

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Thursday, 17th March, 2016

The House met at 11:25 a.m.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Wednesday, 16th March, 2016.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit of Students of Kings Academy, Lugbe,

The Speaker: We have in the Gallery, students of Kings Academy, CBN Quarters, Opposite AMAC Market, FHA, Lugbe, Abuja. They are here to observe our proceedings. Thank you for coming.

Students rose for recognition.

Kindly take your seats.

Visit of Students of Golden Egg Private School

The Speaker: Also in the Gallery are students of Golden Egg Private School. You are welcome.

Students rose for recognition.

Kindly take your seats.

**Visit of Students of Silent String Nursery and
Primary School, Aso Pada,**

The Speaker: Also in the Gallery are students of Silent String Nursery and Primary School, Aso Pada, Nasarawa State. Students rose for recognition. Thank you for coming.

Students rose for recognition.

Kindly take your seats.

Demise of Hon. Mohammed Saleh

On a sad note, this is to announce the demise of Hon. Mohammed Saleh, who represented Sabongari Federal Constituency in the 6th Assembly from 2007 to 2010. He died yesterday, 16th March, 2016 in Zaria at the age of 72 after a protracted illness.

Signed
Hon. Garba Datti Mohammed

A minute silence observed.

May his soul rest in perfect peace, Amen.

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

**Petition against NSCDC over Unlawful Withdrawal
of Appointment Letter**

The Speaker: Any Member who has a petition to present to the House may please rise to do so.

Hon. Mohammed Nur Sheriff (Bama/Ngala/Kalabalge): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from my constituent, Mohammed Shettima of No. 38 Talbari Street, Shehuri Ward, Bama, Bama Local Government Area of Borno State. The petition is against the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps over unlawful withdrawal of his appointment letter on 16th of June, 2007 under the pretext that they would clarify the process of his recruitment at the organisation on 12th December, 2005. Subsequently, he was asked to leave his duty pending their investigation. Unfortunately, he was not communicated despite writing an appeal letter to the organisation.

I therefore call on this House as a matter of urgency to look into the matter and take necessary action. With your kind permission, I would like to lay the petition before the House.

(Petition laid)

**Petition against former Governor of Ekiti State, Dr.
Kayode Fayemi and Others over Misappropriation
of ₦852.9 million Ekiti SUBEB Fund**

Hon. Adekola Segun Alexander (Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise/Orun): This is a petition from concerned citizens of my State against former Governor of Ekiti State, Kayode Fayemi, over the misappropriation of ₦852.9 million Ekiti State SUBEB Fund.

We are all aware that yesterday, a Motion came on the Floor of this House as regards states that are not accessing the counterpart fund of SUBEB and Ekiti State was listed among the states. This concerned citizen of my state, championed by one Akinloye Oyeniyi, asked me to present this petition so that the imbroglio can be settled.

I seek the relief of Mr. Speaker to lay this petition on the Table.

(Petition laid)

**Petition by Usman Bafada against Defunct
PHCN over Wrongful Treatment**

Hon. Danburam Abubakar Nuhu (Municipal): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from Usman Bafada over the issue of wrongful treatment that was meted on him and other staff of the Meter Test Station and Central Stores of the defunct Power Holding Company of Nigeria and also the successor company that bought over the stations.

I would like to lay this petition so that the House can look into it and give it a fair hearing.

(Petition laid)

**Dr. Theresa Ocheke Ugalahi's Petition against
Wing Commander Chukwuemeka Opara
over Molestation**

Hon. Okwu Samson (Obi/Oju): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from one Dr. Theresa Ocheke Ugalahi titled: *Save my Soul*. The petitioner is a native of Iyeché Council ward of Oju/Obi Local Government Area of Benue State and a Senior Registrar with Obafemi Awolowo Teaching Hospital.

She alleged that she was molested by Wing Commander Chukwuemeka Okpara, who is serving in the same hospital, leaving her with deformed face and that she has been referred for medical treatment abroad. She wants this House to investigate the matter with the aim of bringing justice to it.

By the leave of the House, may I lay the petition on the Table?

(Petition laid)

(All Petitions accordingly referred to the House Committee on Public Petitions)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

The Speaker: We are starting with Bills before we move to Motions please.

**Environmental Health Officers (Registration, etc.)
Act, 2002 (Amendment) Bill, 2016**

The Speaker: The first Order of the day is the Third Reading of a Bill for an Act to Amend the Environmental Health Officers (Registration, etc.) Act, 2002; and for Other Related Matters, 2016 (HB. 29).

Hon. Members will recall that the House adopted the report of the Committee of the Whole on the Bill on Thursday 3rd March, 2016. I therefore call on the Leader of the House to move that the Bill be now read the Third Time.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila (Surulere I): Mr. Speaker, may I apply that we step down this Bill?

The Speaker: This Bill is due for Third Reading. It is the first Order of the day.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Bill for an Act to Amend the Environmental Health Officers (Registration, etc.) Act, 2002; and for Other Related Matters, 2016 (HB. 29) be read the Third Time.

Hon. Jibril Umar Buba (Lokoja/Kogi (KK)): Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion ably moved by the Leader of the House.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read the Third Time and passed.

Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act (Repeal) and

**Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters between
Nigeria and Other Foreign States (Provision), Bills**

The Speaker: By mutual consent the second and the third Orders are meant to be stepped down. I now invite the Leader to move that we step down the two Bills.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: Mr. Speaker, may I apply that the second and third Orders of the day on our Order Paper, because of the importance of these two Bills and because we are still going through further

consultations, be stepped down perhaps for future date as slated by the Chairman, Rules and Business. I so move.

Hon. Jibril Umar Buba: Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion moved by the Leader.

Bills stood down by leave of the House.

Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) (Fiscal Incentives, Guaranteed and Assurances) Act, Cap. N87, LFN, 2004, (Amendment) Bill 2016

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) (Fiscal Incentives, Guaranteed and Assurances) Act, Cap. N87, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to empower the NLNG Ltd to make its Statutory Contributions to the NDDC Fund; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 397) –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the fourth Order of the day is commencement of debates on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) (Fiscal Incentives, Guaranteed and Assurances) Act, Cap. N87, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to empower the NLNG Ltd to make its Statutory Contributions to the NDDC Fund; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 397)

Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was read the First Time on Wednesday 24th February, 2016. I now invite Hon. Leo Okuweh Ogor to move that the Bill be now read the Second Time.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/Isoko South): Mr. Speaker, may I move that a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) (Fiscal Incentives, Guaranteed and Assurances) Act, Cap. N87, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to empower the NLNG Ltd to make its Statutory Contributions to the NDDC Fund; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 397) be read the Second Time.

Hon. Muhammad Sani Abdu (Alkalari/Kirfi): Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion moved for the Second Reading of this Bill by the Minority Leader, Hon. Leo Ogor.

Question proposed.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor: Mr. Speaker, I bring to you a major amendment that affects the people of the Niger Delta Region. This amendment clearly is in conformity with the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Act passed by the National Assembly.

This amendment is clearly to address a major lacuna that is confronting the people of this geo-political zone. You will agree with me about the challenges that we are facing today in this zone. The environmental challenges are very serious to look at; the level of oil pollution in this zone is unbelievable. The sacrifice that this zone has made in respect of gas flaring *vis-a-viz* the health implication is so enormous.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we bring to the attention of the National Assembly a major issue that is affecting us as a people. First and foremost, if you look at the Act, which is the LNG Act, this Act is enacted almost 28 years ago. It came in the form of a Decree *vis-a-viz* the provision of section 315 of the Constitution. It became a law passed by the National Assembly but the level of physical incentives given in that Act is totally obnoxious. I think this is one issue that we need to look at collectively.

This wonderful company that has been established *vis-a-viz* section 14 of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Act stipulates very clearly that three *per cent* of the total annual budget of all oil producing companies operating on-shore or off-shore in the Niger Delta area including gas processing companies must be paid to the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

There is the need for me to take everybody here to some level of memory lane. The Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Act enacted by the National Assembly far back in 2000 was the only Act that the former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, President Olusegun Obasanjo, was overridden. It goes to history because the people appreciated the enormity and the pains of the people in the Niger Delta Region.

We believe that these people have suffered so much and on the basis of that to rejuvenate the area, to avoid this unnecessary oil exploitation and the pollution of the area, there was the need to get some funds and be able to use this fund in developing this area. Fortunately, all the oil majors that have actually contributed to the pollution of this zone have agreed and they have been paying the three *per cent* into the contribution funds of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC).

Unfortunately, the main beneficiary of the products, which is the LNG, has refused up to date and as I speak to you to pay the exact three *per cent* into the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) Act. Just because of those unnecessary physical incentives that were given to them.

I state with all emphasis that you need to visit the Niger Delta region and find time to spend an hour or two in the evening and you will be amazed you are inside the Sahara desert. The business of the weather there is not something you can cope with, all this arises from gas flaring. The people of the Niger Delta Region, no matter how you look at it, believe in the project Nigeria and have made so much sacrifice. Their source of livelihood, which is the fishing, has already been eroded and their farm lands totally eroded. The essence of the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria setting up the NDDC is to give them some level of succour and some kind of interventionist arrangement.

I will be failing in my responsibility as a very good law maker if I do not appreciate President Muhammad Buhari who recently raised a fundamental issue about rejuvenating the Ogoni land a task that must be done. This was a matter that went as far as to the UN and the government under his leadership has decided they will take this course and make sure that the green life and succour come back to this zone.

My annoyance and grudge bringing the issues and cry of the people of the Niger Delta to you is that a company has refused to oblige these people of its corporate social responsibilities; they have refused to contribute the three *per cent* in line with an Act passed by the National Assembly. I see it as disrespect for the laws of our land and I think the only way we can solve this problem is to bring this one-line amendment straight into the Act, at the end of the provision where it is stated very clearly in the Act: *notwithstanding the provisions of the fiscal incentives, they are mandated to contribute the three per cent into the NDDC fund.*

Let me appeal; this is the cry of the people of the Niger Delta region and also beg that our people have suffered so much, the ecological system in that place have changed totally, life expectancy rate in the zone has dropped drastically. We have contributed close to almost ninety *per cent* of the resources of the country. I state that it is very important that the company that operates between this geo-political zones should appreciate the fact that the ecological system in this place have totally been degraded and the essence of this contribution if not for anything but to rejuvenate the area acting as a kind of interventionist arrangement and

be able to bring some level of life back to the zone, re-activate and rejuvenate our soil and bring life back to my people.

The mischief that we intend correcting with this amendment has been clearly elaborated. I am therefore, appealing to my Colleagues let us as a people hold the LNG responsible so that they can perform their corporate social responsibilities. I also state that the level of gas flaring in this zone is becoming unacceptable and enormous; the life of this people has become a major issue. This main beneficiary should be able to contribute in line with the NNDC Act into this particular fund. I appeal that we give this Bill all the necessary support; it is the cry of the people of the Niger Delta, and I know that because we are before the last bus-stop of the common man we will give it all the necessary support.

The Speaker: This is a one line amendment; do we intend to debate it?

Hon. Jibril Umar Buba: Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully to the Minority Leader, while debating this single line amendment. Like he said, it is a single line amendment but has lot of implications. We know the challenges that are being faced by the people of the Niger Delta but equally know again that many provisions have been made in various laws and organisation set up to take care of these challenges. In addition to that we have the thirteen *per cent* derivation which goes to swell the revenue provision of the Niger Delta states. The setting up of the NDDC is a kind of intervention arrangement to take care of all these challenges.

To me coming with this amendment is like trying to use the back door to add to the revenue profile that is going to the Niger Delta and we have to be careful. The LNG is a Federal Government Agency that generates revenue on behalf of Nigeria. Whatever we will do that will bring a provision and take such a big chunk of our resources to a particular zone of the country has to be looked into carefully. I beg the Mover of this Bill to allow us do a thorough check on the amount the three *per cent* will be generated by the LNG, which this amendment intends to pump into the NDDC.

Hon. Muhammad Sani Abdu: Mr Speaker, I second this amendment based on my conviction that Nigeria is a single indissoluble entity and whatever pertains to one pertains to the other. If today you have a problem and tomorrow another has, we should look at ourselves together.

Secondly, the environmental objectives under the direct principles of Constitution states that:

The state shall protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air, land, forest and wild life of the country.

It is against this objective that the Act states that the LNG should give three *per cent* of its earnings to the NNDC to cater for the environmental improvement. Some of us that were born and grew up in Plateau State are still living with the scar of the steel mining, which degraded the entire Upper Plateau. You cannot find anything, it is desolate for many years and there is no reclamation in place.

This amendment is very important; if it happens we will have the precedence to push back to Plateau and other places where mining is taking places. I am from Bauchi, Alkaleri, and you know Gombe, Bauchi, Adamawa, the Benue and Chad basin are actually sitting on Gas and hydro carbon. This law will have future effect to this our operations.

Finally, I do not know why we do law and just go to sleep. I wonder how a company has been told to pay something and the incentives will go for twenty-eight years without compliance. Even human beings when they are born by the time they are eighteen, your parent will start easing you out of your home; yet for twenty-eight years LNG is not paying. Let us not forget that some of the fears raised by the Mover must be there and this is why we go for Second Reading so that at the Committee all these fears can be considered thoroughly and worked upon.

The problem we have is that the Mover of this amendment should have brought fact and figures to educate us to make us believe in what he is doing; much more empirical facts than theoretical are needed. It has been quite theoretical, and I think that is the essence of the committee level. I support it and know the Committee should allay the fear of the Deputy Minority Leader and many others here. .

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Time and referred to the Committee on Gas Resources.

**People's Bank of Nigeria Act, 2004 (Repeal) Bill,
2016**

A Bill for and an Act to repeal the People's Bank of Nigeria Act, Cap.P7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (HB) –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues the fifth Order of the day is the commencement of debate on a general principle on a Bill for and an Act to repeal the People's Bank of Nigeria Act, Cap.P7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 (HB) .

Hon. Members would recall that the Bill was read the First Time on Wednesday, 20th January, 2016. I now invite Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan to move that the Bill be read a Second time.

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan (Bursari/geidam/Yunusari): Mr. Speaker, I stand before you this morning to present to you a Bill for an Act to Repeal the People's Bank of Nigeria Cap.P7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria.

Hon. Onyejeocha Nkeiruka (Isuikwuato/Osisioma/Ugunagbo): I second the Bill ably moved by Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan.

Question proposed.

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan: Mr. Speaker, I seek your support to allow this Bill to pass through Second Reading. Hon. Colleagues, this is a one-Clause Bill which simply seeks to repeal the People's Bank Act that established the People's bank of Nigeria for the purpose of providing basic credit to under privileged Nigerian.

However, it is understood that the services rendered by the bank is also being rendered by other conventional banks. Given the desire of government to reduce the cost of governance, it may amount to duplicity to have the bank remain in existence. Hence, this Bill seeks to repeal the Act. I therefore, solicit your support to allow this Bill to be read a Second time.

Hon. Albert Abiodun Adeogun (Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South): Mr. Speaker, I thank the Mover of this Bill. Recall the case of Falana against the Attorney-General in 2014. In that judgment Justice Mohammed Idris of the Federal High Court did say that the People's Bank was established to cater for the under privileged citizens who could not access loans in commercial banks due to lack of collaterals.

Section 2 of the Act: functions of the bank; Section 1(a), the provision of the basic credit requirements of the under privileged Nigerians and the Section 2 of it the Act goes on to interpret the under privileged and with your permission I want to read out this Section:

Under privileged Nigerians has confirmed by their various trades and professional groups includes Road side Mechanics, Self-employed, Plumbers, electricians, Petty traders, small scale farmers Poultry and other livestock keepers, truck pushers, petty tailors, dress makers, Barbers, Hair dressers, washer-men and women and other persons who need financial assistance to improve their trade and their economy wellbeing throughout the country.

Hon. Abdulraman Shuaibu Abubakar (Mubi North/Mubi South/Miaha): Mr. Speaker, I come under Order VII Rule 79 (3):

On introduction of a Bill, a compendium of background information shall be delivered to all Members.

We do not have that Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: This is a Bill that deals with repeal of an Act, so I do not think it requires a compendium. Hon. Adeogun please round up your debate.

Hon. Albert Abiodun Adeogun: Rt. Hon. Speaker, my point is that on two legs; there is a subsisting judgment, which this House should drivel that is to abide by that decision that they should activate the People's Bank. On the other leg; this is a bank that ordinary Nigerians can have access. On that basis, this Bill shall be read Second Time.

Hon. Magaji Dan Aliyu (Birmin-Kudu/Buji): Mr. Speaker, I speak against the Motion because this is the right time we should not kill the People's Bank; rather we should revive the People's Bank. We have a budget before us with almost five hundred billion to be spent on social security services to ensure our down trodden, the artisans, the peasant farmers, access money from this bank.

If things were done wrong we are here to correct it, this is the time for change. I believe Members will not allow this bank to die; we should revive it to ensure our teeming populace use this bank. I benefitted from this

bank when it was in existing; so I have the belief that this bank will still do service and goods to Nigerians.

Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga (Abakaliki/Izzi): Mr. Speaker, at this point in time Nigeria has risen to correct certain impressions, certain situations i.e. we call for change. This bank has some intendment to work for the poor Nigerians and uplift their standard. This bank has been allowed to lie low and we are talking about banks that can give loan to under privileged; market women, small scale industries, and so on so we should not be talking about repeal. At this time we should be talking about reviving the bank for the benefit of Nigerians who are sufferings because they cannot access loan in the other commercial banks.

It is not my intention to move against any Bill; but the truth remains that the right thing at the right time should be done. I call on hon. Colleagues to look at the importance of this bank and instead of thinking about repealing it to call on the Executive to revive the bank to the benefit of the people.

The Speaker: I understand the sentiment is a bit strong on the Floor but the point is that, is it a bank that is actually alive or how it has been funded? That is the aspect that I want addressed by hon. Members who contribute to the debate. If you have not made provision in the 2016 budget for the resuscitation of the bank, are we not free to assume that the bank is actually dead and we are just waiting for a formal funeral to be announced. In any case who is supposed to fund the bank? Is it the legislature? Is there anything in the 2016 budget for the bank? And if we are not providing money, is the bank actually alive?

Hon. Ossai Nicholas Ossai (Nsokwa East/Ndokwa West/Ukwani): I am speaking against the repeal of this Bill. My reasons are very clear. Mr. Speaker, why was this bank moribund today?

Before you repeal an Act that established a people-oriented bank that provides medium scale loans, like the hon. Member already analysed, we need to look into it concretely. Why did the Committee of the House need to look into it? Why was this bank moribund? What is the next step to revive it if necessary? And if the answer is negative, then we can come back to this honourable House to say all right let us repeal. There are other banks that have been established that can cater for the people.

I know that when I was in school, we heard about People's bank and how they addressed issues and these issues are still confronting us today. Today we buy

motorcycles under SMEDAN supplied to our people because they do not have access to access small fund that could have empower them to that extent. Now do we continue as Legislators to be putting money to buy motorcycles, to buy grinding machines to artisans that ought to work very hard under a productive system like the capitalist economy that we operate today? Those are issues that we need to address. And in addressing those issues, I will suggest with the kind submission of this House, I will suggest that this Bill of repeal be stepped down and this House constitute an ad hoc Committee or its relevant Committee, go into the People's bank, know the history of the bank, why has the bank failed, how can it be revived to cater for the people or do we have any other alternative that can cater for the people before we do anything about repealing? This is my submission and I rest my case.

Hon. Jerry Alagboso (Orlu/Orsu/Oru East): Mr. Speaker, I am surprised that Hon. Goni who has eulogizing you as the people's Speaker and calling us people's representatives is moving for the repeal of People's bank. He has not stated the reason why People's bank should be repealed when he spoke and bearing in mind what Hon. Adeogun stated, he defined the meaning of under-privilege and why the bank was established *ab initio*. It is for those who could not have access to other types of banks meant for the privilege. Bearing that in mind when we are talking of funding, if we repeal the bank this Session, there may be provision for it in the budget of 2017.

I am speaking against it and also urge Members to speak against it. Therefore, I do not support the idea of repealing the People's bank.

Hon. Samuel Yakubu Arabo (Kauru): I have seen the sentiment on this Bill but the question we should ask ourselves is this; since 1999, has there been appropriation for this Bank? If you look at the purpose of the laws of this country, you will discover that there are so many agencies that have been created by law but factually are non-existent. If you look at the functions of the People's bank and you align it with SMEDAN, there is no difference there. Unless we do not want to clean our statutes books, as far as I am concerned, the People's Bank is an agency created by this Parliament that exists legally but non-existent factually.

On that basis, one will be tempted to support the Bill that it should be repealed. If you look at our statute books you will discover that there are so many agencies like that that were created by law because of the exigency of situation then; but they are not in existence. Why would we continue to keep agencies of

government that you are not funding and yet by law exist? I think this is what my Colleague is trying to do by sponsoring this Bill is an attempt to clean up the couples of our laws. I think we should get done with matters that do not exist factually. On that basis I support the fact that this Bill should go for Second Reading.

Hon. Danburam Abubakar Nuhu: Mr. Speaker, I thank Hon. Goni for bringing this Bill. My Colleagues here have spoken, I do understand the sentiment of the House on whether we should repeal this or not but the question is; do we need this bank at this time? That is what we should be asking ourselves. I keep on telling people that government do not have business in running commercial business, if you recall this bank was created during the military regime by a Decree. At that time, perhaps there was a reason for it.

Now, are we practising a mix-economy of socialism and capitalism, or are we practising capitalism economy? If you look at the entire economy of Nigeria and look at the way it is been run, you will notice that we are not running a socialism economy. So, to me, I support that this Bill should go for Second Reading. I think it is the right time we should not continue to keep things that we do not need in this country; we should not allow something to continue to be there that is not there.

My Colleague has said since 1999 to date, we have not appropriated anything for this bank and maybe we need to recall what led to the failure of the People's Bank. What are the issues that led to the bank not functioning the way it should have functioned? To me, it might be a waste of resources, or mismanagement of our resources in terms of investing in areas where we should not invest. I urge you to support the Second Reading of this Bill and pass it, as brought by Hon. Goni.

The Speaker: The question raised by Hon. Danburam is that, do we actually need this bank? Can we fund it and can government efficiently run it? These are the questions that we should be asking ourselves and not bother about the sentiment of the word *people* that is attached to the bank. That is the only thing that is deceiving us.

Hon. Amadi Oguerinwa Dennis (Ezeagu/Udi): I want to join my Colleagues who have encouraged the repeal of this Bill. The current licensing procedure of the Central Bank, the way banks are structured, most of the activities of the People's Bank have been subsumed by the current microfinance banks. The bank was

established to reach out to people in remote areas in all corners of Nigeria. If there are interventions that would get to our people through the government, it would still be structured through the microcredit system, through the microfinance banks all over the country.

We do not need to carry a bank in the name of Peoples Bank that has no functionality to the economy. That would not fall within the ambit of what the regulation is doing in the financial sector today. A lot of corruption has crippled most public managed banks where ownership of the top management does not exist. Therefore, we would not begin to argue this Bill as if we are not part of the current event in Nigeria. I encourage my colleagues to join hands and support the mover of this Bill so that we can do things that are relevant in financial market in the interim.

Hon. Kamale Adamu Dali Usman (Madagali/Michika): I lend my voice against this Bill. The reasons are very clear. In the first instance, we are in an era of great unemployment in this country. This People's Bank has some remnant infrastructure around. I believe what we need is an amendment so that we can position the People's Bank for privatisation. For now, if we rush into repealing this bank, we are going to find a way of blocking employment opportunities for our teeming youths and even those that are working there presently. This Bill, instead of 'repealing', it should be an amendment and People's Bank should be positioned for privatisation.

Hon. Adamu Abubakar Chika (Shiroro/Rafi/Munya): When I read this Bill today, that the Act is about to be repeal I was root-shock. Root-shock in the sense that I thought this Bill has been repealed long time ago. Here we are in this Chamber playing between mathematics and politics, mathematics in the sense that $1 + 1 = 2$ and in politics you can have 1.9 or 2.1. No business venture would like to be moving with toxic asset. So, also no responsible nation would continue to move with a toxic asset every day. Nigeria as at the time People's Bank was established was an economy driven by the government. Even at that time some of the commercial banks owned by Nigeria were wholly by the government. As time goes on the government continue to withdraw from owning such banks.

When we look at the rule today, government can go into any venture such as the People's Bank but after a period of time, the government must withdraw to leave the private sector to drive such development. By this I am submitting that this Bill should go for the Second Reading because the bank has no purpose to serve in today's Nigeria. We should stop playing politics with

development. This Bank is in comatose state and I believe it should go so that community banks and others would now serve this purpose.

Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma (Ukwa East/ West): Permit me to thank the mover of this Bill and to adopt the postulations of the last speaker and that of Hon. Danburam as if they were mine. What we are talking about is the repeal of non-functional and non-existent bank. If we look at the history of the People's Bank and why it got defunct, we would not waste much time in deleting and cleaning our status book as suggested by previous speakers.

When we talk about community bank, education bank, Edu-bank, People's Bank, better life laws and what have you, why are we having such status in our books when they are not functioning? Are we merely decorating the books that we just put on the table there? People's Bank failed because government has no business doing business and all the recipients of People's Bank deemed it to be national cake. They have gotten their part; some wanted to take it with a shovel not even with a fork.

Therefore community banks had given way for microfinance banks, which are serving the purpose of that bank. We are also aware that Agricultural Bank took some of the functions of People's Bank. Most of the buildings owned by People's Bank are today being occupied by Agricultural Bank. They took over part of it. I think that creating or funding People's Bank would be a waste, except if we would use the People's Bank to pay the five thousand per non-worker as promised during campaign. That can only be the reason that we can keep this bank and to say the President should use it to pay the five thousand Naira promised. If they are going to do that then People's Bank need to come. Otherwise, we have no need for Peoples Bank.

What we need to do at this juncture is to delete it from our status book and allow more community banks to get to the people. Therefore I am of the opinion that this bill should not only go to the Second Reading but according to Hon. Ossai should be considered with the speed of light. There are other statuses for example; Better Life is also an Act of this Parliament, what purpose is it serving?

Edu banks exist in zones but they are not functioning. Were even students benefitted, what are we talking about? Let us do the needful and not play politics and mathematics. I therefore support this Bill that it should pass the Second Reading.

The Speaker: From Hon. Abonta, the Bank is dead and we should be kind enough as the people's Representatives to give it a decent burial (*Laughter*).

Hon. Karimi Sunday Steve (Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro): Mr Speaker, I want to thank Hon. Goni for reminding us that there is a Bank known as People's Bank. There has been an attempt by this Government to address the social welfare needs of the people. When the President came to power, they promise to pay unemployed youths five thousand ari, (~~N~~5,000), thinking that will be a way to address some of the problems we have with unemployment all over the country. Yes, People's Bank was not set up to address that, but we have to look at a way that we can revive People's Bank to address the social welfare needs of the masses of this country. That is my own take about this.

Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki (Dala): Point of Order!

The Speaker: Hon. Aliyu Madaki what is your Point of Order? Hon. Karimi, please assume your sit.

Hon Aliyu Sani Madaki: Mr. Speaker, I am coming under Order 58 (1):

Any member deviating from the provisions of these rules or the Constitution may be immediately called to order.

He should confine himself to what he is talking about, nobody here is talking about any money, he should confine himself to the subject matter because what we are discussing is the issue of People's.

The Speaker: Hon. Karimi you know when your seatmate raises a Point of Order against you, you know that it is serious, because he is there to confine you already. I must not rule that you should be confined; he is there to confine you. Hon. Madaki, make sure he is confined (*Laughter*).

Hon. Karimi Sunday Steve: Mr Speaker, what I am trying to say is that, yes People's Bank has been idle for some time but if we look at some of the funds that CBN has spent on SMEs, some of those funds were given to states, we cannot even trace some of those Funds. Our Colleagues brought a Motion yesterday that CBN had intervened in the past on various activities including the Nigerian Bank of Industry, SME Funds and all that.

My take is that, instead of repealing People's Bank Act we should look at a way of turning People's Bank to address the social welfare needs of the masses of this country. There is unemployment all over the land, there is hunger all over the land and we have to do something about this. I think we can use People's Bank by amending that Act to serve that purpose instead of repealing People's Bank. We can amend the Act and all these that CBN is giving to revive banks and other things; we can use those funds to serve that purpose. We have to look for a way to serve the masses of this country because our people are suffering and People's Bank I should think is a way of doing that.

Hon. Hassan Saleh Anthony (Ado/Ogbadibo/Okpokwu): Mr. Speaker, I lend my voice to what Hon. Karimi has presented in his own argument. Yes, it is a fact that the People's Bank is an Act of the Parliament and it is also a fact that we have to appropriate to enable the Bank function.

We are also aware that, yes, events of the past fifteen to sixteen years have shown that the Bank has been moribund because there is nothing to show that the Bank is existing. Somebody has raised a point here that the Bank has been subsumed by the Bank of Agriculture. So, the guiding principle of People's Bank is it only to fund Agriculture? In any case if we have to support government to create employment, how about reconsidering to retrieve the Bank and tailor it in such a manner that it will serve the people rather than repealing the Act or burying it as Hon. Abonta has said?

My take on it is that, as Hon. Sunday Karimi said, the Central Bank is there and they have been bailing out other banks. The Central Bank has been bailing the Aviation Industry and a host of others, Agriculture and all of that. So, we should have thought of getting to work to amend the Act in such a manner that the Bank can be seen to be brought to light, and the Central Bank be seen to say; *let us assist this Bank by designing programmes in which the Bank can reach out to the poor masses.*

When we say there are microfinance Banks and Bank of Agriculture, how many poor people are accessing these facilities. The truth of the matter is that you call them and they will ask you to bring this and that. How many are the actual people that this Bank is designed for; how many of them are benefitting? We should look for ways of amending this Act in such a manner that the Bank can be brought to life and see how it can funded to benefit the masses.

I am still coming by a way of an amendment Sir. If there is any way it can be done, we will go ahead and do it rather than burying the Bank and the masses will not have anything to benefit.

Hon Sadiq Ibrahim (Fufore/Song): Mr. Speaker, what Hon. Goni Bukar has done, was to announce the death of a person who died fifteen years ago. And what Hon Abonta has done now, was to ask us to accompany the dead body so that we can perform the burial rites, and I undertake here, to be the undertaker (*Laughter*).

Way back in 2001, the government announced the merger of People's Bank, NACB and (FEP) Family Economic Advancement Programme and these institutions have been merged into one entity called Bank of Agriculture (BOA). So, what are we talking about here? There is no need to talk about economic benefits and the demerits of People's Bank; the People's Bank is dead! What Hon. Goni said is: repeal! He has not asked for re-enactment, so there is no way you can talk about a person who died fifteen years ago and asked to be resurrected, you cannot build something on nothing, there is nothing to talk about, I rest case (*Applause*).

The Speaker: Now we have an undertaker!

Hon. Onyemaechi Joan Mrakpor (Aniocha North/Aniocha South/Oshimili North/Oshimili South): Mr. Speaker, this Bill should be stepped down and a Committee set up to find out why the Peoples' Bank die?

Several hon. Members: No!

Hon. Onyemaechi Joan Mrakpor: Even if it is dead, you can still investigate a dead body. Why did he die? If we follow the activities of Nigeria, we will find out that we were very quick to bury organisations. We buried Nigerian Airways; we buried the Railway; every day we are burying without investigating how these organisations die? How did they get to the level where we found them?

We are about repealing the People's Bank, what are we going to tell Nigerians? We are telling Nigerians that we are repealing the People's Bank, for what? What happened to the People's Bank? More than just repealing, we owe the Nigerian people an explanation; otherwise someday somebody might also get up to say we should repeal the National Assembly. Everywhere and every day we are repealing, we are closing down. I stand against this Bill.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor: First, I need to thank Hon. Goni, playing the role of a very good lawmaker in addressing a fundamental issue. Clearly as you can see, the People's Bank is just there in our statute books. What you need to appreciate here is that Hon. Goni has identified that there is a level of lacuna somewhere and what is this lacuna? That the People's Bank through policies was merged with another bank and today it is known as Bank of Agriculture.

What he is trying to do is to make sure that the right thing is done that since this bank does not exist, for it just to stay there in the statute books - already it is being operated somewhere - it becomes important that we repeal the Act so that at the end of the day we will know that this Act does not exist anymore.

Let me state with all emphasis that I believe that our lawmaker is on the right track. There is no way you can now go back and bring People's Bank and establish it again, specifically when it has been taken over by another bank. What we can probably do in this situation, if we want to go a little bit further, is to make sure that we look at the Bank of Agriculture Act and makes sure that we find a way of incorporating it in the whole process.

I believe and I am convinced that we should give our Brother all the necessary support because as far as he is concerned, the People's Bank exists only on paper. I think it will be worthless for us to have such a bank that does not have any function anywhere in this country, and it is just staying in our statute books. So I support it hook, line and sinker and I need to commend him for this action.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: Mr. Speaker, let me start by saying that I actually understand, and to a large extent agree with Hon. Goni; but there are issues we need to consider.

This debate has thrown up a lot of things and it has revealed a lot about some of us for what we are. Hon. Nuhu Danburam has inadvertently made it clear to the whole world that he is a capitalist, and unfortunately there are still some socialists here. Those of us who are socialists will try very much to save this bank if we can.

I agree with Hon. Goni to the extent that the bank may be moribund, but I am not sure if repealing would be the right approach.

Let me make some things clear by law. I have with me here the People's Bank of Nigeria Act. The full title of the Act says:

An Act to establish the People's Bank of Nigeria to Provide Basic Credit to Underprivileged Nigerians and to make Provision for Related Matters.

It says in Section 2, *Functions of the Bank.*

The Function of the Bank shall include the provision of basic requirements of the underprivileged Nigerians who are involved in legitimate economic activities in both urban and rural areas and who cannot normally benefit from the services of the orthodox banking system due to their inability to provide collateral security.

There have been a lot of misconceptions and misunderstandings during the course of this debate. I have heard of appropriation by the National Assembly. The National Assembly does not, has never appropriated for the Peoples Bank.

Section 7 of the People's Bank says: *Fund of the Bank –*

(1) The bank shall establish and maintain a fund which shall be applied towards the disbursement of loans under this Act. The Fund of the bank shall consist of funds allocated to the bank by the government by way of grants or loans.

(2) Funds from the Central Bank, in other words, intervention.

(3) Funds obtained with the approval of the Federal Government at low interest rate from international organisations or other financial institutions and

(4) Funds obtained by way of loan from other banks or by philanthropist at low interest rate.

The Speaker: Minority Leader has a Point of Order!

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor: My Point of Order is anchored clearly on his argument. When he read one of the clauses there that:

Funds given to the bank by allocation, by the Federal Government

I want to draw my Brother's attention to a Constitutional Point of Order and I am relying on Section 80 of the Constitution to draw reference from Section 4 of it:

(4) No moneys shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Revenue Fund or any other public fund of the Federation, except in the manner prescribed by the National Assembly.

On the basis of that, there is no way the Federal Government can give money to any organisation without it being appropriated for. So, my Colleague should be a bit guided in line with the particular comment that he made.

Hon. Obinna Chidoka (Idemili North/Idemili South): Point of Order!

The Speaker: Go ahead, Hon. Chidoka.

Hon. Obinna Chidoka: I just want to draw attention to another area of this argument. I am relying on the Constitution, Chapter (16) Sub-section (2):

the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring (a) the Promotion of a planned and balanced economic development.

My issues here are: A body can be set up by the Act of the National Assembly which shall have power:

(a) to review from time to time, the ownership and control of businesses and enterprises operating in Nigeria and make recommendation to the President on same and it goes ahead to say the Bill.

The (a) part of it meaning that from the diverse opinions we have seen here, there are so many of these, call it moribund or not. some of these Acts lying all over Nigeria, the National Assembly in our legislative duty can set up such a body, bring them back to the National Assembly and review all the merits and demerits of it and decide whether we can work on them.

The Speaker: I actually thought someone was going to raise a Point of Order against the Leader for pronouncing himself as a Socialist (*laughter*). I have never heard someone more Karl Max and end just like this; I believe wherever they are they must be turning in their graves now (*laughter*).

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: Mr. Speaker, you know you and I belong to different political ideologies; whilst you yourself are a Capitalist, I remain a Socialist.

Let me very quickly address the Point of Order that was raised by the Minority Leader.

The Speaker: Do not talk to the Point of Order please, just round off your argument.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: Mr. Speaker, Section 7 in terms of funding of the bank gives about four or five ways to fund the bank. He addressed the issue of monies coming from the consolidated fund and this is not a public or consolidated fund.

There have also been mistakes about mergers of the bank with the Bank of Industry and all of it. If we're going to go there, the question remains since the Peoples' Bank was created by legal instrument by law, where did the merger, how did the merger, what process did that merger come through? Was it by Executive fiat. There is no way you can merge something that was created by law by Parliament with something by Executive fiat. (*Applause*)!!

I really believe the way to go about this whilst the principles of Hon. Goni are quite understandable in the sense that this thing is moribund, but the fundamental question must continue to be what is the *Raison D'etat* of that bank? What is the reason that propelled that bank and that was why I read out the functions and the reason for the bank. I believe if we say government has no business in business; then we do not need the Bank of Industry, Bank of Agriculture, we do not need any of those banks. There are certain businesses that are fundamental that are germane that go to the very core of citizenship and this is one of them.

We argued for an education bank on the Floor of this House just yesterday. So, I think if there is any way, yes, let us send it to the Committee level, but I believe this House should find a way to amend the law to revive, to resurrect the moribund bank not to kill it.

I want to disagree with Hon. Sadiq perhaps for the first time, this law is not dead. There is a difference between moribund and dead. The only way a law of a statute can be dead is if it is repealed and it has not been repealed. So it is subconscious, it is still breathing; we need to inject it with some oxygen and let it serve the purpose for which it was originally started.

The Speaker: But Hon. Sadiq did not say the law is dead, he was just referring to the bank not the Act itself. Hon. Orker-Jev.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa (Buruku): Mr. Speaker, I want to underscore the credentials of the Mover of this Motion as a Peoples' Parliamentarian who is very concerned about the peoples' plight. In the last Assembly the Seventh Assembly, he was the Chairman of the House Committee on Poverty Alleviation. When he was the Chairman, the only organisation that Poverty Alleviation Committee of the House was over sighting was NAPEP and it was killed by the then administration. I was his Deputy; we were sufficiently concerned.

When an *Ad Hoc* Committee was set up by this House to amend the Standing Rules, I headed that Committee and I proposed that we delete the Committee on Poverty Alleviation since there was nothing to oversight, because in the last Assembly the only over sighting Agency was NAPEP and it was no longer there. But it was felt that as a people's House, we should give Nigerians the signal that we stand for the people and then for anything to do with poverty alleviation should be encouraged and we somehow found certain functions for that Committee.

I understand where Hon. Goni is coming from. He is coming from this position. Personally I am like trapped between the devil and the deep blue sea. A part of me is going along with deleting this law, and then the other part that says okay we should be seen to be for the people out there; but there are three outstanding rules. Order XIII Rule 85 gives the procedure before a Bill is passed. We are at the Second Stage that is second hearing. From the arguments on the Floor, it is very clear that it is evenly divided. That is the more reason why we should take it to the Committee of the Whole so that we come back with more concrete reasons. I am all for taking it to the Committee of the Whole.

The Speaker: I think most contributors agree that the Bill should go to the Committee. Of course, I have listened to Minority Leader and the Leader of the House as well, none of them is opposed to the fact that the Bill should go to the Committee. So, I will put the question, because we have spent over an hour debating this matter.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill referred to the Committee on Banking and Currency.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, let us take this announcement:

All members travelling to Enugu to attend Hon. Patrick Asadu's Mum's funeral are advised that Arik Air will leave Abuja Airport by 5 p.m. today.

Contact Hon. Emmanuel Ekon or Arik office by Fidelity Bank at the Basement, please.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

Insurance Act, Cap. I17, LFN, 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Insurance Act, Cap. I17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to provide for limit of liability in respect of Third Party Liability in Compulsory Insurance of Public Buildings and Buildings under Construction; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 402) –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the sixth Order of the day is commencement of debates on the general principles a Bill for an Act to Amend the Insurance Act, Cap. I17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was read the First Time on Wednesday 2nd March, 2016. I now invite Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki to move that the Bill be now read the Second Time.

Hon. Sani Mohammed Aliyu (Rano/Bunkure/Kibiya): Mr. Speaker, I crave your indulgence and that of hon. Members to step this Bill down because there is a little mix-up in the data I submitted, which has been shown to me.

Bill by leave of the House stood down.

Survey Co-ordination Act, Cap. S17, LFN, 2004 (Amendment) Bill, 2016

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Survey Co-ordination Act, Cap. S17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to review the Penalties and Fines; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 366) –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the seventh Order of the day is commencement of debates on the general principles of A Bill for an Act to Amend the Survey Co-ordination Act, Cap. S17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to review the Penalties and Fines; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 366)

Hon Members would recall that the Bill was read the first time on Wednesday 27th January, 2016. I now invite Hon. Mohammed Usman to move that the Bill be now read the Second Time.

Hon. Mohammed Usman (Makarfi/Kudan): Mr Speaker I move that a Bill for an Act to Amend the Survey Co-ordination Act, Cap. S17, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to review the Penalties and Fines and for Other Related Matters be read the Second Time.

Hon. Buba Yusuf Yakubu (Gombi/Hong): I second the Motion.

Question proposed.

Hon. Mohammed Usman: Hon Speaker, Hon. Colleagues, I wish to commence by appealing to you to allow this Bill be read the Second Time. The Bill is simple, straightforward and short in the sense that it seeks to amend only Section 2 of the Survey Coordination Act.

It might interest you to note that the Survey Coordination Act provides for the furnishing of information relating to survey work to be carried out, conducted and furnished to the Director of Federal Surveys. Survey work is defined in Section 1(7) of the Act as:

*The Carrying out or ascertaining with
a view to determining the shape or size of
any part of the surface of any land
including a natural feature of the land.*

Section 2 of the Act provides for penalties on any person other than the director who fails to comply with the provisions of reporting, as prescribed in this Act. The fines prescribed in Section 2 of the Act currently are ₦400 and ₦1,000 for summary conviction and conviction on indictment respectively. This, hon Members will agree with me, is no longer in tune with the current realities of our country. It is in view of this that the fines are amended from ₦400 and ₦1,000 to ₦50,000 and ₦100,000 respectively for summary conviction and conviction on indictment. This will

address ones more that the fines imposed are in tandem with current realities of our nation.

I therefore, urge you to support the passage of this Bill for Second Reading.

The Speaker: This is a straightforward Bill that is dealing with amendments of fines from ₦400, which is unrealistic now to ₦50,000 and from ₦1,000 to ₦100,000.

Question put and agreed to.

Bill read a Second Reading and referred to the Committee on Housing.

**Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
(Establishment) Act, 2004
(Amendment) Bill 2016**

A Bill for an Act to Amend the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act, Cap. E1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make the Commission more independent and effective, to Provide for quick Recovery Procedures for Stolen Assets, Implement active pursuit of cases, Build Capacity and improve Trust and Co-operation with Foreign Counterparts; ensure adequate funding of the Commission; Establish the Economic and Financial Crimes Courts; and for Other Matters Connected Therewith –

Order for Second Reading.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues the eighth Order of the day is commencement of debates on the general principles of a Bill for an Act to Amend the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act, Cap. E1, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004. Hon. Members would recall that the Bill was consolidated on Thursday 10th March, 2016.

I now invite Hon. Bede Uchenna Eke to move that the Bill be now read the second time.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: Mr Speaker, I have the information that the Attorney-General of the Federation has written that an Executive Bill would come in on the subject matter. I am therefore asking us to stay action so that when the Executive Bill comes we consolidate them and take it as one. I therefore move to withdraw the Bill.

Bill by the leave of the House withdrawn.

**MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

**Need to Investigate the Alleged Recruitment by
Central Bank of Nigeria in Violation of
Federal Character Principle**

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: Mr Speaker. I move that we suspend Order VIII Rule 46 (4) – which says that we cannot take more than two motions of Urgent public Importance. I so move.

Hon. Jibril Umar Buba: I second the Motion ably moved by Chairman Rules and Business.

Question put and agreed to.

The Speaker: Hon Madaki, come up with your Point of Order.

Hon Aliyu Sani Madaki: Mr Speaker I come under Order VIII Rule 46 (1) - Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

The matter I want to bring to the attention of the House is a matter I read in the *Daily Trust* of yesterday where it was alleged that CBN had secretly hired 909 staff into its organization without following due process. It was alleged that the recruitment was done in violation of Section 14(1), (3), (4), of the Constitution, and Section 17(1). Therefore, I am appealing that this House do consider this matter as very important and suspend relevant rules so that the item will be taken now.

Hon. Nasiru Baballe Ila (Tarauni): Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion as moved by Madaki.

Question put and agreed to.

The Speaker: Hon. Aliyu Madaki can now move his Motion.

Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki: Mr. Speaker, I move:

The House:

Notes that the Central Bank of Nigeria is a creation of the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Further notes that the CBN is empowered, among other things, to recruit and employ staff as need arises, subject to the approval of relevant authority.

Aware of recent that the CBN has recruited about 909 staff into various cadres of the bank without the required authority heard and obtained;

Recalled that the recent recruitment has generated negative response from various sections of the country, with accusation of lopsided recruitment and lack of adherence to due process among others;

Further aware that based on available data on the recruitment exercise; there is a clear case of non-adherence to the principle of Federal Character as enshrined in our Constitution.

Disturbed that the principle of fairness, equity, and justice as enshrined in our Constitution was not respected in recent recruitment exercise by CBN;

Alert that sometime last year when members of the public got wind of the secret recruitment exercise, the CBN came out and outrightly denied any such recruitment or planned recruit.

Cognizance of the fact that the last recruitment carried out by CBN was advertised and members of the public freely participated.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Federal Character to investigate the matter and report back to the House within three weeks.

Hon. Ashiru Aminu Mani (Bindawa/Mani): Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion ably moved by Aliyu Madaki.

The Speaker: This is an investigative Motion, sorry we should not pre-judge. I have no notice of amendment before me, even though it is a Matter Of Urgent Public Importance, but I will allow Hon. Ayo Omidiran to move an amendment.

Hon. Omidiran Ayo Hulayat (Ayedaade/ Irewole/ Isokan): Mr. Speaker, my amendment is to add a second Committee to Federal Character, the Committee on Banking and Currency, because they are also insider to work together on the matter.

Hon. Akinade-Fijabi Saheed (Ibadan South West/ Ibadan North West): Mr. Speaker, I second the amendment moved by Hon. Ayo Omidiran.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion is referred to the Committees on Banking and Currency and Federal Character for further legislative input.

Horrible State of Abuja-Kaduna Expressway and the Urgent Need to rehabilitate it

The Speaker: Next point of order is from Hon. Ossy Prestige.

Hon. Ossy Prestige Chinedu Ehiriodu (Aba North/South): Mr. Speaker, I come under Order VIII, Rule 46 to state that the matter I have will have to do with Horrible State of Abuja Kaduna Expressway. It is not just important, it is urgent and I also ask that relevant rules of this House be suspended to enable us hear this Motion.

Hon. Hassan Adamu Shekarau (Birmin/Gwari/ Giwa): Mr. Speaker, I second the Motion ably moved by my Colleague.

Hon. Ossy Prestige Chinedu Ehiriodu: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move:

The House:

Notes that the Abuja-Kaduna Expressway is one of the major corridors that link numerous states in the North to the Federal Capital Territory;

Aware that the on the average, over two thousand vehicles ply the Abuja-Kaduna Expressway on a daily basis and this include commercial and utility vehicles as well as trucks of different sizes;

Concerned that the Abuja-Kaduna Expressway has become deplorable, horrible and a death trap over the last couple of years;

Also worried that in January 2016 alone, there were a total of 10 crashes, 29 injuries and 8 deaths at various sports along the Abuja-Kaduna expressway. This figure is the Federal Road Safety Corps' figure and it does not include hospital figures and unrecorded crashes;

Further worried that in 2015, the Federal Road Safety figures shows that there were 60 crashes, 191 injuries and 34 deaths on the road;

Concerned that in the last five years, no fewer than 1,500 Nigerians have lost their lives and/or suffered different degrees of injuries as a result of crashes on the road;

Recalls that on Sunday 6th March, 2016 the Hon. Minister of State for Labour and Employment along with his lovely wife and son lost their lives, no thanks to an unfortunate car crash while travelling on the Abuja-Kaduna expressway;

Also recalls that apart from the unfortunate accident that regrettably claimed the lives of the Minister, his wife and son, an articulated vehicle bearing Registration number Borno MNG-49XA rammed into a stationary bus on the same road. Apart from these, four persons were also reported to have lost their lives when the vehicle in which they were travelling on the expressway crashed at the Kateri axis of the expressway, causing the vehicle to go up in flames and burning its four occupants to ashes;

Aware that traders in their numbers have also taken over a portion of the road by displaying their goods on the edge of the road thereby causing obstruction;

Observes that apart from motorists who ply the road, pedestrians attempting to cross the road are also at the great risk of being run over by fast moving vehicles on the expressway because there are no pedestrian bridges;

Also observes that old and abandoned vehicles, broken bottles, wood and debris from accidented vehicles litter both sides of the road and these factor possess great danger to motorists who have to struggle for space while plying the highway;

Aware that as a result of the bad nature of the road, motorists are forced to move at a very slow pace, particularly at night and armed gangs take advantage of the situation to rob innocent Nigerians of their belongings while travelling on the highway;

Further aware that unless the needful is done, the Abuja-Kaduna expressway which has already claimed a many lives in the last couple of years will claim more lives and property of our beloved brothers and sisters who ply this road on daily basis;

Resolves to:

- (i) Mandate the House Committee on Works to liaise with relevant authorities with the aim of ensuring total and quality rehabilitation of the road, and urge the Federal Ministry of Works to award the contract for the rehabilitation of the road and ensure that the rehabilitation is completed in good time.

- (ii) Urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency to take urgent steps towards doing some palliative work on the road.

- (iii) Urge the Federal Road Safety to urgently remove all accidented cars and other obstruction along the highways.

- (iv) Prevail on the House Committee on Works and Road Safety to ensure compliance and report back to the House within four weeks.

Hon. Evelyn Omavowan Oboro (Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie): I second the Motion ably moved by my Colleague.

The Speaker: Motion borders on infrastructure and I will put the question.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Mandate the House Committee on Works to liaise with relevant authorities with the aim of ensuring total and quality rehabilitation of the road and urge the Federal Ministry of Works to award the contract for the rehabilitation of the road and ensure that the rehabilitation is completed in good time.
- (ii) Urge the Federal Road Maintenance Agency to take urgent steps towards doing some palliative work on the road.
- (iii) Urge the Federal Road Safety to urgently remove all accidented cars and other obstruction along the highways.
- (iv) Prevail on the House Committee on Works and Road Safety to ensure compliance and report back to the House within four weeks.

Motion referred to the Committee on Works and FERMA.

Incessant Attacks, Kidnap and Murder in Chikun/Kajuru Federal Constituency

Hon. Yakubu Umar Barde (Kajuru/Chikun): I come under the Order of Urgent National Importance on an issue which borders on the security of lives and property of people in my Constituency, and with the

leave of Mr. Speaker, I want the matter to be taking up now by suspending the relevant section of our House Rule so that the people of my Constituency will know the love and concern of this august House about their welfare and security. I so move.

Hon. Chukwuka Onyema Wilfred (Ogbaru): I second the Motion as ably moved.

Question put and agreed to.

Hon. Yakubu Umar Barde: I have a Motion which borders on incessant attacks, kidnap and murder in Chikun/Kajuru Federal Constituency which I represent in this Assembly:

Mr. Speaker, on the 16th day of March, 2016, the good people of Chikun/Kajuru Federal Constituency whom I represent in this honourable house woke up to another unsettling news of the abduction of three (3) of the members of the Polio Eradication team who were on a routine lifesaving exercise. The abduction was said to have been carried out by some dangerously armed marauders who made away with their victims and consequently demanded for ₦10 million ransom for their release. The victims are:

- (1) Victoria Igah
- (2) Jatau Musa; and
- (3) Solomon A. Adewumi (A World Head Organisation Local Government Facilitator)

Mr. Speaker, hon. Colleagues, earlier, on 10th March, 2016, armed marauders stormed Kujeni Village in Kutura District of Kajuru Local Government Area and killed five (5) people namely:

1. Shuaibu Bello,
2. Amos Bawa,
3. Tanko Gambo,
4. Yusuf Gambo, and
5. Naomi Yakubu

During the incident, the gunmen also abducted three (3) other people namely:

1. Amina Haruna
2. Aisha Idris; and

3. Abu Idris (2 years old son of Aisha Idris).

In what has almost become a regular onslaught against my people, on 15th January, 2016 Yunusa Ardo and Bahago Ardo were kidnapped at Gadani near Gwagwada village and a ransom demand made for their release. The decaying corpses of the victims were later found because the demand was not met. How sad!

These senseless, criminal abductions and murder are becoming incessant. There have been reported cases at Dutse where an elderly woman Asibi Yahaya and a young man Yahaya Sarki were kidnapped and Bakin Liza. They regained their freedom after ransom was paid. At Sabon Sara last month, a man and his wife were assaulted at home and gruesomely murdered. The cases are becoming rampant and more daring, as settlements are being displaced, with untold hardship inflicted on the people. Some of these displaced settlements are Ungguwan Waina, Kudari, Unguwan Bayero, Wuya, Mankari, all in Gwagwada Ward in Chikun Local Government Area, to mention a few.

The main source of livelihood of these people which is agriculture is being threatened by the acts of these cruel gunmen. I know the House recognizes the sanctity of human lives and the need to provide adequate security to all citizens in order for citizens not to resort to self-help in protecting themselves. Therefore, I urge the House to:

- (i) Mandate the Inspector-General of Police to swing into action to ensure the release of those victims currently in the hand of their abductors.
- (ii) Mandate the Inspector-General of Police and other relevant security agencies to cause immediate and detailed investigation of the rampant cases of kidnap and murder with a view to providing more security to the people and bringing perpetrators of such criminal abductions and murders to justice.
- (iii) Mandate the National Emergency Management Agency to urgently visit the affected communities and provide relief materials to the victims.

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan: I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Yakubu.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion referred to the House Committees on NEMA, Police Affairs, National Intelligence and Public Safety.

JAMB to Return to the Pencil – Paper Examination and Discontinue UTME

Hon. Oghene Emma Egoh (Amuwo Odofin): Mr Speaker, I move this very important Motion that borders on the chances of our children writing this year's JAMB and going to University. This Motion touches on the current JAMB that is being done, where the education of our children is being jeopardised all over the country. Newspapers have spoken about it, it has been in the editorial of a lot of newspapers and it is important that this House deliberate on it. This is a matter of urgent public importance and I want to appeal that we suspend the relevant rules of the House to enable me take this Motion.

Hon. Shehu Aliyu Musa (Bauchi): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Oghene.

Question put and agreed to.

Hon. Oghene Emma Egoh: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move my Motion thus:

The House:

Notes that over a million candidates seeking admission into the universities sat for the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) 2016, which was purely a Computer Based Test (CBT) as against its usual pencil and paper examination conducted by the JAMB;

Disturbed that candidates who often pay exorbitant registration fees for the JAMB examination are made to embark upon long journeys to the few available UTME, CBT centres;

Further disturbed that many candidates who are not computer literate could not pass the JAMB CBT because they could not operate the computers although they are brilliant students;

Worried that the UTME CBT which started this year, 27th February, 2016 has so many technical hitches that jeopardised the chances of many seeking admission in Universities;

Further Worried that already serious admission problem is rocking the nation because although JAMB receives huge allocation from Federal Government

every year, yet they charge candidates all manner of fees and majority of the children do not gain admission either rescue of the technical hitches of the CBT or the post UME introduced by various tertiary institutions. Hence the figures released by the Federal Ministry of Education as shown below shows that there is already serious admission problem;

YEAR	NO. OF APPLICANTS	NO. OF ADMISSION
2008	1,195,261	155,860
2009	1,305,326	185,209
2010	1,478,258	323,527
2011	1,618,152	331,206
2012	1,628,986	300,000

Bothered that candidates are getting conflicting scores in the on-going JAMB-CBT - dashing the hope into pieces of many candidates that are seeking admission. For example Ibrahim Shawulu from Kogi State scored 399 out of 400 but in less than 24 hours, another result surfaced reducing Shawulu's score to 199 and Foluke, a 17 year old girl in Ejigbo – Lagos scored an aggregate of 156 in the first result, while in the result that later came she had an aggregate of 196.

Further bothered that there were instances of double option answers, computers were malfunctioning and suddenly shut down causing absurdities that place some candidates in disadvantageous position.

Resolves to:

- (i) Call on the Ministry of Education to direct JAMB to return to the pencil and paper examination and discontinue the UTME until such a time that JAMB is able to conduct the Computer Based Test (CBT) effectively or alternatively to run both pencil and paper examination and the

computer based examination simultaneously for candidate to opt for anyone of their choice.

- (ii) Mandate the House Committee on Education to liaise with Ministry of Education to ensure compliance with prayer 1 and report back to the House.

JAMB should also give opportunity for people to use the pencil based examination, until such a time that JAMB has enough computer centres in both urban and rural areas, and enough electricity generators to power the writing of the examination.

These are issues that touch the life and education of our children and it is something we cannot toil with. Right now, many people have read so hard and many candidates have read so hard to go to the university only to get to a Computer Based-site and find out that the computer are malfunctioning, or there are no enough computers, no electricity, and also to find out that JAMB have not trained enough people to handle this computer issue.

While we are not saying that Computer Based System is good, we want to say that let JAMB be clam and put all these infrastructures in order before they continue the Computer Based Examination.

The Speaker: But restrict yourself please to the body of your Motion. You are moving the Motion and auguring it at the same time, it is a very strange procedure.

Hon. Sunday Adeyemi Adepoju (Ibarapa East/Ido): Mr Speaker, I support the Motion and speak in its favour because what JAMB is doing today, many of our children best brains are being denied admission simply because many of them are not from the cities. We have people that are coming from village like myself (*Okolo*) and we have people that comes from *Tambuwal* village where they do not have enough existing talk-less of having computer in their schools.

Imagine the level of intellectual in those children from those areas, but because they are not exposed to the use of computers, when they get there, they will not be able to perform. And not only that, the system that we are operating too, how many of secondary schools or higher institutions can boast of computers?

The Speaker: Hon Sunday Adepoju, are you seconding or contributing to the debate?

Hon. Sunday Adeyemi Adepoju: I am contributing.

The Speaker: No, you are meant to second, it has not been seconded.

Hon. Sunday Adeyemi Adepoju: Mr Speaker, I second the Motion as ably moved by Hon. Oghene.

The Speaker: It is all right, and having seconded, you can now round up in one minute.

Hon. Sunday Adeyemi Adepoju: Mr Speaker, as earlier said, we have seen it all over that we are not yet in the place; we are about to get there. We have to make sure that we put infrastructure in place so that many of our students and children will not be denied the opportunity of gaining admission.

It would be a thing of the past in years to come if we put all the structures that we need in place. Like I said, if you go to our secondary schools, how many of the schools have computers, how many of the technical schools have computers, and how many of the towns in our villages have light talk less of computer? In the past many of us wrote JAMB and we are here today. It will be better for us for JAMB to suspend it, pending the time that all the infrastructures are put in place so that many students that are brilliant and future Nigerian leaders will not be put in jeopardy.

Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku (Dukku/Nafada): Mr Speaker, I want to thank the mover of this Motion sincerely. The agonies of parents, especially during this JAMB are so enormous that some of the students even took their lives because of these JAMB exams. Some of the centers, as Hon. Adepoju has mentioned, have no adequate facilities and when they started writing the exams the network failed. It was not the fault of these children but JAMB marked them wrong and they were not able to finish even the exams.

And as rightly stated by the mover of the Motion the vacancies in the universities are not there, are we now deceiving the children? Imagine 1.4 million children wrote the exams; yet we have space for only about 300 candidates! What is the fate of the rest that have passed the exams?

I strongly believe that all over Nigeria we are not yet ready for Computer Base Examination, and I want to move that JAMB should make it optional for those that want to write Computer Base Exams if they are literate enough, they should be allowed to do so. But those that want to write with pen and pencils and papers

should be allowed to do so, because we are not on the same pedestal all over the country.

Hon. Zakari Mohammed (Baruten/Kaima): Mr Speaker, I want to say that exams have moved from paper and pencil to Computer Based Exams and I want us to be guided in the course of our debate. I want to guide our Colleagues.

To say we should stop Computer Based Examination in the case of JAMB, for instance, will be a bit difficult because that is the world order now. As I talk to you there are people who sit for JAMB from outside Nigeria and it is because it is a Computer Based Exam.

If you now say we should go back to paper and pencil, are we progressing or retrogressing? Of course, for a project like this, the initial take-off you have this kind of issues coming up but that is the price sometimes we have to pay for a change. I just want to caution our hon. Colleagues, and at least provide the guidance.

Hon. Abdulraman Shuaibu Abubakar: Mr. Speaker, we must commend the mover of this Motion and also support the Motion. The Motion is very important; we have heard even what the Minister of Education said about that Computer Based Examination assessment.

The world is going digital definitely, we know but we do not have the required infrastructures on ground to operate this thing. We should do it side by side, those who want to operate the computer base can do that and those who want to operate the paper and pencil can also do the same. The students are not all computer literate, not all schools have computers and not all schools teach computer courses.

Secondly, the infrastructure, the Internet is not available, even in the National Assembly we do not have a working internet talk-less of other areas. It is a serious issue. The power infrastructure is not there also, we need to improve on power availability so that we can be able to operate these things. All these things require constant improvement so they can do it side by side as the mover of the Motion suggested, pending when we can be able to go digital all the way.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion is referred to the Committee on Basic Education Services.

Need to Check the Incidence of Drug Abuse among the Youth

The Speaker: Hon Colleagues, the ninth Order of the day is a Motion on Need to Check the Incidence of Drug Abuse among the Youth, standing in the name of Hon Beni Lar. She is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Beni Lar (Langtang North/Langtang South): Mr. Speaker, I move a Motion on the Need to Check the Incidence of Drug Abuse among the Youth.

The House:

Notes that Nigeria has a young and vibrant youth population, over 60% of whom are between the ages of 18 - 35, and for the country to attain growth, the youth must be kept healthy, and sound;

Also notes that drug abuse not only affects the mental health of the abuser such as occasioning depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder and madness, but also makes the person prone to so many anti-social behaviours;

Recalls a publication in the September 2015 edition of the European Scientific Journal, Vol. 8, that more Nigerian youth are becoming drug dependent, while Nigeria was gradually transiting from the status of a drug consuming nation to that of a drug producing one;

Concerned that this destructive and damaging trend is becoming prevalent both among the wealthy, middle class and the poor cadres of the society;

Worried about the rate at which illicit drug consumption is spreading in not only the institutions of learning but also in other facets of the society, such as motor parks, recreational centres, civic centres, apprentice workshops, etc.;

Also worried that the statistical data of the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) from 2008 -2014 reveals that drug abuse and drug related offences are on the increase every year as a total of fifty-six thousand and eighty-nine (56,089) people had been arrested for drug related offences during the period under review;

Cognizant that if nothing is done to nip this ugly trend in the bud, it will eat deep into the very essence of the existence of the nation;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the National Drugs Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) to intensify the campaign against drug abuse, and to step up efforts to arrest and prosecute drug offenders;
- (ii) Also urge the NDLEA to maintain a presence in tertiary institutions in Nigeria to ensure drug free campuses;
- (iii) Further urge the Federal Ministry of Education to provide guidance and counsellors trained by the NDLEA in secondary schools to educate students on the dangers of drug consumption; and
- (iv) Equally urge the NDLEA to establish more drug rehabilitation centres in the country for rehabilitation of drug addicts.

Hon. Agbedi Fredrick Y. (Ekeremor/Sagbama): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Beni Lar.

Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba (Kachia/Kagarko): Mr. Speaker, for this ample opportunity to actually tell my Colleagues what has been going on in this sector. This issue of drug is a very serious matter in this country. Many of us, particularly those in authorities, ignore that sector, and that is the key thing that is causing a lot of problems in this country. It may interest you to know that the thing has degenerated to the extent that drugs are being sold in our secondary and primary schools.

Why do we have this unabated problem? The key thing for the past 16 years NDLEA has been abandoned. The Act provides that they should man all our borders; they should be in every local government and that they should be in all Ports. But right now as I am talking to you, they do not have enough manpower to go round these places. There is lack of training; they do not have equipment not even sniffer dogs. It has been so neglected to the point that if we do not stand up and urge the Federal Government to do something urgently, this country may be forgotten because of this. It may also interest you to know that all the crises we have, be it Boko Haram, Niger Delta, Oodua People's Congress, Biafra agitation, armed robbery and kidnapping are all drug associated problems.

Right now, there is one terrible drug that is in this country that I want to inform us about. We have cannabis that is being produced in Ghana and is being brought to Nigeria, which is so strong just a little bit lower than cocaine. It is a terrible drug. Apart from that we have met caffeine, which is more terrible than even

cocaine itself. We have many laboratories in Nigeria and NDLEA are arresting these people and also ceiling off these places. It is a very serious problem.

Having said this, with the kind permission of this honourable House and the leave of the Speaker, I would like to add a prayer that we urge the Federal Government to recruit more staff and train them in order to man our borders, take care of these local governments so that they would have enough staff to go round to help solve this problem.

The Speaker: That was an Amendment. We take a seconder to that before we move on.

Hon. Sani Umar Bala (Tsanyawa/Kunchi): I second the Amendment as moved by Hon. Jagaba.

Amendment put and agreed to

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: The Amendment we just took talks about training and manpower and the last prayer of the Motion urges that we establish more rehabilitation centres. Those two prayers require finances. This would have been the perfect time just before the Budget is passed if it has not been done already, to liaise with the Committees directly in charge and the Appropriation to ensure that it is put in the Budget. We cannot do it by way of Motion.

If it is too late, then we have to look, at some point in time, for virement or whatever it is, but we have to look for some legal mechanism to accomplish or to make sure what she has set forth to do, that prayer is actually given teeth. We need to appropriate money for the rehabilitation centres because without that, the Motion would be an exercise in futility. I totally support this Motion because it is a very good Motion.

Hon. Nasiru Ali Ahmed (Nassarawa): Mr. Speaker, I wish to start by commending the mover of this Motion because it is indeed a very important Motion. It is a known fact that the future of any society depends largely on the quality of her youths. Within the last decade, the involvement of our youths in drug abuse has taken a wide and frightening dimension.

Studies conducted by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) from inception till date, revealed that adolescents and youths of both sexes and between the ages of 13 to 35 constitute the high risk group for drug abuse in our society.

Also the rapid situation assessment of drug problems in Nigeria conducted by the NDLEA in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crimes (UNODC), revealed that the vulnerable groups for drug abuse includes students, starting from the age of 12 years old. These students are children of the rich, the middleclass and the poor. The unemployed are also involved, artisans, commercial sex workers and long distance drivers.

The rise of crime in our country today is attributed to drug abuse. Crimes of murder, rape, robbery, even terrorism activities are attributed to drug abuse. So also is the rise of infectious diseases like HIV/AIDS. One third of the cases we have for HIV/AIDS had been linked to sharing of needles by drug injection abuse.

There is also a threatening dimension in the drug abuse. I am from Kano; Kano has one of the highest cases of drug abuse in the country and that is the use of codeine. This codeine comes in different forms; there is Benylin with codeine, it is actually a drug for the treatment of cough. So many married women and children are using it, and it is very scary.

While the government has set the ball rolling by establishing a body charged with the responsibility of controlling the supply and demand of drugs in Nigeria, I believe drug abuse prevention in our society is everybody's business and not the responsibility of the government alone. The entire community made up of the family, the parents, political office holders, religious and community leaders, teachers, students, professionals should be involved in drug abuse prevention.

Like I said, I commend the mover of this Motion and I urge this honourable House to please support this very important Motion.

Hon. Agunsoye Oluwarotimi Ojo (Kosofe): Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsor of this Motion. One thing we have to realise about this Motion is that we should believe in preventing than curing. That is to say prevention is better than cure.

What are the parents of the end-users of those drugs doing? They are supposed to be involved in talking to our youths at home. Whenever the children go to school and come back, parents should ask them what they are taught in school, the kind of friends they are moving around with. They should advise them not to be sitting with time-wasters.

Again, government has a lot to do in this. On the issue of employment, we have so many graduates that are unemployed; when they do not have anything to do they resort to taking drugs and that is the truth. In solving this problem, I quite agree with the submission of the sponsor of the Motion that government has a lot to do by providing jobs for the jobless so that they will not sit idle, because if they do not have anything to do certainly they will resort to taking drugs.

Hon. Mohammed Gudaji Kazaure (Kazaure/ Roni /Gwiwa/Yankashi): Mr. Speaker, this is a very important Motion because drug abuse has spoilt our children. Seriously, my Colleague has already touched where I wanted to talk about. We have to see to the issue of unemployment because if you say parents should talk to their children; that is not enough. In those days some of the fathers did not have means of livelihood to cater for the family. So the children in turn could not be answerable to their fathers. If a child comes back from school and finds nothing to eat in his father's house, he has to go outside to look for something to eat or do. As a result, he gets influenced by friends to be part of this drug abuse.

When you look at this issue seriously, we need to educate people fast, and then employ them. Whichever is government of the day, where students finish schooling and having no jobs to do, there is the likelihood of increase in drug abuse in the society because of the poverty level; people are seriously impoverished and hungry. I stay in Kano, I have different experiences of this drug abuse; even housewives in Kano take drugs. Sometimes, some do it out of provocation due to idleness. Kano is the most populated city in the North of about four million people but you can see youths selling these drugs openly on the streets because they have nothing to do; some of them are graduates.

If they are employed quickly I am sure this issue of drug abuse will be eradicated gradually. I can remember when I was a small boy, I had no problem in my house because I do not know this type of things, even till age 20, 25 to 30 years. That was because when I came back from school, I got food to eat in our house. Thereafter, I would go to the football field to play and in the night when I returned I would eat again. So majority of the people are in poverty, they cannot afford to feed their families and the children will not heed the parent's warnings or advice.

It is very important that youths are employed when they finish school; it is the only way to eradicate this

problem. No matter how we fight this, if people remain in poverty and hunger they would never stop this.

Question put and agreed to.

Motion is referred to the Committee on Drugs and Narcotics.

Call for Ridesharing Services

The Speaker: The tenth Order of the day is a Motion on *Call for Ridesharing Services*, standing in the name of Hon. Obinna Chidoka. Hon. Chidoka is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Obinna Chidoka: Mr. Speaker, I move my Motion thus:

The House:

Aware that the growth of Nigeria's cities is essential to the country's continued economic, social, and political development but their sustainability is being jeopardized by the failure of transportation systems to keep pace with the rapid growth of urban populations, resulting in greatly increased traffic congestion and environmentally harmful emissions by vehicles;

Also aware that a shift towards technology-enabled smart mobility that allows for a more efficient use of the existing transportation infrastructure is essential and that ridesharing services that connect passengers with independent transportation providers, who had been subjected to robust background checks through a digital network are efficient and smart mobility solutions already embraced by Governments across North America, Latin America, Europe, and the Asia-Pacific regions;

Notes that ridesharing services are fast gaining ground in city after city in Nigeria, including Abuja and Lagos, and that a growing number of companies and individuals are currently using ridesharing services' technology to source business and to boost their earning capacity, while enjoying a completely flexible work schedule;

Also notes that ridesharing transactions are electronically recorded and fully transparent and its growth therefore represents an advancement in the formal economy and holds the potential to generate new tax revenues for the government, especially now that the price of crude oil, which is the main source of Government revenue, has declined considerably;

Observes that with growing acceptance and patronage, ridesharing services could reduce traffic congestion on the roads and improve urban mobility as well as reducing environmentally harmful vehicular emissions, thereby improving public health and the environment;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Federal Ministry of Transportation and its Agencies, as well as the Federal Capital Territory Administration and the Area Councils to recognize and integrate ridesharing into their transportation policies;
- (ii) Also urge them to enhance the safety of passengers, promote affordable transportation by supporting ridesharing services and updating legal and regulatory frameworks where necessary; and
- (iii) Further urge them to adopt a forward-looking and receptive approach to all future smart mobility innovations.

Hon. Oladimeji Ayodele (Ado Ekiti/Irepodun Ifelodun): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon Chidoka.

Hon. Obinna Chidoka: Mr Speaker. As new and novel that this might look, it is a new system and forward thinking approach as the way we should go as a country and nation. I am happy the Majority Leader is around who said he is a socialist, while the Speaker is a Capitalist. That makes a social capitalist because we are looking at thing that will make sure our people benefit from this services.

What really is Ridesharing? It is a very simple innovation. I am also an environmentalist. What that will help is that with the existing asset we have some of us have five to six cars in our compound, so part of it is an electronically driven system where people use their existing asset of vehicles or more like taxes in a very more convenient and safe manner. With the electronic system you can call in a cab or taxi and do not need to own a vehicle anymore, you do not need to go from here to the airport. You see one thousand cars on the road and people can ride on the same vehicle and save for transportation cost. What will happen is that, it will ease traffic congestion in major cities. In Lagos it is already working and people are making use of those system.

Secondly, as an environmentalist and being Chairman of Environment and Habitat, I know that vehicle emission and pollution cannot reduce if you go on the road and you have many vehicles on the road. Most of our cities have failed mass transit system and then we have vehicle you drive to work in the morning and park in the garage till four o'clock when you go home. Such vehicles could be used to transport people within the city limit and reduce our usage of fuel. It is only in Nigeria that many people consume fuel so much and we are producing nation of these assets of crude oil but can reduce so much of our dependence on fuel as well because we share vehicles and do not need to own one. It also connects passenger and car owners through digital network.

It is a new avenue for wealth creation. A lot of people are gaining creation from it and have provided job opportunities for almost two hundred thousand people in Lagos alone and the projections is that about 20-20 or 2020-2022 more than a million people would be on that network in Lagos.

We want that to also come to different cities in Abuja and help. It is safe and convenient and the Federal Government can also generate huge taxes from it. Now that we are having a decline in the crude oil sales, we need stock that will make us generate taxes among ourselves through trading that will generate taxes.

In cities of New York and elsewhere, the governments are generating a lot of taxes from it and are providing jobs for people. Nigeria will need to work in a distance direction, in a city like Dubai; they have what is called the digital city because they know that some natural assets are not yielding well anymore. The prices of gold, crude-oil and commodities are down but technology like Facebook or Instagram is creating millionaires every day. Also Ridesharing has been increased in most countries of the North America and Latin America, Asia Pacific, Europe and it is gaining ground in South Africa and other parts and also gaining grounds in Lagos and is coming into Abuja.

What I am simply trying to say is that we need a system where government and everybody thinks about diversification from crude oil to agro allied or to agriculture and ways you can diversify. If you go to the Internet and Google the best ten richest people in the world, nobody is into Oil and Gas. The first richest man in the world is into IT, most of them are into technology-driven businesses and in Nigeria when talking about diversification, everybody is talking about agro allied businesses. It is a good way to go but also

there are other ways and we have teeming population of youth in the country who are very smart. Some of these application we use in our phones are generated by Nigerians who live in America and so we can make use of them in Nigeria, generate employment opportunities, generate wealth opportunities and make our young ones very self-sustenance. In our communities and constituencies, what we need to do is bring them to the platform, go to any bank and they will give loans, the business itself will pay the loan of the vehicle. You do not need to pay for it and you are earning money and everybody is safe and the environment is safer.

A couple of my Colleagues have approached me to ask what the ridesharing is all about. It is the awareness I want to create before going into the nitty-gritty of the legislation as it is done in other country so that our teeming youths will have job opportunities. I hope with these few explanations my Colleagues will understand the direction I am heading. This is the twenty-first century and we need to go above the mundane of fiscal asset and go into the electronic world. Other countries are uploading and Nigeria is downloading. We need to upload and explore as a country for us to have the revenue base that we require.

I urge you all to look at these innovations and support this Motion before we go further to bring the necessary legislation to back it up. Thank you and God bless.

Question put and agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: I now call on the Majority Leader to move for adjournment.

Hon. Femi Hakeem Gbajabiamila: I move that the House adjourn Plenary till Tuesday 22nd March, 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba (Doguwa/Tudun Wada): I second the Motion ably moved by the House Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till Tuesday, 22nd March, 2016 at 11.00a.m

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.15 p. m.