



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 12 October, 2017

1. The House met at 11.11 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, 11 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) Staff and Students of *Doveland International Schools*, Wuse 2, Abuja; and
 - (ii) Staff and Students of *Redeemer's Private School*, Gudu District, Abuja.

- (b) **A Two Day National Summit:**

Mr Speaker announced a Two - Day Summit slated for 17 - 18 October, 2017 as follows:

**A TWO - 2 DAY NATIONAL SUMMIT ON
INTERGOVERNMENTAL/INTERPARTY RELATIONS AND BUDGET
PROCESS REFORM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN
NIGERIA: 17 - 18 OCTOBER, 2017**

Honourable Members are invited to participate in a 2 Day National Summit on Intergovernmental/Interparty Relations and Budget Process Reform for sustainable development in Nigeria, scheduled to hold from Tuesday, 17th - Wednesday, 18th October, 2017. The Summit is being organised and resourced by the National Institute for Legislative Studies in conjunction with the European Union Parliament, Democracy Support and Election Coordination Group (EU-DEG), and the Office of Senior Special Assistants to the President (OSSAP) on National Assembly.

The Speaker, House of Representatives, His Excellency, Rt Honourable Yakubu Dogara, will present an Address during the Summit, scheduled to hold as follows:

Date: Tuesday, 17th - Wednesday, 18th October, 2017.

Venue: Conference Hall, Nicon Luxury Hotel, Area 11, Garki, Abuja.
Time: 9.00 a.m. daily.

All Honourable Members are kindly requested to attend.

(Signed)

Rt Honourable Yakubu Dogara

4. **Petitions**

- (i) A petition from Crispus Amarachi Ovoh, on alleged criminal diversion awarded by Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to SIMEC Chemical Engineering and Construction Company Limited, was presented and laid by Hon. Lovette Idisi (*Ethiope East/Ethiope West Federal Constituency*);
- (ii) Petitions from the following persons were presented and laid by Hon. Julius Pondi (*Burutu Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Justice Timiadi Akuna and one other, on behalf of Ogulagha Kingdom Youth Council, on the neglect of the Kingdom in employment at Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) on Forcados Terminal;
 - (b) Justice Timiadi Akanu and one other, on behalf of Ogulagha Kingdom Youth Council, on the neglect of indigenous contractors of the Kingdom in the award of Surveillance of Offshore Oil facility in Focardos operations by Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC);
- (iii) Petitions from the following persons were presented and laid by Hon. Agbonaiyinma Johnson Ehiozuwa (*Egor/Ikpoba/Okha Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Edwindomwanfo Godfrey, on the termination of his employment by Nigeria Police Force;
 - (b) Goddy Osa Igbakomen, on the alleged injustice meted to him by the Management of the Nigeria Police Academy, Wudil, Kano State; and
- (iv) A petition from Olayinka Ibadapo, on alleged breach of Public Procurement Act by Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), was presented and laid by Hon. Mohammed Musa Soba (*Soba Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

- #### 5. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**
- (i) ***Decentralizing the Voters Registration Exercise by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC):***
 Hon. Dickson Tarkighir Dominic (*Makurdi/Guma Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance — *Agreed to.*

Motion withdrawn by leave of the House, to enable the Committee on Electoral Matters submit its report on the same subject matter referred to the Committee on June 30, 2017.

(ii) ***Need to Investigate Violent Terror Attacks and Threat to Lasting Peace in Plateau State:***
Hon. Istifinus Gyang Dung (*Barikinladi/Riyom Federal Constituency and 3 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 Violent Terror Attacks and Threat to Lasting Peace in Plateau State:

The House:

Notes with serious concern and dismay the persistent violent terror attacks on communities in Plateau State, the latest being the massacre of Da. Moses Gwom, a former Head of Civil Service, Plateau State and two others, including a soldier with the Special Military Task Force, Operation Safe Haven on the night of Tuesday, 10 October, 2017, at Wereh village of Barikin Ladi Local Government Area. Other victims of the attack who sustained varying degrees of injuries from gun shots are receiving medical attention in hospital;

Aware that the right to life is so fundamental that it is enshrined and given prominence not only in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as Amended), United Nations and African Union Charters but most importantly ordained by God in the Holy Books (the Bible and the Koran);

Concerned that the peace which Plateau State has been enjoying is under grave threat following violent attacks capable of precipitating another round of crisis. The most recent being the attack on Ancha village of Miango District in Bassa Local Government Area which claimed 22 lives on Thursday, 7 September, 2017. This is in addition to cases of isolated attacks, ambush and raping of unsuspecting women as well as destruction of farm crops to deprive the farmers of their hard earned harvest;

Disturbed that even personnel and operatives of the Special Military Task Force under Operation Safe Haven were not spared by the attackers;

Also disturbed that the ugly incident shocked the people and government of Plateau State as it joins a long list of high profile killings of leaders and elders of thought through violent attacks including Sen. (Dr) Gyang Dantong, Hon. Gyang Fulani, Majority Leader, Plateau State House of Assembly, HRH Saf Ron, Sir Lazarus Agai, a First Class Chief, Rev. Bitrus Manjang, Ex-COCIN Vice President and a host of others;

Also aware that the affected communities have, through violent attacks in the past, been subjected to massive displacement from their ancestral homes and farmlands all of which are predominantly under occupation.

Resolves to:

- (i) condemn the attacks and displacement in strong terms;

- (ii) mandate the Committees on Human Rights, and National Security and Intelligence to investigate the attack and report back within three (3) weeks for further legislative action;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government, through the instrumentality of the Special Military Task Force code named Operation Safe Haven to ensure that the attackers are traced, apprehended and prosecuted;
- (iv) also urge the Federal Government to ensure the return of all displaced communities, provide protection and guarantee their safety;
- (v) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide building materials to assist in the reconstruction of the affected communities;
- (vi) send a strong delegation to visit and show solidarity with the people and government of Plateau State as a demonstration of the interest of the House in the peace of the State; and
- (vii) observe a minute silence in honour of the slain victims and pray for the peace of Plateau State (*Hon. Istifanus D. Gyang — Barikin Ladi/Riyom Federal Constituency and 3 Others*).

Debate

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted with serious concern and dismay the persistent violent terror attacks on communities in Plateau State, the latest being the massacre of Da. Moses Gwom, a former Head of Civil Service, Plateau State and two others, including a soldier with the Special Military Task Force, Operation Safe Haven on the night of Tuesday, 10 October, 2017, at Wereh village of Barikin Ladi Local Government Area. Other victims of the attack who sustained varying degrees of injuries from gun shots are receiving medical attention in hospital;

Aware that the right to life is so fundamental that it is enshrined and given prominence not only in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as Amended), United Nations and African Union Charters but most importantly ordained by God in the Holy Books (the Bible and the Koran);

Concerned that the peace which Plateau State has been enjoying is under grave threat following violent attacks capable of precipitating another round of crisis. The most recent being the attack on Ancha village of Miango District in Bassa Local Government Area which claimed 22 lives on Thursday, 7 September, 2017. This is in addition to cases of isolated attacks, ambush and raping of unsuspecting women as well as destruction of farm crops to deprive the farmers of their hard earned harvest;

Disturbed that even personnel and operatives of the Special Military Task Force under Operation Safe Haven were not spared by the attackers;

Also disturbed that the ugly incident shocked the people and government of Plateau State as it joins a long list of high profile killings of leaders and elders of thought through violent attacks including Sen. (Dr) Gyang Dantong, Hon. Gyang Fulani, Majority Leader, Plateau State House of Assembly, HRH Saf Ron, Sir Lazarus Agai, a First Class Chief, Rev. Bitrus Manjang, Ex-COCIN Vice President and a host of others;

Also aware that the affected communities have, through violent attacks in the past, been subjected to massive displacement from their ancestral homes and farmlands all of which are predominantly under occupation.

Resolved to:

- (i) condemn the attacks and displacement in strong terms;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Human Rights, and National Security and Intelligence to investigate the attack and report back within three (3) weeks for further legislative action;
- (iii) urge the Federal Government, through the instrumentality of the Special Military Task Force code named Operation Safe Haven to ensure that the attackers are traced, apprehended and prosecuted;
- (iv) also urge the Federal Government to ensure the return of all displaced communities, provide protection and guarantee their safety;
- (v) further urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide building materials to assist in the reconstruction of the affected communities;
- (vi) send a strong delegation to visit and show solidarity with the people and government of Plateau State as a demonstration of the interest of the House in the peace of the State; and
- (vii) observe a minute silence in honour of the slain victims and pray for the peace of Plateau State (**HR. 104/2017**).

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

6. **Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Older Persons (Rights and Privileges) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1170).
- (2) Private Employment Agencies Bill, 2017 (HB. 1171).
- (3) Centre for Scientific Research Into Plant Medicine Bill, 2017 (HB. 1172).
- (4) Child's Right Act (Amendment) Bill 2017 (HB. 1173).
- (5) Firearms Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1174) (HB. 1170).
- (6) Estate Agents Bill, 2017 (HB. 1175).
- (7) National Tobacco Control Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1176).

7. Presentation of Reports**(i) Committee on National Security and Intelligence:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on National Security and Intelligence on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Protection of Identities of National Security Agencies Officers, Agents, Sources, Informants and Operational Methods from Unlawful Disclosure and to Protect their Establishments, Facilities and Equipment against Unauthorized Access, as well as Provide for the Promotion and Engagement of Nigeria's External Security; and for Related Matters (HB. 830)" (Hon. Aminu Sani Jaji — Kaura/Namoda/Birnin-Magaji Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) Committee on Commerce:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Commerce on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) of Nigeria with responsibility, among Others, for Determining the Standards of Knowledge, Skill and Qualification for Persons seeking to become Registered Professionals and Practitioners in Logistics and Transport in Nigeria and Licensing and Regulating the Practice of Logistics and Transport in all Ramifications; and for Related Matters" (Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga — Abakaliki/Izzi Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) Committee on Aviation:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the of the Committee on Aviation on the Two-Day Investigative Hearing on the Petition brought against the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and Ministry of Transportation by Salamatu B. Umar-Eluma, FNIM on her Wrongful Redeployment from FAAN to AIB by the Ministry of Transportation, between 10 - 11 October, 2017 at Room 3.24, House of Representatives (New Building), National Assembly Complex" (Pursuant to Order Eighteen (B), Rule 17 (2) (h) of the Standing Order of the House)" (Hon. Nkeiruka Onyejeocha — Isuikwuato/Umunnechi Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

8. Ocean Encroachment in Bayelsa State

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that most of the communities in Bayelsa State are bordered on all fronts by streams, rivers, rivulets and the Ocean;

Also notes that some communities like Okpoama, Twon Brass, Sangana, Foropah, Ekeni, Ezetu, Koluama, Odioma, Agbere and Sampou are on the verge of extinction as a result of ocean encroachment that is eating up the lands, thus threatening the existence of the people;

Aware that Ocean encroachment has a similar adverse impact on the people as the Sahara Desert in the Northern part of Nigeria, and the people, who are predominantly farmers and fishermen, are being threatened by the Ocean and Rivers that are washing away their communities;

Observes that as a result of the Ocean encroachment, infrastructure such as schools, health centres, roads and residential buildings are at risk of being washed away;

Concerned that if urgent steps are not taken to mitigate the effects of the encroachment, the lives of the people who reside by the shorelines and banks of the Rivers and the Ocean will be in jeopardy;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to:
 - (a) undertake shoreline protection by constructing stone and concrete pavements on the banks to stabilize the shoreline,
 - (b) dredge the River beds to remove encroaching weeds so that the Rivers can contain more water volume, thereby reducing flooding;
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Water Resources, and Works to ensure implementation (*Hon. Douye Diri — Yenagoa/K/Opokuma Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(HR. 105/2017).

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

9. Need to Investigate the Deplorable Condition of the State House Clinic and the Alleged Deductions from the Salaries and Allowances of the Medical Staff
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the State House Clinic was established to take care of the health needs of the President, the Vice-President, their family members as well as members of staff of the Presidential Villa, Abuja;

Also notes that the Clinic has, over the years, been receiving annual budgetary allocations to procure equipment that will enable it function optimally;

Further notes that in the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Appropriation Acts, the Clinic was allocated the sums of ₦3.94 billion, ₦3.87 billion and ₦3.2 billion respectively, for upgrading and provision of necessary drugs and equipment;

Observes that in spite of those huge budgetary allocations, the Clinic lacks necessary facilities such as syringes, drugs and equipment needed for saving lives;

Informed that Medical Doctors working at the Clinic have expressed concern over alleged illegal deductions from their salaries and allowances by the Management since April 2017, without any official communication for the action;

Aware that the wife of the President, Mrs Aisha Buhari complained publicly during a stakeholder's meeting on Reproductive, Maternal, Nutrition, Child Advocacy and Health and Nutrition (RMNCAHN) at the State House of her inability to access health care needs at the Clinic when she took ill recently, but was rather advised by the health providers to fly out of country for treatment;

Acknowledges that her refusal to heed the advice of the health providers and insisting on obtaining medical care in Nigeria saved the country millions of dollars in foreign exchange and was also an act of patriotism and selflessness worthy of commendation;

Resolves to:

- (i) commend Her Excellency, Mrs Aisha Buhari for her exemplary show of patriotism and selflessness; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services to investigate the deplorable condition of the State House Clinic and the alleged deductions from the salaries and allowances of the medical staff and report back within three (3) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Henry Archibong — Itu/Ibiono Ibom Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) In Prayer (ii), leave out the words “mandate the Committee on Healthcare Services ” and insert the words “Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee” instead thereof (*Hon. Magaji Dau’ Aliyu — Birnin-Kudu/Buji Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) Insert a new Prayer (iii) as follows:
“Call on the Medical Director of State House Clinic to resign”(*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agree to.

The House:

Noted that the State House Clinic was established to take care of the health needs of the President, the Vice-President, their family members as well as members of staff of the Presidential Villa, Abuja;

Also noted that the Clinic has, over the years, been receiving annual budgetary allocations to procure equipment that will enable it function optimally;

Further noted that in the 2015, 2016 and 2017 Appropriation Acts, the Clinic was allocated the sums of ₦3.94 billion, ₦3.87 billion and ₦3.2 billion respectively, for upgrading and provision of necessary drugs and equipment;

Observed that in spite of those huge budgetary allocations, the Clinic lacks necessary facilities such as syringes, drugs and equipment needed for saving lives;

Informed that Medical Doctors working at the Clinic have expressed concern over alleged illegal deductions from their salaries and allowances by the Management since April 2017, without any official communication for the action;

Aware that the wife of the President, Mrs Aisha Buhari complained publicly during a stakeholder's meeting on Reproductive, Maternal, Nutrition, Child Advocacy and Health and Nutrition (RMNCAHN) at the State House of her inability to access health care needs at the Clinic when she took ill recently, but was rather advised by the health providers to fly out of country for treatment;

Acknowledged that her refusal to heed the advice of the health providers and insisting on obtaining medical care in Nigeria saved the country millions of dollars in foreign exchange and was also an act of patriotism and selflessness worthy of commendation;

Resolved to:

- (i) commend Her Excellency, Mrs Aisha Buhari for her exemplary show of patriotism and selflessness; and
- (ii) Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the deplorable condition of the State House Clinic and the alleged deductions from the salaries and allowances of the medical staff and report back within three (3) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 106/2017**).

10. Need to Investigate the Expenditure of ₦7.092 Billion on the Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Programme in Nine States of the Federation

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that in execution of the Federal Government's Social Investment Package (SIP), a whopping sum of ₦93.1 billion was appropriated in the 2016 budget for the Home Grown School Feeding (HGSF) Programme which was proposed to provide food for primary schools pupils in the thirty-six (36) States of the Federation, but it has so far effectively commenced in only seven States, namely Anambra, Zamfara, Enugu, Ebonyi, Ogun, Osun and Oyo States, with a total of 8,587 Schools, so far benefitting from the Programme;

Also notes that apart from feeding primary schools pupils, the Programme also aims to create 1.14 million new jobs, increase food production by up to 530,000 metric tonnes per annum and attract fresh investments of up to ₦980 billion;

Further notes that so far, a total of ₦1.8 billion has been spent on the 25 million plates of food that have been served to beneficiaries at the cost of ₦70 per plate, while a further sum of ₦2 billion was spent on the training and soft interest free loans advanced to the 14,492 cooks so far hired under the scheme and on other ancillary costs;

Aware that at the present, over 1,274,620 pupils in the Seven States are currently benefitting from the Programme while the Federal Government has disbursed the following amounts to the benefitting States:

Anambra State	—	₦145,000,000 for 103,742 pupils and 937 cooks,
Ebonyi State	—	₦114,000,000 for 163,137 pupils,
Osun State	—	₦212,000,000 for 151,438 pupils in over 200 schools,
Oyo State	—	₦66,000,000 for 95,338 pupils in 2,375 schools and 1,332 cooks and caterers,
Ogun State	—	₦162,000,000 for 23,660 pupils in 874 primary schools and 1,381 cooks,
Enugu State	—	₦76,000,000 for 108,893 pupils and 1,028 cooks,
Zamfara State	—	₦188,000 for 268,573 pupils;

Also aware that Kaduna State, which ran a similar Programme for 36 weeks between January to August 2016, before the Federal Government kick started its own Programme, has received a total of ₦3.4billion as reimbursement for money allegedly spent in feeding its primary schools pupils, a claim that has remained unverified as there are no data or records so far produced to that effect;

Further aware that Delta and Abia States have recently joined in the implementation of the Programme and have received ₦63,000,000 for 90,532 pupils and ₦42,000,000 for 61,316 pupils, respectively;

Concerned that the procedure for the recruitment of cooks under the Programme is not transparent which opens a window for corrupt practices in this otherwise laudable Programme as funds have been disbursed without accountability, proper auditing and transparency;

Resolves to:

Constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the expenditure under the Home Grown School Feeding Programme and undertake oversight visits to the benefitting States to ascertain the expenditure framework of the exercise and report back within twelve (12) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Prestige Ossy — Aba North/Aba South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Motion withdrawn by leave of the House.

11. Call for a Safer and More Secured Capital City

Motion made, and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes the improved security situation in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja as a result of the support the Minister of the FCT, Alhaji Muhammad Musa Bello has been offering to security agencies through provision of patrol vehicles, security gadgets and equipment, etc.;

Observes the developmental strides in infrastructure and other endeavours as a result of the relative security pervading the capital city;

Recognises that, like other fast-growing cities in the world, there are still challenges such as rural urban migration;

Concerned that the influx of job seeking Nigerians into the Federal Capital Territory brings attendant pressure on the economic, social, environmental and other sectors requiring interventions by the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA);

Resolves to:

- (i) commend the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) for the visible efforts at changing the face of the capital city and encourage him to explore alternative platforms for uplifting the environmental and infrastructural fortunes of the city;
- (ii) enjoin corporate bodies and individuals to enter into Public Private Partnership (PPP) with the Administration to further the provision of infrastructure and expansion of the city; and
- (iii) mandate the Committee on FCT to ensure implementation (*Hon. Anayo Nnebe — Awka North/Awka South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out all the Prayers and insert a new Prayer as follows:*
"Urge the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to, as a matter of urgency, embark on road constructions in the Satellite towns in FCT" (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndkowa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived

- (ii) *Leave out Prayer (i) (Hon. Adaji Ezekiel — Ohimini/Otukpo Federal Constituency).*

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Negatived.

12. Call On the Federal Government to Provide Subsidies for Palliative Care Drugs and Chemotherapy for Cancer Patients in Nigeria

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

13. Need to Hearken to Calls for Review of the National Minimum Wage Figures to Avert the Looming Nationwide Strike Action
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Aware that the Minimum Wage Act of 2011 set the lowest payable salary to a worker in Nigeria at ₦18,000.00 only;

Cognizant of the Tripartite Agreement between the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), the National Employers Consultative Association (NECA) and the Federal Government to set up a joint review team to study and recommend an appropriate rate to the Government;

Concerned that despite the Labour Unions having submitted names of their nominees and making several requests for commencement of the review process, the Government has yet to respond positively to the requests;

Also aware that payments of outstanding debts to contractors and arrears of salaries and pensions to workers contributed to the reflation of the economy, and in turn partly contributed to the eventual exit of the economy from recession, and as such, an upward adjustment of the rate of the minimum wage will have similar positive effect on the nation's economy;

Concerned that a combination of high inflation and weak Naira exchange value have eroded the purchasing power of fixed income earners in the country who happen to be the bread winners to millions of jobless and aged dependants;

Convinced that any nationwide strike action embarked upon by workers at this time is capable of rolling back recent economic gains, thereby returning the nation's fragile economy into recession that will further exacerbate the suffering of the masses;

Resolves to:

- (i) *urge the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct the Minister of Labour and Employment to commence forthwith the process of negotiating an upward review of the current minimum wage rates; and*

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Employment, Labour and Productivity to ensure implementation (*Hon. Peter Ohiozogh Akpatason — Akoko-Edo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the Minimum Wage Act of 2011 set the lowest payable salary to a worker in Nigeria at ₦18,000.00 only;

Cognizant of the Tripartite Agreement between the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), the National Employers Consultative Association (NECA) and the Federal Government to set up a joint review team to study and recommend an appropriate rate to the Government;

Concerned that despite the Labour Unions having submitted names of their nominees and making several requests for commencement of the review process, the Government has yet to respond positively to the requests;

Also aware that payments of outstanding debts to contractors and arrears of salaries and pensions to workers contributed to the reflation of the economy, and in turn partly contributed to the eventual exit of the economy from recession, and as such, an upward adjustment of the rate of the minimum wage will have similar positive effect on the nation's economy;

Concerned that a combination of high inflation and weak Naira exchange value have eroded the purchasing power of fixed income earners in the country who happen to be the bread winners to millions of jobless and aged dependants;

Convinced that any nationwide strike action embarked upon by workers at this time is capable of rolling back recent economic gains, thereby returning the nation's fragile economy into recession that will further exacerbate the suffering of the masses;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to direct the Minister of Labour and Employment to commence forthwith the process of negotiating an upward review of the current minimum wage rates; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Employment, Labour and Productivity to ensure implementation (**HR. 107/2017**).

14. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, Cap. C4, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Enhance Transparency, Entrenchment of Parliamentary Accountability and Enhancement of the Bank's Efficiency in the Discharge of its Statutory Duties, to provide for Appointment of a Person other than the Governor as the Chairman of the Board, Divest the Board of the Powers of Determining and Fixing its own Salaries and Allowances and the Powers of Considering and Approving the Annual Budget of the Bank and for Related Matters (HB. 1094, HB.407 and HB. 711) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Central Bank of Nigeria Act, Cap. C4, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Enhance Transparency, Entrenchment of Parliamentary Accountability and Enhancement of the Bank's Efficiency in the Discharge of its Statutory Duties, to provide for Appointment of a Person other than the Governor as the Chairman

of the Board, Divest the Board of the Powers of Determining and Fixing its own Salaries and Allowances and the Powers of Considering and Approving the Annual Budget of the Bank and for Related Matters (HB. 1094, HB.407 and HB. 711) be now read a Second Time” (Hon. Binta Bello — *Kaltungo/Shongom Federal Constituency and 2 others*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

15. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the National Institute for Arid Research and Desertification Control and to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB. 573) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Institute for Arid Research and Desertification Control and to make Comprehensive Provisions for its Due Management and Administration and for Related Matters (HB. 573) be now read a Second Time” (Hon. Ahmed Babba Kaita — *Kankia/Ingawa/Kusada Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committee on Environment and Habitat.

16. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Provisions of the Medical and Dental Practitioners Act, Cap. M8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Increase the Penalties for Offences under the Act and for Related Matters (HB. 1084) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Provisions of the Medical and Dental Practitioners Act, Cap. M8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Increase the Penalties for Offences under the Act and for Related Matters (HB. 1084) be now read a Second Time” (Hon. Dozie Ferdinand Nwankwo — *Anaocha/Njikoka/Dunukofia 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 Health Institutions.

17. **A Bill for an Act to Establish the Niger Delta Institute of Technology and Skills Acquisition, Egbema, Imo State, and to make Comprehensive Provisions for its due Management and Administration, Provide for detailed Identification of Areas in Technology and Skills Acquisition and for Related Matters (HB. 1069) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Establish the Niger Delta Institute of Technology and Skills Acquisition, Egbema, Imo State, and to make Comprehensive Provisions for its due Management and Administration, Provide for detailed Identification of Areas in Technology and Skills Acquisition and for Related Matters (HB. 1069) be now read a Second Time” (Hon. Goodluck Opiah — *Ohaji/Egbema/Oguta/Oru West Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

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

Bill read the Second Time.

Bill referred to the Committees on Tertiary Education and Services, and Science and Technology.

18. **A Bill for an Act to Provide for Farmers Registration Act that will Create a Database of Farmers in Nigeria to Professionalize Farming and Diversify the Economy with a view to Boosting Food Production and Economic Activities in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 1055) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Provide for Farmers Registration Act that will Create a Database of Farmers in Nigeria to Professionalize Farming and Diversify the Economy with a view to Boosting Food Production and Economic Activities in Nigeria and for Other Related Matters (HB. 1055) be now read a Second Time” (Hon. Michael Adeniyi Omogbehin — Okitipupa/Irele 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 Agricultural Production and Services.

19. **Adjournment**

That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 17 October, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.09 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker