



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 9 March, 2017

1. The House met at 11.12 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, 8 March, 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) Members of the Students' Union Government, *Enugu State University of Science and Technology (ESUT)*, Enugu State;
- (ii) Staff and Students of *God's Own Scholars Academy*, Karu, Nasarawa State;
- (iii) Staff and Students of *Grande Ville Academy*, Gwarimpa, Abuja;
- (iv) Students of *Asacs International Staff College*, Bwari, Abuja; and
- (v) Members of the *Nigerian Universities Accounting Students Association (NUASA)*, Benson Idahosa University Chapter, Benin City, Edo State.

(b) **Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Air Force Institute of Technology, Kaduna:**

Mr Speaker named members of the Conference Committee as follows:

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|-----|------------------------------|---|--------|
| (1) | Hon. Samson Okwu | — | Member |
| (2) | Hon. Lawan Goni Bukar | — | Member |
| (3) | Hon. Achida Kabiru Marafa | — | Member |
| (4) | Hon. Ogbaga Sylvester Ogbaga | — | Member |
| (5) | Hon. Williams Olusegun | — | Member |
| (6) | Hon. Michael Okon Enyong | — | Member |

4. Petitions

- (i) A petition from David Olusegun Agbaja, on his untimely retirement from service by the Nigeria Customs Service, was presented and laid by Hon. Olabode Ayorinde (*Owo/Ose Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) A petition from Salof Industries Nigeria on the termination of contract awarded to them by General Electric Company, was presented and laid by Hon. Lovette Idisi (*Ethiope East/Ethiope West Federal Constituency*);
- (iii) A petition from Bennet Amolo, on behalf of Abi family of Otuabula I Community, and others, demanding Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) to commence activities on the Oil Exploration in Iyalakiri location or vacate the land, was presented and laid by Hon. Sodaguwo A. Festus-Omoni (*Ogbia Federal Constituency*);
- (iv) A petition from Concerned Federal Civil Servants, Federal Ministry of Finance, on the non-payment of their salaries, promotion arrears, and first 28 days allowance, was presented and laid by Hon. Garba Datti Muhammad (*Sabon Gari Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

- (i) ***Call for the House to Investigate the exploitation of Parents by American International School, Abuja and all other International Schools:***
Hon. Emmanuel Kehinde Agboola (*Ekiti North Federal Constituency*), introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve it as one of urgent public importance.

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

Matter to stand over till next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 4 (3).

- (ii) ***Need to Extend Registration and Redemption of Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GESS) in Kebbi State, and to Ensure its Wider Coverage-Brought:***
Hon. Mohammad Umar Jega (*Aliero/Gwandu/Jega Federal Constituency*), introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve it as one of urgent public importance.

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

Matter to stand over till next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 4 (3).

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

Agreed to.

- (iii) ***Communal Disturbance at Ile-Ife, Osun State on Wednesday, 8 March, 2017:***
Hon. Muhammed Sani Zorro (*Gumel/Gagarawa/Mai Gatari/Sule Tankarkar Federal Constituency*), introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve it as one of urgent public importance.

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

Matter to stand over till next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 4 (3).

- (iv) ***Kidnaping and Deadly Robbery Attacks on Ilesa - Akure and Akure - Ondo - Ore Roads:***
Hon. Kolade Victor Akinjo (*Ilaje/Eseodo Federal Constituency*), introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve it as one of urgent public importance.

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

Matter to stand over till next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 4 (3).

6. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission Act, Cap. N117, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Payment of all Monies Received by the Commission into the Federation Account in Accordance with Section 162 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and for Other Related Matters (HB. 895) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do resume debate on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission Act, Cap. N117, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Payment of all Monies Received by the Commission into the Federation Account in Accordance with Section 162 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and for Other Related Matters (HB. 895)” (*Hon. Gyang Istifanus Dung — Barkinladi/Riyom Federal Constituency*).

Debate resumed.

Bill withdrawn by leave of the House.

7. **A Bill for an Act to Prohibit Chemical Weapons and Establish the National Authority for the Effective Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 591) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Prohibit Chemical Weapons and Establish the National Authority for the Effective Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 591) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndowa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Bill withdrawn by leave of the House.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of Section 317 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 by deleting the word "Without Prejudice to the Generality of Section 315 of this Constitution" and for Other Related Matters (HB. 944) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of Section 317 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 by deleting the word "Without Prejudice to the Generality of Section 315 of this Constitution" and for Other Related Matters (HB. 944) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwu East/Ukwu West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Special Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of Section 315 (5) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 by deleting the entire Section and for Other Related Matters (HB. 945) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of Section 315 (5) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 by deleting the entire Section and for Other Related Matters (HB. 945) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta — Ukwa East/Ukwa West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Special Ad-hoc Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Code of Conduct Bureau and Tribunal Act, Cap. C15, LFN, 2004 to Provide for the Creation of Divisions of the Code of Conduct Tribunal in the Geopolitical Zones in Order to Ensure Maintenance of High Standard of Morality in the Country, Fast Dispensation of Justice and Accountability in the Conduct of Holders of Public Offices at the State and Zonal Levels and for Other Related Matters (HB. 888) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal Sections 59-69 of the Police Act, Cap. P19, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 and Re-enact the Traffic Warden Service which shall be Responsible for the Appointment, Promotion and Disciplining of Traffic Wardens and Issuance of Certificates of Appointment and for Other Related Matters (HB. 596) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Authorize the Provision of Free, Pre-Natal and Post Natal Health Services to Every Nigerian Woman Pregnant in Government Hospitals; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 717) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Authorize the Provision of Free, Pre-Natal and Post Natal Health Services to Every Nigerian Woman Pregnant in Government Hospitals and for Other Related Matters (HB. 717) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Tony Nwoye — Anambra East/Anambra West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Debate adjourned.

Ordered: The Sponsor of the Bill to provide a compendium on the Bill to all Members, pursuant to Order Twelve, Rule 1 (3).

13. **Rainstorm Disaster in Okpella, Etsako Federal Constituency, Edo State**
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes with concern the devastating rainstorm that took place in several communities in Okpella on 6 March, 2017, leading to the death of one student and his brother sustaining severe injuries;

Also notes that the disaster also affected a Community Secondary School in Iddo while students were studying, destroyed two blocks of classrooms, pulled down electric poles and damaged over 100 houses in different communities in Okpella Kingdom;

Concerned that the rainstorm, which came with the first rain of the season, has rendered hundreds of people homeless and in need of assistance and more rains are in the offing with likelihood of more rainstorms;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to, as a matter of urgency, send relief materials to the victims of the devastating rainstorm to reduce their sufferings; and
- (ii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to visit the family of the deceased and the injured and also the Paramount Ruler of Okpella Kingdom, HRH, the Okokpellagbe of Okpella, Alhaji (Dr) A. Y. E. Dirisu (*Hon. Johnson Egwakhide Oghuma — Etsako East/Etsako West/Etsako Central Federal Constituency*).

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (ii), line1, *leave out* the words "Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee", and *insert* the words "Mandate the Committee on National Emergency and Disaster Preparedness" (*Hon. Mohammed Umar Bago — Chanchaga Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with concern the devastating rainstorm that took place in several communities in Okpella on 6 March, 2017, leading to the death of one student and his brother sustaining severe injuries;

Also noted that the disaster also affected a Community Secondary School in Iddo while students were studying, destroyed two blocks of classrooms, pulled down electric poles and damaged over 100 houses in different communities in Okpella Kingdom;

Concerned that the rainstorm, which came with the first rain of the season, has rendered hundreds of people homeless and in need of assistance and more rains are in the offing with likelihood of more rainstorms;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to, as a matter of urgency, send relief materials to the victims of the devastating rainstorm to reduce their sufferings; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on National Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to visit the family of the deceased and the injured and also the Paramount Ruler of Okpella Kingdom, HRH, the Okokpellagbe of Okpella, Alhaji (Dr) A. Y. E. Dirisu (**HR. 77/2017**).

Motion referred to Committee on National Emergency and Disaster Preparedness, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

14. **Need to Investigate the Allegations of Abuse, Breach and Violation of the Public Procurement Act of 2007 by the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS)**
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that as an agency of the Federal Government, the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) is required to fully comply with the provisions of the Public Procurement Act of 2007;

Also notes the numerous allegations of gross abuse of the letters and spirit of the Public Procurement Act by the FIRS ranging from noncompliance with requirements for competitive bidding, abuse of the restrictive tendering option, award of contracts beyond approved threshold to companies, some of which were registered on the day of award and to companies not having the required compliance documents/certificates, etc.;

Recalls that such gross abuse and violation of the Act were partly responsible for the numerous challenges bedeviling the nation, including the current economic recession and infrastructural deficit;

Also recalls that the FIRS has consistently shown strong penchant to deliberately violate the Act, as was the case in its engagement of McKenzie which resulted in huge loss of foreign exchange to the nation;

Concerned that if urgent steps are not taken to investigate these allegations and address any infractions, the abuse is likely to continue, resulting in further losses to the nation;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Public Procurement, and Finance to investigate the allegations and report back within five (5) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Chukwuka Wilfred Onyema — Ogbaru Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Negatived.

15. **Need to Investigate the Sale of the National Defence College Quarters, Zone C, Apo, Abuja to Individuals**
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Aware that the National Defence College (NDC) Quarters located at Zone C, Apo, Abuja was allocated to the College by the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) in 1995 to provide accommodation for military and civilian staff of the National Defence College;

Also aware that the FCTA has, over the years, been mounting pressure on the College to handover the quarters for sale in spite of the fact that the houses are being occupied by the NDC staff and students;

Concerned that all the 88 blocks in the quarters have been sold by the FCTA to individuals who are currently processing the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy (C-of-O) even though the students and staff of the College are still in occupation of the properties;

Also concerned that the procedure for the sale of houses did not follow due process as the occupants of the houses were not given the right of first refusal, no announcements were made for the sale and no bidding/auction process was conducted;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) to suspend all actions regarding the sale of the properties in Zone C Quarters, Apo being residences of staff and students of the National Defence College pending the outcome of investigations; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Defence, and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to investigate the process followed in the sale of the properties and report back within four(4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Tajudeen Adekunle Obasa — Ojo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (ii), line 2, immediately after the words "in the", insert the word "purported" (*Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari — Yabo/Shagari Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the National Defence College (NDC) Quarters located at Zone C, Apo, Abuja was allocated to the College by the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) in 1995 to provide accommodation for military and civilian staff of the National Defence College;

Also aware that the FCTA has, over the years, been mounting pressure on the College to handover the quarters for sale in spite of the fact that the houses are being occupied by the NDC staff and students;

Concerned that all the 88 blocks in the quarters have been sold by the FCTA to individuals who are currently processing the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy (C-of-O) even though the students and staff of the College are still in occupation of the properties;

Also concerned that the procedure for the sale of houses did not follow due process as the occupants of the houses were not given the right of first refusal, no announcements were made for the sale and no bidding/auction process was conducted;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) to suspend all actions regarding the sale of the properties in Zone C Quarters, Apo being residences of staff and students of the National Defence College pending the outcome of investigations; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Defence, and Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to investigate the process followed in the purported sale of the properties and report back within four(4) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 78/2017**).

16. Need to Investigate the Terms and Conditions of Transfer of the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos to the Lagos State Government
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Aware that the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos is the first stadium built by the Federal Government in 1972 to host the All African Games in 1973;

Notes that the Stadium, which is one of the critical assets of the Federal Government, has the capacity to accommodate 45,000 spectators and was structured to host national, regional, continental and international sporting events;

Recalls that over the years, the Stadium was practically abandoned, leading to the dilapidation of the facilities and it took the intervention of the National Sports Commission in 2009 to renovate and upgrade the facilities to a world class stadium;

Observes that to keep up with the maintenance of the stadium a huge budgetary provision is made annually and in 2016, for instance the sum of ₦400 million was appropriated for the purpose;

Also aware that the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports is at an advanced stage of entering into an agreement with Lagos State Government to take over the stadium;

Cognizant that being one of the critical assets of the country, there is a need to ensure that favourable terms/conditions are provided before the transfer of the stadium to Lagos State Government;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Sports to investigate the terms and conditions of the agreement under which the Federal Ministry of Sports and Youth Development is seeking to transfer the National Stadium to Lagos State Government; and the usage of the huge budgetary allocations in the last 5 years for the maintenance of the stadium and report back within two (2) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Danburam Abubakar Nuhu — Kano Municipal Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the Prayer and *insert* new Prayers as follows:

- (i) "Mandate the Committee on Sports to interface with the Ministry of Sports and Youth Development in determining the terms and conditions of the proposed transfer of the National Stadium, Lagos, to the Government of Lagos State" (*Hon. Adeyinka Ajayi — Ifelodun/Boripe/Odo-Otin Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) "Also mandate the Committee on Sports to investigate the usage of the huge budgetary allocations in the last 5 years for the maintenance of the stadium and report back within two (2) weeks for further legislative action" (*Hon. Adeyinka Ajayi — Ifelodun/Boripe/Odo-Otin Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the National Stadium, Surulere, Lagos is the first stadium built by the Federal Government in 1972 to host the All African Games in 1973;

Noted that the Stadium, which is one of the critical assets of the Federal Government, has the capacity to accommodate 45,000 spectators and was structured to host national, regional, continental and international sporting events;

Recalled that over the years, the Stadium was practically abandoned, leading to the dilapidation of the facilities and it took the intervention of the National Sports Commission in 2009 to renovate and upgrade the facilities to a world class stadium;

Observed that to keep up with the maintenance of the stadium a huge budgetary provision is made annually and in 2016, for instance the sum of ₦400 million was appropriated for the purpose;

Also aware that the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports is at an advanced stage of entering into an agreement with Lagos State Government to take over the stadium;

Cognizant that being one of the critical assets of the country, there is a need to ensure that favourable terms/conditions are provided before the transfer of the stadium to Lagos State Government;

Resolved to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Sports to interface with the Ministry of Sports and Youth Development in determining the terms and conditions of the proposed transfer of the National Stadium, Lagos, to the Government of Lagos State; and
- (ii) also mandate the Committee on Sports to investigate the usage of the huge budgetary allocations in the last 5 years for the maintenance of the stadium and report back within two (2) weeks for further legislative action (HR. 79/2017).

17. **Need for Approval, Appropriation and Disbursement of the Sum of Twenty-Four Billion Naira (₦24,000,000,000.00) for the Financing and Procurement of NIGCOMSAT-2 and NIGCOMAT-3 Satellites**

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Recalls that sometime in 2006, the Nigerian Communications Satellite Ltd (NIGCOMSAT) was incorporated as a company and an agency of the Federal Government to commercialize satellite resources commencing with the NIGCOMSAT generation communication satellites;

Also recalls that in May 2007, NIGCOMSAT Ltd launched its first geostationary satellite, NigComSat-1 into orbit as a result of Solar Array Deployment Assembly (SADA) but NigComSat-1 was de-orbited on 10 November, 2008 and was replaced in December 2011 with an improved replica, NigComSat-1R, which has a 15 years minimum lifespan;

Notes that NIGCOMSAT-1R has played significant roles since its launch into orbit, including astronomical increase in internally generated revenue to numerous downstream clients through the supply of satellite broadband for their services such as the provision of In Orbit Testing (IOT) and Carrier Spectrum Management (CSM) services rendered to the Belarus Government valued at about ₦1.6 billion annually and the provision of secured satellite communication pathways to our security services and agencies in areas where they cannot deploy wired and wireless services;

Also notes that in furtherance of its noble objectives, NIGCOMSAT-1R is being deployed in the war against terrorism, secured communication and intelligence gathering, specifically through the provision of encrypted data through its superhighway;

Observes the need to support the indigenous communication satellite industry in Nigeria, most specifically in the area of increasing the availability of bandwidth through the procurement of additional communication satellites designed specifically for the Nigerian and African terrain and market, in the form of NIGCOMSAT-2 and NIGCOMSAT-3;

Also observes that the benefits that will accrue from these additional satellite capacities are enormous, including support for commercial platforms, ICT applications, health, education, agriculture, job creation, digital migration in broadcasting and communications, increased broadband penetration and more precisely, security support and intelligence gathering;

Concerned that if urgent steps are not taken to sustain the existing investments in commercial communication satellites and the progress the country has made in satellite business, we may lose all the achievements recorded from the NIGCOMSAT project and regress in our march towards creating an ICT knowledge based economy;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Minister of Communications to grant approval to NIGCOMSAT Ltd to source funding for NIGCOMSAT-2 and NIGCOMSAT-3 communication satellites from Development Banks, Sovereign Wealth Funds, Bilateral and Multilateral International Credit Institutions and other financing agencies; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Information Technology, National Planning and Economic Development, Appropriations, and Legislative Compliance to examine the feasibility and relevance of the procurement by NIGCOMSAT Ltd of NIGCOMSAT-2 and NIGCOMSAT-3 communication satellites, and consider the adequacy or otherwise of the proposed sum of Twenty-Four Billion Naira (₦24,000,000,000.00) for the project and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Oluwole Oke — Obokun/Oriade Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Recalled that sometime in 2006, the Nigerian Communications Satellite Ltd (NIGCOMSAT) was incorporated as a company and an agency of the Federal Government to commercialize satellite resources commencing with the NIGCOMSAT generation communication satellites;

Also recalled that in May 2007, NIGCOMSAT Ltd launched its first geostationary satellite, NigComSat-1 into orbit as a result of Solar Array Deployment Assembly (SADA) but NigComSat-1 was de-orbited on 10 November, 2008 and was replaced in December 2011 with an improved replica, NIGCOMSAT-1R, which has a 15 years minimum lifespan;

Noted that NIGCOMSAT-1R has played significant roles since its launch into orbit, including astronomical increase in internally generated revenue to numerous downstream clients through the supply of satellite broadband for their services such as the provision of In-Orbit Testing (IOT) and Carrier Spectrum Management (CSM) services rendered to the Belarus Government valued at about ₦1.6 billion annually and the provision of secured satellite communication pathways to our security services and agencies in areas where they cannot deploy wired and wireless services;

Also noted that in furtherance of its noble objectives, NIGCOMSAT-1R is being deployed in the war against terrorism, secured communication and intelligence gathering, specifically through the provision of encrypted data through its superhighway;

Observed the need to support the indigenous communication satellite industry in Nigeria, most specifically in the area of increasing the availability of bandwidth through the procurement of additional communication satellites designed specifically for the Nigerian and African terrain and market, in the form of NIGCOMSAT-2 and NIGCOMSAT-3;

Also observed that the benefits that will accrue from these additional satellite capacities are enormous, including support for commercial platforms, ICT applications, health, education, agriculture, job creation, digital migration in broadcasting and communications, increased broadband penetration and more precisely, security support and intelligence gathering;

Concerned that if urgent steps are not taken to sustain the existing investments in commercial communication satellites and the progress the country has made in satellite business, we may lose all the achievements recorded from the NIGCOMSAT project and regress in our march towards creating an ICT knowledge based economy;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Minister of Communications to grant approval to NIGCOMSAT Ltd to source funding for NIGCOMSAT-2 and NIGCOMSAT-3 communication satellites from Development Banks, Sovereign Wealth Funds, Bilateral and Multilateral International Credit Institutions and other financing agencies; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Information Technology, National Planning and Economic Development, Appropriations, and Legislative Compliance to examine the feasibility and relevance of the procurement by NIGCOMSAT Ltd of NIGCOMSAT-2 and NIGCOMSAT-3 communication satellites, and consider the adequacy or otherwise of the proposed sum of Twenty-Four Billion Naira (₦24,000,000,000.00) for the project and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 80/2017**).

18. Need to Declare Kogi, Enugu and Anambra States as Oil Producing States
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Aware that oil is the most important foreign exchange earner for the country but notes the dwindling revenues from oil caused by both the fall in international oil prices and the drastic reduction in oil production occasioned by insecurity and other challenges in the oil producing areas;

Notes the concerted efforts by the Federal Government in prospecting for oil deposits in various parts of the country in the hope of increasing domestic production, even though at huge cost to the Government;

Also notes that the Government is fully aware of already explored and determined huge oil and gas deposits in commercial quantities in Anambra Basin, which cuts across Ibaji Area, Idah-1, Alade-1, Atu-1, Inni-1 in Kogi State; Eziagulu Otu, Enugwu Otu, Nzam, Ezi-Anam, Anaku, Omor in Anambra State and Igga, Ojo, UzoUwani Areas in Enugu State;

Also aware that the failure to optimally explore this already established huge deposits in the Anambra Basin which would generate social and economic activities in the Basin has caused disaffection and crisis across those bordering States and occasionally led to bloodshed amongst citizens in the border corridors, where this oil is in high commercial quantity;

Further aware that between 1952 and 1986, three companies, namely Shell BP (now Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Elf (now Total Fina Elf) and Agip Energy had dug 25 exploration wells in this Basin but abandoned them due to the Government policy then that these deposits are to be for strategic reserve;

Equally aware that OPL 901 and OPL 902 (previously OPL 444) were all abandoned in the region to waste despite NNPC/NPDC on their own having carried out seismic activities in the Basin in parts of Kogi, Enugu and Anambra States with the same results;

Concerned that there have been lingering boundary demarcation case before the National Boundary Commission between Anambra, Enugu and Kogi States as ordinarily peace loving neighbours have had to resort to violent actions against each other owing to the inaction of the Government;

Cognizant that Oriental Resources Plc has, since 2012, been prospecting on OPL 915 and OPL 916, derivable from the three adjoining States of Kogi, Enugu and Anambra but these have not been commercially mined as it is still awaiting Oil Mining License (OML) from the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) years after former President Goodluck Jonathan flagged off the operations of Oriental Petroleum Resources;

Believes that the declaration of Kogi, Anambra and Enugu States as oil producing States will not in any way jeopardize the on-going field tracing and provisional boundary demarcation between the States by the National Boundary Commission but will rather aid in determining the percentage of derivation accruable to the three (3) States, equally to be noted is that hydrocarbon has been found in the Basin but not yet optimally utilized;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to direct the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) to open up round table bids for oil prospecting and mining on the existing discoveries;
- (ii) also urge the Federal Government to declare Kogi, Anambra and Enugu States as oil producing States since exploration/mining activities have begun in the Basin since 2012; and
- (iii) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to determine the commercial viability of the oil and gas deposits in the Anambra Basin in order to optimize the commercial mining in the Basin where hydrocarbon activities began in 2012, for the benefits of the three States and to increase oil revenue for the country and resolve all outstanding boundary issues between Anambra, Kogi and Enugu States (*Hon. Emmanuel M. Egwu — Idah/Igalamela/Ibaji/Ofu Federal Constituency and 2 others*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out Prayers (i) and (ii) (Hon. Herman Hembe — Konshisha/Vandekiya Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

** Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.*

The House:

Aware that oil is the most important foreign exchange earner for the country but notes the dwindling revenues from oil caused by both the fall in international oil prices and the drastic reduction in oil production occasioned by insecurity and other challenges in the oil producing areas;

Noted the concerted efforts by the Federal Government in prospecting for oil deposits in various parts of the country in the hope of increasing domestic production, even though at huge cost to the Government;

Also noted that the Government is fully aware of already explored and determined huge oil and gas deposits in commercial quantities in Anambra Basin, which cuts across Ibaji Area, Idah-1, Alade-1, Atu-1, Inni-1 in Kogi State; Eziagulu Otu, Enugwu Otu, Nzam, Ezi-Anam, Anaku, Omor in Anambra State and Igga, Ojo, Uzo Uwani Areas in Enugu State;

Also aware that the failure to optimally explore this already established huge deposits in the Anambra Basin which would generate social and economic activities in the Basin has caused disaffection and crisis across those bordering States and occasionally led to bloodshed amongst citizens in the border corridors, where this oil is in high commercial quantity;

Further aware that between 1952 and 1986, three companies, namely Shell BP (now Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Elf (now Total Fina Elf) and Agip Energy had dug 25 exploration wells in this Basin but abandoned them due to the Government policy then that these deposits are to be for strategic reserve;

Equally aware that OPL 901 and OPL 902 (previously OPL 444) were all abandoned in the region to waste despite NNPC /NPDC on their own having carried out seismic activities in the Basin in parts of Kogi, Enugu and Anambra States with the same results;

Concerned that there have been lingering boundary demarcation case before the National Boundary Commission between Anambra, Enugu and Kogi States as ordinarily peace loving neighbours have had to resort to violent actions against each other owing to the inaction of the Government;

Cognizant that Oriental Resources Plc has, since 2012, been prospecting on OPL 915 and OPL 916, derivable from the three adjoining States of Kogi, Enugu and Anambra but these have not been commercially mined as it is still awaiting Oil Mining License (OML) from the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) years after former President Goodluck Jonathan flagged off the operations of Oriental Petroleum Resources;

Believed that the declaration of Kogi, Anambra and Enugu States as oil producing States will not in any way jeopardize the on-going field tracing and provisional boundary demarcation between the States by the National Boundary Commission but will rather aid in determining the percentage of derivation accruable to the three (3) States, equally to be noted is that hydrocarbon has been found in the Basin but not yet optimally utilized;

Resolved to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to determine the commercial viability of the oil and gas deposits in the Anambra Basin in order to optimize the commercial mining in the Basin where hydrocarbon activities began in 2012, for the benefits of the three States and to increase oil revenue for the country and resolve all outstanding boundary issues between Anambra, Kogi and Enugu States (**HR. 81/2017**).

19. Need for the Federal Government to Regulate the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Country

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons is one of the major security challenges currently facing Nigeria, Africa and indeed the world in general;

Also notes that the trafficking in, and wide availability of these weapons fuel communal conflicts, engender political stability and pose threats, not only to national security, but also to sustainable development;

Further notes that the widespread proliferation and use of illicit small arms and light weapons by undesirable elements cuts across all geopolitical zones of the country and is contributing to the alarming levels of armed robbery, kidnaping, terrorism and militancy that are ravaging the country;

Concerned that the nation's borders have been porous and difficult to police over the years, and the inability of the law enforcement agencies to check the supply of small arms and light weapons into Nigeria has worsened the security situation in the country;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General of Police to activate the machinery of the Nigeria Police Force by evolving a mechanism to mop up large cache of small arms and light weapons in the hands of criminals;
- (ii) also urge the Nigerian Immigration Service, the Nigerian Customs Service and other relevant agencies to intensify efforts at tracking down and eliminating the sources of supply of those weapons as well as ensure adequate security at the borders;
- (iii) further urge the Executive arm of government to ensure that a frequently up-dated data on weaponry is maintained by the security agencies; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and National Security and Intelligence to ensure implementation and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Lynda Chuba Ikeazu — Onitsha South/Onitsha North Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.**Agreed to.*

The House:

Noted that the proliferation of small arms and light weapons is one of the major security challenges currently facing Nigeria, Africa and indeed the world in general;

Also noted that the trafficking in, and wide availability of these weapons fuel communal conflicts, engender political stability and pose threats, not only to national security, but also to sustainable development;

Further noted that the widespread proliferation and use of illicit small arms and light weapons by undesirable elements cuts across all geopolitical zones of the country and is contributing to the alarming levels of armed robbery, kidnapping, terrorism and militancy that are ravaging the country;

Concerned that the nation's borders have been porous and difficult to police over the years, and the inability of the law enforcement agencies to check the supply of small arms and light weapons into Nigeria has worsened the security situation in the country;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Inspector-General of Police to activate the machinery of the Nigeria Police Force by evolving a mechanism to mop up large cache of small arms and light weapons in the hands of criminals;
- (ii) also urge the Nigerian Immigration Service, the Nigerian Customs Service and other relevant agencies to intensify efforts at tracking down and eliminating the sources of supply of those weapons as well as ensure adequate security at the borders;
- (iii) further urge the Executive arm of government to ensure that a frequently up-dated data on weaponry is maintained by the security agencies; and
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and National Security and Intelligence to ensure implementation and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 82/2017**).

20. Need to Curtail the Excesses of Task Forces on the Highways

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that highways are essentially made for the traveling convenience of Nigerians but concerned that most highways across the country have been turned into toll collection points by various forms of task force teams ranging from State, Local Government and even private unions, despite the ban on touting and blockage of highways to collect any form of levy;

Also notes that the establishment of Local Governments Task Forces on motor and articulated vehicles hackney permits has been a source of income to the governments at the local level and has also been creating employment opportunities for the youth;

Disturbed by the high rate of these charges which are usually not backed up by the issuance of any valid government receipt and also the forceful manner of the operations of these task forces which leave fear and psychological trauma on the psyche of their victims; and if not checked, could lead to break down of law and order with the accompanying descent into anarchy;

Aware that the activities of the Task Forces throughout the country have been causing concern to the populace, particularly motorists due to their excessiveness in the form of erecting barricades/blockage of roads with iron-bars or nailed-planks which often result in accidents and death of either motorists or the Task Forces agent;

Further notes that motorists get stopped while making interstate transits and even when they possess valid and certified hackney permits from another State, these are invalidated by agents of some other States and they are made to pay unreasonable charges for the permits of that State, which amounts to double payment on the part of motorists as well as being demanded to produce all manners of documents ranging from badges for environmental pollution, television and radio licenses, produce and vehicle certification and even drivers licenses, amongst others;

Concerned that the nefarious activities of these Teams of Task Force agents have contributed to the hike in the cost of hiring of motors and articulated vehicles to transport goods across States, thus affecting the prices of goods and commodities, not to talk of deaths resulting from their forceful stoppage of vehicles which often lead to accidents;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Inspector General of Police to check the activities of these Teams of Task Force teams on the highways;
- (ii) also call the attention of the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) to this trend and redirect the mode of operations of these agents and benchmark uniform and acceptable tariffs for all categories of motors and articulated vehicles in the country; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and Special Duties to ensure implementation and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Ajisafe Olowookere - Akure North/Akure South and 1 other*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that highways are essentially made for the traveling convenience of Nigerians but concerned that most highways across the country have been turned into toll collection points by various forms of task force teams ranging from State, Local Government and even private unions, despite the ban on touting and blockage of highways to collect any form of levy;

Also noted that the establishment of Local Governments Task Forces on motor and articulated vehicles hackney permits has been a source of income to the governments at the local level and has also been creating employment opportunities for the youth;

Disturbed by the high rate of these charges which are usually not backed up by the issuance of any valid government receipt and also the forceful manner of the operations of these task forces which leave fear and psychological trauma on the psyche of their victims; and if not checked, could lead to break down of law and order with the accompanying descent into anarchy;

Aware that the activities of the Task Forces throughout the country have been causing concern to the populace, particularly motorists due to their excessiveness in the form of erecting barricades/blockage of roads with iron-bars or nailed-planks which often result in accidents and death of either motorists or the Task Forces agent;

Further noted that motorists get stopped while making interstate transits and even when they possess valid and certified hackney permits from another State, these are invalidated by agents of some other States and they are made to pay unreasonable charges for the permits of that State, which amounts to double payment on the part of motorists as well as being demanded to produce all manners of documents ranging from badges for environmental pollution, television and radio licenses, produce and vehicle certification and even drivers licenses, amongst others;

Concerned that the nefarious activities of these Teams of Task Force agents have contributed to the hike in the cost of hiring of motors and articulated vehicles to transport goods across States, thus affecting the prices of goods and commodities, not to talk of deaths resulting from their forceful stoppage of vehicles which often lead to accidents;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Inspector General of Police to check the activities of these Teams of Task Force teams on the highways;
- (ii) also call the attention of the Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) to this trend and redirect the mode of operations of these agents and benchmark uniform and acceptable tariffs for all categories of motors and articulated vehicles in the country; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and Special Duties to ensure implementation and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 83/2017**).

21. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 14 March, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Jibril Umar Buba — Deputy House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.41 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker