



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 20 December, 2017

1. The House met at 11.20 a.m. Mr Speaker read the Prayers.
2. **Votes and Proceedings**
Mr Speaker announced that he had examined and approved the *Votes and Proceedings* of Tuesday, 19 December, 2017.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.
3. **Announcement**
Conference Committee on the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit Bill:
Mr Speaker announced the inclusion of Hon. Joseph Ayodeji as a member of the above Conference Committee.
4. **Petitions**
 - (i) A petition from Segun Awosanya, on behalf of Concerned 30,140 Nigerians, on alleged criminal activities of officers of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), Nigerian Police Force, was presented and laid by Hon. Timothy Golu (*Paskshin/Kanke/Kanam Federal Constituency*); and
 - (ii) A petition from Arumaje Akpe and 1 other, on alleged persecution by the Management of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, Kaduna State, was presented and laid by Hon. Peter Akpatason (*Akoko Edo Federal Constituency*).
Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.
5. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance (Standing Order Eight, Rule 4)**
 - (i) ***Multiple Makeshift Roadblocks/Security Checkpoints on Roads and Highways Leading to and from the South East Region:***
Hon. Obinna Chidoka (*Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
 - (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Multiple Makeshift Roadblocks/Security Checkpoints on Roads and Highways Leading to and from the South East Region:

The House:

Notes that various Security Agencies, including Nigeria Police Force, Nigerian Army, Nigerian Customs Service, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency and Federal Road Safety Corps, have over the years maintained multiple makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints with used tires, timber and metal barricades on roads and highways leading to and from the south east region, which has resulted in avoidable traffic congestion on the roads and untold hardship to motorists and other road users, especially during festive periods;

Also notes that in most cases these multiple makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints with used tires, timber and metal barricades are only two or three kilometres apart, with one makeshift roadblock/security checkpoint clearly visible from the other;

Further notes that vehicles are routinely subjected to multiple searches at these makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints, while motorists are required to present their vehicles registration papers and their drivers licenses for examination, one after the other;

Worried that these multiple makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints, couple with the terrible condition of roads and highways leading to and from the south east region, are causing unnecessary traffic congestion, with untold hardship on road users, including the sick and elderly ones, requiring emergency medical attention or evacuation;

Also worried that these multiple makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints with used tires, timber and metal barricades are often abandoned on the roads and highways, when not in use, which creates hazards for unsuspecting motorists and other road users, especially at night, and that in some cases, these abandoned makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints are reportedly used by armed robbers who rob and terrorizes road users at odd hours;

Further worried that issues of the hardship suffered by motorists and other road users as a result of the multiple makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints on the roads leading to and from the south east region, have been widely published in both the print and electronic news media, and also brought to the attention of the authorities in charge of the various Security Agencies, by the civil society organizations and other respected leaders of thoughts from the south east region, all to no avail;

Concerned that with the Christmas and New Year holidays fast approaching, when south easterners within and outside Nigeria, usually travel home to celebrate with their families, friends and loved ones, traffic congestion on the roads leading to and from the south east region will increase exponentially, with increased hardship on motorist and other road users, as has been the case in recent years, when some motorists and road users were in traffic for about 12 hours;

Determined to address the plight of motorists and other road users in the south east region who suffer daily from the avoidable and clearly unnecessary multiple makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints on the roads leading to and from the south east region, which has caused untold hardship to all and save lives.

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Security Agencies to remove their multiple makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints on the roads leading to and from the south east region, forthwith, to facilitate free flow of traffic, bring relief to the motorist and other road users traveling to and from the south east region, especially during this festive period;
- (ii) also urge the Security Agencies to collaborate with one another in the discharge of their responsibilities and avoid dissipation of resources as exemplified by the multiple makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints on the roads leading to and from the south east region;
- (iii) further urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to remove all abandoned makeshift roadblocks/security check points and debris from the roads and highways leading to and from the south east region, to facilitate free flow of traffic on these roads;
- (iv) call on the Federal Road Safety Corps to position ambulances and tow trucks at major intersections along the roads and highways leading to the southeast region, to provide first aid to accident victims and evacuate them to the hospitals and removal of accidented and broken down vehicles that cause obstruction to free flow of vehicles (*Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

*Debate.**Agreed to.**The House:*

Noted that various Security Agencies, including Nigeria Police Force, Nigerian Army, Nigerian Customs Service, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency and Federal Road Safety Corps, have over the years maintained multiple makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints with used tires, timber and metal barricades on roads and highways leading to and from the south east region, which has resulted in avoidable traffic congestion on the roads and untold hardship to motorists and other road users, especially during festive periods;

Also noted that in most cases these multiple makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints with used tires, timber and metal barricades are only two or three kilometres apart, with one makeshift roadblock/security checkpoint clearly visible from the other;

Further noted that vehicles are routinely subjected to multiple searches at these makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints, while motorists are required to present their vehicles registration papers and their drivers licenses for examination, one after the other;

Worried that these multiple makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints, couple with the terrible condition of roads and highways leading to and from the south east region, are causing unnecessary traffic congestion, with untold hardship on road users, including the sick and elderly ones, requiring emergency medical attention or evacuation;

Also worried that these multiple makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints with used tires, timber and metal barricades are often abandoned on the roads and highways, when not in use, which creates hazards for unsuspecting motorists and other road users, especially at night, and that in some cases, these abandoned makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints are reportedly used by armed robbers who rob and terrorizes road users at odd hours;

Further worried that issues of the hardship suffered by motorists and other road users as a result of the multiple makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints on the roads leading to and from the south east region, have been widely published in both the print and electronic news media, and also brought to the attention of the authorities in charge of the various Security Agencies, by the civil society organizations and other respected leaders of thoughts from the south east region, all to no avail;

Concerned that with the Christmas and New Year holidays fast approaching, when south easterners within and outside Nigeria, usually travel home to celebrate with their families, friends and loved ones, traffic congestion on the roads leading to and from the south east region will increase exponentially, with increased hardship on motorist and other road users, as has been the case in recent years, when some motorists and road users were in traffic for about 12 hours;

Determined to address the plight of motorists and other road users in the south east region who suffer daily from the avoidable and clearly unnecessary multiple makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints on the roads leading to and from the south east region, which has caused untold hardship to all and save lives.

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Security Agencies to remove their multiple makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints on the roads leading to and from the south east region, forthwith, to facilitate free flow of traffic, bring relief to the motorist and other road users traveling to and from the south east region, especially during this festive period;
 - (ii) also urge the Security Agencies to collaborate with one another in the discharge of their responsibilities and avoid dissipation of resources as exemplified by the multiple makeshift roadblocks/security checkpoints on the roads leading to and from the south east region;
 - (iii) further urge the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency to remove all abandoned makeshift roadblocks/security check points and debris from the roads and highways leading to and from the south east region, to facilitate free flow of traffic on these roads;
 - (iv) call on the Federal Road Safety Corps to position ambulances and tow trucks at major intersections along the roads and highways leading to the southeast region, to provide first aid to accident victims and evacuate them to the hospitals and removal of accidented and broken down vehicles that cause obstruction to free flow of vehicles (IR. 197/2017).
- (ii) ***Need to Establish a Federal Medical Centre at Kafanchan, Kaduna South Senatorial Zone, Kaduna State:***
Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba (*Kachia/Kagarko Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:
- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance; and
 - (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Need to Establish a Federal Medical Centre at Kafanchan, Kaduna South Senatorial Zone; Kaduna State:

The House:

Aware that Southern Kaduna is one of the three (3) Senatorial districts in Kaduna State and one of the 109 Senatorial Districts in Nigeria;

Notes that the zone has a population of One Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Seven Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty-Seven (1,777,637) people as at last census in 2006;

Also notes that despite this population there is absence of a Federal Hospital;

Further notes that patients from the zone seeking for medical attention have to go to Federal Medical Centre, Keffi (Nasarawa State) two and a half (2½) hours drive or Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital (FCT) three and a half (3½) hours drive or four hours drive to Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Shika in the Northern part of the Kaduna State that shares boarder with Katsina State;

Also aware that all Federal Hospitals are concentrated in the Northern part of the State;

Concerned that lack of a Federal Hospital, in the zone has caused a lot of casualties because of distance to medical facilities;

Further aware that there is a state general hospital in Kafanchan that can be easily converted to a Federal Medical Centre;

Still aware that there are health institutions such as College of Nursing Kafanchan, School of Midwifery, Zonkwa, ECWA School of Health and Technology, Kagoro, Baptist School of Health and Technology, Kafanchan all located near the Hospital for the training of manpower and provision of services to the Federal Medical Centre.

Resolves to:

Urge Mr President to approve the establishment of a Federal Medical Centre at Kafanchan for the wellbeing of the Senatorial District (*Hon. Jagaba Adams Jagaba — Kachia/Kagarko Federal Constituency and 4 Others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that Southern Kaduna is one of the three (3) Senatorial districts in Kaduna State and one of the 109 Senatorial Districts in Nigeria;

Noted that the zone has a population of One Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-Seven Thousand, Six Hundred and Thirty-Seven (1,777,637) people as at last census in 2006;

Also notes that despite this population there is absence of a Federal Hospital;

Further noted that patients from the zone seeking for medical attention have to go to Federal Medical Centre, Keffi (Nasarawa State) two and a half (2½) hours drive or Gwagwalada Specialist Hospital (FCT) three and a half (3½) hours drive or four hours drive to Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Shika in the Northern part of the Kaduna State that shares boarder with Katsina State;

Also aware that all Federal Hospitals are concentrated in the Northern part of the State;

Concerned that lack of a Federal Hospital, in the zone has caused a lot of casualties because of distance to medical facilities;

Further aware that there is a state general hospital in Kafanchan that can be easily converted to a Federal Medical Centre;

Still aware that there are health institutions such as College of Nursing Kafanchan, School of Midwifery, Zonkwa, ECWA School of Health and Technology, Kagoro, Baptist School of Health and Technology, Kafanchan all located near the Hospital for the training of manpower and provision of services to the Federal Medical Centre.

Resolved to:

Urge Mr President to approve the establishment of a Federal Medical Centre at Kafanchan for the wellbeing of the Senatorial District (**HR. 198/2017**).

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (4) to enable it take more than 2 matters of urgent public importance" (*Hon. Ayorinde Olabode — Owo/Ose Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

(iii) **Need to Investigate the Under-Remittances of over 5 Billion Dollars to the Federation Account by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN):**

Hon. Ayo Hulaya Omidiran (*Ayedade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

- (a) consider and approve the matter as one of urgent public importance, and
- (b) suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to allow debate on the matter forthwith.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance — Agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order Eight, Rule 4 (3) to enable it debate the matter forthwith — Agreed to.

Need to Investigate the Under-Remittances of over 5 Billion Dollars to the Federation Account by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN):

The House:

Aware that Section 80 (1) and (2) of 1999 Constitution (as amended) stipulates as follows:

"(1) All revenues or other moneys raised or recovered by the Federation (not being revenues or other moneys payable under this Constitution or any Act of the National Assembly into any other public fund of the Federation established for a specific purpose) shall be paid into and form one Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation.

(2) No moneys shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation except to meet expenditure that is charged upon the Fund by this Constitution or where the issue of those moneys has been authorized by an Appropriation Act, Supplementary Appropriation Act or an Act passed in pursuance of Section 81 of this Constitution";

Notes that funds from the Federation Account are distributed to the three tiers of Government in line with the Revenue Sharing Formula of the revenue mobilization committee enacted into law by the National Assembly;

Also notes that the CBN being the banker of the Government, receives financial in-flows on behalf of the Federation and should make same available on demand via the Federation Account on a monthly basis. The House is aware that the CBN prepares the Federation Account instead of the Accountant-General of the Federation;

Worried that the CBN takes advantage of this all-important function of warehousing funds for the three tiers of Government and preparation of the Federation Account statement, to manipulate the system by opening various accounts not known to the three tiers of Government where funds are remitted, hidden, diverted and spent without authorization;

Further notes that the CBN in 2006, opened various accounts with JP Morgan Chase Bank in New York, USA, in which IOCs (International Oil Companies) remit all revenues for the Federation;

Further aware that the CBN still operates an account with Federal Reserve Bank of New York, USA, alongside that of JP Morgan Chase Bank from 2006 till date;

Concerned that the CBN's responsibilities of receiving revenue in foreign currencies and converting same to Naira for the benefit of the three tiers of Government, has led to substantial loss in the amounts remitted to the Federation Account;

Extremely worried about the substantial difference between the official exchange rate of Dollar to Naira, and that at which the Bureaux De Change sell in the parallel market, whereas it is the CBN that sells Dollars to the Bureau De Change operators on a weekly basis, as well as regulate the financial market;

Also concerned that in the recent past, FAAC meetings have been postponed due to irregularities observed in the Federation Account by the States;

Further concerned that the CBN has violated section 80 (2) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) by spending funds not appropriated by the National Assembly;

Still aware that the CBN takes 0.25% of all foreign-denominated revenue as "exchange commission" (for converting Dollars to Naira), but even after deducting this commission, the balance credited to the Federation Account at various times have been in negative difference (against expectations), running into billions of Naira per year;

Further worried that the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation has not reported these infractions of under-remittance of millions of Dollars and trillions of Naira into the Federation Account by the CBN.

Resolves to:

Set up an *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the under-remittances of revenue by the CBN to the Federation Account and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative actions (Hon. Ayo Hula — Omidiran — Ayedaade/Irewole/Isokan Federal Constituency).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that Section 80 (1) and (2) of 1999 Constitution (as amended) stipulates as follows:

- “(1) All revenues or other moneys raised or recovered by the Federation (not being revenues or other moneys payable under this Constitution or any Act of the National Assembly into any other public fund of the Federation established for a specific purpose) shall be paid into and form one Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation.
- (2) No moneys shall be withdrawn from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation except to meet expenditure that is charged upon the Fund by this Constitution or where the issue of those moneys has been authorized by an Appropriation Act, Supplementary Appropriation Act or an Act passed in pursuance of Section 81 of this Constitution”;

Noted that funds from the Federation Account are distributed to the three tiers of Government in line with the Revenue Sharing Formula of the revenue mobilization committee enacted into law by the National Assembly;

Also noted that the CBN being the banker of the Government, receives financial in-flows on behalf of the Federation and should make same available on demand via the Federation Account on a monthly basis. The House is aware that the CBN prepares the Federation Account instead of the Accountant-General of the Federation;

Worried that the CBN takes advantage of this all-important function of warehousing funds for the three tiers of Government and preparation of the Federation Account statement, to manipulate the system by opening various accounts not known to the three tiers of Government where funds are remitted, hidden, diverted and spent without authorization;

Further noted that the CBN in 2006, opened various accounts with JP Morgan Chase Bank in New York, USA, in which IOCs (International Oil Companies) remit all revenues for the Federation;

Further aware that the CBN still operates an account with Federal Reserve Bank of New York, USA, alongside that of JP Morgan Chase Bank from 2006 till date;

Concerned that the CBN's responsibilities of receiving revenue in foreign currencies and converting same to Naira for the benefit of the three tiers of Government, has led to substantial loss in the amounts remitted to the Federation Account;

Extremely worried about the substantial difference between the official exchange rate of Dollar to Naira, and that at which the Bureaux De Change sell in the parallel market, whereas it is the CBN that sells Dollars to the Bureau De Change operators on a weekly basis, as well as regulate the financial market;

Also concerned that in the recent past, FAAC meetings have been postponed due to irregularities observed in the Federation Account by the States;

Further concerned that the CBN has violated section 80 (2) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) by spending funds not appropriated by the National Assembly;

Still aware that the CBN takes 0.25% of all foreign-denominated revenue as "exchange commission" (for converting Dollars to Naira), but even after deducting this commission, the balance credited to the Federation Account at various times have been in negative difference (against expectations), running into billions of Naira per year;

Further worried that the Office of the Accountant-General of the Federation has not reported these infractions of under-remittance of millions of Dollars and trillions of Naira into the Federation Account by the CBN.

Resolved to:

Set up a high-powered *Ad-hoc* Committee to investigate the under-remittances of revenue by the CBN to the Federation Account and report back within eight (8) weeks for further legislative actions (HR. 199/2017).

6. Presentation of Reports

(i) *Committee on Environment and Habitat:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Environment and Habitat on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of the Institute of Environmental Practitioners of Nigeria to be charged with the Responsibility of Regulating and Managing Environmental Practices of Nigeria; and for Related Matters (HB. 1022)" (Hon. Obinna Chidoka — *Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) *Committee on Environment and Habitat:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Environment and Habitat on a Bill for an Act to Regulate the Disposal of Wastes by Industries or Companies, Prohibit Environmental Pollution, Prescribe Penalties against Offenders; and for Matters Related Thereto (HB. 346)" (Hon. Obinna Chidoka — *Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) *Committee on Environment and Habitat:*

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Environment and Habitat on a Bill for an Act to Amend the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency Act, Cap. N164, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Provide for the Payment of all Monies Received by the Agency into the Federation Account in Accordance with Section 162 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 and to Provide for and Adopt Clean Air Policies; and for Related Matters (HB. 951, HB. 992 and HB. 1043)" (Hon. Obinna Chidoka — *Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iv) ***Committee on Environment and Habitat:***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Environment and Habitat on a Bill for an Act to Establish Desertification, Erosion, Flood and Ecological Control Agency; and for Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 101)" (Hon. Obinna Chidoka — Idemili North/Idemili South Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(v) ***Committees on Women Affairs and Social Development, Youth Development, and Telecommunications:***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committees on Women Affairs and Social Development, Youth Development, and Telecommunications on a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Council on Aging so as to Provide Social Welfare Services for the Elderly and for the Purposes of Designing Developmental Programmes and Activities for the Advancement of Elderly Persons in Nigeria and to Establish Unemployed Youths, Elderly and Indigent Sustainability Allowances Trust Fund which will be Funded with 30% of the Money Accruing from the Communications Services Tax and such Fund will be Utilized and Managed for the Emergency Need Services of Nigerians among which are Payment of Stipends to the Unemployed, Subsidizing Infant Drugs and Hypertension Drugs, Diabetics Drugs; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 84 and HB. 526)" (Hon. Stella Ngwu — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(vi) ***Committees on Women Affairs and Social Development, Youth Development, and Telecommunications:***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committees on Women Affairs and Social Development, and Youth Development on a Bill for an Act to Amend the Nigerian Children's Trust Fund Act, Cap. N93, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to set Suitable Board of Trustees for the proper Administration and Distribution of Welfare Services and Relief to Nigerian Children in Need; and for Related Matters (HB. 455)" (Hon. Stella Ngwu — Igbo-Etiti/Uzo-Uwani Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(vii) ***Committee on Maritime Safety, Education and Administration:***

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Maritime Safety, Education and Administration on a Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko, Delta State and for Related Matters (HB. 1032)" (Hon. Mohammed Umaru Bago — Chanchaga Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(viii) **Committees on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), and Public Procurement:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committees on Petroleum Resources (Upstream), and Public Procurement on the Investigation into the \$260 Million Contract Awarded by the National Petroleum Investment Management Services (NAPIMS) (HR. 53/2016)" (Hon. Victor Nwokolo — Ika Northeast/Ika South Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

7. **Consolidation of Bills:**

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Amend the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, Cap. E12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to Ensure that Persons to be Affected by a Proposed Project are involved in the Decision Making in order to Ensure Remediation of the Environment; and for Other Related Matters (HB. 414), and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, Cap. E12, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 to make it Responsive by Ensuring that Project Developers, Approving Authorities and Persons whose Livelihood will be Affected by Proposed Projects are involved in the Decision Making to Safeguard the Environment and Ensure Adequate Remediation of the Environment among others; and for Related Matters (HB.977) be now consolidated" (Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Provisions of the Electoral Act No.6, 2010 and Electoral (Amendment) Act, 2015 to Provide a Time Line for the Submission of List of Candidates, Criteria for Substitution of Candidates, Limit of Campaign Expenses and Address the Omission of Names of Candidates or Logo of Political Parties; and for Related Matters (HB. 165, HB. 174, HB. 220, HB. 429, HB. 468, HB. 484, HB. 809 and HB. 966) — Third Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Establish Federal College of Education, Jama'Are, Bauchi State to Provide Full-Time Courses, Teaching Instructions and Training in Technology, Applied Science, Arts, Social Sciences, Humanities and Management; and for Related Matters (HB. 1216) — Second Reading**

Order read; deferred by leave of the House.

10. **Discharge of the Committee on Solid Minerals Development on a Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of Nigerian Institute of Mining and Geosciences, Jos; and for Related Matters (HB. 770), Pursuant to Order Seventeen, Rule 3 (g) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives**

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that the Bill for an Act to Provide for the Establishment of Nigerian Institute of Mining and Geosciences, Jos; and for Related Matters was introduced on September 21, 2016 and read the Second time on 24 November, 2016;

Recalls that the Bill was referred to the Committee on Solid Minerals Development for further legislative action;

Aware that the Committee is yet to present a report on the Bill, contrary to the provisions of Order Seventeen, Rule 3 (g) of the Standing Orders of the House of Representatives to wit:

"Any matter referred to any Committee shall be treated within 30 days otherwise the Committee shall stand discharged after 60 days and the matter committed to the Committee of the Whole for consideration";

Resolves to:

Discharge the Committee on Solid Minerals Development of the Bill and commit same to the Committee of the Whole for consideration (*Hon. Solomon Bulus Maren — Mangu/Bokkos Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

11. Need to Investigate Revenue Losses and Cyber Security Threats caused by Telephone Number Masking by Telecommunication Service Providers

Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that telephone number masking via Voice-Over-IP Technology makes it possible for fraudsters, criminals and terrorists from anywhere in the world to reach out and talk to anyone on their phones;

Also notes that those shady characters can easily hide their identities or pretend to be someone else because many consumer service companies and government agencies use phone calls as a way to confirm identities and other verifications and this poses a major threat to cyber security;

Aware that the porous nature of the system has led to numerous scams against consumers and financial institutions, as well as allowed hackers to sometimes abuse the password recovery features of online services and in the process, wrestle control of a victim's accounts;

Also aware that with Voice-Over-IP Technology, international calls made from anywhere in the world are routed and can be shown as local calls, thereby displaying local Global System of Mobile Communications (GSM) numbers by telecommunications service providers in Nigeria;

Concerned that the termination fee for those international inbound calls routed as local calls are also tariffed as local calls by telecommunications service providers in Nigeria, thereby decreasing the accruable revenues remitted to the federal government;

Also concerned that in the absence of an effective monitoring mechanism to checkmate it, the trend poses a threat to our national security and hinders remittance of accruable revenues from the telecommunications industry;

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committee on Telecommunications to investigate the activities of Nigerian Communications Commission and Telecommunications Service Providers with regard to the matter and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (*Hon. Saheed Akinade -Fijabi — Ibadan Southwest/Ibadan Northwest Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that telephone number masking via Voice-Over-IP Technology makes it possible for fraudsters, criminals and terrorists from anywhere in the world to reach out and talk to anyone on their phones;

Also noted that those shady characters can easily hide their identities or pretend to be someone else because many consumer service companies and government agencies use phone calls as a way to confirm identities and other verifications and this poses a major threat to cyber security;

Aware that the porous nature of the system has led to numerous scams against consumers and financial institutions, as well as allowed hackers to sometimes abuse the password recovery features of online services and in the process, wrestle control of a victim's accounts;

Also aware that with Voice-Over-IP Technology, international calls made from anywhere in the world are routed and can be shown as local calls, thereby displaying local Global System of Mobile Communications (GSM) numbers by telecommunications service providers in Nigeria;

Concerned that the termination fee for those international inbound calls routed as local calls are also tariffed as local calls by telecommunications service providers in Nigeria, thereby decreasing the accruable revenues remitted to the federal government;

Also concerned that in the absence of an effective monitoring mechanism to checkmate it, the trend poses a threat to our national security and hinders remittance of accruable revenues from the telecommunications industry;

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Telecommunications to investigate the activities of Nigerian Communications Commission and Telecommunications Service Providers with regard to the matter and report back within six (6) weeks for further legislative action (**HR. 200/2017**).

12. Need to Bail out Ailing Industries to enable them Absorb the Teeming Unemployed Graduates
Motion made and Question proposed;

The House:

Notes that an alarming 1.3 million new graduates pass out every year from the National Youth Service Scheme and that there are about 20 million unemployed graduates in Nigeria at the moment;

Also notes that the above number does not include those graduates who were excluded from the national service on account of age or who attended other institutions of higher learning that do not present candidates for the national service, such as holders of the Ordinary National Diploma (OND), National Certificate in Education (NCE) and those who attended the National Open University;

Further notes that as a result of the collapse and closure of many industries that would have employed those graduates, they are now left to roam the streets of major cities in search of unavailable jobs, in the process, are exposed to the risks of kidnaping, prostitution, cultism, armed robbery and other sundry crimes, as well as falling prey to the antics of employment scammers who take advantage of their desperation to exploit them;

Aware that many States of the federation are dependent on allocations from the federation account for running the States, and recently, on bail out funds to pay salaries of workers, as a result, cannot be looked upon to provide employment for their graduates;

Recognises that the Federal Government had initiated certain programs such as the N-power and You Win to cushion the effects of unemployment on the graduates, but it is like a drop in the ocean in comparison with the number who do not have access to the portals on which those opportunities are advertised;

Also aware that other programs that would have more effects would be the out growers scheme and school feeding programs but the expected corresponding link between those programs and employment opportunities inherent in them, such as engagement of caterers which is expected to lead to:

- (i) increase in food production,
- (ii) establishment of new farm settlements,
- (iii) empowering young graduates to go into farming;

Further aware that majority of the graduates lack the technical knowledge and capacity to become self-employed or to create employment opportunities for others, and the system of farming and agriculture in the country is obsolete and lacking modern mechanism, thus becoming unattractive to the graduates as an employment option;

Cognizant that unless the federal government takes drastic steps towards redirecting this trend, the country will continue to experience geometric rise in ritual killings involving young people, brigandage, internet fraud, terrorism and other sundry crimes;

Also cognizant that those steps will help reduce the country's dependence on imports, increase income and gross domestic product of the country, boost the foreign reserves, thus leading to economic buoyancy and reducing dependence on oil as the major income earner for the country;

Resolves to:

- (a) urge the Federal Government to:
 - (i) initiate a process of bailing out specific and critical industries in the country in order to reduce the huge unemployment among the youth,
 - (ii) devise strategies that will lead to improvement in power supply, especially to serve the industries so as to prevent them from going under due to the high cost of power,
 - (iii) design a special bail out strategy for ailing and collapsed industries (both publicly quoted and privately owned companies) for resuscitation devoid of bureaucratic bottlenecks and demand for collateral, except with the equipment and assets of the industries,
 - (iv) apply the bail out through the Bank of Industry, the Bank of Agriculture, the Nigerian Export/ Import Bank at a single digit interest rate with three(3) years moratorium,
 - (v) include Cooperative and Micro Finance Banks in the bail out programs to lend to businesses at single digit interest rates to help boost the stock and sales of those traders,
 - (vi) appoint managers (possibly from the pool of unemployed graduates) through the participating Banks to join the Management Team of each entity to ensure the revival of the industries and full repayment of the bail out funds after which the managers will be eased out of the companies or retained on agreed terms; and
- (b) mandate the Committees on Finance, Industry, and Labour, Employment and Productivity to devise a plan that will enable the Federal Government to actualize the bail out proposal to ailing and moribund industries in order to address the problem of unemployment in the country (*Hon. James Abiodun Faleke — Ikeja Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Notes that an alarming 1.3 million new graduates pass out every year from the National Youth Service Scheme and that there are about 20 million unemployed graduates in Nigeria at the moment;

Also notes that the above number does not include those graduates who were excluded from the national service on account of age or who attended other institutions of higher learning that do not present candidates for the national service, such as holders of the Ordinary National Diploma (OND), National Certificate in Education (NCE) and those who attended the National Open University;

Further notes that as a result of the collapse and closure of many industries that would have employed those graduates, they are now left to roam the streets of major cities in search of unavailable jobs, in the process, are exposed to the risks of kidnaping, prostitution, cultism, armed robbery and other sundry crimes, as well as falling prey to the antics of employment scammers who take advantage of their desperation to exploit them;

Aware that many States of the federation are dependent on allocations from the federation account for running the States, and recently, on bail out funds to pay salaries of workers, as a result, cannot be looked upon to provide employment for their graduates;

Recognises that the Federal Government had initiated certain programs such as the N-power and You Win to cushion the effects of unemployment on the graduates, but it is like a drop in the ocean in comparison with the number who do not have access to the portals on which those opportunities are advertised;

Also aware that other programs that would have more effects would be the out growers scheme and school feeding programs but the expected corresponding link between those programs and employment opportunities inherent in them, such as engagement of caterers which is expected to lead to:

- (i) increase in food production,
- (ii) establishment of new farm settlements,
- (iii) empowering young graduates to go into farming;

Further aware that majority of the graduates lack the technical knowledge and capacity to become self-employed or to create employment opportunities for others, and the system of farming and agriculture in the country is obsolete and lacking modern mechanism, thus becoming unattractive to the graduates as an employment option;

Cognizant that unless the federal government takes drastic steps towards redirecting this trend, the country will continue to experience geometric rise in ritual killings involving young people, brigandage, internet fraud, terrorism and other sundry crimes;

Also cognizant that those steps will help reduce the country's dependence on imports, increase income and gross domestic product of the country, boost the foreign reserves, thus leading to economic buoyancy and reducing dependence on oil as the major income earner for the country;

Resolves to:

- (a) urge the Federal Government to:

- (i) initiate a process of bailing out specific and critical industries in the country in order to reduce the huge unemployment among the youth,
 - (ii) devise strategies that will lead to improvement in power supply, especially to serve the industries so as to prevent them from going under due to the high cost of power,
 - (iii) design a special bail out strategy for ailing and collapsed industries (both publicly quoted and privately owned companies) for resuscitation devoid of bureaucratic bottlenecks and demand for collateral, except with the equipment and assets of the industries,
 - (iv) apply the bail out through the Bank of Industry, the Bank of Agriculture, the Nigerian Export/ Import Bank at a single digit interest rate with three(3) years moratorium,
 - (v) include Cooperative and Micro Finance Banks in the bail out programs to lend to businesses at single digit interest rates to help boost the stock and sales of those traders,
 - (vi) appoint managers (possibly from the pool of unemployed graduates) through the participating Banks to join the Management Team of each entity to ensure the revival of the industries and full repayment of the bail out funds after which the managers will be eased out of the companies or retained on agreed terms; and
- (b) mandate the Committees on Finance, Industry, and Labour, Employment and Productivity to devise a plan that will enable the Federal Government to actualize the bail out proposal to ailing and moribund industries in order to address the problem of unemployment in the country (HR. 201/2017).

13. Consideration of Reports

That items 7 and 8 on the *Order Paper* be deferred to the next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3) (Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency)

14. Adjournment

That the House do adjourn till Thursday, 21 December, 2017 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — House Leader).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.14 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker