



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 12 July, 2017

1. The House met at 11.25 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.

2. **Votes and Proceedings**

Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 11 July, 2017.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Announcement**

Visitors in the Gallery:

Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following visitors:

- (i) Staff and Students of *Galaxy Academy*, Aso Pada, Karu, Nasarawa State;
- (ii) Members of *National Association of Political Science Students (NAPSS)*, Federal University of Lokoja, Kogi State; and
- (iii) Members of *Students' Representative Council*, Federal Polytechnic, Bida, Niger State.

4. **Petitions**

- (i) A petition from Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CDHR), Lagos State branch, on behalf of Moses Adie, on the alleged termination of appointment and threat to life by Stat-Oil Nigeria Limited, Ikoyi Lagos, was presented and laid by Hon. Ochiglegor Idagbo (*Bekwara/Obudu/Obanliku Federal Constituency*).
- (ii) A petition from Abope Chambers (Solicitors), on behalf of Omooba Olumuyiwa Sosanya and HYSIT TYL Nigeria Limited, on the alleged breach of the Public Procurement Act by the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), was presented and laid by Hon. Bamgbose Joseph (*Badagry Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) ***Inter-Communal Crises Between Kaltungo, Shongom and Billiri Local Government Areas of Gombe State:***

Hon. Ali Isa JC (*Balanga/Billiri 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.

Inter-Communal Crises Between Kaltungo, Shongom and Billiri Local Government Areas of Gombe State:

The House:

Notes the recurring inter-communal crises between these 3 local governments in Gombe State;

Worried that the crises have been recurring for years and each time it occurred, innocent lives were lost; houses, farms, and other properties destroyed;

Concerned that the recent conflict between these communities recorded several loss of lives and property, including that of a Police Officer who died in the process of trying to restore law and order;

Regrets that most farmers in the affected communities now go to their farms in fear of being attacked with dangerous weapons;

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn in totality the recurring crises in these communities;
- (ii) urge the National Boundary Commission to liaise with the Gombe State Boundary Committee in order to facilitate the speedy resolution of the border crisis between these communities;
- (iii) also urge the Inspector General of Police, the Director, State Security Service, to ensure that lives and properties of the people are protected;
- (iv) commend the Gombe State Government and the National Emergency Management Agency for prompt intervention in providing security and assessing the extent of the damages;
- (v) observes one minute silence in honour of the Police Officer and the people that lost their lives in the process; and
- (vi) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Police Affairs, and National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance and report back within three (3) weeks (*Hon. Isa J. C. — Balanga/Billiri Federal Constituency*).

Debate

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (vii) as follows:

“Pay a condolence visit to the family of the deceased Police Officer and urge the Nigeria Police to compensate the family of the deceased officer” (Hon. Agbonayinma Johnson Ehiozuwa — Egor/Ikpoba/Okha Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the recurring inter-communal crises between these 3 local governments in Gombe State;

Worried that the crises have been recurring for years and each time it occurred, innocent lives were lost; houses, farms, and other properties destroyed;

Concerned that the recent conflict between these communities recorded several loss of lives and property, including that of a Police Officer who died in the process of trying to restore law and order;

Regretted that most farmers in the affected communities now go to their farms in fear of being attacked with dangerous weapons;

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn in totality the recurring crises in these communities;
- (ii) urge the National Boundary Commission to liaise with the Gombe State Boundary Committee in order to facilitate the speedy resolution of the border crisis between these communities;
- (iii) also urge the Inspector General of Police, the Director, State Security Service, to ensure that lives and properties of the people are protected;
- (iv) commend the Gombe State Government and the National Emergency Management Agency for prompt intervention in providing security and assessing the extent of the damages;
- (v) observes one minute silence in honour of the Police Officer and the people that lost their lives in the process;
- (vi) mandate the Committees on Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, Police Affairs, and National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance and report back within three (3) weeks; and
- (vii) pay a condolence visit to the family of the deceased Police Officer and urge the Nigeria Police to compensate the family of the deceased officer (HR. 43/2017).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(ii) ***Need for Immediate Protection of Witnesses who Testify before House Committees: The Case of the Suspension of the Executive Secretary of National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS):***

Hon. Chike John Okafor (*Ehime Mbano/Ihitte Uboma/Obowo 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 Immediate Protection of Witnesses who Testify Before House Committees: The Case of Suspension of the Executive Secretary of National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS):

The House:

Notes that the National Health Insurance Scheme Act, 2004 provides for Health Insurance coverage for all Federal Government employees, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and individual enrollees in Nigeria;

Aware that based on a resolution of the House to investigate the activities of the Health Maintenance Organisations (HMOs) and the inhumane treatment given to the NHIS enrollees, the Committee on Healthcare Services commenced an Investigative Hearing where relevant stakeholders made startling revelations and useful submissions;

Worried by the testimony and revelations by the Executive Secretary of NHIS, Prof. Usman Yusuf, during the hearing where he decried the corruption being perpetrated by the HMOs, which he likened to the fraud in the fuel subsidy scheme, stressing that they are padding figures of enrollees so that they can get paid. He said that none of the 57 HMOs has a valid license as most of their accreditation have expired, and vowed to ensure that any HMO owing health providers, would not be re-accredited. According to him, a total of ₦60 billion has been paid to HMOs without commensurate results as they owe hospitals over ₦2.6 billion. He maintained that there is great corruption in the scheme adding that NHIS Information Communication Technology (ICT) department was used by HMOs to pad up to 23,000 enrollees;

Aware that the Executive Secretary of NHIS was suspended by the Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole for 3 months following his testimony before the Committee under a false pretext that there are petitions pending against him, but with the intent to punish him administratively for speaking up;

Also aware that the Minister wrote to the Executive Secretary, through the Permanent Secretary, Mrs Binta Adamu Bello; Ref. No: DFA/CORR/001, dated March 28, 2017 directing the Executive Secretary to pay the sum of ₦197,072,500 (One Hundred and Ninety Seven Million, Seventy-Two Thousand, Five Hundred Naira) only for rehabilitation works in some Federal Medical Centers, contract awarded by the Ministry in 2016 and directed him to pay the money to the Ministry's Account Number: 0020155061015 in the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), when there is no budgetary provisions for this payment in the NHIS 2016 budget. The Executive Secretary inquired from the Chief Medical Directors (CMOs) as to whether there were such projects being executed, they all confirmed to the contrary;

In another letter dated 12 May, 2017, the Permanent Secretary wrote to the Executive Secretary directing him to pay the sum of 37,838 US Dollars in respect of six staff of the Ministry to attend a World Health Organization Conference in Geneva, and the NHIS has no budgetary provision for such and this is contrary to an existing government circular from the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) that Ministers should not pressurise their Parastatals to sponsor such requests. The fund in possession of NHIS is a Contributory Fund by Nigerian workers. The Fund should not be used as directed;

Cognizant of the importance of the NHIS scheme for the health of Nigerians and financing thereof, the wellness of the enrollees and the dangers that the helpless enrollees will face in the light of the current situation of things;

Concerned that if witnesses who testify before Committees of the House are not offered some form of protection but, are exposed to various administrative sanctions and intimidation, it will discourage witnesses from revealing the truth and weaken the Houses' constitutional authority to expose corruption, inefficiency, fraud and waste in governance;

Further worried that the Legislative Houses Powers and Privileges Act only protects evidence of witnesses from being used against them in a civil or criminal proceeding but has no provisions for administrative sanctions or intimidation of witnesses and thus making it necessary for the House to act;

Resolves to:

- (i) invite the Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole to show cause why he should not be indicted for contempt of the House as the suspension of the Executive Secretary of NHIS, Prof. Usman Yusuf appears to be intended to intimidate him, punish him for testifying before the House and silence him from further testifying before the House of Representatives, in its constitutional duties of investigation of issues of corruption, inefficiency and waste in governance;
- (ii) request the Honorable Minister and the acting Executive Secretary to stop henceforth every process of HMOs reaccreditation pending the outcome of the ongoing investigation mandated by the House; and
- (iii) request the Minister to recall Executive Secretary of NHIS, Prof. Usman Yusuf from suspension forthwith and allow him to continue with his sanitization programme in the Agency (*Hon. Chike John Okafor — Ehime Mbano/Ihitte Uboma/Obowo Federal Constituency and 35 Others*).

Debate

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the National Health Insurance Scheme Act, 2004 provides for Health Insurance coverage for all Federal Government employees, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and individual enrollees in Nigeria;

Aware that based on a resolution of the House, to investigate the activities of the Health Maintenance Organisations (HMOs) and the inhumane treatment given to the NHIS enrollees, the Committee on Healthcare Services commenced an Investigative Hearing where relevant stakeholders made startling revelations and useful submissions;

Worried by the testimony and revelations by the Executive Secretary of NHIS, Prof. Usman Yusuf, during the hearing where he decried the corruption being perpetrated by the HMOs, which he likened to the fraud in the fuel subsidy scheme, stressing that they are padding figures of enrollees so that they can get paid. He said that none of the 57 HMOs has a valid license as most of their accreditation have expired, and vowed to ensure that any HMO owing health providers, would not be re-accredited. According to him, a total of ₦60 billion has been paid to HMOs without commensurate results as they owe hospitals over ₦2.6 billion. He maintained that there is great corruption in the scheme adding that NHIS Information Communication Technology (ICT) department was used by HMOs to pad up to 23,000 enrollees;

Aware that the Executive Secretary of NHIS was suspended by the Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole for 3 months following his testimony before the Committee under a false pretext that there are petitions pending against him, but with the intent to punish him administratively for speaking up;

Also aware that the Minister wrote to the Executive Secretary, through the Permanent Secretary, Mrs Binta Adamu Bello, Ref. No: DFA/CORR/001, dated March 28, 2017 directing the Executive Secretary to pay the sum of ₦197,072,500 (One Hundred and Ninety Seven Million, Seventy-Two Thousand, Five Hundred Naira) only for rehabilitation works in some Federal Medical Centers, contract awarded by the Ministry in 2016 and directed him to pay the money to the Ministry's Account Number: 0020155061015 in the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), when there is no budgetary provisions for this payment in the NHIS 2016 budget. The Executive Secretary inquired from the Chief Medical Directors (CMOs) as to whether there were such projects being executed, they all confirmed to the contrary;

In another letter dated 12 May, 2017, the Permanent Secretary wrote to the Executive Secretary directing him to pay the sum of 37,838 US Dollars in respect of six staff of the Ministry to attend a World Health Organization Conference in Geneva, and the NHIS has no budgetary provision for such and this is contrary to an existing government circular from the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) that Ministers should not pressurise their Parastatals to sponsor such requests. The fund in possession of NHIS is a Contributory Fund by Nigerian workers. The Fund should not be used as directed;

Cognizant of the importance of the NHIS scheme for the health of Nigerians and financing thereof, the wellness of the enrollees and the dangers that the helpless enrollees will face in the light of the current situation of things;

Concerned that if witnesses who testify before Committees of the House are not offered some form of protection but, are exposed to various administrative sanctions and intimidation, it will discourage witnesses from revealing the truth and weaken the Houses' constitutional authority to expose corruption, inefficiency, fraud and waste in governance;

Further worried that the Legislative Houses Powers and Privileges Act only protects evidence of witnesses from being used against them in a civil or criminal proceeding but has no provisions for administrative sanctions or intimidation of witnesses and thus making it necessary for the House to act;

Resolved to:

- (i) invite the Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole to show cause why he should not be indicted for contempt of the House as the suspension of the Executive Secretary of NHIS, Prof. Usman Yusuf appears to be intended to intimidate him, punish him for testifying before the House and silence him from further testifying before the House of Representatives, in its constitutional duties of investigation of issues of corruption, inefficiency and waste in governance;

- (ii) request the Honorable Minister and the acting Executive Secretary to stop henceforth every process of HMOs reaccreditation pending the outcome of the ongoing investigation mandated by the House; and
- (iii) request the Minister to recall Executive Secretary of NHIS, Prof. Usman Yusuf from suspension forthwith and allow him to continue with his sanitization programme in the Agency (HR. 44/2017).

6. Matter Requiring the Attention of the House

Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila (*House Leader*), drew the attention of the House to the non-compliance with the provision of Section 21 of Fiscal Responsibility Act, which requires Government Corporation, Companies, and Agencies to submit their Fiscal proposal to the National Assembly. He urged the House to compel all Statutory Corporations listed in the Act to submit their 2017 budget estimates in compliance with the provisions of the Act.

Ordered: That the Institutions concerned should comply with the provisions of the Act.

7. Presentation of Bill

Whistle Blower Protection Bill, 2017 (HB. 1073) was read the *First Time*.

- 8. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Cap. C39, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Review the Penalties Provided for Offences under the Act and give Members of the Public power to Arrest Offenders under the Act and for Other Related Matters (HB. 222) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

- 9. A Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of Federal College of Education, Lissam, Taraba State for the Purposes of Providing Qualitative Education in Sciences, Arts, Social Sciences and Other Technical Knowledge and for Related Matters (HB. 1042) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

- 10. A Bill for an Act to Provide a Legal Framework for the Code of Ethics for Medical Practitioners in Nigeria, to serve as a Guide for Medical Practice in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.1010) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Provide a Legal Framework for the Code of Ethics for Medical Practitioners in Nigeria, to serve as a Guide for Medical Practice in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.1010) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Ali Isa J. C. — Balanga/Biliri Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on Healthcare Services, and Justice.

- 11. Reconsideration of Outstanding Bills from the Preceding Assembly (Order Twelve, Rule 16, Standing Orders of the House of Representatives)**
Institute of Chartered Economists of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 710)

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. Resurgence of Boko Haram Insurgency in Maiduguri

Order read; withdrawn by leave of the House.

13. Need to Evaluate the Multi Year Tariff Order (MYTO) System of Electricity Tariff in Nigeria

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14. Need for Institutions of Learning to Identify and Manage Pupils and Students with Learning Disabilities

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that statistics from 'Helping Hands School of Special Learning' shows that about 12 million Nigerians live with learning disabilities ranging from dyslexia, dysgraphia, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and poor mental math ability, with six (6) million of them being children;

Aware that such learning disabilities affect vital parts of the learner such as spelling ability, writing capacity, expression and consistency in basic computation among others and the problem is not due to lack of intelligence or desire to learn but neurological in nature;

Also aware that having learning disabilities has a significant impact on a child's life, particularly in the face of the failure or inability of many schools in the country to take adequate measures to manage the challenges as many in the field are not trained and those people with the disabilities need different levels of support to manage and overcome those challenges;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge teachers and academic supervisors in all institutions of learning to identify and specially manage children living with dyslexia and other learning disabilities and give them extra-time during examinations, where necessary;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Education to cause a revision of the National School Curriculum with ample consideration given to the individual's deficit, learning style, behavioural patterns and personality profile of each child; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Basic Education and Services, and Tertiary Education and Services to ensure implementation and report back in eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Omosede Gabriella Igbinedion — Ovia Northeast/Ovia Southwest Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that statistics from 'Helping Hands School of Special Learning' shows that about 12 million Nigerians live with learning disabilities ranging from dyslexia, dysgraphia, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and poor mental math ability, with six (6) million of them being children;

Aware that such learning disabilities affect vital parts of the learner such as spelling ability, writing capacity, expression and consistency in basic computation among others and the problem is not due to lack of intelligence or desire to learn but neurological in nature;

Also aware that having learning disabilities has a significant impact on a child's life, particularly in the face of the failure or inability of many schools in the country to take adequate measures to manage the challenges as many in the field are not trained and those people with the disabilities need different levels of support to manage and overcome those challenges;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge teachers and academic supervisors in all institutions of learning to identify and specially manage children living with dyslexia and other learning disabilities and give them extra-time during examinations, where necessary;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Ministry of Education to cause a revision of the National School Curriculum with ample consideration given to the individual's deficit, learning style, behavioural patterns and personality profile of each child; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Basic Education and Services, and Tertiary Education and Services to ensure implementation and report back in eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (HR. 45/2017).

15. Consideration of Reports

That items 8 to 17 on the *Order Paper* be deferred to another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (2) (Hon. Olabode Ayorinde — Owo/Ose Federal Constituency)

16. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 13 July, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Femi Gbajabamila — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.38 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker