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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**Staff and Students of J.I.P. Heritage
Academy Jikwoyi, Abuja**

Wednesday, 2nd March, 2016

The Speaker: Also in the Gallery are students of G.I.P Heritage Academy Phase Three, Jikwoyi, Abuja. They are here to observe our proceedings.

The House met at 11.25 a.m.

PRAYERS

Could you please stand up for recognition?

(The Speaker in the Chair)

(Students rose for recognition)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thanks for coming, kindly take your seats.

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Tuesday, 1st March 2016.

**Members of Conference Committee on a Bill for
an Act to Amend the Federal Capital Territory
Appropriation Act, 2015**

OATHS

The Speaker: The following honourable Members are hereby members of Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Federal Capital Territory Appropriation Act, 2015:

Oath of Allegiance

Hon. Herman Iorwase Hembe - Chairman

and

Hon. Bassey Ewa - Member

Oath of Membership

Hon. Tijjani Jobe - Member

The Speaker: Any Member-elect who has not been sworn in may please, come forward for the administration of Oaths.

Hon. Ezekiel Adaji - Member

(Thereupon a Member-Elect took the Oaths and subscribed to the Affirmation required by law)

Hon. Nkole Ndukwe - Member

Kogi State

Hon. Agboola Kehinde - Member

Yusuf Ahmed Tijjani: (Okene/Ogori-Magogo)

Hon. Sidi Danjuma - Member

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

Acknowledgement of Visitors in the Gallery:

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

**Staff and Students of Gifted and Talented
Academy Mararaba, Abuja**

**Unlawful Dismissal from Services
of ECO Bank**

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, we have in the Gallery Students from Gifted and Talented Academy Mararaba, Abuja who are here to observe our proceedings.

Hon. Babatunde Gabriel Kolawole (Akoko South East/West): I have a Petition from Mr. Sanni Olusegun Jimi who used to be a staff of ECO Bank. Having gone through this Petition, it is crystal clear that Mr. Sanni Olusegun Jimi is contesting his unlawful dismissal from Eco Bank. According to him, he was dismissed without necessary allowances that were supposed to be paid.

Could you please stand up for recognition?

(Students rose for recognition)

You are welcome, please kindly take your seats.

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He is therefore seeking this House as the last defender of the common man to come to his rescue and ensure that necessary justice is done on this matter.

With your kind permission, I would like to lay the Petition.

The Speaker: Please, go ahead and lay the Petition.

(Petition laid)

Petition against the Management of Model Skill Training Centre

Hon. Gabriella Omosede Igbinedion (Ovia North East/south West): I have a Petition signed by George Oharaba on the 27th January, 2016 on behalf of the Students of Model Skill Training Centre under the Industrial Training Fund in the Ministry of Trade and Investment located on the Street of Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Maitama, Abuja.

The Petition is against the management of the institution and complaints by the students as follows:

1. The students enrolled for two-year programme as far back as 2011 and subsequent months and yet to graduate without any good reason;
2. Incentives provided by the Federal Government for the students are yet to be given to any of the students;
3. Students wrote many letters of complaint to the management and institution but to no avail.

The petitioners are seeking the kind intervention of this honourable House for thorough investigation.

Mr. Speaker, with your permission I would like to lay the Petition.

The Speaker: Please proceed and lay the Petition.

(Petition laid)

The Speaker: Any more petition? *(No response)*

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

[Presentation of Bills]

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PRESENTATION OF BILLS

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the first Business of the day is Presentation of nine (9) Bills. The Clerk is now invited to read their Short Titles.

Insurance Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Insurance Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 - (HB. 402) - presented by Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki (Dala) - *read the First Time.*

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2016

Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (Alteration) Bill, 2016 (HB. 403) - presented by Hon. Gyang Istifanus Dung (Barikin Ladi/Riyom) - *read the First Time.*

FCT Resettlement, Compensation and Development Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016

FCT Resettlement, Compensation and Development Commission (Establishment, etc.) Bill, 2016 (HB. 404) - presented by Hon. Zephaniah Jisalo (Abuja Municipal/Bwari) - *read the First Time.*

National Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science Bill, 2016

National Postgraduate College of Medical Laboratory Science Bill, 2016 (HB. 405) - presented by Hon. Gyang Istifanus Dung (Abuja Municipal/Bwari) - *read the First Time.*

Communications (Reducing Incidence of Unsolicited Phone Calls and Texts) Bill, 2016

Communications (Reducing Incidence of Unsolicited Phone Calls and Texts) Bill, 2016 (HB. 406) - presented by Hon. Aliyu Sani Madaki (Dala) - *read the First Time.*

Central Bank of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

Central Bank of Nigeria Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 (HB. 407) - presented by Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba (Kachia/Kagarko) - *read the First Time.*

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Matters of Urgent Public Importance]

**Private Person Criminal Prosecution
(Authorization) Bill, 2016**

Private Person Criminal Prosecution
(Authorization) Bill, 2016 (HB. 408) - presented by
Hon. Oni Olamide Johnson (*Ijero Ekiti/West/Efon*) -
read the First Time.

**Complementary and Alternative Medicine
(Establishment and Development)
Commission Bill, 2016**

Complementary and Alternative Medicine
(Establishment and Development Commission Bill,
2016 (HB. 409) - presented by Hon. Nasiru Sule
Garo (*Gwarzo/Kabo*) - *read the First Time.*

**Money Laundry (Prohibition) Act
(Amendment) Bill, 2016**

Money Laundry (Prohibition) Act (Amendment)
Bill, 2016 (HB. 410) - presented by Hon. Edward
Gyang Pwajok (*Jos South/Jos East*) - *read the First
Time.*

**MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

**Need to Seek the Release of Abducted Female
Students of Babington Macaulay Junior
Seminary School (BMJS) in
Ikorodu, Lagos State**

Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson (Ikorodu): Mr.
Speaker, I have a Point of Order.

The Speaker: What is your Point of Order?

Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson: It is Order
VIII, Rule 46 – Matter of Urgent Public Importance.
It is in respect of abduction of three girls in my
constituency. I pray that the honourable House do
consider this. I also apply that the House do suspend
its relevant Rules to allow me to take the matter now.

Hon. Julius Pondi R. (Burutu): I second the
Motion ably moved by Hon. Babajimi Benson as
urgent and very important.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do consider the Need to
Seek the Release of Abducted Female Students of
Babington Macaulay Junior Seminary School

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(BMJS) in Ikorodu, Lagos State as Matter of Urgent
Public Importance.

Hon. Abiodun Awoleye (Ibadan North): I second
that the relevant Rules of the House be set aside to
enable us take the matter now.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) of the
Standing Rules of the House be suspended to enable
the House take the Matter immediately.

Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson: The Motion is
on the Need to Seek the Release of Abducted Female
Students of Babington Macaulay Junior Seminary
School (BMJS) in Ikorodu, Lagos State

The House:

Notes that on Monday, February 29th, 2016,
heavily armed men scaled the school fence of
Babington Macaulay Junior Seminary School
(BMJS) in Ikorodu Federal Constituency and
abducted three school girls around 8.00 p.m;

Also Notes that the school owned by Anglican
Communion, Lagos Diocese is located at Agunfoye-
Lugbusi Town, Ikorodu;

Alarmed that more than 24 hours after the sad
incidence, the Nigeria Police Force and other
concerned agencies of government have not been
able to reunite the abducted girls with their parents;

Worried that incidence of insecurity in Ikorodu
Federal Constituency is becoming worrisome as the
security agencies of government are finding it
difficult to protect lives and properties in Ikorodu
Federal Constituency.

Resolves to:

- (i) Condemn in its entirety the callous and
grossly inhuman action of the abductors
under whatever guise as it is against the
tenet of seeking qualitative education for the
girl-child;
- (ii) Urge the Inspector-General of Police and the
Nigerian Police Force to intensify efforts to
ensure the prompt and safe release of the
abducted girls and the apprehension of the
perpetrators;

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- (iii) Also urge the Police and other security agencies to step up strict surveillance in Ikorodu and all schools in the State to avoid similar occurrence or any breach of security in the future.

Hon. Shadimu Mutiu A. (Oshodi-Isolo): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Babajimi.

The Speaker: Hon. Babajimi, please lead the debate.

Hon. Babajimi Adegoke Benson: I am suppressed and depressed, words failed me, in debating this I am going to use a Yoruba adage that says *Omo to o ni iya oun ko ni sun, oun naa ko nii fi oju kan orun* meaning that the people who perpetrated this act that if a child does not want his or her mother to sleep, the child too will not be able to sleep.

I am urging this Hallowed Chamber, the peoples Parliament to look at the plight of these children and grant our Prayers that the perpetrators of this act are caught and brought to justice. We should all hold hands and feel for them and ensure that the perpetrators of this heinous act should not sleep, be kept awake, be chased, caught, disciplined, arrested and jailed as well.

I urge this House to look at Nigeria; this is a country that used to be an exporter of agricultural produce which has now turned to be a den of kidnappers. The sad story still lingers in our memory about the Chibok girls and the same thing has happened again in my very own constituency. Whose constituency will this happen to in the near future? These young girls are supposed to be the Dogaras, Gbajabiamilas, Lasuns and Jimi Bensons of tomorrow, some misguided youths or bandits have kidnapped them and deprived their parents of their warmth and comfort.

I urge this House to kindly intervene and also urge the Inspector-General of Police to intensify efforts in recovering these girls.

Hon. Ekpoattai Owoidighe Ime (Eket/Onna/Esit Eket/Ibenu): It is a very sad moment for every woman, mother, sister and parent that has a girl-child; that we have seen in Nigeria for about two years now; it has been the case of kidnapping, molesting, violence against girl-child and even women. We have heard in the news how Ese was abducted from Bayelsa State and was just reunited with her parents. Another set of men that have mothers, sisters, and aunties jumped the fence of a

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secondary school in Nigeria to abduct girls that are supposed to be the future outstanding women. The women that will manage the economy of Nigeria and they have taken them to an unknown place.

If you are a mother, you will be very sad that you will sleep without seeing your child. You do not know the whereabouts of your child and you do not know when the child will come back. You have not heard about what the child is going through. They have gone to Christian school; this shows that what they are perpetrating is against God, against human beings and human dignity.

I would like to plead with honourable Members and the security agencies to go round, not to allow the case of Chibok girls that is in our minds, that girls are being kidnapped to unknown places every day in Nigeria that we are not safe. It is not only girls even women are not safe in our country. We cannot move around in our country, it is a very sad thing. Nigeria should wake up and take care of every citizen. We should be our brothers' keepers.

I thank the male students that resisted the hoodlums from taking more girls because it would have been worse if the boys were not there to prevent them from taking more girls in their study room. I also sympathise with the parents of the girls that have been taken away but please let the security agencies move forward and use any method that they know to bring back those girls within a short period. I suggest that any person who knows the whereabouts of these three girls should talk and bring them back. That is my plea. Thank you and God bless Nigeria.

Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku (Dukku/Nafada): I know Mr. Speaker is always on women's side. It is very sad and unfortunate. If it had happened in the North-East, either in Maiduguri or Gombe we would have said it is *Boko Haram*. It is now happening in Ikorodu, I do not have any reason to say that they are against western education there. I do not know what is happening that they have only gone to kidnap girls.

I totally agree with what my Sister, Hon. Ekpoattai said, I know the trauma the parents are in right now and as a former School Principal I also know that the Principal and the entire school are in a very sad mood. I urge this Hon. House to visit the school and the parents to sympathise with them. We will continue to do everything in our capacity to find these girls and all other girls that have also been abducted in similar situations.

Hon. Evelyn Omavowan Oboro (Okpe/Sapele/Uvwie): Mr. Speaker, when I heard on television

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yesterday that three girls were abducted in Ikorodu in Lagos State. We are still trying to overcome the abduction of Chibok Girls. The cry for the return and the rescue of Chibok Girls is still on. People are using different means to see how the Chibok Girls that were abducted from their school will be rescued and return to their parents.

I want to use this opportunity to commend the Nigerian Police for what they did by helping to rescue and reunite, to return Miss Ese Oruru who hails from Delta, she is from Uwveron; Uwveron is in Delta but they reside in Bayelsa. I also want to use this opportunity to urge this House to advise the Nigerian Police to see whatever security measures they can add.

In the 7th Assembly, I came up with an amendment of the Education Act, that Secondary Schools should be fenced but I do not think that fencing of the schools is enough and adequate security for our children especially the ones in boarding. I am of the view that the Nigerian Police should be advised to also look for other security measures to protect our children who are in secondary schools especially those who are boarding.

I also plead with our male Colleagues here to help us carry out the gospel and campaign to all other males that are their friends, neighbours, tenants, business associates, customers, friends, and clients that enough is enough; that women and female children have suffered too much humiliation, too much abuse and torments from men in this country.

I lend my voice to that of my Colleague who came up with this Motion. My male Colleagues we beg you, your friends, drivers, security men and cooks, help us to plead with them and their children, brothers and family members to go back to their communities to go and tell every male that is around you to stop molesting and abducting female children.

Hon. Omosede Gabriella Igbinedion (Ovia North East/South-West): I lend my voice to this important Motion. It is rather unfortunate that our girl children found themselves in a very vulnerable and volatile situation. I believe that it is important for us as a House to emphasize the importance of education to the girl child and stand with them strongly and let this country be very much aware that we will not tolerate any act of indiscipline as such where men think they can go into schools and take our children especial girl children and make them have a fear of education.

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As we all know education is power. It has taken us several stages to get to the point where the girl-child also has the benefit of education. We know the importance of what it is to be educated as a woman. Therefore, I plead with this honourable House to support this Motion and treat it with utmost importance as well as for the security agencies to give their support just as they did in the case of Ese.

Hon. Rita Orji (Ajeromi Ifelodun): I lend my voice to the call to this season of anomy on a girl-child. It is very pathetic that a mother will dress up a child in the morning and you would come back with news that the child is no more within your reach. It is really painful. It is not only on the girl-child but the parents, the emotional trauma and the mere news that your child has been kidnapped, that alone is troublesome. I want to beg the Police, I quite agree that they are working but they should be more proactive. There are these issues that can be assuaged easily but by the time it is wasting a lot of time and investigation is going on some of them may not come back alive.

I am begging that these people that are perpetrating this lawlessness are men, they may be your brother, cousin, husband or anybody, please it behoves on all of us to talk to them that these girls are not beasts of burden, they are not sex toys. Some of them will be battered before they will be released. Some of them might not even come back home like they are before. Please I do not think we committed a crime in this country to be female and I do not think there is a crime for a woman to give birth to a girl-child.

I beg let the security agencies rise up so that this would be nipped in the bud in time because a stitch in time saves nine. Now Hon. Babajimi brought his matter, there are several girls who are in different hideouts, yet nobody is talking about them. There are certain ones that members of the public know but people are just keeping quiet. Things are degenerating while we conspire in keeping silent. We are having tears in our eyes for these three girls that have gone and others that we do not know where they have been but they are in this situation.

I call on this honourable House to step up; you are the ones we are crying up to. We are bringing this case to you. Help us so that at the end of the day the security men and women would rise up and do something on time before it becomes too late.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa (Buruku): Sometime last year, soon after winning election, I was basking in the euphoria of the victory when I got

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the news that my mother was kidnapped. Anytime I hear of kidnap, my heart misses a bit. It is what I would not wish for my worst enemy. At a point I was wishing that my mother would rather die than the uncertainty that attended the whole scenario.

Today my heart goes out to the girls and all other victims of kidnapping. After the emotion of what had happened; we should ask ourselves why we are here. Section 14 (2) (b) says that: *the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government*. This is a wakeup Call. We cannot mourn; if we mourn, it will happen tomorrow again.

As Legislators we should think of a way to come up with a legislative framework that would tackle the issue. If you go to the Executive Arm of government, the security agencies have measures like Anti-robbery Squad and the rest. It is about time we seriously tackle the issue of kidnapping and put together squads across the country in order to tackle this issue. On this side of the divide we should put together a legal framework because as it is now, kidnapping has not yet been targeted by Parliament and that is what we should do. If we continue to mourn here and tomorrow another incident would happen; and we will come here and express the emotions as we witnessed on the Floor here today.

I also commend Hon. Babajimi Benson that he has taken the right approach; he has brought it to the limelight about the kidnapping of those three girls. My heart goes out to them and all other victims. As we retreat on my part I think the best way to tackle this issue so that Parliament would be seen not just expressing emotions but to be tackling a national problem.

Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba (Doguwa/Tudun Wada): I sincerely thank the mover of this Motion which I believe has come at the right time. I align myself completely with all the Prayers in the Motion and it is duty bound of this House to look at this Motion by way of giving it a comprehensive consideration so that this matter of abductions and kidnappings would be addressed once and for all.

While I make reference to the last Speaker who cited a constitutional provision that the business of every government is to protect the lives and property of its citizenry. I also believe that government as it is, we do not expect Mr. President to exercise the role of the security agencies directly. We also do not expect the Legislature which is charged with the responsibility of making laws to also directly exercise the responsibilities of other security agencies.

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This Motion should be given a comprehensive consideration so that our security agencies can be called to order to look at these unfortunate happenings all over the Federation with a view to bringing an end to it. The issue of kidnappings and abductions have now become a daily occurrence everywhere. As I speak to you, Nigerians living within the axis of Lere Local Government Area in Kaduna State, Toro Local Government Area with due respect Mr. Speaker of your good State, Bauchi and Nigerians living within the axis of Falgore Game Reserve of my Federal Constituency are experiencing kidnappings and abductions virtually on daily basis. It has become normal happening and nothing is being done about it. I believe the Police should be called to order, given a wake-up call so that they should be seen exercising their constitutional responsibility.

I would like to share with this House that as I speak to you right now, I left an honourable Member of this House outside the Chamber now negotiating with kidnappers on the release of his uncle who was abducted about 7 days ago in Kaduna State. This is so pathetic that you could have this situation continuing in this country where people will just run into your house, kidnap a person only to acquire material gain. These are the people that will take charge of your own person and will feel free to be speaking with you and negotiating in terms of material benefits. How much will you give them to release your own person?

Like I said, a Member of this House right now is outside negotiating with abductors, talking to them one on one through phone, negotiating with them as if he is trying to buy a product or service as to how much he will give them to release his uncle. That is just one case of a Member in this House and if this business of kidnapping has now become a venture, I believe each and every one of us is likely going to be a potential victim of this kidnapping; whether of your relation, wife or even yourself.

With due respect, we should look at this Motion in a way that it will have a holistic bearing in the whole Federation. Thank God he is citing a case in his own Federal Constituency but since these are things happening all over; let us look at the Motion and take advantage of it to give it a holistic consideration so that the Police can even be invited to address the House Committee on Police to bring an end to this matter. This is my contribution and I thank the mover of this Motion and I hope Members will collectively support it because it is in our interest.

Hon. Ibrahim Ayokunle Isiaka (Ifọ/Ewekoro): I

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express shock and spoken words of act that this unfortunate incidence has become a recurrent decimal in this country. The issue of kidnapping is a seed overtly or covertly planted which has cast its everlasting shadow nearly all over and sundry in this country. We all know that the quickest way to make money these days in this country is through nefarious activities of either kidnapping or armed robbery.

This House as established is the House of the common people not even only the common people because nobody is isolated, nobody is immuned, it could be your children or mine. Unfortunately those who have been victims in one way or the other have been narrating their stories; nobody would ever want this to happen to him or her.

I appeal to this House, while extending to the families to accept our broken words of pure feelings that all these touted much about talking on community policing and state police; it is high time everybody starts thinking about this so that when efforts and lots of energies are geared towards how we can have people within our communities who can be watching over everybody, who can report, then definitely the police and other security agencies will be getting information because it is better to be pre-emptive than to be reactive. When we are pre-emptive, we are better equipped to foresee and address challenges but when you want to be proactive, it is when the deed is done that you are now talking about finding the root causes of actions. We should try to pre-empt whatever is going to happen within our communities.

The case of the three girls that were kidnapped; there is a saying that *when a beggar dies no comet seen*; it is because they are in a well-known School, maybe to the media and the environment. What about all other victims maybe in our villages and in other towns that are not reported?

I appeal just like Hon. Alhassan Ado Garba said that a holistic approach be taken to this issue so that we can find nearly a lasting solution but it cannot be eradicated. This is a concern that we cannot eliminate but we can mitigate and find control measures in place.

The Speaker: We have taken 30 minutes debating this Motion, we should not belabour it. I will recognise Hon. Yakub.

Hon. Yakub Abiodun Akanni Balogun (Lagos Island II): Just like every one of us here, I feel very sad that this situation occurred. In the early life of this 8th Assembly, I spoke from this standpoint that

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we should find a way of enlightening our children and even the society that it is not enough for the law enforcement agencies to protect or watch over our schools alone. The Parents Teachers' Association too should join hands to assist. It is not only in school premises as was done in Chibok or in Ikorodu that girls or even our boys could be abducted. It could happen anywhere.

The case of the sister of the Governor of Bayelsa is a case in point. She was not in a school but she was equally kidnapped and had to be rescued. What I am trying to suggest is that we should do more of enlightenment of our people, parents and the Nigerian public at large. Also that as Legislators, we should find a way of putting machinery in motion to say that any kidnapper arrested or captured should be killed. We should make a law to ensure that anybody that carries out this heinous act on any human being in Nigeria should be killed. This is to discourage them from carrying out this act on our people.

It happened in Borno State, it has happened in Lagos State; the two ends of the nation; we have gotten it in Bayelsa; and it is very common in Cross River State. Where else? Let us as Legislators find a way of putting machinery in motion to make laws that will serve capital punishment for anybody that kidnaps anyone in this country.

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan (Bursari/Geidam/Yunusari): I commend the mover of this Motion and at the same time to sympathise with the families of the abducted girls. Today kidnapping is becoming a business in this country. I read Business as a profession and throughout my learning as a student of Business, I have never seen a topic of kidnapping in Business Studies but today in Nigeria, kidnapping is becoming a business. This is an act of terrorism and it is not acceptable to us.

As representatives of the people of this country, I urge my hon. Colleagues to rise up and say no, this is unacceptable. Whatever law that we are going to pass, be it killing, hanging, it is a welcome development for us. We should please take an action in order to solve this kind of nonsense in our country.

Hon. Obinna Chidoka (Idemili North/Idemili South): Just like all my Colleagues that have spoken, today we are talking about another kidnapping of some girls in school in Ikorodu. Maybe there is a trend that we do not know about or something the security operative need to look at. What is the issue about kidnapping of our young girls nowadays? What we used to have is kidnapping people for ransom; there must be a trend that these security people need

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to look at from just kidnapping for ransom to kidnapping young women.

Secondly, of course, the security operatives need to change their modus operandi. They really need to look at how their surveillance and how we need to look at these issues of kidnapping. Am I sensing a sort of female slavery here or some sort of slavery in kidnapping young innocent girls? These are the issues we need to look at.

Yesterday, there was a Bill on the Floor of the House that talked about abolishing death penalty and because of the trend in the world, most of us were looking at the issue of trying to say let us follow the trend in the world. But you find out that Nigerian situation is peculiar. As I am here today, if anybody kidnaps my young girl, I would subscribe that the person should be killed.

We have to take out the emotions from it and bring some logical sense into it. If there is no strong law condemning kidnapping in this country, we need to enact one. We need to send a strong signal to anybody who wakes up and has no job to do but decides to go and kidnap yet another person, the punishment should be unequivocal. It should be serious that it will deter anybody from going to kidnap another person.

We have the right to life. Some people who have been kidnapped have never come back alive. We see that the trend has changed a bit. It is not about girl education, it is not about being a Muslim or a Christian, it is a trend that is taking a life of its own. Therefore we need to look at it holistically and take away the emotions. Our mothers are very emotional about this but we need to take away emotions from it and look at it like the real architecture.

We need to summon the Inspector-General of Police and other security operatives. We need to look at our statute books, Bills and laws and make it in such a way that if you think of kidnapping, you will perish that thought because it will not be allowed in this country any part thereof.

Finally, there is a new map which has just been generated, and that map is where the worst wars have taken over in the world. I do not want in ten or twenty years from now where a new map would be generated that Nigeria would be shown like Colombia as a country where kidnappings have taken root. We need to disassociate ourselves from that and be sure that we get it right. I also commend the mover of this Motion. We must get it right this time around.

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Hon. Raji Tasir Olawale (Epe): This incident of kidnapping that took place in Ikorodu on Monday is a really a very sad one. It is an incident that really touches me because if it happened in Ikorodu, it could happen in any other Constituency or any part of the country.

The cases of kidnapping, particularly of school children are becoming a national embarrassment. It happened in Chibok; it happened in a Federal Government College in Yobe where some school children were not only kidnapped, they were slaughtered and today it is Ikorodu. It calls for urgent attention because it is a crime against humanity.

I urge this House to support this Motion and urge the Inspector General of Police to do everything humanly possible to secure the release of these children from their abductors and those behind this crime should be punished maximally to serve as deterrent to others.

The Inspector General of Police should also put necessary arrangement in place to prevent reoccurrence of this incident anywhere in Nigeria.

Hon. Istifanus Dung Gyang (Barinkin-Ladi/Riyom): I adopt the submissions of my Colleagues on this very critical matter that touches on the wellbeing and security of our citizens generally, particularly the girl-child that has become very vulnerable in our nation. This unfortunate development has again brought to the fore, the challenges of security management in our nation, particularly given the increasing wave of criminality that we are facing in terms of armed robbery, kidnapping and many other types of crime.

This matter has again brought a challenge to our security agencies particularly the Police for them to strengthen the response capacity. The response capacity of our security agencies to distressed calls is something that needs to be strengthened so that communities and individuals that are facing threats of criminal attacks, particularly kidnapping, that they can quickly respond to distressed calls and that is why the security agencies, particularly the Police have to be equipped with the right equipment so that they can quickly and timeously respond whenever distressed Calls come from Nigerians.

The Speaker: There is a notice of amendment from Hon Akinlade, please move your amendment.

Amendment proposed.

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Hon. Adekunle Abdulkabir Akinlade (Egbado South/Ipokia): I propose an additional prayer to the Motion that this House should send a ten-man delegation as a fact finding to pay a visit to the parents and the Police Command in Lagos. That will send a strong message that this House under your able leadership is taking this seriously and I believe this will make a big difference.

The Speaker: The amendment to the Motion being proposed is that the House should send another ten-man high powered delegation to the school and Lagos State Police Command.

Hon. Sani Mohammed Aliyu (Rano/Bunkure/Kibiya): I second the amendment proposed by Hon. Kolawole.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Main Motion as amended put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Condemn in its entirety the callous and grossly inhuman action of the abductors under whatever guise as it is against the tenet of seeking qualitative education for the girl-child;
- (ii) Urge the Inspector-General of Police and the Nigerian Police Force to intensify efforts to ensure the prompt and safe release of the abducted girls and the apprehension of the perpetrators;
- (iii) Also urge the Police and other security agencies to step up strict surveillance in Ikorodu and all schools in the State to avoid similar occurrence or any breach of security in the future; and
- (iv) Mandate the House to send a 10-man delegation to the school, the parents and Lagos State Police Command and report back to the House.

(Motion accordingly referred to House Committees on Basic Education, Police Affairs, National Intelligence and Public Safety)

The Speaker: The Chairmen of these three Committees are hereby directed to identify the ten Members that will be despatched to Lagos as a Committee of the House to interface with the school authorities and Lagos State Police command and report back to the House in no distant time. Chairmen

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of these three Committees - Basic Education, Police Affairs, National Intelligence and Public Safety please take note.

Demise of a Former IGP, Chief Sunday Adebayo Adewusi

Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun Dokun (Ogo-Oluwa/Surulere): Mr. Speaker, I have a Point of Order.

The Speaker: Hon Segun, what is your Point of Order.

Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun Dokun: It is Order VIII Rule 46 - Matter of Urgent Public Importance and I pray that the House do suspend its relevant Rules to allow us take the Motion today. The Motion is to notify the House the demise of Chief Sunday Adebayo Adewusi, the former Inspector-General of Police (Rtd.) who served the nation in the First Republic. He retired but not tired because he served the nation till he died at the National Hospital few weeks ago. I pray that I be allowed to move the Motion.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: Mr. Speaker, I have a Point of Order.

The Speaker: Chairman Rules and Business, what is your Point of Order.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: Whatever we do here goes into the records so I want to correct a point of fact. Late Chief Sunday Adebayo Adewusi was Inspector-General during Second Republic and not First Republic so as not to go into the records.

The Speaker: Correction noted.

Hon. Iorwase Herman C. Hembe (Konshisha/Vandikiya): Mr. Speaker, I have a Point of Order.

The Speaker: What is your Point of Order? Do you want to make correction?

Hon. Iorwase Herman C. Hembe: Mine is to draw the attention of the House to fact that if we begin to make demise of persons as Matter of Urgent Public Importance in the House, we would never do serious business. The normal procedure is to bring the notice of the person's death and we pay him respect but not to bring it as a matter of urgent public importance. That Motion brought before us now is not a matter of urgent public importance.

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The Speaker: Your Point of Order is cancelled based on the fact that you were speaking out of Order.

Hon. Chike John Okafor (Ehime Mbano/Ihitte Uboma/ Obowo): I second the Motion that the matter is urgent and should be treated immediately.

Question put and negatived.

The Speaker: Hon. Segun, you are recognised to make the announcement on my behalf please.

Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun Dokun: This is a notification to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and to the whole House in general.

The Speaker: Just make an announcement and then the Prayer for a minute silence in honour of the departed Inspector General of Police.

Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun Dokun: This is to announce to the House that late Chief Sunday Adebayo Adewusi, a son of Ogbomoso Land who served as the Inspector-General of Police in the Second Republic died a few weeks ago. He has served and contributed his quota for the unification of this nation. I pray that we observe a minute silence for the soul of the departed and also commiserate with the family and the Shoun of Ogbomoso Land, Governor and the people of Oyo State in general.

The Speaker: In line with the tradition of the House, let us rise for a minute silence.

May his soul rest in perfect peace.

All Hon. Members: Amen.

(A minute silence accordingly observed)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTIONS

Calling Attention to the Deplorable State of Ekpoma-Ukpenu-Emuhi-Igor-Ugianmen- Ugbiyiokho-Uhi-Ehor Road

The Speaker: Hon Colleagues, the first Order of the day is a Motion Calling Attention to the Deplorable State of Ekpoma –Ukpenu-Emuhi-Igor-Ugianmen-Ugbiyiokho- Uhi-Eho Road standing in the name of Hon. Joseph Edionwele.

Hon. Joseph is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Joseph E. Edionwele (Esan Central/West/Igbeben): With me on this Motion is Hon. Aisowieren Patrick representing Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode Federal Constituency. Our Motion is Calling Attention to the Deplorable State of Ekpoma-Ukpenu-Emuhi-Igor-Ugianmen-Ugbiyiokho-Uhi-Eho Road.

The House:

Notes that the Ekpoma –Ukpenu-Emuhi-Igor Road in Edo Central Senatorial District linking Ugianmen-Ugbiyiokho-Uhi-Eho Road in Edo South Senatorial District of Edo State, is a Federal road which has been in a deplorable condition for many years now, especially during harvest time and rainy season;

Also notes the importance of the road to the economy of the affected communities, as it is the route through which farmers transport their agricultural produce, especially perishable fruits and vegetables in season to the markets;

Concerned that the state of the road is causing untold hardships and bringing about high cost in commuting for residents.

Resolves to:

Mandate the House Committees on Works and Appropriations to include money for the reconstruction of the road in the 2016 Appropriation Bill.

Hon. Igariwey Iduma Enwo (Afikpo North/Afikpo South): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Joseph Edionwele.

The Speaker: It is a Motion bothering on infrastructure so I will just put the question.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Works and Appropriations to include money for the reconstruction of the road in the 2016 Appropriation Bill.

(Pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) of the Standing Order of the House, Motion accordingly

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referred to the House Committees on Works and Appropriation)

Urgent Need to Check the Spate of Bombings by Controlling Access to Explosives

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the second Order of the day is a Motion on the Urgent Need to Check the Spate of Bombings by Controlling Access to Explosives standing in the name of Hon. Rimamnde Shawulu Kwewum.

Hon. Shawulu is now invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: Mr. Speaker, before I move to withdraw the Motion, I would like to bring three things to the notice of the House.

Firstly, tomorrow we are going to have deluge of Petitions, this is to remind our Colleagues that Petitions are not moved like Motions. According to our Rules, just a brief highlight of the Petition is allowed, so do not move or argue Petition.

Secondly, for the sake of our records, as many times as you stand up on the Floor, do not forget to introduce yourself. If it ten times during the course of one sitting, you introduce yourself ten times.

Finally, amendments are not argued, you just read out your amendment and leave the Speaker to put the question, do not argue your amendment.

Since Hon. Rimamnde is not on the Floor of the House, I hereby apply to withdraw his Motion,

(By leave of the House Motion accordingly withdrawn)

Need to Check the Incidence of Drug Abuse among the Youths

The Speaker: The third Order of the day is a Motion on the Need to Check the Incidence of Drug Abuse among the Youth, standing in the name of Hon. Beni Lar.

Hon. Beni Lar is invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: Hon. Beni Lar too is not on the Floor of the House, I therefore apply to withdraw the Motion.

(By leave of the House Motion accordingly withdrawn)

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Need to Address the Excruciating Hunger, Hardships and Depreciating Welfare of the Masses of Nigerian People

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the fourth Order of the day is a Motion on the Need to Address the Excruciating Hunger, Hardships and Depreciating Welfare of the Masses of Nigerian People standing in the name of Hon. Karimi S. Sunday.

Hon. Karimi is invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Karimi S. Sunday (Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro): My Motion is on the Need to Address the Excruciating Hunger, Hardships and Depreciating Welfare of the Masses of Nigerian People.

The House:

Notes the excruciating hunger, hardships and the sharply nose-diving purchasing power of the average Nigerian in the recent time;

Also notes that since 2015, oil prices have been falling and are now at an all-time low and are predicted to even fall below the current rate, thereby impacting negatively on the Naira which is now exchanging for ₦310 to \$1 in the parallel foreign exchange market;

Aware of the pressures on the Government by various economic analysts to further devalue the Naira since the Central Bank of Nigeria cannot continue to protect the currency in the face of the nation's depleting foreign reserves;

Also aware of advantages of devaluation which include increase in volume of export and reduction of balance of trade deficit, but these advantages usually accrue more to export driven nations rather than import based ones, such as Nigeria, which trade imports currently stand at a whopping US\$43 billion;

Acknowledges the deleterious effects of corruption and looting of public funds that have contributed in no small measure to the impoverishment of the Nation, but believes that the Government needs to be more multi-tasking in its approach to governance and developmental issues by continuing some of the economic recovery policies of the last administration, such as the National Automobile Policy, which culminated into an Agreement that was signed with foreign investors to assemble/manufacture cars in Nigeria;

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Cognizant that the desired change in the national economy cannot be achieved overnight, therefore, all hands must be on deck to ensure that the nation's economy is put back on the path of recovery;

Observes that the catalyst for economic recovery remains reduction of imports, development of small and medium scale enterprises and diversification from an oil based to an agriculture based economy, hence the requirement for the Nigerian Customs Service to be more proactive in the enforcement of the import prohibition list in order to reduce the balance of payment deficit, in this regard, developmental policies like financing the small and medium scale enterprises should be prioritized by the Central Bank of Nigeria while the agricultural sector must be accorded its well-deserved attention;

Also acknowledges that establishment of strong Commodities and Exchange Agency will increase earnings from agriculture, reduce volatility in prices, ensure standardized and quality output and boost exports from Agriculture;

Resolves to:

- (i) Urge the Central Bank of Nigeria to strictly enforce the statutory requirement of 10 *per cent* of Banks' profits to be channelled into financing and lending to the manufacturing sector;
- (ii) Also urge for cooperation between the National Assembly and the Executive Arm of Government in reducing the cost of governance with effect from the 2016 Appropriation Bill;
- (iii) Call for the establishment of a Commodities and Exchange Commission and Farm Produce Boards in order to provide a veritable platform for marketing agricultural products, reduce price volatility and boost exports of agricultural products;
- (iv) Further urge the National Orientation Agency to commence campaign on the need for Nigerians to embrace locally made products and eschew patronage of foreign goods;
- (v) Implore State Governments to enter into strategic alliances that will boost agricultural development of their States.

Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma (Ukwa East/West): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Karimi.

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The Speaker: I guess Hon. Karimi has comprehensively argued the Motion in the process of moving it. All the facts are here and this Motion is almost the same Motion with the one the Majority Leader of the House presented some time ago. I also want to draw our attention to the fact that we have a segment in our Legislative Agenda that relates to sectorial debates. We only postponed it because of the Budget exercise we are doing. As soon as we are done with the exercise, we are inviting Ministers and Heads of the agencies to come and take their turns to tell Nigerians what they intend to do, how they are doing it and whether we can realise it. That is something we have that is on its way.

The Motion has been seconded. I still recognize Hon. Karimi because he has the right to throw more light on the Motion. Hon. Karimi, please you have just two minutes.

Hon. Karimi S. Sunday: There is no other way to say it, everywhere you go in Nigeria today, what you hear is hunger and hardship so we have to speak the minds of our people. If you want to say there is no hunger in your Constituency, you can stop this Motion but if we will speak the minds of our people, Nigerians are suffering because of hunger and hardship and we have to find solution to that. That is the essence of this Motion.

This Motion is not out to run down any government but let us find solution to our problems without mincing words, the purchasing power of our people is going down every day. I took my time and went to the market to find out the prices of commodities between last six months and now. I found out the following:

Yellow Gari bag that was selling for ₦6,500 six months ago is now ₦9,000;

Gari Ijebu that was selling for ₦5,500 six months ago is now ₦8,000;

A basket of onion that was selling for ₦6,500 six months ago is now ₦25,000;

A bag of Mama Gold rice that was selling for ₦9,000 six months ago is now ₦14,500.

The prices of commodities are going up and the purchasing power of our people is going down, something has to be done. Some people will say what has the exchange rate got to do with commodities? Those that are managing our economy today have not been able to fix the exchange rate.

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They have been doing a lot of gimmicks, they will bring this rule today, they will stop BDC and Naira keeps falling. We cannot continue like this. This is not about President Buhari, this is about our people. If we think we should just sit down in the comfort of this Chamber, I suggest something has to be done.

The Speaker: Hon. Karimi, these are matters that we are all connected to, we face them on daily basis. I thought what you are addressing is how to solve the problem. It is all right if we are inclined to debate this Motion now which I thought we can actually postpone till the sectorial debate but if you want to do that I will take a few people who will speak for the Motion in line with the provision of our Rules and then those who will speak against the Motion.

Hon. Rufa'i Ahmed Chanchangi (Kaduna South): I commend the mover of this Motion in as much as he spoke his mind but we have to believe that we are leaving in a global world. We live in global world that means we have a political and economic integration which does not come without some sacrifices. When we talk about economic integration, it means movement of goods and services; security and policies through international borders. As it is, this has its own *pros and cons* that affect our economy.

Presently, we are leaving in a global world, we have to import certain goods into our country without limitation but in as much as we accept these goods into our country we still have other ways to block these goods; we have tariff and non-tariff barriers which we can use to protect our economy. We have the local content requirements, voluntary export restraints, countervailing duties and administrative policies that we can ask the Nigerian Customs Service to impose so that we can protect our local manufacturing sector.

In the example of administrative policies, previously there was a time when the whole world used to import tulips bulbs from Netherlands but Japanese government could not stand to such an insult so it came up with administrative policies that every tulips bulbs that comes into their country had to be striped open and there is no ingenuity that can fix it back. As a result of that, the Netherlands government could not export tulips bulbs to Japan.

Therefore, the Nigerian government can come up with such policy and protect its borders. When our market is fully protected, we would export more than we import. If we export more than we import, we

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would maintain a current account surplus and if we import more than we export, we would maintain a current account deficit, as a result of that crashing of our local currency. The way forward is to come up with administrative policies that would protect our market, hence making us a more exporting nation.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/Isoko South): I thank you for giving me the opportunity and privilege to address a major national issue. This Motion borders on the need to address the excruciating hunger, hardship and depreciating welfare of the masses.

My intent and support for this Motion is very clear because hunger has no political colouration. It is important we appreciate that the provision of Section 14 (2) stipulates very clear that the security and welfare, I underline the welfare, of the people is the primary responsibility of every government. As we all know, the economic policies of any government has a direct impact on the economy. You cannot run away from it because you will see the impact of the economic policies on the Stock Market, general economy, exchange rate and a host of other issues. I believe that this Motion has no intent of political line and it is importance as a Parliament to look at it *vis-à-vis* the challenges of our nation.

Today we are a mono-cultural economy that depends solely on oil. The oil price has dropped drastically and it is our core responsibility to try and proffer solution but unfortunately today we have a Budget before us for which I appeal to this Parliament in line with the issue of diversification. Let us take a look at the issue of solid minerals and agricultural sector, these are the new sectors we should be looking at but unfortunately nothing has actually been done towards it.

If you look at even the solid minerals which is supposed to be our next hope, we have a paltry sum of only ₦3.5 billion out of Budget of ₦6.5 trillion. It is our responsibility because people have a lot of hope on us. If we cannot address this hope, then at the end of the day we would be failing in our responsibility.

Professor Wole Soyinka, a great Professor of English and Literary Studies fortunately called that we should have an Economic Summit and unfortunately some people said yes it is a good concept but unfortunately the government even said it is a good concept. How can we be talking of Economic Conference when we have competent and reputable government in place that has its own economic policy? If we are not careful, if you read

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Wole Soyinka's comment, he is almost passing an indirect disagreement in line with our economic policies as a people.

I therefore urge that there is a strong need for us to avoid politics in this and let us look at our economic policies. Where are we taking this country to? What do we intend to achieve? How do we intend achieving it? Let us set milestones.

The exchange rate today is not in our favour. It has a direct impact on every sector of the economy. Look at the Stock Market; it has fallen to its lowest ebb. It affects us generally and my appeal is to look at it clinically and set up a very strong powerful arrangement of looking at the Prayers. When we look at the Prayers, we must do that from a nationalistic view and make sure that in any form that we handle this issue, it will solve our collective interest. It does not matter whether you are APC, PDP or ANPP or any political party. It is the national interest that calls. I therefore appeal that we should believe in this. I will give you an instance; when Barack Obama - President of United States of America took over government from Bush, the American economy was in a major comatose.

There was serious depression all over the place, people were sleeping on the streets and the whole market was almost collapsing. You saw that even houses and mortgage banks were all folding up but nobody criticised anybody. President Obama came up with policies, directions and directives that took America out of the woods and today it is almost like hurray for all of us. I therefore appeal that we should not look at issues from political views. Let us not stand up today and start criticizing people for nothing. Let us be able to take Nigeria out of the woods. When you criticise Mr. A without any directive, I consider it a waste of time.

I therefore appeal that we should give this Motion all the necessary support so that we would be able to contribute our little quota to nation building.

Hon. Yusuf Ayo Tajudeen (Ijumu/Kabba-Bunu): If you look at the Motion, it clearly articulated the fact that these challenges; where we are today is a direct result of our inability to set certain policies in place before now.

He articulated that the Legislators and Executive should have collaboration and by implication, the Motion has attempted to proffer a way forward. I am speaking today in support of this Motion because I know that policy directions have a direct impact on the economy. An example is the dollar summersault

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idea that came up late last year, when you truncate or attempt to stop or stiffen the activity of one business group because of a policy, the resultant effect could last more than two years. The decision to stop dollar transaction for just two months has direct impact on the Ports today, you will see the direct impact of that policy because it was so bad that our manufacturers had to go through Togo - Lome and other countries to import their products.

What this Motion seeks to say is that we must not keep quiet, we must rise up to the responsibility of knowing that we are privileged to be on this Floor today because Nigerian people invested their energy in putting us here so that we can find solutions to the challenges confronting them. Prayer 4 of the Motion says that we should:

Further urge the National Orientation Agency to commence campaign on the need for Nigerians to embrace locally made products, goods and services.

These are things that we should naturally promote. This Motion is trying to help the present regime to actualise the promise they made to the Nigerian people of better welfare and means of livelihood. I urge us to come up with these positions that would facilitate the Nigerian people receiving what they have hoped for from us as a government.

I throw my weight behind this Motion and appeal to other Members here to support this noble idea so that the House of Representatives will indeed be the House of the Nigerian people and a House of hope for the people of this country.

Hon. Raphael Nnanna Igbokwe (Ahiazu Mbaise/Ezinihitte): It is pertinent that we capture the spirit of this Motion. In its entirety, what this Motion is trying to do is to draw our attention to the present day reality, which is the way the state of affairs of the economy of this country is going. There is no clear direction of the economic policy of this government. In so doing, we cannot shy away from the fact that we are closer to the people and we can see and feel the reaction of the people on the adverse effect of most of the monetary and economic policies being implemented now.

Whenever we feel that things are not going the way they should, it is incumbent on us to call those who are responsible for this action to order and draw their attention to it. The essence of opposition is to keep the government or the ruling party in check for them to be on their toes. What is important is also about constructive opposition. What we are doing

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here is making available alternatives, options that are available to make the lives of Nigerians better.

What is important out of all these arguments is that at this point, we want to know the state of the economy of Nigeria. If you permit me, an amendment will have to come into this Motion to summon the Minister of Finance and maybe the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria to come and address the Parliament; that is the tradition and legislative step we are supposed to take for them address us on the state of the economy.

The Central Bank of Nigeria permits this; unfortunately the Constitutional Amendment did not go through. Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila, during the 7th Assembly, came up with a very important Bill on the State of the Nation Address by the President which was accommodated in the Constitutional Amendment. It is incumbent that as people entrusted with the responsibility of managing our resources and economy that they come here from time to time to tell us the position of the economy of this country. What is important that can be deduced from this Motion is the need for the Parliament and Nigerians at this point to know the state of the economy.

It will not be out of place if we include as part of the Prayers to summon the Minister of Finance and the Central Bank of Nigeria Governor to come and address the Parliament; it is a Parliamentary tradition and culture for us to be abreast with issues relating to the economy. It will help to solve these issues and arguments coming from other sides so that anybody who is saying the economy is healthy, we will be able to deduce; and if it is not we will be able to deduce and proffer solutions. That is what is important.

Like you said, what is the way forward in order to proffer solutions? That is the additional prayer I want to make. It is important even to foreign investors, as it is now, we do not know who is responsible for the management of the economy. I stand to be corrected, I was in a function where the Customs Comptroller-General was addressing the Minister of Finance that he was not answerable to her; this is unheard of. If the Minister of Finance is the Chairman of Board of Customs, it is only legal and proper for the Head of Customs to report to the Minister of Finance.

As it is, the government has moved the issue of Budget away from the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of Budget and National Planning. Who is in charge of running the economy? Who is in charge of rendering account to us? Whatever it may be, if there

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is a change in policy direction then our laws also have to be changed. If you look at the Fiscal Responsibility Act, it places the burden on the Minister of Finance to be able to hold every responsible officer accountable for the discharge of financial activities in this country.

In conclusion, it is pertinent because we will not be doing any justice after arguing this Motion and we just go by these Prayers without getting information from those who have the custody of the data about our economy to come here and address us so that we will be able to establish and present to Nigerians, the true state of the financial health of this country. This is my submission.

The Speaker: The Floor is now open to those who will speak against.

Hon. Iorwase Herman C. Hembe: I want to speak against the spirit of this Motion as moved by Hon. Karimi. In doing that I agree with the Minority Leader when he said that hunger has no political colouration but I also want to say that while it does not have political colouration, political dispositions can bring about massive hunger in any land. The disposition of the previous government has brought a lot of hunger in this land.

I also agree with Hon. Karimi when he in the body of his Motion, said:

Cognizant that the desired change in the national economy cannot be achieved overnight therefore all hands must be on deck to ensure that the economy is put back on track.

Nigerians recognized that which was why they voted out the previous administration that destroyed the economy and voted in change to bring about the development in this country.

It was never in doubt in the minds of the people who held sway in the last administration that oil prices will eventually drop. At the time they held sway, oil price was as high as \$110, \$120. In all of that time, what they set out to do was to squander the money, loot and *Dasuki-gate* the money and lead us to the situation where we are today, without thinking about the future and our children who are yet unborn.

The previous government under President Jonathan also beyond looting our oil revenues and allowing people to loot as they chose to, also went about withdrawing and taking in massive amounts from our foreign reserves. They used the time they

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were in office to take massively from the foreign reserves of this country, thereby putting us in a vulnerable situation where at a time like this when oil prices have dropped internationally, when Nigeria should be dipping into foreign reserves to cushion the effect of these failings, they have nothing to show.

On assumption of office, this government has set in motion, processes that will lead to changing the backward fortunes that the previous administration brought upon this country, amongst which include the process of taking monies from those who stole the nation's wealth in droves. The monies that had been stolen as has been quoted alone can fund the national Budget. That is one step that is in the right direction that can salvage this country.

I agree that export is key in balancing the Budget. How much you export and import determines how much your Budget is balanced. It is pertinent that the last administration should have known that oil prices will drop in the future and should have diversified the economy by encouraging the production of other things outside oil so that we will be able to export today that oil has dropped. What did they do? Instead they went about giving licences to people, waivers and giving people autonomy to do all kinds of nonsense they desired in this country leading us to the situation that we are today.

Mr. Speaker, I agree finally that (*Interruptions*)

The Speaker: Hon. Hembe, did I hear you say all kinds of nonsense? You must withdraw that please.

Hon. Iorwase Herman C. Hembe: With due apology I withdraw it Mr. Speaker. I agree that something ought to be done. Nigerians recognise that something ought to be done. That thing that ought to be done has been done because change has come to this country. Change has come to Nigeria and this government has upon its shoulder, the onerous task of pulling Nigeria out of the doldrums that the PDP in 16 years pushed Nigeria into consistently.

Hon. Zakari Mohammed (Baruten/Kaima): I listened with rapt attention to my Colleagues and I am surprised that some of them are speaking in this light today but that is humans for you. This is because the tide has changed so the words will change. What I want to implore us to do is that we cannot depart from where we are coming from, it is very key and that for eight or nine months, it will be very unjust to now begin to complain of a government that has just come and met uncertainties

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on ground. We need a little time. The President started with recoveries because so much of the country's money has been filtered away into different directions. We need to get these monies back so that we can channel them to useful ventures.

I agree that we must go through a period of sacrifice. What we are going through is a period of sacrifice because we are starting and beginning to pause to think ahead and this must happen, there is no magic about it. In a surgical operation, you must go through certain procedures. What the current government is doing is going through procedures; we cannot run away from it.

Hon. Karimi, I agree with you when you said there is hunger in the land, yes it must happen because it started from somewhere and that when a problem happens this way, patriots should put their heads together devoid of sentiment. As for my brothers who are saying there is a problem, we all know there is a problem, that is why Nigerians voted for the government and it is solving the problems but the problems cannot be solved in a day.

The day you started sickness, if you are diagnosed of a particular sickness, it does not vanish that same day. After clinical analysis, when drugs are given, it takes time for recovery, so Nigeria is going through a recovery period. I urge my hon. Colleagues to be patient with the recovery period and that by the grace of God we will have cause to smile.

We need to be very patriotic about this and devoid of those sentiments that they are putting in it. This is a government that has come and is on the right track, what we need to do is to encourage it so that we will get our lofty objectives of a nation.

Hon. Muhammed Ali Wudil (Wudil/Garko): It takes a little time to destroy but a longer time to repair. If you take an analogy of dismantling the engine of a vehicle, how long will it take you to assemble it? There is so much destruction in our economy for the past 16 years. It is not easy, just under nine months to take care or repair the destruction of 16 years. The dwindling oil price and revenue is not the fault of the current government but a world reality.

Like was rightly pointed out by Hon. Zakari, let us give time to the government. Even in schools, we are given time to sit for certain examinations. You cannot come overnight in your Year One to sit for WAEC, you are given time up to SS3 to do so. If we give the government time, then maybe after certain

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time we will come and make an assessment to see whether the contents (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: Mr. Speaker, I have a Point of Order.

The Speaker: What is your Point of Order?

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: When this Motion was moved, you said something correctly in my view that it is on all fours with the Motion that was moved by the Majority Leader. That brings it under Order IX, Rule 57 (6) – *Rules of debate* (6):

It shall be out of order to attempt to reconsider any specific question upon which the House has come to a conclusion during the current session except upon a substantive Motion for rescission.

The Speaker: Why did you not realise this before listing the Motion? Please allow us to conclude this debate. Hon. Wudil have you finished your submission?

Hon. Muhammed Ali Wudil: I am just urging my Colleagues, most especially those that feel we are trying to castigate them. We are not castigating anybody; we are talking of the reality on ground. I urge my Colleagues to disregard this Motion and allow certain time for us to look at it again if need be.

Hon. Princess Olufunke Adedoyin (Ekiti/Isin/Irepodun/Oke-Ero): One is rather surprised at the spirit of this Motion while we acknowledge that we are in economic recession in this country and there is hunger in the land, we must also first of all acknowledge that we are reaping the harvest of the profligacy of the last PDP government. If the Nigerian people reacting (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Kamale Adamu Dali Usman (Madagali/Michika): Mr. Speaker, I have a Point of Order.

The Speaker: What is your Point of Order?

Hon. Kamale Adamu Dali Usman: This is to draw the attention of this honourable House to Order IX, Rule 61 (1) – *Relevancy of Debate*. With your permission, I read:

Debate upon any Motion, Bill or amendment shall be relevant to such

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Motion, Bill or amendment, except in the case of substantive Motion for the Adjournment of the House.

The Point of this Motion is the poverty in the land and not an issue of political affiliation.

The Speaker: Hon. Kamale you are ruled out of Order. The point she is making is that the prevailing conditions cannot be separated from our actions in the past. I ruled that it is directly relevant to the debate.

Hon. Yusuf Ayo Tajudeen: Mr. Speaker, I have a Point of Order.

The Speaker: I have ruled on this. I hope it is not a Point of Order that relates to what I have ruled on?

Hon. Yusuf Ayo Tajudeen: She mentioned a political party where she served a Minister.

The Speaker: Hon. Funke Adedoyin, please proceed.

Hon. Princess Olufunke Adedoyin: Like I said we are reaping the harvest of the profligacy of the last government. If the Nigerian people have acknowledged that there is hunger, hardship and depreciating welfare of the masses which is why there has been a change of government. However, let me address some of the issues previously raised by my Colleagues. If we are looking at other segments of the economy to develop this nation, with all due respect to all my Colleagues, the solid minerals area requires billions of dollars of investment. We need to wake up to the fact that government is not going to keep throwing money at sectors of this economy. Government will as part of its economic policy that everybody seems to pretend not to know, government must create an enabling environment to attract foreign investment. The job of the Solid Minerals Ministry is to clean up the Solid Minerals Sector, provide a good environment to attract foreign investment and make Nigeria have the type of Solid Minerals Sector that countries and nations like South Africa and Angola have.

Secondly, we are talking about Agriculture. We all know that it takes time to reap what you sow if we go into the next agricultural cycle. How long has this government been in power? The APC government, a government of change has only been in governance for up to eight months. Why does everybody think some magic is going to happen and we are all going to have cheap crops when we have not grown it?

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I believe that this House needs to look outwards more critically than some of these political statements that are being made on the Floor of the House this morning. We need to honestly consider what will grow this nation, not partisan statements trying to undermine a government that has inherited an economy in tatters. I therefore urge this House that if in actual fact we want to make a difference to Nigerians, this House prepared the Legislative Agenda within which there were direct suggestions of social interventions that can be proposed to the Executive. I believe that this is what this House needs to look at and not all these partisan political statements that are being made on the Floor of the house today.

Hon. John Dyegh (Gboko/Tarka): I want to place it on record that the people of Gboko/Tarka are not hungry people. The whole of Tiv land is not hungry. We are not part of this Motion. It should be thrown away. The people of Gboko/Tarka and indeed the Tiv people are farmers. We have a lot of yams, cassava, rice, gari that is very cheap and rats. Of course, my forefathers have been eating rats for many years so I cannot stop eating rats now. We are very hardworking people and there is no hunger in our land so we are not part of this Motion.

The Tiv People and particularly the people of Gboko/Tarka have confidence in the government of Muhammadu Buhari. We have confidence in what he is doing to improve the poor economy which he inherited. I do not look hungry, with my weight you cannot say the people I am representing are hungry. Therefore, I am against this Motion, it is wrong to say Nigerians generally are hungry. You should talk about your constituency and not Nigeria as a whole because the Tiv people do not belong to that, we are not hungry people.

The Speaker: This is a very important Motion and I said that Hon. John Dyegh will be the last contributor to the debate. We have heard those who have spoken in for and those who spoke against the Motion, it is noted. I believe this a powerful reminder to the entire House that we should take this issue of sectorial debate very serious. As soon as the Budget is done, I guess this is one sector that we will schedule as the first line of intervention in terms of the sectorial debate that we will engage.

I am inclined to suspend this debate until we have listened to all the stakeholders. They will come and tell us what they are doing and if what they are doing is not enough then we can take a decision but now we cannot pre-judge, so this debate is suspended until after the sectorial debate.

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(By leave of the House, Debate accordingly suspended until after the Sectoral Debates).

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Need to Prohibit the Use of Public Funds for Medical Trips Abroad by Public Officers

The Deputy Speaker: The fifth Order of the day is a Motion on the Need to Prohibit the Use of Public Funds for Medical Trips Abroad by Public Officers standing in the name of Hon. Omoregie Ogbeide-Ihama.

Hon. Omoregie is invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: Apparently Hon. Omoregie Ogbeide-Ihama is not on the Floor of the House therefore, I apply to withdraw the Motion.

(By leave of the House Motion accordingly withdrawn).

Call on the Federal Ministry of Finance to Pay Allowances of Interns/Trainees Engaged under the scrapped Subsidy Re-Investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P)

The Deputy Speaker: The sixth Order of the day is a Motion on a Call on the Federal Ministry of Finance to Pay Allowances of Interns/Trainees Engaged under the scrapped Subsidy Re-Investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P) standing in the name of Hon. Chime Oji.

Hon. Chime Oji is invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Chime Oji Agu (Enugu North/Enugu South): I move a Motion on the Call on the Federal Ministry of Finance to Pay Allowances of Interns/Trainees Engaged under the scrapped Subsidy Re-Investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P).

The House:

Recalls that the Federal Government, in a bid to reduce the rate of unemployment, caused the now scrapped Subsidy Re-investment and Empowerment Programme (SURE-P), which was set up in October 2012 as a social safety net, to employ many unemployed Nigerians;

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Also recalls that the Federal Ministry of Finance absorbed about seven thousand (7,000), out of One Hundred and Seventy Thousand (170,000) registered Nigerian graduates under the Graduate Internship Scheme (GIS) with the aim of paying the interns/trainees Thirty Thousand Naira (₦30,000) only, monthly for a period of one year from the time of commencement of the programme by each of them;

Realizes that the monthly payments to many interns matched to organizations and firms have not been made, despite interns' performance reports generated and submitted to the Federal Ministry of Finance on its request, on monthly basis;

Aware that the Federal Ministry of Finance matched the interns/trainees with firms and organizations according to the interns/trainees' propensity to fit into the organization, be able to add value and take out practical experiences if not retained at the end of the programme, as a means of reducing poverty in Nigeria.

Resolves to:

- (i) Call on the Federal Ministry of Finance to release the outstanding monthly allowances of all the interns/trainees engaged by the now scrapped SURE-P;
- (ii) Mandate the House Committees on Finance, and Appropriations to ensure implementation and report back to the House within four weeks for further legislative action.

Hon. Chukwuma Onyema Wilfred (Ogbaru): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Chime Oji.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Chime, please lead the debate.

Hon. Chime Oji Agu: We are still talking about economic dislocation, these are young men and women that have rendered services and have not been paid and they cut across all the geo-political zones of this country. This Motion is predicated on the fact that the GIS, meaning the Graduate Internship Scheme of the SURE-P housed by the Federal Ministry of Finance are yet to be paid their various monthly allowances.

We all know that this Scheme was to reduce poverty and increase productivity among the youth graduates. However, the Scheme got successful interns matched to different firms and organizations

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and they were requested to open bank accounts and they collected the bank's particulars of the interns to enable it make payments to them. As it is today, from the research we have, seven out of every fifteen of these interns were not paid across board, not just in my own constituency. That means almost 50 *per cent* of them are still being owed after they have done their work for a year.

Again, the provision of the Fiscal Responsibility Act 2007 required the scrapped SURE-P now under Ministry of Finance to develop work plan, determine their annual cash plan based on the appropriation and ensure that there was money before embarking or requesting the interns to open various bank accounts.

The request to open bank accounts and fill Time Sheets - Performance Reports is evidence that fund is available for the GIS Scheme. I urge you to please adopt this Motion to enable the interns be paid their outstanding allowances. We all know how it feels when we do not get our allowances in even a month so, I plead with the House to adopt this Motion in order to reduce their cries and better their lives.

Hon. Beni Lar (Langtang North/Langtang South): I commend the mover of this Motion. It is a very straightforward Motion. It is not something I believe that we need to debate on for so long. We all know the problems of unemployment and we know what the past regime tried to do with the SURE-P Scheme to accommodate unemployed youths and make them useful.

This Government Internship Scheme (GIS) was as a result of getting graduates who have degrees and have the qualifications to contribute to the economy of Nigeria to get them to be utilized in a very meaningful way. One of the problems we have in this nation is non-payment of salaries, non-payment of entitlements and non-payment of allowances. These graduates are a very delicate crop of people, they are young and energetic. If this Motion is passed, I believe it will help to assuage a lot of what they have been through.

I believe that my Colleagues will do the right thing and pass this Motion without even any debate. This is because if it is not that way the you will find a lot of young people resulting to crime and many others schemes such as 419, to try to make ends meet. Let us do the right thing regardless of which government this Scheme was under and let us adopt this Motion and help these youths to get their entitlements.

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The Deputy Speaker: Like she said, this is a very straightforward Motion. Therefore I will now invite those who are speaking against the Motion.

Hon. Iorwase Herman C. Hembe: I want to help in guiding the House so that we look at this Motion dispassionately. This is not a regular matter of people working and not getting paid. This was a programme specifically set out by the previous government where they said money from the oil subsidy that was in the process of being scrapped could be invested in a programme that will build capacity among the youths and do some other things. I do not know what they actually did but we assumed that they set aside some money for that purpose, different and distinct from the money that was set for running the rest of the Federation.

The reason some of us had a lot of problems with it then and still have the problems with it now was because those monies were anyway set aside. People were brought in as interns. We do not know how they were selected and asked to open bank accounts to benefit from this money. Whatever they did or were supposed to do to benefit from those monies, such information is not available to me.

Unfortunately, like many other things that happened in the previous administration, that programme was flawed with fraud and irregularities and many people who were involved in it knowing that it was wrong, hoping of course to loot Nigeria without doing anything ended up not getting much. It was more like come and do nothing and be paid, open an account, do nothing and probably get paid.

As it is today, that programme in the wisdom of this government is gone because this government in its determination to rid Nigeria of leakages have done away with that programme. That programme which ought to have funded or sustained itself is gone and it should go with all its liabilities and its problems. You cannot say that from the huge sums that subsidy re-investment money was made of and where those funds were not properly applied we should now begin to look for money from agriculture or steel mining to pay those people. That issue is gone and we must accept that there are pains that people must go through and we must move ahead.

I do not think that we ought to go back and look at some of those things and say we want to pay some people money. Payment for which work done? We have gone beyond that and let us move forward. This House should not be sending a message, wrong as it may be and of course trying to urge them. I do not think it is necessary for them to accept our urge. I

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am just saying that we ought not to go in that direction of trying to ask people to do what is not necessary.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you Hon. Hembe, you have to listen to the ruling of the Speaker before you conclude, we are not likely to ask the Federal Government to go ahead and pay. Let us first put the question and see how it goes and then I will make my ruling.

The amendment sent by Hon. Sheriff has been taken care of here.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Call on the Federal Ministry of Finance to release the outstanding monthly allowances of all the interns/trainees engaged by the now scrapped SURE-P;
- (ii) Mandate the House Committees on Finance, and Appropriations to ensure implementation and report back to the House within four weeks for further legislative action.

(Motion accordingly referred to the House Committee on Finance and Appropriations).

Need for Comprehensive Audit of all Sources of Revenue in Nigeria

The Deputy Speaker: The seventh Order of the day is a Motion on the Need for Comprehensive Audit of all Sources of Revenue in Nigeria standing in the name of Hon. Sergius Ogun.

Hon. Sergius Ogun is invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Sergius Oseasochie Ogun (Esan North-East/South East): My Motion is on the Need for Comprehensive Audit of all Sources of Revenue in Nigeria.

The House:

Notes that Nigeria has been portrayed as essentially a mono-commodity economy whose source of revenue is crude oil despite the country being blessed with sundry natural resources capable of boosting its revenue baseline, thereby enhancing

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its economic fortunes and reducing the rate of poverty which has perennially plagued it;

Concerned that little regard had been paid to other veritable sources of revenue thus diverting the attention of the appropriate institutions and agencies of government from focusing on these other sources;

Also concerned that current trend in global economics suggested downward slide in the price of crude oil, thus necessitating the urgent need to look inwards with a view of exploring other viable means of revenue generation to enable government meet its huge financial obligations;

Convinced that if an effective audit of the various sources of revenue generation is done, it will assist the Federal Government to explore and exploit those other sources and also enable the National Assembly to track those sources for the purpose of making appropriate budgetary decisions;

Resolves to:

Urge the Executive arm of Government to undertake an inventory of all the sources of revenue generation for the country; their current potentials and physical state, and submit a report to the National Assembly within 90 days for further legislative action.

Hon. Prestige Chinedu Ehiriodu Ossy (Aba North/South): I second this Motion ably moved by Hon. Sergius Ogun.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ogun, please lead the debate.

Hon. Sergius Oseasochie Ogun: This is not a political Motion, it is a national Motion and I urge all the patriots in the House to support it. There is no gain saying that oil has been our mainstay and though it has contributed less than 30 *per cent* to our Gross Domestic Products (GDP). Our country is the largest economy in Africa with over US\$500 billion GDP and yet we are classified to be among the five poorest countries in the world. As a matter of fact, the third poorest in the world. We know the price of oil is sliding right now. This Motion is to urge the Executive to work with the National Assembly to audit agencies and institutions in the country.

There are so many of these bodies that can actually generate revenue but because we are living in a dream land previously we did not look at them. One example is the Army, we have, the Defence

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Industry Corporation of Nigeria (DICON), their counterpart in India manufacture vehicles but none is happening here. This is because we have not given attention to such institution. I do not want to belabour this, I am sure my Colleagues are aware that there are many agencies that are making money today and we have talked about diversifying this economy.

The first thing we talk about is Agriculture and then we talk about Solid Minerals. Now the crisis we are having with the foreign exchange is because we have medical tourism to India and we have our kids schooling overseas. We can reverse this and begin to make money from hospitals in Nigeria and we would have people from neighbouring countries come in here; bring in dollars to spend in our economy. It is the same thing with schools, when I was growing up in those days the Federal Government Colleges had students from Cameroon and South Africa attending in Nigeria. This can generate revenue for this country. I can only list a few because of the time you have given to me but I urge us to support this Motion. Let us work together, there is no APC or PDP in Nigeria but there is one Nigeria. Let us work together to make Nigeria great again.

The Deputy Speaker: This Motion is a subtle reminder of the fact that all revenue of the Federal Government and Federation are paid into specific accounts and in this particular case, you are only reminding the House and the Nigerians that the revenues must be paid into the Consolidated Account, particularly in the case of the Federal Government. It is a straightforward Motion so I will put the question.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

Urge the Executive arm of Government to undertake an inventory of all the sources of revenue generation for the country; their current potentials and physical state, and submit a report to the National Assembly within 90 days for further legislative action.

(Motion accordingly referred to the House Committee on Public Accounts)

Need for the Ibadan Dry Port to commence Operation to save it from going Moribund

The Deputy Speaker: The eighth Order of the day is a Motion on the Need for the Ibadan Dry Port to commence Operation to save it from going

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Moribund, standing in the name of Hon. Akintola Taiwo Michael.

Hon. Akintola is invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Akintola Taiwo Michael (Egbeda/Ona-Ara): This Motion is on the Need for the Ibadan Dry Port to commence Operation in order to save it from going Moribund.

The House:

Notes that in 2006, the Federal Government approved the setting up of five Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and three Container Freight Stations (CFS) and while the ICDs were located in Oyo, Abia, Plateau, Bauchi and Kano States, the three Container Freight Stations were sited in Katsina, Borno and Gombe States;

Also notes that the Oyo State Government, with 35 per cent stake in Catamaran Logistics Limited, the concessionaires of the Ibadan Dry Port, had earlier sought and obtained approval for re-designation of the ICD status in Ibadan to Inland Dry Port (IDP);

Aware that the IDP as against ICD, has the status of Port of origin and destination, so that it can serve consigned cargos;

Also aware that commencement of operation by Ibadan Dry Port would boost the revenues of the surrounding States, attract investors, improve economic activities of the people and create employment for the youth;

Worried that despite the heavy financial investments in the project since 2006 and completion of all necessary infrastructure since 2014 for its take off, the project is still not operational;

Also worried that the infrastructure in place, like roads, office buildings and equipment are either deteriorating or liable to vandalism, if the project is allowed to remain idle.

Resolves to:

- (i) Mandate the House Committees on Ports, Harbours and Waterways and Industry to liaise with officials of the Ministries of Commerce and Industry with a view to determining the current status of the project and facilitate its commencement of operation, and report to the House within four weeks;

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- (ii) Urge the Inspector General of Police to, in the interim to provide adequate security for the buildings and other infrastructure in the Ibadan Dry Port, Erunmu, Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State to prevent their vandalism pending its inauguration.

Hon. Adedapo Lam-Adesina (Ibadan North-East/Ibadan South-East): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Taiwo Akintola.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Akintola, please proceed.

Hon. Akintola Taiwo Michael: The essence of this Motion is for an improvement and diversification of the economy of the nation. As we all know, we are trying to take a divergence from an oil-based economy into other sectors that can improve the living standards of the people of this nation. This project as it is would serve so many things if commissioned. The initial intention of this project is to decongest the Lagos Port and boost the economy of other sections of the nation.

If this project is commissioned, it will drastically reduce the cost of operation of every product that is meant to be exported out of the country especially agricultural goods which we have in most of the States surrounding Oyo State. The cost of having to transport these goods to Lagos and warehouse them prior to their exportation is killing even on the producers of these products. Therefore it is of essence that with a Port like this that has origin and destination status, a lot is going to be achieved if commissioned. It will be easier to warehouse if necessary and easier to transport to the Port and also easier export the goods out of the country. It is therefore my hope that Hon. Members would support this Motion and let it pass.

The Deputy Speaker: The Motion borders on infrastructure and requires no further debate. I will therefore go ahead to put the question.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Mandate the House Committees on Ports, Harbours and Waterways and Industry to liaise with officials of the Ministries of Commerce and Industry with a view to determining the current status of the project and facilitate its commencement of operation, and report to the House within four weeks;

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- (ii) Urge the Inspector General of Police to, in the interim to provide adequate security for the buildings and other infrastructure in the Ibadan Dry Port, Erunmu, Egbeda Local Government Area of Oyo State to prevent their vandalisation pending its inauguration.

(Pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) of the House Rules, Motion accordingly referred to the House Committee on Ports, Harbours and Waterways)

Call for Commendation of the Civilian Joint Task Force and Local Hunters for their Assistance to the Military in Engaging the Boko Haram Sect and to Urge the Federal Government to Transform them into a Paramilitary Force

The Deputy Speaker: The ninth Order of the day is a Motion on the Call for Commendation of the Civilian Joint Task Force and Local Hunters for their Assistance to the Military in Engaging the Boko Haram Sect and to urge the Federal Government to transform them into a Paramilitary Force, standing in the name of Hon. Yusuf Buba Yakub.

Hon. Yusuf is invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Yusuf Buba Yakubu (Gombi/Hong): This Motion is on Call for Commendation of the Civilian Joint Task Force and Local Hunters for their Assistance to the Military in Engaging the Boko Haram Sect and to urge the Federal Government to transform them into a Paramilitary Force.

The House:

Notes that the Civilian Joint Task Force and Local Hunters comprise indigenes and residents of the areas that were subjected to attacks by the *Boko Haram* Sect in the North-East of the Country;

Aware that they decided to come together to assist the Military in the battle against the *Boko Haram* sect since, being indigenes, they have a good knowledge of the terrain and therefore were able to put this to the advantage of the military in the course of the fighting;

Also aware that in assisting the military, they put their lives on the line and indeed many were killed by the insurgents, therefore, it is believed that this conscious decision marked them as patriots and defenders of their people; as they put common interests above their own personal interests;

Recognises that it could have been difficult for the Military to contain the *Boko Haram* Insurgents

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without assistance from the Civilian Joint Task Force and Local Hunters, it is therefore apt to recognise the efforts put into the fight by them;

Also recognises that the military cannot be stationed permanently in all the nooks and crannies of the North-East Zone after the defeat of the *Boko Haram* insurgents, as they are specifically trained to defend the nation from external attacks, it is therefore necessary that the Civilian Joint Task Force and the Local Hunters be transformed into a paramilitary force to confront insurgency and terrorism, if they reoccur, just like the Civil Defence Corp was packaged into a paramilitary force to protect oil pipelines;

Resolves to:

- (i) Commend the Civilian Joint Task Force and Local Hunters for their roles in the fight against the *Boko Haram* Sect;
- (ii) Urge the Federal and State Governments to provide them with logistics such as security vests, motorcycles, vehicles, funds and other items needed for their operations;
- (iii) Also urge the Federal Government to consider transforming the Civilian Joint Task Force and Local Hunters into a paramilitary force specially trained in counter insurgency and terrorism, to take care of a post *Boko Haram* era in the North-East Zone;
- (iv) Observe a minute silence in memory of the fallen Civilian Joint Task Force members and Local Hunters in the battle against the *Boko Haram* Sect in the North-East Zone.

Hon. Mohammed Nur Sheriff (Bama/Ngala/Kalabaghe): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Yusuf Buba.

The Deputy Speaker: Thank you very much. We all know that the issue of *Boko Haram* in the last few years has been a topical issue and many Motions have been moved on the Floor of this House. In order not to belabour the point, I will ask Hon. Musa Sarkin Adar to move his amendment and then I will put the question. I think the word paramilitary in the Motion is a little bit tricky.

Some Hon. Members: The Motion requires to be debated upon first before the proposed amendment.

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The Deputy Speaker: If a Motion is to be debated, we have to take those in favour first, then those against and we take amendments.

Hon. Adekunle Abdulkabir Akinlade: The greatest challenge that we have and I believe any society will continue to have is facing the challenge of insurgency anywhere in the world, is that of sustainability. The challenge we have had so far is that regardless of how much we have spent, the resources we have deployed in fighting insurgency, we have not been able to sustain the areas where we have conquered or taken control of.

As this Motion clearly states that we must consider that these local hunters or indigenous fighters are people who understand the terrain of where they live more than the army. We have to consider the population of even the army themselves. We are aware that the armed forces, particularly army are planning to recruit extra 120,000 soldiers to boost the population of the Army which means that as the Army stand today, they do not have the capacity to sustain the successes that they have achieved across the North-East.

That is why I believe that what we should be considering actually is to look at how we can make these people who have sacrificed so much, put their lives on the line to make sure that this country remains one and that some of us who are part of this country can go to bed every night and sleep the way we are enjoying in other parts of this country.

I believe that it is not only necessary but actually important that we need to consider these individuals who understand those terrains, to empower them so that the military can continue to wage war against insurgency and when the local hunters or indigenous fighters are empowered by law or whichever way is going to be set up, be able to be recognized by the country so that they can remain in those areas where the military have swept through. They will remain there, retain and sustain whatever achievement we have been able to accomplish in those areas.

It is important and necessary at this point because anywhere in the world, the insurgency we are fighting are not people we can see, they are not in uniform and cannot be identified. When the army comes they disappear into the civilian populace; immediately the army moves away, they come back again and gather. That is why we have to think about sustaining the fight against insurgency and the answer is that we have to consider these people that nobody had called them to take this action but they have taken it upon themselves to assist the military.

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Anywhere in the world, the man we can always give the very best to is one who is loyal, trusted, believes in himself to take action, one who comes on his own volition to stand and fight for his country than one who expects money before he can deliver.

Hon. Adekola Segun Alexander (Ekiti South West/Ikere/Ise/Orun): I am in support of this Motion. It is a very good Motion and I implore all the members of this honourable House to support. When you talk of insurgency, *Boko Haram*, it is not a conventional war that Army will face each other. This is a guerrilla war that you do not even know the people but when we are talking of effective policing, the people that know themselves are the people that live in certain areas or town or village or compound. They know who is a criminal and who is not amongst themselves but somebody taken from Bayelsa to Sokoto to come and police there or as an armed force to protect the place may not know the terrain. He may not even know the people he is policing but with these local hunters, they know their people and the terrain of their villages. They know the mountains and hills where the criminals can hide and these are the people who can help.

We have lots of crimes ravaging Nigeria because we do not have effective policing through local policing and State policing. We have been talking about this that for us to police an area effectively, the people living in that area must be involved because they know the criminals among themselves. That is why I am in total support of this Motion that this Civilian Joint Task Force should be co-opted to be as paramilitary that will survey the area to curb the insurgency.

Hon. Nasiru Ali Ahmed (Nassarawa): I commend the mover of this Motion because it is a Motion that must be supported by this honourable House.

The Civilian JTF and the local hunters have sacrificed so much for this country. They lost their lives and homes and families in the fight against insurgency. Whether we are from the North-East, North-West, South-West or South-East, it is because of the collective effort of these people that we have the relative peace that we have today in this country.

These people faced a superior enemy, the insurgents that had rocket propelled grenades, AK47, et cetera, the Civilian JTF faced them with out-dated weapons, with Dane guns, with bows and arrows, even when some of our security forces were retreating and running away, they stood their grounds. *(Interruptions)*

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The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Nasiru, please withdraw the later part of your statements.

Hon. Nasiru Ali Ahmed: I hereby withdraw the statement that the military were retreating and running away. The truth is that they are not being paid, they do not even have salary or anything but they do it out of love for humanity and for Nigeria. I believe they must be commended, recognised and appreciated. I also believe every hon. Member of this House should support this Motion.

Hon. Mohammed Nur Sheriff: This is a very important Motion. The Civilian JTF or Vigilante Group as we call them in Borno State and North-East in particular, have done tremendous job in assisting the military to curtail the *Boko Haram* in the North-East. Mine is very simple; these young men were all unemployed; they have not gone to school. They have just decided to carry their local arms to fight the insurgency and they have done quite a lot in assisting the military.

Our military also has to be commended for the good job they have done particularly in recent time but the Civilian JTF should be appreciated and commended, in fact we can recommend them for national honours. In this country we have been honouring people who have even stolen public funds. These young men have protected our lives, property and along the line they have even lost their lives. Therefore we should appreciate, commend and honour them.

Hon. Muhammad Sani Abdu (Alkalari/Kirfi): I support this Motion strongly particularly the issue of transformation. Yes anybody that has added value must be commended and I do not want to repeat that because it is basic. The issue of transforming them into something positive to add value to the security, particularly local security of our area is very important. This underscores the importance of this Motion much more than we understand at its face value.

If we try to look at this Motion, the depth of it is that it is trying to formalise an informal sector and that is what we are even trying to do with our economy now which is diversification. And whether we like it or not, our market women must be recognised, those who sell palm oil and crayfish add a lot of value into our local economy and I am sure if we gather them across the nation, it is billions of Naira.

Similarly, this civilian JTF and other vigilante groups in the country, if we systematically recognise

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that there is a need for formalisation and utilise them positively within the security framework of this country, it will really add value.

Secondly, doing this is laying a future framework for engagement. Those who are educated can even go higher, those who are not can remain with their local knowledge and strengthen the local security in a way, which means we need to look at the mode of engaging them into this formalisation.

Finally, on the issue of enhancement of local capacity; we have the militants in the Niger-Delta; the OPC who are lying low but are still existing in the South-West. We have the Area Boys, we have the *Yan'kalare* in Gombe and the rest. These are all potential forces because of our economic situation, the security situation and our battered economy. These should be looked at seriously within the framework of repositioning Nigeria.

Similarly, as I argued the other day, it is just the same operation with our NYSC. We should look at the NYSC so that we would have a paramilitary training expanding for two years. Let us look at it globally, insidiously and make sure that a framework is laid down whereby this cohort of various vigilante frameworks are harnessed, capacitated and used positively for enhancement of our security and adding value to our Gross Domestic Products (GDP) and economy in the country. This is the way I see it and I think that is the strength of this Motion much more than just commendation.

The Deputy Speaker: The Floor is now open for those who want to speak against the Motion.

Hon. Zakari Mohammed: I commend my Colleague for bringing up this Motion because I am one of the advocates of compensation of the Civilian JTF, they have done wonderfully very well. But let us cast our minds to the structure, if you want to put them into a formal sector, how old are they? Some of these hunters are about 50 or 60 years of age and some of them are younger; you want to form a paramilitary set up from this group. How far can it take you? We should take our minds off this fire brigade approach. What I think is possible that we can do with this is (*Interruptions*)

The Deputy Speaker: Hon Zakari, just for you to be guided; you can only speak to the Motion or amend Prayers. If it is the Prayer that you are not comfortable with, why not come up with your amendment on a particular Prayer? If you are speaking to the Motion, let it be clear that you are

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against it. Are you against the Motion or do you want to amend the Prayers?

Hon. Zakari Mohammed: I am against the Motion and that is why I am laying a background so that we can understand. The truth of the matter is that it is not possible to get them all into paramilitary. We are talking about compartmentalising governance, in the developed world there are informants. The security agencies are not even properly funded, the police and Civil Defence are crying. We are in the course of our budget inter-face and we are going through that.

I agree that we should commend them but rather than put them in a military setting, we should look for ways of compensating them so that when we need them, they will be like a reserve force and they can come up to assist. We do not expect this insurgency to continue forever, it must have an exit time. I want to guide us so that rather than creating another agency and begin to spend monies on that, we should just commend and compensate them.

The formal military or paramilitary setting looks at the age group before recruiting, where people will be more productive. How will you manage this? Those are the questions that we need to ask ourselves. On the strength of this, we should be cautious because this might not be the way to go. The way to go is to commend them which I sustain but at the same time we should not encourage the creation of a paramilitary body for this group.

Hon. Iorwase Herman C. Hembe: I am not speaking against the Motion. I am guided by the Chair. I have no issues with Prayers 1, 2 and 4, they are in order. My amendment is that we (*Interruptions*).

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Hembe, you are not yet recognised for an amendment.

Hon. Isiaka Ayokunle Ibrahim (Ifẹ/Ewekoro): Mr. Speaker, unfortunately a Motion like this is going to elicit sentiments and with due respect to my Colleagues, I am against this Motion. We need to take caution. We should not forget in a hurry on how Osama Bin Laden was made, if you go to history, you will read about it. That is when a group or sect engage to fight against their State and they in turn take arms against the same State. I am not pre-empting these gentlemen or ladies who have actually stood on the side of the country to fight. How much adequate care have we given to the military and security agencies that we now want to add by saying that those assisting them be added unto the military?

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We should not, at the same time and again forget that these people have done their best. The only gap at that time which is still resonating till date is not far from the fact that the military was completely ignored at the time when we were fighting this insurgency. Those who actually knew the terrain of this area came to assist and that is not the first time. Are we now saying that the same way the OPC fought the other time they should be converted to the paramilitary? No! If you are ready and stand to help the State, definitely there should be a way to compensate them. Those who are still young among them can be converted. There are so many trainings and recruitment going on, let them be assimilated into either the Nigerian Police Force, Military or Immigration and let them be confined within that State to help the security agencies but to now form a parallel line, I stand against it and it is very unfortunate.

The Deputy Speaker: The last person to speak against would be Hon. Fakeye.

Hon. Fakeye Julius Olufemi (Boluwaduro/Ifedayo/Ila): I am totally against this Motion.

Firstly, it is ill-digested. This is because you have an array of aged people in this unknown quantity we are talking about. I am not taking away the fact that in some part of the country, we have some hunters who joined the military or paramilitary and they have worked. Now because it is ill-digested, you are going to be inviting people who may be 14 years or even 70 years or whatever age and you are grouping them into one brick and formalising them into some entity that will be on the payroll of the Federal government that is already running away from excess baggage.

Secondly even in Osun State where I come from, we praise God for today that we do not have any crisis like in the North-East but all of a sudden if you formalise this, guess what? Every hunter around me will also say: *chop don happen*. Everybody will get up and say there is now a new entity in town, there is a payroll going on, they will join.

This issue of formalising and compensating them; anybody that wants to join the Police, it is still open, they have guidelines; he/she should go and join. If you are qualified, whether you are 17 or 18 or 19 years of age, if your age is in order, go there you will know. Here in the House, we do not have enough data to go on, so the Motion is ill-digested.

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Finally, we shall be over burdening the Federal Government that does not know how to pay those who are on the payroll.

The Deputy Speaker: I am not contributing to the debate but I want all of us to learn from this Motion. Why this Motion generated the other angle of speaking against, was the fact that what was supposed to be the Prayer was part of the Motion that is turning the local hunters and the rest into paramilitary. This is a lesson for all us when we are drafting our Motion. If it is a Prayer, we would have deleted it and pass the Motion. The mover of the Motion has a right of reply for about two minutes before the amendments.

Hon. Yusuf Buba Yakubu: Those of us that came from the North-East whose towns and villages were ran down by the insurgents and those of who were eyewitnesses and saw how these young men came out to take back our land side by side with the military, we know why we want them to be engaged. If you do not engage these young men, they will turn out to become a menace worse than the *Boko Haram* in the future. This is because they are already exposed to arms. At a point the military have to allow them to carry AK 47s and the sophisticated arms, they took from the *Boko Haram* they defeated.

They are carrying some sophisticated arms; they are exposed to all sorts of war tactics. It is very important to engage them if not they will turn out to consume us again. That is why we need to find a way to engage them because most of them right now wear uniforms. There are uniforms that have been approved for them, they wear these uniforms and carry arms. Whenever there is an attack, the military send them as forerunners to clear the forefront. It just a matter of semantics whether it is paramilitary or whatever but these young men should be engaged so that they will not turn out to become menace in the future.

Amendment proposed.

Hon. Musa Sarkin Adar (Goronyo/Gada): My amendment is on Prayer 3:

Also urge the Federal Government consider transforming the Civilian Joint Task Force and Local Hunters into a paramilitary force specially trained in counter insurgency and terrorism, to take care of a post Boko Haram era in the North-East Zone.

My amendment is to include other vigilante groups across the country because of what we are

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facing; if it is in appreciation of what is done there
(Interruptions)

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Adar, you have moved your amendment, do not explain it. This is amendment from Hon. Adar. It goes thus:

Urge the Federal Government to consider transforming the Civilian JTF and other vigilante groups across the country into a paramilitary force such as the Civil Defence Corps.

Hon. Mohammed Sani Abdu: I second the amendment proposed by Hon. Sarkin Adar.

Amendment put and negated.

Hon. Ezekiel Awalu Adaji (Ohimini/Otukpo): My amendment is just on Prayer 3.

The Deputy Speaker: No you cannot amend that Prayer, we have already considered Prayer 3 and this amendment is all inclusive.

Hon. Ezekiel Awalu Adaji: It is to absolve all those members of the JTF and local hunters who are qualified into an existing Federal Government paramilitary agency.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Ezekiel, did you listen to the amendment we considered just a moment ago? If you listened, that is the pain of Speaker's ruling. If you had listened to it, no amendment can be made to Prayer 3 again because it is all inclusive. So the House has come to conclusion on Prayer 3.

Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku: Mine is an additional Prayer that:

The government should pay compensation to those that lost their lives and take care of their children.

The Deputy Speaker: The amendment is that:

The government should pay compensation and take care of the children of all those that lost their lives during the insurgency.

Hon. Sarkin Adar Musa (Goronyo/Gada): I second the amendment proposed by Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukku.

Amendment put and agreed to.

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Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: My amendment is to strike out Prayer 3. It offends existing Rules including the Constitution. You will remember that we tried to talk about the State policing, it will be illegal to try to bring in this kind of thing, so I move that we delete it. **The**

Deputy Speaker: The amendment is to delete Prayer 3 since it offends our existing Rules including the Constitution. Can we have a Seconder for this amendment?

Hon. Mohammed Sani Abdu: Mr. Speaker, I have a Point of Order.

The Deputy Speaker: What is your Point of Order?

Hon. Mohammed Sani Abdu: My Point of Order is that we have already ruled on that Prayer 3.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Abdu, there is a difference between deleting and amending. What we did initially was to amend, that means that Prayer still exists. It was the amendment that we ruled against. Now we want to delete the Prayer completely.

Hon. Okwu Samson (Obi/Oju): Mr. Speaker, I have a Point of Order.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Samson, what is your Point of Order?

Hon. Okwu Samson: It is Order VIII, Rule 56 – *Dispensing with Notice*. This is Motion on Notice and because of that we cannot take any amendment on this Motion. I read with your permission:

Notice shall not be dispensed with in the case of a Motion or in respect of any other proceeding for which notice is required except with the consent of the Speaker and the general assent of the Members present.

The Deputy Speaker: The practice of this House is that once a while we try to be flexible and so your Point of Order is noted.

Hon. Odebunmi Olusegun Dokun: I second the amendment proposed by Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa that Prayer 3 be deleted.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Main Motion as amended put and agreed to.

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Resolved to:

- (i) Commend the Civilian Joint Task Force and Local Hunters for their roles in the fight against the *Boko Haram* Sect;
- (ii) Urge the Federal and State Governments to provide them with logistics such as security vests, motorcycles, vehicles, funds and other items needed for their operations;
- (iii) Observe a minute silence in memory of the fallen Civilian Joint Task Force members and Local Hunters in the battle against the *Boko Haram* Sect in the North-East Zone; and
- (iv) Also urge the Federal Government to pay compensation and take care of the children of all those that lost their lives during the insurgency.

The Deputy Speaker: Let us observe a minute silence for the departed souls; may the souls of the departed rest in perfect peace.

All Hon. Members: Amen.

(A minute silence observed in memory of the departed souls)

Calling Attention to the High Cost of Rent in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja

The Deputy Speaker: The tenth Order of the day is a Motion on Calling Attention to the High Cost of Rent in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja standing in the name of Hon. Segun Alexander Adekola.

Hon. Adekola is invited to move the Motion.

Hon. Iorwase Herman Hembe: Mr. Speaker, I have a Point of Order.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Herman Hembe what is your Point of Order?

Hon. Iorwase Herman Hembe: It is Order IX, Rule 57 (6) – *Rules of Debate*: I want to bring to the Notice of the House that a matter that has been dispensed off should not be brought back to the life of that House.

This matter was debated extensively in this Session of the House and it has been assigned to my

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Committee. For the benefit of my friend Hon. Segun Adekola, I will read the Order;

It shall be out of Order to attempt to reconsider any specific question upon which the House has come to a conclusion during the current Session except upon a substantive Motion for rescission.

This matter was brought before this House, we debated it here, it has been referred to the Committee on Federal Capital Territory and we are looking at it even as we speak.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Hembe, before I rule, let the Chairman, Rules and Business guide us. Do we have any Motion of this nature in the current Assembly?

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: When the Chairman FCT drew my attention to it; I really could not recall when we slated it. The truth of the matter is that I need to look at my records again. I advise we stand it down and I will report back the status of things.

The Deputy Speaker: In view of the fact that this issue was raised by the Chairman on FCT and the Chairman of the Rules and Business is not sure of the position, let us consider stepping this Motion down. Then we give the Rules and Business Committee, till tomorrow to report back to the House. If he is able to find the true situation of things and that it has not been discussed before, then we order him to re-list for consideration tomorrow so that we do not go against our Rules. Hon. Hembe, your Point of Order is sustained.

Hon. Adekola is now invited to move a Motion to step the matter down.

Hon. Adekola Segun Alexander: The truth of the matter is that I have submitted this Motion probably since August, 2015 and I would not know whether any such Motion has been brought to the Floor of this House. Since I am properly guided, I hereby apply to step down the Motion for now.

The Deputy Speaker: Chairman, Rules and Business let us know the status of this Motion between now and tomorrow. If you discover that nothing has been done on this kind of Motion before, I advise that you re-list for tomorrow so that we consider it.

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(By leave of the House Motion accordingly stepped down).

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Report of the Committee of Whole on Chartered Institute of Management of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2015

The Deputy Speaker: The eleventh Order of the day is the consideration of Report on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Chartered Institute of Management of Nigeria to provide for the control of its Membership and to promote the Practice of Public Management of Nigeria and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB.78).

Hon. Members will recall that the Bill was committed to the Committee of the Whole on Wednesday, 16th December, 2015. Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga is invited to move for the consideration of the Report.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: Hon. Sylvester Ogbaga is not on the Floor, I therefore apply to withdraw the consideration of the Report.

(By leave of the House consideration of the Report accordingly withdrawn).

Hon. Iorwase Herman C. Hembe: I move that this House resolve into the Committee of Whole for the consideration of Report.

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Hembe, please withdraw your Motion as there other things to be considered.

Hon. Iorwase Herman C. Hembe: By the directive of Mr. Speaker, I hereby withdraw the Motion.

Report of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Nwachukwu Loretta Chinwe and Four (4) Others

The Deputy Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, the twelfth Order of the day is consideration of the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Nwachukwu Loretta Chinwe and four (4) others against the Petroleum Product Pricing Regulatory Agency.

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Hon. Members will recall that the Report was laid on Tuesday, 16th February, 2016. Hon. Uzoma Nkem Abonta will move for its consideration.

On this note, I will advise that since we have about four reports that his Motion will cover all these reports and it will be seconded accordingly. Hon. Abonta, please move your Motion and let it be known that it covers all your Reports.

Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma: I move that the House do consider the Reports on the following Petitions and approve the recommendations therein:

**Report of the House Committee on Public
Petitions on the Petition by Loretta
Chinwe and Four (4) Others**

That the House do consider the Report of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Loretta Chinwe and Four (4) Others against the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) and approve the recommendations therein.

**Report of the House Committee on Public
Petitions on the Petition by Moses Ebi
and Seventy-Eight (78) Others**

That the House do consider the Report of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Moses Ebi and Seventy-Eight (78) Others on their alleged wrongful disengagement from the service of the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) through the Subsidy Re-Investment Programme (Sure-P) and approve the recommendations therein.

**Report of the House Committee on Public
Petitions on the Petition by L/CPLC
Olayiwola Latilo**

That the House do consider the Report of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by L/CPLC Olayiwola Latilo against the Nigerian Army on denial of his benefits and approve the recommendations therein.

**Report of the House Committee on Public
Petitions on the Petition by Kaine & Co.
on behalf of Mrs. Mary Yusuf**

That the House do consider the Report of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Kaine & Co. on behalf of Mrs. Mary Yusuf on the non-payment of death benefits and other entitlements of her late husband, former Chief of

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Army Staff, Lt-Gen. L. N. Yusuf and approve the recommendations therein.

Hon. Aishatu Jibril Dukka: I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Uzoma Nkem-Abonta.

Resolved: That the House do consider the Reports of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the four Petitions as captured in Orders 12 to 15 of the Order Paper.

The Deputy Speaker: Acting Leader can you move that the House do resolve into Committee of the Whole to consider the Reports?

Hon. Iorwase Herman C. Hembe: I move that this House do resolve into Committee of the Whole for consideration of the Reports.

Hon. Muhammed Ali Wudil: I second the Motion as ably moved by Hon. Hembe.

Question put and agreed to.

(The Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Report of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Nwachukwu Loretta Chinwe and four (4) others against the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) –
CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE.

The Chairman: Hon. Abonta you can now move for consideration of your Reports.

Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma: I move that the House do consider the Report of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Nwachukwu Loretta Chinwe and four (4) others against the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) and approve the recommendation therein.

The Chairman: We all have the Report and it contains only one Recommendation.

Recommendation (i) - Urge the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) to reinstate the Officers, Nwachukwu Loretta Chinwe, Omali Pauline Peter, Ewoh Obiefuna Nkechi A., Osagie Blessing Otaigboria and Oyekanmi Isaac Ayodele and pay each of those officers their entitlements from the date of their disengagement to date. – agreed to.

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Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma: I move that the House do consider the Report of the Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Moses Ebi and Seventy-Eight (78) Others on their alleged wrongful disengagement from the service of the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) through the Subsidy Re-Investment Programme (Sure-P) and approve the recommendation therein.

The Chairman: There is only one Recommendation for this Report.

Recommendation (i) - Urge the House to discountenance the Petition for lack of merit. – *agreed to.*

Report of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by L/CPLC Olayiwola Latilo against the Nigerian Army on denial of his benefits – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE.

Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma: I move that the House do consider the Report of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by L/CPLC Olayiwola Latilo against the Nigerian Army on denial of his benefits and approve the recommendations therein.

The Chairman: This Report has two recommendations.

Recommendation (i) - Urge the Nigerian Army to accelerate action on the verification and reconciliation efforts on the matter, with a view to expeditiously settling the claims of the Petitioner – *agreed to.*

Recommendation (ii) - Report back to the House via the House Committee on Public Petitions, the final resolution and the packages thereof for the Petitioner - *agreed to.*

Report of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Kaine & Co. on behalf of Mrs Mary Yusuf on the Non-payment of death benefits and other entitlements of her late husband,

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former Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen. L. N. Yusuf – CONSIDERED IN THE COMMITTEE OF WHOLE.

Hon. Nkem-Abonta Uzoma: I move that the House do consider the Report of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Kaine & Co. on behalf of Mrs Mary Yusuf on the non-payment of death benefits and other entitlements of her late husband, former Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen. L. N. Yusuf and approve the recommendations therein.

The Chairman: This Report has two recommendations.

Recommendation (i) - Urge the Nigerian Army to treat the matter with the urgency it requires with a view to assuaging frayed nerves and ameliorating the discomfort and pains being suffered by the bereaved – *agreed to.*

Recommendation (ii) - Report back to the House via the House Committee on Public Petitions the final resolution and the packages thereof for the family of late Lt-Gen. L. N. Yusuf - *agreed to.*

Hon. Iorwase Herman C. Hembe: I move that the House do revert to Plenary.

Hon. Muhammed Ali Wudil: I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Hembe that the House do revert to Plenary.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do revert to Plenary.

(The Deputy Speaker resumed Chair)

The Deputy Speaker: The House in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Nwachukwu Loretta Chinwe and four (4) others against the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) and approved Recommendation (i).

The Deputy Speaker: The House in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by Moses Ebi and Seventy-Eight (78) Others on their alleged wrongful disengagement from the service of the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) through the Subsidy Re-Investment Programme (Sure-P) and approved Recommendation (i).

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The Deputy Speaker: The House in the Committee of the Whole considered the Report of the House Committee on Public Petitions on the Petition by L/CPLC Olayiwola Latilo against the Nigerian Army on denial of his benefits and approved Recommendations (i) and (ii).

The Deputy Speaker: The House in the Committee of Whole considered the Report of the House Committee on Public Petition on the Petition by Kaine & Co. on behalf of Mrs. Mary Yusuf on the non-payment of death benefits and other entitlements of her late husband, former Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen. L. N. Yusuf and approved Recommendation (i) and (ii).

Adoption of Report

Hon. Iorwase Herman C. Hembe: I move that this House do adopt the Report of the House in the Committee of Whole.

Hon. Zakari Mohammed: I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Hembe.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do adopt the Report of

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the House in the Committee of Whole.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. Iorwase Herman C. Hembe: I move that the House do adjourn till tomorrow Thursday, 3rd March, 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

A Member: Mr. Speaker, I have a Point of Order.

The Deputy Speaker: Dear Colleagues, before I call for secondment, this is to let you know that one of the highlights of the House Rules is that you cannot move a Point of Order when the House is about to adjourn.

Hon. Muhammed Ali Wudil: I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Hembe that the House do adjourn till tomorrow Thursday, 3rd March, 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till tomorrow Thursday, 3rd March, 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

The House accordingly adjourned at 3.08 p.m.