

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

Tuesday, 3rd May, 2016

The House met at 11.13 a.m.

PRAYER

(The Speaker in the Chair)

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, I have examined and approved the Votes and Proceedings of Thursday, 28th April, 2016.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visitors in the Gallery:

**Members of the Federation of Ekiti State
Students' Union**

The Speaker: We have in the Gallery, members of the Federation of Ekiti State Students Union (FESSU) University of Abuja Chapter who are here to observe our proceedings. You may please, rise for recognition.

Students rose for recognition. (Applause)

**Students of Baby Love School, Nursery and
Primary, Lugbe, Abuja**

Also in the Gallery to observe our proceedings are staff and students of Baby Love School, Nursery and Primary FHA Lugbe, Abuja.

Students rose for recognition. (Applause)

**Members of Lagos State University, Law
Students' Society, Ojo, Lagos State**

We also have in the Gallery members of Lagos State University, Law Students' Society, Ojo, Lagos State.

Students rose for recognition. (Applause)

You are welcome. Please, kindly take your seats.

The Speaker: I also have this announcement to make:

**Meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee on House
Manuals and Template**

There will be a meeting of the Ad-Hoc Committee on House Manuals and Template with officials of the National Legislative Institute (NILS), today in Room 244, New Building of the House of Representatives at 2.30 p.m.

*Announcer
Chairman*

Rt. Hon. Aminu Shehu Shagari

**Transition of the Oba of Benin: Omo N'Oba
N'Edo, Uku Akpolo Kpolo,
Oba Erediawa, CFR**

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, I have a notification of the passing on of the Oba of Benin and request to make the announcement on the Floor of the House from Hon. Ogbeide-Ihama. I now recognise Hon. Ogbeide-Ihama on the note of the Point of Order raised to make the announcement and pay tribute to the departed Monarch.

Hon. Ogbeide-Ihama Omoregie (Oredo): Mr. Speaker, my king goes on till eternity. It is with a mixture of sadness and joy that I stand today to formally inform the Federal House of Representatives of the transition of our father, His Royal Majesty Omo N'Oba N'Edo, Uku Akpolo Kpolo, Oba Eredauwa (CFR) Oba of Benin.

I say sadness because it is painful to realise that our father and absolute monarch of the great Benin Kingdom has left us to be with his ancestors; leaving us without his peculiar fatherly, warm, wise guidance and counsel.

I say joy because when I remember the peace and progress our kingdom experienced under his reign and the unquantifiable legacy and memories he left us with, I am filled with pride that I, not only witness his glorious reign, but also that today I stand tall to declare my sonship of this great royalty.

Permit me to lead you into the background of this great enigma, who has translated this earthly realm to unite with his ancestors. Oba Erediawa was born on June 22nd 1923, the first son of Oba Akenzua, the second. He was known as Prince Solomon, Aisokhuoba Igbinnohodu Akenzua before he was crowned king. Prince Solomon had the throne as his cradle. Apart from the usual traditional palace tutorials, which begin at birth, he attended Government School in Benin City, after which he proceeded to Government College, Ibadan in 1939 where he obtained with flying colours his London

Matriculations, which qualified him to gain admission into Yaba College in 1945.

Upon completion of his course at Yaba, he was admitted into the prestigious Kings College, Cambridge to study Law and Administration. Prince Solomon completed his studies and returned to Nigeria to join the Civil Service as a District Officer in 1957.

As a historian, lawyer and administrator, Prince Solomon Akenzua worked and rose to the very top of Regional and Federal Civil Service as a Super Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health in 1973. He later retired from the service and became the Regional Representative of Gulf Oil Company.

Again, in 1975 late Major-General Agbazika Ini appointed him as the Finance Commissioner in the then Mid-Western State. His early retirement from the service was to have him exposed fully to the intricacies of the administrative challenges that would confront him in the performance of his duties as the Oba of Benin.

On Saturday, 23rd March, 1979 Prince Solomon Akenzua ascended the reverend throne of his ancestors before him as he was crowned the 38th Oba of Benin with the title Omo N' Oba N' Edo, Uku Akpolo Kpolo, Erediawa, Oba of Benin. A confirmation that the occasion was one ordained and sanctioned by the celestials was when on the eve of his coronation the sun and the moon appeared and created a partial eclipse; an occurrence that made the cosmic concept an endorsement of the coronation of the Oba to rule over his people.

Oba Erediawa was an intellectual with unparalleled experience in the civil service; an embodiment of peace who built bridges across various ethnic divides in Nigeria; a great diplomat who rarely spoke, dogged and uncompromising when it came to issues that affect the lives of his people and Nigerians at large.

We must also not forget the very key role he played during the Nigerian Civil War where in his capacity as a Federal Permanent Secretary participated actively in the *Aburi talks*, which were aimed at resolving the crisis and re-uniting Nigeria as one.

The Omo N' Oba was non-partisan and maintained a dignified mutual position by staying off politics and refraining from partisan statements. Like a father to all, he prayed for all political actors who visited his palace irrespective of their platforms. Oba Erediawa's reign witnessed tremendous intellectual, cultural, social and economic growth. Dynamism was

one of his chief assets as he succeeded in maintaining and improving the role of Edo Monarchy in the face of massive modernisation onslaughts from various sources. The Omo N' Oba was a quintessential icon of royalty and splendour.

During his 37 years of charismatic reign, the Benin Kingdom remained unified, peaceful and witnessed expansion. This was attributed to his large and steady personality and handling of issues before him with royalty of wisdom.

He will be remembered as the Oba that demonstrated flexibility, integrity and vigour mannerism that tied him to the souls of ordinary people in the Kingdom. He remained one of the most respected African Monarchs, an author, writer, advocate of peace and co-existence. His high educational background helped bring to light the correct history of Edo people and the ancient Benin Kingdom. Our transited Oba embodied imperial reigns, dignity and discharged his duties with an unusual grace finest of royalty.

A lion of lions who used his kingly office to influence the welfare and fortunes of his people, an unmoving pivot around the lives of his subjects, an oracle of divine and a worthy gentleman.

One of my greatest joy and achievements will remain the privilege to representing him - his very self and his Constituency; Oredo Federal Constituency in this House. This is a responsibility I carry daily with pride. We will miss our beloved monarch, but we console ourselves, remembering the great memories he left us with; his legacies will indeed live forever.

I say to the Eighth Assembly and all Nigerians; the sunshine dims over my fatherland, but when one sun dusks, another dawns in his stead.

Bhotan bhorue vhrendo!

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, let us please, rise for a minute silence in honour of the departed Monarch.

(A minute silence accordingly observed).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

MOTION

Admittance into the Chamber

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, today is the first day of our Sectoral Debates. I now recognise the

Leader of the House to move a Motion for Admittance into the Chamber, the Hon. Minister of Information and Culture.

Hon. Jibril Umar Buba (Lokoja/Kogi KK): I move, pursuant to Order XIX, Rule 217 (1) of the standing Orders of the House, for the admittance into the Chamber of the Hon. Minister of Information and Culture and his entourage, and all other Hon. Ministers of the Government of the Federation and their entourage, who will be coming on subsequent days, for the purpose of Sectoral Debates of the House of Representatives.

I so move.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa (Buruku): I second the Motion ably moved by the Deputy House Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do admit into the Chamber, the Hon. Minister of Information and Culture to enable him make his presentation in respect of Sectoral Debates on the ‘Diversification of Nigerian Economy’, pursuant to Order XIX, Rule 217 (1) (xi) of the Standing Orders’.

The Speaker: Chief Whip, please usher in the Hon. Minister and his entourage into the Chamber.

(Hon. Minister of Information and Culture ushered into the Chamber with his entourage)

PRESENTATION OF PUBLIC PETITIONS

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

Refusal of the National Pension Commission to Comply With the Federal High Court Judgement

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor (Isoko North/Isoko South): Mr. Speaker, I have a Petition from a group of shareholders of First Guarantee Pension Limited against the National Pension Commission over some level of alleged unlawful activities of the National Pension Commission.

It borders also on declared disregard by the Commission of Court Orders; direction of the Attorney-General of the Federation. It bothers also on the Commission not carrying out its function clearly, which borders on lack of transparency as clearly alleged, by refusing also to allow for almost five

years, when the management has not been able to call for Annual General Meeting.

May I lay the Petition on the Table?

The Speaker: Please, do so.

(Petition laid)

Wrongful Dismissal from the Nigerian Prisons Service

Hon. Chika Abubakar Adamu (Shiroro): Mr. Speaker, I present a Petition written by three people who were staff of the Nigerian Prisons Service led by one Bello Ahmed. The Petition is about their wrongful dismissal from the Nigeria Prisons Service.

With this, I beg to lay the Petition.

The Speaker: Please proceed to lay the Petition.

(Petition laid)

(Petitions accordingly referred to the Committee on Public Petitions)

SECTORAL DEBATES

Sectoral Debates on the “Diversification of the Nigerian Economy: Real Sector Development”, Pursuant to Order XVI of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives

First Allotted Day:

The Speaker: The second Order of the day is commencement of Sectoral Debates on the Diversification of the Nigerian Economy: Real Sector Development, Pursuant to Order XVI of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives. I invite the Deputy Leader of the House to move that the Sectoral Debates do commence.

Hon. Jibril Umar Buba: I have the privilege to move for the commencement of Sectoral Debates on the Diversification of the Nigerian Economy: Real Sector Development, Pursuant to Order XVI of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives, with the Honourable Minister of Information and Culture.

I so move.

Hon. Isiaka Ayokunle Ibrahim (Ifo/Ewekoro): I hereby second the Motion as moved by Hon. Jibril Buba.

The Speaker: Before I invite the Minister to deliver his perspective on Diversification of the Nigerian Economy, let me make my brief remarks.

May I warmly welcome you all to the commencement of Sectoral Debates by the House of Representatives on very important aspects of the Nigerian economy. I particularly welcome all Honourable Ministers and Heads of Agencies under their purviews to the House of Representatives.

2. This event is a fulfilment of one of the cardinal commitments we made in our Legislative Agenda in the beginning of the Eighth House of Representatives. We had committed ourselves in our Legislative Agenda in paragraph 7 (ii) as follows, and I quote:

“(ii) *Sectoral Debates:*

The 8th House will introduce sectoral debates on various aspects of Nigerian economy as part of its legislative initiative to address national problems. These sectoral debates will lead to the crafting of new laws or amendments to existing ones or generate recommendations on how to address the specific problem in question.

The house will designate specific legislative sitting days or weeks in its calendar specifically for discussion on various problems facing the nation. Such identified themes, sectors, areas or problems include employment and job creation, Health, Education and Social Services; Women, Youths and Children concerns; Power/Energy sector, Oil and Gas, Science and Technology; Commerce and Industry; Transportation; Telecommunications; Agriculture; Mining; Manufacturing; Diversification of the Economy, Finance, Corruption, Security Matters, Infrastructure and other initiatives of urgent national importance”.

Modalities for carrying out the Sectoral Debates will be as approved by the House.

3. Indeed the Standing Orders of the House also provides in Order XVI, Rule 3 (New Rule), that:

“The House may engage in sectoral debates on issues of national importance as may be directed by the House or the Speaker.

4. The first set of debate has been scheduled to take place from 3rd May to 5th May, 2016 on “Diversification of the Economy”. The Honourable Ministers of different Ministries concerned with this topic have been invited to present the perspective of

the Executive branch, on the diversification of the economy from the standpoint of their different Ministries.

We are starting with the following:

Hon. Minister of Information, Culture and Tourism

(He is with us right now to take the centre stage) -
3th May, 2016 - 11.00 a.m.

Hon. Minister of Agriculture - 4th May, 2016 -
11.00 a.m.

Hon. Minister of Finance - 4th May, 2016 - 1.00
p.m.

Hon. Minister of Solid Minerals - 5th May, 2016 -
11.00 a.m.

5. With the fall in crude oil prices, Nigeria really has no choice but to stop paying lip service to the urgent need for diversification of sources of revenue for Nigeria. The acute scarcity of foreign exchange, power supply challenges, falling GDP, fuel scarcity are some of the current matters of urgent national importance to be fixed. It is our belief that Nigeria possesses the human and material resources required to successfully transform our economy and earn the needed foreign exchange for Nigeria. It is time for Nigeria to develop and transform into a knowledge-based economy. Indeed ICT, Agriculture, Solid Minerals, Culture, Tourism and Entertainment; Trade and Investment and Manufacturing; Taxation and Finance policies; Science and Technologies; Efficient Infrastructure such as power, transportation, etc. have huge roles to play in the diversification of the Nigerian economy.

6. Other themes to be explored in the course of these Sectoral Debates, after diversification of the economy, include Unemployment and Job Creation; Infrastructural Development; Power, Energy and Gas; Anti-Corruption; Accountability and Transparency in government; Security Matters, etc.

7. After presentation by the relevant Ministers, honourable Members are expected to ask the Ministers questions and seek clarifications on issues. The House would schedule another day for Members to thoroughly debate the issues and contribute their views at Plenary.

8. These Sectoral Debates are necessitated by the compelling need of the stakeholders, particularly the Executive and Legislative to engage in debates/dialogues towards finding sustainable

policies, strategies and legislations for quick recovery of the economy. The broad objective of the Sectoral Debates therefore is to deepen the engagement of honourable Members and the Executive in national development policy issues and to promote the enactment of appropriate laws to enhance Nigeria's economic growth and development. The specific objectives include but they are not limited to the following:

- providing information on specific policies, programmes and activities of the executive arm of government on specific issues;
- better understand the current development challenges in critical sectors of the economy;
- identify critical success factors for each of the sectors;
- identify and enact relevant legislations or correct or amend defects in existing laws that would support development initiatives; and
- develop effective implementation strategies and appropriate oversight mechanisms.

9. The expected outcomes of the Sectoral Debates and dialogues series include;

- (i) Robust discussions on the appropriate role of the Legislature and achieving economic development and transformation;
- (ii) Recommendations on each of the topics of the debates/dialogue, e.g. diversification of the economy; or unemployment and job creation; or security;
- (iii) How the Legislature can strengthen its role in oversight of the Executive branch to achieve rapid economic growth and transformation, going forward.

10. This innovation is perhaps the first time the Legislature in Nigeria is devoting specific legislative time to undertake debates on particular sectors of the economy. The clear legislative purpose of this effort is to contribute our quota in the search for a new economy for a new Nigeria. We expect as I have said, that these debates would help us to craft new laws, lead to better oversight processes and change the way we do things in Nigeria. It is our firm conviction that there is no better way to help deliver the change that our people yearn for than by speaking to those aspirations and insisting that we work the talk.

11. I wish us all, successful deliberations and may God crown our noble efforts with success.

Hon. Members, may I at this juncture invite the Minister of Information and Culture to make his presentation to the House.

Presentation by the Hon. Minister of Information and Culture

The Hon. Minister of Information and Culture (Mr. Lai Mohammed): Rt. Hon. Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Principal Officers of this very revered House, and very Honourable Members; please, pardon me if I falter on the matters of protocol.

The Role of Culture and Tourism in the Diversification of the Nigerian Economy

Let me thank the Honourable Speaker and indeed the entire Membership of the House of Representatives for organising this Special Debate on the Diversification of the Nigerian economy. This, to the best of my knowledge is the first time the House is embarking on this very proactive initiative.

For us at the Ministry of Information and Culture, the timing of the debate is particularly auspicious; coming just a few days after we concluded our National Summit on Culture and Tourism with the theme: "Repositioning Culture and Tourism in a Diversified Economy". We are quite pleased therefore that the Summit has dovetailed into the Special Debate organised by the House of Representatives.

The reality of the situation in which we have found ourselves today in our country is that we really do not have any alternative than to look into other areas of the economy in our quest to move away from the over-dependence on oil. Culture and Tourism Sector is acclaimed globally to be a major contributor to the strengthening of the economy of many nations, making double-digit contribution to the GDP of many countries. Unfortunately, in Nigeria, this sector contributes less than 1.5 per cent to the GDP.

Apart from its contribution to the economy, Culture and Tourism create wealth and opportunities. This is the only sector that creates employment opportunities for those who normally would have been unemployable, either for lack of skills or lack of education. It is the only sector tailored for the rural folks, the underprivileged and the poor. It brings peace and stability to the polity; fosters unity, and discourages rural-urban migration.

Regrettably, this sector faces many challenges today; ranging from institutional to logistics and then financial, and these challenges have not helped the sector to achieve its potentials.

I will start with the challenge faced by perception.

PERCEPTION

A major problem that faces this sector is that of perception. I will tell you a small story: One of my predecessors told me that when he was nominated as a Minister, he received thousands of calls from many well-wishers. But the day he was sworn in as the Minister for Culture and Tourism, he received calls expressing, *'we are sorry o, we did not know that the President did not like you this much.'* This is the kind of perception that has followed the Ministry of Tourism and Culture for a very long time and this we intend to break.

There is the perception that the Culture and Tourism portfolio is reserved for those who are least favoured; that it is the Siberia of Ministerial nominations, unlike the perceived juicy Ministries like Petroleum, Finance, Works, Power, et cetera. This perception unfortunately percolates down to the staff of the Ministry in charge of Culture and Tourism, who lose self-worth and seek every available opportunity to be transferred to a juicy Ministry. When they fail to secure transfer, they are discouraged and they feel condemned to their Siberia, hence do not contribute much to the sector.

Also, there is the family and social angle to it. From a very early age, our parents drum it into our brains that we must either be doctors, lawyers or engineers, etc. They make us feel that those who study the Arts or who are not in any of these professions are the dregs of the society. We need to change this perception. The truth is that every great invention is a product of creative minds, and creativity is at the heart of Arts and Culture. Many may not know this, but the legendary Italian inventor, Leonardo da Vinci is not just into science, mathematics and engineering, he was also into sculpturing and painting, which are also creative arts.

ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

Another major problem is in the area of the allocation of resources. It is instructive that not one kobo was allocated for Capital Projects in Culture and Tourism in the entire 2015 national budget. Yet, billions of Naira was allocated for overhead and other recurring expenditure in the same Ministry during that year. This is apart from several millions from SURE-P and the Constituency Projects. With no

dime allocated for Capital Projects, what were those staffers being paid to do? Of course, they were being paid to be idle. Although, the situation is slightly different in this year's budget, yet I want to say with all due respect, that what was allocated is still a mere tokenism. This is one of the areas where the National Assembly can come in, perhaps to approve a supplementary budget for this critical sector.

SYNERGY AMONG VARIOUS MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

The Culture and Tourism sector cannot stand alone. In order to work efficiently, there must be synergy between the Ministry in charge of this sector and various other Ministries, Departments and Agencies. The Ministry of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Aviation, Health and those in charge of infrastructure, the Customs and Immigration Service, and Security, etc. must all be involved.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Good roads, adequate security, stable power supply, etc. are also key to successful tourism. They have direct bearing of Culture and Tourism.

DIPLOMACY/VISA REGIME

Travel advisories play a major role in tourism. Negative travel advisories could discourage tourists from coming to affected countries. This brings us back to the issue of perception. Our country today is widely perceived as insecure, and many Western nations has issued negative travel advisories against Nigeria, but there are countries like Brazil, with its Zika problem; South Africa with high crime rate and Kenya with the Al-Shabaab problem, which are still major destination for tourists. The reason is packaging, or better still perception management. It is important that we take control of the narrative on Nigeria to change the negative perception.

INVESTMENT IN TOURISM

Government must take the lead in investing in Tourism infrastructure. It must give tax breaks to investors, provide adequate security, long term funding for tourism projects as well as engage in international diplomacy. There must be world class Exhibition and Convention Centres. In Nigeria today, there is no hotel with a convention centre that can accommodate 5,000 people under one roof. Compare this to Sun City in South Africa, which strives largely on conventions, exhibitions and the likes, and makes more than 270 million dollars per annum. Then we must also build standard museums that can attract a huge number of fee-paying visitors.

This is where the Tourism Development Fund comes in. It is important for the National Assembly to enact laws that will compel all first-line beneficiaries of tourism - airlines, hotels, Convention Centres, Transport Companies, Telecoms, et cetera to contribute at least 1% of their total profit annually to what we call Tourism Development Fund. This is the way Tourism is been funded around the world. For example, in Dubai, from the first of July, every traveller will pay a surcharge of \$9.50 and the proceeds from this, Dubai intends to make over \$700 million this year and this is going to be re-invested in Tourism infrastructure. These are some of the ways that we can be assisted in busting the culture and tourism sector.

DATA

To develop the Culture and Tourism sector, there is the need for Public-Private Partnership; but if we want private sector to be involved, we must have been ready the necessary statistics. Their investment is about profit making. They need to know what their investment will yield and they need the necessary statistics. We need to put up the plan to collect the necessary figures on Tourism, be it business tourism, religious tourism, health tourism, festival tourism, etc.

The National Bureau of Statistics is trying its best, but the truth is that we have no culture of collecting and storing data. It may be necessary to enact the law, making it mandatory for all hotels, Customs and Immigration Services, Health, Culture, etc to make data returns to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) so it can in turn to get accurate figures for investors.

INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL PEOPLE

It is not just infrastructure but involvement of local people in the economy of tourism. It will give a boost to this sector. We need to build a capacity so they can serve as tour guides, festival managers and raconteurs, waiters and cooks. If we involve the local people who are the custodians of the sites, they will in turn protect the sites. In the end, tourism we must realise is driven by:

- Government, which provides the enabling environment;
- Private sector funds; and
- Local Community involvement.

VISA

We need a friendlier visa regime, and this is another area in which the National Assembly can help. For example, we can find out the countries with which we do business with most and make visa available to their personnel on arrival. If the security is the reason why this may be a problem, we can all sit down together and work something out. Dubai for instance, has more risks than Nigeria, but has liberalised its visa regime. Some people talk about reciprocity in the issuance of Visa, but the truth is that we need those who will benefit from this Visa-on-arrival regime more than they need us.

CULTURE

There is a great similarity between Culture and Tourism. Some say culture is actually an aspect of tourism; others say culture drives tourism. Whatever it is, culture is the totality of our way of life. Creative industry, which is part of culture, is driven by skills and talents. It is actually another knowledge based economy. We are a nation of very rich cultural heritage. Every of our 774 Local Governments has at least one peculiar creative industry; be it tie and dye, poultry, sculpturing, or weaving. We are working hard to revive most of these creative industries some of which are almost dead today. We are working with our partners, including the Tony Elumelu Foundation and the British Council, and others to build the capacity of our creative artists through training and re-training. We also intend to take advantage of the exchange programmes to send our Creative Artists and Festival Managers to other countries for training.

We will also improve on our Ministry's official Website to make it more interactive and to be manned 24 hours so that we can provide information about our Culture and Tourism sector to potential tourists. Also, we intend to concession our cultural centres abroad private managers to overcome the current problems they face.

At the just concluded National Summit on Culture and Tourism, it was recommended that each Local Government should be encouraged to stage at least one festival a year. As part of efforts to encourage this, I have attended at least two Festivals in the past one month alone. One was the Nzem Berom Festival in Jos on April 15th and the other was the Puus Kaat Festival in Mangu, also in Plateau last weekend. It is my wish to continue this trend as part of efforts to give prominence to our various festivals.

We also intend to revive the various bilateral treaties on culture that we have signed with other countries. Some of them have been throwing us out because we have been able to pay our negotiation fees.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS AND MOPICON

As part of our efforts to boost the movie industry, we have set up a Ministerial Committee on the Motion Picture Council of Nigeria (MOPICON). The task force will fast track the Bill to set up the Council. We have no doubt that by the time we present the Bill to the National Assembly, it will enjoy an easy passage. We also intend to establish the National Endowment for the Arts as a way of ensuring adequate funding for that sector.

POLITICAL SOLUTION TO THE ISSUE OF HOTEL CLASSIFICATION

There is the need to find a political solution to the issue of who can classify hotels in Nigeria. The Supreme Court has ruled that only states can classify hotels, but this will not lead to uniformity, and also most states lack the capacity and wherewithal to carry out such classification. The National Assembly may want to take the lead in ensuring the political solution is found to this problem.

UNITED NATIONS WORLD TOURISM ORGANISATION (UNWTO) TO ASSIST NIGERIA TO BOOST TOURISM

During my recent trip to Abidjan to attend a meeting of African Tourism Ministers, I met with officials of the UN World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO). This meeting provided an opportunity for us to reconnect Nigeria to the Agency, thus ending a long period of disconnect. The good news is that the global tourism agency has agreed to work with Nigeria for the next two years to develop a programme to boost tourism in Nigeria.

At the end of our National Summit last weekend, we came out with certain recommendations and conclusions, which I believe would help in building this sector as a veritable vehicle for diversification.

There is the Presidential Council on Tourism, and this is probably the highest body on tourism. It is presided over by the President. It comprises of many governors who have invested in tourism, when tourism was working very well across Rivers State, Lagos State and others. But I think for quite a time now this particular Council has been on recess and there is need for us to revive it.

We intend to work together with Economic Team, because without encouraging development of key areas - land, sea and land transport infrastructure as well as whole sale integrated tourism infrastructure, the sector would still suffer. There is also a need and

we are working very hard, to build synergy like I have said between the various Ministries such as Interior, Police, Environment, Budget and National Planning especially Ministry of Trade and Investment, to cooperate with us on the various bilateral agreement that we have signed. It is also important to identify pairs and competitive tourism destination like Kenya, South Africa, and Singapore to see what these countries are doing that we are not doing that has promoted their tourism areas.

We also need your support for a comprehensive Bill that would integrate tourism development; that would incorporate Departments and Agencies within the sector. The role of the private sector in this merger cannot also be underplayed. So far, they are the people that have the capital, but they need enabling laws that would guarantee that when these funds are invested, they would get their returns. Of course, there is also need to ask our border patrols and securities to stop the theft of artefacts. What we have today is a massive fade of our artefacts through our various borders.

In summary, we want to once again thank the House for creating this market place of ideas where we can exchange views. What I believe we are going to have is interactive session and all that I have just provided is probably a working paper. I would be ready and willing to take questions, comment, advice and areas that may need clarification from the House.

Thank you very much.

Hon. Elendu-Ukeje Nnenna Ijeoma (Bende): I do not see your policies' thrust reflected in the funding and I know that you came to the National Assembly, asking the National Assembly to engage with you to beef up that funding. But my concern is that as far as the diversification is concerned, when one looks at the budget proposal, it should speak to the policies thrust of a particular MDA or where it belongs to. Unfortunately, I did not see that. I am a little curious as to know how you intend to achieve that, moving forward, if with all these lofty dreams you do not project same in the funding portfolio that you bring before the National Assembly.

Another concern I have as you spoke about packaging and marketing Sir, is that I do not know what your engagement is? The perception of Nigerians is that we as a country are the greatest marketers. We de-market our country as a country that is ripe for corruption and saddled under the yoke of insecurity. My concern is that, is there anything you are doing to help us not to de-market our country in such a way? I made a point and you made it as well that South Africa, Brazil and Columbia, which have strong challenges of insecurity and corruption

are very strong tourism areas. I am wondering if there is anything you are doing in anyway, even though we grapple with those issues, to stop the de-marketing of our country in such a way that would attract other people.

Finally, you have spoken about our artefacts; this has come to the Floor of the National Assembly. Other countries are repatriating their artefacts from the UK, and so on and so forth. Is there anything you are doing aside this conversation to activate the repatriation of our artefacts and actively engage other countries, especially the UK that has a large number of our stolen artefacts. Also, what do you expect the National Assembly to do for you or with you regarding this?

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor: My question is going to be very straightforward and with some few comments. I believe that from your little comments, you have stated very clearly that there are challenges in the sector. If there are challenges vis-à-vis the contribution from tourism into our economy, you have also informed this House it was supposed to contribute something about one *per cent*. I believe in policy thrust of a government. There must be a clear direction and I think that is probably going to be the focus of our discussion today.

How do we put the tourism market in competition with other nations all over the world? What should be the input of the National Assembly? What are the steps that you are taking as a Government to ensure that our tourism industry becomes very competitive with other Foreign Industries because that is where the major source of resources is coming from? I also want to ask Mr. Minister, that it is almost a year into our Government; it is a collective responsibility, knowing fully well that there must be clear policy thrust, what laws have you put in place, or proposals that you have sent to the National Assembly to address some of these challenges that you have met in your office? This is because I know very well that without the enabling laws, you may not be able to achieve.

The Executive should come in now with their own laws. What are the proposals? I am not aware whether the Leader of the House has read any of these laws to us. It is therefore important that we know the policy thrust of your Government and the office you run in making sure that we get into that competitiveness with Dubai that you have made as a reference point in your discussion.

Hon. Alabi Mojeed Olujinmi A. (Ede North/Ede South/Egbedore/Ejigbo): Hon. Minister, let me appreciate the erudition that you put into this presentation and as you were talking I felt I have not

seen any loop hole but nevertheless, I have two key areas of concern that I want you to begin to pay attention to.

I pity you that you are not occupying a very juicy Ministry and the effort that you are making to turn things around. I am quite taken aback when you said what is in the current budget is not a major improvement to what was happening in the past and you appealed to this honourable House. While we are willing to assist in ensuring that you place Tourism in the forefront of the diversification of Nigerian economic, I think your Ministry has a lot of job to do, to even convince people in the Executive. This is because in this era of padding and the rest, I doubt whether the National Assembly will want to stick its head into doing it, unless you take it from the root.

More importantly, I could see from your presentation the aspect of sending people abroad for training and I look at the diversification of Nigerian economy. We want to diversify, but at the same time we want to reduce as much as possible drains on foreign reserve and the question that came to my mind was, what is it in Tourism that we need to send people abroad for training, that we could not train them locally? As we are seeking to diversify into Tourism, we should also begin to look inwards to ensure that we also preserve our little foreign reserves.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister, do you want to take more information or you want to response to these interventions?

The Hon. Minister: If you do not mind, I can just take these interventions very quickly and I will start with the last from Hon. Mojeed.

I think you remember that we came in as Ministers in November last year, and we must say that what was faulty were the templates that were used for some of these Budget planning. But I want you to know where we are coming from. I was coming from a position where the 7th National Assembly did not approve one kobo for the nine Parastatals under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. They did not approve one penny for the entire Ministry for any Capital Project in 2015.

Therefore, I did approach the House with tragedy and I did not know what would have informed that kind of decision. What we have this year is a huge improvement in what we had in 2015 but it does not measure up to what we need and of course, there are other factors that combined to conspire against this industry, which is the dwindling

revenue from oil. So, we cut our coat not just according to our body, but to the cloth available.

Now, six months into the job, and having travelled to other parts of the world, I can see that we are not going to be competitive unless we have massive infrastructural investment in Tourism Industry and this is why I said that I hope to come back to the National Assembly with a supplementary budget.

Hon. Mojeed, you spoke about Foreign Exchange and how diversification would probably deplete it. On the contrary, I think diversification can only increase your Foreign Exchange Reserve. This is because if people come into Nigerian toady, they will come in with their dollars, go into hotels, buy Sim cards, eat and visit some sites. These will only increase our Foreign Reserve, but what we are saying is that no country succeeds in Tourism without massive infrastructural development or investment in the infrastructure.

I will go to the first question; you asked how come I am asking today for supplementary budget. Once again as I said, it is the same answer that I have given. I came from ground zero and I was able to put forward certain projects which massively the National Assembly approved. What I put forward this year is more in the area of capacity building for the creative industry. What you approved this year is setting up centres for Arts and Crafts one in each zone of the Federation but when we realised that there is no local government today that has not got one creative industry or the other, you would agree with me that one creative centre in a zone is a far cry from what we want to achieve.

The point I have made about Tourism and Culture and which I want you to appreciate is that it is the only sector that is pro-poor, pro-rural and pro-under privileged; it is the only sector that can employ those who normally will be unemployable. It is the only sector that we do not need to import the utensils or the tools. The industries already exist there and if you are able to revive these industries through massive capacity building, we are going to not only provide work for the unemployable, but you are also going to stop rural urban migration and at the same time, you are going to maintain unity in the polity.

The issue of marketing and de-marketing, I think there is no country in the world where we do not have people talking about corruption and bad government, but even after that has been done there is now this deliberate effort on the part of the government to market its country. I watch CNN like most of you do, you will see small countries like

Croatia, Tunisia and Algeria; they invest money and talent in marketing their countries.

Like I explained, we are not the most security challenged country in the world. Israel has its portion of terrorism but has never prevented or discouraged people from going to Israel. We have a country as South Africa that has the highest rape and murder rate in the world and yet people go there. Al-Shaabab has struck more than five times in Kenya it has not discouraged people from going there. We have not over the years invested in the image of our country. When we had Ebola which is not as serious as Zika Virus, we know the kind of advices issued out by other countries. So, there is the need for us to take control of our narrative. We are never going to get a perfect country in the world, but there must be conscious and deliberate effort on the part of the country to market itself well in the area of tourism and culture and we have a lot going for us. Those who come to Nigeria know that it is a safe country, but how do we convince them to come?

This goes beyond marketing or de-marketing. It is more difficult for an American to obtain a Nigerian Visa, than for a Nigerian to obtain an American Visa and this is the honest truth; a small country as Ghana has beaten us to this. Ghana has been able to make it easy for any African National to come to Accra or any of their Airports and take Visa on arrival. This is what we are trying to achieve also. Of course, there will be many challenges; from security to territorial, but let us put our hands together to see the best way to move forward. This is the reason it is not about us alone, but about foreign affairs, internal affairs and security. We all have to work together and this is why the Presidential Committee on Tourism is important to be reactivated.

A question was asked about what we are doing to recover stolen artefacts. We have been working very closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and do not know if you have read that we are supposed to be in the United Kingdom to retrieve a cockerel from the Cambridge University, which was stolen from Benin during the Benin Invasion.

I have been working with a group of very dedicated young Nigerian students in Cambridge and have succeeded so far. The University has agreed to pull down and remove the cockerel from the University, but they want us to enter into talks before it can be repatriated. They are not enthusiastic to return it, because as to the history of the cockerel, it was stolen from Benin, sold to a private auctioneer and the grandfather of one of the students donated it to Cambridge University and they put it on their mast. These young Nigerian students in collaboration with my Ministry have been working. They have

succeeded and scaled through hurdles, but the hurdle now is that they do not know where to return it, and we told them to return it to where it was stolen. Hopefully in June, I will be in Cambridge to follow up with this struggle.

A question was asked on what efforts made to let legislation assist in the diversification of business. There is a MOPICON (Motion Picture Council of Nigeria) Bill that started in 2005. This is a movie practitioners' council of Nigeria, but has suffered a lot set back in the ten years. Recently, I called the stakeholders in the movie industry together and we were able to identify the correct Bill. Today, it is with them and they have three more weeks to return the finished copy, which I will take to the Executive before sending it to the National Assembly to be passed as law. The theatre practitioners are also working to have their Bill but presently want it merged to MOPICON. The movie industry has not quite agreed on that, but we are working that out. We are also amending the National Endowment for Art Fund Bill, which will be before the National Assembly very soon. So, we have really taken steps.

A question was asked about the policy of this government. Of course, we do have a policy. There is a master plan for Tourism, which is about ten years old. The same problem dodging that master plan is what I have spoken of here today. We cannot have Tourism without security and infrastructure. I will give a vivid example on this: When I wanted to organise a National Summit on Culture and Tourism, my first obvious choice was Cross-River, it was the Obudu Ranch, but faced challenges. It takes ten hours to travel from Calabar to Obudu Ranch and there is only one flight per week. If we do not develop this infrastructure there is no way anybody will want to go Obudu Ranch. I salute the courage, creativity and innovations of the former Governor Donald Duke, but we want more Governors to take this kind of initiative. Infrastructural investment is expensive, but it pays up at the end of the day. We do have a master plan, but these are the challenges.

An average hotelier today will go to the bank at thirty *per cent* to take loan and build a small hotel, but he also has to provide the generator twenty-four hours to power that Hotel and would need to construct road and a private security to go there. This kills tourism, and these are areas where the government must come in terms of infrastructural to invest.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Minister. We will be taking questions from honourable Members now. Yes Hon Goni Bukar.

Hon. Goni Bukar Lawan (Bursari/Geidam/Yunusari): I use this opportunity to welcome the Hon. Minister to the Plenary of the House of Representatives. Mine is a commendation and also an advice to you as a Minister of Culture and Tourism. Hon. Minister, firstly, I commend you for briefing us on the programmes of government in terms of culture and Tourism as a new government. As from today, we know that if people ask us about what you are doing about culture and Tourism, based on your brief, we have something to say as a government and this is commendable.

The second point that I have in the area of culture and tourism is that you mentioned in your brief that all the 774 local governments have their own culture and tourism; then, if as a government we revive our culture and tourism and we are looking for a revenue, I can assure you that we will get a surplus of revenue that we need in this country.

The first time I visited Dubai, after I reached there, we met people on ground calling us for tourism. There is one place that I said let me go and see, it was a sand doom of which we have in Yobe State. We are almost surrounded by the sand doom and some camels of which I think we have in Kano and some northern parts of this country.

Honourable Minister, if we can revive this culture that we have, government will benefit. I am therefore advising you on this. I know the challenges that you met when you came into government, as you mentioned that in 2015 there was not enough money to go into culture, tourism, etc. and that it is only in this 2016 that you are trying to do something. It is a very good initiative. Please, make sure that when you are preparing the budget next time, try to revive and consider our culture and tourism in all these 774 local governments in order to generate more revenue to our country.

Hon. Ayo Omidiran Hulayat (Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan): I join my Colleagues to welcome you Honourable Minister, Sir. I have a comment and the comment will lead to a question. Taking into consideration the massive erosion of our cultural values, whereby the old order of the day will be tantamount to giving your family the death sentence if you are labelled as a thief or any other vice in the community.

Now, what we are seeing is that people are only concerned about how much you have stolen and how much have come to them privately from your loot. And taken into cognizance the fact that there is no ethnic region in Nigeria, it is not in our culture to be so labelled. A lot of things that will attract people to come into this country are no longer here with us.

We cannot boldly say some of the things that we grew up to know as the Nigerian culture. We cannot see it again because of all the things happening.

Mr. Minister, how will you, and how will the ministry use our culture to facilitate a complete re-orientation of the populace towards leadership such that objectives of those in position of leadership will change from amassing wealth to service with the zeal to leave legacies? It is a big task, but you have the yam and the knife; you are in charge of orientation, information, and culture.

Hon. Beni Lar (Langtang North/Langtang South): My comment is more on the historical site that we have in this country. Nigeria has a lot of historical sites in almost every state. In Bayelsa, we have where the first oil rig was discovered; in Sokoto state, we have a *Seat of Caliphate* full of history of the North, as well as Yobe and everywhere in this country. What is the Federal Government, and your Ministry doing to ensure that this historical sites are developed, marketed and used as a key tool for tourism?

Secondly, what other projects, ventures and sites have you identified in Nigeria as potential marketable tourism sites or projects that the government can invite foreign inventors to partner with and make some very reasonable income. This is because if you do not have a clear investment plan for foreign investors, it will be very difficult for Nigeria alone to invest in this sector.

I also know that it will be very difficult and that there are a lot of bottlenecks and bureaucracy when foreign investors want to come into this sector. I know that in the past, some foreign investors have indicated interest, and I know some very credible American Organizations that wanted to set up ancient heritage impact in Abuja to recreate all African cultures that we have; the different Kingdoms, like the North Kingdom, and all those Empires that have existed, that we have and create the impact. It was very difficult for them to obtain the C-of-O and because of the bureaucracy they have to go back. So what are doing to remove bottlenecks from foreign investors?

The Speaker: This role you have taken your turn; most of them were comments; they were not question as such. So, I will move to this role and take three to have some questions from there. All right, Honourable Minister, there is a seat there; you may take the seat, anytime you are answering questions, you can rise up and answer the questions. We do not want to keep you standing for too long.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: Hon. Minister, as you spoke, one thing has come up in my mind as you requested for cooperation from Parliament, in terms of Laws and funding. The thing that struck out in my mind is that why is it that in the course of preparing the budget, Parliament never get involved until the budget proposals are presented, and only thereafter that we start having misunderstanding as to what should be included or what should not to be included in the budget? Is it not time that we begin to have understanding and cooperation long before the budget will go to the National Assembly formally, so that when it does come, we do not have misunderstanding. I think that is basically important.

Hon. Jibril Umar Buba: My question and comment is in line with what Hon. Beni Lar said. Hon. Minister, let me first commend you for your efforts. I have been watching you keenly as a Minister of Information and Culture and every day I see the efforts you are making, you try to move that Ministry and Nigeria forward.

Having said that Sir, you also told us that there is a tourism agenda in place for the country, but again, I will want to see a kind of road map that clearly identifies the potentials that we have in this country, particularly as they have to do with our historical sites and artefacts. Let me mention a few: We have Yankari Game Reserve where you see nature at its best and in those days in this country that Reserve was very popular.

Some countries that we hear of, like Kenya, Tanzania, etc., we have visited some of their parks. They do not have anything better than that and you will see the white, everybody and even some of us from Africa tramping there. We have Jos Museum and Wide Life Park - all in Jos. As students of Architecture, we were going there. We have the Edo Monarch House; we have the Etsu-Nupe House, we have also not replicated them and when you go there, you being to wonder whether these things are really in Nigeria. Also as we know, we have rivers in Osun, all these mangroves and what have you, and some beautiful water falls in this country.

Hon. Minister, what are we doing? These are the things and I think we need to bring in more creativity. We need to bring in more dedication so that we can generate interest in these things, even as Nigerians. A lot of us travel out of this country to go and look at other peoples' culture and artefacts. Even this Benin Artefacts that you are talking about, I whispered to my Colleagues here, I say what happens if we recover them from Cambridge? It is get locked up somewhere, instead of being displayed, so that people can come and spend their resources.

Incidentally Mr. Minister, this time yesterday, I was in Istanbul - at the palace of their kings. Do you know what they told me?

They said, on the average, 100,000 people visit there daily and how much do they pay as fee? About ₦4,000 and that translates to about ₦400,000,000 per day! That is a lot of money and you can see it. When I got there, I felt deflated as a Nigerian and I was telling my guard who incidentally is a Nigerian, look at tourism. This is tourism. What are we doing about all these things? We have a lot of things for the world to see! Our great empires and what have you. They left footmarks in this country.

Mr. Honourable Minister please, what are we doing about these things?

The Speaker: The third person from this roll will be Hon. Oghene.

Hon. Oghene Emma Ego (Amuwo-Odofin): Mr. Honourable Minister, let me say that your speech is one of the best I have read this year. I am very excited with the proposals that you have made, but let me say further that in your Ministry we need to put tourism in its true perspective. This is because there are so many nations in the world that live only on tourism. Kenya for instance gets millions from tourism. Seventy *per cent* of their budget comes from tourism. In Namibia, a chunk of their budget comes from tourism. As rich as South Africa is, they get over twenty *per cent* of their budget from tourism, not to talk about Egypt that gets over seventy *per cent* of their budget from tourism.

So tourism is very important but we need to harness it. We must check our country and see where do we have comparative advantage and one of the areas I see is the wild life. I am happy that my Leader talked about Yankari Games Reserve. Now this reserve has several other areas that can be recreated. If they are well-nurtured they can help the country. If you look at Mozambique during the war for independent, almost all the wild lives were wiped out, but there was a renewal project, which took them fourteen years.

Today, Mozambique has some of the biggest volume of wild life. What did they do? They went to Tanzania and a host of other places and imported giraffe, lions, elephants and other animals. And when they imported them, they began to take care of them. Today, they are making millions of dollars from tourism. We must get to that area where we can also make billions from tourism because oil is down. And how do we do it? My suggestion is that let us get experts to do it.

Today, Yankari Games Reserve and other Reserves have been handed over to the State governments and it appears the state governments do not know what to do about it. I am thinking that if you can draft a Bill and bring it to the House, where you set up a Commission on Wildlife Parks round the country, so that people who understand the business would do it. And what I can tell you Sir is that experts are all over the world. Like the Lackey family in Kenya who have been looking after wildlife for over a hundred years; you can reach them, and if you reach them, they would come with consultancy. We can farm out our wildlife parks to experts who have done it all over the world to manage it for us. When they manage it for us, we will see that the result will come out.

Another area we must look at is internal tourism. If you look at American Yellow Zone Reserve, you will find out that they make millions from it. People from America are going there, and it is generating employment, taxes, and people have set up industries in the area. If some of these our wildlife parks are well-managed, you will see people from the South and everywhere going to such wildlife. When you want to go on holiday, instead of looking for money to go abroad, you go there and set up and then it will create employment internally.

Another issue we must look at is what you talked about, which is Visa. I am happy that you said it that is more difficult to get a visa from America to come to Nigeria and from Nigeria to go to America. This should not be so. This is because for somebody from Ghana, Togo, Mali, Niger or Cameroun to come to Nigeria, he does not need a Visa; he will just cross the border and he is in Nigeria and most of these people have nothing to offer to our economy. How come people from Europe who have high per capita income, who have money to bring to spend here, who are bringing dollar and Euro for us, are subjected to unnecessary harassment before we give them Visa? If you look at US, you will find out that even Nigerians, who want to get Passports, sometimes travel with up to a thousand dollar from one place to another before you can get the Passport. Sometimes when you get there they will tell you that they have only two machines to capture people. It is the same thing with Visa.

We need to put our Embassy offices in a lot of areas in the US so that it is easier to come to Nigeria. We can even put on internet. I also think that the old people who manning our Visa offices all over the world are so used to the old way of making sure that you wait for three hours before you can get Visa to Nigeria. With your recommendation, I think we need to recall all those old people home, train a new crop of people who would go there, and have understanding that Nigeria needs to make money

from tourism. Also, if they are well trained and are able to get people to come to Nigeria, it would give us money.

I am happy; I have just been hearing about Sambisa Forest and learnt that it is bigger than Enugu State as a whole, which shows that it is several kilometres. What I am trying to say is that at that Sambisa forest, once we are able to clear some of these people, of course, we can put a Wildlife Park in that area. Hon. Minister, you have done very well, but tourism especially wildlife has a potential to earn a lot of money for us.

I thank you very much.

The Speaker: Honourable Colleagues, please note that this is not the main debate. We are just meant to ask brief questions so that we can better be informed for the main debate that will hold hopefully, next week.

But honourable Minister, maybe I missed something; for me, I like looking at bigger pictures. How much is tourism contributing to the national coffer right now? This is because we are talking about diversification of the economy and we must keep our eyes focused on diversification of the economy. How much are we generating from tourism? Then, if that is not enough in view of the huge potentials that we have, how much can we potentially generate from tourism, and what are the steps we taking to get there?

I want to see specific pictures of what you intend to do in the first year in office in order to boost revenue from tourism, in the second year, in the third year and ultimately in the fourth year if you are in office. How much can we potentially generate as a nation from tourism? Then, if you need a Tourism Development Fund to be established, how much would that give you, and in what area are you investing the money in order to improve our national revenue?

You talked about security. Security is not absolute in any nation, whether it is in Kenya or France or wherever it is. Wherever tourism is practiced, security is not absolute. So we cannot begin to wait until the whole nation is secured before we begin investment in tourism. But what do you need to do in the immediate in order to put tourism as one of those things that would generate income for this nation? That is one is key to me and how much do you need to do that in the first year and if you are given the money, how much will tourism generate for Nigeria?

The Hon. Minister: The Rt. Hon. Speaker, I think I would take your comments and your questions first.

Today, tourism generates less than 1.5 *per cent* to the GDP and this is not sufficient at all. For us to be comfortable, tourism must generate a minimum of about 7 *per cent* to the GDP.

Honourable Speaker, it is not easy to ask me how much do I need for Tourism to get to a particular level; or what can I do in the first, second and third year? This is because there are many factors that will help tourism that are completely outside the portfolio of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism.

We spoke about infrastructure. I am from Kwara State. We have the Owa-Kajola Waterfall in Kwara State. It is rumoured to be higher than the Victoria Waterfall, but it is simply inaccessible not even by *Okada*.

We must appreciate the fact that Culture and Tourism are on the Concurrent List and really what we need much more is a synergy between the States, Local Governments and the Federal Government.

At the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, we would spearhead and provide leadership and policy, but most of these monuments and sites except probably *Osun Osogbo Festival* and the other more delicate places in Kaduna State, belong to the States, so we need their cooperation to work together. Until and when we are able to provide infrastructure, improve our Visa regime, and change the attitude of Nigerians towards hospitality right from the airport. I worked in the airport for ten years and I know that at a point in time any foreigner that wanted to get his Passport easily stamped would simply slip a hundred Dollars into his Passport to get entry. No Tourist will come back to a country where he has to bribe Immigrations to enter. No Tourist will come to a country when he enters a *one chance taxi or bus*. It is a holistic program and these are all contained in the National Tourism Master Plan, which I will make available to the House.

I was quite intrigued with the contributions of Members. We must make a difference between Tourists' Sites and Tourists' Attractions. What we have in Nigeria today are Tourists' sites, they are not Tourists' Attractions. We need infrastructure to convert a Tourists' Site to a Tourists' Attraction. If we do not have infrastructure it will always remain a Tourists' Site. I will give you an example: In Cross River Wild Life Park, they have the oldest forest in the whole world. It is the only forest that escaped the Lassie Glaciation. So it is the oldest in terms of diversity, and we have this very rare white male

Gorilla in that area. But because my people in Cross River have decided to turn them to bush meat, they have now escaped to Cameroon. This is part of the problem that we have.

We do not need to go to any expert for our Games Reserve. The truth of the matter is that we use to have well-trained forest rangers. Where are they today? What happened to Yankari Games Reserve? All our Lions were killed by the people who are supposed to keep them.

We are talking about making billions out of tourism; we cannot make billions out of nothing; what have we invested in tourism to make billions out of it? These are things we must face. Nigeria must invest in infrastructure if we want tourism to thrive. I can stand here and tell what we have in Lokoja. But what has the Kogi State Government done to even preserve these things? Today, because we have excluded the locals from the economy of tourism, they have become very hostile to us. At times they even prevent us access to many of these sites.

So, it is not as if we do not know what to do. We have a compendium of every festival in Nigeria today. But many of these festivals have parked up. The Argungun Fishing Festival used to be one of the best in the world. In the last three years, it had not taken place because of the poor economy. There is a boat in Yobe State that was excavated. That boat has proven that people have existed for millions of years in Yobe State, but what is the state of that boat today? I have just asked that I want to go to Damaturu to go and look for it because I want it to be brought National Museum in Lagos.

It is not that we are short of sites or monuments; we have been able to preserve them. They have been unable to make into Tourists' Attractions. We have beaches; we have the longest sort of beach in the whole world, but how many hotels do we have on these beaches? None! You come to the Bar Beach today as a Tourist, when it is night, there is no hotel for you to check into. So if a man comes to Nigerian with Five Thousand Dollars, and there is no hotel, no museum, no gallery, he will just spend Two Thousand and go back with his Three Thousand. There is need to examine the master plan and look at how we are going to assist in massive investment in infrastructure.

Incidentally again, the Wild Parks are not under the Ministry of Tourism. By some quack coincidence, it was moved to Presidency. I am in close touch with the Environment, because these are things we want to showcase but it is actually not in tourism.

On training, if you remember I said we have signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), one with Elumelu Foundation and the other with the British Council. The idea is to provide capacity training for our Artistes and Youths so that they can take up creative arts.

In trying to revive our culture, again, we have some very funny obstacles. At the Summit I had last week, a Professor of Cosmetology gave her own experience. She said that she made a research into how our grandmothers and great grandmothers used to preserve and beautify themselves. She was able to get the recipe. She brought these old women who have the knowledge to come to her class to teach the girl-students and apply this cosmetic recipe on them. She said that it was going very well until another senior colleague passed by, stopped over and cried, Blood of Jesus! And said this is demonic. What is demonic in going back to what our grandfathers and mothers used to do? Unknown to them, it is the same ingredients that are now being used in the cosmetics, which we buy and which is much more harmful.

There are so many angles and issues that we are going to tackle and that is why we have National Institute for Culture Orientation, which again is an organisation that strives to preserve all our old customs and try to repack it there.

There is no way we can revive creative arts without making it attractive. We cannot continue to make hoes and cutlasses the way our fathers made them. We need modern tools, so that even when we build these centres, we need modern tools to try and encourage our younger ones.

I will quickly take Hon. Omidiran's question. Similarly, they are two issues: What do we do to preserve our cultural values? We are planning a summit which we call National Rebirth, Values and Ethics. This summit on national rebirth of values and ethics is actually aimed at getting back those values that are dear to us, and at the end of that Summit, it will form a fulcrum of the National Orientation Policy that we intend to launch. She also raised the issue that I think will tackle the issue of the massive erosion of our culture.

The young lady that has just left now spoke about historical sites and the participation with a private sector. Private sector will not participate in any enterprise if they do not know they are going to make profit. It is not that they want that profit today or immediately tomorrow, but they want a plan of action that they can take to their investors and this is why the issue of data is very important. Today, we cannot even state the number of tourists that have come to Nigeria this year. Why do we not say so?

We cannot say so because it is not the responsibility of the Tourism Department.

We are supposed to get this data and figures from Immigrations, Customs, Hoteliers, and Tour Operators, but they are reluctant to give this information, partly because some of them do not want to pay tax. They do not want the tax audit to know how many rooms they have and how many tourists are coming. But these are all issues that will help at the end of the day to invite the private sector partnership in tourism and culture. Fortunately, when I met the Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation, he agreed not only to invite me to Spain, which is the headquarters, but also to arrange a meeting with Spanish Private Investors who will want to come to Nigeria. But on my part, I also need to ensure that the enabling environment is there for them to come in.

I agree with the Rt. Hon. Speaker that the challenges we have today is not enough disincentive for tourism. I agree with you, but it is the packaging and I keep saying this. I am yet to see a conscious effort on our part to actually market our country as a peaceful country. It must be done. It is not just talking to ourselves; we must talk to the outside world. It is very expensive, but on the long run, it pays off. We should start marketing our country today, and start concentrating on where we have made very positive stride. I keep saying that when you talk about *Boko Haram*, Nigeria has done what has not been achieved by any country in tackling *Boko Haram*.

Boko Haram is an insurgency and like any insurgency, there are three ways they can be terminated; it is either that the insurgence would overcome and set up their government and impose their own ways of life. This is what happened in France in 1789, the so called French Revolution; they were insurgence; they drove away the kings and installed their new form of government. What happened in Iran in 1979? It was insurgence. They drove away the Shah of Iran and imposed their own government.

Another way that insurgency could end is for the two parties to sign an agreement like it happened in South Africa, Guatemala, Columbia and others. And it is only in rear cases like in Nigeria that we actually defeat *Boko Haram*. What we have today is mopping up operations. For you to know what Nigeria has achieved in *Boko Haram*, you need to come from the North-East; what it was before and what it is today. I think we have a product that we can sell, and that is why I will still come back to the National Assembly by the grace of God. I will meet you in private. I will meet the leadership. We need to provide money

to sell our product. We have a very good product and we can make Nigeria the haven of all tourists. I thank you very much.

Hon. Rufa'i Ahmed Chanchangi (Kaduna South): I have listened to your submission on the diversification of the economy through the expansion of Culture and Tourism Industry. I will say that it is not impossible or almost impossible for us to expand this industry without expanding the Aviation industry. I will give you some examples, which will make you know the importance of Aviation industry in expanding the Tourism industry. We have the example of Egypt. The Egypt Airline departs from Lagos, Kano and Abuja. When it departs from these three points, it takes our citizens directly to Cairo before distributing them to other countries. Also we have example of Ethiopia Airline, which departs from Lagos and Abuja. When it departs, it goes directly to Addis Ababa before distributing our citizens to other countries. We also have the Emirate Airline, when it departs Abuja and Lagos it goes directly to Dubai before distributing passengers to other sectors of the world.

We have a very important argument here; Nigeria is strategically located on the Gulf of Guinea. From the right of Nigeria that is far-east of Nigeria, it has Cameroon, Congo, Central Africa, Uganda, Sudan, Tanzania, up towards Ethiopia we can be a hub distributing passengers towards the East. Also towards the West, we have Benin Republic, Togo, Ghana, Ivory Coast, and other countries up to Gambia and Senegal, and this shows that Nigeria is a hub to distribute all these passengers.

Mr. Speaker, not to mention this; we cannot do this without taking a very important steps in taking such an action. The Aviation industry is such a poorest industry whereby you have these international Airlines that have attained a first mover's advantage in their country playing the part of our domestic airlines. We do not have Egypt Airlines departing from Abuja, then, going to other places in Egypt; it takes you directly to Cairo. Then from there, you can link up. What we have is Egypt here coming to Abuja, Kano and Lagos doing the work of our domestic Airlines. Mr. Speaker, we can never develop our Aviation industry with such a policy. I think we should look into that sector.

Hon. Akeem Adeniyi Adeyemi (Afijio/Atiba/Oyo West): Hon. Minister, I want to appreciate you, you have enumerated on many questions and suggestions by the honourable Members and the Speaker. I have a question. Does the Federal Government and the Ministry realise that there are some culture/festivals in Nigeria that are being

celebrated across the world and what effort are you making to attract them to Nigeria?

Let me give example. If you go to Brazil, Cuba, Srilanka, and Trinidad and Tobago, they celebrate Sango Festival. A community is even named Oyotunji in American, if you go there, they celebrate Sango Festival. What is the effort the Federal Government is making to attract all these people that are celebrating the Third Alaafin of Oyo and there is Sango in Oyo? Do not neglect this local festival for the locality. There is a lot of dollars to be generated from this as you know.

Hon. Minister, the Federal government presence must be available anytime they are celebrating these festivals across the world and they must let people know that what they are celebrating is actually in Oyo, which they know. You need to support our local festivals that have already gotten international recognition on their own. Look at the Eyo festival, many foreigners come to Lagos, what does the Federal Government do for the Lagosians to let the foreigners in Lagos visit Eyo during the business visit? Look at the Igwe festival in Benin, if we do not package our festival, there is nothing they would want to come and see. Every August in Oyo town we celebrate Sango festival. In Portugal, they celebrate Sango, and we would tell them who are you celebrating? They would say *Alaafin*. Do you know *Alaafin*? They would tell you that they have not been there and they are celebrating something there? We would tell them that you are celebrating fake; you must come and see the original. This is Oyo, where he reigned, and they do not know. I was in the Brazil last year with my father. I saw them celebrating *Sango* and asked them; do you know *Sango*? They said we heard about you! I said you heard about me because it is my great, great grandfather. You are celebrating me here; you must come and see the real me in Nigeria. They are coming in August.

When I got to America, they named a community *Oyotunji*; how many honourable Members know that there is Oyo community in America? They do not know. There is no pamphlet in our international airport or National Assembly to tell you that in America, there is Oyo village and in Portugal they celebrate *Sango*. And who is *Sango*? It is *Alaafin* of Oyo. Can you just imagine? We can attract them. They want to come and see the real origin of what they are celebrating.

Hon. Minister, I appreciate you. Please, look into this and by the time we would be talking next year, let see many foreigners. What we are doing in the Saudi Arabia is religious-cultural visit to Saudi. I have to dress the way Prophet Mohammed did from this place to another; we are celebrating their culture.

What you go to see in Saudi Arabia and Israel is their culture. They just packaged it for us. If I do not have any encounter with colonial masters, I do not need Christianity. How would I know Jesus, if I do not have any encounter with colonial masters? I would be celebrating my culture. If Usman Dan Fodio did not come to the North, they would not know anything from the Prophet Mohammed. That is a fact! We have colonial masters as foreigners and if we have inherited their language, we must keep our food and if we have inherited their form of government, we must keep our way of dressing. We must not go into extinction. Culture remains the principal magistrate of mankind.

Hon. Shaibu Philip (Etsako East/West/Central):

Hon. Minister, I join others to welcome you to this hallowed Chamber. I do not want to delve into what they have said; I support wholeheartedly what they have said. My question is that I have been seeing governors leaving their states and holding meeting with you in Abuja. Some are conferences and recently the issue of revenue was the one that came up.

In all the meetings you held with the state governors, as the Culture Ministry what agreement or understanding do you have with these governors to develop their tourism, when you also have developed at least one in each of the six geo political zones? Listening to you, you agreed that tourism is the next destination for this country, beyond agriculture. I also agreed that we can generate more than 10 – 20 million jobs from tourism. What understanding do you have with governors to develop this potential?

I have also been watching the President and some of the Ministers going into bilateral agreement with different countries and discussing with them so that dollar will come to Nigeria. In these discussions that you had with the foreigners, what are the bilateral agreements in terms of exchange you have with some of them that have rich culture like our country Nigeria?

I have been listening to hear what effort your Ministry is making directly to address the issue of tourism. I am an apostle of government and leaders should not lament problems but they should provide solutions to them. That is why we are elected, and that is why we are in the government to make ourselves available. I want to hear that particular statement from you. What effort is this government making directly to make tourism a hub to generate fund to our country. What I have heard so far is lamenting and I do not think it is our duty to lament. Our duty is to fix and make sure we fix. What is your Ministry doing directly to fix and make Nigeria a

tourist centre, so that we can generate IGR to support other sectors of the economy?

Hon. Jarigbe Agom Jarigbe (Ogoja/yala): Hon. Minister, I commend you for appreciating the problems of the Obudu Cattle Ranch, which is one of the major tourist sites in the federation. You have talked of travelling for up to ten hours from Calabar to Obudu, which is true. It is because of the infrastructure. But the Cross River State Government has started 260 kilometre super highway. That 260 kilometres super highway would reduce that whole journey to about two hours or less. But that project has been faced with a lot of booby-traps, ranging from environmental impact assessment and the rest, just to ambush the project. It is major project and that road is supposed to serve the Obudu Cattle Ranch.

I would want to appeal to you to use your good office to ensure that the federal government supports that project. It is a PPP project, but there are certain provisions to be met. We wish that you would support that project. You have already said that that place is a tourism site, which is not a tourism attraction, but with proper infrastructure, it would become a tourism attraction.

The Federal Government is not also utilising the ranch. In the past, we used to have retreat, seminars and the rest at the Ranch. We need to utilise that place so that other people like foreigners and the rest would come in and patronise the Ranch.

Hon. Gyang Istifanus Dung (Barikin Ladi/Riyom): I want to lend my voice on this critical issue that has to do with our nation - diversification of economy. From the presentation from the Hon. Minister, he indeed did a diagnostic assessment of the sector, which unveiled a very disturbing and lamentable state of the sector to the extent that it is contributing only 1.5 *per cent* to our GDP. He did not stop there; he also brought out prescriptive options, with which to reverse this ugly trend, among which are appropriate infrastructure, assured security and others.

Honourable Minister, you inherited a very vibrant movie industry, though private sector driven with the entertainment industry, and comedy industry, all of which have become global grounds, what is the Ministry doing to strengthen this global grounds? Also, what would you say is the contribution of the movie industry, entertainment industry and comedy to the national GDP?

I also want to align myself with the Speaker when he asked the question of target setting now that the Ministry, particularly the Tourism Sector is contributing only 1.5 *per cent* to the GDP. What will

be your target? What target have you set for yourself and for the Ministry in pursuit of this quest for diversification of our economic? At the end of your tenure, what would have been the contribution of your Ministry in diversifying our economy to the extent that the potentials and the capacity which Tourism has and has become a main stay for some nations across the globe? What will be the contributions of this sector to our economy?

Finally, I want to thank you for being part of the National Brand Cultural Festival in Birnin Kebbi in Jos which you honoured. It is from my community and from my people; we want to thank you for identifying with us. We want to assure you that that is one attraction that will become a national and a global brand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Abbas Tajudeen (Zaria): My question is on the issue of concessions which the Honourable Minister has mentioned as part of the strategies to reposition the culture sector. Hon. Minister, I want you to reflect back on this issue of concessions.

In the past, previous administrations have built concession as a strategy to revival of our ailing sectors such as the issue of International Trade Fair, Tafawa Balewa Square in Lagos; those places where given out as a way of improving the efficiency of those areas and at the same time generate revenue for the government. But today, what we are seeing is that those places are ghost of their past. They are actually worse than how they were given out, which means the intention of government to improve those places is in vain. What lessons are you going to learn from that in such a way that you do not make the mistake of the past by giving concessions on some vital areas where at the end of the day, they may turn out to be a failure like these places that I have mentioned before?

Secondly, I would want to encourage the Speaker and the National Assembly to make sure that this kind of engagement is done at least once a year, maybe before the budget, so that Members of the National Assembly will be able to know the policies of government, particularly areas it desires to actually invest. This will help when we come to budget issues for Members and the Executive to be on the same page. Thank you.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister, just note the questions. We will pick two per roll, and after that, we will discharge you.

Hon. Karimi Sunday Steve (Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro): Honourable Minister, in your opening address, you talked much on the need of proper funding, and in your discussions, you said that

you came from zero. In this year's Budget 2016, when we were considering the Budget for the Third Reading, I went to the Chairman, Committee on Information and Orientation, and Culture who is not here now, and asked of what the Ministry is doing with the Budget that is provided. I said this is because I am sure you competed favourably with the Ministry of Works and some other high spending Ministries. I recall that your Budget is in the range of over thirty billion Naira put together. Before now, I do not think you use to have up to ten billion in a financial year. This is a statement of policy direction of this government, providing funding for your Ministry so as to ensure that we get a return in the area of Tourism.

In your discussion you talked about creating Art Centres and all that. You will recall that we have centres like the Museums and some other centres like Games Reserves and all that as Tourism Centres in Nigeria. Most of these centres are in disused conditions. What are you doing so that these centres that you intend creating will not turn to white elephant projects like other government projects of the past? This is because if you create centres and they are just there and spend money on them and they are not being used, it is going to be a wasteful exercise.

In terms of Tourism, there is something that we have to strongly fight for - the indiscipline and corruption in our society. When President Buhari came to government in 1983, he did a lot in this aspect of our national life. Nobody will be interested in visiting Nigeria if Nigeria is an indiscipline and corrupt society. And the President set up something that time *War Against Indiscipline* (WAI).

In terms of National Orientation, there is a need for re-orientation of Nigerians on the area of indiscipline. You will see Nigerians that want to beat the system all over the place; Nigerians will not want to pay taxes; Nigerians will want to beat traffic; where we are supposed to pay water rate, we want to beat the system; where we are supposed to pay for electricity, we do not want to pay; and whereas if you go to the other part of the world, that is not the story. Some of these cultural centres that we are talking of, like the Museums, you will find out that it is the indiscipline nature of our system that brought those places into disuse. What is your Ministry doing in terms of re-orientating Nigerians, so that discipline and egalitarianism will be our national watchword?

The Speaker: We will start from Hon. Garba Datti from the next roll, please.

Hon. Garba Datti Muhammad (Sabon Gari): Hon. Minister, much has been said. Nigeria is

naturally endowed with Tourists sites all over the country, but the main issue is lack of sustainability because in the past we have some Tourist sites that attract people from all over the country. In 2006, I was in Los Angeles California and in the Airport, I saw about two hundred Americans with Tee shirts and face cap with Nigerian flag and then asked one of them where they are going. He said that they are going to Tinapa in Nigeria. I think that singular act is one of good marketing; that project was marketed well, but since then I am sure Tinapa is now a moribund institution and not there.

What can we do to revive some of these because tourism is a very serious business? You said in your brief that you are bringing some of these Laws to the National Assembly and should not forget to include how you attract other investors to come and invest in tourism like you want them to invest in other sectors. This is because when you go to countries like Gambia you find out that the country so much relies on tourism and most of these tourism companies are ones that are attracted from outside; they were given sites and are doing very well. It is also the same in Kenya and other places. This is the reason I want to ask the Hon Minister this question: Do you include such things in your laws by creating enabling environment for foreign investors to invest in this sector.

The Speaker: Hon. Rotimi, I give you maximum of two minutes to ask your question.

Hon. Agunsoye Oluwarotimi Ojo (Kosofe): Hon. Minister, you have given us a very good presentation as per what you are there to do, but I will term it as preamble to achieving good governance. Hon. Minister, you have not in any way assigned time-line to all that you are going to do. Yes, Government has no business in business, but you are there to give enabling environment for investors both within and outside to invest. I will tell the world that I know you very well; your integrity and performance have never been in doubt. I would want to know your level of preparedness as regards the supplementary budget you are bringing to the House.

Secondly before I take my sit, there is this need for your Ministry to send your people to Disney World in Orlando to see what they are doing.

Hon. Ogbeide-Ihama Omoregie: Hon. Minister. Hon. Minister, I have listened carefully to your presentation, as well as contributions and questions from colleagues. I do not want to repeat what has been said earlier, however, I agree that there are challenges because infrastructures must be put in place to be able to harness the potentials in our

Cultural and Tourism sector. In line with what Mr Speaker said, a lot could start in the immediate. You talked about Visa issues for foreigners willing to come into Nigeria and while I jettisoned that, it is important for government to accommodate and encourage private investors in its policies. When talking about tourism and culture, you are looking at a situation where private sectors are really willing to participate. How well are they accommodated by government, which is the enabling environment that has been repeated here over and over again?

I want you to put us through your strategic plan in accommodating private sectors and not to say they will not invest when they know they will not make profit. Private sector will invest only when they know that dealing with the government is comfortable for them without these policies being changed at the middle of the game. The security for the private investors is important. I also want to say that for the immediate start that does not require so much infrastructure, and I am sure in our culture from the east to the South, North and West that there are different things we can do. Today in the developed countries, you will see people wearing Tee shirts with 'I love New York' United Kingdom or Singapore, but we have people who can do this *Adires*, (Tie and Dye) *beads*, and other attires from different parts of the country.

What is your strategic plan as per how to show case and take this our innovative and God blessed cultural strengths outside the shores of the country? While on board aircraft shopping, you will see some traditional stuff from Trinidad and Tobago. We can take these our beads to the foreigners and I am sure they will be excited. The key issue here is what is the strategic plan to embrace private sector given them the security that investing their money on the long term policy changes will not affect them?

Secondly, how do we drive the potentials that exist in our different cultural backgrounds and how do we push them to International standard?

The Speaker: All right. Please let us be aware that the main debate is coming. This avenue is for us to raise one or two questions so that the Minister can go back and continue with his work.

Hon. Fakeye Julius Olufemi (Boluwaduro/Ifedayo/Ila): My comment is about our culture as it relates to driving on the roads. When we talk about tourism like I from Osun going to Mambilla or whatever, I still have to find my way there, either by air, road or both and not to talk of those who are coming from outside the country. I am quick to say that the way we drive in this country is national chaos. For instance, all over the world, as a

convention about driving, I can begin to talk here on it for about two hours if the Speaker will give me the time. For instance, in the country, there are not many annotations and road signs. When I go to Italy or whatever, what I do is to buy the road map and even before the days of the GPS, I could always navigate my way if I know how to read and that is one of our cultural problems. We do not take any care of it. We could have spent billions or trillion of Naira constructing a road. Even in Abuja where the elites live, how do we find our ways when driving around?

So, I will follow my way as soon as I know where I am going, but how does the guy from America or Jamaica who is loaded with dollars come into our country without being confused? Then when we drive anywhere in the world, left lane turns left. This is one country that I know that when the traffic light is turned red and I have to turn left, but guess what, the next three rows of cars to my right are all turning left and it is normal! That is the way we do it, and we even boast about it, that if you drive in Lagos, you can drive anywhere. Why am I talking about this thing? There is no control on the road, you do not control the road safety, but you control the National Orientation Agency. The time I worked with that regime, I served there and I saw NOA advertising with government money - congratulations notes to the President; I read it on the pages of newspaper. Why can we not use the NOA?

You will sit on top of the television industry, critical moments before news maybe a minute to 9.00 p.m., what to do and what not to do, how to overtake, how not to overtake, how to talk and how not to talk; these are the ways we you should have done it. This is the way Lagos is doing it and is winning. Why can we not do that nationwide? So people will now say that they never knew it was wrong to do that and it is because they have never been told and we have a Road Safety consuming all these money.

I see to the Federal Character for the past five years now, where the role of the members of staff of Road Safety is that booklet; they may give different bibles in volume. So we are paying so much money, but go and as you drive, you will see them standing in groups of four or five, each group having a pick-up to it funded on public money, but under their very eye, vehicles with infractions go by. Who is going to stop them and educate them?

The Speaker: From this roll will be Hon. Kanike. I guess you will present Hon. Bode's views? Kanike will be speaking for himself and Bode, and Hon. Nnam-Obi will round-off.

Hon. Amuda-Kanmike Abubakar Garba (Ilorin East/Ilorin South): Honourable Minister, I

want to commend the Ministry on the recently concluded Summit. It was a step in the right direction and I think it will provide the necessary ingredient of galvanizing the private sector into tourism.

I want to start by talking about the Ministry of Information. A lot of people have dwelt on culture and tourism. I am going to Ministry of Information because we have talked and heard about perception selling, but beyond perception selling, we should have the real ingredient of quality to sell. We do not have to make too much effort at selling perception. And what am I talking about? We need to rebrand the ideal Nigerian,

I know there have been efforts in the past and we know their perception problems and rightly so, the Rt. Honourable Minister mentioned the example about slipping the dollar bill in the passport at the airport. That is the perception out there and we as Nigerians must accept that, that is true. So we need to rebrand and we have the National Orientation Agency. I will ride on what my Colleagues have said, but I believe that they need to do a more empirical and holistic assignment beyond just teaching us how to obey traffic rules. They need to rebrand the entity Nigeria.

Joe McCain, the man that lost the election to the United States President, Barack Obama in 2008 said that there is a direct relationship between patriotism and good citizenship. What I think the National Orientation Agency should be doing is to reinvent who a Nigerian is. They need to come up and create a new Nigeria brand that we will target even from the juvenile kindergarten to every sector of education. They should create curricula that will imbue patriotism that will facilitate and manifest good citizenship. Once we are able to achieve that, it is the short medium term thing. I know the benefit might be longer term, but I think we need to start it now. That is talking about information - an agency under the Ministry of Information.

Once we have a good brand, it is easy to sell. In fact, quality sells itself because as Nigerians we are the primary hosts of all the people that we are attracting as tourists and if we do not have the embodiment of the integrity, the embodiment of hospitality, the embodiment of good neighbourhood, then, I think we might have problem selling tourism at all.

A lot have been said about how to sell the culture and tourism, I am now making little contribution on culture and tourism, but I will start with a question Honourable Minister. Do we have a National Council on Culture and Tourism? This is because when I was

a Commissioner for Works in Kwara State, I know there is National Council on Works. Also, when I was a Commissioner of Water Resources, I know there is a National Council on Water Resources. That provides the platform between the Federal Government and the State Government to synergise on common agenda. This is because what I see now in Culture and Tourism is the State and Federal Government working at cross purposes, there is no synergy.

Yes, some states have spear-headed the project of tourism in their states, but one thing I am, is that I am a serious advocate of modulated change. The Honourable Minister was talking about 774 Local Governments; I think we should make this change less complex for ourselves. We should look at one tourist calendar in every state. Let us start from a modest one key tourism attraction or site in every state that we can develop and we will use all the considerations to identify.

One of the comparative advantage that will be considered is the infrastructure, the security, etc. By the time we have these; we will do what Gambia did. Gambia is first tourist destination in Africa and they do not have any mineral resource at all. Their economic is around tourism. So, when we identify one per state, we can then create a tourism calendar for Nigeria. This is done in the United States (US). When we have a tourism calendar, these are the things that we will sell. In my opinion, when we do that we can address the concerns of infrastructure and mitigants, against having turning a tourist site to an attractive tourist destination and once that is done, we can then go ahead and sell this one and there will then be testimonies that we will replicate everywhere.

Hon. Nnam-Obi Uchechukwu (Ogba/ Egbema/ Ndoni/Ahoada West): Hon. Minister, let me thank you for your wonderful lecture but my question is this: We know that Nigeria has a lot of festivals. As you have rightly said that you hope you will encourage one festival from each local government, which will amount to 774 but my question is; how do you intend to sensitize them? How will you make that happen without it just been the normal jamboree where the Minister will probably travel with all his aides and we know that security for instance, is what drives tourism? We need to begin to work. We should not just talking the talk, but work the talk.

The Speaker: Honourable Minister, now we have handed the key to our exit to you. You may decide in your closing remarks to take ten minutes, thirty minutes, or one hour in case you have more time to stay with us, but in doing that, I want you to address one thing because we are not going to open this issue again. Honestly speaking, is there any way, or any

possibility that we are going to grow revenue from culture and tourism from the 1.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that we are doing now to about 2.5 per cent or even the industry average in the next four years?

And if that possibility exists, what is it that you want the National Assembly to do in view of either amendment to existing laws, crafting of new legislation or establishing new legal framework to enable you address this issue of revenue drive from the perspective of culture and tourism to at least about 2.5 per cent in the next four years?

The Hon. Minister: Rt. Hon. Speaker, I would take your question first. Yes, I can say very confidently that yes, we can raise the contribution of our tourism to the GDP from 1.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent in next two years. And how do we achieve this?

We can achieve this firstly by following up on the MOUs that we have signed with the various private organisations like the British Council and the Elumelu Foundation to the extent that we are going to increase the capacity training of our local people. What we intend to achieve from these MOUs is to work together with these Foundations, to map out the creative industries in every part of Nigeria, and this work has gone to a very advanced stage.

For instance, we have finished with Kano, Lagos and Cross River States and we are working on some other States. The idea is that like in Kano State, we find out which are the major creative industries – tannery, tie and dye and then, we identify young men who have little or no education, but whom we can pass this skill to. When we pass this skill to them, they start making these products. We are also going to create market for them and the British Council has also helped us with this chain programme, road fares and auction market.

Secondly, we believe that within the next two to three years, we can improve on our tourism simply again by empowering the local people, train them as guides, festival managers, as raconteurs and in the hospitality industry.

And in the entertainment industry, which is the film, music, the biggest problem the film and music industry is experiencing today is in area of piracy and this is one are we believe that the National Assembly can assist us. We will bring to the National Assembly, the MOPICON Bill. We are also going to bring to the National Assembly a Bill on the National Endowment Fund for the Arts. When these two Bills are passed, it will help us a long way to achieving this increase in the GDP contribution.

On Saturday, in Plateau State, we rolled out the first tranche of our digitalisation programme. What happened in Jos on Saturday was that the pilot scheme of our digitalisation broadcasting, which is going cover over 200,000 television viewers in Plateau State, took off. By this project, it means that the average person in Jos today, who before now had access to just four or five national television stations, has access to a minimum of fifteen stations without subscribing to either DSTV or Star-Times. But the major advantage in this project is that it would enable our musicians and movie makers to release their films direct to this platforms where people can go and buy them, thereby boycotting going through CDs or DVDs. These are some of the things that we are putting in motion to ensure that the contribution of this industry is at least between 2.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent in the next couple of years. We would come back to the National Assembly with some of these draft laws.

I am not taking these questions in any order. I agree with Hon. Kanike that yes, we can really start with encouraging one State to at least have one festival a year. But the honest truth is that most States today have more than one festival a year, but it is the packaging and the lack of capacity that has not enabled them to make the most out of these festivals. There is a particular masquerade in the South-East. It takes 100 people to dress him and another 100 people to undress him. One package means that if this masquerade is well-packaged, it can provide employment in one week for more than 1,000 young men.

These are some of the untapped potentials of our culture and this is where we need to encourage States. One State that has done a lot in the area of Culture and Tourism that I keep saying is Cross River, especially under their former Governor Donald Duke. But lack of continuity is what is actually affecting Tinapa.

I agree with you on the issue of rebranding. I do not know whether you were here when I said, we are going to have a summit of national rebirth, values and ethics. This is the summit that is going to lead us to the unveiling of our re-orientation programme, which is ready. Already we have this re-orientation programme, which is called, *'Change Begins with me'*. We have realised in our Ministry that that change we are thinking and talking about will not come until every Nigerian decides to do things in a different manner. You cannot do things the same way and expect a different result. So we have this huge campaign - *Change Begins with Me* and it starts with the President, which goes thus: *My name is Mohammadu Buhari. I am the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I do not expect any returns from my Minister. Change Begins with Me.*

And it goes to the grassroots, which says: *My name is Mukaila. I am a danfo driver. I will no longer drive under the influence of paraga. 'Change Begins with me.'* It goes to the pharmacist, that says: *'I am a pharmacist. I will no longer import adulterated drugs. 'Change Begins with me.'* This is a very heavy campaign which we believe is going to rebrand Nigeria. We are on our way there.

I would now take Hon. Fakeye. He also spoke about values. My answer to him is also this national rebirth and national orientation campaign of *'Change Begins with Me.'* He also advised us to use our national television authority and the like. Yes, we had already started that a long time ago. If you notice from December, you will see that we have been running a national programme on radio and television on national security awareness: *If you see something, say something.* The idea is that when any issue comes that we think is of major importance, we bring a campaign to run it, and we are going to use our NTA and other stations also to run this *'Change Begins with Me'* campaign.

This one comes from a representative from Edo State. He said that we have always been lamenting and we have not done anything. No, Sir. We have not been lamenting. As a matter of fact, we have taken concrete steps to ensure that we address the issues militating against culture and tourism. I will give three to four examples. We have just finished a National Summit on Culture and Tourism and the theme was *Repositioning Culture and Tourism in a Diversified Economy.* This Summit attracted Professors, Practitioners, and Bureaucrats from all walks of life in Nigeria and the Communiqué is out and I think it was very successful summit.

I have also explained here that without even waiting for you to call us, we have been going into partnership with various Foundations, so that we can improve and build the capacity of our artistes in order to add value.

We have also on our own held meetings with the various stakeholders in the music and film entertainment industry. That was how we came about the MOPICON Bill that they have not quite agreed on it and we sent it back to them; we did set up a Ministerial Committee on MOPICON Bill. When it is ready, we will send it back to the House.

I must agree with the gentleman who made the comment about aviation. There is no way we can revive tourism without a national carrier. In my presentation, I said it too that Ministry of Tourism and Culture is not a stand-alone Ministry. It cannot function without the cooperation of Aviation, Justice, Interior, Police, Immigration and Customs. Yes,

there is no way that we can revive tourism without a national carrier.

There might be arguments for and against the national carrier; whether it is going to be managed clearly at the airport. Today, if you want to go to Nigeria from Burkina Faso, they will take you almost round the whole world before they bring you to Lagos. So, we do need a national carrier.

Another gentleman raised the issue about the concessions, and that most of these concessions have left our edifices worse off. I must confess here that there has been a lot of confusion in the concession policies, but I want to use this opportunity to assure you that that one major concession, which is the National Theatre, which is under my Ministry, very soon we are going to kick-start the new initiative.

Let me try to explain what happened to National Theatre concession. The exercise started in 2002, and it was aborted. In 2006, it started again and the preferred bidder and reserved bidder emerged. When the preferred bidder was asked to come and perform, he could not perform, so the reserved bidder was asked to come in. Unfortunately, it coincided with the time when there was a baton change. Nothing happened until 2013, but I want to assure you today that we now have a new preferred bidder, a new reserved bidder and we are trying to iron out some difficulties, which arose from the previous exercise. Very soon a Memo is going to Council in which a Draft Bill will come to the National Assembly in respect of the concession of the National Theatre. We want to make it clear that we are not selling the National Theatre, we are not concessioning the National Theatre; we are only concessioning the fallow grounds around the National Theatre.

The Representative from Kogi State, Hon. Karimi raised an issue. First, I am surprised that Hon. Karimi said that we have so many billions this year; it is not correct. You approved for the entire Ministry of Information and Culture less than N5.8 billion for us. So we really do not have anything more different from what we had last year. The important thing that I have come to know is that where we are spending billions to pay staff, we are spending only millions for capital projects and this must change.

Thank you very much the honourable Member from Cross River. We appreciate the initiative of the government of Cross River State by providing this new 460 kilometres highway that will lead to the Obudu Cattle Ranch. It is a good initiative; whatever the Federal Government can do in this respect I think they will do it.

Hon. Rotimi Agunsoye said that I have not assigned any timeline. I explained that my Ministry is not a stand-alone, but I need the cooperation of other Ministries. The best way to achieve this is to work through the Presidential Committee on Tourism, which is headed by Mr. President. It also has some State Governors as Members and also Ministers, Parastatals and Departments.

You also said government has no business in business; I beg to disagree. In tourism, government has a lot of business because they must provide enabling environment.

You also spoke about what we are doing. We are doing a lot of things. We are marketing this country and I think the meeting I had with the Secretary General of the United Nations World Tour Organisation (WTO), is going to be a very big boost to tourism in Nigerian. This is because at the emerging of the African Ministers' Conference in Abidjan, I met with him and he agreed not only will the United Nations WTO work with Nigeria and within two years, try to improve our tourism infrastructure, he also promised that he is going to link us up with private investors, private business men in Spain who will come and invest in the industry.

Of course, the Visa issue has been raised by everybody and we all agree that there is need to change our Visa regime. This again, by the time we work with the various Ministries and Departments, we hope to come back to the National Assembly with the Draft Bill that will change the entire Visa regime of Nigeria and make it more tourism-friendly.

On Hon. Shuaibu from Etsako asked whether there is a National Council for Culture and Tourism. Yes, there is a National Council for Culture, but there is a Presidential Council on Tourism, which is higher than the National Council for Culture.

On the issue raised by the Prince from Oyo, Hon. Adeyemi, I think only recently I signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with all the Sango Priests in Oyo State. They came and complained to me that the Sango deity is neglected. There are about 18 of them and there was a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which we signed with them. The only thing I could not do for them is that they came to ask me to impress it on the Governor of Oyo State to declare one day as a national holiday for traditional worship, like it is being done in Osun. I promised that this is not within my mandate but that I will try and talk to the Governor of Osun State. But it is right that the issue of Sango as a deity is quite important to look into.

There is the issue of diversification of the economy, which is what we have all been trying to achieve today. For the Representative from Benue State, I think your question is very interesting and I think it has been taken over by somebody else here that; why do we not have this kind of interactive session before budget, so that it will allow both arms of government to actually see and have contributions to the preparation of the budget and not just when it is being defended. I think it is a good initiative.

Hon. Goni from Yobe State raised the issue of the 774 Local Governments and actually wants to see how the Federal Government can collaborate with the States. We can give technical assistance to States: when we organise workshops on capacity building, we will invite them. The honest truth is that both culture and tourism is local.

Apart from the Abuja Carnival and the National Festival of Arts, there is nothing else that is actually Federal Government in Arts and Culture. Eyo Masquerade, Eyo Festival, the Argungun Fishing Festival, etc. are all local issues, but we are ready to provide capacity building. We are ready to open doors for State Governments, provide them with scholarship, exchange programmes, so that they can train their festival managers and their festival will be better packaged than it is now. For us at the Ministry of Information and Culture, it is more of providing policy, guideline and leadership, but really the business of tourism and culture is a local affair. I am not aware of any other business. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: You are excused to go and continue discharging your responsibility as one of the Ministers that will improve our revenue. Thank you very much, Sir.

(The Honourable Minister and his entourage took their leave)

MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Urgent Call on the Police to Intensify its Search for the Safe Release of Senator Iyabo Anisulowo and for the Federal Government to Seek the Assistance of the Republic of Benin in the Search and Rescue of the Senator

The Speaker: Hon. Kayode Oladele, what is your point of Order?

Hon. Kayode Oladele (Egbado North/Imeko Afon): My point of Order is under Order VIII, Rule

46 of the House Rules to consider a very important matter as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

About seven days ago, a former Senator, who is also a Former Minister of State, Senator Iyabo Anisulowo was kidnapped at gun point by unknown persons and since that last Wednesday, nothing has been heard from her abductors and everybody is growing goose bumps. We do not know what is happening to her and at this point, we feel that we should bring it to the attention of the House and also Nigerians.

To that effect, I urge this House to consider this matter as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

I also move that we suspend our relevant Rules in order for us to consider the matter immediately.

Hon. Prestige Ossy Chinedu Ehiriodu (Aba North/South): I second the Motion ably moved by my Colleague that the matter is urgent and we should take it as such.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do consider the Motion on the Urgent call on the Police to intensify its search for the safe release of Senator Iyabo Anisulowo and for the Federal government to Seek the Assistance of the Republic of Benin in the Search and Rescue of the Senator as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

Hon. Isiaka Ayodele Ibrahim: I second the Motion that we suspend our relevant Rules in order to take this Motion ably moved by Hon. Kayode Oladele immediately.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That Order VIII, Rule 46(3) be suspended to enable the House consider the Motion immediately.

Hon. Kayode Oladele: Mr. Speaker, this Motion is moved on behalf of the Ogun State Caucus in the House of Representatives. We are nine in number and I have their permission to move this Motion. It is titled: Urgent Call on the Police to intensify its search for the safe release of Senator Iyabo Anisulowo and for the Federal Government to seek the assistance of the Republic of Benin in the search and rescue of the Senator.

The House:

Notes that barely few weeks after she celebrated her 56 birthday anniversary, an All Progressive

Congress (APC) leader in Ogun State, former Senator representing Ogun West Senatorial District of Ogun State and a former Minister of State for Education, Senator Iyabo Anisulowo was on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 kidnapped at gun point while returning from her farm located around Sawonjo, near Ilaro in Ogun State, a place not too far from the Nigeria-Republic of Benin boarder;

Also notes that ever since her abduction, efforts by the security operatives to locate her and secure her safe release have been very unsuccessful;

Further notes that in order to ensure her safe and speedy release, the Ogun State Commissioner of Police and other senior officers of the Command have not only relocated to Ilaro, the area where she was kidnapped, the Ogun Police State Command has also offered the sum of Five Million Naira reward to anyone who may have useful or reliable information and assured any such informant of adequate confidentiality and security;

Observes that kidnapping is a recent phenomenon in Nigeria with the first kidnapping incident that took place in 1992;

Also observes that between 1993 and 1996, there was no recorded incident of kidnapping, but in 1997 two persons were kidnapped and in 1998, six persons were also kidnaped;

Worried that the incidents of kidnapping took a higher dimension in 1999 when as many as twenty-four persons were kidnapped, and that was explained away as politically motivated abductions;

Also worried that between 1999 and 2007, kidnapping increased in the Niger-Delta region. Again, it was explained away as a reaction to environmental neglect which the geopolitical zone had suffered. Then, in the South-East, the criminal act reared up its ugly head;

Concerned that today, kidnapping incidents have spread all over the country as criminals have resorted to it as a more lucrative enterprise compared with armed robbery. The reported cases of kidnapping from January 2015 to date, show that more than 200 persons have been kidnaped within this period and the amount demanded for ransom is well over two billion Naira;

Also concerned that despite the widespread incidents of kidnapping across the country, only few States, particularly in the South-South and South East regions, namely; Edo, Bayelsa, Delta, Ebonyi, Cross River, Anambra, Enugu, Abia and Imo States

including Kogi State have enacted laws, describing capital punishment for kidnapping. Apart from these aforementioned States, no other States in Nigeria have criminalised kidnapping;

Aware that today, anybody could be kidnapped in Nigeria and in this era of the Federal Government trying to boost Nigeria's economy and project the country as a haven for investment and tourism, the frequency of kidnapping is bound to discourage Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and tourism;

Also aware that the enormity of the menace of this criminal enterprise has gone beyond the capacity of the State government, hence, the need for the Federal Government to take a holistic approach to combating kidnapping in Nigeria;

Resolves to:

- (i) Call on the Federal Government to seek the assistance of the neighbouring Republic of Benin in its search and rescue of Senator Iyabo Adesunowo as the Senator may have been taken across the international borders;
- (ii) Also call on the Police Service Commission to expedite the recruitment of more Police officers in order to ensure security of lives and property in Nigeria in accordance with Section 14 of the Constitution of Nigeria;
- (iii) Further call on the Inspector-General of Police to provide the Ogun State Police Command with more technical and logistic support that may help to ensure safe and speedy release of the abducted former distinguished Senator;
- (iv) Still call on the Federal Government to declare kidnapping as an act of terrorism punishable under the Terrorism Prevention Act (2011); and
- (v) Urge all the States of Nigeria to pass laws criminalising kidnapping and prescribing adequate punishment.

I so move.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: I second the Motion as ably moved by Hon. Kayode.

The Speaker: This is a straightforward Motion. Hon. Akinlade, you are from Ogun State, is your constituency involved as well? It is all right. I recognise you to speak for two minutes, please.

Hon. Adekunle Abdulkabir Akinlade (Egbado South/Ipokia): Mr. Speaker, our distinguished Senator, Iyabo Adesunowo who was kidnapped last week Wednesday is from my constituency. I am of the view that it has become imperative that what they call the emergency response line, which I believe this country, has spent hundreds of millions or billions of Naira on, must be effective.

I was informed that when this incidence happened, the Police and the Orderly that was with distinguished Senator tried to call this number, which unfortunately was not in use. I believe that if this line was in use, within one to three hours that this incidence occurred, the necessary government agencies and people who were supposed to come to her aid would have been able to respond.

It is also unfortunate that after she was kidnapped we found out that her vehicle was abandoned and the vehicle was recovered by the Police. I believe that if the Police have the capacity to own finger print database, they would have been able to gather some finger prints of the abductors from that vehicle and process, and that would have assisted the government and those trying to rescue her. But up to this moment, nothing has been heard. The Police have no information.

It is unfortunate and very sad day in Ilaro. I was with the aged husband in his seventies and the children. You need to see the situation in that home. It is better at times when somebody is dead; at least you would know where you stand. The Yoruba adage says; *osan ki omo eni ku, ju ki omo eni sonu lo*. It is better for you to see the corpse of your child than to sleep and wake everyday imagining where your child is. I can just imagine what is happening to the families of the Chibok girls. That is what is happening in Ilaro.

This has happened and it is a very unfortunate situation. I want to plead with my colleagues and this honourable House that those in charge of the Nigerian Police Force should put together the capacity to acquire equipment that would enable them to process finger prints. This is for us to have a very credible finger print database that would assist us, so that when this happens in the future, we would be able to use it, gather information and track these individuals and know where they are by identifying their pictures. This would make it easier for the security agents to track these people down. I am sorry for being emotional; she is like a mother to me and it is a very terrible situation.

The Speaker: Hon. Shehu Garuba, are you going to contribute to this or you want to raise your

Point of Order? I think it is better you speak to your own Point of Order, so that we can quickly round off.

Chairman, Rules and Business, you have the Floor, please.

Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa: You will remember that anytime a Motion on kidnapping comes on the Floor, we talk about the possible solutions. I have consistently advocated that we put together a Track Team; just the same way the Police would put together Anti-robbery Squad to fight robbery. We are asking for laws to make capital punishment for kidnapping.

I do not know the extent to which that would help, but even before that law comes into force, we need to work and do something and the Police will need to do something. The last Speaker said something and it rang a bell with me. When my mother was kidnapped, within ten minutes of her kidnapping, I alerted the DPO of my place, the Police Chiefs that I knew I could get in touch with, but until she was released a week later, nobody got in touch with me to know whether the kidnappers got in touch with me or not, what are they saying and all of that. It was in my own ways that I got her released.

The Police will really need to sit up to tackle this as a national emergency because come to think of it, the way kidnapping is done today, enjoys a good Federal Character, there is no discrimination, and every part of the country is covered. It is not about any particular part of the country. Every portion of the country is affected by kidnapping. It should therefore be taken as a national emergency and a track team of police in every state of the Federation should be put together and try to look into this problem, just the same way we have tried to counter robbery or terrorism. Thank you.

The Speaker: There is an Amendment from Hon. Mohammad Sani Abdu: He says the issue of kidnapping is quite a complicated affair. He is proposing that we add an additional prayer to read as follows: *Urge the Federal Government to develop a comprehensive security dragnet be mounted comprising not only the police but also to include one DSS, two DMI, three NIT, for Collaboration with Development Partners Intelligent Agencies and five Interpol*". Is there any Seconder?

Hon. Yuguda Hassan Kila (Gwaram): I second the Amendment as proposed by Hon. Mohammad Sani Abdu.

Amendment put and agreed to.

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Call on the Federal Government to seek the assistance of the neighbouring Republic of Benin in its search and rescue of Senator Iyabo Adesunowo as the Senator may have been taken across the international borders;
- (ii) Also call on the Police Service Commission to expedite the recruitment of more Police officers in order to ensure security of lives and property in Nigeria in accordance with Section 14 of the Constitution of Nigeria;
- (iii) Further call on the Inspector-General of Police to provide the Ogun State Police Command with more technical and logistic support that may help to ensure safe and speedy release of the abducted former distinguished Senator;
- (iv) Still call on the Federal Government to declare kidnapping as an act of terrorism punishable under the Terrorism Prevention Act (2011); and
- (v) Urge all the States of Nigeria to pass laws criminalising kidnapping and prescribing adequate punishment; and
- (vi) Also urge the Federal Government to develop a comprehensive security dragnet comprising not only the police but also the Department of State Security Services, the Directorate of Military Intelligence, and the National Information Technology (NIT), to collaborate with the Development Partners Intelligence Agencies and the Interpol.

(Motion accordingly referred to the Committee on Police Affairs, National Security and Public Safety and Intelligence).

Call On the Nigerian Police to Diligently Investigate the Gruesome Cold Blooded Murder of the District Head and Other Persons in Karshi in Sanga Local Government Area of Kaduna State

The Speaker: Hon. Shehu Garba, what is your Point of Order, please?

Hon. Shehu Nicholas Garba (Jemaa/Sanga): I want to seek the kind indulgence of the House to equally come under Order VIII, Rule 46 to draw the attention of the House to an incident that happened in

my Constituency on Sunday night where a Paramount Ruler was murdered in cold blood in his house without any apparent reasons.

I believe this incident fits into the kind of scenario that was painted by the last Motion that was raised and I will like to seek your kind indulgence to have this matter treated as a Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

I also move that we suspend our relevant Rules so that we can address it immediately.

Hon. Chris Emeka Ifeanyi Azubogu (Nnewi North-South/Ekwusigo): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Shehu Nicholas Barba.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do consider the Motion on the urgent call on the Nigerian police to diligently investigate the gruesome cold blooded murder of the district head and other persons in Karshi in Sanga Local Government Area of Kaduna State Matter of Urgent Public Importance.

Hon. Muhammed Umar Jega (Aliero/Gwandu/Jega): I second the second leg of the Motion that we suspend our Relevant Rules in order to take this matter immediately.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That Order VIII, Rule 46(3) be suspended to enable the House consider the Motion immediately.

The Speaker: Honourable Shehu Garba, you can now move your Motion.

Hon. Shehu Nicholas Garba: Mr. Speaker, the Motion is on the urgent call on the Nigerian police to diligently investigate the gruesome cold blooded murder of the district head and other persons in Karshi in Sanga Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

The House:

Notes the gruesome murder of the District Head of Karshi, Mr. Bala Madaki and his nephew in Sanga Local Government Area of Kaduna State on the night of Sunday, 1st May, 2016 without any apparent provocation;

Aware that this same community witnessed an attack about 20 months ago where over 17 persons

were murdered in cold blood with many houses burnt down;

Concerned that despite the deployment of solders and other security personnel each time there was an attack, no perpetrator(s) have been identified nor apprehended;

Worried that this community and others within the Local Government Area now live in constant fear which has affected farming and other economic activities of the people;

Resolves to:

- (i) Observe a minute silence in honour of the dead;
- (ii) Condemn in very strong terms the unprovoked killings and destruction that took place in Karshi and in other places in the country; and
- (iii) Call on the Nigerian Police and the Directorate of State Security to get to the root of the incessant killings and attacks so as to bring perpetrators to justice and end the current culture of impunity that seems to be the order of the day.

I so move.

Hon. Opiah Goodluck Nanah (Ohaji/Egbema/Oguta/Oru West): I second the Motion ably moved by Hon. Shehu Nicholas Garba.

The Speaker: Hon. Shehu Garba, you have two minutes to round off.

Hon. Shehu Nicholas Garba: The incident referred to in this Motion is the one that made the headline of the *Guardian Newspaper* today. It is very sad that Nigeria is fast becoming a country where lives and property do not seem to have any value, and until this House decides to take the right action, I think we appear to be descending into a state of anarchy.

This is a case of a community that had witnessed attacks in not too long ago where the ruler of the community was attacked, dragged out of his house and shot several times before being hacked with machete. This is a community that had witnessed similar attack not too long ago where over 17 persons were equally murdered in a similar circumstance without any apparent reasons.

Cases of murder and killings are not just unique to Nigeria, they happen all over the world, but what seems to be disturbing is the situation in Nigeria, where life does not seem to mean anything. People are killed day-in, day-out and no day have we ever had this and very few instances, have we ever had the security apparatus come out to perhaps show that they have been able to get to the root cause of this incident and maybe fish out the perpetrators.

I think it is this kind of situation that seems to be giving them to the experiences that we are experiencing in this country. I think the Police must wake up, just like in the case of the kidnap that was the subject of the last Motion.

I am sure everyone here is aware that the Abuja Okene Highway has become a den of kidnappers. Day-in and out, innocent passengers and travellers on this road have become subject of kidnap, some of which we read and quite a lot of others were not reported. This is a sad commentary on the state of law keeping in this country. I believe the issue of killings that has been the subject of this Motion, and the issue of Kidnapping, which the last Motions sought to address and a similar one we took about two weeks ago, demand that the Police and other security apparatus in the country should begin to think outside the box.

The crisis has degenerated to a point where we need to address it as a national emergency. This is because the issue of kidnapping now have moved from a situation where people are targeted in their homes to a situation where vehicles are stopped on the highway and people perhaps are led into the bush. There is a case of twin brothers travelling to Lagos who were kidnapped and till today, I am not aware of any information that these children have been found. They were taken into the bush and till today their parents have never had anything from the kidnappers and so many other instances like that. We have heard about the story of the clergy men along Abuja-Kaduna road that were equally kidnapped in a similar circumstance and the train is that the vehicles are stopped on the highway; people are robbed and a certain number will be taken away and marched into the forest; and sometime trekking over a period of six hours before they get to where their den is, and it is from there they will attempt to establish contact with the parent. This has become a common trend, especially between Abuja and Okene.

We need to bring this to the consciousness of the security agency; that they need to move outside their usual routine to perhaps regard this matter as a national emergency and come up with strategy, perhaps with the support of the executive arm of

Government that will address it, even if it means hiring experts from outside the country.

The issue of Tourism and business development or diversifying the economy that we are talking about can never happen if this country continues to witness the kind of situation that we are now witnessing.

I urge this House that we should move beyond mere passing of resolution to ensure that we take proactive action to engage the executive with a view to involving a national strategy to address this menace that we now face as a country. I so submit.

Hon. Leonard Okuweh Ogor: Mr Speaker. I really would not want to speak, but we are getting very worried. This is because the whole concept is that security is a major issue and the constitution even recognised it under the provision of Section 14 (2) that the security and welfare of the citizen is the primary responsibility of every government. The first word there is the security and here it has become a major problem; where people have seen kidnapping as a major business. I think what we need to do vis-à-vis what my last colleague has just said is that we must wake up to this challenge because everybody is looking unto us. This has nothing to do with either APC or PDP. It is the Nigerian people that are under attack and I state with all emphasis that nobody should see his or herself safe in a situation we found ourselves.

We must start playing our major role first by making sure we bring in the right laws, but our security agents must also wake up to their core responsibility. This is because it is so sad that somebody will carry somebody and ask for money. It is so bad that people are now asking for One hundred thousand Naira and they will hold people in the bush with their hands and legs tied to make sure they get money. We are into a very dangerous situation.

I appeal that if possible let us have a one on one discussion with the executive vis-à-vis our security agents and ask; where we are going? This is because it will get to a stage where people will be coming to your house to come and pick you. You can imagine a paramount ruler and such a respected human being will be slaughtered like a little ram. If people like that are not safe, what about those commoners who nobody hears their voices and cries about them? I believe our nation is under attack and please my brother and sisters, let us try as much as we can to confront this issue by if possible, asking the security agency what to do because we have appropriated a lot of money for all these functions. What are they doing? Are we safe? What is the problem? I appeal

that we look beyond just this Motion and know the next step to take. On this, I rest my comment.

The Speaker: I guess security is one of the topics we are going to handle in the course of our sectorial debate. Maybe we hasten that in view of this development that calls for immediate intervention. I will now put the question.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved to:

- (i) Observe a minute silence in honour of the dead;
- (ii) Condemn in very strong terms the unprovoked killings and destruction that took place in Karshi and in other places in the country; and
- (iii) Call on the Nigerian Police and the Directorate of State Security to get to the root of the incessant killings and attacks so as to bring perpetrators to justice and end the current culture of impunity that seems to be the order of the day.

(Motion accordingly referred to the Committee on Police).

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: The Leader is invited to move that the House do adjourn Plenary.

Hon. JibriI Umar Buba: Mr. Speaker, I move that this House do adjourn till tomorrow, Wednesday, 4th May, 2016 at 11.00 a.m. prompt.

Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba (Kachia/Kagarko): I do second the Motion as ably moved by the Leader.

Question put and agreed to.

Resolved: That the House do stand adjourned till Wednesday, 4th May, 2016 at 11.00 a.m.

The House adjourned accordingly at 2.52 p.m.