-2016 during which she worked assiduously to change the negativity towards Nigeria and Nigerians in the United Kingdom, raised awareness and facilitated best practices between British and Nigerian Law Enforcement Officers and has continued to work with the Nigerian High Commission and Nigerians in Diaspora to raise awareness on issues of Immigration;

Also aware of Professor Elizabeth Nneka Aniowu, another notable Nigerian who has made landmark achievements in the field of Nursing as an emeritus Professor of Nursing at the University of West London and was earlier in 2011 honoured with the Commander of the most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) by Prince Charles and just recently in 2017, with the title of Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire (DBE) during the New year’s Honour’s ceremony for her services to the Nursing profession;

Further aware that the tireless work of those notable Nigerians have touched the lives of thousands in the diaspora;

Recalled that at the end of the elections held on 8 June 2017 in the United Kingdom, Seven (7) Britons of Nigerian heritage were elected into the House of Commons, namely:

- | | | | |
|-------|----------------|---|---------------------------------|
| (i) | Chuka Umunna | — | <i>Sireatham,</i> |
| (ii) | Bim Afolami | — | <i>Hitchin and Harpenden,</i> |
| (iii) | Fiona Onasanya | — | <i>Peterborough,</i> |
| (iv) | Chi Onwurah | — | <i>Newcastle Central,</i> |
| (v) | Kate Osamor | — | <i>Edmonton,</i> |
| (vi) | Kemi Badenock | — | <i>Saffron Walden,</i> |
| (vii) | Helen Grant | — | <i>Maidstone and the Weald;</i> |

Resolved to:

- (i) congratulate those notable Nigerians with an ovation;
- (ii) invite them to be celebrated at Plenary for their laudable achievements; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Diaspora to send letters to congratulate them, including the Nigerian born, British Boxer and World Heavyweight Champion, Anthony Joshua, on behalf of the House (**HR. 10/2017**).

16. Rescission of Two (2) Clauses and Introduction of Seven (7) New Clauses in the 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 the Bill for an Act to Establish the National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO) 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 the National Assembly;

Aware that the Legal Services Directorate of the National Assembly, in the course of cleaning the Bill, discovered some issues that needed to either be amended or introduced to give NABRO the required impetus as a statutory body;

Desirous of rescinding the decisions of the House on Clauses 13 (1), 15 (5) (b) and also introduce Clauses 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 and re-numbering Clauses 16 and 17 of the Bill as earlier passed accordingly ;

Resolves to:

- (i) rescind its decisions on Clauses 13 (1), 15 (5) (b) and introduce Clauses 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 in the 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 Related Matters; and
- (ii) re-commit the proposed amendments to the Committee of the Whole for further legislative action (*Hon. Timothy Golu — Paskshin/Kanke/Kanam Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Bill for an Act to Establish the National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO) 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 the National Assembly;

Aware that the Legal Services Directorate of the National Assembly, in the course of cleaning the Bill, discovered some issues that needed to either be amended or introduced to give NABRO the required impetus as a statutory body;

Desiroused of rescinding the decisions of the House on Clauses 13 (1), 15 (5) (b) and also introduce Clauses 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 and re-numbering Clauses 16 and 17 of the Bill as earlier passed accordingly;

Resolved to:

- (i) rescind its decisions on Clauses 13 (1), 15 (5) (b) and introduce Clauses 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 in the 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 Related Matters; and
- (ii) re-commit the proposed amendments to the Committee of the Whole for further legislative action (HR. 11/2017).

17. Need for the Reconstruction/Rehabilitation of Ipele Junction-Idoani-Isua-Akunu-Kabba Road
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the Ipele junction-Idoani-Isua-Akunu-Kabba road is a federal highway that connects the South West States to Kogi and Edo States and then unto the Northern part of the Country has been in a very deplorable condition for many years now;

Also notes that the economic importance of the road cannot be overemphasized as it serves as a short cut and more convenient to ply by trucks and other heavy duty vehicles transporting goods to and from the South Western States of Nigeria;

Aware that the deplorable condition of the road now forces trucks and other heavy duty vehicle drivers to pass through the highly mountainous towns of Oka and Ikare where accidents are recorded incessantly with the accompanied loss of lives and destruction of properties;

Concerned that if nothing is done to remedy the situation, the risks of going through the mountainous Oka and Ikare-Akoko road will continue with the devastating effects on lives and properties and a telling cost on the economy of the Country;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to rehabilitate the Road to make it motorable; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Appropriations, and Works to include the reconstruction of the road in any Supplementary Budget for 2017 or the Appropriation Bill of 2018 (*Hon. Stephen Friday Olemija — Akoko Northeast/Akoko West Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 12/2017).

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

18. Devastating Gully Erosion at Runfa-Gebe/Tudu Area/Sokoto River Rima and Gidan-Yero/Connecting Kwalkwalawa/Gidan Buba in Kware/Wamakko Federal Constituency of Sokoto State

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that gully erosion has been recognized as a major environmental problem at Runfa/Gebe, Tudu Gidan Yero/Gidan Bubu ward of Wamakko local government area of Sokoto State as the people live in palpable fear once the rainy season sets in given their past and bitter experiences over the years of loss of lives and destruction of properties worth millions of Naira by erosion, thereby rendering the people homeless;

Also notes that in 2010, the Gidan Yero community, in conjunction with Wamakko local government area constructed a 200 metres long drain out of the required 900 metres drain and the effect of the shortage of the drain is the devastating gully erosion in the areas where the drain has not been completed;

Aware that owing to the absence of well-defined and proper discharge channels, flood coming down from mountains around the area pave its own path, in the process, eroding the land and further widening it with every drop of rain ;

Cognizant that the enormity of the gully erosion is beyond the capacity of both the local government council and the Government of Sokoto State to handle, hence the appeal for intervention of the Federal Government to halt the gully erosion;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Environment and the Ecological Fund Office to complete the drain at Runfa-Gebe and Gidan Yero Communities in Wamakko Local Government Area of Sokoto State and construct discharge channels for flood to halt the gully erosion in the area; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Environment and Habitat, and Appropriations to include addressing the problem of gully erosion in the area in the 2018 budget estimates (*Hon. Abdullahi Mohammed Wamakko — Kware/Wamakko Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 13/2017).

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

19. Need to Stem the Menace of Gully Erosion in Ugiri-Ike and Uzoagba Communities in Mbaitoli/Ikeduru Federal Constituency of Imo State

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that Ugiri-Ike and Uzoagba are major and strategic agro-economic communities substantially responsible for agricultural supply to Owerri the capital of Imo State and other major markets in Mbaise, Mbano and Okigwe metropolis;

Also notes that the major road linking Okigwe to Ehime and Isiala Mbano as well as Mbaïse communities to Aba running through Ugiri-Ike and Uzoagba is under serious threat of being washed off by gully erosion with over 70% already devastated by the menace;

Cognizant of the adverse effects of the menace on food security and the likely displacement of families and loss of hectares of rich agrarian farm lands;

Concerned about the possible loss of lives of travelers on the road which has become a death trap and the loss of man-hours associated with the continued use of the road owing to lack of alternative routes to neighbouring communities of Atta, Amaïmo, Mbaïse and Mbano;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials for the affected communities to ameliorate the sufferings of the victims;
- (ii) call on the Presidency to direct the Ecological Fund Office to intervene with a view to curbing the gully erosion; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Environment and Habitat to ensure implementation (*Hon. Henry Nwawuba — Mbaitoli/Ikeduru Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 14/2017).

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

20. Need to Investigate the Violation of the Associated Gas Re-Injection Act and Loss of Revenue Due to Gas Flaring

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes the unending flaring of gas in Nigeria by multinational oil companies in violation of section 3 (1) of the Associated Gas Re- Injection Act, Cap. A25, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 which states that no company engaged in the production of oil and gas shall, after 1 January, 1984, flare gas produced in association with or without the permission in writing of the Minister;

Recalls the report in 2011 by Friends of Earth, Nigeria (FOEN) that there are about one hundred (100) continuously burning gas flares in the Niger - Delta and just offshore, some of which have been burning since the early 1960s;

Also notes the data from the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) that about two hundred and ninety six (296) billion standard cubic feet of natural gas was flared between January - September 2014 in violation of section 9 (1) (6) (iii) of the Petroleum Act which seeks to prevent the pollution of water courses and the atmosphere;

Aware of section 20 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 which enjoins the state to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air and land, forest and wild life of Nigeria;

Also aware that section 4 (1) of the Associated Gas Re-Injection Act provides that where any person flares gas or commits an offence under section 3, the person concerned shall forfeit the concessions granted to him in the particular field or fields in relation to which the offence was committed;

Concerned about the huge revenues the nation is losing to unending gas flaring as observed by the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) that the nation lost over 850 million dollars to gas flaring in 2015 which in turn led to loss of about 3,500 megawatts of electricity generation and about 400 million dollars in carbon credit value omission;

Also concerned about the serious health implications for people living around flare sites and the massive environmental damage being caused in the Niger- Delta area;

Also recalls the recent launching in April 2015 by the United Nations of “Zero Routine Flaring by 2030” initiative which seeks to bring together governments, oil companies and development institutions to eliminate routine flaring not later than 2030;

Further concerned that while Angola, Cameroun, the Republic of Congo and Gabon participated, along with other leading oil producing nations, in agreeing to end gas flaring at oil fields by 2030, Nigeria was missing at the signing ceremony;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to key into the United Nations “Zero Routine Flaring by 2030” Initiative and engage oil exploration companies, the people of Niger Delta area and other stakeholders on the plan of action to end gas flaring in order to stop the huge revenue losses and the despoliation of the Niger Delta environment; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Environment and Habitat, Petroleum Resources (Upstream), Niger Delta Development Commission, and Climate Change to investigate the violations of section 4 of the Associated Gas Re-Injection Act, determine the revenues generated as penalties from gas flaring and how same had been utilized and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Chinda Kingsley — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Insert* a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
“Condemn the continued gas flaring by International Oil Companies (IOCs) in Nigeria and call for detailed plan by them and level of implementation of their gas re-injection programme in line with Section 2 of the Associated Gas Re-injection Act, Cap. A25, LFN, 2004” (*Hon. Sunday Steve Karimi — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (ii) and *insert* as follows:
“Mandate the Committees on Gas Resources, and Environment and Habitat, to investigate the violations of section 4 of the Associated Gas Re-Injection Act, determine the revenues generated as penalties from gas flaring and how same had been utilized and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action” (*Hon. Diri Douye — Yenagoa/Kolokuma/Opokuma Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (iii) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (ii) and *insert* as follows:
“Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to carry out an investigation to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the fortune of the Multi National Oil Companies to pay the fine imposed for non compliance and violation of Section 4 of the Gas Re-injection Act of 1979, according to Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) in 2014 Gas audit” (*Hon. Nnam-Obi Uchechukwu — Ogba/Ebgbema/Ndoni/Ahoada West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Notes the unending flaring of gas in Nigeria by multinational oil companies in violation of section 3 (1) of the Associated Gas Re- Injection Act, Cap. A25, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 which states that no company engaged in the production of oil and gas shall, after 1 January 1984, flare gas produced in association with or without the permission in writing of the Minister;

Recalls the report in 2011 by Friends of Earth, Nigeria (FOEN) that there are about one hundred (100) continuously burning gas flares in the Niger - Delta and just offshore, some of which have been burning since the early 1960s;

Also notes the data from the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) that about two hundred and ninety six (296) billion standard cubic feet of natural gas was flared between January - September 2014 in violation of section 9 (1) (6) (iii) of the Petroleum Act which seeks to prevent the pollution of water courses and the atmosphere;

Aware of section 20 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 which enjoins the state to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air and land, forest and wild life of Nigeria;

Also aware that section 4 (1) of the Associated Gas Re- Injection Act provides that where any person flares gas or commits an offence under section 3, the person concerned shall forfeit the concessions granted to him in the particular field or fields in relation to which the offence was committed;

Concerned about the huge revenues the nation is losing to unending gas flaring as observed by the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) that the nation lost over 850 million dollars to gas flaring in 2015 which in turn led to loss of about 3,500 megawatts of electricity generation and about 400 million dollars in carbon credit value omission;

Also concerned about the serious health implications for people living around flare sites and the massive environmental damage being caused in the Niger- Delta area;

Also recalls the recent launching in April 2015 by the United Nations of “Zero Routine Flaring by 2030” initiative which seeks to bring together governments, oil companies and development institutions to eliminate routine flaring not later than 2030;

Further concerned that while Angola, Cameroun, the Republic of Congo and Gabon participated, along with other leading oil producing nations, in agreeing to end gas flaring at oil fields by 2030, Nigeria was missing at the signing ceremony;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to key into the United Nations “Zero Routine Flaring by 2030” Initiative and engage oil exploration companies, the people of Niger Delta area and other stakeholders on the plan of action to end gas flaring in order to stop the huge revenue losses and the despoliation of the Niger Delta environment; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Environment and Habitat, Petroleum Resources (Upstream), Niger Delta Development Commission, and Climate Change to investigate the violations of section 4 of the Associated Gas Re-Injection Act, determine the revenues generated as penalties from gas flaring and how same had been utilized and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action; and

- (iii) condemn the continued gas flaring by International Oil Companies (IOCs) in Nigeria, and call for detailed plan by them and level of implementation of their gas re-injection programme in line with Section 2 of the Associated Gas Re-injection Act, CAP A25, LFRN 2004 (HR. 15/2017).

21. Need to Investigate the High Cost of Malaria Tests and Drugs in Government Hospitals

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes the report by the World Health Organization (WHO) that malaria is endemic in 91 countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa;

Also notes that malaria kills more than four hundred (400) thousand people annually as a child dies from malaria every two minutes, especially in Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo;

Informed that over 150 million Nigerians are at risk of a malaria infection, and globally, new malaria cases fell by 21% between 2010 - 2015, with malaria death rate falling by 29% in the same 5 year period;

Also informed that globally amongst children under 5 years, there has been reduced malaria mortality rate resulting in 12% rise in life expectancy;

Concerned that in spite of the global celebration of the 2017 "World Malaria Day" on 25 April aptly tagged "A Push for Prevention", malaria tests and drugs are still not affordable to poor Nigerians who have to pay a relatively high cost for malaria tests and drugs despite the support of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and other international bodies supporting the Ministry of Health;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on HIV/AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria Control to:

- (a) investigate the funding and implementation of the Roll Back Malaria Programme in Nigeria; and
- (b) liaise with the Federal Ministry of Health to proffer strategies that will make malaria drugs and tests accessible to majority of Nigerians and report back within 6 weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Sergius Ose Ogun — Esan Northeast/Esan Southeast Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the report by the World Health Organization (WHO) that malaria is endemic in 91 countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa;

Also noted that malaria kills more than four hundred (400) thousand people annually as a child dies from malaria every two minutes, especially in Nigeria and Democratic Republic of Congo;

Informed that over 150 million Nigerians are at risk of a malaria infection, and globally, new malaria cases fell by 21% between 2010 - 2015, with malaria death rate falling by 29% in the same 5 year period;

Also informed that globally amongst children under 5 years, there has been reduced malaria mortality rate resulting in 12% rise in life expectancy;

Concerned that in spite of the global celebration of the 2017 “World Malaria Day” on 25 April aptly tagged “A Push for Prevention”, malaria tests and drugs are still not affordable to poor Nigerians who have to pay a relatively high cost for malaria tests and drugs despite the support of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) and other international bodies supporting the Ministry of Health;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on HIV/AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria Control to:

- (a) investigate the funding and implementation of the Roll Back Malaria Programme in Nigeria; and
- (b) liaise with the Federal Ministry of Health to proffer strategies that will make malaria drugs and tests accessible to majority of Nigerians and report back within 6 weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 16/2017**).

22. Non-implementation of the Emergency Communications Centres Across the Country
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Recalls that the defunct Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) provided a national emergency number “199” which was operator assisted and calls to the number were answered by operators who, after determining the nature of the emergency, transferred the call to the appropriate service, either the Police, Fire, Medical or Traffic;

Notes that with the decline of NITEL from 2007 and its eventual scrapping, the “199” emergency number went into disuse and the country no longer has a national emergency number, thereby creating a problem of how to handle emergency calls in a country where crime is rife and accidents and other emergency situations are very high;

Aware that in 2007, the Lagos State Government launched three (3) digits emergency numbers “112 and 767” in its quest to ensure a safer Lagos and the Emergency Call Centre is said to be handling over five (5) million calls per month;

Informed that the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) had set up Emergency Communications Centres which were intended to bridge the gap between the distressed and response agencies;

Also aware that telecommunications operators will require to be mandated to route emergency calls through the dedicated three digits toll free number “112” from each State to the Emergency Centre within that State, and the operators, who are resident in the Emergency Communication Centres, will then process the distress call and contact the relevant Emergency Response Agency that has the responsibility to handle the case;

Further aware of the claim by the NCC that the Centres have effective up-to-date database management systems which would help in the fight against terrorism, kidnapping, armed robbery and other sundry crimes by improving response time, thereby saving lives;

Concerned that since the NCC has not yet started implementing the project since it was created in 2003 despite the huge sum expended on the project, members of the public are not aware of the existence of the platform for use in emergency situations;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Telecommunications to investigate the non-implementation of the Nigerian Communications Commission Emergency Communications Centres since it was set up in 2003 and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Golu Timothy Simon — Paskshin/Kanke/Kanam Federal Constituency*).

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

Recalled that the defunct Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) provided a national emergency number “199” which was operator assisted and calls to the number were answered by operators who, after determining the nature of the emergency, transferred the call to the appropriate service, either the Police, Fire, Medical or Traffic;

Noted that with the decline of NITEL from 2007 and its eventual scrapping, the “199” emergency number went into disuse and the country no longer has a national emergency number, thereby creating a problem of how to handle emergency calls in a country where crime is rife and accidents and other emergency situations are very high;

Aware that in 2007, the Lagos State Government launched three (3) digits emergency numbers “112 and 767” in its quest to ensure a safer Lagos and the Emergency Call Centre is said to be handling over five (5) million calls per month;

Informed that the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) had set up Emergency Communications Centres which were intended to bridge the gap between the distressed and response agencies;

Also aware that telecommunications operators will require to be mandated to route emergency calls through the dedicated three digits toll free number “112” from each State to the Emergency Centre within that State, and the operators, who are resident in the Emergency Communication Centres, will then process the distress call and contact the relevant Emergency Response Agency that has the responsibility to handle the case;

Further aware of the claim by the NCC that the Centres have effective up-to-date database management systems which would help in the fight against terrorism, kidnaping, armed robbery and other sundry crimes by improving response time, thereby saving lives;

Concerned that since the NCC has not yet started implementing the project since it was created in 2003 despite the huge sum expended on the project, members of the public are not aware of the existence of the platform for use in emergency situations;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Telecommunications to investigate the non-implementation of the Nigerian Communications Commission Emergency Communications Centres since it was set up in 2003 and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 17/2017**).

23. Call to Regulate the Operations of Abattoirs within the Federal Capital Territory
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes with concern the distasteful state of abattoirs within the Federal Capital Territory which raises a lot of health concerns for the people who daily patronize and consume meat produced at those abattoirs;

Also notes that the filthy surroundings and general environment of the abattoirs do not meet international standards for abattoirs, and what is more, the skins of the animals are roasted using tyres which makes the consumption of the meat hazardous to human health, and to make matters worse, it does not appear that the entire process is inspected by qualified veterinarians;

Further notes that the abattoirs do not also meet the minimum internationally accepted standards for the production and processing of meat with most of the slaughter slabs being operated in open places with the tables infested with flies and maggots and scales for measuring meat meant for consumption faulty;

Aware there are four major abattoirs within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), namely Deidei, Karu, Kubwa and Gwagwalada, with a slaughter house at Mpape under the Agricultural Services Department of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), all in unhygienic and sorry state;

Observes that abattoirs ought not only to be places where animals are slaughtered, but also areas where the totality of animal products like hides and skins are processed with the hoofs and bones handled and preserved, thus necessitating the call for adequate monitoring mechanism to be put in place;

Also observes that Nigerians are susceptible to such diseases as tuberculosis and other life-threatening diseases due to the health hazards occasioned, in part, by the consumption of meat from the abattoirs;

Also aware that in other climes, animals are kept and examined for at least two days before they are slaughtered, but in Nigeria, animals are slaughtered indiscriminately without supervision or close monitoring of any kind;

Believes that it has become expedient to build state-of-the-art abattoirs across the FCT and employ qualified veterinarians to carry out thorough inspection of the abattoirs;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) to take steps to address the unhygienic conditions of the abattoirs and put in place a robust mechanism to regulate their operations within the Federal Capital Territory; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on FCT, and Healthcare Services to monitor the implementation and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Segun Alexander Adekola — Ekiti Southwest/Ikere/Ise/Orun Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with concern the distasteful state of abattoirs within the Federal Capital Territory which raises a lot of health concerns for the people who daily patronize and consume meat produced at those abattoirs;

Also noted that the filthy surroundings and general environment of the abattoirs do not meet international standards for abattoirs, and what is more, the skins of the animals are roasted using tyres which makes the consumption of the meat hazardous to human health, and to make matters worse, it does not appear that the entire process is inspected by qualified veterinarians;

Further noted that the abattoirs do not also meet the minimum internationally accepted standards for the production and processing of meat with most of the slaughter slabs being operated in open places with the tables infested with flies and maggots and scales for measuring meat meant for consumption faulty;

Aware there are four major abattoirs within the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), namely Deidei, Karu, Kubwa and Gwagwalada, with a slaughter house at Mpape under the Agricultural Services Department of the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA), all in unhygienic and sorry state;

Observed that abattoirs ought not only to be places where animals are slaughtered, but also areas where the totality of animal products like hides and skins are processed with the hoofs and bones handled and preserved, thus necessitating the call for adequate monitoring mechanism to be put in place;

Also observed that Nigerians are susceptible to such diseases as tuberculosis and other life-threatening diseases due to the health hazards occasioned, in part, by the consumption of meat from the abattoirs;

Also aware that in other climes, animals are kept and examined for at least two days before they are slaughtered, but in Nigeria, animals are slaughtered indiscriminately without supervision or close monitoring of any kind;

Believed that it has become expedient to build state-of-the-art abattoirs across the FCT and employ qualified veterinarians to carry out thorough inspection of the abattoirs;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) to take steps to address the unhygienic conditions of the abattoirs and put in place a robust mechanism to regulate their operations within the Federal Capital Territory; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on FCT, and Healthcare Services to monitor the implementation and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 18/2017**).

24. Call for Prompt Issuance of Driver's License by the Federal Road Safety Commission
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Aware that the new Drivers Licensing regime took off on 1 March, 2015 with the aim of restoring the integrity of the licensing system with high security features capable of rooting out operators of fake licences and the agencies involved in processing the licence are the States Board of Internal Revenues, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)/States Vehicle Inspection Offices (VIOs) and the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC);

Also aware that applicants are supposed to be issued the licence two (2) months after satisfying all the prescribed conditions but up to six (6) months after doing so, applicants are still unable to collect the licences owing to sundry reasons that include bureaucratic bottlenecks, scarcity of funds and corrupt practices on the part of officials of those agencies;

Observes that applicants who drive with temporary licenses issued by the Federal Road Safety Commission which are billed to last for two (2) months are being harassed and apprehended by the Police and the VIOs and Road Safety personnel after the expiration of the two months duration due to no fault of theirs;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Road Safety Commission to ensure that applicants are issued the new driver's license within two months of completing the data capture; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Road Safety Commission to ensure implementation and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Adedapo Lam Adesina — Ibadan Northeast/Ibadan Southeast Federal Constituency and 1 other*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the new Drivers Licensing regime took off on 1 March, 2015 with the aim of restoring the integrity of the licensing system with high security features capable of rooting out operators of fake licences and the agencies involved in processing the licence are the States Board of Internal Revenues, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT)/States Vehicle Inspection Offices (VIOs) and the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC);

Also aware that applicants are supposed to be issued the licence two (2) months after satisfying all the prescribed conditions but up to six (6) months after doing so, applicants are still unable to collect the licences owing to sundry reasons that include bureaucratic bottlenecks, scarcity of funds and corrupt practices on the part of officials of those agencies;

Observed that applicants who drive with temporary licenses issued by the Federal Road Safety Commission which are billed to last for two (2) months are being harassed and apprehended by the Police and the VIOs and Road Safety personnel after the expiration of the two months duration due to no fault of theirs;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Road Safety Commission to ensure that applicants are issued the new driver's license within two months of completing the data capture; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Road Safety Commission to ensure implementation and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 19/2017**).

25. **Need to Deploy Security Personnel to Stem the Recurring Communal Crisis between Aguleri and Umuleri Communities of Anambra State**

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that Aguleri and Umuleri Communities in Anambra East LGA have been involved in crisis over land which led to full blown war in 1999 during which several lives were lost and properties worth millions of naira were destroyed;

Informed that the communal crisis reoccurred recently, between Umungalagu and Isiokwe Ivite Aguleri and Ugume and Amaukwa villages of Umuleri during which several people were injured with matchets, guns and other dangerous weapons and houses vandalized, properties destroyed and economic activities in those communities were disrupted;

Cognizant that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 provides that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of Government;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the National Security Adviser, the Chief of Defence Staff, the Chief of Army Staff and the Inspector-General of Police to deploy security personnel to Aguleri and Umuleri Communities to restore peace and avoid further escalation of the crisis; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Defence, Army, and Police Affairs to ensure implementation (Hon. Tony Nwoye — Anambra East/Anambra West Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Aguleri and Umuleri Communities in Anambra East LGA have been involved in crisis over land which led to full blown war in 1999 during which several lives were lost and properties worth millions of naira were destroyed;

Informed that the communal crisis reoccurred recently, between Umungalagu and Isiokwe Ivite Aguleri and Ugume and Amaukwa villages of Umuleri during which several people were injured with matchets, guns and other dangerous weapons and houses vandalized, properties destroyed and economic activities in those communities were disrupted;

Cognizant that Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 provides that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of Government;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the National Security Adviser, the Chief of Defence Staff, the Chief of Army Staff and the Inspector-General of Police to deploy security personnel to Aguleri and Umuleri Communities to restore peace and avoid further escalation of the crisis; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Defence, Army, and Police Affairs to ensure implementation (HR. 20/2017).

26. Need for the Continuous Voter Registration Exercise to be conducted in Wards and Registration Units Nationwide

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Recalls that on 27 April, 2017, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) commenced a nationwide Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise;

Aware that the exercise was meant for Nigerians who have attained the age of 18 years since the last exercise and people of voting age not previously registered, those previously registered but whose names could not be found in the register of voters and people whose voters' cards were lost or damaged, to be registered;

Also aware that the exercise is ongoing in the offices of the Commission in the 774 local government areas in the Federation instead of the wards and Unit Registration Centers;

Observes that the exercise is facing numerous challenges across the country including unavailability of data capture machines in some local government areas, malfunctioning of some of the available machines, inaccessibility of some registration centers to prospective registrants, especially those living in rural and riverine areas, etc.;

Desirous of ensuring that the challenges which are hampering the Continuous Voter Registration exercise are addressed by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to avoid disenfranchisement of prospective voters;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to decentralize the registration exercise on Ward basis and to further decentralize where the ward is large;
- (ii) undertake the Continuous Voter Registration (CRV) exercise on a continuing and permanent basis in the respective Polling Units (PU) until all prospective citizens are registered; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Electoral and Political Party Matters to monitor the exercise and report progress and challenges within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Nkole Uko Ndukwe — Arochukwu/Ohafia Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Recalled that on 27 April, 2017, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) commenced a nationwide Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) exercise;

Aware that the exercise was meant for Nigerians who have attained the age of 18 years since the last exercise and people of voting age not previously registered, those previously registered but whose names could not be found in the register of voters and people whose voters' cards were lost or damaged, to be registered;

Also aware that the exercise is ongoing in the offices of the Commission in the 774 local government areas in the Federation instead of the wards and Unit Registration Centers;

Observed that the exercise is facing numerous challenges across the country including unavailability of data capture machines in some local government areas, malfunctioning of some of the available machines, inaccessibility of some registration centers to prospective registrants, especially those living in rural and riverine areas, etc.;

Desioured of ensuring that the challenges which are hampering the Continuous Voter Registration exercise are addressed by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to avoid disenfranchisement of prospective voters;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to decentralize, the registration exercise on Ward basis and to further decentralize where the ward is large;
- (ii) undertake the Continuous Voter Registration (CRV) exercise on a continuing and permanent basis in the respective Polling Units (PU) until all prospective citizens are registered; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on Electoral and Political Party Matters to monitor the exercise and report progress and challenges within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 21/2017**).

27. Adverse Consequences of the Refusal of the Federal Government to Obey Court Judgements/Orders

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes the plethora of judgments/orders that have been flagrantly disobeyed by the Federal Government, including its initial refusal to release Nnamdi Kanu and the continued detention of Col. Samba Dasuki (*rtđ*) and Sheikh El-Zakzaky after they had been granted bail;

Concerned about the revelation that over one hundred (100) court judgments/orders are currently being disregarded by various State Governments and also the increasing incidence of disobedience of court judgments/orders by private entities and individuals, apparently emboldened by similar actions of governments;

Recalls the Presidential Media chat of 30 December, 2015 where President Muhammadu Buhari admitted that the refusal to obey the orders granting bail to the aforementioned bordered on "national security," the gravity of the offences and the likelihood of their jumping bail, and the same position was, on 2 June, 2017, re-echoed by Alhaji Lai Mohammed, the Minister of Information and Culture who added that the Judiciary does not have the full picture of the gravity of the offences;

Observes that the above positions are contrary to the avowal of Abubakar Malami (SAN), the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice who had claimed in November 2015 that:

“there shall be no flouting of court orders by this new administration”;

Cognizant that the refusal of the Federal Government to obey court orders is an affront on the rule of law, a threat to the doctrine of separation of powers, a recipe for anarchy and a calculated attempt to foist an authoritarian government on Nigeria in a supposedly democratic dispensation;

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn the intentional refusal of the Federal Government to obey court judgments/orders and the public admission of same by its officials; and

- (ii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to interface with the Minister of Information and Culture, the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, the Director-General of the Department of State Services, the President of the Nigerian Bar Association and other stakeholders on the effects of disobedience of court judgments/orders by the Federal Government and its damage to the image of the nation and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Mark Terseer Gbillah — Gwer East/Gwer West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (ii), *leave out* the words “set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee ”and *insert* the words “Mandate the Committee on Judiciary”(Hon. Karimi Steve Sunday — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayer (ii) as amended, immediately after the words “State Services”, *insert* the words “Inspector-General of Police” (*Hon. Darlington Nwokocha — Isialangwa North/Isialangwa South Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (iii) In Prayer (i), immediately after the word “the”, *leave out* the words “Federal Government” and *insert* the words “Executive Arm” (*Hon. Diri Douye — Yenagoa/Kolokuma/Opokuma Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the plethora of judgments/orders that have been flagrantly disobeyed by the Federal Government, including its initial refusal to release Nnamdi Kanu and the continued detention of Col. Samba Dasuki (*rtđ*) and Sheikh El-Zakzaky after they had been granted bail;

Concerned about the revelation that over one hundred (100) court judgments/orders are currently being disregarded by various State Governments and also the increasing incidence of disobedience of court judgments/orders by private entities and individuals, apparently emboldened by similar actions of governments;

Recalled the Presidential Media chat of 30 December, 2015 where President Muhammadu Buhari admitted that the refusal to obey the orders granting bail to the aforementioned bordered on “national security,” the gravity of the offences and the likelihood of their jumping bail, and the same position was, on 2 June; 2017, re-echoed by Alhaji Lai Mohammed, the Minister of Information and Culture who added that the Judiciary does not have the full picture of the gravity of the offences;

Observed that the above positions are contrary to the avowal of Abubakar Malami (SAN), the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice who had claimed in November 2015 that:

“there shall be no flouting of court orders by this new administration”;

Cognizant that the refusal of the Executive Arm to obey court orders is an affront on the rule of law, a threat to the doctrine of separation of powers, a recipe for anarchy and a calculated attempt to foist an authoritarian government on Nigeria in a supposedly democratic dispensation;

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn the intentional refusal of the Executive Arm to obey court judgments/orders and the public admission of same by its officials; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Judiciary to interface with the Minister of Information and Culture, the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, the Director-General of the Department of State Services, Inspector-General of Police, the President of the Nigerian Bar Association and other stakeholders on the effects of disobedience of court judgments/orders by the Federal Government and its damage to the image of the nation and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 23/2017**).

28. Need to Reinstate the Abolished Civil Service Tenure Policy

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes with concern the abolition of the civil service tenure policy on June 20, 2016 by the Federal Government;

Observes that in spite of the far-reaching positive impacts the tenure policy has had on the public service, the Federal Government suddenly cancelled the scheme that stipulated two terms of four years for Permanent Secretaries and a single 8-year term for Directors which commenced in 2009;

Aware that the tenure policy regime guided against stagnation, redundancy, facilitated career progression by ensuring vacancies, especially at directorate cadre, thereby motivating the staff for enhanced productivity;

Also aware that the policy also extensively checked the bureaucratic corruption in the civil service underpinned by people who occupied the same positions for inordinately long period of time, in some cases, 15 to 20 years;

Concerned that the cancellation of the policy is a major setback to civil service reform and transformation necessary for a cost effective, efficient and result-oriented civil service system, a realization that informed the protests embarked upon by the Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria shortly after the policy was reversed;

Also notes that the reversal of the policy is yet another policy inconsistency which for decades had swept through the civil service making the system uncreative, vulnerable and politicized;

Also concerned that cancelling the tenure policy will make the tenure of the elite corps of the civil service to be determined by records that are susceptible to manipulations, a situation that would intrinsically result in politicizing the system and scaling up systemic corruption contrary to the dictates of a government that has anti-corruption precept as one of its cardinal objectives;

Resolves to:

- (i) deplore the abolition of the civil service tenure policy and urge the Federal Government to reinstate it; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Public Service Matters to ensure compliance and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**Hon. Emmanuel Kehinde Agboola — Ikole/Oye Federal Constituency**).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

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

“Mandate the Committee on Public Service Matters to look into the matter and report back within four (4) weeks” (Hon. Karimi Steve Sunday — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with concern the abolition of the civil service tenure policy on June 20, 2016 by the Federal Government;

Observed that in spite of the far-reaching positive impacts the tenure policy has had on the public service, the Federal Government suddenly cancelled the scheme that stipulated two terms of four years for Permanent Secretaries and a single 8-year term for Directors which commenced in 2009;

Aware that the tenure policy regime guided against stagnation, redundancy, facilitated career progression by ensuring vacancies, especially at directorate cadre, thereby motivating the staff for enhanced productivity;

Also aware that the policy also extensively checked the bureaucratic corruption in the civil service underpinned by people who occupied the same positions for inordinately long period of time, in some cases, 15 to 20 years;

Concerned that the cancellation of the policy is a major setback to civil service reform and transformation necessary for a cost effective, efficient and result-oriented civil service system, a realization that informed the protests embarked upon by the Association of Senior Civil Servants of Nigeria shortly after the policy was reversed;

Also noted that the reversal of the policy is yet another policy inconsistency which for decades had swept through the civil service making the system uncreative, vulnerable and politicized;

Also concerned that cancelling the tenure policy will make the tenure of the elite corps of the civil service to be determined by records that are susceptible to manipulations, a situation that would intrinsically result in politicizing the system and scaling up systemic corruption contrary to the dictates of a government that has anti-corruption precept as one of its cardinal objectives;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Public Service Matters to look into the matter and report back within four (4) weeks (**HR. 24/2017**).

29. Need to Appraise the Report of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom on Increasing Threat to Freedom of Religion in Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is an independent, bipartisan Commission created by the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act to monitor religious freedom around the world and advise Congress on actions to take against countries where religious freedom are threatened;

Also notes that in its 2017 Report, the Commission moved Nigeria to tier one group, from tier two which meant that threats to rights to religious freedom are increasing in Nigeria which is now officially regarded by the United States Government as being in the same league with Myanmar (Burma), North Korea, Sudan, Russia, Eritrea, China, Syria and Tajikistan;

Aware that among others, the clash between the Army and the Islamic Movement of Nigeria, the activities of the Boko Haram Sect, the Herdsmen attacks in the Middle-Belt and other areas, the killing of a female preacher in Abuja, demolition of churches in some States and the increasing abduction of women and girls are among the factors that influenced the Commission's report;

Also aware that the law establishing the Commission requires the President of the United States to take actions designed to improve religious freedom in countries where there have been violations of religious freedom;

Further aware that possible actions to be taken by the USA Government in accordance with this law include making officials responsible for infractions of religious rights inadmissible into the United States, restriction on assistance to such countries, including military, scientific, etc.;

Concerned that if such actions are taken, efforts to get international support for the fight against insurgency may be hampered;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Human Rights to appraise the findings of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom as it affects Nigeria and interface with the Government and other stakeholders, including holding a public hearing to determine the extent, if any, of these infractions of religious rights and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum Dunga/Ussa/Takum Federal Constituency and 11 others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is an independent, bipartisan Commission created by the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act to monitor religious freedom around the world and advise Congress on actions to take against countries where religious freedom are threatened;

Also noted that in its 2017 Report, the Commission moved Nigeria to tier one group, from tier two which meant that threats to rights to religious freedom are increasing in Nigeria which is now officially regarded by the United States Government as being in the same league with Myanmar (Burma), North Korea, Sudan, Russia, Eritrea, China, Syria and Tajikistan;

Aware that among others, the clash between the Army and the Islamic Movement of Nigeria, the activities of the Boko Haram Sect, the Herdsmen attacks in the Middle-Belt and other areas, the killing of a female preacher in Abuja, demolition of churches in some States and the increasing abduction of women and girls are among the factors that influenced the Commission's report;

Also aware that the law establishing the Commission requires the President of the United States to take actions designed to improve religious freedom in countries where there have been violations of religious freedom;

Further aware that possible actions to be taken by the USA Government in accordance with this law include making officials responsible for infractions of religious rights inadmissible into the United States, restriction on assistance to such countries, including military, scientific, etc.;

Concerned that if such actions are taken, efforts to get international support for the fight against insurgency may be hampered;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Human Rights to appraise the findings of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom as it affects Nigeria and interface with the Government and other stakeholders, including holding a public hearing to determine the extent, if any, of these infractions of religious rights and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (HR. 25/2017).

30 . Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till 3.30 p.m. (Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Munguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.25 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker

CORRIGENDA

- (i) In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 13 June, 2017, page 3, immediately after Prayer (ii), insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:

“Seek the concurrence of the Senate on the resolution of the House (Hon. Muhammed Sani Zorro — Gumel/Gagarawa/Mai Gatari/Sule Tankarkar Federal Constituency)”.

- (ii) In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Wednesday, 14 June, 2017, page 9, item 10, leave out all the words in the referral and insert as follows:

“Bill referred to the Committees on Maritime Safety, Education and Administration, and Navy”.