



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 18 October, 2017

1. The House met at 11.24 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, 17 October, 2017.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Announcement**
Visitors in the Gallery:
Mr Speaker recognised the presence of Staff and Students of *Government Secondary School*, Gaube, Kuje Area Council, Abuja.
4. **Petitions**
 - (i) A petition from Nsoha T. Mbanefo & Co. (Solicitors and Advocates), on behalf of Dave-Okafor Motors, on the confiscation of eleven (11) Toyota Hilux vehicles by Nigerian Custom Service belonging to the petitioners, was presented and laid by Hon. Chris Emeka Azubogu (*Nnewi North/Nnewi South/Ekwusigbo Federal Constituency*);
 - (ii) A petition from Eshett Sarah Lambert, on the termination of her appointment by the Federal Road Safety Commission, was presented and laid by Hon. Owoidighe Ekpoattai (*Eket/Onna/Esit Eket/Ibena Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

5. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**
 - (i) ***Need to Pay Outstanding Compensation to Poultry Farmers Affected by Avian Influenza Outbreak in the Country:***
Hon. Abdulrazak Sa'ad Namdas (*Tounga/Monya/Jada/Mayo-Belwa 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 to Pay Outstanding Compensation to Poultry Farmers Affected by Avian Influenza Outbreak in the Country

The House:

Notes that early last year, poultry farmers in the country suffered the loss of 3,682,726 birds as a result of the outbreak of Avian Influenza, popularly called bird flu;

Also notes that investigations by the officials of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture has not only confirmed the figure of birds depopulated at 3,682,726 but also put the cost of compensation of the farmers at ₦1,813,893,320;

Aware that leadership of the Poultry Farmers Association of Nigeria (PFAN) alongside relevant *authorities of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture met with His Excellency, Prof. Yemi Osibanjo* when he was then the Ag. President on the matter where he directed the Federal Ministry of Finance to liaise with Ministry of Agriculture to pay the affected farmers;

Worried that the joint Committee constituted by the Federal Ministries of Finance and Agriculture is said to have sourced the ₦1,813,893,320 meant to compensate the 450 farmers already screened but till date none of the farmers have been paid;

Also worried that these farmers along with their employees depend largely on the poultry for their livelihood;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services to investigate and find out why the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance failed to pay the farmers in spite of government directive to do so and report back within two (2) weeks (*Hon. Abdulrazak Sa'ad Namdas — Mayo Belwa/Ganye/Jada/Toungo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that early last year, poultry farmers in the country suffered the loss of 3,682,726 birds as a result of the outbreak of Avian Influenza, popularly called bird flu;

Also noted that investigations by the officials of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture has not only confirmed the figure of birds depopulated at 3,682,726 but also put the cost of compensation of the farmers at ₦1,813,893,320;

Aware that leadership of the Poultry Farmers Association of Nigeria (PFAN) alongside relevant *authorities of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture met with His Excellency, Prof. Yemi Osibanjo* when he was then the Ag. President on the matter where he directed the Federal Ministry of Finance to liaise with Ministry of Agriculture to pay the affected farmers;

Worried that the joint Committee constituted by the Federal Ministries of Finance and Agriculture is said to have sourced the ₦1,813,893,320 meant to compensate the 450 farmers already screened but till date none of the farmers have been paid;

Also worried that these farmers along with their employees depend largely on the poultry for their livelihood;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Agricultural Production and Services to investigate and find out why the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance failed to pay the farmers in spite of government directive to do so and report back within two (2) weeks (HR. 112/2017).

(ii) ***The Need to Ascertain the Process of Termination of Contract Between the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and Intels Nigeria Limited:***

Hon. Diri Douye (*Yenagoa/K/Opokuma 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 Ascertain the Process of Termination of Contract Between the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and INTELS Nigeria Limited

The House:

Notes the termination of contract between Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and INTELS Nigeria Limited;

Also notes that INTELS Nigeria Limited is responsible for the provision of logistics and facilities in the maritime sector of the country based on the Boats Pilotage Monitoring and Supervision Agreement whereby INTELS collects revenue on behalf of the NPA;

Further notes that the agreement included the construction and operation of Apapa, Warri, Federal Ocean Terminal and Onne Ports on which INTELS spent \$900 million;

Still notes that INTELS secured foreign loans to finance the construction and operation of the Apapa, Warri and Port-Harcourt Port Terminals;

Again notes that INTELS has carried out the services for 17 years since the agreement was signed between NP A and INTELS in 2000;

Equally notes the implication of the termination of the contract on a 7,000 Nigerians and their dependents, who are employees of INTELS Nigeria Limited since the inception of its services to NPA at the maritime sector;

Observes that the termination of the contract was conveyed in a letter by the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) to the Managing Director of Nigerian Ports Authority dated September 27, 2017 as a response to NPA letter of 31 May, 2017;

Also observes that the basis for the termination of the Boats Pilotage Monitoring and Supervision Agreement was on the alleged illegality of the agreement cited the violation of some sections of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) particularly on the Treasury Single Account Policy of Federal Government;

Further observes that Federal Government has sealed all the terminals as a result of the termination of the contract without due process of consultation with INTELS before the decision to seal the terminals;

Resolves:

That the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Treasury Single Accounts (TSA) should investigate to ascertain if due process was followed in the termination of the existing agreement and other related matters on the contract and report back within two (2) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Diri Douye — Yenagoa/Kolokuma/Opokuma Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* the Prayer, and *insert* a new Prayer as follows:
“Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the process the led to determination of the contract agreement by the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) (*Hon. Chris Azubogu — Nnewi North/Nnewi South/Ekwusigo Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) *Insert* a new Prayer (ii) as follows:
“investigate the issue on ground between Nigerian Ports Authority and Intels Nigeria Limited, status quo ante should be maintained” (*Hon. Mohammed Sani Abdu — Alkaleri/Kirfi Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the termination of contract between Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) and INTELS Nigeria Limited;

Also noted that INTELS Nigeria Limited is responsible for the provision of logistics and facilities in the maritime sector of the country based on the Boats Pilotage Monitoring and Supervision Agreement whereby INTELS collects revenue on behalf of the NPA;

Further noted that the agreement included the construction and operation of Apapa, Warri, Federal Ocean Terminal and Onne Ports on which INTELS spent \$900 million;

Still noted that INTELS secured foreign loans to finance the construction and operation of the Apapa, Warri and Port-Harcourt Port Terminals;

Again noted that INTELS has carried out the services for 17 years since the agreement was signed between NP A and INTELS in 2000;

Equally noted the implication of the termination of the contract on a 7,000 Nigerians and their dependents, who are employees of INTELS Nigeria Limited since the inception of its services to NPA at the maritime sector;

Observed that the termination of the contract was conveyed in a letter by the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) to the Managing Director of Nigerian Ports Authority dated September 27,2017 as a response to NPA letter of 31 May, 2017;

Also observed that the basis for the termination of the Boats Pilotage Monitoring and Supervision Agreement was on the alleged illegality of the agreement cited the violation of some sections of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) particularly on the Treasury Single Account Policy of Federal Government;

Further observed that Federal Government has sealed all the terminals as a result of the termination of the contract without due process of consultation with INTELS before the decision to seal the terminals;

Resolved to:

- (i) set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the process the led to determination of the contract agreement by the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA); and
- (ii) investigate the issue on ground between Nigerian Ports Authority and Intels Nigeria Limited, status quo ante should be maintained (HR. 113/2017).

6. A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Open University Act, Cap. N63, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Inclusion of ICT as another means of Providing Tuition towards the Advancement of Learning throughout Nigeria by the National Open University; and for Related Matters (HB. 1140) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Open University Act, Cap. N63, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Inclusion of ICT as another means of Providing Tuition towards the Advancement of Learning throughout Nigeria by the National Open University; and for Related Matters (HB. 1140) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.

7. A Bill for an Act for the Prohibition and Protection of Persons from Lynching or Unlawful Killing by Mob Action, Riotous Assemblage or Extra Judicial Killing in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 1169) — Second Reading

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act for the Prohibition and Protection of Persons from Lynching or Unlawful Killing by Mob Action, Riotous Assemblage or Extra Judicial Killing in Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 1169) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee of the Whole.

8. A Bill for an Act to Amend the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, Cap. E12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make it Responsive by ensuring that Project Developers, Approving Authorities and Persons whose Livelihood will be affected by Proposed Projects are Involved in the Decision making to safeguard the Environment and Ensure Adequate Remediation of the Environment, among others; and for Related Matters (HB.977) — Second Reading

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the National Youth Service Corps Act, Cap. N84, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide that the Experience Gained as a Corp Member shall be regarded as Work Experience; and for Related Matters (HB. 1048) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Counterfeit and Fake Drugs and Unwholesome Processed Foods (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Cap. C34, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make Comprehensive Provisions for the Prohibition and Control of Counterfeit and Fake Medical Products and Unwholesome Processed Foods; and for Related Matters (HB. 1099) — *Second Reading***

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

11. **Need to Investigate the Violations of the Constitution, the Fiscal Responsibility and Public Procurement Acts by the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) Over Foreign Loans of \$1.5b and \$500m for its Operations and Contract Processes**

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that the privatization of the Power Sector under section 8 of the Power Sector Reform Act of 2005 gave birth to the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) as one of the successor companies in the Sector;

Also notes that under section 9 of the Act, the TCN is wholly owned by the Federal Government through the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MFI) and the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) which hold the shares on its behalf;

Aware that the TCN has taken loans amounting to \$1.5B from the World Bank and other International Lenders over a period of time without complying with the provisions of section 44 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act;

Also aware that the loans were utilized without appropriation by the National Assembly contrary to Sections 80-83 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;

Further aware that TCN is currently negotiating another loan of \$500M with Islamic Development Bank and has been violating the provisions of the Public Procurement Act in contract procedures as its contract processes are opaque;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Power, Public Procurement, and Aids, Loans and Debt Management to investigate the activities of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) for the past 10 years in respect of foreign loans and contract awards and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Simon Yakubu Arabo — Kuru Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out all the words in the Prayer and *insert* as follows:

“Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the activities of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) for the past 10 years in respect of foreign loans and contract awards and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action” (*Hon. Lawal Abubakar — Yola North/Yola South/Gire Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the privatization of the Power Sector under section 8 of the Power Sector Reform Act of 2005 gave birth to the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) as one of the successor companies in the Sector;

Also noted that under section 9 of the Act, the TCN is wholly owned by the Federal Government through the Ministry of Finance Incorporated (MFI) and the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) which hold the shares on its behalf;

Aware that the TCN has taken loans amounting to \$1.5B from the World Bank and other International Lenders over a period of time without complying with the provisions of section 44 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act;

Also aware that the loans were utilized without appropriation by the National Assembly contrary to Sections 80-83 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;

Further aware that TCN is currently negotiating another loan of \$500M with Islamic Development Bank and has been violating the provisions of the Public Procurement Act in contract procedures as its contract processes are opaque;

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the activities of the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) for the past 10 years in respect of foreign loans and contract awards and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 114/2017**).

12. Need to Curb Incessant Attacks on Personnel of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC)
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes the increasing cases of violent attacks, harassment and intimidation of personnel and offices of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) by highly placed individuals, motorists and hoodlums across the country, particularly in Zamfara, Jigawa, Abia and Lagos States;

Also notes that from 2015 to date, there have been 149 cases of attacks on personnel and 201 cases of damage to properties and equipment of the Commission;

Further notes that despite Section 19 of the FRSC (Establishment) Act, 2007 which stipulates that personnel of the Commission who are exposed to high risk in the enforcement of the provisions of this Act, shall have same powers, authorities and privileges, including power to bear arms, as are granted by law to members of the Nigeria Police Force, the Federal Government has not provided Road Safety officers with arms to enable them protect themselves in the course of performing their duties;

Concerned that the United Nation's Declaration on Reduction of Road Accidents by fifty (50) percent by year 2020 may not be achieved by Nigeria if the attacks are not urgently curbed;

Observes that in order to avoid the attacks, Road Safety officers stay off the roads, particularly at night and motorists are taking advantage of the situation to breach traffic regulations, which often lead to accidents;

Aware that officers sometimes discover offensive weapons in vehicles during routine operations on highways but are incapable of challenging occupants of such vehicles as they lack capacity to protect themselves from any attack that could arise;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to facilitate the procurement of arms and ammunitions for officers of the Federal Road Safety Commission to protect themselves while performing their duties; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Road Safety Commission to investigate cases of attacks on personnel of the FRSC, ensure implementation of Prayer (i) and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Solomon Bulus Maren —Mangu/Bokkos Federal Constituency*)

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:

“Urge the Federal Road Safety Commission to include money for procurement of Arms in compliance with section 19 of the FRSC (Establishment) Act, in its 2018 Appropriation” (*Hon. Kayode Oladele — Egbado North/Imeko Afon Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived

Question on the Motion — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the increasing cases of violent attacks, harassment and intimidation of personnel and offices of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) by highly placed individuals, motorists and hoodlums across the country, particularly in Zamfara, Jigawa, Abia and Lagos States;

Also noted that from 2015 to date, there have been 149 cases of attacks on personnel and 201 cases of damage to properties and equipment of the Commission;

Further noted that despite Section 19 of the FRSC (Establishment) Act, 2007 which stipulates that personnel of the Commission who are exposed to high risk in the enforcement of the provisions of this Act, shall have same powers, authorities and privileges, including power to bear arms, as are granted by law to members of the Nigeria Police Force, the Federal Government has not provided Road Safety officers with arms to enable them protect themselves in the course of performing their duties;

Concerned that the United Nation's Declaration on Reduction of Road Accidents by fifty (50) percent by year 2020 may not be achieved by Nigeria if the attacks are not urgently curbed;

Observed that in order to avoid the attacks, Road Safety officers stay off the roads, particularly at night and motorists are taking advantage of the situation to breach traffic regulations, which often lead to accidents;

Aware that officers sometimes discover offensive weapons in vehicles during routine operations on highways but are incapable of challenging occupants of such vehicles as they lack capacity to protect themselves from any attack that could arise.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to facilitate the procurement of arms and ammunitions for officers of the Federal Road Safety Commission to protect themselves while performing their duties; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Federal Road Safety Commission to investigate cases of attacks on personnel of the FRSC, ensure implementation of Prayer (i) and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 115/2017**).

13. Need to Stop the Incessant Harassment and Killing of Nigerians at Danare Community in Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State by Cameroonian Gendarmes

Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that Danare community in Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State is a border community which shares boundaries with Bodam community in Cameroon;

Also notes that there exists a long history of incessant encroachment and provocations between the two communities on both sides of the international boundary arising basically from the refusal of the Cameroon community of Bodam to abide by the international boundary that was set by the International Court of Justice (ICJ);

Informed that on Friday, 13 October, 2017, men from Bodam attacked Danare Community, killed three people, injured several others and destroyed properties and Cocoa plantations worth millions of Naira;

Concerned that there is no security personnel manning the border area between Nigeria and Cameroon, as the closest Police post is about forty-five (45) kms from the border with only two (2) Policemen manning it, thus leaving the border community of Danare vulnerable to incessant attacks by Cameroonian gendarmes;

Aware that despite several complaints, the Government are yet to make any intervention and none of the recommendations of the National Assembly concerning the issue has been implemented by the Federal Government;

Cognizant that the Indigenous People of Bodam is a militant group that is well-armed with sophisticated weapons and are taking advantage of its skills to unleash mayhem on the border community of Danare;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to establish a military base at Danare to curb the unwarranted attacks;
- (ii) also urge the Inspector General of Police to ensure the speedy completion of the Police Station at Danare and deploy Police Officers permanently at the border;
- (iii) further urge the Attorney General of the Federation and Leader of the Nigerian Delegation at the Cameroon-Nigerian Mixed Commission to, in conjunction with the National Boundary Commission, ensure the completion of the International Boundary demarcation exercise in line with the judgment of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in order to enhance peaceful co-existence between Nigeria and Cameroon;
- (iv) call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the people of Danare Community to support victims of the attacks to ameliorate their suffering;

- (v) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Defence, Police Affairs, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure implementation and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action; and
- (vi) observe a minute silence in honor of those who lost their lives protecting Nigeria's territorial boundary (*Hon. Agibe Christopher Ngoro — Boki/Ikom Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that Danare community in Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State is a border community which shares boundaries with Bodam community in Cameroon;

Also noted that there exists a long history of incessant encroachment and provocations between the two communities on both sides of the international boundary arising basically from the refusal of the Cameroon community of Bodam to abide by the international boundary that was set by the International Court of Justice (ICJ);

Informed that on Friday, 13 October, 2017, men from Bodam attacked Danare Community, killed three people, injured several others and destroyed properties and Cocoa plantations worth millions of Naira

Concerned that there is no security personnel manning the border area between Nigeria and Cameroon, as the closest Police post is about forty-five (45) kms from the border with only two (2) Policemen manning it, thus leaving the border community of Danare vulnerable to incessant attacks by Cameroonian gendarmes;

Aware that despite several complaints, the Government are yet to make any intervention and none of the recommendations of the National Assembly concerning the issue has been implemented by the Federal Government;

Cognizant that the Indigenous People of Bodam is a militant group that is well-armed with sophisticated weapons and are taking advantage of its skills to unleash mayhem on the border community of Danare.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to establish a military base at Danare to curb the unwarranted attacks;
- (ii) also urge the Inspector General of Police to ensure the speedy completion of the Police Station at Danare and deploy Police Officers permanently at the border;
- (iii) further urge the Attorney General of the Federation and Leader of the Nigerian Delegation at the Cameroon-Nigerian Mixed Commission to, in conjunction with the National Boundary Commission, ensure the completion of the International Boundary demarcation exercise in line with the judgment of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in order to enhance peaceful co-existence between Nigeria and Cameroon;
- (iv) call on the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to send relief materials to the people of Danare Community to support victims of the attacks to ameliorate their suffering;

- (v) mandate the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, Defence, Police Affairs, and Emergency and Disaster Preparedness to ensure implementation and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action; and
- (vi) observe a minute silence in honor of those who lost their lives protecting Nigeria's territorial boundary (**HR. 116/2017**).

The House observed a minute silence in honour of the deceased.

14. Call for Award of Scholarships Under the Amnesty Programme to Qualified Candidates into the 2017/2018 Academic Session of Universities

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes the undue delay by the Presidential Amnesty Committee to award scholarships to qualified candidates for admissions into the 2017/2018 academic session of Universities despite adequate provision made for them in the 2017 Appropriation Act;

Recalls that the Amnesty Programme, which commenced in 2009, was aimed at addressing lack of human capital development with the overall objective of engendering lasting peace and stability and to institutionally fight poverty in the Niger Delta region;

Aware that the Programme has greatly helped to empower and equip beneficiaries with skills to enable them compete globally in various fields and the positive attitudinal changes of the ex-militants are largely attributable to the training and education they acquired through the Programme;

Concerned that the inexplicable delay by the Presidential Amnesty Committee to award scholarships to qualified candidates for admissions into the 2017/2018 academic session of Universities could encourage acts that may threaten the relative peace that is currently being experienced in the Niger Delta region and consequently have adverse effects on the nation's economy as a whole;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to continue to prioritize the educational aspect of the Amnesty Programme in view of its importance to the national economy;
- (ii) also urge the Presidential Amnesty Committee to, without further delay, award scholarships to all candidates under the Programme who have qualified for admissions into the 2017/2018 academic session of Universities; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Governmental Affairs, and Legislative Compliance to monitor compliance and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Kolade Victor Akinjo — Eseodo/Ilaje Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Leave out the title of the motion, and *insert* a new title as follows:

“Need for Presidential Amnesty Committee to Deploy Successful Candidates to Nigerian Universities for the 2017/2018 Academic Session Scholarship” (*Hon. Olabode Ayorinde — Owo/Ose Federal Constituency*)

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

Need for Presidential Amnesty Committee to Deploy Successful Candidates to Nigerian Universities for the 2017/2018 Academic Session Scholarship:

The House:

Noted the undue delay by the Presidential Amnesty Committee to award scholarships to qualified candidates for admissions into the 2017/2018 academic session of Universities despite adequate provision made for them in the 2017 Appropriation Act;

Recalled that the Amnesty Programme, which commenced in 2009, was aimed at addressing lack of human capital development with the overall objective of engendering lasting peace and stability and to institutionally fight poverty in the Niger Delta region;

Aware that the Programme has greatly helped to empower and equip beneficiaries with skills to enable them compete globally in various fields and the positive attitudinal changes of the ex-militants are largely attributable to the training and education they acquired through the Programme;

Concerned that the inexplicable delay by the Presidential Amnesty Committee to award scholarships to qualified candidates for admissions into the 2017/2018 academic session of Universities could encourage acts that may threaten the relative peace that is currently being experienced in the Niger Delta region and consequently have adverse effects on the nation's economy as a whole;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to continue to prioritize the educational aspect of the Amnesty Programme in view of its importance to the national economy;
- (ii) also urge the Presidential Amnesty Committee to, without further delay, award scholarships to all candidates under the Programme who have qualified for admissions into the 2017/2018 academic session of Universities; and
- (iii) mandate the Committees on Governmental Affairs, and Legislative Compliance to monitor compliance and report back within four (4) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 1172017**).

15. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 19 October, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.22 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker

CORRIGENDUM

In the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 17 October, 2017, page 628, item 5, in the *referral*, line 2, immediately after the word “Legislative”, *leave out* the word “Compliance” and *insert* the words “Budget and Research”.