FOURTH REPUBLIC
7TH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD SESSION
NO. 2

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS

Wednesday, 26 June, 2013

1. The House met at 11.41 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, 25 June, 2013.

By unanimous consent, the Votes and Proceedings was adopted.

3. **Announcement:**

(*i*) ***Visitors in the Gallery*:**
Mr Speaker recognized the presence of the following visitors:

(*a*) Staff and Students of Grant International Academy, Masaka, Nasarawa State;

(*b*) Members of Etsako West Legislative Council, Auchi, Edo State.

(*ii*) ***Bereavement*:**
Mr Speaker announced with regrets the demise of Sen. Albert Osuma Legogie, a former Deputy Senate President who died on Monday, 17 June, 2013 after a brief illness.

A minute silence was observed in honour of the deceased.

(*iii*) ***Conference Committee on the Customs Reform Bill*:**
Mr Speaker announced the Membership of the Conference Committee as follows:

(1)	Hon. Sabo Mohammed Nakudu	—	*Chairman*
(2)	Hon. Chinda Kingsley	—	*Member*
(3)	Hon. Albert T. Sam- Tsokwa	—	*Member*
(4)	Hon. Aminu Suleiman	—	*Member*
(5)	Hon Francis Enokorogha	—	*Member*
(6)	Hon. Michael Bamidele	—	*Member*

4. **Petition:**
A petition was presented and laid by Hon. Ajibola Israel Famurewa (*Atakumosa East/Atakumosa West/Ilesa East/Ilesa West Federal Constituency*) on behalf of Ayodele O. Marcus and 700 Others, praying the House to redress the wrongful termination of their appointments by the Mainstreet Bank Limited, and to grant other reliefs sought.

Petition referred to the Committee on Public Petitions.

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5. **Matters of Urgent Public Importance:**

(*i*) Citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Azodo Eucharia (*Aguata Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the fire incident that occurred on 13 June, 2013 in the Ekwulobia Ultra-Modern market in Aguata Local Government Area of Anambra State. She noted that about 150 shops were destroyed in the inferno while goods worth millions of Naira were also lost. She stressed that the fire disaster has adversely affected the livelihood of people of the area and thus urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to enable it debate the matter immediately.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) *to enable it debate the matter forthwith, put and agreed to.*

Urgent Need to Assist the Victims of a Fire Disaster in Ekwulobia Ultra-modern Market in Aguata Federal Constituency of Anambra State:

The House:

Notes that at about 12 o'clock midnight on Thursday, the 13th day of June, 2013, Ekwulobia ultra-modern market in Aguata Federal Constituency of Anambra State was gutted by a fire incident;

Also notes that this horrible incident resulted to the loss of about 150 shops filled with goods and other valuable properties;

Further notes that the estimated value of damage caused by this unpleasant incident runs into hundreds of millions of Naira;

Worried that this situation has presented an indescribable hardship on families; since about 1200 women and youths have been adversely affected by this fire disaster;

Concerned that this situation will aggravate the economic difficulties faced by Nigerians at this time, and the people of Ekwulobia in particular.

Resolves to:

Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to take urgent steps to reduce the sufferings and give hope to the victims of the fire incidence, by sending relief materials and financial aids to enable them restore their businesses (*Hon. Azudo Eucharia — Aguata Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that at about 12 o'clock midnight on Thursday, the 13th day of June, 2013, Ekwulobia ultra-modern market in Aguata Federal Constituency of Anambra State was gutted by a fire incident;

Also noted that this horrible incident resulted to the loss of about 150 shops filled with goods and other valuable properties;

Further noted that the estimated value of damage caused by this unpleasant incident runs into hundreds of millions of Naira;

Worried that this situation has presented an indescribable hardship on families; since about 1200 women and youths have been adversely affected by this fire disaster;

Concerned that this situation will aggravate the economic difficulties faced by Nigerians at this time, and the people of Ekwulobia in particular.

Resolved to:

Urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to take urgent steps to reduce the sufferings and give hope to the victims of the fire incidence, by sending relief materials and financial aids to enable them restore their businesses (**HR. 01/2013**).

(*ii*) Also citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Ibrahim Shehu Gusau (*Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency*) called the attention of the House to the gruesome massacre of about 60 people in Kizara and Chaffe Local Government Areas of Zamfara State, on Tuesday, 18 June, 2013 by unknown gunmen. He noted that the incessant attacks on communities in the area have left persistent fear in the minds of the people who have consequently fled their homes. He therefore urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to enable it debate the matter immediately.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) *to enable it debate the matter forthwith, put and agreed to.*

The Indiscriminate and Barbaric Massacre of over Sixty (60) People in Kizara, Chafe Local Government Area of Zamfara State:

The House:

Notes that on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 over sixty (60) innocent citizens were mercilessly killed by unknown gunmen in Kizara Village, Chafe Local Government Area of Zamfara State. Among the several people killed were the District Head, the Chief Imam and the Leader of Vigilante Group;

Sadly notes that the gunmen numbering in dozens operated freely for about five (5) hours going house-to-house and shooting innocent men in front of women and children;

Aware that in August 2011 Nineteen (19) people were killed in Lingyado town, in February 2012 Fifteen (15) people were killed in Birnin+Magaji town, in October 2012 Twenty seven (27) people were killed in Dangulbi town, and in November 2012 Twenty (20) people were killed in Kabaro town all in Zamfara State;

Further aware that the above gruesome statistics was for Zamfara State alone. Similar incidents have become recurring in Kaduna and Katsina States with the latest in Kaduna State this month also at Kwasa Kwasa Village where several people were killed including Military personnel;

Disturbed that residents of many villages in the affected areas live in persistent fear of being attacked and many have fled their homes as a result of insecurity;

Further disturbed that the gunmen have gradually become more daring, well organized, and well armed that no small unit of security personnel can repel their attack when they strike;

Worried that these group of gunmen are becoming more coordinated and if not quickly terminated can turn into yet another organized terror group which can pose an additional dimension to the security challenge in the country.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the House to observe one minute silence in honour of the deceased and all other victims of the persistent violence all over the country;

(*ii*) send a Committee to sympathize and see first hand the carnage and damage done and report back to the House;

(*iii*) also urge the Security Agencies to fish out the perpetrators of the dastardly act and bring them to justice to serve as deterrent to others;

(*iv*) mandate the Committee on National Security to invite the National Security Adviser and all the relevant Security Agencies to review the Security Strategy with a view to bringing an end to this disturbing trend;

(*v*) further urge the Ministry of Defence to consider locating an Army Barracks in Tsafe Local Government to forestall the recurrences;

(*vi*) again urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to immediately deliver relief materials to the distressed citizens of Kizara village (*Hon. Ibrahim Shehu Gusau — Gusau/Tsafe Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question put and agreed to.

Matter referred to the Committees on National Security and Intelligence, and Police Affairs for further legislative action, pursuant to Order VIII, Rule 51 (5) (**HR. 02/2013**).

A minute silence was observed in honour of the people killed.

(*iii*) Further citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Makinde Rotimi (*Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency*) informed the House about a severe windstorm that ravaged some communities in Ife Federal Constituency of Osun State on Friday, June 7, 2013. He noted that the windstorm destroyed over 30 buildings and properties worth millions of naira. He therefore urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to enable it debate the matter immediately.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) *to enable it debate the matter forthwith, put and agreed to.*

A Call for Assistance for the Windstorm Victims in Ife Federal Constituency:

The House:

Notes that windstorm is a global natural catastrophe that is characterized with sudden and extraordinary misfortune to its victims;

Aware that the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET), forecasted witnessing, heavy rains and floods in Nigeria in year 2013;

Worried that on 7th June, 2013, windstorm with thunder removed completely, the roof of 30 residential buildings and destroyed property worth over ₦100million in Oke-Alaafia, Oke-Alagbado, Oke-Awona, Oke-Ikija1, Aba store, Aba cement and Aba-Amula, all in Ife South of Ife Federal Constituency in the State of Osun;

Further worried that the devastating effects of this scenario have left several people including infants homeless thereby exposing them to health related issues; unsecured environment and paralyzing their economic activities;

Further aware that Section 6 of NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency) Act provides that people, villages, communities and States with same or similar natural disaster should be assisted by NEMA.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Sympathise with those affected in these villages;

(*ii*) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) should visit these villages and assist them accordingly (*Hon. Makinde Rotimi — Ife Central/Ife East/Ife North/Ife South Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that windstorm is a global natural catastrophe that is characterized with sudden and extraordinary misfortune to its victims;

Aware that the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET), forecasted witnessing, heavy rains and floods in Nigeria in year 2013;

Worried that on 7th June, 2013, windstorm with thunder removed completely, the roof of 30 residential buildings and destroyed property worth over ₦100million in Oke-Alaafia, Oke-Alagbado, Oke-Awona, Oke-Ikija1, Aba store, Aba cement and Aba-Amula, all in Ife South of Ife Federal Constituency in the State of Osun;

Further worried that the devastating effects of this scenario have left several people including infants homeless thereby exposing them to health related issues; unsecured environment and paralyzing their economic activities;

Further aware that Section 6 of NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency) Act provides that people, villages, communities and States with same or similar natural disaster should be assisted by NEMA.

Resolved to:

(*i*) Sympathise with those affected in these villages;

(*ii*) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) should visit these villages and assist them accordingly (**HR. 03/2013**).

(*iv*) Still citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Aliyu Madaki (*Dala Federal Constituency*) also informed the House to a recent rainstorm that destroyed over 40 houses in Dala Federal Constituency, Kano State, which rendered large numbers of people homeless. He noted the untold hardship that the rainstorm had brought to the people of his constituency and therefore urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to enable it debate the matter immediately.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) *to enable it debate the matter forthwith, put and agreed to.*

Urgent Need for the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to Come to the Aid of Rainstorm Victims in Dala Federal Constituency in Kano State:

The House:

Notes that a devastating rainstorm hit some part of Dala Federal Constituency in Kano State on Wednesday destroying Houses and other properties;

Aware of the 2013 Seasonal Rainfall and Flooding prediction released by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) which indicate that the total rainfall prediction for 2013 may exceed the volume recorded in 2012;

Further notes that the Layin Baure, in Gobirawa Ward of Dala Federal Constituency was mostly affected by the heavy rainstorm on Wednesday 5th June, 2013, which destroyed completely 40 Houses and over 100 roofs blown off;

Concerned that families affected by the rainstorm have been rendered homeless, and are now living in an unhealthy environment where they are exposed to health hazards;

Disturbed that if the victims of the rainstorm are not quickly attended to by way of relief materials and other assistance, loss of lives may occur.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Commensurate with the people and Government of Kana State, and in particular the people of Layin Baure in Gobirawa Ward of Dala Federal Constituency;

(*ii*) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to act fast by sending immediate relief materials and other assistance to victims of the rainstorm (*Hon. Aliyu Madaki — Dala Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that a devastating rainstorm hit some part of Dala Federal Constituency in Kano State on Wednesday destroying Houses and other properties;

Aware of the 2013 Seasonal Rainfall and Flooding prediction released by the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) which indicate that the total rainfall prediction for 2013 may exceed the volume recorded in 2012;

Further noted that the Layin Baure, in Gobirawa Ward of Dala Federal Constituency was mostly affected by the heavy rainstorm on Wednesday 5th June, 2013, which destroyed completely 40 Houses and over 100 roofs blown off;

Concerned that families affected by the rainstorm have been rendered homeless, and are now living in an unhealthy environment where they are exposed to health hazards;

Disturbed that if the victims of the rainstorm are not quickly attended to by way of relief materials and other assistance, loss of lives may occur.

Resolved to:

(*i*) Commensurate with the people and Government of Kana State, and in particular the people of Layin Baure in Gobirawa Ward of Dala Federal Constituency;

(*ii*) urge the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to act fast by sending immediate relief materials and other assistance to victims of the rainstorm (**HR. 04/2013**).

(*v*) Also citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Yakubu Dogara (*Bogoro/Dass/Tafawa Balewa Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to a recent Resolution by the Bauchi State House of Assembly to relocate the Headquarters of Tafawa Balewa Local Government Area. He stated that the action, if allowed to stand would be in conflict with Sections 3 (6), 8 (5), and 315 of the Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 as amended. He thus urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to enable it debate the matter immediately.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) *to enable it debate the matter forthwith, put and negatived.*

Matter to stand over till next Legislative Day.

(*vi*) Still citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Victor Ogene (*Ogbaru Federal Constituency*) directed the attention of the House to the discriminatory policy of admission into Nigerian Unity Schools by the Federal Ministry of Education and National Examination Council. He stated that the situation whereby admission of candidates into the same school is determined by different cut-off points is discriminatory and therefore a breach of section 42 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999. He called on the House to examine the matter critically in line with the principles of equal opportunity, and promotion of hard work and excellence. He therefore prayed the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to enable it debate the matter immediately.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) *to enable it debate the matter forthwith, put and agreed to.*

Urgent Need to Reverse the Discriminatory Government Policy on Admission into Nigerian Unity Colleges:

The House:

Whereas the Nigerian constitution abhors discrimination of any sort against its citizens, as enshrined in Section 42 (1) of the 1999 Constitution, as amended, to the effect that no citizen of Nigeria shall be discriminated against on the basis of his community, ethnic group, place of origin, gender, religion or political opinion (through any law in force in Nigeria or any executive or administrative action of government);

Aware that under the fundamental human rights as enshrined in the Nigerian Constitution, no Nigerian child should be denied access to education on the basis of state of origin or any other consideration;

Alarmed that the recently released cut-off mark for Federal Government Unity Colleges by the Federal Ministry of Education/National Examinations Council, organisers of the Common Entrance Examinations in Nigeria, which gave candidates from some States undue advantage over the others, is not only a mockery of the principles of merit and fairness, but also runs contrary to the provisions of the constitution as it concerns' discrimination against citizens on the basis of gender and place of origin;

Concerned that while candidates from my home state, Anambra, irrespective of gender, are expected to score at least 139 marks to gain admission into the said Unity schools, candidates from some other States are expected to score just two or three marks respectively for the same admission;

Worried that at a time when affirmation action is geared towards assisting the girl-child, this Executive policy is ironically tilted against female candidates in several states, requiring them to score higher marks than their male counterparts before securing admission, contrary to provisions of the Nigerian Constitution that require's that nobody should suffer discrimination based on gender;

Disturbed that while some States are required to score below 70 marks for admission, the entire South East States are curiously required to score marks such as: Abia — 130, Enugu — 134, Ebonyi — 112, Imo — 138 and Anambra — 139, for the same admission;

Appalled that the Federal Ministry of Education's only answer to this anomaly is the nebulous claim that the lopsided policy is a deliberate agenda to encourage" educationally disadvantaged States" in line with the Federal Character mantra;

Further worried that if this discriminatory policy is allowed to stand, we will not only be encouraging illegality, but also be destroying the core values of merit, hardwork and excellence in favour of indolence and mediocrity.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Ministry of Education to suspend the recently released cut-off mark for unity schools, as it does not meet the provisions of the Nigerian constitution concerning fairness and equity;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Education to, within two weeks, invite both the Ministry of Education and the National Examinations Council, in order to review the policy in such a way that would guarantee fairness and accord the Nigerian educational system more credibility and general acceptance (*Hon. Victor Ogene — Ogbaru Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Amendment Proposed:
Leave out all the Prayers of the Motion and *insert* as follows instead thereof:
"Mandate the Committee on Education to engage with the Federal Ministry of Education and the National Examination Council, in order to review the policy in such a way that would guarantee fairness and accord the Nigerian educational system more credibility and general acceptance, and report back to the House by Tuesday, 2 July, 2013" (*Hon. Victor Ogene — Ogbaru Federal Constituency*).

Question that the amendment be made, put and agreed to.

Main Question as amended, put and agreed to.

The House:

Whereas the Nigerian constitution abhors discrimination of any sort against its citizens, as enshrined in Section 42 (1) of the 1999 Constitution, as amended, to the effect that no citizen of Nigeria shall be discriminated against on the basis of his community, ethnic group, place of origin, gender, religion or political opinion (through any law in force in Nigeria or any executive or administrative action of government);

Aware that under the fundamental human rights as enshrined in the Nigerian Constitution, no Nigerian child should be denied access to education on the basis of state of origin or any other consideration;

Alarmed that the recently released cut-off mark for Federal Government Unity Colleges by the Federal Ministry of Education/National Examinations Council, organisers of the Common Entrance Examinations in Nigeria, which gave candidates from some States undue advantage over the others, is not only a mockery of the principles of merit and fairness, but also runs contrary to the provisions of the constitution as it concerns' discrimination against citizens on the basis of gender and place of origin;

Concerned that while candidates from my home state, Anambra, irrespective of gender, are expected to score at least 139 marks to gain admission into the said Unity schools, candidates from some other States are expected to score just two or three marks respectively for the same admission;

Worried that at a time when affirmation action is geared towards assisting the girl-child, this Executive policy is ironically tilted against female candidates in several states, requiring them to score higher marks than their male counterparts before securing admission, contrary to provisions of the Nigerian Constitution that require's that nobody should suffer discrimination based on gender;

Disturbed that while some States are required to score below 70 marks for admission, the entire South East States are curiously required to score marks such as: Abia — 130, Enugu — 134, Ebonyi — 112, lmo — 138 and Anambra — 139, for the same admission;

Appalled that the Federal Ministry of Education's only answer to this anomaly is the nebulous claim that the lopsided policy is a deliberate agenda to encourage" educationally disadvantaged States" in line with the Federal Character mantra;

Further worried that if this discriminatory policy is allowed to stand, we will not only be encouraging illegality, but also be destroying the core values of merit, hardwork and excellence in favour of indolence and mediocrity.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committee on Education to engage with the Federal Ministry of Education and the National Examination Council, in order to review the policy in such a way that would guarantee fairness and accord the Nigerian educational system more credibility and general acceptance, and report back to the House by Tuesday, 2 July, 2013 (**HR. 05/2013**).

(*vii*) Further citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Yusuf Ayo Tajudeen (*Ijumu/Kabba-Bunu Federal Constituency*) drew the attention of the House to the new visa policy by the British Authority prescribing that applicants from Nigeria and few other Commonwealth countries seeking entry Visa into the United Kingdom would henceforth pay the sum of three thousand pounds (£3,000) as a bond before entering the United Kingdom. He described the policy as discriminatory, racist and therefore inconsistence with the policy of the Commonwealth of nations. He therefore called on the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to enable it debate the matter immediately.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.

Question that the House do suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) *to enable it debate the matter forthwith, put and agreed to.*

Planned New Visa Policy by British Government:

The House:

Notes that the British Government is seeking to introduce a new Visa policy regime that is skewed against prospective Nigerians travelling to the United Kingdom;

Also notes that Nigerians will be required to pay a cash bond of 3,000 pounds before they can enter the country;

Concerned that this policy implies that Nigerians from age 18 and above will have to pay the bond when applying for UK Visa;

Worried that by this policy, the British Government has classified Nigeria as one of the countries whose nationals are deemed to pose high risk of immigration abuse;

Disturbed that the new Visa policy which is targeted at non-white member nations contravenes the spirit and letters of the Commonwealth;

Mindful that the planned new visa policy has the potential of generating serious diplomatic row between Nigerian Government and the United Kingdom, which may affect the political, economic and social relations between both nations.

Resolves to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to take necessary diplomatic measures towards making the British Government rescind its decision on the new visa policy;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to investigate the matter and report back to the House within two weeks (*Hon. Yusuf Ayo Tajudeen — Ijumu/Kabba-Bunu Federal Constituency*).

Debate.

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that the British Government is seeking to introduce a new Visa policy regime that is skewed against prospective Nigerians travelling to the United Kingdom;

Also noted that Nigerians will be required to pay a cash bond of 3,000 pounds before they can enter the country;

Concerned that this policy implies that Nigerians from age 18 and above will have to pay the bond when applying for UK Visa;

Worried that by this policy, the British Government has classified Nigeria as one of the countries whose nationals are deemed to pose high risk of immigration abuse;

Disturbed that the new Visa policy which is targeted at non-white member nations contravenes the spirit and letters of the Commonwealth;

Mindful that the planned new visa policy has the potential of generating serious diplomatic row between Nigerian Government and the United Kingdom, which may affect the political, economic and social relations between both nations.

Resolved to:

(*i*) Urge the Federal Government to take necessary diplomatic measures towards making the British Government rescind its decision on the new visa policy;

(*ii*) mandate the Committee on Foreign Affairs to investigate the matter and report back to the House within two weeks (**HR. 06/2013**).

(*viii*) Still citing Standing Order VIII, Rule 46, Hon. Francis Enokorogha (*Burutu Federal Constituency*) informed the House of incessant attacks by gunmen on coastal communities of Burutu Federal Constituency in Delta State. He noted that the incessant hostage taking, piracy and robbery attacks have negatively affected the lives of the people of the area. He stressed the need to protect the lives and properties of people living in Burutu and other coastal communities in Nigeria from possible resurgence of militant activities, and thus urged the House to consider the matter as one of urgent public importance and to suspend Order VIII, Rule 46 (3) to enable it debate the matter immediately.

Question that the matter be considered as one of urgent public importance, put and agreed to.

Matter to stand over till the next Legislative Day.

6. **Need for the Establishment of a National Cemetery in Abuja:**
Motion made and Question proposed:

The House:

Notes that a National cemetery is meant for the burial or erection of monuments in recognition of good work done by EXCEPTIONALLY OUTSTANDING Nigerian heroes during their life time, be it in the Legislature, Executive, Judiciary, Industry, Academics or even sport and other endeavours;

Further notes that there exists no national cemetery in Nigeria and one is necessary to be established in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria where world leaders, who come to Nigeria, other visitors and even Nigerians themselves could easily come to pay respect at the tombs/graves of great Nigerian heroes and heroines, including those who paid the supreme sacrifice for the sustenance of unity in Nigeria;

Aware that Nigeria has produced great late heroes and heroines amongst whom are Alhaji Ahmadu Bello, Tafawa Balewa, Dr Nnamadi Azikwe, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Senator Chuba Okadigbo, Human Right activist Alhaji (Chief) Gani Fawehinmi SAN, Chief (Mrs) Margaret Ekpo, Chief (Mrs) Funmilayo Ransome Kuti and a few others whose tombs Nigerians and other visitors to Nigeria would like to visit and pay respect, but this has been made impossible since such tombs are scattered around the country and no monuments are erected at the capital city for them;

Further aware that Nigeria's culture embraces the dead to be buried among their kinsmen, but notes that with the advent of Christianity and Islam, people are now buried according to their religious faith, among religion faithful in areas designated for burial. In the same vein, leaders who are nationally recognized as exceptional heroes/heroines for their services and those men and women who through their services, died to sustain Nigeria's unity could be buried at the national cemetery or monuments erected in their honour if they had previously been buried;

Cognizant that a national cemetery should be a tourist centre that can tell the history of Nigeria in brief and should also serve as centre for unity, one indivisible entity, hence any money spent to build a cemetery is not wasted.

Resolves to:

Mandate the Committees on Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and Governmental Affairs to work out modalities for achieving a national cemetery in Abuja and report back to the House within four weeks (*Hon. Ife A. Arowosoge — Ekiti South West/Ikere/Orun/Ise Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question put and agreed to.

The House:

Noted that a National cemetery is meant for the burial or erection of monuments in recognition of good work done by EXCEPTIONALLY OUTSTANDING Nigerian heroes during their life time, be it in the Legislature, Executive, Judiciary, Industry, Academics or even sport and other endeavours;

Further noted that there exists no national cemetery in Nigeria and one is necessary to be established in Abuja, the capital of Nigeria where world leaders, who come to Nigeria, other visitors and even Nigerians themselves could easily come to pay respect at the tombs/graves of great Nigerian heroes and heroines, including those who paid the supreme sacrifice for the sustenance of unity in Nigeria;

Aware that Nigeria has produced great late heroes and heroines amongst whom are Alhaji Ahmadu Bello, Tafawa Balewa, Dr Nnamadi Azikwe, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, Senator Chuba Okadigbo, Human Right activist Alhaji (Chief) Gani Fawehinmi SAN, Chief (Mrs) Margaret Ekpo, Chief (Mrs) Funmilayo Ransome Kuti and a few others whose tombs Nigerians and other visitors to Nigeria would like to visit and pay respect, but this has been made impossible since such tombs are scattered around the country and no monuments are erected at the capital city for them;

Further aware that Nigeria's culture embraces the dead to be buried among their kinsmen, but notes that with the advent of Christianity and Islam, people are now buried according to their religious faith, among religion faithful in areas designated for burial. In the same vein, leaders who are nationally recognized as exceptional heroes/heroines for their services and those men and women who through their services, died to sustain Nigeria's unity could be buried at the national cemetery or monuments erected in their honour if they had previously been buried;

Cognizant that a national cemetery should be a tourist centre that can tell the history of Nigeria in brief and should also serve as centre for unity, one indivisible entity, hence any money spent to build a cemetery is not wasted.

Resolved to:

Mandate the Committees on Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and Governmental Affairs to work out modalities for achieving a national cemetery in Abuja and report back to the House within four weeks (**HR. 07/2013**).

7. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the 2013 Appropriation Act to Authorize the Issue from the Consolidated Revenue Fund of the Federation the Total Sum of ₦4,987,382,196,690 (Four Trillion, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Seven Billion, Three Hundred and Eighty Two Million, One Hundred and Ninety-Six Thousand, Six Hundred and Ninety Naira) only, of which ₦388,063,000,000 (Three Hundred and Eighty-Eight Billion, Sixty-Three Million Naira) only, is for Statutory Transfers, ₦591,764,000,000 (Five Hundred and Ninety-One Billion, Seven Hundred and Sixty-Four Million Naira) only is for Debt Service, ₦2,418,976,391,494 (Two Trillion, Four Hundred and Eighteen Billion, Nine Hundred and Seventy-Six Million, Three Hundred and Ninety-One Thousand, Four Hundred and Ninety-Four Naira) only, is for Recurrent (Non-Debt) Expenditure while the Balance of ₦1,588,578,805,197 (One Trillion, Five Hundred and Eighty-Eight Billion, Five Hundred and Seventy-Eight Million, Eight Hundred and Five Thousand, One Hundred and Ninety-Seven Naira) only, is for Contribution to the Development Fund for Capital Expenditure for the Year Ending on the 31st Day of December, 2013 (HB. 479) — *Second Reading*:**

Mr Speaker recalled that the House had adjourned debate on the Bill on Wednesday, 5 June, 2013, to enable the Committees on Rules and Business, Justice, and Judiciary to determine the constitutionality of the Bill in view of the Constitutional Point of Order raised on the matter by Hon. Yakubu Dogara. He therefore called on the Committees to brief the House on their findings.

Presenting the Joint Report of the Committees on Rules and Business, Justice, and Judiciary, the Chairman of the Committee on Rules and Business, Hon. Albert T. Sam-Tsokwa submitted that under Section 81 (1), (2) *and* (4) *of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria,* 1999, *an Appropriation Act for a given financial year can only be amended or altered by way of a Supplementary Appropriation. He stressed that the Appropriation Act* (Amendment) *Bill,* 2013 *as forwarded by the President has nothing in it to show that is is a document seeking to amend or repeal and re-enact the* 2013 *Appropriation Act. He stated further that the purported Amendment Bill is completely silent on the Sections and Schedules of the Appropriation Act,* 2013 *it seeks to amend or repeal.*

He however, noted that while the Appropriation Act, 2013 *appropriates a toal sum of* ₦4,987,220,425,601.00 *for the 2013 financial year, the Appropriation Act* (Amendment) *Bill, 2013 seeks to appropriate a total sum of* ₦4,987,382,196,690.00, *thus giving the impression that the Executive is seeking additional funds which can only be achieved through a Supplementary Appropriation as envisaged under Section* 81 (4) *of the Constitution rather than an Amendment Bill. Hon. Sam-Tsokwa further noted that the Committees therefore agreed in conclusion, with the opinion of Hon. Yakubu Dogara that the Appropriation Act (Amendment) Bill,* 2013 *is, strictly speaking, not an amendment Bill or Supplementary Appropriation, but a* "2013 *Appropriation Bill, No.* 2", *and to that extent, it is unconstitutional.*

Ruling: *Mr Speaker sustained the Constitutional Point of Order raised by Hon. Yakubu Dogara in the light of the Report by the Committees.*

Further debate on the Bill, deferred, by leave of the House.

8. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Public Procurement Act No. 14, 2007 and for Matters Connected Thereto (HB. 245); and a Bill for an Act to Amend the Public Procurement Act, No. 14 2007 and for Other Matters Connected Therewith (HB. 484) — *Second Reading*:**

Order read; by leave of the House deferred.

9. **A Bill for an Act to Amend the Fiscal Responsibility Act, Cap. F40 LFN to Provide that the Consent of the National Assembly shall be sought and obtained before Loans are obtained by any Government of the Federation or its Agencies and Corporation and for Other Related Matters (HB. 472) — *Second Reading*:**

Order read; by leave of the House deferred.

10. **A Bill for an Act to Establish a Public Service Commission for the Federal Capital Territory; and for Matters Therewith (HB. 133) — *Second Reading*:**
Motion made and Question proposed, "That a Bill for an Act to Establish a Public Service Commission for the Federal Capital Territory; and for Matters Therewith (HB.133) be now read a Second Time" (*Hon. Isah Egah Dobi — Abaji/Gwagwalada/Kuje/Kwali Federal Constituency*).

Debate:

Question that the Bill be now read a Second Time, put and agreed to.

Bill read the Second Time and referred to the Committee on Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

11. **Adjournment:**
That the House do now adjourn till Thursday, 27 *June,* 2013 *at* 11.00 *a.m.* (*Hon. Leo Ogor — Deputy House Leader*).

The House adjourned accordingly at 1.40 *p.m.*

Aminu Waziri Tambuwal
Speaker