



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

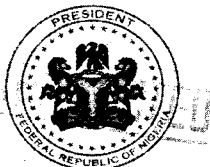
VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Tuesday, 24 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 Thursday, 19 October, 2017.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.

3. **Message**
Mr Speaker read a message from the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows:



**PRESIDENT,
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

17 October, 2017

Rt. Hon. Yakubu Dogara
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,
National Assembly Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja.*

Dear Rt Hon. Y. Dogara,

NIGERIA CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (ESTABLISHMENT. ETC.) BILL, 2017

I forward herewith, for your kind consideration and passage into law, a Bill for an Act to provide for the Establishment of the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control and prevention.

It is my hope that the House of Representatives will consider and pass the Bill in your usual expeditious manner.

Please accept, Honourable Speaker, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed)

Muhammadu Buhari

4. Announcement

Visitors in the Gallery:

Mr Speaker recognised the presence of Staff and Students of *Royalsville Montessori Academy*, Mpape, Abuja, FCT.

5. Petitions

Petitions from the following persons were presented and laid by Hon. Joseph Eghogbon Edionwele (*Esan Central/Esan West/Igueben Federal Constituency*):

- (a) Victor Ose Ogbomon and Associates, on behalf of Napoleon Aikhareapen, on his dismissal from the service of the Nigeria Police Force; and
- (b) Sunday Udomaiye, on his dismissal from the service of the Nigeria Police Force.

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

(i) *Need to Investigate the Disappearance, Re-appearance, and Subsequent Reinstatement and Promotion of Abdulrasheed Maina, Former Chairman of the Presidential Taskforce on Pensions Reform:*

Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba (*Kachia/Kagarko 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 Investigate the Disappearance, Re-appearance, and Subsequent Reinstatement and Promotion of Abdulrasheed Maina the Former Chairman of the Presidential Taskforce on Pension Reform:

The House:

Recalls that Mr Abdulrasheed Maina was appointed as Chairman of the Presidential Task Force on Pension Reform in 2010 to check the complaints in the country's Pension system by the former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan;

Also recalls that the Nigeria Police accused him of mismanaging over ₦100 Billion Pension funds;

Aware that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) through its spokesman Mr Wilson Uwujaren declared him wanted in 2015;

Also aware that on several occasions Maina had been invited to appear before a Committee of the National Assembly, but turned down the invitation in contempt;

Further recalls that he fled this country to the United Arab Emirates since 2013 to avoid arrest and prosecution;

Still recalls that he was formally removed from the Federal Civil Service in 2013 by Goodluck Jonathan's Administration;

Concerned that Maina came back from hiding, got re-instated and posted to the Ministry of Interior where he was given double promotion from Assistant Director to Acting Director;

Also aware that President Muhammadu Buhari has directed his removal from the Federal Civil Service with immediate effect.

Resolves to:

- (i) commend President Muhammadu Buhari for being pro-active in directing the immediate removal of Mr Abdulrasheed Maina from the Federal Civil Service;
- (ii) constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the re-surfacing, re-absorbing and subsequent elevation of Mr Abdulsheed Maina from the rank of Assistant Director (the position he held before he was removed in 2013 to the position of an Acting Director, and to recommend strong sanctions against any person or persons who are implicated in the scandal; and
- (iii) call on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to immediately arrest Mr Abdulrasheed Maina for subsequent prosecution in order to serve as a deterrent to others who might have corrupt tendencies (*Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba — Kachia/Kagarko Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* Prayer (i) (*Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai — Ndokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwuani Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (i) In Prayer (ii), line 1, *leave out* the words "Constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee" and *insert* the following:
"Mandate the Committee on National Security and Intelligence" instead thereof (*Hon. Mark Gbillah Terseer — Gwer East/Gwer West Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

Main Question on the Motion — Agreed to.

The House:

Recalled that Mr Abdulrasheed Maina was appointed as Chairman of the Presidential Task Force on Pension Reform in 2010 to check the complaints in the country's Pension system by the former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan;

Also recalled that the Nigeria Police accused him of mismanaging over ₦100 Billion Pension funds;

Aware that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) through its spokesman Mr Wilson Uwujaren declared him wanted in 2015;

Also aware that on several occasions Maina had been invited to appear before a Committee of the National Assembly, but turned down the invitation in contempt;

Further recalled that he fled this country to the United Arab Emirates since 2013 to avoid arrest and prosecution;

Still recalled that he was formally removed from the Federal Civil Service in 2013 by Goodluck Jonathan's Administration;

Concerned that Maina came back from hiding, got re-instated and posted to the Ministry of Interior where he was given double promotion from Assistant Director to Acting Director;

Also aware that President Muhammadu Buhari has directed his removal from the Federal Civil Service with immediate effect.

Resolved to:

- (i) commend President Muhammadu Buhari for being pro-active in directing the immediate removal of Mr Abdulrashed Maina from the Federal Civil Service;
- (ii) constitute an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the re-surfacing, re-absorbing and subsequent elevation of Mr Abdulsheed Maina from the rank of Assistant Director (the position he held before he was removed in 2013 to the position of an Acting Director, and to recommend strong sanctions against any person or persons who are implicated in the scandal; and
- (iii) call on the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to immediately arrest Mr Abdulasheed Maina for subsequent prosecution in order to serve as a deterrent to others who might have corrupt tendencies (**HR. 128/2017**).

(ii) *Need to Save the Souls of Kogi People:*

Hon. Sunday Karimi Steve (*Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro 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 Save the Souls of Kogi People:

The House:

Notes the various Motions and Resolutions of this Esteemed Chamber on the Non- Payment of Salaries of State and Local Government Civil Servants in Kogi State in spite of the receipt of Salary Bail Out Funds, Paris Club Refunds and Monthly Federal Statutory Allocations to the State;

Also notes that a Director (GL 16) in the Kogi State Civil Service Commission by name **Edward Soje** an indigene of Ogori, Ogori/ Magongo Local Government of the State recently committed suicide. The Director was said to have been owed Eleven (11) months salary by the State Government. The Director was reported to have committed suicide owing to the

fact that he could not meet his obligations as a husband especially as his wife had just delivered a set of triplets at an Abuja hospital. The triplets were the first children of the couple after many years of marriage;

Aware that the condition of **Mr Edward Soje** is the lot of majority of Kogi State Civil Servants, at the State and Local Government Levels and the State Government has refused and opposed any effort by any authority to investigate the payment or non-payment of staff salaries;

Cognizant that the Salary Bail Out Fund is funded by the Public Finance of the Federal Government of Nigeria, as such, this Parliament has authority to query its disbursement and utilization;

Concerned that if something is not done immediately, many more suicides will be committed by the frustrated Civil Servants;

Resolves to:

- (i) call on the Federal Government of Nigeria to intervene in the callous situation that the people of Kogi State have found themselves;
- (ii) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to report to the House and explain the utilization of Salary Bailout Funds to States, within the next one week; and
- (iii) mandate the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Bail Out Funds to expedite action and investigate the payment of salary bail-out Funds in Kogi State (*Hon. Karimi Steve Sunday — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:

Insert a new Prayer (iv) as follows:

“Urge the Federal and States Governments to place priorities on payment of workers wages” (*Hon. Kingsley Chinda — Obio/Akpor Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Noted the various Motions and Resolutions of this Esteemed Chamber on the Non- Payment of Salaries of State and Local Government Civil Servants in Kogi State in spite of the receipt of Salary Bail Out Funds, Paris Club Refunds and Monthly Federal Statutory Allocations to the State;

Also noted that a Director (GL 16) in the Kogi State Civil Service Commission by name **Edward Soje** an indigene of Ogori, Ogori/ Magongo Local Government of the State recently committed suicide. The Director was said to have been owed Eleven (11) months salary by the State government. The Director was reported to have committed suicide owing to the fact that he could not meet his obligations as a husband especially as his wife had just delivered a set of triplets at an Abuja hospital. The triplets were the first children of the couple after many years of marriage;

Aware that the condition of **Mr Edward Soje** is the lot of majority of Kogi State Civil Servants, at the State and Local Government Levels and the State Government has refused and opposed any effort by any authority to investigate the payment or non-payment of staff salaries;

Cognizant that the Salary Bail Out Fund is funded by the Public Finance of the Federal Government of Nigeria, as such, this Parliament has authority to query its disbursement and utilization;

Concerned that if something is not done immediately, many more suicides will be committed by the frustrated Civil Servants;

Resolved to:

- (i) call on the Federal Government of Nigeria to intervene in the callous situation that the people of Kogi State have found themselves;
- (ii) urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to report to the House and explain the utilization of Salary Bailout Funds to States, within the next one week;
- (iii) mandate the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Bail Out Funds to expedite action and investigate the payment of salary bail-out Funds in Kogi State; and
- (iv) also urge the Federal and States governments to place priorities on payment of workers wages (**HR. 129/2017**).

7. **Presentation of Bills**

The following Bills were read the *First Time*:

- (1) Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1177).
- (2) Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1178).
- (3) National Security Agencies Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1179).
- (4) Explosives Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1180).
- (5) Critical National Assets and Infrastructure Center (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1181).
- (6) Compulsory, Free Universal Basic Education Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1182).
- (7) National Directorate of Employment Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1183).
- (8) National Boundary Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1184).
- (9) Electoral Act (Amendment) Bill, 2017 (HB. 1185).
- (10) National Offenders Central Registry Bill, 2017 (HB. 1186).

8. **Presentation of Reports**(i) ***Committees on Federal Capital Territory and Federal Capital Territory Area Councils and Ancillary Matters:***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committees on Federal Capital Territory and Federal Capital Territory Area Councils and Ancillary Matters on a Bill for an Act to Authorise the issue from the Federal Capital Territory Administration Statutory Revenue Fund of the Federal Capital Territory Administration Account, the Total Sum of ₦222,360,551,512 (Two Hundred and Twenty-Two Billion, Three Hundred and Sixty Million, Five Hundred and Fifty-One Thousand, Five Hundred and Twelve Naira) only, of which the Sum of ₦52,574,479,667 (Fifty-Two Billion, Five Hundred and Seventy-Four Million, Four Hundred and Seventy Nine Thousand, Six Hundred and Sixty-Seven Naira) only, is for Personnel Costs and the Sum of ₦40,460,373,354 (Forty Billion, Four Hundred and Sixty Million, Three Hundred and Seventy-Three Thousand, Three Hundred and Fifty-Four Naira) only, is for Overhead Costs whilst the Balance of ₦129,325,698,492 (One Hundred and Twenty Nine Billion, Three Hundred and Twenty-Five Million, Six Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand, Four Hundred and Ninety-Two Naira) only, is for Capital Projects for the Service of the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, for the Financial Year Commencing from 1 January and Ending on 31 December, 2017 (HB 1065)" (Hon. Sergius Oseasochie Ogun — Esan Northeast/Esan Southeast Federal Constituency).

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Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) ***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 Amend the Firearms Act, No. 32, Cap. F28, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to increase penalties for Offences, Miscellaneous Provisions under the Act and Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 182)" (Hon. Aminu Sani Jaji — Kaura-Namoda/Birnin-Magaji Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria Act, Cap. A24A, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB.1083) — Second Reading**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria Act, Cap. A24A, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB.1083) be now read a Second Time" (Hon. Jones Chukwudi Onyereri — Nkwere/Isu/Nwangele/Njaba 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 Banking and Currency.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Usman Dan Fodio University, Sokoto Act, Cap. U14, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to specify the Minimum Qualification for the Chairman of the Governing Council, Ownership of Intellectual Property and to Provide for Pre-action Notice to the University Authority; and for Related Matters (HB.1110) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Usman Dan Fodio University, Sokoto Act, Cap. U14, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004, to specify the Minimum Qualification for the Chairman of the Governing Council, Ownership of Intellectual Property and to Provide for Pre-action Notice to the University Authority; and for Related Matters (HB.1110) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Abdussamad Dasuki — Kebbe/Tambuwal 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 Tertiary Education and Services.

11. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the External Trade Letters of Credit (Control) Act, Cap. E24, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB.1152) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

12. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Family Economic Advancement Programme (Establishment, etc.) Act, Cap. F3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB.1156) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Family Economic Advancement Programme (Establishment, etc.) Act, Cap. F3, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB.1156) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Mohammed Gudaji Kazaure — Kazaure/Roni/Gwiwa/Yankari 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 Women Affairs and Social Development.

13. **A Bill for an Act to Repeal the Federal Government Staff Housing Board Act, Cap. F11, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB. 1160) — Second Reading**

Motion made and Question proposed, “That a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Federal Government Staff Housing Board Act, Cap. F11, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004; and for Related Matters (HB. 1160) be now read a Second Time” (*Hon. Gaza Jonathan Gbefwi — Karu/Keffi/Kokona 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 Housing.

14. Need for Jos Electricity Distribution Company (JEDC) to Revert to the Metering Code of Nigeria
Motion made and Question proposed,

The House:

Notes that the Jos Electricity Distribution Company (JEDC) had deployed smart energy meters which do not conform to the metering code specified at a voltage range of 40 percent to 10 percent (144v to 264v);

Also notes that the smart meters are certified with voltage range of 70v to 240v as was revealed by the verification test conducted by the Plateau State Ministry of Water Resources and Energy;

Aware that those smart meters have been installed at the Federal Low Cost, Rantiya Estate, Mazaram Top, Rayfield and DIY Bay;

Also aware that the Nigerian Electricity Management Service Agency had, in response to a request by the Plateau State Ministry of Water Resources and Energy confirmed that the smart meter voltage status does not conform to the Nigerian metering code or the best practices for that type of voltage profile;

Concerned that the most important parameters for energy dispensing and utilization between the utility provider and the consumer have not been adhered to;

Cognizant that if no steps are taken to reverse this trend, the Jos Electricity Distribution Company will continue to short change consumers since the meters are designed to read very low voltage of 70v whereas there are no appliances hitherto that could utilize current at such low voltage;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Electricity Management Service Agency to direct the Jos Electricity Distribution Company to adjust the operational voltage on their new smart meters from 144 volts to 264 volts as is obtainable in the metering code of Nigeria; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Power to ensure implementation and report back within three (3) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Solomon Bulus Maren — Mangu/Bokkos Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the Jos Electricity Distribution Company (JEDC) had deployed smart energy meters which do not conform to the metering code specified at a voltage range of 40 percent to 10 percent (144v to 264v);

Also noted that the smart meters are certified with voltage range of 70v to 240v as was revealed by the verification test conducted by the Plateau State Ministry of Water Resources and Energy;

Aware that those smart meters have been installed at the Federal Low Cost, Rantiya Estate, Mazaram Top, Rayfield and DIY Bay;

Also aware that the Nigerian Electricity Management Service Agency had, in response to a request by the Plateau State Ministry of Water Resources and Energy confirmed that the smart meter voltage status does not conform to the Nigerian metering code or the best practices for that type of voltage profile;

Concerned that the most important parameters for energy dispensing and utilization between the utility provider and the consumer have not been adhered to;

Cognizant that if no steps are taken to reverse this trend, the Jos Electricity Distribution Company will continue to short change consumers since the meters are designed to read very low voltage of 70v whereas there are no appliances hitherto that could utilize current at such low voltage;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Nigerian Electricity Management Service Agency to direct the Jos Electricity Distribution Company to adjust the operational voltage on their new smart meters from 144 volts to 264 volts as is obtainable in the metering code of Nigeria; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Power to ensure implementation and report back within three (3) weeks for further legislative action (HR. 130/2017).

15. Need for the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to Implement the 2017/2018 Dry Season Growth Enhancement Support Scheme (GESS) Programme

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

16. Consideration of Reports:

(i) Committee on Police Affairs:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do resume consideration of the Report of the Committee on Police Affairs on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) charged with Responsibilities, among Others, to Provide Community Policing, Maintenance of Law and Order and Community Service for Nigerians and for Related Matters (HB.718) and approve the recommendations therein" (Hon. Haliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Question that the House do resolve into the Committee of the Whole to consider the Report — Agreed to.

(HOUSE IN COMMITTEE)

(Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

**A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE VIGILANTE GROUP OF NIGERIA (VGN)
CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITIES TO, AMONG OTHERS, PROVIDE COMMUNITY
POLICING, MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER AND COMMUNITY SERVICE
FOR NIGERIANS AND FOR RELATED MATTERS (HB.718)**

Committee Recommendation:

Clause 12: Ranks and Insignia.

- (1) The Commandant General — Coat of Arms, two Stars at the Centre and Vigilante Group of Nigeria logo.
- (2) Deputy Commandant General — Coat of Arms, a Star at the Centre and Vigilante Group of Nigeria logo.
- (3) Assistant Commandant General — Coat of Arms, one Bar at the Centre and Vigilante Group of Nigeria logo.
- (4) Group Commandant — Coat of Arms and Vigilante Group of Nigeria logo.

- (5) Deputy Group Commandant — a Star and Vigilante Group of Nigeria logo.
- (6) Assistant Group Commandant — Vigilante Group of Nigeria logo.
- (7) Chief Group Superintendent — Coat of Arms and one Star.
- (8) Group Superintendent — Coat of Arms.
- (9) Deputy Group Superintendent — three Stars.
- (10) Assistant Group Superintendent I — two Stars.
- (11) Assistant Group Superintendent II — one Star.
- (12) Chief Inspector — four Bars.
- (13) Senior Inspector — three Bars.
- (14) Inspector — two Bars.
- (15) Group Sergeant — three V.
- (16) Corporal — two V.
- (17) Lance Corporal — one V.
- (18) Operative (*Hon. Halliru Dauda Jika — Darazo/Ganjuwa Federal Constituency*).

Question that Clause 12 stand part of the Bill — Agreed to.

Chairman to report Bill.

(HOUSE IN PLENARY)

Mr Deputy Speaker in the Chair, reported that the ~~House~~ ^{Committee} of the Whole resumed consideration of the Report of the Committee on Police Affairs on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) charged with responsibilities, among Others, to Provide Community Policing, Maintenance of Law and Order and Community Service for Nigerians and for Related Matters (HB.718) and approved Clause 12 of the Bill.

Question that the House do adopt the Report of the Committee of the Whole — Agreed to.

(ii) Committee on Telecommunications:

That the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Telecommunications on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Stamp Duties Act, Cap. S8, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to ensure Compliance with Current Realities and for Related Matters (HB. 889) and approve the recommendations therein.

Consideration deferred.

Ordered: Committee on Justice to examine the provisions of the Bill in view of the legal issues raised and advice the House within a reasonable time.

17. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Wednesday, 25 October, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Monguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.58 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker