



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 11 October, 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 Tuesday, 10 October, 2017.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Announcement**

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

Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the following visitors in the Gallery:

- (i) Students Representative Council, *Adekunle Ajasin University Student Union*, Ondo State; and
- (ii) Staff and Students of *Fort Famous International Academy*, Kwamba, Suleja, Abuja.

(b) **Conference Committee on the Federal Capital Territory Hospital Management Board (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (HB. 441):**

Mr Speaker named the Membership of the Conference Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Golu Timothy	—	Chairman
(2)	Hon. Agbo Dennis Nnamdi	—	Member
(3)	Hon. Abdulkadir Rahis	—	Member
(4)	Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki	—	Member
(5)	Hon. Emmanuel Akpan	—	Member
(6)	Hon. Adedapo Lam-Adesina	—	Member

(c) **Conference Committee on the Federal Capital Territory Transport Authority (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (HB. 91):**

Mr Speaker named the Membership of the Conference Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Ayo Omidiran	—	Chairman
(2)	Hon. Ogun Sergius Oseasochie	—	Member
(3)	Hon. Adaji Ezekiel	—	Member
(4)	Hon. Diri Douye	—	Member
(5)	Hon. Abubakar Fulata	—	Member
(6)	Hon. Buba Yakubu	—	Member

4. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**
 (i) ***Need for Intervention in the Control of Flood and Relocation of Displaced Persons in Ijero, Efon and Ekiti West Federal Constituencies of Ekiti State:***

Hon. Oni Olamide Johnson (*Ijero/Ekiti West/Efon 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 Intervention in the Control of Flood and Relocation of Displaced Persons in Ijero, Efon and Ekiti West Federal Constituencies of Ekiti State:

The House:

Aware that flood disasters and their attendant consequences are no longer news; it has however been observed that Ijero, Efon and Ekiti West Local Government Areas have become highly prone to gully erosion in the recent times;

Aware that early September, 2017, at Oke-Agbonna in Okemesi, Ekiti West LGA, there was a mini earthquake with resultant tremors and land slide that dislodged large rock formations giving way to water torrents that destroyed over a hundred houses, cars and other property occasioned by the tremor and "soil creep", thereby creating waterways in the heart of the community;

Notes that in order to avoid further damage urgent steps must be taken to address the problem and redirect the strong overwhelming water currents;

Also notes that while these communities are agrarian, the gully erosion has drastically affected the output of agricultural products and the little that can be salvaged are not marketable due to lack of access roads to link these communities;

Further notes that the displaced population of these communities call for concern, the Federal Government needs to make sure that the residents have access to medical facilities, schools as well as the sale of their farm products to earn their living;

Concerned the only way to show dividend of democracy is for the government to respond immediately to the plight of the people.

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committees on Works, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and Ecology to pay a visit to the area to assess the level of damage to property and human sustenance;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in conjunction with other relevant departments and the State Government as a matter of necessity and urgency to take adequate steps to control the situation, tackle the gully erosion and redirect the waterways to avoid further and future occurrence; and

- (iii) also urge the Ministry of Health to immediately assess and handle the health needs of all displaced persons (*Hon. Oni Olamide Johnson — Ijero/Ekiti West/Efon Federal Constituency*).

Debate

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (i), line 1, immediately after the word “on”, *leave out* the words “Works, IDP and Ecology” and *insert* the words “Environment and Habitat” instead thereof (*Hon. Abubakar Chika Adamu — Shiroro/Rafi/Munya Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that flood disasters and their attendant consequences are no longer news; it has however been observed that Ijero, Efon and Ekiti West Local Government Areas have become highly prone to gully erosion in the recent times;

Aware that early September, 2017, at Oke-Agbonna in Okemesi, Ekiti West LGA, there was a mini earthquake with resultant tremors and land slide that dislodged large rock formations giving way to water torrents that destroyed over a hundred houses, cars and other property occasioned by the tremor and “soil creep”, thereby creating waterways in the heart of the community;

Noted that in order to avoid further damage urgent steps must be taken to address the problem and redirect the strong overwhelming water currents;

Also noted that while these communities are agrarian, the gully erosion has drastically affected the output of agricultural products and the little that can be salvaged are not marketable due to lack of access roads to link these communities;

Further noted that the displaced population of these communities call for concern, the Federal Government needs to make sure that the residents have access to medical facilities, schools as well as the sale of their farm products to earn their living;

Concerned the only way to show dividend of democracy is for the government to respond immediately to the plight of the people.

Resolved to:

- (i) mandate the Committee on Environment and Habitat to pay a visit to the area to assess the level of damage to property and human sustenance;
- (ii) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in conjunction with other relevant departments and the State Government as a matter of necessity and urgency to take adequate steps to control the situation, tackle the gully erosion and ~~redirect the waterways to avoid further and future occurrence~~; and
- (iii) also urge the Ministry of Health to immediately assess and handle the health needs of all displaced persons (**HR. 97/2017**).

(ii) ***Need to Investigate Acts of Harassment, Torture, Extra-Judicial Killings and other Unwholesome Practice of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Rivers State:***

Hon. Kingsley Chinda (*Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency and 9 Others*) 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 to Investigate Acts of Harassment, Torture, Extra-Judicial Killings and other Unwholesome Practice of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Rivers State:

The House:

Notes with very serious concern and dismay several complaints of acts of harassment, torture, extra-judicial killings and other unwholesome practices against innocent, unarmed civilians by operatives of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Rivers State;

Also notes that victims of SARS operations in Rivers State alleged that SARS operatives are usually armed with guns, axes, machetes and other dangerous weapons and employ various malevolent methods, including planting illicit drugs and other incriminating items and objects on unsuspecting victims; and also go about with Point of Sales (POS) machines, with which they coerce unsuspecting victims to make money transfers in their favour;

Further notes that recently, an incident went viral of a SARS officer who was shot dead by men of the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) team after an exchange of gun fire in Port Harcourt. The official Police signal with title: **“Police Wireless Message” and Ref. No: DTO: 121030/09/2017- INGENPOL-X-FHQ ABUJA TO-INGENPOL SEC ABUJA**, noted that the Inspector-General’s (IGP) “Special Squad” got a distress call on the kidnap of one Mr Ifeanyi and immediately swung into action. According to the signal, the IGP team on arrival met three (3) SARS operatives robbing and a gun duel ensued. The SARS operatives had taken the said Mr Ifeanyi to a Fidelity Bank ATM where they forced him to withdraw some amount of money for his bail or ransom. Till date, this information has not been controverted by the Police high command;

Again notes that very recently (on September 25, 2017), one Mr Ajibade Ademisoje, a taxi driver who lived at Rumuakunde community in Emohua Local Government Area, Rivers State was killed by men of the SARS, and thereafter labeled as a cultist;

Aware that there are also several reported cases of harassment, torture, extra-judicial killings and other unwholesome practices by operatives of the SARS in Port Harcourt and its environs, and some rescued victims of kidnaping have consistently pointed at SARS operatives as being responsible for most of the kidnaping in Rivers State, particularly along the East-West and Owerri-Port Harcourt express roads;

Also aware of the provisions of Sections 14 (2) (b) and 34 (1) (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN), 1999 (as amended) which states that:

Section 14 (2) (b) "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government".

Section 34 (1) (a) "Every individual is entitled to respect for the dignity of his person, and accordingly:

- (a) no person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment";

Further aware that about a week ago, Honourable Justice Adolphus Enebeli of a Port Harcourt High court awarded a cost of fifty million Naira (₦50,000,000.00) only, against five (5) SARS operatives who are currently standing trial for the murder of Messrs Michael Akor and Michael Igwe at Oyigbo, Rivers State in 2009;

Recalls that on December 10, 2016, State and National Assembly re-run elections held in Rivers State, one Mr Akin Fakorede, the commander of SARS in Rivers State, together with some other SARS operatives were seen/caught on camera openly harassing/manhandling INEC officials at the Rivers East Senatorial District Collation Centre, Moscow Road, Port Harcourt on 12 December, 2017. However, nothing was done, in spite of several protests and demand for an investigation of the incident;

Worried that a security outfit as SARS is being turned into a violent terror contraption, whose victims are usually left entirely at the "mercy" of the SARS officers until they are able to 'bail' themselves, while others are instantly shot dead as seen in the Rumuakunde, Emohua incident;

Also worried that the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) has consistently failed, refused and/or neglected to investigate these grave indictment of the SARS, while the negative testimonies continue unabated;

Concerned that the above acts if not immediately checked, could lead to anarchy and in turn negatively affect society and cause despondency in the minds of people and residents of Rivers State and teeming Nigerian masses;

Also concerned that these acts by the SARS officers has negatively affected and reduced the image and reputation of the Nigeria Police Force before the rest of the world;

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn in very strong terms the acts of harassment, torture, extra-judicial killings and other unwholesome practices by operatives of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Rivers State and indeed other parts of the country; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Human Rights, Police Affairs, and Justice to investigate the matter and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Kingsley O. Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency and 9 Others*).

Debate

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with very serious concern and dismay several complaints of acts of harassment, torture, extra-judicial killings and other unwholesome practices against innocent, unarmed civilians by operatives of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Rivers State;

Also noted that victims of SARS operations in Rivers State alleged that SARS operatives are usually armed with guns, axes, machetes and other dangerous weapons and employ various malevolent methods, including planting illicit drugs and other incriminating items and objects on unsuspecting victims; and also go about with Point of Sales (POS) machines, with which they coerce unsuspecting victims to make money transfers in their favour;

Further noted that recently, an incident went viral of a SARS officer who was shot by men of the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) team after an exchange of gun fire at Port Harcourt. The official Police signal with title: **"Police Wireless Message" and Reference No. DTO: 121030/09/2017- INGENPOL-X-FHQ ABUJA TO-INGENPOL SEC ABUJA**, noted that the Inspector-General's (IGP) "Special Squad" got a distress call on the kidnap of one Mr Ifeanyi and immediately swung into action. According to the signal, the IGP team on arrival met three (3) SARS operatives robbing and a gun duel ensued. The SARS operatives had taken the said Mr Ifeanyi to a Fidelity Bank ATM where they forced him to withdraw some amount of money for his bail or ransom. Till date, this information has not been controverted by the Police high command;

Again noted that very recently (on September 25, 2017), one Mr Ajibade Ademisoje, a taxi driver who lived at Rumuakunde community in Emohua Local Government Area, Rivers State was killed by men of the SARS, and thereafter labeled as a cultist;

Aware that there are also several reported cases of harassment, torture, extra-judicial killings and other unwholesome practices by operatives of the SARS in Port Harcourt and its environs, and some rescued victims of kidnaping have consistently pointed at SARS operatives as being responsible for most of the kidnaping in Rivers State, particularly along the East-West and Owerri-Port Harcourt express roads;

Also aware of the provisions of Sections 14 (2) (b) and 34 (1) (a) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN), 1999 (as amended) which states that:

Section 14 (2) (b) *"the security and welfare of the people shall- be the primary purpose of government"*.

Section 34 (1) (a) *"Every individual is entitled to respect for the dignity of his person, and accordingly:*

(a) *no person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment"*;

Further aware that about a week ago, Honourable Justice Adolphus Enebeli of a Port Harcourt High court awarded a cost of fifty million Naira (₦50,000,000.00) only, against five (5) SARS operatives who are currently standing trial for the murder of Messrs Michael Akor and Michael Igwe at Oyigbo, Rivers State in 2009;

Recalled that on December 10, 2016, State and National Assembly re-run elections held in Rivers State, one Mr Akin Fakorede, the commander of SARS in Rivers State, together with some other SARS operatives were seen/caught on camera openly harassing/manhandling INEC officials at the Rivers East Senatorial District Collation Centre, Moscow Road, Port Harcourt on 12 December, 2017. However, nothing was done, in spite of several protests and demand for an investigation of the incident;

Worried that a security outfit as SARS is being turned into a violent terror contraption, whose victims are usually left entirely at the "mercy" of the SARS officers until they are able to 'bail' themselves, while others are instantly shot dead as seen in the Rumuakunde, Emohua incident;

Also worried that the Inspector-General of Police (IGP) has consistently failed, refused and/or neglected to investigate these grave indictment of the SARS, while the negative testimonies continue unabated;

Concerned that the above acts if not immediately checked, could lead to anarchy and in turn negatively affect society and cause despondency in the minds of people and residents of Rivers State and teeming Nigerian masses;

Also concerned that these acts by the SARS officers has negatively affected and reduced the image and reputation of the Nigeria Police Force before the rest of the world;

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn in very strong terms the acts of harassment, torture, extra-judicial killings and other unwholesome practices by operatives of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) in Rivers State and indeed other parts of the country; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Human Rights, Police Affairs, and Justice to investigate the matter and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (HR. 98/2017).

5. Presentation of Bills

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Abduction, Wrongful and Confinement for Ransom Bill, 2017 (HB. 1168).
- (2) Anti-Jungle Justice (Prohibition, etc.) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1169).

6. A Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Chartered Sales Professionals of Nigeria to Regulate the Standards of Practice of Salesmanship in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.1072) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Institute of Chartered Sales Professionals of Nigeria to Regulate the Standards of Practice of Salesmanship in Nigeria and for Related Matters (HB.1072) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izz*: 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 Commerce.

7. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Universities Commission Act, Cap. N81, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to expressly give the Commission Power to Regulate the Condition of Service and Procedure for the Engagement of Academic Staff other than Non-Academic Staff Members on Part Time Basis or Visiting Lectureship and for Related Matters (HB.958) — Second Reading

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

8. A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Maintenance Orders Act, Cap. M1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 as it is no longer Relevant in the Current Dispensation (HB. 305) — Second Reading

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

9. Need to Resuscitate the 132/33 KVA Arochukwu Electricity Substation

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. Call to Investigate the Abandonment of the Remodelling of Port Harcourt International Airport
Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that in year 2011, the Federal Government, under former President Goodluck Jonathan, awarded a contract for remodelling of Airports across the country, including Port Harcourt International Airport, however while remodelling works were 'substantially' completed at Abuja, Kano, Lagos, Sokoto, Yola, Ilorin, Enugu and Owerri Airports, that of Port Harcourt was abandoned and has till date remained under rehabilitation at a slower than snail speed rate;

Aware that the Airport is in a very poor state and no concrete work is on-going at the site as passengers are received in tents, and even the departure hall which was claimed to have been completed is full of structural faults with noticeable cracks on the walls, suspended ceilings and leaking roof, yet the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) collects tolls and other very high charges for entry into and over-night parking at the Airport;

Also aware that budgetary allocations have always been made for modernization and remodelling as well as Airports projects maintenance, yet the proper utilization of such funds falls short of expectations of teeming Nigerians;

Concerned that social, economic and commercial activities in Rivers State and indeed the South-South and Southern Eastern parts of the country have been adversely affected as a result of the poor state of the Port Harcourt International Airport and unless steps are taken to ensure resumption of rehabilitation works, the funds already expended would have been wasted and the sum budgeted and advanced for the project could be frittered away, thus adding to the growing number of abandoned projects;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to urgently cause the resumption of rehabilitation works at the Port Harcourt International Airport; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Aviation, Anti-Corruption and Public Accounts to investigate the expenditure of all the monies released for the upgrading and maintenance of the Airport from 2011 to date, and the reasons for the abandonment of rehabilitation works at the Airport, with a view to ensuring that same is completed, and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 99/2017).

Motion referred to the Committees on Aviation, Anti-Corruption and Public Accounts, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 9 (5).

11. Need to Investigate the Alleged Importation of Genetically Modified Maize into Nigeria

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that the Agricultural revolution of the Administration of President Muhammadu Buhari is geared towards ensuring sufficiency in food production and Nigerians have heeded the call and have gone back to the farms, the result of which was an impressive harvest in maize which forced the price down;

Aware of recent reports in the Sun and Nigeria Today Newspapers of 8 September, 2017, calling on the Federal Government to probe the Nigeria Customs Service and other agencies at the Seaport over an alleged importation of seven ship-loads of maize by Olam Group;

Also aware that following recent information by scientists and researchers, more than half of the countries of the European Union, including Germany, France, Scotland, Italy, Austria, Greece, Poland and Belgium have either completely banned or placed severe restrictions on consumption of genetically modified products in their respective countries;

Informed that Olam Group imported the maize partly to feed its newly built feed mill factory in Kaduna rather than patronizing local farmers;

Cognizant of the grave danger to the health of the citizens given the shipment of 70,000 tons of GMO maize into the country without the knowledge and clearance of the National Biosafety Management Agency, a development that could stifle the efforts of local farmers and aggravate the nation's capital flight situation;

Concerned that since the question of the safety and long term effects of genetically modified products has not been resolved in Nigeria, the importation of genetically modified maize could expose our citizens to future health hazards, the magnitude of which nobody is in a position today to foretell or disprove with certainty;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, and Customs and Excise to investigate the circumstances that led to the importation of the genetically modified maize without clearance from the National Biosafety Management Agency and recommend appropriate measures to protect the nation from importation of such products in future, and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Kingsley Obinna Onwubuariri — Onuimo/Okigwe/Isiala Mbano Federal Constituency and 1 others*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (ii) as follows:

"Urge the Executive Arm to stop Olam Farm from introducing the imported genetically modifies maize into the food chain in Nigeria pending the outcome of the investigation" (*Hon. Henry Nwawuba — Mbaitori/Ikeduru Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Agricultural revolution of the Administration of President Muhammadu Buhari is geared towards ensuring sufficiency in food production and Nigerians have heeded the call and have gone back to the farms, the result of which was an impressive harvest in maize which forced the price down;

Aware of recent reports in the Sun and Nigeria Today Newspapers of 8 September, 2017, calling on the Federal Government to probe the Nigeria Customs Service and other agencies at the Seaport over an alleged importation of seven ship-loads of maize by Olam Group;

Also aware that following recent information by scientists and researchers, more than half of the countries of the European Union, including Germany, France, Scotland, Italy, Austria, Greece, Poland and Belgium have either completely banned or placed severe restrictions on consumption of genetically modified products in their respective countries;

Informed that Olam Group imported the maize partly to feed its newly built feed mill factory in Kaduna rather than patronizing local farmers;

Cognizant of the grave danger to the health of the citizens given the shipment of 70,000 tons of GMO maize into the country without the knowledge and clearance of the National Biosafety Management Agency, a development that could stifle the efforts of local farmers and aggravate the nation's capital flight situation;

Concerned that since the question of the safety and long term effects of genetically modified products has not been resolved in Nigeria, the importation of genetically modified maize could expose our citizens to future health hazards, the magnitude of which nobody is in a position today to foretell or disprove with certainty;

Resolved to:

- (i) mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, and Customs and Excise to investigate the circumstances that led to the importation of the genetically modified maize without clearance from the National Biosafety Management Agency and recommend appropriate measures to protect the nation from importation of such products in future, and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action; and
- (ii) urge the Executive Arm to stop Olam Farm from introducing the imported genetically modifies maize into the food chain in Nigeria pending the outcome of the investigation (HR. 99/2017).

12. **Need to Address the Effects of Malnutrition in the Country**
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Aware that malnutrition is a public health emergency and despite its devastating effects, it is not being given the required attention by the Federal Government, especially in terms of funding;

Also aware of the ranking of Nigeria among countries with the highest malnutrition cases in the world with statistics by the United Nations (UN) suggesting that thirty seven (37) percent of Nigerian children are stunted by acute malnutrition and that twenty (20) percent of them could die if urgent steps are not taken to address the issue;

Concerned by the high prevalence of malnutrition in the North East which has continuing to rise and is now almost spread across the country;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to, as a matter of urgency, declare a state of emergency on the menace of malnutrition; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to invite the Minister of Health to intimate the Committee on the Ministry's efforts towards combating the spread of the menace as well as the challenges in doing so, with a view to effectively tackling the menace and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Abubakar Amuda-Kannike Garba — Ilorin East/Ilorin South Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.***Amendment Proposed:**

In Prayer (ii), line 4, immediately after the words within, *leave out* the word “six (6)” and *insert* the word “three (3)” (*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 malnutrition is a public health emergency and despite its devastating effects, it is not being given the required attention by the Federal Government, especially in terms of funding;

Also aware of the ranking of Nigeria among countries with the highest malnutrition cases in the world with statistics by the United Nations (UN) suggesting that thirty seven (37) percent of Nigerian children are stunted by acute malnutrition and that twenty (20) percent of them could die if urgent steps are not taken to address the issue;

Concerned by the high prevalence of malnutrition in the North East which has continuing to rise and is now almost spread across the country;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Ministry of Health to, as a matter of urgency, declare a state of emergency on the menace of malnutrition; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to invite the Minister of Health to intimate the Committee on the Ministry's efforts towards combating the spread of the menace as well as the challenges in doing so, with a view to effectively tackling the menace and report back within three (3) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 100/2017**).

13. Threat to National Security in the Large Number of Condemned Inmates in the Prisons

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

14. Need to Determine Why Food Products Prohibited from Exportation are being Exported and also do not Meet International Standards

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that as part of measures to diversify our oil-dependent economy by tilting towards the export of agricultural products, the Federal Government launched the yam exportation program with a projection of earning \$10 billion in foreign exchange in the course of the next four years;

Aware that the Schedule of the Export (Prohibition) Act, Cap. E22, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 lists Beans, Cassava tuber, Maize, Rice, Yam tuber and their product derivatives as goods absolutely prohibited from exportation from Nigeria;

Also aware that a Bill for an Act to repeal the provisions of the Export Prohibition Act, had recently passed second reading in the House;

Concerned that the Federal Government has, in the bid to increase agricultural products exportations, disregarded a subsisting law and carried on the exportation of some of the above goods expressly prohibited from exportation;

Observes the recent report that 72 tonnes of yam tubers that were exported sometime in June 2017 were rejected by the United States of America as they were found to have rotten upon arrival, thereby causing the nation great embarrassment as it is now obvious that produce approved for export by the government do not meet with world standards for exportation;

Also concerned that the above development raises concern about the capacity of Ministries, Departments and Agencies charged with the responsibilities of conducting necessary checks on quality of goods billed for export to diligently carry out the assignments, and this also calls to question the safety of food approved for local consumption by those Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs);

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, and Customs and Excise to interface with the:

- (a) Minister of Agriculture on why the law prohibiting the exportation of yam tubers was flagrantly disregarded, thereby causing immense embarrassment to the country;
- (b) Comptroller-General of Customs, the Executive Director of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council, the Director General of the Standards Organization of Nigeria and Head of the Nigerian Quarantine Service and Heads of all other relevant Agencies to explain why:
 - (i) they granted export license for food products prohibited from exportation;
 - (ii) food products they approved for exportation did not meet the prescribed quality and standards of the countries they were exported to, and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Gaza Jonathan Ghewi — Karu/Keffi/Kokona Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

In Prayer (ii), line 4, immediately after the words “Excise to”, *leave out* the words “interface with” and *insert* the word “investigate” instead thereof (*Hon. Ossy Prestige Chinedu — Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Notes that as part of measures to diversify our oil-dependent economy by tilting towards the export of agricultural products, the Federal Government launched the yam exportation program with a projection of earning \$10 billion in foreign exchange in the course of the next four years;

Aware that the Schedule of the Export (Prohibition) Act, Cap. E22, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 lists Beans, Cassava tuber, Maize, Rice, Yam tuber and their product derivatives as goods absolutely prohibited from exportation from Nigeria;

Also aware that a Bill for an Act to repeal the provisions of the Export Prohibition Act, had recently passed second reading in the House;

Concerned that the Federal Government has, in the bid to increase agricultural products exportations, disregarded a subsisting law and carried on the exportation of some of the above goods expressly prohibited from exportation;

Observes the recent report that 72 tonnes of yam tubers that were exported sometime in June 2017 were rejected by the United States of America as they were found to have rotten upon arrival, thereby causing the nation great embarrassment as it is now obvious that produce approved for export by the government do not meet with world standards for exportation;

Also concerned that the above development raises concern about the capacity of Ministries, Departments and Agencies charged with the responsibilities of conducting necessary checks on quality of goods billed for export to diligently carry out the assignments, and this also calls to question the safety of food approved for local consumption by those Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs);

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Agricultural Production and Services, and Customs and Excise to:

- (a) investigate the Minister of Agriculture on why the law prohibiting the exportation of yam tubers was flagrantly disregarded, thereby causing immense embarrassment to the country;
- (b) invite the Comptroller-General of Customs, the Executive Director of the Nigerian Export Promotion Council, the Director General of the Standards Organization of Nigeria and Head of the Nigerian Quarantine Service and Heads of all other relevant Agencies to explain why:
 - (i) they granted export license for food products prohibited from exportation;
 - (ii) food products they approved for exportation did not meet the prescribed quality and standards of the countries they were exported to, and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (HR. 101/2017).

15. Need to Check the Incessant Kidnaping and Assassination in Edo State

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes the precarious security situation in Edo State and environs over the past weeks;

Aware that the primary objective of government is to ensure security and welfare of citizens, a responsibility that cannot be compromised by leaderships at all levels;

Informed of the following unfortunate incidences within a span of two (2) weeks:

- (a) Rev. Fr Lawrence Adorolo of St. Benedict Catholic Church, Auchi Diocese was kidnaped on 27 September, 2017;
- (b) Mr Andy Ehanire, the CEO of Ogba zoo was kidnaped on 24 September, 2017 with three (3) policemen attached to the Zoo being killed in the process and their arms carted away by the kidnappers;
- (c) Amb. Osayomore Joseph, a renowned Bini musician was kidnaped on 3 October, 2017; and
- (d) Professor Paul Otasowie of the Electrical Engineering Department, University of Benin was killed on 4 October, 2017 while being kidnaped;

Concerned that the upsurge of kidnaping, killings and other unreported criminal activities that are being carried out freely by well-armed bandits in Benin City and other parts of Edo State is leaving residents with deep apprehension;

Convinced of the need to urgently call the attention of the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies to beef up security and increase surveillance in Benin City and other parts of Edo State in order to arrest the reign of terror in the State;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Inspector General of Police for immediate intervention to secure the release of all kidnaped victims and the arrest of the culprits;
- (ii) also call on the Inspector General of Police to urgently beef up security and increase surveillance in Benin City and Edo State in general to guarantee the safety of lives and property of residents;
- (iii) further call on the Inspector General of Police to carry out an audit of policing activities in Benin City and Edo State in general;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance (*Hon. Omoregie Ogbeide-Ihama — Oredo Federal Constituency and 2 others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the precarious security situation in Edo State and environs over the past weeks;

Aware that the primary objective of government is to ensure security and welfare of citizens, a responsibility that cannot be compromised by leaderships at all levels;

Informed of the following unfortunate incidences within a span of two (2) weeks:

- (a) Rev. Fr Lawrence Adorolo of St Benedict Catholic Church, Auchi Diocese was kidnaped on 27 September, 2017;
- (b) Mr Andy Ehanire, the CEO of Ogba zoo was kidnaped on 24 September, 2017 with three (3) policemen attached to the Zoo being killed in the process and their arms carted away by the kidnappers;

- (c) Amb. Osayomore Joseph, a renowned Bini musician was kidnaped on 3 October, 2017; and
- (d) Professor Paul Otasowie of the Electrical Engineering Department, University of Benin was killed on 4 October, 2017 while being kidnaped;

Concerned that the upsurge of kidnaping, killings and other unreported criminal activities that are being carried out freely by well-armed bandits in Benin City and other parts of Edo State is leaving residents with deep apprehension;

Convinced of the need to urgently call the attention of the Nigeria Police Force and other security agencies to beef up security and increase surveillance in Benin City and other parts of Edo State in order to arrest the reign of terror in the State;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Inspector General of Police for immediate intervention to secure the release of all kidnaped victims and the arrest of the culprits;
- (ii) also call on the Inspector General of Police to urgently beef up security and increase surveillance in Benin City and Edo State in general to guarantee the safety of lives and property of residents;
- (iii) further call on the Inspector General of Police to carry out an audit of policing activities in Benin City and Edo State in general;
- (iv) mandate the Committees on Police Affairs, and National Security and Intelligence to ensure compliance (**HR. 102/2017**).

16. Consideration of Reports

That items 11 and 12 on the *Order Paper* be deferred to another legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (2) (*Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency*).

17. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 12 October, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Mohammed Tahir Mungonu — Munguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.33 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker