



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Thursday, 15 March, 2018

1. The House met at 11.21 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 Wednesday, 14 March, 2018.

The Votes and Proceedings was adopted by unanimous consent.
3. **Announcement**
Visitors in the Gallery:
Mr Speaker recognised the presence of the following visitors in the Gallery:
 - (i) Staff and Students of *Children's World Academy*, Gwagwalada, Abuja; and
 - (ii) Staff and Students of *Stepping Stone Basic Academy*, Gwagwalada, Abuja;
 - (iii) Staff and Students of *Victory Educational Academy Limited*, Bwari, Abuja;
 - (iv) Staff and Students of *Redeemer's Dominion Seed International School*, Mararaba, Karu, Nasarawa State; and
 - (v) Staff and Students of *Roz Academy*, Asokoro Extension, Abuja.
4. **Petitions**
 - (i) Petitions from the following persons were presented and laid by Hon. Ogun Sergius Oseasochie (*Esan Northeast/Esan Southeast Federal Constituency*):
 - (a) Sir L. Ogbedegbe & Co. (Legal Practitioners, Property Consultant & Arbitrator), on behalf of Association of Concerned Electricity Consumers of Esan North and Esan South East Local Government Areas of Edo State, on the continuing huge electricity bills imposed on them by the Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC), despite their inability to provide electricity supply;

- (b) J. A. Onaimoimilin & Co. (Legal Practitioners), on behalf of Members of Okuta Unit Transformer Users and Association of General Electricity Consumers of Esan North and Esan South Local Government Areas of Edo State, on the continuing huge electricity bills imposed on them by the Benin Electricity Distribution Company (BEDC), despite their inability to provide electricity supply;
- (ii) A petition from Wodung Adamu Abubakar, on the stoppage of his salary and eventual termination of his appointment by Federal College of Education, Osiele, Abeokuta, Ogun State, was presented and laid by Hon. Golu Timothy (*Paskshin/Kanke/Kanam Federal Constituency*); and
- (iii) A petition from Saints John and Mary Hospital, Akure, Ondo State, on the non-payment of outstanding medical bills incurred by staff of the defunct Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) now Nigeria Electricity Liability Management Limited (NELMCO)/GTE, was presented and laid by Hon. Olowookere Ajisafe (*Akure North/Akure South Federal Constituency*).

Petitions referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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

(i) *Resurgence of Violent Attacks and Killings in Plateau State and the Implications on National Security:*

Hon. Istifanus Dung Gyang (*Barkinladi/Riyom Federal Constituency and 6 others*) 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.

Resurgence of Violent Attacks and Killings in Plateau State and Implications on National Security:

The House

Notes with dismay the resurgence of violent attacks by Herdsmen in Plateau State, rather than abate, it is escalating;

Concerned that the attackers showed no respect to the President on his visit to the State, such that while he was being hosted to a Town Hall meeting, communities in Bokkos and Bassa Local Government came under attacks by herdsmen;

Aware that there is a military led Operation Safe Haven in Plateau State that has the mandate of enforcing law and order and securing the lives and property of law abiding citizens. However, despite their presence, the killer herdsmen are still having a field day in killing and sacking whole communities and villages;

Perturbed that the latest round of attacks and killings is concentrated on Daffo and Kwall Miango axis of Bokkos and Bassa Local Governments resulting in the death of 74 persons, while the victims have since been given mass burial;

Disturbed that the attacks have spilled over to Jos North leading to the burning down of a Church building at Dong Kasa along the Wildlife Park-Rafiki neighborhood;

Also disturbed that if urgent steps are not taken against the violent attacks, they could degenerate and escalate, hence complicate the security situation in the nation;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to:
 - (a) step up measures at enforcing law and order to stem the tide of violent attacks and bloodletting in Plateau State by disarming the herdsmen.
 - (b) recover all farmlands under occupation and ensure that persons displaced by violent attacks repossess their ancestral habitat, properties and farmlands;
- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the displaced victims; and
- (iii) observe a minute silence in honour of the dead (*Hon. Istifanus Dung Gyang — Barikinladi/Riyom Federal Constituency and 6 Others*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House

Noted with dismay the resurgence of violent attacks by Herdsmen in Plateau State, rather than abate, it is escalating;

Concerned that the attackers showed no respect to the President on his visit to the State, such that while he was being hosted to a Town Hall meeting, communities in Bokkos and Bassa Local Government came under attacks by herdsmen;

Aware that there is a military led Operation Safe Haven in Plateau State that has the mandate of enforcing law and order and securing the lives and property of law abiding citizens. However, despite their presence, the killer herdsmen are still having a field day in killing and sacking whole communities and villages;

Perturbed that the latest round of attacks and killings is concentrated on Daffo and Kwall Miango axis of Bokkos and Bassa Local Governments resulting in the death of 74 persons, while the victims have since been given mass burial;

Disturbed that the attacks have spilled over to Jos North leading to the burning down of a Church building at Dong Kasa along the Wildlife Park-Rafiki neighborhood;

Also disturbed that if urgent steps are not taken against the violent attacks, they could degenerate and escalate, hence complicate the security situation in the nation;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to:
 - (a) step up measures at enforcing law and order to stem the tide of violent attacks and bloodletting in Plateau State by disarming the herdsmen.

- (b) recover all farmlands under occupation and ensure that persons displaced by violent attacks repossess their ancestral habitat, properties and farmlands;
- (ii) also urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to provide relief materials to the displaced victims; and
- (iii) observe a minute silence in honour of the dead (**HR. 107/03/2018**).

Motion referred to the Ad-hoc Committee on Incessant Killings and other Security Concerns in the Country.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(ii) *Need to Check the Importation of Firearms and Military Equipment into the Country by Politicians and Private Citizens:*

Hon. Karimi Steve Sunday (*Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*) introduced the matter and prayed the House to:

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

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

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

Need to Check the Importation of Firearms and Military Equipment into the Country by Politicians and Private Citizens:

The House:

Notes that by virtue of Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, the security and welfare of the citizens is the central objective of the Government;

Also notes that by virtue of Section 4 (2) of the Constitution, the National Assembly is empowered to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Federation or any part thereof with respect to the matters included in the Exclusive Legislative List set out in Part 1 of the Second Schedule of the Constitution;

Aware that Section 211 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria establishes the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and stipulates that it shall include the Army, Navy, Air Force and such other Armed Forces that may be established by the National Assembly. Section 217 (2) thereof stipulates that the Federation shall, subject to an Act of the National Assembly made in that behalf, equip and maintain the Armed Forces. Section 318 defines "the Federation" as the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Also aware that Section 218 confers upon the President the powers of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation and such powers shall include his powers to deploy troops;

Cognizant that items 2, 17, 38, 45, 67 and 68 of the Second Schedule, Part 1 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) (Exclusive Legislative List) prescribes that Arms, Ammunition and Explosives, Defence, Military, etc. are under the Exclusive Legislative List and are matters within the exclusive preserve of the Federal Government and no State Government however buoyant or influential has the power to procure arms, equipment, uniforms, etc. for the Military or delve into any matter within the Exclusive Legislative List;

Concerned that only recently, there are strong indications that the Government of Kogi State imported 100 pieces of military camouflage, 26 pieces of military camouflage jungle boots, 20 pieces of plastic knives, 24 pieces of black bullet proof vests, 28 black boxing gloves, 26 pieces of arctic hunter bags, 40 pieces of training mats, 20 pieces of black batons, 100 pieces of black J-shirts, 31 pieces of protective glasses, 25 pieces of black sunglasses and 29 pieces of black uniform belts, etc.;

Also concerned that the Special Adviser to the State Governor on Security, Jerry Omodara was reported to have gone to the Customs Officers upon interception of the illegally imported items and told them that the items belonged to the Kogi State Government. The Officials of the Nigeria Customs present instead of arresting him or questioning him for importation of military equipments, they asked him to go and produce End-User Certificate;

Disturbed that there have been reported cases of assassination and threat to the lives of Politicians and public officials who have expressed divergent political views from that of the Governor. This include the attempt on the life of Senator Dino Melaiye, the violent disruption of the empowerment programme of Senator Ogenbe and the murder in cold blood of the late Labour Leader in Okene who criticized the State Governor vehemently for non-payment of workers' salaries;

Worried that the State Government is owing salaries of workers for several months and have recently commenced payment of quarterly salary as opposed to monthly salary known to Nigerian Labor and Employment Laws. Yet, the State Government is spending the meager resources of the State on importation of military hardware, on exercise no private citizen or State Government is constitutionally empowered to do;

Also worried that instead of the Nigeria Customs Service to promptly arrest the importer for his treasonable act of importing military hardware and items into the country, the Service curiously requested the Importer to provide End-User Certificate from the National Security Adviser which cannot under the Law authorize any individual or State Government to import such items;

Afraid that if the trend is allowed to continue, where politicians, State Governors and private citizens are allowed to import arms under the guise of equipping the military, the security and life of the innocent Nigerian will be jeopardized;

Resolves to:

- (i) mandate the Committees on Customs and Excise, and National Security and Intelligence to investigate the alleged importation of military uniforms and equipment by the Kogi State Government; and
- (ii) invite the Nigeria Customs Service to explain its role for not arresting the importer, and instead asked him to procure End-User Certificate from the National Security Adviser, when the Nigeria Customs Service knows the importer is not Constitutionally empowered to procure arms and will not under normal circumstance be able to get the End-User Certificate (*Hon. Karimi Steve Sunday — Yagba East/Yagba West/Mopamuro Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that by virtue of Section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, the security and welfare of the citizens is the central objective of the Government;

Also noted that by virtue of Section 4 (2) of the Constitution, the National Assembly is empowered to make laws for the peace, order and good government of the Federation or any port thereof with respect to the matters included in the Exclusive Legislative List set out in Part 1 of the Second Schedule of the Constitution;

Aware that Section 211 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria establishes the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and stipulates that it shall include the Army, Navy, Air Force and such other Armed Forces that may be established by the National Assembly. Section 217 (2) thereof stipulates that the Federation shall, subject to an Act of the National Assembly made in that behalf, equip and maintain the Armed Forces. Section 318 defines "the Federation" as the Federal Republic of Nigeria;

Also aware that Section 218 confers upon the President the powers of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federation and such powers shall include his powers to deploy troops;

Cognizant that items 2, 17, 38, 45, 67 and 68 of the Second Schedule, Part 1 of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) (Exclusive Legislative List) prescribes that Arms, Ammunition and Explosives, Defence, Military, etc. are under the Exclusive Legislative List and are matters within the exclusive preserve of the Federal Government and no State Government however buoyant or influential has the power to procure arms, equipment, uniforms, etc. for the Military or delve into any matter within the Exclusive Legislative List;

Concerned that only recently, there are strong indications that the Government of Kogi State imported 100 pieces of military camouflage, 26 pieces of military camouflage jungle boots, 20 pieces of plastic knives, 24 pieces of black bullet proof vests, 28 black boxing gloves, 26 pieces of arctic hunter bags, 40 pieces of training mats, 20 pieces of black batons, 100 pieces of black J-shirts, 31 pieces of protective glasses, 25 pieces of black sunglasses and 29 pieces of black uniform belts, etc.;

Also concerned that the Special Adviser to the State Governor on Security, Jerry Omodara was reported to have gone to the Customs Officers upon interception of the illegally imported items and told them that the items belonged to the Kogi State Government. The Officials of the Nigeria Customs present instead of arresting him or questioning him for importation of military equipments, they asked him to go and produce End-User Certificate;

Disturbed that there have been reported cases of assassination and threat to the lives of Politicians and public officials who have expressed divergent political views from that of the Governor. This include the attempt on the life of Senator Dino Melaiye, the violent disruption of the empowerment programme of Senator Ogembe and the murder in cold blood of the late Labour Leader in Okene who criticized the State Governor vehemently for non-payment of workers' salaries;

Worried that the State Government is owing salaries of workers for several months and have recently commenced payment of quarterly salary as opposed to monthly salary known to Nigerian Labor and Employment Laws. Yet, the State Government is spending the meager resources of the State on importation of military hardware, on exercise no private citizen or State Government is constitutionally empowered to do;

Also worried that instead of the Nigeria Customs Service to promptly arrest the importer for his treasonable act of importing military hardware and items into the country, the Service curiously requested the Importer to provide End-User Certificate from the National Security Adviser which cannot under the Law authorize any individual or State Government to import such items;

Afraid that if the trend is allowed to continue, where politicians, State Governors and private citizens are allowed to import arms under the guise of equipping the military, the security and life of the innocent Nigerian will be jeopardized;

Resolved to:

- (i) mandate the Committees on Customs and Excise, and National Security and Intelligence to investigate the alleged importation of military uniforms and equipment by the Kogi State Government; and
- (ii) invite the Nigeria Customs Service to explain its role for not arresting the importer, and instead asked him to procure End-User Certificate from the National Security Adviser, when the Nigeria Customs Service knows the importer is not Constitutionally empowered to procure arms and will not under normal circumstance be able to get the End-User Certificate (HR. 108/03/2018).

6. Presentation of Reports

(i) Conference Committee on Nigerians with Disability Bill:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Conference Committee on a Bill for an Act to Ensure Full Integration of Persons with Disabilities into the Society and Establish a National Commission and vest it with Responsibilities for their Education, Health care, Social, Economic and Civil Rights; and for Related Matters" (Hon. Orker-Jev Emmanuel Yisa — Buruku Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(ii) Committee on Constituency Outreach:

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the House do receive the Report of the Committee on Constituency Outreach on a Bill for an Act to Establish Constituencies Development Funds for the Purpose of Even Development of the Constituencies in the Federation; and for Related Purpose (HB. 330)" (Hon. Abubakar Lawal Garba — Yola North/Yola South/Gire Federal Constituency).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

(iii) ***Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate Massive Deforestation and Corruption that has crippled the Environment and its Effect on Climate Change in Nigeria:***

Motion made and Question proposed, “That the House do receive the Report of the *Ad-hoc Committee to Investigate Massive Deforestation and Corruption that has crippled the Environment and its Effect on Climate Change in Nigeria (HR. 161/2016)*” (*Hon. Bede Eke Uchenna — Aboh Mbaise/Ngor Okpala Federal Constituency*).

Agreed to.

Report laid.

7. **Need to Investigate the Circumstances under which the Federal Ministry of Mines and Steel Engaged the Globally Discredited PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) to Audit Ajaokuta Steel Complex for Purposes of Concessioning**

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Aware that the Minister of Mines and Steel Development, recently announced and it was widely published, that Ajaokuta Steel Company will be concessioned after an ongoing audit.

Also aware that the audit of Ajaokuta Steel Company is being undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers — a globally discredited firm having been sanctioned in India, with a 2 year audit ban for infractions of over US\$1 billion; sanctioned in Brazil for which it paid US\$50 million as fine; fined in the United Kingdom for £5.1m, the largest ever sanction imposed by the UK Regulator; paid US\$225 million and US\$25 million respectively as fines to TYCO shareholders in the USA and Bank of Tokyo - Mitsubishi, where it was implicated for money laundering for Iran, Sudan and Myanmar, blacklisted for roles in terrorism and human rights abuses; among other infractions and irregularities in their operations, which has left its reputation in tatters;

Concerned by the allegation that PricewaterhouseCoopers was informally engaged by Global Steel to assist and advise them on how to recover Ajaokuta Steel Company and National Iron Ore Company (NIOMCO), Itakpe from the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2012 at the onset of negotiations;

Worried by the apparent actions of the Minister of Mines and Steel Development in engaging a company whose antecedents may suggest that they are being engaged to audit and prepare reports which may skew the outcome thereof, in a preconceived manner in favour of parties which the Minister may have lined up or which may represent the interests of their former clients (GINL);

Also concerned that the Bureau of Public Enterprises and the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission both mandated by law under the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act, 2005 and the Public Enterprises (Privatisation and Commercialisation) Act 2004, respectively, have not been involved or engaged in the audit and concessioning process adopted by the Minister of Mines and Steel Development;

Outraged that the Hon Minister of Mines and Steel, also appointed as Ajaokuta transaction Adviser, Greenwich Trust Ltd, headed by the wife of his political mentor, without the input of BPE and ICRC, and turned around to discard other options suggested by the company other than concessioning;

Disturbed by the insistence and presumptive posture of the Minister of Mines and Steel Development, to concession Ajaokuta Steel Company to an apparently pre-determined Company, because of his claim that reputable Companies have lined up as Concessionnaires, despite the failure of two previous concession attempts in 2003 to SOLGAS Energy of USA and in 2004 to Global Infrastructure Nigeria Ltd (GINL), an Indian Company;

Alarmed that the Hon. Minister, Mines and Steel claimed that government cannot spend a kobo more on Ajaokuta Steel Complex when he is already spending ₦2 billion for the concessioning process and in the context of a situation where Nigeria spends over US\$3.5 billion on importation of steel related products annually;

Also worried that almost two years since NIOMCO, Itakpe was again handed over to Global Steel in the so called modified concession agreement for a 7 year period with an option of a further 10 years, the plant which is integrated with Ajaokuta Steel Complex has remained moribund which signposts the likely failure of yet another concession;

Resolves to:

- (i) expand the mandate of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Ajaokuta Steel Complex to include the urgent consideration of the possibility of a Bill for an Act to Provide for the completion of Ajaokuta Steel Company and Prohibit the concessioning thereof prior to its completion;
- (ii) also expand the mandate of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Ajaokuta Steel Complex to further inquire into why Mr Kayode Fayemi engaged a globally discredited firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in auditing Ajaokuta Steel Complex, without due process in spite of the fact that the firm is neck deep in promoting corruption and has been so indicted and punished in many jurisdictions;
- (iii) further expand the mandate of the *Ad-hoc* Committee to inquire into the nature of the conflict of interest that may have arisen on account Mr Kayode Fayemi of appointing a firm, Greenwich Trust Ltd headed by wife of his political mentor to serve as Transaction Adviser for Ajaokuta, without due process; and
- (iv) request the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to stop the Hon Minister of Mines and Steel, from proceeding further with concessioning processes of Ajaokuta Steel Complex pending a review ordered by the House of Representatives, in the interest of the nations' economy and the anti-corruption fight of the Federal Government (*Hon Ahmed Yerima — Misua/Dambam Federal Constituency and 24 others*).

Debate.

Amendments Proposed:

- (i) *Leave out* all the words in Prayer (iii) and *insert* as follows:
“further expand the mandate of the *Ad-hoc* Committee to determine whether or not there is pecuniary interest on the part of the Minister of Mines and Steel in the appointment of the firm Greenwich Trust Limited as Transaction Adviser for the recent Ajaokuta Steel Company Concession” (*Hon. Abdullahi Umar Farouk — Birnin Kebbi/Kalgo/Bunza Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

- (ii) In Prayers (ii), (iii) and (iv), *Leave out* the name “Mr Kayode Fayemi” and *insert* the words “Minister of Mines and Steel” (*Hon. Adeyinka Ajayi — Ifelodun/Boripe/Odo-Otin Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Negatived.

- (iii) *Insert* a new Prayer (v) as follows:
“urge the Federal Government to declare the Steel Sector a major sector of the economy, and seek the concurrence of the Senate in line with Section 16 (4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended)” (*Hon. Pwajok Edward Gyang — Jos South Jos East Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

(iii) *Insert a new Prayer (vi) as follows:*

“delete the powers of the National Council on Privatization (NCP), to alter the provisions of Privatization and Commercialization Act, 2004, through an amendment Bill” (Hon. Femi Gbajabiamila — Surulere I Federal Constituency).

Question that the amendment be made — Agreed to.

Question on the Motion as amended — Agreed to.

The House:

Aware that the Minister of Mines and Steel Development, recently announced and it was widely published, that Ajaokuta Steel Company will be concessioned after an ongoing audit.

Also aware that the audit of Ajaokuta Steel Company is being undertaken by PricewaterhouseCoopers — a globally discredited firm having been sanctioned in India, with a 2 year audit ban for infractions of over US\$1 billion; sanctioned in Brazil for which it paid US\$50 million as fine; fined in the United Kingdom for £5.1m, the largest ever sanction imposed by the UK Regulator; paid US\$225 million and US\$25 million respectively as fines to TYCO shareholders in the USA and Bank of Tokyo - Mitsubishi, where it was implicated for money laundering for Iran, Sudan and Myanmar, blacklisted for roles in terrorism and human rights abuses; among other infractions and irregularities in their operations, which has left its reputation in tatters;

Concerned by the allegation that PricewaterhouseCoopers was informally engaged by Global Steel to assist and advise them on how to recover Ajaokuta Steel Company and National Iron Ore Company (NIOMCO), Itakpe from the Federal Government of Nigeria in 2012 at the onset of negotiations;

Worried by the apparent actions of the Minister of Mines and Steel Development in engaging a company whose antecedents may suggest that they are being engaged to audit and prepare reports which may skew the outcome thereof, in a preconceived manner in favour of parties which the Minister may have lined up or which may represent the interests of their former clients (GINL);

Also concerned that the Bureau of Public Enterprises and the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission both mandated by law under the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (Establishment, etc.) Act, 2005 and the Public Enterprises (Privatisation and Commercialisation) Act, 2004, respectively, have not been involved or engaged in the audit and concessioning process adopted by the Minister of Mines and Steel Development;

Outraged that the Hon Minister of Mines and Steel, also appointed as Ajaokuta transaction Adviser, Greenwich Trust Ltd, headed by the wife of his political mentor, without the input of BPE and ICRC; and turned around to discard other options suggested by the company other than concessioning;

Disturbed by the insistence and presumptive posture of the Minister of Mines and Steel Development, to concession Ajaokuta Steel Company to an apparently pre-determined Company, because of his claim that reputable Companies have lined up as Concessionnaires, despite the failure of two previous concession attempts in 2003 to SOLGAS Energy of USA and in 2004 to Global Infrastructure Nigeria Ltd (GINL), an Indian Company;

Alarmed that the Minister, Mines and Steel claimed that government cannot spend a kobo more on Ajaokuta Steel Complex when he is already spending N2 billion for the concessioning process and in the context of a situation where Nigeria spends over US\$3.5 billion on importation of steel related products annually;

Also worried that almost two years since NIOMCO, Itakpe was again handed over to Global Steel in the so called modified concession agreement for a 7 year period with an option of a further 10 years, the plant which is integrated with Ajaokuta Steel Complex has remained moribund which signposts the likely failure of yet another concession;

Resolved to:

- (i) expand the mandate of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Ajaokuta Steel Complex to include the urgent consideration of the possibility of a Bill for an Act to Provide for the completion of Ajaokuta Steel Company and Prohibit the concessioning thereof prior to its completion;
- (ii) also expand the mandate of the *Ad-hoc* Committee on Ajaokuta Steel Complex to further inquire into why Mr Kayode Fayemi engaged a globally discredited firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) in auditing Ajaokuta Steel Complex, without due process in spite of the fact that the firm is neck deep in promoting corruption and has been so indicted and punished in many jurisdictions;
- (iii) further expand the mandate of the *Ad-hoc* Committee to determine whether or not there is pecuniary interest on the part of the Minister of Mines and Steel in the appointment of the firm Greenwich Trust Limited as Transaction Adviser for the recent Ajaokuta Steel Company concession; and
- (iv) request the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to stop the Minister of Mines and Steel, from proceeding further with concessioning processes of Ajaokuta Steel Complex pending a review ordered by the House of Representatives, in the interest of the nations' economy and the anti- corruption fight of the Federal Government;
- (v) urge the Federal Government to declare the Steel Sector a major sector of the economy, and seek the concurrence of the Senate in line with Section 16 (4) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended); and
- (vi) delete the powers of the National Council on Privatization (NCP), to alter the provisions of Privatization and Commercialization Act, 2004, through an amendment Bill (HR. 109/03/2018).

8. Need to Investigate Non Remittance of ₦20 Trillion Stamp Duty Accruals from 1 April, 2013 to 31 March 2017 into the Consolidated Revenue Account by Banks and Other Financial Institutions through Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System (NIBSS)

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that the Murtala Muhammed International Airport and all other International Airports in Nigeria are currently owned by the Federal Government and are being managed on its behalf by relevant Agencies;

Also notes that the current state of almost all the Airports fall short of ideal standards of International Airports owing to their poor and obsolete facilities, unprofessional handling procedures, delays, poor maintenance, as well as lack of aesthetics, recalling the recent outcry by passengers and foreign observers over the state of the Airports and the blame game between the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and other stakeholders;

Observes that the major causes of the gross infrastructural deficit and poor service delivery at the Airports are inadequate funding, lack of qualified/professional hands and absence of Government readiness to make the Airports transformation, expansion and development an immediate priority;

Cognizant that International Airports of any nation, being the gateway to that nation, ought to be places of excellence and pride to the nation, but in this case, Nigeria's International Airports managed to make the bottom place in the ranking of top ten Airports in Africa;

Aware that the Governments of Lagos, Kano, Rivers and Enugu States are fully capable of taking over and managing the International Airports in their respective States, and transforming them into world-class standard Airports that will be the pride not only of Nigeria, but to Africa as a whole, and already Lagos State Government is presently constructing a massive road network linking the Murtala Muhammed International Airport with other parts of the State;

Also cognizant that the Federal Government would not be losing any revenues that ought to accrue to it, as agreed sums would be made on mutual terms, and the arrangement would bring about the transformation of the Airports to world-class standards;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to consider handing over Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Mallam Aminu Kano International Airport, Akanu Ibiam International Airport and Port Harcourt International Airport to Lagos State Government, Kano State Government, Enugu State Government and Rivers State Government, respectively to manage on mutually agreed terms; and
- (ii) mandate the Committees on Aviation and Legislative Compliance to ensure compliance (*Hon. Oluwarotimi Agunsoye Ojo — Kosofe Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Ordered: Committee on Rules and Business to verify the Motion with a view to determining whether a similar subject matter is pending before the Committee on Telecommunications.

9. Need to Consider Ceding Lagos, Kano, Enugu and Port Harcourt International Airports to the Various State Governments

Motion withdrawn by leave of the House.

10. Need to Review Nigeria's Foreign Policy to Conform to Current Realities:

Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that since Nigeria gained independence from Great Britain in 1960, it has always maintained a policy of Afro-centrism by having the African continent as the centre piece of Nigeria's foreign policy;

Also notes that successive Governments, both military and civilian, have continued to adopt the same policy, with the exception of the military government of General Ibrahim Babangida under whom the policy was modified to include "economic diplomacy" as part of the policy of afro-centrism;

Aware that the Administrations of Presidents Obasanjo, Yar'Adua and Jonathan sustained the policy with difference in style and method, however a review of the policy is long overdue for several reasons that will further enhance the development of the country;

Concerned by the hostile manner on which some African countries such as South Africa, Liberia, Sierra Leone, etc., maltreat Nigerian citizens living in their country in disrespect to the enormous sacrifices Nigeria as a nation have made at the times of their needs, especially using its resources to assist them at one time or the other;

Also concerned that on numerous occasions, some of the supposedly brotherly African countries had found flimsy excuses to arbitrarily deport Nigerian citizens living in their countries;

Cognizant of the need for a review of the nation's foreign policy from mere Afro-centrism to one that is based on the principle of reciprocity in line with the ever changing world of diplomacy where enlightened self-interest is the basis for relationship between nations of the world;

Resolves to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to review Nigeria's foreign policy to be in tandem with modern trends where the economic and national interests of a nation are considered a serious factor in the conduct of foreign policy and the welfare and the protection of the country's citizens all over the World come first and should be incorporated in the Afro-centric foreign policy of Nigeria; and
- (ii) mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to ensure implementation (*Hon. Tajudeen Adekunle Obasa — Ojo Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Agreed to.

The House:

Noted that since Nigeria gained independence from Great Britain in 1960, it has always maintained a policy of Afro-centrism by having the African continent as the centre piece of Nigeria's foreign policy;

Also noted that successive Governments, both military and civilian, have continued to adopt the same policy, with the exception of the military government of General Ibrahim Babangida under whom the policy was modified to include "economic diplomacy" as part of the policy of afro-centrism;

Aware that the Administrations of Presidents Obasanjo, Yar'Adua and Jonathan sustained the policy with difference in style and method, however a review of the policy is long overdue for several reasons that will further enhance the development of the country;

Concerned by the hostile manner on which some African countries such as South Africa, Liberia, Sierra Leone, etc., maltreat Nigerian citizens living in their country in disrespect to the enormous sacrifices Nigeria as a nation have made at the times of their needs, especially using its resources to assist them at one time or the other;

Also concerned that on numerous occasions, some of the supposedly brotherly African countries had found flimsy excuses to arbitrarily deport Nigerian citizens living in their countries;

Cognizant of the need for a review of the nation's foreign policy from mere Afro-centrism to one that is based on the principle of reciprocity in line with the ever changing world of diplomacy where enlightened self-interest is the basis for relationship between nations of the world;

Resolved to:

- (i) urge the Federal Government to review Nigeria's foreign policy to be in tandem with modern trends where the economic and national interests of a nation are considered a serious factor in the conduct of foreign policy and the welfare and the protection of the country's citizens all over the World come first and should be incorporated in the Afro-centric foreign policy of Nigeria; and

- (ii) mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to ensure implementation (HR. 110/03/2018).
11. That items 5 to 9 on the **Order Paper** be deferred to the next legislative day, pursuant to Order Eight, Rule 6 (3) (*Hon. Olabode Ayorinde — Owo/Ose Federal Constituency*).
12. **Adjournment**
That the House do adjourn till Tuesday, 20 February, 2018 at 11.00 a.m. (Hon. Mohammed Tahir Monguno — Munguno/Marte/Nganzai Federal Constituency).

The House adjourned accordingly at 3.14 p.m.

Yakubu Dogara
Speaker